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# Concern as Oban 'A-boards' are removed without notice

by David McPhee  
[dmcphée@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:dmcphée@obantimes.co.uk)



## Shop owners fear for their futures

Oban businesses and charities were left baffled on Friday after Argyll and Bute Council uplifted unauthorised advertisement boards without notifying the owners.

Several shop owners, who are positioned off the main street and rely on advertising, were fearing for their futures.

The council has since apologised for taking the 'A-boards' without informing business owners.

Earlier this month, members of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee unanimously decided to banish the unauthorised boards, agreeing it would improve safety and accessibility, particularly for those with sight impairments and mobility difficulties.

However, it was thought owners would be notified beforehand and alternative solutions would be sought.

Iain Darling Butchers, trading as I Wynne & Son, which is positioned on Combie Street, spoke to The Oban

Times. Mr Darling said: 'If signs are blocking wheelchair users or the visually impaired, they have to be moved. I understand that 100 per cent. But if you are off the main street you need signs out to point people to where you are.'

'Basically, this is the local council working against good, family, Oban businesses.'

'Life is a struggle as it is without this sort of thing. I have had a sign out for nine years and there has never been a problem.'

Lisa Petrie from Abbies Cafe on Argyll Street said her sign was taken away on Friday morning before the cafe opened at 8am.

After going to the police station, her husband attended the council yard to retrieve their sign and was told he could take it, but could not display it on the street.

Lisa said: 'Without a sign we would close, without a doubt.'

Charities such as The War and Peace Museum and Mary's Meals were also left wondering where their sign had gone.

Area committee chairwoman councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'I appreciate the removal of the A-boards and banners came as a shock and I apologise to businesses for the lack of notification.'

'Over the past 18 months the issue of A-boards and unauthorised banners – 106 in Oban – has been raised as an obstruction by members of the public and our partners BID4Oban. At the area committee earlier this month, members agreed unanimously that action had to be taken before the start of the season.'

'The A-boards have been uplifted and can be retrieved from the town yard.'



Left: Councillors Jim Lynch and Roddy McCuish after the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee last week.

mittee,' he said. 'Until such signs are in place, perhaps the council could work with businesses that have been adversely affected.'

Councillor for Oban South and the Isles Jim Lynch said: 'We have to get businesses on side and work out a solution. Traders are frightened because they are up side streets. A sign is hugely important to people that are off the main street.'

An Argyll and Bute spokesperson said: 'We have clear guidance on street signs. This is designed to keep our pavements clutter-free for the public, particularly people with mobility difficulties or young families.'

'We apologise for clearing away the signs so quickly and without notifying the owners. The signs are stored safely and can be reclaimed by contacting our Mill Park Depot, Oban.'

Businesses are being advised to apply for a permit to display their signs.

The council's policy on advertising signs can be found on [www.bid4oban.co.uk](http://www.bid4oban.co.uk)



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OT

# Anger at 'appalling' fly-tipping

by David McPhee  
dmcphée@obantimes.co.uk



Fly-tipping on a road between Barcaldine and Bonawe has been described as 'appalling, disgraceful and unacceptable'.

A pile of rubbish on Glen Salach Road was documented by a member of the public who posted a photograph on Facebook.

The person who took the photograph told The Oban Times: 'This area has been used many times in the past, even though it now has a gate on the area to stop them. It has been reported to the police and Argyll and Bute Council.'

In another case of illegal dumping, a single and double mattress and a single bed frame were left on a back road running along Loch Nell.

A post highlighting the rubbish was published online, stating 'the effort this must of taken to dump it here must be more than taking it to the dump'.

Another Facebook user asked: 'Why dump it there and not take it the extra two miles to the dump?'

'It's simply down to lack of consideration for anything beyond themselves,' another replied.

Another user said: 'Same mentality as the litterers and the people who don't pick up after their dog. They have no idea how beautiful and what a treasure Scotland is.'

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'We are committed to ensuring public spaces in Argyll and Bute are maintained to a high standard and ask that any fly-tipping is reported to us.'

'The fixed penalty notice for

fly-tipping is £200. If it is not paid, prosecution could result in a fine of up to £40,000. We all have to play a part in keeping our communities free of rubbish by using the many waste and recycling facilities we have in Argyll and Bute.'

'We would ask anyone who has a concern about fly-tipping to let us know either by reporting it online at [www.arrygall-bute.gov.uk](http://www.arrygall-bute.gov.uk) or by calling 01546 605514.'

## ACHA prepares to hit the ground running

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) has launched a new grounds maintenance team.

Historically, the association has contracted work out but it has decided to bring the works in-house.

For six months of the year, the primary focus will be on grass cutting and plant maintenance.

The remaining six months of the year will see a focus on neighbourhood improvement

involving projects to modernise public areas in ACHA estates.

Commenting at the

launch of the new team in Helensburgh, Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's chief executive, said: 'Feedback from recent conferences indicate tenants want to see priority given to estate improvement and neighbourhood management.'

'Bringing the service in-house will afford us a greater opportunity to do that through planned initiatives with routine grounds maintenance.'

The association has extensive areas of land throughout Argyll and Bute near its 5,100 properties.

In addition to the annual grounds maintenance budget of £363,000, there will be a five-year programme of £300,000 per annum for five years to support environmental projects.



John Sangster with miniature Shetland pony Winston and resident Margaret Campbell during a visit to Lynn of Lorne Care Home. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

## Pet therapy lights up the day in care home

Residents at Lynn of Lorne Care Home in Benderloch had some special visitors last week – two lovable miniature Shetland ponies.

Supplied by Therapy Ponies Scotland, Winston and Flicker were guests of honour at a gathering which included 39

residents, staff and two Newfoundland dogs who accompanied the ponies.

Lynn of Lorne manager Georgie Taylor said: 'This is the first time we have had therapy pets to visit and the reaction was fantastic. It lit up everyone's day.'



MP Brendan O'Hara is urging constituents to turn their lights off for an hour.

## Pulling together to stop the scammers

Police Scotland will launch its 2019 Safer Communities Roadshow at Station Square, Oban, on Monday June 17.

The event will involve the Royal Bank of Scotland and have a strong focus on scam prevention.

Speaking about the project at a recent Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee meeting, Inspector Mark Stephen said: 'The roadshows are still in the planning stages but we are

looking to take it around some of the villages the week after the launch. There is still a group of people losing significantly large amounts of money through online and phone scamming in particular. We live in a trusting community and, with help from that same community, we can help prevent this crime from happening.'

More information on the launch event and the roadshows will be made available nearer the time.

## Councillor new chairman of area's health body

An Oban councillor will become chairman of the area's health and social care partnership (HSCP) integration joint board from next week after serving as vice-chairman for the past year.

Councillor for Oban North and Lorn Kieron

Green will officially take up the post from Monday April 1, succeeding Robin Creelman.

The new vice-chairwoman will be Sarah Compton-Bishop, nominated by NHS Highland, which operates the IJB with the council.

## MP's Earth Hour lights out appeal

Argyll and Bute's MP is urging his constituents to switch off their lights for an hour this Saturday for Earth Hour.

Brendan O'Hara joined more than 100 MPs in making a pledge to the environment, ahead of the global lights out event on Saturday March 30 from 8.30pm to 9.30pm.

Argyll and Bute Council has announced lights around McCaig's Tower will be switched off for the event.

Mr O'Hara said: 'We must do more to protect our environment. We cannot sit back and watch the destruction of nature. Earth Hour gives a voice to people everywhere who want to raise awareness of some of the biggest environmental challenges that we, as a planet, are facing.'

'Small changes in everyday life will help to protect our environment and I hope by adding my voice to this campaign, I can encourage my constituents in Argyll and Bute to do the same.'

Hundreds of millions of people around the globe take part in Earth Hour.

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# Mums-to-be welcome video appointments

## Attend Anywhere scheme will save patients time and money

by Kathie Griffiths  
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Mums-to-be in Oban and on the islands can now see consultants without having to travel miles.

NHS Highland is offering pregnant women living in remote areas of Argyll the chance to use its Attend Anywhere service.

The video link maternity service came about after the NHS listened to women

saying that travelling for consultant appointments can be a real challenge.

It will save families time, money and bring their care closer to home.

Attend Anywhere means women can chat to their consultant from their own home or anywhere else as long as they have a computer, smartphone, iPad or iPhone with the free Attend Anywhere app downloaded, an internet connection and a webcam.

To use the video call service,

which is free apart from the internet use cost, an appointment has to be made first with the midwife on 01631 788911.

If women prefer to travel to see their consultant in person, that is still an option. For some appointments it might still be necessary to travel anyway, especially if specialist input is needed.

Midwives still carry out usual checks, such as blood pressure, and Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban and the hospital on Islay have

Attend Anywhere clinics where women can use the video link but have their midwife with them and have results from check-ups and some scans fed through to the consultant as part of the appointment.

Oban hospital has its Attend Anywhere clinics on a Wednesday.

Liz Blair, consultant obstetrician at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley, said it is an incredibly 'simple and straight-forward' process, where consultants log on and their patients are waiting for them in a virtual waiting room.

She said: 'Our population are all young women and they are used to Skype and things like that so it's no different to that. Feedback has been positive so far.'

Mum Oonagh Fielden, who was pregnant with her third child when she featured in an NHS video promoting the service, said in her second pregnancy when she lived in Oban she had to make a round trip of around 200 miles for a scan or consultancy appointment that would only last about 10 minutes.

This time, the Attend Anywhere clinic was making a huge difference.

'I didn't have any reservations,' she said. 'I felt comfortable knowing what the set up was about.'

'It was discussed with me fully beforehand.'

'Compared to last time, when I didn't know who I was going to see or how long I would be and was tired after making the journey, this has been a huge benefit.'

## Lifeboat helps Mull patient

Oban lifeboat was called into action to help a patient suffering from appendicitis.

The lifeboat was requested to launch at 12.55am on Thursday March 21 to transfer the patient from Craignure on Mull to the mainland for treatment.

The lifeboat departed at 1.30am, arriving back in Oban at 2.10am, when the patient was transferred to a waiting ambulance. The lifeboat crew was made up of seven crew and two paramedics.

Oban lifeboat was refuelled and ready for service again by 2.25am.

## First cruise ship of the season

The first visiting cruise ship of the season, Hebridean Princess, will dock in North Pier Harbour, Oban, at 8am on Saturday morning.

BID4Oban ambassadors and community councillors will meet and greet the visitors as they come ashore and a piper will play to welcome the travellers to Argyll.



Oban High School Pipe Band kicked off their annual concert with a medley.

## USA-bound school pipe band inspire full blown enjoyment



Sarah Cameron, tenor drummer, and Erin Byars, piper, perform a duet at the concert.

Oban High School Pipe Band have been wowing the crowds yet again at their annual concert in the Corran Halls.

Close to 100 musicians took part in the event at which there were many happy faces and very few empty seats.

The large audience were entertained with a variety of traditional music, song and dance performed by youngsters ranging from primary six to S6 with pipers playing everything from chanters to full-blown pipes.

Supporting the band were Silius Sinclair, keyboard; Finlay Wells, guitar; Ewan MacDonald, guitar; and Chris McGarr, drums; while the Isla Sinclair Dancers were also in action throughout the evening.

Mod Gold Medallist and Traditional Gold Medallist singer Mary Catherine MacNeil provided a stunning vocal interlude with her hypnotic rendition of A Piper Til the End, accompanied by the pipers.

Mr Bain paid special tribute to pipe major Angus McColl who arranged the music for the evening and Oban High School representative Nan Johnstone, who describes herself as 'the finger wagger'.

All three will accompany the group of 29 musicians who will take part in the world famous Tartan Day Parade in New York on Saturday April 6.

Mrs Johnstone said: 'I can't thank the community enough for the support they give the pipe band. It's very much appreciated.'

'They received some great feedback on the professionalism they showed last week, something that will stand them in good stead when they go to America.'

'This is the third time the band have taken part in the parade and they are honoured as well as very excited.'

Oban Pipe Band jet off to New York next Thursday, April 4, and return on Tuesday April 9.



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OT

# Screwfix Oban jobs boost

Screwfix has confirmed it will be opening a store in Oban this summer, creating 12 jobs.

Argyll and Bute Council recently approved a planning application for a change of use of Unit 1 at Hazelbank Motors from a car showroom to storage or distribution with external alterations.

The biggest change on the application shows a new

entrance being created. 'The main activity will be the supply of building materials to local builders and related services,' the planning application said. 'Screwfix Direct Limited would make a positive contribution to the commercial and community life of the area providing essential trade counter services to local businesses.'

A spokesperson for Screwfix said: 'We have been looking to open in Oban for a considerable time.'

Andrew Spence, chief executive of BID4Oban, said: 'BID4Oban is delighted to hear of a new business opening in Oban. As the fastest growing town in Argyll, it is clear Oban is becoming an attractive location for new

businesses to expand into. Screwfix will give residents and trade customers another place to shop without leaving the town and we welcome the additional jobs it will provide.'

The new store will employ 12 members of staff, four of whom will be full-time.

Iain Coates, director of Hazelbank Motors Oban,

said: 'Nothing is confirmed. From our point of view it is business as usual.'

'We are refurbishing the front of the building and moving to the rear of our existing premises.'

Mr Coates said the building has an asbestos roof and the development of the front of the store would take several months.

## POLICE FILES

### Assault

About 4pm on Monday March 18, outside the Balmoral Hotel, Oban, a 56-year-old man was arrested for allegedly being in possession of an offensive weapon, assaulting another man and using threatening behaviour. The man was subsequently charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

### Attempted fraud

At about 10pm on Monday March 18 at Tobermory on the Isle of Mull, an attempted fraud is understood to have taken place whereby scammers tried to obtain more than £16,000 from the parish church. Thankfully no money was exchanged. Police are investigating the incident and are reminding everyone to double check requests for any payment or invoices, particularly those occurring via email and involving business transactions.

### Arrested

At about 2pm on Friday March 22 at a hotel in Tobermory, on the Isle of Mull, a man, 47, was arrested and charged for breaching police undertaking conditions by approaching a witness. The man was subsequently detained in custody and a report was submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.



## View bingo raises £300 for Down Syndrome Scotland

Bingo goers in Oban helped to raise £300 for Down Syndrome Scotland on Saturday.

Dozens of people attended the charity bingo session in The View from 1.30pm.

Drew Walker of The View said: 'It was a good turnout for Down Syndrome. We are happy to be involved and give them support. It is a good charity.'

Bingo caller Nicola Wilson said: 'It is great to support such a worthy charity as

Down Syndrome Scotland. Thank you to everyone who came and supported the charity and who donated raffle prizes.'

The View's next bingo night will be on Friday April 5 from 7pm, in aid of Oban Youth Cafe.

**Left:** The View's charity bingo raised £300 for Down Syndrome Scotland.

17\_t13\_Charitybingo01

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## BID group in push for cleaner streets

BID4Oban has met with Argyll and Bute councillors and amenities staff with a view to improving street cleaning services ahead of the tourist season.

Following numerous complaints by BID levy payers, the group, which focuses on improving Oban as a commercial and tourist destination, has demanded a resolution to the ongoing litter problem and improvement in what many see as a shoddy service.

'We are all becoming increasingly frustrated at the state of certain areas,' said Andrew Spence, BID4Oban chief executive.

'BID4Oban has raised concerns and received assurances something will be done.'

Many of the issues relating to the lack of attention to cleanliness of the streets were put down to staff shortages through ill health.

'We are by no means blaming the council staff,' added Mr Spence, 'just the lack of them. Hopefully additional staff can be employed to tackle the problem.'

Mr Spence also raised concerns over the lack of use of the 'green machine', bought by BID4Oban and Argyll and Bute Council to help keep the streets clean.

'I'm in town at 8am most mornings and have yet to see it this year,' he added.

Another meeting will be held in two weeks when councillors will report back with any measures being taken.

## Public meeting on Oban Bay plan

Oban Bay Management Group and Oban Bay Stakeholder Group will host a joint public meeting tonight (Thursday March 28) to update the community on plans to amend the statutory harbour authority arrangements

at Oban Bay to improve navigational safety. The groups are exploring a trust being established as the single harbour authority to manage Oban Bay.

The meeting is at 7pm in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

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## Oban's Lee cleans up Mossfield in aid of charity

Twenty-two bags of litter were picked up around Mossfield, Oban, on Sunday in aid of charity by Lee McKillop and friends.

Lee has so far raised almost £600 for the Sophie North Charitable Trust.

The Sophie North Charitable Trust commemorates the 16 children, including five-year-old Sophie North, and their teacher who lost their lives in the Dunblane massacre 21 years ago.

Each year Lee carries out at least three litter picks in her colourful Cookie Monster onesie. To donate, visit [www.facebook.com/SophieNorthCharitableTrust](http://www.facebook.com/SophieNorthCharitableTrust)

# Therapist sexually assaulted and secretly recorded clients

## Iona man, 72, warned by sheriff he faces a custodial sentence

A massage therapist from Iona has admitted sexually assaulting clients and secretly filming them undressing.

Norman James Young of Tigh na Tobrach, Isle of Iona, pleaded guilty when he appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on Monday March 25.

Police found thousands of photographs, many of which were stills from videos, in the 72-year-old's home, from which he operated Mull and

Iona Therapeutic Treatment Services.

He admitted sexually assaulting two clients and covertly filming 242 people between April 1 2014 and May 31 2018. Footage showed Young both giving and receiving sexual acts from male and female clients.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court that on July 13 2017, a woman went to Young for a massage.

'She was given two small hand towels to cover her private parts.'

'He massaged her in a way to cause the towel to move, making her feel even more uncomfortable,' said Mr McGinty.

Young then sexually assaulted the woman during the massage, at the end of which he left the room, and when he returned, she expressed her discomfort.

'When the complainer told him she was uncomfortable,' Mr McGinty added, 'he responded that it was a cultural problem and that Americans who come to him for a massage do not even have towels at all and that British people are uptight.'

After leaving, the woman contacted the police as 'she didn't want anyone else to have to experience that.'

However, a warrant was

not granted until another report was made on May 31 2018, when another woman was sexually assaulted by the 72-year-old.

Young again used a small towel to cover the women's private parts and exposed and touched her inappropriately three times.

### Search

'A systematic search of his house commenced,' Mr McGinty said, 'during which a concealed camera positioned within an advertising placard on the wall of the treatment room was found.'

'This was hung up to focus directly on the treatment table and was connected to a mini-recording system.'

'Also seized were an Acer computer and an external hard-drive and other items capable of storing information. Subsequent analysis of these items revealed

thousands of photographs of individuals in various stages of undress within the massage room. Many of these are stills from videos.

'The accused appears to have been particularly diligent in his record keeping.'

'He catalogued each massage in directories and police have been able to, through dates and through a log of consent forms retained by the accused, identify 242 individuals who were recorded undressing and receiving a massage.'

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'This is an extremely serious matter, one which the court will consider a custodial sentence.'

Sheriff Hughes deferred sentencing until April 24 for the court to obtain reports and made Young subject to the notification requirements of the Sexual Offences Act.

# Hospital welcomes student midwife

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) is working in partnership and supporting the University of Highlands and Islands to help train post-graduate registered nurses in the completion of the new shortened midwifery programme.

Lorn and Islands Hospital recently welcomed Holly Jenkins, student midwife, who is currently in her tenth week of the programme.

The programme has been developed for Highlands and Islands' registered nurses who will continue to work in the area after they have completed the programme. It is being delivered in partnership with expert clinical professionals and comprises 60 per cent practice and 40 per cent theory.

All the nurses' clinical practice placements are being provided in urban, remote and rural island practice areas.

The programme also focuses on flexible learning and combines innovative e-learning technologies.

Wendy Jessiman, lead midwife for education, University of the Highlands and Islands, said: 'We are delighted midwives in the Community Maternity Units in Argyll and Bute are supporting student midwives from the University of the Highlands and Islands. These placements provide our students with opportunities to experience the midwife's role firsthand and offer a



Holly Jenkins, left, benefited from being on the programme.

unique perspective on child-bearing in remote and rural areas.'

There are 19 registered nurses completing the 20-month programme. Six of the student midwives have

their first placement in Argyll and Bute hospitals. The HSCP is happy the initiative enables the registered nurses to train nearer their homes and will help with the recruitment of midwives to Highlands and Islands posts in the near future. Catriona Dreghorn, Argyll and Bute HSCP Interim Lead Midwife, said:

'The new programme is innovative and will significantly improve rural midwifery recruitment.'

Midwives have diverse roles and are usually the first and

main contact for women during their pregnancy. Midwives provide care to local women in the local maternity unit and at home, they attend births and cover antenatal and postnatal care until six weeks after birth. They also work closely with other health and social care professionals such as doctors, specialist nurses, social workers, health visitors and third sector organisations.

The midwives also provide up to date health and well-being information and advice and deliver parent education classes.

About her experience on the programme, Holly Jenkins, said: 'I have had a fantastic placement in Oban. I have been able to gain first-hand experience in remote and rural midwifery practice in the surrounding communities and Islands.'

'It is such a unique opportunity and everyone has been very welcoming and supportive. I could not of asked for a better introduction to midwifery care.'

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## Tesco Oban ready to donate another £200 to town charity

Tesco Oban is gearing up to donate another £200 to a local charity.

At the end of each month, the supermarket selects an organisation from suggestions on social media.

Robert McIntyre, store manager of Tesco Oban, said: 'Every month, the Subaru Garage comes and displays its cars and it gives us £200 for that and every month we have given that to a local charity.'

'We ask for suggestions on Facebook and we pick a random number – it goes to a different charity each month.'

The £200 was given to North Argyll Young Carers Centre last month.

'We just want to give as much back to the local people as possible,' Robert added.

Tesco Oban also has two collection baskets in store for Hope Kitchen.

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# Argyll group's spotlight on domestic abuse law

by Fiona Scott  
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From April 1 this year, it will become illegal for perpetrators of domestic abuse to use coercive and controlling behaviour against a partner or ex-partner.

Last Wednesday Argyll and Bute Women's Aid held a multi-agency conference in Inveraray in recognition of the imminent changes in the law.

The conference was formally opened with a heart-warming musical video produced by Bowmore and Port Ellen Primary Choir, followed by a speech from Christina McKelvie MSP, minister for older people and equalities.

The minister welcomed 105 delegates from across Argyll and Bute, setting the scene for other presentations from



Luke and Ryan Hart joined speakers, guests and staff at the Argyll and Bute Women's Aid conference.

Dr Marsha Scott, chief executive of Scottish Women's Aid, Jessica Eaton founder of Victim Focus and Sandra Paton, manager of Argyll and Bute Women's Aid.

### Control

The key note presentation was delivered by brothers Luke and Ryan Hart, who spoke with heartfelt honesty

about their experience of a relentless life-long regime of coercive control at the hands of their abusive father.

A regime that ended when their father shot and killed their mother Claire and younger sister Charlotte in 2016.

### Change

Campbeltown Grammar School pupil representative Ruairdhi Wallace sang a welcome introduction to the brothers and Oban High School's Grace Mulligan met with the key note speakers to discuss her desire to become a young ambassador of change

in her community. 'The day went really well with loads of positive feedback,' said Sandra Paton.

## What is coercive control?

The term coercive control was created by Evan Stark to help others fully understand that domestic violence is not just about physical abuse.

Coercive control is when a person that you have a personal relationship with behaves repeatedly in a way that makes you feel controlled, dependent, scared or isolated.

Signs of coercive control include:

Monitoring your activities with family and friends;

Constantly checking up on you;

Questioning your behaviour;

Setting time limits when you are out with friends;

Isolating you from family and friends;

Banning you from seeing certain people;

Stopping you from working in certain places;

Controlling how you spend your money;

Controlling how you dress or wear your hair;  
Telling you what you should eat;

Making disparaging comments about your weight;

Putting you down in public;

Repeatedly telling you that you're worthless;

Allowing you little or no privacy;

Damaging your property;

Using children to report on you;

Getting angry at the slightest little thing;

You are constantly living in fear of upsetting your partner;

You have to do things a certain way or your partner gets angry;

Your needs are not seen as important and never discussed.

If you or anyone you know is experiencing any form of domestic abuse Argyll and Bute Women's Aid (ABWA) is only a phone call away. All areas of Argyll can access free, confidential support and information by calling 01369 706636, emailing [info@abwa.org.uk](mailto:info@abwa.org.uk) or visiting ABWA's website [www.argyllwomen-said.org.uk](http://www.argyllwomen-said.org.uk)

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Bowmore and Port Ellen Primary Choir opened the Argyll and Bute Women's Aid conference.

## Oban event helps fill BOWfest void

Oban is gearing up to fill the void left by Argyll's Best of the West Festival.

It was announced in January that BOWfest was cancelled because of a funding shortfall but Oban is stepping in to make sure Argyll and its visitors have something else to look forward to that weekend.

Event planning is still in the early stages but it will include Oban Motorfest, now in its fourth year. There will also be a crafters' market.

BID4Oban chief executive Andrew Spence said: 'Seeing as BOWfest is not happening this

year, there's potential for something to happen here. We're still in the early stages of planning.'

Organisers of BOWfest put the blame at the door of Argyll and Bute Council and other unnamed potential funders for failing to support the event. However, the local authority said it was never a primary funder of the event.

BOWFest took place at Inveraray Castle in September. It started in 2011, showcasing west coast talent, including musicians, artists, food and drink producers and craftspeople. It attracted 30,000 visitors in its eight years.

# Green light for Mull monastery

## Objectors frustrated as monk's plans passed

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A Romanian monk's plans to build the first monastery in the Hebrides in over a millennium have been approved, frustrating objectors.

The site is sandwiched between remote Kilninian Parish Church at Torloisk on Mull and a holiday house.

Argyll and Bute Council approved the bid by the Kilninian Trust by delegated powers on March 15 despite nine objections.

As well as the new monastery for nuns, the scheme includes vehicle access and a sewage treatment block at the heart of the Loch Tuath National Scenic Area.

The man behind the monastery in the heart of the Loch Tuath National Scenic Area is Father Seraphim Aldea. Father Seraphim, who is currently in the US fundraising to build it, was not available for comment.

News of the planning decision took objectors by surprise. Michael Ireland, who owns Kilninian Schoolhouse nearby, said: 'We had no indication it was so close to being determined. There's nothing we as neighbours and objectors can do now.'

### Frustrating

Mr Ireland said it was frustrating the Kilninian Trust had not engaged with neighbours about its plans but still commended the work it had done on restoring the parish church that was gifted to them by a group of Catholics.

'No one has a problem with the church, it's commendable the work they've done. But it's disappointing what they are proposing with the monastery has been passed. It's going to be a big industrial looking building that will be plonked on a natural scenic

site. It's also right on the spring line and could affect our water supply,' he said.

An Argyll and Bute spokesperson said there had been 'limited public interest in this application' and its 'doors were open' to receive representation until the final decision was made.

'Only nine representations were received during the extended determination period and it is confirmed that, having regard to the council's scheme of delegation, this is insufficient to trigger a requirement for determination by the Planning, Protective Services and Licensing committee. The planning officer visited the site and there would be no requirement to have site visits with objectors in terms of the council's delegated powers,' added the spokesperson.

The planning permission only lasts for three years and came with 12 conditions. It was approved because the monastery was designed to 'nestle into its surroundings', said its approval notice.

On Mull Monastery's website, Father Seraphim Aldea said Kilninian Parish Church was 'a treasure' and the trust wanted to make sure the new monastery building would not only safeguard but also enhance the church's cultural and historical value.

'We have already invested large amounts in repairing and restoring Kilninian so it may be preserved for the next generation.'

'It is only natural to do our absolute best to also ensure the new building fits perfectly with the local architectural heritage,' he said.

Andrena Duffin, whose father Colonel Charlie Anderson was a church elder for 30 years, said she was in contact with Father Seraphim and had encouraged him to have an open day in May to explain his plans for the monastery.

'I've told him if he can explain it to everyone that it will help,' she said.



The proposed site of the new monastery on Mull.

## Exam league table

Oban High School has been ranked 242nd out of 339 secondary schools in Scotland, according to the latest exam results.

The Scottish Government figures are based on the percentage of pupils achieving five or more higher, with Oban attaining 26 per cent.

Tobermory High School placed 118th with 38 per cent

and Islay High School was ranked 259th with 38 per cent. Topping the list was Jordanhill School in Glasgow with 83 per cent.

Hermitage Academy in Helensburgh and Tarbert Academy finished inside the top 100. Hermitage was 63rd with 45 per cent passing five or more higher and Tarbert was 42nd with 50 per cent.

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OT

# Town centre projects must be ready to go

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Oban needs 'shovel ready' projects if it is to successfully bid for a share of a new £50m town centre fund from the Scottish Government.

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

But last week a meeting of BID4Oban levy payers was warned by Argyll and Bute Council's economic development team leader Fergus Murray that 'competition is intense'.

Mr Spence told the meeting the town needed to be fit and ready for it.

He said improvement areas that could benefit from the money would include the



top end of George Street and Gibraltar Street.

The money comes with restrictions that could make it difficult to spend.

These include a limited timescale.

Mr Murray told the meeting: 'As it's a capital project and it has to be spent within the next financial year, we are looking for shovel ready projects. Communities will be jostling for it.'

'We would have to have the projects and they would have to be ready to go.'

One suggestion from the floor was public toilet provision in the town.

Town businessman and Oban Communities Trust director Graham MacQueen asked if the Rockfield Centre project might qualify as part of a bid.

'Yes, it's in the town centre,' said Mr Murray.

Talks are already being held to discuss how Oban could use its share of the fund if allocated any of the government's town centre money.



More Winter Festival volunteers are needed.

## Volunteers come forward to help winter festival

Organisers behind Oban Winter Festival have been rallying recruits to help with this year's event.

The small team behind the major town event took over a room at the town's Rockfield Centre last week to round up support from people willing to help run and plan this November's festival.

Armagh and Bute is getting £1,242,000 from the £50m pot to boost economic growth and help town centres become more diverse and sustainable.

In the Lorn and Islands area, only Oban and Tobermory town centres qualify for a share because they have more than 1,000 people.

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

shown during the cheese and wine pop-in evening. A festival spokesperson said: 'Thank you to everyone who attended our volunteer evening. We're looking forward to taking forward new ideas.'

Anyone with more ideas for this year's event needs to get in touch as soon as possible because the programme is already filling up. Visit [facebook.com/obanwinterfestival/](http://facebook.com/obanwinterfestival/)

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## Nationwide event opens pathway to aquaculture careers

Apprenticeships and other career opportunities in aquaculture were in the spotlight at an event at Scottish Sea Farms' (SSF) South Shian site.

In support of Scottish Apprenticeship Week, Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Argyll, working in partnership with Scottish Sea Farms, hosted a Scotland's Biggest Parents' Evening.

Aimed at SSF employees and partners who are parents or carers, the event was

one of many taking place across the country to showcase apprenticeship and other career opportunities.

Staff from SSF, including Alison MacPhee, learning and development co-ordinator; Colin MacDonald, trainee manager; David MacMillan and John Prosser, site managers; and SSF Modern Apprentice – mechanical engineering – Jack Fletcher hosted the day, which featured guest speakers.

A DYW Argyll spokesper-

son said: 'It was informative to hear about the diverse range of career opportunities within the aquaculture industry and the exciting pathways open to Argyll and Bute's young people through apprenticeships.'

'We look forward to partnering further events.'

DYW also used the event to promote the #NoWrongPath campaign launched last year to support teenagers coping with disappointing exam results.

### Around Oban

**KAY MCDONALD**  
[editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

Where to start with everything that's going on this weekend?

Lorn Drama Festival is as good a place as any – eight one-act plays from all over Argyll in the Corran Halls tonight (Thursday) and tomorrow, catching the crème de la crème of Argyll's acting talent.

On Saturday things get positively manic with so much on. We welcome the

cruise ship Astoria first thing in the morning, bringing more than 500 people into Oban where hopefully they will see lots of locals taking part in the Keep Oban Beautiful spring clean. Think how impressed they'll be, going home and telling everyone how much Oban cares about its environment. It's not too late to sign up to help: have a look on Facebook or at the posters around town to find out how or just turn up on the day and take part. It's a wonderful, sociable and enjoyable thing to do.

Saturday morning also sees

the Masterbuilders-Lego Creative Construction Club on in Rockfield for all the Lego fans – older fans can always borrow a child to take along. The Toy Cupboard is also holding a table top sale in Glencruitten Church Hall, if you fancy a wee rummage. I never manage to go home empty handed but it's also a good chance to declutter in time for spring cleaning.

If you have a smidgen of energy left, then on Saturday night Oban Pride Rainbow Fundraiser is in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls and promises

# Pair tackle rising tide of litter

Argyll's new marine litter officers are looking for help to clear beaches from north of Appin to Craobh Haven.

Former youth worker Jamie Joyce, from Oban, has teamed up with former Kerrera ferry-woman and tea garden owner Susan Marshall to keep the coastline clean.

They started their new jobs last week and have already got help on board but they need more.

Their jobs, funded by the Scottish Government through Marine Scotland, were created as an extension of the SCRAPbook (Scottish Coastal Rubbish Aerial Photography) project using images taken by volunteer pilots to map litter hotspots.

Their mission now is to use the photos to get the community involved in removing as much of the litter as possible.

Jamie and Susan, who are based at the old harbour office on Oban's North Pier, will be going out with Oban-based Basking Shark Scotland and its volunteers next month on an extreme clean-up.

And Kerrera's Duncan MacEachen from Sea

Solutions has offered them the use of his drop-sides boat to help trawl off any awkward or heavy debris from hard-to-reach spots.

'We are really keen to hear from more people like Duncan, other boat owners or businesses who have equipment and resources that would be helpful,' said Jamie.

The pair have sifted through 450 aerial photos to find the worst affected litter spots along a 42-mile stretch.

'We lost about three quarters of them straight away because they are easily accessible areas that the public can get to. We want to tackle the most remote spots,' said Susan.

Part of the plan is to call for volunteers as particular litter-blighted areas are about to be tackled.

'It could be a fencing team, a rugby team or someone who has a business with the expertise or equipment needed to get to a certain area,' said Susan.

Jamie and Susan hope schools and other community groups will also make use of the SCRAPbook map to do clear-ups along the coast and

that they will take before and after photos emailing them to cleanup@scrapbook.org.uk so a record can be kept.

'There's already a lot of Oban groups doing clean-ups. We don't want to duplicate that although we'd like to hear about the difference they are making and keep photographic evidence. We are here

to manage the larger, more inaccessible litter,' said Jamie.

To see the litter hotspots map go to scrapbook.org.uk/map/

**Right:** Jamie Joyce and Susan Marshall with Duncan MacEachen's boat in the background.



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Scottish Sea Farms site managers John Prosser, David MacMillan and Colin MacDonald took part in Scotland's Biggest Parents' Evening.

to be another fantastic event hosted by Crystal.

All the ladies organising and attending all the events this weekend can look forward to a long lie in on Sunday for Mother's Day ... well a bit of a long lie, as it's also time for our clocks to spring forward by an hour, but on a busy weekend like this one, every little helps. So happy Mother's Day to all you fabulous ladies out there who do so much for everyone. Today let others spoil you for a change.

The photograph last week was of the railing above West

## WHO IS THIS?



Coast Motors – it's beautiful, isn't it? Does anyone recognise this lovely person doing their bit to Keep Oban Beautiful in this week's photograph?

OT

# Foodies flock to new arrival

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

The doors have opened for business at Combie Street's newest shop.

Taste of Argyll celebrated its arrival with prosecco and bites to eat at a launch night last week.

Katherine MacKenzie MacDonald has 20 producers on board so far and her supplier list is growing from around Argyll.

Bread from Seil, fresh vegetables from the Ardmaddy estate, eggs, fish, cheese, meats from the area's farms, home-baking and milk from Gigha are just some of the items to go on people's shopping lists.

There is also a crafters' corner showcasing some of the many talents from across the district including knitting from Kerrera.

'It's off to a great start. We've



Eleanor MacIntyre will be helping Taste of Argyll owner Katherine Mackenzie MacDonald in the shop.

got a big list of suppliers and I've just had three more enquiries so it's looking good. It's all about supplying local produce to locals,' said Katherine.



Volunteers planted the trees that were donated by OVO Energy and TCV.

## Volunteers branch out at Dunollie

Dendrophiles turned out in their droves last Saturday to take part in Tree Planting Weekend at Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds.

OVO Energy and TCV (The Conservation Volunteers) kindly donated wild cherry, birch and rowan saplings as part of their I Plant Trees partnership programme.

The day was well attended, with keen green-fingered

enthusiasts of all ages from Dunollie Volunteers and the Keep Oban Beautiful Team.

Together attendees worked on planting around Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds, and created beautiful new garden features including a mixed hawthorne and blackthorn hedge in the Willow Garden, which is a favourite spot for wildlife.

Dunollie's gardens and ground's manager Eilidh

MacManus said: 'A great day was had by all.'

'The weather was glorious, and all of the team were in great spirits.'

'It was brilliant to have volunteers as young as 10 coming along to help and learn more about some of the woodland plants.'

Tree Planting Weekend is part of Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds long term heritage gardens conservation plan.

## MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



Last week I gave an example of Beastie the dog's conduct and while it was an accurate account and a clear reflection of a common flaw of human behaviour and psychology, it didn't show poor Beastie in a good light.

This week I'll take another aspect of his character and the wider ways of dogs that show a more positive trait and one that we should all adopt more often.

No matter how angry he is or how much he may vehemently refuse to cooperate in something he is asked to do or how much he objects to a course of action, he never says anything hurtful in retaliation or brings any thread of attack into the altercation which is not directly related to the particular issue at hand.

If you're feeling particularly pernickety and if you want to be pedantic about this, you may point out that Beastie can't talk. That is indeed a fair point, but the principal still stands. As an old saying goes, 'A wise man once said nothing'.

When humans have disagreements we are far too quick to allow a minor dispute to be the catalyst

for much longer and deeper conflict than is warranted by the initial point of difference.

Beastie absolutely detests being made to shower.

Here is how this particular scenario might play out if he was a human.

**Me:** 'Beastie, we'll need to give you a shower.'

**Beastie:** 'No, I hate the shower, you know it and anyway I don't need a shower.'

**Me:** 'Beastie, you've just rolled in dead seal, ran through pile of rotting seaweed and went head over heels into a pile of cow dung. You smell really bad.'

**Beastie:** 'I smell really bad do I? What about you, you stinky slob? I think you need to worry about showering yourself before me.'

'Wearing these silly clothes and wellies that make you sweat so much that you stink the whole house out.'

'I suppose if you weren't so greedy and didn't eat all the good food yourself, you wouldn't be so fat and wouldn't sweat so much.'

'Give more of it to me when I ask you to and you might not be the laughing stock of all the dogs in the district.'

'And another thing while I'm on the subject, it's ab-

solutely disgusting that you and your stinky wife do the toilet inside the house. In fact, I've had enough of all this, I'm moving out. And while I'm going, I hate your accordion playing...etc, etc, etc.'

Thankfully, all he says in reality is 'Grrrrrr' a couple of times and there is therefore no escalation of conflict from minor disagreement to long-term animosity.

I haven't discussed Brexit in detail with Beastie, but I think most politicians and a fair percentage of the population could take a leaf out of his book by not allowing legitimate and essential debate to escalate into abuse and long-term conflict. #belikebeastie

As I write this, Beastie is snuggled on his bed under my desk. Due to the fact that over the 11 years Beastie has lived with me he has only ever said 'Grrrr' to me in times of dispute, there exists absolutely no negativity in our relationship and I only have positive thoughts towards him.

That is a significant aspect of the simple uncomplicated bond of love between man and dog.

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# Smiles galore as ACDC tribute band rock Oban

by David McPhee  
[dmcphée@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:dmcphée@obantimes.co.uk)



A father and son who helped to bring an ACDC tribute act to Oban said it was 'brilliant' to see them in the Corran Halls.

Hundreds of people showed up on Saturday to watch Livewire's high-energy performance and everyone left with a smile on their face.

The event was made possible thanks to an 18-year-old Oban man and his dad.

Ben and Richard Fothergill, who are big fans of the band, persuaded them to play in Oban in a bid to encourage others to do the same.

Speaking to The Oban Times, Ben said: 'They are a brilliant tribute band. One of the best in the UK.'

'In Oban, there's not another scene other than traditional music. I thought bringing them to Oban might influence other bands and genres to come.'



Ben and Richard Fothergill with Livewire at the Corran Halls, above. 17\_T13\_ACDCTribute01

Ben's dad, Richard, echoed his son's thoughts.

He said: 'It feels brilliant to have them in Oban. The feedback has been phenomenal. I knew there would be quite a few interested, but I did not think we would get the reaction we did.'

'Everyone likes the traditional

stuff, but there's a lot of people that do like this, the ticket sales have proved that.'

Having seen the band many times before, ahead of the gig, Richard said: 'No one will leave here disappointed.'

While driving to Oban, the band admitted they had to pull over to admire

the 'breath-taking views'. Speaking ahead of the performance, they said: 'We won't be leaving any energy up there, when we come off we are absolutely knackered.'

The show ended with a bang, literally, with four cannons shooting smoke out from the stage.



## Islay evening of stories and song

An evening of Islay stories and songs with recordings from Tobar an Dualchais is being held at Ionad Chaluim Chille Ìle (Gaelic centre) on Islay today, Thursday March 28 at 7pm.

The event is free with refreshments served.

## Oban Live fringe needs you...

That was the message from the festival's head of communications Pauline Clifford when she met up with the business community last week to get them signed up to the fringe event before and after the main festival.

The festival acts run from 4-11.30pm, so there is plenty of time for visitors to enjoy the town's shops, pubs and restaurants. Whether it is discounts for people wearing festival wristbands or music events in bars and pubs, Oban Live organisers want to hear all about it.

Details should be uploaded by April 5 via [www.obanlive.com/fringepartners](http://www.obanlive.com/fringepartners). For enquiries email: [pauline@obanlive.com](mailto:pauline@obanlive.com)

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OT

## BEHIND THE SCENE at Atlantis

### Staff news

We're delighted to welcome three new casual leisure attendants to the team: Finbar Dunne, James MacIntyre and Alex McGuire.

The past few weeks have also been busy for staff training, including a pool plant operators course and first aid training, including all our lifeguards are being trained to use our new spinal board. Previously, if we had had a suspected spinal injury in the pool, we had to wait for an ambulance to arrive to get the casualty safely out of the pool but now we will be able to do it ourselves, saving valuable time.

Jack Macaulay completed his Level 2 gym instructor course in Glasgow with support from Atlantis this month. Jack is actively looking to increase his experience in the fitness side of Atlantis and has been helping in the gym with Future Friday and some regular customers. He's also been busy teaching his own Grit and Body Pump classes.

### Gymnastics programme

Our gymnastics team will benefit very soon from a new programme set up by Scottish Gymnastics. Atlantis has been chosen as one of only four centres in Scotland to trial the new format. As part of this commitment to Atlantis, the brand new Air Track arrived at the end of January which will be a huge asset to help gymnasts of all ages and stages.

### Future Friday

In anticipation of their impending transition to the high school, Future Friday has started for all P7s. This is the second year of Future Friday at Atlantis.

It is designed as a transition event where the current P7s can meet children from other schools as together they make good use of the Atlantis facilities.

Swimming, soft play and a roller disco are just some of the attractions. Some of the children will have met Kevin Keen as he travels around local schools advertising the event.

### Cricket and athletics

Active Schools have been working in partnership with us for the inter-schools cricket and athletics competitions. The schools have brought their P4s and P5s for athletics and P7s for cricket.

With more than 150 children at each event, it has been fantastic to host them at the centre. A big thank you goes to Oban Cricket Club for running the sessions for the children alongside our own Atlantis team.

### Tennis academy

The tennis academy has moved from the normal Sunday slot to two after-school slots on Mondays and Thursdays. We're continuing to partner with the academy as together we develop the potential of younger players.

