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Argyll roads funding approved



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 27th – 29th March

Scottish charity number: SC025659

Playpark repairs approved

by Fiona Scott
 fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Friends of Oban Community Playpark and users give the thumbs up to the good news.

Repairs to the sinking Oban Community Playpark are imminent after Argyll and Bute Council came to an agreement with Wicksteed Playgrounds with regard to the funding of the work.

The good news was revealed at the end of last week.

'An agreement has now been reached between the council and the contractor, which means that we will seek prices for the necessary repair work to be carried out on the understanding that the contractor will fund this work,' said a council spokesperson.

Inspection

The park for five- to 15-year-olds has been closed since March 2018 after it failed a safety inspection because sections of flooring had become hazardous.

A peaceful protest organised by Friends of Oban Community Playpark (FoOCP) to mark the one-year anniversary of the closure of the facility near Atlantis Leisure was due to take place this weekend but has now been cancelled due to the recent developments.

Lyndsay Elliott, chairwoman of FoOCP, is delighted

but said the group would be keeping a close eye on things to make sure the repairs are carried out to the best standard and in as short a time as possible.

'It's the right thing,' she said, on hearing that an agreement had been reached. 'Our main contact at the council has been excellent and I'd like to thank him and his team for persevering with this case.'

'I'd also like to thank our community, who have raised their concerns and ensured that we were heard.'

'We don't know yet what flooring will be going down as different companies will be giving different quotes for the work, but I don't think it will be as nice as the original as that will be really expensive.'

'We feel we still need to have a bit of input just to make sure that what they do put down isn't totally rubbish and that it enhances what we have.'

A parent, whose six-year-old has now outgrown the smaller playpark and can't wait to get into the bigger one, said: 'It needs to be lived and played in and that's the bottom line.'

'It will be great to see the different age groups using this park again at different times of the day and bringing the place alive.'

A detailed engineering report will now be carried out and used for the tender to secure three quotes for work, which will include lifting the existing surface, fixing the problems, covering the drains and relaying the surface.



Thanks for all the care, Kevin

For the past 41 years, saving lives has been all in a day's work for Kevin Devine, who retired from Oban Ambulance Station this week. On Tuesday, Mr Devine's area service boss David McKintosh presented the much-respected station team leader with a decanter and glasses to mark the occasion. Oban born and bred, Mr Devine plans to keep busy in retirement by devoting more time to Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club and keeping his Volvo 224 on the road. Turn to page two for more.



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OT

Kevin retires after 41 years of saving lives

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Oban ambulance team leader Kevin Devine has retired after more than four decades of caring for patients and saving lives.

The 62-year-old, who is Oban born and bred, will be swapping ambulances to spend more time on classic cars in his role as chairman and secretary of Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club.

Mr Devine spent his last day on duty on Tuesday as team leader at the Miller Road ambulance station with colleagues and cake.

When he started out with the Scottish Ambulance Service in 1978, wages were just £38.80 a week and he worked from a room in the town's old Dalintart Hospital before moving to the new Miller Road station later that year.



Kevin Devine on his retirement day with colleagues and, right, when he first started back in the 1970s.

At that time there were just six staff. Nowadays, there are 23 people covering 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

'I've seen lots of changes. Everything has changed, from uniforms to vehicles and patient treatments. When I did my training I never thought I would be injecting drugs into patients as these

were skills that only doctors used years ago,' he said.

Over the years he has used lifeboats, helicopters, rowing boats, police Landrovers and even a tractor and trailer on Kerrera once to reach patients in the more rural areas.

'There have been good outcomes and, unfortunately, some bad outcomes. One of



the most memorable of the good ones was when myself and colleagues used our new defibrillator on a patient who'd collapsed in the street with a heart attack.

'We shocked his heart back into rhythm and by the time we reached the hospital he was sitting up talking to us. This was the first successful resuscitation in Argyll using the new Heartstart equipment ambulances had,' said Mr Devine, who lives with his wife in the town.

For the past 20 years, Mr Devine has been team leader at the Oban station as well as being responsible for staff

on Mull and Tiree. He has also served as team leader for Argyll and the area service manager for Argyll and Bute.

He added: 'I recently met a lady in the supermarket who introduced me to her daughter telling me I had assisted in her birth during one of the many maternity runs down to the Vale of Leven maternity unit.'

'The daughter then introduced me to her daughter and that was when I realised just how long I'd been in the job!

'In fact, the majority of my colleagues were not born when I started out in the ambulance service.'

As well as keeping his Volvo 224, the oldest vehicle in his classic car fleet, on the road, Mr Devine will be busy arranging club events, catching up on some DIY and lending his wife a hand with gardening.

Man attacked two barmen

A man has pleaded guilty to assaulting two Oban barmen.

Paul John Brown, 49, of 8 Tangfield Place Springburn, Glasgow, admitted grabbing one by the throat and punching another in the face. He also pleaded guilty to shouting and swearing, uttering offensive remarks and refusing to leave a licensed premises when asked to do so.

Brown appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday March 12 after the incident on December 8, 2018.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court a barman asked Brown to leave after witnessing him purchase drinks for two women who had been refused service. Brown refused and challenged the barman to take his pint from him.

'The witness did, at which point the accused grabbed him by his throat,' Mr McGinty added. And as he made his way towards the front door, Brown punched another member of staff.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes deferred sentencing until April 24.

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Jammy idea to raise RNLI funds

RNLI fundraisers in Oban are pot-y about a new way of collecting people's loose change.

Volunteer fundraisers are hoping people will fill mini jam pots with saved 5p pieces to help support the charity's work in the town.

Fundraisers Phil Hamerton and Alison Rennie, with help from others, have collected more than 400 pots so far, but have put out an SOS for more so they can be relabelled and put to good use.

The Little Potting Shed, Costa, Atlantis Leisure Centre and CGL office supplies in Oban have all agreed to be collection and drop-off points for the jars. Money will be emptied into a collection bucket so the jars can be taken away and filled again.

Full jars can also be taken along to the RNLI station to be emptied said Mr Hamerton, who added it is also a good way to recycle.

The idea for the 5p pots first came from Betty Frith who was honorary treasurer for more than 20 years at the Hertford branch of the RNLI before she died.

Other stations have since taken up her fundraising



Phil Hamerton and Alison Rennie with Betty's 5p pots ready for filling.

idea and Oban is one of the first in Scotland.

The mini pots, fondly called Betty's Pots, have helped Durham RNLI branch raise more than £85,000 in just 40 months.

Mr Hamerton said: 'The pots go live on April 1. It's going to be a long-running fundraiser and we're really hoping people will get behind it as much as they can to support the RNLI's work in Oban.'

Last month the town's RNLI crew took delivery of their much-anticipated new kit. The kit replaces the gear that had been well used at the station over the years and the new range, worth more than £1,000 per set, includes a full layer system and base layers.

The crew put out a Facebook post thanking 'all of you who continue to donate to the RNLI, making all of this possible.'

POLICE FILES

At about 1.05am on Tuesday March 5, on Stevenson Street, Oban, a man aged 44 was stopped and searched by police and found to be in possession of a small quantity of cannabis. The man was charged and issued with a recorded police warning.

At about 12.05am on Wednesday March 6, staff at the Kebabish Restaurant, in George Street, Oban, allegedly found a man within the restaurant premises gathering items to steal. Police were called and a 25-year-old was arrested. The male was charged with the offence and a report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

On Friday March 8 police were called to an address in the Soroba area of Oban where a man was allegedly causing a disturbance. He refused to calm down and was arrested. The man was later charged with the offence and issued with a recorded police warning.

Anyone with information on any incident can call 101 or 0800 555 111.

Music project requires funds if it is to play on

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Crowdfunders on Mull need £5,000 to keep making music on the island.

Mull Music Makers suffered a major blow when its main funders turned down this year's bid.

So far donations via crowdfunder.co.uk/support-mull-music-makers are halfway to reaching the target needed to fund the rest of the academic year but only have until next month to smash it.

The Mull Music Makers project was set up in 2013 to increase musical opportunities for the island's youngsters because music provision is limited and finding teachers can be difficult.

Project leader Laura Mandleberg said being turned down by Creative Scotland's Youth Music Initiative (YMI) was 'unexpected'.



Making music on Mull. A crowdfunding appeal hopes to raise £5,000 by April 4. Photograph: Richard Kellett Photography.

"This is a major blow. It is the first time we have been unsuccessful in receiving YMI funding in five years," she said.

The project brings tutors to Mull every month to help children learn music through song, movement, performance

and violin/fiddle tuition, as well as getting them ready for performances and competitions. Last year some of the children were given the opportunity to perform a concert on the mainland with Nicola Benedetti.

Unless the £5,000 goal is reached, the project's core funding will run out in April and disrupt more than 40 students' music education. It makes up 15 per cent of Mull's primary school population.

The next workshops were planned for April 27 and 28 and June 1 and 2.

The summer school that has run for more than 30 years as part of the Mendelssohn on Mull festival would also be affected.

Ms Mandleberg added: "We are extremely keen to keep things going. Any longer gaps or irregularity of lessons would be detrimental to the children's learning and would place years of building up momentum, continuity and motivation at risk."

It would also be especially sad not to be able to run the summer school, which has been running on the island for more than 30 years as part of the

Mendelssohn on Mull festival. The summer concert always gives everyone a tremendous sense of achievement, which brings everyone back after the summer holidays with a real confidence boost.

Mull Music Makers have been recommended to reapply for the next round of YMI funding but it would come too late.

"We have had a good indication that we will be successful second time around but even then funds won't become available until September 2019 at the earliest."

"We now have a funding gap between April and September and need to raise funds quickly if we are to keep things going," said Ms Mandleberg.

Within days of setting up the crowdfunding page, 41 supporters, including Mull Linedancers, had donated £2,800. The page will stay open until April 4.

New Clarins counter at Gordons Chemists in Oban!

Advertorial



Gordons Chemists on George Street, Oban, has recently completed a stunning makeover of their Clarins counter. The new counter offers the customer the ideal environment to discover the Clarins skincare and make-up ranges, and to receive expert advice from the store's Clarins Consultant, Corrina Mack.

As Corrina explains, the new counter offers the customer a much-improved shopping experience:

"The new counter looks incredible, and I couldn't be more pleased with how it has turned out. It is bright and it has lots of

space, which allows me to give my clients recommendations and advice that is completely bespoke to them.

"The Clarins items that I will recommend to a client are based on their type of skin, or what they're hoping to achieve with their skincare regime. For make-up, I will be recommending products that tie-in with a client's natural appearance, or a particular look that they want to achieve. It is individual to each person, and the new counter that we have in Oban gives me a wonderful environment to give my advice to each customer.

"Please feel free to call in and see our new counter - we'll be only too happy to introduce you to the Clarins range!"

The launch of the new counter coincides with Clarins' Gift of Beauty promotion (Thursday 14th - Saturday 30th March 2019). You get to choose four beauty treats (from a selection of eight) and a gorgeous beauty bag, when you buy two or more recommended Clarins products, one to be skin care. There's also the opportunity to get an extra gift worth £27 when you make an additional purchase!

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OT



The popular festival is looking for ideas and helpers.

Pop in to lend Oban's Winter Festival a hand

The popular Oban Winter Festival is hosting an open night to hook helpers for this year's event, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Videos from last year's festival will be shown during the cheese and wine pop-in evening, which is open to everyone between 7pm and 9pm at the Rockfield Centre on Wednesday March 20.

A spokesperson for the festival said: 'We're hoping to see lots of people turn up who want to help run or plan the 2019 festival, or are interested

in putting on an event as part of it. We're open to ideas and looking for suggestions, as well as getting helping hands signed up.

'It's just a pop-in event, so people don't have to stay the full two hours.

'The festival has grown so much that it has turned into a friendly monster that needs more than just five people to look after it. People don't need to take on huge or multi-tasks. Any help, big or small, will be much appreciated.'

Argyll roads repair funding approved

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Councillors have approved £1,215,000 to be spent repairing roads in the Oban and Lorn area.

Last week members of Argyll and Bute's economic development and infrastructure committee were asked to approve capital expenditure sums for 2019/20.

Planned reconstruction work in Oban and Lorn includes £100,000 in the Dalintart, Mossfield and Glencruitten housing areas, £150,000 for road widening at Knipoch, £60,000 for Luing's roads and £52,000 for Kerrera.

In addition, works are also proposed for Glen Nant, Glen Lonan, Kilchrenan, the Scammadale Road and Muasdale.

Members at Thursday's meeting were also asked to



Council have approved more than £1million to be spent on road repairs across the region.

give the nod to an estimated £643,000 needed for for Islay and Jura roads plus £15,000 for footways in Port Charlotte and Port Ellen.

Proposed work on Mull, as well as on Coll and Iona, was agreed.

Over the next two weeks, Argyll and Bute Council will be carrying out resurfacing work in Glenshellach Road, Longsdale Road and Hazeldean Crescent areas of Oban.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute said the capital

expenditure for 2019/20 was in addition to the investment in day-to-day maintenance work such as patching and filling potholes.

Also last week, a frustrated reader sent in a photograph of George Street complaining about its state under the responsibility of BEAR Scotland which maintains north-west trunk roads.

A spokesperson for BEAR Scotland said: 'A surfacing project is provisionally programmed to take place in autumn for George Street

and the Esplanade. However, we're continually reviewing our programme to identify opportunities to bring forward projects wherever possible.

'In the meantime, our teams will continue to monitor routes and carry out weekly safety inspections of the trunk road network, carrying out repairs where required.'

In February last year, potholes on the A85 through Connel became so dangerous that police had to contact BEAR Scotland to carry out emergency repairs, a fortnight before scheduled works. After this year's harsh winter, potholes have been reappearing in Argyll Square and on roads out of town.

An Argyll and Bute's spokesperson said: 'Complaints about road defects are dealt with and prioritised accordingly.'

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The Fairtrade snacks went down very well at break time at Park Primary School.

Park Primary eco warriors fight for Fairtrade

Park Primary School Eco Group has been leading the way in promoting a living wage and Fairtrade last week, writes Fiona Scott.

As part of Fairtrade Fortnight, the group of 12 has been encouraging pupils and staff within the school to opt for snacks that carry the Fairtrade logo as well as lobbying the larger supermarkets within Oban.

Group spokesperson Mirren McKenzie, 11, was not impressed with the response from the latter.

'It was quite disappointing because only Marks and Spencer got back to us to let us know which Fairtrade products they use and the others didn't even bother to respond,' she told us.

'As a group, we have been working really hard at getting people to be more aware about where our food comes from and that is starting to show in school and at home.

'If the big shops joined in, too, then it would really make a difference.'

On Thursday and Friday last week the group set out a stall at the school selling only Fairtrade snacks, which went down very well at break time.

'Farmers work very hard to produce a lot of the items we have for sale and it's only fair that they get a decent pay,' said 10-year-old Layla Anderson.

'We could even run out of chocolate if things don't improve because the farmers who produce the cocoa may just quit if they don't get paid enough for it.'

Volunteers required for second Oban Spring Clean

Following a highly successful event in 2018, the Keep Oban Beautiful (KOB) group is once again urging townspeople to 'pick a patch' to clean at the end of the month.

Businesses, streets, groups, clubs, individuals and other organisations are being invited to dedicate the week, culminating March 30-31, to the Oban Spring Clean 2019.

Maurice Wilkins, Claire Rizos and other volunteers from KOB are inviting anyone interested in helping with the town-wide clean-up to get in touch with others from their chosen 'patch' and sign up using the details below.

'In an ideal world, we wouldn't have to have an Oban Spring Clean as everyone, including businesses, schools, tourists and locals, along with the council, would all do their bit to make sure our streets are clean and tidy. Until then, however, it's great that the community all join together for this event.'

Litter-picking equipment will be available to borrow during the weekend from Rockfield Community

Centre, which will once again be the event's hub.

Support is also coming from the GRAB Trust, a charitable social enterprise that has been backing activities linked to litter and recycling in Argyll and Bute for 20 years.

'We are really pleased to be able to support this event again this year and look forward to seeing the town getting involved in keeping Oban beautiful,' said GRAB Trust project worker Terry Donovan. 'The GRAB Trust will be hosting a marquee in Station Square on the Saturday.'

People taking part are also being encouraged to take before and after pictures to show off the difference they make, and use #trashtag.

Argyll and Bute Council has once again been asked to provide a cage basket to collect the rubbish which will be picked up on the Monday.

Anyone interested in supporting Keep Oban Beautiful's spring clean should contact c.rizos@btinternet.com or call 07891 543540.

Oban pupils continue fight for youth services

by David McPhee
dmcphree@obantimes.co.uk



Two Oban teenagers are continuing to fight for Argyll and Bute's youth services, weeks after the sector was 'decimated'.

Oban High School students Dante Lopez and Rachel Lawlor are asking for the service to be made statutory.

Dante told The Oban Times: 'The plan for the campaign now, due to council rules that state decisions cannot be revisited until six months after the date of decision, is to take the campaign national and try to make youth services a statutory service while keeping the campaign going in Oban.'

In its annual spending plans, Argyll and Bute Council agreed to cut 17.1 full-time equivalent positions in the youth and adult learning team – more than half of its current staffing.

On the day of the vote, school pupils across Argyll and Bute protested against the decision, including Oban High School, where hundreds of pupils downed tools, some of them protesting with signs saying 'change our lives, not our budget,' 'stop the cuts,' and 'save ABYS'.

Speaking about the service, Dante said: 'Argyll and Bute already falls behind on youth services compared to other parts of Scotland, such as Stirling.'

'If local people, councillors, MSPs and MPs want young people to be more engaged in their local area then having a good quality service like ABYS is paramount.'

'The impact these cuts will have will be massive as 17 staff, 58 per cent of the team, will lose their jobs as well as young people not having a sufficient youth service.'

Fellow pupil Rachel added: 'Youth services, to me, is a

safe place to take away stress and pressure that I may have at school or elsewhere.'

'I protested to show that young people aren't people you can silence after taking away such an effective service.'

'Since these cuts went through, I believe that young people will be less involved in the community and it will show and possibly repel young people and families from staying or moving to Argyll and Bute.'

As part of their campaign, the teenagers travelled to Glasgow on Tuesday (March 12) to discuss the cuts with CLD Standards Council Scotland – a professional body for people who work or volunteer in community learning and development.

While they await the six-month deadline to see if the council will revisit its decision, Dante and Rachel intend to push the topic locally, aiming to increase the

interest in Argyll, as well as on a national level.

They will do this by having meetings with committees such as the community council, area committee, as well as local councillors.

They also intend to link up with other youth groups that are facing cuts, as well as have meetings with national organisations and committees.

Leader of Argyll and Bute Council Aileen Morton said the local authority had to deal with a funding gap of almost £8 million: 'Cuts mean we have had to make tough decisions about even the most valued council services.'

To stay up to date with the campaign to save the service, search #saveABYS, #noBS-forYS, or #youthworkchanges-lives on social media.

HAVE YOUR SAY
email us at editor@obantimes.co.uk



Leah will be back in Oban with her one-woman show in May.

Leah's got a date for your diary

River City actress Leah MacRae was in Oban this week promoting her new show coming in May.

Also known to thousands of viewers for her role in Gary: Tank Commander, Leah brings My Big, Fat, Fabulous

Diary to the Corran Halls on May 9 as part of her first solo Scottish tour.

Tickets are on sale now for the one-night only performance packed full of laugh-out-loud stories direct from the pages of her own diary, comedy songs and even a belting ballad or two.

Leah called in at the Corran

Halls on Monday to check out the venue and came to say hello to The Oban Times.

'The theme of this show is self-belief, embracing who you are and, most of all, it's about laughing and having fun.'

'It's not just for women, it's for men too. See you there,' she said.

Help rekindle a friendship lost

A Wigan man has put out an appeal to find a long lost friend who was last known to be living in the Oban area.

Peter Laundon, 73, and his family lost touch with Philip McDonald, thought to be in his late 60s, and his wife Marie (McFadien) in 1989 and are keen to rekindle the friendship.

Peter and Philip were in the

Army Catering Corps and met in Bielfield, Germany, in 1971, where they both served with 12 Field Ambulance.

Philip and Marie were married in St Columba's Cathedral and Philip was the projectionist at the cinema, as well as working in a fruit and veg shop in the town.

Peter thinks the couple bought a house near McCaig's

Tower and last had contact with Philip on the telephone in 1989.

If anyone knows of this family or where they are now, contact the Oban Times in the first instance at editor@obantimes.co.uk and we will pass the information on to Peter.

'Please help us find these long lost friends,' added Peter.

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OT

Snap up rubbish at #trashtag

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



I know I go on about rubbish quite a lot – talk it, too, sometimes – but I was delighted to see on Facebook last night that #trashtag is really taking off.

For those of you who don't spend as much time on social media as I do, it involves taking a photograph of an area which is usually filthy and then a photograph after it has been cleaned which is then posted on either Facebook or Instagram.

The most recent thing I've noticed is that it is being recommended for teenagers who complain that they are bored and, to be fair, many of the photographs I've seen are of young people getting the job done.

It is inspiring that this is happening and that it is a worldwide thing with photographs coming from Nepal, America, Japan and Europe.

With the Oban Spring Clean at the end of this

WHERE IS THIS?



month, it is a fantastic opportunity for us as a community to get our young people involved and posting online that it is happening here too.

To be part of a global effort to make the world better by cleaning our own wee patch is something special and we're already lucky to have the beach cleaning efforts of Hope Kitchen and the hard work of Keep Oban Beautiful, but it takes all of

us being involved for real change to take place.

With so much negativity around just now, it's good to have something positive that can really make a difference, so I would encourage everyone to be involved at whatever level you can manage, big or small.

I'm away on the weekend of the spring clean, so the weekend before will see John and I out and about in the Glencruitten area doing our wee bit.

It doesn't matter when you do it or how much you do as long as you do it.

The photograph from last week was a difficult one, I'll admit, it was the canopy at the entrance to the new Marine Restaurant in the Regent Hotel.

This week's photograph is slightly easier and not too far from the last photograph.

GET INVOLVED

email us at editor@obantimes.co.uk

Warning over Christmas lights change

Community groups taking ownership of their area's Christmas lights will be responsible for ensuring their safety, councillors have warned.

Argyll and Bute Council is set to pull the plug on funding for festive lighting across its area as its budget tightens.

The council continues to discuss handovers of Christmas lights with other community groups throughout its area.

But at the council's environment, development and infrastructure committee meeting on Thursday March 7, Councillor John Armour (South Kintyre) sought assurances that all equipment was in good working order.

He said: 'I had a meeting yesterday on the handover to Christmas lights committees. There is concern over the condition of wall brackets which are used for decorations.'

'I have concerns that there is no report that we know of that all of these fittings have been checked and it is safe to hand over to community organisations.'

'While Christmas lights were up, one decoration fell off a lighting post, narrowly missing somebody walking

past and falling right on top of a parked car.'

'Can we get a paper to us indicating that everything we are handing over to the groups is safe and has been checked?'

Jim Smith, the council's head of economic development, said: 'When we put equipment up, we always check it and have tests done. There will be responsibility on the groups to ensure that things are restored over the winter period.'

'There is always a slight risk in coastal locations that we will end up with some damage to features, so there do need to be checks carried out by the community groups.'

'Our standard practice is that when something is taken down, checks are made to ensure it is in decent condition.'

'What we also do is check with groups who have taken down particular features that these are fit for purpose.'

'There will need to be checks carried out before the next festive season.'

Committee chairman Councillor Roddy McCuish (Oban South and the Isles) added: 'To make it crystal clear, should there be any

defects, it is incumbent on the community groups to address these issues.'

Vice-chair Councillor Ellen Morton (Helensburgh and Lomond South) outlined the work of the Helensburgh Festive Lighting Charitable Trust in making sure the town's Christmas celebrations go with a swing.

She said: 'It is not understood in some quarters how much work goes into it. Previously, when we have put away the Christmas tree lights in January, they are working perfectly, but when they are dug out again in December there are some not working.'

'The group in Helensburgh actually works all year round and only has about two months off during the year. They have three members who are professionally trained and approved, and it is an enormous amount of work they put in.'

'We keep using the phrase "tough choices", but only now can we see them.'

'I think Christmas lights are wonderful in towns and villages but if we are short of money the budget cannot cover everything.'

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Argyll launches new carers strategy

Argyll and Bute sees the launch of its new carers strategy this week, writes Kathie Griffiths.

A one-day event at the Inveraray Hotel tomorrow (Friday March 15) will bring together carers, representatives from the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), carer centres and other organisations working improve the daily lives of young and adult carers.

MSP for Argyll and Bute Michael Russell will be opening the conference, and key speakers will be sharing their expertise and experience on a wide range of support and services available to unpaid carers across the district.

The newly developed carers strategy has been designed to reduce any negative impact

caring roles have on carers' personal lives.

During the conference there will also be information stands and sessions available for carers to be listened to and meet representatives from the Integration Joint Board (IJB) and the HSCP leadership team.

There will also be advice on hand about wellness for carers with an opportunity to participate in a Tai Chi gentle exercise and soul singing sessions.

Linda Currie, Argyll and Bute HSCP lead for allied health professionals, said the HSCP was proud of the multi-agency approach taken in producing the strategy which had great support during the consultation with a number of Argyll and Bute

carers helping shape the final versions.

She said: 'This is a new era for carers across Scotland with support for them in their caring role now a statutory requirement. One of our key objectives in Argyll and Bute HSCP has been to support carers and the Carers Act provides a real mechanism for doing that. In the next few years we expect demand and services to build up for both adult and young carers.'

'The Carers Partnership looks forward to working together to deliver the implementation plan within the strategy and improving our support and services for carers, including identifying unknown carers and people who do not recognise themselves as carers.'

Oban chases share of £50m for town boost

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Oban is hoping to get a good share of a new £50m town centre fund coming from the Scottish Government.

BID4Oban chief Executive Andrew Spence has already started discussions with council bosses and councillors about how the town could put to use any funding it gets for Argyll and Bute's £1.2m share.

'If you're not fast, you're last,' he said.

Argyll and Bute will receive £1,242,000 from the pot to boost economic growth and help town centres become more diverse and sustainable.

Council leader Aileen Morton said Argyll and Bute will be 'in a better position to determine how and where the money will be invested' once it gets the funding



criteria from the Scottish Government.

But BID4Oban is not wasting time. Mr Spence has contacted the council's head of economic development and has been in touch with local councillors to convene a meeting to find out what

Oban could use the money for.

'It's an opportunity for the area committee councillors to demonstrate what they can do to get the best possible deal out of this for Oban,' he said.

And he added: 'Oban is the

George Street benefited from CHORD cash in one of the last rounds of funding, and BID4Oban is now hoping more improvements can be made to the town centre.

busiest town in Argyll. It's expanding rapidly and we need to invest more in the town centre. I think potentially we would be looking at bringing up to standard the likes of the top end of George Street and Argyll Square, which were never touched during the previous CHORD (Campbeltown, Helensburgh, Oban, Rothesay and Dunoon) regeneration project.'

The money could also be used to repurpose empty buildings for housing or social and community enterprises.

Councillor Morton said the new funding announcement

is 'great news for our local communities'.

'The funding announcement will help us to achieve this aspiration, and will enable us to continue to build on the significant regeneration improvements that we have already carried out across Argyll and Bute with our partners,' she said.

Speaking as he announced the launch of the fund last week, Economy Secretary Derek Mackay said: 'Town centres are facing challenges across Scotland in adapting to a changing retail climate, and it is important that we help them to diversify and adjust to overcome these challenges.'

'I want to make sure we can keep life in our high streets, and ensure they continue to be thriving places for communities to live, work and enjoy.'

Tea and Blether returns to Oban church

Oban Congregational Church is restarting its weekly Tea and Blether gathering after the winter break.

The group will meet every Monday from March 18, between 11am and 12.30pm. Everyone welcome for tea, coffee, biscuits and cake. Admission is free.

There will also be a coffee morning on Saturday March 23 from 10.30am till 12.30pm in aid of church funds. Coffee mornings will be held every month throughout the summer. Everyone is welcome.

There has been a rumour around Oban that the church is closed. This is untrue.

Services are at 11am on Sundays as usual. Some of these services will be led by the Reverend Ken Hunter and some by visiting ministers and preachers. Everyone is welcome.

Full house for charity bingo night



A charity bingo night raised £450 for Oban High School Pipe Band.

There was another full house for the second monthly event at The View in Oban last Friday night.

Writing on social media,

organisers said: 'Thanks to all our bingo players who contributed £450 towards Oban High School Pipe Band.'

'We're delighted it will support them with the season ahead ... and hopefully

many will return to play with us in future.'

The next bingo event will be on Saturday March 23 at 1pm, with eyes down for 1.30pm, and it will be in aid of Down's Syndrome Scotland.

£1 million cash injection for Mull roads

Mull is to receive a £963,000 cash boost in 2019/20 to help improve roads infrastructure, and footways will benefit from a further £38,250.

This was agreed at last week's meeting of Argyll and Bute Council's economic development and infrastructure committee as part of

the council's roads capital reconstruction programme.

Road to benefit include: A849, Glenmore-Craignure; A849, Pennyghael-Bunessan; B8073, Toloisk-Gruline; C46, Glenbellart; C54, Lochbuie; C50, Iona roads; Craignure footway.

Councillor Roddy McCuish,

policy lead for roads and amenity services, said: 'Work will mainly consist of surface dressing and overlay programmes. By sealing our carriageways we can stop water penetrating the surface, improve ride quality and reduce the amount of reactive repairs.'

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OT



The 37th Ardochattan Argyll Beavers Scout Group visited the Pole Star on Monday. 17_T11_Beavers01

Argyll Beavers get a glimpse of working with lighthouses

After studying lighthouses and harbours, Argyll Beavers enjoyed a tour of a Northern Lighthouse Board ship.

Members of the 37th Ardochattan Argyll Beavers Scout Group visited the Pole Star, which was docked at the lighthouse pier in Oban on Monday night.

The enthusiastic children were shown how life-jackets work, how to operate the

life-saving lights and sat in the captain's chair. Heather MacPherson from the group said: 'It has been great. They love stuff like this.'

Fiona Vick, who works at the Northern Lighthouse Board and is involved with the group, said: 'I think they have enjoyed it.' Fiona, an electrical engineer, is also a Science, Technology, Engineering

and Mathematics ambassador. She added: 'I try to encourage youngsters into engineering and the Northern Lighthouse Board is all for having trips like this.'

The children were interested in how everything worked and put captain Mike Smith's knowledge of the ship to the test.

Internet among Gigha islanders' concerns

Gigha islanders have been raising concerns over their broadband service and mobile phone coverage.

Argyll and Bute councillor Alastair Redman said constituents at his latest surgery flagged up the need for quality broadband, with housing, job prospects and mobile phone coverage also up for discussion.

'With island residents paying the same as urban areas for a sub-standard internet service, it's no wonder they

feel they are getting a raw deal,' he said.

Tradesmen and local businesses also pressed for extra and later ferry sailings to and from the island, made all the more prevalent with the expansion of Gigha fish farm. 'We as a council must become much more entrepreneur and business friendly, along with fit-for-purpose roads and infrastructure to match the island's economic growth,' said Councillor Redman.



Kintyre and Isles councillor Alastair Redman was on Gigha to hear residents' concerns.

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HSCP second conference proves popular

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



An audience of around 180 people attended In Touch with Distress, the second conference hosted by Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care (HSCP) public health team.

The conference, in Dunoon, focused on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and trauma with headline speakers Dr Suzanne Zeedyk, research scientist and Sally Amor, Child Health Commissioner, sharing their knowledge and expertise.

Staff from Police Scotland, education, social work, primary care, adoptive and foster carers and partners from the Third Sector were among the audience being

educated and discussing the significant cost of ACEs to health and communities.

Ms Zeedyk encouraged the audience to be curious and reflect on their professional practice while delegates were also encouraged to look through an ACE aware and trauma informed lens in taking action to mitigate the significant negative effects of ACEs and trauma.

Neglect

ACEs can be categorised into three groups: abuse, neglect and household dysfunction.

Evidence highlights that people who experience four or more ACEs are four times more likely to smoke, drink heavily and experience depression.

They are 12 times more likely an increased risk of suicide and 32 times more likely an increased risk

of sexually transmitted infections.

However, the negative outcome associated with ACEs are not inevitable.

ACEs are a public health issue and can be mitigated by a variety of means such as focusing on changing our language from 'what's wrong with you?' to 'what has happened to you?' and 'who is there for you?'

Ensuring people have access to appropriate trauma aware services and support is also beneficial.

A report will be prepared and shared helping to identify key points from the event and collated feedback from the audience.

This will help to guide the next set of actions for Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership to address ACEs and build a trauma aware Argyll and Bute.

Flood risks need cash

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



There is no quick fix to Oban's flooding problems which will need a significant investment to overcome, a councillor has warned.

Councillor Roddy McCuish, policy lead for roads and amenity services, gave the warning as he thanked the community for sharing their experiences at a recent drop-in event as part of a study helping shape the town's future flood defences.

'There is no quick fix to the situation. It will take a number of agencies and significant investment to solve the problem. Even then, sometimes the elements simply conspire against us, as we saw in October,' said councillor McCuish.

The flooding experienced between October 7 and 8 last year, when 440mms of rainfall was recorded, was

considered to be a one in 70 years event.

Two flood risk consultation events have been held in Oban. The most recent was on January 30. Other key stakeholders involved in the study include SEPA, Scottish Water, community councils and local interest groups.

Funding is being made available by the Scottish Government to pay for 80 per cent of flood risk solutions identified in a flood study but it will not be available until 2022.

In October, flooding mostly affected the Lochavullin area of the town which is particularly low-lying and susceptible to the effects of rainfall and surface water. A pumped system was in place to reduce the risk of flooding in the car park but rapidly rising water caused the electric in the pump to fail.

Since then a series of short-term fixes has been carried

out. The existing pumps and cabinet in Lochavullin car park have been serviced or renewed as needed.

Temporary flood barriers have been installed along a short stretch of the Black Lynn burn and some drainage and combined sewer pipes in the area will be cleaned.

