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Craignure Pier issue reaches 'crisis' point

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Ferry services to Mull were suspended on Sunday morning when one of the heavy timber fenders at Craignure, designed to absorb the impact of the ferry as it berths, fell off.

This latest development came just 10 days after members of the Mull and Iona Ferry Committee were assured by Argyll and Bute Council officers that the Craignure pier was 'fit for purpose'.

The fendering is designed to withstand heavy impact and to protect the pier from damage but, despite concerns raised by the committee, the council still insists this most recent occurrence would have no bearing on the safety of the structure.

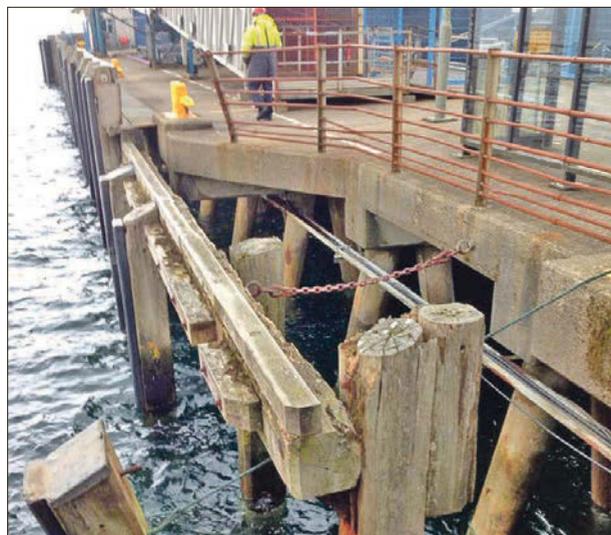
A council spokesperson said: 'We apologise for the brief disruption caused to ferry services by a displaced section of timber, which was successfully removed on Sunday morning. We can confirm this timber section

was not an integral part of the pier's structure and removing it will have no implications for the use of the pier for scheduled service vessels.'

Service operators were informed and ferry services resumed a short time later but committee members and residents are angry about the apparent lack of attention to the issues. 'If inspections and repair are so scant that a large section of fendering can simply fall away from the pier under its own weight, what confidence can we have in the rest of it?' asked Mull and Iona ferry committee chairwoman Elizabeth Ferguson.

'This incident dramatically demonstrates the poor state of repair and chronic under-investment in Craignure pier, which generates £1.5 million in profit annually, and brings into question whether the pier is being adequately maintained.'

In light of Sunday's incident, the committee is now insisting the council carries out an urgent independent detailed inspection of all endering on the pier and acts urgently on



The broken fender which had come away from the main structure of Craignure pier completely.

whatever recommendations it makes.

This was just the latest in an on-going saga. At the end of last month the committee expressed shock and disappointment to find that none of the interim improvement options for Craignure pier had been amended to reflect community consultation.

The blow was delivered at a presentation by officers and councillors, accompanied by the head of the ferries unit at Transport Scotland, at a meeting in Craignure with members of the ferry committee, Mull Community Council and Iona Community Council. The mainland group arrived on Mull to

present the outcomes of the Craignure Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance report which explores future options for the pier.

'All interim options, other than on-going maintenance, were missing entirely from the conclusions of the report,' said committee spokesperson Joe Reade.

Island residents are concerned that when hull 802, currently in construction, enters service, the MV Hebrides will be freed from the Uig triangle to work alongside the Isle of Mull and, with insufficient berths in Oban, one of the two vessels must berth overnight in Craignure and the pier will be put under even more pressure.

'The urgent issue - in fact it's a crisis - is to make modest improvements that will enable the MV Hebrides to operate the route alongside the Isle of Mull when she is available from summer 2021,' added Mr Reade.

Another meeting is scheduled for the end of the month to address the interim options.

Body found could be Oban man

A body found in Dunlichity, Inverness, on Tuesday is believed to be that of former Oban Times employee William McDougall.

The 54-year-old, who worked in The Oban Times' advertising department from October 1993 to April 1996,

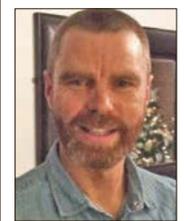
left his Inverness home in his car, an electric blue Vauxhall Astra, on Monday and was last seen

between 10.30am and 11am the same morning in the Culdueth area of the city.

A search was launched on Tuesday morning when police became 'increasingly concerned' for Mr McDougall's welfare and described his disappearance as 'extremely out of character'.

Officers searching for Mr McDougall said they discovered the body of a man on Tuesday afternoon.

A spokesman said: 'The man is yet to be formally identified, but the family of William McDougall has been informed.'



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At the presentation were ship agent Paul Astridge, Councillor Elaine Robertson, Captain Michail Margaritis, Rab Black, from the Port of Oban Cruise Group, and assistant harbour master Richard Dobson. 16_T15_cruiseship01



Cruise ship visitors Jackie Roberts, left, and Lynn Ozimek with Rab Black from the Port of Oban Group. 16_T15_cruiseship05

Huge cruise ship brings hundreds to Oban

Holiday cruise ship MS Magellan sailed into Oban at the weekend bringing hundreds of tourists with her.

The Magellan stopped off as part of its week-long voyage from Essex and was welcomed to shore by town ambassadors and a piper.

Sue Payne from Medway videoed the welcome party to show to family and friends back home. 'This is so special, what a

reception,' she said. Fellow visitors Jackie Roberts from the Cotswolds and Lynn Ozimek from Manchester were just as happy with their town maps being handed out by Rab Black from the Port of Oban Cruise Group.

Councillor Elaine Robertson was among a group invited on board to meet Magellan captain Michail Margaritis. She presented him with a quaich from Argyll and Bute Council

to go with a bottle of Oban whisky presented by Mr Black, who also gave the captain an Oban pendant to mark the ship's first visit to the town.

Captain Margaritis in turn gave assistant harbour master Richard Dobson a commemorative plaque.

After Oban, the ship's next stop was Belfast, followed by Cobh in Cork city's harbour then Rouen on the River Seine and Honfleur.



Councillor Elaine Robertson, left, and Oban community council's Marri Malloy, right, with cruise ship visitor Sue Payne. 16_T15_cruiseship06

Man is jailed for breach of the peace

A man was sentenced to eight months and 100 days in jail for breach of the peace and failing to appear in court.

William Black, 35, of 5 Bridge Terrace, Furnace, pleaded guilty to engaging in a fight and failing to appear at Oban Sheriff Court. He was sentenced on April 9, 2019.

The court heard that on May 27 of last year, Black and another man started fighting on George Street in Oban. Black committed the offence while on early release from prison.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes ordered Black to serve 100 of the 338 days he had left of his sentence, and three months for the breach of peace itself. Black also received a nine-month jail sentence for failing to appear in court.

Sheriff Hughes said it ought to 'send a message to the public' that the court cannot function if people do not appear. Given he has been on remand for two months, he will serve eight months and 100 days to run consecutively.

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Tickets on sale for music and dance festival

by Kathie Griffiths
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Tickets went on sale this week for the 36th Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival.

The popular three-day event will be bringing a big buzz to Oban from May 3 to 5 this year.

The ticket release went live on Monday and the event was celebrated at a civic reception hosted by the council's Provost Len Scoullar in the Regent Hotel.

'It is always a pleasure to visit the towns in Argyll and Bute and hear about and support the vibrant cultural events taking place, and the Oban Highlands and Islands festival has certainly earned a firm place in the annual calendar for its contribution to promoting music and dance for young people,' he said.

Last weekend saw the



From left, Provost Len Scoullar, Eilidh MacAulay, Kate MacPherson and Breege Smyth, HIMDF chairwoman.

successful debut of the pre-premier event attended by 70 Highland dancers and that was just the warm-up to ease the entry numbers for the Highland dancing at the bank holiday festival.

Former numbers continue to grow in all categories from woodwind and brass to fiddlers, pipers, pianists, accordion and clarsach players.

The HIMDF is supported by

many organisations and is getting a grant from Argyll and Bute Council for £5,000 to help with running costs for the venues, judges and adjudicators.

A festival spokesperson said: 'Once again, performers are coming from all over Scotland and two female pipers are travelling from as far as New Zealand and Canada.'

For tickets, call 07510 841198 or go to obanfestival.org.

POLICE FILES

■ On Wednesday April 3, a flat in Craigard Road, Oban, was searched by police. A 26-year-old man was allegedly found to be in possession of items suggesting he was concerned in the supply of cannabis. He was charged and a report will be sent to the procurator fiscal.

■ At about 2.15pm on Friday April 5, police seized alcohol from youths in Glencruitten Drive, Oban. A woman aged 18, a member of the group, had just purchased the alcohol. She was charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

■ At about 2.35pm on Friday April 5, at Loch Awe Stores, Loch Awe, a theft occurred and cash was stolen. The offenders left in a small silver car.

■ At 2am on Saturday April 6, in Stevenson Street, Oban, a man aged 28 was arrested for behaving in an abusive manner. The man was issued with a recorded police warning.

■ Between 7pm on Wednesday April 3 and 10am on Thursday April 4, in Catalina Avenue, Oban, a pink/purple Raleigh child's bicycle with stabilisers and white tyres was stolen.

■ At 12.55am on Sunday April 7, in George Street, Oban, a man aged 18 was arrested for allegedly behaving in an abusive manner. He then resisted arrest. The man was charged and a report will be sent to the procurator fiscal.

■ If anyone has information in relation to any incident, they can call police on 101, or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Power cut hits whole island of Colonsay

by Kathie Griffiths
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Islanders on Colonsay were left without power for two days because of a faulty underwater cable.

Scottish and Southern Energy's head of customer operations Dale Cargill has vowed to do everything possible to get the island's power supply fully up and running again but until then Colonsay will rely on generators.

Bad weather cancelling CalMac ferries meant SSEN could not get generators across to the island when power went off on Wednesday morning last week and a council's civil contingency plan had to be put in place to keep people safe, especially older and sick residents.

All 177 power customers on the island were without power until it was safe to get



Colonsay had no power for two days after a subsea cable developed a fault.

helicopter carrying a team of SSEN engineers to the island that evening to investigate the problem.

The first available ferry finally arrived on the Thursday with engineers using mobile generators to reconnect the

island until the faulty cable is fixed.

Mr Cargill said: 'Throughout the course of the fault, SSEN worked very closely with the local resilience partnership to offer extra support to its customers,

where possible. This includes providing free meals and drinks from local businesses and ensuring the welfare of SSEN's vulnerable customers on the island.

'SSEN's priority now is to carry out investigations into

the cause of the fault and to carry out any necessary repairs to its subsea cable to bring the network back to normal operation and has applied to Marine Scotland for an emergency licence to carry out the necessary work.

'The network will continue to be supported by mobile generation until such time the subsea cable is back in operation.'

The Pantry at Scalasaig provided hot meals and drinks and The Colonsay Hotel also helped.

Islands councillor Alastair Redman said: 'There's an argument here for a permanent back-up generator staying on the island and for a second subsea cable to be put in.'

'Thanks to all the unsung heroes who pulled together to look after everyone and to the frontline workers who helped bring power back.'

Oban man guilty of assault

A 32-year-old man has been found guilty of punching another man and fracturing his eye socket.

Daniel MacKinnon, of Kenmore, Soroba Road, Oban, pleaded not guilty when he appeared in Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday.

The court heard that in an Oban pub on June 3, 2018,

MacKinnon punched the complainant 'a couple' of times.

However, solicitor Eddie Thornton argued that he was acting in self-defence after being hit on the side.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes found him guilty of punching a man to his severe injury.

Sentence was deferred until May 7 for reports.

Thief who took car from Dalmally jailed

A car put into a Dalmally garage for a service was later stolen and turned up in Ullapool.

Last Thursday, at Campbeltown Sheriff Court, its thief, Michael Green, 37, who has been in custody since January, appeared for sentence.

At an earlier hearing, Green had pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing the 04 plate car on December 16, 2017, in Dalmally and a further charge of driving the vehicle while uninsured.

Green was caught by police on January 16 while sleeping rough in a hut on Machrihanish golf course, having failed to appear at Oban Sheriff Court in relation to the charge on November 6 last year.

He was discovered on the

golf course due to a tip-off to the police.

Police searched Green, who later pleaded guilty to being in possession of a Stanley knife with no reasonable excuse.

During Thursday's hearing, procurator fiscal depute Eoin McGinty told the court that the car owner had put it in for a service.

When the work was completed the garage had left the car out with the keys on top of a front tyre.

The owner did not go to collect it for a few days but when he did, it had disappeared. On December 20, 2017, the car was found abandoned in Ullapool with £1,500 of damage.

Green was identified from DNA in the car and on August 18 last year he was

arrested and admitted the offences.

In mitigation, defence solicitor, Stephen MacSporrán said that Green has an unidentified psychiatric condition.

Mr MacSporrán added that, as a result of Green's nomadic lifestyle, he just wanted to get out of the Oban area when he stole the car.

Sheriff Simon Fraser ordered a psychiatric assessment and sentenced Green to four months in prison for possession of the knife.

Sheriff Fraser said that as Green has been in custody since January that just leaves a month to serve.

For the car theft, Green was fined £200 and disqualified from driving for eight months and he was admonished for the failure to appear.

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Group-work musicians with tutor Kate MacPherson, right, at Oban's Easter fèis.



Accordion practise with Michael Garvin.



Art classes were a popular choice.



Sophie Stephenson with her step dancing class.

A 'fantastic success' for Easter fèis

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Participants in this year's Easter Fèis Latharna are getting younger.

For the first time, there were classes for children as young as three at the five-day Gaelic and music festival last week at Oban primary campus.

A total of 200 children and teenagers took part in the week-long celebration offering 17 different class options at four different levels from chanter to fiddle, pipes to whistle, accordion, art, Highland dance and shinty.

Piano classes, introduced for the first time two years ago, are one of the most popular choices again this

year, said Fèis Latharna treasurer Ewan MacDonald.

The Easter fèis in Oban is one of the largest in the country and, if it continues to grow due to demand, it might have to look at moving to a bigger venue next year.

Out of the 200 youngsters, 24 of them were aged three to four, having fun enjoying Gaelic games, dancing and singing. Last year, five- to seven-year-olds were new.

In all, there were 34 tutors, many of who came through the fèis themselves, and an army of volunteer helpers, including parent volunteers.

'It's been a fantastic success. We've got lots of kids back who come every year. We've also had some travel from the islands and the

central belt to join us, some turn it into a whole family holiday,' said Ewan.

'Thanks to our funders, our voluntary committee members and parents who came along and helped - that made it all possible,' he added.

Other events in the week included a session night at The View, a family ceilidh and then Friday's big concert for family, friends and supporters.

Creative Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Argyll and Bute Council and Fèisan nan Gàidheal were the main sponsors.

Every Saturday, a group fèis event takes place during school term time at Glencruitten Church Centre from 10am until 1pm.





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These youngsters decorated treasure boxes.



Highland dance class.

Retailer won't deliver to the 'Isle of Oban'

by David McPhee
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An Oban resident was upset after finding out a retail giant no longer directly delivers to the 'Isle of Oban'.

Tom Clark purchased a tumble dryer from John Lewis, but when it didn't arrive within a week, he phoned up and demanded a delivery date – to no avail.

'He phoned me back and told me it was with a courier and they were having to transfer it to another courier so they could deliver it on the island,' Mr Clark said. 'I told them Oban was not an island, they said they would have to sort it out.'

The 71-year-old cancelled

the order and called up one of their Scottish stores. 'He informed me they changed their delivery systems and they don't deliver to Oban with their own vans now,' he added. 'It's a b***** faff.'

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara said: 'Those of us living in rural Scotland or in our island communities are being ripped off by what can only be described as totally unscrupulous and outrageous practices by some delivery companies.'

Mr O'Hara said that Scotland pays 'a whopping' £33 million a year in delivery surcharges.

A spokesperson for John Lewis said: 'Larger items, including furniture and appli-

ances, will either be delivered by a John Lewis and Partners van or one of our approved suppliers, and our deliveries to Oban are carried out by one of our approved suppliers due to the distance from our customer delivery hubs.

'As we explain on our website, we always aim to deliver larger items within seven working days, but it's subject to post-code and carrier availability.'

'There are a small number of postcodes listed on our website, usually in remote areas and including Oban, where we cannot guarantee delivery within our usual timescale. Items will sometimes take more than seven days due to limited carrier availability in these areas.'



Oban High School Pipe Band play their way up 6th Avenue on Tartan Day.

Oban pipes and drums star in New York

Oban High School Pipe Band returned to New York for the third time where they marched down 6th Avenue on Saturday as part of the annual Tartan Day Parade.

One of the loudest cheers of the day came from guest of honour Billy Connelly, who led this year's event and acknowledged the Oban band as they passed by.

As well as performing, the

pupils were led the length and breadth of the city by head teacher Peter Bain, teachers Nan Johnstone and Morven Gage and Pipe Major Angus McColl, taking in the Empire State Building, Times Square and Central Park among many others across the five-day trip.

Mr Bain said: 'Wherever we go, so many people comment about how wonderful it is for

our youngsters to come so far and perform so well. The experience of playing in front of thousands in New York, as well as the sightseeing opportunities, will stay with everyone for life. I'm very proud of them all and thankful to the staff who gave up their time to look after them.' Prior to the parade on Saturday, the band performed for international crowds in Bryant Park.



Oban Rotary supports hall refurbishment

The committee of North Connel Village Hall, a much-used community venue, are in the process of building up a fund for what is now regarded as essential internal refurbishments of the premises with emphasis on toilets, in particular disabled toilets, along with the provision of showers which will attract a variety of sports bodies. The Rotary Club of Oban,

as part of its support for local initiatives, agreed to donate £500 to NCVH's refurbishment programme and president Iain MacIntyre handed over a cheque for this amount to secretary Christine Campbell. Also in the picture are guiders Lorraine Robertson and Karyn Black and Rotarians Alan Johnson, Jack Tollan and Eddie Thornton.

Hotelier thanks rescue heroes after 40ft fall

Mull hotelier Laurence Mackay is a lucky man after surviving a 40ft fall while painting a chimney.

Mr Mackay's fall was broken by a flat roof and then a plastic pipe before he landed in a gully with no access.

Only his wife Katie and the chef were at the island's remote Tiroran House Hotel at the time and rang 999 to get help.

'Before we knew it, every man and his dog turned up to

help,' said Laurence, who had four fractures to his back and one to his sternum.

Rescuers had to remove a window so ambulance staff could climb through and get to him.

He was put in a neck brace and strapped to a stretcher before he was passed back through the window on it and taken through the hotel onto the lawn where an air ambulance was waiting for him.

'It was a tortuous route but I

was very grateful. We had first responders, the ambulance, coastguard, fire brigade, police and the air ambulance.

'The emergency services were fantastic,' added Laurence.

The air ambulance could not land at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital's helipad and had to be diverted to the airport before he was taken by ambulance to get checked out.

Two days later Laurence was allowed back home to recover.

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Young carers centre given £83,836 boost

by David McPhee
dmphee@obantimes.co.uk



An Oban charity which supports young carers in North Argyll has received more than £80,000 from BBC Children in Need.

North Argyll Carers Centre, located on Albany Street, has been awarded £83,836 over three years.

This will help the charity offer support and activities to young carers from Oban and its surrounding areas.

This will be delivered through after-school peer support group sessions during term time, school holiday respite day trips, and three residential opportunities during the year.

Morag MacLean, manager at North Argyll Carers Centre, said: 'We're delighted to have been awarded this grant from BBC Children in Need which will enable us to give the young



Youth workers Arlene Colewell and Ewen Munro, with young carers after a day trip to Mull. 17_115_NAYC01

carers in our area the chance to take some time out from their caring responsibilities and have fun with their friends.

'It will enable us to transport them to and from groups and to do respite activities.'

'We are delighted to receive this funding and alongside

community partnerships such as our links with Oban Rotary Club and funding from Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership, it makes a real difference to how we can support young carers. Thank you to everyone who has made this possible.'

The North Argyll Young Carers Centre aims to develop young people's self-esteem and confidence, as well as helping them to develop skills.

Last year, Oban Rotary Club donated £12,000 to the centre, to be distributed over three years. Mrs MacLean added:

'The [Children In Need] funding is great, but we could not do what we do without the continued support from the Rotary.'

Florence Burke, national head of Scotland at BBC Children in Need, added: 'We are delighted to fund the work of North Argyll Carers Centre and look forward to seeing the difference that this grant will make to children and young people across Oban.'

The Oban Times previously reported that the North Argyll Carers Centre in Albany Street worked with 104 young carers and young adult carers, although government estimates suggest there could be as many as 547 in the area.

The centre has urged people to help identify young carers so they can get early help.

To find out more about the service at North Argyll Carers Centre, call 01631 564422 or go to northargyllcarers.org.uk.



Bingo night

A charity bingo night at The View last week raised £350 for Oban Youth Cafe. Every month the George Street venue raises funds for a local charity or organisation through bingo. Oban Youth Cafe is

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Cruise ship's return is bonus for business

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

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WHERE IS THIS?



What a week it has been, with lots going on in the town and two cruise ships calling within days of each other.

On Sunday we had the Magellan arriving at 9am just as the town started to come to life and I think they managed to buy almost every Sunday paper that was in the town, as by the time I finished at lunchtime I had to visit three shops to find what I wanted.

On Tuesday we had the unexpected pleasure of welcoming the Astoria back to Oban as she was unable to reach Fort William,

but their loss was our gain and I spent the morning welcoming and directing passengers who were delighted to be here, especially as the weather continued to be warmer and brighter.

We're very fortunate to be centrally located in the Highlands and it is not the first time that we've had ships visit because they

couldn't reach their scheduled location for one reason or another.

I'm sure many of the businesses in the town will have benefited from the huge influx of visitors that the ships have brought to the town so far this year.

Coming up this weekend, we have the Costa Mediterranea on which there are more details below.

She's one of the biggest ships we've had in a while so I think this Sunday will be just as busy, if not busier. Just the way I like it.

The photo last week was of the pontoon from the North Pier at an odd angle.

This week didn't take me very far from that location.

Welcome the Costa Mediterranea to Oban

This weekend we welcome the Costa Mediterranea to Oban on Sunday April 14 between the hours of 8am and 6pm.

The Costa Mediterranea is a Spirit-class cruise ship operated by the Costa Crociere cruise line. She was constructed at the Kvaerner Masa Yards in Helsinki, Finland, at a cost of more than 400 million euros.

Like her sister ship Costa Atlantica, her design was derived from the Carnival Cruise Lines Spirit-class ships. Her 12 decks are named after mythological and historical characters: Circe, Teriscore, Bacco, Teseo, Orfeo, Narciso, Prometeo, Pegaso, Armonia, Cleopatra, Pandora and Medea.

On June 16, 2003, she

departed on her maiden voyage from Genoa to Spain and Portugal.

Costa Mediterranea attracts an international crown which varies depending on the itinerary. For European sailings, the vast majority of passengers will be European. She carries a capacity of 2,114 passengers and 912 crew, who I hope will enjoy a really warm Oban welcome.



...ght raises £350

a safe space for high school pupils to drop in and play pool, Xbox, games, cook in the kitchen, do art and craft, and chat. Number caller Nicola Wilson said: 'Thanks to everyone who came along to support us

and donated raffle prizes.' The next charity bingo will be held on Easter Sunday, April 21. There will be children's games from 1pm until 2.30pm and the adults will have their turn from 2.30pm until 3pm.

Thinktank call to shape up Oban's business plan

Levy-payers who are part of BID4Oban have been asked to think about what the future holds.

Business representatives at the recent annual general meeting were asked by BID4Oban chief executive Andrew Spence to come up with ideas on how the organisation should shape up for 2022 – and beyond – when its current term ends.

'We need to start planning now. If we are to change the format we need to gather ideas and projects,' said Mr Spence, who raised for discussion the possibility of extending BID's catchment area outside the town to take in areas such as Dunstaffnage and Barcaldine, home to SAMS and Scottish Sea Farms.

Out of the 550 businesses which are part of BID4Oban, there were about 30 representatives at the Perle Hotel meeting.

It was suggested Mr Spence and his team drop in on members to collect their views on how BID4Oban should move forward.

Businesses heard how 2020 would be a 'massive opportunity' for the town when it is the year of Scotland's Coast and Waters.

'We need to make sure Oban is remarketed as the seafood capital and the top destination for people to come and explore our coast and waters. It's a massive opportunity.'

Last year saw a run of successful BID initiatives, including taking on the town's Christmas lights and making the town look at its blooming best with floral displays.

Community projects included supporting Oban Communities Trust, shinty and the Highland and Islands Music and Dance Festival.

The town wi-fi was also a big hit with more than 1,200 people a week in summer signing into it.

Oban's growing popularity with cruise ships, the North Pier pontoons, its amazing town ambassadors and tour guides, fireworks display and reindeer parade also got a mention in the meeting's round-up.

It will also be the third year of the town markets this season with the first one on April 13 and there are plans to liven up the town's online diary of events.

Sales of Love Oban vouchers have doubled this past year, with more and more businesses signing up to use them.

May brings celebration for Mull community groups

Mull's many community groups are being celebrated at a special showcase day in Dervaig next month.

Dervaig's community orchard has sown the seeds for the celebration day happening on Friday May 3.

Invitations to join in the event have been sent out to groups, organisations and craft-makers across the island which will gather on the day at

Dervaig Village Hall from 3pm to 5pm with guest Michael Russell MSP, who donated a whole pile of books from his own personal collection to the new community library.

Tobermory Harbour Association and Mull and Iona Community Trust are among the groups which will be there.

Youngsters from the now-booming primary school at Dervaig will also be playing

a big part in the day, showing Mr Russell round the community orchard, now in its third year, and the library busy building up its book stocks with a monthly drop-off of good reading material from Argyll and Bute Council.

Mull Native Woodland Group will be there too, and there will be a chance to see Dervaig Hall's newly refurbished bunk-rooms. Mull

Music Makers will be putting on a performance at 4.30pm, and, at 5pm, Mr Russell will address Mull Native Woodland Group's first annual meeting.

Later in the evening, Dervaig chef Iain Hetherington will be cooking up a 'thank you' meal for guests supporting the community orchard project and the library.

For more, email info@mullnativewoodlandsgroup.co.uk.



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OT Alien invasion ... of the skunk cabbage kind

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



People living in and around Oban are being urged to watch out for an alien invasion ... of American skunk cabbages.

The highly invasive plant, which gives off the smell of rotting flesh, has lantern-shaped bright yellow flowers with waxy leaves that grow to be giant-sized.

It has often been planted by garden ponds and burns but has a nasty habit of escaping into the wild.

Now that spring has sprung, the plant has started putting in an appearance around Oban and has been spotted on Seil.

Last year the Royal Horticultural Society recommended it should not be grown in gardens, as two years earlier

the European Union put it on a list of invasive alien species of concern. The yellow variety has now been banned from sale in garden centres and is a management priority in Scotland.

Maurice Wilkins, who used to be head gardener at Arduaine Gardens, has experience of American skunk cabbage.

'It certainly is an invasive alien. We had a lot of it along the pond edges at Arduaine and I remember quite early on finding it growing on the beach outside the garden.

'For the next 20-odd years we cut the dead flower stems off before the seed ripened, not a huge job despite the fact there were hundreds of them, but at least we knew that it wouldn't spread any further.

'If anyone sees it growing

outside a garden it would be sensible to report it, but in the short term cutting off the seed heads would stop the problem getting worse. It can be carefully sprayed out, but the foliage is extremely glossy which makes it hard for the chemical to stick.

'It would be interesting to hear where it's growing out in the wild in the Oban area,' added Mr Wilkins.

People can report sightings of it growing wild to Scottish Natural Heritage.

Some people think of it as a weed, but it has a history of being used by indigenous people as medicine for burns and injuries and for food in times of famine when almost all parts were eaten, although it is thought to cause death if consumed in large quantities.



Oban Baptist Church Youth team were on the case.

The great clean-up ... continued

Such was the volume of contribution to the Oban Spring Clean 2019 another page is required in The Oban Times this week to cover as much as possible.

On the Sunday March 31, a group of 16 young people from Oban Baptist Church (OBC) took part in the annual spruce-up.

The group is often involved in activities to help the community and saw the spring clean as a chance to do its bit for its town.

OBC youth leader Catriona Petit said: 'We found lots of interesting things, including a full, large tub of chocolate ice-cream and a football.

'The group showed much enthusiasm and managed to reach places that others would struggle to.'

The group meets weekly



Members of Oban Seals cleaned up the beach at Ganavan.

at 10.30am at Oban Baptist Church and one of its aims is to show God's love through acts of kindness.

The GRAB Trust organised a clean-up on Little

Ganavan with staff, volunteers and friends helping, while Oban High School's eco group cleaned up the path at the back of the school and McCall Terrace.



Volunteers from the GRAB Trust cleaned up at Little Ganavan, above, while Oban High School pupils did their bit, right.



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Mammoth mission for mum helping Yazidis

Consultation begins over island polls

The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland has begun a consultation with councils on proposals for electoral arrangements in Na h-Eileanan an Iar, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands.

The consultation will run until May 20.

The 2019 Review of Electoral Arrangements will make proposals for the six council areas specified in the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 – Argyll and Bute, Highland, North Ayrshire, Na h-Eileanan an Iar, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands.

The commission is conducting the review in two phases. Following the islands consultation, the commission will review Argyll and Bute, Highland and North Ayrshire.

The reviews will result in recommendations for the number of councillors on each council and the number and boundaries of wards for the election of those councillors.

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Mercy mum Fiona Bennett is planning a second mission to Iraq to get more help to Yazidi refugees.

The former psychiatric nurse from North Connel has just returned from a life-changing five days in Iraq and Kurdistan hearing harrowing stories from charity workers and meeting families still living in fear in refugee camps.

Fiona, who was shortlisted for a Great Scot Award after helping to acquire £300,000 worth of medical supplies and raising £14,000 to ship them over to Iraq, has already applied for a visa to go back in May.

The mum-of-two is working with global organisation Yazda after the Islamic State terror group attacked Yazidi people in 2014, killing thousands and forcing their women into sexual slavery.

During her fact-finding trip last month trying to get into the Yazidi homeland of Sinjar, she spent two hours at a military check-point with glued up windows where women had once been raped and tortured.

It was like something out of a scary movie. I noticed in the commander's office that the windows were glued shut. I know that Yazidi girls were held at these checkpoints and raped. Isis made every effort to make sure these girls did not escape.

Fiona had been trying to visit Sinjar hospitals and see at first-hand how aid she helped make possible is making a difference but red-tape makes the town, where there are mass Yazidi graves, incredibly difficult



Fiona, second right, had lunch with a refugee family living in a one-room tent who managed to miracle up a meal to share with her and aid workers to show their gratitude.

to reach, needing four lots of approval from Kurdish and Iraqi authorities.

She said: 'It's so complicated. I didn't get to Sinjar this time but I will in May. I've applied for a visa and there's plenty of time to get the necessary paperwork done.'

'It was a life-changing experience. Someone asked me if it was out of my system now I'd been out but it's had the opposite effect. I need to get back.'

Fiona hopes to get to Mosul next time too but has been warned the city, still in ruins years after the defeat of IS, is like something out of 'a sci-fi apocalyptic movie' where around 7,000 bodies are buried under rubble.

One of the Yazda social workers whom Fiona met at the charity's HQ in Dohuk had lost 32 members of her own family with some relatives still missing.

'The Yazidis' situation is utterly devastating. I spent a lot of time there crying. There

was an awful moment when a social worker who lost 32 members and whose sister and nieces are still missing, put her hand on my arm and told me to be strong. She is having to face the fact they are probably not going to return now.

'My fear is that amazing social workers like her and those documenting survivors' stories will crash and burn unless they can get help too. The trauma they have experienced themselves and are still experiencing through the people they talk to is far beyond what most of us can ever relate to,' said Fiona.

As well as working on a plan to get them that help, Fiona says another urgent need is to replace an archaic computer system Yazda workers are relying on to store vital information they gather and pass on to the United Nations.

Fiona also spent time in two refugee camps where little boys kidnapped by the IS group and trained to kill are now back

but are terrorising their own people.

She said: 'A major problem that has become apparent in the camps are the little boys

kidnapped by IS who have been trained to kill and been turned against their own families. These boys have been brainwashed and are terrorising the camps.

'They are verbally abusing their mothers and sisters, thinking they are not dressed properly. They desperately need help to be reintegrated but there is no child protection. They need a specific psychological programme to help them recover. The damage done to them is unprecedented.'

Fiona, who works in Oban as a human resources manager, added: 'This isn't just my story, it's a story affecting millions of people. I need to make contact with people who can help me do what needs to be done next. It won't be easy, it's a mammoth task ahead but it has to happen.'

If anyone can help, contact fimacb@gmail.com



Baderkhan and Juma are two Yazidis working to help their people.

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OT

Skiff club given 'oar' some grant

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Crew members at Loch Awe skiff club are on a winning streak after news of a second successful grant.

The Carraig Gheal board of trustees has just approved a bid by Kilchrenan, Inverinan and Dalavich (KIDs) Coastal Rowing Club for £4,090 for a new set of oars and a trailer.

Last month, the club was celebrating being awarded £8,650 from a Lottery For All bid to get a second St Ayles skiff ready to launch this summer. It already has one skiff hand-built in 850 hours by its founder Gordon Leveratt, a former submariner.

To boost club funds even more, the club is also busy selling raffle tickets with big prizes to be won including a one-night stay in a master room at the prestigious



Mingulay launches on Loch Awe.

Ardanaisig Hotel, a meal for two at Dalavich's Loch Side Restaurant, tickets to Ballet West's Cinderella, whisky and Love Oban gift vouchers.

Tickets are available at Taynuilt Post Office, Kilchrenan Village Hall, the Wild Rowan Cafe and the social club at Dalavich.

The club is getting ready to host its inaugural regatta at

Dalavich at the end of this month, welcoming skiffies from around Scotland.

Nine other skiffs from coastal rowing clubs countrywide, including neighbours Oban and Luing, will be taking part in the event from April 26 to 29, featuring a 14-mile race on the Sunday from Dalavich to the Taychreggan Hotel on the north point and back.

There will be parking and camping at the community centre and Dalavich Social Club, which is opening its doors and bar over that weekend for evening meals, a ceilidh and more music. The Wild Rowan Cafe will also be open every day for breakfasts, snacks and light lunches.

A social row on the loch near the community centre is planned for the Saturday when it is hoped participating clubs will run taster sessions for residents and visitors for a small donation.

Coastal rowing has taken off worldwide in the past few years with more than 70 clubs in Scotland alone and some 150 boats built by communities, including Seil's Selkie.

To find out more about KIDs or volunteering at the Loch Awe Adventure regatta, call 01866 833425 or email gordonleveratt@uwclub.net.

Council calls for urgent investment in ferries

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has written to Minister for Energy and the Islands Paul Wheelhouse MSP to underline the urgent need for investment in new ferries for the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service network.

This is over and above the commitment to build the two ferries at Ferguson Marine Engineering, that are now set to be at least two years late, before they enter service.

The letter underlined that the primary purpose for government investment in ferry services must be to secure the sustainability of the island communities they serve.

The comhairle says there is strong evidence that the government needs to be bringing in new ferries to replace at least the four major ferries which have been in service since the 1980s and, while the two ferries in build at Port Glasgow will address a small part of the ageing fleet issue, this needs to go further and that the government should have placed an order for the promised new ferry for Islay and in all reality this

should be a two-ferry order. The comhairle's chairman of transportation and infrastructure, Councillor Uisdean Robertson, recently met representatives of Strategic Marine, which recently completed the new vessel for Pentland Ferries, to understand the service it could offer.

These discussions are said to have been positive and Strategic Marine was able to produce outline designs for a monohull ferry that could operate from the existing infrastructure at ports including Lochmaddy, Tarbert and Uig (the 'Skye Triangle') or to serve Islay.

Mr Robertson said the government understood the damage technical difficulties with ageing ferries could have on fragile island economies.

'We want to work constructively with government to overcome this threat and believe the proposal we outlined on the Strategic Marine design is worthy of serious consideration,' he said.

'This could deliver the badly needed new ferries in as little as 18 months.'

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

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We must all fight to save our language

How often do we read on the waves of social media or in the letters pages of the printed press, the sentiments, relating to Gaelic: 'Why spend money on a dead language?'

Well, apart from the myriad of other hugely important reasons, the simplest is that at present the language is clearly not dead, though there is no doubt that on the current trajectory, the future of the language is on a downward course.

There is also no doubt, however, that this course towards our own demise could be changed to a self-perpetuating upward trend of exponential growth.

There are a lot of organisations and individuals working hard towards this goal and it is definitely achievable.

At the moment there are still many people who use Gaelic as a genuine first language. These people in my eyes are by far the most important factor in the survival of the language and our culture.

This strong lifeline to the anchors of our identity is slipping through our hands and, as a population, we are

watching it happen with apathy, all distracted with the rough and tumble of life.

I am as guilty as any in this regard.

We must jolt ourselves to take action or we will watch as the ropes to these anchors slip out of our hands and, as a people, we drift into oblivion.

We have the chance to survive if only we put the effort in and collectively close our hands around these ropes to the survival of our own race.

Anchors of the Soul – lyrics Angus MacPhail (Gaelic chorus, Flora MacPhail)

Don't tell me I'm dead when my heart is beating strong.
Though I'm down upon my knees I will rise in song
And the voice of generations still to see the dawning day
Will be heard on the mountains and the bay.

Chorus
Hold hold and live for the goal
We still can save our soul.
Hold hold and live for the goal

And the anchors of our soul.

Seinn, seinn and duan
Le guthan arda gun ghruaim.
Seinn, seinn and duan
Buan gu bràth.

I was born to the bloodline and the land of the Gael
And I won't lie down and watch the end of our tale.
We can't rewrite the past but our future can be made
And the road to change our story can be laid.

In our day we stand now to lose it or to live
We have one last chance before the lifelines give.
Use the history and the hope of our people and our plight
To wake up now and see the morning light.

We will walk to the future with the power of our past
And the wounds long held will be healed at last.
And the rise of the Gael in our time will come
From the old through the passion of the young.

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Oban showcased at Holyrood reception

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



BID4Oban exhibited at the annual cross-party group on towns' parliamentary reception, hosted by the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government, Aileen Campbell MSP.

The theme of this year's reception was a celebration of Scotland's small and rural towns, and Andrew Spence, BID2Oban chief executive, hosted an exhibition to showcase the best that Oban has to offer guests and members of the Scottish Parliament.

The evening was organised by Scotland's Towns Partnership, the national body for towns and all those who work to support the country's town and city districts.