# Book celebrates 125 years of shinty club

The pavilion at Jubilee Park in Ballachulish was packed ahead of the club's home match against Col Glen on March 16, but the crowd was not just there to watch the South Division 1 encounter, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

They were also there to mark the launch of a new book celebrating 125 years of Ballachulish Camanachd Club.

Having spent around 25 years compiling articles, reports and photographs, Ian MacPhee was proud to finally launch The History

of Ballachulish Camanachd Club – a four-volume book documenting the history of the club as reported by the press and media.

Mr MacPhee, a former player and Ballachulish stalwart, who now lives in Lochgilphead, set out with a small collection of old photographs but before long, after trawling through The Oban Times' archives, he had collected enough material to fill four volumes for an anniversary book – which he reckons has more words than Tolstoy's War and Peace.



Ian MacPhee with one of his books. Photograph: Iain Ferguson

Despite the long hours and travel needed to complete the books, Mr MacPhee said the project was 'a real labour of love' and he hopes the book will inspire the younger generation in the village to keep playing shinty.

The club thanked Mr MacPhee for the 'countless hours' he had spent compiling the volumes of the book

and was delighted to host 'such an incredible occasion' to show off his hard work to the shinty world.

To keep up with the demand, the club is having to do a reprint after 50 copies of the book flew out of the clubhouse on Saturday.

Anyone who would like to buy the books should contact the club directly.

## Fundraising ceilidh takes place in aid of music and dance fest

There will be a ceilidh in The View on Saturday to raise money for this year's Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival. The event will run from 8pm until 11pm on March 30, with Dice Ceilidh Band performing. The festival takes place from May 3 to May 5 this year, with events happening in venues throughout the town. Oban-born singer and television presenter Kim Carnie has been announced as a singing judge this year. She was a finalist in the BBC Radio Young Traditional Musician of the Year in 2017.



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# Row over charges set to impact HSCP deficit

Health chiefs in Argyll and Bute are facing an overspend of more than £5 million if they cannot reach agreement with a neighbouring board for the provision of services.

The Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) has reported that nearly £500,000 of further savings have been identified as it looks to bridge its budget gap.

A forecast overspend of just under £4m has been quoted in papers for a meeting of the partnership's integration joint board (IJB) on Wednesday March 27.

A report by interim chief financial officer Kirsty Flanagan warns that the figure is set to rise by £1.2m due to failure to secure a service level agreement (SLA) with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (GGC), where many patients from Argyll

and Bute receive treatment. In a report to the IJB, the partnership's interim chief financial officer Ms Flanagan says: 'The forecast out-turn position for 2018/19 is an

**'The most significant issue affecting the forecast for health is the SLA for Greater Glasgow and Clyde'**

overspend of £3.929m. I am pleased to report that this is an improvement of £0.469m on the position reported at the end of December 2018.

'The most significant issue affecting the forecast out

turn position for health is the SLA for Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

'Due to the short time between now and the financial year end to resolve this issue, it is more than likely that the estimated overspend will increase by £1.2m.'

'Within health-delivered services, the forecast overspend is £1.156m.'

'The overspend is mainly in relation to savings not being achieved in addition to increased costs for oncology drugs, pharmacy costs, patient referrals, and agency/locum staff.'

'Within social work, the forecast overspend is £2.773m. There has been higher demand than budgeted for supporting living and care home services within learning and physical disability and children's external placements, as well as planned savings

options within these services not being delivered in full.'

'There are underspends within older people care home placements, investment fund, foster care services and supporting young people leaving care that help to reduce the overspend.'

'But while the partnership's parent health board, NHS Highland, has stated that their share of the overspend will not require to be repaid, Argyll and Bute Council will look for its money to be returned.'

Ms Flanagan continued: 'NHS Highland has confirmed that the brokerage from the Scottish Government will cover the 2018/19 health overspend and this will not require to be repaid.'

'The 2018/19 social work overspend will require to be repaid to Argyll and Bute

Council and following the final out-turn position, negotiation will require to take place with Argyll and Bute Council as to the pay-back arrangements.'

The impasse with NHS GGC is being predicted after a decision taken at the IJB's meeting in November.

Board members decided to reject a proposed charge by GGC for the SLA, and with the end of the financial year approaching, the position looks increasingly unlikely to be accepted.

Ms Flanagan's report says that, following guidance on outstanding balances with NHS Scotland bodies, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde could show the full amount of any disputed charge.

'But this would not be interpreted as acceptance of the charge by the HSCP, or agreement to pay it.'

## Oban firm in Parliamentary Review

An Oban shellfish company has contributed to the latest Parliamentary Review.

Each of the Parliamentary Review editions focuses on a key governmental policy area, sharing best practice between policymakers and business leaders.

This year's review covered issues in agriculture and rural affairs, with PDK Shellfish falling under the rural affairs bracket.

PDK Shellfish was established in 1998, initially operating as a sole trader but now has 15 full-time staff.

In this year's review, managing director Paul Knight explains how the company expanded its operations and discusses its bid to diversify the business in order to secure further growth.

Forthcoming updates in farming standards and the impact of Brexit on UK farmers and fishermen are among the current issues covered in agriculture and rural affairs edition.

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H2SJP31504 03/19

# Where will your West Highland adventure take you this Easter?

## Here's a little inspiration...

There's so much to see and do throughout Argyll, the West Highlands and Islands - in our opinion its the best place on earth! What will you do now the weather is improving? How about island hopping to Mull, Iona, Coll, Tiree, Islay, Jura, Gigha and Colonsay, Bute, Arran of Skye? Delve deeper into Scotland's history in Lorn and the Heart of Argyll. Travel through Cowal's rich landscape of contrasts. Walk or cycle along the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond. Learn to surf on Kintyre's wild west coast and discover the glorious gardens and architecture of Helensburgh and the Clyde Sea Lochs. There's great seafood, boutique shopping, cruising, sightseeing, family fun and festivals all here on your doorstep.

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## SEALL | WHAT'S ON

### WELCOME to events on Skye

One of the best rural touring promoters in Scotland, SEALL (Skye Events for All) delivers over 100 live events to venues across the Isle of Skye via its year-round programme; the **Fèis an Eilein (Skye Festival)** 12 July-20 August; and the **SEALL Festival of Small Halls** 22-30 November.

With its roots based in Scottish traditional music, SEALL's diverse annual programmes cover world-class music across the genres; critically acclaimed theatre; hilarious comedy; fascinating dance; educational children's events and even a few circus acts.

Events of note for this Spring are cellist Christine Hanson's **The Cremation of Sam McGee** on 11 May; the National Theatre of Scotland's **The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil** on 31 May; popular trad guitarist **Tim Edey** on 1 June; and **The Seer** with Lauren McColl and friends on 25 June.

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**SENIOR OFFER** - Purchase one Adult Ticket and get another **HALF-PRICE!**

**Friday May 31 Leave 7pm** back at 10.30pm - **Evening Sunset Cruise with Live Music!**

Step aboard for an evening sunset cruise on Loch Linnhe and through the Corran Narrows. Enjoy the stunning scenery, live music and the unique atmosphere of an evening cruise aboard Waverley, only £25.

**Saturday June 1 Leave 10am** back at 8.30pm - **Tobermory, Coll and Steam Round Staffa**

Visit Tobermory (6 hours ashore) £29, Senior £27, cruise to the island of Coll (3 hours ashore) £39 or stay aboard for the full cruise viewing the Treshnish Isles and steam round Staffa £45.

**Sunday June 2 Leave 11.30am** back at 5.30pm - **Sea Lochs and Corrievreckan Whirlpool**

Enjoy this spectacular sailing as Waverley's Captain picks his route of choice cruising the sea lochs off the west coast including the Gulf of Corrievreckan and whirlpool £39, Senior £37.

**Monday June 3 Leave 9.30am** back at 7.30pm - **Colonsay, Islay, Jura and the Mull of Kintyre**

Enjoy this wonderful sailing across to Colonsay before cruising between Islay and Jura and rounding the Mull of Kintyre to berth at Campbeltown for your inclusive coach return to Oban £39.

#### Sailings from Tobermory Pier

**Friday May 31 Leave 12.30pm** back at 3.45pm - **Ardnamurchan Lighthouse & Loch Sunart**

Cruise to view Ardnamurchan Lighthouse before enjoying the peaceful Loch Sunart £25.

**SENIOR OFFER** - Purchase one Adult Ticket and get another **HALF-PRICE!**

**Saturday June 1 Leave 12pm** back at 6.30pm - **Coll, Treshnish Isles and Round Staffa**

Cruise to the island of Coll (3 hours ashore) £33 or stay aboard for this unique cruise viewing the Treshnish Isles and steam round Staffa £39.

**Waverley will sail from Armacdale, Mallaig, Kyle of Lochalsh, Raasay, Portree and Uig - May 28-30**

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# BUSINESS NEWS

## Salmon company receives three-star accreditation

The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) has become the UK's first salmon producer to be recognised with a three-star Best Aquaculture Practice (BAP) certification.

SSC was awarded a third star for sourcing its feed from BAP-certified suppliers. The company already holds two stars for its processing sites at Marybank in Ross-shire and Cairndow, and all its marine sites throughout the west coast of Scotland and the Hebrides.

SSC accepted its third star at the Seafood Expo North America (SENA) in Boston on March 17, where SSC is showcasing its Lochlander Salmon. The North American export market is a key focus for SSC, where demand for quality, traceability and Scottish provenance continues to grow, with sales increasing six-fold in the past two years.

BAP is the world's most trusted and comprehensive third-party aquaculture certification programme, and the only one to cover the entire aquaculture production chain. SSC aims to achieve full certification across all operations.

Craig Anderson, chief executive of SSC, said: 'To be awarded a three-star certification within a year of our first and second recognises the commitment and expertise of our people, and also reinforces our commitment to producing the finest quality Scottish salmon responsibly and sustainably.'

# All aboard as firms look ahead to 2020

Exciting times lie ahead for the west coast of Scotland with an innovative collaboration set to make the most of 2020 Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters.

Eighteen destination marketing organisations from across the West Coast have each volunteered funding support from £500 to £2,500 for an ambitious marketing campaign aimed at encouraging people from across Scotland and the UK to make 2020 the year they experience the west coast and get on – if not in – the water.

The collaboration, which spans from Lewis and Wester Ross to Arran and Cumbrae, came together in 2017, initially to scope out what the marine tourism offer actually looks like on the west coast. This work was coordinated by Argyll and the Isles Tourism Cooperative and funded by HIE. Those involved include CalMac, VisitScotland, SailScotland, HIE, UHI WHC and local council partners.

The results showed there are 300 hubs where people can get on and off the water – and, importantly, set out what experiences are available and if the hub could be categorised as '2020-ready'.

One hundred of the hubs give access to a seafood experience, 120 give access to a castle or heritage attraction, 44 to a distillery open to the public and 106 offer excellent marine wildlife spotting opportunities. There are



around 500 operators and clubs providing marine experiences.

The information gathered highlights the massive opportunities to grow marine tourism across the west coast.

Following this scoping, some very exciting project ideas are now being developed and funding applications submitted.

The first is to VisitScotland for a growth fund award of £80,000 for the campaign. Match

There are around 500 operators and clubs providing marine experiences around the west coast of Scotland.

funding is in place from the individual DMO partners, Argyll and Bute Council, Lochaber Chamber of Commerce and WildScotland, and a written commitment is in place with SailScotland for ongoing partnership working and mutual support for their campaign activity which will specifically focus on the sailing offer across Scotland.

The collaboration represents in excess of 2,000 business interests.

Other projects are being developed to celebrate the Year of Coasts and Waters, including a challenge event, a tourist route connecting the islands and the mainland, and interpretation of the incredible maritime heritage of the west coast.

Iain Jurgensen, chairman of AITC, said: 'We have been completely blown away by the buy in at a pan west coast level. When the scoping project concluded with such a rich understanding of the scale of opportunity to grow marine tourism across the west coast, we could immediately see that 2020 offered us all scope to do something really special that would have a lasting legacy. We are very excited about what lies ahead for the west coast, and sharing these plans as they develop.'

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## Basking in glory: tourism firm wins top honour

Scotland's only dedicated basking shark tour operator is hoping for another bumper year after receiving VisitScotland's top grading on the first time of asking.

Basking Shark Scotland, operating basking shark and wildlife adventure boat tours from Oban, received five stars from the national tourism organisation's Quality Assurance (QA) scheme in recognition of its exceptional standards. The scheme is a benchmark for quality across the tourism industry and operates across accommodation, visitor attractions and food sectors.

Founded in 2012 by adventurer Shane Wasik, the business has gone from strength to strength and last summer enjoyed 100 per cent occupancy during peak season. On the back of this grading, and winning Best Outdoor Experience at the Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards, the tour operator is hoping 2019 will be another great year.



Basking Shark Scotland achieved a five-star rating.

The Hebrides is the best part of the world to see basking sharks, and Shane and his team run a range of wildlife tours, creating opportunities to have in-water experiences with basking sharks, plus wildlife and adventure excursions. Visitors can choose to swim, snorkel and kayak with sharks, seals and other marine life, or enjoy the experience from the boat.

Quite the renaissance man, Shane is a marine biologist, diver and underwater photographer. He returned to Scotland from New Zealand and was inspired to start the business based on his transformational experience of swimming with basking sharks in the Hebrides when he was younger. With the first outings producing exciting pictures and videos, people started travelling from all over the world for a chance to swim with the big fish.

The timing of this award is particularly apt as Scotland prepares for the Year of Coasts and Waters 2020. This year-long programme of events and activities will shine a spotlight on the impact our waters have on our country.

Mr Wasik said: 'We're stoked to achieve such a great rating, both as a business and as a team. 'We work really hard on our experiences and set very high standards. Being pioneers in our field, we strive to compete on the

world stage for shark tourism and, with Scotland being the worldwide hotspot for basking sharks, we're flying the flag for people to come and experience our gentle giants.'

David Adams McGilp, VisitScotland regional director, added: 'Congratulations to Shane and his team on this exceptional achievement. To achieve a five-star grading at the first time of asking is a testament to the hard work of this business to offer a quality experience.'

'Our Quality Assurance scheme is world-leading and provides a trusted, independent and impartial source of information for visitors. It is about much more than just a star rating – it is about the entire visitor experience and investing in the business to make it as economically sustainable, and profitable, as it can be.'

For information about Basking Shark Scotland, visit [www.baskingsharkscotland.co.uk](http://www.baskingsharkscotland.co.uk).

## £500,000 boost for small business growth

Efforts to help accelerate the growth of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Argyll and Bute are to be boosted by additional funding of almost £500,000.

The move was approved on March 7 by the council's Environmental, Development and Infrastructure Committee.

Phase two of the Business Gateway Local Growth Accelerator Programme (LGAP) will see a £483,000 business support programme delivered by the Business Gateway team. It follows phase One, which closed in December last year.

LGAP gives growing local businesses the chance to access grant funding and specialist advice to help them expand. It is funded by Argyll and Bute Council and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Phase two will include ERDF funding of £338,100, with the council required to provide match funding of £144,900. Subject to approval by full council next month, the £144,900 will be wholly provided from the West of Scotland Loan Fund (WSLF) surplus, meaning phase two will bring no additional cost to the council.



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## Rebellion proves popular at Inveraray History Society

Inveraray in the '45 was an appropriate title for the Inveraray History Society this month, reflecting the number of members and guests attending a highly regarded academic's talk on the subject.

Ronald Black gave the crowded room an informative summary of his two-volume book Campbells of the Ark.

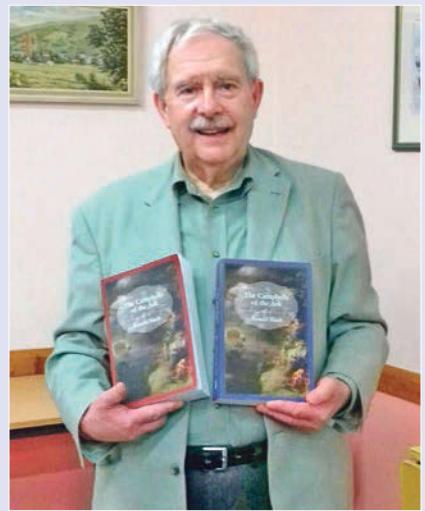
Based on the poem The Ark written in 1751, Ronald Black's book describes in different chapters the link between the poem and the Campbells' involvement in the 1745 rebellion.

### Appin Murder

Members heard about Colin Campbell of Glenure, the victim in the Appin Murder, as well as 'Mamore', the fourth duke, who thought of Inveraray as a 'charming pretty place' on his first visit with government forces in '45.

The fourth duke contributed substantially to the Scottish victory at Culloden. Also mentioned, among many others, was the fifth duke (1770), who loved Inveraray and completed New Inveraray and the aptly named Arkland housing.

Next month's meeting will be held on April 2 at 7.30pm in the Nicoll Hall. The speaker will be Nick Cooke on Reviving Scotland's Pilgrimage Heritage. Everyone is welcome.



Ronald Clark gave a talk at the Inveraray History Society.

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# A Jura stone tell

## Morvern lines

IAIN THORNBER

iain.thornber@btinternet.com

'Ei qvi legit me' is a Latin line often found in many medieval West Highland grave-slab inscriptions which translates into, 'For him who reads me'. The same might be said of anything where the writer is capable of reading its message.

Here is my interpretation of what a small piece of shattered rock on the summit of the 2,575ft Beinn an Oir – the hill of gold and the highest of Jura's three famous Paps – might say for itself.

'When the world was young I was part of a huge mountain massif towering high above a barren ice-bound landscape. When the temperature rose, the ice melted; my mountain could not support itself and began to crumble.

'Soon it became a shadow of its former self and instead of being attached to its lower slopes I found myself lying on top of what remained, crushed in the ensuing struggle.

'From there, I witnessed the last of the ice sheets roll away and saw the great European stags, the boar, the bear and the beaver, the white bulls and the Stone Age men cross the dry floor of the North Sea beneath me.'

'I have watched the silvery moon ascend above Ben Lomond and set far away in the Hebrides. The sun rising over Ben Cruachan in the early morning, has warmed my surface and in the evening, when its huge orb falls into the North Atlantic, I have been cooled by the evening stillness.'

'I have been covered in deep snow, hit by high winds, lightning and loud claps of thunder, battered by hail and drenched in driving rain. In the summer, I have baked in the noon day heat and, come the autumn, shivered in frosty crispness as the shadows lengthened in the deep glens below and the evening star drew nigh.'

'I have felt the draught of ravens' wings; watched the blue mountain hare quiver as it cowered close to me under soaring eagles. I have heard the primeval belling of the rutting wild red deer in the corries below and the yelp of the red-legged fox, hunting ptarmigan in the scree slopes beneath me.'



'When the Greek and Roman empires were crumbling to their doom, when King Arthur held court, when Harold died at Hastings and Bruce charged the English on the field of Bannockburn, I was here. I have heard the roar of Corryvreckan whirlpool when the spring tides surge backwards and forwards between Jura and Scarba; the chant of Irish monks proclaiming the Christian gospel lifted across on the wavelets from the abbey on Oronsay. I have seen the glint of sword blades and the flash of dirks by the shores of Loch Finlaggan on Islay and heard the dying shrieks of MacDonald and Maclean warriors fighting on nearby Traigh Gruinard. The shouting of the Macleans of Glengarisdale when they were attacked in the field in front

of the red-roofed bothy by the Campbells of Craignish in 1647 in revenge for a clan raid.

'I saw Spanish galleons pass between Jura and Colonsay, limping homewards from their epic voyage round the north of Scotland after their defeat in the English Channel, and the loss of one of their number in Tobermory Bay.'

'I watched the ship carrying Prince Charles Edward Stewart sail away to France in 1746. Heard the booming of cannon resounding backwards and forwards across the Sound of Islay as Cumberland's frigates raked its shores with grape-shot, and scented the smoke of burning thatch as his marines and conscripts did their dirty work after the prince had gone.'

'Bonfires proclaiming the Relief of Mafeking, Queen Victoria's Jubilee and the

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# Its story



Looking across from the rock shattered summit of Beinn an Oir to Beinn a' Chaolais, the lowest of the three Paps of Jura. Photograph: Iain Thornber.

later the crunch of their bombs falling on Glasgow and the Clyde to the south.

'Concorde and its sonic booms shook the earth under me during their test flights. Britannia, with the Queen and other members of the royal family aboard, the Ark Royal and other mighty warships, have slipped past in the night heaving their wake on the slumbering shores below me. Hill runners have trodden on me, exhausted, hot and thirsty from their gruelling journey from Craighouse during the annual Jura Fell Race.

I have heard the haunting strains of bagpipe music wafting upwards in the mist from Islay and Jura intermingled with the scent of whisky from their distilleries.

'Walkers making a detour to the bothies of Cruib and Ruantallain have stood close to me with their latest digital cameras, iPods and other technological wonders which the Stone Age men could not have envisaged in their wildest dreams. Even former Prime Minister David Cameron sat beside me long before he had the keys of No 10. All this and more.'

'Turn me over in your fingers, weigh me in the palm of your hand, touch my surface with your tongue; smell me, look at me closely with a magnifying glass and in the morning light, see the tiny pieces of brightly coloured quartz dance in front of your eyes and marvel at what I have witnessed. Throughout all these years I have lain on the summit of Beinn an Oir until 2010 when I was taken north across the seas to Morvern. Where am I now and what more will I witness – who knows? Reader, I am nothing, but ponder on my past.'

birth and death of various Campbell dukes and lairds have warmed me. Theodolite legs and surveyors' instruments have pricked my surface when Beinn an Oir was used by the Board or Ordnance as a survey station during the making of some of Scotland's earliest maps.

I saw salmon poachers at work with their nets hauling dozens of fish out of the Carraidh Mhor in Loch Tarbert, and long dark metal shapes surface and then disappear into the depths on their way to attack Britain's convoys. I heard the Catalina flying boat crash into the hillside above Kinnauchdrachd on July 15, 1941, killing seven of its eight crew members aboard, along with the drone of German aircraft as they flew overhead and

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



Linda Smith, who lived in Taynuilt before moving to England in 2013, sent us in these photographs of Oban harbour, which she believes were taken by her late uncle, Donald W Adams, in June 1964. The originals were on slides. She would love to know if any readers can identify any of the men in the photograph, or know the name of the steamship on the pier. Email us at editor@obantimes.co.uk if you have any information.

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# LETTERS

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or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

## Public safety is of paramount importance

There is no doubt that our statutory authorities place the highest priority on public safety – and quite rightly so.

As a result, there are conflicting responses to the removal with little warning of A-boards from across Oban.

The businesses concerned are understandably upset at the disappearance of their on-street advertising, especially those whose premises are not located on the principal thoroughfares through the town centre.

With Easter just around the corner and an invasion of visitors correspondingly expected, the disappointment expressed by some business people in the town has some merit.

However, even the town's business organisation, BID4Oban, has backed Argyll and Bute Council's policy on what is a long-running issue.

As said, public safety is one of the major reasons, but so is improving the town centre's appearance.

We support the principle of the policy with the proviso that, as promised by Councillor Roddy McCuish, Argyll and Bute Council works with the businesses involved to discuss other ways in which they can promote their enterprises.

## A welcome boost for the economy in Oban

There have been a number of good news stories on the economy of the Oban area in recent weeks, so the arrival of Screwfix in the town is also to be welcomed.

The company has said it will employ a total of 12 people, four of them full-time, bringing another boost to the employment situation.

These are good times for Oban and we hope they continue.

## Glencoe hydro scheme

In response to Victoria Sutherland's article in The Oban Times last week (she is member of the Glencoe and Glen Etive Community Council and her husband is the chairman), I was amazed how she is so in favour of ruining our scenery and historical sites with hydro schemes when, a few years ago, her husband, Alistair Sutherland, who was chairman of Glencoe Action Group (against the NTS development near Inverigan), had a letter in the newspaper (09/02/01): 'Inverigan...is a site of national importance...we simply do not understand how that body, of all organisations, can contemplate desecrating this historic site.'

Inverigan, where the community council is supporting Allt Fiadhann hydro scheme, is the site of the Massacre of Glencoe and is one of the main reasons tourists come to Glencoe. The tourists also visit for the natural beauty.

No thorough studies have been done of archaeology, wildlife and wildlife environment. There is not a dividing line between Inverigan and the proposed hydro scheme site which would prevent wildlife movement, therefore the wildlife habitat in the proposed scheme area would be damaged and wildlife displaced.

What is the point of having SSSI areas, NSA (National Scenic Area), SNH, PAWS (Previous Ancient Woodland Site) areas when all is ignored in Glencoe and Glen Etive when it comes to hydro scheme development.

Allt Fiadhann (Inverigan) burn is a very small burn which nearly dries up in the summer. I looked after the water supply for the campsite when the Forestry Commission owned it. The NTS has since built its visitor centre by the campsite and had large storage tanks to hold the water but it had to drill a well and change the supply to another stream.

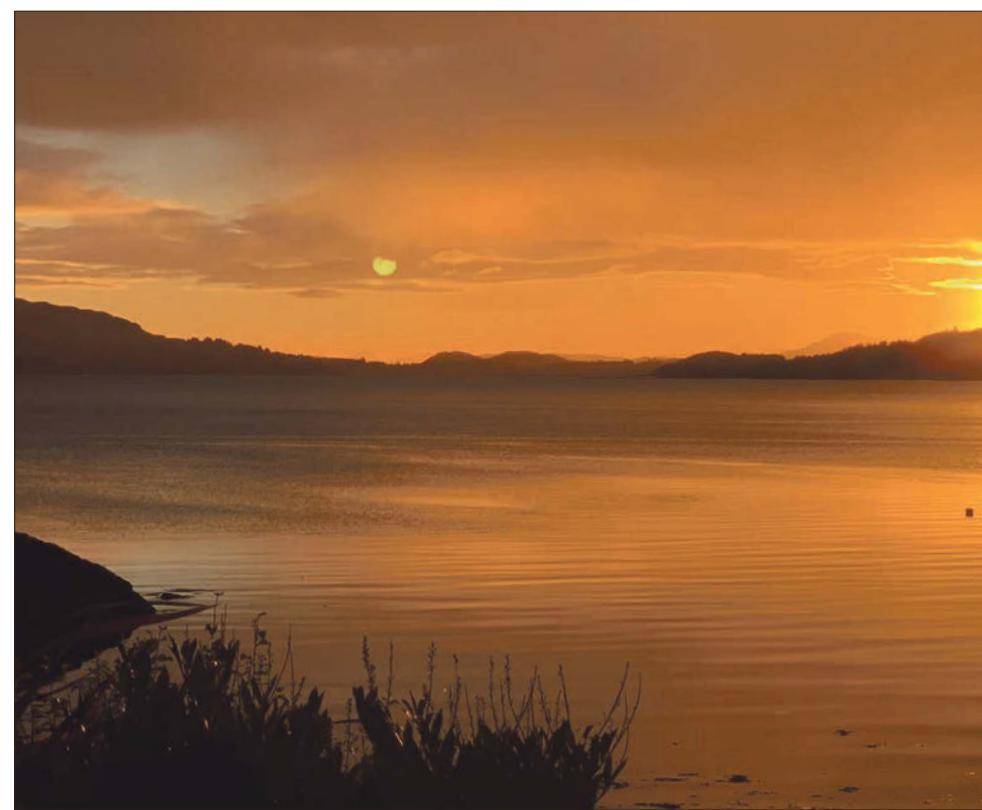
Is it worth it to spoil such a historic site and special scenery for a small hydro scheme which will only work some of the year. Why destroy the environment to 'save' the environment?!

Regarding the mountain rescue team mentioned in Victoria Sutherland's article, I was a member for more than 20 years and we volunteered because all team members were climbers or just enjoyed being in the mountains.

I am all for hydro schemes in concealed areas, however not in sensitive areas, historical areas or scenic areas etc., and not in a free-for-all just as the feed-in-tariffs are about to end.

With more than 11,600 objectors, the government bodies should take notice. The

## 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](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk), post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin In-

landowners, the developers and the investors in the Glencoe and Glen Etive proposed hydro scheme must think they have won the lottery without buying a ticket!

Peter Weir,  
Glencoe.

## Attempted clearance by any other name

Last week it took me five days to travel 15.8 miles on public transport. That gives an average speed of 0.1 mph. On the positive side, that is twice as fast as the average garden snail.

Admittedly this was because I became storm

bound on the Isle of Coll in transit to Tiree and, had I not taken a car with me, there is the chance I could have progressed by air.

Then again had CalMac not been forced to take MV Clansman off her usual route so that one of the Outer Hebridean ferries could go in for refitting, there is a very good chance that the Monday service would have been able to run normally.

CalMac does the very best it can with the inadequate fleet of ferries it has and one can only admire the effort it puts in to keep us islanders connected. If only the same could be said for the Scottish Government, which is charged with making sure CalMac has the fer-

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Industrial Estate, Oban, or in High Street, Fort William. This week's photograph of a sunset over Loch Creran was taken by John Stewart of Barcaldine.

ries it needs at all times, and Argyll and Bute Council with its failing attitude to the Oban/Coll/Tiree air link. The council seems utterly opposed to further investment in its islands, particularly Coll and Colonsay.

Our local governors are apparently trying to relegate Coll's designation to 'shipping hazard' and it looks as if they will finally succeed in cutting the Oban/Coll/Colonsay/Tiree air link by the way they are handling the service contract tendering. This is an attempted clearance by any other name and those public servants culpable should really be known to us so that we can thank them personally.

The Oban-Coll-Colonsay-Tiree air service

was built at the council's own instigation, but its future appears to be the 'temporary' shutdown of services and thereafter the service will be intentionally diminished to an undersized white elephant that nobody can rely upon and that will finally be the excuse to close it for good.

Of course we have not forgotten how the air service was threatened with closure at the last/previous discussion and contract renewal.

This 'temporary cancellation of service' is potentially the forerunner of a similar unfortunate game, so forgive me if I am a little sceptical, but one must be watchful of Argyll and Bute Council just in case it seems once again to inadvertently and unintentionally engineer the service to fail.

We are continually told that the UK has the sixth best performing economy in the world – odd then that we cannot afford a properly connected transport system within our own borders?

Peter Isaacson,  
Coll.

### Youngsters are ones setting example over climate change

I would like to say how much I admire the school children who have been protesting recently outside several of Fort William's schools. They are showing that they have understood the importance of what they have learnt about the dangers of climate change.

Sadly, it seems that Highland Council is not setting them a good example. Its contractors are currently stripping hectares of deep peat from Fort William's Blàr Mhòr. Peat is, as we all now know, an important carbon store. It decays if it is exposed to the air and releases very large amounts of carbon dioxide which contribute significantly to global warming.

I understand that the contractors intend to bury the peat again after digging it up. It will be interesting to find out whether this will slow decay significantly or whether the developers are simply paying lip service to environmental protection rather than expecting to achieve any beneficial outcome – compost decays quite quickly when dug into a garden. The same seems likely to apply on the Blàr site. We need more houses – but not on a peat bog.

The protesting school children deserve our praise. They are likely to grow up into the good, politically aware and active citizens the world needs.

Jenny Ford, Corpach.

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



'S ann le ire tàmait a tha mi a' tilleadh gu cuspair air am bheil mi air iomadh beachd a thoirt roimhe, 'e sin seirbheis ceangail fòn-làimhe feedh na dùthcha.

Theagamh gun do leugh cuid agaibh, agus leis an aon leamhachadh riumsa, gum bheil Ofcom air a chuid gealltanais seirbheis a lùgh-dachadh is e a-nise ag amas air 74 per cent den Rioghachd Aonaichte a fhrithealadh.

Ged nach eil am fiosrachadh ga èigheach tha amharas agam gum bheil glè fhaisg air mòr-shluagh Bhreatainn suidhichte anns an raon sin a th' air a chomharrachadh.

Tuigear mar a tha na buidhnean a tha an sàs ann an seirbheis conaltraidh a' cuimseachadh air a' chosnadh as mothà dhaibh.

Ach am bheil sin math gu leòr? Carson nach eil riaghlaidair leithid Ofcom a' sìreadh seirbheis conaltraidh feedh na dùthcha gu leòr seach leigeil le buannachd na roinne-priobhaidh poileasaidh a stiureadh?

Chan e a-mhàin a' mhidh-dhòigh a tha leithid seo de fheallasanachd a' cur air coimhearsnachdan air na h-iomaill, tha iomadach ar-

gamaid a ghabhas cur airson goireas èifeachdach conaltraidh feedh na dùthcha.

Tha ionmhais agus spàrn ga chosg a' feuchainn ris na h-iomaill a leasachadh agus ann an saoghal an latha an-diugh tha cothrom co-luadair agus conaltraidh aithnichte mar aon de na sochairean sóisealta agus eaonamach as cudromaiche a th' ann.

Feumar cuideachd cuimhneachadh cho luachmhor 's a tha turasachd air fás is ceudan mhilean a' siubhal nan sgìrean iomallach sin gach latha den bhliadhna, agus tha e cuideachd deataimach gum faigh seirbheisean èiginn còmhradh ri chèile agus ri luchd-stiùridh is iad an ceann an dleastanaidh.

Gun teagamh 's e dùblan a th' ann seirbheis fòn a libhrigeadh ann an sgìrean corrach ach sin na h-àtichean as fheumaiche air a' ghoireas agus nach bu chòir sin a bhith mar dhleastanas air Ofcom.

Nach bu chòir dhan riaghaltas amas a dh'ionnsaigh co-ionannachd dhan dùthach le seirbheis craolaidh, agus conaltraidh, a bhith air saidealan far nach dèan beinn bacadh.

An aon argamaid airson

tunailean eadar eileanan seach sabaid ri sporain ghann nach tog bàtaichean, agus buaidh na h-aimsire air siubhal.

With Ofcom only committing to mobile phone coverage of 74 per cent of the UK, many fringe and rural communities will again be denied equality of provision, although a quality mobile service is arguably more important in these areas for emergency services, as well as for thousands of visitors all year round. Ultimately, national equality in communications and travel must be through satellite comms, and with tunnels replacing ferries.

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# DISTRICT NEWS

## APPIN

Members of the Appin branch of the Scottish Women's Institute welcomed Karen Mackie to their March meeting.

Karen arrived with a flower bowl, lights, candles, foliage, flowers, cup case liners and various types of paper.

Everyone enjoyed an entertaining and informative evening of innovative flower arranging.

This month's competition winners were Myra MacDougall and Brenda MacLeod, who won gold with their rum and raisin fudge, while Linda MacLeod and Alison MacCorquodale won gold in the card/any craft competition.

Brenda MacLeod received silver in the craft and Mrs Loss's Load was won by Moira Thompson.

The evening finished with tea and chat.

## OBAN

Oban Gaelic choir is holding a soup and pudding lunch at the Glencruitten Church Centre on Saturday April 6 from noon to 2pm with teas, coffee and homebaking also available.

The choir will be travelling to Glasgow later in the year to compete in the Royal National Mod and are raising funds to help them.

Oban finished runner-up for the second year running in the coveted Lovat and Tullibardine Shield last year. Everyone loved their take on Niteworks' Maraiche and it has been viewed tens of thousands of times online.

## LISMORE

A music and dance concert will be held in Lismore Community Hall on Saturday March 30.

Mairi Campbell and Nic Gareiss will be performing from 8.30pm, showcasing 'amazing percussive footwork, fiddle and song'.

Mairi has previously won Scots Singer of the Year and Nic has been studying and performing for 20 years.



Oban Rotary president Iain MacIntyre, second right, and fellow Rotarian Walter Burton, fourth left, with members of the sewing group as they finished and filled the blankets.

## Rotary add the cherry to finish off blanket project

Volunteers recently attended sewing classes at Oban's Rockfield Centre to help create weighted blankets/shawls for use in local primary schools.

The blankets/shawls, which are weighted in proportion to a child's weight, have been proven to offer security and comfort to agitated or distressed children. The

blankets/shawls are filled with up to 10 kilos of cherry stones. These are expensive to buy meaning the price of a completed blanket is £60 to £130, which is outwith the budget of local primary schools.

Oban Rotary Club donated £200 to help with the cost of the cherry stones and president Iain MacIntyre and fellow Rotarian

Walter Burton went along to meet the sewing group as they finished and filled the blankets. The completed blankets/shawls will be made available to local primary schools in the near future.

The Rockfield Centre sewing classes are part of its recently established arts and culture initiative, led by Breege Smyth.



## ARDCHATTAN

### Tea and cakes attract a good crowd

A good crowd turned out for the latest pop-up afternoon tea at Ardchattan Community Centre.

The regular events are attracting a loyal following, helping raise funds for the community centre project at the Ardchattan school building.

**Left:** Afternoon tea in the old school has become a regular highlight at Ardchattan.

## LISMORE

A community dig on Lismore has uncovered evidence there could have been a monastery on the island before St Columba founded his on Iona.

Archaeologists and community historians say the discovery of part of an enclosed, early medieval cemetery is a breakthrough.

Tradition has it that St Moluag came from Ireland in AD562 to found a monastery on Lismore, a year before his more famous contemporary, St Columba, founded his on Iona.

Until the cemetery was found, the only concrete evidence was a broken 8th century cross.

Radiocarbon dating places one of the burials in the 7th century AD and another in the late 10th century AD.

Archaeologist Clare Ellis said: 'This early burial brings us to within 100 years of St Moluag's founding of his monastery, and probably even earlier, as the enclosing cemetery wall is likely to pre-date the burial. Enclosed early medieval cemeteries in Scotland are extremely rare and, where they have been identified, they are associated with churches.'

Robert Hay of Lismore Historical Society added: 'I believe we have found the cemetery of the early Christian monastery. This is extremely exciting, not only because well-preserved burials of this date are rare in Scotland but also because it helps to explain why Lismore was chosen for the site of the first Bishopric of Argyll. The team of community volunteers can't wait to get back to digging on the site.'

The dig also showed that in the 13th century, around the time a cathedral on Lismore was being built, the part of the cemetery recently uncovered was no longer used for burial. Volunteers found a metalworking site and a slightly later cooking hearth dug down into the burials on which oats and barley had been accidental burnt. Livestock and deer bones from the same period showing signs of butchery were also found nearby.

## Cosy Cottage Pie

1kg floury potatoes peeled and chopped

2 leeks thinly sliced

450ml boiling beef stock

500g lean beef mince (5% fat or less)

750g mixed casserole veg or veg pack

On a cold night, this satisfying FREE beefy pie topped with leek and potato mash is just what the doctor ordered! Serves 4, ready in 45 minutes, Syn FREE!



**Method:** Brown the beef for about 5 minutes add the casserole veg along with the stock, simmer for 30 minutes. Cooked the potatoes for 12 minutes and add the leeks. After 5 minutes drain well, mash and season to taste. Spoon the mash over the mince mixture in a square oven dish, place under the grill for a nice crispy top.

## FORT WILLIAM

Salvation Army Hall  
16 Belford Road, Fort William  
Thursday 9.30am, 11.30am,  
3pm, 5pm & 7pm

Tel: Gillian 07796 040 803

## OBAN

Glencruitten Church Hall,  
Glencruitten Road  
Wednesday 9.30am,  
11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm

Tel: Gillian 07796 040 803

## LOCHGILPHEAD

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## CAMPBELTOWN

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Lodge, St John Street  
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'We can imagine craftsmen involved in the construction of the cathedral making tools and nails, later resting and enjoying a well-earned meaty meal. The fact the burial immediately next to the hearth had had its thigh bone disturbed and replaced upside down suggests the cook had come across more than he or she bargained for when digging the hearth pit.'

The archaeological excavation was led by Argyll Archaeology on behalf of the Kirk Session and Lismore Historical Society, and was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The community dig will restart in 2020 if it receives more funding.



The community dig on Lismore.

## EASDALE

Photography enthusiasts on Easdale are invited to attend a number of two-day courses.

Colin McPherson of Easdale Experiences will be running the events with Adam Lee on Saturday June 29, Wednesday July 3, Saturday September 7 and Wednesday September 11.

Participants will be accommodated for three nights in two cottages on the island. Places are restricted to a maximum of six participants per course.

The courses, designed for photographers of any level, aim to teach how to weave photographs together to tell a story.

For more information, visit [www.easdale-experiences.com/courses](http://www.easdale-experiences.com/courses)

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## At random

MARTIN LAING

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



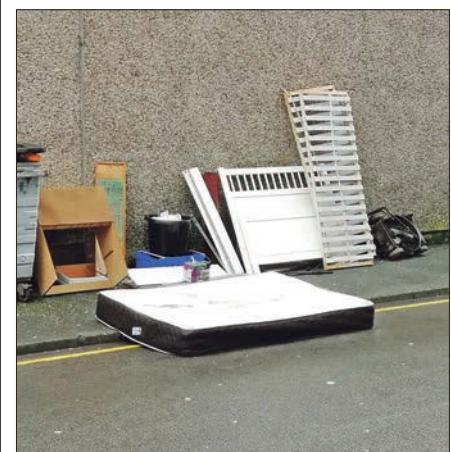
## Craven behaviour

Honestly, some people simply beggar belief.

I took this photograph in Argyll Street a couple of weeks ago. Some craven individual had dumped a load of unwanted furniture – including bed frames and an old mattress – in the street and just left it there.

For those who may not know Oban very well, Argyll Street is a main thoroughfare in the heart of the town centre, just off George Street and the bay.

Who could possibly think this is acceptable? I would urge anyone who knows who



Lismore Primary School Parent Council's quiz and curry night was a success.

## Quiz has the answer to raising school funds

Lismore Primary School Parent Council raised £907 at its annual quiz and curry night.

Eleven teams battled it out to be crowned quiz champions with Team MacCormack

narrowly beating Team Willis to take the title.

There was also a short film on the pupils' Mexican culture week and a raffle.

'A big thank you to everyone

who attended and to the parent council for providing a highly enjoyable evening,' said Paul Speakmore.

The money raised will go to school funds.

## Full house for Dove Centre fundraiser

Friends of Oban Hospice held another bingo night on Saturday, raising more than £1,000 for the town's Dove Centre.

Bingo caller Harry MacMaster was in excellent form as usual and his enthusiasm and personality contributed to the convivial atmosphere in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, with old and new friends clearly enjoying each other's company.

In his welcoming remarks, Friends chairman Iain MacIntyre again paid tribute to the generosity of the local community in their support of the Dove Centre, emphasising this support extended well beyond the town.

He made special mention of outlying areas and the islands, in particular Mull, where a Miss MacLean, on her own initiative, has raised more than £8,000 for the charity.

Iain also complimented his hard-working com-



Eyes down at the bingo night in aid of Oban's Dove Centre.

mittee, in particular Carol Bain and David Evans, who organised the bingo event. Amanda MacPhail, who runs the Argyllshire Gathering Halls was also thanked for her ongoing support of Oban's hospice movement.

was responsible to contact the police and report the culprit.

I should hasten to add that the rubbish has since been removed but that doesn't alter the fact that it shouldn't have happened in the first place.

And I'm not the only one concerned about this issue. Andrew Spence from BID4Oban emailed me last week to say: 'Further to your column regarding litter, BID4Oban are becoming increasingly frustrated at the state of certain areas. There have been numerous complaints from our levy-payers.

'We are continually being advised that this is down to staffing issues. We have correspondence going back over a year and while there were some improvements these were not sustained.'

With the tourist season imminent, this is a problem that needs to be addressed urgently.

## What do you think?

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



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# OUTDOORS

## Organisations 'disappointed' at hydro schemes

The John Muir Trust and Mountaineering Scotland have expressed disappointment at the decision to approve three run-of-the-river hydro schemes along Glen Etive, and warned that Scotland's wild places are being diminished in pursuit of private profit.

Mountaineering Scotland has called on the Scottish Government to review a decision which will damage one of Scotland's most iconic landscapes.

The trust objected to just three of the seven applications in the glen because of their potential impact on a popular and accessible scenic landscape within a wild land area.