Members of Argyll and Bute's Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee were updated on the town's flood risks at a meeting on Thursday. Man-made structures on the Black Lynn and Soroba burns are among likely flood prevention options

for Oban, they were told.

Committee members were asked to note what work has been carried out so far on pumps and barriers in Oban and to welcome the progress of the Oban flood study.

Information on protecting homes is on the council website at bit.ly/Flood_Advice

Big Declutter comes to Oban

Lorn and Oban Reuse Initiative (LORI) is holding a Freebie Friday at its Moleigh recycling base tomorrow (Friday) to mark Pass it on Week 2019. Scotland's annual celebration of recycling, Pass it on Week runs from March 9 to 16 and encourages swapping, donating, sharing and repairing



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Moir Kerr, centre, with Robert Cruickshanks from Martyn's and Lorraine MacCormick from Hope Kitchen.

Charity cash goes to two causes in Oban

Two Oban charities have been given a helping hand as a result of this year's Highlands and Islands Press Ball and Media Awards.

In the past 31 years the event, held annually in Inverness, has raised more than £100,000 for charity.

Every year, the winner of the overall Diageo Journalist of the Year award receives £300 to give to a charity of their choice.

But when freelance journalist Moira Kerr brought home the 2019 winner's trophy to Oban, she was faced with a dilemma.

Moir said: 'There are so many good causes out there I couldn't decide who to donate the money to, so I turned to social media to ask the people of Oban what they thought.'

'There were lots of suggestions but the clear favourite was Martyn's Monday Club,

a peer to peer group which meets every Monday night at Hope Kitchen, Oban, to encourage people to talk about mental health problems they, or their family or friends, may be experiencing and to let them know they are not alone.

'This new group has already expanded to run the same thing for women on a Tuesday night.'

'Hope Kitchen, which opens its doors to the homeless, the lonely and to everyone in need, providing food and friendship for all, was another popular suggestion.'

'I ended up being torn between these two good causes, so I split the money between them.'

This is the second time Moira has won Journalist of the Year.

In 2016, her £300 prize went to Oban RNLI lifeboat.

OT

MacPhail

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We are now more than a week into Lent and our modern-day attempts at sacrifice and penance is the subject of this week's offering.

Regardless of our reasons for doing so, whether religious, social, personal or for health and wellbeing, giving ourselves set periods of time to do something, stop doing something, not eat this or not drink that is generally good practice. It is also easier to fulfil such periods of self-enforced sacrifice if lots of others are doing likewise.

So, as with much of our behaviour, it shows signs of the sheep within us all, where it is good to go along with the crowd.

In no way do I trivialise the partaking of Lenten penance by those who have deeply religious reasons for doing so. They are in a very different category to those like myself who are just carrying out interesting experiments.

In order to increase the level of experimental penance this year, I'm going to simultaneously stop drinking and start another 12-week running

programme in the lead up to having another bash at the Edinburgh half-marathon in May.

I did part of a programme last year, and though I started it late and missed a few weeks with injury, I managed to struggle through the 13 miles. With the combination of the full programme and no deoch until Easter, I reckon Mo Farah better watch out – though I think 'Mo Mhathair' might be as much of a threat to him as I will be! All being well, I'll head down south to join Team Eilidh again for the Manchester 10k on May 19 and then join them for the Edinburgh event the week after.

I'm half way through the second week of the training programme and it's not easy getting the body moving again after so long without doing very much in the way of physical activity. It would be a lot easier if I had carried on the running after the events last May, and the fact that I didn't is a reflection of why these set aims within a timescale are so effective.

As soon as the set aim was passed, I just did not have enough motivation to carry on the running, even though I knew it was undoubtedly good for me. Without having told Suzanne and the Team Eilidh organisers I would do the events last year, there is no way I would have carried on through the training programme and completed the runs.

If you have a specific aim on a set timescale, finding the motivation to put yourself through discomfort is much easier.

That is why using Lent as a defined entity of time for which to place a certain duty or penance upon oneself is so effective and why so many find it a fulfilling experience.

I may miss a few training days and, due to a Christening this weekend, I will be taking a one-day holiday, but I hope my fairly loose adherence of this age old observance will have a positive effect on my ability to cover the distance in May and hopefully I'll earn a few pounds in sponsorship for that very worthwhile charity.



Local chef Alex Needham, ably assisted by his daughter Elizabeth, cooked up a treat in a Ready, Steady, Cook; and, below, youngsters tucked in to all the good food on offer.

Hundreds flock to first food festival

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

Food for thought was the order of the day when the Victory Hall in Benderloch threw its doors open to local farmers growers and makers on Saturday.

As well as featuring a mouth-watering array of stands, the inaugural Awakening in Argyll Food Festival encouraged interaction from visitors throughout the day.

Children were invited to use the play area, complete with a toy cooker, while Campbell Cameron's soup making demonstration and sampling station proved to be to everyone's taste.

More than 200 members of the public enjoyed the opportunity to connect directly with producers, while local chef Alex Needham, ably assisted by his daughter Elizabeth, cooked up a treat in a Ready, Steady, Cook using locally sourced food selected by the organisers.

Mairi Stones, from Awakening in Argyll, said: 'The Festival of Food was hugely successful in connecting local people with our amazing local produce.'

'We were delighted to have the support of so many local people, as were the local producers, who really enjoyed selling direct to their customers.'

'An amazing team of



money in the local economy, it provides local employment and lessens our dependence on the global agro/food businesses which are so damaging to our planet.

'Having a thriving local food economy is a critical part of creating a strong, resilient community that can flourish well into the future. This is what Awakening in Argyll is all about.'

Organisers would like to thank all the contributors who made the Festival of Food a great success, including Dave Croucher, The Old Garden Taynuilt (veg and herbs); Brendan Reade, Isle of Mull Cheese; Highland Fold: ice cream; Seil Bakery; Jessie Wormell (veg and herbs shop at the gate); Moira Newiss, Fermentation Station (fermented foods and sourdough bread); Amanda Coates, Wee Pig Company, Kilmore (pork goods); Jill Bowis, Kintaline Farm (hogget, eggs, mutton, herbs); Gill Vollum, Kerrera (frozen beef and pork); Katherine MacDonald, Duntarrin Farm (beef burgers, scotch eggs); Amanda Anderson, Food from Argyll (information and examples); Karen MacDonald, Alba Seafoods (smoked fish products); Rhonda Pettigrew, Auchinbreck Farm (pork burgers and pulled pork); North Connel and District Horticultural Society (information about show and plant sale in May).

Saturday's gourmet gathering also gave members of the community an opportunity to respond to the Scottish Government's consultation on Good Food Nation proposals, which ends on March 29.

Mairi continued: 'As part of the Good Food Nation government consultation, we feel it sends a strong message about the importance our local food system here in Scotland.'

'Encouraging and supporting local food production strengthens a community's ability to face future food shocks, which we may experience due to climate change, resource depletion and the current political shenanigans. Purchasing from local producers also helps to keep



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H2SJ31487 03/19

Student has designs on Oban tourism

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Project design student Tori Hamilton is looking for groups, businesses, organisations and members of the wider community to join her in a tourism journey into the future.

Now in her final year at the Glasgow School of Art, Hamilton is putting together her degree show project which takes a look at how the community can engage in order to stay relevant and attract new audiences.

After speaking to Breege Smyth, arts and culture coordinator at the Rockfield Centre, and Bid for Oban's Andy Spence among many, Hamilton will be running a workshop on Saturday April 13 to start discussions and everyone is welcome.

'My role as a designer is to use creative research, public involvement and engagement tools to illustrate the potential of Oban and how it



can benefit the community,' she explained. 'Together we will challenge assumptions and identify characteristics of the millennial segment that are most likely to cause a significant disruption in the way the tourism sector is currently structured.'

'I am here to act as a mediator with no intent to make any significant changes in the community, purely to use my role to listen and reveal opportunities that might not have been shown or relevant before.'

Born in Glasgow, Hamilton was brought up around Oban and most

of her family are from Connel and Fort William.

Bearing that in mind, she is keen to explore what she describes as a significant shift in the 'mindset' of travellers and embrace the changes to benefit both the destination and its community.

'Locals are not a sideshow, but rather one of the major attractions of a destination,' she continued.

'Today, fewer and fewer want to be identified as tourists.'

'Instead, new generations of travellers seek out experiences that not

only provide a photo opportunity, but also get their hands dirty and immerse them in the destination.

'The travellers yearn for a sense of localhood, looking to enjoy the true, real and authentic experiences, which makes a destination stand out and unique.'

'The delivery of an authentic experience depends upon the support of the community and the liveability and appeal of Oban depends on our ability to ensure a harmonious interaction between visitors and locals.'

'Therefore my project is focused around engaging with as many locals as possible to ensure they are much as part of this process in my project as I am.'

Hamilton's project will be showcased at the Glasgow School of Art show and also in London at the beginning of June this year.

For more information or to book a place on the workshop, which will be held at the Rockfield Centre on Saturday April 13, contact tori.hamilton0411@gmail.com

SAMS open day enjoys live link to Arctic

Around 50 people attended the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) applicant open day recently which included a live link to Norway.

As part of the introduction to SAMS BSc Marine Science with Arctic Studies, applicants and their parents were invited to take part in a Skype conversation with three UHI third-year students currently at the University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS).

Mascha Dix, Francesca Molinari and Hugo Mann spoke about their Arctic Studies experiences and answered questions delivered from their Argyll audience.

The event was arranged to give prospective students and their families the chance to see the facilities at Dunstaffnage, to get the opportunity to hear first-hand what students and staff think about studying there, the research opportunities available and information on all courses.

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OT

Dochas Carers Centre celebr



Catherine Paterson and her brother Alan Wright. 51_a10Dochas18



Dougie Philand presented Catherine Paterson with flowers and a balloon.



Catherine Paterson. 51_a10Dochas15



Regulars Shirley McIver and Joan Ralston.

51_a10Dochas03



Catherine Paterson and Doris Linstead.

51_a10Dochas05

by Laura Maxwell
editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Friends, family and loyal supporters of the Dochas Centre in Lochgilphead packed the centre on Thursday February 28 to celebrate its 21st anniversary.

The Dochas Centre's founder, Catherine Paterson, was presented with flowers, a 21st birthday balloon and a birthday cake while the packed room of supporters sang happy birthday to the Dochas Centre.

Founded in February 1998, the Dochas Centre has been a hub of support and fun for carers all over Mid Argyll, offering therapy but also a simple chat to those struggling throughout the community.

Catherine Paterson founded the Dochas Carers Centre with her husband John Paterson when he was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease and struggled to continue with his favourite hobby of painting, the condition making it almost impossible to hold a paintbrush. His artistic talents and desire to help others paved the way for the Dochas Centre, which functions as a gallery for local artists and a support centre for carers and who they care for.

In a birthday speech Catherine Paterson said: 'This is exactly what John would have wanted: to not have his art be the thing that he is known for, but for the

humanity and compassion that he and I shared together. I do wish he was here.'

Dochas staff member Wanida McEwan said: 'I was so glad to see a lot of people turning up: councillors, carers, trustees, staff, volunteers, working partners and many groups of local people who have been supporting our centre all these years. It meant a lot to all of us.'

I have been working at the Dochas Centre since March 2012. It's the happiest place I ever worked. Everyone is so kind and, of course, have a good understanding of a carer's life. I'm also a carer. All these years, I have been given useful advice, information and support from the centre for my caring role. I always feel reassured having someone to talk to and help me as a carer. Dochas is a special place for me.'

Councillor Anne Horn was

visiting the celebrations and said: 'The Dochas Centre has and still provides so much support and caring space for unpaid carers, bringing hope and guidance to others who travel the carers' journey.'

'Our ongoing thanks go to Catherine Paterson and the staff at Dochas for the valued and much-loved service they provide. I was privileged to attend with the great number of people who turned out on Thursday to celebrate 21 years of Dochas.'

Councillor Dougie Philand said: 'The Dochas Centre has flourished to become a vital service to many carers and beyond. I was delighted to be present at the marking of its 21st year and it was no surprise the event was well-attended.'

'The centre is embedded into our community and long may everyone support such a vital centre.'

Well wishes

A notebook was handed around for visitors to the celebrations to sign. Here are just some of the touching things written:

'What a wonderful place. Many thanks for a memorable day.'

'I have fond memories of John and his paintings being exhibited in the hospital canteen.'

'Thank you for a lovely welcome and making me feel at home here.'

'You do wonderful work. Hope you can continue for many more years. Happy 21st.'

'Many, many congratulations. Just look around - this is all you. Well done, many thanks.'

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Centre manager Doris Linstead with Dougie Philand and Leonard McNeill. 51_a10Dochas01



Kerrie Noor and Alison Grattan, both from Alzheimer Scotland, with Anne MacLean.

51_a10Dochas02



Back row: centre manager Doris Linstead, Tracy Chambers, Heather Moore, Betty Rennie, Craig Butler, Gaynor Brown, Liz Robertson and Alison Whitefield. Front row: Wanida McEwan, chairwoman Catherine Paterson, Stephanie Davy, Tricia Morrison, and Amanda Minshall who presented the cheque. 51_a10Dochas19

Dochas Carers Centre chosen for Christmas charity ball donation

A highlight of the Dochas Centre's 21st birthday celebrations was the presentation of a £2,500 donation from The Argyllshire Christmas Charity Ball.

Run by Enid Struthers, The Argyllshire Christmas Charity Ball was founded in 1946 as a post-war celebration and a way of fundraising for what was then the Scottish Children's League, now known as Children 1st. Enid ran the ball for 25 years, raising £125,000.

The event, which initially took place at Ardmaddy Castle, is now held every Christmas in Oban's Gathering Halls. In peak years, more than 400 people attended.

While Children 1st has always been supported, smaller local charities are selected for support each year and in 2018 the Dochas Trust and North Argyll Volunteer Car Scheme were beneficiaries.

A committee spokesperson said: 'While we have big shoes to fill in carrying on the excellent work of Enid Struthers, we are delighted to be organising a fun, family annual Christmas ball and raising money for local charities. It is fantastic to see how much money our ball has raised over the years and we will continue to support Children 1st and local charities for years to come.'

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Islanders are digging up t

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Hundreds of historic features, from Bronze-Age houses to a possible Neolithic long cairn, have been uncovered on Luing.

Visiting archaeologists have been surveying the island's archaeology for the past two years with help from the local history group.

About 450 features and sites have been found so far, with the treasure haul also including boat graffiti from the 1200s at Kilchattan chapel, Iron-Age houses, forts, signs of a mill, sheltered anchorages on the eastern side of the island and bygone townships. And all this on just one corner of the island so far, says Mary Braithwaite from Luing History Group.

Dugie Macinnes has been in charge of the survey and the last visit from the Association of Certificated



Field Archaeologists (ACFA) was in February, with a return trip promised soon to explore what could be the remains of a small neolithic long cairn. 'Dugie is in charge

and gives us instructions. We joined the survey as a hobby,' said Mrs Braithwaite.

Recently the history group has been out holding tape measures and recording on a

scale map a little croft house above the ferry – a two-cell home measuring about 5ms by 3.5ms inside.

What looks like a jumble of stones can tell you a lot about

Left: history group members Ian Marshall, Christine McDiarmid, Margaret Gardiner and Mary Braithwaite recording at Leccamore Iron-Age fort on Luing and, right: Christine Fred Hay and Ruth Irwin taking measurements as part of the survey on Luing.

Luing's past. It all pieces together over time.

'There are also lookouts watching the seaways where the main threats to the island would once have come from. There were once galley ships and birlinns [a wooden vessel propelled by sail and oar] going up and down.

'Merchants, military forces, saints, pilgrims would all have passed this way. It was a place people passed through to get to other places, a bit like today's Tyndrum,' said Mrs Braithwaite.

In the 19th century the

Comet, the first steamboat from Glasgow to Fort William, was another visitor. It came via Easdale and Luing because Oban 'was nothing' at that time.

'Because Luing is so close to the mainland it was once a heavily contested area,' added Mrs Braithwaite.

In 1577 and 1579, Luing was invaded by the Campbells. The Earl of Argyll owned the land at that time but could not get access to it because it was defended by the MacLeans of Duart.

'They came and took cattle, sheep and stripped the women and children of their clothes trying to impose some kind of authority,' said Mrs Braithwaite.

Members of the history group have also been transcribing intriguing documents from the Breadalbane Muniments revealing what land tenants from the 17th century to the early 20th

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The past on Luing



century on the Netherlorn Estate were getting up to – if they were cutting peat the right way or mending their walls.

'Life was hard on Luing. We can see from signs left behind how land tenants

tried to cultivate every inch they could, right up to the highest ridges of the island. They were growing corn, oats and barley way up, close to the top.

'They were so desperate to make the most of what

earth they had,' said Mrs Braithwaite.

'The potential for the survey here is never ending, but not unique to Luing. These features will be on other islands. You just need to look for them,' she added.

Future plans include carrying on with the survey work, the possibility of information displays for visitors, organising more walking routes and exploring the island's submerged maritime past.

Oban men's hockey team win at Helensburgh

The Oban men's hockey team travelled to Hermitage Academy last weekend to take on Helensburgh men's third team.

Helensburgh were expected to be determined opponents after last weekend's result and did not disappoint.

Oban started strong with text book passing and concerted pressure in the Helensburgh 'D' leading to several penalty corners.

The breakthrough came swiftly for Oban with Theo Andrews scoring with an excellent strike from the top of the 'D'.

Oban kept up the pressure with Andrews scoring a further two goals from penalty corners. Stuart Head scored his first of the game.

Ryan Jones added to the tally with a tidy bottom corner finish.

Helensburgh pulled one back before half time with the Oban goal keeper stumbling over a simple strike at goal.

Oban refused to relax and give Helensburgh any

chances of scoring in the second half. The solid Oban defence – Jensen and Lorne Binnie and high work rate of the midfield – Gavin Yates, Grant Matheson, Ash and Zeph Petit – meant most of the half was played in the Helensburgh end of the pitch. Head scored again twice, Andy Hodge once and Andrews gained his fourth.

Helensburgh were unrelenting, but the final score was 9-1 to Oban.

Man of the match was Theo Andrews for his sustained high work rate and four superb goals.

Thanks to David Love for umpiring.

Next weekend the Oban men head to Lomond School to take on Uddingston Men's fifth team in a vital match for West Division 3 rankings.

CONTACTUS
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'Keep Oban Beautiful' will be hosting an **OBAN SPRING CLEAN**

at the end of March, culminating on the weekend of 30th and 31st.

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BUSINESS NEWS

Firms are urged to prepare for Brexit

Businesses in the Highlands and Islands are being encouraged to plan for the impacts of Brexit.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) has made the call following the findings of the agency's latest business panel survey, carried out in September and October 2018.

More than two-thirds (70 per cent) of firms which took part in the survey highlighted Brexit as one of the main risks they face, and only 13 per cent stated it posed no risk.

More than half (58 per cent) felt leaving the EU posed risks of changes in regulations, and 53 per cent were concerned about import tariffs.

Despite this, the survey showed that only 17 per cent of firms have a plan in place to help them prepare for Brexit.

In January, 25 delegates attended HIE's 'Get your business-Brexit ready' workshop.

This covered topics such as communication with suppliers and customers, customs, documentation and workload.

The agency also ran a free webinar on February 25 to help businesses prepare for Brexit.

Plans unveiled for 70-room extension

by David McPhee
dmcphoe@obantimes.co.uk



Plans to build a major extension at Cameron House Hotel in Loch Lomond have been unveiled.

Proposals to add 70 bedrooms and a large ballroom facing the loch have been submitted to the Trossachs National Park Authority (TNPA) by Lichfields planning consultancy.

A design statement by architects 3D Reid in support of the application states that the extension plans had been in the pipeline prior to the tragic blaze in December 2017 which claimed the lives of guests Simon Midgley and Richard Dyson.

The hotel was given permission to carry out restoration work in January, more than a year after the fire.

The statement said that a few weeks before the fire, architects met with TNPA to discuss the development.

However, after the blaze, the focus was shift-



Fire caused extensive damage to Cameron House in December 2017. Photograph: Daily Record

ed towards reopening the hotel. The statement also said that additional bedrooms were a result of high demand and will increase room nights by 40 per cent within three years.

It is also estimated that the new ballroom will allow for a 50 per cent increase in weddings at

the venue within the same period.

A decision on the proposals is expected from the National Park Authority by Monday April 22.

The plans can be viewed at the National Park Authority's online planning portal.

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Energy-saving hostelry gains Silver Award

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



The Ben Cruachan Inn has achieved a Silver Award from Green Tourism, the largest and most established sustainable certification programme in the world, at the first time of asking.

The inn, which reopened in Lochawe in 2017, is committed to reducing its environmental impact and using sustainable measures to operate efficiently.

'From our earliest days at the inn, we have worked hard to build a business with a clean, green, environmentally-friendly mission at its heart,' said owner Ian Irvine.

'It feels really good that our efforts have been recognised on our first assessment with Green Tourism.'

Their green efforts include the use of air source heat pumps to create a sustainable heat source for radiators and hot water throughout the building.

In 2018, the business banned plastic straws and is working towards becoming completely plastic free in the lochside bar and restaurant.

Business and operations manager Cameron Hill said: 'As well as recycling in guest rooms and the bar, we use low energy light bulbs



Ben Cruachan Inn staff celebrate their award. Left to right are chef Stevie Gibb, manager Cameron Hill and Ross MacDonald, assistant manager.

and appliances where possible and are passionate about using local ingredients to cut carbon emissions from transportation.'

The inn works hard to support the community, hosting charity bake sales, fundraising for a community defibrillator and recently partnering with Fyne Ales to donate a percentage of its IPA sales towards maintenance of St Conan's Kirk in the village.

Cameron added: 'If we can do something in a more environmentally friendly way, we will - and we're happy to take suggestions from our customers.'

'It was a customer suggestion that we get rid of plastic straws last year and that was

the catalyst to work towards becoming completely plastic-free.'

A Green Tourism Award means that a business works responsibly, ethically and sustainably, contributes to its community, is reducing its impact on the environment and aims to be accessible and inclusive to visitors and staff.

The inn scored highly for its attention to wheelchair accessibility throughout the bar, restaurant and accommodation and its welcome to assistance dogs and their owners.

Businesses that meet the required standard receive a Bronze, Silver or Gold award based on their level of achievement.

Island businesses triumph at awards

Two businesses based on the isle of Jura have snapped up awards at the Federation of Small Businesses's Celebrating Small Business Awards, which took place in Edinburgh on Thursday February 21.

The Jura Store Community Interest Company and Lussa Drinks Company won the community business and start-up business awards respectively.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'In my constituency, you'll find hundreds of brilliant businesses but it is an outstanding achievement for Jura to have two award-winning firms based on the island. Research shows that smaller businesses are critical to the viability of rural and island businesses.'



Alicia MacInnes, Lussa Drinks Company, centre, with her award.



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Transcripts printed to commemorate sinking of lolaire

by Jack MacGregor
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Debate transcripts at Westminster Hall have been printed marking the centenary year of the sinking of Her Majesty's Yacht lolaire off the coast of the Isle of Lewis.

The vessel was carrying home soldiers who fought in the First World War. The sinking had a devastating impact on the island as a whole generation of men were lost.

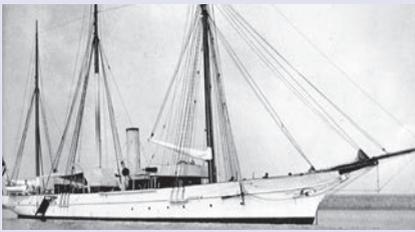
Western Isles MP Angus B MacNeil led the debate and had the transcripts signed and printed by all other MPs who contributed.

Mr MacNeil said the debate took place 'in Westminster Hall on December 12 and the transcript provides a record of that debate which may be of interest locally'. Copies of the transcripts have been sent to local schools, historical societies, the lolaire Working Group and individuals involved in commemorating 100 years since the sinking.

Mr MacNeil added: 'There was a huge community effort to commemorate the centenary of the loss of the lolaire. The many events and projects at the end of last year were a fitting and poignant commemoration of this great loss.'

There were also contributions from people connected to the accident, including Welsh MP Chris Bryant who was related to John Finlay Macleod who swam ashore with a rope and saved many lives.

HMY lolaire sank on January 1, 1919, after striking rocks two miles from Stornoway where families were waiting to welcome home servicemen. More than 200 died.



From Skye to Mt K

Morvern lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



The second and concluding part to Iain Thorne's feature on Sheila Combe.

Sheila Combe continued: 'Each day was quite different from the one before. After the forest it was all dwarf shrub and giant heather, with lots of eland [antelope], and then it was like a rock garden. By the third night we were on the plateau about half way between Mawenzi and Kibo. By then West was already feeling rather sick and suffering from the altitude, so we decided to spend two or three nights at that level to allow him to recuperate. It was very, very cold. I had a bottle of ink, and it froze absolutely solid.

'We decided to climb Mawenzi, which is by far the more interesting of the two summits. It is real, good rock-climbing, and we climbed it with the help of a postcard which West had bought in Nairobi. Otherwise, it would have been difficult to work out which of the mass pinnacles was the summit.

'We enjoyed that day very much indeed. It is the most lovely mountain for climbing, with excellent hand and foot holds. We used the rope and at the summit we found the names of the Germans who reached there in 1912. They were on paper in a tin box, and we added our names.

'Having climbed Mawenzi, we thought we ought to go back down to the plateau as we were both feeling the effect of the altitude. We spent the night in Pieter's Hut built before the war at 12,700ft. Next day we started back up towards Kibo. Four of the porters came with us until darkness fell when they refused to go any further because to them it was a holy mountain. We continued on alone.

'West had planned to ascend by moonlight but got his calculations wrong. It happened to be a totally dark night. We had one small lantern, which made it very difficult. The person in front lit up the next person, but the one behind could see nothing at all. We managed to stagger on but then it began to get really dangerous, because it was completely dark and there were precipices here and there, and we could see nothing.

'After resting, there followed the really terrible, exhausting climb, because of the lack of

air. You couldn't possibly think of the summit, because you'd just fall. All you could do was to look at the rock just a few feet above you and think "I must get to that rock". When you got there, you collapsed. Then, taking three or four deep breathes, you carried on; just rock by rock.

'Then suddenly Lennox-Browne said, "I cannot do any more, I'm finished, I can't go any further", so West sent him back with the lantern and the blankets. So we left him and went on and on. There was no end to it. It was terrible, the gasping was appalling.

'Finally, after a good dose of whisky and lime juice, we reached the crater's edge at Johannes Notch. We went to the left round the crater rim and crawled to the summit, foot by foot. I am not being dramatic. It really was like that.

'You can't imagine the relief of leaning up against the summit cairn and realising we were there, at Kaiser Wilhelm Spitze. We wrote our names in the pocket-book hidden inside the cairn. We had brought a bottle of champagne – as if we hadn't enough troubles without carrying it. We opened it; whoosh. There wasn't a drop left in it because of the altitude. Not one drop. We had carried chocolate and sultanas in our pockets. We had just that, and then we started down again.

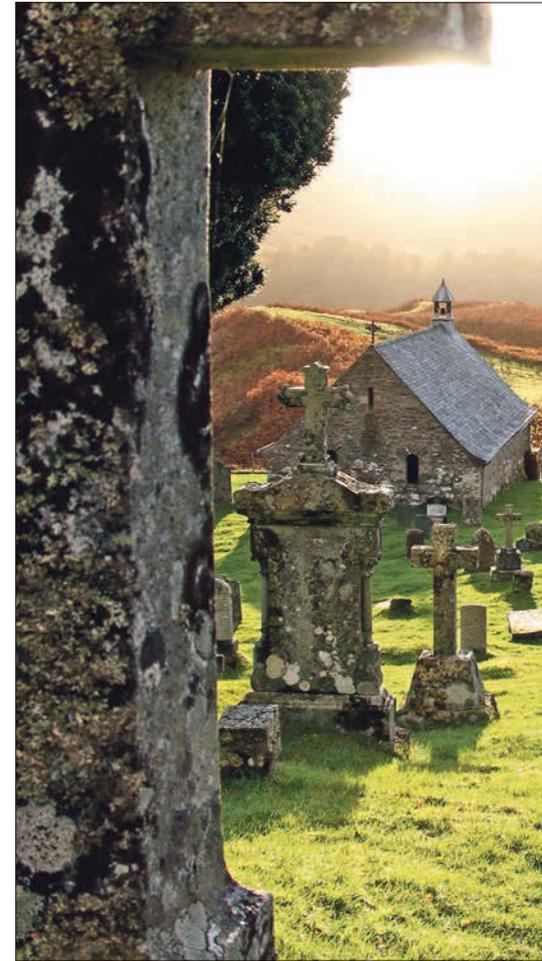
'A few women had managed to get to the crater rim, but very few people, and none of them women, had been round to the summit. The inside of the crater is amazing. Imagine a huge bowl of ice with hanging glaciers all round its inside walls and two great lakes of greeny-blue ice at the bottom. I have never seen anything like it.

'The way down was ridiculously easy. We just glissaded down steep slopes of lava dust. The porters were not where we left them; they were further down at Pieter's Hut. As we got closer we could see their camp fire. We reached them about 10pm. Next morning we walked 25 miles to Marangu and from there we went on to Moshie and took a lorry to Nairobi.

'My friends were not in the least impressed. All they really thought about was that we had been through the jungle without firearms. They assumed it must be alive with dangerous animals. So that was that.'

News of Sheila's ascent soon got out. West and Lennox-Brown must have had excellent contacts in the media because in no time at all she was on the front pages of just about every newspaper and magazine in the free world.

Leaving her climbing companions in



Nairobi, Sheila went on safari with her cousin, Captain Archie Ritchie, the most famous of Kenya's colonial chief game wardens.

From what she told me, this was much more interesting and exciting for her than her recent climb.

The countryside was teeming with wildlife in a way today's visitors would scarcely believe – as the West Highlands were less than 30 years ago, even although many animals were being killed by big game hunters such as the American ex-President Teddy Roosevelt. It is on record that in 1909 he and his son shot more than 500 species, including 17 lions, 29 zebras, 27 gazelles, nine black and white monkeys, eight hippopotami, two ostriches, a pelican, four crocodiles, and goodness knows how many elephants.

On one occasion in some remote place, Sheila

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Kilimanjaro



Cille Choirill, Glen Spean, the last resting place of Sheila Combe, nee MacDonald.

Photograph: Martin Briscoe.

was attacked at night in her bed by an intruder but managed to throw him off unaided – a story she enjoyed telling in graphic detail.

Following a brief and unsuccessful marriage, she went to India with the WVS and later, in the Second World War, worked in the ophthalmic wing of Queen Alexandra's Military Hospital at Millbank, London.

But her real love was the Highlands and it was to the west she returned, making her home in Lochaber at the Studio in Glen Nevis. Here she painted and made a garden out of a jungle.

In 1983, Sheila successfully nominated her postie, Jimmy MacDougall from Inverloch, as Postman of the Year in a UK national com-

petition and accompanied him by train from Fort William to watch him receive his award at the prestigious London Westminster Hilton Hotel.

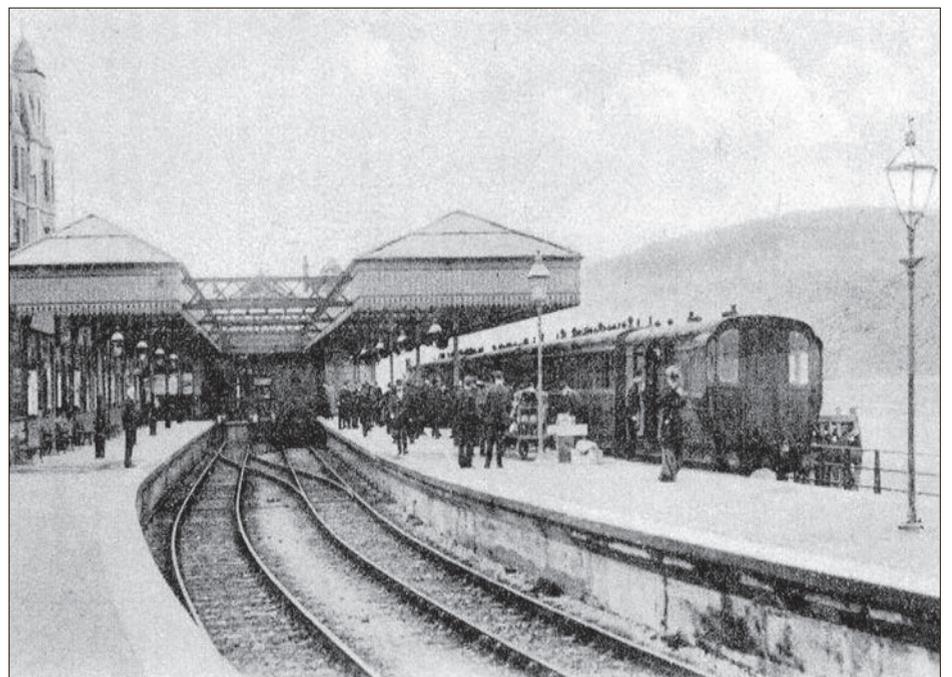
She died in May 1987 and was buried in Cille Choirill in the foothills of Lochaber in a spot chosen by herself a few months before her death. As we carried her coffin shoulder high from the car park up the slope and past the 15th-century Roman Catholic church dedicated to St Kerrill, a golden eagle appeared high overhead soaring on the thermals, and when her coffin disappeared into the earth, it too vanished out of sight in the mist – something that was remarked on at the time by all those present.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



This photograph from our archives shows students and instructors from Argyll Shukokai Karate at a course and grading back in December 1995.



Fort William railway station. Photograph courtesy of the Roamer archive.

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OT

LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HBPlaypark repairs
one year on will
not be before time

There has been much renewed interest in the ongoing saga of the Oban Community Playpark, which has been closed since March last year.

We have reported at length on the continuing inability of Argyll and Bute Council and the builder of the facility, Wicksteed Playgrounds, to reach agreement over the carrying out of repairs to the flooring at the park, located near to Atlantis Leisure.