At the reception, the work of local groups in taking action to regenerate their townships



BID4Oban's Andrew Spence, right, with Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron at Holyrood.

was praised by the cabinet secretary and chief executive of Scotland's Towns Partnership Phil Prentice.

Mr Spence said: 'The event was a great opportunity to showcase our town and the work we're doing locally to create more opportunities for business and people.'

'It's important that we con-

tinue to talk to decision-makers about the types of changes we need to see to ensure small towns like ours continue to thrive - but we will continue to do what we can to help.'

Ms Campbell added: 'Communities across Scotland are doing fantastic work in our towns.'

'Whether it's residents,

businesses or groups, it is communities which hold the knowledge and understanding of how their towns work and which have a long-term vested interest in getting things right. Their dedication, ambition and hard work has led to significant improvements in many of our towns.'

'We continue to invest in community empowerment through a wide range of funds which support the regeneration of our towns.'

'The Scottish Government is providing £50 million through the new Town Centre Fund 2019/20, set up in partnership with COSLA to enable local authorities to stimulate and support a wide range of investments to help our town centres diversify and flourish.'

Mr Prentice agreed that the funding would help to drive economic activity and stimu-

late and support place-based economic improvements.

'This will be a welcome respite against the challenging backdrop of ongoing retail closures and public sector shrinkage,' he said. 'We want our high streets and town centres across Scotland to be vibrant, creative, enterprising and accessible.'

'These centres are at the heart of our communities and the lifeblood of our country so it is essential that we support them to become more diverse and sustainable.'

'It is crucial that local and national government support the transition and evolution of Scotland's small towns given the challenges we face in business demographics and rural depopulation.'

'As such, it is critical that a vision for our small towns is at the centre of any Scottish economic strategy.'

Lifeboat goes to aid of cliff fall student

The volunteer crew of Oban lifeboat Mora Edith MacDonald were called last week to help a woman who had fallen 25 to 30 feet down a small cliff near Gylen Castle on Kerrera.

With a crew of six and an additional five members of Oban Coastguard Rescue Team to help with the rescue, the boat left Oban shortly after 12.30pm and made the short 15-minute journey to the southern end of the island where the woman was located.

Using the lifeboat's XP boat, personnel were transferred to the shore.

The geology student from Glasgow University, had an injury to her left leg. Pain relief was given to her and she was stabilised and secured in a stretcher before being transferred to the lifeboat.

Upon arrival back in Oban at 2.15pm, the injured woman was handed over to the Scottish Ambulance Service.



Crystal has been talking about transphobia ahead of the inaugural Oban Pride.

Oban standing up for trans community

Oban Pride joined more than 150 groups worldwide in signing a joint statement opposing the 'hatred and intolerance' faced by trans people.

Pride organisations from across the globe spoke out in support of trans rights on international Trans Day of Visibility 2019 on March 31, and restated that Pride was an event for those who held the values of respect and equality to heart.

Oban Pride plans its inaugural event on May 17, 18 and 19, and Phill Dexter, one of the organisers, told The Oban Times why being a part

of this international effort to stamp out transphobia at Pride was so vital.

'This is a really important step for the Pride movement to come together and reaffirm that Pride is for the whole LGBT+ community, wherever it happens around the world,' he said. 'Here in Oban, we will always stand up for trans people, who have faced abuse.'

'Our identities are not up for debate - trans rights are human rights and we will not be intimidated on matters as fundamental as our right to exist free from discrimination and hatred. Oban

Pride will reflect these values completely.'

Other organisations who signed the statement were: Dundee Pride, Pride Saltire (East Lothian), Grampian Pride, Mardi Gla, Perthshire Pride, Pride Edinburgh, West Lothian Pride and Winter Pride Scotland.

Dexter's alter ego Crystal last weekend circulated the town promoting and fundraising.

Oban Pride starts on Friday May 17 with a ghost hunt and continues over the weekend with highlights including a Pride Parade, entertainment, stalls and a Rainbow Ball.

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OT

HSCP chairman has 'strong confidence' for the future

The new man in charge of Argyll and Bute's health and social care partnership has 'strong confidence' in the future of the service.

Councillor Kieron Green officially took over as chairman of the partnership's integration joint board (IJB) on Monday April 1, succeeding Robin Creelman.

The Argyll and Bute Council member, who represents the Oban North and Lorn ward, had previously been in the position prior to Mr Creelman's appointment in 2017.

Now that he is back in the chair, he is determined to oversee a successful future for the health and social care partnership (HSCP), not least its financial side.

While a health overspend will be written off by NHS Highland, nearly £2.8 million is due to be paid to Argyll and Bute Council.

A dispute over a £1.2m service level agreement with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde presents further challenges.

Councillor Green said: 'I strongly believe in the value of public services, and feel health and social care is an important area in many people's lives.

'I am sure all of us have experiences of care, personally and through those close to us, and these will inevitably shape our views of how it is provided.

'I am therefore delighted to continue to have the opportunity to help shape the development of health and social care locally.

'Since I joined the IJB I have served firstly as chairman, and then for the past two years as vice-chairman. During this time my knowledge of the range of care delivered throughout our towns, villages and islands has increased greatly.

'I've seen the fantastic work being carried out by our own staff as well as by valued partnerships with the third and independent sectors.

'All of this has helped, and will continue to help, inform the decisions I make as a board member. I also regularly feed these experiences into discussions happening at a national level which assists in shaping policies being implemented across Scotland.

'Integration of health and social care continues to have the potential to deliver significant benefits for those using services.



Councillor Kieron Green is the HSCP's new chairman.

'As such, there is a commitment at a national level by the Scottish Government to support integration, and locally between Argyll and Bute Council and NHS Highland to the success of Argyll and Bute HSCP.

'Alongside the dedication of the workforce, the contributions made by third and independent sector organisations, and the range of skills and experience of members of the IJB I have a strong confidence in the future of the partnership.'

playing bridge. But the financial cards have not fallen in the IJB's favour of late, with an overspend of £5m looking likely for 2018/19, although some of that will be written off by NHS Highland.

Councillor Green continued: 'The forecast overspend within the HSCP during 2018/19, as reported during in papers to the March IJB, was £3.929m across all services within Argyll.

'Of this, £1.156m is in relation to health services delivered by us locally, and £2.773m is for social care.

'In addition, there is a risk that another £1.2m may be required, due to the increases in funding being asked for by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde for services they deliver.

'Any health overspend for 2018/19 will, in line with the agreement by government to draw a line under the finances of NHS Highland, be written off.

'On the social care side, agreement will be reached between Argyll and Bute Council and the HSCP regarding timescales for repayment.

'This will take into account the financial situation of both

organisations and the importance of the services delivered. Following a determined effort by officers to find efficiencies, and through some changes in the ways in which we deliver services, we have been able to approve a balanced budget for the coming year.

'Further options for the financial year 2020/21 will be formulated and developed over the coming months.

'These will then be subject to appropriate engagement and consultation prior to the next budget meeting in March 2020.

'As well as changes we are making within Argyll, we of course expect NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde to become more efficient in delivering services to Argyll residents.

'Another priority for us is making more services available locally which will also mean saving travel by patients.

'Given this, I hope that it will be possible for an agreement to be reached on finances between NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and Argyll and Bute HSCP.

'However, if it is not, there are procedures to resolve any disputes involving NHS funding.'

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Hospitals campaign goes active

Did you know that a week in hospital can significantly reduce your physical ability?

Even short periods of inactivity can lead to muscle loss, increased risk of falls, increased confusion, reduced independence, delays in getting home and increased risk of needing help when leaving hospital.

A study that asked people in a hospital ward to wear pedometers found that on average people took just 70 steps a day. It was a stark contrast to the challenges many people undertake to increase their activity levels.

NHS Highland says it is committed to delivering the best possible service in partnership with its local communities and is launching its Get Up, Get Dressed, Get Moving campaign.

The campaign builds on the good work undertaken in hospitals so that the public, people who need to go in to our hospitals and their families are aware it encourages people to bring in their day clothes and footwear, to get



Oban staff promoting #EndPJparalysis, the Get Up, Get Dressed, Get Moving campaign were Fiona Turnbull, Cathy MacFarlane, Gillian Bisp and Shona MacMillan.

out of bed, get dressed and to move around the ward as much as possible.

Increased physical activity enhances recovery and helps people to get back home sooner and to live as independently as possible.

Derek Laidler, lead physiotherapist with Argyll and Bute HSCP, said: 'Research highlights that many people

in our hospitals do not require bed rest. Studies have also shown that wearing pyjamas can change how we feel about ourselves. It can reinforce a perception of ill health, inactivity and consequently delays recovery.

'Part of the challenge lies in our traditional attitudes around rest, recuperation and convalescing. Bed rest

is perhaps the worst thing possible for most people, regardless of their reason for being in hospital.'

NHS Highland's allied health professional lead for South and Mid Community Services, Amanda Trafford, said: 'Supporting people to get up and dress in their own clothes is a vital part of the drive for independence.'

Call for continued dementia care service

Community hospitals in Argyll and Bute must continue to deliver dementia care services after a review takes place, a health chief has warned.

Day services for people with the condition are under scrutiny as part of budget proposals by the area's health and social care partnership (HSCP).

The partnership's integration joint board (IJB) heard on Wednesday, March 27, that dementia services are under review with a view to employing updated practice.

It is estimated the proposed changes will save the HSCP £71,000 a year, with the removal of 1.5 full-time equivalent posts which are vacant.

But Betty Rhodick, a retired care worker and a representative on the IJB, insists community hospitals have a vital role to play in the care of dementia sufferers.

She said: 'There comes a stage when a dementia patient is not safe and they are

causing problems not only to themselves, but to carers and family, and costing the health service more money.

'We have already lost a community hospital in Argyll and Bute and this is going to come to the stage that community hospitals are going to be drop-in medical services.

'You can make up as many strategies as you like - people all have individual needs.'

A report in advance of the meeting said: 'Dementia services in Argyll and Bute are under review with a view to employing updated practice. The day service is not currently being used. It is envisaged that dementia day care is required as part of the wider service provision and will feature in a wider dementia services review in 2019-20.

'Provision of older people's day care will be considered within a different model seeking opportunities to work with the independent and third sector services.'

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BUSINESS NEWS

Oban paralegal is best in the country

An Oban law firm paralegal has seen off competition from across the country to win a top national award.

Fiona Anderson, pictured, who works for MacPhee and Partners, was recognised for her achievement in winning Paralegal of the Year at the Scottish Legal Awards in Glasgow last month.

Fiona left school at 18 but did not know what career path she wanted to take. A family member offered her a summer placement at a local law firm and the rest is history.

Now with nearly 20 years' experience, Fiona works as a conveyancing paralegal in MacPhee's Oban office.

However, Fiona's ambition to reach her full potential has now taken a step further and she has decided to advance her career and qualify as a solicitor. Fiona is sitting exams through the Law Society of Scotland's alternative route to qualifying.



Young gin company to open new distillery

A silver-medal gin-maker from Mull is getting ready to open the island's first new distillery in more than 220 years.

This week saw Whitetail Distillery install a copper still in an old steading, just outside the coffee shop at Tiroan near the family business's country house hotel.

The company is working on a range of new spirit products to be revealed soon to the buying public but it was the Munro family's Whitetail Gin that won a recent worldwide award as part of the prestigious International Spirit Challenge 2019.

To get the silver accolade it had to pass a scrupulous blind tasting by a world renowned expert panel of judges, beating strong competition in the hotly contested London Gin Super Premium category.

Whitetail Spirits is now in its second year of trading using seasonal botanicals, including kelp from the sea loch, forest pine and bright pink heather from the family's estate. Only nine months after the family sold its first bottle of Whitetail, it started winning world repute.



Whitetail co-founder Jamie Munro.

16_T15whitetail06

The gin, taking its name from a pair of whitetailed eagles, Fingal and Iona, which live in the forest at Tiroan, is crafted by eighth-generation master distiller Charles Maxwell at Thames Distillers in London and

distilled using water freshly sourced from the Munros' private spring which is said to have mythical healing powers.

The family hopes to ultimately bring home all of the Whitetail Gin production.

Whitetail co-founder Jamie Munro said: 'Winning a silver medal in such a commanding and high-level category such as the Super Premium London provides my family and I with immense pride and satisfaction. Utilising and tapping into the knowledge of industry-great Charles Maxwell for the development of Whitetail Gin has been paramount to our quality of spirit.'

'This is already an exciting year for us as we open our micro-distillery here at our family home on the island which will be only the second, and the first new distillery site on Mull in over 220 years.'

Now in its 24th year, the International Spirit Challenge is the premier event in promoting quality spirits from across the globe, attracting more than 1,700 entries from nearly 70 countries worldwide.

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Mowi kicks off centre fundraising with £13,500

Salmon farming company Mowi Scotland has kick-started a vital fundraising drive for Lochalsh Leisure Centre.

The leisure centre, which is used by 100 people a day from Lochalsh and the vicinity, needs to replace the 30-year-old roof over its swimming pool.

Lochalsh Leisure Centre provides affordable facilities and has a strong membership base which covers day-to-day running costs.

As a self-financing charity that is wholly funded by the community, large expenditure such as a new roof, cannot be absorbed by membership fees alone.

In response, Mowi Scotland has donated £13,500 to cover half the cost of a new roof and has launched a fundraising campaign to encourage other Lochalsh businesses, as well as individuals, to donate.

Kendal Hunter, manager of Mowi's Lochalsh salmon farm, said: 'With the Lochalsh Leisure Centre being such an important



Left to right are Kendal Hunter, manager Mowi Lochalsh, Heather O'Neill, operational support, Mowi Scotland feed team (Kyleakin), and Paul Wood, chairman of Lochalsh Leisure Centre.

facility for the community, I'm really happy we're able to support its efforts to replace the pool roof.

'Many Mowi employees and I'm sure employees of other businesses use the leisure centre's facilities on a regular basis, so I'd encourage other businesses to get involved and donate too.'

Paul Wood, chairman of the Lochalsh Leisure Centre, added:

'I'm delighted to have Mowi showing its support for the Lochalsh Leisure Centre and provide such a generous donation.'

'This secures half the cost for a new roof for the pool, so now we're looking to other businesses and individuals to help us secure the remainder.'

'Whether you're a business looking to support a local cause or a customer of the leisure

centre, we're grateful for all donations. Donations can be made via our JustGiving page or by getting in touch on Facebook.'

'Also look out for fundraising ideas on display in the leisure centre and on our Facebook page.'

'I'd like to thank anyone who donates to the fundraiser - your generosity will help us secure the future of an important community facility.'

XpoNorth On the Road brings experts to Oban

The next XpoNorth On the Road event will take place at the Corran Halls in Oban on Wednesday April 24.

It will offer attendees the chance to explore independent publishing and crowdfunding as well as an opportunity to discuss artist development.

The event also offers a great opportunity to connect the creative community, meet a cross-reach of leading professionals and find out how XpoNorth can best support businesses.

The event is free to attend.

XpoNorth On the Road is part of the year-round programme of support for creative businesses in the Highlands and Islands.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise's Iain Hamilton said: 'These sessions offer a fantastic platform for creatives working across all areas to meet, exchange ideas and connect with leading industry networks.'

'We try to create an environment where individuals and businesses can access content that is engaging, informative and highly valuable.'

The cover of the May issue of Scottish Field magazine. It features a close-up photograph of a brown rabbit. Text on the cover includes 'SCOTTISH FIELD', 'Northern Isles', '20-page focus on Orkney & Shetland', '12 pages of spring gardens', 'Liz McColgan The Dundee flier', 'Profile: Kingmaker Patrick Harvie', 'RANGE ROVER PHEV', and 'Neil Lyndon's Verdict on Land Rover's first hybrid car'.

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Book unearths Marquis family roots in Argyll

A Bardic family whose Argyll roots date back more than 500 years is spotlighted in a new book about Highland history.

A retired teacher from Leicestershire, Steve Marquis, has researched his family's colourful past and unearthed claimed links with Flora MacDonald.

The Marquis family history also includes the Jacobite rebellions and Tarbert, Loch Fyne, where his forebears lived for more than three centuries.

His grandfather, Angus Marquis, born in Tarbert in 1901, was descended from a long line of Loch Fyne fishermen. He left the village for an apprenticeship at Govan shipyards during the First World War before heading south for Leicester in the 1920s.

Steve, 69, one of several Marquises still living in Leicestershire, has just published *The Life and Times of The Marquis Family of Argyll*.

It covers the family's long Highland history as bards, smugglers, clan warriors, rebels and fishermen, with one forebear being tacksman on the island of Cara. He was inspired by his grandparents' lives as exiled Scots, and their tales of Highland life.

Though Angus Marquis left Tarbert for a new life in the south nearly a century ago, his children and grandchildren still make summer 'pilgrimages' to the family's spiritual home, tracing the buildings where the Marquises lived and their graves in Tarbert cemetery.

'It has been an interesting experience,' said Steve.

'I have been helped in my research by many people and have unearthed details we simply didn't know about the Marquises who went before us.

'There was always an assumption that we were Huguenots, but that appears not to be the case. We were Gaelic speakers whose roots lie deep in Scottish soil.

'I discovered that we were linked to Flora MacDonald through marriage, and that our bardic traditions go right back to the 1500s.'

The book is available from stephen.marquis@ntlworld.com and there is a website: www.marquisfamilyhistory.com.

The little Hercules

Morvern lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



Towards the foot of Loch Shiel in West Inverness-shire, there is an island called St Finan's. Here the dead from Ardnamurchan, Sunart and Morvern have been buried for generations.

It goes without saying that there is a great assortment of headstones. These range in style and scale from simple cairns to free-standing crosses and about every other type of mortuary honour you might expect to find in a small Highland cemetery.

One recumbent slab in particular catches the eye as on it there is a skeleton. Now, skeletons on grave slabs are not uncommon as they form part of an assortment of objects such as skulls, winged angels, hour glasses, scythes and long bones, reminding us of the inevitability of our own death.

This one, however, is different not only because of the size of the skeleton – one of the largest I've come across in stone – but the above average knowledge of the human body which the mason must have had and captured in relief using tools we would describe these days as primitive.

This is a very interesting image which, although resembling a human skeleton, has some very distinctive characteristics that cannot be attributed to normal human anatomy.

Craig Cunningham, senior lecturer at the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification at the University of Dundee, has examined a photograph of the stone for me and provided the following comments. 'The main areas where this carving differs from true human skeletal form are: **Skull**: distinctly non-human, more like a primate, however, details regarding the mouth area (maxilla and mandible) appear to be over-simplified. **Cheek bones** (zygomatics) are also distinctly primate and do not represent the human form. **Neck**: (cervical vertebrae): appear to be very slender and elongated compared to a normal skeleton and do not meet with first rib. This would form an oblique angle at the superior aspect of the thorax, however, the stone displays a horizontal boundary at the top of the thorax.

'**Shoulders** (pectoral girdle): Probably the



most anatomically incorrect region is the articulation of the arm (humerus) with the shoulder (scapula) which is wrong, resulting in the apparently elongated upper limb. The humerus should articulate laterally with the scapula and not inferiorly as is displayed.

'**Rib cage** (thoracic skeleton): The fused nature of the rib cage is not anatomically possible even with some ectopic bone formation. The pliability of the thoracic cage is required during normal respiration and so I can't see this plate of bone being viable in a healthy individual. Additionally the lower ribs appear to extend too far inferiorly as compared with normal anatomy, leading me to conclude that the anatomy of this region may have been poorly understood.

'**Pelvis**: The pelvis appears to be more 'squashed' than would be expected, however the shape of the top part of the pelvis (the ilium) appears to be more characteristic of a human specimen than the more gracile form of the primate ilium for example. **Limbs**: The

limbs appear to display normal anatomical form, although are perhaps a little out of scale.

'In summary, it appears that the carving represents a composite of a man/animal where certain features have been exaggerated to perhaps support his status/strength in life?'

This must have been an expensive commission. So who or what are we looking at here?

According to tradition and some documentary evidence, it and three other stones in that particular part of the island represent a well-known family of MacDonalds who lived at nearby Dalilea (Gaelic, the Field of the Physicians), one of whom was the Rev Alexander MacDonald, Episcopal minister of Ardnamurchan, better known as 'Maighstear Alasdair' and father of the celebrated Jacobite bard Alasdair MacMhaighstir Alasdair, and others who may have been physicians in the early to mid 18th century.

Local tradition, the store-house of knowledge, has us believe that the skeleton represents the minister but not according to a set

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of Moidart



St Finan's Isle, Loch Shiel, known locally as the Green Isle (Photograph: Iain Thornber) and the St Finan's Isle skeleton (Photograph: HES).

Angus's strength was witnessed. A kinsman, MacDonald of Boisdale, on meeting him for the first time and seeing how small he was, thought he would try him out. Throwing off his plaid and waistcoat, it wasn't long before Boisdale, although a remarkably tall and muscular man, was lifted into the air and thrown to the ground.

On another occasion, when on his way home to Moidart from the Outer Isles, Angus and a party of friends had to find shelter somewhere at the back of Mull on account of the weather. Requiring peat with which to light a fire to cook a meal on, one of his companions helped himself to a creel full from someone's peat stack. The owner chased him and when another of the party tried, he, too, was given short shrift and came back to the boat not only with an empty creel but a battered, blood-stained head.

In the end, Angus ambled across the moor where he found the Mull man by this time guarding his precious fuel supply. When close enough he explained why they wanted the peat, adding that if common courtesy wasn't forthcoming he would help himself and take some pleasure in teaching the man a lesson.

As a red rag to a bull, the Muileach attacked Angus and soon paid the price.

But, the story goes, on establishing that he hadn't been dealt with by the Devil himself, the islander is said to have shouted out: 'Then you must be Angus Beg of Dalilea, for no one else in the west of Scotland could give me that ugly squeeze that nearly smothered me.'

Honour was satisfied and, until the storm passed, Angus and his party were warmly entertained at his house.

We will never know for certain whose likeness appears on this stone. The mason may well have seen the body but it is unlikely that he would have had the opportunity of examining the actual skeleton stripped of its flesh. The size, the out of proportion limbs and the reference to the peculiar thorax, all point to one person and his legendary strength.

If I were asked who it is, I would wager my last Irish florin that Angus Beg MacDonald's name would at least come high on the list.

of initials at the head of the stone; having said that, headstones were so often recycled their inscriptions cannot be relied on.

The minister, by all accounts, possessed enormous strength but not, it seems, as great as that of his eldest son Angus who, although small in stature, was regarded for his Herculean feats well beyond the bounds of Ardnamurchan.

The Rev Charles MacDonald (1835-1894) Roman Catholic priest of Moidart for 33 years, records in his well known book, Moidart, Or Among the Clanranalds, published by The Oban Times in 1889: 'The Moidart people have a curious idea that his thorax, instead of being formed of ribs like that of an ordinary mortal, was composed of one undivided mass of bone, a sort of steel cuirass supplied by nature, and that to this phenomenon must be ascribed his extraordinary power.'

Fr Charles, or 'Maighstear Tearlach' as he became known, goes on to provide his readers with several instances where little

DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



We go back this week to November 1996 and three wee tots Newton of Kilmenny Primary School at Bridgend on Islay. But who are they and where are they today? Readers were in touch regarding the photographs published here on March 28. Hamish MacEwan said: 'I worked on the pier for Arthur Duthie @ Co in the late 1950s and the bottom photograph showing the man with the cap was William Davidson, the office manager and fish salesman, and the man beside him was Mr Douglas, a local fishmonger.' John Watson said: 'Am pretty sure the man on the bottom left on the bottom picture is the late Duncan MacDonald, Laurel Crescent, Oban. He was the manager of MacFisheries.' And Morag Grinyer from Tobermory emailed to say: 'The steamship on the pier is the Loch Fyne.'



Fort William Town School in years gone by. Photograph from the Roamer Archive.

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OT

LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB**Public safety is
of paramount
importance**

If there is one thing people expect when using public transport, it is that it will be as safe as possible.

So it is very worrying that we report this week the issues with the ferry pier at Craignure on Mull.

There have been significant concerns for a considerable time that the pier is not being adequately maintained.

Mull and Iona ferry committee chairwoman Elizabeth Ferguson is quite justified in questioning the implications following the breaking away of a large piece of the pier's fendering. She said: 'This incident dramatically demonstrates the poor state of repair and chronic under-investment in Craignure pier, a facility that generates £1.5 million in profit annually, and really does bring into question whether the pier is being adequately maintained.'

Argyll and Bute Council insists the pier is 'fit for purpose' but persistent doubts remain and understandably so.

Mull and Iona ferry committee members are calling for an independent and thorough inspection of the pier, and demanding that the council acts upon whatever recommendations are made.

We would echo that sentiment and urge the local authority to act with urgency.

**Oban students are
splendid ambassadors**

Oban High School Pipe Band travelled across the Atlantic last week to take part in the famous annual New York Tartan Day parade.

The youngsters looked fantastic as they marched down 6th Avenue and wowed the crowds in Bryant Park with an al fresco performance.

The band members were splendid ambassadors and should be very proud.

**Brilliant treatment from
everyone in the NHS**

I had spent a wonderful morning enjoying the early Colonsay sunshine having been out and about since 6am, feeding cows and checking on the new calves.

It was around 8.30am as I jumped down from the tractor, snagging my wedding ring on the door handle. I have to confess, I feared the worst as I felt absolutely nothing and believed I had lost my finger.

I was immediately relieved to see it still in place, although badly damaged where the ring had cut into the finger.

Most amazing, now that I reflect is that within 10 minutes, I was sitting with the doctor in the surgery on Colonsay. Dr Jan Brooks was amazing. She examined the damage and immediately put me at ease. I apologised for spoiling her Saturday morning while she, in turn, apologised for having to send me off island to get the ring removed at the A&E in Oban.

I was furnished with antibiotics, painkillers and a letter for the hospital in Oban. I was again most fortunate that there was a ferry later that same day.

When I arrived at Oban A&E, I feared having to wait some hours to be seen as my injury was not really that bad in the overall scheme of things. My concerns were completely unfounded. The receptionist advised me that the island doctor had been in touch to say that I was coming.

The nurse who treated me and the doctor who stitched the wound were absolutely fantastic. I was in and out within the hour.

I very much appreciate and respect the professionalism of all those who treated me that day.

Eddie Barclay, Galston, Ayrshire.

**No empirical evidence to
support climate change**

Jenny Ford from Corpach wrote to praise local school children for protesting against climate change (Letters, March 28).

We must surely object to the use of children to promote a political campaign for the science surrounding (man-made) climate change has been taken over and presented as fact when there is no empirical evidence to support it. Are our children being used as propaganda tools and simply indoctrinated to believe there is a problem?

No one denies the climate is changing naturally but the propaganda exercise to demonise carbon

YOUR PICTURES



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

to see published here, send it to editor@obantimes.co.uk, post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin

dioxide and penalise mankind for changes that cannot be discerned from the natural process cannot be allowed to prevail and those who celebrate the use of children to promote a political pseudo-science belief should be ashamed of the fact.

D C Gill, Inverinan.

**Many thanks to all involved
in Oban Spring Clean**

Well, another Oban Spring Clean has come and gone and I'd like to thank all those public-spirited people who gave up their time to roam the streets and paths with their bags and

litter pickers. Their efforts were widespread, not only in Oban, but south to Kilmore and north to Benderloch.

I'd particularly like to thank Claire Rizos, who organised the event and matched people and places to ensure a good coverage. Thanks also to Andy Spence of BID4Oban, who arranged funding for a series of newspaper adverts, to town ambassador Kay McDonald for her help and for giving Keep Oban Beautiful several mentions in her column, to Fiona Scott of the Oban Times for her write-ups and to CGL for printing and laminating posters and banners free of charge.

Thanks must also go to Terry Donovan and



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Industrial Estate, Oban, or in High Street, Fort William. This week's photograph was sent in by John Stewart and shows Loch Creran on a beautiful day.

the Grab Trust for the loan of equipment and the erecting of the gazebo in Station Square on Saturday to give out information, to Janie Steele of Footprint Alba for her help at the gazebo and for organising beach cleans, and to Andy from the council amenity services for patiently driving around Oban and surroundings to pick up the bags of rubbish.

I would also like to thank Costa, Julie's, Roxy's, Taste of Argyll and the Bridge Cafe for offering hot drinks to the volunteers, and to the Rockfield Centre for giving us space to hand out equipment and point volunteers in the right direction.

I do hope I haven't missed anyone, but in case

I have, a very big thank you to everyone who was involved in whatever capacity, both before, during and after the weekend.

Finally, and a little tongue in cheek, let us not forget all those generous people who tossed out their rubbish all over Oban in the first place – without you, there would be no Oban Spring Clean!

Maurice Wilkins, Keep Oban Beautiful.

Invasive daffodils are destroying environment

The invasive daffodil is destroying the environment, ruining biodiversity and the sudden blaze of yellow spoils the magic show of the slow emergence of spring.

Daffodils are smothering woodland, green banks, grass verges, church grounds, estate lawns, hillsides, parks, roundabouts, private gardens, copses, thickets, shore fields, hedge-rows and lochsides. They are seemingly everywhere at this time of year and, horror of horror, the bulbs remain hidden in the harmed earth, with wildlife in and above it gone forever.

The daffodil is up there with the despised and depressing Japanese knotweed and rhododendron.

Moirra Campbell, Gallanach Road, Oban.

Grateful to support for diabetes fundraiser

On behalf of everyone involved in organising the recent family fundraiser in aid of diabetes charities at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls in Oban, I wish to express sincere thanks for the very generous support given by many businesses, organisations, musicians and individuals.

The evening raised £2,800, including £500 from the Bank Of Scotland Foundation's Matched Giving programme for fundraising by bank employees. The money raised has been split between Diabetes UK and the North Argyll Diabetes Support Group to provide on-going support for families in this area.

In addition, a sponsored swim and cake bake raised (including Gift Aid) more than £2,000 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

I hope our community can hear of the real difference that supporting these organisations makes, enabling research into treatments and a possible cure for Type 1 diabetes to continue, and for support to be given to families.

Laura Mackay, Deanery Brae, Oban.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Bha mi a' leughadh bho chionn ghoidid beachd air buaidh obrach Ball Pàrlamaid air an slàinte agus fear ag innse nach robh e riamh a' faireachadh trom-uallach ged a bha an obair iarrtach.

Saoilidh mi gum bheil mi a' tuigsinn sin da-riribh a thaobh iarrtachais, oir an liuthad turas a thug m' obair mise gu ruige Westminster bha mi a' faireachadh gun robh làithean-obrach cho riaslach aig Buill Pàrlamaid 's a chunnaic mi an dreuchd sam bith.

Tha obair sam bith a' ciallachadh amasan sònraichte ach saoilidh mi gum bheil barrachd "mhaighstirean" aig Buill-Pàrlamaid na th' aig a' mhòr-chuid. Mairidh cuid air sgàth 's gum bheil iad a' riochdachadh sgìre a tha dileas dha feallsanachd phàrtaidh phoilitigeach, seach 's dòcha ri linn chomasan àraid a th' aca.

Glacaidh cuid aire cheannardan agus thèid an àrdachadh gu Caibineat, agus an sin thèid dleastanas sònraichte a thoirt dhaibh. Dleastanas glè thrì air raon obrach air nach eil eòlas sam bith aca agus air nach deach iad riamh tro sgrùdadh cho-mais foirmeil.

Chuala mi fear uair ag ràdh

gun robh e mar fheallsanachd aig an t-Seirbheis Chatharra nach bu chòir uair sam bith cuideigin le eòlas air roinn a chur innte mar mhinistear! Dh'fhàgadh sin iad a' cur an spòig agus am beachdan far nach robh iarraidh orra seach a bhith a' dèanamh mar a bha àrd-oifigearan na seirbheis chatharra dol a mholadh dhaibh.

Fealla-dhà! 'S dòcha, ach chan eil teagamh nach eil ministearan riaghaltais a' fàgail butarrais do-chreidsinneach às an dèidh bho àm gu àm, agus chan eil iad fhèin neo na h-oifigearan a tha gan stiùireadh a' fulang peanas.

Mar eisimpleir, cò thèid a pheanasachadh airson a' bhrathaidh mhaslaich a rinneadh air na daoine a thugadh an seo air an t-soitheach Windrush, brathadh a tha a rèir choltais dol a chosg 's dòcha sia ceud millean not ann an airgead dìoghlaidh?

Cò is coireach nach deach ceum a ghabhail thar faisg air ceathrad bliadhna gus seann bhàtaichean-aigeil niuclasach a bhriseadh? Tha trì-deug fo gheàrd cosgail agus dùil gun cosg iad 's dòcha naodh billean not an sgrìos.

Ach chan eil aon neach

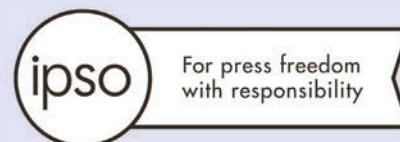
ciontach airson leithid a mhi-rian seo, gun ghuth air a liuthad cùmhant riaghaltais eile a tha a' dùblachadh, is aig amannan a thri neo a cheathramh ire na cosgais a chaidh aontachadh romhpa.

Theagamh nach eil cus uallaich ann an obair dhriheil iarrtach bhall Pàrlamaid, ach tha fhios gum bu chòir an ire sam bheil bho àm gu àm roinnean de Riaghaltais a dith an seòrsa smachd ionmhais is rianachd a th' air saoghal àbhaisteach a' mhòr-shluaigh a bhith na uallach dhuinne uile.

When private sector contracts go over budget or are delivered late, some individual must always take responsibility.

So shouldn't someone be accountable for such as the betrayal of Windrush immigrants which is likely to cost Britain £600 million in compensation; or for a possible £9 billion bill to decommission nuclear submarines held under costly guard for up to 40 years?

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



The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact phone number will not be printed. Please email: editor@obantimes.co.uk or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001.

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DISTRICT NEWS

ISLAY

The first of the new flights between Islay and Edinburgh landed last week.

The Loganair service arrived on the island on March 31 and passengers were met with a warm welcome and the sound of pipes and drums.

Flights will operate between the Queen of the Hebrides and Edinburgh daily.

STRATHFILLAN

The Strathfillan Community Council meeting, which took place on March 4, revealed that there were 14 calls made to the police in the area since the previous meeting.

Four calls were made regarding the same serious road accident, another two were made about other road accidents and three were made for various road-related incidents. There was one related to a planned shoot and four miscellaneous calls.

The police officer said: 'The serious road accident related to a male who was struck by a car outside the entrance to Beinglas campsite, fortunately for him he will be okay.'

The officer added: 'Planned shoots are now required to notify police of when they are taking place, where and time of start and finish.'

APPIN

An Easter egg hunt will take place in Port Appin on Sunday April 14.

The eggs will be 'hidden' in plain sight in the village and have been beautifully decorated by the children of Lismore and Strath of Appin primary schools.

The hunt will be on from 2pm until 4pm at the Port Appin hall. People coming from Lismore can pick up a map on the 2.15pm ferry. The event costs £2.50 per family and every child will receive a chocolate egg.

There will also be an Easter fun morning on Saturday April 20 from 10am until noon.

A best bonnet competition, an egg hunt, as well as Easter crafts will all take place at Port Appin hall, costing £2 per child.



Kelpies move to summer pastures in Ardrishaig

Drivers were visibly doing a 'double-take' driving through Ardrishaig last week.

More used to seeing serried ranks of Sitka spruce piled at the harbour ready for loading on to cargo ships, motorists were instead treated to the majestic sight of two mini-Kelpies glimmering in the pierhead sunshine.

A smaller-scale version of the iconic 30-metre-high Kelpies sculptures which sit beside the Forth and Clyde Canal near Falkirk, the 10-metre-tall 'maquettes' were in fact used

as a basis for the world-famous sculpture. The mini Kelpies arrived on the afternoon of Thursday March 28 in early spring sunshine for their first visit to the Loch Fyne-side village.

They will be situated next to the steamer terminal at Ardrishaig Harbour – a new tourism hub and café located on the edge of the Crinan Canal – until the end of the summer.

Cara Baillie, senior destinations development manager at Scottish Canals, said: 'We are delighted to be able to bring the Kelpies

maquettes to Ardrishaig for the first time.

'The full-size monuments in Falkirk are a tribute to the horse-powered heritage, which once helped Queen Victoria pass through the Royal Route.

'I'm sure the maquettes will prove popular with both our visitors and the people of Ardrishaig and the surrounding area. There will be plenty of opportunity to take Kelpies selfies and learn more about the steel structures.

'They have arrived just in time to celebrate Easter.'

MULL

Mull Otters Group and Mull Adopt-a-beach are teaming up to clear up litter on Aird of Kinloch beach.

The clean-up will take place on Sunday April 14 from 10.30am until 1.30pm.

Organisers said: 'The Aird of Kinloch is at the head of Loch Scridain and collects a lot of rubbish brought down the loch from the wind and tide.

'Please help us clear it up. Meet at the post office, Pennyghael Stores. Wellies are recommended. Litter pickers and gloves are available.'

LISMORE

Residents of Lismore will be able to find out more about their medieval buildings on Saturday April 13.

Mark Thacker, from the University of Stirling, returns to the island to give an update on what he has learned from his painstaking

studies. He will be holding a talk in the Museum Room at the Heritage Centre from 7.30pm.

He will reveal what species of wood was used to burn the lime, and estimates of the dates of construction.

KILCHOAN

This month's Kilchoan produce and craft markets will be held on April 17 and April 24.

The markets, which will feature freshly-baked bread and cakes and other produce such as meat, fish and dairy products, will take place in the Kilchoan Community Centre from 11am until 2pm.

There will also be arts and crafts, clothing, and gifts.

To book a table, contact the community centre on 01972510711.

JURA

The Jura Development Trust is hosting a DIY Day at Wee Corran on Sunday May 5.

There will be bridge painting, beach cleaning, bird feeder making, den building, and cake munching from 1pm until 5pm.

Everyone is welcome.

OBAN



RHYC commodore Stephen Quaille and Janie Steele.

The Royal Highland Yacht Club (RHYC) held its early season fitting out dinner in Oban on Saturday March 23 at the Royal Hotel.

This well-attended event featured an exhibition from Janie Steele of the Maritime Conservation Society (MCS).

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Vote for Oban Unsigned

Can you believe it? It's now only about eight weeks until the superb Oban Live returns to Mossfield. And I can't wait.

I've been to the gig for the past two years and have had a fantastic time.

Last year I was on duty with The Oban Times giant selfie frame and took literally hundreds of photos of people enjoying themselves thoroughly.

This year, once again, there is a fabulous line-up of acts already announced, with more still to be confirmed, among them one of my favourite bands, Skerryvore, whose member Daniel Gillespie is managing director of Oban Live.