John Low, John Muir Trust policy officer, said: 'We first of all want to commend Councillor Andrew Baxter for ensuring that the full Highland Council had an opportunity to examine these applications. We note that around one third of councillors opposed the decision.'

'The John Muir Trust took a measured approach when objecting to the proposals as we are very concerned at the continued diminishing of Scotland's wild places at the hands of developers whose sole objective is private profit.'

'While we are disappointed at the blanket approval of all three schemes within the wild land area, we welcome the fact that the local community plans to monitor the developments to ensure they are properly restored after construction work.'

Stuart Younie, CEO of Mountaineering Scotland, said: 'This is a disappointing decision by The Highland Council. It brings into question the purpose and value of allocating special designations which are intended to help protect our finest landscapes. This was about the stewardship of a national asset and we hope this decision has not set a dangerous precedent.'

# UK scientific first for ancient pine forest

The uniqueness of Beinn Eighe's ancient Caledonian pine forest has been recognised with the establishment of the National Nature Reserve (NNR) as the UK's first area designated for genetic conservation.

Beinn Eighe was the UK's first NNR, and now it is hailed as a genetic first.

The move reinforces the special nature of the pines at the Wester Ross reserve and the importance of protecting them for future generations.

Some of the remarkable specimens at Beinn Eighe are more than 350 years old, and the genetic composition of the pinewood has been shown to be truly distinct.

Research has shown that the Beinn Eighe trees colonised via a different route from pines in other parts of Scotland after the last ice-age, and recent scientific work makes it clear that these pines have a unique genetic diversity.

The Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) reserve is managed to conserve this special woodland, and now this work has been formally recognised with the registration of the site as a Gene Conservation Unit with the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN).

Gene Conservation Units have been set up elsewhere in Europe, but this this step reflects a major breakthrough for genetic conservation of wild species in the UK.

This new status for the NNR is a vitally important contribution to the care of the core biodiversity of Scotland. Genetic diversity is essential for resilience to pressures such as climate change and tree diseases, allowing populations to adapt as conditions change.

The intention is that the designation of the Beinn Eighe pinewood will act as a beacon for the UK, leading the way for gene conservation units to be established for all of our tree species.

Jeanette Hall, SNH woodlands specialist, said: 'Beinn Eighe is renowned for the beauty of its ancient Caledonian pine forest and we've been working to restore and expand



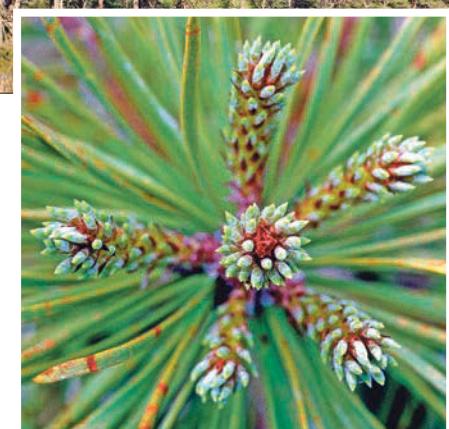
The Scots pines at Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve have a very unique genetic composition, which has now been formally recognised.

Photographs: Lorne Gill and Laurie Campbell, SNH

this unique woodland for more than 65 years. Registering the nature reserve as the UK's first Gene Conservation Unit shows how committed we are to protecting and preserving these special trees.

'It also marks another important step towards meeting our international obligations on gene conservation.'

Professor Pete Hollingsworth, director of science and deputy keeper at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, said: 'Conserving genetic diversity is important. Loss of genetic diversity can lead to elevated extinction risks for populations or species and reduce their ability to adapt to future changes in the environment. Integrating genetics into conservation plan-



ning is thus important for long-term species survival prospects.'

Organisations involved in the Beinn Eighe designation include Scottish Natural Heritage, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, University of Edinburgh, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Forest Research and Forestry Commission Scotland.



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Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust staff walking 2km transects at night using the lamping technique to count mountain hares.

## Gamekeepers take lead on mountain hares

Gamekeepers throughout the Scottish uplands are being asked to take the lead to ensure that mountain hare numbers are sustainably managed for the future by implementing a new counting methodology that provides better insight into their numbers.

The new approach has been rolled out following the 2018 publication of a three-year research project that compared different methods of counting mountain hares.

The work, undertaken by the James Hutton Institute and the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT), was commissioned by Scottish Natural Heritage.

The report identified two methods that provide reliable information and included guidance on how these techniques can be undertaken. The first approach involves night-time surveys, using either lamps or thermal imaging equipment, and the second assessed mountain hare dung accumulation. The night-time

surveys using lamps are the most simple and cost-effective method, a key aim and recommendation of the research. Daylight survey techniques were discounted as unlikely to provide a reliable or repeatable population index.

The lamping approach requires a walk and count along 2km transects using a hand-held spotlight.

Mountain hares are usually most active just after sunset and surveys typically start just after this. Current guidelines also recommend that night surveys are best conducted in the early winter, from October to December, ideally in clear, dry weather.

Nearly 70 gamekeepers and land managers across 47 estates have now attended formal training workshops led by GWCT. The courses cover the importance of counting for management planning and conservation, lamp methodology practice, equipment, use of count cards and selection of

survey sites. More than 60 sites and 240 transects have already been mapped for repeat surveys.

Due to continuing demand, the training will run again this year and be extended to nature reserves and other types of landholding in order to establish a fuller picture of populations on the ground.

Night-time lamping surveys carried out using the new methodology in late 2018 saw, in one instance, 102 mountain hares counted on a single walked transect in the central Highlands, while another study site (comprising four walked transects) yielded a count of more than 200 mountain hares. These results, which point to robust mountain hare numbers on managed moorland, were achieved in much the same areas as daylight counts for the report by the Centre of Ecology and Hydrology and RSPB published in the Journal of Applied Ecology in August 2018 that suggested significant declines in hare numbers.



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## This week's walks

### 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](http://www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk). Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers Group can be contacted by email on [info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk](mailto:info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk).

### Thursday April 4: Spean Bridge to Monessie, Glen Spean

This walk will now start at Spean Bridge and finish at Monessie circa 3pm. Gentle walk beside River Spean through deciduous woods with good views of the Grey Corries.

Start 10am at NN112742 Spean Bridge Woollen Mill car park.

Two short footpath/grassy meadow deviations between Spean and Coirechillie road end ... just for interest. Continue on tarred road to Insh. Follow track parallel to the river to Monessie Farm, (track likely to be muddy through the farm). Cross footbridge. End at layby NN300 810 then very short road walk to Glenspean Lodge Hotel for tea/coffee/scone.

One car will have been already left at the terminal point for drivers to be taken to get their cars at Spean Bridge.

Grade: L; distance: 13km; height to climb: 100m; map(s): LR41, EX392 Meet at Fort William Woollen Mill NN112742 at 0930. Start of walk at 10.00. Leader: Helen Critchley 01397 712346 or 07789 253701.

### Sunday April 7: Beinn na Gucaig Inchree

Start at Inchree forest walks car park, NN029633. Take the path leading up NE for 200m and turn right along the forest road. At NN032630 a path off to the left leads up the hill to the

summit of Beinn na Gucaig. From the summit head SE down the steep hillside to the start of a forest track at NN073646.

Follow the track, overgrown and rough at first, along Gleann Righ, turning right on to the main forest road. At the signpost for the

waterfall walk, NN033629, turn left and descend to the car park. Grade: M; distance: 13km; height to climb: 650m; Maps LR41 EX384 Meet at Inchree car park NN029633 at 1000. Start of walk: 1000. Leader: Ian Moir 07973 836498.

### NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

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

### Sunday March 31: Glen Lochay – Meall Glas and Sgiath Chuil

An opportunity to climb one or both of these Munros by a less frequented but more interesting route.

Park at the end of the public road in Glen Lochay at NN465364. Follow the track W as far as Batavaime. Cross the river Lochay on a bridge and climb the N ridge of Meall Glas to its summit.

Head E on the summit ridge over the 908m spot height and NE to Beinn Cheathaich, 937m. An easy descent can be made from here down the N ridge to pick up a track down to Lubchurran.

Cross the Lubchurran Burn just E of here on stepping stones, and across the river Lochay on a footbridge to rejoin the outward route.)

To continue to Sgiath Chuil, descend E down to a bealach, Lairg a' Churainex, 609m. Head NE on a rising traverse across the steep grassy slopes to reach the N spur of Meall a' Churain, then turn S up to its summit, 917m. Continue S along the ridge to the summit of Sgiath Chuil, 921m. Return along the summit ridge and descend the N spur to a small summit, 577mex on a ring contour at NN461346.

Turn NNE and make for the pumping house at NN466354. Follow its access track down to the end of the public road.

Distance: 15km, 850m ascent; or 18km, 1200m ascent.

Suggested by Toril Frantzen; coordinated by Gerry Gilbert.



# KINTYRE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 20-21 APRIL 2019

## SATURDAY

TWO-BALL/BETTER-BALL PAIRS  
STABLEFORD COMPETITION  
AT DUNAVERTY GC

BOTH PAIRS' SCORES COUNT  
TOWARD OVERALL TEAM SCORE

## SUNDAY

INDIVIDUAL STABLEFORD  
COMPETITION AT MACH DUNES GC

BEST 3 OUT OF 4 SCORES COUNT  
TOWARD OVERALL TEAM SCORE

A £5 BBQ LUNCH WILL BE  
AVAILABLE AFTER PLAY ON  
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Special room rates available for competitors at The Royal and Ugadale Hotel & Cottages.  
Contact [reservations@machdunes.com](mailto:reservations@machdunes.com) and reference the Kintyre Team Championship to reserve a room.

# FESTIVAL GUIDE

2019



YOUR  
GUIDE TO THIS  
YEAR'S FESTIVALS  
AND EVENTS  
THROUGHOUT  
THE WEST  
COAST

## Inside

FESTIVAL FOCUS  
DIARY OF EVENTS  
BANDS  
CAMPING TIPS  
OBAN LIVE TICKET COMP

## WEST COAST FESTIVAL SCENE:

Rich in culture and steeped in history, the stunning scenery of Scotland's west coast creates the perfect backdrop for a whole host of events, festivals and concerts

**WYVEX MEDIA**

## A party waiting to happen!

### How do we manage to cram so much into a year?

OK – here's the plan: we live in one of the best places in the world; we have some of the best food, drink, music and culture on the planet so it would seem downright rude not to celebrate all this with the rest of the human race.

This isn't idle boasting, the evidence speaks for itself: between now and the end of the year HUNDREDS of THOUSANDS of people will visit the West Highlands and islands.

They are coming for the stunning scenery, the history, the Gaelic culture, the music and song. They are coming to celebrate the birthplace of one of the world's most famous drinks, whisky; to enjoy food produced in some of the clearest waters and least polluted landscapes.

Not forgetting the craic either!

This is where we live and what we are and if that isn't worth a festival, then what is?

Music is at the heart of Gaelic and we do not just celebrate our own: you will hear classical, rock, jazz, blues and much more here on the west coast and the islands. What you should also remember is that the vast majority of the talent will be home grown.

When it comes to food and drink, we have something to show the world: lush pastures filled with dairy herds to give our cheese makers the finest raw ingredients, plus there is the rise of some seriously good local ice cream manufacturers. Our hills and upland pastures are full of sheep and beef cattle being raised as nature intended. Oban is the seafood capital of Scotland.

Our whisky distilleries are the stuff of legend. People come from all over the world to visit and they've even been known to get married in them.

The number of book and film festivals continues to rise, with authors and film lovers coming from all over and heading to the remotest of locations as people enjoy the written word together. And all these events take place in some of the most stunning and unspoiled locations in Europe so it is only right that we throw festivals for the wildlife and countryside – and the dark skies of Coll for star gazers.

This festival guide is just the beginning – our guides to all the Highland games and gatherings and agricultural shows will be published in coming weeks.

So start planning your festivities.

Nicky Murphy,  
The Oban Times.

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# Fàilte don Ghàil

The Gaelic language is in safe hands thanks to the mòds and fèisean and every year thousands of people compete, further their education and talent thanks to them.

Performance is at the heart of both organisations and many more people attend their concerts and festivals. These events are not just supported by local people but by tourists from the UK and abroad who go home having sampled a real experience of Scottish culture.

An Comunn Gàidhealach was founded in Oban in 1891, and ever since the organisation has been at the heart of promoting and keeping alive Gaelic culture through its teaching, lobbying and the famous network of Mòds and has developed many international links and friendships not only with other Gaelic speaking-countries but around the globe.

The 'provincial' mòds are smaller events in communities throughout the Highlands and also towns and cities that have Gaelic-speaking populations. They all build towards October and the annual Royal National Mòd – a glorious event lasting for more than a week, full of the finest that Gaeldom has to offer with a great social scene.

Those in the know make their way to Mull for its mòd only weeks beforehand as many of the top choirs and soloists use this as their final 'warm-up' performances before the big event.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is the National Association of Scottish Gaelic Arts youth tuition festivals. The organisation was founded in 1988 to expand and support the organisation of Gaelic arts tuition festivals and develop these community-based festivals throughout

Scotland with immersive teaching courses, specialising in traditional music and culture. You might end up taking part; if not, each fèis usually ends with a concert where the participants showcase all that they have learned.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is currently putting the finishing touches to its programme for this year's Blas – a nine-day celebration each September of the music, language, song and culture of the Highlands, taking place across a number of venues.

Also eagerly awaited are the details of the year's ceilidh trails, cèilidhne air chuit, which showcase the talents of young performers aged 16 to 25 in a professional summer tour in their local area, with the support of their tutors and teams of professional musicians. Check the Fèisean nan Gàidheal website for the final details. These events give the young musicians incredible experience to help them develop as performers at the same time creating fantastic evenings for everyone to go along and enjoy. The Scottish music scene is packed full of musicians who will tell you they got their first taste of performing in front of live audiences at these events.



# dhealtachd

*An Comunn Gàidhealach  
and Fèisean nan Gàidheal  
are driving forces behind  
Gaelic's summer festivals*



## Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail Glaschu 2019

This year we are exporting one of our biggest festivals to Glasgow. For the first time in 29 years the week-long Royal National Mòd will be held in the city which has such a strong Gaelic tradition, thanks to generations of Gaels heading to the city to work or study. The event runs from October 11-19.

### The provincial Mòds\*

Stirling, 17-18 May  
Uist, 24-25 May  
Skye, 29 May - 1 June  
East Kilbride, 31 May-1 June  
Oban, 31 May-1 June  
Sutherland & Caithness, 8 June  
Lewis, 4-7 June  
Lochaber, 7-8 June  
Glasgow, 8-9 June  
Harris, 14 June  
Perth & Angus (Aberfeldy), 14-15 June  
Ardnamurchan, 14 June  
Islay, 15 June  
Inverness, 21-22 June  
Mull, 13-14 September  
Barra, 21 Sept  
Edinburgh, to be confirmed  
Mòd Loch Aillse, to be confirmed

\*This list was compiled with the best available information at the time of going to press. Always check the event's own website or with the organisers; circumstances can change.

**Let the good times roll!**  
Start filling up your diary now

Lorn Drama Festival	Oban	27-29 March
Loch Shiel Spring Festival	various locations	19-21 April
Mull Music Festival	Tobermory, Isle of Mull	25-29 April
Gintyre	Campbeltown	13 April
Fiddlers' Rally	Oban	27 April
Carradale Music Festival	Carradale	19-21 April
Walk Islay	Islay	21-26 April
Mendelssohn on Mull	Isle of Mull, and other locations	26-27 April
Colonsay Book Festival	Isle of Colonsay	27-28 April
Colonsay Spring Festival	Isle of Colonsay	29 April-19 May
Highlands & Islands Music and Dance Festival	Oban	3-5 May
Moladh Ubhist (In Praise of Uist)	South Uist	3-5 May
Kintyre Songwriters' Festival	Campbeltown	3-5 May
Scapa Yoga Fest	Ardkinglas, Loch Fyne	3-5 May
Ullapool Book Festival	Ullapool	10-12 May
Coll Bird Festival	Isle of Coll	10-12 May
Bèo Festival	Isle of Skye	17-18 May
Gig in the Goil	Lochgoilhead	17-19 May
Campbeltown Malts Festival	Campbeltown	21-24 May
Skye Accordion & Fiddle Festival	Portree, Isle of Skye	23-25 May
Bluebell Music Festival	George Hotel, Inveraray	24-26 May
Islay Festival of Music & Malt	Isles of Islay & Jura	24 May-1 June
Mhòr Festival	Balquidder, Perthshire	24-26 May
FyneFest	Glen Fyne, Inveraray	31 May - 3 June
Oban Live	Oban	7-8 June
Arran Folk Festival	Brodick, Isle of Arran	7-9 June
Killin Music Festival	Killin	14-16 June
Skye Food & Drink Festival	Portree, Isle of Skye	24-29 June
Scottish Rally Championship, Round 4	Dunoon	22 June
Arran Malt & Music Festival	Isle of Arran	28-30 June
Gigha Music Festival	Isle of Gigha	28-29 June
Mendelssohn on Mull	Isle of Mull, and other locations	4-8 July
Cèolas Uibhist	South Uist	7-12 July
Carradale Harbour Day	Carradale	20 July
Tarbert Seafood Festival	Tarbert, Loch Fyne	6-7 July
Cantilena Festival	Isle of Islay	7-12 July
Fèis an Eilean, Skye Festival	various venues	12 July - 20 August
Loch Fyne Viking Festival	Tarbert Loch Fyne	13-14 July
Tiree Music Festival	Isle of Tiree	12-14 July
Heb Celt	Stornoway, Isle of Lewis	17-20 July
Tarbert Traditional Boat Festival	Tarbert, Loch Fyne	20-21 July
Bute Studio Trail	Various open studios across Isle of Bute	20-21 July
Scottish Series	Tarbert, Loch Fyne	24-27 July
Tarbert Fair	Tarbert, Loch Fyne	25-27 July
Eilean Dorcha Festival	Benbecula	26-28 July
ButeFest	Isle of Bute	26-28 July
Belladrum	Beauly, Inverness	1-3 August
Bute Noir, crime writing festival	Isle of Bute	2-4 August
MOKfest, Mull of Kintyre Music Festival	Campbeltown	21-25 August
Art Map Argyll	Various open studios across mainland Argyll	23-26 August
Mendelssohn on Mull	Isle of Mull, and other locations	1-7 September
Skye Live	Portree	5-7 September
Clachan Smallholders Gathering	Clachan, Kintyre	7 September
Blas	venues still being confirmed	TBC
Cèòl Cholasa	Isle of Colonsay	12-15 September
Lagavulin Jazz Festival	Isle of Islay	13-15 September
Tarbert Music Festival	Tarbert, Loch Fyne	20-22 September
Hebrides International Film Festival	Lewis, Harris, Uists & Barra	12-14 September
Cowal Open Studios	Various open studios across Cowal Peninsula	27-30 September
Three Lochs Books and Arts Festival	Sunart Centre, Strontian	20-21 September
Jura Music Festival	Isle of Jura	27-29 September
Bookends Festival	Benderloch	20-27 September
Islay Book Festival	Isle of Islay	29 Aug - 1 Sept
Loopallu	Ullapool	27-28 September
CowalFest	Cowal Peninsula	27-29 September
Callander Jazz & Blues Festival	Callander	4-6 October
Ullapool Guitar Festival	Ullapool	4-6 October
Fèis na-Mara	Arisaig	4-6 October
Coll and the Cosmos	Isle of Coll	26-27 October
Colonsay Autumn Food & Drink Festival	Isle of Colonsay	9-23 October
MOJO Argyll	Ardfern	19 October
Tarbert Book Festival	Tarbert, Loch Fyne	26-28 October
Mallaig Book Festival	Mallaig	8-10 November
Scottish Comedy Film Festival	Campbeltown Picture House	15-17 November
Fèill Leabhrachean Uibhist (Uist Book Festival)	Across Uist	18-24 November
Oban Winter Festival	Oban	15-24 November
Fèill Leabhrachean Uibhist	(Uist Book Festival)	18-24 November
Seall Festival Small Halls	venues across Skye & Lochalsh	22-30 November
Oban Festival of the Sea	Ocean Explorer Centre, Dunbeg	TBC

\*This list was compiled with the best information available at the time of going to press. Always check the event's own website or with the organisers; circumstances can change.

# Fyne Ales gets set to celebrate 10 years of FyneFest!



**FYNE  
ALES**



Argyll brewery Fyne Ales will celebrate 10 years of their award-winning family-friendly festival of beer, food, later this year.

FyneFest, winner of Beer Event of The Year at the Scottish Beer Awards, takes place at the Fyne Ales brewery estate near Cairndow from May 31-June 3, once again seeing almost 3,000 thirsty festival-goers visit scenic Glen Fyne to sample beers from the award-winning host brewery and over 50 guest breweries from the UK and Europe.

'When we held our first FyneFest in 2010, we never anticipated the festival would grow to be such a huge event for us,' commented Fyne Ales MD Jamie Delap. 'From 300 people at our first festival to around 3,000 this year, the event has gone from strength-to-strength over the past 10 years, and we can't wait to celebrate its birthday with attendees this year.'

This year's festival will celebrate the history of FyneFest with music and beer line-ups featuring a 'best of' line-up of artists and breweries.

Among the 40 breweries already confirmed for the festival are Oakham, Ashover and Thornbridge, three breweries which had beer pouring at the first FyneFest event plus Verdant, Magic Rock, Fierce Beer and Cloudwater among many others.

Across three stages, a mix of talented local artists, festival regulars and high profile bands will perform, including headliners Bombskare on Saturday June 1. FyneFest also offers kids' activities, tours, talks, tastings, Glen Fyne walks and food from more than 15 street-food vendors including Loch Fyne Oysters.

Tickets for FyneFest 2018, including discount tickets for those local to the brewery, are on sale now and selling fast. Under-13s and dogs go free, visit [www.fynefest.com](http://www.fynefest.com) for all the info and to book.

**FYNE ALES PRESENTS**

# **FYNEFEST**

**31 MAY - 3 JUNE 2019**

**CELEBRATING #TENYEARSOFFUN**

**DISCOUNTED LOCAL TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!**

[\*\*www.fynefest.com\*\*](http://www.fynefest.com)



# Trail West headlines a superb line-up at Killin



Killin Music Festival is an electric, feel-good, three-day music gathering featuring top-of-their-game bands and artists, as well as a range of fringe events throughout the area over the festival weekend.

Finalists for Event of the Year in the 2017 Scots Trad Music Awards, Killin Music Festival is carving its own niche as a relatively small and intimate family weekend in the very heartland of Scotland, whilst still delivering a star-studded lineup.

The new Trail West big-band lineup returns to the 2019 festival to cap off the Friday events in their inimitable west coast style. Elephant Sessions will continue their recent industry domination with their impactful set to close off the Saturday main stage. The

seated concert on Sunday evening will be headlined by three-times Scots Singer of the Year – the bright, unforced and precise Siobhan Miller.

Alongside the headliners, the fully packed 2019 line-up also includes: Blue Rose Code, Kinnaris Quintet, Torridon, Ryan Young, Gnoss, Tom McGuire and The Brassholes, Beinn Lee, Eabhal, DLÙ, The 101, Headland, Greig Taylor Music Blues Combo, Katie and Abi and the Open Stage Sunday competition. The festival runs Friday June 14 through to Sunday x June 16.

Visit [killinmusicfestival.com](http://killinmusicfestival.com) for scheduling and ticket details, and stay up to date with all our antics on Facebook and Instagram.

All remaining tickets are on sale now!

**KILLIN MUSIC FESTIVAL 19**

*One great weekend*

**TRAIL WEST** **ELEPHANT SESSIONS**  
**KINNARIS QUINTET** **BLUE ROSE CODE** **siobhan miller**

TORRIDON | BEINN LEE | RYAN YOUNG  
 GNOSS | TOM MCGUIRE & THE BRASSHOLES  
 EABHAL | THE 101 | HEADLAND | DLÙ  
 GREIG TAYLOR BLUES COMBO | KATIE & ABI  
 KILLIN COMMUNITY CHOIR | KMF OPEN STAGE  
 HIGHLAND HUSTLE | KILLIN KIDS CHOIR  
 PAD'S TRAD DISCO | MCLAREN HIGH SCHOOL PIPE BAND

**14-16 JUNE KILLIN, CENTRAL SCOTLAND**

**ALL REMAINING TICKETS NOW ON SALE**

[KILLINMUSICFESTIVAL.COM](http://KILLINMUSICFESTIVAL.COM)



The picturesque Falls of Dochart, Killin.

# Hello campers!

Whether you are old school and under canvas, glamping, in a yurt, a campervan or luxury motor home being outdoors is part of the fun



## Cantilena Festival on Islay



Cantilena is a week-long festival of classical chamber music on the beautiful and romantic island of Islay. Along with five professional players, Cantilena selects gifted students from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland to perform and learn alongside musicians who have all worked with Britain's major orchestras. This is a rare and highly sought-after privilege for these young professionals and Cantilena is the only opportunity for Islay residents and visitors to hear music which ranges from Renaissance to the present day. The festival is now in its 19th season and has become a near sell-out event, attracting audiences from as far afield as Germany and Italy, thanks to the intimate and informal atmosphere of the venues which include some of the island's famous malt whisky distilleries. The 2019 festival runs from Sunday July 7 to Friday July 12. The programme includes music by Mozart, Vivaldi, Bach, Mendelssohn and Puccini. Tickets are available from the Celtic Shop, Bowmore from June 1, or by contacting admin@cantilenafestival.co.uk.

Sunday July 7	Columba Centre Bowmore	7.30pm
	Opening Concert with music by Mozart, Brahms and Shostakovich	
Monday July 8	Laphroaig Distillery	7.30pm
	Student Showcase featuring young musicians from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland along with works from the full ensemble	
Tuesday July 9	Lagavulin Distillery	7.30pm
	Corelli, Vivaldi, Rossini, Richter and Mendelssohn	
Wednesday July 10	Columba Centre Bowmore	7.30pm
	A piano recital by young professional Daniel Silcock and Bach from the full ensemble	
Thursday July 11	Ardbeg Distillery	7.30pm
	Bach, including Brandenburg Concerto No.3, Telemann, and CPE Bach featuring two trumpet soloists from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland	
Friday July 12	Bruichladdich Village Hall	7.30pm
	Final concert including Vivaldi, Puccini, Bartok, our trumpet soloists and the usual Classical Ceilidh	

Book early – we can't tell you that often enough. Get your pitch booked and your place on the ferry secured if heading to the islands or taking a short cut across a peninsula.

And if it is a short ferry crossing with no bookings make sure you plan your journey to arrive at the pier in plenty of time; these routes can build up a tailback when big events are on.

Many people now make a festival the highlight of a bigger holiday and book a holiday cottage or other self-catering. That way you get to enjoy the buzz of the build-up to the festival, watching the stage and equipment arrive, hearing the sound checks – it can all add to the festival-going experience.



By the time our prevailing weather systems have crossed the Atlantic they are bored and want to have fun. You will be amazed at how many different types of weather you will encounter in one day and your camping equipment should be able to cope with this and so should your clothes: think layers, lots of them.

Do practise pitching your tent beforehand and using your kit, even if it is only in the back garden. This will save you a lot of heartache.

Camping at a festival is just like ordinary camping, but magnified. Everyone's stories of festivals include having to rescue someone who had never been camping before. Don't let that be you.

When God invented wellies He did so with festivals in mind – remember to bring yours. Bring water, lots of it, to keep hydrated, also non-perishable food. You will want to eat at some of the amazing food trucks but keep the budget balanced with some cheaper meals in between.

At 4.30am you will wish you had spent more money on a good quality sleeping bag and sleepmat. You might not be planning on getting much sleep but when you want to, you will want to be warm and cozy.

You've got the power: because you have remembered to bring extra batteries and a power bank to recharge your mobile phone.

A week of  
chamber  
music in  
venues across  
the island



Cantilena Festival on Islay

**7 – 12 JULY 2019**

Sunday 7 July	Columba Centre
Monday 8 July	Laphroaig Distillery
Tuesday 9 July	Lagavulin Distillery
Wednesday 10 July	Columba Centre
Thursday 11 July	Ardbeg Distillery
Friday 12 July	Bruichladdich Hall

Visit [CANTILENAFESTIVAL.CO.UK](http://CANTILENAFESTIVAL.CO.UK)  
for more information and details of our pre-Festival  
recital in Portnahaven

All concerts start at 7.30pm Tickets £14  
(Senior £12, £5 with Student Card, free for schoolchildren)  
Season £70 (Senior £60) available at the Celtic House,  
Bowmore from 1 June and at the door on the night  
or visit [cantilenafestival.co.uk/tickets](http://cantilenafestival.co.uk/tickets)

Cantilena Festival on Islay Ltd is a Scottish Registered Charity No SC033071

## Strange but true

These two facts might sound crazy when attending a festival, but believe us, they are true.

Bring your sunscreen and a hat and never lock your tent.

Ambulance crews and on-site first-aiders say they deal with more cases of severe sunburn, dehydration and heatstroke than they do hypothermia, which is a rarity.

## Why?

We have a lot of weather, and some of it all in the same day and on a repeat cycle at that, but no-one is prepared for heat. Everyone thinks oh yeah, Highlands, better take my thermals and wellies, so no-one is ever prepared. Never mind what the national weather forecast says, the islands, sea lochs and mountains create crazy little weather micro-systems.

And when it comes to tents, a securely locked-tight tent just screams: 'Hey, we have something worth stealing.' Apply common sense along with your sunscreen and keep valuables with you at all times.



## Culicoides impunctatus – on tour this summer

*Culicoides impunctatus* is not the name of a band; it is the Latin name for midge. Not just any midge, mind you, our own, special, native-born variety.

When the weather conditions are right they like to party just as much as any festival goer. Their idea of a good time will not be yours, so go armed with the midge spray, lotion or potion of your choice.

By the way, the Gaelic for midge is *Meanbh-chuileag*, which IS the name of a theatre group visiting schools as part of *Fèisean nan Gàidheal*.

# A new kind of festival

The Isle of Skye sees a brand new festival, Beò launching in May this year. A celebration of the music, culture and heritage of the Highlands and Islands, the two-day event will see renowned bands across the west coast of Scotland come together to enjoy the best of Gaelic culture and craic.

Situated in the lesser travelled south end of the island, the festival will take place in the historic grounds of the Armadale Castle with views over the sound of Sleat, the silver sands of Morar, and the hills of Knoydart. The picturesque backdrop is matched only by the high calibre of fresh musical talent taking the stage. Hòrogheallaidh legends The Vatersay Boys will be joined by the roaring success of west coast favourites Trail West and Beinn Lee, the world-touring 'Gaelic Supergroup' Dàimh, and a line-up of the finest musicians the ceilidh scene has to offer.

Taking its name from the Gaelic word 'Beò' meaning 'Live', the festival is a celebration of the Gaelic language and culture, which thrives particularly in Sleat where the Gaelic college, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI is situated. Brothers John and James Robertson were inspired to create

the event to help promote the use of Gaelic in a non-educational environment and allow all that attend to enjoy the unique Highland heritage that makes a place like Skye special. Supported by fellow Scottish businesses including CalMac, the festival will run on May 17 and 18.

More info at [www.beofest.co.uk](http://www.beofest.co.uk)



Beinn Lee

Beò  
FÈIS//FESTIVAL  
17-18 MAY 2019  
Armadale Castle Gardens  
ISLE OF SKYE

Ceòl, craic is dannsa le  
THE VETERSAY BOYS  
TRAIL WEST  
BEINN LEE DÀIMH HÒ-RÒ  
URBAN TEUCHTARS  
GUNNA SOUND DÙN MÒR  
THE CAST EWE CÈILIDH BAND  
THE ANGUS NICOLSON TRIO  
THE FULL FLOOR CÈILIDH BAND  
RUAIRIDH MACLEAN  
THE ISLANDS

f   
#thaGaidhligBeò

Tickets available NOW:  
[WWW.BEOFEST.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK](http://WWW.BEOFEST.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK)  
SUBJECT TO LICENCE

Caledonian MacBrayne  
Interior & Cycle Ferries

## Mendelssohn on Mull Festival



Artistic Directors:  
the Doric String Quartet

September 1 - 7

Concerts of chamber music on Mull, on Iona, and in Oban

For 30 years the Festival has celebrated the visit of the composer Mendelssohn to this part of the world with a week of classical music.

Music for strings by Mozart, Haydn, Brahms, and Mendelssohn.



Also this year

Mendelssohn on Mull Spring Music – April 26 & 27

The foundation of a new ensemble drawn from last year's participants

Mendelssohn on Mull Summer Music – July 4 – 8

The Calgary Quartet, Festival graduates, return to perform on Mull and on the Hebridean Princess cruise ship

Details on our website:  
[www.mendelssohnnonmull.com](http://www.mendelssohnnonmull.com)

# Mendelssohn on Mull Festival 2019

The Mendelssohn on Mull Festival was founded in 1988 by the revered violinist Leonard Friedman. It celebrates the composer's visit to this part of the world in 1829 with a week of music-making specialising in the chamber music for strings that was so important to him.

The festival presents a dozen concerts, between Monday September 2 and Saturday September 7, in venues all over the Isle of Mull, on Iona, and in Oban, but its focus is on training. This year 12 gifted musicians, who are starting in the profession, will collaborate with the world-famous Doric String Quartet in a variety of groupings. Not only are the concerts generally admission free, it is possible to attend open rehearsals, and there will be introductory talks and chances to meet the artists.

This year five artists from last year's festival meet for a week's



retreat to begin to create a new ensemble. They will give three public concerts, including in Iona Abbey, during April 26 and 27.

And we welcome back the Calgary Quartet, graduates of past festivals, who will present concerts on Mull and on the Hebridean Princess cruise ship, between July 4 and 8.

The September festival is the second of four in which the Doric Quartet will be our

artistic directors. They have selected musicians of great promise and the standard of their performances will be as high as any in the great concert halls of the world. The chance to be present in an unassuming venue on Mull and witness this magic at work is what makes the Mendelssohn on Mull Festival unique.

Details are available on the festival's website – [www.mendelssohnnonmull.com](http://www.mendelssohnnonmull.com)

## Three days of fine whisky and music await you on Arran



Every year, the Arran Malt and Music Festival is held in the grounds of the Isle of Arran Distillery in Lochranza. This year it will take place from Friday June 28 – Sunday June 30. The weekend has become an important date in the calendar for whisky and Arran enthusiasts, bringing together some of the best island food producers, Arran musicians and bands from the mainland in a celebration of



matching some delicious locally made chocolates along with some specially selected single malts from the distillery...a real gourmet experience. There will also be the chance to taste rarely available limited expressions of The Arran Single Malt Whisky by the dram from our fully stocked bar.

The annual special Festival Single Cask Release will be available to purchase on the day – a small batch bottling which is chosen each year by the participants of the Ultimate Masterclass. The Saturday festivities are set to continue long into the evening with a celebratory ceilidh led by the Scottish folk band Heron Valley and the official Arran Distillery band James and the Staves.

Entry to the festival on the Saturday, 11am – 5pm, is FREE. Masterclass and Saturday evening ceilidh tickets can be purchased from [www.arranevents.com](http://www.arranevents.com).



all things malt and music. On Saturday June 29, the festival starts at 11am and features whisky masterclasses where you have the opportunity to get really involved, chat to the people who make the whisky and hear about their experiences in the industry. This year there will also be the opportunity to take part in a whisky and chocolate tasting,



**EVENTS HELD 28<sup>TH</sup>, 29<sup>TH</sup> & 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

**The Arran  
Malt  
& MUSIC FESTIVAL 2019**

**FESTIVAL DAY**  
SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
[www.arranevents.com](http://www.arranevents.com)

### DISTILLERY TOURS & TUTORED TASTINGS

#### Standard Distillery Tours

**£10.00 - Concessions £8.00**

Children 8 - 17 years old free of charge. We regret that children under the age of 8 are not permitted to take a Distillery Tour due to health and safety restrictions. Groups of more than 12 please telephone in advance. Approx 60 mins 2 drams  
10am, 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm\* daily.

#### The Arran Malt Tour

**£15.00 - 1hr 30min**

4 drams incl. £5 off Malt Whisky Voucher  
1pm daily.

#### Tutored Tastings

**£15.00 - 1hr 15mins**

4 drams incl. £5 off Malt Whisky Voucher  
12pm, 3pm daily.

#### Whisky & Chocolate Pairing

**£15.00 - 30mins**

3 drams & a selection of hand-made chocolates incl. £5 off Malt Whisky Voucher. 11am, 4pm daily.

#### Combined Tour & Tasting Discount Ticket

**£20.00**

You can combine a Standard Distillery tour with either a Tutored Tasting or a Whisky & Chocolate pairing and spend a little longer in our company! The latest combination tour you can do is the 3pm Standard Tour with the 4pm Whisky and Chocolate pairing.

#### 'Drop Inn' Tour

**£4 - 15mins**

Short film & dram Ideal for families, Usually between regular tour times, ask staff for details.



[www.arranwhisky.com](http://www.arranwhisky.com)



# Malts festival showcases the best of Kintyre whisky

Springbank, Kilkerran and Cadenhead lovers from across the world will travel to Kintyre in May for the 2019 edition of the Campbeltown Malts Festival.

This year's festival takes place from Tuesday May 21 - Friday May 24 and we will be hosting a range of events to display our variety of whiskies from across the three companies.

Our events start with a special tasting for Cadenhead Club members on the Tuesday, with the Springbank Society's exclusive tasting happening the following morning. Our traditional Distillery Dinner will take place on Wednesday May 22, this year being held at Glengyle.

The Springbank Open Day on Thursday May 23 will see hundreds of visitors in the grounds of the distillery which will be full of stall holders and local businesses. We will be hosting a number of whisky tastings throughout the day, with the opportunity to buy tickets for certain events on the day. There will also be free tours of the distillery throughout the day and live music in the yard until around 9pm.

Friday May 24 is dedicated to Scotland's oldest



restaurants and bars will all be packed for the duration, contributing hundreds of thousands of pounds to the Kintyre economy.

Fellow whisky producer Glen Scotia and Torrisdale-based gin distillery Beinn An Tuirc are also part of the Campbeltown Malts Festival and will be hosting their own events during the week.

## 22nd Lorn Drama Festival

This year's Lorn Drama festival is taking place over three nights, until March 29, in the Corran Halls.

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



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 BBC Radio 4 in the early '80s. 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 BBC 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 Connel 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 until March 29.

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 we 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 is also welcome and this year we have 'A Respectable Funeral'

# SPRINGBANK Open Day

Thursday 23rd May 2019 from 10:30am - 9pm

**Special Open Day Bottlings**  
**Warehouse Whisky Bar • Free Distillery Tours**  
**Local Craft & Food Stalls • Fyne Ales Bar**

Live music from Rhuvaal and other artists until 9pm

# GLENGYLE & CADENHEAD'S Open Day

Friday 24th May 2019 from 11am - 5pm

**Special Open Day Bottlings**  
**Lucky Dip Whisky Bar • Cocktail Bar**  
**Free Distillery Tours • Local Craft & Food Stalls**

Campbeltown Malts Festival Ceilidh in The Town Hall from 8pm

For more information please  
email - [mairi@springbank.scot](mailto:mairi@springbank.scot)

**Campbeltown**  
[www.explorecampbeltown.com](http://www.explorecampbeltown.com)

**LORN DRAMA FESTIVAL**

**CORRAN HALLS, OBAN**

**27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 7:30pm**

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

**Box office 01631 567333**

Scottish charity number: SC025659

# Seahorses frontman and rising Scottish

**The 12th annual Kintyre Songwriters' Festival will be held in Campbeltown from Friday May 3 to Sunday May 5 2019.**

The famous open stage events begin on Friday night and continue over the weekend in The Commercial Inn. The open stage draws singer-songwriters and bands from all over the country to perform alongside local talent. The open stage will be headlined by The Gilchristians, performing the songs of festival founder Kenny Gilchrist, and will be hosted by The Twisted Melons.

On Saturday, local acts like The Dubious Blues Band, Gareth Croll, Eddie McGuire, Chris Annetts and newcomers The Endorphins will be joined by the cream of Scotland's songwriting talent in Campbeltown Town Hall.

Widely regarded as one of the Scottish folk scene's brightest young talents, Edinburgh-born singer/songwriter Adam Holmes has been compared to John Martyn and has a sound that encompasses Scottish influences and Americana. Adam previously performed a headline show in Camp-



**Adam Holmes**

belton in 2013 with his award-winning folk band Rura and this time round will be performing songs from his solo albums with hit band The Embers.

MALKA is the latest project by UK singer-songwriter Tamara Schlesinger. Tamara began her career as the lead singer and songwriter of critically-acclaimed Indie folk outfit 6 Day Riot. Following three successful albums which saw her music



**MALKA**

featured in the tv show Skins, Scream 4 and Danny Boyle's 127 Hours, Tamara's solo album The Procession also found widespread critical acclaim and was followed by second album Ratatatat in 2017.

Cara Rose is a 21-year-old singer/songwriter from Glasgow influenced by the likes of Amy Winehouse, Lianne La Havas and Lauren Hill. Exploring what it means to be a young person in these uncertain times, Cara's soulful musings have won over fans young and old as she honed her craft across the city's venues. Distinctly Glaswegian, Cara's direct, passionate and insightful lyrics hold no punches as they traverse topics of young love, humanity and political discourse.

Saturday's guests are completed by Marc Rooney, who is best known as the frontman of Scottish alternative rockers Pronto Mama who headlined the festival in 2017. Marc returns this year with a stripped down show that lets the songs do the talking.

On Sunday, the festival casts its net even further afield to bring the best songwriting talent to Kintyre.

## MOK Fest 2019 set to rock the Wee Toon

**MULL of KINTYRE MUSIC FESTIVAL**  
21 - 25 AUGUST 2019

**'WEST-COAST ROCKS' CONCERT**  
**MÀNRAN**  
HERON VALLEY & RHUVAAL

**THE TRADITIONAL CONCERT**  
**DOUGIE MACLEAN**  
WITH CEANN TIR

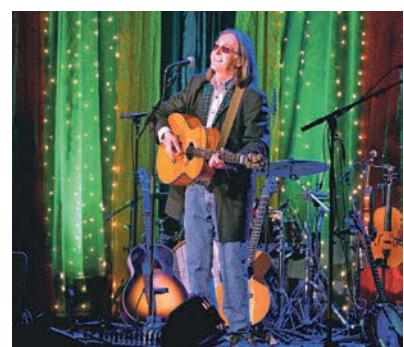
**PLUS LIVE PERFORMANCES ACROSS THE FESTIVAL**

**GLENFINNAN CEILIDH BAND**  
**CHRIS STOUT & CATRIONA MACKAY**  
**SLAINE DAVAAR ALLSTARS** · **ERiska** · **WE.R.SOUL**  
CIARAN MULHOLLAND (NI) · SCOOTER MUSE (USA)  
WESTERN SOUND · GILCHRISTIANS · TARBERT FOLK BAND  
KINTYRE SCHOOLS PIPE BAND · FRANK KROCHFORD TRIO · ROSS CONNER

**FOR INFO ON TICKET AVAILABILITY FOR THIS YEARS FESTIVAL**  
CONTACT: [MOKFEST.COM](http://MOKFEST.COM) · [MOKFEST@HOTMAIL.CO.UK](mailto:MOKFEST@HOTMAIL.CO.UK) · 01586 552034  
**#CradleOfTheNation #MOKfest2019**



The 27th Mull of Kintyre Music Festival or MOK Fest, as it is more commonly known, runs from August 21 – 25. The Saturday night concerts on August 24 promise a fantastic night of music with folk-rock legends Manran in the Victoria Hall 'West Coast Rocks' concert with Heron Valley and Rhuvaal. The traditional concert the same night in Campbeltown Heritage Centre will headline with premier Scottish singer-songwriter Dougie MacLean supported by Ceann Tir, featuring a host of young musicians from the Campbeltown area. The Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band is guaranteed to get everyone dancing at



the Festival Ceilidh Night on August 23. Young folk fusion band Eriska, along with The Dalriada Connections Band, will also perform with Kintyre Schools Pipe Band getting the night started in their usual rousing style. The Mitchell's Glengyle Dalriada Connections Concert on August 25 will have another great line-up with headline act Chris Stout and Catriona Mackay supported by Western Sound, Ciaran Mulholland and Scooter Muse, Ross Conner plus many more. Don't forget to pick up the sponsor's free whisky miniature at the door. The Festival Gaelic Night on August 21 features a host of outstanding

Gaelic performers, great tunes, stories and songs. The following night on August 22 the Young Folk Night promises another great selection of young performers from across Kintyre. The festival ends on August 25 with Survivors' Night, headliners Slainte Davaar Allstars and many guest bands including Rhuvaal, we.R.soul, Gilchristians and many more acts across the night.