So it is gratifying that we are able to report this week that an agreement has finally been announced over the repairs, though no timetable for them to be undertaken has yet been revealed.

However, given the year-long – so far – closure of the playpark, we would advise that the news should be received with a cautious welcome.

The Friends of Oban Community Playpark have campaigned tenaciously over the past 12 months to keep the issue in the public eye. Indeed, they had planned to hold a public demonstration to mark the first anniversary of the closure. It is probably the correct decision to cancel the protest given this week's announcement.

The Friends deserve to be commended for their refusal to let the matter drop.

Oban Winter Festival
deserves public help

The Oban Winter Festival has cemented its place in the town's social calendar over the past few years and is now eagerly anticipated.

This week the organisers have appealed for volunteers to help out at this year's events. If you have any time to spare, we would urge to get involved by going along to the planned drop-in session next week.

Hydro schemes help people
who live in glens survive

In response to the letters in last week's Oban Times against the Glen Etive hydro schemes, I should like to make the following reply.

I am a member of the Glencoe and Glen Etive Community Council as well as chairwoman of the Glen Coe and Glen Etive Community Company. My husband's family has been here in Glencoe since 1936 and he went to school in Glencoe Village.

The remit of the community council is to represent the small communities who live in these two glens and I should like to take this opportunity to respond – on my own behalf – to the objections to the hydro schemes planned in Glen Etive raised by people and groups who claim to have a 'vested interest' in our glens.

I would like them to consider the people who actually live and work here – all year round.

We do not have the luxury of the services that people who live in urban areas have. The community benefit which these schemes generate may enable us to invest in a few of the things that people who do not live in remote glens take for granted as their right.

We are happy that our glens are seen as beautiful (as indeed they are) and I understand that people love coming here to walk, climb and camp to get away from the noise and stress of urban living.

However, I would ask them to reflect on who comes to their rescue when they get into difficulties on our hills? It is the local mountain rescue team manned by local volunteers – unpaid – who turn out day or night in all weathers to help.

Who is left to clear up the rubbish when the campers and other visitors leave? There are no public toilets in Glen Etive and off the road the glen is littered with small piles of toilet paper covering up their messes, as well as a pile of litter.

The people who live here do the clearing up because they love their glen and hate to see the mess that is left. The council has no money and the NTS, which owns part of Glen Etive, has no spare manpower.

Our mountains and glens should not be regarded only as playgrounds for urban population – theirs to treat as they like. We who live here love our glens and would never support any scheme that will ruin our home environment.

Indeed, we have agreed with the developer of the schemes in Glen Etive that each family who lives in the glen will adopt one of the hydro schemes, monitor the installation and reinstatement of the ground, and report on the progress to the developer and the community council. This is best done by people who live here all year.

YOUR PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase these 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 In-

ment of the ground, and report on the progress to the developer and the community council. This is best done by people who live here all year.

VisitScotland promotes the Highlands vigorously with pretty pictures and flowery words and tourists flock to our 'wild lands'. But our long single-track roads cannot cope with the traffic. The passing places are seen as convenient places to park and in the summer are mostly full with campervans making driving an obstacle course. The verges have been totally destroyed.

This is a problem – not just in Glen Coe and Glen Etive but in most of the remote areas in Scotland. Only this week it is reported that the population of Caithness has fallen by 21 per cent.

If it becomes impossibly difficult to live in the remote areas of Scotland, more people will leave. Many of the younger men are already forced to work away from their families during the week, but they need to know that their children are schooled, their own parents can, if necessary, go into a local care home and that reasonable services are available for their families.

Do the people who object to progress in our glens really want these areas cleared of residents? Do they really want our tourists to come only as day trippers in buses with piped commentary? Because if no one lives here, that will be all that is left.

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TLC Spas



Industrial Estate, Oban, or in High Street, Fort William. This week's photograph of sunshine and snow at Kinlochleven, was sent in by John MacGregor.

Highland Clearances mindset, because that may be the unintended consequence if you deprive these remote areas of schemes that could provide the means to their survival.

Victoria Sutherland, Torren, Glencoe.

Being let down by a discriminatory care system

I feel care needs is a very important topic at the moment as the government is making cuts to a care system that is already in need of more help and more funding.

I am writing about the lack thereof for people under the age of 65 needing nursing care in

Scotland. Argyll and Bute has no nursing facilities that will accept someone under 65 unless there is a weekly 'top up' of more than £400 from families.

My mum, who is under 65, is now at a stage in her illness that she really should have 24-hour nursing care and because of this we have been trying to find somewhere mum can go that the government is still willing to pay for.

I feel we are being let down by the system. We would have loved mum to be closer to home. I know this isn't always possible but for anyone under 65 to not even be considered is disgraceful. They are considering sending my mum home and putting a bigger care package in, and I appreciate the work to try to help but this isn't going to be a long-term solution.

My mum – and I'm sure there are others – will have to go into a nursing home soon but I feel like we don't have any options.

I think the system for assessing care needs should be based on medical grounds alone. Why should someone under 65 not be entitled to the same level of care as someone over if they are in need of the same care?

Tammy McKie, Tobermory, Mull.

Taxpayers subsidising inefficient council

The local authority can claim a 4.79 per cent rise in council tax is below the maximum as it saves £1 in £480. But it is a kick in the teeth for many people. Average pay rises are around 2.6 per cent so after paying tax, a pay rise cannot cover half the council tax increase. People cannot afford to subsidise an inefficient council so it must save cash on unnecessary things.

Instead of personally attending meetings, councillors and officers can use online conferencing using the system developed by UHI/Argyll College. As well as saving hundreds of thousands a year in expenses, it will also free up more time for people. And democracy will be improved with all of these webinars available online for residents to watch.

The council has shed unnecessary staff but there are huge amounts of cash available to save. There are too many under-used buildings which cost megabucks to heat, clean and maintain. So relocating some staff and selling off buildings to reduce debt interest makes financial sense.

Whatever the Brexit outcome, austerity will be with us for decades, so please can the council play its part to help the wallets of both residents and businesses?

Mike Foster, Crannaig a Mhinister, Oban.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Air starsaich an earraich, agus tha e nàdarra dhuinn a bhith a' dèanamh fiughair ri fàs agus beagan grèine! Bhiodh daoine tro na linntean a' faireachadh togail sunnd nuair a thòisichadh an latha air sineadh agus dorchadas geamhraidh ri dhol seachad, agus abair gun d'fhuair sinne brosnachadh spioraid fad sheachdainean Gearran neo-àbhaisteach socair, agus ann an cuid a phàirtean de dh'Alba nas blàithe na chunnacas bho chionn ùine mhòr aig an àm seo den bhliadhna.

Chan eil fios agam ciamar a tha muinntir sgìrean eile den dùthaich ach gun teagamh tha Gàidheil measail air a bhith bruidhinn mun t-side, agus cho dubhach mu na tha an dàn! Bhiodh mo mhàthair-cèile chòir nach maireann a' fàidheadaireachd uisge is gaoth fù 's nuair a bha grian an àirde nan speuran 's gun sgòth air faire! Bha dùil ri peanas dhroch aimsire a' leantainn na gheibhte de làithean matha!

B' e toileachas a bh 'ann dhuinne beagan ùine fhaotainn a' sgioblachadh mun taigh agus bha e math a bhith a-muigh ri làithean a bha cho tlachdmhor. 'S ann

nuair a bha mi sa bhun-sgoil a dh'ionnsaich an neach-teagaisg an seanfhacal Beurla dhuinn a bha ag ràdh nan tòisichadh Am Màrt mar leòmhann gun crìochnaicheadh e mar uan, agus 's dòcha ri linn mo cho-latha breith a bhith aig deireadh a' Mhàirt cha do dh'òchuimhnich mi riamh na faclan. Theagamh nach robh a' chiad latha den mhìos garbh am-bliadhna ach thàinig fìor dhroch shìde anns a' chiad sheachdain, agus abair gun robh sinne toilichte leis na chaidh a chur às ar dèidh de dh'obair-gàrraidh. Ma bha sinn a' faicinn 's a' faireachadh earrach a' boillsgeadh bho chionn seachdaine 's beag a tha dhen choltas sin air nuair a tha mi a' sgrìobhadh seo is snuadh fuar geamhraidh air an talamh a-rithist, agus tuilleadh den t-seòrsa aimsire chaochladich sin ga gealltainn. Gun teagamh thig atharrachadh gu math sgiobalta agus nì beagan làithean tiormachd feum mòr ann a bhith deasachadh airson àm cura, agus nam bi-omaid dol a ghabhail stiùireadh bho eòlas ar sinnsirean tha an seanfhacal aca an ag innse dhuinn "am fear nach

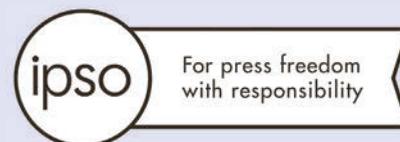
cuir sa Mhàrt cha bhuain e as t-Fhoghar".

Mar a tha sinn cho mothachail, tha deireadh a' Mhàirt am-bliadhna gu bhith a' ciallachadh sgaradh Bhreatainn bhon Aonadh Eòrpach, agus aig àm sgrìobhaidh seo chan eil e soilleir dè seòrsa aonta leis am fàg sinn. Bidh achaidhean gan cur fo bhratach aonaidh a thèid a bhuain ann am Breatann dealaichte. Ach tha cùisean mòran nas draghaile dha tuathanaich agus croitearan a bhios a' frithealadh breith uan ann am beagan sheachdainean 's gun fhios aca de seòrsa margaid a bhios ann dhan stoc sin deireadh an t-samhraidh.

He that doesn't sow in March will not reap in autumn!

An old proverb with particular relevance this year as the impact of Brexit remains unclear, particularly, for example, for crofters and farmers commencing lambing while not knowing what sort of market will be available in autumn.

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

MULL

Tobermory Horticultural Society will be hosting its spring show on Saturday April 13. The event will take place in the Aros Hall and will start at 2pm.

DALAVICH

A spring craft fair will take place in Dalavich on April 22.

OBAN

A bingo night will be held in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls in aid of the Dove Centre. It will take place on Saturday March 23 from 7.30pm and will have cash prizes. The event will cost £10 per book.

The Oban and district branch of Cancer Research UK will be hosting its annual general meeting today (Thursday March 14) at Glencruitten Church Centre, starting at 7.30pm.

A free wellbeing and meditation talk will be held in Oban today (March 14). The one-hour event will take place in Atlantis Leisure from 12.30pm.

The guest speaker will be Rose Goodenough, who has been a teacher and practitioner of Raja Yoga meditation for more than 35 years.

'Our state of happiness is vital to our chances of maintaining good health,' the event description reads. 'When we have happiness and hope, the immune system is stronger.'

CRAIGNISH

The renowned Craignish Boat Club jumble and car boot sale will celebrate its 20th anniversary this month.

The event will take place on March 23 in Craignish Village Hall, as well as the car park, from 10am until 2pm.

The first jumble sale was held in 1999 and was intended to be a one-off fundraiser.

But it proved so popular that the decision was made to hold it again the following year, and the next,

Mike to cycle Hebrides for charity



An avid cyclist will pedal the entire length of the Outer Hebrides – and back again – in aid of two charities.

Mike Lewus, a technical adviser from Sheffield, will undertake the Hebrides 4 Hearts and Minds challenge from April 16 to 25.

'Last October I cycled from Stornoway to Castlebay and, after finishing the trip, I immediately began to consider a new and bigger challenge,' he told The Oban

Times. After deciding to bike from Port of Ness to Vatersay and back again, Mike thought: 'I may as well help others less fortunate than myself to benefit too.'

He will be raising money for the British Heart Foundation and the mental health charity SANE.

Mike said they are 'two charities close to my heart, mainly because the sufferers the charities support include former family members and a friend'.

Mike, who visits the Western Isles for at least one week a month, first 'discovered' the charm of Scotland 10 years ago.

He said: 'Following a first trip of discovery to the Scottish Highlands and Western Isles 10 years ago, I found myself amazed by the beauty of the Scottish landscape.'

To donate to Mike's causes, visit <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MikeLewus>

and for the past 20 years it has been a highlight of the Ardfern calendar.

It initially raised money for the boat club, then for the village hall and now for Craignish Community Company (C3).

Speaking about this year's sale, organisers said: 'This year there are stall holders and car-booters coming from Ayrshire, Kintyre and Mid and North Argyll.'

'For sailors, there is always the possibility of picking up a real bargain among the anchors, ropes, clothes, electronics, sails and even

boats, which have all been traded in the past, while for non-nautical family and friends, there will be plenty of general stalls to browse round.'

For further details, email janvbrown@btinternet.com or call 01852 500689.

ACHALEVEN

Come and join Bookbug and Mrs Cooper on Friday March 22 for some rhyme and singing fun and a story.

Sessions, which take place at Achaleven Primary School from 2.15pm, last approximately 30 minutes and are free and open to all.

WESTERN ISLES

Trading Standards is warning residents in the Western Isles that telephone scammers are now using 01851 area codes as an attempt to make their calls appear local.

The automated calls state that your internet is about to be disconnected due to non-payment of your

account, and you are instructed to press 1 to reinstate the service or press 2 to cancel the service.

A spokesperson, said: 'Our advice is to put the phone down and ignore the call.'

Two Western Isles project have received more than £2 million.

Cnoc Soilleir has been awarded £1.8 million from the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund to build a state-of-the-art modern building for Gaelic and cultural heritage in South Uist.

The building has been designed to become a local focal point for the community and visitors. It is an innovative joint venture between Ceòlas and Lews Castle College UHI.

And the Grinneabhat Project was awarded £368,338 to redevelop the former school in Bragar, which closed in 2013.

Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan said: 'I am really pleased that both of these projects have been able to secure this funding.'

Islanders planning a summer holiday should ensure they are prepared for a potential no deal Brexit, warns Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MP Angus Brendan MacNeil.

With less than a month until the planned Brexit date, Mr MacNeil says a no deal scenario could mean passports with less than six months' validity may not be accepted for travel to EU countries.

SKYE

MSPs will gather in Portree to discuss the 'anti-smacking' Bill.

Politicians will meet a range of groups on the island, before holding a formal meeting with representatives of different faiths and belief systems.

The formal committee meeting, which is open to the public, will be held between 4pm and 6pm tomorrow (Friday March 15) in the Fingal Centre/Arainn Fhinn, Portree.

The public are also welcome to a question-and-answer session in the centre from 3.15pm.

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At random

MARTIN LAING

mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



Litter problem

I mentioned a couple of weeks ago the problem of litter in Oban town centre.

Sadly, it doesn't seem like anything much has been done about it.

I walk around the town every day and it appears there are hot-spots for where people blithely cast their rubbish.

One of the worst areas is Gibraltar Street, outside Bossards and Cafe Harris. Now, I use these names only as locators in case anyone is unfamiliar with Gibraltar Street and in no way infer that they or their customers are responsible.

There are a couple of well-used benches there but no bin, although there is one just a few yards away at the pedestrian entrance to Tesco car park. There used to be a bin beside the benches but it has been removed some time ago. Why?

Why do the culprits think it is acceptable to so casually discard their unwanted material? Is it mere laziness resulting in an unwillingness to take even a few steps to dispose of rubbish?

I urge anyone witnessing littering to report it to the police. It is a scourge we could do without.

Good news for Oban

Isn't it gratifying to see the number of new businesses about to open in Oban?

There have been a number of abandoned premises over the past couple of years, so I think it is excellent news to see some of them being brought back into commercial use.

One of the most welcome is to see workers busy in the Rockport Hotel, known better locally as The Woody, which had become quite an eyesore. It is important that this town centre location is improved.

It is also good to see the former Kitchen Garden and the fish and chip shop just along the road coming close to reopening as a restaurant and two new retail units respectively.

We just need someone to take over the former Nancy Black's to have the town looking more like the thriving place it is.

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.



The children had a great time at the Dunbeg centre.

Kilmartin youngsters visit Ocean Explorer Centre

Pupils from Kilmartin Primary School visited The Ocean Explorer Centre in Dunbeg to find out about micro-plastics and pollution in our oceans.

They participated in four

different workshops, including 'micro-plastic detectives', the bio-accumulation game, micro-scope activities and the marine pollution game.

They were educated by PhD

students Lola and Solene, microbiologist Elaine, and outreach officer Helen, all from the Scottish Association for Marine Science, part of the University of the Highlands and Islands.

The pupils have been working hard in their school on a topic about plastics and 'they impressed us very much with their knowledge and enthusiasm', Helen said.

Funding boost for women's and girls' health on Islay and Jura

Swimming lessons, healthy cooking classes and beauty therapy for women and girls on Islay and Jura are among 204 projects sharing in £1.5 million of National Lottery funding.

The cash from National Lottery Awards for All Scotland goes to 204 community, sports and arts projects across the country, many of which will break down barriers to physical activity for people of all ages and abilities.

Islay and Jura Community Enterprise will receive £5,919 to provide a range of sport and leisure activities at the Mactaggart Leisure Centre in Bowmore.

Islay and Jura Community Enterprises chief executive Gary Scott said: 'We are delighted to receive this National Lottery award which will help make sport and leisure more inclusive for women and girls living on Islay and Jura.'

'We plan to provide swimming

instruction classes, healthy cooking and eating workshops, gym advice and instruction, beauty therapy and nails, together with basic DIY in the home. There's something for everyone.'

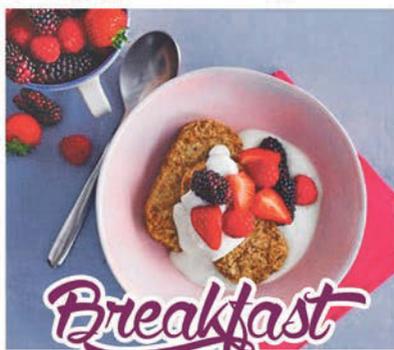
A National Lottery Awards for All Scotland spokesperson said: 'With spring just around the corner, it's a great time to be getting out and about to enjoy a range of physical activities.'

'Thanks to National Lottery

players, this will now be possible for many people across Scotland who will be able to take part in a range of health and wellbeing activities, whether that's walking or cycling, dancing, taking up a new sport or enjoying outdoor nature pursuits.'

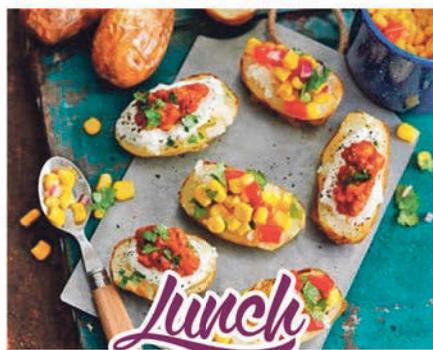
National Lottery Awards for All Scotland is open to applications that can be received at any time. For more, visit www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/awardsforallscotland or call 0300 123 7110.

A typical day - At last, an eating plan that fits into your life



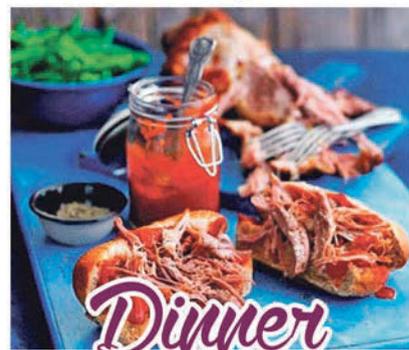
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OUTDOORS

Be prepared as winter returns to mountains

The unusually warm weather in Scottish mountains during the past few weeks looks like it has finally come to an end.

The absence of snow caused many mountain-goers to ditch their usual winter attire for something more appealing to summer weather.

However, the forecast looks to be changing and mountaineering experts are warning people to make sure they prepare for colder temperatures.

This weekend Scotland's mountain weather will be strongly influenced by a cold front.

Snow is expected to fall and temperatures could drop below freezing, especially on higher ground.

Mountaineering Scotland health and safety adviser Heather Morning said: 'It's important to consider our mindset.'

'Over the past two weeks it very much felt like winter was behind us, so it would be all too easy to get caught out in the wrong place with the wrong kit.'

Ms Morning said it is important for people to be aware of the weather conditions at all times and to be prepared if you are on the hills.

She added: 'Combine fresh snow cover with high winds and poor visibility and it's time to switch on that #Thinkwinter awareness again and reinstate those crampons and ice axes essential for safe travel in the winter mountains.'

Check out the latest information on snow conditions at the sportsScotland Avalanche Information Service webpage and combine that information with the latest mountain-specific weather forecast.

Go to www.sais.gov.uk. Mountain weather forecasts can be found at www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecasts and at www.mwis.org.uk

Rewilding aims to boost rural economy

by Neill Bo Finlayson
editor@obantimes.co.uk

A unique rewilding training scheme in the Highlands, run by conservation charity Trees for Life and backed by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, is aiming to boost young people's skills and employability in the rural economy.

Applications are open until Monday for the award-winning charity's Skills for Rewilding programme, which is offering five people the chance to spend a year learning practical skills in landscape management, horticulture, community engagement and estate management.

Mainly based at Trees for Life's acclaimed Dundreggan Conservation Estate in

We're looking to train young people who haven't found their niche yet, or who are looking to change careers. It's an exceptional opportunity to gain the practical experience which is highly sought after.

Glenmoriston, the successful applicants will be able to develop skills in rewilding – helping damaged ecosystems return to a natural state – that will also be transferable to other organisations.

'We're looking to train young people who haven't found their niche yet, or who are looking to change careers,' said Paul Greaves, Trees for Life's Skills for rewilding manager.

'It's an exceptional opportunity to gain the practical experience which is highly sought after by employers, while being based in a spectacular setting.'

Trees for Life is restoring the globally important Caledonian Forest and its wildlife. The forest once covered much of the Highlands, but after centuries of deforestation, only around one per cent now survives.



Last year's Trees for Life Skills for Rewilding trainees were, left to right, Nick Kinnegan, Callum Fraser, Tim Buchan, Rhona Duncan at Dundreggan. Photo: Alex MacLeod, Trees for Life.

So far Trees for Life's volunteers have established 1.6 million trees, and the charity is also successfully reintroducing red squirrels to fragments of suitable forest across the Highlands.

Focusing on work experience rather than academic learning, the trainees will work alongside Trees for Life's team – carrying out hands-on activities such as growing native trees from seeds, landscape management, helping volunteers plant trees, engaging with communities and schools, and ecological monitoring.

They will gain accredited qualifications, including some from the University of the Highlands and Islands, and will also get the chance to broaden their experience by going on placements with organisations such as the RSPB and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Last year's programme attracted more than 100 applicants. Those taking part came from backgrounds including education, painting and decorating, and the hospitality sector.

Trees for Life hopes to attract people from groups poorly represented in nature conservation, including younger local people, women and individuals hoping to make a career change later in life.

Applicants must be UK nationals and at least 18 years old when the traineeships start in July. The programme covers living expenses, and is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Applications are open until 9am on Monday March 18. To register interest, email traineeships@treesforlife.org.uk. See www.treesforlife.org.uk/work/traineeships or call 01309 691292.



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This week's walks



Machrihanish was praised for its beach, and the Cairngorms National Park was recognised.

Silver lining for Highland retreats

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk

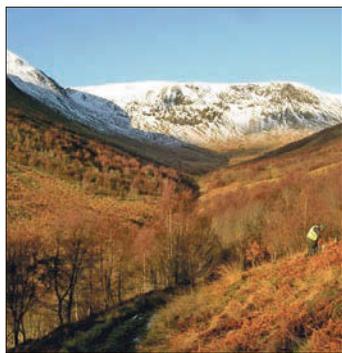


Two Highland hideaways have been selected as runners-up in the BBC Countryfile Magazine Awards 2019 with a Glenmoriston project taking a third place.

Machrihanish Bay, on the Kintyre peninsula, came second in the Beach of the Year category, which was won by Sandown Bay on the Isle of Wight.

Boasting the longest continuous stretch of sand in Argyll, the bay is popular with surfers, beachcombers and walkers.

The Cairngorms took second place in the National



Park of the Year section, with North York Moors in first, while the Caledonian Forest Restoration Project, carried out on the Dundreggan Estate in

Glenmoriston was voted third best Wildlife Success Story of the Year.

Winners were announced last week following a long and detailed judging process to produce the shortlists. The choice was then left up to a public vote run through the magazine.

'Congratulations to each of the winners – and all the people and places who were shortlisted,' said Countryfile Magazine editor Fergus Collins.

'The aim of our awards is to celebrate the best of the British countryside and shine a light on lesser known places, projects and people who are doing great work.'

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.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk. Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers Group can be contacted by email on info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk

Saturday March 16: Beinn a'Chaoirinn by the East Ridge, Glen Spean

The shortest and most interesting route up this Munro and includes a grade 1, two-star scramble.

Start from the A86 just E of the bridge over the Allt na h-Uamha at NN400818, where parking is available. Follow the W bank of the river N up through the conifer plantation to its boundary fence.

Turn W for 200m to reach a track and follow it N to emerge onto the open hillside at NN398850. Turn W and head for the toe of the E Ridge at altitude 695m, on the N side of the Allt Ban where it issues from a rocky corrie. Scramble up the ridge, which leads directly to the summit of Beinn a'Chaoirinn, 1052m. Visit the N Top, 1043m, then head S over the summit plateau to the S Top, 1049m. Descend S, following the rim of the steep E aspect to reach the minor summit of Meall Bhaideanach, 606m. Turn E and descend to the Allt na h-Uamha and follow the outward route back to the start.

Distance: 13km; height to climb: 1023m; map(s): LR41/42, EX401, OL55. Meet at Fort William WM at 8.45am for start of walk at 9.30am. Leader: Ian Moir 07973 836498.

Thursday March 21: Beinn Mhich Chasgaig, Glen Etive

A shapely Corbett with an impressive approach and good summit views.

Start from Alltchaorunn bridge, NN198512. Limited parking is available in the vicinity. Cross the River Etive and follow the track to Alltchaorunn lodge. Avoid the lodge garden on the E side of its perimeter fence then pass through a gate and a few trees to reach the path leading S on the E bank of the Allt a' Chaoirinn. The single-plank bridge over the tributary Allt Coire Ghiubhasan is deemed unsafe. It may be possible to cross

below the bridge at a ford used by estate ATVs to reach the stalkers' path leading SE into Coire Ghiubhasan. Follow it to NN206496 and re-cross the burn to its N side. If it is not possible to cross the burn, stay on the N side to reach the same point.

Climb NE up the E side of a prominent gorge on the SW flank of Beinn Mhich Chasgaig, following the fall-line. When the gradient eases, curve E to reach the summit plateau and cairn, 864m. If the River Etive is fordable, descend the NE ridge and cross it where suitable in the vicinity of NN223523. Transport required, or return to the start down the road. Otherwise descend SE steeply down to the col between Beinn Mhich Chasgaig and Clach Leathad, then traverse around Coire Odhar to pick up the path in Coire Ghiubhasan. Cross the Allt Coire Ghiubhasan where fordable and retrace steps to Alltchaorunn bridge.

Distance: 9km; height to climb: 750m; map(s): LR41/50, EX384. Meet at Glencoe village car park at 9am for start of walk at 9.30am. Leader: Toril Frantzen 07788 264007.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

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

Sunday March 17: Binnein Beag, Binnein Mor, Glen Nevis

An adventurous route, much of it well off the usual approaches to these fine hills, isolated at the eastern end of the Mamores. Binnein Mor is the highest in this range.

Start from the CP at the end of the public road in Glen Nevis, NN167691. Follow path beside the Water of Nevis to safe place to cross the river at approximately NN230694. Climb Binnein Beag, 943m, then descend to saddle between Binnein Beag and Binnein Mor. Climb Binnein Mor by the fine north-east ridge or if conditions dictate climb the north ridge which is more straightforward.

Descend the north ridge, find a safe crossing of the Water of Nevis, and return by the outgoing route.

Distance: 20km, height: 1230m ascent. Suggested by Rick Atkinson.



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#LoveLearningLoveOban

'Oban: A University Town'

How students can benefit Oban's economy

It is almost a year since the Oban: A University Town (OaUT) project had its first article in The Oban Times, introducing the project and plans for coming years.

Over the year we have had articles highlighting project partners, student profiles and updates to help keep readers informed. We have also looked at the aspirations of young people in Oban and it has been extremely encouraging to spend time with high school pupils, as well as students coming into the area about why they have chosen to move to the region.

As we now look to the year ahead, it is always important to remember, and reflect on, our core message: Oban is already a University Town. The project team and partners will continue to highlight the wide range of opportunities that are available for further and higher education in and around Oban.

As a University Town, there is significant benefit to the local economy, both in terms of the direct financial benefits as well as wider impacts in the town and surrounding area. In

2017-2018, just over 1,000 students were registered in Oban studying above SCQF Level 6. Not included in this number are the additional student residential visits and the number of students working at the hospital and businesses in the town.

It is difficult to put an exact figure on the economic benefit, but based on similar studies from elsewhere in the UK, we estimate that it is over £8 million per year in direct benefit alone such as rent, shopping and transport. This calculation is based only on full-time students at around 45 per cent of the total student body and does not include benefits from tuition fees and employment within Oban organisations, or the considerable income generated from part-time students through accommodation and spend in the town.

The HE and FE institutions in Oban also employ around 300 people between them, which is considerable in relation to the size of Oban's population.

The OaUT project partners have recently reviewed these student numbers and the economic benefits, and have looked at planned growth for each of the institutions in Oban. Based on current projections, it is hoped that within the next 10 years the number of full-time and part-time students will grow to 1,700 with direct employment then at more than 500 and contributing at least £14 million to the local economy.

This is a significant benefit to the town and is an important contribution to Oban's growth and economic resilience in coming years. At the beginning of the project we looked at standard definitions of a University Town, and one of the key points was that students and institutions are part of the fabric of the town or city. Based on the facts and figures that have come out in the past year, it is clear now that Oban is already a University Town and the student body is having a real impact on the

local economy. In the coming year the project team will be working both to increase the economic benefit to the area and to ensure students have a fantastic experience during their time here.

With a busy year planned for 2019 and a lot of activity already under way, there will be regular updates to follow. For more information please see the project website www.obanunitown.org or feel free to contact the team directly at any time. #loveobanlovelearning



www.obanunitown.org

Get involved in #Love Learning Love Oban

Argyll College UHI rises above national performance average

It's official – more Argyll College UHI students than ever before are successfully completing their courses.

Statistics released by the Scottish Funding Council show the proportion of further education (FE) students completing their full-time courses at Argyll College UHI in 2017-18 has increased by more than 15 per cent in the past five years.

The overall total of 76 per cent is now nearly 10 per cent above the national average, putting the college ahead of the pack in terms of successfully supporting its FE students to successfully complete their chosen courses.

Figures for the university partnership as a whole are also considerably higher than the national average figure (66.1 per cent) with over 70 per cent of students passing FE courses.

The region's results have increased by 2.8 percentage points on the previous year.

'We believe a significant factor in this success is our network of local learning centres, which enable students to study and achieve, with appropriate support, within their own communities,' said principal Martin Jones.

'Successfully completing one of our FE courses is often not an end in itself but a means to progressing on to other courses or employment opportunities. We're delighted such a high proportion of our students are putting themselves in the position of being able to move on to positive destinations.'

Argyll College UHI is now accepting applications for full-time courses starting in September 2019. To see the full range of what is available, visit www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk or call on 01631 559500.



University of the
Highlands and Islands
Argyll College

Glenshellach Business Park
Oban, PA34 4RY
01631 559 500

Argyll College UHI is proud to be a part of Oban, a university Town. We are one of the 13 partners of the University of the Highlands and Islands providing a range of educational opportunities for the Oban community.

From computing to cookery, tourism to teaching, adventure sports to administration - we have further, higher and vocational courses as well as giving you access to the range of UHI degree courses. Join us and see how you can learn, achieve and advance towards your future.

www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk

Upcoming events and evening classes

ACCESS TO NURSING INFORMATION EVENT Thursday 28th March, 4pm-6pm

Would you like to work in the health sector but lack the right qualifications? Come along to our open evening and speak to tutors and staff about the course and available funding. Register at <http://bit.ly/accesstonursing>



WET FELTING

Mondays, 6pm-8.30pm, £60 for 5 weeks

Learn to craft a unique wet-felted piece such as a bowl, scarf, headband or hat. This course will begin once we have sufficient numbers - so get in touch today to reserve your place. Call us on **01631 559 500** or email acobancentre@uhi.ac.uk



SUGARCRAFT & CAKE DECORATING

Mondays, 6.30pm-8.30pm, £60 for 5 weeks

Learn how to create beautiful cake toppers made entirely out of sugar. This course will begin once we have sufficient numbers - so get in touch today to reserve your place. Call us on **01631 559 500** or email acobancentre@uhi.ac.uk



PROUD TO BE PART OF OBAN, A UNIVERSITY TOWN

LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Oban pupils celebrate World Book Day

Oban pupils dressed up as their favourite book characters last Thursday for World Book Day.

Where's Wally, Hermione Granger, Dorothy and Toto, and Charlie Bucket and his golden ticket all made an appearance at Rockfield Primary School.

Rockfield's head teacher,

Caroline Fothergil, said: 'World Book Day is a great opportunity for us to come together as a school to celebrate reading.'

'We particularly like to promote reading for enjoyment, as we know that this in itself will help raise attainment throughout the school.'

World Book Day aims to

celebrate reading and provide every young person in the UK with a book of their own.

Thanks to National Book Tokens, book publishers, booksellers, schools and the World Book Day charity, children and young people receive a £1 token to purchase a number of selected £1 books.



BONNIE babies

competition 2019

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES LOCHABER TIMES & Oban Times

WIN £500

After being blown away by the record number of entries last year, we are delighted to announce that Bonnie babies is back! To be in with a chance to show off your wee bundle of joy to our readers and have the chance to win our £500 first prize, make sure you send in your cutest picture by 25th March 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

22nd Lorn Drama Festival

This year's Lorn Drama Festival will take place over three nights from March 27 to 29 in Oban's Corran Halls.

The festival continues to be supported by local clubs and those from further afield and organisers are always delighted to see Accent players making the trip up from Campbeltown. This year they welcome Dunoon Drama Club for the first time and are really pleased that all the clubs take the time to come to Oban and perform for you, the audience.