One of the highlights for me is seeing each year the winning Oban Unsigned performance, a brilliantly simple idea to give an otherwise little known act the chance to play a high-profile performance in front of thousands of people.

This year the idea has been developed and expanded to include both an Oban-area winner and a Scotland-wide competition.

Personally, I don't know the national contenders but I am familiar with some of the local ones. Voting is open now and, for what it's worth, rockers 4Below have my endorsement.

Whoever you fancy, though, I'd urge you to get voting at obanlive.com/unsigned.

Brilliant effort

Hats off to the organisers of the recent Oban Spring Clean and the numerous people from all over the area who volunteered to support it.

I've vented my spleen in this column about the litter problem in Oban on many occasions so I was delighted to read last week our own report about the hugely successful initiative to tidy up the town and places further afield.

It's such a shame, however, that the project is needed in the first place. When will the litter-bugs come to realise that their behaviour is unacceptable?

What gets my hackles up the most is that so much rubbish is discarded within a few yards – sometimes feet – of the many bins around the town.

What do you think?

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

Janie provided a 'fascinating' display highlighting the vital work of the MCS in the UK. Janie is the Oban-based champion.

A spokesperson for the RHYC stated it was pleased to be associated with the work of the MCS and hopes to raise awareness of its work within its membership.

The spokesperson added: 'There may even be a surprise trophy awarded for the most inspirational beach clean completed by a member during the course of the season's west coast cruising.'

HELENSBURGH

A founding editor of the Dictionary of Scottish Architects has expressed concerns to Argyll and Bute Council over plans for a care home adjacent to Hermitage Park.

Professor David Walker made the submission to the authority regarding the impact of the proposed four-storey facility on the upper Helensburgh conservation area.

Residents of Prince Albert Terrace have also voiced their concerns over the scale of the planned building, the subject of a planning application by Simply UK.

A total of 26 public comments have now been made to the council's planning portal on the application, 20 of them objections and the other six representations. A decision on the plans is expected by Wednesday, April 24.

Residents of Prince Albert Terrace have also made submissions to the council on the proposal, which they feel will damage the environment of their area.

Frustration has also been expressed by the residents about problems with viewing plans and documents through the council's planning portal.

Volunteers of all ages are helping to make Helensburgh and Lomond a better place, the area's police chief has reported.

Inspector Roddy McNeill gave an update to Argyll and Bute Council's area committee on Thursday March 21 on the programmes available.



Members of Oban Rotary Club presented a cheque to Oban RNLI last week. Treasurer Andrew Mead, second from left, accepted the donation for an undisclosed amount on behalf of RNLI. Also pictured are Rotary Club members, from left, Graham Fraser, president Iain MacIntyre and Peter Tosh.

Litter clear-up at Loch Lomond



More than 120 bags of litter were cleared from one of Scotland's most scenic tourist routes during a two-day spring clean last week. Staff from Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority joined forces with a team from Argyll and Bute Council to tackle roadside litter along Loch Lomond. Armed with litter pickers and safety gear, the group covered the busy stretch of road between Duck Bay and Luss. In just under seven miles, the team filled 124 bags of litter, 48 of which were filled with plastic bottles and cans that will be recycled.

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OUTDOORS

Chaffinch – the most seen bird in Argyll and Bute

The latest results from the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch have revealed a mixed picture for Scotland's garden birdlife, with 13 of the top 20 species being seen in fewer gardens than in 2018.

Now in its 40th year, the Big Garden Birdwatch is a chance for people of all ages to count the number of birds that visit their garden, helping the RSPB build up a picture of how they are doing.

This year, more than 32,000 people across Scotland took part in counting almost 600,000 birds.

The most commonly recorded bird in Argyll and Bute was the chaffinch, with 884 spotted, an average of 6.4 per garden and seen in 81.7 per cent of gardens.

Argyll and Bute was the only local authority area to have the chaffinch top, with the majority saying house sparrows and few starlings.

The results from the event, held over the last weekend in January, revealed that house sparrows remained at the top of the rankings as the most commonly seen garden birds.

There were more than 100,000 recorded sightings of house sparrows in Scotland.

Over its four decades, Big Garden Birdwatch has highlighted the winners and losers in the garden bird world.

It was first to alert the RSPB to the decline in song thrush numbers.

This species was a firm fixture in the UK top 10 in 1979.

By 2009, its numbers were less than half those recorded in 1979.

It came in at 24th in the Scotland rankings this year.

For a full round-up of all the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch results and to see which birds were visiting gardens, see www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch.

Sir Walter Scott is back on Loch Katrine

The steamship Sir Walter Scott is now back on Loch Katrine for another year of daily sailings – just in time for Easter.

Managing director Gordon Allan said this was a busy and important time for the historic steamship.

'At nearly 120 years old it is vital that we carefully maintain and preserve the steamship. This is a special year for Loch Katrine, as October will mark the 160th anniversary of Queen Victoria officially opening the water works. A celebration of this royal visit is part of a schedule of events during 2019.'

The series of events begins with an Easter egg hunt, featuring the White Rabbit and Mad Hatter, over the Easter weekend.

On June 22 and 23, there is a Wizards and Witches Weekend, with a Pirates Ahoy! weekend on July 20 and 21.

All of the events will include actors to bring stories of Loch Katrine and the subject of the themed events to life.

As Gordon explained, these themed weekends have attracted many new visitors to Loch Katrine.

'Children love these family events. They enter the spirit of the theme by dressing up, often even persuading their parents to dress up too. These events are very successful and have helped introduce families to Loch Katrine for the first time.'

The 160th anniversary of Queen Victoria's

visit will be commemorated on October 14. The royal visit was the official opening of the Glasgow works, using the water of Loch Katrine.

The Sir Walter Scott is operated by a charity, The Steamship Sir Walter Scott Trust, established in April 2005 with the support of the Scottish Executive, Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley, Stirling Council and the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority, to take responsibility for control of the visitor facilities at Loch Katrine.

Around 300,000 visitors come to Loch Katrine each year, and more than 85,000 passengers annually enjoy cruises on the Sir Walter Scott or the Lady of the Lake.



Sir Walter Scott, left, and Lady of the Lake carry passengers on Loch Katrine, and, inset, pirates prepare for the Easter egg hunt.

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This week's walks



A windsurfer tackles a wave at Tiree, where the wave classic competition is being used to draw visitors.

Tiree surf culture helps make waves

by Kathie Griffiths
kggriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Stunning images of Tiree Wave Classic are helping a VisitScotland marketing campaign put Scotland top of UK viewers' travel plans.

Shots of other iconic events, locations and landmarks, including Lochaber's Camusdarach Beach, Glasgow, the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo and the Isle of Skye will also feature in a trio of adverts to hit TV screens that could be seen up to 36.7 million times.

The Tiree Wave Classic is the world's longest-standing professional wave sailing windsurfing competition, which this year runs from October 12 to 18.

The £300,000 marketing burst

aims to inspire potential visitors, particularly those in northern England, London and the south-east, to discover Scotland's breathtaking beauty, rich history and welcoming people.

The three adverts, which will run on Channel 4, STV, ITV and other regional outputs until April 19, are the latest part of the national tourism organisation's Scotland Is Now activity.

The collaborative initiative involves VisitScotland, Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the Scottish Government and Universities Scotland, for the first time, to position Scotland as the ideal place to study, invest, visit, live and work.

A total of 11.8 million trips were made to Scotland by people

resident in Great Britain in 2018, making the domestic market one of Scotland's most lucrative tourism audiences.

Helen Campbell, VisitScotland head of visitor marketing, said: 'Scotland really sells itself on screen.'

'Our dramatic and varied landscapes are brought to life in front of the TV audience, inspiring them to find out more about these stunning locations.'

'This short TV campaign comes at a crucial time for UK visitors who will be busy considering their holiday plans for the coming months.'

'We want to ensure that they put Scotland at the top of their travel plans. Now is the time to discover Scotland.'

LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

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

Thursday April 18: Drimnin to Doirlinn, Morvern

This is a there-and-back walk along a good track, with extensive views of the mouth of Loch Sunart and across Loch na Droma Buidhe to Oransay.

The walk starts at the end of the B849 at Port nam-Freumh (NM 557539) where there is limited parking space. The route follows a path going N, then E after 200m and then N again. It continues to NM 555547 before diverting E and N round Drimnin House.

The track then continues N and E above Auliston Point and eastwards to Doirlinn, passing the deserted villages of Portabhata and Sornagan.

Please contact the leader beforehand to arrange transport.

Grade: M; distance: 19km; height to climb: 400m; map(s): LR47/49, EX383; meet at: Longsdale CP Oban NM862307 at 0800, Fort William WM NN112742 at 0845, Corran Ferry slip NN021635 for 0915 sailing, for start of walk at 1030.

Leader: Sally Cameron 07810 464994 or 01631 740391.

Sunday April 21: An Grianan and Meall nam Fiadh, Glen Ure

The walk starts at the car park at Elleric in Glen Creran, NN035488.

Follow the estate road across the River Creran and fork left just before Glenure Lodge. Turn left and follow the track going northwards for 300m.

At the edge of some woodland at NN046484, turn on to a path that climbs gradually eastwards towards the narrow valley enclosing the Allt Bealach na h-Innsig. Continue to the lochan at NN081487.

Turn southwards to cross the burn and climb to the summit of Meall nam Fiadh, 438m, then westwards to reach the summit of An Grianan, 549m. Descend south eastwards to Airigh nan Lochan to pick up the estate track leading westwards down through Glen Ure.

Cross the River Ure just above the Lodge and rejoin the outward route back to Elleric.

Grade: M+; distance: 15km; height to climb: 592m; Maps LR50, EX384. Meet at

Longsdale CP Oban NM862307 at 0915, Ballachulish TIC at 0915, Fort William WM NN 112 742 at 0840, for start of walk at 10.00.

Leader: Toril Frantzen 07788 264007.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

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

Sunday April 14: Sgurr Ghiubsachain, Sgorr Craobh a'Chaorainn, Glenfinnan

Two Corbetts in a dramatic setting high above the splendid Loch Shiel and the site of Prince Charlie's recruitment rally. Do one or both. The second has an interesting descent on the return to the lochside.

Start from the CP charge at the Glenfinnan TIC, NM907807. Free parking may be available 200m NW at the start of the Glenfinnan estate road. Cross the main road and head SE on the boardwalk and turn SW along the broad track beside Loch Shiel. Cross the burn just after the cottage of Guesachan. Head SE up beside the burn for a bit, then SW to gain the ridge. (This avoids the craggy end of the ridge.) Follow the ridge up and over Meall a' Choire Chruinn, across a col and on up to the summit of Sgurr Ghiubsachain - lots of crags and opportunities for scrambling, all of which are avoidable.

Descend SE, steeply at first, curving E over Leac an Fhuarain to a boggy col. For a shorter day, descend from here N down into Coire Ghiubsachain and follow the burn back down to Guesachan cottage. To continue, climb easily to the summit of Sgorr Craobh a'Chaorainn. Descend N and follow the undulating ridge to Meall Doire na Mnatha, then NE to Sgorr nan Cearc, 668m.

Descend to the N. The ridge turns NW at an altitude of 550m, WP NM897776, soon after which is a very steep drop over rocky slabs. This section should be avoided by diverting SW down into Coire nan Cearc. Descend for about 200m carefully, below the crags on the right, then traverse NW to reach relatively level ground at WP NM893776. Continue NW down the spur to reach the track alongside Loch Shiel and return to Glenfinnan.

In adverse weather or ground conditions, descend from the summit of Sgorr nan Cearc by its E ridge and return via Callop to reach Glenfinnan.

Suggested by Gavin Theobald, coordinated by Suzanne Theobald.



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Happy Easter

A spring-time break after the long Scottish winter and the festival at the heart of the Christian message. The days are getting longer, the weather is warmer and nature is starting to wake up after winter - *so let's celebrate!*

Easter around the world, including some ideas we could borrow

In Australia there is now a campaign for the native bilby, not bunnies, at Easter. The rabbit is not a native species and it has bred, literally, like rabbits, causing damage to agricultural crops and the environment. Chocolate bilbies anyone?

Kite flying is very popular in Bermuda. Homemade kites are the norm with 'hummers' - a type of tissue paper with makes a buzzing sound when the kite is in the air. Good Friday sees an annual kite festival at Horseshoe Bay Beach. The West Highlands has some fantastic beaches and good strong

breezes - perhaps this is something we should start doing here?

Water fights, in many variations, are common in Eastern European countries. In Poland it is Pol Śmigus Długus (Poured Monday) on Easter Monday, with everything from water pistols to buckets.

Długus Day in America is a Polish-American day of festivity with food and dancing and less soakings held on Easter Sunday.

We have a lot of Polish people living here in the West Highlands and what better way to celebrate their contributions - why don't we hold our own Długus Day?

At 11am on Easter Saturday in Corfu, clay pots get slung out of windows and off balconies. It is one way of getting rid of old

worn-out pots and the noise scares away evil spirits, tradition says.

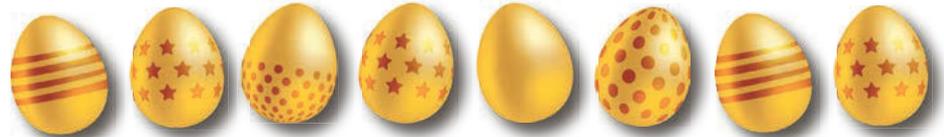
In Scandinavian countries there is a 'Hallowe'en in springtime'. In Sweden children dress up as witches with broomsticks and cauldrons and go door to door for sweets and the other UK autumn tradition, of bonfires, also takes place.

Easter is all about eggs and you can't make an omelette without breaking any. The village of Haux, France, makes a huge Easter omelette with more than 4,000 eggs; 100 pounds of bacon, garlic, and onions.

Dressing up as skeletons to perform the dance of death, La Dansa de la Muerte de Verges, takes place in Verges, near Barcelona, on Holy Thursday. Others carry locks and ashes around the village - it is all about the Last Judgement.

Good Friday in Portugal sees straw dolls hung over bonfires and burned, to represent Judas.

Variations of Portuguese and Spanish customs travelled to America as did the European traditions involving eggs, be they painted, hidden or rolled down hillsides.



Atlantis COMMUNITY LEISURE

EASTER PROGRAMME

EASTER CAMPS

(P4 - P7) Mon 1st April - Fri 12th April

Full day camp 9am to 4pm
(Half Day Camp: 9.00am - 12.00pm or 1.00pm - 4.00pm)

Full Day Camp Costs £76.00 per week or £15.20 per day.
Half Day Camp Costs £38.00 per week or £7.60 per half day

A fully certified way to ensure your child makes the most of their holidays with a combination of sports, fun games & other activities. We promise two weeks full of laughter, fun and most importantly, we'll send your children home knackered!

MINI CAMPS

(P1 - P3) Mon 1st April - Fri 12th April

10.00am - 12.00pm.

Cost £33.00 per week or £6.60 per day.

Shorter, but just as much fun, version of the Easter Camps. Using a variety of games and sport we will develop core skills & burn off all the excess energy in a fun and inclusive way.

PRE-SCHOOL FUN TIME

(3 - 5 yrs) Every Tuesday & Thursday

12.15pm - 1.00pm

Cost £3.30 per session.

A 45 minute session guaranteed to put some smiles on your pre-schooler's faces as we introduce & play some of our favourite games in a safe and friendly environment.

GYMNASTICS CLASS

(P1 and upwards) Mon 1st April - Friday 12th April

First Class - 11am-12pm Second Class - 12pm - 1pm

Cost £16 for full week (must book for the full week)

A structured, introductory Gymnastics course that will balance, jump and roll you through the basics of Gymnastics in a fun & progressive way.

For more info: kevin.keen@atlantisleisure.co.uk
Atlantis Leisure, Dalriach Road, Oban, Argyll, Scotland PA34 5JE
Tel: 01631 566800

Lots of people like pairing up chocolate with whisky...

But who doesn't love a bit of Scottish history, heritage, whisky chat and a backdrop as stunning as Ben Nevis.

Pair up with us this Easter.

WELCOME TO BEN NEVIS DISTILLERY AND VISITOR CENTRE IN FORT WILLIAM, SCOTLAND. WE INVITE YOU TO DISCOVER THE SECRETS OF WHISKY DISTILLING AND ENJOY THE UNIQUE SENSATION OF THE DEW OF BEN NEVIS. YOUR VISIT IS SURE TO BE AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE!

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Garden time

Amongst all the plants starting to blossom there is one welcome sign of spring to be found at the roadside – the distinctive yellow sign of a garden open to the public.

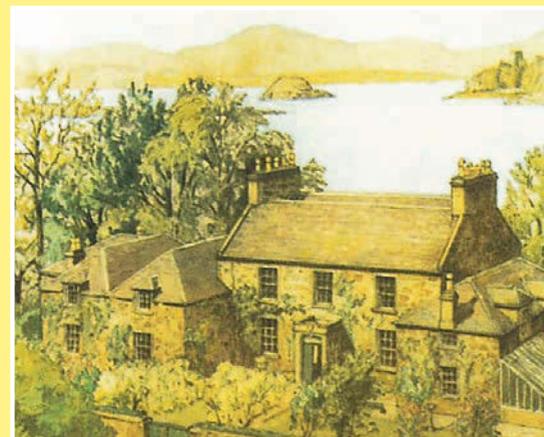
Scotland's Garden Scheme began back in 1931 to raise money to help train nurses in the days before the NHS. Charity remains at the core of the organisation with entrance money going to

the garden owners' charity of choice and a national effort which supports more than 250 charities; this way smaller charities can also be helped.

This is traditionally the time of year we all start to get stuck into our own gardens, getting them ready for the months to come when we can enjoy them.

And if there is one thing all gardeners love it is looking at other people's gardens and there is no better way to do this, so follow the little yellow signs to meet people who love gardening and love to share their gardens.

Manor House Hotel & Restaurant



**Easter Sunday
April 21st**

Join us for a special 3 course lunch £36 in our Dining Room

Overlooking the Harbour

Gallanach Road • Oban
01631 562087



www.manorhouseoban.com



**HIGHLAND HUSTLE
PUTS A SPRING
IN YOUR STEP!**



**EVERY MONDAY &
THURSDAY OBAN
ST COLUMBAS HALL £5**

Early Opening of Maolachy's Garden for Scotland's Garden Scheme



The air was blue at Maolachy last week. Jess and Moss, the hairy, four-legged gardeners, had spied the chitting seed potatoes and scoffed the lot! Garden owner Georgina laughs, "back to Oban for some more".

A lifetime of dreams, love, sweat and toil is folded into this magical garden. Most importantly to Georgina, plants have found their happiest place although her eucryphia, moved four times, has still to flower.

Amidst swathes of primula and pignut, the specimen sits alongside the wild. Early yellows move onto pinks, blues and whites. Greens deepen towards summer. At one with the land, Georgina watchfully enhances its natural

beauty and form. For her, the garden is an essential source of creativity, pleasure, fitness and mental therapy. "The shape of the land lent itself to where the paths and steps would go. Views across the Moine to inviting corners around the steep-sided glen always gives surprises".

A gifted plantswoman with a cheerful sense of humour, she's one of life's characters. Bring your questions on Saturday 20th April, 2-5pm when her garden opens to the public in support of SGS and Hope Kitchen. Delicious teas, baking and fun for children. On the A816, turn uphill at Kilmelford Post Office following the yellow signs for four miles.

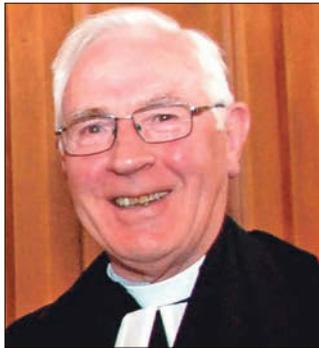
Scotland's
GARDENS
Scheme



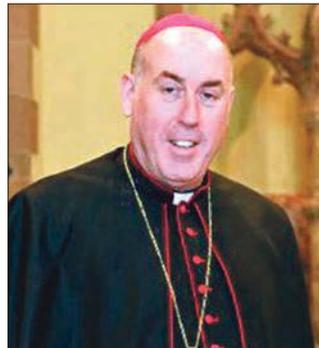
Full information at
WWW.SCOTLANDSGARDENS.ORG
Scottish charity No011337

Church services

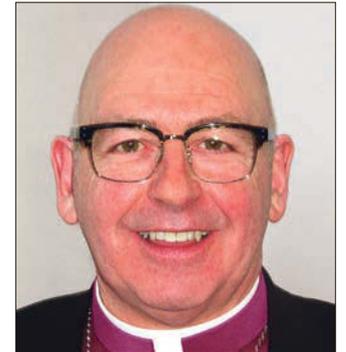
Rev Dr Roderick Campbell, Moderator of the Presbytery of Argyll: Easter grasps the great mystery of life and death. 'The seed we sow does not come to life unless it has first died' so it is in nature and in our living. The glory of Easter, its beauty and promise, bear witness to that eternal truth, without Good Friday there is no Easter Sunday. May the transforming Spirit bless you as you journey.



Rt Reverend Bishop Brian McGee, Catholic Diocese of Argyll and the Isles: We call it Easter but most languages use a word derived from the Hebrew Pesach – which celebrates the Hebrews' liberation from slavery. At Easter Christians celebrate that Jesus, through his Passion and Resurrection, has saved us from sin and death. Please join us in St Columba's Cathedral as the Lord invites you to rise to a new life with Him.



The Right Reverend Kevin Pearson Bishop of Argyll and The Isles: God is Love which conquers All. God is Love which makes sense of who and what we are. Love liberates us from the tomb, as Jesus in the story of the resurrection, left the tomb. So we are able to leave the tombs we hew for ourselves out of the rocks of our own personalities. Come and celebrate at The Cathedral of St John in Oban (see advertisement for times of services).



St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fort William

Holy Thursday Night 7pm
Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday Service 3pm
The Way of the Cross 7pm

Easter Vigil 8:30pm

Easter Sunday Morning Mass
10.30am

VISITATION AT TAYNUILT

Taynuilt

Good Friday Service 3pm
Saturday Easter Vigil 9.30pm
Sunday Mass 11am

Dalmally
Sunday Mass 9am



St Columba's Cathedral
Corran Esplanade
Oban, OBAN PA34 5AB
Tel: 01631 562123

Holy Thursday 7pm
Good Friday 3pm
Easter Saturday Vigil 9.00pm
Easter Sunday Mass 10.30am

St John's Episcopal Cathedral, George Street, Oban.

Holy Week & Easter Worship
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
6pm Stations of the Cross & Compline

Maundy Thursday
7.15pm Eucharist & Stripping of Altar.
Vigil until 9pm

Good Friday
11.30am Coffee & Hot Cross Buns
12 - 2pm Ecumenical Reflections on the Cross
2 - 3pm Last Hour Devotions

Holy Saturday
8pm Stories of Faith & Lighting the New Fire

Easter Day
10.15am Cathedral Celebration Eucharist
3pm Easter Eucharist at St James, Ardbrecknish

Kilmore and Oban Holy Week and Easter Services

Maundy Thursday
18th April 7.00pm
Sunday 21st April

9.45am Easter Breakfast and Egg Rolling
10.30am Easter All-Age Celebration

More info at: obancofs@btinternet.com
www.obanchurch.com
01631 562405



A MULL THEATRE PRODUCTION

Unspotted Snow

BY PETER ARNOTT

A MELODRAMA IN TWO PARTS, WITH MUSIC

This new work is based on the tale of the ill-fated Franklin expedition to discover the North-West Passage and its extraordinary 170-year legacy.

SAT 13 APRIL	MULL THEATRE, 8PM	WWW.COMAR.CO.UK
MON 15 APRIL	BUNESSAN HALL, 7:30PM	WWW.COMAR.CO.UK
TUE 16 APRIL	VICTORY HALL, BENDERLOCH, 7:30PM	PAY ON DOOR / WWW.COMAR.CO.UK 01631 720 498
WED 17 APRIL	THE AROS CENTRE, PORTREE, 7:30PM	WWW.AROSCOMMUNITYTHEATRE.CO.UK 01478 613 750
THUR 18 APRIL	DORNIE COMMUNITY HALL, 7:30PM	PAY ON DOOR / WWW.COMAR.CO.UK 01599 577 296
FRI 19 APRIL	RESOLIS MEMORIAL HALL, 8PM	PAY ON DOOR / WWW.COMAR.CO.UK 01382 610 204 DAVIDGILBERT938@BTINTERNET.COM
SAT 20 APRIL	BENNACHIE LEISURE CENTRE, 7:30PM	WWW.NEATSHOWS.ORG.UK / 01464 821 248 BENNACHIE LEISURE CENTRE
TUE 23 APRIL	HOWDEN PARK CENTRE, 7:30PM	WWW.HOWDENPARKCENTRE.CO.UK 01506 340 700
WED 24 APRIL	PAISLEY ARTS CENTRE, 7:30PM	WWW.RENFREWSHIRELEISURE.COM 0300 300 1210
THUR 25 APRIL	MACROBERT ARTS CENTRE, 7:30PM	WWW.MACROBERTARTSCENTRE.ORG 01786 466 666
FRI 26 APRIL	BIRNAM ARTS, 7:30PM	WWW.BIRNAMARTS.COM / 01350 727 674
SAT 27 APRIL	THE MACPHAIL CENTRE, ULLAPOOL, 7:30PM	WWW.THEMACPHAILCENTRE.COM 01854 613 336 MACPHAILCENTRE@HIGHLIFEHIGHLAND.COM
MON 29 APRIL	GAIRLOCH COMMUNITY HALL, 7:30PM	PAY ON DOOR / 0751 405 7721
WED 1 MAY	GABLE END THEATRE, ORKNEY, 8PM	PAY ON DOOR CALL HAZEL: 01856 791 392
THUR 2 MAY	LYTH ARTS CENTRE, 8PM	WWW.LYTHARTS.ORG.UK / 01955 641 434
SAT 4 MAY	THE BRUNTON, MUSSELBURGH, 7:30PM	WWW.THEBRUNTON.CO.UK 0131 665 2240
SUN 5 MAY	EDEN COURT, 8PM	WWW.EDEN-COURT.CO.UK / 01463 234 234
TUE 7 MAY	EASTWOOD PARK THEATRE, 7:30PM	WWW.EASTWOODPARKTHEATRE.CO.UK 0141 577 4956
WED 8 MAY	BEACON ARTS CENTRE, 7:30PM	WWW.BEACONARTSCENTRE.CO.UK 01475 723 723
THUR 9 MAY	MAC ARTS, 7:30PM	WWW.MACARTS.SCOT / 01896 756 852
FRI 10 MAY	EASTGATE THEATRE, 7:30PM	WWW.EASTGATEARTS.COM / 01721 725 777
SAT 11 MAY	COVE BURGH HALL, 8PM	WWW.COVEBURGHALL.ORG.UK

Comar

MULL THEATRE, DRUMFIN, TOBERMORY, ISLE OF MULL, PA75 6QB



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Musicians to battle it out for slot at Oban Live

Musicians from Argyll are gearing up to battle it out for a slot at the area's biggest live music concert Oban Live this June.

4Below, S-Mac, Crackin' Craic and The Argyll Ceilidh Trail are local category finalists in the event's Scottish Sea Farms Unsigned Oban Live 2019 competition.

In a bid to win the public's vote, the musicians will showcase their talents at a Shortlist Night at The View in George Street, Oban, on Thursday April 18, from 7pm to 9pm. Tickets are £3 and will be available on the door.

The winner will be decided via an online voting poll, which opened on April 1 and closes at noon on April 22.

The Shortlist Night will be a good opportunity for those still undecided to watch the bands perform live.

On top of performing at Oban Live, the winning act will also receive £300 towards expenses and a slot at the Official Oban Live After Party at The View, Oban.

The Argyll Ceilidh Trail are an eight-piece band composed of Argyll's finest young traditional musicians and is organised by Oban based charity Fèis Latharna.

4Below is the first solo alternative rock music project of

Andy Bruce. His unique music is generated from his bass guitar both live and on recordings, delivering a big rock sound.

Crackin' Craic are a band from Oban and have been performing for more than four years. They released their debut album last year which received a great response from fans and supporters. They are currently working on new music.

Solo rapper Stewart McAllister, aka S-MAC, from North Connell has a unique style of Scottish hip hop with plans to bring a different vibe to the Oban Live stage if he wins. He regularly performs in Oban alongside Oban Live's 2017 Unsigned winners K9Kev and Rory O'B.

This is the first year Oban Live has two winning slots available, opening the competition up to greater Scotland as well. Battling it out online for votes in the new Scotland-wide category are November Lights (Monifieth), Lisa Kowalski (Paisley), The Youth and Young (Fife), Banshee (Renfrew) and DMS (Edinburgh).

To vote online visit www.obanlive.com/unsigned by noon, April 22.

4Below, bottom right, S-Mac, Crackin' Craic and The Argyll Ceilidh Trail, top left, are shortlisted for 2019's Oban Live Unsigned competition.



Distillery to sponsor Oban Live VIP area

Oban Distillery will sponsor the VIP area at Argyll's biggest outdoor live music concert Oban Live this June.

Described by the event as an 'exciting and very fitting partnership', the distillery and tourism attraction is gearing up to showcase its globally-renowned Oban

14-Year-Old Single Malt Scotch Whisky to Oban Live VIP ticket holders.

The complete VIP ticket package includes a free Oban Scotch whisky cocktail on arrival, a VIP arrivals desk, access to the VIP area, access to the VIP bar and luxury toilets, an

exclusive VIP lanyard and free guaranteed entry before midnight to the official after party at The View.

A special Fringe launch night is also planned for Thursday June 6 at the distillery on Stafford Street in Oban which VIP ticket holders will also have free

access to. Daniel Gillespie, managing director for Oban Live, said: 'We are delighted that Oban Distillery and Oban Live are coming together to promote historic and modern Oban culture to visitors from all over.

'We share a passion in de-

livering high quality visitor products and experiences while connecting with the local area, so it makes perfect sense to be entering this VIP partnership with such a well-established whisky brand and visitor centre.

'VIP tickets are selling

out fast for 2019 with only around 30 two-day VIP and a couple of Saturday VIP left, as of Tuesday morning, and so we urge anyone wishing to take advantage of the full Oban Live VIP experience this year to get in quick.'

All tickets are available via www.obanlive.com/tickets.

M'ALBA

MY ALBA

DIARDAOIN 11 AN GIBLEAN THURSDAY 11 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 Là – News
20.30 North Coast 500 – Le Anne London (rpt)
21.00 **UR | NEW:** Opryle Daniel
21.50 Binneas – Na Trads – Adam Sutherland (rpt)
21.55 **UR | NEW:** An Sgrùdaire
22.10 Belladrum 2016: Tiggs Da Author (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 12 AN GIBLEAN FRIDAY 12 APRIL

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
18.35 Machair (rpt)
19.00 An Là – News
19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
19.30 Bonn Còmhraidh (rpt)
20.00 Òran na Mnà (rpt)
20.30 Fuine (rpt)
21.00 Benny (rpt)
22.00 Corp agus Anam (rpt)
22.50 Dhan Uisge (River Douchary) (rpt)
23.00 ALT (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 13 AN GIBLEAN SATURDAY 13 APRIL

16.00 Wallace & Gromit – Dluith Bhearradh (rpt)
16.30 The Quay Session – The Little Kicks (rpt)
16.55 An Là – News
17.10 **UR | NEW:** Scottish League
1 – Airdreònan v Stenhousemuir
19.20 Binneas – Na Trads (rpt)
19.30 Bonn Còmhraidh (rpt)

20.00 Machair (rpt)
20.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
20.30 Kerry is Kirsty: Stafainn (rpt)
21.00 **UR | NEW:** ALT
22.00 Ameireaga air Film (rpt)
22.45 Belladrum 2016: Rachel Sermanni (rpt)
23.00 Jimmy Johnstone (rpt)
00.30 **UR | NEW:** Trail West aig Barrowland

DIDÒMHNAICH 14 AN GIBLEAN SUNDAY 14 APRIL

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
18.15 An Là – News
18.30 Seachd Là – News Review
19.30 Sorchar nan Reul (rpt)
20.00 North Coast 500 – Le Anne London (rpt)
20.30 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)
21.00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach (rpt)
22.00 ALT (rpt)
23.00 Corp agus Anam (rpt)
23.50 Dhan Uisge (River Garry) (rpt)

DILUAIN 15 AN GIBLEAN MONDAY 15 APRIL

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Beartas nan Daoine (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 Fuine (rpt)
21.00 **UR | NEW:** Trusadh – Làithean Sgoile: An Rùm Mòr
22.00 Port (rpt)
22.30 Iùl a Chiuil (rpt)
23.00 An Sgrùdaire (rpt)
23.45 Belladrum 2016: Rachel Sermanni (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 16 AN GIBLEAN TUESDAY 16 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 Là – News
20.30 Kerry is Kirsty: Mòrag gu Àrasaig (rpt)
21.00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach (rpt)
22.00 Trusadh – Làithean Sgoile: An Rùm Mòr (rpt)
23.00 Òran na Mnà (rpt)
23.30 Sorchar nan Reul (rpt)

DICIADAIN 17 AN GIBLEAN WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Beartas nan Daoine (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 **UR | NEW:** Dealbhan Fraoich
21.00 Iùl a Chiuil (rpt)
22.00 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)
22.30 Port (rpt)
23.00 Opryle Daniel (rpt)
23.50 Dhan Uisge (River Garry) (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 18 AN GIBLEAN THURSDAY 18 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 Là – News
20.30 North Coast 500 – Le Anne London (rpt)
21.00 **UR | NEW:** Opryle Daniel
21.55 Binneas – Na Trads – Robyn Stapleton (rpt)
22.00 **UR | NEW:** An Sgrùdaire
22.15 Belladrum 2016: Rachel Sermanni (rpt)

22.35 **UR | NEW:** Ameireaga air Film
23.20 Dhan Uisge (River Garry) (rpt)
23.30 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)



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Co-bhanntachd eadar MG ALBA agus am BBC | A partnership between BBC and MG ALBA

Showcasing Argyll to the world

Argyll and Bute is showcased to the world this week as tourism businesses attend VisitScotland Expo.

Argyll Holidays and The Majestic Line are just some of the businesses exhibiting at the country's flagship travel trade show during a significant year for the national tourism organisation as 2019 marks its 50th anniversary and the 40th staging of VisitScotland Expo.

Machrie Hotel and Golf Links on Islay is attending the event for the first time alongside returning exhibitors Love Oban and Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative.

VisitScotland Expo is at the SEC (Scottish Event Campus) in Glasgow yesterday (Wednesday) and today hosting the highest number of exhibitors in its history with more than 330 businesses attending.

The show began as the Scotland's Travel Trade Fair



in 1980 before being rebranded in 2001.

It has grown into Scotland's premier business-to-business event giving tour operators and travel agents from across the globe the chance to meet Scottish tourism businesses and learn about their products and services – all under one roof.

Last year saw more than 300 companies showcased and 570-plus buyers from around the world flocked to Scotland to attend the flagship event with more than 9,500 pre-made appointments taking

place. David Adams McGilp, VisitScotland regional director, said: 'VisitScotland Expo allows businesses – including accommodation providers, visitor attractions and activity providers – to showcase their products and services to hundreds of tour operators and travel agents from all over the world – all under one roof. Tourism is more than a holiday experience it is the heartbeat of the Scottish economy and touches every community, generating income, jobs and social change.'

Seil is ready to entertain

Seil is setting the stage to proudly present an evening of theatre and songs in aid of its community hall.

Entertainment on Tuesday April 16 at 7.30pm will see Seil Drama Group present its award-winning production of (Don't) Throw It Away by John Colston and Caroline Morgan. The play was recently performed at the Appin and Lorn Drama festivals picking up two awards.

Seil Sound singers will also be taking to the stage, performing songs from the family album.

Tickets are £5, available

from Balvicar Stores and on the door on the night. Bring your own bottle.

Funds go to Seil Island Hall development funds.



Cross the bridge over to Seil for a fundraising night of entertainment on April 16.

nevis centre
bowling ● soft play ● events ● music ● sports

Fort William's Recreation and Events Centre

OPEN DAILY
Soft Play 10am - 6pm
Bowling 12pm - 10pm

Head over to our website to see what's on!
www.neviscentre.co.uk

Nevis Centre, An Aird, Fort William PH33 6AN T:01397 700707

Four out of five adults use their local paper to find out what's on

★★★★★ "Your local paper - a must-see"

Source: Consumers' Choice V, The Newspaper Society

Regional Press
closer to home

New play to premiere in Mull

A play depicting the ill-fated Franklin expedition will premiere at the Mull Theatre on Saturday April 13.

Unspotted Snow, written by Peter Arnott, will start at 8pm at the island venue, before going on tour throughout Scotland.

Unspotted Snow is described as 'a bold and adventurous tale of tragedy, mishap, folly and arrogance, of starvation and madness, of scurvy and cannibalism'.

In 1845, Sir John Franklin and 129 men sailed off in search of the Northwest Passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific by way of the north coast of Canada. They were never seen again.

After nine years, news of the expedition was at last brought to London by the remarkable Orcadian explorer and physician John Rae.



Peter Arnott wrote the play.

Playwright Peter Arnott said: 'One of the main motives I had in writing this play was to pay tribute to John Rae, as an explorer of remarkable stamina and capacity, who, among his many

achievements, mapped more than 3,000 miles of hitherto unknown coastline.'