There are also free open air events including Up the Close and music in the hotels and bars around the town.

For further information visit [www.mokfest.com](http://www.mokfest.com) or email [mokfest@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mokfest@hotmail.co.uk)

# stars to headline songwriters' festival



Chris Helme

Chris Helme is probably best known as the frontman of The Seahorses, the band formed by former Stone Roses guitarist John Squire. The Seahorses supported The Rolling Stones and U2 and enjoyed four UK top 20 hits and a Scottish number one in the late '90s including Love Is The Law, Blinded By The Sun and Love Me And Leave Me, co-written with Liam Gallagher of Oasis. Chris usually travels to all his shows by train but is making a special exception to get to Campbeltown for the festival!

Winners of both The Billy Kelly Song Writing Award and a Burnsong songwriting award, Dumb Instrument bring the songs of Tom Murray to life. The band is perhaps best known for its single 'Suffering From Scottishness' which was adopted by the Scottish independence referendum's YES campaign. The focal point of a Dumb Instrument song is most definitely the lyric, with diverse subject matter negotiated in each record, from wheelie bin theft to mortality. Stylistically the band weave hints of disco, ragtime, gypsy or even Latin.

**KINTYRE**



Songwriters  
Festival  
2019

A festival to showcase Kintyre's songwriting talent

Tickets available from:  
A.P. Taylor, Campbeltown  
Campbeltown Town Hall  
Online at [Ticketweb.co.uk](http://Ticketweb.co.uk)

Early bird weekend tickets £35

[www.kintyresongwritersfestival.co.uk](http://www.kintyresongwritersfestival.co.uk)  
Open stage Saturday and Sunday  
afternoons at Commercial Inn

Commercial Inn, Campbeltown  
Doors 7pm  
Free entry



Dumb Instrument

Djana Gabrielle is a French-Cameroonian singer songwriter who won the prestigious Danny Kyle award at Celtic Connections in January 2019. After graduating from law school, she travelled extensively for a few years before moving to Paris to focus on music and started playing small gigs around the city. She then moved to Glasgow, a city she chose for its vibrant music scene and where she recorded her debut EP released in December 2015. She spent most of 2016 touring around Europe to promote her music and wrote, recorded and released a



Djana Gabrielle

brand new song each month in 2018. The Kintyre Songwriters' Festival brings her to Campbeltown for the first time.

Local acts performing at the Town Hall on Sunday include Gullion, Judith Jones, Under Smoke, Thomas Jordan and Jenni Martin.

With 13 acts per night, the festival has something for everyone. Discounted early bird weekend tickets are available for £35 from Campbeltown Town Hall and AP Taylor, and online from Ticketweb. Individual event tickets are £20.

More information from  
[www.kintyresongwritersfestival.co.uk](http://www.kintyresongwritersfestival.co.uk)

Friday 3rd May  
OPEN STAGE FEATURING:  
**THE GILCHRISTIANS**  
THE TWISTED MELONS  
THE DUBIOUS BLUES BAND  
ROSS MACINNES  
UNDER SMOKE  
THE ENDORPHINS  
AND MORE..

Saturday 4th May  
**ADAM HOLMES AND THE EMBERS**  
MALKA  
CARA ROSE  
MARC ROONEY  
THE FAMOUS BLUE RAINCOATS  
THE DUBIOUS BLUES BAND  
GARETH CROLL  
CHRIS ANNETTS  
SWANFACTORY  
EDDIE MCGUIRE  
CRAIG BEDSON  
HOPE STRANG  
THE ENDORPHINS

Sunday 5th May  
**CHRIS HELME (THE SEAHORSES)**  
**DUMB INSTRUMENT**  
THE GILCHRISTIANS  
DJANA GABRIELLE  
THE TWISTED MELONS  
GULLION  
UNDER SMOKE  
JUDITH JONES  
DAVID FEE  
THOMAS JORDAN  
JENNI MARTIN  
IAIN MCINTYRE  
CHE MARTIN



Sponsored by:  
**GLEN SCOTIA**

Campbeltown Town Hall  
Doors 7pm  
Tickets £20

Campbeltown Town Hall  
Doors 7pm  
Tickets £20



**JURAMUSICFESTIVAL**  
27TH-29TH SEPTEMBER

**Usual local night starts off Friday 27th with A FREE CONCERT/CEILIDH.**

**Daytime activities on Saturday with workshops and children's entertainment. Live music throughout the day.**

**Saturday night Village hall:- GRAND CONCERT/CEILIDH.**

**Saturday night Big Marquee:- ALTERNATIVE MUSIC GIG**

**Sunday daytime:- PERFORMANCES/OPEN MIC IN BIG MARQUEE/RAFFLE.**

**COOPERAGE CONCERT - Sunday 6-9pm.**

**Big Marquee FINAL FLING 9-12!**

**Music all weekend in the Jura Hotel Bar also.**

Phone: 01496 820362  
E-mail: juramusicfestival@gmail.com  
[www.juramusicfestival.com](http://www.juramusicfestival.com)



# How to get to the Isle of Jura Music Festival



Getting to Jura could not be easier. For the very rich: charter a sea plane or pilot your jet into Islay Airport. Super yachts should anchor off-shore and passengers use one of the motor launches; helicopters can be accommodated on the island with advance notice or use Islay Airport.

For the rest of us heading to Jura for the music festival, who aren't yachties, or don't have some handy cousins who own a fishing boat, the secret is to get yourselves to Tayvallich to catch the Jura passenger ferry to Craighouse.

You can arrive at Port Askaig by CalMac ferry or by flying into Islay Airport on a scheduled service and booking a taxi.

CalMac's most frequent sailings are from Kennacraig to Port Askaig or Port Ellen; if you catch the boat for Port Ellen, then it's the bus or a taxi for you.

But once on Jura, whatever your bank balance, whatever the weather and whether you are young or old, a good time is guaranteed. See you there. And don't forget the Jura Hotel offers a camping package.



## Gig in the Goil returns to Argyll

Back for the fourth consecutive year, Argyll Holidays' Gig in the Goil is set to be bigger and better than ever before.

The brainchild of award-winning holiday park operator Argyll Holidays, the boutique festival will showcase the very best musical talent, plus food and drink between May 17 and 19 for what is sure to be a fantastic weekend.

More than 60 acts are set to perform across three stages at Drimsyne Estate Holiday Village, set within the unmistakeable backdrop of Loch Goil and the Arrochar Alps.

Former Runrig frontman Donnie Munro tops this year's bill which also includes popular trad outfit Mànran and Trail West – returning by popular demand after closing the festival in 2017.

They'll be joined by some of the country's finest acoustic, contemporary, folk and traditional artists, with the likes of Clann An Drumma, Beinn Lee, Vistas, Shambolic and Rollin Drones taking to the stage at the 'Goil this May.

Festival-goers have also been promised delicious food and drink options including street food and craft beers, children's entertainment and plenty of family fun, with face painting, stalls and games. In addition, kids aged 10-and-under go free.

More than 500 tickets for Gig in the Goil have already been snapped up, with organisers anticipating another sell out

weekend. Ross Coutts, event manager, said: 'Gig in the Goil is a highlight of the summer for us here at Argyll Holidays, and we're delighted at securing such a strong line-up for 2019.'

'Donnie Munro is one of the finest Gaelic singers this country has ever produced. As well as all the Runrig favourites, he has a fantastic back catalogue of material to keep the crowd entertained on the Saturday evening. Mànran and Trail West are both award-winning groups with plenty of energy and a huge draw for a village like Lochgoilhead – we're absolutely buzzing to welcome them here.'

'It's great to offer something a little different from the bigger festivals and really showcase the immense talent we have right here in Scotland, in an intimate surrounding.'

For those looking to enjoy the festival in style, Argyll Holidays has a limited number of luxury lodges available over the weekend, with prices starting at £80pp. Guests will also be able to take advantage of a number of Go Active outdoor activities over the weekend, with everything from archery to WaterWalkerz available.

Tickets are available at early-bird prices until the end of March from [argyllholidays.com](http://argyllholidays.com). Follow @giginthegoil on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram for all the latest updates.

## Eighty on stage for the 75th consecutive fiddlers' rally

The Oban and Lorne Strathspey and Reel Society members are busy practicing for their next annual fiddlers rally which will be their 75th consecutive rally concert. The society was founded in 1944 by well known Oban musician Charlie Hunter. Their current conductor, Helen Jordan, is also a well known musician in the town.



Gold Medallist and well known in the Oban area and throughout the west coast.

As usual, the rally will not only include local members but also fiddlers from several strathspey and reel societies from as far north as Caithness to as far south as Wales. The concert will be held in the Corran Halls on Saturday April 27, 2019 and will start at 7.30pm. For further information, please see our Community Notice Board nearer the date of the concert.

## Clachan Smallholder's Gathering an autumn extravaganza

For at least a decade Clachan Smallholders' Gathering has punched far above its weight as one of Argyll and Bute's best annual seasonal festivals.

Last year's event saw woodworkers and artists became guitarists and violinists to spur on a Wild West themed event encompassing crafts, industry culture and music.

On the Saturday afternoon events centre round the village hall and in various marquees on the surrounding grass.

In 2018 Wild West games were played as hardy visitors tested their strength on a bucking bronco fair ride and younger guests had their faces painted.

Meanwhile, fitting with the season, freshly harvested vegetables, art, soaps and various crafts were both demonstrated and for sale in the hall.

Arran woodcarver Henry Murdo brought some of his masterpieces as well as a work-in-progress, a rabbit on which people could try their hand at carving.

Mark MacSporran involved people of all ages in Samba drumming, using a variety of instruments to create a carnival rhythm.

At night local performers join a headline act on stage as the action becomes musical and outside a barbecue, weather permitting and campfire enhance the 'romantic' carnival atmosphere.

This year's event is on the weekend of August 31 and September 1 with the theme to be confirmed.

Visit us at Facebook to see announcements for daytime stalls, Demonstrations, activities, evening acts, musicians and headline band confirmations. Or contact the Smallholder's Gathering Team on 01880 740 660 for more information or to discuss sponsorship opportunities.

Raphael MacLachlan tries his balance on the bucking bronco in 2018.



## Ceòlas school of music and dance

Unbeatable tuition in Gaelic music, dance and language from the best traditional musicians in Scotland and Canada; guided walks, house céilidhs and village hall dances in the strongest Gaelic-speaking community in the world; authentic Hebridean culture alive in its heartland.

The Ceòlas summer school is an experience like no other. For a week in July, the Isle of South Uist is alive with an amazing buzz and electricity, Gaelic music,

dance, language, a returning diaspora and more than a 100 summer school students of all ages and backgrounds. Experience the essence of Gaeldom – the warm hospitality, the rich heritage and culture, the return home of family.

**Price:** £250 (full price); £175 (Western Isles rate); £75 (youth rate; 14-17yrs); £10 (drop-in rate per class, Western Isles); full scholarship (Highland Music Trust: 16-25yrs)



# Loch Shiel Festival 2019

## 19-21 April 2019

A cultural treasure of the West Highlands of Scotland, the Loch Shiel Festival is arguably Scotland's most picturesque chamber music festival, renowned for making use of spectacular and unusual settings around Loch Shiel and hosting performances from internationally acclaimed chamber musicians.

The Loch Shiel Festival marks its 23rd year with a micro-festival on the theme of "Inspirations", exploring some of the great masterpieces of the chamber music repertory which have

changed the course of history.

Scotland's esteemed Maxwell Quartet takes centre stage this year, fresh from their recent tour of America, during which they were heralded by the New York Times: "striking arrangements of folk music ...the sound of traditional fiddle playing carried over beautifully into fresh readings of Haydn and Beethoven". They are joined by violinist of the Kapten Trio and soprano Rachel Spencer, and Scottish Chamber Orchestra

violist Felix Tanner. The programme features music by Haydn, Mozart, Debussy, Shostakovich and Eddie McGuire, as well as a guided walk along the shores of Glenugie. As always, world-class music is partnered with the chance to enjoy excellent food from local chefs.

More details about this year's programme and tickets for all festival events are available on the festival website: [www.lochshielfestival.com](http://www.lochshielfestival.com)

# ceòlas



7-12 JULY, 2019

Summer school of Gaelic language, song, fiddle, piping and dance in the island community of South Uist

[ceolas.co.uk](http://ceolas.co.uk) | 01878 700 154 | [info@ceolas.co.uk](mailto:info@ceolas.co.uk)

Cathrannas: SC031179; Companaidh: SC216090

# Oban Winter Festival returns November 15 - 24

**Photo: Nick Edgington**



## oban WINTER FESTIVAL

### Award winning festival returns this year

**Friday 15th November - Sunday 24th November**

- Parades / Ceilidhs • Markets / Shopping
- Food & Drink / Competitions
- Live Music / Street Parties
- Art Exhibitions / Fireworks

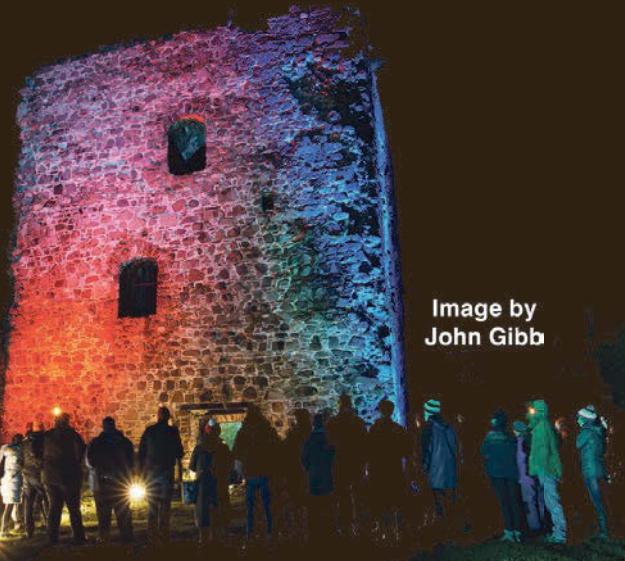


Image by John Gibb



Now in its ninth year, Oban Winter Festival has grown to accommodate an extensive programme of events aimed at people of all ages. Organised by six volunteers and supported by the community, it is a 10-day celebration of Oban's unique culture and community with street parades, international and local performance acts, fire artists, crafts, pipers, parades and family fun. Festival action takes place mainly in the centre of town which means getting from place to place is easy.

Discover Oban's great shopping, bars and restaurants that make this town tick. Take a tour of Oban Distillery to sample its malts, or enjoy a relaxing coffee in one of our many cafés while soaking up the beautiful view of the bay.

For those seeking more refined entertainment, there are various literary, language, cinema, music and theatrical events throughout the festival, offering a chance to learn, participate and celebrate our culture.

Should you choose to stay overnight in Oban to enjoy one or more of the winter festival events there are various options for your stay, from top class hotels and apartments in the town centre to the many excellent bed and breakfast establishments. You can find more details at [www.obanwinterfestival.com](http://www.obanwinterfestival.com), or [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com) or [www.oban.org.uk](http://www.oban.org.uk)

So why not join the biggest winter party in the west? We are waiting to welcome you.

# Get wild at Mhor Festival 2019

Rediscover your wild side this May with one of the UK's most loved food and music festivals.

Set in the stunning surrounds of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park, the Mhor Festival is a celebration of musical talent, internationally-acclaimed artists, inspirational makers and creators, jaw dropping performances and more award-winning food and drink than you can shake a ladle at.

Taking place between May 24-26, the Mhor Festival is the lovechild of The Mhor Collection and takes place in the grounds of the award winning Monachyle Mhor Hotel, on the banks of Loch Voil and in the midst of Rob Roy country.

In an era when what you have seems increasingly less important than what you do, the Mhor Festival is leading the way in putting experience at the heart of wellbeing and encourages guests to rediscover their wild side by getting back in touch with nature and themselves.

Guests will be treated to a line-up of experts and specialists including foragers, herbalists, yogis and nutritionists, on hand



to help tailor what you do and eat with what your individual body needs, through a range of talks and workshops. Experts in mental health and wellbeing will also take to the stage to share their journeys and give advice on how to make sure you take care of yourself.

Food is something that makes us feel good and brings us together and this year's Friday Night Feast will do just that and more. This year, held in honour of the festival's great friend and champion Andrew Fairlie, the feast will raise funds for the Cornhill Macmillan Centre, Perth.

Fantastic food will be a recurring theme throughout the weekend with the festival introducing its Food Hall for the very first time. Packed with sweet and savoury delights from the likes of Mhor Bread, Mhor Fish, Chick and Pea, Babu Kitchen and Nomad Pizza, guests can sample the goods of some of the UK's finest fare. From coffee to kombucha, churros to charcuterie, there's something to tingle every taste bud.

Next door in the Dutch Barn, a rolling programme of talks, demos and workshops will keep everyone from toddlers to teenagers (and their parents) entertained. Whether you've always wanted to try your hand at bread making or have a hankering for lino printing, we've got just the thing and you can sign up to join in on the day.

Another highlight is an appearance by Balquhidder's Clare Hunter, who will be talking about her new novel and Radio 4 book of the week, Threads of Life. Part

memoir, part journey through time it is, as its subtitle says, 'a history of the world through the eye of a needle'.

For those wanting to get a little more active, Outdoor Swimming Society Ambassador Calum MacLean will be sharing some of his daring, water-based escapades, detailing the adventures this increasingly popular past-time has taken him on. If you're feeling extra brave why not take a dip in the loch yourself and see how it makes you feel.

Gabriella Bennet, acclaimed journalist, author and wild swimming aficionado, is delighted to see one of Scotland's only family run festivals embrace the sport and embody the philosophy contained in her newly published book 'The Art of Coorie'.

Literally meaning to 'cuddle in' the word coorie is most typically used in the winter months, but the definition has evolved to include the sense of oneness and a strong connection to what surrounds you, be they landscapes, people, activities, or vibes.

Mhor Festival invites you to get wild and coorie in all weekend.

For more information visit [www.mhorfestival.net](http://www.mhorfestival.net) or call 01877 384 622 for more information.

**MHOR FESTIVAL** FOOD, MUSIC, THEATRE, DANCE  
MONACHYLE MHOR FARM, BALQUHIDDER, PERTHSHIRE, FK19 8PQ  
MAY 24TH - 26TH 2019

SMOKIN' JO	ANDY CARROLL
JON PLEASED WIMMIN	
THE REAL PEOPLE	BEANS ON TOAST
SWJ GROUP	OH MY GOD! IT'S THE CHURCH
BANJO LOUNGE 4	CAROL LAULA
GREIG TAYLOR COMBO	MASSAOKE
SCOOBY	
100 FABLES	THE SOUL FOUNDATION
CRAIG MOOG	WILBA
NICK PEACOCK	JOSHUA
CAL	CHERYL CHADHA
2 MANY JDS	COLIN BARR
DYLAN TIERNEY	THE VELVETEEN SISTERS
MORVEN SUTHERLAND	ROBIN IRENE MOSS
STEVIE CORBETT	JAY CELINO
DIXIE LANG	MARTHA L HEALY
MATHEW JAMES DAY	NO MARCS

LIVE MUSIC, SUPERSTAR DJS, OYSTER & CHAMPAGNE BAR, ARTISAN MARKET, SILENT DISCO, COCKTAIL GARDEN, DISCO & DANCE YOGA, WORKSHOPS, FOOD DEMOS, TALKS, CRAFT BEERS, RAFT RACE, CINEMA, KIDS ENTERTAINMENT, FORAGING, BUSHCRAFT, CIRCUS SKILLS, PADDLE BOARDING, WILD SWIMMING, CAMPING, SPECTACULAR LOCATION.  
VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR FULL DETAILS. TICKETS AVAILABLE TO BUY ONLINE  
[WWW.MHORFESTIVAL.NET](http://WWW.MHORFESTIVAL.NET)



# Tarbert – a whole world of festivals!



**T**HE CHARMING fishing village of Tarbert, photographed above by the world renowned, late, great Dennis Hardley, plays host to several festivals this season that celebrate its rich heritage in sea, food, music and literature.

The excitement begins May 24-27 with The Scottish Series, Scotland's premier annual yachting regatta. The Clyde Cruising Club organises this long-running event, in which keen sailors enjoy passage racing and Olympic triangles in Loch Fyne.

This year's programme includes the opening Clyde Challenger Race from Largs for white sail, family class and cruisers.

The laid-back atmosphere and good craic of this event have sailors and non-sailors alike coming back year

after year. All visitors, whether into sailing or not, will love the spectacle and everyone is welcome. The Tarbert Harbour Authority, whose facilities are ever-improving, provides a warm welcome for all competitors from the harbour master and staff.

The Seafood Festival, which is held in July 6-7, gives visitors the opportunity to sample Tarbert's culinary delights. The harbour bustles with food stalls, cookery demonstrations and tastings.

A highlight of the weekend is the crowning of the Seafood Festival queen and her princesses, who arrive in a flourish by sea and parade through the village led by the Mid Argyll Pipe Band.

Live music and kids' activities abound at this wonderful family-friendly festival.

The Tarbert Traditional Boat Festival, July 20-21 draws beautiful vessels of all kinds from across Scotland and Ireland over the weekend, providing a spectacle in the harbour for on-lookers. Visitors enjoy boat tours, stalls, live music, demonstrations and family activities.

Tarbert Fair has been held since 1705 and is one of the oldest fairs in the Highlands. It starts every year on the last Thursday of July (25-27) and continues

the festivities over the weekend. Originally a cattle fair, it's now about live music, amusements and fairground rides.

One of the longest-running music festivals in Argyll, the Tarbert Music Festival has been celebrating song and food for 29 years.

Held the weekend of September 20-22, it features a full programme including the popular fèis for children in the morning and adults in the afternoon plus concerts by local talent, turning out everything from rock to reggae to traditional music. Impromptu sessions are encouraged and attract musicians from far and wide. Visitors will enjoy the relaxed vibe and fantastic local seafood in the hotels and restaurants.

Tarbert Book Festival, in the pretty fishing village, is a cracker. Hear book readings by a selection of authors and meet the people behind the characters. There's lots to enjoy for adults and children across various venues from October 26-28.

Camping is available in the shadow of Robert the Bruce's castle and scenic walks along the Kintyre Way make Tarbert an ideal destination weekend for the whole family, so pack a tent and come along: [www.tarbertfestivals.co.uk](http://www.tarbertfestivals.co.uk)

And also remember the Tarbert Christmas Fair with crafts, stores, Santa's Grotto and the switching on of the village Christmas lights – date to be confirmed.

## TARBERT FESTIVALS 2019

**Tarbert is an enchanting and beautiful fishing village sitting on the west shores of Loch Fyne.**

**There are several festivals held during the year which encompass Tarbert's fishing heritage and its affinity with the sea.**

**Come to Tarbert and experience life on Scotland's west coast - you will be made most welcome.**



**Scottish  
Series  
24-27 May**



**Tarbert  
Seafood Festival  
6-7 July**



**Tarbert Traditional  
Boat Festival  
20-21 July**



**Tarbert  
Fair  
25-27 July**



**Tarbert  
Music Festival  
20-22 September**



**Tarbert  
Book Festival  
26-28 October 2018**



[www.tarbertfestivals.co.uk](http://www.tarbertfestivals.co.uk)

# Clean, green festival machine



## Let's get our act together and keep our beautiful festival locations unpolluted and litter-free

The growth in popularity and number of festivals across the West Highlands and islands has coincided with the rise in consciousness about the environment and the use and abuse of plastic.

So let's make sure that our festivals get a name for being the greenest as well as the best in Scotland.

- The biggest single threat to the environment from a festival will be litter. Help by not being the cause of it and by helping to prevent it.
- Look out for recycling points around the festival grounds and use them.
- If you take extra batteries for torches and gadgets remember to take them to the right recycling point or take them home to dispose of carefully.



Is this an old-fashioned answer to a new problem? The traditional Indian Tiffin carrier, a set of food boxes fashioned together, is a great way to take-away. Take your own reusable food containers and cups with you to the food trucks.

# Welcome to the Highlands and Islands Music & Dance Festival

**May 3 - 5 2019**

This year the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival celebrates its 36th anniversary from May 3 to 5 2019, and Oban will again see an influx of young performers all ready to compete. Come and join the town celebrate the talent of our budding Highland dancers, fiddlers, pipers, pianists, accordion and classic players and not forgetting woodwind, brass and singing at a variety of venues throughout Oban.



Each year there are performers from near and far, making the trip and entering more than 1,100 class competitions.



The festival provides quite a spectacle of dancers at Atlantis Leisure Centre, Highland Dancing Choreography at the Corran Halls and some of the best fiddle and accordion players in the Masters in St John's Cathedral on the Friday night.

The Highlands and Islands festival promotes a long tradition of music and dance, and the opportunity for many young people to show off their talent. Argyll is rich in music and dance heritage and the festival provides a great outlet. In conjunction with Feis Latharna, this year the festival is hosting new workshops at Oban High School for any children interested, from five-18 years, who might want some tops or to pick up a new instrument for the first time, on Sunday May 5.

Feeling up to the challenge, visit our website [www.obanfestival.org](http://www.obanfestival.org)

OBAN  
3rd - 5th  
**MAY**  
**2019**

**36<sup>th</sup>** **HIGHLANDS**  
and **ISLANDS**  
**Music**  
**Dance**  
*festival*

[www.obanfestival.org](http://www.obanfestival.org)  
Registered Charity No. SC010287

Scotland  
The Perfect Stage

# Family-friendly festival fun

**Don't just go on holiday, create memories your family can share**

A good family holiday has something that each member of the family can enjoy so a family-friendly festival ticks all the boxes.

Mum and dad and older kids can get stuck into the main events and the smaller members of the family can have a great time being entertained by all the face-painting, game-playing, model-making, bubble-blowing machines and everything else the event organisers can conjure up – including magicians.

A secure, well-run kids' section is such a joy for all involved; the kids can enjoy running free and parents can relax and have fun, knowing the wee ones are happy and safe.

The same rules for camping and festival going apply to the tiniest of festival goers: good camping kit, clothing in layers,

sunhat, sunscreen and wellies. Pay attention to hydration levels and keep them topped up with snacks – you will be amazed how much energy your children will burn off.

Camping with babies and tots is just a more intense version of daily life. Getting out of the door with a baby or pre-schooler is a major logistical operation at the best of times. A wee tip: it can be reassuring to know that an extra pack of baby wipes or disposable nappies, loo roll or bottled water is tucked away under the seat or the back of the car boot or caravan. Do remember the nappy sacks to help keep litter under control.

Take loads of photos and video and remember to download it and keep it secure. You will be amazed at how much five-and-six-year-olds are fascinated by, and proud of, film and pictures of themselves as babies and toddlers.



## BLUEBELL MUSIC FESTIVAL 2019

FRIDAY 24th - SUNDAY 26th MAY

### 3 DAYS OF FREE LIVE MUSIC

The Bluebell Festival is a three day **FREE** music festival held in The George Hotel, Inveraray every May since 2010. Following the huge successes of previous years we are looking forward to welcoming you at the 10th annual event, 2019 promises to be bigger and better than before!

**The George Hotel, Main Street East, Inveraray**  
visit [www.georgehotel.co.uk](http://www.georgehotel.co.uk) for more information

In association with...  
**The Cottage** Residential Music Studio  
[www.thecottagemusic.co.uk](http://www.thecottagemusic.co.uk)

## DEFEND YOUR EARS

Make sure your child goes home with happy festival memories and a fully-working pair of ears.

We write this every year and we will keep on doing so – this is really important.

Action on Hearing Loss says sounds over 80 decibels (dB) can cause hearing loss that may leave your child with permanent damage or ringing in the ears.

Ordinary spoken conversation is 60dB and shouting is 80dB, so if you have to shout to make yourself heard, then your kids should be in ear defenders.



# Scottish exclusives announced for Oban Live 2019



Argyll's biggest outdoor live music event Oban Live has announced it will be the only place in Scotland in 2019 to see multi-award winning Irish quartet We Banjo 3.

We Banjo 3, described as one of the best live acts to come out of Ireland in recent years, will reunite with international trad-fusion Scots band and headline act Skerryvore for a special collaboration on the Saturday as well as performing their own energetic set on the Friday night. The two bands caused a comedy storm on social media during their joint American tour earlier last year as they fought for votes in their widely popular Bagpipes versus Banjo campaign.

Meanwhile, international bagrock sensation Red Hot Chilli Pipers have announced their new album Fresh Air will be out June 7 and will be launching it at Oban Live 2019.

Lucy Spraggan, Elephant Sessions, Talisk and JigJam are also amongst the first confirmed acts to join headliners Skerryvore at their signature event in June. More acts are to be announced in the coming months and this will also include two winners of the event's recent Scottish Sea Farms Unsigned Oban Live campaign.

The Oban Live Fringe is all set to extend the party across the town over the weekend with live music, events and special offers for party goers. Details are expected to be released in May.

Tickets are on sale now for Oban Live 2019 which takes place on Friday June 7 and Saturday June 8 at the town's Mossfield Stadium. Visit [www.obanlive.com](http://www.obanlive.com).

**We Banjo 3**  
Photo  
David Norton

## WIN TICKETS TO OBAN LIVE 2019!

### 3 pairs up for grabs!

**As Oban Live media partners, we've teamed up with the spectacular event to offer readers the chance to win one of three pairs of tickets!**

Argyll's biggest annual outdoor live music concert takes place on June 7 & 8, 2019, at Mossfield Stadium in Oban. Winner of Best Cultural Event at the Highlands & Islands Tourism Awards 2018, Oban Live plays host to thousands of visitors from all over the world who come to see an eclectic line-up of incredible 'Trad', rock and pop artists in a rural stadium sized setting. A stellar line-up is planned for 2019 including Skerryvore, We Banjo 3, Red Hot Chilli Pipers, Lucy Spraggan, Elephant Sessions, Talisk, JigJam and more to be announced! The Oban Live Fringe extends the party across the whole weekend with live music & special offers on offer across the town. [www.obanlive.com](http://www.obanlive.com).

To enter, simply answer this question, complete the coupon and send it to:

**OBAN LIVE COMP, Wyvex Media, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Ln, Oban PA34 4HB** by 15th April, 2019.

**QUESTION: We Banjo 3 come from which country?**

- a) America      b) Ireland      c) Scotland

Answer.....

Name.....

Address .....

..... Postcode .....

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

Terms and conditions: Tickets are subject to the Oban Live terms and conditions which can be found at [www.obanlive.com/ticket-tcs](http://www.obanlive.com/ticket-tcs). The prize is 2x2-day standard tickets to Oban Live 2019 (June 7 & 8) per winner. Three winners with the correct answer will be chosen at random. Entrants must be over 18. Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult. Winners will be selected at random after the closing date and will receive a 2x2-day standard tickets to Oban Live 2019 (June 7 & 8). The prize is not transferable or redeemable for cash equivalent. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Winners may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. The competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. Digital subscribers can enter by printing this page and submitting their entry accompanied by a letter explaining that you are a digital subscriber. The closing date for entries is midnight, 15/04/19. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/disposed immediately upon the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity.



OBAN LIVE

ARGYLL's LARGEST LIVE MUSIC EVENT MOSSFIELD STADIUM ANT - OBAN

FIRTH OF LOCHNE GATEWAY TO THE ISLES THE LITTLE BAY JOIN THE PARTY

SKERRYVORE

*Lucy  
SPRAGGAN*

TALISK

ELEPHANT SESSIONS

JIGJAM

WE BANJO

3

PLUS MORE TBA...



RED HOT  
CHILLI  
PIPER

7TH - 8TH JUNE 2019

OBANLIVE.COM



# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Oban rappers to perform this Saturday in aid of charity

Fan favourites K9 Kev and Rory O'B will be performing in Oban this weekend in aid of charity.

The charity and choons event will take place in Cuan Mor from 7pm.

The rappers, who won the first Oban Live Unsigned spot, will be raising money for HCPT Group 43.

Every year the group takes young people with social, emotional, or physical difficulties on a pilgrimage holiday to Lourdes in the south of France.

K9 and O'B will be performing alongside 18-year-old

Oban rapper S-Mac and singer songwriter Josh Rippin.

Speaking to The Oban Times, Kevin 'K9 Kev' Irvine, said: 'It is in aid of HCPT Group 43. It is the same group that I went away with in 2016.'

It is a great experience. There is something about it that is quite magical. The kids really enjoy themselves. That is why I wanted to get involved again.

'We are just going to do a full hour's set of all our songs from the past eight years.'

Kevin added: 'I am looking forward to hearing S-Mac. He is special. He is 18 and is definitely one to look out for. I am

jealous of his progress in two years. He is better than me.'

The support worker said he always wanted to promote up-and-coming local artists.

'It is about pushing young people to reach their potential,' he said.

'This will be Josh's first gig as well. It is local artists playing musical that is produced locally. It is about raising money in the community through the medium of music.'

'Tickets cost £5 for an adult and £3 for under 18s. I think it is important to involve young people as well as they don't get the opportunity to see live

music as much in Oban.'

The last time the rap duo performed in Cuan Mor was to launch their album Vocal Heroes.

'The last time was special. We put a lot of work into the album and it was around the time of Oban Live and we wanted to prove a point to them that we wanted that slot.'

'My initial thinking was to not do this gig as we didn't have anything new to promote, but we have not done anything in Oban since June.'

In the end, Kevin and Rory, thankfully, decided to go ahead with the event. 'It will



Rory O'B and K9 Kev

be being back on stage with Rory doing my thing,' Kevin added. 'I do miss it.'

'Myself and Rory are going to do another charity concert in June for our album launch. The plan was to get the album

out in March, but we didn't have time.'

It costs around £1,000 per child to attend the pilgrimage. This year, HCPT Group 43 is taking seven children, with two coming from Oban.

## YOUR TOWN NEEDS YOU!

IT'S TIME TO SPRING  
CLEAN OBAN

DO YOUR  
OWN  
THING,  
OR  
JOIN A  
GROUP.

For more  
details of  
this event, see  
the Facebook page  
for Keep Oban Beautiful,  
or LoveOban.

To sign-up contact Claire on 07891 543540,  
or email [c.rizos@btinternet.com](mailto:c.rizos@btinternet.com)

### KEEP OBAN BEAUTIFUL!



Oban Business Improvement District  
[www.bid4oban.co.uk](http://www.bid4oban.co.uk)



## Ardshiel Hotel Gin Dinner

Friday 12th April 2019



ARDSHIEL  
—HOTEL—  
Restaurant & Whisky Bar

As part of 'Gintyre' join us for our Gin Inspired Dinner  
with introduction from gin distilleries  
£39.95 per person

# GINTYRE

FESTIVAL OF SCOTTISH GIN

Tickets available from Ardshiel Hotel Reception  
Kilkerran Rd Campbeltown PA28 6JL

Tel: 01586 552 133 Email [info@ardshiel.co.uk](mailto:info@ardshiel.co.uk)

# M' ALBA

## MY ALBA

### DIARDAOIN 28 AM MÀRT THURSDAY 28 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 Lè – News  
20.30 **ÙR | NEW:** Eòropa  
21.00 Linn de Dhealbhan (rpt)  
22.00 **ÙR | NEW:** An Sgrùdaire  
22.15 Belladrum 2016: Bwani Junction (rpt)  
22.30 Dilleachdai Hitler (rpt)  
23.20 Fraochy Bay (rpt)  
23.25 Seòd a' Chidsin (rpt)

### DIHAOINE 29 AM MÀRT FRIDAY 29 MARCH

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
18.30 Machair (rpt)  
18.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
19.00 An Lè – News  
19.25 Binneas – Na Trads - Tidelines (rpt)  
19.30 Fraochy Bay (rpt)  
19.35 **ÙR | NEW:** Scottish Women's Premier League 2019 – Hibernian v Glasgow City  
21.45 An Sgrùdaire S2 (rpt)  
22.00 Corp agus Anam (rpt)  
22.50 Belladrum 2016 - White (rpt)  
22.55 ALT (rpt)

### DISATHAIRNE 30 AM MÀRT SATURDAY 30 MARCH

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
17.45 An La – News  
18.00 **ÙR | NEW:** Scottish Premiership – St Mirren v Dundee  
20.00 Machair (rpt)  
20.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)  
20.30 Vets: Gach Creutair Beò (rpt)  
21.00 **ÙR | NEW:** ALT

### DIDÒMHNAICH 31 AM MÀRT SUNDAY 31 MARCH

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
18.15 An Lè – News  
18.30 Seachd Lè – News Review  
19.30 Alleluia (rpt)  
20.00 Eòropa (rpt)  
20.30 Dealbhan Fraoch (rpt)  
21.00 Bruadar a' Bhais (rpt)  
22.00 ALT (rpt)  
23.00 Corp agus Anam (rpt)  
23.50 Belladrum 2016 – Bella Hardy (rpt)

### DICIADAIN 03 AN GIBLEAN WEDNESDAY 03 APRIL

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
18.00 Puirt-adhair (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.00 An Lè – News  
20.30 **ÙR | NEW:** Dealbhan Fraoch  
21.00 Gaol is Call (rpt)  
22.00 **ÙR | NEW:** Scottish Premiership – Hibernian v Kilmarnock

### DIARDAOIN 04 AN GIBLEAN THURSDAY 04 APRIL

- 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 Lè – News  
20.30 North Coast 500 – le Anne Lundon (rpt)  
21.00 Trusadh – Na Ciùrd (rpt)  
22.00 Port (rpt)  
22.30 Sàr-sgeòil: As the Women Lay Dreaming (rpt)  
23.30 An Sgrùdaire (rpt)  
23.45 Belladrum 2016: Alabama 3 (rpt)

### DILUAIN 01 AN GIBLEAN MONDAY 01 APRIL

- 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 Lè – News  
20.30 Fuiñe (rpt)  
21.00 Trusadh – Na Ciùrd (rpt)  
22.00 Port (rpt)  
22.30 Sàr-sgeòil: As the Women Lay Dreaming (rpt)  
23.30 An Sgrùdaire (rpt)  
23.45 Belladrum 2016: Alabama 3 (rpt)

### DIMÀIRT 02 AN GIBLEAN TUESDAY 02 APRIL

- 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 Lè – News  
20.30 Kerry is Kirsty: A' Chomraich (rpt)

**BBC ALBA**

[BBC.CO.UK/ALBA](http://BBC.CO.UK/ALBA) | [BBC.CO.UK/IPLAYER](http://BBC.CO.UK/IPLAYER)

Co-bhanntachd eadar MG ALBA agus am BBC | A partnership between BBC and MG ALBA



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# Brookmyre's late makes good summer reading

I recently was lucky enough to get my hands on a copy of Christopher Brookmyre's new novel, Fallen Angel, which is being published by Little, Brown on April 25, writes Susan Windram.

This standalone book references a number of recent events, but based as it is on a tragedy involving a young girl on a family holiday in Portugal, the disappearance of Madeleine McCann will undoubtedly immediately spring to many people's minds.

In an interview with The Times in January, Brookmyre said that while the book makes fleeting reference to the McCann story, 'anyone who reads it will see that it is not intended as an echo of any real-life incident'.

In Fallen Angel, a toddler drowns in a swimming pool. Years later the family returns to the holiday complex where it all happened, with a nanny, visiting a neighbouring property, suspecting a family member of hiding a 'terrible' secret about the

# Viking invasion Dunstaffnage Castle



# test crime novel



at  
astle

The Vikings are invading Dunstaffnage castle this May.

Visitors will be able to watch fearless Viking warriors in thrilling clashes, wander through the camp to find out how they lived, what they ate and how they made their weapons and clothes.

There will also be the opportunity to have a go at striking a Viking coin, make some flour, try on a helmet or two and listen to a few stories.

The event from noon to 4pm on Saturday May 25 and Sunday May 26 is included in the admission price to Dunstaffnage Castle and is free for Historic Scotland members.

## It's all in the voice...



Photograph: Sarah Darling.

Kate Stevens will lead a fun-filled workshop on Mull this weekend to explore vocal energy and how actors perform the text given to them by playwrights.

Throughout, participants will work as a group, in partners and individually to develop their own voice.

Different pieces of text will

be used throughout, but will focus on the text of Dark Vanilla Jungle - the script for Mull Youth Theatre's one-woman production.

This workshop is open to performers of all levels, from complete newbie to seasoned performer and is on Sunday, March 24, from 1-4pm in An Tobar, Isle of Mull.