Festivals like this give amateur actors and directors the opportunity to take the audience to different places and tell a wide variety of stories, some unashamedly comic, others more serious. It also allows creative writers to try their hand at writing for the stage and organisers are pleased to be awarding the Drama Festival Quill again after its inaugural outing last year. This award is for the best original script, written by or for the clubs and in its first production. It is hoped that this award will continue to encourage clubs



and local writers to produce interesting and original work for the festival.

This year's festival promises a mix of youth and experience, and comedy and drama. Writing talent is also on show with Seil performing an original script written by John Colston and Caroline Morgan.

The work of established writers are also welcome and this year the festival has A Respectable Funeral by

Jimmie Chinn performed by Dunoon Players. This play is one of Chinn's earliest plays and was originally performed as a double bill with From Here to the Library on stage and then on Radio 4 in the early 1980s. This is a well-observed piece examining in a tragi-comic way the family tensions that are uncovered immediately after a funeral. A more recent Radio 4 writer, John Finnemore, wrote English



for Pony Lovers and Hot Desk as part of his Double Acts series of two-handed plays. Finnemore is well known for comedy writing for The Now Show and the award-winning series Cabin Pressure. Both these plays are presented by Benderloch and North Connell Drama Club.

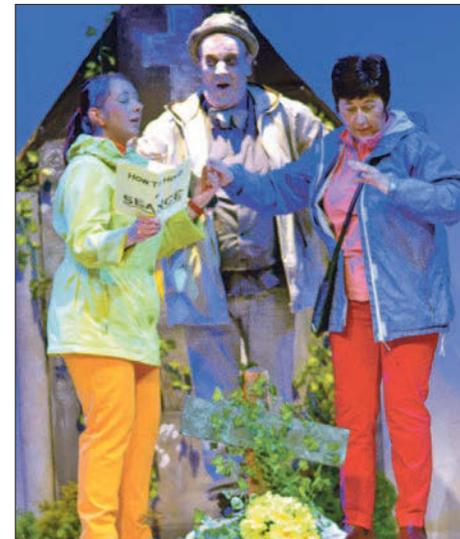
A much darker two-handed play, When a Man Knows, is performed by Taynuilt and District Drama Society

adults. Taynuilt juniors are presenting Bad Reception by Paul Vincent, a comedy play. The other junior play this year is Charlotte Holmes: future detective by Richard James performed by Benderloch juniors.

Accent Players are performing Grave Prospects by Isabella C Rae, a dark comedy set in a graveyard where the living interact with the recently departed.

Accent, Dunoon and

Benderloch recently performed at the Campbeltown Festival. Benderloch won first prize and the inaugural Jenny Black Memorial Trophy for best acting. Accent were second. Both these teams will go to the SCDA Wester Division final in Castle Douglas in April. Oban audiences will have a chance to see these award-winning plays, along with all the other festival plays at the Corran Halls from March 27 to 29.



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LORN DRAMA FESTIVAL

CORRAN HALLS, OBAN

27th – 29th MARCH, 7:30pm

Tickets £7 concession £6
Season Ticket £15 & £12.50

Box office 01631 567333

Scottish charity number: SC025659

M'ALBA

MY ALBA

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 2018 (rpt)
22.30 An Dèidh Hitler (rpt)
23.15 Binneas – Na Trads 2015 (rpt)
23.30 Seòid a' Chidsin (rpt)

DIHAOINE 15 AM MÀRT

FRIDAY 15 MARCH

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
18.35 Machair (rpt)
19.00 An Là – News
19.25 Binneas – Na Trads (rpt)
19.35 **UR|NEW:** Scottish Women's Premier League 2019 – Celtic v Motherwell
21.45 Belladrum highlights 2018 (rpt)
22.00 **UR|NEW:** Grace Harte
22.50 Dhan Uisge (Lochindorb) (rpt)
23.00 ALT (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 16 AM MÀRT

SATURDAY 16 MARCH

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
17.45 An Là – News
18.00 A' Fàgail Bharragh (rpt)
18.45 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
18.55 Machair (rpt)
19.20 **UR|NEW:** Women's Six Nations – England v Scotland
21.15 **UR|NEW:** ALT

22.15 An Dèidh Hitler (rpt)

23.00 **UR|NEW:** Scottish Premiership – Aberdeen v Livingston

DI DÒMHNAICH 17 AM MÀRT

SUNDAY 17 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 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)
21.00 DIY le Donnie S5 (rpt)
21.45 Belladrum highlights 2018 (rpt)
22.00 ALT (rpt)
23.00 Grace Hart (rpt)
23.50 Dhan Uisge (Lochindorb) (rpt)

DILUAIN 18 AM MÀRT

MONDAY 18 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 – Parkinson's (rpt)
22.00 Iùl a' Chiùil – An Ceòl (rpt)
22.30 Sàr-sgeòil: Outlander (rpt)
23.30 An Sgrùdaire (rpt)
23.45 Belladrum highlights 2018 (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 19 AM MÀRT

TUESDAY 19 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 2018 (rpt)
22.00 Trusadh – Parkinson's (rpt)
23.00 Oran na Mnà (rpt)
23.30 Alleluia (rpt)

DI CIADAIN 20 AM MÀRT

WEDNESDAY 20 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: His Bloody Project (rpt)
22.00 **UR|NEW:** Seòid a' Chidsin
22.30 Iùl a' Chiùil – An Ceòl (rpt)
23.00 Cùm Grèim! (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 21 AM MÀRT

THURSDAY 21 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 Bothy Life (rpt)
22.00 **UR|NEW:** An Sgrùdaire
22.15 Belladrum highlights 2018 (rpt)
22.30 An Dèidh Hitler (rpt)
23.20 Dhan Uisge (Rubislaw Quarry) (rpt)
23.25 Seòid a' Chidsin (rpt)



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Fort William set for legendary country show!



The Legends Of American Country Tribute Show is at the Corran Halls in Oban.

Now seen by more than 250,000 people, the hugely popular hit, Legends of American Country show, is set to return to Fort William's Nevis Centre on Saturday March 23, and what a night of toe-tapping country music it is going to be.

The show is enjoying huge success this year, with more than 100 sold-out shows at prestigious theatres all across Scotland, and featuring four fantastic singers in Joe Moore, James McGarrity,

Anthony McBrien and Tracey McAuley, who perform the hit songs of icons such as Johnny Cash, Dolly Parton, Kenny Rogers, Patsy Cline, Tammy Wynette and Don Williams, to name a few, in this two-hour country extravaganza that will take you all the way to Nashville and back in one night.

A full live band of superb musicians, coupled with an authentic stage set and state-of-the-art sound and lighting equipment, deservedly makes

this the top show of its kind in the whole of Europe. With rave reviews coming from Hot Country TV, Country Music Round Up and CMT, this is a night you do not want to miss.

Tickets are available now from the Nevis Centre box office by calling 01397 700707 or visit www.neviscentre.co.uk.

So keep Saturday March 23 free in your diary as all country roads are Fort William bound for the Country show of the year!

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What's on at Nevis Centre

Spectrum soft play area
Suitable for children of 12 and under. Baby area 0-2 years, toddler area 2-5 years and older children can be let loose in all the other areas.

Superbowl
open everyday from 12 noon until 10pm

The Nevis Centre An Aird, Fort William
Tel: 01397 700707 www.neviscentre.co.uk

Oban author receives his Bookbug prize

Oban author Alan Windram and illustrator Chloe Holwill-Hunter were guests of honour at a special ceremony at The Lighthouse in Glasgow last Wednesday (March 6), when the pair picked up their awards for winning the 2019 Bookbug Picture Book Prize.

Alan's book, *One Button Benny* (Little Door Books), is the story of a little robot who has a special button that he is only allowed to press in an emergency, and of what happens when he finally has to press his button to help his friends.

Alan said on the night: 'It's a dream come true for me and Chloe to win the Bookbug Picture Book Prize with *One Button Benny*. It has been amazing and humbling to see how the children have taken Benny to their hearts.

'We are so excited to let you know that Benny will be back in spring 2020 with a new adventure.

'Thank you, too, to the Scottish Book Trust for all their support.'

Bestselling author Theresa Breslin also received the Outstanding Achievement Award, recognising her 30-year career as an advocate for children's literacy and libraries, with Deena Wren, librarian at Beeslack Community High School in Midlothian, receiving the Learning Professional Award, acknowledging more than 10



Alan Windram and Chloe Holwill-Hunter after picking up their award.

years of service promoting reading for pleasure.

Marc Lambert, CEO at the Scottish Book Trust, said: 'Many congratulations to the winners of this year's Scottish Book Trust Awards, and our thanks to our sponsors, Browns Books for Students.'

Claire Smith, sales manager for Browns Books for Students, said: 'The first fundamental principle of education is learning how to read. Without this, everything that follows becomes infinitely more difficult.

'The work undertaken by

Scottish Book Trust is truly amazing in helping the young people of Scotland reach their full potential. Browns Books for Students are proud to have such a long-standing and active relationship with Scottish Book Trust. It is an honour to support such a successful charity, which transforms lives for the better in Scotland. 'Congratulations to this year's winners, and also to all nominated for the awards. I would also like to thank the team at Scottish Book Trust who make these awards possible.'

'Shetland' author signs up to Oban visit

Highly acclaimed crime-writer Ann Cleaves will be popping into Oban next month to attend a book signing hosted by Waterstones.

Creator of characters such as Jimmy Perez (*Shetland*) and Vera Stanhope (*Vera*), Cleaves was born in Herefordshire and brought up in north Devon.

One of the most exciting and best-loved crime authors writing today, her *Shetland* novels are among the best-selling series of the past decade. The series has also had a very successful and popular adaptation to the small screen

in the BBC drama *Shetland* starring Douglas Henshall while her Vera Stanhope novels have been dramatised as the TV detective series of the same name.

After dropping out of studying English at the University of Sussex, Cleaves took up various jobs including cook at the Fair Isle bird observatory, auxiliary coastguard, probation officer, library outreach worker and child care officer.

Cleaves currently lives in Whitley Bay but will be travelling up to Argyll on Friday April 26, from 12.30pm, to sign copies of her books.



Crime writer Ann Cleaves will be in Oban in April. (c) Micha Theiner.

WHAT'S ON

In partnership with Oban Town Diary BID4oban.co.uk



THURSDAY 14TH MARCH

Slimming World
Salvation Army Hall, Fort William
9.30am, 11.30am, 3.00pm, 5.00pm & 7.00pm

Tel; Gillian 07796 040803

Well-Being & Meditation
Atlantis Leisure. 12.30pm-1.30pm

English Conversation Practice
LORN HOUSE Municipal Building
2pm - 4pm

Michael English

The Corran Halls. 7pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

FRIDAY 15TH MARCH

Lorn Archaeological & Historical Society

St Columba's Cathedral Hall. 7.30pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
Sandra MacBeth. Open till 2am

Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban

From 9pm. Free Entry

SATURDAY 16TH MARCH

Parkrun

Ganavan Sands, Oban. 9.30am

Final Tainuill Winter Ceilidh

Tainuill Village Hall. 7.30pm

Cearcall Comhraidh (Gaelic conversation group)

Furan Gaelic Centre

12noon-1.30pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans

Ceol an Aire

Open till 2am

Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban

From 9pm

Free Entry

SUNDAY 17TH MARCH

St Patrick's Day Quiz

Markie Dans. 9.30pm

MONDAY 18TH MARCH

Drumming & Music Making

Tainuill Sports Pavilion

6.30pm - 7.30pm

Slimming World

Union Street/Argyll Street,

Lochgilthead

5.30pm & 7.30pm

Tel; Rhona 07880 878906

TUESDAY 19TH MARCH

Carers Coffee Morning

North Argyll Carers Centre

10.30am-12pm

WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH

Slimming World

Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban

9.30am, 11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm

Tel; Gillian 07796 040803

Beach Clean

Slip opposite Stafford Street

10.30am - 12pm

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 15

12:00/16:30/19:30 CAPTAIN MARVEL 12A
16:00 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD PG
18:15 A PRIVATE WAR 15
20:30 SCOTCH: THE GOLDEN DRAM PG

18:00 TIGERS 12A
18:15 A PRIVATE WAR 15
20:30 SCOTCH: THE GOLDEN DRAM PG

SATURDAY 16

11:15 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD PG
11:30 THE LEGO MOVIE 2: THE SECOND PART U
13:30/16:30/18:30 CAPTAIN MARVEL 12A
14:00 SCOTCH: THE GOLDEN DRAM PG
16:00 A PRIVATE WAR 15
19:30 DIRT ROAD TO LAFAYETTE

TUESDAY 19

12:00 TIGERS 12A
16:00 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD PG
16:30/19:30 CAPTAIN MARVEL 12A
18:15 A PRIVATE WAR 15
20:30 SCOTCH: THE GOLDEN DRAM PG

WEDNESDAY 20

12:00/16:30/19:30 CAPTAIN MARVEL 12A
16:00 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD PG
18:15 A PRIVATE WAR 15
20:30 SCOTCH: THE GOLDEN DRAM PG

SUNDAY 17

12:00 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD PG
12:30/15:30/18:30 CAPTAIN MARVEL 12A
14:30 THE FAVOURITE 15
17:00 A PRIVATE WAR 15
19:30 SCOTCH: THE GOLDEN DRAM PG

THURSDAY 21

12:00/18:15 A PRIVATE WAR 15
16:00 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD PG
16:30/19:30 CAPTAIN MARVEL 12A
20:30 SCOTCH: THE GOLDEN DRAM PG

MONDAY 18

12:00 DIRT ROAD TO LAFAYETTE
15:15/20:00 CAPTAIN MARVEL 12A
16:00 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON: THE HIDDEN WORLD PG

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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



It's a busy wee time for cèilidhs and concerts in Glasgow - as you will read below. I was disappointed to miss a couple of events this weekend, including a Mòdrun event held in Kibble Palace in the Botanic Gardens featuring a great line up of singers. Mòdrun is a series of cèilidhs running right up until the National Mòd comes to Glasgow in October - so I will be sure to cover the future event.

GGs host successful annual concert

Friday night saw the 126th annual concert for Ceolraidh Gàidhlig Ghlaschu (affectionately known as the GGs) in the fantastic setting of Hyndland Parish Church. I unfortunately could not be in attendance but I had my sources planted.

A great audience were welcomed by piper Jeremy Levif and enjoyed solo performances from Ruaraidh MacIntyre, Carolyn Ferguson, Roisin Chambers, Catherine Tinney, and Gordon McKeeve - plus the GGs new quartet, as well as from the choir themselves, under the baton of Kenneth Thomson.

Chairman for the evening was Donnie Maroot Macleod, who was rewarded for his efforts by winning a prize in the raffle - a day

in a health spa. Overall, I hear the evening was a great success and I am told the choir would like to thank to everyone who came along to attend.

Clydebank Highlanders

A great evening of music and song was enjoyed by all at the latest Clydebank ceilidh on Friday night and the committee extend their thanks to all who participated.

The annual Clydebank Association charity cèilidh in aid of Erskine will be held in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, on Friday March 22 at 7.30pm. Admission at the door includes tea, coffee, and homebaking. All are welcome to the cèilidh which is always a fantastic evening for a tremendous cause. The supper dance with Charlie Kirkpatrick's band will be held in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, on Saturday March 30. Tickets for that dance are available from the committee members. The evening is BYOB.

Comunn an Taobh-an-lar prepare for next cèilidh

The next Comunn an Taobh-an-lar ceilidh will be held in the Ellangowan Social Club on Thursday March 21 at

7.30pm. The chairman will be Angus Cameron, the piper Kenneth MacFarlane and the artistes Deirdre Graham, Marina MacLeod, Donald Iain Brown, Norman MacKinnon, and instrumentalist Ryan Young. Kirsteen Grant will be the accompanist for the evening.

Tickets at the door, and the price includes tea, coffee, juice, and biscuits at the interval.

What's on

Friday March 15: Glasgow Skye Association Cothrom na h-Oigridh (youth concert) in the Crawford Hall, Beith Street, at 7pm.

Saturday March 16: Clasaichean Gàidhlig (Gaelic Classes) from Clann Gàidhlig at 10am in the University of the West of Scotland.

Saturday March 16: The Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association ceilidh in the Scotstounhill Bowling Club at 7.30pm featuring Josie Duncan, Hannah Knight, Gordon McKeeve, Alastair MacArthur, and Charles MacLeod.

Saturday March 23: Clann Gàidhlig Cèilidh at 7.15pm in the Wynd Centre, Paisley.

Pub scene

Park Bar
Friday March 15: Dun Mòr Ceilidh Band

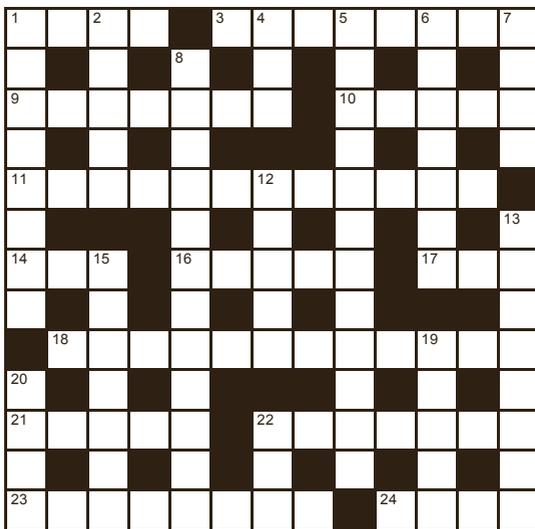


Donald MacLeod taking part in a "Care for a Ceilidh" last weekend before going on to chair both Mòdrun and the GGs annual concert.

Saturday March 16: John Carmichael
Sunday March 17: Dun Mòr Ceilidh Band

Islay Inn
Friday March 15: Brozcat
Saturday March 16: The Keelies

Crossword



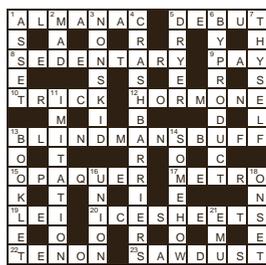
Across

- 1 Tortoise racer (4)
- 3 Electronic device with balanced signals, opposite in phase (4-4)
- 9 Signal (7)
- 10 Track events (5)
- 11 Copiers (4,8)
- 14 In the distance (3)
- 16 Position (5)
- 17 Turn left (3)
- 18 Weak and wimpy people (5-7)
- 21 Way out! (5)
- 22 American grasshopper (7)
- 23 Unfilled wall? (3-5)
- 24 Road turn (4)

Down

- 1 Living it up (4,4)
- 2 Varnish ingredient (5)
- 4 Wear and tear (3)
- 5 Subject of a tumble from a wall (6,6)
- 6 Find (7)
- 7 Young woman (4)
- 8 Made for this use (7-5)
- 12 Freeze (3,2)
- 13 Bilateral (3-5)
- 15 How things are (7)
- 19 An independently owned business (5)
- 20 Showy (4)
- 22 They're related (3)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



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Port Ellen Wed 13 to Fri 15 March
Gigha Sat 16 March
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Tiree Tue 19 to Wed 20 March

Mary Poppins Returns (U) 130 mins
16/03 at 5.30pm, 18/03 at 5.30pm, 19/03 at 5.30pm
Green Book (12A) 129 mins
Oscar winning road movie. 20/03 at 5.30pm
Stan & Ollie (PG) 97 mins
Portrait of the world's favourite comedy double act as their careers come to an end. 14/03 at 5.30pm, 20/03 at 2pm
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
The Favourite (15) 119 mins
Oscar winning story of Queen Anne and her two attendants. Before The Favourite we will screen a free photo presentation of work by Steven Berkoff. 15/03 at 5.30pm, 19/03 at 8.30pm
Mary Queen of Scots (15) 124 mins
Explored the turbulent life of Mary Stuart. 15/03 at 8.30pm, 16/03 at 8.30pm, 18/03 at 8.30pm, 20/03 at 8.30pm
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Supper and Raffle
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Lorn Vintage Ploughing Match
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Highland Book Prize announces shortlist

Four shortlisted books for The Highland Book Prize 2018 have been announced.

The judges had no small task in selecting from the strong and varied longlist in the awards' second year but have arrived at the four books published in 2018 which reflect the best titles with a Highland connection, says Moniack Mhor Creative Writing Centre which is organising the prizes.

The chosen titles are *The Last Wilderness* by Neil Ansell, *Now We Shall Be Entirely Free* by Andrew Miller, *The Assynt Crofter* by Judith Ross Napier and *The Valley at the Centre of the World* by Malachy Tallack.

The authors on the shortlist have been invited to the Ullapool Book Festival to read extracts from their work on Saturday May 11 with

the winner announced that night.

There were 56 books submitted from 30 publishers in all and a panel of 91 volunteer readers helped with the initial stages of finding a winner.

Chairwoman of Ullapool Book Festival Joan Michael said: 'We are so looking forward to hearing from the four shortlisted writers. The judges doubtless had a difficult job getting from the longlist to the shortlist and must have an even trickier job picking a winner from this fine selection.'

The Highland Book Prize aims to showcase the literary talent of the region and to raise the profile of work created in or about the Highlands.

The winning entry gets £1,000 and a place on a writing retreat at Moniack Mhor near Inverness.

Entries are in now for 36th Highlands and Islands festival

Thousands of visitors are expected to descend on Oban this May Bank Holiday for the 36th Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival.

Organisers say 'festival fever' is starting to simmer again in readiness for the three-day event from May 3 to 5.

Monday March 11 saw the closing date for entries from musicians and dancers which included the festival's first piping champion hopeful from New Zealand.

Due to the huge response to this year's dancing competitions, there will be a pre-premier competition on Saturday March 30 at the Atlantis Leisure Centre.

The festival committee is also planning a fundraising ceilidh for that night.

This year the singing competitions are being extended to welcome Gaelic singers across the age groups to reflect the rise in fluent Gaelic speaking youngsters who might not have had the opportunity to compete and perform before.

The festival is also linking up with Feis Latharna, a traditional music and Gaelic arts tuition programme for young people in Oban and Lorn, so there will be a day of fun and action on Sunday May 5 to encourage new talent to try out new instruments.

Performers have signed up from all over Scotland. Last year the uptake was 'great' across Argyll, in particular from Campbeltown and Inveraray but this year organisers are hoping to have attracted more entries from Fort William and beyond.

'We were delighted to have our first piping entry from New Zealand,' said one.

Fringe events in venues across the town during the festival and outdoor performers are just some of the added attractions to bring in bumper footfall to the town. Last year more than 3,000 people came.

'Argyll is rich in musical and dance heritage and the festival provides a great outlet for this. Organised by volunteers, the



Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival.

committee has been proud to attract more than 3,000 visitors to the town which is a welcome boost to the local economy and we are grateful to local businesses who support the many fundraising initiatives,' said festival chairperson Breege Smyth.

'Over the years the economic impact has been acknowledged, and the festival would not be possible without the support of many local busi-

nesses and lottery funding.'

She added: 'This support over the years has enabled young people to have the opportunity to compete to the highest level and then perhaps go on to make solid careers from their musical abilities and passion.'

'Each year I am delighted that our funders and the businesses of Oban share our passion and are generous in support.'

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Oban photographer launches exhibition in Hope Kitchen

An avid photographer launched an exhibition in Oban's Hope Kitchen on Friday night – and 30 per cent of all sales will go to the charity.

Youth worker Ewen Munro, who has been taking photographs for 40 years, showcased his collection titled Harris, Hebrides and Beyond. Speaking to The Oban Times, he said: 'I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to display my work and be able to bring them into somewhere like Hope Kitchen and support them.'

Ewen's photographs feature some of the most beautiful beaches that the Hebrides have to offer, as well as rustic features on the islands.

He moved to Oban in 2004 to work for Hope 2 Oban and will often use photography as a vehicle to help youngsters.

'I like working with young

folk,' he said. 'If there is a group of young people interested, that is the vehicle I will use to help them grow a skill and get into it.'

When asked if he had favourite from the selection, Ewen struggled to choose,

but revealed his son, Jamie, said his image of Luskentyre Beach on Harris was his best yet.

The exhibition will be on display for a few months in Hope Kitchen located at 2 Soroba Road.



Ewen Munro launched his photography exhibition in Oban's Hope Kitchen. 17_T11_HopeExhibition01

Spanish blues in Benderloch? Well, doesn't that just take the biscuit

A magical evening of medieval and Spanish blues played by a renowned guitarist awaits an audience in Benderloch this Friday night (March 15).

Claude Bourbon headlines at the Victory Hall with his unique and talented take on a wide range of musical traditions.

The French-born virtuoso, now based in Cumbria, is known throughout Europe and America for amazing guitar performances that take blues, Spanish and Middle Eastern stylings into uncharted territories.

Looking ahead to his impending visit to Argyll, Bourbon said: 'It's a long way from Cumbria but it's all worth it.'

'It's always a pleasure to come and play in your neck of the woods.'

Bourbon's inimitable style incorporates all five digits on each hand dancing independently but in unison, plucking, picking and strumming at such speed and precision that his fingers often seem to melt into a blur.

Thousands of people in the UK, Europe and USA have enjoyed listening to this talented artist and for the majority of his audience it is an experience that compels them to return again and again to hear and watch him play.

Bourbon weaves his songs through the audience as if on a journey through life taking in different flavours of Europe and beyond. His Spanish medieval blues evolved into gypsy, Eastern European, with a splash of Paco de Lucia, Delta Blues and more, holding audience attention under a musical spell.

A top master of his craft Bourbon never appears to be rushed, as he has impeccable timing and makes things that one can only marvel at seem simple.



Claude Bourbon is bringing his multitude of guitar styles to Benderloch.

Organisers Campbell and Joy Cameron commented: 'Claude describes his music as medieval and Spanish blues but we think he is having us on.'

'He does so much more and with talent and flair. He has an amazing wide-ranging ability on the guitar and brings us some great lyrics in his songs.'

Claude has played countless venues, including Glastonbury Festival, Isle of Wight Festival, Colne Great British and Blues Festival, Rock O'Z Arene, Avenches, Switzerland, among others.

He has shared the stage in Europe and the USA with

musicians including Calvin Russel, Charlie Morgan (Elton John, Gary Moore), Jan Akkerman (Focus), Steve Grossman (Miles Davis), Herbie Armstrong (Van Morrison), Jose Barrense Dias and many more.

Some of this guitarist's influences will now allow his Argyll audience a fascinating insight into this remarkable musician.

Once again there will be tickets at the door at 7.30pm when the bar opens or in advance for just £10. The concert takes place in the small cosy reading room so tickets will be limited – to book in advance call 01631 720247.



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SAT
MAR
23

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Standing Show



THU
MAR
21



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Shop, Oban

WED-FRI
MAR
27-29



LORN DRAMA FESTIVAL

Doors 7:00pm Start 7:30pm
Tickets £7 Concessions £6



SAT
APR
13

RAYMOND MEARNS: CONFESSIONS OF A CONTROL FREAK

Doors 7:00pm Start 7:30pm
Tickets: £12 Concessions £10
Reserved Seating
Over 18's Only

THU APR
04

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW ABOUT DINOSAURS? WITH DR BEN GARROD

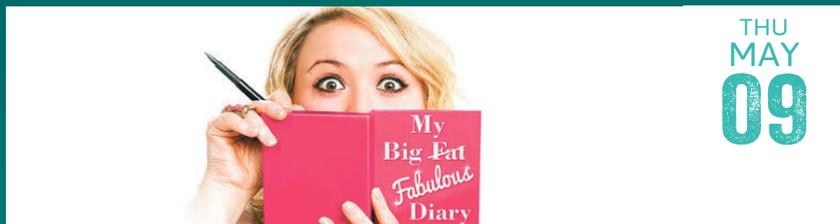
3:00pm
Tickets: Adults £12
Concessions £10
Family £40
Reserved Seating

SAT
APR
27



FIDDLERS RALLY

Doors 7:00pm Start 7.30pm
Adults £10 Concessions £9
Family £26 Reserved Seating



THU
MAY
09

LEAH MACRAE: MY BIG FAT FABULOUS DIARY

Doors: 7:00pm Starts: 7:30pm
Tickets: £20 + £1 booking fee
Reserved Seating



THU
APR
11



PAUL EASTMAN & FINLAY WELLS OF COAST

Doors 7:30pm Start 8pm
Tickets: Adult £12 Conc £10

FRI
MAY
24

THE COMPLETE STONE ROSES

Doors 7pm Start 7:45pm
Tickets: Adult £17.50 Concessions £15.50 + £1
booking fee
Standing only event



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West coast trainees win big at Lantra Scotland's Learner of the Year Awards

Three trainees from the west coast have won major accolades at Lantra Scotland's annual Land-based and Aquaculture Learner of the Year Awards, which took place on Thursday March 7.

Thirty-four-year-old Janis Brivkalns, from Dunoon, is the joint overall winner of the entire event, the first time the honour has been shared by two people. He also won the Modern Apprentice and Aquaculture Industry categories on what was a highly successful night for him.

Janis shared the title with Amy Park, 19, from Hawick, who has been doing a Modern Apprenticeship in Mixed Farming with JA Park through Borders College.

Meanwhile, 26-year-old Andrew Richardson, originally from the Isle of Skye, won the Higher Education Award and 19-year-old Gamekeeping apprentice Cameron MacLean, from Islay, won the Game and Wildlife category.

Janis has been doing a Modern Apprenticeship in Aquaculture with The

Scottish Salmon Company through Inverness College UHI. His work has been to an excellent standard and he is an inspiration to others. He has overcome many hurdles to become an established and valued member of the production team.

Janis said: 'It's great to be recognised like this, and winning these awards is incredible. I hope this will help me progress within the company and industry I love so much. I'm very grateful to my tutors at Inverness College UHI and my employers at The Scottish Salmon Company for all their support.'

Andrew has been doing an Erasmus Mundus joint masters degree in Aquaculture, Environment and Society through the Scottish Association for Marine Science UHI in Dunbeg. As well as excelling on his course, he was recently elected as one of only two national coordinators in Scotland for the European Aquaculture Society Student Group, and is an active member of the Sustainable Oceans Alliance.



Janis Brivkalns was a joint overall winner, the first time the judges have been unable to separate the top two people.

Andrew said: 'What an honour to win the Higher Education Award. I'd like to thank my tutors at the Scottish Association for Marine Science, Lantra Scotland and everyone who has helped me along the way.'

Cameron has done a Modern Apprenticeship in Gamekeeping through North Highland College UHI, while working as a deer stalker at Dunlossit Estate. He is currently doing an NC. Cameron

is very well thought of on the estate and is yet another great example of why the Modern Apprenticeship route works. Cameron said: 'I'm very happy to win this award. It's been hard work but it's great to be recognised by the industry and those around you. Thanks to everyone who has helped me.'

The 2019 Learner of the Year Awards were organised by Lantra Scotland, the sector skills council for the

land-based, aquaculture and environmental conservation industries. Host and main speaker for the evening was well-known Perthshire farmer and stand-up comedian Jim Smith.

According to Liz Barron-Majerik, director of Lantra Scotland, the awards are key to recognising and celebrating the achievements of trainees within Scotland's rural sector, as well as encouraging employers to invest in the next generation of talent.

She continued: 'Our awards highlight the incredible individuals who work within Scotland's land-based, aquaculture and environmental conservation industries as well as the many rewarding careers available.'

'I know our judges were very impressed again with the quality of the nominations, but this year they really couldn't separate the two top learners.'

'So for the first time ever, we have two overall joint winners, Amy and Janis. I'd like to congratulate them

both and all the rest of our finalists too.'

'We are, of course, very grateful to have the support of a range of people and organisations who make holding an event like this possible, including our main sponsor Skills Development Scotland, and Aberdeenshire Council, ABP Food Group, British Agricultural and Garden Machinery Association, Countryside Learning Scotland, DRB Youngstock, Elspeth Watson, George Linton Memorial Trust, Marine Scotland, Royal Highland and Agricultural Society Scotland, Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Centre, Scottish Land and Estates, Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Qualifications Authority, Scottish Salmon Company, Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation and SRUC.'

To find out more about Lantra Scotland's Land-based and Aquaculture Learner of the Year Awards, visit www.scotland.lantra.co.uk/learner-year call 01738 310164 or email scotland@lantra.co.uk

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Donald Cameron hosts Lochaber farmers meeting

A meeting of hill farmers and crofters who are part of the Lochaber Monitor Farm programme was held last week in the Scottish Parliament by Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron.

The meeting, which was also attended by Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Kate Forbes and the Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy Fergus Ewing MSP, was designed to highlight the successes of the monitor farm project, and what more support is needed to preserve hill farming and encourage future generations into the sector.

Other issues, including punitive penalties, frequency of inspections, reforming support payments and designing a new Scottish support system after Brexit, were also discussed.

Following the meeting, Scottish Conservative MSP Mr Cameron said: 'It is important as Brexit ap-



Lochaber Monitor Farm project at the Scottish Parliament last week.

proaches that we speak to our farmers and crofters so that we know what is happening in our agricultural communities, and what kind of support is needed going forward.

'Brexit undoubtedly presents many challenges, but it also provides us with an opportunity to redesign the

system that presently exists so that support goes to those who need it most.

'I am confident that cross-party conversations such as these will be very beneficial in the long run, and I look forward to speaking to more local farmers and crofters in the coming weeks and months.'

Market report

United Auctions, Islay, March 9:

The annual early spring sale of 817 grazing cattle at Islay Auction Mart. Bullocks sold to average £854.41 or 231.1 pence per kilo (+ £0.62 per head). Heifers levelled out at £736.48 per head or 208.2 pence per kilo (- £38.02 per head). With cattle in general weighing around 25 to 30 kilo's more on the year, this resulted in less impact on the values per head whilst all classes was selling at levels around 15pence per kilo less on the year. A strong force of mainland buyers was in attendance.

PRINCIPAL LOTS & PRICES

TOP PRICES PER HEAD

BULLOCKS

AAx:

£1330 - Uiskentuie : £990(9) - Octomore : £950(5) - Aoradh : £950 - Craigfad : £945(7) - Octofad : £940(6) - Tallant.