To purchase tickets, visit www.comar.co.uk/whats-on/unspotted-snow-peter-arnott

WHAT'S ON IN OBAN



In partnership with Oban Town Diary BID4oban.co.uk

THURSDAY 11TH APRIL

Slimming World
Salvation Army Hall, Fort William
9.30am, 11.30am, 3.00pm, 5.00pm
& 7.00pm
Tel; Gillian 07796 040803

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

FRIDAY 12TH APRIL

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

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

SATURDAY 13TH APRIL

Mary's Meals Easter Craft & Coffee Morning
10.00am - Noon. Connel Village Hall

Re-Imaging Oban
Rockfield Centre. 11am-4pm

Slow Trad Music Sessions #16
Rockfield Centre. 2-4pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
Calum MacPhail Band. Open till 2am

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

SUNDAY 14TH APRIL

Movie making with a mobile
Rockfield Centre

11am-4pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans

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

MONDAY 15TH APRIL

Slimming World
Union Street/Argyll Street,
Lochgilthead

5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel; Rhona 07880 878906

WEDNESDAY 17TH APRIL

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

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

WHAT'S ON AT YOUR LOCAL CINEMA THIS WEEK

Tel: **01631 562905** or see

www.obanphoenix.com for more details

FRIDAY 12TH APRIL

11:45/ 13:30 PEPPA PIG: FESTIVAL OF FUN U
12:00/ 14:30/ 17:00 DUMBO PG
15:15 HARVIE AND THE MAGIC MUSEUM U
17:15 CAPTAIN MARVEL 12A
19:30 US 15
20:00 FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS 12A

16:45 CAPTAIN MARVEL 12A
19:30 FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS 12A
19:30 US 15

TUESDAY 16TH

12:00/ 18:30 FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS 12A
12:15/ 14:00 PEPPA PIG: FESTIVAL OF FUN U
14:30/ 17:00 DUMBO PG
16:00 BIRTHDAY PARTY!
19:30 US 15

WEDNESDAY 17TH

12:00/ 14:00/ 16:30 DUMBO PG
12:15 PEPPA PIG: FESTIVAL OF FUN U
14:30 CAPTAIN MARVEL 12A
17:15 FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS 12A
19:00 RSC LIVE: AS YOU LIKE IT
19:45 US 15

THURSDAY 18TH

12:15/ 14:30/ 17:00 DUMBO PG
12:30/ 14:45 PEPPA PIG: FESTIVAL OF FUN U
16:30 CAPTAIN MARVEL 12A
19:15 FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS 12A
19:30 US 15

SATURDAY 13TH

11:30 HARVIE AND THE MAGIC MUSEUM U
12:00/ 14:30/ 17:00 DUMBO PG
13:30/ 15:15 PEPPA PIG: FESTIVAL OF FUN U
17:00 CAPTAIN MARVEL 12A
19:30 US 15
19:45 FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS 12A

SUNDAY 14TH

12:00/ 14:30/ 17:00 DUMBO PG
12:45 PEPPA PIG: FESTIVAL OF FUN U
14:30 WHAT MEN WANT 15
17:00 CAPTAIN MARVEL 12A
19:00 FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS 12A
19:30 US 15

MONDAY 15TH

12:00/ 14:30/ 17:00 DUMBO PG
12:30 SHARKWATER: EXTINCTION 12A
15:00 PEPPA PIG: FESTIVAL OF FUN U

OFFERS & competitions

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at www.scottishfield.co.uk. Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 31 May 2019. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize draw to win a bottle of Whitetail Gin.**

WIN

WIN A FOUR NIGHT STAY IN THE NEWLY OPENED TWO BEDROOM COTTAGE SUITES AT TRUMP TURNBERRY



A new home away from home; dating back to 1902, the captivating Cottage Suites have undergone a multi-million-pound restoration, bringing to Trump Turnberry a new era of contemporary accommodation. Whether for a gathering with family or friends, the two bedroom cottage suites set the perfect ambience for a most memorable resort get away on the Ayrshire Coast.

Available for three, four and seven nights stays, this intimate new accommodation comprises of a lounge, fully equipped kitchen and two luxury bedrooms, altogether curating the perfect setting. Located in the grounds of the resort, guests may enjoy privileged access to Turnberry Adventures, Turnberry Stables, Trump Kids Club, The Wee Explorers Crêche Time as well as residential rates on Trump Turnberry's championship golf courses and unlimited use of the Spa facilities.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question:
What date do the Cottage Suites date back to?

Prize details: The prize includes four nights' accommodation in a new Cottage Suite, valid for stays Monday to Friday. Prize must be redeemed by 16 December 2019. Bookings are subject to availability. This prize is non-transferable, cannot be exchanged and no cash alternative will be offered. The prize is not available in conjunction with any other Trump Turnberry offer.

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition - your name, address, telephone number and email address. If you wish to receive news and offers from the third party running the competition, then please mark the words 'OPT IN' on your postcard entry. If you enter various competitions on one card, you will be opting in for every competition running. Unless you opt in to receive further marketing information we will only contact you if you win a prize in the competition. Scottish Field (Wyx Media) will retain your information for a maximum of 3 months after the competition closes and then it will be deleted. If you have opted in to receive third party information, the data you have supplied will be passed to the third party company running the competition. This may be used for the purposes of the third party contacting you regarding new products and services for a period of 3 months, unless you agree to an extension with the third party company at a later date.



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Gig at the Gathering tickets go on sale

Tickets are now on sale for Cowal Highland Gathering's flagship Friday night gig, which is back bigger and better than ever.

With an exciting line-up, the annual 'Gig at the Gathering' will showcase some of Scotland's most exciting traditional musicians.

And this year the gig – which has sold out in each of the four years since its launch – is boasting a major new sponsor.

Belhaven Brewery has signed up to back the four-hour extravaganza, which takes place on the Friday evening of the CHG weekend and which has quickly established itself as one of the highlights of Scotland's most celebrated Highland games.

Traditional music lovers will be excited to hear that the 2019 line up sees gig regulars, and firm crowd favourites, Heron Valley step

up to headline the evening.

The six-piece band, which began life in Strachur when most of its members were still at school, has won fans worldwide with its energetic brand of music featuring fiddle, accordion, pipes, whistles, guitar, piano, vocals, bass and drums.

Supporting Heron Valley will be two other high-octane performers – Beinn Lee, from Uist, which had the gig crowd rocking last year and is back by popular demand, and Glasgow group Headland, making their first appearance at the event and which merges traditional Scottish music with its members' pop/country roots.

Cowal Highland Gathering chairman Ronnie Cairns said the gig had fast become one of the hottest tickets on the traditional music scene – not just for the crowd, but for the performers too.

'It's been fantastic to see how popular it is with everyone involved – from the crowds to the bands to the many people who work behind the scenes to make it what it is,' he added.

'This year we're delighted to be able to announce not just our stellar line up of bands, but also our new partnership with Belhaven Brewery, which is the icing on the cake in terms of having everything in place for another knockout event.

'The gig is a great night out, whether you're local to the area or whether you're visiting for the gathering.

'Tickets are always in high demand, so I'd recommend that people secure theirs sooner rather than later to avoid disappointment nearer the time.'

Gordon Muir, marketing controller at Belhaven Brewery, said: 'We're very excited to be part of the gig this

year, and look forward to working with the organisers over the next few months to ensure it's the best night out it can possibly be.'

Tickets for the gig – which will take place on Friday, August 30 in the Gathering's Ceilidh Tent are on sale now with early bird tickets at £20 and all other tickets priced at £22.

The gates will open at 6.30pm with the first band due to kick off half an hour later. The event will finish at 11pm.

This year's Cowal Highland Gathering runs from Thursday, August 29 to Saturday, August 31.

For more information about the event or to buy tickets, please visit the gathering's website at www.cowalgathering.com or contact the event office by emailing info@cowal-gathering.com or phoning 01369 703206.

Grand designs for Colonsay Book Festival

A fascinating weekend of readings and discussions with a strong islands' focus will take place at the end of the month.

And to mark the occasion organisers have re-designed and re-launched their website which features the fantastic work of Jane Smith, a long-time Colonsay devotee and author and illustrator of a fan-

tastic book about the island.

The 2019 Colonsay Book Festival takes place on the April 27 and 28 and this year's event features authors Ann Cleeves, Robin Crawford, Jen Hadfield, Clare Hunter, Sarah Maine and James and Tom Morton.

Weekend passes are available from www.colonsaybook-festival.org.uk



The new Colonsay Book Festival website features work from home-based author and illustrator Jane Smith.



A taste of Argyll:

Locally dived scallops with Stornoway black pudding, succulent steaks from Jacksons of Oban butchers, freshly caught crab from the Sound of Jura.

Loch Fyne Ales & Orkney Brewery beers on draught.

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www.tayvallichinn.com
For reservations contact us on

01546 870282

Breakfast served from 10am
Lunch served from 12pm
through to dinner.
Last orders for food at 9pm



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 Sunday at
Mach Dunes

£24 MDGC Member & DGC Members | £36 Non-Members
ENTRY FEE INCLUDES GOLF ROUNDS AND PRIZE GIVING

REGISTRATION

GOLFHOUSE@MACHDUNES.COM OR 01586 810 058

Special room rates available for competitors!
Contact reservations@machdunes.com and reference the
Kintyre Team Championship to reserve a room.

Double success for piper Gregor

Gregor MacDonald was the only winner from Oban at Lochaber Piping Society Annual Amateur Piping and Drumming Competition.

The teenager won two competitions at the event at

Lochaber High School on Saturday March 30.

He won the Pipe Major Donald MacLeod Memorial Piobaireachd Composition for 18 and Under as well as the 15-to-18-year-old Piobaireachd section.



Gregor MacDonald won two competitions at Lochaber Piping Society Annual Amateur Piping and Drumming Competition.

Picture Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Oban's wizards and witches had a magic time for Harry Potter Night 2019

Waterstones hosted a spell-binding event last Thursday for Harry Potter Book Night 2019.

Staff at the Oban book shop, in partnership with Oban Library, were working like house elves to equip the store with games and decorations.

Wizards and witches donned their best robes and entered Waterstones via Platform 9 3/4.

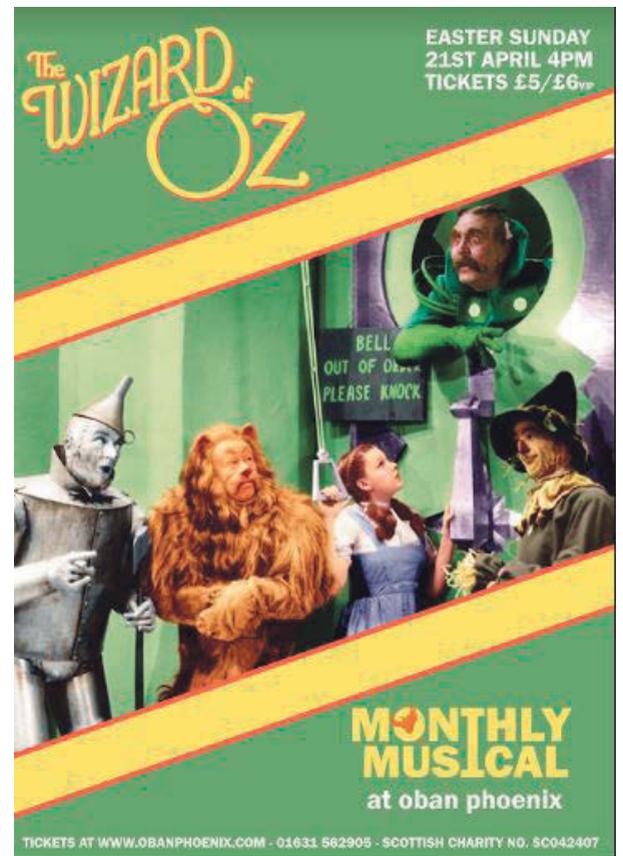
Once inside, they were able to play quidditch, pin the nose on Voldemort, find what house they belong to, create potions, have their fortunes told, and mould their very

own Mandrakes. There was even a rack of invisibility cloaks that non-muggles could test out.

Ewan Soutar of Waterstones Oban said: 'It is fantastic and it is a great turnout. More and more kids seem to come every year.'

'The popularity of Harry Potter never seems to wane and everyone seems to be having a good time.'

Harry Potter Book Night 'is all about passing on the magic of J.K. Rowling's amazing books to the next generation of readers'.



Family favourite The Wizard of Oz will be screened at Oban's Phoenix Cinema this Easter Sunday.

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MONDAY: 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 breakfast show, 9.00 Monday morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds Monday Mix, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland fling with Rosie MacColl, 20.00 John McLuckie's show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Through the night with Clyde 2
TUESDAY: 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 Breakfast show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday morning, 13.00 Macky on Fm, 17.00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest praise with Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Clyde 2 through the night with the Greatest Hits.
WEDNESDAY: 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 breakfast show, 09.00 Sounds Scottish repeat, 10.00 The Comfort Zone with Lesley Blair Simmonds, 13.00 Doug Carmichael in the afternoon. 17.00 Drivetime with Campbell Cameron, 19.00 Country meets Rock & Roll with Len Ford & Kenny MacLachlan alternating, 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre, 12.00 Midnight through the night with Clyde 2.
THURSDAY: 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00

Christine's collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo till midnight then Through the night with Clyde 2.
FRIDAY: 08.00 breakfast show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny aka Harry, Janet, and Anna, 17.00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country meets Country with Jackie Craig, 21.00 Peter Rainnie 12.00 Midnight through the night with Clyde 2.
SATURDAY: 08.00 The Breakfast show with Stephen MacPhee. 10.00 Saturday Morning live with Linda Crosher, 13.00 Clyde2 Sports and the Greatest hits, 18.00 Sports view - Oban Fm Dream team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo till Midnight then Through the night with Clyde 2 and the Greatest Hits.
SUNDAY: 09.00 Sunday Morning with Breege, 11.00 Sunday brunch with Allan MacKechnie, 13.00 Clyde 2 on a lazy Sunday afternoon with the Greatest Hits, 19.00 New Country show - David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Clyde 2 through the night with the Greatest Hits.

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Springtime in Glasgow

The sun has had its hat on this week in Glasgow for the first time in a good long while and spring has most definitely sprung.

It's not quite 'taps aff' weather yet (I will be sure to announce when that begins), but a few tables and chairs are tentatively beginning to appear outside bars and restaurants, and beer gardens are slowly but surely opening up for the summer season.

As the weather heats up, so do the advertising campaigns for Glasgow's two biggest summer events - TRNSMT and the Glasgow Summer Sessions - tickets for which are now on sale.

Coming to the city to perform this year are massive acts such as George Ezra, the 1975, Stormzy, Snow Patrol, Foo Fighters, Sigrid, and many more.

Top of the charts just now, of course, is a Glasgow-born lad called Lewis Capaldi. He is fast becoming a cult hero

in Scotland (partly due to his humorous presence on social media) but Oban Times readers may be more familiar with him as a former performer at Gig at the Goil festival in Lochgoilhead a couple of years ago - just before he made it to the big time.

What a remarkable rise to prominence - away and take a listen to his song Someone You Loved, which is aiming to stay at number one for a seventh successive week on Friday.

Mòd Ghlaschu

After their recent event to mark 200 days until the Royal National Mòd comes to Glasgow, at which the massed Gaelic choirs joined Gunna Sound for a cèilidh in Prince's Square, the Mòd Ghlaschu committee is continuing its efforts to raise both funds and awareness of the event in October.

The next fundraising venture is entitled Strictly Come Cèilidh Singing on Saturday May 11 in the Woodside Hall and, while all the details of the evening have not been

revealed just yet, I can only imagine it will do what it says on the tin.

The Facebook post describes the event as 'an evening of top quality entertainment, live music, dancing, and a very exciting raffle!' As if there's ever been a raffle that isn't very exciting.

Tickets for the event are £10 per person and I will report on further info when I hear.

Ceòl's Craic quiz

Ceòl's Craic is hosting a quiz tomorrow (Friday April 12) in Soul Food Kitchen on Sauchiehall Street.

It is described as a fun night of brain teasing and plenty of craic with prizes to be won - which sounds pretty good to me. The price per competitor is £2 and the quiz begins at 8.30pm.

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



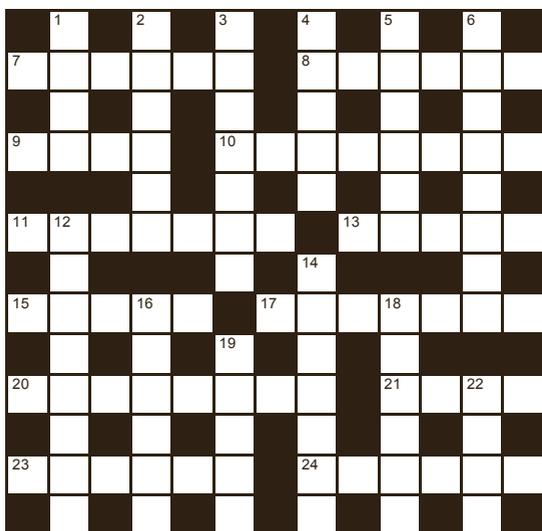
Three iconic Glasgow buildings bask in the sun this week.

Islay Association to host Tartan Pimpernel play in Partick Burgh Halls at 3pm. Tickets £8 or free for senior citizens.

Pub scene

Islay Inn
Friday April 12: Mooki.
Saturday April 13: The Raggaeals.

Crossword



Across

- 7 Shout (6)
- 8 Protective wear (6)
- 9 Vast (4)
- 10 Pay attention (6,2)
- 11 Ghosts at play (7)
- 13 Latin dance (5)
- 15 Stomach (5)
- 17 Storage for threshed goods (7)

- 20 Small songbird (8)
- 21 A cut of steak (4)
- 23 Bridge support (6)
- 24 Property (6)

Down

- 1 Trickle (4)
- 2 Perfume bottle (6)
- 3 Puffed up (7)
- 4 Quagmire (5)
- 5 Single-celled creature (6)
- 6 Cool salad vegetable (8)
- 12 Small alcoholic beverage to drink before your meal (8)
- 14 Debts (7)
- 16 Eleventh letter of the Greek alphabet (6)
- 18 Standard (6)
- 19 Hot food (5)
- 22 Pal (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



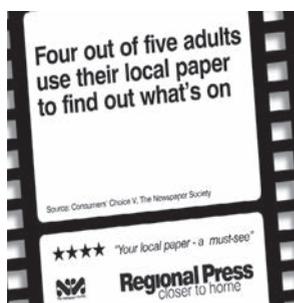
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Oban Bach Choir and Orchestra
Marie Claire Breen, Soprano Christine Sjolander, Alto
Christopher Josey, Tenor Simon Hannigan, Bass
Conductor: Norman Nicholson
SUNDAY, APRIL 21st, 2019 @ 7.30pm
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Seat with programme (obtainable at the door)
£10 (Concessions £8)

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Young, versatile, dynamic quartet
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Sat 20th Apr, 3pm
Easter Tea
£10 (£8 Friends) on door under 16s free

BONNIE babies competition 2019



**WIN
£500**

Vote now for your top 50!

Readers now have the difficult job of voting for the top 50 bonniest babies and toddlers. You can vote by simply completing the coupon provided on this page and sending it to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Votes must be received by 10am, Monday April 15, 2019. You can vote for as many babies as many times as you like. Just make sure you quote the number stated on the child's photograph when voting. Photocopied coupons will not be accepted. One coupon counts as one vote. We'll also accept multiple vote coupons in one envelope. Good luck to all babies and toddlers! Coupons can also be handed in to our offices in Oban and Fort William.

Letter from the Editor, Susan Windram

Bonnie Babies is back –
Spring must be in the air!

Welcome to our Oban Times and Lochaber Times
Bonnie Babies 2019 supplement.

Firstly, a massive thank you to all those who entered their little munchkins from across Argyll and Lochaber. Once again, we were overwhelmed by the number of entries and have had brilliant fun looking through all the adorable photographs while putting this supplement together. We can't wipe the smiles from our faces and hopefully you will share in the sheer joy by helping us crown our bonniest baby.

The winner will receive a whopping £500. Just think, that could be your monthly family food shop covered or a chance to treat the family to toys, clothes or maybe even a holiday. There will also be two runners-up prizes of £50 each.

The most difficult part is choosing the winner and that is where you, the reader, comes in. The Oban Times and Lochaber Times need your help to tell us which babies and toddlers you think should win the title of bonniest baby. Readers will start by voting for their top 50 from this supplement. It will then go to top 30, top 20, top 10 and then the winner will be revealed.

To vote for your favourite, simply complete the coupon, remembering to provide the number that is stated on the child's photograph and send it or hand it in to our office in either Oban or Fort William. We are happy to accept multiple coupons at one time. Just remember to get them in by 10am, Monday April 15, 2019. Full instructions below are below.

After the voting deadline, look out in future issues of The Oban Times and Lochaber Times to find out who made the top 50 when the voting starts again.

We wish all entrants the very best of luck and we hope everyone enjoys looking at these cheeky wee faces as much as we have.

Susan Windram

VOTING COUPON

LOCHABER TIMES
& Oban Times

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

I would like to vote for:

Baby number*:

Baby's name:

Please post to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies VOTE,
PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

*Baby number must be supplied. This can be found at the top left of each baby photograph.

**Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted
and will not count as one vote.**

**You may send in multiple voting coupons in one envelope.
Coupons can also be handed in to our offices in Oban
and Fort William.**



Terms & conditions: One coupon counts as one vote. From Thursday the 11th of April 2019 you will be able to vote for your favorite Bonnie Baby. Over the next few weeks we will publish in our papers and the digital editions the pictures of the entries. You will be able to vote for the baby you think should win either by purchasing a paper or if you are a paid for Digital Subscriber. You can vote for their favorite by emailing the number and name of chosen baby to bb@obantimes.co.uk – please include the email that you used to subscribe to our service with. This email will be checked against our live subscribers records and if valid - one vote will be allocated to your chosen entry – Only one vote per week per valid subscriber is allowed and duplicate votes will be discarded. If you wish to put in more votes you must purchase additional copies of the paper Your email address will only be used to validate your vote and will then be deleted – it will not be used for any other purpose. Customer services: 01631 568000. Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted. The deadline to receive votes is 10am, Monday April 15, 2019.

001



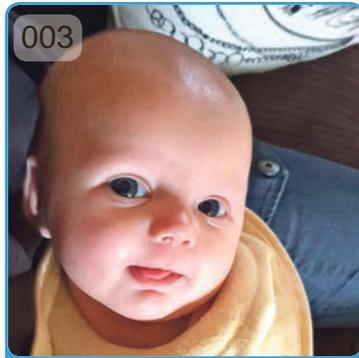
Logan Khan
Born February 2018 Dunbeg

002



Laura Rose MacDonald
Born September 2018 Dunbeg

003



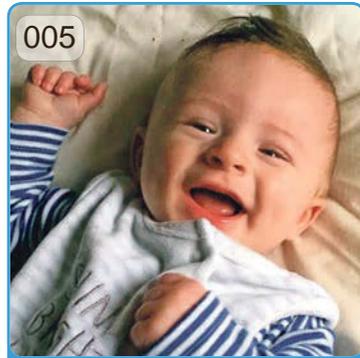
Makayla-Leigh Lawrie
Born October 2018 Caol, Fort William

004



Chanel MacDougall
Born December 2018 Oban

005



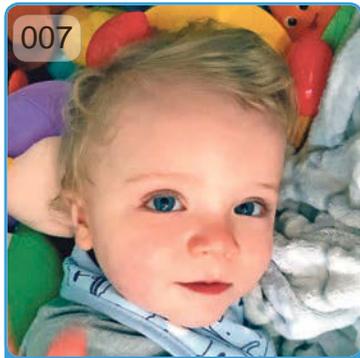
Myles O'Neill Gibson
Born October 2018 Fort William

006



Dylan Leister
Born March 2018 Stirling

007



Tony Cranston
Born February 2018 Ardrishaig

008



Jessica Gibb
Born November 2018 Lochgilhead

009



Chanel Aitkenhead
Born December 2018 Oban

010



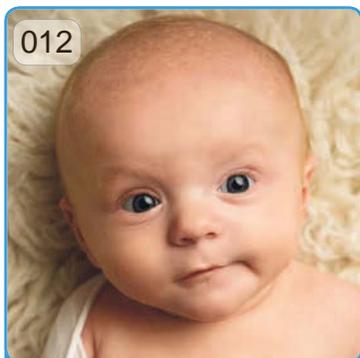
Caleb Ellis
Born January 2019 Edinburgh

011



Aaron Maclean
Born February 2017 Oban

012



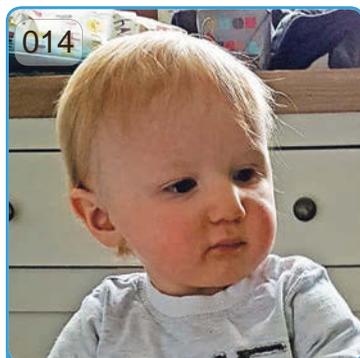
Elliot Martin
Born November 2018 Benderloch

013



Kendall Cameron
Born December 2018 Fort William

014



James Aitchison
Born February 2018 Fort William

015



Koa Eldon
Born December 2017 Fort William

016



Eva Anna Varadi
Born May 2018 Oban

017



Matthew Russell
Born October 2018 Oban

018



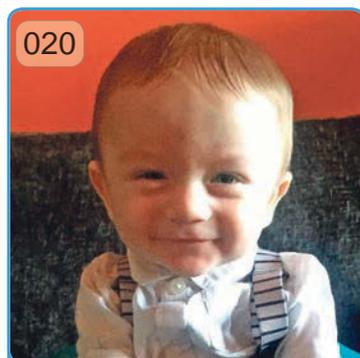
Olivia Kerr
Born December 2018 Oban

019



Ryan Ward
Born October 2018 Oban

020



Joshua Eddleston
Born April 2018 Oban

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021

Sydney Bain-Tully
Born December 2018 Airdrie

022

Arianna Holban
Born August 2018 Taynuilt

023

Lucas Alan Beckett
Born October 2018 Islay

024

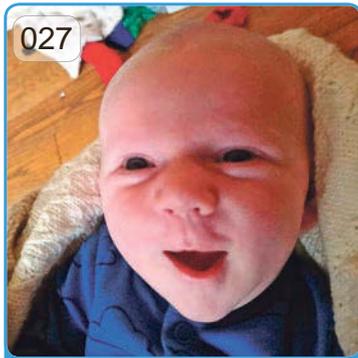
Olivia Anderson
Born October 2018 Maybole

025

Ellie Jamieson
Born April 2017 Glasgow

026

Angus John Telfer
Born March 2018 Oban

027

Hunter Smith
Born December 2018 Lochgilhead

028

Norrie James Fisher
Born October 2018 Isle of Mull

029

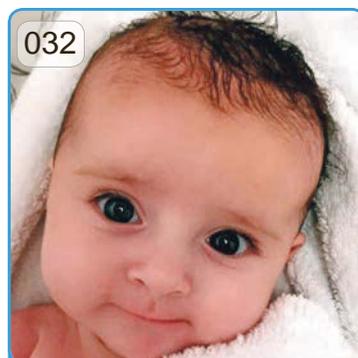
Alba McNicholas Smith
Born February 2019 Helensburgh

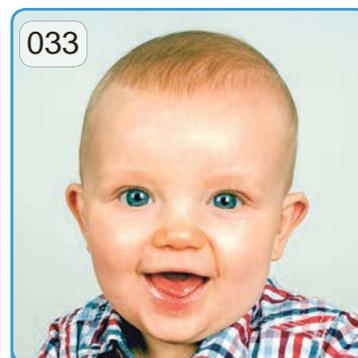
030

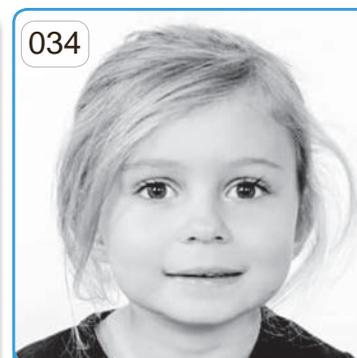
Eva Lopes
Born May 2018 Isle of Mull

031

Finn Oliver Mortimer
Born January 2019 Isle of Mull

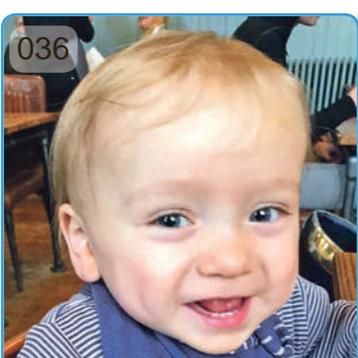
032

Hollie McMillan
Born October 2018 Oban

033

James Donald Morrison
Born April 2018 Isle of Islay

034

Amy Freitas
Born July 2015 Oban

035

Aneela Warham
Born March 2018 Dunbeg

036

Teddy Greener
Born July 2017 Barcaldine

037

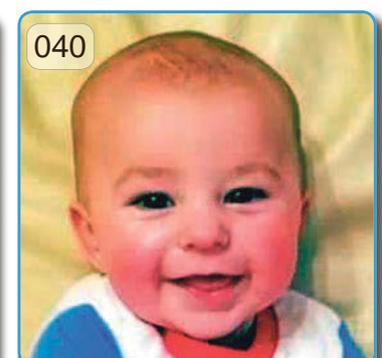
Nathan MacKechnie
Born July 2018 Oban

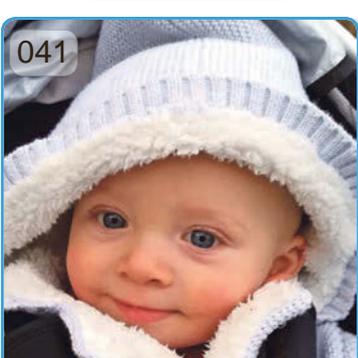
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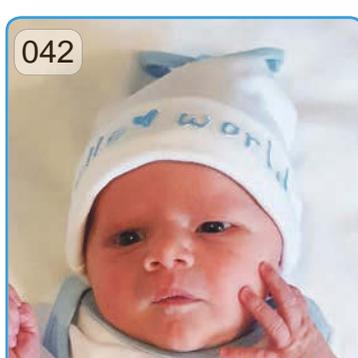
Amelia Jay MacLeod
Born January 2019 Oban

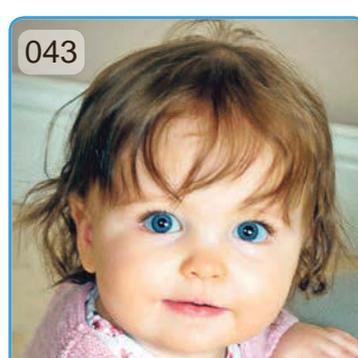
039

Cooper Stewart Cunningham
Born June 2018 Connel

040

Fraser Shaw
Born September 2018 Lochgilhead

041

William Wade-Edwards
Born March 2018 Dunbeg

042

Oliver MacNeill
Born February 2019 Isle of Barra

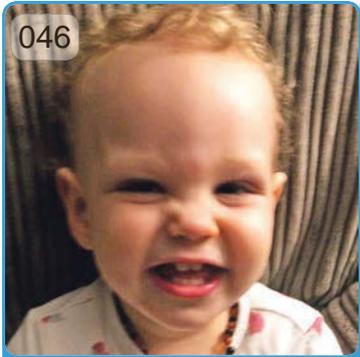
043

Madison Cline
Born June 2018 Glasgow

044

Darcy Poulton Watson
Born May 2016 Isle of Mull

045

Willow Durkin
Born December 2017 Oban



046

Evie Mackinnon
Born July 2017 Oban



047

Nathan Waddell
Born June 2018 Oban



048

Tommy Kennedy
Born June 2018 Fort William



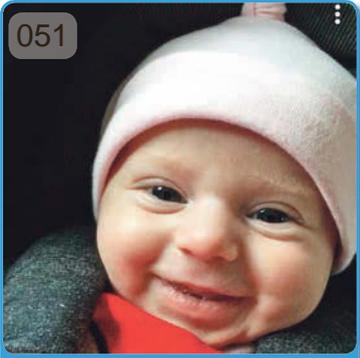
049

Alice Muir
Born April 2017 Glasgow



050

Allan Alvadia
Born September 2018 Oban



051

Amelia MacDonald
Born January 2019 Glasgow



052

Darcie Kate Toal
Born January 2018 Fort William



053

David Laird
Born July 2016 Oban



054

Jamie Madden
Born May 2017 Oban



055

Charlotte Grace MacGillivray
Born August 2018 Barcaldine



056

Harrison Davie
Born June 2018 Isle of Mull



057

Lewis Peterson
Born February 2019 Kilniver



058

Mila Mccracken
Born November 2017 Oban



059

Ella Fyfe
Born September 2018 Caol, Fort William



060

Hamish Sandenbergh
Born May 2018 Aberlour



061

Emma Maclean
Born September 2018 Oban



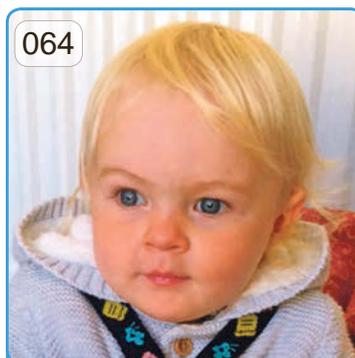
062

Steven TC Campbell
Born August 2018 Fort William



063

Lauren Gillies
Born September 2016 Arisaig



064

Andrew Kea Innes
Born November 2016 Easdale



065

Carter Harvey
Born May 2018 Oban



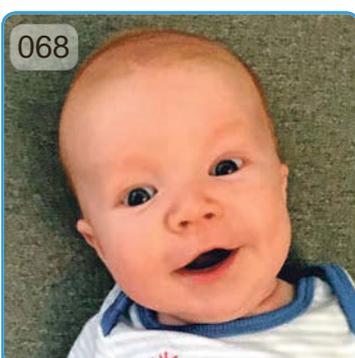
066

Ruaridh Freo Innes
Born October 2018 Easdale



067

Harry Hainsworth
Born May 2018 Fort William



068

Seumas Duncan MacNeil
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069

Rowan Ewen Kelly
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Three of a kind
for young Innes

Ten-year-old Innes MacKay from Oban was all smiles thanks to his set of lamb triplets.

Innes is keen on Blackface sheep and helps his dad Robert look after their Millpark flock.

This year Innes has two ewes of his own and was delighted when the first of them produced a set of triplets.

Picture: Kevin McGlynn



Less favoured area payments begin

Hill farmers and crofters operating in some of Scotland's most remote and marginalised areas will benefit from the commencement of payments worth more than £24 million.

Around 11,000 eligible farmers and crofters will receive payment in the coming weeks, with many having already taken the opportunity to receive up to 90 per cent of their 2018 entitlement under the national loan scheme announced earlier this year.

In total, 5,532 farmers and

crofters will receive payment under this tranche, with further payment runs being made in the coming days and weeks.

Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing said: 'I firmly believe we must help those who need help the most, and can confirm that payments will begin to arrive in bank accounts in the coming days.'

'We are working hard to provide as much certainty to support farmers and crofters as we can. This money will provide a welcome cash in-

jection to businesses and the wider rural economy.

'With the deadline for applying for a loan approaching, I would encourage anyone who has yet to accept a loan offer to do so by April 12. With further payments being made in the coming weeks, I am confident that the majority of awards will be made by the end of June in line with our payment schedule.'

The deadline for applying for a Less Favoured Area Support Scheme loan is midnight tomorrow (Friday April 12).

Around the markets

Stirling – Caledonian Marts Ltd on Thursday April 4 sold 175 cattle comprising of 79 prime bullocks, heifers and young bulls, 61 OTM cattle and 35 calves.

Prime heifers reached 250ppkg for an Aberdeen Angus from DS and RC Taylor, Easter Ochtermuthill, Muthill purchased by The Buffalo Farm, Boglily and to £1,539 for a Limousin from W Dandie and Sons, Learielaw purchased by H A Black and Sons, Butcher, Stirling. Prime bullocks peaked at 242p for a Limousin from Learielaw, purchased by T Johnston, Butcher, Falkirk and to £1,598 for a shorthorn from H A Brown, Molemount, Galston. Young bulls sold to 212p for a Limousin from M Jack, Carriston, Star of Markinch and to £1,428 from the same home.

Other leading prices: Bullocks per head: £1,582 Learielaw, £1,565 Greencraig, £1,556 Learielaw, £1,528 Harviesmailing, £1,518 Easter Ochtermuthill.

Heifers per head: £1,530 Easter Ochtermuthill, £1,518 Rathillet, £1,494 Moorfield, £1,471 Easter Ochtermuthill.

Bullocks per kg: 238p Learielaw, 228p Mains of Cultmalundie, 225p Faskine (twice) and Moorfield, 222p Mains of Cultmalundie, Moorfield and Rathillet. Heifers per kg: 245p Mains of Cultmalundie (twice), 242p Learielaw (twice), 238p Moorfield 235p Easter Ochtermuthill, Westwoodlane and Rathillet.

Fleshed beef OTMs averaged 156p selling to 178p for a Limousin from W Dandie and Son, Learielaw, Broxburn and to £1,400 for the same beast. The overall average for Beef OTMs levelled out at 148ppkg.

Dairy cows averaged 109ppkg selling to 131p from A Sibbald, Greenrigg and to £920 from J Johnston, North

Medrox. Other leading prices: Beef OTMs per head: £1,290 Greencraig, £1,280 and £1,220 Templehall, £1,170 Westwoodlane and Templehall.

Beef OTMs per kg: 166p Castlehill, 163p Gartfairn, 160p Middle Bankhead. Dairy cows per head: £880 Hillend and Glenrigg, £860 Keirshill, £850 Hillend. Dairy cows per kg: 126p Kaimhill, 122p North Medrox.

Also forward were 35 calves and stirks. With a large ringside of buyers in attendance, all classes were in high demand, and more could have been sold to sellers' advantage.

Topping the sale was a cracking one-month-old British Blue cross bull calf from Stewart Farms, Balglass, Lennoxton fetching £370.

Other leading prices: British Blue: £290 Drumglass, Montbelliarde £260 and £240 Meikle Camoquhill. Limousin: £260 Greenrigg. Simmental: £250 Gartclush. Aberdeen Angus: £220 South Glassingall.

Beef heifer calves: British Blue: £280 Drumglass. Limousin: £260 Greenrigg. Simmental: £230 (x2) Gartclush. Dairy bull calves: HF: £160 and £140 Meikle Camoquhill. HF: £90 Barbeth, £85 Carneil and Nyadd. Dairy stirks: Ayrshire £115 Badenheath

Dingwall – Dingwall and Highland Marts on Thursday April 4 sold 5,674 sheep of all classes including the annual spring sale of ewe lambs. Ewe lambs (3,266) averaged £73.26 (+ £3.44 on the year) and sold to £138

gross for a pen of Cheviots from Suisgill Estate, Helmsdale.

Wedge lambs (2,072) averaged £63.65 and sold to £105 gross for a Texel from Hollies, Beauly.

Ewes (243) averaged £49.70 and sold to £97 gross for a pen of Texel crosses from 3 Balnabeen, Conon Bridge.

Breeding (one) sold to £110 gross for a Roussin ewe with a Dorset cross lamb at foot from Burnbank, Invershin. Rams and feeding sheep (92) sold to £99 gross for a pair of Blue Faced Leicester rams from Gorthleck Mains, Gorthleck.