# WHAT'S ON IN OBAN

In partnership with Oban Town Diary BID4oban.co.uk



## THURSDAY 28TH MARCH

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

Tel: Gillian 07796 040803

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

**Writing Group // March Meet**

The Rockfield Centre. 7pm

**Live Music & Entertainment @**

**Markie Dans**

FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

## FRIDAY 29TH MARCH

**Live Music & Entertainment @**  
**Markie Dans**

Davie Rollo. Open till 2am

**Live Music & Entertainment @ The**  
**Lorne Bar Oban**

From 9pm. Free Entry

## SATURDAY 30TH MARCH

**Parkrun**

Ganavan Sands, Oban. 9.30am

**Master Builders Lego**  
**Construction Club**

The Rockfield Centre

10.00am - 12.00pm

**Lorn Vintage Ploughing Match**

Daluvie Farm, Ledaig, near Oban  
Airport. 10am

**Cearcall Comraidh (Gaelic**  
**conversation group)**

Furan Gaelic Centre

12noon-1.30pm

**Let's Make a Scene #23**

The Rockfield Centre. 8pm

**Live Music & Entertainment @**

**Markie Dans**

Disco with Stevo. Open till 2am

**Live Music & Entertainment @ The**  
**Lorne Bar Oban**

From 9pm. Free Entry

## SUNDAY 31ST MARCH

**Live Music & Entertainment @**

**Markie Dans**

QUIZ NIGHT at 9.30pm

£1 per person, max of 6 per team

Win £20 bar voucher

**MONDAY 1ST APRIL**  
**Drumming & Music Making**

Taynuilt Sports Pavilion

6.30pm - 7.30pm

**Slimming World**

Union Street/Argyll Street,  
Lochgilphead

5.30pm & 7.30pm

Tel: Rhona 07880 878906

**TUESDAY 2ND APRIL**

**Carers Coffee Morning**

North Argyll Carers Centre

10.30am-12pm

**WEDNESDAY 3RD APRIL**

**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](http://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](http://www.obanphoenix.com) for more details

### FRIDAY 29

12:00/14.30/ 17:00 DUMBO PG  
14:45 THE KID WHO WOULD BE KING  
17:15 ALL IS TRUE  
19:30 BOARDER  
19:30 WHAT MEN WANT

19:30 BOARDER  
20:00 WHAT MEN WANT

15

**TUESDAY 2**  
12:00/14.30/ 17:00 DUMBO  
12:45 HARVIE AND THE MAGIC MUSEUM  
14:45 THE KID WHO WOULD BE KING  
17:15 ALL IS TRUE  
19:30 BOARDER  
19:30 WHAT MEN WANT

PG  
U  
PG  
12A  
15

### SATURDAY 30

11:30 THE LEGO MOVIE 2: THE SECOND PART  
12:00/14.30/ 15:45 DUMBO

12:00/14.30/ 17:00 DUMBO  
12:45 HARVIE AND THE MAGIC MUSEUM  
14:45 THE KID WHO WOULD BE KING  
17:15 ALL IS TRUE  
19:30 BOARDER  
19:30 WHAT MEN WANT

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12A  
15  
15

### SUNDAY 31

12:00/14.30/ 15:45 DUMBO  
17:00 MONTHLY MUSICAL: WEST SIDE STORY

12:00/14.30/ 17:00 DUMBO  
12:45 HARVIE AND THE MAGIC MUSEUM  
14:45 THE KID WHO WOULD BE KING  
17:15 ALL IS TRUE  
19:30 BOARDER  
19:30 WHAT MEN WANT

PG  
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### MONDAY 1st APRIL

12:00/14.30/ 15:45 DUMBO

12:00/14.30/ 17:00 DUMBO  
12:45 HARVIE AND THE MAGIC MUSEUM  
14:45 THE KID WHO WOULD BE KING  
17:15 ALL IS TRUE  
19:30 BOARDER  
19:30 WHAT MEN WANT

PG  
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15

### WEDNESDAY 3

12:00/14.30/ 15:45 DUMBO  
17:00 MONTHLY MUSICAL: WEST SIDE STORY

12:00/14.30/ 17:00 DUMBO  
12:45 HARVIE AND THE MAGIC MUSEUM  
14:45 THE KID WHO WOULD BE KING  
17:15 ALL IS TRUE  
19:30 BOARDER  
19:30 WHAT MEN WANT

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15

### THURSDAY 28

12:00/14.30/ 17:00 DUMBO  
12:45 HARVIE AND THE MAGIC MUSEUM  
14:45 THE KID WHO WOULD BE KING

12:00/14.30/ 17:00 DUMBO  
12:45 HARVIE AND THE MAGIC MUSEUM  
14:45 THE KID WHO WOULD BE KING  
17:15 ALL IS TRUE  
19:30 BOARDER  
19:30 WHAT MEN WANT

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12A  
15  
15

## Screen Machine

Scotland's Mobile Cinema

Tobermory Wed 27 to Fri 29 Mar

Tarbert Loch Fyne Sat 30 March

**Made by the Sea** (PG) 90 mins FREE  
ADMISSION

**Mary Queen of Scots** (15) 124 mins  
"led by a performance of thrilling regality and nuance from Saoirse Ronan as Mary" Telegraph  
29/03 at 2pm, 30/03 at 8.30pm

**Green Book** (12A) 129 mins  
Oscar winning road movie. "portrayal of a wonderful life-affirming friendship" The List  
28/03 at 8.30pm

**Lego Movie 2: The Second Part** (U) 107 mins  
"even better than the original" Guardian  
29/03 at 5.30pm, 30/03 at 5.30pm

**Shoplifters** (15) 120 mins In collaboration with Mull Film Club  
Critically acclaimed family drama about a family who shoplift to make ends meet. Japanese with English sub-titles. "Palme d'Or winner is a thrilling beautiful tale of Tokyo's down-and-outs" Telegraph 29/03 at 8.30pm

Book at: [www.screenmachine.co.uk](http://www.screenmachine.co.uk).  
Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. Cash only, no cards.  
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# Producer Mike's trophy hat-trick helps Benderloch to magnificent seven



Adjudicator Dave Bennet addresses the audience at the close of the festival last Friday. 2019nldrama1



The prizewinners pictured with adjudicator Dave Bennet (seated, left), festival director Catriona Makenzie (seated, centre), Isobel MacCorquodale (seated, second from right) and Duncan MacCorquodale (standing, right). 2019nldrama3



Mike Rowell needed a hand from fellow Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club producer Linda Robb after the club was awarded seven trophies. 2019nldrama2



Benderloch and North Connel producer Mike Rowell with two of the prizewinning cast members: Eilidh Orr, left, and Aimie Baker. 2019nldrama5



Christine Jackson and Moira Thomson of Appin Allsorts with the special endeavour award. w2019nldrama6

A haul of trophies from the 65th North Lorn Drama Festival in Appin went back down the A828 as Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club had a festival to remember.

The club won seven of the 11 prizes on offer last week as its two plays, English for Pony-lovers and Hot Desk, won first and second respectively in the adult category.

Mike Rowell produced

both plays and, playing the security guard in Hot Desk, was awarded the adjudicator's awards for the adult section (Mr and Mrs Jack Skea Cup) and for a moment in comedy (The Rab MacDonald Memorial Trophy). The latter award was particularly special, too, for Rab MacDonald's daughter Aimie Baker, who performed opposite Mike in the play.

Mike also picked up the Mr H J Dobson Trophy for best production for Hot Desk.

In the youth section, Benderloch and North Connel Juniors were runners-up to Taynuilt and District Dramatic Society. However, they won the adjudicator's award in the section for their play Charlotte Holmes: Future Detective.

There was home success, too, as the special endeavour

award went to Appin Allsorts Drama Group for the play Honeymoon for One, with a special mention to 82-year-old star Moira Thomson.

Strath of Appin Primary School also retained the Duncan Sutherland Trophy for winners of the primary section.

The Adjudicator's Award for a moment in theatre, The Calum Thomson Memorial Trophy, was won by Taynuilt

and District Drama Society for its play, When a Man Knows.

Adjudicator Dave Bennet remarked on a 'strong festival', which featured eight plays across three nights last Wednesday to Friday in Appin Village Hall.

The festival was chaired this year by Duncan MacCorquodale, whose wife Isobel presented the trophies.

## Headline acts line up for Killin Music Festival

The full line-up for the Killin Music Festival has been announced and will feature some of the most exciting traditional music bands around including headliners Trail West, Elephant Sessions and Siobhan Miller.

Tickets are now on sale for the event which takes place from Friday, June 14 to Sunday, June 19.

As well as traditional music, this year's festival sees some different bands on the bill, including jazz phenomenon Tom McGuire and the Brassholes and young indie

band The 101.

There will again be music in the free session tent from Headland, Dlu and Greig Taylor, as well as some younger musicians from the local area.

Prior to the main event in June, Killin Music Festival will be hosting a Spring Concert in the McLaren Hall on Saturday, March 23 with music from west coast band Heron Valley.

The energetic folk sextet were a huge hit at Killin Music Festival 2017 and have just released a new

single, Take You There.

The band have serious enthusiasm for the music they play with their roots lying in Scottish and Irish traditional music, while taking influence from various Folk, Country and Bluegrass styles.

The six-piece, energy-fuelled group comprises: Alex Mackenzie - Fiddle/Accordion/Guitar; Nick Hamilton - Drums/Banjo; Abigail Pryde - Vocals / Guitar; Euan McNab - Bagpipes/Whistles/Guitar; Arlene Mackenzie - Piano;

Callum Cronin - Bass Guitar.

Support in the first half will come from the fantastic Canny Band, hot off their win at The Battle of The Folk bands at Celtic Connections.

McLaren High School Pipe Band will open the concert after a fantastic performance at the 2019 Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships.

Tickets for both events are available at [www.killinmusicfestival.com](http://www.killinmusicfestival.com) or, for the Spring Concert, on the door on the evening.



Heron Valley will perform at Killin Music Festival's Spring Concert.

# Tobermory Library hosts anniversary event



Natural Voices sing for the audience.

Tobermory Library held a musical event on Saturday to mark two years since the facility opened to the public.

Outside, Tobermory High School pipers kicked off the proceedings under a clear blue sky, with the event then moving indoors, where Councillor Mary-Jean Devon spoke about the value of libraries and read a

Julia Donaldson poem (The Library Poem).

A small contingent from Mull Gaelic Choir sang a ladies' song, and were joined by the tenors to lead everyone in An t-Eilean Muileach (The Isle of Mull).

Yvonne Marjot, library assistant-in-charge, said: 'We listened to a succession of talented and hardworking



Councillor Mary-Jean Devon opens the ceilidh with a poem.

young fiddlers from Mull Music Makers, and some great piano playing from one of the secondary school pupils. Our Natural Voices choir entertained us all with harmonies and even a bit of dancing, and then Coisir Og Mhuile (the junior Gaelic choir) sang some beautiful songs, including a lullaby which they only started learning three weeks ago. Four of the junior choir's members joined together to sing a song they had all learned as a solo for the Mod in 2018.

'Coisir Og Mhuile also did the teas/coffees and home-baking to raise funds for the choir. Thanks to everyone for giving up part of their weekend to come and sing and play for us.'



Alexander on the piano.



Eilidh on the fiddle.



Dominic on the fiddle.

## Provost tunes in to support music and dance festival

This year's Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival has secured funding from Argyll and Bute's Provost Civic Fund.

Provost Len Scouller has been invited to the festival's official launch at The Regent Hotel on Monday April 8 along with other supporters, volunteers, stewards, councillors and musicians.

Entries have now closed for this year's competitions and numbers are up.

Organisers are delighted to see entries for woodwind, singing and piping have all increased on 2018.

So far there are about 50 in the woodwind section, 34 in singing and 91 in the piping category. As well as a piper from New Zealand competing

in 2019, an entry from Canada has also been received.

Piano has also 'come alive this year' with 10 entries which means the Steinway at St John's Cathedral in George Street will get used over the weekend.

Changing the syllabus to include Gaelic song has also encouraged a big influx of 34 entries, the festival's link with Feis Latharna may also have contributed.

The dancing format has changed with a Pre Premier competition on Saturday March 30. And there will be a fundraising ceilidh that night in The View, George Street, from 8pm for all.

'We have secured funding and support from the Provost's Civic Fund and shall be hosting a reception in the Regent Hotel

with the Provost in attendance, said a festival spokesperson

'We are keen for as many of our committed volunteers, stewards, Councillors, musicians to attend so we can celebrate their work and the positive impact the Festival has had on Oban over the years.'

Visit obanfestival.org/

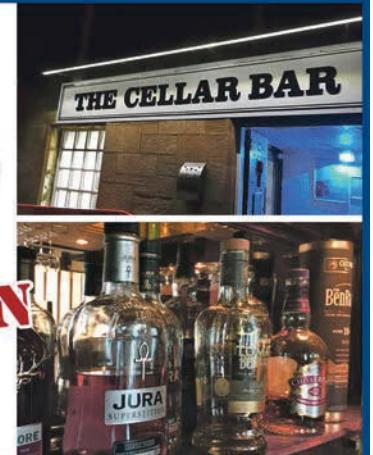


Councillor Len Scouller - Provost of Argyll and Bute.

## THE CELLAR BAR

BEST VIEW IN TOWN

Open 11-1am  
Corran Esplanade



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Six nations  
SPL  
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Basketball  
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DOG FRIENDLY  
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POOL  
&  
DARTS



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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.

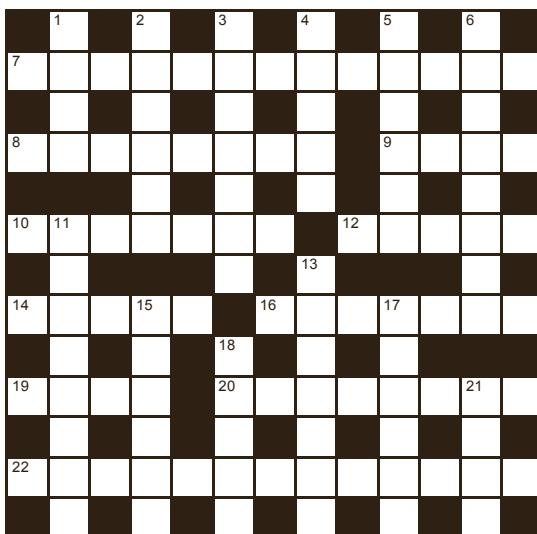
**THURSDAY:** 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00

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 Rannnie 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.

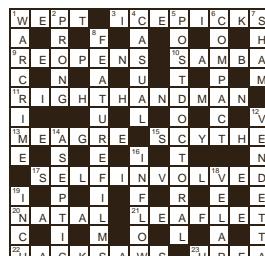
**SUNDAY:** 09.00 Sunday Morning with Breege, 11.00 Sunday brunch with Allan MacKchnie, 13.00 Clyde 2 on a lazy Sunday afternoon with the Greatest Hits, 19.00 New Country show – David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass – Graham Scott, 23.00 Clyde 2 through the night with the Greatest Hits.

**Crossword****Across**

- 7 Trial of offenses made by soldiers (5-8)
- 8 The humming sound of an object flying past (8)
- 9 Words written to someone on your phone (4)
- 10 A print made from this block (7)
- 12 Diving bird (5)
- 14 Precious stone (5)
- 16 Have difficulties with certain words (7)
- 19 A group of families from the Highlands (4)
- 20 Hasten (8)
- 22 Dissenter (13)

**Down**

- 1 Wool eater (4)
- 2 A type of paving (6)
- 3 Collected works (7)
- 4 Lees (5)
- 5 In better condition athletically (6)
- 6 Not rigid (8)
- 11 Miss out (8)
- 13 Relation by marriage (7)
- 15 A castrated man (6)
- 17 French lady (6)
- 18 A move to confuse the opponent (5)
- 21 Nonsense (4)

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION****Glasgow Letter**

**ROBERT ROBERTSON**

[robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk)

**The Mòd takes to the streets**

There is certainly no ignoring the fact that the Mòd is coming to Glasgow – thanks to the tireless work of the local committee constantly getting the word out on the streets.

Last Saturday, all the Glasgow Gaelic choirs gathered in Prince's Square to sing a few songs together and raise awareness of Mòd Għaschu 2019. The GGs, the Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir, Govan Gaelic Choir, and Cumbernauld Gaelic Choir were all in attendance and in great voice – spread out on different levels to begin with and then coming together as a massed choir in the end.

Gunna Sound were the band on hand to play for dances, and the choir from Sgoil Ghàidhligh Għaschu (the Glasgow Gaelic School) also gave a number of songs.

**Stirling An Comunn finish up for season**

The Stirling Branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach finished off its 2018/2019

session with a stellar line-up at its latest ceilidh on Saturday March 16.

Calum Ross, Fiona Ross and Norman MacKinnon were the singers; Catherine Speight played the fiddle; Tom Hayashi the pipes; Mary MacColl was in the chair and, as usual, the young Cluaran Dancers gave a few Highland dances.

The branch now breaks for the summer and its next ceilidh will be on Saturday September 14.

**Glasgow Craft Beer**

Craft Beer is a phenomenon that has been sweeping the whole country in recent years but its presence can perhaps be felt most keenly in the more swanky parts of the South Side or the West End of Glasgow.

A friend of mine recently ventured away from his usual stomping ground of the 'teuchter triangle' and found himself feeling a little outside his comfort zone in an establishment that advertised Grapefruit flavoured beer.

Not one to be put off his stride, however, he bravely asked for a pint. On pouring,

the bar woman groaned as nothing but foam came from the tap.

'It must be off this evening – I'll go and change the keg,' she said. Taking this as a sign that the fancy, fruity beer was not meant for him, my friend told her not to worry; he would just take his usual pint of Tennents.

The bar girl poured the Tennent's but, as he handed over his money, she suddenly changed her mind, whipped the pint away from his grasp, and walked over to the part of the bar where they kept the gins. She returned with the same pint of Tennent's but with a big slice of grapefruit floating on the top – a Glasgow-style craft beer if ever there was one!

**What's On**

Saturday April 27: Glasgow Skye Association Annual Spring Concert (Wee Skye) in the Crawford Hall, Beith Street, at 7.30pm.

Saturday April 27: Glasgow Islay Association to host Tartan Pimpernel play in Partick Burgh Halls at 3pm.



**With 200 days to go until the Glasgow Mòd, the massed choirs took part in an event in Prince's Square to increase publicity for the event.**

Tickets £8 or free for senior citizens.

**Pub Scene**

Park Bar

Friday March 29: Gunna Sound

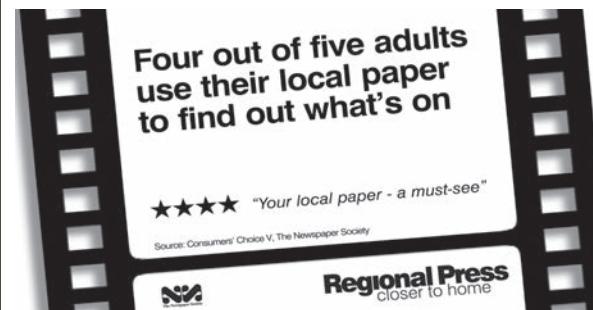
Saturday March 30: Trail West

Sunday March 31: Trail West

Islay Inn

Friday March 29: Rockuz

Saturday March 30: Bad Influence

**COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD****Easter Craft & Coffee Morning for Mary's Meals**

on Saturday 13th April  
10.00 to 12.00  
in Connel Village Hall

**Oban Accordion & Fiddle Club**  
Thursday 4th April 2019  
7.30pm  
Royal Hotel  
(Final night of the season)  
Guest Artist:  
Ewan Galloway Band  
Admission £4  
All Welcome!

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# Take your time over a leisurely breakfast at the

# Tayvallich Inn

Tayvallich Inn is launching a new breakfast service for its customers.

The restaurant, overlooking Loch Sween in Tayvallich, now has a breakfast offering featuring Lochfyne smoked haddock, Loch Fyne kippers & a full Scottish breakfast in addition to our usual focus on seafood.

Owners, Brian and Kathryn Masson, took over the restaurant in 2017 and have expanded their staff, their opening times and their service with a new breakfast offering starting on Saturday March 30.

Long-time fans of the area, Brian and Kathryn have invested heavily in the Inn.

Brian said: 'We had a holiday home here and have been coming here for years and we were given the opportunity to take over. Since then we have been developing the premises and food offering.'



**Brian and Kathryn Masson,  
Tayvallich Inn owners**

Breakfast will be available from 10am seven days a week and will feature a choice of: porridge, homemade granola, warm croissants, full Scottish breakfast as well as a full range of coffees from Matthew Algie.

Brian said ' We have spent time sourcing high quality produce wherever possible'

The inn's lunch and dinner menu includes various seafood classics such as West Coast or Shetland mussels, hand-dived Tayvallich scallops, Sound of Jura langoustine as well as a few alternatives such as steak and pork belly with traditional Scottish cranachan or banoffee pie amongst the options to finish.

An afternoon menu is available between the full lunch and dinner menu, this includes our classic fish and chips,



mussels, langoustine and crab along with a choice of salads and lighter options.

Tayvallich is popular with locals and tourists, due to its local activities and lovely scenery. Scenery which can be enjoyed from the restaurant of the Tayvallich Inn, with tables looking out over the loch. 'It's a beautiful place to visit,' Kathryn said. 'It's a lovely spot that makes you feel like you are on holiday. The area offers a large variety of outdoor activities from beaver spotting, walking, cycling and kayaking.

Come spend some time, enjoy the view and a meal any time of day.'

Our talented team, headed by manager Danny Briggs look forward to welcoming you.



*Breakfast on the bay...*



## Look to book for lunch or dinner...

Enjoy a real taste experience at The Tayvallich Inn. From potted crab to chilli-baked haddock for starters, to mouthwatering mussels, plump local scallops or a juicy steak to follow, finished off with a beautiful dessert. there is something on the menu for everyone; fish lover, meat lover, cheese fiend or veg-head! All food and drink is accompanied by the most delightful views and great company.



Breakfast served from 10am, starting 30th March

Lunch served from 12pm through to dinner.

Last orders for food at 9pm



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## Farm mapping updates could cost farmers 'tens of thousands'

Changes to Scotland's rural payment mapping system must not run the risk of leaving farmers out of pocket, according to a Scottish Conservative MSP.

The new Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) was introduced to speed up the collection of data used for CAP payments last year.

In parliamentary questions to the SNP's rural economy secretary, Peter Chapman found some elements of LPIS will not be fully functional until the summer.

However, the two-month window for filling in the single application form for CAP ends on May 15.

Accordingly, the North East region MSP has urged farmers who have completed their single application form in paper format to check their maps against those held by the Rural Payments and Services division of the Scottish Government.

And he has urged Fergus Ewing MSP, cabinet secretary for the rural economy, to ensure maps should not change once forms are in.

Mr Chapman said: 'The



majority of farms now try to do everything online but there are still lots of paper applicants. A tiny mistake or inconsistency on the single application form can cost a farmer tens of thousands of pounds in fines.

'That's often not their fault. Land use can change dramatically due to weather and I've heard concerns from

some constituents that they worry about their declared information matching up with LPIS as it continues to update. That should have been complete by now, considering the system was launched in 2018.'

I would invite Mr Ewing to guarantee that no farmer will receive a fine over map mismatches caused by LPIS.'

## Market reports

### Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd, March 20:

A total of 711 store cattle and 65 OTM cattle were sold. Bullocks (369) averaged 223.3p and sold to 288.6p per kg for a 395kg Limousin cross from Park Farm, Nairn and £1,240 gross for a pair of 665kg Limousin crosses from Ashley, North Kessock.

Heifers (340) averaged 211.6p and sold to 346.0p per kg and £1,090 gross for a 315kg Aberdeen Angus cross from Park Farm and £1,090 gross for a pair of 575kg Aberdeen Angus crosses from Wester Dunnet, Thurso.

Young Bulls (2) averaged 204.1p and sold to 212.5p per kg for a 320kg Limousin cross from Sornum, Easter Kinkell and £810 gross for a 410kg British Shorthorn from 68 Foinde, Lairg.

OTM prime & feeding cows (64) averaged 119.2p per kg and sold to 166.3p per kg for a 475kg Aberdeen Angus cross from Charleston Farm, Thurso and £1,130 gross for a 815kg Simmental cross from Lower Whitebog, Fortrose.

OTM bulls (1) sold to 168.9p per kg and £870 gross for a 515kg Limousin cross from Dalmagarry Farm, Tomatin.

Other leading prices per head and per kg:

Bullocks up to 250kg - Erchite, Dores, £540, 248.9p; 251-300kg - Achfrish, Lairg, £670, Westburn, Thurso, 231.4p; 301-350kg - Kennachy, Forss, £890, 259.5p; 351-400kg - Park Farm, Nairn, £1,140, Kennachy, 258.4p; 401-450kg - Park Farm, Strathpeffer, £1,080, Balmaglaster, South Laggan, 258.5p; 451-500kg - Kindeace Farm, Alness, £1,200, 252.6p; 501-550kg - Park Farm, Nairn, £1,180, 233.7p; 551-600kg - Torgorm, Conon Bridge, £1,200, 206.9p; 601-650kg - Ashley, £1,200, 193.6p.

Heifers up to 250kg - Auchmore Farm, Muir of Ord, £610, 244.0p; 251-300kg - Auchmore Farm, £660, Westburn, Thurso, 237.1p; 301-350kg - Westburn, £820, 244.1p; 351-400kg - Park Farm, Nairn, £930, Kennachy, 243.9p; 401-450kg - Raitcastle Farm, Nairn, £980, Udale, Poyntzfield, 229.6p; 451-500kg - Kindeace Farm, £1,080, Shawpark, North Kessock, 227.9p; 501-550kg - Wester Dunnet, Thurso, £1,000, Cragganvalie, Inverness, 191.5p; 551-600kg - Wester Dunnet, £1,085, 195.7p.

OTM prime and feeding cows (64) averaged 119.2p per kg and sold to 166.3p per kg for a 475kg Aberdeen Angus cross from Charleston Farm and £1,130 gross for a 815kg Simmental cross from Lower Whitebog.

OTM bulls (1) sold to 168.9p per kg and £870 gross for a 515kg Limousin cross from Dalmagarry Farm.

Other leading prices per head:

OTM cows: Charleston Farm, (AA), £1,050; Penick Farm, Auldearn, (BB), £1,050; Fleucharry, Dornoch, (SimX), £1,030; Roadside Farms, Bilster, (SimX), £1,010;

Other leading prices per kg

OTM cows: Lochquoy Farm, Castletown, (PI), 157.3p; Charleston Farm, (AA), 156.4p, (SimX), 153.4p;

Roadside Farms, (LimX), 146.2p.

### United Auctions, Stirling, March 20:

A total of 1507 store cattle, also 118 cast cows and 865 store and breeding sheep were sold.

Bullocks (842) averaged 222.31p to 259.60p per kg for

a 339kg CHX from Kilbrook House, and to £1,270 for a 600kg CHX from Yonderhaugh.

Dairy bullocks (15) averaged 152.88p to 172.40p per kg for a 586kg MOX from Killellan, and to £1,010 for a 586kg MOX from Killellan.

Heifers (637) averaged 212.94p to 259.90p per kg for a 404kg LimX from Balafark, and to £1270 for a 614kg LimX from East Dowally.

Young bulls (9) averaged 207.56p to 209.20p per kg for a SimX from Gateside, and to £730 for a SimX from Gateside.

Beef cows (102) averaged 132.74p to 177.20p per kg for a LimX from Knockraich, and to £1270 for a LimX from Chartershall.

Dairy cows (13) averaged 110.92p to 134.80p per kg for a HFX from High Langmuir, and to £995 for a HOX from Wester Borland.

Forward cattle (3) averaged 172.84p to 190.00p per kg for a SimX from Devonshaw, and £1,030 for a SimX from Devonshaw.

Bullocks: Up to 250kgs- Balgowan £620, 201.80p;

251-300kgs- Gateside £680, Craigie £231.60p; 301-

350kgs- Kilbrook £880, 259.60p; 351-400kgs- Loanhead

of Duthie £970, Wester Ochtermuthill 251.40p;

401-450kgs- Auchenflower £1070, 253.60p; 451-500kgs-

Dyke £1,125, Hilton of Beath 234.0p; 501-551kgs- Long-

carse £150, 227.70p; 552-601kgs- Longcarse £1,225,

199.70p; 652-701kgs- Yonderhaugh £1270, 192.40p.

Heifers: Up to 250kgs- Kilpatrick £550, 222.70p;

251-300kgs- Harplaw £660, Lower Luthrie 229.60p;

301-350kgs- Gateside £770, Bellevue 235.20p; 351-

400kgs- Longyear £920, Wester Ochtermuthill 237.40p;

401-450kgs- Balafark £1050, 259.90p; 451-500kgs- Balafark £1150, 238.10p; 501-551kgs- Broadlie £1100, Wester Clunie

214.30p; 552-601kgs- Nether Falla £1150, East Dowally

206.30p; 602-651kgs- East Dowally £1270, 206.80p.

Young bulls: 301-350kgs- Gateside £730, 209.20p;

351-400kgs- Gateside £725, 206.00p.

OTM cows:

£ per head- Chartershall (Lim) £1,270, High Bent (BRB) £1,210, Burnside of Balhaldie (AA) £1,190, Gateside (BA) £1,130, Kirkton of Lundie (Sim) £1,130, Drumoider (Sal) £1,110.

PPK- Knockraich (Lim) 177.20p, Gateside (BA) 162.60p,

Kirkton of Lundie (Sim) 154.00p, Goodockhill (Sal) 144.20p, Drumoider (AA) 140.90p, High Bent (BRB) 135.50p

OTM bulls:

£ per head- The Hillocks (Lim) £1,430, The Craw (Sht) £1,430, Drumoider (AA) £1,350, West Park (Sim) £1,290,

Berryhill (CH) £1,270, PPK- West Park (Sim) 141.80p, The Craw (Sht) 140.70p, The Hillocks (Lim) 131.00p, Berryhill (CH) 119.60p, Drumoider (AA) 116.60p.

United Auctions also sold 865 store and breeding sheep. Higgs- Wester Greenside (Suff) £84.00;;

Drumoider (Tex) £77.50; Lodgehill (Tex) £76.50;

Drumoider (Mule) £70.00; Craigbrock & Langbank of Balhadiel(BF) £64.00.

Breeding sheep- Whitebank for 1 crop TexX ewes scanned in lamb to Tex & Suff £120.

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## Your perfect place?

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The Grant family, David, Judy and Penny the dog have spent a cosy first winter in their new Wee House in Contin.

The house was delivered in modules and completed on the family plot in only three weeks, David said 'We've only been in the house since last August but winter in the house was very warm! The insulation in the house is very good; it's all very sound.'

The couple chose gas central heating for their two-bedroomed cottage style property from The Wee House Company, adding the bespoke touches of a utility room and a small office to keep both laundry and paperwork in their rightful places.

The Grants had looked at a number of options for their new build, but it was when on his way to a boat jumble sale in Ayrshire, David decided to pay a quick visit to The Wee House Company offices and Show Home in Fisherton, near Ayr.

The stress free custom build option impressed him so much that he and Judy made an appointment to come back.

'The whole concept appealed to us and we are delighted with our Wee House experience'

'Obviously there are always little things that we look back on and think we may have done differently but we're entirely delighted and our advice would be if you want one – go ahead'

'I really like the look; it's like an old steading and really sits well within our village,' said David. They were also pleased with the choice of interior fittings and fixtures and the wide range of kitchen ranges available as standard.

The couple were also very impressed with The Wee House Company's logistics; everything that the company said would happen did – within the agreed timescale

'The ground crew arrived and they worked in all weathers,' said David 'We are on the main road in the village so access to deliver the house modules was no problem and the lorries and crane all arrived on time'



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# Dash cams and your car insurance

## A guide to in-car camera systems

In the heat of the moment, even when you think you had a full view of the road, there are still times when we miss what really happened in an accident. A dash cam could be the answer in settling insurance disputes and claims, and may help you to improve the way you drive.

### What's a dash cam?

They're in-car camera systems that make a video and audio recording of your journey. Public awareness of car cameras has increased and many insurance policies already accept dash cam evidence in the event of a car incident.

Some dash cams even include a parking mode, which starts recording whenever an impact is detected. If someone knocks a wing mirror or hits your car when they're parking and doesn't leave a note, you'll have a better chance of finding out what happened and who's responsible for the damage.

### There are 3 main types of dash cam:

Front view cameras are among the best dash cams for capturing everything in front of you, including traffic you're following. They're the cheapest to buy, but lack the ability to see what's happened behind you.

Front and back view (or front and rear) dash cams offer the advantage of recording both the view in front and behind your car. Most accidents on the road happen

at low speeds and involve rear-end collisions. Investing in a dash cam that offers both views could be worth the extra spend in case you're involved in an accident.

Cabin view car cameras provide you with a bird's eye view of what's happened inside your car. Mostly used in taxis and car services, it might be up your street if you share a car or maybe wish to check your own driving habits.

### Why install a dash cam?

You've seen them on the news, crime programmes and some of the footage even goes viral on social media. And they're becoming increasingly popular with motorists in the UK. In fact, from research we carried out, dash cam ownership has gone from 1% to 15% in just 4 years.<sup>1</sup>

They're an effective way to see how we and others drive and useful for finding out who was at fault in a car accident. If you suspect you've been a victim of a crash for cash fraud, submitting dash cam evidence could help you be properly compensated and prevent it happening to others.



### Dash cam and insurance policies

Many car accidents aren't clear cut. If there is any doubt over fault and if it's your word against theirs, footage recorded by a dash cam can help to resolve the dispute quickly. If the footage proves the other party was at fault, you may not have to pay your excess, or if you've already paid, your excess may be reimbursed.

The evidence could also help in protecting your no claims discount (NCD). As dash cams become more common, they could lower car insurance premiums, reduce theft and help deter insurance fraud.

### Will a dash cam change the way I drive?

Maybe. As well as becoming more road-savvy, dash cams could also provide

learner, new and returning drivers with priceless information on what they're doing behind the wheel.

If you're using the wrong lights or not keeping a safe enough distance from the car in front of you, a car camera could help you pick up on any bad driving habits and improve the standard of driving on our roads as a whole.

Even if you're a careful and cautious driver, accidents can happen, and it can be difficult to resolve claims quickly without objective evidence.

Dash cam video recordings can help your insurer settle a claim stress and hassle free, leaving you to get on with the more important things in life.



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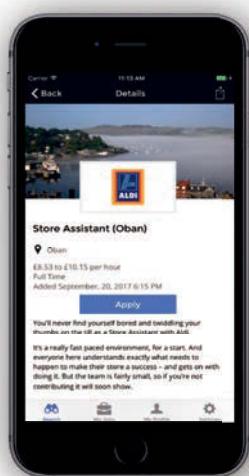
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You will be able to work on your own initiative to a high standard, have good communication skills and a flexible approach to working as an individual and as part of a team.

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Further particulars are available on our website <http://www.argoyle.anglican.org>. Salary £19k pro rata plus non-contributory pension. Applications should be sent to the Diocesan Treasurer, Diocesan Centre, Croft Ave, Oban, PA34 5JJ or by email to [secretary@argoyle.anglican.org](mailto:secretary@argoyle.anglican.org), to arrive by Friday 5th April 2019.

The Diocese of Argyll and The Isles is a registered Scottish Charity no SC005375

**SCOTTISH HYDRO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION PLC**  
**ELECTRICITY ACT 1989**  
**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING**  
**(SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**  
**THE ELECTRICITY (APPLICATIONS FOR CONSENT)**  
**REGULATIONS 1990**

Notice is hereby given that Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (company registration number SC213461 and whose registered office is situated at Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3AQ) has applied to the Scottish Ministers for consent under Section 37 of The Electricity Act 1989 to install and keep installed 20km of new 132 kV woodpole (H Pole) overhead electricity line between a point on the network known as Quoich Tee near Loch Poulary and a point on the transmission network known as Skye Tee, north of Invergarry.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc has also applied for planning permission to be deemed to be granted under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

A copy of the application, with a plan showing the land to which it relates, is available for public inspection in person, free of charge, during specified hours at:

Location	Opening Hours	Address
Invergarry	Normal office hours	Glengarry Community Hall Invergarry PH35 4HG

The application and its attachments can also be viewed at [www.energyconsents.scot](http://www.energyconsents.scot).

Any representations to the application may be submitted via the Energy Consents Unit website at [www.energyconsents.scot/Register.aspx](http://www.energyconsents.scot/Register.aspx); by email to the Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit mailbox at [representations@gov.scot](mailto:representations@gov.scot); or by post to the Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU, identifying the proposal and specifying the grounds for representation. Representations should be dated and should clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email or postal address of those making representations.

Written or emailed representations should be dated, clearly stating the name (in block capitals), full return email and postal address of those making representations. Only representations sent by email to [representations@gov.scot](mailto:representations@gov.scot) will receive acknowledgement.

All representations should be received not later than April 27th 2019, although Ministers may consider representations received after this date.

As a result of a statutory objection from the relevant planning authority, or where Scottish Ministers decide to exercise their discretion to do so, Scottish Ministers can also cause a Public Local Inquiry (PLI) to be held.

Following examination of the application, Scottish Ministers will determine the application for consent in two ways:

- Consent the proposal, with or without conditions attached; or
- Reject the proposal

**General Data Protection Regulations**

The Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit processes consent applications and consultation representations under The Electricity Act 1989. During the process, to support transparency in decision making, the Scottish Government publishes online at [www.energyconsents.scot](http://www.energyconsents.scot). A privacy notice and a fair processing notice are published on the help page at [www.energyconsents.scot](http://www.energyconsents.scot). These explain how the Energy Consents Unit processes your personal information. If you have any concerns about how your personal data is handled, please email us at: [Econsents\\_admin@gov.scot](mailto:Econsents_admin@gov.scot) or write to Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU

**GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE**

Ross Heads trading as Anvil Art Engineering Ltd of 8 North Bay, Port Ellen, Isle of Islay, PA42 7BY is applying for a licence to use Croft 6/7, Emaravale, Port Ellen, Isle of Islay, PA42 7AL. as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle and 0 trailers. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

**First Registration of a Croft**

Ian Mann has registered their croft 23a Tomonie, 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 8th December 2019.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.croft.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.croft.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C5719.

**CROFTING  
COMMISSION  
COIMSEAN NA  
CROITEARACHD  
DECROFTING  
APPLICATION**

IM Larg  
1 Caoles, Tiree  
0.129 ha – Site for a dwelling house  
96660

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 26/04/2019. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot)

The Crofting Commission takes the protection of your privacy seriously. To safeguard your personal data and make sure that it is accurate, we only collect and/or store the data necessary to carry out our functions as a regulatory body. You can find a copy of our Privacy Notice at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/openness-and-customer-care](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/openness-and-customer-care).

**D E C R O F T I N G  
DIRECTIONS ISSUED**

A Macintyre  
5 Cuilchenna, Kilmallie  
91661  
0.126 ha  
Reason – Site for a dwelling house  
Condition – With fencing conditions.

IG Cameron  
195 Arivegaig,  
Ardnamurchan & Sunart  
92923  
0.0756 ha  
Reason – Existing croft house site & garden ground  
No conditions

A Macintyre  
4 Anaheilt, Ardnamurchan & Sunart  
92607  
0.119 ha  
Reason – Existing croft house site & garden ground  
No conditions.

ME McAllister  
Port-A-Reidhleinn,  
Kilchoman  
86273  
0.205 ha  
Reason – Existing croft house site & garden ground  
Conditions – with fencing conditions.

A. MacDonald  
5 Stronaba, Kilmonivaig  
95054  
0.125 ha  
Reason – Existing croft house site and garden ground  
No conditions

Full details at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997  
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>; 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](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
19/00458/FUL	Kinsadel Quarry Morar	The application is to re-open and work an existing quarry
19/00819/FUL	Bonn Na Criege Shielfoot, Acharacle	Erection of a dwelling house
19/01089/FUL	Tor Nam Feidh Bracara, Morar, Mallaig	Replacement of existing caravan with permanent studio annexe
19/01097/FUL	Land 465M SE Of Taigh Breagh Achnabobane, Spean Bridge	Erect Agricultural Shed

**Time period for comments is 14 days**

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**

**(B863 NORTH BALLACHULISH) (30MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2019**

Notice is hereby given that, on the 19 March 2019 The Highland Council made, in terms of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, The Highland Council (B863 North Ballachulish) (30mph Speed Limit) Order 2019 which will come into operation on the Monday 29th April 2019.

The Order was previously advertised by Notice in the Lochaber Times on 14th February 2019 and the effect of the Order is described in that Notice.

A copy of the Order as made with a copy of the relevant map can be inspected free of charge at Community Services (Roads Department), Carr's Corner Industrial Estate, Fort William and the Service Point, Charles Kennedy Building, Achintore Road, Fort William during normal working hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of its provisions on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, or that any requirement of that Act or any relevant regulations made thereunder has not been complied with, may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made, make application for the purpose of the Court of Session.

19th March 2019. Richard Porteous, Roads Operations Manager, Carr's Corner Industrial Estate, Fort William PH33 6TL.

**First registration of a croft**

Mr Robert Duncan McCaig Smith has registered his croft known as Officially Port Ramsay, Lismore & Appin also known as No1 Port Ramsay 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](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C5717.

**First registration of a croft**

Mr David Stuart Ferguson has registered the croft known as 5 Kilvaree, Kilvaree, Ardchattan & Muckairn 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 12th December 2019. Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C5745.

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**First registration of a croft**

Ian Graham Cameron has registered his croft 195 Arivegaig, Arivegaig 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 6 November 2019.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C5704.

**First registration of a croft**

Mr Walter Williams has registered their croft 4&5 Uragaig, Colonsay 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 09 Dec 2019

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C5726

**First Registration of a Croft**

Annabella MacIntyre has registered their croft 5 Culcheanna, 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 December 9, 2019.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C5697.

**First Registration of a Croft**

Graeme MacCorqudale has registered their croft Ardtur, Lismore and Appin on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by December 9, 2019.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C5727.

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12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

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[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk) and

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**Proposed Sublet of a Croft by Tenant**

Angus Mackinnon is applying to sublet the whole croft at 1 Acarsaid Mhor, South Uist to Dominique McSherry of 2B Acarsaid Mhor, South Uist for 9 years

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be public) to : Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) within 28 days from the date of the advert.

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**Argyll and Bute Council**

**PLANNING**

These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, your Local Customer Service Point and by logging on to the Council's website at [www.arryl-bute.gov.uk](http://www.arryl-bute.gov.uk).

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008**

**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
19/00544/PP	Erection of industrial storage shed	Land South West Of Unit 7C3, Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll And Bute

19/00536/LIB	Construction of new internal basement walls and formation of new doorway for fire safety purposes	Perle Oban Hotel, Station Road, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5RT
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19/00098/PP	Erection of telecommunications equipment compound with 20 metre high lattice tower, installation of culvert and associated works.	Land Approx 231M North East Of Upper Achachenna Farm, Kilchrenan, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute
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19/00420/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of vehicular access	Land North West Of Port Rainich Cottage, Torloisk, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
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19/00351/PP	Erection of garage	Land Adjacent To Collaig Cottage, Kilchrenan, Argyll And Bute
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19/00448/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of vehicular access (amended design relative to planning permission reference 18/01745/PP)	Land South Of Lochell Lodge, Kilmore, Oban, Argyll And Bute
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19/00212/PPP	Sub-division of existing site and the erection of a new dwellinghouse	Keepers Cottage, Benderloch, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA37 1QS
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19/00453/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South Of Tigh Shee, Ardun, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
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19/00261/LIB	Re-painting of shopfront, installation of extractor unit/fan and erection of non-illuminated fascia sign	Spice Of Mull, Main Street, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA75 6NU
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19/00231/PP	Re-painting of shopfront and installation of extractor unit/fan	Spice Of Mull, Main Street, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA75 6NU
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19/00521/LIB	Demolition of office and former toilet block. Internal and external alterations to dwellinghouse including demolition of chimney and building up of 2 chimneys, replacement roof covering and windows and formation of new window	Monaveen Lodge, Ellenabeich, Isle Of Seil, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4RQ
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19/00537/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle 14/02948/PPP – Site for erection of dwellinghouse	Land North West Of Sith Is Fois, The Oa, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute
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Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.arryl-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:

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## PERSONAL

# THANK YOU

## SÍNE & CAMERON MACFARLANE

Would like to thank everyone involved in the organising of Sine's Surprise 60th Birthday and 40th Wedding Anniversary party. Special thanks to Caitlin Gray for her impeccable party planning skills, Elaine MacKinnon for delicious cakes, Angus Johnston for great piping, to the band Gunna Sound for wonderful music, The Royal Hotel and staff for delicious food and service. To all Family and Friends for lovely cards and gifts and for joining us in making the night so special and memorable. Finally, the generous amount of £500 collected on the evening will be donated to Oban Hospice Ltd, The Dove Centre.

## DR ELVIRE FEENEY

### OF GLEN MOR SURGERY

Wishes to announce her retirement on March 31, 2019.

Due to unforeseen personal circumstances Elvire, regrettably, was unable to be at work in March. She is therefore holding a tea party to wish her patients all the best for the future.

This will take place on Friday, April 12 at Caol Community Centre between 2pm - 4pm.

Please inform Glen Mor Reception if you are able to attend.

No Presents Please.



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## RUBY WEDDING

**GEMMELL - MACFARLANE**  
- Sine Gemmell and Cameron MacFarlane married at Oban Parish Church on 30th March 1979 by the Rev. A. Ingram

## DIAMOND WEDDING

**BLACK** - Eric married Mary (nee MacLeod) on 25th March 1959 at the Old Oban Parish Church, by the Rev. William MacDonald.

## BIRTHS

**HAMILTON** - To Stewart and Lindsay Gale, a daughter, Florrie May on March 11, 2019 in London. A grandchild for John and Cecilia Broadfoot and Ian and Jeanette Hamilton. Bringing much joy.

## DEATHS

**SEATH** - The Seath family announces with great sadness the loss of their beloved husband and father, John, age 73, on March 14, 2019. The family would like to sincerely thank all the medical and care staff that helped John in his final few months, your care and compassion was a great help to us all. A funeral service will be held on April 5, 2019 at 12.00 noon at Greenock Crematorium.

**LINDSAY-MACDOUGALL**  
- James, Younger of Lunga. Unexpectedly at home, much loved dad of Kenna and brother of Antonia, Johanna, Lucien and Aiden, beloved eldest son of Colin Lindsay-MacDougall of Lunga. Funeral service at Craignish Parish Church on April 2nd 2019, 12pm, followed by interment at Kilvaree.