BRBx: £995, £945 & £930 - Eorrabus.

CHARx: £1180(2) & £1050(7)

- Craigfad : £1035 - Eorrabus

: £1010(5) - Tallant : £950(3) -

Eorrabus : £950(5) - Aoradh : £940(8)

- Eorrabus : £935(2) & £930 - Aoradh

: £930(5) - Craigens : £930(5)

- Octofad : £930(10) - Aoradh :

£925(5) - Craigens : £910(9) - Tallant

: £905 - Eorrabus.

LIMx: £1135(2) - Balaclava :

£1105(4) - Lossit : £1100(2) -

Craigfad : £1080(2) - Lossit :

£1080 - Uiskentuie : £1075 - Ardbeg

: £1075(2) - Blackrock : £1070

- Uiskentuie : £1065 - Balaclava

: £1060 - Uiskentuie : £1055(6) -

Lossit : £1050 - Ardbeg : £1030(3)

- Uiskentuie : £1015(3) - Tallant :

£1005 & £1000(3) - Blackrock.

SIMx: £855(2) - Cladville : £805(3)

- Carrabus.

SHx: £710 - Pairc A Chlassan

LUINGx: £590(5) - Duich.

BLG

£505 - Ballymeanach.

HEIFERS

AAx:

£940 - Tallant : £815 - Craigens.

BRBx:

£635 - Bayview.

BAx:

£870 & £830 - Eorrabus.

CHARx:

£1145 - Craigfad : £900 - Aoradh :

£870(5) - Eorrabus : £870 - Tallant :

£870(8) - Eorrabus.

LIMx:

£975(2) & £970(4) - Balaclava :

£955(2) - Blackrock : £940 - Ardbeg

: £940 - Brybruich : £905(2) -

Claggan.

SIMx:

£840(2) - Cladville.

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BULLOCKS

AAx:

256p(5) & 253p(8) - Tallant :

251p(11) & 250p(5) - Aoradh :

249p(7) & 236p(5) - Tallant : 236p(7)

- Octofad : 233p(3) - Mansefield

: 229p(9) - Octomore : 227p(5) -

Octofad : 226p(2) - Uiskentuie.

BRBx:

224p - Eorrabus.

CHARx:

266p(3) & 265p(5) - Tallant : 258p

- Aoradh : 254p(5) - Tallant : 253p -

Aoradh : 253p(4) - Tallant : 252p(7),

249p, 248p(5) & 247p(5) - Aoradh :

245p(5) - Tallant : 244p(10) - Aoradh

: 244p(2) - Tallant : 244p - Eorrabus

: 243p(2) - Aoradh : 241p(8) -

Eorrabus : 241p(2) - Aoradh : 241p(5)

- Eorrabus.

LIMx:

284p(5) - Tallant : 277p(6) - Ardbeg

: 272p(4) - Lossit : 268p(7) - Tallant

: 267p(2) - Ardbeg : 264p(4) - Black-

rock : 264p - Grulinbeg : 263p(2)

& 260p(2) - Balaclava : 260p(5)

- Ardbeg : 258p(5) - Octofad :

257p(3) - Ardbeg : 249p(6) - Lossit :

248p(3) - Octofad : 248p(3) - Tallant

: 246p - Ardbeg : 244p(4) - Craigens

: 242p(2) - Blackrock : 242p(3) -

Lossit : 241p - Eorrabus.

SIMx:

218p(4) - Carrabus.

HEIFERS

AAx:

216p - Craigens : 213p(6) - Aoradh.

BAx:

210p - Eorrabus.

CHARx:

228p(4) - Tallant : 222p(6) & 219p(4)

- Aoradh : 219p(8) - Eorrabus :

216p(5) - Craigens : 216p(4) - Tallant

: 215p - Craigfad : 214p(6) - Craigens

: 214p(9) - Eorrabus : 213p(9) -

Tallant.

LIMx:

263p & 244p(5) - Ardbeg : 237p

- Brybruich : 234p(4) - Blackrock :

232p(6) - Ardbeg : 229p - Claggan

: 229p(5) - Ardbeg : 228p & 227p

- Tallant : 226p(4) - Uiskentuie :

220p(2) - Grulinbeg : 220p(2) -

Blackrock : 219p(9) & 217p - Ardbeg.

SIMx: 204p(2) - Cladville.



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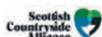


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*At the end of the agreement there are three options: i) pay the optional final payment and own the vehicle; ii) return the vehicle: subject to excess mileage and fair wear and tear, charges may apply; or iii) replace: part exchange the vehicle.
With Solutions Personal Contract Plan. 185*. Subject to availability and status. T&Cs apply. Offer available when ordered by 1 April 2019 from participating retailers. Excludes KAROQ SE Technology, KODIAQ vRS and SE Technology. †KAROQ petrol engines receive £1,450 deposit contribution and KAROQ diesel engines receive £1,950. ‡KODIAQ £2,000 deposit contribution. Indemnities may be required. ^Service plan covers first two consecutive services limited to 1x Oil and 1x Oil and Inspection service. Offers are not available in conjunction with any other offer and may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Accurate as of December 2018. Freepost ŠKODA Financial Services.
Official fuel consumption WLTP for the ŠKODA range in mpg (litres/100km): Combined 58.9 (4.8) to 30.1 (9.4). NEDC equivalent CO₂ combined emissions for the ŠKODA range are 167 to 96 g/km.
Figures shown are for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption and CO₂ figures with other vehicles tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including the accessories fitted (post-registration), variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load. There is a new test used for fuel consumption and CO₂ figures (known as WLTP). The CO₂ figures shown however, are based on a calculation designed to be equivalent to the outgoing (NEDC) test cycle and will be used to calculate vehicle tax on first registration. For more information, please see www.skoda.co.uk/owners/wltp-info or consult your retailer. Data correct at December 2018. Figures quoted are for a range of configurations (including non-UK) and are subject to change due to ongoing approvals/changes. Please contact your retailer for further information. For fuel consumption data based on the outgoing test cycle (NEDC equivalent data), which is the 'official' UK fuel consumption data until 31 December 2018, please consult your retailer.

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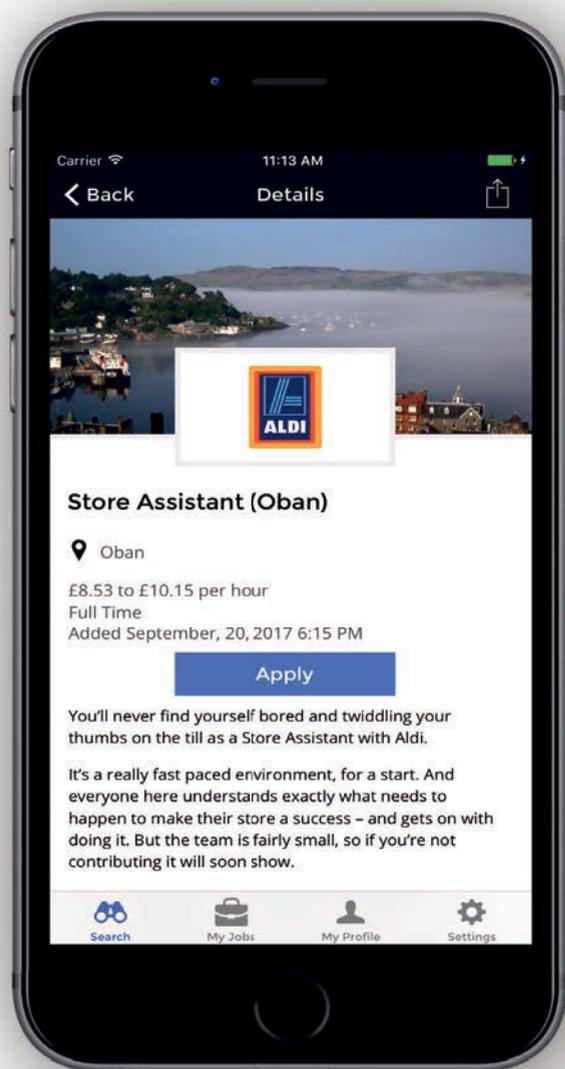
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www.safestrongandfree.org.uk Scottish Charity SC017744

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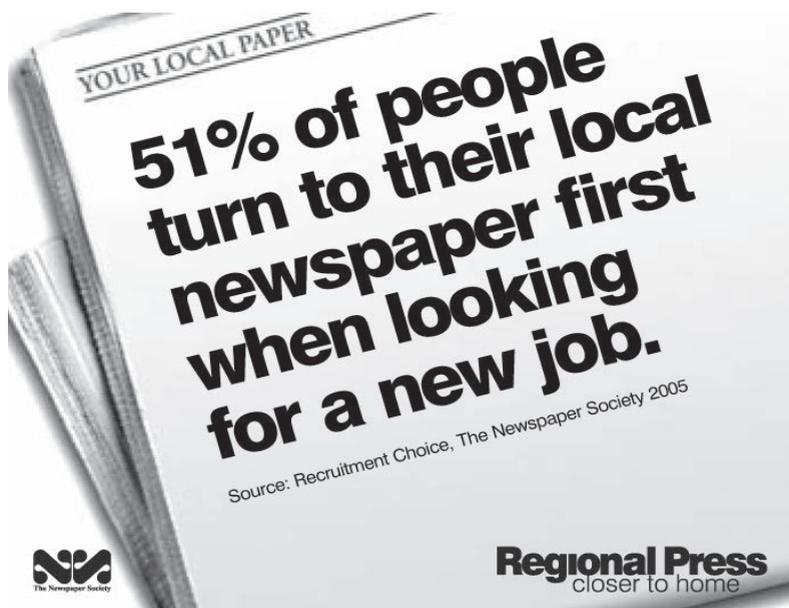
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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
19/00365/PP	Erection of extension to existing berthing pontoon	Cardingmill Bay Landing Stage, Gallanach Road, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4LS
18/02698/LIB	Installation of replacement windows	Flat 1, Oban Times Buildings, Corran Esplanade, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5PX
19/00271/PP	Demolition of 2 sheds and erection of (class 1) retail unit with artist residence	Land West Of St Ronan's Chapel, Isle Of Iona, Argyll And Bute, PA76 6SJ
19/00319/PP	Formation of temporary access road off the B8069 to facilitate Milton Harbour Redevelopment Works.	Land Opposite Taigh Bean Iain, Caolis, Isle Of Tiree, Argyll And Bute
19/00368/LIB	Repainting works	Disused Kilns North East Of Dunmaglass, Port Ramsay, Isle Of Lismore, Argyll And Bute
19/00283/PP	Erection of replacement shop and residential flat.	Iona Scottish Crafts, Isle Of Iona, Argyll And Bute, PA76 6SJ
19/00425/PP	Erection dwellinghouse, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of access	Land West Of Crannich Farm (Plot 1), Aros, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
19/00280/PP	External alterations to main entrance elevation, erection of terrace decking area and hydro pool and installation of electric car charging points	Oban Bay Hotel, Corran Esplanade, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5AE
19/00030/PP	Erection of sheep shelter and feed store (retrospective)	Land East Of Glenegedale House, Glenegedale, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute, PA42 7AS

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL (LOCHABER) (DISABLED PERSONS' PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2011 AMENDMENT ORDER 2019

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that The Highland Council on 18th February 2019 made, in terms of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the above Order which will come into operation on Monday 25th March 2019

The Order was previously advertised by Notice in the Lochaber Times on Thursday 24th January, 2019 and the effect of the Order is as described in that Notice (with the exception of the disabled parking place at Blar Mhor Road, Caol, Fort William)

Copies of the made Order, together with a copy of the relevant maps can be inspected at the Highland Council Service Point at Charles Kennedy Building, Achintore Road, Fort William on weekdays during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or of any of its provisions on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or that a requirement of that Act or of any relevant regulations made thereunder has not been complied with may, within six weeks from the date on which the Order was made, make application for the purpose to the Court of Session.

18/02/2019: Sharon Wares, Solicitor., Legal Services, Highland Council HQ, Glenurquhart Rd, Inverness

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.

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.

First Registration of a Croft

Mr Robert Duncan McCaig Smith has registered his croft known as Port Ramsay (share), Port Ramsay, Lismore & Appin on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

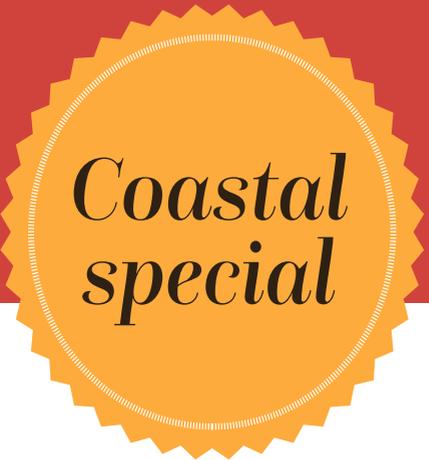
Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 8th December 2019.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C5713.

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SCOTTISH FIELD'S APRIL ISSUE OUT NOW



Proposed Short Lease of an Owner-Occupied Croft/Part of an Owner-Occupied Croft

Anne McLaren is applying to let part of the croft at 19&20 North Ballachulish on

a short term lease to Colin Campbell, Caolis, Onich, by Fort William for two years.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot by April 11, 2019.

First Registration of a Croft

Mrs Sheila B M Campbell has registered their croft Uisken, Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon 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 28 Nov 2019

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C5687

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Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

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.

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**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
19/00167/FUL	Land 980M NW Of Allt A Bheithe Burn, Ardochy, Invergarry	Erection of 20m high telecom lattice tower and ancillary equipment within fenced compound
19/00897/PIP	Land 130M East Of 77 Lochaber Road, Upper Achintore	New residential development of up to 325 dwellings including landscaping, access and associated site development works
19/00777/FUL	Top Gondola Station Nevis Range, Torlundy	Installation of a 100m conveyor lift
19/00898/FUL	Land 130M East Of 77 Lochaber Road, Upper Achintore	Formation of roads, access, drainage, foundations, ground works and services infrastructure for all phases of development and erection of 176 houses and associated works (Phase 1)
19/00490/FUL	Corrie Beag, Pier Road, Kilchoan. Acharacle	Change of use of land and siting of 2No. pods/cabins
19/00943/FUL	Land 40M NE Of Inverskilavulin, Glenloy, Banavie	Erection of Residential Unit
19/00935/FUL	Land 90M NE Of Birchwood Camaghael	Erection of house and garage amendment to Planning Permission 17/01089/FUL

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

www.highland.gov.uk



**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)
(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017**

The Council has received the following applications from Peter Brett Associates, Land 130M East Of 77 Lochaber Road, on behalf of LINK Group Limited (19/00897/PIP & 19/00898/FUL). The applications are developments falling within the Regulations as Environmental Impact Assessment development and accordingly are supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
19/00898/FUL	Formation of roads, access, drainage, foundations, ground works and services infrastructure for all phases of development and erection of 176 houses and associated works (Phase 1)	Land 130M East Of 77 Lochaber Road Upper Achintore Fort William
19/00897/PIP	New residential development of up to 325 dwellings including landscaping, access and associated site development works	Land 130M East Of 77 Lochaber Road Upper Achintore Fort William

The applications and the accompanying Environmental Impact Assessment Reports are available for public inspection between the hours of 9.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 4.30pm Monday to Friday at the following location:

Service Point, Charles Kennedy Building, Achintore Road, Fort William, PH33 6RQ

They can also be accessed online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> (search using the application numbers above).

Printed copies of the complete Environmental Statement can be purchased from Peter Brett Associates, Per: Mark Johnston, 160 West George Street, Glasgow G22HG TEL: 0141 352 23 60, email: glasgow@peterbrett.com at a cost of £750 (inc. VAT). Electronic copies of the Non-Technical Summary can be obtained free of charge.

Any person who wishes to make a representation on the applications and Environmental Impact Assessment Reports can make them online by visiting <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> or by writing to The Head of Planning and Building Standards, ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX. The deadline for receipt of comments is 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

The Council will acknowledge receipt of comments but is unable to respond individually to points or questions raised. Please note that your comments will be published online. Please quote the application reference numbers in your correspondence.

**Stuart Black
Director of Development and Infrastructure**

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**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)
(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2017**

In accordance with the provisions of Regulation 21(1)(b) of the above Regulations, The Highland Council hereby gives notice that the planning application for Dickins Hydro Resources Ltd as described below have been decided.

18/02738/FUL Installation of run-of-river hydropower system, associated plant, buildings and access roads (Allt Charnan) at Land 400M North of Glenview, Glenetive, has been granted by the Council.

18/03024/FUL Installation of (980kW) run-of-river hydropower system and associated works (Allt nan Gaoirean) at Land 240M NW of Schoolhouse Cottage Bothy, Glenetive, has been granted by the Council.

18/03026/FUL Installation of (715kW) run-of-river hydropower system, associated plant, buildings and access roads (Allt a Bhiorain) at Land 290M North of Hollybank, Glenetive, has been granted by the Council.

18/05439/FUL Construction of a run-of-river hydropower scheme, abstract water from the Allt Fhaolain burn and pipe to a turbine, estimated turbine will be sized up to 425kW (Allt Fhaolain) (revised application - previous 18/02740/FUL) at Land North West of Inbhirfhaolain, Glenetive has been granted by the Council.

A copy of the planning permissions is available through the Council's web based eplanning portal online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/> (search using one of the above application numbers) or during normal office hours at the Planning and Development Service of The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX.

**Stuart Black
Director of Development and Infrastructure**

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ENGAGEMENTS

MACPHEE - ROBERTSON - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Carron to Mark on March 6, 2019.

DEATHS

BOWERS - Anne Bowers of Achabuie, Taynuilt, died peacefully in her sleep in the Lorn and Islands Hospital on March 5, 2019. Funeral to take place at Clydebank Crematorium on March 21, 2019 at 2.30pm. No flowers please.

CRAIG - Suddenly but peacefully on March 9, 2019, Douglas, loving son of the late John and Katie, dear brother of the late Johnnie and Malcolm, brother-in-law of Isobel and Lorraine, uncle of Shirley and Douglas and great-uncle of Nicole and Kian. A dear friend to many. Will be sadly missed. Funeral arrangements to be confirmed.

DUNLOP - Dorothy Shirley. Peacefully at Mosswood Care Home, Linwood on Thursday, February 28, 2019, aged 92 years, beloved wife of the late Robbie and loving mother of Alastair, Timothy, Gillian and Andrew. Funeral service will be held in Appin Parish Church on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 12 noon to which all are welcome. Family flowers only.

LIVETT - Peacefully at Belford Hospital on Thursday, March 7, 2019, Richard Chaplin Livett (Snr). Funeral service will take place at 2pm on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at Inverness Crematorium. Family flowers only please, donations, if desired for the RNLI. Enquires to John McLellan Funeral Directors, Fort William (01397) 702128.

MACINTYRE - Archie, son of the late James and Catherine MacIntyre, brother of Ann and the late Rachel, died peacefully at Tigha Rudha, Tiree, on March 7, 2019, aged 80. Interred at Kirkapoll Cemetery, Tiree.

McGREGOR - Peacefully at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness on March 2, 2019, Robert McGregor (Bob), aged 91 years, 4 The Riggs, Fort Augustus, beloved husband of the late Cis, much loved dad of Robin, loving granpa of Robert, Michael and Christina, great-granpa of Kerri, Jake and Finlay, also a dear father-in-law of Isabell. Funeral ceremony on Tuesday, March 19, at 12.15pm in Glengarry Community Hall, Invergarry; thereafter to Jenkins Park Cemetery, Fort Augustus. All welcome to attend. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Maggie's Highlands may be given at the door. Arrangements by D. Chisholm & Sons.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACDONALD - The family of the late Angus Macdonald (Moy) would like to thank all relatives, friends and neigh-

bours for the support shown and their kind words and cards. The family would also like to thank Mr Corbett for the service, Mr Donald McQuarrie for his tribute in English and his heartfelt Gaelic prayer. Also a thank you to Macdonald Bros, Caol Community Centre, John McLellan funeral directors for making such a sad time a little easier with their professionalism shown. Final thanks to all who donated so generously, the amount of £530.36 which was collected and donated to Uist and Barra Hospital patient care.

McCONNACHIE - Ali, Andrea and family would like to thank everyone for the overwhelming amount of support shown following their heart-breaking loss of Ally (Jnr). Thank you to all the staff at the Belford Hospital for the care and attention they gave to Ally. Grateful thanks to Alan Smurthwaite for his personal attention to detail in the ceremony for Ally. Thanks to Caol Community Centre for the excellent catering provided, special thanks to John and Linnie for the care and attention to detail of the funeral arrangements to meet all our requests and make a harrowing time a lot more bearable. Finally thanks to everyone who came along on the day to pay their respects the sum of £392.92 was collected in aid of CAU Ward Belford Hospital.

MILLER - David, Alastair and Elsie would like to express their sincere appreciation to family and friends for their support and kindness shown to them on the sad loss of George. Special thanks to the President and members of the Rotary Club of Oban for their frequent visits to George, both in hospital and in his home during his long illness. Grateful thanks to our community nurses and Carr Gomm carers who brought cheerfulness along with their professionalism to George's home. To the Macmillan nurses, the staff of Lorn and Islands Hospital, we extend our sincere thanks. Thanks to Rev. Dugald Cameron for his guidance, church services and at the graveside. To D&A Munn, Funeral Directors for their professional and dignified services. Donations to the Macmillan Day Bed Unit at Oban Hospital amounted to £415.

NICOLSON - Joan, Derick, Lynda and Sarah would like to offer their heartfelt thanks to family, friends and neighbours for their kind words and support. We would especially like to thank Macmillan Day Bed Unit and Gill Fairclough for the care and compassion shown to our mother. Reverend James Beaton and D&A Munn for their kind support and guidance. May she rest in peace.

MEMORIALS

CONEY-BAYLEY - In treasured, loving memories of our dearly esteemed friend, helpmate and colleague the honoured, international artist and illustrator Ruth Jacqueline

Bayley, who passed away on March 19, 2015 leaving those privileged to know her bereft, but ever more devotedly remembered.

FORSYTH - In loving memory of my dear wife Mary (Calac), who died March 17, 2012. Happy memories.
- Jimmy.

LAFFERTY - In loving memory of our da John J, who passed away March 15, 1989. In our thoughts.
- Denise and Kerry.

MACKINNON - Treasured memories of my mother Jessie, who died March 17, 2015 also my father Neil, who died April 30, 1991.

Both sadly missed by us all Always in our thoughts.
- David, Eileen and all the family.

MACLEAN - In loving memory of Alistair MacLean (Monumental Sculptor) who died March 19, 2016, aged 84 years, beloved husband to the late Mary, a much loved and loving dad, paps, papa and father-in-law.

Loving and kind in all his ways Upright and just to the end of his days. Sincere and true in heart and mind Beautiful memories he left behind.
- Dugald, Arlene and families.

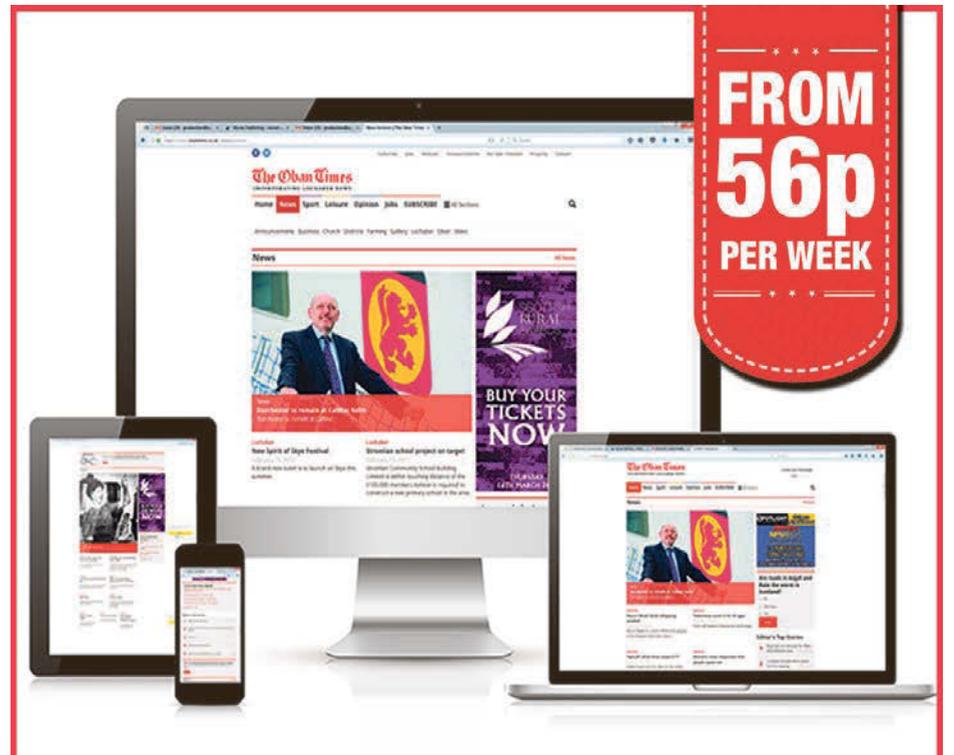
MACPHAIL - In memory of Allan, March 11, 2004. Forever in my thoughts.
- Maureen.

MACPHERSON - In loving memory of Sandra, died March 17, 2013. Always in our thoughts.
- Donald and family.

MORRISON - In loving memory of Ena, who passed away on March 18, 2017. A much loved wife, mum, mother-in-law and adored granny. Your presence we miss Your memory we treasured. Loved and remembered every day.
- Dougall and family.

OMAND - Treasured memories of a loving mother, mother-in-law and precious Nana Cathie, Isle of Tiree, who sadly passed away on March 14, 2008. Also remembering her sister Dunkie, who sadly passed away on May 20, 2007. Always in our thoughts.
- Rosemary, Ina, John and families Tiree, Lewis and Renfrew.

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In memory of Dawn Joyce

The end of an era for family florist



Florist Moreen Gracie.

Florist Moreen Gracie is shutting the family-run business after four blooming wonderful decades in Oban.

The 58-year-old will hang up her snippers for the last time on March 30 when she closes The Flower Basket in Stafford Street.

Moreen took over the business after her mum, Margaret Gracie, retired. Before Margaret moved into Stafford Street, she had worked with Maxton &

White in Argyll Square and from home.

Over the years Moreen has helped hundreds of Oban people 'say it with flowers', marking both happy and sad times.

Moreen had only just taken over the business when her 13-year-old son Jason was killed in an accident on his paper-round. She said dealing with her own tragedy had made it easier for her to help bereaved customers because

of her experience. 'It's when you go through something so awful as that, that you are able to help others who are bereaved. Everyone in Oban was so good to me. I'd like to think I've been able to help others during their sad times too,' she said.

Mrs Gracie, who has another son Jonathan, also has eight grandchildren.

'I'm selling the shop and my van and am hoping someone will give me a job. I'll see what

I can find. There's no risk of me getting bored with eight grandchildren!

'I'm sad to close but the decision has been made. The past few years have been quite difficult with more people doing flowers in the town. There's not quite enough business to keep us all going. It's just a sign of the times and now it's the right time for me to do something new,' she said.

'Jonathan is gutted for me

because he says I've worked so hard at this. I've shed plenty of tears over shutting down but I'm moving on. I'd like to thank everyone for all their support and custom over the years. There's no one quite like Oban people.

'I've had great staff working for me and fabulous customers and I'll miss them all but I'll be enjoying my first Mother's Day for 26 years without having to work so I'm hoping to put my feet up!

THOUGHT for the week

Jesus is God's selfie. In Jesus we see God, as He, God, really is in love.

The love we share which reflects in understanding, sensitivity, acceptance all those facets of Almighty God's love for each one of us which is real. In Jesus, God's selfie, love has the power to change lives, perform miracles, is the greatest sign of our potential as human beings.

We are made in God's image; we have the power to love and do all of these things as we grow into the people God knows we can be that is the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The power to love.

That is why as we prepare for Easter the church gives us time to reflect, reflect on the temptations, loneliness, disappointment in friends, failure, misunderstandings, all of the things faced by Jesus, God's selfie.

And we reflect on all Jesus faced not because that will miraculously make us better people but because Jesus shows in all these things that God understands. God understands what it is like to be you and God understands what it is like to be me because Jesus is God's selfie.

The story of Jesus's death is the story of our death to ambition, pride, anger, jealousy – every day. The story of Jesus's resurrection is the story of love which is stronger than death itself and brings hope amid the failure and anger. Hope we see in Jesus, God's selfie, that God understands what it is like to be you, what it is like to be me. Hope that all in the end is harvest.

The Right Reverend Kevin Pearson, Bishop of Argyll and The Isles.

Oban Rotary backs Dalmally project

Dalmally Primary School is currently fundraising with a view to taking a group of primary five and six pupils to an outward bound course at Lochgoilhead later this year. These courses are residential and are regarded as hugely beneficial to the development of the youngsters. Oban Rotary Club donated £200 towards Dalmally's costs and president Iain MacIntyre handed the cheque to the pupils concerned. Oban Rotary has also provided financial support to other schools making similar trips.



Fixtures

Saturday March 16

Mowi Premiership

Inveraray v Caberfeidh
Alex MacVicar
Kinlochshiel v Kilmallie
John Angus Gillies - noon
Lochaber v Kyles Athletic
Des McNulty
Lovat v Kingussie
Iain Kennedy
Newtonmore v Oban Camanachd
Ross Brown

Mowi National Division

Bute v Fort William
David Mitchell
Glasgow Mid Argyll v Strathglass
Robert Baxter
Oban Celtic v Beaulay
Deek Cameron
Skye v Glenurquhart
Graham Cameron - 3pm

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Aberdeen University v Lovat
John Matheson
Fort William v Glenurquhart
Lachie Wood
Glengarry v Newtonmore
Calum Girvan
Inverness v Kingussie
Martin MacLean
Kinlochshiel v Skye
Ronnie Campbell - 3pm

Mowi South Division 1

Aberdour v Inveraray
Neil MacDonald
Ballachulish v Col Glen
Steven MacLachlan
Kyles Athletic v Tayforth
Euan Pearson
Lochside Rovers v Glasgow MA
Graham Fisher

Mowi North Division 2

Beaulay v Lewis
John MacRitchie - 1pm
Kilmallie v Inverness
Jim Innes
Strathspey v Boleskine
John Matheson - 1.30pm
Strathglass v Lochcarron
Archie Ritchie

Mowi South Division 2

Glenorchy v Bute
Ewan MacDonald
Kilmory v Ardnamurchan
Lucy McNulty - 2pm

All throw-ups 2.30pm, unless stated.

Red and blacks share

Wet weather once again proved a tough opponent, forcing a number of shinty league matches to be postponed on Saturday March 9.

Mowi Premiership Oban Camanachd 2 Lovat 2

Oban Camanachd twice led against Lovat before having to settle for a point following their 2-2 draw at Mossfield.

Oban Camanachd manager Stephen Sloss was without defender Scott McKillop, who has a knee problem, but Aidan MacIntyre returned and Daniel Madej played in defence. Craig Easton was called up from Lochside and started on the bench.

Andrew MacCuish was carrying a niggling injury so he was also listed as a substitute, whilst Chrissie MacMillan served his one match suspension.

Lovat manager Fraser Gallacher had Callum Cruden free of suspension and he started in defence. Calum MacAulay also returned to take a place on the bench. Martin Mainland was unavailable.

It was a good day in Oban and although the pitch was soft, there was a drying wind and it comfortably passed an 8am inspection.

This was always going to be a close contest between two of the sides likely to feature at the top end of the table come the end of the season.

Oban Camanachd took the lead on 12 minutes. Aidan MacIntyre and Scott MacMillan combined in midfield to find Daniel MacCuish on the left. He played the ball on to Malcolm Clark and his superb cross from the corner was volleyed home first-time by Daniel MacVicar to make it 1-0. The lead up play and execution were a delight to watch.

When the ball broke to an unmarked Daniel MacCuish on 20 minutes, his shot cannoned back off Lovat keeper Stuart MacDonald as the home side looked to increase their lead.

The visitors levelled from a disputed penalty on the half-hour. Daniel Cameron lost his footing and was adjudged to have brought down



Oban Camanachd's Garry Lord closes in on Lovat's Lewis Tawse during last Saturday's match at Mossfield. Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

Marc MacLachlan inside the 'D' by referee Ross Brown who waved away the Oban protests. Greg Matheson kept his cool, thumping the penalty over keeper Cameron Sutherland to make it 1-1.

Oban Camanachd replaced Connor Howe and Malcolm Clark with Andrew MacCuish and Craig MacDougall at half-time as they moved from a two-two to a three-one attacking formation.

Scott MacMillan saw a 25-yard shot deflected wide on 60 minutes but Oban Camanachd regained the lead three minutes later. Andrew MacCuish and Daniel MacVicar were involved and although MacCuish's shot was saved by Stuart MacDonald, Daniel MacCuish slipped the rebound into the net.

Marc MacLachlan drew Lovat level for a second time though a minute later. Fraser Heath played the ball to MacLachlan who bulleted a back-hand effort from the Lovat left across the keeper and just under the bar and into the net to make it 2-2. It was a fantastic finish and MacLachlan's fourth goal in two games.

The remainder of the game was a midfield battle with both defences on top, although Lovat's Lewis Tawse almost got on the end of a late free-hit.

In the end the sides had to settle for a point apiece.

The Oban defence was touch-tight throughout and Daniel Sloss had a great game, restricting Lovat danger man Greg Matheson to few opportunities. Lorne Dickie also played well in the middle of the park, displaying good hitting on both sides.

Oban Camanachd showed good discipline, with Garry Lord their only booking, whilst Lovat collected four yellow cards. Oban Camanachd will be concerned over an injury picked up by Craig MacDougall.

Oban Camanachd assistant manager Kenny Wotherspoon was

content after the game. He said: 'It's a point and it gets our season going. A draw was probably fair. Had we held on for just five minutes after we went 2-1 ahead, it might have been a different outcome but Lovat are a strong unit and they will be up there at the top of the division this season. And we hope to be there too.'