Other leading prices per head: Ewe lambs: BeltX – Marian, Evanton, £108, Simpsons Croft, Scotsburn, £103, 13 Kirkton Gardens, Lochcarron, £95.50; TexX – 3 Balnabeen and 4 Drumloan, Drumadrochit, £100, Keppoch Farm, Dundonnell, £99, 13 Kirkton Gardens, £86; RouX – Hollies, £100; Chev – Shieldaig, Strathcarron, £94, 1 Wester Alligan, Torridon, £93, Rydon, Tain, £91, Inchbae Farm, Garve, £90; Cross – Balnabruich, Ardgay, £89, Acharry Muir, Dornoch, £75; Zwb – Marian, £88, Carn Raineach, Applecross, £75; LlyX – Strone Farm, Banavie, £85 (twice); Mule – Dalmagarry Farm, Moy, £83; SuffX – Craigton, Bonar Bridge, £82; Swl – Breakachy, Laggan, £79; CHM – 13 Kirkton Gardens, £77; BF – 12 Annat, Torridon, £76, Breakachy, £74. Wedder lambs: SuffX – Bogallan, North Kessock, £100, Torgrianach, Ullapool, £86, Mid Fearn Farms, Ardgay, £83.50; TexX – 77 Feddon Hill, Fortrose, £93, Balblair Farm, Dingwall, 5C Balnabeen, Conon Bridge and Edinbane, Portree, £88, Ballone, Abriachan, £83; Chev – Dundreggan Croft, Glenmoriston, £90, 186 Migdale, Bonar Bridge, £89, Inchbae Farm, £86.50; Zwb – Linside, £87; BeltX – Dalmagarry Farm, £85, 5 Totarder, Struan, £82.50

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West Highland appoints contractor for £4 million works programme

West Highland Housing Association (WHHA) has appointed Oban-based Neil McGougan Ltd as the new contractor for its £4 million major works programme.

The works will include the replacement of 150 kitchens, 400 bathrooms, 90 windows and doors and 150 heating upgrades.

Dougie Mackie, chair of WHHA, said: 'Neil McGougan Ltd has a long track record of successfully delivering our component replacements and property upgrade works across Argyll, and we are delighted to appoint it as our new contractor for the next five years.'

'This work forms part of our 30-year investment strategy for our stock, which ensures our properties are kept to a high standard for our customers.'

'Our heating upgrades include work supported by the Scottish government's Decarbonisation Fund, which will enable us to fit heat pumps with Sunamp heat batteries, which will not only reduce the carbon intensity of our stock, but also the running costs for our tenants.'

Director of Neil McGougan Ltd, Craig McGougan, said: 'We are pleased to have been appointed to undertake this work for West Highland Housing Association.'

'It provides our company and local workforce with continuity of work during the coming years.'

'Additionally, it creates new employment opportunities for at least three new employees and training opportunities through work placements and apprenticeships.'



Regulate short-term lets or risk displacing long-term residents – new CIH study

The rapid growth of short-term lets such as Airbnb has been a boon to tourists and landlords, yet it could lead to the loss of private-rented homes to the short-term lets market and displacement of long-term residents from their communities, if left unregulated, according to new analysis from the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH).

The newly-published UK Housing Review 2019 suggests that Airbnb alone has more than 77,000 lets in Greater London, 55.4 per cent of which are entire homes. The bulk of the lets are heavily concentrated in Westminster (8,328), Tower Hamlets (7,513), and Hackney (5,907) boroughs.

Edinburgh has more than 10,000 short-term lets, with its city centre ward alone having two Airbnb lets for every 13 homes, while the Isle of Skye in rural Scotland has one Airbnb letting for every 10 houses.

The analysis makes clear from the concentration of short-term lets in particular locations across the country

that the rise of Airbnb has been a highly localised phenomenon. It has created 'globalhoods' – ultra-desirable neighbourhoods drawing in visitors from across the globe at an ever-increasing rate.

There would be cause for concern if these properties have moved from the private-rented sector to the short-term lettings sector for part of each year, and even greater cause for concern if they were now permanent short-term lets, unavailable to locals.

Potential impacts of the growth in short-term lets include:

- Non-compliance by hosts with existing regulations, such as insurance, fire safety and planning permission
- Prolonged loss of communal spaces, conveniences and facilities, since it is not just homes, but entire neighbourhoods, that are being shared, and
- Impact on local housing markets both with respect to rising rents and increased property values, especially in quite tightly bounded areas, such as Edinburgh's New Town.

Practical suggestions for tackling these issues include:

- Ensuring that better data

exist on short-term lets, so that local authorities can keep track of their growth and location. Airbnb have pioneered this in Barcelona.

- Introducing a modest tourism tax to assist local authorities in the monitoring and regulation of the short-term lettings sector, and
- Caps through the planning system by local authorities on the number of short-term rentals in particular high-pressure areas.

CIH chief executive Terrie Alafat CBE said: 'Digital platforms like Airbnb have brought great convenience to tourists who come to enjoy our cities and communities, as well as economic benefit to their hosts and local areas.'

'However, if left unregulated, there is a real risk of loss of much-needed housing from the private-rented sector to the short-term lets market, and displacement of long-term residents. We need to find a way to accommodate the housing needs of individual residents while allowing tourism to continue in our most popular locations. More regulation could be necessary if growth continues and local authorities still have no way to accurately monitor numbers.'



FOR SALE

WHISKY MACS CAFÉ BAR
SHORE STREET
CAMPBELTOWN

OFFERS OVER £169,000

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TOWN CENTRE LOCATION NEAR THE HARBOUR
REALISTICALLY PRICED OWNERS RETIRING

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mail@mactaggart-property.co.uk
www.mactaggart-property.co.uk

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TO LET

TWO BEDROOM HOUSE TO LET IN TARBERT

Fully furnished
Excellent condition
Long term let preferred
Front & back garden
£450 per month + bills
References required
No smokers or DSS

For further information phone 07771 392866
Landlord Registration Number: 396367/130/04471

Are you looking to move house?

43% of those planning on buying a house in the next year have been exposed to advertising in the regional press, which is double the number in any other medium.

Source: Consumers' Choice V, The Newspaper Society



Regional Press
closer to home

West Coast RECRUITMENT

Visit hijobs.net

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

TELEPHONE: 01631 568000
Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm

FAX: 01631
568001

E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk
Please remember to give your name,
address, postcode and phone number.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
HIJOBS

JEWELLERY CASTING SCOTLAND LTD.



We are a small, high tech. company in Kintyre producing micro castings in volume for specialist industries including jewellery, model engineering, and musical instruments, mainly in the U.K.

Vacancy for a General Manager

We are looking for a technically minded, graduate level, applicant to train into the new post of General Manager. This good all rounder should be capable in the following fields:

- * knowledge in administration (Sage experience useful)
- * technically minded, and open to training into our field
- * understanding of sales and marketing
- * team leadership and good social skills

Prior to taking over the day to day managing of the business an extensive familiarisation programme would be initiated.

You would be working closely with the directors, becoming one of a well co-ordinated team, with the aim of becoming part of the company's long term developing future.

Contact us for a prospectus:

01583 431 683

info@jewellerycastingscotland.com

www.jewellerycastingscotland.com



EXPERIENCED PLANT FITTER

Full-time Plant Fitter required for busy plant hire company. Ideally suited to person with experience of maintaining construction machinery and tools but all candidates will be considered. A full driving licence is required.

Role:

- Inspect all items when off-hired
- Repair and routine servicing of all types of construction plant and small tools
- Keep accurate service and maintenance records
- Managing and prioritising daily workload to ensure all tasks completed efficiently
- Travel to client sites for maintenance/breakdowns

Salary & Benefits

- Competitive rate of pay
- 40 hour week with regular overtime available
- Workplace pension scheme

For further information phone 01397 772333.

Applications by email to
info@campbellplant.co.uk

PROJECT WORKER VACANCY

FULL TIME (35 HOURS)

£19,879 - £20,910 PER ANNUM

OBAN, ARGYLL AND BUTE

CLOSING DATE: NOON, 30TH APRIL 2019

VISIT WWW.BTHA.ORG.UK/ITEMS/BTHA-JOBS

TO FIND OUT MORE & DOWNLOAD APPLICATION PACK



PEOPLE FOCUSED • INTEGRITY • QUALITY • GOING THE EXTRA MILE

HOUSING ASSISTANT VACANCY

FULL TIME (35 HOURS)

£16,000 - £16,250 PER ANNUM

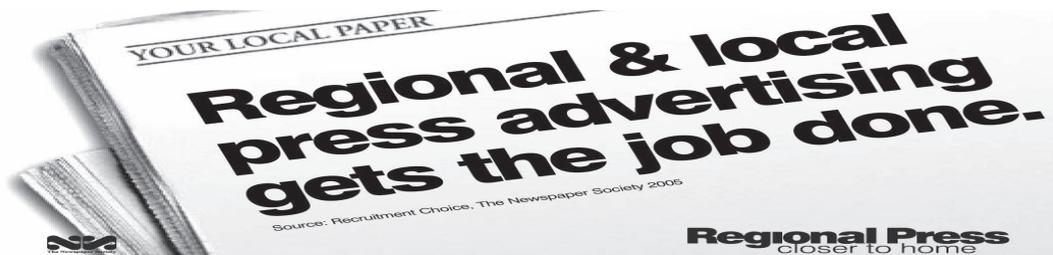
OBAN, ARGYLL AND BUTE

CLOSING DATE: NOON, 30TH APRIL 2019

VISIT WWW.BTHA.ORG.UK/ITEMS/BTHA-JOBS

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RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT



CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.

2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.

3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.

4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher

whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.

5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.

6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No

re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.

9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.

10 Adverts under the value of £75

must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.

11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions. Published by Wyvex Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB, Tel: (01631) 568000 www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. <http://termsandconditions.wyvexmedia.co.uk>

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TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

TELEPHONE: 01631 568000
Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm

FAX: 01631
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E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk
Please remember to give your name,
address, postcode and phone number.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
HIJOBS

Office Administrative Assistant

Part Time, Oban Based

WYVEX MEDIA

We are looking for a new team member to assist with the day-to-day smooth running of the advertising sales office here in Oban.

Duties will include liaising with customers regarding advertisements, advertising copy management, reception cover and other administrative duties as required. It is essential that you have excellent computer, grammar and communication skills, strong attention to detail and the ability to work well under pressure.

In addition to salary we offer a group personal pension plan.

Flexible, part-time working hours.

A full current driving licence is essential for this position.

Please apply by email with full CV and contact details to:
fiona@wyvexmedia.co.uk



Network Rail has Operative and Technician vacancies in Fort William and Crianlarich.

Out in all weathers, you will play a practical role in keeping Scotland moving. Across a range of manual tasks, the efficiency and safety of the railway is crucial.

These are hands-on roles, working outdoors in all weathers during the day, night and at weekends. If you've got what it takes, we'll provide all the training, protective clothing and support you need to succeed. Operative £23,650, Technician £25,438 (pay award pending) plus up to 25% premium depending of shift pattern.

For further information and to apply visit
<https://www.networkrail.co.uk/careers/>

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what place or postcode

Isn't it HI time you visited us? **HIJOBS**

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Amax Haulage Ltd, 1 Balvonie Green, Inverness, IV2 6GE is applying for a licence to use Lochaber Rural Complex, Torlundy, Fort William, PH33 6SQ as an Operating Centre for 3 Goods Vehicles and 3 Trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

**CROFTING COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NA
CROITEARACHD
DECROFTING APPLICATION**

I MacDougall
Catchean, Kilfinichen &
Kilvickeon
0.075 ha – Site for a dwelling house
94947

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 10/05/2019. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot

The Crofting Commission takes the protection of your privacy seriously. To safeguard your personal data and make sure that it is accurate, we only collect and/or store the data necessary to carry out our functions as a regulatory body. You can find a copy of our Privacy Notice at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/openness-and-customer-care.

Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk



Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society



Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 -13.30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, your Local Customer Service Point and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
19/00546/PP	Erection of extension	Unit 7, Baliscate Estate, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA75 6QA
19/00647/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 16/00696/PPP (Site for the erection of a croft house)	Croft 5A, Kilvaree, Connel, Argyll And Bute
19/00578/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of sewage treatment plant	Land West Of Fishnish Timber Pier, Pennygown Old Road, Pennygown, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
19/00631/PP	Demolition of greenhouse and erection of new lean-to carport, including removal of wall to provide vehicular access. Partial demolition and reconstruction of adjacent section of stone boundary wall to match existing	8 Argyll Terrace, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA75 6PB
19/00235/PP	Erection of dwelling and installation of septic tank	Land East Of Achara, Glencruitten, Oban, Argyll And Bute
19/00519/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and ancillary workshop/studio, installation of sewage treatment plant, heat source pump and formation of new vehicular access (amended design relative to planning permission reference 16/01032/PP)	Land 80 Metres West Of Kilona, Isle Of Iona, Argyll And Bute
19/00507/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Land South West Of Sailean, Isle Of Lismore, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5UL
19/00567/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, detached garage, storage shed including installation of septic tank and formation of access	Land South East Of Acha Farmhouse, Arinagour, Isle Of Coll, Argyll And Bute
19/00568/CONAC	Demolition of boundary wall	23 Shore Street, Bowmore, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute, PA43 7LB
19/00653/PP	Alterations and change of use of dwellinghouse to guesthouse and owners accommodation	Briarlea, Jamieson Street, Bowmore, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute, PA43 7HL

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Council's website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



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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

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
18/05913/FUL	Land 400M SE Of Taigh Breagh Achnabobane Spean Bridge	Installation of 1 x DSLAM telecommunications broadband cabinet measuring 1430mm x 450mm x 1300mm
19/00042/FUL	Glenancross Guesthouse Morar, Mallaig	Change of use of outbuilding to residential
19/01249/PIP	Land 130M NW Of Bay View Kentra, Acharacle	Erection of house
19/01314/FUL	Land 375M SE Of Tigh Na Coille Achnabobane, Spean Bridge	Erect 2 No single storey log holiday chalets
19/01320/FUL	Achaderry Steading Roy Bridge	Change of use from unused farm steading building to internet Point of Sales area for specialised whisky bottles
19/01253/FUL	Caravan Park Tigh Na Mara, Arisaig	Change of use of campsite from static caravans to touring vans and additional two glamping pods
19/01353/FUL	Land 50M NW Of 16 Moss, Acharacle	Erection of house

Time period for comments is 14 days

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Proposed Assignment of a Croft

Mr Angus John Cameron is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft at 48 Ormsaigbeg, Ardnamurchan & Sunart, to Mr Jordan Angus Cameron of Hillside, Portuairk, Kilchoan, PH36 4LN. Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot by 9th May 2019.

Friends of Oban Hospice (SC029457)

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 25th April 2019
The Dove Centre
Stevenson Street
7.30pm
All welcome

Commun Gàidhealach an Òbain

AGM
7th May 2019

7.30pm
Furan Gaelic Centre
Corran Halls
Everyone welcome

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Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB
Office hours: Mon - Thurs 9- 5pm, Fri 9 - 4pm

E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk
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address, postcode and phone number.

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Antiques and Collectables

BRASS SHELL CASE Empty shell case, 10" long by 2" diameter, ornamental, curio, Campbeltown, £10 Tel 01586 554537.

BRASS SHELL CASE Collectible empty shell case, 14" long by x 2" diameter, ornamental, curio, Campbeltown, £12 Tel 01586 554537.

HURRICANE MK 11 World War 2 aircraft series, assembled model, scale 1.72, part of collection of similar, unopened in box, Campbeltown, £10 Tel 01586 554537.

VINTAGE BARBOUR JACKET Classic genuine old Barbour jacket, holes and scruffy, 40" chest, statement garment, pockets, zip working, yuppie, sloan?, £10 Tel 01586 554537.

Baby Equipment

MAMAS AND PAPAS ZEST HIGH CHAIR used twice, only, £20 Tel 01852 300320.

Building / DIY

4 HEAVY CAST IRON POSTS 8ft long, £10 each Tel 01838 200489.

ANGLE GRINDER, £30 Tel 01586 552834.

ELECTRIC SAW Black & Decker, £30 Tel 01586 552834.

HAMMER DRILL JCB rotary, £40 Tel 01586 552834.

HEAT GUN Black & Decker, £20 Tel 01586 552834.

JIGSAW Black & Decker, £20 Tel 01586 552834.

MITER SAW 350mm, £40 Tel 01586 552834.

OAK 3m length of dark oak (144mm x 44mm) in original packaging, £85 Tel 07703 130367.

PLANER Black and Decker, £30 Tel 01586 552834.

REPLACEMENT CHIMNEY POTS for older houses, ornate Victorian/Edwardian pots in various sizes and colours, £40 Tel 01631 564578².

Camping & caravan Equipment

TENT unused, £50 Tel 01586 552834.

CDs, DVDs and Videos

BACH CD Cantatas 208 & 212, as new, £4.50 Tel 07785 318520².

CASE AND CD'S Black zipped case, with many various cd's, in wallet holders, unwanted. Campbeltown, £10 Tel 01586 554537.

Clothes, Shoes and Accessories

FRIENDS OF CANCER RE-SEARCH TARTAN Beautiful Pink Tartan Scarves £22:50, Tote bags £8:50. Phone Anne Ferguson, Tel 01631 562750.

LEATHER WORKSHOES Eki, terrain, Boulder, size 8, insulated, steel toe, tuf sole, 200 joules, 15,000 Newton's impact, minor scuffs, Campbeltown, £12 Tel 01586 554537.

WOOL WAISTCOAT Beige waistcoat, 42" chest, 100% pure new wool, 5 button, suit mature man, vintage styling, silky back, near new, Campbeltown, £8 Tel 01586 554537.

Deerstalking equipment

DEERSTALKER HAT Grendale, quality item, deerstalking hat, 60% wool, ear flaps, size 58, 7 one eighth, well used on hill, Campbeltown, £8 Tel 01586 554537.

Domestic Appliances

LARGE FRIDGE Indesit SIAA 12 tall freestanding fridge. white. 1.750 h x 850 d x 600 w 342lt. A+. super storage. 2 yrs old. Clean new condition, £75 Tel 01631 730280.

Furniture

ROUND GLASS COFFEE TABLE 30" diameter x 18" high, £10 Tel 01852 300320.

SUPER KING SIZE BED 4 drawers, headboard, mattress and mattress protector, duvet and two sets of bedding, buyer uplifts, £99 Tel 07814 809015 (Glencoe) after 3.30pm.

Z-BED Standard folding single guest bed in clean condition with cover, £35 Tel 01631 730280.

Garden

56LB WEIGHTS 2 heavy, cast iron 56lb weights, rusted, for garden ornament? Or doorstep? Campbeltown, £20 Tel 01586 554537.

BLACK AND DECKER cordless strimmer, as new unused, 18 watt with battery, cost new £90, can deliver Mid Argyll area, £45 Tel 07979 803430.

VINTAGE CART WHEELS and smaller implement wheels. Colourful garden display items. Prices from £30, Tel 01631 564578².

VINTAGE CHIMNEY POTS Vintage chimney pots in various sizes and styles, make lovely garden planters. Prices from £40, Tel 01631 564578².

VINTAGE LAWN ROLLERS cast iron and decorative, for working use or colourful garden feature, various sizes from £90, Tel 01631 564578².

WORX BLOWER/VAC as new condition 3000 watt corded blower/vac, cost new £70.00, can deliver Mid Argyll area, £25 Tel 07979 803430.

Heating, Fires and Fireplaces

AGA Oil Fired, Tel 0771 3156567².

Hobbies and Crafts

BOWLING BALL Bogaba bowling jack, lignum vitae, j.riley standard jack, well used, Campbeltown, £10 Tel 01586 554537.

CROSS STITCH KIT New, Cottage & Pond, 70x39cm, £4.50 Tel 07785 318520.

EMBROIDERY HOOP New, Diameter 20cm, 2.50 Telephone 07785 318520.

NEWHOME SEWING MACHINE V.G.C. £60 ono Tel 07528 769012.

PEARLISED PAPER & CARD, white, blue and pink colours in stock, available in A3/A4/A5 sizes, from 13p per sheet. Contact Krisp Print on 01586 554975.

TOYOTA SEWING MACHINE in good working order, £50 Tel 07528 769012.

Home Entertainment

MARANTZ PM44 hi-fi classic vintage amplifier, in perfect working order, £50 Tel 07879 067862 or 01631 569913.

MISSION 761i SPEAKERS classic hi-fi speakers, in perfect working order, £50 Tel 07879 067862 or 01631 569913.

SURROUND SYSTEM acoustic energy surround system, speakers and amplifier, needs some attention. Cost new £500, £50 Tel 07879 067862 or 01631 569913.

TECHNIKA HDTV 1080P 32" SCR 32" Freeview HDTV with HDMI, SCART, VGA and USB to record TV. Wall mount, or needs a stand (easy to get). Excellent condition, £50 Tel 01852 300276.

Home Furnishings

BLACKOUT CURTAINS three pairs of sage green blackout curtains. 168x183, good condition. Town centre, £50 Tel 01631 565404.

Home Office

BLACK 5 WHEEL SWIVEL CHAIR, £25 Tel 01852 300320.

EXECUTIVE DESK Large executive desk, excellent condition, 4 drawers plus one filing drawer. Calls evenings, £60 Tel 01852 300154.

SMALL COMPUTER DESK Excellent condition, with shelves. measures L=82x-H=79xW=58cm, round front. Calls evenings, £30 Tel 01852 300154.

SWIVEL CHAIR, £10 Tel 01586 552834.

Hunting and fishing equipment

AIRFLO WADING BOOTS, SIZE 8 Thick felt sole for walking on stones in river. Ankle boots. Tried on only, wrong size, excellent condition. Campbeltown, £15 Tel 01586 554537.

FLADEN FISHING BUNDLE Mixed lot, hooks, rigs, large spinner, one lead weight, packets all new, unopened, free fladen wallet has slight mark, Campbeltown, £10 Tel 01586 554537.

FLADEN TECHTONIC 40 REEL Reel with line, no.404-40, 4 ball bearings, gear ratio 5.2.1, used once, Campbeltown, £10 Tel 01586 554537.

SEA SELECTION REEL Reel with line, 60/70, high speed, 4 ball bearings, used once, Campbeltown, £10 Tel 01586 554537.

SHAKESPEARE ZETA REEL Reel with line, Zeta RD 50, gear ratio 4.9.1, used once, Campbeltown, £10 Tel 01586 554537.

SPEY SALMON ROD Altmor, AMF 1227-3, Rolls Royce of Spey casting, 3 sections, 12'2" rod, free bag and free suede rod tube, unused, Campbeltown, £65 Tel 01586 554537.

STILLWATER GF 4000 Reel with line, rotor equalising system, 6-250/8-200/10-150, used once, Campbeltown, £10 Tel 01586 554537.

Jewellery and Watches

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PERSONAL



Many thanks to all who sent us good wishes in many ways on our Diamond Wedding Celebrations.
Jimmy and Gladys.

DIAMOND WEDDING

JOHNSTON - Jimmy and Gladys (née Cameron), married at Acharacle Parish Church, Ardnamurchan on March 27, 1959, by Rev M McRitchie.

DEATHS

FORSYTH - On April 4, 2019 at Lorn and Islands hospital, Oban, surrounded by her loving family and after a short illness, Alexandra (Lexy) née MacLean, aged 81, much loved mum to Duncan and Alison and mother-in-law to Lynn and Roy, loving granny to Kieran, Kyle, Blair, Shannon and Cloudie, a dear sister and aunt. Sadly missed. Funeral will take place from Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Friday April 12 at 1.00 pm. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland.

MACLACHLAN - Peacefully at home on April 6, 2019, aged 67, Marion née Telford, devoted mother to Lewis and Steven, and daughter of the late William and Jessie Telford.

MACSWAN - Peacefully on March 31, 2019, at Culduthel Care Home, Inverness, in her 84th year, Christina née MacGregor, dear sister to the late Ian and Mary MacGregor, much loved mum of Kathleen, Janet and Eileen, mother-in-law to Derek and a loving granny and great granny.

McCORQUODALE - Callum. Peacefully on April 4, 2019, at Ayr Hospital. He will be dearly missed by family and friends. The funeral will be held at Lismore Church on Monday April 15, at 12noon. All welcome. Family flowers only please, if desired donations to Alzheimers Scotland.

McFARLANE - Mrs Mona McFarlane (nee Douglas), 83, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Douglas, 6 Mossfield Avenue, Oban, passed away peacefully on Monday, April 8, 2019 at West Collingwood, Ontario, Canada. Much loved and sadly missed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CRAIG - The family would like to thank everyone for their support following the sad loss of Douglas. Thank you to Ian at D&A Munn for his guidance and professional care. Thanks to Rev. Dugald Cameron for a comforting service and to Peter Park who assisted at the graveside. Special thanks to Neil Horne for his warm eulogy, sharing many memories about Douglas. Many thanks to Moreen Gracie for the lovely flowers and to John Horne and staff at the Royal Hotel

for a lovely buffet. Special thanks to all the Brethren who attended, many who travelled far to be there and to those who assisted along with the Oban RNLI. Thank you also to the pipers. A big thank you to Robert Cruickshanks for his continued support to the family. Lastly, thanks to all who paid their respects at the church and graveside. Donations to North Argyll Diabetes Support Group and Oban RNLI amounted to £965.73.

KELLY - The family of the late June Kelly of Kilmallie Road, Caol, would like to acknowledge the many expressions of sympathy and gestures of kindness shown to us following our sad loss. We offer thanks to all who took time to attend her funeral. To Alan Smurthwaite for the personal and touching service. Your kindness and support at this time was much appreciated. A special thanks to Drs Munro, Poleman and Massie of Tweeddale Surgery along with the Macmillan Nurses for the wonderful support given to our mother and family throughout her last year. £121 was raised for Lochaber Macmillan Nurses.

MACINTYRE - Lorna McIntyre extends thanks to friends and neighbours for their companionship and for their comforting wishes on the death of her husband Jimmy. She is also most grateful to the staff and nurses at Bowman Court who tended Jimmy with such care and tenderness and made his final years so pleasant and peaceful for them both. She counts them friends too.

TURNER - The family of the late Mary Turner would like to thank all neighbours, friends and relatives for the overwhelming amount of support and generosity shown to them after their sad loss, special thanks go to the Belford Hospital and Raigmore ICU for the dedicated care shown to Mary. Thank you to McDonald Bros for the beautiful flowers, to Meg and the staff at The Railway Club for the generous catering, to Fr Donald MacKinnon for his comfort and prayers, to John and the team at John

McLellan Funeral Directors for the care and the personal attention to detail in the funeral arrangements. Finally thank you to all who attended the service and gave so generously the amount of £382.67 for Belford Hospital Patient's Fund.

MEMORIALS

CAMPBELL - Ronnie, April 14, 2018.

My heart still aches with sadness
And secret tears still flow
What it meant to lose you dear
No one will ever know.

- Your loving wife Sheila xx

MACDONALD - Precious memories of my darling husband Archie, who passed away April 15, 2017.

We never part from those we love
No distance can divide

In memories garden day by day
We walk side by side.

Until we meet again rest in peace.

God bless and love you always.

- From your loving wife Eileen.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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MACDONALD - In loving memory of our darling dad and papa, who passed away April 15, 2017.

In laughter and in sorrow
In sunshine and in rain
We know you're watching over us
Until we meet again
Love always.

- Brian, Anne, Marie, Eileen, grandchildren and great grandchildren. xx

MACINTYRE - Cherished memories of our dear parents, Duncan who died December 19, 1981 and Betsy April 16, 1988, also family members gone before and since.

Those we love don't fade away
They journey with us every day.
- Inserted by the family formerly of Kilvaree Farm, Connel and Cruachan, Strathyre.

MACKAY - In loving memory of Archie, died April 11, 1998 Always in our thoughts.

- Families Inveraray and Canada.

PROSSER - MAXWELL - In loving memory of my daughter Yvonne, passed away April 6, 1989, aged 3 years.

Always in my heart.
- Dad x

SPREADBURY - For our dear friend Moira, who passed away April 5, 2018.

Missed but not forgotten.
- From Margaret and Josie.

WEDDINGS



MACKAY - RAYBOULD

On March 30, 2019 at Auchen Castle, Moffat, Vairi Fiona, youngest daughter of John and Joanie, Tobermory to Alex Michael, youngest son of Julie and Mike, Carlisle.

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Obituary – Jaquetta James

Older residents on Mull may be saddened to hear of the passing, in her 91st year, of Jaquetta James, formerly of Torosay Castle.

On the plaque in the Craignure Village Hall, which she officially opened in December 1999, she is identified as The Hon Mrs James, and she liked this formal style of address, as she felt it honoured the memory of her father, the 11th Lord Digby KG, a much-decorated veteran of the Great War and Dorset landowner.

The youngest of four children, her formative years were in the austere 1940s, and she saw less of the glamorous lifestyle that her older sisters knew well. Indeed, she found the contrasts drawn with her oldest sister Pamela (who, as Pamela Churchill Harriman, was President Bill Clinton's ambassador in Paris) all rather tiresome, because, as she used to say, she would never have aspired to that kind of lifestyle. Instead, she had ambitions for a career in medicine, but these were frustrated by a skull fracture incurred in a riding accident, and by polio, which left her permanently, if mildly, incapacitated.

Like many of her generation, she developed in her youth a strong sense of duty, which remained with her all her life.

She was married in 1950 to David James, a PoW escapee and polar adventurer who had been raised on Mull, and



with him had a family of six children.

While he developed a career in politics, she found time to serve on mental health tribunals, and on the management board of Chailey Heritage, a school which serves the needs of children with complex physical disabilities, including the many Thalidomide children of that era.

Her greatest commitment at this time was to Hamilton Lodge, a school for the profoundly deaf, where, as chairman, she oversaw its

transition from the creation of a maverick and inspirational founder to the professional management standards of the 1970s.

As an MP's wife between 1959 and 1964, and again between 1970 and 1979, she was heavily committed to, and enjoyed the challenge of, the pastoral side of constituency work. A natural 'small C' conservative, she nevertheless had no time for the partisanship of party politics, being happy to point out that one of her maternal

great-grandfathers had been a Liberal Home Secretary and recalling recently how she became friends with Christina Stewart, the wife of the then solitary SNP MP between 1970 and 1973, who may have had a lonely life in London in the days before generous family travel passes.

After politics, she and David moved back to Mull to try to restore his beloved Torosay Castle and open it to the public. Sadly soon widowed, her commitment continued undiminished, and for more than 25 years she would turn her hand to any task where she could be of use. The gardeners will attest that she was always by far the most knowledgeable member of the family in their department!

When Torosay was put up for sale a decade ago, she chose to move back to her roots in Dorset, in part to be near her brother, to whom she was devoted, and who himself died within the past year.

She died in her own home cared for by two of her children after an illness which she handled with great stoicism and remarkable cheerfulness. During this time, her Catholic faith – she was received into the church at the time of her marriage, David having become a Catholic in PoW camp – was a source of great comfort and strength to her.

Jaquetta is survived by six children, 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

THOUGHT for the week

'There's nothing new under the sun.' I don't remember when I first realised this was a biblical quotation. It's from the Old Testament book Ecclesiastes.

So political uncertainty, apocalyptic predictions, and any other worry anyone is facing has apparently all been experienced before.

Perhaps not in exactly the same way because we are all unique individuals, but certainly in general terms.

Does this mean we should just accept what's happening as inevitable and our lot in life? Or do we learn from what others have gone through and do our bit to change the narrative?

As we head towards Holy Week and Easter, perhaps we could really take on board that Jesus told Peter to put away his sword, even though Peter was leaping to Jesus's defence. That Jesus said he came that we might live life in all its fullness and that we should love our neighbours as ourselves.

Accepting a system in which people must rely on foodbanks, accepting nuclear weapons, rejecting people fleeing for their lives, rejecting solutions to prevent climate change – none of these fits with claiming to follow Jesus.

Of course many people of other faiths and none also know we need to find different ways of living.

The writer of Ecclesiastes shares much of the anxiety which overshadows 21st century life. He considers youth and age, wisdom and foolishness, pleasure and toil, and wonders about the point of it all.

Good Friday through Easter Sunday and beyond tells the story of hope, betrayal, denial, crucifixion, despair. Then the shock of the resurrection – new hope, not for an easy life but for a way through the darkness to the light.

Rev Liz Gibson, Isle of Mull

Obituary – John MacDonald

Always known as Ian, he was born on the farm Cuilaneilan, Kinlochewe, Ross-shire on July 16, 1943.

Ian was the eldest of three sons to Duncan MacDonald from Invergarry, where the MacDonalds were known within the farming community. His grandfather John MacDonald bought cattle from the Isle of Skye, south-west Ross and Lochaber and walked them to the sales in Falkirk.

His father died at a relatively early age when Ian was still in his teens and so along with his brother Malcolm took over running of the farm, reclaiming and draining the land and expanding flood prevention schemes. They ran a flock of

north country Cheviot sheep and a herd of hill cattle.

Not one for extensive travelling, he enjoyed the business and social events at arts and sheep sales throughout the Highlands. He much enjoyed the Lairg lamb and tup sales, supporting the sales there and often selling his own lambs at the September sales. He sent a consignment of lambs to the sale in September 2018 but, owing to ill health, he was unable to attend so Malcolm sold them for him.

He was a regular buyer of tups at the Lairg sale from 1964, buying from breeders in Sutherland, Ross-shire and the Borders. Ian was well thought of throughout the farming

community. He became unwell in 2013 and, after a spell in hospital, made a reasonable recovery.

It was a wrench for him to have to give up the farm in November 2018. He was, however, still able to stay in the farmhouse at Cuilaneilan and keep some ewes on croft land on the Black Isle.

Ian became unwell again in the summer of 2018 but he managed to get out on his quad bike on the croft, going around his stock. He was able to attend the mart in Dingwall selling some stock in early November.

He was again admitted to hospital at the end of November 2018 and sadly

passed away on December 3.

He was a man of deep faith. Ian will be sadly missed by the community and in the family home. He had a wealth of knowledge about the history of the district and was willing to share this with any who were interested.

His funeral service on December 17 filled Kinlochewe Free Church with mourners coming from throughout the Highlands, and also from the Lowlands and east coast. A fitting tribute was paid to Ian by his close friend Ronnie Ross of Loch Rosque.

As the funeral cortege passed the farm cottage it paused. This was the house he was

born in and lived in throughout his life. The cemetery in Kinlochewe is only a few hundred yards from the farm house.

Close friends, shepherds and farmers carried his remains to the graveside. On a cold but dry, December day he was laid to rest overlooking the farm and the snow capped mountains of Beinn Eighe and Coulin, that we loved so much.

Eight family members and four close friends lowered his remains into the grave. Both the service at the church and the graveside were conducted by the Rev Colin MacLeod.

Ian is now gone from our midst. He was a true Highland gentleman.

Cammanachd are undone by

Mowi Premiership

Kingussie 2

Oban Camanachd 0

Kingussie scored twice late in the game to beat Oban Camanachd 2-0 at the Dell.

Kingussie manager John Gibson was unavailable so his assistant Ali MacLeod took the side.

Kingussie went into the match behind league leaders Lovat on goal difference. Keeper Craig Dawson was still out injured so Rory MacGregor continued in goal, whilst Lee Bain started on the bench.

Oban Camanachd's Daniel Cameron served a one-match ban for passing through the disciplinary points threshold and boss

Stephen Sloss was also without Scott McKillop, Andrew MacCuish, Chrissie MacMillan and Keith MacMillan who were unavailable. Gary McKerracher came into the side at full back and played as if he had never been away. Youngsters Ross Campbell and Lennon Campbell were Oban Camanachd's substitutes.

Daniel MacVicar sent a chance high and wide in the first half whilst, at the other end, Cameron Sutherland, who was the busier of the two keepers, made a great save, tipping a Ruaridh Anderson shot that was heading for the top corner over the bar.

Oban Camanachd swapped Connor Howe for Ross Campbell at the interval.

Cameron Sutherland was called into action again before the hour when he made a point black save whilst one-on-one with Ruaridh Anderson.

Sutherland then used his body to block a Savio Genini effort.

Aidan MacIntyre went on a fantastic run after winning possession in the middle of the park where he got away from his marker. MacIntyre moved the ball to his right when he got sight of goal but Rory MacGregor made a terrific save from MacIntyre's blistering shot.

Daniel MacVicar then broke through and faced full back Robert Mabon but he failed to pick out Daniel Madej who was in space and the chance was gone.

Scott MacMillan made a diagonal run to get on the end of a high ball from Ross Campbell which deceived the home defence, but he shot into the side-netting.

The first goal was always going to be massive and it was Kingussie who took the lead with eight minutes remaining. The Oban defence had been solid but there was only so much pressure they could take as Rory MacKeachan played the ball



Shoulder to shoulder: Kilmallie keeper Shane Gillies stands up to Newtonmore's Glen Mackintosh during last Saturday's cottages.com MacTavish Cup tie. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

down the right and Roddy Young controlled the ball before finding Savio Genini on the penalty spot. Keeper Cameron Sutherland dived to his right to parry Genini's shot, which may well have been going just wide, but Ruaridh Anderson ran in on the left to knock the rebound

into the net. Oban Camanachd went for broke and pushed Daniel Sloss, who had played well in defence, into the forward line.

But it was Kingussie who sealed the win with the last hit of the game. Savio Genini played on Ruaridh Anderson's low corner from the right and, with Roddy Young battling for possession in a central position, Savio Genini nipped in to whip the ball low into the net on his back-hand.

The main difference between the sides was that Oban Camanachd didn't work keeper Rory MacGregor anywhere near enough when they had possession in front of goal. Kingussie, on the other hand, forced a number of fine saves from Cameron Sutherland before keeping their scoring run going as they eventually found the net twice.

Speaking after the match, Oban Camanachd assistant manager Kenny Wotherspoon said: 'It was good to get a game. The lack of continuity didn't help us as we didn't play last week. Kingussie have been on a run of matches and that showed. We're clearly not happy with the result though and there are things we need to work on. It was disappointing not to trouble their keeper.'

'It was a real bonus to have Gary McKerracher back and he gives us

options. It's also great to have Daniel Sloss, Ross Campbell and Lennon Campbell, all in their mid-teens, involved in top flight shinty. They just need more help from the senior guys.'

'We knew there would be good weeks and bad weeks but we'll re-group and we'll have players back for Kyles this week.'

Aidan MacIntyre will be a doubt for the Kyles match after picking up a knee injury.

Lochaber 1 Lovat 6

Lovat stay top of the league following their convincing 6-1 victory against Lochaber at Spean Bridge.

Lochaber were without Martin Johnstone, whilst Stuart Callison started at wing back where he played well. Shaun Nicolson was at centre with Ben Delaney at buckshee forward, although they swapped roles later in the game.

Lovat pair Lewis Tawse and Calum MacAulay came into the side, with Martin Mainland and Graeme MacMillan dropping onto the bench.

The match was all about the first 15 minutes and the last 15 minutes.