**MACKILLOP** - Duncan, passed away peacefully, aged 89 years at his home in Kirn on March 17th. Beloved husband of Flora MacKay, much loved father of Flora

and John, special grandfather to Emma, Andrew, Laura, James and Megan and father-in-law to Jane and the late Chris. His funeral service was held at St. John's Church, Dunoon on Friday March 22nd and thereafter at Greenock Crematorium.

**MACKINNON** - Phemie. Peacefully at her home in Claggan on Sunday March 24, 2019, after an illness bravely borne, Phemie (née Fraser), aged 83 years. Beloved wife of the late Hamish, dearly loved mum, granny, great granny, auntie and good friend to many. Funeral service on Monday April 1, 2019 at 1pm in Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church, Fort William. All welcome. Family flowers only please.

**McGILL** - Suddenly at home on Monday March 18th, 2019, after a long illness, Donald McGill, aged 72. Many people will remember Donald from his work with the Light House Board on The Fingal and latterly with Caledonian MacBraynes. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**MACINTYRE** - Ann the sister of the late Archie of Gott, Tiree wishes to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their support at this time

March 29, 2015.  
You never said I'm leaving  
You never said goodbye  
You were gone before I knew it  
And only God knows why.  
- Inserted by his wife Margaret.

**CAMERON** - Happy memories of Hughie who passed away March, 31 2002. In our hearts and minds forever.  
- Bella and family

**CLARK** - Remembering with much love, today and every day, my dear Aunt Effie who died on 26th March 2009.  
"Loved and missed so very much".

From Mary and Bobby

**LYON** - In loving memory of our lovely mum Margaret taken from us on April 3, 2018, also remembering our dad Jimmy who died on October 7, 2008.

Silent thoughts of time together  
Hold memories that will last forever.

- Love from your family in Oban, Connel, Taynuilt and Tewkesbury.

**McNICOL** - Loving memories of very dear parents and grandparents, Janet died March 24, 1986 and Duncan, died November 29, 1987. Sadly missed.

- Nellie, Tommy and family

**WALKER** - In loving memory of my dear father Archie, who died March 29, 1996. Sadly missed.

- Inserted by his loving son Archie.

**WALKER** - In loving memory of our father and grandfather, Archie, who passed away March 29, 1996. Always in our thoughts.

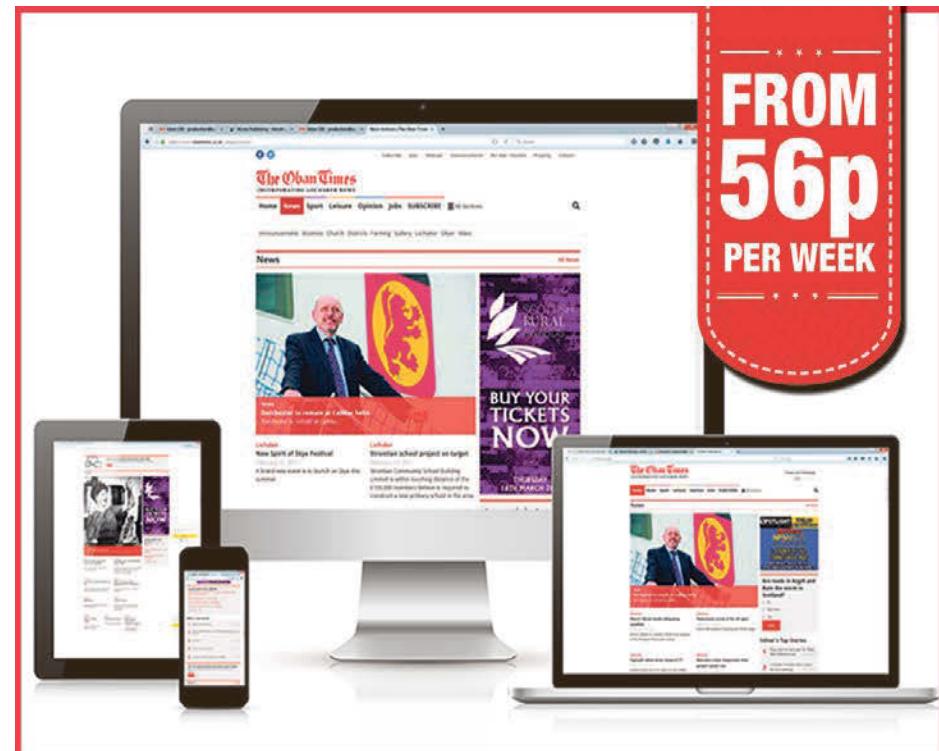
- Allan and family, Islay, Gartmore and Blanefield.

**WALKER** - In memory of our father Archibald, who died March 29, 1996. Forever in our thoughts.

- Inserted by Donald and Morag, Islay Airport Cottage.

## MEMORIAMS

**CAMERON** - In loving memory of my dear husband Archie (Ginger), who died



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In memory of Dawn Joyce

# Craignish enjoys 20th boat jumble and boot sale



Above top, the car boot sale and boat jumble was as popular as ever, even after 20 years; Tiziana Tedoldi, above left, will take over the organisation of the next boat jumble and car boot sale after 20 years of Jan Brown organising it; Tina Hahn runs a stall offering boat fixture repairs.

This year was the 20th anniversary of the annual Craignish boat jumble and car boot sale which was started back in 1999 as a low-key one-off fundraising event for Craignish Boat Club. The success of the first event encouraged the organisers to try

it the following year and now, 20 years on, it is an established event in the calendar attracting buyers and sellers from all over Scotland and raising funds for Craignish Community Company (C3).

Last Saturday organisers were lucky to

have a lovely day which brought around 200 people out to Ardfearn on the hunt for 'boaty' bargains – and there were plenty of these, ranging from complete boats to rope to lifejackets and loads of 'useful bits'.

None of this could have happened without a large team of volunteers including reception and catering staff, soup makers and car park attendants who, between them, helped to raise just over £1,000 for C3.

# Red and blacks get a share o

Saturday March 23 saw three local derbies in the Mowi Premiership and the continuation of Fort William's good start to their Mowi National Division campaign.

## Mowi Premiership

**Oban Camanachd 1**

**Kinlochshiel 1**

Oban Camanachd and Kinlochshiel drew 1-1 in a tough encounter at Mossfield.

Oban Camanachd manager

## Fixtures

**Saturday March 30**

**Cottages.com MacTavish Cup**

**First round**

Lovat v Kinlochshiel

Graham Cameron

Strathglass v Inverness

Archie Ritchie

Caberfeidh v Lochaber

Brian MacKay

Skye v Fort William

Calum Girvan - 3pm

**Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup first round**

Col Glen v Ballachulish

Robert Baxter

## Mowi Premiership

Inveraray v Kingussie

David Mitchell

Kilmallie v Kyles Athletic

Martin MacLean

## Mowi National Division

Glasgow MA v Glenurquhart

Ross Brown

Oban Celtic v Bute

Lachie Wood

## Mowi North Division 1

Aberdeen University v Skye

Andy MacLean

Fort William v Kingussie

Des McNulty

Glengarry v Glenurquhart

John Angus Gillies

Kinlochshiel v Caberfeidh

Iain Kennedy

Newtonmore v Lovat

Deek Cameron

## Mowi South Division 1

Aberdour v Glasgow MA

Ewan MacDonald

Kyles Athletic v Inveraray

Euan Pearson

## Mowi North Division 2

Inverness v Lochcarron

Martin MacLean

Strathspey v Kilmallie

Neil MacDonald - 1.30pm

Beaulx v Lewis

Ronnie Campbell

Boleskine v Strathglass

John Matheson

## Mowi South Division 2

Bute v Ardnamurchan

Lucy McNulty

Oban Celtic v Aberdour

Graham Fisher

All throw-ups 2.30pm, unless stated.

Stephen Sloss had Chrissie MacMillan free of suspension but a knee problem meant he started on the bench alongside Keith MacMillan and Ross Campbell.

Scott MacKillop remained out with a foot injury and Daniel Madej was not risked as he had a hamstring niggle.

Kinlochshiel manager Johnston Gill was content to allow Keith MacRae to continue his return from a serious knee injury with the club's second string. Defender David Falconer had a shoulder problem so he also missed out.

Kinlochshiel started towards the golf course end of Mossfield with the wind at their backs but the first chance of the match fell to Oban Camanachd after two minutes. Scott MacMillan played the ball to Daniel MacCuish who gave Andrew MacCuish the chance to shoot, but he was denied by a good save by Stuart MacRae who turned the ball away low to his right.

Lorne Dickie, Aidan MacIntyre and Scott MacMillan in the Oban Camanachd midfield struggled to get into top gear and, midway through the half, Oban Camanachd changed formation in attack from the traditional two-two to a three-one formation with Andrew MacCuish alone up top on the 'D'.

The hosts had a great chance to take the lead on 28 minutes when Daniel MacVicar was hacked down inside the 'D'. Referee Ross Brown awarded a penalty but Andrew MacCuish, who rarely misses from the spot, saw his effort go agonisingly wide of the keeper's left post.

Oban Camanachd got the goal they craved a couple of minutes before the break. Aidan MacIntyre sent the host's first corner of the match into the danger area but neither Daniel MacVicar nor Andrew MacCuish

could get on the end of it and the ball was turned away for another corner. This time McIntyre drifted the ball to the near post where a defender turned it away. Scott MacMillan ran in on the far side and shied the ball down into the net to give his side the lead.

Oban Camanachd manager Stephen Sloss asked more of his players at the break and the home side now had the wind in their favour.

Chances were few and far between, however, with most of the game now played out in the midfield.

Aidan MacIntyre sent a ball into the goal area on 63 minutes and, when Kinlochshiel failed to clear, Daniel MacVicar whipped a shot over the top so it remained 1-0.

Oban Camanachd made changes with youngster Ross Campbell coming on in attack where he went on to do well against Scottish international Connor Cormack.

Malcolm Clark, who did well as a make-shift half back, was replaced by Keith MacMillan.

With the match finely balanced, Kinlochshiel drew level on 71 minutes. Jordan Fraser, who was well policed by Garry Lord, got away from his marker and his shot from the angle on the left beat keeper Cameron Sutherland at his near post.

Oban Camanachd went back on the attack and a Daniel MacCuish shot fizzed wide on 78 minutes.

It was Kinlochshiel who produced a storming finish. Cameron Sutherland did well to use his hand to keep out Duncan Matheson's strike on 87 minutes.

Jordan Fraser crashed a shot over before Finlay MacRae's effort was parried with his legs by keeper Sutherland with a minute of regulation time remaining.



Oban Camanachd goal scorer Scott MacMillan in action against Kinlochshiel at Mossfield last Saturday.

Oban Camanachd's Daniel Cameron picked up a yellow card for persistent fouling which means he will miss his side's next match at Kingussie in early April.

Oban Camanachd assistant manager Kenny Wotherspoon said: 'We are aiming high this season so we're disappointed with another draw.'

'I think it will be a season where all teams in the league will drop points and no-one is going to win all their games.'

'We don't have a match this Saturday which is frustrating as the season has been stop-start so far.'

'On the plus side, it will give the players who are carrying injuries the chance to rest and recover.'

## Lochaber 1 Kilmallie 2

Kilmallie and Lochaber were scheduled to meet at Canal Parks but wet weather meant the fixture was reversed to Spean Bridge on Friday.

Kilmallie attackers Calum MacDougall and Bryan MacKay were added to the squad which beat Newtonmore on the opening day of the season with the latter starting on the bench.

Martin Stewart also returned and played at wing back. Key defenders Steven Stewart and Stephen McAlister were unavailable so Craig MacIsaac was pulled in at half back with Robbie McFadyen going to full back. Both were outstanding.

Lochaber have Calum MacDonald back in goals after missing most of last season through injury but they were without Martin Johnstone.

This was a very close match and Calum MacDonald made good saves in the first half.

Kilmallie's Liam MacDonald broke the deadlock on 57 minutes after a period of sustained pressure.

Lochaber came right back into it though with a Ben Delaney goal

a couple of minutes later. Calum MacDougall had a reasonably quiet afternoon by his standards. However, he proved to be the match-winner, finishing high into the top corner of the net on his back hand, with just 14 minutes to go.

Kilmallie manager John Stewart said: 'It was a very tough match. Lochaber keeper Calum MacDonald had some very good saves in the first half and you start to think it's not going to be your day.'

Liam [MacDonald] gave us the lead but, to be fair to Lochaber, they came right back at us and they levelled through Ben [Delaney] soon after.

'Calum [MacDougall] got us back in front and, thankfully, we held out. It's four points from two away games so we are delighted and it's great to finally have a home match, against Kyles Athletic, this week.'

## Newtonmore 1 Kingussie 3

Kingussie were 3-1 winners against Newtonmore in the first Badenoch derby of the season at the Eilan.

Newtonmore skipper Evan Menzies recovered sufficiently from injury to play at full forward but Glen MacKintosh was unavailable as he was on holiday. Steven Macdonald was free of a three-match suspension and started in defence.

Kingussie's Lee Bain was manager John Gibson's main concern and he missed out with a hamstring problem.

Kingussie won the corresponding fixture last season and took the lead after 19 minutes. Savio Gemini ran infield to just outside the penalty spot where he got onto a Fraser Munro hit-in from the right. The ball took a bounce and Gemini, who was afforded too much space, took a touch before firing the ball low into the net, beating keeper Kenny Ross



Newtonmore's Fraser MacKintosh and Kingussie's Calum Grant during last Saturday's Badenoch derby. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

# f the points

on his right. Newtonmore drew level on 25 minutes. Michael Russell played in a corner from the left which was cleared by Robert Mabon. Steven Macdonald played a great diagonal ball which went over Fraser Munro and Rory MacKeachan to Russell who remained on the left and took a touch before lifting the ball over the keeper and into the net to make it 1-1.

Kingussie lost Craig Dawson on 35 minutes after the keeper pulled his calf muscle when making a good save from Fraser MacKintosh, so Rory MacGregor took over in goal.

Kingussie went back in front on 64 minutes. Ruaraidh Anderson won possession in midfield following a Newtonmore goal hit. He found Savio Genini who quickly switched play to Roddy Young who shoulder-barged Rory Kennedy to the ground before lifting his head and steering a low driven shot between defender Steven Macdonald and keeper Kenny Ross and into the net.

Newtonmore pushed Steven Macdonald forward but did not get enough balls up to him to give them a chance of drawing level.

James Falconer sealed Kingussie's 3-1 win on 72 minutes. Another Fraser Munro hit-in from the right was gathered by Roddy Young who held off Rory Kennedy and crossed low from the right. Andy MacKintosh tried to get the ball away but it went straight to James Falconer who ran in and thumped the ball home on his back-hand.

## Caberfeidh 2 Lovat 8

League leaders Lovat finally ran out 8-2 winners against Caberfeidh at Castle Leod.

Caberfeidh defender Blair Morrison, who dislocated his shoulder playing football, was declared fit to start in attack.

Greg Matheson grabbed a hat-trick, including a penalty, with Martin Mainland, Fraser Heath, Lorne MacKay, Marc MacLachlan and Chris Johnson also scoring.

Kevin Bartlett scored twice for Caberfeidh, one a penalty.

## Kyles Athletic 3

### Inveraray 1

Kyles Athletic and Inveraray finally got their seasons under way but their match originally scheduled for Tighnabruaich was switched to Strachurmore because of an unplayable field.

John Whyte returned in goals for Kyles, so Innes MacDonald played outfield. There was also a place in the squad for former Newtonmore player Paul MacArthur.

Grant Irvine played his final match for Kyles ahead of a move to Jersey.

Kyles got off to a great start with Scott MacDonald scoring after two minutes.

Lewis MacNicol made it 1-1 on 19 minutes and that's the way it stayed until the break.

Scott MacDonald got his second on 59 minutes to put Kyles back in front and Ross MacRae made sure of the win, adding a third on 73 minutes to give new boss Dunky Kerr a winning start.

## Mowi National

### Division

#### Fort William 3

#### Skye Camanachd 2

Three goals in the final eight minutes gave Mowi National Division leaders Fort William a 3-2 win over title rivals Skye Camanachd at An Aird.

Skye started with the wind and looked dangerous up front so it was no surprise when they took the lead on 10 minutes through Will Cowie.

Fort William came back into it and after a lot of pressure; the inevitable goal came through Alexander MacMillan on 82 minutes.

Fort William were lifted by the goal, however, when Skye substitute Iain MacLellan found Will Cowie

Continued on page 68

## Results

### March 23

#### Mowi Premiership

Caberfeidh 2 v 8 Lovat  
Lochaber 1 v 2 Kilmallie  
Kyles Athletic 3 v 1 Inveraray  
Newtonmore 1 v 3 Kingussie  
Oban Caman 1 v 1 Kinlochshiel

#### Mowi National Division

Bute 0 v 0 Glasgow Mid Argyll  
Fort William 3 v 2 Skye  
Glenurquhart 9 v 0 Oban Celtic  
Strathglass P v P Beauly  
Due to bereavement

#### Mowi North Division 1

Kingussie 0 v 2 Caberfeidh  
Kinlochshiel P v P Inverness  
Unplayable field  
Lovat 2 v 2 Glengarry  
Skye P v P Fort William  
Unplayable field

#### Mowi South Division 1

Col Glen 2 v 0 Lochside Rovers  
Glasgow MA P v P Inveraray  
Inveraray unable to field a team  
Two points deducted and fixture re-scheduled  
Tayforth 3 v 3 Ballachulish  
Taynuilt 1 v 3 Aberdour

#### Mowi North Division 2

Beaulieu P v P Strathglass  
Due to bereavement  
Inverness 1 v 6 Lewis  
Boleskine 3 v 1 Kilmallie  
Lochcarron P v P Strathspey  
Unplayable field

#### Mowi South Division 2

Aberdour 3 v 0 Bute  
Kilmory P v P Glenorchy  
Oban Celtic 4 v 3 Ardnamurchan

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You may hand it into any of our offices - The Oban Times, Lochavullin, Oban; The Lochaber Times, High Street, Fort William; The Campbeltown Courier, Main Street, Campbeltown; The Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead or the Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

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competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the

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The two entries who got nearest the ball and each receive £25 are:

**K Elder**

**Oban**

**J D MacVean**  
**Lochgilphead**

**Continued from page 67**

with a nicely weighted pass, Cowie struck a brilliant shot from distance which gave the keeper no chance and Skye led 2-1 with five minutes remaining. Skye might have thought they had done enough to win the game but Fort William had other ideas.

Fort William won the ball in the middle of the park and when they played it forward, Lachie Shaw levelled with a nice finish inside the 'D' and it was now 2-2 with three minutes remaining.

At that point, a draw seemed a fair result but, with a minute remaining, Skye keeper Ryan Morrison pulled off a really good save but the rebound fell to Padraig McNeil tapped in to win the game.

The victory means Fort William stay top of the league with three wins from three matches. The sides meet again this Saturday in the first round of the cottage.com MacTavish Cup, this time in Portree.

**Glenurquhart 9****Oban Celtic 0**

Glenurquhart were too strong for Oban Celtic, winning 9-0 in their 3pm throw-up at Blairbeg.

Glenurquhart, who played premiership shinty last season, are looking good for a quick return under new co-managers Stuart MacKintosh and Eddie Tembo.

It was an apprehensive Oban Celtic squad which travelled north as their absences included the suspended Ross MacMillan and injured Neil Carmichael as well as Ally McKerracher, Andy MacDonald, Lee Askew and keeper David Martin. Jack Hill took over in goal, where he made some fine saves, whilst boss Dougie MacIntyre and his assistant Les Kinvig were the only substitutes.

The visitors included three 16-year-olds and 14-year-old John Douglas who again played well at half forward

and on the wing. Oban Celtic tried hard throughout the game but the Glenurquhart forward line played some sharp, cutting shinty and Neale Reid on three minutes and James MacPherson on 14 minutes gave them the early lead.

When referee Bryan MacKay awarded the hosts a penalty on 21 minutes, James MacPherson stepped up to get his second.

A second from Neale Reid on 29 minutes and Connor Golabek a couple of minutes later made it 5-0 at the break.

The pattern of play continued towards the Oban Celtic goal and Connor Golabek got his second on 61 minutes.

Ewan Brady chipped in with a brace on 69 and 75 minutes meaning all four Glenurquhart forwards had found the net.

James MacPherson completed his hat-trick a couple of minutes from time to round off the 9-0 win. Glenurquhart have scored 12 goals without reply in their opening two league matches.

After the match, Oban Celtic assistant manager Les Kinvig said: 'We were definitely up against it today but this is a work in progress and the game shows the boys what they need to work at. We had a young side out today. There were also six under 14s and an under 16 in our second team, so there is a big picture at play.'

Elsewhere, Bute and Glasgow Mid Argyll drew 0-0 at the Meadows, whilst the match between Strathglass and Beauly was postponed following the sudden death of Strathglass player Lawrence Jones.



**A tussle in the Lochaber goal mouth as Michael Rodger tries to break through the defence.** Photograph Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

start and took the lead after seven minutes following a free-hit just outside the 'D' after one of the visiting forwards had been fouled. The ball was played into the 'D' and Nick Dalgety popped up amidst the swinging camans to poke the ball over the line.

The visitors almost doubled their lead when, following some good passing movement in the forward line, Andrew Gilchrist found Nick Dalgety who shrugged off his marker before shooting wide of the post.

Both keepers - Ronan MacMillan for Lovat and Glengarry's Gordon MacDonald - made good saves and Glengarry took their 1-0 lead into the break.

Glengarry went 2-0 ahead four minutes into the second half when Steven Cameron and Nick Dalgety combined and Dalgety whipped a 20 yard shot into the bottom corner of the net.

League leaders Lovat had been relatively quiet in the match but started stringing passes together with Ryan Ferguson taking a grip of the midfield. When referee John Angus Gillies awarded the hosts a free-hit outside the

'D' on 57 minutes, Raymond Rennie hovered around the ball before flicking it over the Glengarry defence, finding Cammy MacMillan, who drilled the ball past the keeper at his left post.

Glengarry created a couple of chances to restore their two-goal advantage and Nick Dalgety was denied a hat-trick by Lovat keeper Ronan MacMillan.

Lovat rescued a point with seven minutes remaining when Finlay Ogilvie scored his third goal in two games. A long Ryan Ferguson free-hit from the middle of the park found Raymond Rennie 15 yards from goal. Rennie turned his marker but his low, hard shot was saved by Gordon MacDonald. However, the ball rebounded out to the on-rushing Finlay Ogilvie who slotted the ball past the keeper and his third goal in two games made it 2-2.

Both teams played well in stages and a draw was probably a fair result.

Lovat's Ryan Ferguson played well in midfield against Steven Cameron, whilst Bailey MacKay had a strong second half battle with Nick Dalgety.

Skipper Rhuaireadh MacDonald and Nick Dalgety were the pick of the Glengarry players, along with veteran Steven Cameron.

Elsewhere, the Caberfeidh seconds beat the Kingussie seconds 2-0 and Inverness were 6-0 winners against the Kinlochshiel seconds.

The meeting between the Skye Camanachd and Fort William second teams was called off on Saturday morning.



**Fort William's Sean Cameron clears his lines during the game against Skye.**

Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

going down 2-0 against Col Glen at Glendaruel.

This was a tough game played on difficult surface which didn't suit the Oban side.

Col Glen took the lead on 10 minutes with Willie MacVicar scoring. Lochside looked for offside but referee Graham Fisher waved away their claims.

Scott Buchanan played in goals for Lochside which allowed boss Brian MacCallum to join 13-year-old Innes Jackson on the bench. Early injuries to Lewis Buchanan and Jordan Kerr meant both had to come on sooner than expected.

Lochside had chances in the opening period but they fell further behind a couple of minutes before the break when Iain Wilson scored from the edge off the box, sending the ball through a ruck of bodies and into the bottom corner of Scott Buchanan's goal.

The second half was end-to-end with plenty tough tackling all over the park.

Lochside were awarded a penalty with around 15 minutes to go and although Brian MacCallum struck the ball well enough, Col Glen keeper Ewen Harrison produced a fine save.

Afterwards Brian MacCallum said: 'With young Ross Campbell with the first team and a number of players unavailable, this was always going to be hard for us but there was a fantastic effort from the squad.'

'Former Strachur player Alan Paterson, who has returned to Lochside after years away, put in a great performance and he was our man of the match.'

**Taynuilt 1 Aberdour 3**

Aberdour came from a goal down to beat Taynuilt 3-1 at Taynuilt Sports Field.

Aberdour travelled with a strong squad despite being without Craig Grant who served the second match of a two-game ban.

This was a game of two halves with Taynuilt making a strong start to the match.

It was no surprise when Taynuilt took the lead on 14 minutes through David Campbell.

The hosts could have been further ahead at the break, had it not been for a terrific penalty save from visiting keeper Craig Callaghan.

Aberdour looked a different prospect after the restart and when a loose ball broke to Alec Mitchell on 52 minutes, he levelled with a fine strike.

The goal lifted Aberdour but Taynuilt never gave up.

Aberdour caught Taynuilt on the counter attack with 20 minutes remaining. David MacKenzie and David

McDougal were instrumental before the ball was slipped to Alec Mitchell who gave the keeper no chance.

Aberdour grabbed a crucial third goal on 76 minutes when Ruaraidh Reid held the ball up well before scoring.

Taynuilt kept pressing but Aberdour, with John Martin Phillips catching the eye, took both points.

Tayforth and Ballachulish shared the points following a 3-3 draw at Peffermill. The Inveraray second team were unable to raise a team for their match against the Glasgow Mid Argyll seconds at Yoker. Inveraray were deducted two points and the fixture will be re-scheduled.

**Mowi North****Division 2****Boleskine 3 Kilmallie 1**

All the goals came in the second half as Boleskine beat the Kilmallie colts 3-1 at Smith Park.

Kilmallie took the lead on 56 minutes through Kyle Michie.

Duncan MacPherson equalised on the hour and Neil Hope on 75 minutes and Ross Anderson five minutes from time gave Boleskine their first win of the season.

Elsewhere, a dominant first half performance helped Lewis Camanachd to a 7-1 victory over the Inverness seconds in their 1pm throw-up at the Bugt Park outside pitch.

The match between the Beauly and Strathglass second teams at Braeview Park will be re-scheduled. Lochcarron's clash with Strathspey Camanachd was postponed.

**Mowi South****Division 2****Oban Celtic 4****Ardnamurchan 3**

A late, late show gave the Oban Celtic second team their first win of the season as they overcame Ardnamurchan 4-3 at Ganavan.

Freddie Patterson on 28 minutes and Simon Patterson on 32 minutes had Ardnamurchan 2-0 ahead.

Scott Burnett pulled a goal back on 38 minutes but the visitors took a 3-1 advantage into the break when Sean MacLellan found the net with a couple of first half minutes remaining.

The Oban side were left to reflect on what might have been as they hit the post and missed a penalty during the opening 45 minutes.

Scott Burnett got his second to make it 3-2 on 51 minutes and that's the way it stayed until a couple of minutes from time.

**Mowi South****Division 1****Col Glen 2****Lochside Rovers 0**

Lochside Rovers suffered their first defeat of the season,

William MacEwan drew the home side level on 89 minutes and, not content with that, Scott Burnett completed his hat-trick 60 seconds later to make it 4-3 for Oban Celtic and leave Ardnamurchan shell-shocked.

Elsewhere, the Aberdour reserves scored three times in the last 13 minutes to beat the Bute reserves 3-0 at Silversands, whilst the game between Kilmory and Glenorchy at MacRae Park was postponed.

## WCA round-up

The spotlight fell on the Women's Camanachd Association top flight this weekend.

## Mowi National

### Division

#### Aberdour 0 Badenoch 1

Badenoch made it two wins out of two with a narrow 1-0 win over Aberdour at Silversands.

Rhona McIntyre got the only goal of the game.

#### Glenurquhart 0

#### Skye Camanachd 13

Skye Camanachd Ladies recorded their first win of the season, defeating newly-promoted Glenurquhart 13-0 in their Mowi National Division match at Blairbeg.

Lorna MacRae and Sarah Corrigall grabbed four goals each, whilst Jenna Beaton and Abby MacLean bagged doubles. Ilana Paterson got the other.

#### Glasgow Mid Argyll 7

#### Ardnamurchan 0

Glasgow Mid Argyll beat Ardnamurchan 7-0 at Yoker.

## Sutherland Cup

### Draw

The draw for 2019 Sutherland Cup competition was made at the Camanachd Association Office, Inverness, on Wednesday March 20.

#### First round

#### Saturday April 6

Strathglass v Aberdour

SCOTS Camanachd v

Boleskine

Skye Camanachd v

Kilmallie

Kingussie v

Lewis Camanachd

Lovat v Fort William

Strathspey Camanachd v

Kilmory

Kinlochshiel v Inverness

Lochcarron v Glenurquhart

Newtonmore v Glenorchy

Byes

Inveraray

Lochside Rovers

Kyles Athletic

Caberfeidh

Glasgow Mid Argyll

Ballachulish

Beaul



Kyles Athletic's Grant Irvine and Inveraray's Garry MacPherson chase for the ball. This was Grant's last game for Kyles before heading off for a new life in Jersey.

Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

#### Second round

#### Saturday May 4

Newtonmore/Glenorchy v

Kinlochshiel/Inverness

Inveraray v Lochcarron/

Glenurquhart

Skye Camanachd/Kilmallie

v Lochside Rovers

Beaul v Ballachulish

Glasgow Mid Argyll v

Lovat/Fort William

SCOTS Camanachd/

Boleskine v Kingussie/

Lewis Camanachd

Caberfeidh v Strathglass/

Aberdour

Strathspey/Kilmory v

Kyles Athletic

The Sutherland Cup Final

takes place on Saturday July 20, with the venue still to be announced.

## GYMNASICS

# Rockfield win primary school gymnastics competition

Rockfield pupils tumbled their way to the top of the primary schools gymnastics competition at Oban High School last Wednesday.

Rockfield 3 were crowned best team in the Active Schools event, with Park 1 second.

The best male gymnast was Daniel Craik, with Aidan Lawrie runner up.

The best female gymnast was Caristina McAloon, with Nicola Morrison second.

Daniel Craik also had the highest score on the vault for the boys with Nicola Morrison second.

Active Schools co-ordinator Gillian Walker said: 'It's a great day for the children to showcase their gymnastic skills. It's great to see how they have improved and to see what they can do.'

Following their own performances, primary pupils watched the high school students perform a complex dance routine.

Gillian said she is trying to encourage gymnastics in the area, but is short of coaches.

She is asking for anyone interested in coaching to get in touch.

Training will be given.



Medal winners at the primary school gymnastics competition. 17\_t13\_Gymnastics01

## Martial arts

### IAIN RODGER

editor@obantimes.co.uk

## SPORT 69



### Kyokushinkai Karate

The end of March is the start of the club's 'closed' period where no new starters are taken on to allow those already there to focus on the techniques required for the summer grading test. The next intake will be after that test in mid-June.

For further information on the Oban Kyokushinkai Karate club, contact Iain Rodger (6th dan) on 07584 166542 or iain@ikk.co.uk. Alternatively, message Caledonia Kyokushin on Facebook.



Mateusz Grabiec in action at the Scottish Grappling Invitational in Glasgow.



Dawid Lo, bottom, lost to a referee's decision.

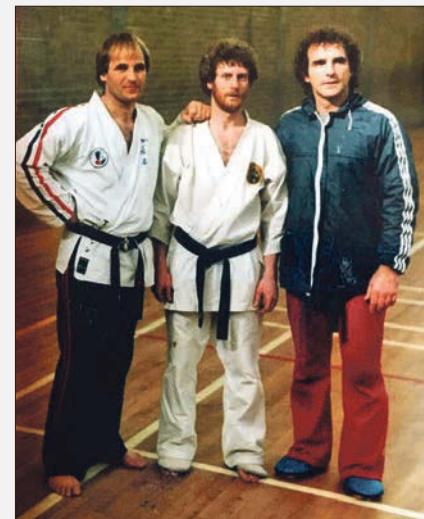
### Shukokai Karate

Nicky Connolly, the first man to teach martial arts in Argyll, started training in karate in 1972. When he started Argyll Shukokai Karate in Inveraray, during the early part of 1979, he was living in Glasgow and travelling up to teach three times a week. At that time, he was training in Kobe Osaka Dojo as a brown belt with Tommy Morris. Later that year he received his black belt and opened a club in Lochgilphead. He moved from Glasgow to Inveraray and opened clubs in Oban, Tarbert and Dunoon.

Over the years, hundreds of students have passed through the doors of his clubs from all over Argyll. Nicky now holds the grade of 5th Dan and lives and teaches in Spain.

Club instructor Kenny Gray said: 'All the current instructors thank Nicky for all the skills and knowledge he has passed down to us over the years. Argyll Shukokai is still going strong with clubs in Inveraray, Oban and Dalmally.'

Anyone interested in joining those clubs should contact Kenny Gray on 07884 183905.



Left to right: Ticky Donovan, Nicky Connolly and Dominique Valera.

### BJJ & MMA

Oban BJJ recently travelled to Maryhill in Glasgow to take part in the 4th Scottish grappling invitational.

The team of four took part in individual matches against some of the best BJJ athletes in the UK.

Callum Weir won his match with a loop choke in under three minutes. Dawid Lo lost to a referee's decision after he and his

opponent could not get the submission in the ten minute time slot. Pawel Sczezina lost to a far more experienced opponent, though defended well before tapping to an arm bar. Lastly, Mateusz Grabiec dominated his opponent before submitting him with a bow and arrow choke to secure the win.

Coach Coogie Potter said: 'This was a premier event in front of a large crowd and was a well-run, excellent show. The club has been lucky enough to have been asked to put more athletes forward to the next event in May.'

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

At the end of February we had our new year grading at Dunbeg for a variety of belts grades. Several students achieved their new belts and are to be congratulated. They were:

David Isaac - Blue Belt;  
Ben Cooper - Orange Belt;  
Rachael Faulkner - Green Belt;  
Nathan Isaac - Yellow Belt  
and the club's youngest student Ondra, just recently six years old - Yellow Belt.  
There is a further grading for five of the Park Primary School students in the coming week.

Classes continue as normal at Dunbeg Primary School on Tuesday nights 6.30pm to 8.30pm and at Park for under 11s on Mondays at 3.30pm.

If you would like more information about Wado Karate or if you would like to talk about your interest in the sport contact:

Park School: Mike Faulkner m.faulkner6@btinternet.com

Dunbeg School: Sensei Chris Bruce (7th Dan) at crb999@btinternet.com

OT

## ATHLETICS



The winning Rockfield primary pupils.

17\_T13\_PrimaryAthletics01

**Rockfield run out winners**

Following on from the success of their gymnasts the previous day, pupils at Rockfield ran out winners at the primary schools' athletics competition on Thursday.

The event is run in partnership between Active Schools and Atlantis Leisure.

It features teams from Rockfield, Park, Taynuilt, Dunbeg, St Columba's, Lochnell and Dalmally.

Gillian Walker, Active Schools co-ordinator, said: 'It was good to see all the schools coming together to compete in a high standard competition. I am very proud of all the children who have trained and put on today's event and I love the partnership working with Atlantis.'

Kevin Keen, sports co-ordinator at Atlantis Leisure, said: 'Every year the level of athletics gets better. It is nice to see the teachers get so involved emotionally.'

'The level of sportsmanship was fantastic again, as it is every year. I would like to give a special thanks to this year's high school volunteers, who have been fantastic.'

**GOLF****Robert's in the driving seat**

Oban European Tour golfer Robert MacIntyre receives the keys to a new Kia Sportage from David Cooper MD of Arnold Clark Finance Ltd as part of a new partnership deal.

**SCOTTISH AMATUER FL RESULTS AND FIXTURES****Results and fixtures**

Last Saturday's results: Premier Division – Alba Thistle 1, Oban Saints 0; Premier Division One – FC Argyle 3, Campbeltown Pupils 3; Lochgilphead Red Star 2, Claremont 1; Premier Division Two – Tarbert 0, Houston United 4.

This Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division – Oban Saints, no game; Premier Division One – Kings Park Rangers v Campbeltown Pupils; Lochgilphead Red Star v Easthall Star. Jimmy Marshall Cup – Motherwell Thistle v Tarbert.

**OBAN SAINTS' YOUTHS****Results and fixtures**

Last Sunday's fixtures: St Patricks SA 10 v Under 13s 0. Under 14s 11 v Carmunnock 3. Scoring for Saints were Kyle Cooper (6), Ruairidh Buchanan, Lewis Campbell, Craig Rankine, Ross MacKay and Matthew Pollock. Under 15s 3, Shettleston 5. On target for Saints were Ross Higgins, Innes MacDonald and William MacEwan. BSC Glasgow 3 v Under 16s 1. Connor Moore was the Saints' goalscorer

This Sunday's fixtures: Under 13s v St Patrick's SA; Helensburgh v Under 14s; Under 15s v St Patrick's SA; Greenock United v Under 16s.

# Alba win battle of the semi-finalists

Alba Thistle	1
Oban Saints	0
SAFL Premier Division	

A wind assisted free-kick from Alba Thistle dead-ball expert Craig McCready was all that could separate Scottish Amateur Cup semi-finalists Alba Thistle and West of Scotland Amateur Cup semi-finalists Oban Saints at Ralston Sports Centre last Saturday afternoon.



Alba's Craig McCready nets the only goal of the game.

Unluckily for Saints, the Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division encounter was decided in the 13th minute when McCready's whipped free-kick from wide on the left looped over Graham Douglas into the postage stamp corner for the only goal of an evenly contested encounter.

Oban Saints management duo Donald Campbell and Willie Gemmell were dealt a blow when Lewis

Cameron failed to shrug off the injury sustained in the previous weekend's victory over Cambria and was forced to withdraw from the squad leaving the travelling party a man light.

**Rash challenge**

Alba opened the scoring in the 13th minute after a rash challenge from Steven MacLeod on Basile Deshouges wide on the Alba left gave dead-ball expert Craig McCready the chance

to put the ball in the danger area. Assisted by the strong wind, McCready's delivery caught Graham Douglas off his line waiting for a cross and left the Saints keeper clawing at thin air as the ball sailed over him and into the postage stamp corner to give the hosts the lead.

From a 25th minute Matthew Kelly free-kick on the Saints right, Cammy Hill powered a header on target from 10 yards which Mitchell showed lightning quick reactions to dive to his right and push over his crossbar for a corner kick.

Mitchell's reactions were put to the test once again in the 36th minute when he thrust up a strong right hand to turn another Cammy Hill effort from a tight angle around his near post for a corner kick.

Saints kicked off the second half defending the striking art deco-style pavilion end and made a positive start keeping the home side pinned

## Comfortable win for Oban Lorne

Oban Lorne	69
Paisley	5
Tennent's West Division 2	

Last weekend Oban welcomed Paisley Rugby Club to Glencruitten for the Green Machine's last fixture in West Division 2 this season.

Oban were looking to finish the season on a high following the emphatic victory in last week's game.

Oban started the game well and could not have got off to a better start when Lorne MacLachlan scored the first try after five minutes. This try was converted by Ferg McCoss, who took over the kicking duties in place of Carmichael, to put Oban 7-0 ahead.

Paisley were well organised and brought play deep into the Oban 22 but some resolute defending from the men in green kept them out.

Oban's next try came on 10 minutes when Stanley Lister dived over the line after Calum MacLachlan had made an acrobatic offload as he broke off the tail of a driven lineout. McCoss was on target again with the

conversion to extend the lead to 14 points.

Craig Wright was next to get his name on the scoreboard capping a stellar season with yet another try.

It was a fantastic season by the speedy full back, who has revelled in the space offered to him.

Next up was Calum MacLachlan who continued his try-scoring feats of the last few weeks with another trademark bullocking run.

The final score of the half came from Ferg McCoss whose footwork and speed mesmerised the opposition defence allowing him to cross in the corner to extend the Oban lead to 29 points at the end of the first half.

Calum MacLachlan scored his second try of the day five minutes into the second half when he latched onto a fantastic pass and burst through two or three attempted tackles to score another great try.

Oban made a couple of changes with Andy MacDougall replacing Lorne Sinclair, David McLaughlin replacing Calum Murray.

McLaughlin was to have an immediate impact on the game when he took a great

line to scythe through the visitors' defence.

Oban were rampant and the visitors were struggling to cope with the pace and power of the Oban attack.

Captain Iwan Roberts was next to score for Oban with another well taken try after some great link up play between forwards and backs. He accelerated through the gap to cap a fantastic first season as captain of the club. McCoss added the extras to extend the lead to 48-0.

Vice-captain Stephen Povey was not to be outdone and also capped a good performance with an outstanding try!

With 30 minutes to go, Oban emptied the bench with Alex Houston replacing James Divers on the wing and a welcome return for Crawford Brown who replaced Stephen Povey.

Fergus McCoss scored another cracking try and added the conversion to extend the Oban lead to 62 points.

Calum MacLachlan was to complete his hat-trick with 10 minutes of the game to play and keep up an incredible run of form on his return from injury. Again McCoss

**RUGBY**

converted to bring the score to Oban 69, Paisley 0.

With time running down Paisley threw one last concerted effort to get some points on the board, and they were rewarded with a try when, after a number of penalties, they got deep into the Oban danger zone and managed to build phase after phase before eventually crossing for a consolation try.

This was to be the final score of the game and bring the curtain down a fantastic season for Oban, a rebuilding job completed on the team and a number of young players stepping up. And with more to come, the future looks promising for the Green Machine.

After the game the players had a fancy dress themed charity night collecting donations around the town for Mary's Meals which raised £1,000.

The coaching team now look ahead to a game against Lochaber for the Fred Riley trophy. The season will finish with an FPs match on April 27 when a team of former pupils will challenge the 1st XV.



Cammy Hill gets another header on target. Match report and photos: Derek Black

back for the opening five minutes.

That bright start was almost undone from another Craig McCready free-kick after Steven McLeod had been penalised for a foul on Paul Kerr. McCready's delivery was met by a spectacular overhead kick by Martin Sinclair which came back off the post and was turned behind by Scott Maitland with Rikki McArthur waiting to pounce.

Saints made a double substitution in the 64th minute, replacing Daniel Croarkin and James Ford with Willie Gemmell and David Beaton. Gemmell's first contribution was to place a free-kick from the Saints left onto the head of Craig MacEwan eight yards out who made a solid contact but unfortunately couldn't direct his effort on

target. There was a loud appeal for a penalty kick in the 74th minute when Cammy Hill skipped past Gordon Meredith on the bye-line and the Alba captain appeared to use an arm to turn the ball behind. Referee Pat O'Donnell was satisfied no infringement had taken place and was content to award a corner kick.

#### Tight angle

David Beaton's delivery from the corner flag was good, however Martin Sinclair put Jamie Graham under just enough pressure at the back post to prevent the Saints full back from getting his header from a tight angle on target.

David Beaton sent over another dangerous ball from the corner flag in the 80th minute which Lee Mitchell somehow managed to claw off his goal line under severe pressure

from Dene Cassells. Saints must surely have realised that this just wasn't going to be their day when Lee Mitchell's punch from another good David Beaton corner kick was volleyed on target by Willie Gemmell only to be stopped 12 inches short of the goal line by Steven MacLeod who couldn't get himself out of the way in time.

Saints huffed and puffed their way through the time remaining plus the five additional minutes allowed by referee O'Donnell but failed

to threaten the miserly Alba defence who were delighted to extend their clean sheet tally to seven in a row and leapfrog Saints into second place in the Premier Division table.

Saints have no fixture this coming Saturday but will resume on Saturday April 6 with a home Jimmy Marshall Trophy second round tie against Premier Division One leaders Port Glasgow. Kick-off at Glencruitten is 2pm.