'We should have Gary McKerracher back in training when he returns from holiday which will give us another option in defence, although Chrissie MacMillan and Scott McKillop will both hopefully make this week's game at Newtonmore. We're all looking forward to that one.'

Kingussie 1 Lochaber 1

Ben Delaney's goal a couple of minutes from time earned Lochaber a 1-1 draw against Kingussie as both sides got their seasons under way at the Dell.

Kingussie's James Falconer sat this one out through suspension.

This was first competitive match in charge for new Lochaber boss Michael Delaney who was able to call on keeper Callum MacDonald who missed most of last season following an accident at work.

Kingussie broke the deadlock on seven minutes. The Lochaber defence failed to deal with a long hit-in from the right and the ball was played down the inside right channel to Roddy Young who fired a great shot into the net to make it 1-0.

It stayed that way until 90 minutes when Martin Johnstone shot goalwards following a hit-in from the Lochaber right. Although Kingussie keeper Craig Dawson made the save, Ben Delaney scrambled the re-bound over the line to earn Lochaber a morale boosting draw.

Caberfeidh 0 Newtonmore 3

Newtonmore bounced back from the previous week's defeat to

Kilmallie with a convincing 3-0 win over Caberfeidh at Castle Leod.

This was Caberfeidh's first match of the season and they were missing Scotland U21 captain Blair Morrison with a shoulder injury. Robbie Brindle was given a first competitive start after joining the club in the close season from Beaulay.

Newtonmore's Steven Macdonald was free of suspension but didn't play. Andy MacKintosh started on the bench, whilst Stuart Mitchell was injured. Iain Richardson played in defence and Drew MacDonald was back after missing the Kilmallie defeat.

The weather made it difficult for the players but it was Newtonmore who took the lead almost from the throw-up. The ball came down the wing to Evan Menzies who took the ball out towards the corner on the Newtonmore right before flicking it back infield to the on-rushing Jamie Robinson who ran from the centre line, getting by Calum MacKinnon, before shooting over keeper Ewan Pilcher from close in.

The goal came at a cost though as captain Menzies pulled up after releasing the ball to Robinson and had to be replaced by David MacLean.

Caberfeidh had good possession and played most of the first 15 minutes in the Newtonmore half, however, they struggled to threaten the Newtonmore goal.

Newtonmore then came into the game strongly. David MacLean was making the most of his opportunity in attack as he made it 2-0 on 35 minutes with a low drive from 20 yards.

Fraser MacKintosh added a third on 52 minutes and the visitors could have had more but for some wayward finishing and some good saves from Ewan Pilcher in the Caberfeidh goal who continues to enhance his reputation.

As the match moved into the last quarter, Jamie Robinson and Owen Fraser were well positioned in midfield to mop up the high balls that came out of the Caberfeidh defence.

Kilmallie P Inveraray P

The match between Kilmallie and Inveraray was called off on Saturday morning when Canal Parks was ruled unplayable.

Kinlochshiel P Kyles Athletic P

Kinlochshiel's match against Kyles Athletic was another Saturday morning postponement as Kirkton was waterlogged.

Mowi National Division

Fort William 5 Oban Celtic 1

Fort William top the National Division after defeating Oban Celtic 5-1 at An Aird.

This was the only second tier match to beat the elements and the pitch was in relatively good condition.

Fort William captain Arran



Newtonmore's Jamie Robinson opens the scoring against Caberfeidh after only two minutes. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

the points

MacPhee was free of suspension.

Oban Celtic boss Dougie MacIntyre was still minus the suspended Craig MacMillan, whilst Neil Carmichael and Lee Askew were ruled out through injury. Ally McKerracher went to centre where he played well.

A heavy hail shower meant the throw-up was delayed by 10 minutes and Oban Celtic started with a cold wind at their backs.

Fort William looked pacey up front and Lewis Morrison finished off a good move to give them the lead on 12 minutes.

The visitors lost defender Calum MacLeod, who had been suffering from a chest infection, and they suffered a further blow when a disputed free-hit was played forward and Lewis Clark made it 2-0 with 23 minutes on the clock.

Oban Celtic came more into it during the second quarter of the match but it remained 2-0 until the break.

When Oban Celtic keeper David Martin made a save with his foot by his right post on 57 minutes, referee Martin MacLean signalled for a 'kick' and awarded Fort William a penalty which Arran MacPhee converted.

Fort William replaced Sean Cameron and Lewis Morrison with Mark Grant and Pdraig McNeil.

Fort William now had a grip of the midfield and Arran MacPhee got his second and Fort William's fourth on 72 minutes before Pdraig McNeil knocked home a re-bounce four minutes later after keeper Martin had made another good save.

Oban Celtic had introduced 16-year-old substitute Jamie Forgive at half forward for the final 20 minutes of the match and he set up Oban Celtic's goal a couple of minutes from time. Forgive burst down the right before cutting inside with his

ball into the goal area diverted into the net by Daniel MacMillan.

The win means Fort William have scored ten goals from their opening two league fixtures ahead of this week's trip to Bute.

After the match, Oban Celtic assistant manager Les Kinvig said: 'A few decisions went against us but Fort William deserved the win, although the final margin was harsh on us.'

'We are trying to mix some of our younger players with our more experienced players. Jamie Forgive did really well when he came on and Keegan McPhee can also be pleased with his contribution.'

'We'll hopefully have Lee Askew back for Beaul's visit to Mossfield on Saturday. It should be a good game.'

Glasgow MA P Glenurquhart P
Glasgow Mid Argyll's 3pm throw-up with Glenurquhart was postponed as Peterson Park was unplayable.

Beaul P Bute P
Beaul's match against Bute was called off as Braeview Park failed a pitch inspection.

Strathglass P Skye P
The match between Strathglass and Skye Camanachd was postponed on Saturday morning as Cannich was waterlogged.

Mowi North Division 1
Lovat 3 Fort William 5
The Lovat seconds put up a good fight before going down 5-3 to the Fort William seconds at Balgate.

Raymond Rennie grabbed a Lovat hat-trick but Greig Kelly and doubles from Cal Brown and Connor MacRae gave the Fort a winning start to their league campaign.

Continued on page 52

new SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

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Results

Saturday March 9

Mowi Premiership

Caberfeidh 0 - 3 Newtonmore

Kilmallie P - P Inveraray

Unplayable field

Kingussie 1 - 1 Lochaber

Kinlochshiel P - P Kyles Athletic

Unplayable field

Oban Camanachd 2 - 2 Lovat

Mowi National Division

Beaul P - P Bute

Unplayable field

Fort William 5 - 1 Oban Celtic

Glasgow MA P - P Glenurquhart

Unplayable field

Strathglass P - P Skye

Unplayable field

Mowi North Division 1

Glenurquhart 3 - 4 Kinlochshiel

Inverness 2 - 4 Caberfeidh

Lovat 3 - 5 Fort William

Newtonmore P - P Aberdeen

Uni

Aberdeen unable to field a

team, two points deducted and

fixture rescheduled

Skye P - P Kingussie

Unplayable field

Mowi South Division 1

Glasgow MA P - P Aberdour

Unplayable field

Inveraray P - P Ballachulish

Unplayable field

Kyles Athletic P - P Col Glen

Unplayable field

Taynuilt 1 - 2 Lochside Rovers

Mowi North Division 2

Boleskine P - P Lewis

Unplayable field

Inverness 2 - 7 Strathglass

Lochcarron P - P Kilmallie

Unplayable field

Strathspey 2 - 2 Beaul

Mowi South Division 2

Aberdour 1 - 4 Kilmory

Oban Celtic P - P Glenorchy

To be re-scheduled

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S Campbell Sept '18 **£2550**

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LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



The two entries who got nearest the ball and each receive £25 are:

G Roberts
Isle of Islay

J Daye
Ardrihaig

Continued from page 51

Inverness 2 Caberfeidh 4
After opting to drop down from the National Division, Inverness started life back in North 1 with a 4-2 defeat against the newly-promoted Caberfeidh colts at the Bught Park.

Caberfeidh got off to a flier. They won the throw-up and pushed forward and Ruairidh MacLeman had the ball in the net after 20 seconds.

Scotland U21 player Charlie MacDonald drew the Inverness side level on 20 minutes, but a second from Ruairidh MacLeman gave the visitors a 2-1 interval advantage.

Jordan MacKenzie extended Caberfeidh's advantage on 68 minutes and although David Campbell pulled a goal back on 75 minutes, James MacLeod made it 4-2 with five minutes remaining, beating home keeper James Cameron who made some good saves during the 90 minutes.

Glenurquhart 3 Kinlochshiel 4

The Kinlochshiel seconds beat the Glenurquhart seconds 4-3 following an enthralling clash at Blairbeg.

Both teams fielded strong sides, with John Barr and Ewan Brady lining up for Glenurquhart and keeper Stuart MacRae, Duncan 'WD' MacRae, Duncan Matheson and Keith MacRae starting for Kinlochshiel.

Glenurquhart's Ewan Brady saw an early penalty saved by Stuart MacRae before the hosts took the lead on 25 minutes. Ewan Brady lofted the ball goalwards and it deceived keeper MacRae and dropped into the net.

When referee John Angus Gillies awarded Glenurquhart a second penalty on 29 minutes, substitute Charlie MacLeod made no mistake from the spot.

Kinlochshiel got right back into it seconds later as Keith MacRae found Duncan Matheson with a rehearsed free-hit routine and the youngster sent the ball low into the net.

It got better for the visitors on the half-hour as Keith MacRae ran onto Sandy MacDiarmid's cross to level the contest.

Sandy MacDiarmid was again the provider as Keith MacRae made it 3-2 from the edge of the 'D' on 51 minutes.

Duncan Matheson made it 4-2 with a superb shot on 66 minutes and although Ewan Brady set up Christopher Mack to pull a goal back 11 minutes from time, Kinlochshiel held on to take the points.

Newtonmore P Aberdeen University P
Aberdeen University were



Kinlochshiel's Cameron Jones and Glenurquhart's Bradley Sneddon during last weekend's Mowi Premiership match at Drumnadrochit. Photograph: Donald Cameron.

unable to raise a team for their meeting with the Newtonmore second team at The Eilan. The students, who lost their opening day fixture to Glengarry with just 11 players, will be docked two points and the match will be re-scheduled.

Skye P Kingussie P

There was disappointment for the Skye Camanachd and Kingussie reserve sides as their 3pm throw-up at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree, fell foul to a waterlogged pitch.

Mowi South Division 1

Taynuilt 1 Lochside Rovers 2

Lochside Rovers edged out Taynuilt 2-1 after the Taynuilt Sports Field passed an 11am inspection.

Lochside boss Brian MacCallum played in goal, with Gavin Stobbart at full back. Aidan MacIntyre returned to first team duty, with Craig Easton also called up by the seniors.

Youngsters Gregor MacDonald and Jamie MacGillivray started and had great games whilst Ross Campbell was taken out of the forward line to play centre where he showed strength, skill and maturity beyond his 15 years.

Iain MacMillan opened the scoring on 17 minutes with a neat finish after the home defence failed to clear their lines. Lewis Buchanan lashed the ball past Brian Logan to make it 2-0 on 28 minutes, taking advantage of slackness in the home defence.

When referee Graham Fisher awarded Taynuilt a 43rd minute penalty for a 'kick' inside the 'D', Scott Dempster stepped up to make it 2-1 with a well-struck spot-hit.

Whilst Lochside edged the first half, Taynuilt came more

into it after the interval and had the ball in the net following a free-hit. But the referee ruled the ball had entered the net without a second touch, much to the frustration of the home support, and Lochside saw the game out.

MacFarlane, MacMillan and Kilmurray were best for Taynuilt, whilst Lochside's Stobbart was man of the match.

The sides also contested the JC Memorial Cup, remembering James Cameron, and James' father Dougie Cameron presented the trophy to Lochside skipper Jordan Kerr.

Speaking after the game, Lochside manager Brian MacCallum said: 'We did enough to deserve the win. It was always going to be hard against Taynuilt and we had to reshuffle the pack. We probably could have done a little better with our finishing and been further ahead but everyone worked hard and never gave up so I'm really pleased.'

Inveraray P Ballachulish P

The game between the Inveraray seconds and Ballachulish at the Winterton was postponed because of an unplayable pitch.

The match had been reversed to the Jubilee Park but that was also unplayable.

Kyles Athletic P Col Glen P

The clash between the Kyles Athletic second team and Col Glen was called off as Tighnabraich Playing Fields failed a pitch inspection.

Aberdour P Glasgow Mid Argyll P

The game between the Glasgow Mid Argyll second team and Aberdour was reversed to Silversands on Friday evening.

However a Saturday morning pitch inspection deemed Silversands could only take

one game so the reserve team match went ahead as it was scheduled first.

Mowi North Division 2

Inverness 2 Strathglass 7

A storming second half performance gave the Strathglass seconds a 7-2 win over the Inverness seconds in their noon throw-up on the Bught Park outside pitch.

Inverness led 1-0 at the break with youngster Finlay Calder scoring on 39 minutes.

Ciaran Melons netted a minute after the re-start to make it 1-1 and he notched a second three minutes later.

Finlay Calder got his second on 53 minutes to make it 2-2.

The Cannich side pulled ahead during the final 20 minutes, however, with Steven Hyslop on 71 minutes, Penri Jones on 78 minutes, Rory MacInnes on 83 minutes, a Colin Fraser own goal on 86 minutes and an effort from Eddie Noble a minute from time completing the win.

Strathspey 2 Beaulieu 2

Strathspey Camanachd and the Beaulieu seconds shared the points following a 2-2 draw in their 1.30pm throw-up at Grantown Grammar School.

John MacKenzie gave the hosts the lead on two minutes but Elliot Moir's brace on 15 and 42 minutes had Beaulieu 2-1 ahead at half-time.

Strathspey's Connor Aubrey netted five minutes into the second half to make it 2-2 and although Beaulieu had a late effort ruled out for offside by referee Des McNulty, it finished level.

Lochcarron P Kilmallie P

Lochcarron's match against the Kilmallie second team was called off on Saturday morning as Battery Park was unplayable.

Boleskine P Lewis P

The clash between Boleskine and Lewis Camanachd at Smith Park was postponed on Friday evening because of an unplayable pitch.

Mowi South Division 2

Aberdour 1 Kilmory 4

Kilmory made it two wins out of two as they beat the Aberdour second team 4-0 at Silversands.

Kilmory, with Sandy Leiper free of suspension, took the lead on 14 minutes through Ally MacLennan.

The visitors, with a strong wind at their backs, did the damage in the first half as Alex Cunningham made it 2-0 on 17 minutes with Hal Jones doubling their lead with

strikes on 31 and 36 minutes. The hosts made changes at the break and claimed for a penalty when player/manager Roddy MacColl went down inside the 'D'. They also had a strike ruled out for offside before Kevin McKell pulled a goal back with three minutes remaining.

Oban Celtic P Glenorchy P

The match between Oban Celtic and Glenorchy was postponed and will be re-scheduled.

WCA round-up

It was the second round of fixtures in the ladies top flight but only one game beat the elements.

Mowi National Division

Lochaber 7 Glenurquhart 0

Lochaber were too strong for newly-promoted Glenurquhart, winning 7-0 at Spean Bridge.

With Kirsty Campbell making her Lochaber debut, Kirsty Delaney scored four times with Natalie MacDonald bagging a brace and Claire Delaney getting the other. The result puts Lochaber two points clear at the top of the table.

Badenoch P Glasgow Mid Argyll P

The game between Badenoch and Glasgow Mid Argyll at the Dell was called off on Sunday morning.

Badenoch were dealt a blow the day after their opening day win over champions Skye as key player Kirsty Deans suffered a fractured ankle when playing football for Inverness Caledonian Thistle Ladies.

Strathspey P Aberdour P

Poor road conditions led to the postponement of Strathspey's match against Aberdour.

Skye P Ardnamurchan P

Wet weather resulted in

the postponement of Skye Camanachd's meeting with Ardnamurchan at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

Portree high retain Donella Crawford title

Portree High School won the coveted Donella Crawford Sixes at Jubilee Park, Ballachulish, on Wednesday March 6.

A record 17 teams comprising of 140 players took part and the sides were split into three groups. Each team played each other once allowing for the top teams from each league to qualify for the semi-finals along with the best overall runner up.

There was a minute's silence before play got under way to mark the recent passing of John Crawford, Donella Crawford's husband, who always showed a keen interest in the event and enjoyed hearing of the growth in the women's game.

Portree High School, Plockton High School and Culloden High School all topped their respective groups, whilst Lochaber High School qualified for the last four as the best runner up.

The semi-finals were played simultaneously for four minutes each way and the draw pitched Plockton against Lochaber and Portree against Culloden.

Plockton scored the only goal of the game in the first half against a battling Lochaber side to reach the final. Portree, who only dropped one point in the league section, scored a goal in each half to set up a west coast meeting with Plockton in the final. Portree eventually ran out 3-0 winners to take the trophy home for the second successive season.

Donella Crawford's cousin Alistair MacMillan made the presentations and winning Portree captain Christina Macdonald raised the cup in front of her delighted team mates.



Oban Celtic's David Hill protects the ball from Fort William's Jack Fraser during last weekend's National Division match at An Aird. Photograph: Abridgeside Photography.

Martial arts

IAIN RODGER

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Kyokushinkai Karate

The Scottish Open Knockdown Karate tournament was held on March 2 at the Arc Fitness Centre in Glasgow.

The event was organised by IKKU Chief Instructor for Scotland Iain Rodger and attracted entries from seven countries and 14 organisations.

The IKKU team from across the UK took two gold and three silver medals. The men's heavyweight section was dominated by the team from Sweden who took all three places with some impressive performances. The final was between brothers Simon and Sebastian Eriksson with Simon eventually coming out on top.

For further information on the Oban Kyokushinkai Karate Club, contact Iain Rodger (6th dan) on 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk. Alternatively send a message to 'Caledonia Kyokushin' on Facebook.

Kickboxing

The following juniors were successful at their recent grading: 9th Kyu Yellow Belt - Paul Gillespie; 7th Kyu Green Belt - Ayda Douglas, Erica Bales, Megan Currie, Molly Smith, Eva Reeves and Ava Rowan; 6th Kyu Blue Belt - Aiden Steeman, Ondra Carpenter and James Edmondson; 1st Kyu Brown Belt - Joe Roberts, Callum Morrison and Daniel May.

Head coach Wullie Rodger said: 'I was really impressed with the standard of the juniors. They are showing a lot of

promise.' Senshi Do Kickboxing will be moving to new premises soon. To stay up to date, follow us on Facebook.

New starters are welcome at any time. Either message the club on Facebook 'Senshi Do Kickboxing' or email shihanwill@gmail.com for details.

Shukokai Karate

There are classes in Inveraray, Dalmlally and Oban. Beginners are welcome and anyone starting now should have sufficient time to reach the level required for their first grading in the summer.

For more details on these clubs contact Kenny Gray (5th dan) on kenny.gray@btinternet.com or 07884 183905.

BJJ & MMA

Oban MMA travelled to Ravenscraig for the UKBJJA West of Scotland Open. This event has become the premier BJJ competition in Scotland with competitors from throughout the UK and Europe competing in all divisions.

The eight students from Oban taking part included three students in their first competition. The team, once again, exceeded all expectations winning nine medals and four divisions outright.

Highlights included Gregory Black who sailed through gi and nogi dominating his opponents on the road to gold.

Russel MacLennan won gold in gi, putting one of his opponents to sleep

and arm barring another on his way to gold. He also won silver in nogi.

Callum Weir came back from a loss in gi to win a hard-fought gold in nogi.

All the competitors did themselves and club proud and again showed that as even one of the smaller clubs in Scotland, the team can hold its own in the cauldron of competitions against far bigger and established teams.

The team train Monday to Fridays at 7.30pm and are always looking for new members. If you would like to try out BJJ or MMA, Oban BJJ can be found on Facebook or email coogiepots@gmail.com

Wado Kai Karate

Classes continue at the usual times, Park Primary School on Mondays at 3.15pm and Dunbeg Primary School 6.30pm.

Use the details below if you would like more information about Wado Karate or if you would like to talk about your interest in the sport.

Park school: Mike Faulkner m.faulkner6@btinternet.com
Dunbeg school: Sensei Chris Bruce (7th Dan) at crb999@btinternet.com

Knights of the Tower - Medieval Combat Oban

From Tuesday March 12, these classes will be held every second Tuesday. The location is still the same, the old Crofters above the Stove Shop. Come along and see what it is all about.



The Oban MMA team who took part in the UKBJJA West of Scotland Open at Ravenscraig. Left to right: Liam Roberts, Callum Weir, Gregory Black, Ruarigh Black and Russel MacLennan.



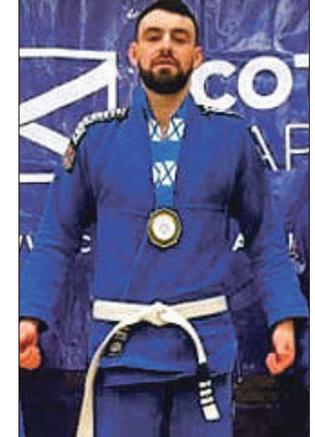
Gregory Black, gold, and Niall Robertson, bronze.



Callum Weir, gold.



Ruarigh Black, silver.



Russel MacLennan, gold.



IKKU fighters bow in before the start of the Scottish Open Knockdown tournament at Arc Fitness Centre, Glasgow.



Simone Muntwyler v Antonia Schumacher.



Erica Bales sparring with Eva Reeves with Aiden Steeman and Paul Gillespie in the background at the recent kickboxing grading.



Cody McCulloch and James Edmondson during the kickboxing grading.

OT

INTERNATIONAL RUGBY



Magnus Bradbury in action for Scotland against Wales on Saturday. Photograph: SNS Group/SRU.

Scotland teams run Six Nations leaders close

The nerves of Scottish rugby supporters were again stretched to the limit on Saturday as Gregor Townsend's men ran Six Nations favourites Wales to the wire.

Oban back row man Magnus Bradbury put on another abrasive display, but the Scots were beaten 18-11 in the penultimate game of the campaign.

Wales scored two tries in the opening half with Finn Russell keeping the Scots in touch with a brace of penalties.

Despite upping their game in the second half, with Borderer Darcy Graham scoring his first try for the national side, the hosts failed to capitalise on possession and a penalty from the hosts in the last kick of the game sealed the win.

Victory at Twickenham for the first time in 36 years seems unlikely for the Scotland squad, which has suffered three defeats on the bounce in this year's championship.

Oban's Abi Evans saw 10 minutes of action during Scotland Women's 15-17 defeat to Wales.

The ladies were looking good for their first win in this year's tournament as the final whistle approached, but were left heartbroken as Wales snatched the victory in extra time.

SCOTTISH AMATEUR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Results and fixtures

Last Saturday's results: Premier Division - Rutherglen 1, Oban Saints 5; Premier Division One - Hillington 1, Lochgilhead Red Star 0; Campbetown Pupils, no game; Premier Division Two - Tarbert v Parkhall, postponed.

This Saturday's fixtures: West of Scotland Cup, quarter final - Oban Saints v Cambria, Glencruitten, 1.30pm kick-off; Premier Division One - FC Argyll v Lochgilhead Red Star; Premier Division Two - Duncannrig v Tarbert.

OBAN SAINTS' YOUTHS

Results and fixtures

Last Sunday's results: Under 13s, no game; Under 14s, no game; Under 15s 2, Petershill 6. Ross Higgins netted both goals for Saints Under 16s 3, St Patrick's SA 0. Scoring for Saints were Connor Moore (2) and Ellis Hunter. This Sunday's fixtures: Under 13s v Drumsagard; Regional Cup quarter final - Giffnock North v Under 14s; Under 15s, no game; Dunoon v Under 16s.

GET INVOLVED
email us at editor@obantimes.co.uk

Hill and 'Glen

Rutherglen	1
Oban Saints	5
SAFL - Premier Division	

Two goals from teenage striker Cammy Hill helped Oban Saints to three vital away points against Rutherglen at a windswept Toryglen Regional Football Centre last Saturday.

As the race for this season's Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division title heats up, the win keeps Oban Saints in second place behind leaders St Joseph's FP and just ahead of Scottish Amateur Cup semi-finalists Alba Thistle.

Work and holiday commitments deprived manager Donald Campbell of the services of co-manager Willie Gemmell, Lewis Cameron, Matt Rippon and Keir MacLean creating space in the match day squad for

youngsters Cammy Hill and Aaron McKay and the returning Daniel Croarkin and Jamie Graham.

Saints kicked off defending the Prospecthill Road end playing into the strong icy wind blowing diagonally across the newly-laid 4G surface.

Near post run

Saints opened the scoring in the 11th minute after a good run on the right by Ruaridh Horne won a corner kick off the back tracking Liam McLaughlin. James Ford took over corner kick duties from the absent Lewis Cameron and picked out the near post run of Craig MacEwan who held off the challenge of Kevin McBride to prod the ball home off his left foot from five yards.

MacEwan doubled his and Saints tally 60 seconds later firing a delicious left foot vol-

ley from a Donald Campbell diagonal pass across Ross Yuille and into the bottom corner.

The hosts rallied after this double set-back and were disappointed not to take advantage of a gilt edged opportunity presented to them by the Saints defence. To sharp intakes of breath, a stray pass while trying to play out from the back fell kindly to the feet of Scott Crawford whose first time effort slipped wide of the right hand upright, much to the relief of the Saints contingent on the sidelines.

Craig Montgomery found his way into referee Jim Loudon's note book for pulling back Craig MacEwan in the 35th minute. From the resulting free-kick, Donald Campbell rolled the ball up to the edge of the Rutherglen box for Craig MacEwan who held the ball up well and played in Matthew Kelly. Kelly wriggled his way through but, with only the keeper to beat, lost his footing at the vital moment.

Saints kept probing for openings in the home defence, with another good David Beaton run and cross from the left being cut out by Andy Winter before it could reach Matthew Kelly.

The hosts remained a threat on the counter attack and Graham Douglas was forced to make a brave save at Steven Bell's feet after a patient 44th minute Saints move had broken down on the edge of the

Rutherglen box. Saints began the second half brightly with Matthew Kelly twice making good ground on the left before narrowly failing to pick out Daniel Croarkin in the middle.

James Ford's troublesome right ankle forced him off after 53 minutes, paving the way for youngster Cammy Hill to make an instant impact on proceedings.

With his first touch, Hill controlled a diagonal pass from Craig MacEwan, glided into the Rutherglen box and calmly lifted the ball over the advancing Ross Yuille for his first senior Saints goal.

Saints suffered another injury blow when Steven MacLeod picked up a calf strain giving Dougal Graham a run-out in central defence for the final third of the match.

David Beaton's running in the wide areas was replaced in the 68th minute with the fresh legs of Fraser MacFarlane.

Doubled

Young striker Cammy Hill doubled his tally in the 73rd minute with another cool finish from a Craig MacEwan assist. After good work on the right from Fraser MacFarlane and Ruaridh Horne, Craig MacEwan again picked out Hill in the box who rounded Ross Yuille and clipped the ball left footed into the unguarded net.

Saints made another instant impact substitution before the restart replacing Daniel



Eyes on the ball: Scott Maitland, Donald Campbell, Daniel Croarkin and Rutherglen's James McDougall.

Mighty performance sees lad

Oban Lorne Ladies	38
West of Scotland	0
Sarah Beanie Cup	

Oban ladies are through to the National Shield competition following a crushing 38-0 home win over West of Scotland on Sunday.

Despite abysmal weather and a depleted squad of only 16 players, the hosts launched a concerted attack on their Glasgow visitors that never let up until close of play.

The importance of the tie wasn't lost on the young Oban team who won the National Bowl competition last year. Having lost to Cartha 26-7 the previous week, this would be their last chance to secure a place in the Shield this time

around. From the off, the home side made their most of their opportunities as cold hands led to fumbling from the opposition scrum.

With some big pushes from Ailsa MacLachan in the Oban scrum, the hosts made inroads after five minutes with great finishing footwork from Erika Skofca leading to the opening try which Ellie MacNiven converted.

More strong play and good handling saw winger Sophia Rosinki speeding her way to a second try, while solid defending kept the visitors at bay.

West made some changes in an effort to take the game to their hosts but some big hits from Ailsa MacLachan, along with strong pressure from

Audrey Barr, kept them back.

A fantastic break by Rosinki resulted in try number three with MacNiven again adding the extras.

With Rachel MacDonald and Sarah Congdon working well to make some big hit and carries, Oban continued to dominate the game.

Captain Laura MacCormick was next on the scoresheet after a strong carry from MacNiven, who also made the conversion.

Just before the break, great footwork from Heather Fothergill and strong defence from the Oban forwards resulted in another scrum from which Skofca scored and converted to take the hosts into half-time with a 33:0 lead. Deteriorating weather



made the second half more difficult for both sides with handling errors becoming the norm. But Oban maintained



Cammy Hill is congratulated by his teammates after netting the first of his two goals against Rutherglen on Saturday.

Match report and photos: Derek Black.

right and within 60 seconds of coming on, fired a dangerous low ball across the face of goal which was turned into his own net by the unfortunate Craig Montgomery for Saints fifth goal.

McKay's eventful introduction to the match continued when he was harshly penalised for a 77th minute challenge on the edge of his own box. Scott Crawford demonstrated his prowess with the dead ball lifting the ball

over the Saints wall, beating Graham Douglas to his right hand side for a consolation goal which was the least Rutherglen deserved for their afternoon's work.

Productive

Overlapping fullback Ruairidh Horne continued to enjoy a productive spell on the right, latching onto a Craig MacEwan lay off and sending a cutback to Aaron McKay whose first time effort from 14 yards flew just wide of

Ross Yuille's right hand post. Craig MacEwan was denied a hat-trick when, after turning away from Gary Hughes, his left foot shot from 15 yards was partially blocked by a vital interception from Craig Montgomery.

Referee Loudon, who had a good game, brought the match to an end after three added minutes, but not before Rutherglen striker Steven Bell blazed a terrific opportunity wide and keeper Yuille

FOOTBALL

pulled off a good save to deny Cammy Hill a hat-trick with the last attempt of the match.

This Saturday, Saints welcome old foes Cambria to Glencruitten in the quarter finals of the West of Scotland Amateur Cup. Central Scottish Amateur Football League referee Stephen Payne takes charge of proceedings which kick off at 1.30pm.

ies into Shield



No stopping Laura MacCormick as she barges her way through the West of Scotland defence.

WOMEN'S RUGBY

from the Oban scrum. Audrey Barr kept good pressure on the opposition scrum-half which helped the forwards get out from the scrum and keep the defence strong.

Rugby Development Officer Allan Wright said: 'This is a great progression from last year which will hopefully offer the team great challenges.'

'A special mention to Veronica Speirs who played a great game which will be her last for a month as she joins fellow team mate Lucy Stewart coaching rugby in Africa.'

The team thanked all the supporters who braved the weather.

the pressure throughout and were rewarded with a sixth try from Rachael MacDonald following an almighty push

Green Machine back in action on Saturday

Oban Lorne are back in action this Saturday with their penultimate league game of the season at home to league strugglers Bishopton RFC.

The sides met last month just across the Erskine Bridge when Oban recorded a comfortable 36-11 victory.

Saturday's game should be another comfortable win for Oban who have secured second place in the league following a poor loss off form by Uddingston and Strathaven and a recent winning run from the men in Green.

Bishopton, though, have it all to play for as they look to avoid the lower reaches of the league going into the closing stages of the season as bottom placed Cumbernauld have hit a good run of form pressurising the lower half of the table.

RUGBY

West Regional clubs voted in favour of 10 team leagues at last Wednesday's league reconstruction meeting meaning Oban Lorne will still compete in West Division 2 next season along with the eight best placed teams in the division and the teams placed 11th and 12th in Division 1.

Saturday's game kicks off at 3pm (TBC) at Glencruitten. The clubhouse will be open all day for the Super Saturday Six Nations fixtures including Scotland's Calcutta Cup Clash at Twickenham which kicks off at 5pm.

Oban Lorne's last league game of the season will be on Saturday March 23 when Paisley visit Glencruitten.

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WEATHER

Thursday
Gusty winds and light rain showers
Temperatures 5°C to 9°C.

Friday
Light rain showers and a fresh breeze
Temperatures 4°C to 8°C.

Weekend Outlook
Saturday
Light rain showers and a gentle breeze
Sunday
Sunny and a gentle breeze
Temperatures 3°C to 8°C.

FRIDAY

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday March 14, 2019** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	04.11	1.6	10.23	3.0
	17.05	1.6	22.39	3.0
Fri	05.39	1.7	12.01	2.8
	18.31	1.7	***	**
Sat	00.25	2.9	07.25	1.7
	14.37	3.0	19.53	1.5
Sun	02.41	3.1	09.03	1.5
	15.39	3.2	21.06	1.2
Mon	03.43	3.5	10.10	1.1
	16.26	3.5	22.06	0.9
Tues	04.30	3.8	11.00	0.8
	17.05	3.8	22.56	0.5
Wed	05.11	4.1	11.44	0.5
	17.41	4.0	23.43	0.2

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:

Mighty performance
sees ladies into Shield

**NORTH WEST
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AND TIDES - SEE PAGE 55

First points of the season for John McPhee in Qatar

The PETRONAS Sprinta Racing team picked up the first points of the season in the opening round of the Moto3 World Championship thanks to Oban's John McPhee, who finished thirteenth in a hotly-contested race at the Losail International Circuit in Qatar.

John had to recover from a difficult start to the race, when he dropped back from fourth place and found himself outside the point-scoring positions.

However, the PETRONAS Sprinta Racing rider made gradual progress with every lap, recovering as high as eighth place before eventually taking 13th in a close battle to the line.

With this result, John picks up three points and is 13th in the championship as the series moves on to Argentina on March 31.

John said: 'It's nice to be back racing again, having a scrap and doing what we love. My bike felt great in the race. The team has done

MOTO 3

a great job finding my race pace and I knew it was going to be good. Unfortunately, we had a small technical problem with the top speed which cost us, particularly on the straight, but the bike was good around the rest of the track. I made a couple of mistakes on the first lap, running wide on one corner, and when you do that at the beginning it costs you for the whole race. After that, I focused on setting my pace, which was good, and tried to catch the lead group, which I managed even though I was stuck at the back.