Lovat, who fell a goal behind to Kinlochshiel in the opening minute the previous week, were the ones who got the early goal this time. The ball came to Marc MacLachlan who

Fixtures

Saturday April 13

Sutherland Cup first round

Kingussie v Lewis

Callum Duff - 1.30pm

Strathglass v Aberdour

Steven MacLachlan

Mowi Premiership

Caberfeidh v Kilmallie

Brian MacKay

Inveraray v Lochaber

Lachie Wood - 3pm

Kinlochshiel v Kingussie

Graham Cameron - 3pm

Kyles Ath v Oban Camanachd

Robert Baxter

Lovat v Newtonmore

John Angus Gillies

Mowi National Division

Glasgow Mid Argyll v Beaulie

David Mitchell

Fort William v Strathglass

Des McNulty

Glenurquhart v Bute

Archie Ritchie - 1.30pm

Oban Celtic v Skye

Alex MacVicar

Mowi North Division 1

Inverness v Newtonmore

Deek Cameron

Aberdeen Uni v Glenurquhart

Neil MacDonald

Kinlochshiel v Fort William

Ronnie Campbell - noon

Skye v Lovat

Calum Girvan

Mowi South Division 1

Aberdour v Ballachulish

Ross Brown

Glasgow Mid Argyll v Taynuilt

David Mitchell

Lochside Rovers v Kyles Ath

Graham Fisher - 3pm

Inveraray v Tayforth

Lucy McNulty - noon

Mowi North Division 2

Beaulie v Inverness

Iain Kennedy

Boleskine v Lochcarron

John Matheson

Mowi South Division 2

Bute v Kilmory

Ewan MacDonald

Oban Celtic v Glenorchy

Jim Innes - noon

All throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated.



Lochaber's Shaun Nicolson reaches over Lovat's Lorne Mackay during last weekend's Mowi Premiership match at Spean Bridge.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

late goals

beat his opponent and flicked the ball by keeper Calum MacDonald to make it 1-0 with just 15 seconds gone.

On five minutes, Lewis Tawse came deep on the right where he gathered the ball and ran some distance before passing to Marc MacLachlan. The ball came back to Tawse who lashed it into the back of the net to make it 2-0.

Three minutes later, Lewis Tawse played the ball in from wide on the left and Fraser Heath shot into the net but the goal judge ruled the effort offside.

Lovat continued to attack and they added a third on 14 minutes. Lewis Tawse found Calum MacAulay who played the ball on to Marc MacLachlan and his cross from the left was turned low into the net by Greg Matheson. Lochaber now faced an uphill task.

Lovat's Duncan Davidson had been instrumental during the first 15 minutes but the match fell away after that.

Lewis Tawse almost got a second on 54 minutes when he turned a Marc MacLachlan cross goalwards, but his effort came off the post with the keeper beaten.

Injury had restricted Lochaber defender Brennan MacDonald to a place on the bench but he joined the attack on the hour.

Stuart MacDonald did well to save a rising Ben Delaney shot with his stick.

Then, with 16 minutes remaining, Lovat added a fourth. Marc MacLachlan came out on top following a tackle left of centre and, as he was being closed down, he drew the ball to the side and fired past an unsuspected keeper.

Lovat's Lorne MacKay won the ball in the middle of the park and burst forward down the right before picking out Greg Matheson who trapped the ball and dispatched it into the net in one movement to make it 5-0 with five minutes to go.

A couple of minutes later, a cross from the right came to Fraser Heath at the edge of the box. Heath showed good awareness as he played an unselfish reverse pass to Greg Matheson who hammered the ball high into the net to make it 6-0.

There was consolation for Lochaber when they pulled a goal back with the last hit of the game, with Brennan MacDonald scoring.

Continued on page 56

Lochaber's Ben Delaney swerves to avoid Craig Mainland's hit.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



Results

**Saturday April 6
Cottages.com MacTavish Cup
first round**
Kilmallie 0 v 5 Newtonmore
Strathglass 5 v 1 Inverness

Sutherland Cup first round
SCOTS Camanachd v Boleskine
Walkover to Boleskine
Skye 7 v 1 Kilmallie
Lovat 5 v 2 Fort William
After extra time
Strathspey v Kilmory
Walkover to Strathspey
Kinlochshiel 6 v 1 Inverness
Lochcarron 0 v 6 Glenurquhart
Newtonmore 5 v 2 Glenorchy

Mowi Premiership
Inveraray 2 v 4 Kinlochshiel
Kingussie 2 v 0 Oban Camanachd
Lochaber 1 v 6 Lovat

Mowi National Division
Glasgow MA 1 v 2 Fort William
Skye 5 v 0 Beaully

Mowi North Division 1
Glengarry 2 v 0 Caberfeidh

Mowi South Division 1
Aberdour 4 v 0 Lochside Rovers
Ballachulish 3 v 0 Taynuilt
Col Glen 2 v 2 Inveraray
Tayforth 3 v 2 Glasgow Mid Argyll

Mowi North Division 2
Beaully 2 v 0 Strathglass

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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.

Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

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In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Winners agree to have their photograph taken for publicity purposes. Winners' names and home towns will appear in the newspaper. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/destroyed within 30 days of the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity.



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T Campbell Sept '18 **£2500**
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LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



The two entries who got nearest the ball and each receive £25 are:
J Martin
Isle of Gigha
K Blair
Lochgilphead

Continued from page 55

Both clubs commented on how well Des McNulty had refereed the game but there was a sting in the tail for Lovat's Lorne MacKay as his booking looks set to trigger a ban for the Kilmallie game in a fortnight.

Lovat have now found the net 23 times in their opening five league fixtures and stay ahead of second-placed Kingussie on goal difference.

Inveraray 2 Kinlochshiel 4

Kinlochshiel notched up their first league win of the season, coming from behind to beat Inveraray 4-2 at the Winterton.

Kinlochshiel suffered a blow during the week when it was confirmed Scottish international Finlay MacRae had suffered a broken bone in his arm during the previous week's defeat against Lovat meaning a spell on the sidelines.

Inveraray got off to a great start with Robert Wood scoring after three minutes.

John MacRae made it 1-1 on 31 minutes and youngster WD MacRae found the net a minute before the break to give Kinlochshiel a 2-1 interval advantage.

John MacRae got his second on the hour and Duncan Matheson made it 4-1 on 71 minutes.

Inveraray got the afternoon's final goal with Fraser Watt netting with eight minutes left on the clock.

Cottages.com MacTavish Cup – first round

Kilmallie 0 Newtonmore 5

Newtonmore put their indifferent start to the season behind them as they beat Kilmallie 5-0 at Canal Parks.

Kilmallie, who had won at Newtonmore on the opening day of the shinty season, were missing Michael Rodger, whilst Martin Stewart started on a strong bench with Bryan MacKay and Ian Robertson.

There was a more familiar look to the Newtonmore side with Glen MacKintosh returning in attack. Iain Richardson retained his place in the side, with David MacLean joining Drew MacDonald and Owen Fraser on the bench.

Newtonmore have upped their training and switched their midweek sessions outside and it showed, particularly in their movement up front.

Newtonmore's Evan Menzies made the difference scoring four first half goals on 18, 36, 38 and 42 minutes. Two of the Scotland

forward's finishes saw him take the ball into feet before turning and finishing.

He waited at the back post for another, scoring with a free shot from 15 yards, after everyone had missed a ball into the goal area.

For his fourth, Menzies ran through onto a long ball in from Jamie Robinson and caught the ball first time to make it 4-0 at the break.

Iain Robinson reacted well to run in and turn home a re-bounce on 54 minutes, after Kilmallie keeper Shane Gillies had saved from Glen MacKintosh, to make it 5-0.

This was a solid start to the defence of a trophy Newtonmore have won for the last three years and the win sets them up nicely for an intriguing Mowi Premiership match at Lovat this Saturday.

Strathglass 5 Inverness 1

Strathglass reached the quarter finals with a 5-1 win against Inverness at Cannich.

Mowi National Division

Glasgow Mid Argyll 1 Fort William 2

Fort William extended their lead at the top of the National Division to three points after coming from behind to defeat Glasgow Mid Argyll 2-1 at Yoker.

GMA's John Don MacKenzie was still missing, whilst Fort William full back Mark Grant was suspended.

Fort William's Lewis Morrison went close to breaking the deadlock with a powerful 25-yard shot which cannoned back off the post.

GMA broke the deadlock on 41 minutes. Garry Luke gathered possession deep in the half and dropped the ball in on goal.

With both keeper and full back failing to clear the danger, Duncan MacRae darted in to score.

GMA finished the half strongly and it took a good Paul MacKay save from Garry Luke, with the keeper spreading his body, to deny the hosts a second.

Fort William made a determined start to the second half and they levelled from the re-start. A ball from midfield dropped at the feet of full forward Jack Fraser who played a neat pass to Arran MacPhee and he showed great awareness to play the a return pass to Fraser at the second attempt and produced a great finish, volleying the ball home from the edge of the 'D'.

Fort William took confidence from the goal and got another on 50 minutes when Lewis Morrison slammed the ball into the top corner of the net from the edge of the 'D'. GMA lost the influential



Fort William's Ashleigh Fraser takes evasive action from the swing of Lovat's Laura Gallacher during last weekend's Challenge Cup game. Photo: Neil Paterson

Brian Slattery with a nasty cut to his lip.

Fort William looked the likelier to increase their lead in the closing stages but found GMA goalie Robert Dunning in good form.

Skye Camanachd 5 Beauly 0

Skye Camanachd recorded their first league win of the season, beating Beauly 5-0 in their 3pm throw-up at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

Ross Gordon scored twice, whilst Iain MacLellan, Jordan Murchison and James Pringle got the others.

Sutherland Cup – first round

Lovat 5 Fort William 2

After extra time It took extra time to separate the Lovat and Fort William seconds before the hosts eventually ran out 5-2 winners at Balgate.

Lovat again included Ryan Ferguson, whilst Fort William's David Wright returned from suspension.

Grant Disher gave Fort William, who reached the semi finals last year, the lead with a goal on 15 minutes.

It only took Lovat five minutes to draw level though, with Raymond Rennie scoring.

Ryan Ferguson gave Lovat the lead as he found the net on the stroke of half-time.

Fort William finished the 90 minutes the stronger side and, with a couple of minutes remaining, Grant Disher got his second to make it 2-2.

Referee Jim Barr took the tie into extra time and

this belonged to Lovat with Raymond Rennie completing his hat-trick with efforts on 98 and 100 minutes and Jamie Matheson making it 5-2 with a goal on 106 minutes.

Fort William's David Wright was sent off for his part in an melee.

Newtonmore 5 Glenorchy 2

The Newtonmore seconds have lifted the Sutherland Cup in three of the last four seasons and they are safely through to the second round after defeating Glenorchy 5-2 at the Eilan.

Glenorchy made Newtonmore work for the win though, twice coming from behind during the first half.

Duncan Gorman gave the home side the lead on eight minutes but Graeme MacKechnie levelled on 29 minutes. Craig MacLeod restored Newtonmore's lead on 41 minutes but Glenorchy again drew level, this time through Conor Sartain with only a couple of first half minutes remaining.

Newtonmore surged in front in the second half as Craig MacLeod completed his hat-trick with strikes on 62 and 75 minutes, whilst Calum Stewart made it 5-2 on 77 minutes.

Skye Camanachd 7 Kilmallie 1

The Skye Camanachd reserves were too strong for the Kilmallie reserves, winning 7-1 in their noon throw-up at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

When referee John Matheson awarded Skye a penalty after two minutes,

Daniel Morrison stepped up to score. The Skye goals kept coming and Cameron MacKay on nine minutes, Marcus Scott on 14 minutes and Sam MacPhee a couple of minutes later had them 4-0 ahead.

Andrew Gibb pulled a goal back on 20 minutes but Cameron MacKay got his second on 44 minutes to make it 5-1 at the turn-around.

Skye's final two goals came late in the match as Marcus Scott got his second on 81 minutes and Iain Munro, scoring for the first time since his return to the club, made it 7-1 a couple of minutes later.

Skye Camanachd will host Lochside Rovers in the Sutherland Cup second round, scheduled for Saturday May 4.

The Kinlochshiel seconds beat the Inverness seconds 6-0, whilst the Glenurquhart reserves hit six without reply at Lochcarron.

Boleskine and Strathspey were given walk-overs against SCOTS Camanachd and Strathspey.

Mowi North Division 1

Glengarry 2 Caberfeidh 0
Nick Dalgety scored twice as Glengarry beat the Caberfeidh seconds 2-0 at Craigard.

Nick Dalgety gave Glengarry the lead on 65 minutes and added a second 10 minutes from time.

This was Caberfeidh's first league defeat of the season but they stay top of the division, a point ahead of second-placed Glengarry.

Mowi South Division 1

Aberdour 4 Lochside Rovers 0

Aberdour stay top of South 1 on goal difference after defeating Lochside Rovers 4-0 at Silversands.

Aberdour's Craig Grant was free of suspension but Angus Thorburn, Ali Abbott and Tom Aitchison were unavailable.

The travelling Lochside squad had several key absentees including manager Brian MacCallum who was at a family event.

George Easton took charge of the side and, with no substitutes, he also had to play in attack. Chrissie MacMillan took the field as stand-in keeper.

Aberdour dominated the early stages in what was a niggly game and took the lead through a well-taken Craig Grant goal on eight minutes.

The hosts doubled their lead on 34 minutes. David MacKenzie made a determined effort to keep the ball in play wide on the wing and had time to float the ball on the goal from distance and the ball ended up in the net.

When Lochside pushed forward, they found the Aberdour defence to be in no mood to give anything away and it remained 2-0 at half time.

David McDougal added a third on 66 minutes when he got onto a re-bounce off a Lochside defender and he drilled the ball into the net.

David MacKenzie made it 4-0 on 77 minutes. MacKenzie used a great turn of pace and ball control as he found the net for the second time in the afternoon.

Lochside manager Brian MacCallum said: 'It was a difficult week for the club. The first team had to take Ross Campbell and Lennon Campbell because of injuries and suspension which, compounded with injuries and illness, left me with a massive headache.'

'The main thing for us was to get a team on the park and I'm pleased we managed that. Aberdour is not an easy place to go with a full team, far-less a make-shift side, but the lads rolled up their sleeves and got on with it. I'm grateful to the boys for their hard work and effort.'

Ballachulish 3 Taynuilt 0

Ballachulish only trail league leaders Aberdour on goal difference after they beat Tayforth 3-0 at Jubilee Park.

The pitch was soft and still showing the effects of previous games played in wet conditions.

Ballachulish's Ally Banks began a two-game ban fol-

lowing his red card against Col Glen last week. Taynuilt suffered a blow ahead of throw-up as two of their three centre line players were held up following a road traffic accident and they missed the start of the game.

Ballachulish took full advantage and dominated early proceedings.

Ballachulish made the breakthrough on 10 minutes when Lorne Brown turned his marker and beat keeper Reid with a low drive inside the post.

The hosts doubled their lead four minutes later with a goal of the highest quality. Cain MacPhee played the ball up to Lorne Brown who flicked it over his shoulder to Duncan MacDonald who volleyed a shot into the net.

Things looked bad for Taynuilt at this stage but they hung on until after the half hour mark when their missing players arrived and, for the rest of the half, Taynuilt took control of the game and put the home side under pressure for the first time.

However with Dougie Rankin having an outstanding game at the centre of the defence, Ballachulish took their two-goal advantage into the break.

The next goal was going to be crucial and Taynuilt had a glorious opportunity after 50 minutes but with a shot blazed over the bar from the edge of the circle, the chance was gone.

This seemed to affect Taynuilt and they fell out

of the game. Ballachulish started to dominate and it was no surprise when Scott Henderson scored after he reacted quickest after the ball came off the bar on 61 minutes.

Ballachulish started to use the ball well and the only surprise was that they didn't score more goals.

Best for Ballachulish were Dougie Rankin, Cain MacPhee and Duncan MacDonald, with Steven Parr and Blair MacFarlane the pick of the visitors.

Elsewhere in the division, Col Glen and the Inveraray seconds drew 2-2, whilst Tayforth beat Glasgow Mid Argyll seconds 3-2.

Mowi North Division 2

Beaully 2 Strathglass 0

The Beaully colts beat the Strathglass colts 2-0 at Braeview Park.

The goals came late in the game with Lee Dunbar scoring on 75 minutes and Danny Marshall getting a second four minutes later.

WCA round-up

There were three top flight fixtures and a Mowi Challenge Cup tie scheduled over the weekend.

Mowi National Division

Glasgow Mid Argyll 0 Skye Camanachd 9

Skye Camanachd were 9-0



Zoe Smith in action for Fort William. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

winner against Glasgow Mid Argyll at Yoker.

Lorna MacRae and Caitlin MacLean both grabbed hat-tricks, Sarah Corrigan scored twice and Jenna Beaton got the other.

Aberdour 4 Ardnamurchan 4

Aberdour and Ardnamurchan drew 4-4 in an entertaining match at Silversands.

Lisa MacColl scored twice for Aberdour, with Katie Booth and Mhairi Bowerman getting the others.

However Katie Cameron's brace and strikes from Claire Ford and Kate Bradley earned Ardnamurchan a share of the points.

Strathspey P Glenurquhart P

Strathspey's match with Glenurquhart fell foul to an unplayable pitch and will be re-scheduled.

Mowi Challenge Cup – preliminary round

Lovat 2 Fort William 1

The Lovat second team beat the Fort William second team 2-1 in their preliminary round tie at Balgait.

Shannon Wilson scored for Fort William but goals from Fiona Urquhart and Laura Gallacher gave Lovat a place in the next round.

Oban Rotary support for Lorn Clay Target Club

Oban Rotary enjoys a close relationship with Lorn Clay Target Club (LCTC) which operates near to the Moss Road in North Connel.

Compete

The club meets regularly and endeavours to attract youngsters with a view to training them to compete at national and international level, although the prime objective is to establish discipline and

TARGET SHOOTING

confidence in the handling of guns.

Rotary meets up with LCTC members once a year to have a 'shoot out' and barbecue with the consistent winner Rotarian Tommy MacQuade.

Oban Rotary contributes £200 to the cost of cartridges for young recruits.



Lorn Clay Target Club chairman Hector MacFadyen receives a cheque from Rotary president Iain MacIntyre with Rotarians, left to right, Chris Sutton, Mike Urwin and Billy MacLean.

Etive Vikings prove to be mini-rugby wild warriors

If anything, the ground was a tad dry when mini-rugby players rucked up in Kintyre.

Saturday dawned a perfect sunny day. Out on the Meadows there was a biting wind as Etive Vikings showed their class, with a well-drilled display during a warm-up period before the main action.

They joined P4/5 and P6/7 youngsters from Mid Argyll, Oban and Campbeltown Kintyre as short and serious games kicked off round the field.

It was the third Dalriada of the season and initially teams had to wait for the Islay visitors before every team had match opponents.

During play, a loose count is kept of wins but ultimately they are not scored on a sheet as the 80 players mixed and matched, to ensure each team had a chance and, with at least four games a piece, everyone enjoyed a game of rugby.

It had been hoped to have a couple of bigger games. Time did not allow, although

MINI RUGBY

coaches had indicated it may have been a bonus towards developing skills collectively as a group.

Several games went to the wire and there was plenty parental excitement from the touchline encouraging teams and players.

Etive Vikings won the P4/5 class, with Campbeltown close on their heels and the northern invaders also took the P6/7 age group win, chased by Mid Argyll.

One of the Campbeltown Kintyre Dalriada organisers, John Forster, said: 'We would like to say a big thank you to our visitors for coming down.'

'Also to the parents and friends who helped in the kitchen with food and on the field organising and encouraging our boys and girls to acquit themselves honourably.'

The next mini-rugby outing is in Islay at the end of the month.

Martial arts

IAIN RODGER
editor@obantimes.co.uk



Kyokushinkai Karate

The club is in full swing, working towards the next grading test in June. Members are working hard towards this, which is one of only two tests per year.

Young Charlie McLaughlin will be attempting his 1st dan black belt, while Paul MacKay will be attempting his 2nd dan black belt.

These are rigorous tests which take more than five hours and in addition to the technical part of the exam, include breaking wood or tiles and multiple fights against fresh opponents. Anyone that passes these tests deserves respect.

Eleven members of the Oban and Lochgilphead clubs, along with six from Stirling and Perth, will be heading to the Kyokushinkai summer training camp in the Peak District of England for the last weekend of June. Coach Iain Rodger is an instructor at the camp.

This is a long weekend packed with hard training sessions where Kyokushinkai Karateka from all around the UK get together for serious training.

Also in planning is the annual beach training and barbecue session which usually takes place in August.

New members are welcome after the June grading test.

For further information on Oban Kyokushinkai Karate Club, contact Iain Rodger (6th dan) on 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk. Alternatively send a message to 'Caledonia Kyokushin' on Facebook.

Kickboxing

After uncertainty with the current venue, Senshi Do Kick Boxing is staying at the Old Crofters, although the senior session is on hold over April and will start again in May.

Coach Wullie Rodger said: 'This year sees the club hit the ripe old age of 26 and we've had a lot of people pass through. Here are some photos of the youngster's session with some of our current up and coming fighters.'

New starters are welcome at any time. Either message the club on Facebook 'Senshi Do Kickboxing' or email shihanwill@gmail.com for details.



Henley McCulloch with a jumping back kick.

Beginner Ben Munro with a spinning back kick

Shukokai Karate

Argyll Shukokai has clubs in Inveraray, Oban and Dalmally. Anyone interested in joining these clubs should contact Kenny Gray on 07884 183905.

BJJ & MMA

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 you can email using coogiepots@gmail.com

Wado Kai Karate

Classes continue as normal at Dunbeg Primary School on Tuesday nights from 6.30pm - 8.30pm and at Park Primary School 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

CYCLING

Entries are open for Oban Sportive

Road cyclists are being invited to start the 2019 sportive season with the action-packed Oban Sportive which takes place on May 11 and 12.

This year there are two classic road routes – the Loch Avich 56-mile route and the Loch Awe 87-mile route – both mostly along quiet back roads on Scotland's adventure coast and the banks of Loch Awe.

New for 2019 there is an alternative 56-mile gravel route with forest stages suitable for gravel/cross riders.

All the routes take cyclists through some of the most stunning scenery in the UK with marked routes, marshals, feed stations and a real Scottish welcome.

Entrants are invited to make a weekend of it and join the team for the Ben Cruachan Inn Hill Climb on the Saturday afternoon. The private road climbs 2.7 miles and approximately 1,044 feet up Ben Cruachan to the dam. Oban Distillery, the main sponsor, will be providing the iconic start and finish for the sportive.

Markus Stitz, the legendary round-the-world single speeder and creator of the Wild About Argyll Trail, will be giving a talk in the distillery bar on the Saturday night about his travels, and will ride the hill climb and sportive



Riders battle it out at a recent sportive.

both on his singlespeed. All this is included in the one entry price of £35 per rider.

Because the event is sponsored by Oban Distillery, Bid4Oban and Aggregate Industries (Glensanda Quarry), and with further possible sponsorship from Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, as well as assistance from Wild About Argyll, it is intended that all the costs of the sportive will be covered and all proceeds from entries will be given to the Rotary Club of Oban to allocate to good causes.

The sportive, organised jointly by North Argyll Cycle Club and the Rotary Club of Oban, has raised more than £15,000 over the last six years for schools and charity projects and other initiatives in the area for improving amenities and social interactions.

More information about the sportive and how to enter can be found at www.obansportive.co.uk and on Markus Stitz at www.markusstitz.com

SCOTTISH AMATEUR FL RESULTS AND FIXTURES

Results and fixtures

Last Saturday's results: Jimmy Marshall Cup, second round – Oban Saints 2, Port Glasgow 1; Premier Division One – Lochgilhead Red Star 3, FC Argyle 1; Neilston v Campbeltown Pupils, game abandoned due to a serious leg injury to a Campbeltown player.

This Saturday's fixtures: West of Scotland Cup, semi-final – Oban Saints v Shortlees, Hope CBD Stadium, Hamilton, kick-off 2pm. Premier Division One – Campbeltown Pupils v Hillington; Premier Division Two – Tarbert v Parkhall.

OBAN SAINTS' YOUTHS

Results and fixtures

Last Sunday's results: Milton 2, Under 13s 6. Scoring for Saints were Gabriel Tidser (3), Zander Craik (2) and Cody McCulloch Under 14s no game; Lochgilhead 5, Under 15s 1. Saints goalscorer was Ross Higgins. Under 16s 8, Busby 2. On target for Saints were Connor Moore (3), Fergus Carmichael (2), Ellis Hunter (2) OG (2).

This Sunday's fixtures: Rutherglen v Under 13s; BSC Glasgow v Under 14s; Under 15s v Summerston; Cambuslang v Under 16s.

Saints' youngsters down the Port



Oban Saints	2
Port Glasgow	1
Marshall Cup, 2nd Round	

An experimental Oban Saints side containing five teenagers was forced to dig deep to book their place in the Scottish Amateur Football League Jimmy Marshall Trophy third round draw at Glencruitten last Saturday.

Saints lined up with Graham Douglas in goal behind a back four of Ruaridh Horne, captain Steven MacLeod, Kenneth Black

and Dougal Graham. Willie Gemmell and Matt Rippon occupied the holding midfield roles with Aaron McKay, Fraser MacFarlane and David Beaton behind central striker Keir MacLean.

By way of insurance, joining teenage striker Cammy Hill on the bench were more experienced quartet Donald Campbell, Daniel Croarkin, Matty Kelly and James Ford.

Port were making the early running and danger man Jamie McKay was sent sprawling just outside the Saints box by Steven MacLeod in the

eighth minute. The Saints wall did its job and deflected Michael Hepburn's free-kick behind for a corner kick.

Saints number one Graham Douglas came to the rescue in the 14th minute standing up well at his near post to get a strong left hand to Paul Millar's close range shot.

A Paul Payne shove on Matt Rippon gave Saints a rare chance to get forward from a long Willie Gemmell free-kick. Port skipper Thomas Wilson's attempted clearance fell to Dougal Graham, who sent a difficult chance on the half volley spinning wide of the post.

Squared

The visitors took a deserved lead after 20 minutes when Paul Millar got in behind the static Saints defence and squared to Jamie McKay for a simple tap-in from seven yards.

Rarely seen as an attacking force, Saints mustered just their second attempt of a poor first half performance just before the half-time interval. Willie Gemmell sent a long diagonal free-kick into the Port box which Dougal Graham took down well setting up Keir MacLean for

a strike on goal which the young striker unfortunately couldn't direct on target.

There were strong words from co-managers Donald Campbell and Willie Gemmell at the half-time team talk, who promised wholesale second half changes if a marked improvement wasn't quickly forthcoming.

Port Glasgow looked to continue their domination and made a good start to the second half with Jamie McKay drawing an early save from Graham Douglas and an unmarked Michael Hepburn sending a shot from the edge of the box wide after a Dougal Graham clearing header.

The promised changes came after just five second half minutes when Donald Campbell, Daniel Croarkin, Cammy Hill and Matty Kelly came on to replace Kenneth Black, Fraser MacFarlane, Aaron McKay and Keir MacLean. Only James Ford remained on the bench as it was decided not to risk aggravating his niggling ankle injury.

Saints immediately began to pose more of a threat and a driving run from Matty Kelly at the heart of the Port defence earned a free-kick when



Eyes on the ball: Sean Kelly and Matt Rippon

Oban Lorne Ladies put Vikings to the sword



Eilidh Shearer bursts through the Shetland defence.

Oban Lorne Ladies	77
Shetland	0
National Plate	

Last weekend Oban Lorne Ladies welcomes Shetland Ladies to Glencruitten for a fixture in the National Women's Plate competition.

This was the first time the teams had met and the islanders, coached by former Lochaber rugby stalwart Neil Murray, had a mammoth journey to get to Oban.

They left Shetland on the overnight boat on Friday night and then went by coach from Aberdeen to Oban before returning to Aberdeen Saturday night for the Sunday boat home. The commitment shown to take a team off the island and compete should be applauded.

Oban were well prepared



Oban Lorne Ladies and Shetland after Saturday's game at Glencruitten.

for the game with coach Corrie Louw having a strong squad to select from and the confidence gained in the early part of the season continued as the 'Green Army' put on a fantastic performance to overcome a plucky Shetland team who made Oban work hard for each of their tries.

There were a number of outstanding performances around the pitch; Sophia Rosinski continued her try



Cammy Hill heads home the winner against Port Glasgow last Saturday. Match report and photos: Derek Black

fence earned a free-kick when Thomas Wilson chopped down Donald Campbell 22 yards out. Willie Gemmell's search to rediscover his formerly deadly free-kick touch however continued in vain when his effort struck the Port Glasgow wall.

Donald Campbell and Matty Kelly linked up well on the hour mark sending Daniel Croarkin in behind the Port defence with keeper Stephen Kangley having to come quickly off his line to smother the ball at Croarkin's feet.

Saints drew level in the 65th minute when, after good work on the left, a Donald Campbell shot eluded the grasp of Stephen Kangley and was turned into his own net by the unfortunate Robert Payne when attempting to clear the ball off the goal line.

The home side at last had the bit between their teeth and had the visitors camped

in their own penalty box with a succession of corner kicks which the Port defence did well to repel.

Eventually the Saints pressure told and, from a 68th minute throw-in on the left, Donald Campbell sent a cross into the box which David Beaton at the front post flicked on to Cammy Hill steaming in at the back post to crash a header beyond the helpless Stephen Kangley and give Saints the lead.

Squeezing

Hill almost doubled his tally straight from the restart squeezing a low shot the wrong side of Stephen Kangley's left hand upright after racing away from the Port defence and slotting beyond the advancing keeper.

Daniel Croarkin did well to break through on the right in the 79th minute however Stephen Kangley once again read the situation well to come off his line and gather at

Croarkin's feet.

Dougal Graham became the first name in referee Litster's notebook for a late challenge on Jamie McKay in the 81st minute.

The Saints defence almost paid a heavy price for Graham's indiscretion when McKay's run to the near post wasn't tracked and he had a free header on the end of Michael Hepburn's free-kick which, fortunately for Saints, he couldn't direct on target.

Cammy Hill picked up the second and final caution of a game played in a good spirit for a push in the back on Thomas Wilson.

Daniel Croarkin's needless foul on Jamie McKay out by the corner flag in the 90th minute heaped more pressure on the Saints defence as the visitors pressed for a late equaliser. Croarkin, however, redeemed himself by clearing a header from Michael Hepburn's free-kick.

FOOTBALL

Saints had a chance to make the tie safe in the 95th minute when Cammy Hill raced through on the right on the end of a Donald Campbell pass but sent his low cross too far in front of the supporting Matty Kelly.

With the crowd beginning to wonder if Mr Litster had forgotten to put his watch forward last Sunday he eventually blew for full time on the 96th-minute mark after correctly ruling two Port players offside chasing a ball over the top from Michael Hepburn.

Saints' reward for their narrow victory is a third round away tie against Motherwell Thistle on Saturday April 20.

This Saturday Saints travel to the Hope CBD Stadium, Hamilton, for the West of Scotland Cup semi-final against Scottish Amateur Cup holders Shortlees.



scoring run with four excellent tries on the day.

She was closely followed by Erika Scofca with three tries, the powerful Italian Centre breaking a number of tackles to score.

There were two tries for young Rachel MacDonald playing at full back, who is coming back into form just at the right time in the season after struggling with injuries most of the season.

There were also tries for Kirsty Sinclair, who scored a cracking try at the end of

some great interplay between the forwards and the backs, young stand off Heather Fothergill, who is really coming on to a game after moving there to replace Lucy Stewart, who is still on her coaching journey in South Africa.

Another player returning from a period away was Rebecca Sims, who capped a fine display with a great try after answering a SoS for players last week. She had a storming game in the loose play and played most of the game in the front row.



Two Shetland players attempt to stop Ailsa MacLachlan.

WOMEN'S RUGBY

Last try of the day came for returning captain America – Laura MacCormick – who rounded off a superb day with a 10-minute cameo performance.

A fantastic game played in great spirits and Oban progress into the next round of the plate competition where they will play the winners of the Kelso v Lismore game next weekend.

Good luck to them and the hope is folk will get behind the Green Army as they begin their march to Murrayfield.



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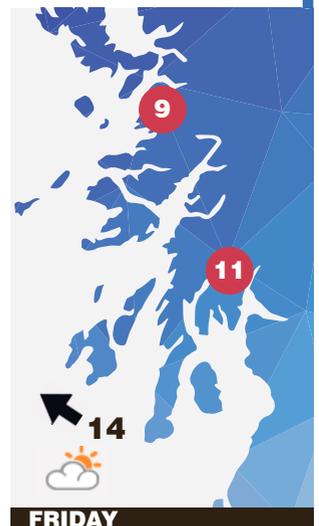
WEATHER

Thursday
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze
Temperatures
5°C to 11°C.

Friday
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
5°C to 11°C.

Weekend Outlook
Saturday
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze

Sunday
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
4°C to 11°C.



TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday April 11, 2019** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	03.03	1.3	09.11	3.2
Thur	15.38	1.3	21.22	3.3
Fri	04.04	1.5	10.12	3.0
	16.46	1.5	22.27	3.0
Sat	05.41	1.7	11.57	2.8
	18.10	1.5	***	**
Sun	00.18	3.0	07.23	1.6
	14.18	2.9	19.31	1.4
Mon	02.22	3.2	08.53	1.4
	15.20	3.2	20.44	1.2
Tues	03.23	3.5	09.54	1.0
	16.06	3.4	21.45	0.8
Wed	04.01	3.8	10.41	0.8
	16.45	3.7	22.36	0.5

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Chain, Shackles and buoys all available to purchase.



INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Saints' youngsters
down the Port

**NORTH WEST
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AND TIDES - SEE PAGE 59



Isobel Boyd threw the first jack to mark the opening of Oban Bowling Club's 150th season with Iain Boyd, president, watching on.

Oban bowling club in its 150th season

Oban bowling club opened the doors to its 150th season on Saturday with almost 50 members taking part in a friendly match and dinner to mark the occasion.

President Iain Boyd welcomed all in attendance before his wife, Isobel,

performed the traditional throwing of the first jack to officially open the Dalriach Road green.

'2019 is going to be a big year for Oban Bowling Club and I'm delighted that so many members, old and new, came along today to mark the

start of the celebrations,' said Mr Boyd.

The oldest sport club still resident in the town, Oban Bowling Club was formed in 1869, with founding members purchasing shares to buy the ground and those less well off contributing a £1 membership fee.

On researching the origins of the club President Boyd also discovered that light bulbs were not yet invented and that the American Civil War had ended four years before.

Saturday's match, played in overcast but mainly dry conditions, came in the form of a triples challenge between teams led by the president and vice president (Margaret Macalpine).

Despite the afternoon being

of mainly friendly, competition between the two teams was fierce resulting in some closely run games. At the end of the day it was Boyd's team who ran out overall winners, wracking up 92 shots against 75 scored by Macalpine's outfit.

In the following months, the club will be getting back down to the more serious business of competing in the West Argyll League as well as various club and open competitions played between now and September.

On Saturday June 29, an anniversary match will be played with a barbecue to follow while other dates of note will be announced as the season progresses.

'We hope to make this very special year one to be remem-

BOWLS

bered,' added President Boyd.

'It's great to see some familiar faces around today and we look forward to getting to know the new members.

'It's also great to see so many of last year's Try Bowlers taking the next steps to participating more, both in this club and in this great sport of bowls.'

Boyd thanked everyone who had worked on getting the club and the green ready for the start of the new season.

To mark the anniversary some alterations have been made to the club flag and Boyd made special mention of the Sewing Shop, which made the alterations at the cost of materials only.



Patrick Freytag and Gerry Flannigan proudly display the Oban Bowling Club 150th Anniversary flag.

West Cup semi-final duty for Saints on Saturday

FOOTBALL

Oban Saints make their way to Hamilton on Saturday as, for the third time in four seasons, they stand on the brink of a major cup final appearance.

After falling twice at the semi-final hurdle in the Scottish Amateur Cup, Saints will hope for a change of fortune at the Hope CBD Stadium, home of their good friends Hamilton Academical of the Scottish Premier League, as they go head-to-head in the West of Scotland Amateur Cup semi-final with current Scottish Amateur Cup holders Shortlees.

The Kilmarnock men had already tasted major cup success lifting the West of Scotland in 2016 before adding the Scottish Amateur Cup last season and will be formidable opponents for a Saints side still searching for a first major trophy success.

Co-manager Donald Campbell said: 'We know this is going to be a very difficult game, but the boys are looking forward to the challenge and hopefully we can make it to the final.'

The D and K Lafferty-sponsored Oban side are running a bus to the match and there are still a handful of seats left. If anyone would like a seat contact any of the players or committee asap.



RAYMOND MEARN'S Confessions of a control freak!

One of Scotland's finest stand up comedians is back on tour with a new full length show!

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As seen in "Limmy's Show" & much more.

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Fears grow over future pupil support funding

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Fears are growing over the future provision of Pupil Support Assistants (PSAs) for Spean Bridge Primary School pupils.

Highland Council's chief executive and its director of education are to be asked to attend a public meeting in Spean Bridge to address fears over plans to re-allocate PSAs because of budget cutbacks.

Highland Council needs to save £2.8million from its Additional Support Needs (ASN) budget which includes PSA provision.

The local authority says it has the highest reported levels of ASN staff in Scotland and is beginning a three-year phased approach to re-align this role to where, it says, it is most required.

In a statement prepared on behalf of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council, chairman John Fotheringham,

'There is not a single child in that school who has not had some benefit from a PSA.'

speaking at last week's community council meeting, said: 'Highland councillors and officials were clearly hoping PSA staff will either re-train to take additional nursery posts or accept transfer to a new location.

'Training teachers to undertake this additional role is likely to have an effect on all pupils and have a negative impact on those who benefit from varying degrees of assistance,' he said.

'This is an undoubted consequence of the recent teachers' pay increase, which is underfunded. Our children

are the latest members of our community to suffer from austerity-driven council cuts. Maybe it is time for Highland councillors to take the lead and accept cuts in their salaries and expenses, rather than pick on the most vulnerable in our society.'

Eilidh Maitland, secretary of Spean Bridge Primary School Parent Group, told the meeting parents were worried as the school was at risk of losing most of its ASN hours under the changes.

'The hours are allocated on a need-for basis but in reality they support every child in the school,' she explained.

'There is not a single child in that school who has not had some benefit from a PSA.'

Highland councillor Ben Thompson told the meeting the local authority had been reviewing ASN provision since 2014 because of concerns over how quickly demands on that budget were growing.