#### West of Scotland Cup – semi-final **OBAN SAINTS v SHORTLEES** New Douglas Park, Hamilton, Saturday April 13 – kick-off 2pm

The club hope to run a bus to the game.  
For seat details, contact  
Willie Gemmell or David Buchanan.

## Sixth win in a row for Oban men

Oban	9
Clydesdale 5s	0
West District Division 3	

The Oban men's hockey team made the journey to Helensburgh last weekend to take on a young but well drilled Clydesdale side.

Some of the regulars were unavailable so there were a few changes to the starting formation with several players in new positions: Stuart Head playing in goals, George Gauley playing in centre-mid defence and Matt playing as striker. Despite the changes, Oban put on one of their best displays of passing and team work this season, with great play up the wings and goals being created right from the 16m line.

Theo Andrews continued to add to his goal tally with three superb goals (two back sticks from the edge of the D), George Gauley clinched his first of the season, Andrew Hodge scored two and Asher Petit scored two (one penalty flick).

Jensen Binnie and Zeph Petit continued their good form on the wings, sending plenty of good balls to the

base line. Lorne Binnie and Ryan Jones were excellent at the back with a solid defensive effort and good return of the ball up the wings.

This weekend's MOTM was Gavin Yates for some great distribution of balls from the back. A big thank you to Donald Histead for umpiring.

The Oban team have shown great form over the previous games with this one being the sixth consecutive win in the West Division 3.

However, the team face one of their biggest challenges of the season this coming weekend when they take on the league leaders Anchor

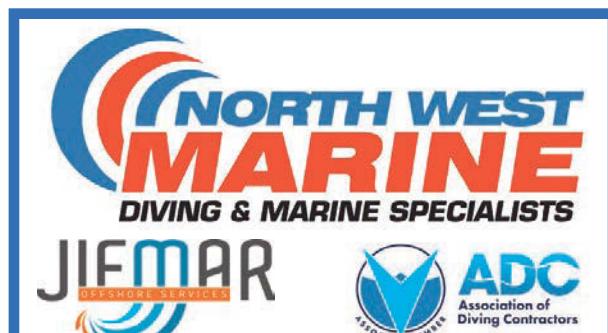
#### HOCKEY

from Paisley.

New players (male, female, teens and older) of all abilities always welcome to the Oban club's training sessions at the Oban High School Astro pitches, Thursday evenings from 6.30-8pm.



Oban Blue Brazil (P7s), soon to be an Oban Saints team when they go to Oban High School after the summer holidays, recently received tracksuits from the Floorshop for a trip to Newcastle for training at the Newcastle United's academy, as well as a stadium tour and to watch a game. The players, parents and coaches would like to say a big thank you to the Floorshop for their generous sponsorship of the tracksuits. Pictured with the children is the Floorshop's Paul Kerr, a former Oban Saints stalwart.



#### SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES

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Web: [www.northwestmarine.co.uk](http://www.northwestmarine.co.uk)



#### WEATHER

**Thursday**  
Light cloud and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C.

**Friday**  
Light rain and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 5°C to 10°C.

#### Weekend Outlook

**Saturday**  
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze  
**Sunday**  
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 3°C to 9°C.



**FRIDAY**

#### TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday March 21, 2019** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>Thur</b>	04.52	1.5	10.19	2.7
	17.29	1.7	23.20	2.8
<b>Fri</b>	05.58	1.8	12.16	2.5
	18.46	1.9	**.**	**
<b>Sat</b>	01.36	2.8	07.33	1.9
	15.33	2.7	20.35	1.8
<b>Sun</b>	02.54	3.0	09.25	1.8
	16.04	2.9	21.40	1.6
<b>Mon</b>	03.39	3.2	10.12	1.5
	16.11	3.1	22.23	1.3
<b>Tues</b>	04.15	3.4	10.47	1.3
	16.35	3.3	22.58	1.1
<b>Wed</b>	04.50	3.6	11.17	1.1
	17.06	3.5	23.29	1.0

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	<b>-5.35</b>	Mallaig	<b>+0.25</b>
Campbeltown	<b>-5.30</b>	Portree	<b>+0.55</b>
Crinan	<b>-0.47</b>	Tobermory	<b>+0.16</b>
Islay Port Ellen	<b>2.00</b>	Dover	<b>+5.30</b>
Lochboisdale	<b>+0.30</b>		

#### 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:

Alba win battle  
of the semi-  
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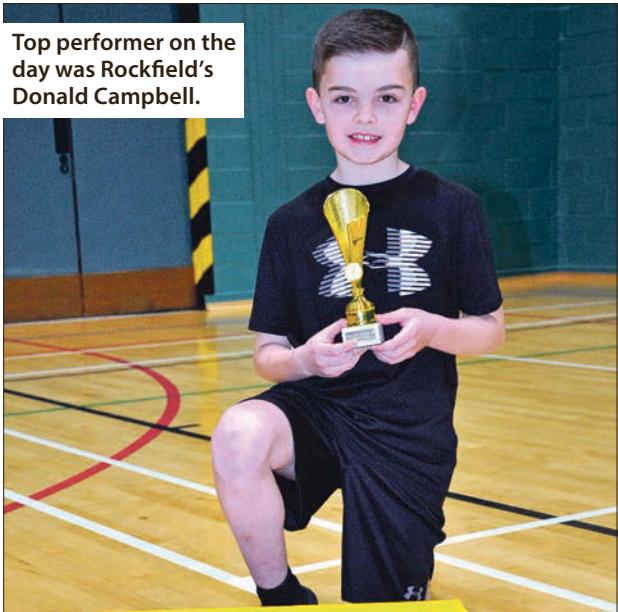
# Young Donald is a record breaker

There was an entry of just over 90 young athletes at the Argyll final of Sports Hall Athletics held at Atlantis Leisure in Oban last Sunday. The final was the last in a series of five competitions held in Argyll over the winter months promoted by Mid Argyll Athletics Club.

After over four hours of intense competition, four Argyll age records were broken and one equalled. Young athletes from the Oban area dominated in the boys' events while in the girls' events, the honours were shared between Kintyre, Mull, Mid Argyll and Oban.

The top performance of the day in the boys' events was by Donald Campbell from Rockfield Primary who was the under-nines champion, winning all seven events with

Top performer on the day was Rockfield's Donald Campbell.



some style. Donald excelled in the running events and set a new Argyll age record in the four-lap race recording 57.8 seconds improving on the old record set back in 2007 by a fifth of a second. Donald had earlier set a new age record in the speed bounce event with 77 jumps in 30 seconds, adding three jumps to the existing record. Duncan Hunt from Lochnell Primary was runner-up in this age group and Joe Hill from Park was third overall.

James Muir from Rockfield was the under-11 champion ahead of Jack Green from Dalintober in Campbeltown. James won four events including the two-lap race in 24.6 seconds, close to the Argyll age record. Jack Green won the triple jump and in the same group Logan Gibson



Prize-winners at the Sports Hall Athletics final held at Atlantis Leisure last Sunday.

from Salen Primary won the high jump and secured third place overall. Rufus Hughes from Rockfield was fourth overall thanks to a win in the long jump.

Jacques Coates from Park won the under-13 contest, with Oliver Reid from Campbeltown runner-up. Murray MacDonald from Lochgilphead and Rhys Millar from Rockfield tied on points for third place. Jacques won the two-lap, four-lap and speed bounce. Murray impressed in winning the high, long and triple jumps in addition to the shot putt.

Quinn Soames from Bunessan on Mull was the under-sevens champion winning the javelin and the two running events. Quinn set a new Argyll age record in the four-lap event recording 63.9 seconds improving the record by over a second. Ruairidh Charnock from Lochgilphead was runner-up and won the long jump and placed second to Quinn in the four-lap in 64.5 seconds also inside the old record

time. Charley Gilchrist from Dalintober was third overall in this age category thanks to a win in the triple jump.

The under-11 girls contest was the most competitive and of a high standard with only two points between first and second overall.

Kirstie Renton from Castlehill primary in Campbeltown was the champion ahead of Ellen MacRae from Salen on Mull.

Kirstie won the javelin and speed bounce with an excellent 79 jumps and placed second in four other events scoring 26 points.

Ellen dominated in the running events setting a new age record in the two-lap with 24.7 seconds almost half a second under the old record. Ellen later won the four-lap, this time equalling the record of 54.5 seconds. Ellen also won the long and triple jumps and placed second in the high jump which was won by Eleanor Dale from Ardrishaig who cleared 1.23 metres on her last attempt.

Castlehill Primary provided

the winner of the under-13s in the shape of Violet Campbell who won five events including an impressive 53.8 seconds in the four-lap race. Violet also won the two-lap race, shot putt and both the long and triple jumps. Runner-up Evie Kellett from Salen won the speed bounce and Ruby Jo Phillips from Lochgilphead won the high jump.

Eilidh Cameron from Inveraray was the under-15 champion just ahead of Amy Gibson from Bunessan and Izzy Crawford from Furnace. Eilidh won both running events and the speed bounce. Amy won all three jumps including a 1.40 metres clearance in the high jump. Izzy won the shot putt, throwing 6.38 metres.

Jamie MacIntyre from Rockfield won the javelin and both the long and triple jumps to secure the under-sevens title ahead of two girls from Castlehill, Emma Johnston and Eleyna McEachran. Eleyna dominated in the running events with her winning time of 65.2 seconds

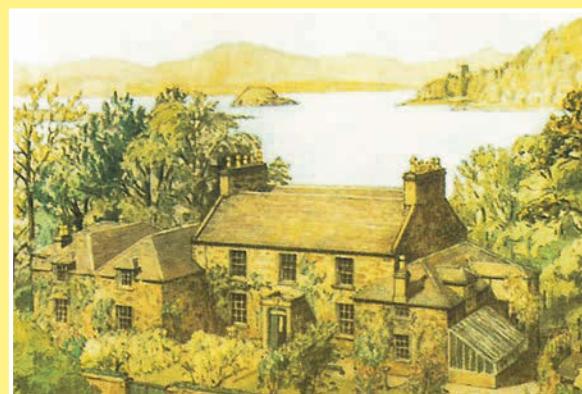
## ATHLETICS

in the four-lap only a fifth of a second off the age record.

Palmo Jones from Bunessan was the under-nines winner ahead of another Mull girl Erin Greig from Salen. Winning the long, triple and high jumps ensured the title for Palmo while Erin won the speed bounce and placed highly in another five events.

Isla Muir from Rockfield was third overall thanks to wins in the two-lap and javelin. Esmee Bain from Ardrishaig won the four-lap race in this age group.

The organisers wish to thank all the young athletes and parents for supporting all the local competitions and the Argyll Final last Sunday. Special thanks to the families from Mull and Kintyre for making the long journeys to Oban for the final.



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# Joy as Glenfinnan speed limit is slashed to 40mph

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

Glenfinnan residents were overjoyed today to learn that bosses at Transport Scotland have agreed to cut the 60mph speed limit on the A830 trunk road near the tiny village's two world-famous tourist attractions and install a pedestrian crossing.

More than 300,000 tourists flocked to Glenfinnan last year via the A830 to see the iconic viaduct, which featured in the Harry Potter films, as well as the monument honouring fallen Jacobite clansmen.

But because the Glenfinnan

monument does not have its own car park, visitors must also walk along and cross the A830 – which currently has a national 60mph limit – to access the historic site.

There have also been safety concerns for local children who must also wait at the side of the busy trunk road for their school bus pick-up.

Along with Glenfinnan Community Council, local MSP Kate Forbes has been

pressing the case for a reduction on safety grounds for months.

News of the speed limit reduction and the installation of a controlled pedestrian crossing was confirmed to Ms Forbes in a letter from Transport Scotland earlier this week.

Ms Forbes commented: 'This is the latest step in making visitor access to Glenfinnan easier, safer and more welcoming.'

'For almost two years, the local community had been developing ideas for car parking and finally secured funding through the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund.

'During this time, they have also been campaigning for a lower speed limit at the crossing place to the monument.'

'After a lot of correspondence, a few meetings and continued pressure, I am delighted to see that Transport Scotland has agreed to lower the speed limit.'

'It's another example of community campaigning and sheer determination paying off.'

Transport Scotland expects the new road speed limit of 40mph to be advertised in May.

The transport authority told Ms Forbes a survey identified the number of people crossing the A830 was sufficient to merit a controlled pedestrian crossing and this meant a 40mph speed limit needed to be introduced to meet design standards for such crossings.

Fiona Gibson, secretary of Glenfinnan Community Council, told us: 'Glenfinnan Community Council is very pleased that Transport Scotland plans a 40mph speed limit and a controlled pedestrian crossing point on the A830 by the National Trust for Scotland visitor centre.'

'The village receives ever increasing numbers of visitors from all over the world and their safety as well as local road users' has been a long-standing item on our agenda.'

**HAVE YOUR SAY**  
email us at [fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)



## Lochaber Music Festival hits right note

The 45th Lochaber Music Festival, which came to a close last Thursday, proved yet again what a wealth of musical talent the area boasts. Among the stars were Chloe Reynolds and Jake Sessions, pictured receiving their trophies and £50 cheques as Lochaber Young Musicians of the Year from Rotarian Terry Lee. See full coverage on pages six and seven. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.



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# Councillors claim lack of ferry consultation

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Rises in the cost of living, including the recent increase in Corran Ferry fares, are endangering the survival of small rural communities such as Acharacle.

That was the view of Joanne Matheson and other members of Acharacle Community Council (ACC), who are furious over the decision by Highland Council to hike up ferry fares by three per cent with what they claim was virtually no consultation with community councils.

Chairman of ACC David Ogg said although Highland Council has repeatedly stated its desire to work more closely with communities, there was a failure to do so in this instance.

'Here we have a perfect opportunity for them to have discussed the issue with all



**There is lingering anger over the decision by Highland Council to increase Corran Ferry fares.**

of the relevant community councils and they failed to do so,' claimed Mr Ogg.

At a recent meeting, the community council agreed a statement, which has since been sent to the chief executive of the local authority,

expressing 'dismay' over the fares increase and the alleged lack of consultation.

The councillors acknowledged the support of the area's Highland councillors Andrew Baxter and Niall McLean in opposing the

increase. ACC said it understood the budgetary pressure faced by Highland Council, but said it was disappointed the local authority 'chose not to engage with Lochaber community councils in any way at all' over the issue and believed Highland Council had 'behaved shamefully'.

'We understand the current budget pressures, but people would have been a lot less angry about the completely unexpected imposition of these fare increases if Highland Council had discussed the issue with community councils beforehand,' said the community council.

The plan to include a three per cent increase in ferry fares for the next three years only came to light shortly before Highland councillors agreed the 2019/20 budget.

Ms Matheson added: 'Highland Council has identified the Corran Ferry as a

lifeline service, which means it acknowledges it is essential for those of us living nearby.'

'It is unacceptable it continues to increase the cost of living in this particular community, when it knows perfectly well the increasing cost of living in small remote communities is endangering their survival.'

Mr Ogg concluded: 'I've been involved with all sorts of discussions about the future of the Corran Ferry over recent years and have no doubt those discussions will continue for some time to come.'

'I am incredibly disappointed that Highland Council has failed to follow through with its stated aim of increasing community consultation.'

'It appears to be paying lip-service to local democracy and is showing no signs of being willing to engage in proper discussions.'

## Council withdraws objection to Blar Mhor plan

Kilmallie Community Council (KCC) has withdrawn its objection to plans to build a science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) centre at a site just outside Fort William.

Members initially lodged a formal objection against plans relating to the overall development at Blar Mhor, which comprised West Highland College UHI's new STEM centre, along with Highland Council's plans for a housing scheme and a replacement Belford Hospital.

However, after deciding the crux of their concerns did not relate directly to the STEM centre, KCC members voted to withdraw this part of the objection.

They did, however, uphold its objection to the rest of the Blar Mhor development, which is the responsibility of Highland Council.

KCC is objecting to the council's plans for failing adequately to address environmental issues, including peat removal and transport routes.

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Rhona Grant and Kevin and Janet Hickman hand the objections in to the Highland Council's Inverness headquarters.

## More than 200 object to Fort housing plan

More than 200 objections to plans for as many as 325 new houses on land bordering the slopes of Cow Hill, Fort William, were handed into Highland Council headquarters in Inverness this week.

Many residents of nearby Upper Achintore are up in arms over Link Housing's application for planning permission in principle.

And there have been claims there have only been

two, poorly advertised, public consultations.

Residents Rhona Grant and Kevin and Janet Hickman handed in 216 signed objections to the proposed development.

### Detrimental

Mr Hickman told the Lochaber Times: 'The 216 objectors are residents of Upper Achintore and some visitors who all think building the scheme on the slopes of Cow Hill is impractical

and detrimental to the environment and flora and fauna of this area.

'They are also unhappy about possible flooding risks to those who live in the shadow of the proposed scheme.'

'Everyone is generally in favour of building new houses, but not on this site on the slopes of Cow Hill.'

The deadline for objections is today (Thursday March 28).

# Fort librarian receives police bravery award

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

A woman who ensured her workplace was cleared of the public and colleagues after a man placed a handgun in front of a member of staff has been presented with a bravery award.

Sandra MacLean, 63, who worked at the time as a supervisor at Fort William Library, ensured the building was cleared, then entered the library again by herself after police had been contacted.

She checked the man was still sitting where he had been last seen working on a computer and discreetly checked no-one else remained in the building before leaving through the rear door.

Sandra then left the relative safety of the rear car park and went to front of the building



where she locked the front doors, ensuring no-one could enter and, just as importantly, that the man could not leave that way either. Sandra also provided a detailed description of the man's appearance

to police officers who arrived to take control of the situation.

The man, then aged 26, was subsequently jailed for 18 months in connection with the incident on May 25 2017.



The presentation party acknowledge Sandra's bravery.

## School rankings show 'incomplete picture'

The quality of secondary education in Lochaber has been defended by councillors and head teachers after three schools ranked poorly in the latest Scottish league tables published last week.

Statistics for 339 high schools in the country were released last week by the Scottish Government. They were analysed and collated into a league table by The Times newspaper.

Lochaber High School was the highest ranked school in the region at 222 out of 339 in Scotland, while Mallaig and Kinlochleven were ranked at 276 and 277 respectively.

Ardnamurchan High School did not feature in the league tables.

Plockton High School, also in the Highland Council re-

gion, was ranked at 53, while four other Highland schools finished in the top 100.

Councillor Andrew Baxter, former chairman of Highland Council's education committee, said the rankings are based on 'a very crude benchmark' and do not compare like with like.

'These league tables can provide an incomplete picture that unnecessarily alarms parents, diminishes the amazing achievements of our young people and demoralises our hard-working staff. We shouldn't be complacent and we must continue to improve school standards but let's do that using our teachers rather than relying on league tables.'

Despite ranking lowest in Lochaber, Kinlochleven High School has produced

the best Higher results in the area – something which head teacher Rebecca Machin felt was not reflected in the rankings. She feels the figures are taken out of context.

'In Lochaber, we have small schools with small school rolls, therefore our placings in rankings, such as those recently published in The Times, will fluctuate far more than larger schools,' she said.

'For example, in a year group of 25 pupils, one pupil equates to four per cent. Also, figures such as the ones in this league reflect only the number of our leavers who attained five Highers, and this represents just a part of what we do here.'

'So I don't compare our results to those of other schools.'

**Highlands and Islands divisional commander Chief Superintendent George Macdonald presents Sandra with her award.**

officers for how they handled the situation when they arrived.'

Sandra was presented with her Police Public Bravery Award earlier this week by Highlands and Islands divisional commander Chief Superintendent George Macdonald.

The handgun proved to be a replica.

Sandra said: 'I am very grateful to Police Scotland for the award. In many ways I don't feel like I deserve an award but that in no way diminishes my gratitude for it.'

'What I did at the time didn't feel especially brave. It was simply the obvious thing to do, to make sure the library was clear of people and that no-one else could get in.'

'Receiving the award put that whole day into perspective with the wider police investigation and I thank the

He said: 'Sandra's calm and professional response to an undeniably frightening situation helped ensure the immediate safety of the public and her staff.'

'Her initial actions also prevented the incident from escalating and allowed police to bring the situation to a swift conclusion on arrival without creating any wider risk to the public.'

'She deserves a lot of credit for her response and I was delighted to present her with this award to recognise the bravery of her actions.'

## Macmillan gives £54,900 to cancer sufferers

People in the Highlands with cancer who were in financial hardship last year were given grants totalling £54,900 by Macmillan Cancer Support.

Around £39,330 in Macmillan grants helped people to pay for heating or clothing, as having cancer can mean you feel the cold more or may be spending more time at home between treatments. Approximately £2,935 was given to those who were struggling to cover the cost of travelling to and from their appointments with costs that could not be reclaimed through their hospital. The grants also covered other essentials such as beds, chairs, kitchen appliances and washing machines.

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## School on hunt for camping gear

This year Lochaber High School has seen an increase in the number of pupils participating in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Due to this, the school is looking for any donations of camping equipment.

Anything that people may have lying around and is in reasonable condition, such as two or three-person tents, rucksacks, sleeping mats, etc, will be gratefully received.

To help, contact the school or its Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/LochaberHighSchool/](http://www.facebook.com/LochaberHighSchool/)

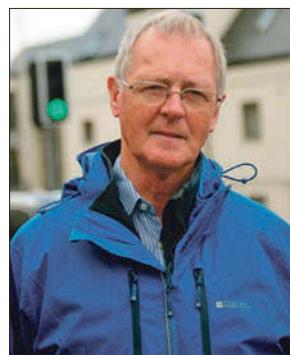
## MSP speaks out on interconnector

Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron has put pressure on regulator Ofgem to reconsider its recommendation to restrict the capacity of the proposed Western Isles interconnector to 450mw.

Mr Cameron spoke after meeting community representatives in Stornoway on Monday.

# Council approves Glen Etive hydro schemes

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



Highland councillors approved plans for three hydro schemes in Glen Etive last Wednesday (March 29), taking the total number of schemes to be built in the iconic glen to seven.

Four of Dickins Hydro Ltd's seven run-of-river hydro applications were granted planning permission by Highland councillors last month. However, the three remaining schemes – those situated within the designated Wild Land Area – were referred back to the full council for review after public backlash.

At a special meeting in Inverness, councillors had their final say on the matter, approving all three of the Wild Land Area Schemes.

Campaign group Save Glen Etive, which helped to amass 12,000 signatories to

a petition for the schemes to be rejected, said it was 'hugely disappointed' by the council's decision.

'A precedent is surely now set for other developments in our "protected" landscapes,' the group stated.

Glen Etive is currently designated as a National Scenic Area, while some of the hydro schemes fall within a protected Wild Land Areas in the glen. This prompted Lochaber councillor Andrew

'If this attitude was to prevail...would we have ever have had the Glenfinnan Viaduct or all these magnificent crossings in the Highlands?'

### Councillor Allan Henderson

Baxter to successfully request for a review of these applications.

At the meeting last Wednesday, Mr Baxter refused to support the three schemes due to the 'unacceptable and unjustified impact' on the designated wild area.

'Wild land is nationally important,' he told councillors. 'The installation of these man-made structures, both the concrete intake weirs and the substantial access tracks,

in my mind have significant and permanent impact on the area that cannot be satisfactorily mitigated or reinstated.'

Scottish Natural Heritage was also criticised by Councillor Baxter for allowing the construction of the schemes within the Wild Land Areas in Glen Etive.

'I am staggered that it continually remains mute on this subject, on the very Wild Land Areas that it created,' he added.

Fellow Lochaber councillor Allan Henderson approved the applications and pointed out that the glen was 'hardly pristine land' with large areas already well used for heavy industry, citing the former puffer pier and forestry extraction areas as examples.

'Even although I love the glen as much as any other, and the fact the river will be largely unaffected, I have no

difficulties supporting the applications.'

Mr Henderson continued: 'If this attitude was to prevail from all the people opposing the scheme, would we have ever have had the Glenfinnan Viaduct or all these magnificent crossings of the ravines in the Highlands?'

'We cannot carry on without some form of change.'

Stuart Younie, chief executive officer of Mountaineering Scotland, said he hoped the decision did not set a 'dangerous' precedent.

Similarly the John Muir Trust expressed its disappointment at the decision and warned that Scotland's wild places were 'being diminished in pursuit of private profit.'

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## Acharacle shellfish firm fined for failure over paperwork

A court has heard how a tip-off to Highland Council in November 2016 led to a multi-agency investigation into an Acharacle-based shellfish company.

As a result of the probe, GC Shellfish Ltd, of Newton Cottage, Newton, Acharacle, was fined £2,400 at Fort William Sheriff Court on Monday after it admitted handling winkles and cockles between April 8 and November 15, 2016, at Newton, without the required documentation.

The total amount of cockles and winkles involved was 603kg, for which the pickers were paid £1,453. The molluscs had then been sold for £3,284 – a difference of £1,831.

Procurator fiscal Martina Eastwood said the company, which employs five people and was represented in court by sole director Gordon Cameron, 50, had failed to fill in the triplicate paperwork needed.

'The investigation saw invoice books seized which contained evidence that cockles and winkles had been gathered by other people,' Mrs Eastwood told the court.

'The essence of the two

charges is that the company did not have the necessary documentation which should have accompanied the shellfish.'

A plea of not guilty to a charge of acting as a gangmaster and 'facilitating people to labour, and to supply transport and equipment and have workers sell the company shellfish for onward sale all while unlicensed to do so' was accepted by the Crown.

Further pleas of not guilty to charges involving placing bivalve molluscs from unclassified waters on the market for human consumption; and to putting on the market molluscs from waters not classified as safe to do so, were also accepted by the Crown.

Defence agent Alan Gravelle told the court the long-running case had been both complex and novel. 'But what we are left with now are two administration charges as a result of the company taking possession of a product without documentation,' he said.

'The key is the triplicate documentation system – the pickers are supposed to have documents from which they keep a copy, lodge a copy

with Highland Council and a third copy remains with the product.'

Mr Gravelle added that the company had not traded in cockles and winkles since the contraventions came to light.

'Following extensive inquiries for the preparation of this case and investigations with the pickers, there was no issue of either Mr Cameron or the company acting as a gangmaster and this was accepted by the Crown and that there had been no harm to any consumer. These were the two most serious of the charges. The two charges we are left with are due to bad administration more than anything else.'

'In the two and a half years since the investigation started, there have been no further offences – and there were none before either.'

The court heard the firm had been dealing in cockles and mussels since 2016 but had now diversified into other shellfish such as velvet crabs and lobster.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald told Cameron, as a representative of GC Shellfish Ltd, that the rules were in place for a reason.



Firefighters rushed to the scene of the blaze which swept through the property in Invergarry on Monday March 18. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

# Appeal raises thousands for couple following Invergarry blaze

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A crowdfunding appeal set up to help an Invergarry couple who lost everything, including their two pet dogs, in a house fire last week, quickly outstripped its initial target and now stands at more than £4,000.

Jane Mills – who may be better known to many in the Fort William and Onich areas as Jane Alexander – and her husband, Callum, were at work on Monday March 18 when firefighters were alerted to reports of a blaze at their two-storey home in Garry Crescent.

Three fire appliances rushed to the scene and brought the fire under control and extinguished it.

Tragically, however, pet dogs Scampy and Rogie had already lost their lives to what is believed to have been the effects of smoke inhalation.

It was one of Mrs Mills' three sons, Robert MacNeill, who set up the crowdfunding page and the fantastic sum was raised by 120 people on just one day – including an anonymous donation of £1,000.

Mr MacNeill, 27, who works as a personal trainer in Glasgow, said the fire had left his mum and stepdad with

nothing: 'Everything from the attic down to the foundations was destroyed – even personal items, including my mum's jewellery, are gone,' he told the Lochaber Times.

Mrs Mills works as an HGV driver and was in Oban when she was alerted to the fire and returned home as soon as she could. Mr Mills also received a phonecall about the blaze.

'It seems it was workmen who noticed the fire first and alerted the fire service. They were aware there were dogs inside and had knocked the door in but it was too late by then as the dogs had already passed away,' continued Mr MacNeill.

'To say my mum is heartbroken is a complete understatement. Losing your home, memories, family history and all belongings is one thing to come to terms with.'

'But to also suffer the loss of your pets is unimaginable. My mum is absolutely inconsolable about the dogs – Scampy was a rescue dog about 10 years old, while Rogie was just three.'

Mr MacNeill, who has two brothers, said he started the crowdfunding appeal more in the hope it would give his mum a lift if she saw messages of support and he said that he had not expected it to have raised so much money

so quickly. It's amazing and people have been so generous. It has given us all a real boost to see all the messages of support,' he told the Lochaber Times.

The property in Garry Crescent was a private rental, and Mr and Mrs Mills are now staying at a friend's caravan at Onich.

'They had been at the house in Invergarry for five years and my brothers and I had all stayed there for periods in recent years, whenever we needed a base for a while.'

'There are lots of good memories for my family from that house, so it has hit us all hard.'

'My mum and stepdad are now looking for another property to rent, anywhere from Glencoe to Fort William and Invergarry really, so if any of your readers knows of a house that would be suitable that would be a big help.'

'My mum is too private and proud to ask for help, but I feel completely helpless and want to do something to help her.'

'The house is a complete shell and she has been left with nothing but the clothes she went to work in.'

Donations to help the couple can be made at: [www.gofundme.com/a-local-family-in-need](http://www.gofundme.com/a-local-family-in-need)

## Siege of Fort William next subject for society

The Siege of Fort William took place in 1746 lasting some two weeks – and will be recognised again on Thursday April 4 at the last meeting of the season of Lochaber Local History Society.

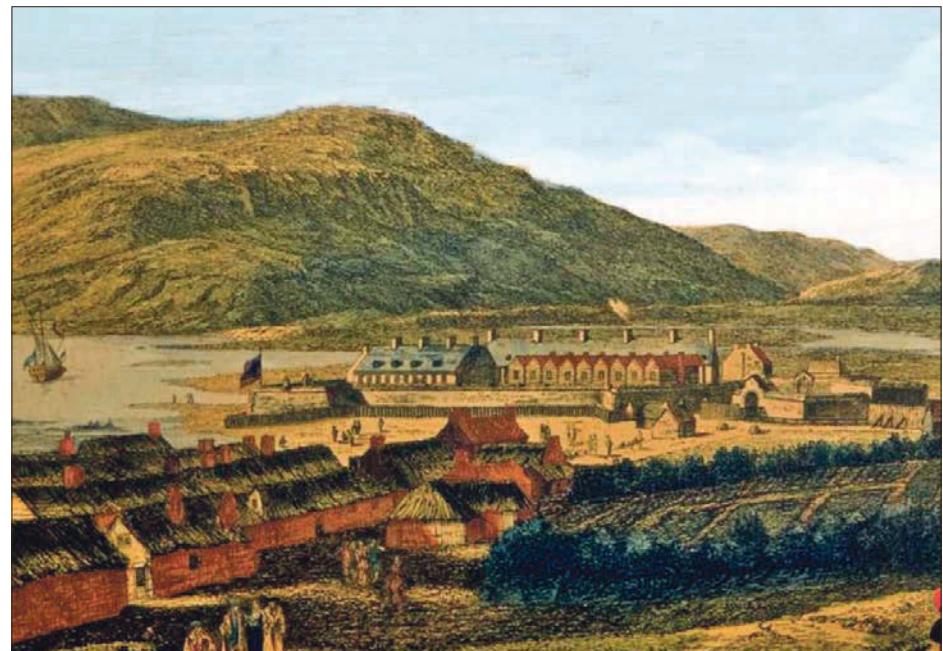
The siege was finally raised on April 3, 1746, when the Jacobites drifted away toward Inverness to join the main

army. Iain Rose, a local historian and teacher, has collected from the Stuart Papers at Windsor and other sources the original letters which exchanged news and orders between the government forces and independently some Jacobite sources which follow the siege as it evolved.

The ideas and the angst in these letters will be spoken by a cast of seven, led by Iain who will narrate the event.

This evening will offer a unique opportunity to understand the deliberations and doubts of those involved.

All are welcome at the Ben Nevis Hotel at 8pm on Thursday April 4.



The fort at Fort William at the time of the Jacobite Rising in 1745.

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This page from top left: A'Hooligan played at the final concert; Digby Dodman of Banavie Primary School was first in the brass solos elementary; Molly Cameron won the Premier Instrumental Award; brother and sister Rocco and Lila Berardelli took home a trophy each; Cameron MacIsaac won the John Tague Memorial Trophy; and Anja Inkson won the premier adult vocal award.

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- Maureen McSherry Memorial Cup, Lily Jane Robertson.
- DCB Maitland Memorial Quaich for Miscellaneous Vocal Groups, Songbirds.
- Margaret Cairns Rosebowl for Solo Piano (Secondary/ Open), Sophie Rand.
- Margaret Rankin Memorial Trophy for Scottish Country Dancing (18 and under), RSCDS Lochaber
- Lochaber Music School Junior Trophy for String Solo (Under 8), Lily Cant.
- Rosemary Galer Trophy for Solo Violin or Viola (Primary), Nia Read.
- Lochaber Music School Primary Trophy for Solo Cello\ Double Bass (Primary), Elodie Place.
- Lochaber Music School Secondary Trophy for Solo Violin\Viola (Secondary), Lily Bloom.
- Jean Cameron Cup for Solo Cello (Secondary Age), Josie Bloom.
- Russell String Duets Trophy for String Duets, Tilly MacDonald, Clare Reynolds, Ben McGregor, Jenny Abell.
- Elizabeth Findlay Memorial

Trophy for Scots Violin Solo (Age 17 & Under), Seonaidh MacDonald.

- Isobel MacPhee Quaich for Violin Solo – Scots, Anna Robertson.
- Lochaber Strathspey & Reel Society Trophy for Fiddle Group (Under 18), Na' Fidhearn og.
- Chamber Music Groups Trophy for Strings, LMS Cello Quintet.
- The Thomson Trophy for String Ensembles\Orchestras, LMS Senior String Orchestra, Moyra M MacGregor
- Memorial Trophy for Woodwind Solo (Intermediate/ Advanced), Molly Cameron.
- Millennium Woodwind Trophy for Woodwind Solo (Most Potential), Shona Knight.
- Silver Jubilee Trophy for Group Music Making, Invergarry Primary 4-7, Inverlochy Primary Band, Spean Bridge Primary 4.
- J.R.G. Bruce Trophy for Brass (Beginner/Elementary), Lennard Baak.
- John Whyte Trophy for Brass Solo (Intermediate/Advanced), Elspeth Murray.
- Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy for Woodwind or Brass Ensembles, Slide Power.
- Lydia Jackson Trophy for Clarsach Solo, Lily Bloom.
- Lochaber Cup for Chanter (Age 10 & Under), Jamie Smith.
- William MacLeod Trophy for Chanter Solo (11 and over), Zoe Sinclair.
- David MacGregor Cup for

# Curtain call for Lochaber Music

The 45th Lochaber Music Festival ended on a high note with a closing concert at Lochaber High School, writes Neill Bo Finlayson.

The Lochaber High School Pipers' Quartet and Cameron MacIsaac (who was a contender for the Premier Traditional Award on his accordion) book-ended a lively and varied selection of speech, dancing and musical items from this year's classes, as well as the presentation of trophies last Thursday.

The festival was very well supported this year, with entries for Scots piano, Scottish country dancing and adult classes especially welcomed by the organisers.

Festival chairwoman Catherine Cameron said: 'In this area, we are extremely fortunate to retain our music education during these financially-challenging times – and we hope that, with the support of our sponsors, we can continue to celebrate Lochaber's performing talents annually for another 45 years.'

- John MacKintosh Trophy for Solo Piano (Beginners\ Elementary), Aisling Flavin.
  - Mary MacPherson Memorial Trophy for Action Dramatised Song, Invergarry Primary 1-3.
  - Maureen McSherry Memorial Cup, Lily Jane Robertson.
  - DCB Maitland Memorial Quaich for Miscellaneous Vocal Groups, Songbirds.
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  - David MacGregor Cup for



This page from top left: Caol Primary School country dancers won the Kilmallie Country Dance Club Trophy for endeavour; Caol Primary School choir; trophy winners and friends Chloe Reynolds, left, and Lila Berardelli; and Lochaber pipers Ronnie McIntosh, Jamie Smith, Laura Robertson and Andrew Orr with their trophy haul.

# Our 45th Music Festival

Bagpipe Solo (Intermediate),  
Natalie Byrne.

■ Archie Kennedy Memorial  
Trophy for Bagpipe Solo (Age  
15 and under – March), Laura  
Robertson.

■ Alexander MacDonald  
Trophy for Bagpipe Solo (Age 15  
and under – Strathspey & Reel),  
Andrew Orr.

■ James Grace Memorial  
Trophy for Bagpipe Solo (Age 16  
to 18), Ben Fulford.

■ Evan MacRae Trophy for  
Bagpipe Solo (Piobaireachd –  
1st Year), Andrew Orr.

■ Lochaber Piping Society  
Trophy for Bagpipe Solo  
(Piobaireachd – 2nd Year),  
Ronnie McIntosh.

■ John MacCallum Memo-  
rial Trophy for Bagpipe Solo  
(Piobaireachd – Senior), Laura  
Robertson.

■ Lochaber Pipe Band Trophy  
for Bagpipe Solo (Jig – 18 and  
under), Laura Robertson.

■ Alec MacDonald Memorial  
Trophy for Bagpipe Quartet  
(18 and under), Lochaber High  
Pipers.

■ John Tague Memorial  
Trophy for Accordion, Cameron  
MacIsaac.

■ Val Howland – Cairney  
Trophy for Solo Verse (age eight  
and under), Rocco Berardelli.

■ Solo Verse Speaking  
Trophy (age nine and 10), Osian  
Bellshaw.

■ Caol Community Council

Shield for Solo Verse Speaking  
(11 and over), Lila Berardelli.

■ Marshall & Pearson Trophy  
for Choral Verse, Lundavra  
Primary 7.

■ Bible Awards for Bible  
Reading, Charleigh Adams.

■ Church Guilds' Trophy for  
bible reading (Primary 1-3),  
Charleigh Adams.

■ Lochaber Burns Club Trophy  
for Burn's Poetry, Victoria  
Golebiowska, Fraser Lindsay.

■ Lochaber Burns Club  
awards, Chloe Reynolds.

■ Lochaber Young Musician  
of the Year Junior Trophy, Chloe  
Reynolds.

■ Lochaber Young Musician  
of the Year Senior Trophy, Jake  
Sessions.

■ Premier Scots Traditional  
Award, Laura Robertson.

■ Premier Junior Vocal Award,  
Lily Jane Robertson.

■ Premier Adult Vocal Award,  
Anja Inkson.

■ Premier Instrumental,  
Award, Molly Cameron.

■ John MacDonald Memorial  
Trophy for Choirs (primary age),  
Coisir ban Sgoil Gaelic.

■ Kilmallie Country Dance  
Club Trophy for Endeavour (age  
18 and under), Caol Primary

■ David C.B. Maitland Award  
for Piano (Sonata, Scots and  
Duets), Robert Gosling, Kirsty  
Ball.

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## Fort activist calls for citizens' climate assemblies to be set up

If Highland Council was to declare a climate emergency, as has been urged by members of the Fort William branch of the Extinction Rebellion (XR) campaign group, the first thing it should do is be publicly honest and open about what is happening to the climate and the ecosystem, and what will happen if it isn't treated as an emergency.

So said Andrew Squire, a co-ordinating member of the Fort William group. His remarks came after the Lochaber Times reported last week how he and his fellow climate campaigners were calling on Highland Council to take action and declare the climate emergency.

"This isn't just about reducing single use plastics and getting councillors to drive electric cars in order to do a bit better with Highland Council's own carbon foot-

print," said Mr Squire.

"This is about helping to prevent catastrophic changes to weather patterns, mass species extinction, failure of food supplies across the planet, societal breakdown.

The second part is to re-prioritise its [Highland Council's] current budgets, and to press the Scottish and UK governments for more funding, to enable the Highlands to become truly carbon neutral by 2025.

Achieving that target will involve some difficult and unpopular choices, which is why politicians are so nervous about taking the necessary steps. That is also why XR wants citizens' assemblies to be set up, comprising a representative cross section of the population, thoroughly informed, to consider the real options and to steer the politicians in the best direction for the Highlands."

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A senior Lochaber councillor has vented his fury over the amount of litter strewn along the verges of both the A82 and A830 trunk roads and says it is not just tourists who are to blame but local people as well.

Councillor Allan Henderson (Caol and Mallaig) told the Lochaber Times this week that the more he travelled on the A82, north and south, and the A830, the more he realised the mess being made of the countryside by discarded rubbish.

"This mess and despoiling of the land is something that the council cannot be blamed for. It is as if some people have an irresistible urge to muck up the countryside," he said.

"Schools do an excellent job educating our youngsters how



Litter strewn along the side of the A830 at Fort William this week. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

to separate waste into usable recyclables and landfill waste, and generally youngsters understand the requirement to keep our planet clean for future generations.

"As has been quoted often, we only borrow our planet from our children or even grandchildren."

And Mr Henderson pointed out that people needed to be aware that as from January 1, 2021, no municipal waste would be allowed to go to landfill in Scotland.

He continued: "I hear the argument that there are not enough bins but that is difficult to accept when a length of road from Fort Augustus to Inverness – on Loch Ness side

– which was fortunate to get about 40 bins through a Zero Waste Scotland initiative, is still a tip, with waste littering the road all the way, except the villages of Invermoriston and Drumnadrochit.

The other argument is that it is the council's job to keep the sides of main roads

tidy and clean – that may be so – but why should it be unnecessarily exacerbated?"

And he said if council workers had to be redeployed to pick up litter, it meant they were not tackling other issues such as mending potholes, gully cleaning, maintaining footpaths and so on.

"Ask yourself, is it fair to dump that fag end, sweet paper, plastic bottle or coffee container at an inappropriate site? We cannot blame tourists either as I am commenting on the state of our verges in winter.

"It is obvious that enforcement and fines are not working, so let us try instead to reward ourselves with the comforting feeling that it is not me to blame.

"Why not speak about the mess to your friends directly, or start campaigns to clean up our gorgeous countryside by using social media sites, or by not depositing it in the first instance?

"We do live in a beautiful part of the world, so please let us keep it that way."

## 'Land monopolies' cause damage to communities

An investigation into land ownership in Scotland has found that the 'irresponsible exercise of power' by landowners is harming communities.

The Scottish Land Commission report, published last week, found that in many parts of the country 'land monopolies' over social, economic and decision-making power has hampered economic development and caused serious and long-term harm to communities.

It highlighted that some 'vindictive' landowners also use their power and connections to intimidate tenants and 'create a culture of fear' on their estates.

The report also said the current law provided very little protection.

More than 400 people, from landowners and land manag-

ers to community representatives and individuals, gave evidence to the independent investigation with the highest amount of responses relating to the Highlands.



The report stated: 'Although many, perhaps most, landowners do behave responsibly, this research has identified strong evidence that harmful concentrations of power in relation to land do exist and

appear to be causing significant and long-term damage to the communities affected.'

Although this 'abuse of power' was attributed to individual landowners' behaviour, the report said that the ability to misuse power is created by the system in which they operate.

Speaking about the report, Hamish Trench, CEO of The Scottish Land Commission, said that concerns about concentrated land ownership had 'long been central' to the Scottish land reform debate.

The evidence we have collected shows clearly that it is the concentration of power associated with land ownership, rather than necessarily the scale of landholding, that has a significant impact on the public interest, for example in relation to economic opportunities, housing and

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## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER



As March turns to April, there's a feeling of spring time change in the air at Lochaber Chamber.

Recently appointed chief executive Frazer Coupland has now been in post for almost three months and is already forging ahead with an innovative new management approach to increase staff wellbeing and redesign the way the chamber works with its members.

Based on the management craze sweeping the global business world, the 'firal loop' approach aims to transform the workplace into an environment that is entirely free from buzz-words, and expressly prohibits staff from using popular acronyms and management jargon across all communication channels, including in office chat.