'The good thing about the weekend is I felt strong, my pace and feeling were good and the speed is there. We have limited the damage by picking up points and now we can turn our focus to the next race in Argentina.'



John McPhee in action.



Two solid displays from MacIntyre

Oban's European Tour golfer Bob MacIntyre has had two successful weeks.

He made the cut at the Oman Open at Al Mouj Golf Club, Muscat, from February 28 to March 3 and the Commercial Bank Qatar Masters in Doha last week.

High winds and sand storms made things difficult for the golfers in Oman which meant low scores were at a premium.

In the first, round Bob carded a one under par 71 with

Oban's Bob MacIntyre is in good form on the European Tour.

three birdies and two bogeys.

Round two, which was suspended for a while because of a sand storm, saw the Glencruitten golfer come home with a two over par 74 with three bogeys and one birdie.

Bob steadied the ship in the third round with three birdies and two bogeys for a two under par 72.

However, the final round, played in difficult conditions, turned into a bit of slog for the 22-year-old with a six over par 78 with one birdie, three bogeys and two double bogeys for a round of 78 which gave him a four-round

total of 248 to finish in joint 45th place.

Winner was American Kurt Kitayama with a seven under par total of 281.

The tour then moved to Doha for the Qatar Masters where the Oban left-hander finished in joint 31st place.

In round one, Bob carded a superb three under par 69 with six birdies and three bogeys.

Round two saw the Oban golfer card two birdies and two bogeys for a level par round of 72.

Another level par round of two birdies and two bogeys in round three, then three bird-

GOLF

ies and two bogeys in round four saw him complete the competition with a two under par 70 to finish with a four round total of 283 and pick up a cheque for 12,300 euros.

The tour now moves to Africa for the Kenya Open at Karen Golf Club, Nairobi, from March 14 to 17.



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Residents' anger over plan for 325 houses

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

More than 50 residents of the Upper Achintore area of Fort William are said to be up in arms over proposals to build as many as 325 new houses on land bordering the lower slopes of Cow Hill.

Any objections to Link Housing's application for planning permission in principle for the site east of the town's Lochaber Road must be lodged by March 28.

But angry residents say, contrary to recent media reports, the proposed new houses have not been welcomed by local people, and claim there have been only two, poorly advertised, public consultations and that only a handful of homeowners in the area have actually received official notification of the plans.

There is also a further application pending from Link Housing, this time for full planning consent, for phase one of the development, including the formation of



Objectors Kevin and Janet Hickman with, right, Rhona Grant, and the proposed housing site in the background.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

roads, access, drainage, foundations, ground works and services infrastructure for all phases of development and erection of 176 houses and as-

sociated works. The residents are objecting on various grounds, including fears the local Lundavra Primary School, which already has

212 pupils, would struggle to cope with a large-scale influx of new children.

Protester Janet Hickman told us: 'Lundavra School site was chosen as it was thought to be the best site for a new school for Upper Achintore. However, if this development is to go ahead, why was it not sited on the Angus Crescent proposed site which was rejected by the council?'

Objectors have also raised issues of increased congestion along Lundavra Road, the threat of flooding, the removal of peat vital to carbon capture and tackling climate change, and the impact on the natural environment with the area home to everything from cuckoos and dragonflies to deer, warblers and lesser butterfly orchids.

Rhona Grant is another local resident who is deeply unhappy.

She said: 'Why on earth are they proposing to house families all the way up there? Elderly people probably as well? It

doesn't make any sense.' Mrs Hickman added: 'Housing is needed in Fort William, but Cow Hill is not the place for it. It is unsuitable for all the reasons stated above.'

'There are many people who object to it, including householders below it who could see their homes flooded, young and older people who use the area for recreation and a place of peace from their busy lives and the wildlife whose home it is.'

Contacted on Tuesday, Link Housing told us no one would be available to answer any media inquiries for two days.

However, Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Andrew Baxter said: 'It's important that residents, whether they are in favour or opposed, are able to have their say.'

'I've heard many arguments in favour and against. The planning committee must take all of those things into account when making its final decision.'

Three die climbing Ben Nevis

Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team has urged climbers to check avalanche information before heading out after three people died after being swept down Ben Nevis on Tuesday.

Two members of the four-strong party, believed to be Swiss and all young men, died at the scene while the third man died later in hospital. The fourth climber remains in Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Glasgow.

The avalanche occurred in the Number 5 Gully area – the third since Saturday – and police were called shortly after 11.50am on Tuesday.

Police Scotland coordinated the mountain rescue response, with volunteers from Lochaber Mountain Rescue and Glencoe Mountain Rescue teams attending, as well as a group from the Joint Services Mountain Training Centre who were in the area.

Support at the scene was also received from the Coastguard and Maritime Agency and Scottish Ambulance Service.

Conditions were extremely difficult with very high winds, snow, and thunder and lightning.



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Fort author Barry Hutchison entrances Inverlochy pupils

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Fort William-born children's author Barry Hutchison was on hand at Inverlochy Primary School last week to help pupils celebrate World Book Day.

The creator of the Space Team and Dan Deadman Space Detective series told the Lochaber Times that Inverlochy Primary always goes above and beyond for World Book Day, and that this year was no exception.

'It's great to see staff and pupils alike getting into the spirit and sharing their love of books and reading,' said Barry.

'Reading is great fuel for the imagination, and judging by the ideas the



children suggested in the creative workshops I ran, they certainly aren't lacking in that department.'

Barry wrote his first novel aged 12 and saw a screenplay, penned when he was just 17, optioned

by an American company. Since then he has written everything from magazine articles to radio plays, but it was when his own first child began to read that he turned his pen to books for younger readers.

Barry is passionate about encouraging children to read a wide range of fiction and it was that desire which led to him getting involved in the founding of the Trapped By Monsters website – a site designed to share great stories and get children involved

Fort William author Barry Hutchison was on hand at Inverlochy Primary School for last week's World Book Day, when pupils dressed as their favourite literary characters.

Photographs: Abrightside
Photography

in reading and writing. Inverlochy Primary deputy head teacher Tanya Ross told us: 'What another fabulous World Book Day at Inverlochy Primary and Nursery. It was great seeing all of the costumes worn by both pupils and staff.'

'We were just delighted that author and our school reading patron Barry Hutchison could join us for World Book Day. He adds a special touch to the day each year.'

'After judging our best dressed character from each stage, Barry read to the primary classes and spoke about how he got started as a writer. He then got his captivated audience involved in helping create some new scary characters.'

'The pupils and staff loved it. Our World Book Day was free and fun for the children though our Sunshine Committee, which raised just over £160 from serving tea, coffee and homebaking to parents when they came in to read with pupils.'

'This money will be used, firstly, in funding our Daffodil Drop where we deliver flowers to nominated people within the local community; a favourite community event of ours which we do each year.'

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Glencoe climbers rescued but one dies

Police Scotland has confirmed that one of the two missing climbers rescued from the Glencoe area on Saturday has died.

The 57-year-old man who died was rescued along with a 49-year-old man after they were reported as missing and overdue on Friday evening.

An extensive mountain rescue operation involving four

mountain rescue teams and Coastguard helicopters was launched on Friday night, resuming on Saturday morning.

The two men were located with assistance from members of the public at around lunchtime on Saturday. They were taken to hospitals in Aberdeen and Fort William.

Both climbers had travelled to the Glencoe area from

Nottinghamshire as part of a larger group.

It is understood both men were suffering from hypothermia.

GETINTOUCH

email us at fort@obantimes.co.uk
telephone 01397 703003

Body of climber Tom Ballard found on 'Killer Mountain'

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Tributes have been paid to Lochaber climber Tom Ballard this week after rescuers found the body of him and his climbing partner Daniele Nardi on Nanga Parbat on Sunday.

Mr Ballard, who grew up in Spean Bridge near Fort William, and his companion last made contact from the ninth highest mountain in the world at an altitude of around 6,300 metres (nearly 20,700ft) almost two weeks ago. The pair were attempting to reach the summit of the famous Himalayan peak in Pakistan, nicknamed 'Killer Mountain'.

It had been reported midweek that the search had been called off, but it was restarted after two 'silhouettes' were spotted on a route known to have



Tom Ballard, right, with climbing partner Daniele Nardi before they began their fatal expedition on Nanga Parbat; and, right, a young Tom Ballard with sister Kate and father Jim pictured in the Lochaber News (August 26, 1995, edition) following the death of his mother, Alison Hargreaves.

been taken by the climbers. Officials confirmed on Sunday March 10 that the sighting was of the missing men. It is thought they may have been killed in a 'huge avalanche'.

Rescue team leader and Spanish climber Alex Txikon found the bodies but they are reported to be in a place difficult to reach. However, the team has said everything possible would



be done to try to recover them. In a statement, Mr Txikon said: 'After the official confirmation of the families and Stefano Pontecorvo, we can confirm that we have

finally finished the search for Daniele Nardi and Tom Ballard. You will be part of the history of mountaineering forever friends.'

Searches for the men began days after they last made contact with their team, but these were delayed because of bad weather and political tensions between Pakistan and India.

Mr Nardi's team said they were 'heartbroken' and that 'a part of them will always remain on the Nanga Parbat'.

In a statement, they said: 'The [Nardi] family remembers Tom as a competent alpinist and a brave friend of Daniele. Our thoughts are with him.'

Mr 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.

A former Lochaber High School pupil, Mr Ballard soon gained a reputation as a promising climber after the family, including his father Jim and sister Kate, moved to Lochaber in 1995.

Mr Ballard has since gone on to achieve international recognition as a professional mountaineer and, in 2015, he became the first person to have solo climbed all six of the major Alpine north faces in a single winter.

In recent years, he has been living in Italy's Dolomites mountain range with his father.

Mr Ballard's sister Kate, who thanked people for their support, said on Facebook: 'Tom and Daniele's bodies will remain with their mountain. Their souls have moved on.'

'Tom - Be with Mum.'

New Clarins counter at Gordons Chemists in Oban!

Advertorial



Gordons Chemists on George Street, Oban, has recently completed a stunning makeover of their Clarins counter. The new counter offers the customer the ideal environment to discover the Clarins skincare and make-up ranges, and to receive expert advice from the store's Clarins Consultant, Corrina Mack.

As Corrina explains, the new counter offers the customer a much-improved shopping experience:

"The new counter looks incredible, and I couldn't be more pleased with how it has turned out. It is bright and it has lots of

space, which allows me to give my clients recommendations and advice that is completely bespoke to them.

"The Clarins items that I will recommend to a client are based on their type of skin, or what they're hoping to achieve with their skincare regime. For make-up, I will be recommending products that tie-in with a client's natural appearance, or a particular look that they want to achieve. It is individual to each person, and the new counter that we have in Oban gives me a wonderful environment to give my advice to each customer.

"Please feel free to call in and see our new counter - we'll be only too happy to introduce you to the Clarins range!"

The launch of the new counter coincides with Clarins' Gift of Beauty promotion (Thursday 14th - Saturday 30th March 2019). You get to choose four beauty treats (from a selection of eight) and a gorgeous beauty bag, when you buy two or more recommended Clarins products, one to be skin care. There's also the opportunity to get an extra gift worth £27 when you make an additional purchase!

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Lochaber mason first one in 20 years to take top office

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

For the first time in at least 20 years, a member of a Lochaber masonic lodge has been installed to the prestigious office of Provincial Grand Master of Inverness-shire.

Brother David Crilley also became the first member of St Kieran 1155 Lodge Kinlochleven to take the office of Provincial Grand Master of Inverness-Shire when he was installed by Brother William Ramsay McGhee at a ceremony in Lochaber High School last week.

There was a large turnout of members for the event from a number of Lochaber lodges and Brother Crilley, who has been a member of the masons for 30 years, said it had been a superb occasion.

'It was a great evening and Lochaber High School did us proud with the venue – the



Pictured right, Brother William Ramsay McGhee Grand Master Mason, left, gives his congratulations to Brother David Crilley on becoming Provincial Grand Master of Inverness-Shire; and above, masons from a number of lodges turned out for the occasion.

Photographs: Anthony MacMillan Photography

catering was fantastic,' he told the Lochaber Times this week.

Prior to retiring, Brother Crilley worked as a chef before spending 25 years as a driver in the army.

'It is great that a Lochaber lodge has been able to provide a Provincial Grand Master after all this time. I think the last local mason to take on

the role was Charlie Taylor maybe as long ago as 25 years ago. And I am only the third from Lochaber in the past 100 years.'

Part of Brother Crilley's new duties will be to pay regular visits each year to local lodges and carry out an inspection, as well as being involved with committee meetings, includ-

ing the yearly meeting that decides on which charities will be supported.

Brother Crilley says the masons remain popular and feels the ancient organisation still has an important role to play in the 21st century.

'I firmly believe we still have a very worthwhile role to play – very much so,' he added.



Sea wall project aims to shore up Fort William coastal defence

The sea wall next to Achintore Road in Fort William will undergo reconstruction next month as part of a coastal defence project.

The £465,000 scheme, which is expected to take up to six weeks to complete, will involve demolition of the existing coastal defence system, which is showing signs of significant deterioration, and construction of a new defence system. Thousands of tonnes of concrete and rock armour will be installed along the shore to strengthen and protect the embankment from future erosion, ensuring the

A82 carriageway and footpath remain fully supported.

As part of the project, a wider footway will also be constructed, with new safety barrier installed next to the A82, helping to improve road safety on this stretch of the route.

The project is set to begin on Monday April 1 to avoid further deterioration of the existing coastal defence system from the tides against the sea wall. Temporary traffic lights will be in place during the project and will be manually operated during peak period.

The lights will be removed over the public holidays at the Easter weekend (April 19 to 22) and the Six Day Trials event (May 6 to 11).

A drop-in session is due to take place on Tuesday March 12 at the Highland Council offices at the Charles Kennedy Building in Fort William from 3pm to 4.30pm for elected members, community council representatives or local authority teams. A second session from 4.30pm to 6pm is planned for business owners or any members of the public looking to find out more.

Volunteers needed for cruise ship's return

Volunteers are needed to welcome the first cruise ship of the season to Fort William.

MV Astoria will be arriving in Loch Linnhe on Monday April 8 and Tuesday 9, with hundreds of people being ferried from the 580-passenger cruise ship to the pontoons at the West End car park to visit the town.

Fort William Marina and Shoreline Company is looking to assemble a team to wel-



The MV Astoria will once again visit Fort William.

come the visitors, where they will be directed to the High Street or to nearby sights and attractions.

Contact Sarah Kennedy on 07768 805040 if you would like to be part of the welcoming team.

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Glencoe couple's ceilidh to aid Romanian dog rescue

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

It started with the adoption of one unwanted mongrel from an animal shelter in Romania.

Five years later and Hilary Anderson and Alex Shipp, who had taken that mongrel called Pixie into their home in the UK, have adopted several more Romanian rescue dogs and have their own thriving charity that rescues hundreds more each year.

And a number of those animals saved by Barking Mad Dog Rescue have found new lives in Scotland, including two in the Glencoe home of Kim and Ken Macdonald.

'Many dogs in shelters in Romania will be killed quite horrifically'

Two years ago the Macdonalds adopted Hazel from Barking Mad's own shelter in the Romanian city of Constanta, and she was followed by Tommy a year later.

Last year Kim and Ken organised a raffle which raised more than £1,000 for Barking Mad and since then hundreds of pounds more have been raised through the sale of a printed collection of Ken's nonsense dog rhymes.

And in a few weeks, on April 6, in Ballachulish Village Hall, the couple's latest fundraiser to help Romania's badly treated stray dogs will see people take to the floor at a special ceilidh.

'Hazel had been picked up off the street and put in a kill shelter before she was saved from there by Barking Mad



and taken to the charity's own shelter in Romania,' Kim explained.

'People often ask why we adopted dogs from Romania with so many unwanted dogs in the UK – the answer is that dogs in shelters and rescues in the UK are cared for and looked after to much higher standards. They have a chance of a new life.

'Many dogs in shelters in Romania, on the other hand, are kept in really distressing conditions and will be killed quite horrifically.'

Barking Mad now rehomes on average around 250 dogs a year in the UK and Germany, and feeds another

850 a day in Romania. The dogs at its main and biggest shelter are cared for by a remarkable young woman, Gea Caineanu, her father Ion and Ion's best friend, Romeo.

And a team from the charity returns to Romania every two months to visit Barking Mad's shelter in Constanta and when possible its supported shelter in Calarasi.

Kim continued: 'At the ceilidh there will be a small information table on the work of Barking Mad and hopefully we can encourage other people considering getting a dog to think about one from Romania or possibly sponsoring one instead.'



Left: Kim with rescue dog Hazel (Photograph: BrightsidePhotography); above, Hazel, with Ion, Romeo and Gea, before flying out to a new life in Glencoe; and, right, Kim and Ken Macdonald with their other Romanian rescue dog, Tommy.



Council 'aspirational' programme approved

The Highland Council's programme, Local Voices: Highland Choices, was approved last week, along with a corporate plan to provide the measures and actions required to deliver and monitor the programme.

The corporate plan – which also underpins the priorities set out in the council's budget strategy and change programme, A Sustainable Highland, and was approved last month – will provide

a framework to ensure the council has continuous and comprehensive performance monitoring to deliver the outcomes.

An annual performance report will be produced from September 2020.

Alasdair Christie, deputy leader of the council, said: 'The council's programme presents an opportunity to be aspirational and ambitious – we will work in an inclusive way with our communities

ensuring that we improve outcomes for folks and in so doing improve lives.'

Chief executive Donna Manson added: 'It is vital as we move forward that we work together with partners, that staff are empowered and the public see a change in approach which evidences continued listening to communities, taking cognisance of their positive ideas about how we can deliver a better service.'

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VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER



Just six minutes will help you prepare for Brexit.

With less than three weeks to go until the official 'Brexit' date, there is still massive uncertainty about what our position as a country will be in relation to the rest of Europe.

How can I plan for Brexit when I don't know what it looks like?

With so much in flux and no definitive way forward yet agreed, it can be tempting for businesses to take a 'wait and see' approach but there is lots you can and should be doing, regardless of your company's size or sector.

A great place to start is Scottish Enterprise's #PrepareForBrexit website where you can complete the self-assessment tool.

During this period of uncertainty, it is vital Scottish businesses continue to assess the challenges presented by Brexit

and take necessary action to safeguard their growth.

Preparing your business for Brexit is about developing a flexible planning approach so you can adapt and be resilient across potential Brexit outcomes.

Completing the self-assessment tool is a great way to identify what issues you need to consider and how to go about it.

Why not join more than 2,200 companies which have completed the self-assessment to help identify their next steps?

It should only take around six minutes to fill in and will provide advice and information tailored specifically to help your business prepare, including signposting you to expert advice and financial support, where appropriate.

To find out more about all the resources available to help you prepare, visit www.prepareforbrexit.com

To read the Scottish Chambers of Commerce's simple Brexit overview, and discover other ways Lochaber Chamber of Commerce can help your business thrive, visit www.lochaberchamber.co.uk

Lundavra residents voice concerns on area in survey

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

More than 300 people living in Lundavra, Fort William, have voiced concerns over employment, housing and community services.

They had their say in a comprehensive Highland Council survey, to be used as the basis of an action plan to address areas requiring improvement.

In addition, Fort William Community Action Group has invited residents and businesses in the Lundavra Primary School catchment area to share their opinions on transport links, safety, the environment, local employment and housing.

Employment, housing and community services highlighted in survey

Businesses have also taken part in the survey, raising concerns over recruitment challenges.

Respondents have highlighted the good work of Fort William Town Team in helping keep Fort William High Street and surrounding areas looking nice, the positive improvements at Cameron Square, the increase in the variety of shops and housing development in recent years.

The need for more and

improved green spaces and play areas in the town and Upper Achintore was also highlighted as a top priority for residents.

Improvements to run down or empty shops and the rectification of 'staining' on reclud houses were also called for.

The need for a community centre and more shops in Upper Fort William, parking problems, improvements to the back area of the High Street and the lack of busi-

nesses and industry able to offer year-round employment opportunities have been raised.

The Highland Council survey is open until Sunday March 31 so there is still time to have your say.

It can be completed online using a web link on the Highland Council website or paper copies can be found at the Highland Council Service Point and Fort William library.

The catchment area for the survey includes Upper Achintore, Plantation, An Aird, Achintore Road, Seafield Gardens, Belford Road, Cameron Road, Alma Road, Victoria Road and the High Street.

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Littering awareness campaign with Lochaber High School

Last week marked the conclusion of a Highland Council littering awareness campaign with Lochaber High School.

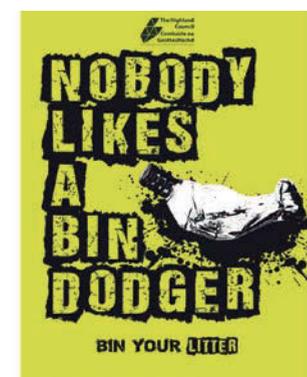
The Highland Council's Waste Aware team visited the school in February as part of the initiative funded by Zero Waste Scotland.

The campaign was aimed at helping reduce the amount of litter in school grounds and in areas frequented by pupils at lunchtime.

On their return from the mid-term break, students found the school transformed with posters, banners, floor graphics, temporary biodegradable street stencils and bin stickers with Zero Waste Scotland's national campaign artwork, with slogans such as 'Nobody likes a Bin Dodger'.

The eye-catching campaign materials have been in place since February 19 and teachers have been reinforcing the campaign's core messages with pupils.

Lochaber Councillor Allan Henderson, chairman of the council's environment, development and infrastructure committee, said: 'In line with the Scottish Government strategy, Towards a Litter Free Scotland, this campaign



adopts a preventative and collaborative approach to addressing littering.

'Effective communication of the problems associated with littering is essential to change attitudes towards the issue.

Engaging

'The materials used by Highland Council's Waste Aware team for this campaign provide an engaging means of delivering this message to school pupils and encouraging positive changes to littering behaviour.'

The Waste Aware team has also worked closely with the school and retailers to identify waste hotspots and to target littering outwith school grounds.

Campaign posters have been displayed by local shops during the campaign.

In this way, it is hoped the wider community can also engage with the anti-littering message.

The materials used for this campaign were specifically selected with longevity and sustainability in mind, with the majority being permanent or reusable.

The materials have previously been used successfully for campaigns with all Inverness secondary schools and Inverness College and it is intended that they will also be made available to other schools within Highland region.

Thousands set to tune in to Loch Arkaig osprey cam

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Thousands of people around the world will have been eagerly anticipating this week's official switch-on of the live osprey cam at Loch Arkaig.

In previous years, the live pictures of nesting ospreys and their chicks have been watched by fascinated viewers all around the globe and this year the often dramatic tree-top battle for survival is likely to prove no different.

Woodland Trust Scotland bought Loch Arkaig Pine Forest in partnership with Arkaig Community Forest at the end of 2016.

The live camera stream supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery began the following season.

The first season of the camera in 2017 was trouble free, with novice birds Louis and Aila successfully raising their first chick, Lachlan.



Trust spokesman George Anderson says last year the project almost seemed jinxed – both biologically and technologically.

'Louis and Aila produced three eggs, but these were all taken by a pine marten in the night,' said Mr Anderson, referring to an incident that was also viewed on the screen in the Lochaber Times' office window in Fort William

High Street thanks to a live feed from the Loch Arkaig camera.

'The birds stayed around despite this but the camera then suffered technical glitches before failing completely when the equipment was struck by lightning.'

'The kit has been completely refurbished over the winter. We have fitted a back-up camera which we can switch

The chick from 2017 breeding season, christened Lachlan.

Photograph: Lewis Pate.

tree was blown over last year and that is what offered the pine marten access to the canopy.

Mr Anderson added: 'We have removed any other likely branches in the vicinity. In addition, an electric tape has been fitted higher up the trunk. This will deter any pine martens with a mild shock if they reach that far.'

'Pine marten predation is totally natural and we can't guarantee the nest won't be raided again.'

'We take a few reasonable steps to give this nest added protection as we want people to see the osprey family successfully raise youngsters, but martens are not a threat to the survival of ospreys as a species.'

'It is important to remember martens and ospreys were nearly wiped out by people, but are well able to cope with

each other.

'It may be the best protection is Aila's hard won experience. Last time a marten came, she flew off the nest. Sitting tight is often a better tactic.'

'We think Loch Arkaig is the most challenging nest camera site in the UK as there is no visitor centre, electricity supply or internet connection onsite.'

'Everything has to be solar powered and the signal is beamed across the loch before it can enter the Lochielnet system then out to the world.'

The live stream will run until the autumn when it is hoped some chicks will be fledged. The adult birds are expected to arrive around the start of April.

The live camera feed from Loch Arkaig osprey cam can be viewed at: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/support-an-appeal/>



The osprey cam has been refurbished following a lightning strike last season and a back-up camera has been added.

Writing group calls on Lochaber creatives for anniversary book

A creative writing group in Lochaber is on the hunt for budding wordsmiths to contribute to its forthcoming anniversary publication.

Lochaber Writers' Group is celebrating its first year and to mark the milestone the group will publish an anthology of work to showcase its writing over the last 12 months. To add to the occasion, the group is looking for submissions from writers throughout Lochaber to feature in the publication.

Iain Jenner, one of the group's founding members, said: 'The writers' group has been going for just over a year now and we're going to produce an anthology of work from the core group that have stuck with it since it started –

about seven of us. We want to partly promote the group and also encourage other folk by having an open submission section.'

Once submissions have been collected, the group's editorial committee will select their favourite entries to be printed as 'external contributions'. They hope to have the book on sale by Friday June 21.

This first publication will be funded by the writers, although the £5 cover price will help to recoup printing costs.

Mr Jenner is excited about showcasing the group's work and hopefully inspiring other writers to get involved.

'I'm really looking forward to it. It's something I've wanted to do for a long time. I've really enjoyed the writers'

group. It's great to write and just step away for a while.'

Contributors must be aged 16 or older and live in Lochaber. Each submission must be the author's own work and in English. Writers can submit either one piece of prose up to 2,000 words in length, or up to three short pieces of poetry. All must be submitted electronically in Word format to lochaberwriters@gmail.com. The closing date for contributions is noon on Sunday April 14.

The editorial committee will review all contributions and its decision is final. Successful contributors will be notified by email.

For more information visit lochaberwriters.wixsite.com/mysite

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WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

■ 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.

■ The Highland Bookshop is delighted to be welcoming back well-loved Scottish author Donald S Murray on Saturday March 16, at 6.30pm to discuss his newest book, *As the Women Lay Dreaming*: a novel of the loilaire. Contact the bookshop for more information.

■ Representatives of Lochaber Sensory Care for Sight and Hearing Support will be visiting Abbeyfield Ballachulish Care Home on Monday March 18. The team will be there from 10.30am to 12.30pm to offer help and advice to the Abbeyfield residents and to local people with sight or hearing impairments whose NHS hearing aids may require re-tubing and new batteries.

No appointment necessary for this free and friendly service.

■ Lochaber Piping Society is hosting a film, *MacCrimmon's Gold*, by Patrick Molard, to be held in Ben Nevis Distillery on Thursday March 28. Patrick Molard is one of the foremost piobaireachd experts and players, and the film leads us through many aspects of this ancient and specialised form of bagpipe music. Discussion and refreshments will follow the film, and there will be short recitals. Doors open at 7.30pm and entry is £5.

■ Lochaber Piping Society is holding its youth piping and drumming competition on Saturday March 30 at Lochaber High School. More information can be found on the society's Facebook page.

■ A fundraising ceilidh and raffle will be held in Ballachulish Village Hall on April 6 in aid of the Barking Mad Dog Rescue charity which saves dogs from the streets and 'kill' shelters in Romania and then finds them good homes in the UK.

Young musicians impress at Fort William fiddle club

Fort William Accordion and Fiddle Club's March meeting was well attended at the usual Railway Club venue.

Local musicians started off the evening with Hector Henderson playing a great set of tunes on piano accordion accompanied by Hugh MacCalum on drums. Hector then accompanied on piano for Calum MacColl who gave a rollercoaster of tunes on the button box.

Cameron MacIsaac, one of the younger players, was on piano accordion and played a varied set of tunes. Robert Nairn, who tutors young Craig Kennedy, was on button box and assisted Craig with some well-known tunes. Robert then played his



Cameron MacIsaac, left, and Craig Kennedy at the March meeting of the Fort William Accordion and Fiddle Club.

Marian Anderson Trio, with Marian on lead accordion, Max Kitchen on drums, Isobel Hodgson on piano and performed a great set of varied music to a very appreciative audience. The evening ended with the usual stramash.

The club chairman duly thanked all and hoped more musicians, young or not so young, who would be welcomed to come along.

usual immaculate repertoire of music.

A visiting musician, on small button box, from

Munlochy, Ross-shire, Dennis Hurst, gave a very lively and varied set.

Guest artists were the

Lundavra pupils raise money for local good causes



Gregor Muir with the Lundavra pupils at the cheque presentation last week.

Photograph: Abridge Photography.

In February, primary four pupils at Lundavra Primary School in Fort William provided the entertainment at the school's monthly community cafe.

The youngsters sang a Chinese song and recited a Chinese chant to cele-

brate Chinese New Year. The generous donations given totalled £113.10 and the youngsters decided that they would like to donate this money to the Fort William Pump Track and Skate Park, and so last Monday they presented

project representative and local dentist Gregor Muir with a cheque.

The next two community cafes will be held on Tuesdays April 2 and 30 from 11am-noon. Everyone is welcome to come along for some delicious cakes.

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Museum curator Vanessa Martin, left, with Catriona Bruce, and the postcards from the First World War.

Postcards from trenches are Lochaber link to WW1

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A series of postcards sent home to Ballachulish from the trenches in the First World War has added a local dimension to a travelling exhibition on the conflict.

The exhibition is on at the West Highland Museum in Fort William until the end of this month.

The postcards are part of a much larger collection sent by John McCallum to his wife Mary from France. John had married school teacher Mary Cameron at the United Free Church in Ballachulish on April 21, 1916.

Although John was also a teacher, at the time of his marriage during the First World War, he was serving as a sergeant in the 13th Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Mary had been educated at Fort William Senior Secondary School and, after qualifying as a teacher, taught at Ballachulish until her marriage in 1916.

But the newlyweds were soon separated, when six months later John was shipped off to fight on the Western Front.

Between October 1916 and February 1919, John sent Mary numerous postcards detailing his life in France. The postcards are addressed to Aulltshealach, North Ballachulish.

This was the family croft where Mary had been born.

Embroidered cards were popular with the troops. They were made by local French women as a way of supplementing their income and sold to soldiers as gifts to send home.

After the war, John was discharged from the army and appointed headmaster at Kinlochleven School. The couple started a family soon afterwards.

They moved to Tobermory and then Innellan where John continued to teach. The couple went on to have two sons and three daughters.

On John's retirement in 1938, the family moved to Glasgow as they felt their family would benefit from better employment and educational opportunities.

The postcards are on loan from John and Mary McCallum's granddaughter, Catriona Bruce.

Museum curator Vanessa Martin says the postcards lend a poignant local element to the Highland Council's touring exhibition about the Highland experience of the First World War.

'Having been to France and seen these kind of embroidered postcards from soldiers and their loved ones before, I knew what they were like. But many people back here in Lochaber have been amazed by them and said they'd never seen anything like them,' Ms Martin added.

'This exhibition is very well worth taking the time to visit.'

Fort bookshop goes extra mile for youngsters

To celebrate their second World Book Day since opening in 2017, The Highland Bookshop decided to take this fantastic initiative to some of the most remote schools in Britain.

Each year the World Book Day charity gifts a book token to every child of primary school age in the UK, though they don't usually include the Hebrides.

The bookshop's initiative involved some logistical gymnastics and included appealing to Facebook followers to request a driver to deliver a very large parcel to Broadford Primary School.

Thankfully, a well-shared post found a 'local hero' who delivered them just in time for World Book Day on Thursday March 7. Teachers from Eigg and Muck also

popped into the shop to collect their stacks.

The bookshop contacted more than 30 remote schools, with a handful taking up the offer this year but staff hope they can at least double the deliveries in 2020.

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MacPhail

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angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



We are now more than a week into Lent and our modern-day attempts at sacrifice and penance is the subject of this week's offering.

Regardless of our reasons for doing so, whether religious, social, personal or for health and wellbeing, giving ourselves set periods of time to do something, stop doing something, not eat this or not drink that is generally good practice. It is also easier to fulfil such periods of self-enforced sacrifice if lots of others are doing likewise.

So, as with much of our behaviour, it shows signs of the sheep within us all, where it is good to go along with the crowd. In no way do I trivialise the partaking of Lenten penance by those who have deeply religious reasons for doing so. They are in a very different category to those like myself who are just carrying out interesting experiments.

In order to increase the level of experimental penance this year, I'm going to simultaneously stop drinking and start another 12-week running

programme in the lead up to having another bash at the Edinburgh half-marathon in May. I did part of a programme last year, and, though I started it late and missed a few weeks with injury, I managed to struggle through the 13 miles. With the combination of the full programme and no deoch until Easter, I reckon Mo Farah better watch out – though I think 'Mo Mhathair' might be as much of a threat to him as I will be! All being well, I'll head down south to join Team Eilidh again for the Manchester 10k on May 19 and then join them for the Edinburgh event the week after.

I'm half way through the second week of the training programme and it's not easy getting the body moving again after so long without doing very much in the way of physical activity. It would be a lot easier if I had carried on the running after the events last May, and the fact that I didn't is a reflection of why these set aims within a timescale are so effective.

As soon as the set aim was passed, I just did not have enough motivation to carry on the running, even though I knew it was undoubtedly good for me. Without having told Suzanne and the Team Eilidh organisers I would do the events last year, there is no way I would have carried on through the training programme and completed the runs.

If you have a specific aim on a set timescale, finding the motivation to put yourself through discomfort is much easier. That is why using Lent as a defined entity of time for which to place a certain duty or penance upon oneself is so effective and why so many find it a fulfilling experience.