Continued on page two.

Adventurer makes the cut at youth hostel



Adventurer, endurance athlete, inspirational speaker, author and award-winning charity fundraiser Alex Staniforth officially cuts the ribbon to re-open Hostelling Scotland's Glen Nevis Youth Hostel. The hostel, at the foot of Ben Nevis, has undergone an extensive £2 million redevelopment. Read the full story on page six.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



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LT

Clampdown on littering from vehicles welcomed

The Scottish government's pledge to introduce tougher sanctions on people who throw litter from cars has been welcomed by Lochaber's MSP.

Environment secretary Roseanna Cunningham last week announced new measures – making it an offence to drop litter from vehicles – will be included as part of a future Circular Economy Bill.

Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes believes it is important motorists understand a 'throw-away culture' blights some of the most beautiful spots in the Highlands. She said: 'This is very welcome news for my constituency, which has seen a significant increase in roadside littering.'

'Sadly, some people are happy for their own vehicles to be spotlessly clean by chucking their litter out the window for someone else to tidy up. These changes toughen up the legislation to clamp down on such thoughtless actions.'

Claggan's Connie pipped for cookery contest title

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

'It was a great event and I thoroughly enjoyed it.'

A mouth-watering menu including west coast salmon and pan-seared chicken breast saw teenage Fort William chef Connie MacLennan take the runner-up spot in a competition for young cooks from across Scotland and the north of England.

South Lanarkshire College in East Kilbride in early March was the venue for the youngsters to battle it out for the prestigious title of Rotary Young Chef Winner – Scotland and North of England.

This annual competition, sponsored by Filippo Berio, sees talented youngsters aged 11 to 17 show off their culinary skills by producing a three-course meal.

Connie, 14, from Claggan, having already won the

Lochaber title and the West of Scotland heat of the competition, created an outstanding menu: a starter of pearls of west coast salmon, a main course of pan-seared chicken breast served on a bed of lemon and ginger spinach and dessert of velvet lemon cream.

Lochaber Rotary Club past president Donald Young, who accompanied Connie to the final along with her parents, described the youngster's



Left: Rotary Club President Iain Johnston, left, and fellow Rotarian Donald Young with Connie MacLennan.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba. photos

menu and her cooking as 'brilliant' and added: 'Connie came second, only losing by half a point – a great effort.'

'She now has three trophies – the Lochaber Cup, the District Shield and now the runner-up trophy for

All-Scotland and the North of England.' At the club's business evening meeting earlier this month, club president Iain Johnston said Connie had brought honour and merit to Lochaber and it was a humbling pleasure

to present her with the three trophies. Connie, who was accompanied by her parents and sister Rosie, said: 'A huge thank you to everyone at the Rotary Club for sponsoring me. It was a great event and I thoroughly enjoyed it.'

Fears grow over future pupil support funding

Continued from page one.

'In 2016, a re-design review was undertaken by officials outside of ASN management and recommendations were made. Some of those are what is being carried forward now,' said Councillor Thompson.

'What is fundamental is that the council will be spending significantly more on education next year, not less.'

'So while the ASN budget is being reduced, there are significant increases elsewhere. The biggest increase is extra spending on nursery provision.'

'While some people may need to change roles, if this is well managed, there should not need to be any redundancies.'

'The council has to balance its budget while increasing nursery provision. At the same time we need to reform ASN provision and make it more efficient to cope with growing demand.'

'This means focussing the ASN budget on the most needy children and being as efficient as possible.'

Three men to be reported for speeding on A82 at Glencoe

Three men are to be reported for speeding on the A82 at Rannoch Mor, Glencoe on Friday April 5.

Two motorcycles were detected travelling at 125mph and 99mph and the men, aged 58 and 47, are to be reported in connection with the respective incidents.

A 27-year-old man was also detected driving at 88mph at the same location. Over the weekend there were a number of complaints regarding vehicles speeding on the A82. This included vehicles believed to be taking part in an organised car rally.

Road Policing Sergeant Gus Murray said: 'Speeding or inappropriate speed is a contributory factor in many

serious and fatal road traffic collisions. All drivers and riders must be aware speed limits vary according to the road and type of vehicle they are driving and they have a responsibility to ensure they are aware of these matters.'

'Drivers and riders must comply with the speed limits and drive at an appropriate speed for road, weather and traffic conditions. I would remind all drivers and riders that driving at inappropriate speeds is not a minor offence that everyone commits, but a serious, dangerous and anti-social activity.'

'Police Scotland continually operates a robust policy in respect of drivers exceeding the speed limit.'

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Teenager traced safe and well

Teenager Vitalijs Driksna, aged 14, who was reported missing last Friday from his home address in Fort William, has been traced safe and well, Police Scotland confirmed on Saturday.

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Bikers gear up for Sunart Wildcat Rally

Following the success of the inaugural Sunart Wildcat Rally in Strontian last May, a second event will be held this Saturday, April 13.

Organised by Sunart Camping owners Tim and Lynn Coldwell, and Mike Taylor from Passing Places Motorcycle Tours, this year's event will raise funds for the Spinal Injuries Charity.

'We are expecting at least 50 motorcyclists from as far apart as Devizes on the south coast of England to Thurso in the north,' said Mr Coldwell.

Last year's event raised more than £1,700 for the Scottish Charity Air Ambulance (SCCA).

Mr Coldwell added: 'We are seeking a couple of volunteers to judge the best motorcycle at the rally – preferably someone with no knowledge of motorbikes. Please get in touch if you are interested in helping with this.'

The weekend kicks off with an evening of live music at the Bothy Bar at Strontian Hotel on Friday.

Teenage campaigner's stark climate warning

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Politicians and grown-ups are the ones that have the power to 'save the world' from a climate crisis, not youth campaigners.

That was the message from intrepid teenage climate change campaigner Holly Gillibrand this week when she issued a stark warning to the Scottish Green Party conference on Sunday.

The thirteen-year-old joined Scottish Greens education spokesperson Ross Greer MSP and fellow youth climate striker Josie Law, 13, from Edinburgh, on the second day of the party's spring conference in the capital.

The teenagers stole the show as they addressed party members, sharing their thoughts on the climate crisis and

their fears for their future. Ms Gillibrand expressed her frustration at adults congratulating young people during the recent climate change strikes, saying: 'Adults congratulate us and say it's the youth that will save the world. But it is not the youth, it is the grown-ups and today's politicians that must save the world. By the time we grow up, the chance will be lost.'

Ms Gillibrand's conference appearance came a week after she and 12 other youth activists met with the Scottish Parliament's Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee to discuss climate change. She also joined the climate change rally that day outside parliament.

The Lochaber High School pupil from Kinlocheil has been striking from school for



Holly Gillibrand, right, with fellow youth campaigner Josie Low, left, addressed the Scottish Green Party conference on Sunday.

an hour every Friday for almost two months. The numbers joining her outside the high school each week have slowly grown, culminating in dozens of youngsters and parents lining the roadside

and waving climate action placards during the campaign's major day of action in February.

Ms Gillibrand told the Scottish Green Party conference: 'I started striking

not so much for humanity, but for all the animals we're dragging off the cliff with us. The youth want change and we will not sit aside whilst adults continue to pillage the natural world and explore for even more oil and gas.'

Following the session, Ross Greer MSP said the current climate will now 'unavoidably define' the lives of school pupils like Ms Gillibrand.

'Many are, completely rationally, fearful for their futures and those of other young people around the world, particularly in developing countries already devastated by a crisis they didn't cause,' said Mr Greer.

'It's clear why they feel compelled to speak out and urge stronger action from governments and corporations which have caused this crisis and failed to tackle it.'



Staff and service users celebrated 25 years of mental health support in Lochaber.

Mental health centre celebrates 25 years

Staff and service users at a Fort William centre came together last Friday to celebrate 25 years of providing mental health support in the area.

Cothrom, the Lochaber service branch of Support in Mind, marked the quarter of a century milestone in style with an informal evening of celebrations. Music was provided by Laura Robertson, Lochaber Music Shed, ses-

sions musicians and singing from a group of service users. The evening also included a guest talk from mental health rights activist Graham Morgan MBE.

Senior project worker at Cothrom Ellen Nicolson said: 'We've had lovely comments from people about how warm and safe an environment it is and how much it has helped people over the years.'

The service, formerly based at the Glengarry Centre, is now in the Nevis Centre, Fort William, and offers a welcoming environment for people experiencing mental ill health to access support from trained and experienced staff. 'New folk keep coming in and we are there to help them,' Ellen added. 'Our success is that we have been there for 25 years and are still there.'

Driver seriously injured in A82 ravine plunge

The driver of a BMW car which left the A82 road close to the Letterfinlay Lodge hotel, near Spean Bridge, and plunged down a ravine hitting a tree early on Saturday evening, sustained serious injuries, according to Police Scotland.

Ambulance control alerted Police Scotland at 5.18pm to the accident and the road was closed while emergency services were on the scene.

It was reported the driver had to be cut free

by firefighters from the car while the vehicle was perched in a precarious position in the ravine.

A passenger in the vehicle suffered minor injuries and was taken to hospital for treatment.

A Police Scotland spokesperson told the Lochaber Times on Sunday: 'A car had left the road and hit a tree. There were two people in the BMW and the driver suffered serious injuries, while the passenger sustained minor injuries.'

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EU citizens urged to stay in the Highlands

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber representatives in Holyrood and Westminster are urging European citizens to stay, amid on-going Brexit uncertainty.

MP Ian Blackford and constituency MSP Kate Forbes have issued pleas this week for Scottish-based EU citizens to continue to live and work in the Highlands and Islands after First Minister Nicola Sturgeon issued an open letter outlining the support available to them.

A new 'Stay in Scotland' package has been created which includes £250,000 for community-based support across Scotland, a new support and advice service for EU citizens, and a kit for employers including posters, fact sheets and digital content directing EU citizens to further guidance.



Ian Blackford.



Kate Forbes.

The Lochaber politicians argue that the uncertainty during recent Brexit negotiations may lead EU citizens to decide their future lies elsewhere. This, they say, is of particular concern to the Highlands and Islands economy where sectors, such as the hospitality industry, are heavily reliant

on an EU workforce. Ms Forbes said: 'EU citizens will always remain welcome in the Highlands. They make a huge contribution to our economy and our communities and I will continue to do all I can to help people stay in Scotland. It's a shame the UK Government is obliging EU

citizens who have built their homes in Scotland, sometimes for decades, to apply for the continued right to remain in their own homes.

'I have met men and women who have families, partners and jobs here and are faced with the troubling uncertainty of applying to remain.'

Mr Blackford said he is 'utterly determined' to provide all the support possible to EU citizens.

'I am pleased that after pressure from the Scottish Government, the UK Government has ensured any application to remain should now be fully reimbursable. It is, however, deeply regrettable that any application is deemed necessary in the first place.'

He added: 'At Westminster, I will continue to fight for the rights EU citizens have to be protected and that there is no detriment to anyone throughout this process.'



Attendees at the climate change training course which was held in Arisaig recently.

Arisaig climate change training course a success

A two-day day climate change training course was held earlier this month at the Land, Sea and Islands Centre in Arisaig – entitled Carbon Literacy for Communities.

Arisaig Eco Project reports the course was packed with scientific research, data, activities, films and lively discussion. 'We shared ideas of how we can lower our carbon footprint – as individuals as

well as within our communities,' said organisers.

'We will be sharing some of the links from the course and video clips over the next few weeks. Thanks to Claire and Fiona from Keep Scotland Beautiful and their involvement with Climate Challenge Fund for delivering this training. Everyone also enjoyed homemade soup and baking.'

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Hector the Haggis was popular with youngsters. Photographs: Abrightside Photography.



Author Mandy Elizabeth Rush reads her book Haggis History and Facts to young festival goers.



Right: Haggis festival helpers serve up a treat at the blind haggis tasting stall.

Hector the Haggis enjoys fifth festival

Scotland's only festival celebrating the country's national delicacy kicked off the start of the tourism season on Sunday.

The fifth annual Highland Haggis Festival, at Spean Bridge, saw more than 200 people throughout the day come together to celebrate all things haggis.

Spean Bridge Primary School hall was packed with

stalls selling home-made crafts and food, chefs giving cooking demonstrations for a hungry audience, while a host of haggis-related events and games took place.

'It was a really good day and well-attended with lots of children,' said festival committee member Deneil King. 'It was our fifth year so it was Hector the Haggis's fifth birthday so the children

made cakes and decorated some for him.'

Deneil hopes the festival will return next year.

'It's all volunteers, it's not funded and we don't charge entry, but it costs a lot of money and takes a lot of time to organise.'

'We do really need support so it will take a lot of effort to get another year of the festival.'

High winds torpedoed cruise liner visit to Fort William

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

There was disappointment in Fort William this week after high winds on Monday prevented the cruise liner MV Astoria from calling at the town for a two-day visit.

The 16,000-ton vessel

was the second of 16 cruise ships scheduled to visit Fort William this year and a packed programme of events and activities had been laid on by the Fort William Marine and Shoreline Company for the 489 passengers.

The Astoria had sailed from Poole in England last

Wednesday under the command of Captain Antonio Morais, who was also in charge a year ago when the Astoria did enjoy a successful visit to Fort William.

However, the vessel, the oldest ocean-going liner afloat originally launched under the name Stockholm

in 1946, was this week unable to cope with the high winds funnelling off the mountains at the Corran Narrows.

Without the luxury of modern hi-tech features, Captain Morais found his ship 'handling like a sailing vessel'.

'It is so disappointing, but Captain Morais tried four times,' said Sarah Kennedy, secretary of Fort William Marina and Shoreline Company, which still staged entertainment scheduled for visitors for the town.

'Unfortunately, due to her age, the Astoria doesn't boast the same manoeuvrability more modern cruise ships do, such as bow thrusters. In an email keeping us posted on the situation, Captain Morais told us the ship had all its windows and doors in common areas open to try and help cope with the wind. But he said they were getting



The MV Astoria anchored off Fort William in the autumn.

close to the red buoy and that the ship was handling like a sailing vessel.'

The Astoria, complete with its mainly UK passengers, turned round and headed back down Loch Linnhe with plans to anchor off Oban instead. Mike Hall, head of marketing at cruise operator CMV, told the Lochaber Times: 'We are disappointed Astoria was unable to make her scheduled call to Fort William on Monday. In spite of several attempts, weather

conditions prevented a safe passage. The safety of our passengers and crew is always paramount.'

The Hebridean Princess was due in Fort William on Tuesday, calling for its second visit of the year.

Mrs Kennedy added: 'The next large cruise ship will be Le Champlain that can carry up to 184 passengers on May 21. We have four ships due towards the end of May, so it will be fingers crossed for better weather.'



Lochaline Primary School achieved a high evaluation from inspectors.

Lochaline first 'excellent' school in the Highlands

Lochaline primary is the first school in the Highlands and one of only seven in Scotland to be rated as 'excellent' by inspectors.

Inspectors from Education Scotland visited the school, on the Morvern Peninsula, in January. They talked to parents and pupils and worked closely with head teacher Keith Adams and his staff.

The report, published in March, rated the school 'excellent' for learning, teaching and assessment. The news was met with delight from everyone involved with the school who are proud to have achieved such a high evaluation.

Mr Adams said: 'I am really proud our school has been awarded excellent by the HMI team. It means a lot to me that they noted 'at Lochaline Primary School pupils come first'. I have always believed my role is to do everything I can to put pupils first in learning and extra-circular experiences.'



Staff at the school are 'very proud' of the Education Scotland report.

Sarah Jones, chairperson of Lochaline's Parent Council, said: 'We cannot congratulate Mr Adams and his team enough for everything they do for our children, which goes above and beyond the curriculum. As a supporting body, we are acutely aware of the difficulties small rural schools face, particularly with maintaining school rolls. We hope this excellent report will encourage families to move to

the area. Morvern is a thriving and vibrant community with an outstanding school at its heart.'

Some of the strengths the inspectors found in the school's work included the creativity and ability of the students, the very high-quality teaching and an 'outstanding sense of teamwork' among the school community.

The school currently has a roll of 19 pupils.

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New medical centre opens

Fort Augustus delight at £1m project

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

A new £1 million medical centre has opened in Fort Augustus.

Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company (FAGCC) said it was 'absolutely delighted' the Cill Chuimein Medical Centre was now open, after an official ribbon cutting ceremony yesterday, Wednesday April 10.

FAGCC has been the driving force behind the new, state-of-the-art medical centre after fire destroyed the original building in 2015.

Thanks to the support of the community, the company took on the design and build of the centre, safeguarding the GP service for the area, without which residents

would have to make a 60-mile round trip to seek standard medical care.

With help from funders including the Scottish Government's Scottish Land Fund, SSE Renewables, Falck Renewables and Highland Council, FAGCC has doubled the size of the medical centre.

Harry Whiteside, chairman of FAGCC said: 'It's been a very busy two years but we're absolutely thrilled. The new medical centre will support our community and we thank all of our funders and the community, without whom this centre would never have been built.'

The new centre will house up to 10 staff and additional rooms mean services can be expanded into podiatry and optometry.

The medical centre will also be at the forefront of a new innovative pilot – Near Me – which allows patients in rural areas to have contact with consultants or specialists at Raigmore via secure video conferencing.

Mairi Gougeon, Scottish minister for rural affairs and natural environment, who officially opened the new centre, was delighted the community had realised its ambition of creating medical services fit for the 21st century for the people of Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston.

Jim Smith, managing director of SSE Renewables, which provided more than half the funding for the new centre, said the company was proud to have been a part of the project.



Adventurer Alex Staniforth with Glen Nevis Youth Hostel manager Caroline Knox at the official re-opening ceremony. Photograph Iain Ferguson: The Write Image.

Adventurer declares Glen Nevis Youth Hostel officially open

Hostelling Scotland's refurbished Glen Nevis Youth Hostel has been officially re-opened.

Adventurer, endurance athlete, inspirational speaker, author and award-winning charity fundraiser Alex Staniforth cut the ribbon to mark the occasion last Wednesday.

The hostel, at the foot of the UK's highest mountain on the outskirts of Fort William, has been transformed in an eight-month redevelopment project.

The building now boasts a contemporary living space with private ensuite rooms and

shared accommodation. Mr Staniforth, 23, who has climbed in the Himalayas and reached the top of Ben Nevis in 2010, told the Lochaber Times he was delighted to have been invited to cut the ribbon and re-open the hostel.

He told the Lochaber Times: 'My first visit to Glen Nevis, aged just 13, stayed with me.'

'It is fantastic to see the newly-refurbished hostel which will provide the perfect base to encourage a new generation to try hostelling and explore this stunning area. You don't need to look far from the hostel for inspiration.'

View from the Chamber

Is your business cyber secure? Nowadays, we could probably all manage to do business without paper and pen, but we'd really struggle to do business without our laptops, PCs, tablets and smart phones.

All it takes is for our internet connection to go down to make us realise how dependent our work life can be on connectivity and computers.

Many businesses rely on cloud-based services, such as email, online accounting systems and databases, not to mention social media and Google.

When that connection goes down, office life can virtually grind to a halt. So, considering how much we rely on these systems, how prepared is your business to deal with technology problems? Are your office systems secure



enough to deal with the challenges and threats of the online world?

If you are not feeling confident you know the answers to those questions, you are not alone. That is why the Scottish Government is running Cyber Scotland Week from April 22 to 28. The week aims to be a focal point for promoting cyber resilience within businesses.

The cyberscotlandweek.scot website is a great place to find out more about what you can do to make your business

cyber-secure. With this in mind, we are also pleased to welcome a new IT services provider into membership of the Chamber. The Apprentice Store is a social enterprise company that specialises in providing a full range of IT services to Highland businesses.

David Massey from the Apprentice Store will give a short introduction to how it can help businesses with their IT needs at the next Chamber members' networking lunch at the Lime Tree on Thursday April 25. Book your place now.

If you are not yet a member of the Chamber and would like to come along to meet the team and find out how membership can help your business, please call 01397 705765 or visit www.lochaberchamber.co.uk

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Volunteers pick up litter from the verges along the A82 road at Glencoe at the weekend.

Trust volunteers pick up 92 bags of rubbish at Glencoe

Fifteen National Trust for Scotland volunteers collected 92 bags of rubbish during a litter pick in Glencoe and along the A82 trunk road on Saturday.

The Highland Council and BEAR Scotland supplied equipment and undertook traffic management on the day to keep the volunteer litter pickers safe.



Blackford welcomes Glen Ullinish wind farm plans

Proposals to deliver the first subsidy free onshore wind development on Skye have been welcomed by Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Ian Blackford.

Directors of Kilmac Energy have struck a deal to work in collaboration with Muirhall Energy to deliver the project and wrote to Mr Blackford last week to outline the potential benefits to communities across the island.

In the event the planning application for the wind farm is successful, Kilmac and Dunvegan Community Council had confirmed its intention to enter into a community benefit agreement.

The proposals would see Kilmac Energy commit to an annual community investment contribution of £250,000.

Under the agreement, the community investment contribution would be allocated to seven separate recipients – community council areas in Struan, Dunvegan, Minginish, Portree and Skeabost, as well as payments to the Highland Council and Skye as a whole.

Mr Blackford believes the £50m project presents the

opportunity for a widespread community benefit and commented: 'I was delighted to read of the progression of the plans for the island's first subsidy-free onshore wind development at Glen Ullinish, Struan.'

'The plans that Kilmac Energy have shown me present a fantastic deal for communities the length and breadth of Skye. An investment in local communities as well as a furthering of the commitments towards renewable energy would be an extremely positive step.'

'This project has been a long time coming and I'm delighted a new partnership between Kilmac Energy and Muirhall Energy means it is now viable to move proposals forward.'

'Over the coming months I will engage with Kilmac where appropriate and do anything I can to support a project that brings substantial benefits to Skye.'

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Fort William Town Team bids farewell to secretary Sue

Fort William Town Team founder member and secretary Sue Keen, centre, was presented with gifts last week to mark her departure after five years in the role. Sue and her husband Andy are moving to Kelso in the Scottish Borders. She is pictured with fellow members of Fort William Town Team. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.



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LT

Benefits of Scotland's nature increasing year-on-year

The values of Scotland's plants, wildlife, air, water and land – known as natural capital – are officially increasing for the first time and delivering stronger benefits to people and businesses across Scotland than in the previous two decades.

Scotland's Natural Capital Asset Index (NCAI) assesses the quality and quantity of land-based habitats and their contributions to human well-being.

This year's study shows that the quality of all habitat types is improving, including places such as heathlands – our most widespread habitats – and peatlands, which have the greatest potential to contribute to human well-being, by storing significant volumes of carbon and helping combat climate change.

Scotland's woodlands are also now expanding annually, with broad-leaved woodland habitat 40 per cent larger than in 2000 and woodland bird numbers increasing by 25 per cent over the same period.

Co-op re-opens after £3.5m revamp

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The Co-op store and petrol filling station in Broadford has re-opened following a £3.5m overhaul.

It follows a significant investment programme including the installation of new fuel tanks, new columns and canopy and the complete refurbishment of the store which now has a community room.

Daniel Simpson, area manager for Co-op, said: 'We would like to thank the community for its understanding and patience during the refit.

We think people will agree it has been worth the wait. Our members make a difference locally and simply by swiping their membership card when they shop with us they are raising much-needed funding for organisations in their area which contribute to improving local life.'

Hamish Fraser, chairman of Broadford and Strath Community Council, added: 'The overall refurbishment of the Co-op store and fuel forecourt in Broadford has brought new life to an important service in the centre of the village. The co-operation and information sharing

throughout the refurbishment has been important to the community this store serves and we thank everyone concerned for that.

'On behalf of the community we thank the Co-op for its major investment in this store and its continuing support to groups in the area.'

Dr Caroline Gould, charity trustee of the Skye and Lochalsh Access Panel, said: 'The project team has been polite, considerate and professional throughout this massive endeavour and we would like to express our thanks and appreciation for this.'



Broadford Primary School pupils Kayla Saggars, seven, left, and Mya Jackson, eight, cut the ribbon to open Broadford Co-op with manager Colin Lennox and Portree High School piper Katrina Martin.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

Warning over impact of cash cuts on community councils

The financial plight of community councils and their elected members was in the spotlight once again last week when the issue was raised by the chairman of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council.

The comments from John Fotheringham came at the community council's April meeting,

when he thanked all the councillors who had attended meetings at their own expense. He highlighted Dana MacLennan, who waived her right to an annual £500 honorarium she was entitled to as community council secretary.

Mr Fotheringham compared this with Highland Council elected members who, he said, enjoyed a salary

and generous travel benefits whilst volunteers bore the costs.

'I fear there will be severe consequences in November when a larger number of community councils will fail to establish,' said Mr Fotheringham. 'This idea that you can claim from the discretionary ward budget [from Highland Council] and it is all quite simple but then have to

fill in a 15-page document is a piece of arrant nonsense.'

Councillor Denis Rixson, Caol and Mallaig, responded: 'I hear what you are saying John and I wish I could just wave a magic wand.'

'But getting round this bureaucracy is something that has so far been beyond me and most of the Highland councillors.'

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WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

Lochaber Pipe Band is holding a fundraising ceilidh and dance with Eriskay Lilt and performances from the band on Friday April 12 at the Railway Club, Fort William. Doors open at 7.30pm. Tickets available from the club on 01397 702218 or the pipe band on 01397 704846.

Fort William Town Team is hosting its annual Big Spring Clean this Sunday April 14 from 2pm to 5pm. This year the team has registered as part of the Keep Britain Tidy campaign in the hope it may encourage more volunteers to come and help. Visit keepbritaintidy.org/home for more details.

Representatives of Lochaber Sensory Care for Sight and Hearing Support will be visiting Abbeyfield Ballachu-

lish Care Home on Monday April 15. The team of staff and volunteers will be there from 10.30am until 12.30pm to offer help and advice to Abbeyfield residents and to local people with sight or hearing impairments whose NHS hearing aids may require re-tubing and new batteries. No appointment necessary for this friendly, free service.

Give blood at the Nevis Centre next Wednesday, April 17, from 1.30pm to 4pm and 5.30pm to 7.45pm. To book an appointment call 03459 090999. Bookings must be made by 4pm the day before the session.

Friends of Nevis is holding its Spring Litter Pick and Curling Ponds Tidy up on Sunday April 28. Meet at Ben Nevis Highland Centre

(Woollen Mill) at 10.30am and finish about 3.15pm. Come for a couple of hours, or whatever time can be spared. Under 18s should be accompanied by an adult.

Coffee, lunch and all equipment provided. Please wear suitable clothing. Register beforehand if possible at friendsofnevis.co.uk or contact Rory at info@friendsofnevis.co.uk or 01397 701088 or contact Joy at pjbiggin@gmail.com or on 01397 772459.

Kilmallie Community Centre in Corpach is welcoming the Cork Accordion and Fiddle Club to its concert on Friday May 3. Starting at 8pm, the performance will feature Donal Ring, 'Ireland's Jimmy Shand', and other leading Irish musicians. Tickets available at the door.

Figures show rates cap will save Highland businesses £1.8m

Figures released by the Scottish Government estimate Highland businesses will save almost £2 million thanks to its policy to protect small firms.

The Scottish Government's decision to cap increases in poundage rates to below inflation will result in lower business rates for firms across Scotland.

Kate Forbes, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and

Badenoch, has said small businesses will also benefit from targeted rates relief measures worth more than £750 million.

'Small or medium-size enterprises are the backbone of the Highland economy and these reliefs allow them to reinvest in their business. That will hopefully mean they can employ more people, or pay fairer salaries, or grow the business more,' she said.

Osprey pair Louis and Aila return to Loch Arkaig nest

An osprey nest at Loch Arkaig, which was struck by lightning and raided by a pine marten last year, has welcomed back its resident pair for the 2019 season.

Louis and Aila arrived at the Lochaber nest together shortly after 7pm on Thursday night and began mating attempts within moments. Louis was seen delivering his first fish of the season to Aila last Friday morning.

Woodland Trust Scotland hopes to see eggs laid before the end of the month.

In 2018, three eggs were taken by a pine marten. The birds stayed around despite this but the camera went dark after being struck by lightning.

George Anderson of Woodland Trust Scotland said: 'It is such an emotional moment to see the birds back on the nest. They look



The ospreys at Loch Arkaig.

in fantastic shape. Fingers crossed they will have a more successful year.

'The kit has been completely refurbished. We have fitted a back-up camera which we can switch over to if the first one fails. One of the team from the internet

provider Lochielnet has been trained on how the system works so they can deal with most problems without waiting for a technician from elsewhere. The tree had been 'marten-proofed' previously, with a slick covering around the lower part of the trunk

making it too slippery to climb, and lower branches trimmed to remove jump-on routes. However, it seems a large branch from a neighbouring tree was blown over in high winds last year and offered the pine marten access to the canopy. We have removed

branches in the vicinity and an electric tape has been fitted higher up the trunk. This will deter any pine martens with a mild shock if they reach that far.'

Loch Arkaig is the most challenging nest camera site in the UK as there is no visitor centre, electricity supply or internet connection on site. Everything has to be solar powered with the signal beamed across the loch before it can enter the Lochielnet system then out to the world.

The live osprey nest camera at Loch Arkaig Pine Forest, supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery, will live stream the nest until autumn.

The osprey cam will be streamed live on the screen in the Lochaber Times office window on the High Street from this week.

New NHS Highland chief meets community representatives

Representatives from North Skye, Raasay and Glenelg met with new NHS Highland chief executive Iain Stewart earlier this week.

On Monday April 8, Mr Stewart spent an hour in Glenelg, Portree and Raasay discussing what could be done to improve healthcare in each area and ensure it would be sustainable for the future. Constituency MSP Kate Forbes arranged discussions with the groups after campaigning on their behalf. She said: 'These conversations will hopefully be the first of many and allow local people to share their concerns, aspirations and demands for local healthcare.'

'There are no easy fixes, but there is consensus for the need for sustainable, resilient, locally-delivered healthcare and that is what we all want to see.'

Mr Stewart, originally from Stornoway, took up the post at the end of January and has more than 30 years' experience in the public sector.

Standard raised again at Glenfinnan

The Jacobite rising in 1745 began with the raising of Prince Charles Edward Stuart's standard at Glenfinnan, near the shores of Loch Shiel.

This week the flag of the local branch of the Extinction Rebellion climate campaign group was raised near the same spot to mark next week's International Week of Rebellion.

The flag was waved from the top of the Glenfinnan

Monument to publicise the event, which is described as a world-wide uprising of people concerned about the overheating of the planet and the wiping out of animals, birds, fish and reptiles.

Fort William branch member Andrew Squire told the Lochaber Times: 'Whilst the tenure of the Scottish crown was very important in 1745, this latest rebellion concerns the future of the entire planet.'



An Extinction Rebellion activist waves their flag from the top of the Glenfinnan monument.

Former Lochaber pupil's choir earns Proud award nomination

An LGBTQ+ choir co-founded by a former Lochaber High School pupil has been nominated for a prestigious national award.

Ryan Laskey, from Fort William, said he was delighted that his Glasgow-based choir, which he set up for all members of the LGBTQ+ community, had been nominated for the 'community' prize in the upcoming Proud Scotland Awards. This award is presented to any charitable or membership organisation within the LGBTQ+ community which has achieved 'something special' within the last year.

'The choir has really taken off and we've gained quite a bit of positive attention,' said Mr Laskey. 'The nomination has even seen us invited to perform at Glasgow Pride and for the Lord Provost Eva Bolander plus various

other events we've yet to finalise.' Fellow nominees in the awards include JK Rowling, Emma Thompson, Annie Lennox, MP Mhairi Black and Carol Smillie.

Quoir announced on its Facebook page: 'We're incredibly honoured to be up for the community award along with Proud Ness, NetworQ Orkney and Aberdeen Taexali Rugby Club. We don't even compare to the incredible work these organisations do, so to be mentioned along side them is a win for us on its own.'

The Proud Scotland Awards take place at the Hilton Glasgow on Saturday June 1.

The new awards celebrate the LGBTQ+ community by recognising the outstanding work and commitment of individuals and organisations within the community in Scotland.

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LT



Robert Nairn took to the stage with his accordion last Tuesday.

Players hit all the right notes at accordion and fiddle club

Fort William Accordion and Fiddle Club held another excellent music night at Inverloch Railway Club.

Hector Henderson, accordion, and Simon Andrews on drums were first on. Michael MacLeod and Robert Nairn, both on button box, also played and Cameron MacIsaac, 13,

played his own composition on accordion. Guest artists on the night were Gordon Pattulo on accordion and Malcolm Ross on drums, who performed an outstanding repertoire.

The next meeting is a club night in May which will bring the season to a close until October.

Lochaber leads the way on digital learning and teaching

Lochaber High School has become the first secondary school in the Highlands to receive a Digital Schools Award.

Recognised by Education Scotland, the Digital Schools Award is designed to promote, encourage and reward schools that make the best use of digital technology in the classroom.

Lochaber High School demonstrated, among other things, the presence of a whole school digital strategy, an embedded use of digital technology across the curriculum to enhance learning and an ongoing commitment to professional development

for staff. The school has also become the fifth in Scotland to be accredited as a Google Reference School for doing 'exemplary things with Google learning tools'.

This means Lochaber High School is listed in the Google for Education global online directory as a reference school for innovative practice and gives the school the opportunity to test new Google products before they hit the market.

Stephen Stewart, principal teacher of digital technologies at Lochaber High School, said he was delighted with the award: 'We have come a long way. Our staff have made

a significant investment in professional development towards the use of digital tools to transform and enhance what they already do so well - teach.

'Because of this investment in the GSuite for Education learning platform early on, when it came to our rollout of one device per pupil in August 2018, the transition was seamless and pupils were using devices in lessons instantly. For us this has never been about digitising a curriculum or making worksheets electronic - it's about enhancing and enriching learning through the use of digital tools.'

Harris Tweed in UK top 10

Harris Tweed has been named one of Britain's top 10 well-known products.

A new study of well-known geographical indication products saw Harris Tweed score well. It was the only top 10 product from outwith the food and drink sector. The only other Scottish products in the top 10 were Scotch Whisky and Scotch Beef.

Harris Tweed, handwoven by islanders at their homes in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland, was also rated as the product with the best customer perception with 45.1 per cent surveyed ranking the product as 'best in class'.

Customers surveyed also rated Harris Tweed as the second highest when it came to awareness of the brand's protected status. The study, conducted by London-based agency Brand Dialogue, also noted the impact of the brand's social media presence sharing stories about the people and stories behind the production of the cloth.

Harris Tweed Authority chief executive Lorna Macaulay attended a two-day event in London during which the report was launched.

Bonnie Prince Charlie portrait unveiled

High Life Highland and forensic artist Hew Morrison have collaborated to create a new digital portrait of Prince Charles Edward Stuart.

Using the Prince's death

mask, held in the collection at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery, Hew used his skills to create the striking new portrait, which is on display in the Jacobite Gallery.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



We must all fight to save our language

How often do we read on the waves of social media or in the letters pages of the printed press, the sentiments, relating to Gaelic: 'Why spend money on a dead language?'

Well, apart from the myriad of other hugely important reasons, the simplest is that at present the language is clearly not dead, though there is no doubt that on the current trajectory, the future of the language is on a downward course.

There is also no doubt, however, that this course towards our own demise could be changed to a self-perpetuating upward trend of exponential growth.

There are a lot of organisations and individuals working hard towards this goal and it is definitely achievable.

At the moment there are still many people who use Gaelic as a genuine first language. These people in my eyes are by far the most important factor in the survival of the language and our culture.

This strong lifeline to the anchors of our identity is slipping through our hands and, as a population, we are

watching it happen with apathy, all distracted with the rough and tumble of life.

I am as guilty as any in this regard.

We must jolt ourselves to take action or we will watch as the ropes to these anchors slip out of our hands and, as a people, we drift into oblivion.

We have the chance to survive if only we put the effort in and collectively close our hands around these ropes to the survival of our own race.

Anchors of the Soul - lyrics Angus MacPhail (Gaelic chorus, Flora MacPhail)

Don't tell me I'm dead when my heart is beating strong,
Though I'm down upon my knees I will rise in song
And the voice of generations still to see the dawning day
Will be heard on the mountains and the bay.

Chorus
Hold hold and live for the goal
We still can save our soul.
Hold hold and live for the goal

And the anchors of our soul.

Seinn, seinn and duan
Le guthan arda gun ghruaim.
Seinn, seinn and duan
Buan gu bràth.

I was born to the bloodline and the land of the Gael
And I won't lie down and watch the end of our tale.
We can't rewrite the past but our future can be made
And the road to change our story can be laid.

In our day we stand now to lose it or to live
We have one last chance before the lifelines give.
Use the history and the hope of our people and our plight
To wake up now and see the morning light.

We will walk to the future with the power of our past
And the wounds long held will be healed at last.
And the rise of the Gael in our time will come
From the old through the passion of the young.

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Left: Members of the Men's Shed group joined Highland Council staff, DWP staff and representatives of Lochaber Environmental Group for the handover of the planters on Friday.

F15 Men shed cropped 02



The planters will add extra interest to the garden at the Charles Kennedy Building. F15 Men's Shed planters 05042019 021



Three planters and a potting bench have been built by Men's Shed members. F15 Men shed cropped 01

Men's Shed planters for Fort 'Good Grub' project

Handywork takes pride of place at town building

The Men's Shed group in Fort William has been making large bespoke planting troughs for the Good Grub growing project set up by Highland Council staff working in the town's Charles Kennedy Building.

The squad of handymen, who meet three days a week at Blar Mhor Industrial Site, delivered the planters on Friday and they now take pride of place in the building's courtyard.

The growing project aims to promote a sense of well-being and more sustainable lifestyle choices through a food growing initiative using public space at the Charles Kennedy Building.

Members of staff working in the building identified the food growing project as a way of bringing people together, to be out in the fresh air and grow fruit and vegetables.

After staff secured a grant from the Pebble Trust to help start the initiative, Fort

William Men's Shed was commissioned to make the wheelchair accessible planting troughs.

Assistant ward manager Emma Tayler, who has led the project, said: 'Good Grub is already developing links and relationships with the community. We are thrilled the Men's Shed agreed to take on the making of the planters and appreciate all the work that has gone into them. We would also like to thank Lochaber Environmental Group for its valuable support.'

The wood used for the planters was kindly donated to The Men's Shed by the family of the late Bobby Corson, the well-known undertaker from Mallaig. Gordon Gair from the Men's Shed Group added: 'We were delighted to make the planters and everyone has been busy making sure the job was completed in time for the planting season.'

'Working together on such

a project has been a great experience and we look forward to seeing the planters when they are filled with fruit and vegetables.'