Call the chamber on 01397 705 765 or visit [www.lochaber-chamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaber-chamber.co.uk)

There will be no more blue-sky thinking, deliverables, touch-points, thanks in advance email sign-offs, customer journeys and roadmaps. There will be an immediate end to drilling down, getting ducks in a row, reinventing the wheel, thinking outside the box, game-changing, giving 110 per cent, going forward, incentivising, 'capturing' data, liaising or touching base.

Fortunately training and support is available through the 'firal' Loop Foundation to help staff who struggle to adapt to a jargon-free work life.

The approach also requires staff to take their shoes off at the door for increased circulation of positive energy or 'chi' in the workplace so if you are due to pop into the office, please be aware that there may be a slight odour while we manage this transition to the new office style!

If members would like to learn more about applying the techniques in their own workplace, please give your friendly Chamber team a call between 9am and noon on Monday.

## MSP Cameron welcomes £100m pothole proposal

Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron has welcomed a proposal by the Scottish Conservatives to create a £100million Pothole Action Fund believing it is something his region desperately needs.



Mr Cameron said the condition of some of the region's roads was deplorable and will worsen if nothing is done to improve them. 'A report issued today [March 21] by Audit Scotland on local government funding in Scotland

makes it quite clear that councils in the Highlands and Islands will look in vain to the SNP Government for assistance,' he said. 'In the last five years, council funding for the Western Isles has been cut by more than 15 per cent, followed closely by Shetland at 14 per cent and Argyll and Bute at 13 per cent.'

'This is simply devastating for our island communities and means the local authorities are struggling to deliver even the most basic of services.'

'This long-term under-investment is undercutting the Highlands and Islands' economy and costing councils a fortune in compensation for car owners.'

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## e long-term es, report warns

community development. 'Good management can, of course, reduce the risks associated with the concentration of power and decision making, but the evidence shows that adverse impacts are causing significant detriment to the communities affected.'

In light of the report, the commission has made a series of recommendations to Scottish Government ministers, including a public interest test for significant land transfers, the requirement for a land management plan for estates and a statutory land rights and responsibilities review.

Sarah-Jane Laing, executive director of Scottish Land and Estates (SLE), the representative body for landowners and rural businesses, said the land reform debate must reflect the contribution of

land-based business to the economy.

'We are deeply concerned that the report still sees landownership rather than land use as the prime route to dealing with issues being faced by communities. Nor does the report adequately reflect the positive and substantial contribution made by rural businesses.'

She continued: 'We also want to see more detailed and compelling examples to support the report's claim that concentrated landownership is damaging fragile communities.'

Community Land Scotland, on the other hand, welcomed the commission's recommendations and described monopoly landowner power as 'an affront to a modern, democratic and socially progressive Scotland'.

LT

# Fort top-up tap turned on for thirsty walkers

by Mark Entwistle  
markentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Legendary mountaineer and broadcaster Cameron McNeish was on hand last week to help officially open the new Top Up Tap now installed at the Fort William end of the West Highland Way.

The new public tap was installed by Scottish Water as part of a nationwide roll-out, with a second new tap unveiled in Milngavie, in East Dunbartonshire, so thirsty walkers can now stay hydrated at both ends of the 96-mile route – the most walked long-distance route in Scotland.

Scottish Water's Your Water Your Life campaign aims to encourage more people to drink tap water on the go to benefit their hydration levels, save money and

protect the planet by using refillable bottles.

Mr McNeish was joined by members of the Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team in helping draw the first water from the tap.

'People walking routes of any length need to stay hydrated and it's vital that they ensure they have plenty of water to enable their bodies to cope with the demands of walks like the West Highland Way,' he said.

'It's also important that walkers do all they can to ensure they use refillable bottles to help reduce plastic waste and protect the environment.'

'Top Up Taps at either end of the route mean walkers don't need to fill up bottles at home or at other locations nearby. It means they don't have to carry plastic bottles, reducing the risk of litter.'

'So the taps will make things

very convenient for them at the start and finish of the route.'

Gavin Steel, corporate affairs manager north with Scottish Water, added: 'It's fantastic to be able to bring two of our taps to the north and south ends of the iconic West Highland Way, which is enjoyed by thousands of walkers every year.'

'We'd encourage everyone who loves the great outdoors to make full use of the taps by topping up with water in reusable bottles. It's a convenient way of helping reduce litter, staying hydrated and saving money.'

Chris Stirrip of Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team said the famous search and rescue unit was delighted to support the launch of the Top Up Tap in Fort William.

'We promote environmental responsibility within our

mountains and hope this encourages the use of reusable bottles from hill users locally to reduce waste and keep well hydrated,' he said.

'Exhaustion from dehydration during arduous exercise while enjoying our mountainous environment has been a factor in some of our rescues both summer and winter.'

Top Up Taps have also been installed in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Ayr and Dumfries, with further taps to be unveiled in Oban, Dunfermline, Aberdeen and Inverness.

The taps are connected to the mains water supply and cloud-technology means water supply specialists can monitor volumes being consumed.

The West Highland Way attracts around 85,000 people every year and as many as 30,000 people complete the full length of the route.



Cameron McNeish gets a little help from Millie, the Scottish Water cocker spaniel, as he fills up his water bottle from the new tap installed at the Fort end of the West Highland Way. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

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## MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

[angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk)



Last week I gave an example of Beastie the dog's conduct and while it was an accurate account and a clear reflection of a common flaw of human behaviour and psychology, it didn't show poor Beastie in a good light!

This week I'll take another aspect of his character and the wider ways of dogs that show a more positive trait and one that we should all adopt more often.

No matter how angry he is or how much he may vehemently refuse to cooperate in something he is asked to do or how much he objects to a course of action, he never says anything hurtful in retaliation or brings any thread of attack into the altercation which is not directly related to the particular issue at hand.

If you're feeling particularly pernickety and if you want to be pedantic about this, you may point out that Beastie can't talk. That is indeed a fair point, but the principal still stands. As an old saying goes, 'A wise man once said nothing'.

When humans have disagreements we are far too quick to allow a minor dispute to be the catalyst

for much longer and deeper conflict than is warranted by the initial point of difference.

Beastie absolutely detests being made to shower.

Here is how this particular scenario might play out if he was a human.

**Me:** 'Beastie, we'll need to give you a shower.'

**Beastie:** 'No, I hate the shower, you know it and anyway I don't need a shower.'

**Me:** 'Beastie, you've just rolled in dead seal, ran through pile of rotting seaweed and went head over heels into a pile of cow dung. You smell really bad.'

**Beastie:** 'I smell really bad do I? What about you, you stinky slob? I think you need to worry about showering yourself before me.'

'Wearing these silly clothes and wellies that make you sweat so much that you stink the whole house out.'

'I suppose if you weren't so greedy and didn't eat all the good food yourself, you wouldn't be so fat and wouldn't sweat so much.'

'Give more of it to me when I ask you to and you might not be the laughing stock of all the dogs in the district.'

'And another thing while I'm on the subject, it's ab-

solutely disgusting that you and your stinky wife do the toilet inside the house. In fact, I've had enough of all this, I'm moving out. And while I'm going, I hate your accordion playing...etc, etc, etc.'

Thankfully, all he says in reality is 'Grrrrrr' a couple of times and there is therefore no escalation of conflict from minor disagreement to long-term animosity.

I haven't discussed Brexit in detail with Beastie, but I think most politicians and a fair percentage of the population could take a leaf out of his book by not allowing legitimate and essential debate to escalate into abuse and long-term conflict.

#belikebeastie

As I write this, Beastie is snuggled on his bed under my desk. Due to the fact that over the 11 years Beastie has lived with me he has only ever said 'Grrrr' to me in times of dispute, there exists absolutely no negativity in our relationship and I only have positive thoughts towards him.

That is a significant aspect of the simple uncomplicated bond of love between man and dog.

# Fort BBs hold prize-giving evening

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church of Scotland Guild and the 2nd Fort William Company of the Boys' Brigade held a joint fun evening and prize-giving on Friday night.

The National Guild supports six projects over a three-year period, and the Fort William guild supports two each year, with it opting to support the BBs this year.

It was decided that as a way of marking this partnership, the guild and the BB would do something together, and so Friday's event was arranged.

The evening was introduced by BB Captain Ian Fleming, and the opening worship was led by the chaplain Rev Richard Baxter.

The night consisted of a series of games and quizzes, followed by tea and cakes, and another set of games and quizzes. The games



were organised by Joan and Hughie MacKintosh and the quizzes were organised by Capt Fleming.

Each table of at least six had a colour and at times it became really competitive. The games mainly involved trying to get ping-pong balls into various containers by various means - egg box

trays, plastic cups, blowing them with straws and even using balloons too, all accompanied by much hilarity.

There was also a display of pyramids by the boys, showing their balancing skills. Once all the games were over, the boys fell in to a more formal pattern for the prize-giving.

**Left, BB prizewinners from 2nd Company, Fort William Boys' Brigade; and below, Nathan Johnston was awarded both Queen's and President's Badges at the same time - a rare occurrence.**

Photographs: Iain Ferguson



Capt Fleming, Guild convener Pauline MacEachen and the minister all spoke about the evening, the guild and BB connection, and then the prizes were awarded.

After the prize-giving, there was closing worship and the evening drew to a close.

The prize were awarded as follows:

## Junior Section

Perfect attendance: Robert MacTaggart, Kieran Boyd. Centenary Cup (Best Junior Section Boy): Robert MacTaggart.

Junior Section gold award: Robert MacTaggart; Junior Section silver award: Kieran Boyd.

**Company Section**  
Perfect attendance: Josh Higginson, Faolin Hunter, Daniel Turner. Regular attendance: Nathan Johnston, Ben O'Sullivan. The Dan Hunter Memorial Trophy (Best Drilled Recruit): Ben O'Sullivan.

The Lawrence Wilson Memorial Shield (Best Squad): Squad 1.

1st Brierley Hill Trophy (most improved in drill): Daniel Turner.

The Duncansburgh Cup (Christian Endeavour): Ben O'Sullivan.

The Jim Rodger Trophy (Best All-round Boy): Jay Jay Calder.

The Seniors' Trophy: Nathan Johnston.

President's Badge: Jay Jay Calder, Daniel Turner, Josh Higginson, Nathan Johnston.

Queen's Badge: Nathan Johnston.

## Promotions

Junior Section to Company Section: Robert MacTaggart.

31st March 2019

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## Police confirm ID of woman who died at Harris beach

Police Scotland has now confirmed the identity of a woman who died last week following an incident at a beach in the Nisabost area of the Isle of Harris.

Agnes Proudhon-Smith, 50, from London, was recovered by helicopter to Western Isles Hospital in Stornoway after police, coastguard and RNLI were called to the beach area at around 8.25am on Wednesday (March 20).

Proudhon-Smith was pronounced dead at the hospital. Her next of kin have been informed.

Inspector Jane Nicolson said: 'Our thoughts first and foremost are with the woman's family and friends.'

'We are carrying out enquiries to establish the full circumstances which have led to her death and this work is at an early stage.'

'The death is currently unexplained, though initial enquiries suggest there are no suspicious circumstances.'

'We are grateful for the assistance of our partners in the emergency services and members of the public in relation to this incident.'

Anyone with information relating to this incident can contact Police Scotland by calling 101, quoting incident 547 of March 20.

# £1.9M Laxdale school extension opened

by Mark Entwistle  
markentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The official opening of the £1.9million Laxdale Primary School extension and alteration took place last Wednesday.

The project on Lewis has provided two new pre-school playrooms, a gym and assembly hall, a new canteen and dining area and external improvement works.

The project was designed and delivered by the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's inhouse building projects team and construction work, which has been ongoing since June 2018, and was carried out by O'Mac Construction Ltd.

Leader of the comhairle Councillor Roddie Mackay said: 'The comhairle is working to improve all schools throughout the



Western Isles, through an estate upgrade and also the expansion of early years, with all schools being taken out of category C and made into category B schools, and

most schools being refurbished or planned to be over the next while. I am very pleased to see this extension completed to a high standard.' Commenting at the short cere-

mony which took place to mark the occasion, Margaret Joan Macleod, GM1 teacher, said when she started in Laxdale School 28 years ago, there was no library, there was no room for the nursery and Sgoil Áraich, no proper gym and the cafeteria was a canteen in a hut.

'We are very fortunate to be part of a local authority that listens to us and ensures that pupils are educated in the best of buildings with the best of facilities.'

'It is because they care about our pupils that we have this wonderful extension to our school.'

## £3,000 for island carers project

An outreach support project for island carers will definitely begin again this summer after its funding gap was met by a donation of £3,000 from community wind farm charity Point and Sandwick Trust.

The Carers Trainers Project is run by Western Isles Community Care Forum – the umbrella organisation set up for voluntary care organisations – which is delighted to have secured the project for another year, beginning in June.

The donation to the project, which costs £64,000 a year, also secures two jobs – one full-time post in Lewis and Harris and a part-time post in Uist and Barra.

Peggy Mackay, co-ordinator of the Western Isles Community Care Forum, said the grant from Point and Sandwick Trust was 'fantastic' and added: 'That was the last bit of funding we needed so that guarantees the project and guarantees employment for two people.'

## Advice to dog owners

Police have issued a warning to dog owners to help prevent any attacks on livestock, particularly as lambing season is now under way.

Dogs should be kept on a close lead when near livestock. It is particularly important at lambing time for owners to keep dogs well away from sheep because even just the sight of a dog in the distance

can be enough to scare sheep away from their lambs.

It is a criminal offence for dogs to be allowed to attack or chase livestock, for dogs to be at large – not on a lead or otherwise under close control – in a field holding sheep. Dog owners can be prosecuted and fined up to £1,000. Dog owners can also be held financially liable for damages done by a dog.

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# Memorial ceilidh raises cash for charity

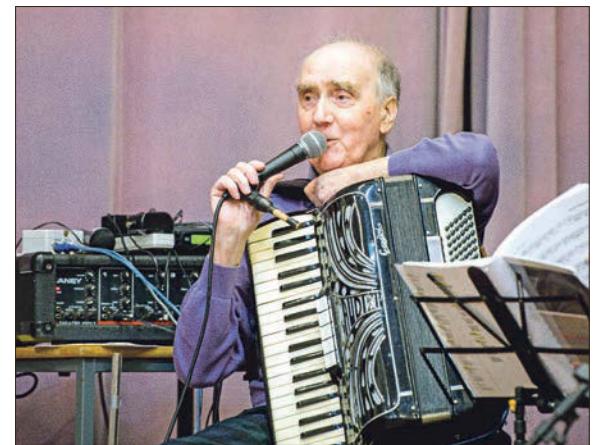
Almost £2,000 was raised for Alzheimer's Scotland and Lochaber Foodbank by a ceilidh in memory of great box player Alex Maclean of South Uist/ Caol.

The event, which saw a total, so far, of £1,915, was held at Kilmallie Community Centre, Corpach, on Saturday March 16.

Mr Maclean's daughter, Catriona, told the Lochaber Times: 'The night was a great success. Dad's brother, Donald Angus Maclean, was there on the night to take part and his two sisters were also able to be there, along with many other family members and friends.'



The family of the late Alex Maclean at his memorial ceilidh recently. Photographs: Abrightside Photography.



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# LETTERS

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

## We must all fight problem of littering

It is disappointing, to say the least, that we report this week on a worsening litter problem on Lochaber's principal trunk roads.

Councillor Allan Henderson has flagged up an issue that is blighting what he accurately describes as our 'beautiful part of the world'.

Councillor Henderson is also quite correct when he says that local residents are just as culpable as visitors to the area when it comes to this matter.

So what is the solution?

It is often said that education is the answer to this blight.

However, as Councillor Henderson has pointed out, our schools are already doing an excellent job in teaching our young people about the need to separate waste and to recycle whenever possible. After all, it is today's youngsters who will have to deal with this in the fullness of time.

In this day and age, when the issue is given such a high profile, there is simply no excuse. Hitting the offenders where it hurts – in their pockets with heavy financial penalties – may just concentrate the minds of those responsible.

We need members of the public to report the culprits and to use mobile phones if necessary to record evidence of this wrongdoing. We need to make it socially unacceptable.

## Community rallies to help blaze-hit couple

There is ample proof this week of the generosity of our communities following the dreadful fire that destroyed an Invergarry couple's home and killed their dogs.

A crowdfunding appeal set up to help June Mills and her husband Callum rapidly exceeded its target. Nothing can compensate the couple but the public response has been heartwarming.

## Glencoe hydro scheme

In response to Victoria Sutherland's article in The Oban Times last week (she is member of the Glencoe and Glen Etive Community Council and her husband is the chairman), I was amazed how she is so in favour of ruining our scenery and historical sites with hydro schemes when, a few years ago, her husband, Alistair Sutherland, who was chairman of Glencoe Action Group (against the NTS development near Inverigan), had a letter in the newspaper (09/02/01): 'Inverigan...is a site of national importance...we simply do not understand how that body, of all organisations, can contemplate desecrating this historic site.'

Inverigan, where the community council is supporting Allt Fiadhann hydro scheme, is the site of the Massacre of Glencoe and is one of the main reasons tourists come to Glencoe. The tourists also visit for the natural beauty.

No thorough studies have been done of archaeology, wildlife and wildlife environment. There is not a dividing line between Inverigan and the proposed hydro scheme site which would prevent wildlife movement, therefore the wildlife habitat in the proposed scheme area would be damaged and wildlife displaced.

What is the point of having SSSI areas, NSA (National Scenic Area), SNH, PAWS (Previous Ancient Woodland Site) areas when all is ignored in Glencoe and Glen Etive when it comes to hydro scheme development.

Allt Fiadhann (Inverigan) burn is a very small burn which nearly dries up in the summer. I looked after the water supply for the campsite when the Forestry Commission owned it. The NTS has since built its visitor centre by the campsite and had large storage tanks to hold the water but it had to drill a well and change the supply to another stream.

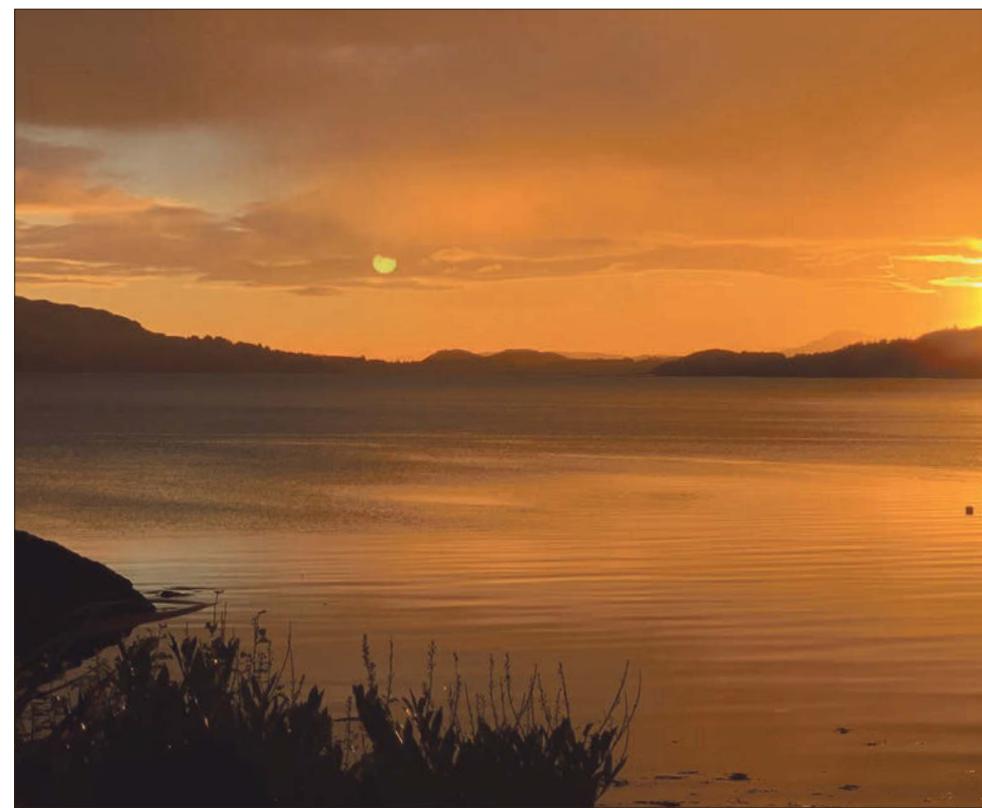
Is it worth it to spoil such a historic site and special scenery for a small hydro scheme which will only work some of the year. Why destroy the environment to 'save' the environment?!

Regarding the mountain rescue team mentioned in Victoria Sutherland's article, I was a member for more than 20 years and we volunteered because all team members were climbers or just enjoyed being in the mountains.

I am all for hydro schemes in concealed areas, however not in sensitive areas, historical areas or scenic areas etc., and not in a free-for-all just as the feed-in-tariffs are about to end.

With more than 11,600 objectors, the government bodies should take notice. The

## 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](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk), post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin In-

landowners, the developers and the investors in the Glencoe and Glen Etive proposed hydro scheme must think they have won the lottery without buying a ticket!

Peter Weir,  
Glencoe.

## Attempted clearance by any other name

Last week it took me five days to travel 15.8 miles on public transport. That gives an average speed of 0.1 mph. On the positive side, that is twice as fast as the average garden snail.

Admittedly this was because I became storm

bound on the Isle of Coll in transit to Tiree and, had I not taken a car with me, there is the chance I could have progressed by air.

Then again had CalMac not been forced to take MV Clansman off her usual route so that one of the Outer Hebridean ferries could go in for refitting, there is a very good chance that the Monday service would have been able to run normally.

CalMac does the very best it can with the inadequate fleet of ferries it has and one can only admire the effort it puts in to keep us islanders connected. If only the same could be said for the Scottish Government, which is charged with making sure CalMac has the fer-

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# DISTRICT NEWS

## LOCHABER

The Big Pedal started this week at Lochaber High School in Fort William and runs until the end of term. This is a national initiative aimed at encouraging active travel to school.

Pupils and staff members cycling to school will be offered a choice of free goodies and entered into a daily prize draw. They will also get one entry for each day they cycle into the grand prize draw on the last day of term. First prize is a new bike, donated by Nevis Cycles, while second prize an iPad courtesy of Liberty.

Nevis Range has gifted a family UHI World Cup entry ticket for two adults and four children, and the Highland Bookshop has donated two £50 book vouchers.

Lots of other businesses have also donated prizes, including Off Beat Bikes, Costa, Nevis Sport and the Granite House.

## ARISAIG

Arisaig WI held its latest meeting last Thursday which took the form of an open meeting at which there were two visitors.

The speaker was Anthony Titley, who talked about his time in Nepal and gave an absolutely fascinating insight into the social structures, traditions and attitudes towards women and lower caste members of society and society in general.

He expanded on the language and the usage of differing titles dependent on who was being addressed and also showed off some beautiful leather bags made by local people.

The competition results were:

A painted stone - 1, Vera MacDonald; 2, Edwina King; 3, Anne Cameron; 4, June Cairns.

A leather item - 1, Anne Cameron; 2, Daphne Heaps; 3, Vera MacDonald; 4, June Cairns.

The raffle was won by Vera MacDonald. After tea was enjoyed, business was conducted.

The branch's next meeting will be held on April 18 at 2.30pm in the Astley Hall.

## PLOCKTON

Plockton Community Council holds its monthly meeting on March 11.

Present were Mary Jane Campbell, chairwoman (MJ), Alexander Mackenzie (AM), Alex Townend (AT), Tristan Southall (TS), Thomas MacLennan (TM), Johanna Maclean (clerk). Plus 11 members of the public.

Update on actions.

Benches: two new benches to be ordered costing £958, with money to come from special projects fund. AT to action this. These will be placed in front of 36 Harbour Street.

Roads: MJ has prioritised a list which Councillor Campbell will give to the council. Priority being given to renewal of white lines and repair of Duirinish Bridge. New work done at Plockton Primary School was noted and members of the public present suggested Keep Clear signs should be put in place.

Planning matters: no objections to a planning application for a new house at Ravenscraig.

Financial update: Special projects - £3,795; fireworks account - £2,091; treasurer's account - £1,196. A payment of £105 has been made for insurance. An additional supplement is to be paid for fireworks display. TS has received a copy of the electrical certificate for the light and extension cable used for the fireworks catering.

Plockton and District Development Trust/Company: MJ and James Krisp Camp had been to a meeting in Dornie recently for representatives of local councils. MJ reported that there is to be a consultation exercise for the whole of Lochalsh and Glenelg.

Skip: one skip will arrive in the village on a Saturday in April (date to be arranged) and will be manned to prevent inappropriate waste being deposited. This will be combined with village clean up and followed by barbecue and social evening in the hall.

Cows: for more on this story, turn to page three in Lochaber Times

Date of next meeting: Monday April 29 at 7.30pm.

## Bike Kitchen set to open in Fort William



Bike Kitchen project officer Jamie Maxwell with a newly restored bike ready for adoption.

Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG) has secured funding from Paths for All for a Bike Kitchen to teach bike repair skills and support wider development of the cycling community in and around Fort William.

LEG hopes the Bike Kitchen will build on the success of previous projects funded by the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund.

Along with LEG's Go, Grow and Glow Project, the Bike Kitchen will be running Fix Your Own

Bike and Build A Bike workshops.

The project will be run by Bike Kitchen project officer Jamie Maxwell, who plans to visit Lochaber High with the Bike Kitchen during the Sustrans Big Pedal to help students give their bikes a health check.

### Big Pedal

The Big Pedal runs from March 25 to April 5, and encourages schools to compete by getting as many of their pupils, staff and students cycling, walking or scooting to school.

As part of the bike kitchen project, LEG is also looking to recruit three community bike interns, which is a great opportunity for anyone interested in cycling and bike maintenance, either as a hobby or as a potential career.

For more information about the Bike Kitchen, bike intern positions or bike adoption, email info@lochaberenviro.org.uk, call them on 01397 700090 or visit www.lochaberenviro.org.uk to download the intern application pack and bike adoption form.

## The Great Duror Bake Off raises £180 for primary school

Duror Primary School Parent Council held a fundraising Bake Off event in the Duror Kentallen Community Centre on Monday March 18, which was open to all community members.

The winners were as follows:

**3-12 years:** Erin McCallum Millar P6, Poppy McNeil, P3Ann Margaret Stewart P2; **High School:** Grace

Williamson S1; **Bread:** Mr Higham; **Cookies and Biscuits:** Mrs Sara McNeil; **Gluten Free:** Mrs MacCallum Millar; **Overall children's winner:** Poppy McNeil; **Overall Adult winner:** Mr Higham.

After the winners were announced everyone enjoyed a cup of tea and a taste of the homebaking. The event raised £180 for Duror Primary School.



## Cosy Cottage Pie



1kg floury potatoes peeled and chopped



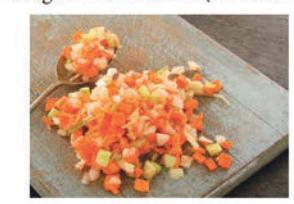
2 leeks thinly sliced



450ml boiling beef stock



500g lean beef mince (5% fat or less)



750g mixed casserole veg or veg pack

On a cold night, this satisfying FREE beefy pie topped with leek and potato mash is just what the doctor ordered! Serves 4, ready in 45 minutes, Syn FREE!



**Method:** Brown the beef for about 5 minutes add the casserole veg along with the stock, simmer for 30 minutes. Cooked the potatoes for 12 minutes and add the leeks. After 5 minutes drain well, mash and season to taste.

Spoon the mash over the mince mixture in a square oven dish, place under the grill for a nice crispy top.

### FORT WILLIAM

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16 Belford Road, Fort William  
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3pm, 5pm & 7pm

Tel: Gillian 07796 040 803

### OBAN

Glencruitten Church Hall,  
Glencruitten Road  
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## MALLAIG

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) has completed a series of electricity substation replacements across Mallaig.

The works, which began last March, involved the complete replacement of critical electrical infrastructure at seven locations, the replacement of equipment in the main substation powering the village, and the installation of innovative automation equipment to enable quicker restoration times in event of a power cut.

The substations now have glassfibre reinforced polyester (GRP) enclosures to give them greater level of protection from the west coast weather.

Project manager Lachie Innes, from SSEN'S Fort William depot, said SSEN has also installed automation equipment.

'This hugely reduces the fault restoration times on this network as previously our teams would have to travel from Fort William before they could begin fault switching to restore power to our customers in stages. This journey takes at least 75 minutes,' he explained.

SSEN has also installed equipment at East Bay substation which will allow the easy connection of a high voltage mobile diesel generator in the event of a power cut, enabling faster restoration of power supplies to the village.



The completed works in Mallaig.

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The hard-working Town Team secretary Sue Keen in action.

## Town Team's Sue setting off for pastures new

Fort William Town Team founder member and secretary Sue Keen is leaving the area and moving away for pastures new.

Sue has done an amazing job over the past four and a half years, committing lots of time to the community to improve the High Street and surrounding area.

She was also integral in supporting the Marina and Shoreline Company with its work for cruise ship visits and even found time to volunteer at the museum as well.

Last but not least, Sue has been fundamental in organising the Christmas gathering over the past few years.

The Town Team committee wants to arrange a collection for Sue so it can present her with a gift to say farewell.

If you feel you would like to contribute to Sue's collection, please send or drop in your donation to Karen Dean, Lochview House, Heathercroft Road, PH33 6EZ.

A Ballachulish business raised Lochaber's profile in this month's Scottish Rural Awards.

RiverBeds Luxury Wee Lodges with Hot Tubs were finalists in two categories of these prestigious awards. On the night, they picked up the runner-up award for Business Diversification.

Father and son team Laurence and Callum Young were handed the award by Dougie Vipond at

the glittering ceremony held at Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh last week.

'The judges commended us on the quality of our diversification at Dragon's Tooth golf course, and on the care taken with the natural environment,' said Callum.

Morag Young was with her husband and son on the night and when interviewed after the

awards, commented: 'RiverBeds is so successful because of the powerful team of energetic folk who work there. This award is because of them.'

RiverBeds Luxury Wee Lodges with Hot Tubs is the accommodation brand of Glencoe Activities, which offers golf, segway tours and other activities on the Dragons Tooth Estate at Ballachulish.

by a celebratory ceilidh. For almost 20 years, Canna and Sanday's 18 residents have had to rely on three diesel generators for power as the islands are not connected to the National Grid.

As a result of a community venture, Canna Renewable Energy and Electrification Ltd (CREEL), power is now generated through wind and solar, and linked to a battery storage system, with the old generators for back-up use.

Geraldine MacKinnon, CREEL director, said: 'We're delighted our

energy project is now completed and the turbines are making good use of this winter's Atlantic gales.

'The new scheme gives us the capacity to build additional houses on Canna, so new families can make their home on this beautiful island.'

'We're very grateful to all of our funders for their support in this vital project, and especially to Jamie Adam of Community Energy Scotland who managed the scheme and kept us on track through all of the complexities involved.'

## FOOTBALL

**Fort hit 200 goals mark after heavy Keith defeat**

Keith	11
Fort William	0
Highland League	



Saturday was another day to forget for Fort William FC, who have now conceded more than 200 goals this season.

Keith showed no mercy in their Highland League encounter at Kynoch Park, inflicting another double-figure defeat on the Lochaber side thanks to the aptly-named Cammy Keith. The striker, and Keith captain, enjoyed a fruitful afternoon in front of goal scoring five of his side's 11 goals.

The result means that the Fort have now conceded 210 goals in just 18 games, and have a goal difference of -193.

It took all of three minutes for Keith, both the team and the player, to open the scoring and after 10 minutes the home side were two-nil up. Pressure continued to be heaped on the Fort William defence and Keith soon scored another two to make it 4-0 on the half-hour mark.

The Fort began to get a stronger grip on the match and managed to see out the rest of the first half to keep the deficit at four.

However, Keith came out firing after the break and made it five just two minutes after the restart to sink any hopes of a Fort William resurgence. Max Berton made it six for the home side before Keith

completed his hat-trick on the hour mark.

At this point the Fort had eyes on damage limitations, with goalkeeper Mateusz Kulbacki having a particularly busy day between the posts. The visitors were buoyed by the return of Scott Hunter to the matchday squad and he eventually got onto the field when he replaced Jordan Morrison in midfield midway through the second half.

Hunter wasn't able to prevent Keith hitting double figures, however, and in a calamitous three-minute spell, Fort conceded another three goals as the defence really began to tire. Captain Keith eventually rounded off the scoring in the 89th minute with his fifth of the day to take the total tally to 11 for his team.

Fort William remain firmly rooted to the bottom of the Highland League with just two draws and no wins so far this season.

The side were in action last night (Wednesday) against Cove Rangers at Claggan Park. However, this match took place after the Lochaber Times went to print.

They are away this Saturday, March 30, to nearest rivals Clachnacuddin.

## FOOTBALL

**SLT out of President's Cup**

Erskine	3
South Lochaber Thistle	2
President's Cup	

South Lochaber Thistle bowed out of the President's Cup last Saturday going down 3-2 to Erskine in the semi-final at New Tinto Park.

Erskine took the lead in the 35th minute but Andy

McLean equalised in the 54th minute.

Erskine went in front again in the 81st minute before Davie Forbes equalised with only two minutes remaining.

However, Erskine scored in added on time at the end of the game to leave the Lochaber side on the wrong end of a 3-2 scoreline.

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# Macdonald takes Six Days Trials

Excitement builds for another year of world-class trial riding as bikers gear up for the

2019 Scottish Six Days Trials (SSDT). This year's competition, however, which takes

place from Monday May 6 to Saturday May 11, will not feature renowned local rider Gary Macdonald.

Continuing its long history in Lochaber, 280 riders from the far corners of the world will descend on the base at Fort William's West End car park to face the gruelling annual week-long trial bike challenge.

This hugely popular competition remains the most famous and one-off event in the international trial calendar more than 100 years after it was first run.

**Not feature**

Kinlochleven rider Gary Macdonald, who fought his way to a well-earned podium finish on the closing day in last year's competition, will not feature at this year's SSDT as he takes a break from trials competition.

Macdonald said: 'It's been a big decision but I've stepped back from trials and won't be competing in the SSDT this year. I've dedicated 27 years to trials and I just want a



Gary Macdonald in action.

break and to do other things I've missed for many years. I'll be back in 2020 all going well.'

The complete entry list has been released by the



Riders from across the world will come to Lochaber to compete. Photo: John Hird/Matt Betts.

## Record entries for the Dunvegan races

It was sunshine and blue skies for this year's Dunvegan Race, with a strong wind giving the runners some additional work on this challenging course.

With 154 entries, it was another record year for this event, which keeps growing year by year. This year the

event was held earlier in March, prior to the castle opening, in order to give runners the castle grounds, cafe and finish area purely for the run, which made for a great atmosphere. The runners were piped to the start line by 11-year-old Seonaidh Macleod.

New for this year was the Griegs Seafood 5k aimed at all abilities and was well received.

The 5k was supported by the local GP surgery, with the practice nurse, Morag Macdonald, running a weekly couch to 5k group. This group went on to win the team



Runners pass Dunvegan Castle.

**ATHLETICS**

prize as the 'Monkey Puzzle Troupers' named after their weekly running route, which encompassed said tree.

The 5k was won by local 13-year-old Alex Jamieson in a time of 21:46.8, who trains with the Inverness Harriers. The first female was Heather Oakley, for whom it was her first race. She bagged an impressive time of 27:47.2 in a pair of pyjamas!

Dunvegan Castle 10k was won by Kenny MacGruer of the Caithness-based North Highland Harriers in a time of 37:59.6. MacGruer was followed by Alun Beckett 39:13.6 and local runner Chris James 40:40.7.

Hot on James's tail was the first female, Skye runner Sarah Jamieson with an impressive time of 40:44.3. Jamieson was followed by Rebecca Miller, also from Skye, 51:23.0 and then Susan MacLennan 51:30.4.

The fun run set a fast pace on a 1.5k mainly off-road course. Dunvegan boy Oliver Langlands won overall, closely followed by Tabitha Jones.

# a break from Six



Photo: John Dickinson

Edinburgh and District Motor Club organising committee, including the most successful SSDT rider of all time, reigning and 12 times winner Dougie Lampkin.

Lampkin said: 'I am burning to win another Scottish to equal a record of World Championships set by Spanish racer Angel Nieto. He won 13 titles but being su-

perstitious he called it 12 plus one. It would be really cool to have 12 plus one Scottish Six Days victories.'

The stage is now set for a head to head battle between

## SIX DAYS TRIALS

Lampkin and fellow Brit James Dabill. However, a very strong line-up including brothers Dan and Jack Peace, Jack Price and Michael Brown will make for an interesting week of competition this year.

### Eclectic

The Scottish Six Days Trials standing in the world attracts an eclectic overseas invasion and 2019 is no different with no fewer than 58 riders from outside the British Isles representing a total of 12 countries.

The continental threat looks like coming from young Spanish rider Francesc Moret while countryman and former winner, the ever popular veteran Amos Bilbao will ride a factory Montesa in the event.

Kevin Gundry and Gary Samson represent New Zealand while fellow Antipodeans Luke Anderson and Connor Hogan fly from Australia. Add this to several entries from Costa Rica and Daniel Santos representing Guatemala and you have a truly international field heading for Lochaber in May.

Full information, including the riders' list, and regular updates are available on the event website ssdt.org.

## Scottish Enduro Series secures sponsor

The Scottish Enduro Series has confirmed that POC, the leading Swedish manufacturer of helmets, goggles and body armour, is the headline sponsor of the five-venue series for the sixth year running.

Since its inception in 2014, the POC Scottish Enduro Series is renowned for testing riders at some of Scotland's best-known mountain bike locations, offering fantastic opportunities to ride on some of Scotland's most exceptional and classic trails. With Laggan Wolftrax, Innerleithen, Kinlochleven, Pitlochrie, Nevis Range in the armoury, from April to October, the 2019 series is set to deliver another phenomenal season of racing.

For five years the series has delivered six epic races at six venues across Scotland. In 2018, that included 32 timed race stages, more than two hours of racing for the fastest riders, 808 individual riders and 1,652 race starters.

Frazer Coupland from No Fuss Events and the POC Scottish Enduro Series, said: 'We continue to build upon our success, success built

on positive partnerships.'

It's a delight that POC will be working with us again in 2019. This year's Scottish Enduro Series looks like it's going to push Enduro in the UK to the next level. The development of the series and the ability and desire to push the levels and standards are evidence that these partnerships are working well and key to the series' success.'

The Enduro World Series (EWS) is the body responsible for bringing Enduro mountain bike racing to the forefront of the global cycling stage. In 2018, the Scottish Enduro Series was a part of the new EWS European Series, which in turn was part of the EWS Continental championships.

The series continues to work well with the local riding community, Forestry

Commission Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and other land owners and land managers in order to ensure participants get the greatest riding experiences across Scotland, while ensuring Scotland maintains its position as a leading global mountain bike destination.

Entry prices for the 2019 POC Scottish Enduro Series vary for each venue. Further information can be found at [nofussevents.co.uk/scottish-enduro-series](http://nofussevents.co.uk/scottish-enduro-series).



Thrills and spills at the Scottish Enduro Series.

## MOUNTAIN BIKING

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## WEATHER

**Thursday**  
Light cloud and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C.

**Friday**  
Light rain and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 5°C to 10°C.

### Weekend Outlook

**Saturday**  
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze  
**Sunday**  
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 3°C to 9°C.



FRIDAY

## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday March 21, 2019 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>Thur</b>	04.52	1.5	10.19	2.7
	17.29	1.7	23.20	2.8
<b>Fri</b>	05.58	1.8	12.16	2.5
	18.46	1.9	**.**	**
<b>Sat</b>	01.36	2.8	07.33	1.9
	15.33	2.7	20.35	1.8
<b>Sun</b>	02.54	3.0	09.25	1.8
	16.04	2.9	21.40	1.6
<b>Mon</b>	03.39	3.2	10.12	1.5
	16.11	3.1	22.23	1.3
<b>Tues</b>	04.15	3.4	10.47	1.3
	16.35	3.3	22.58	1.1
<b>Wed</b>	04.50	3.6	11.17	1.1
	17.06	3.5	23.29	1.0

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	<b>-5.35</b>	Mallaig	<b>+0.25</b>
Campbeltown	<b>-5.30</b>	Portree	<b>+0.55</b>
Crinan	<b>-0.47</b>	Tobermory	<b>+0.16</b>
Islay Port Ellen	<b>2.00</b>	Dover	<b>+5.30</b>
Lochboisdale	<b>+0.30</b>		

## 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:

Macdonald takes a break from Six Days Trials

Scottish Enduro Series secures sponsor

# Local skiers take the glory at Coe Cup event

Local competitors took the top slots in both male and female ski competitions in the Coe Cup freeride meeting at Glencoe on Saturday, which attracted some of the best back-country skiers and snowboarders from the UK and Ireland.

Rob Kingsland, from Glencoe, saw off the challenge from 19 other skiers to take the men's title, while Kinlochleven's Katie Small was one of six women in her competition battling it out for the honours in what proved to be the only Scottish Freedom Series event held this year.

Both male and female snowboard competitions were won

by competitors from south of the border in the shape of Steven Fletcher, and Emma Whitlow, both riding for Team Yorkshire A.

In freeriding, skiers and boarders can choose any line they want between a start gate at the top of a designated contest zone and a finish gate at the bottom with the idea being to ski or slide the terrain with style and skill to notch as many points as possible.

The series, which began in 2012, normally includes three events, with the Lawers of Gravity in Perthshire and the Corrie Challenge at Nevis Range being the first two.



Coe Cup men's winner Rob Kingsland on a cool down lap after winning the event.

Competitors at the start of the Coe Cup freeride meeting.

Photos: Bodie Hood

Unfortunately, this winter's lack of snow saw both of these cancelled and there were real concerns the same fate would befall Saturday's Coe Cup.

Kingsland, who was skiing for the British Freeride Seniors team, notched 86 points ahead of nearest rival Jimmy Fitzpatrick on 84.

Ambulance technician Small, representing for Mighty Coe Girls, won with 64 points, well clear of second-placed Lyndsay Waterson on UHSSC on 61.

SnowsportScotland national development manager Iain Ramsay-Clapham said it was a near perfect day on Saturday with fresh snow, sunshine and only a light breeze – all of

## SKIING

which came as something of a surprise.

'When you looked at the weather as late as Friday there were real doubts the event would go ahead,' he told us.

'And the lack of snow this season and the rubbish weather of the past few weeks is a major reason the field was not at its full capacity of 55.'

'But we're very happy with the way it went, with no injuries and some great skill on display.'

'And while the entry field was down a bit in numbers, most of the leading figures in the sport took part, which made it an awesome event.'

## Lochaber club lotteries

Fort William Golf Club's lotto numbers last week were 1, 9 and 15. There was no winner so the jackpot for the draw today, Thursday March 28, will be £300.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers last week were 2, 6 and 19. There were no winners, so this week's jackpot is £1,000.

Caol Community Centre bingo club's lotto numbers were 6, 7 and 13. There was one winner this week. Next week's jackpot will be £100.

The numbers in Lochaber Camanachd Club's lottery on Tuesday March 19 were 3, 9 and 11. There was one winner so the jackpot for Tuesday March 26 was £100.

Numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 7, 14 and 18. Geoff Wright won the £300 jackpot. Next week's jackpot will be £100.

## Saints in West Cup semi-final

Oban Saints reached the semi-final of the West of Scotland Amateur Cup after an excellent 3-1 home quarter-final win over top Caledonian League side Cambria.

Scoring for Saints were Craig MacEwan, Lewis Cameron and Daniel Croarkin.

The Oban side face a tough test in the semi-final against reigning Scottish Amateur Cup holders Shortlees from Kilmarnock.

The semi-final will be played at New Douglas Park, Hamilton, on Saturday April 13 with a 2pm kick-off.



## Manor House Hotel & Restaurant Mothers Day

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