I may miss a few training days and, due to a Christening this weekend, I will be taking a one-day holiday, but I hope my fairly loose adherence of this age old observance will have a positive effect on my ability to cover the distance in May and hopefully I'll earn a few pounds in sponsorship for that very worthwhile charity.

Mallaig High a potentially save

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A Mallaig High School pupil has helped design and develop the well-known Lucky2BHere website which could potentially help save hundreds of lives across Scotland.

The website provides defibrillator location information and has helped promote the Highland-based charity to a global audience.

Struan Robertson, 18, finds it rewarding to contribute to such a great cause: 'It's definitely a great feeling knowing your work is making a difference to people's lives,' he said.

'On top of that, it's a bonus that I'm getting experience in an area that I've always been interested

in while I'm still at school.' Struan is on a foundation apprenticeship which gives young people in S5 and S6 the opportunity to gain a nationally recognised qualification, at the same level as a Higher, alongside their other subjects.

This type of work-based learning also provides pupils with the opportunity to get real work experience – with Struan completing a placement through Google hangout calls with Skye digital company Sitekit, which is responsible for the Lucky2BHere website.

As part of the second year of his foundation apprenticeship, Struan has been given the task of developing the online donations page. This experience has consolidated his ambition to work

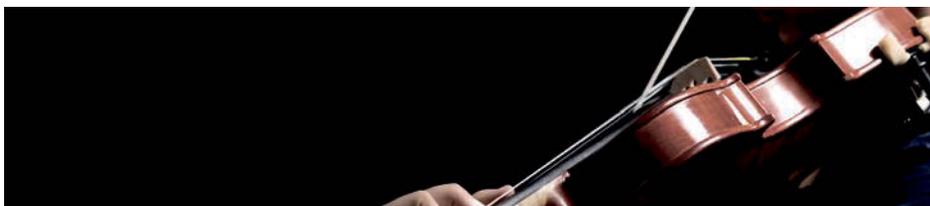
in the digital world. 'The foundation apprenticeship has opened my eyes to what's out there and I now want to go to the University of Dundee to study computer science,' he added.

Struan, who is from the Isle of Eigg, continued: 'It's quite a big decision to move down there.'

'It will probably be harder for my mum than it will for me.'

'My family has been really supportive and just want me to follow my dreams – this feels like the next logical step in that journey.'

Adam Robertson, head of curriculum at West Highland College UHI, said: 'The pupils in our partner high schools are spread across a vast geographical area, so as a college we



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H2SJ31487 03/19



President Iain Johnston with Robyn Robb, community engagement manager with Cancer Research UK.

Rotary hears about impact of cancer work over 40 years

Guest speaker at the Rotary business lunch meeting on February 20 was Robyn Robb, community engagement manager with Cancer Research UK with responsibility for the Highlands and Islands.

In a very engaging presentation, Robyn spoke about the amazing progress in cancer research over the past 40 years and about the impact that 'Gifts in Wills' has on the charity, making up one third of the research funds.

Cancer Research UK funds research into more than 200

cancers and has seen survival rates triple in breast cancer since the 1970s. The charity looks at prevention, making diagnosis easier through its screening programmes, making better and more effective treatments and making sure that those going through cancer treatment are given the right treatment at the right time.

Robyn said: 'Gifts in Wills allow us to also plan for future research. We are currently partnering with solicitors around the UK to work with us to beat cancer

sooner. We offer a free will service to anyone over 55 years old, whereby you can have a simple will written for free with one of our solicitors and include, if you wish a gift to Cancer Research UK although there is no obligation to do so.'

On behalf of the club, past-president David Thomson thanked Robyn for a very informative and encouraging talk and members responded with warm applause.

Robyn can be contacted at 07585 999067/Email robyn.robb@cancer.org.uk.

Apprentice Struan helps to save lives

have had to be innovative to create ways that even those in the most remote areas aren't disadvantaged in the opportunities they have.

'We have developed a highly interactive and successful method of teaching using a combination of virtual learning environments and video conferencing to deliver the theory parts of the lessons and to set tasks which can be closely monitored in real time by our lecturers.'

He added: 'The pupils really enjoy this method of learning and collaboration, and it has proved extremely successful and popular with the pupils.'

'Especially in the IT industry, this type of digital work practice will be commonplace, and it gives the pupils a real flavour of what working

Struan Robertson, of Mallaig High School, helped develop the donations page of the website, Lucky2BHere.

in the industry could be like.'

Sitekit founder and CEO Campbell Grant commented: 'Due to our remote location we have developed an innovative "online apprenticeship" scheme and Struan took full advantage of this to join our team in Portree every week.'

'The excellent work Struan did on the Lucky2bHere website is a fabulous example of the exciting hands-on project work that foundation apprentices can engage in to learn real-life, practical skills that prepare students for the commercial world.'



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MSPs to visit Skye to hear views on 'anti-smacking' Bill

Portree is to host a meeting of the Scottish Parliament's Equalities and Human Rights Committee as MSPs discuss proposals to stop parents relying on the defence of 'reasonable chastisement' if they physically punish their child.

MSPs will meet island groups before holding a formal meeting with representatives of different faiths and beliefs.

The committee is currently scrutinising the Children (Equal Protection from Assault) Bill and the implications of how the law might work if passed.

This stage in the parliamentary process is a chance for MSPs to hear from stakeholders, to make rec-

ommendations about the Bill and to come to a view as a committee on whether or not to support the Bill becoming law.

The formal committee meeting, which is open to the public, will be held on Friday March 15 from 4pm to 6pm in the Fingal Centre/Arainn Fhinn, Portree.

The public are also welcome to a question-and-answer session in the centre from 3.15pm.

Earlier in the day, members will meet with Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Phort Rìgh (Portree Gaelic Primary School) and Portree High School pupils, young carers and island parent group representatives to hear their views on the proposals.

'Stop playing politics' over Strome ferry bypass, says MSP

The SNP has been condemned for failing to fund repairs to the Strome ferry bypass.

Conservative Highlands and Islands MSP Edward Mountain pressed the government on the issue of additional funding during Portfolio Questions at Holyrood.

He said: 'When I last raised the issue of funding to remove overhanging rocks at Strome ferry with the minister for energy, connectivity and the islands on November 15, he confirmed he would

raise the matter with Derek Mackay, Cabinet Secretary for finance, economy and fair work.'

He then asked: 'Can you confirm when you last met with the minister, what additional funds he requested for Strome ferry and what funds are being made available?'

Derek Mackay replied: 'As far as I understand, the issue is of principle responsibility for Highland Council.'

Mr Mountain said he was 'hugely disappointed' by the secretary's response.

Skye to London trial flights approved by Highland councillors

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Councillors have approved controversial plans to trial flights from a Skye airstrip to the central belt of Scotland and London.

Members of the Highland Council's Skye and Raasay committee unanimously agreed to seek £170,000 from Highland Council to re-establish a commercially-run airport at Ashaig.

Councillors will now write to the Transport Secretary on behalf of the local working group partners - the council, HITRANS and Highlands and Islands Enterprise - requesting financial and technical support to introduce trial air services to London.

The annual operational costs for an upgraded licensed airport have been estimated between £320,000 and £380,000.

Campaigners against the project claim the subsidy required to run the airport would take money away from schools and road repairs.

In 2018, work was commissioned to analyse best value



In 2018, work was commissioned to analyse best value options, based on a 19-seat twin otter aircraft, photographed.

'Because of the airstrip's location, it will also benefit Lochalsh, Wester Ross and the wider west coast of the Highlands.'

options, based on a 19-seat twin otter aircraft, in the short term.

Highlands and Islands Airports (HIAL) provided significant input to the project

as its staff have extensive expertise in operating and maintaining a network of similar airports across the Highlands and Islands. The work identified this could be achieved for an overall value in the range of £1.53m to £1.77m.

Speaking after the vote, committee chairman councillor John Gordon said: 'In 2016, our committee first discussed the business case for developing air services to and from Skye. I thank the working group and acknowledge its efforts for moving things forward.'

'Good transport links, including regional air connectivity, are vital to the economic success of communities in the Highlands and Islands. Skye is one of the areas in Scotland that is furthest away from a scheduled air service.'

'Because of the airstrip's location, it will also benefit Lochalsh, Wester Ross and the wider west coast of the Highlands.'

As part of the airstrip improvement work, Highland Council will also introduce a 50mph speed order, speed activated variable message signs and painted directional arrows on the road, either side of each of the car park accesses.

Chairman of the council's infrastructure committee councillor Allan Henderson said: 'The local working group has taken this work as far as it can and it shows that a service can be introduced at reasonable cost in comparison with other airports in the HIAL network.'

'It's time now for the Scottish Government to assist us in delivering a pilot service between Skye and Glasgow.'

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Extra Old Man of Storr parking welcomed

More parking is to be created at one of Skye's most famous tourist spots.

Highland Council is to start work on 20 extra parking spaces in a layby on the A855 at the popular Old Man of Storr site after additional funding was secured.

The supplementary parking is on top of the additional 60 parking spaces, along with a dedicated motorcycle parking area, which recently received planning permission.

Last year about 206,000 people visited the Old Man of Storr in the north of the island, up by 16 per cent in 2017, causing severe parking problems.

Numbers at the site have grown steadily from 20,000 at the start of the millennium to 62,000 in 2013 and then an incredible 233 per cent increase over the next five years. The new spaces are

expected to be completed by the end of this month.

Including the additional 20 parking spaces, once phase one is complete there will be parking for 142 vehicles.

A second phase of parking improvements has been proposed, meaning a further 44 spaces could be provided, bringing the final total up to 186 spaces.

Separate planning permission has been approved for new public toilets, including disabled and baby changing areas, and a chemical toilet disposal area adjacent to the main toilet block which will help with another identified problem of a lack of disposal points for camper vans.

Highland Council committed £363,571 to the project that has unlocked £200,000 from LEADER and £300,000 from the Rural Tourism and Infrastructure Fund.

Stornoway yard back in business

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

A fabrication yard in Stornoway that 'effectively closed' almost a year ago has been brought back into use to build supports for offshore wind turbines.

The Canadian company which owns the yard, DF Barnes, is celebrating its first contract win with the creation of 82 jobs at its yard in Arnish, less than a year since taking over BiFab.

The contract, worth up to £26.5 million, was awarded by GeoSea in connection with the Moray East Offshore Windfarm development.

The yard was mothballed after a raft of redundancies last July when a contract linked to the Beatrice Offshore Windfarm came to an end.

Energy Minister Paul Wheelhouse has welcomed the new contract as 'great news' for the Western Isles.

He said: 'The Scottish Government's continued support and collaborative approach with DF Barnes has helped secure, at peak, 82 jobs for this yard. However, we have always been clear there remains hard work ahead to rebuild the pipeline of work for the business.

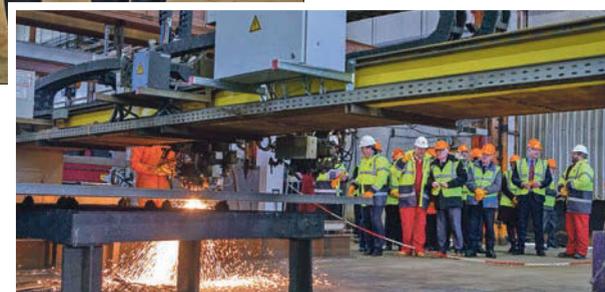


Martin Adam, left, operations director at BiFab, Sean Power, business development at DF Barnes, and Paul Wheelhouse, minister for energy, connectivity and islands, welcome the contract award and, below, the yard was mothballed almost a year ago but has been given a new lease of life.

It is essential developers and the wider supply chain look to use Scottish content wherever possible from the start, helping our indigenous supply chain become stronger and more competitive. That is in the interests of the sector and economic impact is a key consideration as we consider future licensing opportunities and planning applications.'

Vice president of business development at DF Barnes Sean Power said this is just 'the first stage in a long process' that aims to secure a sustainable future for the yard.

'We have made a long-term commitment to BiFab and are actively leveraging our global



skills and expertise to position the company for future growth,' he said.

DF Barnes is in discussions with the developers and contractors in relation to the Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) offshore wind farm.

Mr Power added: 'We are really grateful for the support we have received from the trade unions, local politicians and the Scottish Government and its agencies. The high

quality skills among the local workforce on the isle of Lewis will be critical to our long-term success. Although we are pleased to secure this work, we are working flat out to secure additional contracts.'

Alasdair Allan, SNP MSP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar, said he was delighted with the announcement that secures an 'important economic asset' for the island.

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LETTERS

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or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

Anticipation is high over return of Arkaig ospreys

There is little doubting the high level of international interest in the Loch Arkaig ospreys.

People right across the world have tuned in to the live osprey camera which focuses on the birds and their chicks each year.

There has been keen anticipation ahead of this week's switch-on of the camera, described as 'the most challenging nest camera site in the UK, as there is no visitor centre, electricity supply or internet connection onsite'.

As we report this week, the live stream will run until the autumn when it is hoped some chicks will be fledged. The adult birds are expected to arrive around the start of April.

Last year there was considerable dismay when a pine marten was filmed taking the mating pair of adult birds' three eggs, possibly gaining access to the canopy as a result of a branch from a neighbouring tree being blown onto the osprey's tree.

However, now the birds' nest has been given a makeover during the winter and a second camera has been installed to ensure, hopefully, an uninterrupted coverage.

We, too, are looking forward to the return of Loch Arkaig's ospreys and hope fervently for a season without the drama that afflicted the live cam and birds last year.

Tragic reminder of climbing's dangers

It is with a considerable sense of sadness that we report this week on a number of deaths among the climbing community.

Tuesday's loss of life on Ben Nevis followed that of another mountaineer in the Glencoe area.

It is a savage reminder, if any were needed, of the dangers that climbing poses. We would urge anyone taking to the hills to exercise extreme caution.

Hydro schemes help people who live in glens survive

In response to the letters in last week's Oban Times against the Glen Etive hydro schemes, I should like to make the following reply.

I am a member of the Glencoe and Glen Etive Community Council as well as chairwoman of the Glen Coe and Glen Etive Community Company. My husband's family has been here in Glencoe since 1936 and he went to school in Glencoe Village.

The remit of the community council is to represent the small communities who live in these two glens and I should like to take this opportunity to respond – on my own behalf – to the objections to the hydro schemes planned in Glen Etive raised by people and groups who claim to have a 'vested interest' in our glens.

I would like them to consider the people who actually live and work here – all year round.

We do not have the luxury of the services that people who live in urban areas have. The community benefit which these schemes generate may enable us to invest in a few of the things that people who do not live in remote glens take for granted as their right.

We are happy that our glens are seen as beautiful (as indeed they are) and I understand that people love coming here to walk, climb and camp to get away from the noise and stress of urban living.

However, I would ask them to reflect on who comes to their rescue when they get into difficulties on our hills? It is the local mountain rescue team manned by local volunteers – unpaid – who turn out day or night in all weathers to help.

Who is left to clear up the rubbish when the campers and other visitors leave? There are no public toilets in Glen Etive and off the road the glen is littered with small piles of toilet paper covering up their messes, as well as a pile of litter.

The people who live here do the clearing up because they love their glen and hate to see the mess that is left. The council has no money and the NTS, which owns part of Glen Etive, has no spare manpower.

Our mountains and glens should not be regarded only as playgrounds for urban population – theirs to treat as they like. We who live here love our glens and would never support any scheme that will ruin our home environment.

Indeed, we have agreed with the developer of the schemes in Glen Etive that each family who lives in the glen will adopt one of the hydro schemes, monitor the installation and reinstatement of the ground, and report on the progress to the developer and the community council. This is best done by people who live here all year.

YOUR PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase these 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 In-

ment of the ground, and report on the progress to the developer and the community council. This is best done by people who live here all year.

VisitScotland promotes the Highlands vigorously with pretty pictures and flowery words and tourists flock to our 'wild lands'. But our long single-track roads cannot cope with the traffic. The passing places are seen as convenient places to park and in the summer are mostly full with campervans making driving an obstacle course. The verges have been totally destroyed.

This is a problem – not just in Glen Coe and Glen Etive but in most of the remote areas in Scotland. Only this week it is reported that the population of Caithness has fallen by 21 per cent.

If it becomes impossibly difficult to live in the remote areas of Scotland, more people will leave. Many of the younger men are already forced to work away from their families during the week, but they need to know that their children are schooled, their own parents can, if necessary, go into a local care home and that reasonable services are available for their families.

Do the people who object to progress in our glens really want these areas cleared of residents? Do they really want our tourists to come only as day trippers in buses with piped commentary? Because if no one lives here, that will be all that is left.

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DISTRICT NEWS

WESTERN ISLES

Trading Standards is warning Western Isles residents telephone scammers are using 01851 area codes to make their calls appear local.

The automated calls state your internet is about to be disconnected following non-payment of your account and you are instructed to press 1 to reinstate the service or press 2 to cancel the service.

A spokesperson said: 'Our advice is put the phone down and end the call.'

Two Western Isles projects have received more than £2 million.

Cnoc Soilleir has been awarded £1.8 million from the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund to build a state-of-the-art modern building for Gaelic and cultural heritage in South Uist.

The building has been designed to become a focal point for the community and visitors and is a joint venture between Ceòlas and Lews Castle College UHI.

The Grinneabhat Project was awarded £368,338 to re-develop the former school in Bragar, which closed in 2013.

Islanders planning a summer holiday should ensure they are prepared for a potential 'no deal' Brexit, warns Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MP Angus Brendan MacNeil.

With less than a month until the planned leave date, Mr MacNeil says a 'no deal' scenario could mean passports with less than six months' validity may not be accepted for travel to EU countries.

Glencoe Primary School benefits from Co-op cash

A Christmas raffle in Ballachulish Co-op has boosted Glencoe Primary School funds by £760.

Ballachulish Co-op manager Neil Cameron and staff members Laura MacMorran and Morag Syme presented a cheque to the school last week.

Glencoe Primary School parents, children and Co-op staff helped sell the raffle tickets. Parents, staff and pupils of Glencoe

Primary School were delighted the local store chose their school to receive the money.

Marilyn Macdonald, associate head teacher, said: 'The money will help buy Chromebooks for the school enabling more children to access the curriculum through internet. We thank Ballachulish Co-op for organising the raffle and everyone who helped raise this amazing amount. The smiles on the faces of the children and staff reflect their delight in gaining more Chromebooks.'

Mike to cycle Hebrides for charity



A keen cyclist will pedal the length of the Outer Hebrides and back in aid of two charities.

Mike Lewus, a technical adviser from Sheffield, will undertake the Hebrides 4 Hearts and Minds challenge from April 16 to 25.

'Last October I cycled from Stornoway to Castlebay and, after finishing the trip, I immediately began to consider a new and bigger challenge,' he told The Lochaber Times.

After deciding to bike from Port of Ness to Vatersay and back again, Mike thought: 'I may as well help others less fortunate than myself to benefit too.'

He will be raising money for the British Heart Foundation and mental health charity SANE.

Mike said they were 'two charities close to my heart, mainly because the sufferers the charities support include former family members and a friend'. Mike, who visits the Western Isles for at least one week a month, first 'discovered' the charm of Scotland 10 years ago.

He said: 'Following a first trip to the Scottish Highlands and Western Isles 10 years ago, I found myself amazed by the beauty of the Scottish landscape.'

To donate visit <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MikeLewus>

PLOCKTON

The met office in Edinburgh closed the weather station in Plockton at the end of February. Volunteers have read the weather there every day for more than 60 years. The nearest station is at Achnagart Glenshiel, which is automatic.

Five inches of rain fell in Plockton in February. The warmest day was 17.7°C, compared with 10.7°C in 2018. Fifteen days had temperatures in double figures. The coldest night was -2°C.

Lochan presented the Mull Theatre production of The Electrifying Mr Johnston, by Robert Dawson Scott, in Plockton Hall on February 26.

Despite strong opposition at a public meeting last October, notices have now gone up in Plockton stating cows will once again roam the village after an absence of 15 years.

The South West Ross Scottish Community Drama Festival was held on February 22 and 23. Four plays were presented, two from Stornoway and one each from Lochcarron and Plockton. The winners were Plockton.

SKYE

Killichonate Woodlands owner Rik Eppens is to donate £6,000 a year for two years to Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation to help cut transport costs for community groups.

Mr Eppens and his wife had originally offered to lease a minibus for the community but he told last week's March meeting of the area's community council a cash donation would benefit more people.

Another local landowner, Ross MacGregor, offered to pay half of the local primary school's transport costs.

Chairman John Fotheringham thanked Mr and Mrs Eppens and Mr MacGregor for their generous offers.



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Margaret Laidlaw, left, and Donna Hughes from Morrisons, Fort William, present the books to pupils. Photograph: Abridgeside Photography.

Youngsters celebrate World Book Day with library gift

Banavie Primary School pupils celebrated World Book Day on Thursday March 7 when new books were donated to their library by supermarket Morrisons.

A national partnership between the Morrisons Foundation and the National Literacy Trust aims to help children fall in love with books

and reading around World Book Day. The books were presented to pupils by Margaret Laidlaw, people manager, and Donna Hughes, community champion, at Morrisons in Fort William.

Margaret said: 'I'm delighted to be donating these new books to a local school.'



The Rotary Club of Lochaber recently heard a talk on community policing from PC Katy Duncan in the Alexandra Hotel. Pictured with PC Duncan are club president, Iain Johnston, left, and Simon Hardiman, who gave the vote of thanks. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Pancake-flipping fun for Banavie pupils

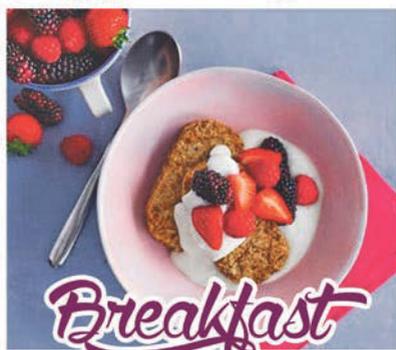


Youngsters from Banavie Primary School visited the Co-op in nearby Corpach last week to learn about Fairtrade Fortnight and enjoy pancake-flipping fun for Shrove Tuesday.

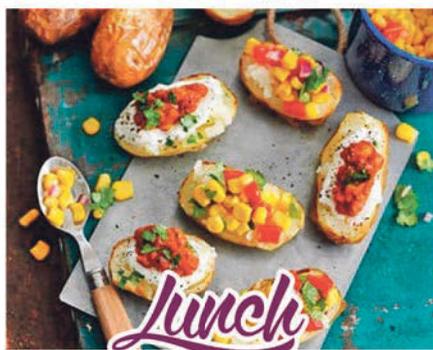
Photographs: Abridgeside Photography.



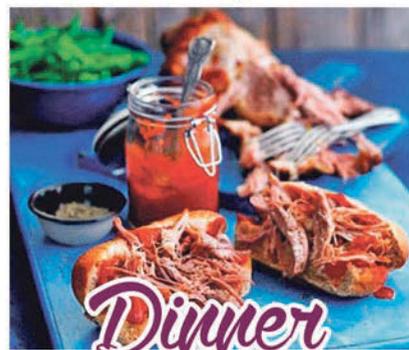
A typical day - At last, an eating plan that fits into your life



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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Glencruitten Road
Wednesday 9.30am,
11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
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LT



Budding young golfers tried out the sport at Spean Bridge Golf Course.



Brian Smith of Spean Bridge Golf Club helped organise an after-school session last week.

Juniors tee off with club

Primary school pupils were introduced to golf at an after-school session at Spean Bridge Golf Club.

Bridget Thomas, High Life Highland's Active School Co-ordinator, and Brian Smith of Spean Bridge Golf Club organised the fun event.

Willie MacKay, Scottish Golf Club Development Officer, said: 'Spean is a scenic nine-hole course right in the heart of the community. It is a great place for friendships and good old Highland 'craic'.

The children enjoyed chipping and putting and played a hole during the session.

The Spean Bridge club is to benefit from Scottish Golf's Roving Pro funding by linking up with PGA professional Alasdair Ross when he is home from his day job at Ellie Golf Club.

This will help juniors learn the game and develop their potential on their doorstep.

LOCHABER CLUB LOTTERIES

Fort William Golf Club's lotto numbers last week were 1, 5 and 7. There was two winners who both took home £100. The jackpot for the draw today, Thursday March 14, will be £100.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers for this week were 10, 13 and 18. There were no winners, so this week's jackpot is £600.

Caol Community Centre bingo club's lotto numbers were 3, 2 and 17. There were no winners, so next week's jackpot will be £700.

The numbers in Lochaber Camanachd Club's lottery on Tuesday March 5 were 6, 11 and 15. There was no winner so the jackpot for Tuesday March 12 was £1,100.

Numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 11, 12 and 16. There were no winners this week so next week's jackpot will be £200.



Above: Young footballers from across Lochaber are looking forward to the opening day of the league on Saturday March 30.

Right: Organisers and sponsors of the Highland League Primary Stars, left to right: Willie Edwards and Colin Wood, both Fort William Football Club directors, Dale Monk of The Crofter Bar and Linda Laverty.

Primary Stars get ready for league kick-off

Budding young Lochaber footballers have a new league in which to show off their skills.

The newly-established Highland League Primary Stars football league kicks off at the end of the month in Fort William to give young footballers a chance to compete against their peers.

Supported by Fort William Football Club and sponsored by several other local businesses, the league has organised matches each Saturday morning at Claggan Park from the end of the month until the summer holidays.

Linda Laverty, who has

almost single-handedly set up the new league, is looking forward to the opening tournament and is pleased with the response so far.

'The support has been great. So many people have said it has been years since we've had something like this,' she said. 'I just wanted to organise some friendly games but all the primary schools seemed keen so I decided to set up the league.'

Mrs Laverty said the idea is to 'support our young football stars doing what they love... playing football'.

Already, since the announcement of the new

league, schools have reported an increase in numbers and a renewed excitement at training. The first tournament of the new league will take place on Saturday March 30. Matches will be held every Saturday, weather permitting, until Saturday June 15.

The final tournament of the league season will be on Saturday June 22 when there will also be a prize-giving ceremony.

A number of local businesses have backed the league and Mrs Laverty thanks Allan Simpson, Jamie MacIntyre, Colin Wood, Callum Duffy, Donald MacNeil, Dale

Monk, Donnie Robertson, Scott Vance and Shiel Buses. Martin Cairns from Slipway Autos has paid for medals and cups for the first tournament, while David Smillie of the Volunteer Arms has sponsored the final tournament in June and paid for trophies and medals.

A Grand National auction night has been organised on Friday April 5 at Tradewinds, Corpach, at 7.30pm, to raise funds.

To follow updates and get more information on the league, visit the Highland League Primary Stars Facebook page.



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Duncan Rodger darts tournament raises £1,000

A darts tournament in Sunny's Sports Bar, in memory of shinty player and all-round sportsman Duncan Rodger, attracted a large entry from across the Highlands. Winner Nicky Denoon from Inverness beat Fort William's Martyn Cameron 5-2 in an exciting final. The event raised £1,000 for Lochaber Macmillan Nurses. The cheque was presented to Macmillan Nurse Specialist Derek McBride, right, by members of Duncan's family, left to right, Iain, Patricia and Emma Rodger.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.



Annual sportsman's dinner

Continued from page 56. night as the club marked another eventful year in its history.

Players, coaches and officials were treated to a night of fun and celebration with Scottish football legends Colin Hendry and Murdo MacLeod the guest speakers at the Moorings Hotel.

Player of the year was awarded to Fort skipper

and midfield general Sean Grant, while Jordan Morrison picked up the year award. A special award was presented to Albert Waldrup for his long commitment to the club.

Since the last annual dinner, the club has seen a number of changes, including a new chairman, board members and players.



Fort William board member Sam Lees, centre, with old firm legends Murdo MacLeod, left, and Colin Hendry.

TABLE TENNIS

Fort William and District Table Tennis League players have been involved in entertaining matches at the Nevis Centre.

Current Division 1 leader John Grant took on last year's winner Monte Bleasdale in a thrilling five-set match.

Monte was first to get into his stride and comfortably took the first game 11-5, but had to fight harder to take the second 11-9.

John fought back tremendously though and levelled the match with two consecutive 11-7 wins.

Monte raced into a 6-1 lead in the deciding fifth game and looked to be on course for an easier last game win, only for John to claw his way back into the match and reduce Monte's lead to one point to trail 8-9. Monte, however, held his nerve and won the final two points to take the final game 11-8 and the match three games to two, ending John's unbeaten run this season.

Angus MacDonald moved into third place following his 3-1 victory over Costi Dimitru, who recently beat Lenka Rozborilova 3-2. He had to battle for the victory with the first four game scores 13-11, 11-13, 8-11, 11-7 before Costi took the final game 11-3.

In Division two, Simon Jeffrey remains unbeaten, although he was made to battle all the way when he took on Ruth Sime. Simon started well, taking the first game 11-6, but Ruth improved in game two, narrowly losing 9-11. She took the third game 12-10 and then recorded another close victory 11-9 in the fourth game to level the match at two games all. But Simon took the final game 11-6 to maintain his lead at the top.

Jim Hinchley remains in second place behind Simon, although three players have closed the gap to just two points: John Steele following victories over Aileen MacFadzean and George and Dierdrie Roger; Julie Mager after her wins over George Roger and Joe Robson, and Joe Robson beating Neil Cameron 3-2.

The league is always looking for new players. Coaching is given to those new to the game. Practice and league matches are played on Monday nights at the Nevis Centre from 6.45pm to 9pm. For further details see the club's website tabletennisfortwilliam.org.uk

10-PIN BOWLING

After week 12 of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10-pin bowling leagues at the Nevis Centre in Fort William Alleycats continue to lead the scratch division with 56 points followed by Council on 48 points and British Legion Fort William in third place with 43 points. Alleycats also continue to lead the handicap division with 45 points. The Empire are in second place with 42 points, while Council move into third place with 37 points.

The top individual scratch game this week went to Brian Stewart (The Empire) with a 200. Also this week Gary Cowan (The Empire) had a 198 and Brian Johnstone (Alleycats) a 178. Brian Stewart also had the top two game scratch series with 336, while Gary Cowan had the top handicap game of 252 and Ron Gretton (Retrovators) the top two game handicap series of 433.

The best team scores of the week all came from The Empire who had the top scratch game of 573, the top handicap game of 796, the top two game scratch series of 1129 and the top two game handicap series of 1575.

The top scratch averages are currently held by Brian Johnstone on 160 followed by Pam Weller (Alleycats) on 145 and Gus Fraser (Council) on 144.

Lismore to Port Appin open water charity swim

Highland Open Water Swim is organising a charity swim on Sunday, March 17, from Lismore to Port Appin.

The plan is to take the ferry to Lismore then swim back. It should take the average swimmer about 30-35 minutes to complete the one km swim. There is no minimum age, but swimmers under 16 must have a parent present. Organisers are not recommending this event to absolute beginners.

Proceeds from the swim, which will start at 3.15pm, will go to The Brain Tumour Charity.

To register and for more information visit highlandopenwaterswim.com



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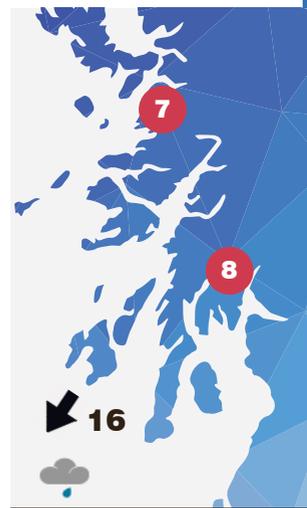


WEATHER

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:
Duncan Rodger
darts tournament
raises £1,000

**NORTH WEST
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AND TIDES - SEE PAGE 55

Fundraising virtual manager guest of honour at Fort FC



Club chairman Peter Murphy presents club stalwart Albert Waldrop with a commemorative quich.

Photographs: Abrightside Photography.

Annual sportsman's dinner

There was plenty laughter and merriment at Fort William Football Club's annual dinner on Saturday
Continued on page 55.



Manager Russell MacMoran presents Sean Grant with the player of the year award.

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Two worlds collided on Saturday as a virtual manager of Fort William Football Club met the real thing when he appeared as a guest of honour at Claggan Park.

Having raised £5,065 through his huge online following, Football Manager fanatic Jon Cox was invited to Claggan Park on Saturday to present a cheque to real-life manager Russell MacMorran.

Jon, who has tens of thousands of views on his YouTube channel under the alias Loki Doki, documented the highs and lows of his virtual football management career at Fort William FC in the computer game. After achieving the impossible in securing Fort William's promotion from the Highland League to League One in the virtual world, he turned his attention to reality and began fundraising for the struggling Highland League club.

The campaign proved far more successful than anyone first imagined, with Jon's dedicated subscriber fan base digging deep for the Fort.

Jon's appearance at the club wasn't dampened by the lack of onfield action, the match against Forres Mechanics having been postponed as a result of a waterlogged pitch.

As part of a BBC documentary on Fort William FC, Jon was flown over to Scotland from his home in County Down, Northern Ireland, to visit Claggan Park and meet



Jon Cox, aka Loki Doki, wearing Fort William colours with players Iain MacIntyre, left, and Scott Hunter, right.

the board and players. Jon seemed taken aback by the level of interest in his feat which has helped generate huge interest in the Lochaber side.

He said: "Thanks to Fort William FC for a fantastic weekend. We had a wonderful time meeting the club, players and fans. It was an honour to meet you all."

The Fort William FC board was delighted to accept his donation at Claggan Park on Saturday morning with club director Colin Wood saying the money would go towards the club's community projects.

"It was great to meet Loki Doki. He is just the same in



Real and virtual managers of Fort William FC, Russell MacMorran, left, and Jon Cox with the £5,065 raised by online fans. Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

real life as he is on YouTube. He loves his football and identified very much with what we are trying to do here.

"It is really humbling to receive support from the wider football community - last weekend a load of Colchester fans came up on the sleeper to watch the game. We are grateful for all the support and are working hard to build a team that is fit for purpose. We are

a community club and are keen to modernise Claggan Park and the Nupe. The funds raised will help us to advance these projects."



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