Another project in the Good Grub initiative is a community orchard established with redundant fruit trees from old school sites. And council staff will be making their own compost for use in the troughs next year.

The initiative is accessible to the 60 plus on-site staff members from a range of agencies and community groups who would like to engage with the project.

Ms Tayler added: 'The plan is to develop the public space so that staff and community members can learn new skills to develop growing projects at home and elsewhere in the community.'

The Men's Shed meets in Fort William every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10am to 4pm. New members are always welcome.

New Inverness to Heathrow flights welcomed

Highland Council leaders have welcomed the introduction of a new Inverness to London Heathrow service by British Airways.

This will allow people to travel between the two cities and return the same day.

The new flight schedule means a 30 per cent increase in capacity on the route and bring the number of flights up to three return services on Saturdays and Sundays, with a double daily service Monday to Friday. From October, British Airways will operate a

twice-daily service between the two cities seven days a week. It is more than 20 years since an early morning flight between Inverness and London Heathrow was provided.

Caol and Mallaig councillor Allan Henderson, chairman of the council's development and infrastructure service and chairman of HITRANS, said: 'British Airways is filling a gap that has been in the market for a long time and it's up to us now in Highland to use the service.'

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LT

Kishorn Port is now 'shovel-ready'

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

The company behind the resurrection one of the largest dry docks in Europe says the site is now 'shovel-ready' and in a position to welcome oil and gas rigs.

Kishorn Port Ltd (KPL) last week secured a waste management licence (WML) from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) for the decommissioning of off-shore oil and gas assets at Kishorn Yard and Dry Dock.

This makes Kishorn one of the first Scottish facilities to secure a WML for this purpose and moves it closer into the North Sea decommissioning sector.

The Scottish Government is investing £520,000 in additional infrastructure upgrades and waste management consultancy, taking the



Kishorn Port.

total investment in Kishorn to more than £1.3 million in two years of the Decommissioning Challenge Fund (DCF).

KPL has also just been awarded financial assistance of £550,000 from Highland and Islands Enterprise (HIE) towards the purchase of two dry dock gate anchor arrays

to enable the anchoring of the dry dock gates in Loch Kishorn between projects.

Alasdair Ferguson, a director of KPL, said: "The invaluable support from the DCF and HIE has enabled us to further invest £1.6 million at Kishorn, making the site shovel-ready for the receipt

of oil and gas assets and a first rate decommissioning destination. We have already received a number of positive inquiries for the use of the dry dock, which we are now in a position to take to the next stage."

Scottish Government energy minister Paul Wheelhouse added: "The port securing its WML and the recent successful visit of the Ocean GreatWhite semi-submersible rig are fantastic endorsements of Kishorn Port Ltd and this location. These are clear signals to the market that Kishorn and Scotland are ready for the challenges and opportunities of oil and gas decommissioning."

The site was originally developed in the 1970s as a manufacturing and fabrication yard for oil platforms, with more than 3,000 employed at the site in 1977.

Taxi driver shaken by robbery in Stornoway

Police in the Western Isles are appealing for information following a robbery from a taxi driver in the Stornoway area.

A mid-three figure sum of cash was stolen from the driver after he was threatened by a passenger.

The incident happened shortly after 6.40pm on Tuesday April 2 on Simon Street, following a journey from the Newton Street area in the black Audi taxi.

Officers are seeking to speak to a man described as being in his 30s and wearing a grey woollen top and grey tracksuit bottoms.

Detective Inspector Richard Baird said: "The taxi driver,

who is in his 70s, was unhurt but was understandably shaken by the incident.

"We are urging anyone who may have information about the incident to come forward.

"We understand that a number of vehicles may have been held up by the taxi when it stopped on Newton Street to collect the man just after 6.40pm so we would urge anyone who may have seen the car or the man to let us know, even if it seemed of little note at the time."

Anyone who can assist is asked to contact Police Scotland by calling 101, quoting reference NH386/19, or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

First Skye tourism app teams up with 'Donald'

Two Skye tourism initiatives have joined forces to allow visitors to navigate the island through a mobile app for the first time.

Donald from Skye, launched last year, acts as a hub of information for visitors, with business listings, a 'recommended by Donald' list and clips of the animated character Donald, assisted by his trusted companion Fergie the Tractor.

Having teamed up with the Explore Skye app, each individual location and business

signed up to the service will now be shown on an app map.

The GPS means that tourists will be able to navigate between the featured visitor attractions with ease.

The map builds on the many features on the Donald from Skye platform designed to make it as user friendly as possible and enhance the visitor experience.

The launch of the map comes ahead of Easter which will see the tourist season in full swing on the Misty Isle.

Comhairle calls for urgent investment in new ferries

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has written to Islands Minister Paul Wheelhouse MSP to underline the urgent need for investment in new ferries for the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service network.

This is over and above the commitment to build the two ferries at Ferguson Marine Engineering, that are now two years late, before they enter service.

The letter underlined that

the primary purpose for government investment in ferry services must be to secure the sustainability of the island communities they serve.

The comhairle says there is strong evidence that the gov-

ernment needs to be bringing in new ferries to replace at least the four major ferries which have been in service since the 1980s and that it should have placed an order for a new ferry for Islay.

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Ben Nevis Dr

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Spirited success for island distillery

View from the Edge

CATH MACDONALD

fort@obantimes.co.uk



Harris Distillery now employs more than 30 staff.

In the first week of March, Outer Hebrides Tourism held a two-day conference in Benbecula and Stornoway.

The recent success of the Outer Hebrides in being listed as a top destination by Lonely Planet and others was celebrated, and a new marketing strategy for our islands was being unveiled. A very large number of businesses attended the event.

There were many interesting speakers sharing their own experiences and showing photographs on the screen as they spoke.

One of these caught my attention as it was a Harris one, a lovely clear photo of the staff who work in the Isle of Harris Distillery.

I have mentioned in an earlier column that it had just taken on its first Harris female apprentice distiller. It now appeared from the photo on the screen that there had been quite an increase in staff.

Later, I commented on this to the managing director of the distillery, and was told that the staff had now gone up to 30 or more.

Now 30 employees in a business is a

large number in a small island community, so I wanted to know more.

The managing director, Simon Erlanger, said I could have a copy of the photo and invited me to call at the distillery the first time I was in Tarbert. I decided to do this.

I opened the door of the distillery and walked into a large room with a lovely fire burning and comfortable sofas arranged around it.

I asked at the desk for Mike Donald, who was to give me some information and answer some questions. After introductions, we sat down in front of the fire. I was well aware of the excellent reputation of the Harris Distillery and that it had won top national recognition.

In addition to the awards for distilling, the Isle of Harris gin was also recognised as Product of the Year at Scotland's Food and Drink Excellence Awards. The Scottish Gin Society had voted it in 2019 as the top Scottish gin for the second year in a row.

With no questions about the gin, my focus was on the increase in staff which I had noticed in the photo, and was a matter of such importance for our island.

The distillery had started with a staff of 10, known locally as the 'Tarbert Ten'. Now it has 32 full-time staff, with three more to be recruited. There are six part-time staff year-round and two seasonal staff for the

summer. Mike said this was because absolutely everything was being done in Harris from the distilling to the bottling, and customer services.

This is a whisky distillery but the production of the gin meant money was being made while awaiting the maturing of the whisky, which takes some years.

They were extremely busy and, as time went on, more distillers and apprentices were taken on.

I then asked about visitors to the distillery. With each year, Harris was getting busier. Mike said that in 2018, 90,000 people had visited the distillery. Tour buses called in addition to the many other visitors.

They have thoughtfully put a desk in the front area where visitors will be able to get information. There is a real need for this, given that our tourist information office, along with others in the islands, has closed.

Mike produced some staff photos so that I could choose the one I wanted. This was an informative and most enjoyable visit and Mike could not have been more helpful and hospitable.

It was a delight to visit this business which is doing so well for Harris, and has created so much employment.

This column concludes with congratulations to managers and staff, and very best wishes for the future.

Skye hotels are dearest in the UK

Visitors planning a spring visit to Skye are likely to face the most expensive hotel rates anywhere in the UK, a new survey reveals.

According to the survey by Cheaprooms.co.uk, hotels on the island, which is known for its rugged landscapes, picturesque fishing villages and medieval castles, are asking for an average of £121 per night for their cheapest room.

The survey compared hotel rates for April 2019 across 100 popular UK destinations and established an average rate for the most affordable double room in a centrally-located hotel or guest house.

St Andrews was runner-up with rates of £117 per night. In London, travellers will need to fork out an average of £103 for the cheapest available hotel room.

Significantly more affordable, however, is the Scottish capital of Edinburgh, which ranks as the 18th most expensive destination in the UK, with average rates of £72 per night.

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LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HBSenior officials
should attend
public meeting

There is understandable concern being expressed by parents of Spean Bridge Primary School pupils about the future provision of Pupil Support Assistants.

The school's parent group says it is worried that the school is at risk of losing most of its PSA hours under financial changes after Highland Council said it needs to save £2.8 million from its Additional Support Needs (ASN) budget, which includes PSA provision.

Highland councillor Ben Thompson has sought to reassure the parents by saying: 'While some people may need to change roles, if this is well managed, there should not need to be any redundancies.'

The local authority says it has the highest reported levels of ASN staff in Scotland and is beginning a three-year phased approach to re-align this role to where, it says, it is most required.

Now Highland Council's chief executive and its director of education are to be asked to attend a public meeting in Spean Bridge to address fears over plans to re-allocate PSAs because of budget cutbacks.

We would urge the council's senior officers to attend the meeting. It is the least they can do for worried parents.

Unsung public heroes
deserve our gratitude

Fort William Town Team founder member and secretary Sue Keen was presented with gifts last week to mark her departure after five years in the role.

Her leaving brings into sharp relief how invaluable are the selfless people who volunteer their time for the benefit of their communities.

We wish Sue and husband Andy all the best and thank them for their efforts.

Brilliant treatment from
everyone in the NHS

I had spent a wonderful morning enjoying the early Colonsay sunshine having been out and about since 6am, feeding cows and checking on the new calves.

It was around 8.30am as I jumped down from the tractor, snagging my wedding ring on the door handle. I have to confess, I feared the worst as I felt absolutely nothing and believed I had lost my finger.

I was immediately relieved to see it still in place, although badly damaged where the ring had cut into the finger.

Most amazing, now that I reflect is that within 10 minutes, I was sitting with the doctor in the surgery on Colonsay. Dr Jan Brooks was amazing. She examined the damage and immediately put me at ease. I apologised for spoiling her Saturday morning while she, in turn, apologised for having to send me off island to get the ring removed at the A&E in Oban.

I was furnished with antibiotics, painkillers and a letter for the hospital in Oban. I was again most fortunate that there was a ferry later that same day.

When I arrived at Oban A&E, I feared having to wait some hours to be seen as my injury was not really that bad in the overall scheme of things. My concerns were completely unfounded. The receptionist advised me that the island doctor had been in touch to say that I was coming.

The nurse who treated me and the doctor who stitched the wound were absolutely fantastic. I was in and out within the hour.

I very much appreciate and respect the professionalism of all those who treated me that day.

Eddie Barclay, Galston, Ayrshire.

No empirical evidence to
support climate change

Jenny Ford from Corpach wrote to praise local school children for protesting against climate change (Letters, March 28).

We must surely object to the use of children to promote a political campaign for the science surrounding (man-made) climate change has been taken over and presented as fact when there is no empirical evidence to support it. Are our children being used as propaganda tools and simply indoctrinated to believe there is a problem?

No one denies the climate is changing naturally but the propaganda exercise to demonise carbon

YOUR PICTURES



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

to see published here, send it to editor@obantimes.co.uk, post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin

dioxide and penalise mankind for changes that cannot be discerned from the natural process cannot be allowed to prevail and those who celebrate the use of children to promote a political pseudo-science belief should be ashamed of the fact.

D C Gill, Inverinan.

Many thanks to all involved
in Oban Spring Clean

Well, another Oban Spring Clean has come and gone and I'd like to thank all those public-spirited people who gave up their time to roam the streets and paths with their bags and

litter pickers. Their efforts were widespread, not only in Oban, but south to Kilmore and north to Benderloch.

I'd particularly like to thank Claire Rizos, who organised the event and matched people and places to ensure a good coverage. Thanks also to Andy Spence of BID4Oban, who arranged funding for a series of newspaper adverts, to town ambassador Kay McDonald for her help and for giving Keep Oban Beautiful several mentions in her column, to Fiona Scott of the Oban Times for her write-ups and to CGL for printing and laminating posters and banners free of charge.

Thanks must also go to Terry Donovan and



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DISTRICT NEWS

FORT WILLIAM

Fort William Town Team is appealing for volunteers to take part in its fifth Big Spring Clean this weekend.

Among the areas to be tackled on Sunday April 14 are the lanes off High Street, which are overgrown with weeds. These areas are often overlooked but are used regularly to get to and from the High Street. An area beside the library, the Parade, Nevis Sport car park, bus stops, car parks, the underpass, the war memorial and Cameron monument will also be tidied up.

Departing Town Team secretary Sue Keen said: 'The town is looking pretty good and we want to keep it looking that way. But we can't do it without the help of volunteers.'

'So if you are free on Sunday, please come along and lend a hand, even if it is only for an hour. There will be tea/coffee and home-baking at the Hub at 4pm.'

'We will cancel in the event of heavy rain and will inform volunteers by email, through Facebook and ask Nevis Radio to announce any postponement.'

'If you are able to come along, please email karen@fortwilliam-townteam.co.uk. You just need to bring yourselves. We will supply tools and gloves.'

Volunteers will meet at the Town Team Hub in the Parade at 2pm.

GLENFINNAN

Glenfinnan Community Council met on Monday March 25 at Glenfinnan House Hotel.

Matters discussed included the following:

■ Community/Marine Harvest hut: Highland Council planning department has granted change of use, with conditions. Glenfinnan Community Facilities Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation was due to meet on Tuesday April 2 to discuss the matter further.

■ Car park: Lease still being negotiated. To be resolved soon.

■ Road issues: Drainage by the

conker tree, signs and potholes in the village have been raised by the community council. Highland Council is to change the soft verge and passing place signs and Gus MacLellan is to look at other issues. The poor state of the road east of the village was discussed. Community council members will report trunk road defects to BEAR Scotland and residents were invited to do the same at <http://roadworks.bearsco.com/#defect-form-panel>.

■ A830 speed limit: Community council members met representatives from BEAR Scotland and Transport Scotland which are proposing a push-button pedestrian crossing near the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) and lowering of the speed limit for the A830. A 40mph limit is planned from the east village name sign to the existing one that begins after the church.

This follows a survey which showed average vehicle speeds of 42 mph and the average number of people crossing the road near the NTS at 2,000 per day.

A public consultation was due to start in April.

Glenfinnan Community Council has contacted Fergusons, Shiel Buses, Bowmans and MacLean deliveries with information in the hope of support.

The community council is to ask BEAR Scotland about the possibility of an independent control for the crossing for games day and bonfire night.

■ Police update: Two incidents had been reported since the last meeting – a road traffic collision near the NTS and an emergency beacon set off near Ardgour.

■ The current balance is £15,196.60, with £49.92 to come off for planter costs.

■ The Glenfinnan Viaduct path to the station is now open.

Next meeting: Monday April 29, Glenfinnan House Hotel, 8pm.

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Mystery of Lochaber 1930s' stag hunt image

A Lochaber Times' article and photograph of a 1930s' stag hunt prompted reader Donald MacFarlane to hunt out a similar image.

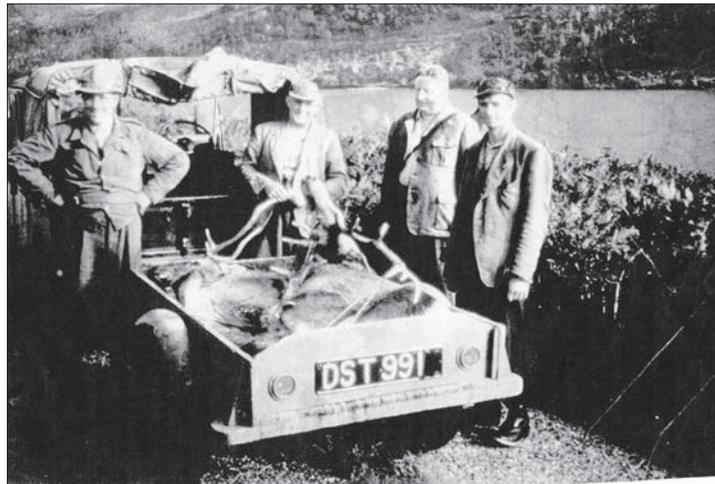
Mr MacFarlane's photograph, right, was taken in the 1950s, as the Land Rover would suggest.

'The photograph was given to me by the man extreme right, Alex Robertson known as 'Kilty', said Mr MacFarlane.

'Standing next to him could be a 'toff', judging by the clothing and the posh rifle case over his shoulder.

'Next to him is old 'Stevie' Stevenson in the Lochiel tweeds. Extreme left is interesting. Looks like the same clothing as Davie Invermallie is wearing in the 1930s' photograph, battle dress jacket and fore and aft hat.'

Can readers help Mr MacFarlane with the following? Is this the



same man as in the 1930s' photograph or is the 1930s' image a little later?

Was there similar battle dress jackets available in the 1930s?

The Land Rover was new in

1949, but it is quite old in the photograph.

Could the 1930s' photograph, obviously pre-Land Rover, be early 1950s or late 1940s after the war?



Young Inverlochty musicians entertain

High Life Highland chief executive Ian Murray enjoyed a performance by Inverlochty primary five pupils during his visit to Fort William this week. The youngsters are involved in the Highland Young Musicians whole class band project.

Lochaber food supplier named as awards finalist

Lochaber-based Great Glen Charcuterie is celebrating after being named as a finalist in the Scotland Food and Drink Excellence Awards 2019.

The annual awards, which recognise high quality produce and leading industry individuals, suppliers and companies, received a record 320 entries across all categories, a 20 per cent increase from 2018, most notably in distilling which increased from 18 in 2018 to 41 this year.

Great Glen Charcuterie has been named as a finalist in the meat category for its Scottish pork salami.

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SPEAN BRIDGE, ROY BRIDGE AND ACHNACARRY

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council held its April meeting last week at Kilmonivaig Church Hall.

Items discussed included the following:

■ Pupil support assistant and additional needs budget – see story on page three.

■ Highland Council: The roads officer reported that signs had been lifted from the B8004 and B8005 and stored to await collection at Carr's Corner. She would also inspect fly tipping at Achnabobane and take necessary action. There still appears to be drainage issues at Roy Bridge Gardens and Highland Council would be contacted again.

■ BEAR and Transport Scotland: There was a further positive response from BEAR Scotland and an assurance that resurfacing from the Telford Bridge south on the A82, to the east of Aonachan Gardens on the A86 both in Spean Bridge, to the South of the Great Glen Cattle Ranch, and between Caledonia park and Altrua on the A82, will be resurfaced this financial year. Drainage work on the A82 north of Spean Bridge will start in spring 2019 and at Letterfinlay in the autumn. Coping stones on the parapet of the Telford Bridge will soon be re-aligned.

Unfortunately they are unwilling to accede to the request for warning signs approaching Aonachan Crossroads, but are meeting with a resident to examine the culvert at that location.

■ The chairman has written to David Devine, Transport Scotland's North West Roads Manager, asking to see the long-awaited Inverroy Safety Report.

■ Community benefit: The main Stronelairg Wind Farm Fund has eight applicants seeking a total of £48,288 to be considered on Monday April 29.

Six applications for micro grants, seeking £2,420 from the first quarter, were considered after the



The wonderful display of daffodils at Claggan road-end.

Photograph courtesy of Lochaber Local History Society.

Full bloom at Claggan as daffodils resurface

It's that wonderful time of year when daffodils are in full bloom at Claggan road-end.

The flowers were originally planted by the former Fort William Round Table in 1990 with the first bloom in spring 1991. Lochaber Rotary Club paid for the bulbs and laid out and planted the Rotary Roundel, that can still be seen, at the right hand side of the field. The late Donald MacFarlane, chairman of Lochaber District Council and also a rotarian, organised the planting of the rest of the field on behalf of the Marie Curie Foundation and the Round Table and Round Table members did the bulk of the work.

David Anderson was Rotary

Club president at the time and he remembers a photograph being taken of club members with spades digging the Roundel.

'The work took place on a Saturday morning,' said Mr Anderson. 'I was working that day but I rushed round at lunchtime, put the president's chain on for the photograph, then rushed back to work. No dirty hands for me that day. Ian Abernethy may still have the photograph.'

Current club president Iain Johnston added: 'It's a truly wonderful story, a stunning roadside feature.'

'It's great to see the year-on-year colour still being created by this 30-year-old garden.'

£5,953.73, with £5,000 of this restricted to SSE micro grants.

■ Reports: Police Inspector Nick Hough reminded everyone to be vigilant and report any suspicious activities to the police.

Speeding in Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge continues to concern residents.

Inspector Hough offered to alert the road traffic policing unit of the community council's specific concerns. A request to move the flashing 30mph signs nearer to the

village limits would be made by the community council with Police Scotland's support.

■ A request from two residents for equipment for their litter picks in Spean Bridge was approved. Councillor Rixson agreed to arrange to kit the ladies out with high-visibility vests and litter picks. The chairman thanked the pair on behalf of the community council.

■ The next community council meeting will be on Tuesday June 4 in Kilmonivaig Church Hall at 7pm.

Plan to change Spean Bridge street name tied up in 'needless' red tape

A simple proposal to name a street in memory of the late Caol and Mallaig councillor Billy MacLachlan appears to be getting mired in bureaucratic red tape.

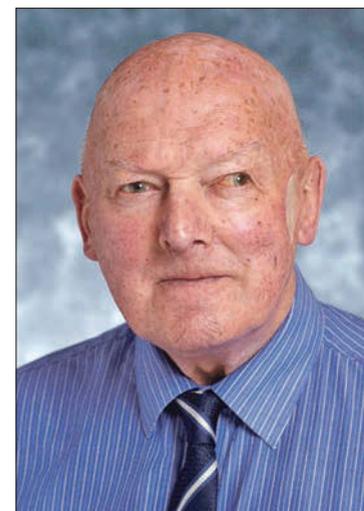
At last week's April meeting of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council, chairman John Fotheringham reminded those attending the community council had agreed to support the suggestion in principle to change the name of the stretch of the A86 from Spean Bridge to the shinty pitch, known as West Tirindish, in tribute to Mr MacLachlan.

Mr Fotheringham said Highland Council was willing to process the matter further if residents of the street in question were in favour of the scheme.

'If they're not, then it's a dead duck,' said Mr Fotheringham. 'Highland Council will write to all the residents along the road, giving them six weeks to decide if they want to change the name of the street.'

'If the residents are in agreement, the next stage would see the proposal advertised in local newspapers, giving 28 days for public comment.'

'If that is all okay, it comes back to the community council and elected members.'



The proposal is to rename a street after the late Billy MacLachlan, above.

'It seems needlessly bureaucratic when people were just trying to do a nice thing for a nice man.'

The cost of changing what is termed a 'described' street name, such as West Tirindish, to an official one such as Altour Road, for example, can vary from £440 to £490 and needs the permission of the majority of householders affected.

meeting when the following awards were made: Two Villages Group – £250 to assist with meeting the costs; Braes Walking Group – £150 to buy walking poles; Spean Bridge Primary School Parent Group – £500 for cost of fun night; £220 for Hannah Loughray competitive

swimming costume; £200 for Sally Mackenzie to buy plants for Roy Bridge Gardens. An application from Spean Bridge Toddlers Group was deferred until Tuesday July 2.

■ Treasurer's report: Expenditure for the month was insurance of £86, leaving a current balance of

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SQUASH



Donald Smith, right, after his victory over Neil Worsdall, left.

Squash club championships

Lochaber Squash Club Championships took place on Saturday April 6 with 16 members taking part.

Donald Smith emerged as champion after a tough game against Neil Worsdall. Iain Stewart won the plate after beating Stephen MacLeod.

TEN-PIN BOWLING

Singles league results

After week one of the ten pin bowling singles leagues at The Nevis Centre in Fort William Brian Stewart leads the scratch league with 20 points followed by Iain Gregor with 19 points and Andrew Brown in third place with 18 points.

The handicap league is also led by Brian Stewart with 20 points again followed by Iain Gregor on 19 points with Tony Whitelocke in third place on 18 points.

Brian Stewart leads the chase for the Nevis Radio High Pin Trophy with 540 pins followed by Iain Gregor in second with 489 and Andrew Brown in third with 480 pins.

The top individual scratch game this week came from Iain Gregor with 198. Also this week Brian Stewart rolled 189 and 182 whilst Tony Whitelocke and Gary Cowan both had 178 and Brian Johnstone had 176. Brian Stewart had the best three-game scratch series with 540 followed by Iain Gregor with 489 and Andrew Brown with 480. Iain Gregor had the top handicap game with 248 followed by Brian Stewart with 231 and Jim Bell with 229. Brian Stewart had the top three-game handicap series with 666 followed by Iain Gregor with 639 and Tony Whitelocke with 623.

LOTTERY NUMBERS

Lochaber club lotteries

Fort William Golf Club's lotto numbers last week were 9, 12 and 14. There was no winner so the jackpot for the draw today, Thursday April 11, will be £500.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers last week were 9, 16 and 19. Michelle MacGregor in Kinlochleven won the £200 on offer. This week's jackpot will be £200.

Caol Community Centre bingo club's lotto numbers were 5, 6 and 20. There were no winners this week, so next week's jackpot will be £300.

The numbers in Lochaber Camanachd Club's lottery on Tuesday April 2 were 6, 17 and 18. There was no winner so the jackpot for Tuesday April 9 was £300.

The numbers in the Caol Regeneration Lotto this week were 5, 6 and 15. There was one winner, Bridie Ross, who won the £100 jackpot. Next week's draw has a prize of £100.

Lochaber boys hold their nerve to beat Inverness

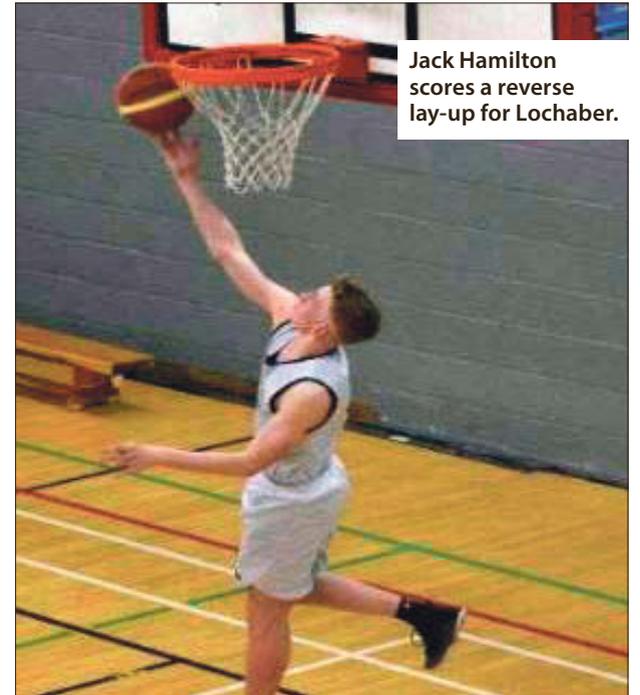
by Jamie Wegner

Lochaber High School senior basketball team overcame a tough Inverness High School side in Fort William on Friday March 28, with the final score ending up at 52-41 to the hosts.

Lochaber started brightly winning a tense first quarter 15-7. Nerves built further in the Lochaber camp, as they lost the second quarter being outscored 14 to 12, meaning they took a slim six-point advantage into the half-time break with the score sitting at 27-21.

The gap reduced further after the half with Inverness winning the third quarter as well, and Lochaber only scoring nine to Inverness's slightly better 10 points. This meant that the gap was only five points going into the final quarter, meaning a strong opening quarter was the only reason they were ahead in the game losing quarters two and three.

However, Lochaber showed their fitness as well as their squad depth to finish stronger, winning the final quarter 16 to 10, with Lochaber shooting



Jack Hamilton scores a reverse lay-up for Lochaber.



Lochaber did enough in the first and fourth quarters to eventually beat Inverness.

guard Kieran Jordan making an important three straight after Inverness scored one of their own.

Lochaber were able to hold on for an 11-point winning margin. After the game, Jordan said: 'It was good that I could help the team get the win.'

Ewan Young, who scored six points, said: 'It was good preparation for the final.'

BASKETBALL

'We go into Wednesday full of confidence.' Lochaber have reason to be confident going into the Highland and Island Schools League final having won every game this season.

However, they will be put to the test as they travel to Inverness to take on a strong Millburn Academy, hoping to bring back the trophy.

Fort William and District Table Tennis League results

The latest round of matches in the Fort William and District Table Tennis League took place recently at Nevis Centre, with the following results:

In division one, Alin Popu, one of the league's new players this season, recently took on the division's top two players Monte Bleasdale and John Grant.

His encounter with Grant illustrated how his form has improved since he joined the club in what was a closely fought match. Popu took the first game 11-8, and then narrowly won the second 12-10 as Grant fought hard to level the match. Taking confidence from going 2-0 up, Popu then took the final game 11-7 for an impressive 3-0 victory.

He then faced Bleasdale, who had to rely on his expe-

rience as he closely won the first two games 12-10 and 11-9. In the third, however, Popu could not maintain his momentum as Bleasdale recorded a comfortable 11-3 win to take the match 3-0.

As a result of these matches, Bleasdale leads the division from Grant, with Popu now moving up into third place.

In division two, Simon

Jeffrey still leads the way, although following several recent victories Jim Hinchley remains close behind. John Steele is now third and remains unbeaten although he has yet to face the division's top two.

The Paired Doubles Competition was also played recently, the final being contested by the pairing of John

TABLE TENNIS

Grant and Neil Cameron, who took on Angus MacDonald and Harry Williamson. As expected the match was a close run affair with both sides twice getting the better of the other, and so a fifth game was required to decide the match which was eventually won by Grant and Cameron.

The league is always looking for new players of any standard, and coaching is given to those who are new to the game.

Practice and league matches are played together on Monday nights at the Nevis Centre from 6.45pm to 9pm.

For further details see the club's website tabletennis-fortwilliam.org.uk



Table tennis action.

Wheeler's hold winter league presentation

The final round of the West Highland Wheelers' winter league took place at Nevis Range on Sunday, followed by the league trophy presentation.

Ninety-two adult racers turned up for one or more winter league races, alongside 16 younger kids who competed in the shorter children's race series.

Honours in the enduro went to Liam Moynihan in adult male, Ailsa Pooleman in adult female, Paul Tebbett in E-bike (a new category for this year) and Cory Muir in the juniors.

The younger children raced one stage with Alexander Pervan taking the honours in boys' U12, Ruby Clark winning girls' under 12 and Archie and Charley Kennedy taking first place in boys' U8 and girls' U8 respectively.

The overall league winner was James Shirley with Gill Barnes taking the female league title and Daniel Parfitt the junior league trophy.

In the younger kids' league Alexander Pervan won the U12 boys' overall and Charlie Stewart the U12 girls, with brother and sister team Archie and Charley Kennedy winning the U8 categories.

The West Highland Wheelers would like to thank Steve Bradley for setting out a



Winter league overall winners, from left, James Shirley, Daniel Parfitt and Gill Barnes.

Photos: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

fantastic enduro course with five stages on a mix of terrain, to Spook and Fraser of No Fuss Events, who kindly supported the event by running the timing. Thanks also to Nevis Range for allowing the Wheelers to run the event and the BBQ afterwards and opening the café early to

allow for registration and to Kenny Forsyth of Letterfinlay foods for providing the burgers and sausages.

Also thanks went to everyone who helped out throughout the winter league marshalling, organising races, taping courses, providing refreshments and amazing homebaking, and to everyone for turning up at the races.

Winter League overall results: Men - 1 James Shirley, 236. 2 Mark Clark, 208. 3 Gary MacDonald, 197.

Juniors - 1 Daniel Parfitt, 160. 2 Cammy Mackintosh, 127. 3 Sorley Swabey, 11.

Women - 1 Gill Barnes, 132. 2 Marian Austin, 119. 3 Ailsa Pooleman, 117.

CYCLING

E-Bike - 1 Robert Cant, 120. 2 Paul Tebbitt, 60.

Kids' winter league overall results: Under 12 boys - 1 Alexander Pervan, 180. 2 Aidan Baltrunas, 105. 3 Kody Cummings, 27. 3 Finn Watt, 27. 5 Osian Belshaw, 24.

Under 12 girls - 1 Charlie Stewart, 168. 2 Isla Cant, 90. 3 Ruby Clark, 57.

Under 8 boys - 1 Archie Kennedy, 162. 2 Aaron Tresidder, 150. 3 Kai Tresidder, 99. 4 Fergus Reid, 22.

Under 8 girls - 1 Charley Kennedy, 159. 2 Lily Cant, 90. 3 Mia Jackson, 87. 4 Jessica Bamber, 46.

Entries are open for Oban Sportive

Road cyclists are invited to start the 2019 sportive season with the action-packed Oban Sportive, organised by Oban Rotary Club, which takes place on May 11 and 12.

This year there are two classic road routes - the Loch Avich 56-mile route and the Loch Awe 87-mile route, both mostly along quiet back roads on Scotland's adventure coast and the banks of Loch Awe.

Make a weekend of it and the sportive team for the Ben Cruachan Inn Hill Climb on the Saturday afternoon.

Markus Stitz, the legendary round-the-world single speeder, will be giving a talk about his travels in Oban distillery bar on the Saturday night, and will ride the hill climb and sportive both on his singlespeed.

All this is included in the one entry price of £35 per rider. Money raised goes to charity.

More information on how to enter can be found at www.obansportive.co.uk



Children's league winners, back row, left to right, Alexander Pervan, Ruby Clark and Charlie Stewart, front row from left, Archie and Charley Kennedy.

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WEATHER

Thursday
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze
Temperatures
5°C to 11°C.

Friday
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
5°C to 11°C.

Weekend Outlook

Saturday
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze

Sunday
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
4°C to 11°C.



TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday April 11, 2019** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	03.03	1.3	09.11	3.2
Thur	15.38	1.3	21.22	3.3
Fri	04.04	1.5	10.12	3.0
	16.46	1.5	22.27	3.0
Sat	05.41	1.7	11.57	2.8
	18.10	1.5	***	**
Sun	00.18	3.0	07.23	1.6
	14.18	2.9	19.31	1.4
Mon	02.22	3.2	08.53	1.4
	15.20	3.2	20.44	1.2
Tues	03.23	3.5	09.54	1.0
	16.06	3.4	21.45	0.8
Wed	04.01	3.8	10.41	0.8
	16.45	3.7	22.36	0.5

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Chain, Shackles and buoys all available to purchase.

Lochaber boys hold their nerve to beat Inverness

Wheelers hold winter league presentation

Late Nairn goals sink a battling Fort side

Fort William	2
Nairn County	6
Highland League	

Fort William showed signs of improvement on Saturday with what manager Russell MacMorran described as 'one of the best displays' this season, despite conceding a late flurry of goals which secured the win for Nairn.

Confusion reigned at Claggan Park at 3pm as kick-off had to be delayed. The late start was because the referee had been caught in traffic due to a road accident earlier in the day and not, as some national media outlets reported, due to the amount of deer poo on the playing surface.

'The referee was delayed because of an accident on the A82 and one of the assistant referees was going to stand in and brought up the issue with what the deer had left,' explained manager MacMorran. 'The referee turned up and didn't think it was a problem.'

Eventually play got underway at 3.30pm with both sides creating early chances, although neither could direct their efforts on goal. The breakthrough came for Nairn after the half hour mark when Liam Shewan reacted well to a shot on goal and was able to head the ball into the net.

In what was a cagey first half, Fort William were doing a good job of stifling the



Scott Hunter blasts his penalty kick past Nairn goalkeeper James Kendall.

Photos: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

County forwards and goalkeeper Mateusz Kulbacki was having another solid game.

Less than 10 minutes into the second half, the Fort were offered a chance to draw level when John Treasurer was fouled in the box and the referee pointed to the penalty spot. Scott Hunter stepped up and smashed the spot-kick into the net to tie the match.

Unfortunately for the Fort, Nairn responded strongly and within three minutes had pulled ahead again, courtesy of a Josh Knowles own goal. Within another minute, Nairn had a penalty which Dylan MacKenzie converted to extend the visitors' lead to two.

The Fort players refused to

lie down, however, and in the 67th minute they managed to pull a goal back when Treasurer headed home.

However, seven minutes later MacKenzie made it 4-2 to Nairn with a scrappy finish, before Seamus McConaghy and Max Ewan scored another two in the final 10 minutes.

MacMorran said: 'It's the best display I've seen from the guys.'

'Obviously we're disappointed with the result but it's probably the best football we've played this season. We went 1-0 down against the run of play but the boys responded to the half-time team talk and showed that battling spirit and kept on going.'

FOOTBALL

He continued: 'Teams in the past have come down expecting to win but now both Cove and Nairn recently have been made to work very hard for the result.'

MacMorran was especially pleased to include under 17 players Sam MacKenzie and Kyle Dignan in the matchday squad.

The Fort remain rooted to the bottom of the league table with -7 points, following the points deduction earlier in the season. This Saturday they take on Fraserburgh at Claggan Park.

All of Fort William's remaining three matches are at home.

Jags leave it late to beat Belleaire

FOOTBALL

Belleaire	5
South Lochaber Thistle	6
GGPL Division Two	

South Lochaber Thistle needed three minutes of added time to beat Belleaire, despite being 3-0 up in the first half.

The home side had made a remarkable second-half comeback, after Andrew MacLean, Danny MacKintosh and a Belleaire own goal put the visiting Jags ahead.

However, the Kinlochleven-based side found themselves 5-3 down in the 78th minute.

A Sean Noble penalty and then a Martin Munro goal tied the scores again going into the final two minutes of injury time.

The winner came from one of the last kicks of the ball, with Kieran Lopez stepping up to give his side a dramatic win.

Saints in West Cup semi-final

Oban Saints face a tough task when they travel to New Douglas Park, Hamilton on Saturday to take on Scottish Amateur Cup holders Shortlees from Kilmarnock in the semi-final of the West of Scotland Cup. Kick-off is 2pm.



The Fort's John Treasurer is fouled by Dylan MacKenzie as he takes aim at the Nairn goal.



RAYMOND MEARN'S

Confessions of a control freak!

One of Scotland's finest stand up comedians is back on tour with a new full length show!

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