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Mull movie extras are told ransom wages will be paid

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Out-of-pocket film extras still owed wages from a multi-million-pound psychological thriller shot on Mull will get paid soon, says movie boss Karim Tshibangu.

A number of islanders who got roles as extras and location assistants while Shepherd was being filmed earlier this year have found themselves caught up in a wage wrangle after an unhappy film crew took raw footage and camera equipment hostage on the last day of the shoot.

Some locals have been paid what is owed, others have received some of their money but there are still those on Mull who have received no wages at all and it has been a talking point of Everything Mull's Facebook page.

This week Mr Tshibangu said sorry to anyone on the island who is waiting for money but blamed it on the film crew.

He said their haul of footage and cameras also included

some people's invoices and details of what had been paid and what had not.

'It was in a dropbox but we simply do not have access to that information. We didn't have a clue who had been paid or who had not. Anyone

'We found people in that part of the world very welcoming and very honest. We don't want to offend or upset anyone on Mull by not paying them. That would be sad.'

who has not been paid needs to resend their invoice to me.

'What we are trying to do is to collect all the invoices and then make it in one big payment,' he said.

Mr Tshibangu said his production firm Castle Valley Films, whose parent firm Golden Crab Film

Productions operates out of Pinewood Studios, had recently received refunds from some locations and accommodation places on Mull who had mistakenly been paid twice or even three times over.

'We found people in that part of the world very welcoming and very honest. We have had some refunds from people who have been paid twice, three times. We would have been none the wiser.

'We don't want to offend or upset anyone on Mull by not paying them. That would be sad. I apologise for that.'

The cast and crew of Shepherd spent almost eight weeks on Mull from January this year. During the shoot, a £250,000 fake cottage was built but had to be removed at the end. The stone-like cottage, with just scaffolding inside, was actually designed and made in a studio in Glasgow before being transported by road to Oban, then by ferry to Craignure.

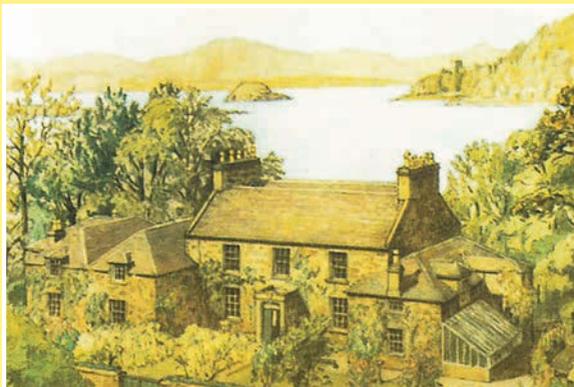
Continued on page two.



Eggs-tra special delivery for Easter!

Staff at Oban's M&S raised a smile this week by donating a selection of Easter eggs to Hope Kitchen. The charity's Beth Campbell said: 'It's wonderful and very kind. A big thank you to M&S for supporting us once again.' The store regularly supports Hope by

providing food donations weekly. However, your help is still needed and valued. Hope's stocks of tinned vegetables, tinned meat and meals such as stews and curries are running low. Cereals are also on the wish list for donations, particularly small pots of porridge.



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OT

Alison traces family's links to Oban Times

by David McPhee
dmphee@obantimes.co.uk



A woman on a mission to retrace her family's footsteps visited Oban for the first time last week.

Alison Cameron is the great-great-granddaughter of Duncan Cameron senior, who was best known for purchasing The Oban Times in 1882.

Alison arrived in town last Thursday and visited the former Oban Times building on the Esplanade, which is now home to Oban's War and Peace Museum. However, the building still boasts the original sign.

'This is my first time in Oban ... it only took me 46 years,' Alison laughed.

When asked how it feels to be standing outside the building, she said: 'It feels magic. There is something emotional about being in the footsteps of your ancestors. Oban has really



preserved all the key buildings. I am on a Cameron fact-finding year. I got in touch with my second cousins and we are

piecing all the family history together.'

Alison was keen to delve into the family's past. After

Alison Cameron is the great-great-granddaughter of former Oban Times owner Duncan Cameron.

17_T16_AlisonCameron

purchasing the paper 1882, Mr Cameron's son, also called Duncan, was appointed as the editor.

He ran the paper for some time before relinquishing control to his sister Flora in order to join Macniven and Cameron – the family's stationery business.

Flora was involved in the newspaper until she died in 1958, aged 99, and her nephew Alan Cameron took over.

The Oban Times remained in the Camerons' ownership until 1976, when Alan sold the company to Johnston Press.

The Oban Times returned to being a family-run newspaper in 1983, when its current owner, Howard Bennett of Wyvex Media, bought it.

Alison's fact-finding trip was organised by her husband, Jason Suckley, who booked it as a Christmas present.

The couple brought their children, Eva and Jake, on the four-night holiday to Oban.

Alison runs a bookshop and Jason is the CEO of the charity Make a Wish UK.

'They are loving it,' Alison said. 'I have been looking at house prices,' she laughed.

'Jake's middle name is Cameron, so it runs through the family. I love it so much, so I kept my maiden name.'

Jason echoed Alison's enthusiasm. He said: 'We have been all over the world and I don't think I have seen a more beautiful landscape.'

The family, who live in Buckingham an hour from London, were also keen to get over to Lismore to visit the monument dedicated to Duncan Cameron senior's son Waverley, who drowned there.

Film extras are told wages will be paid

Continued from page one.

'By next week everybody should have been paid and then we will start to edit the film.'

'If all goes well and the issues are resolved, then the film could be released early next year,' said Mr Tshibangu.

Stars in the film include Tom Hughes who is Prince Albert in ITV's hit show Victoria.

Award-winning actors Greta Scacchi and Game of Thrones' Kate Dickie are its other big names.

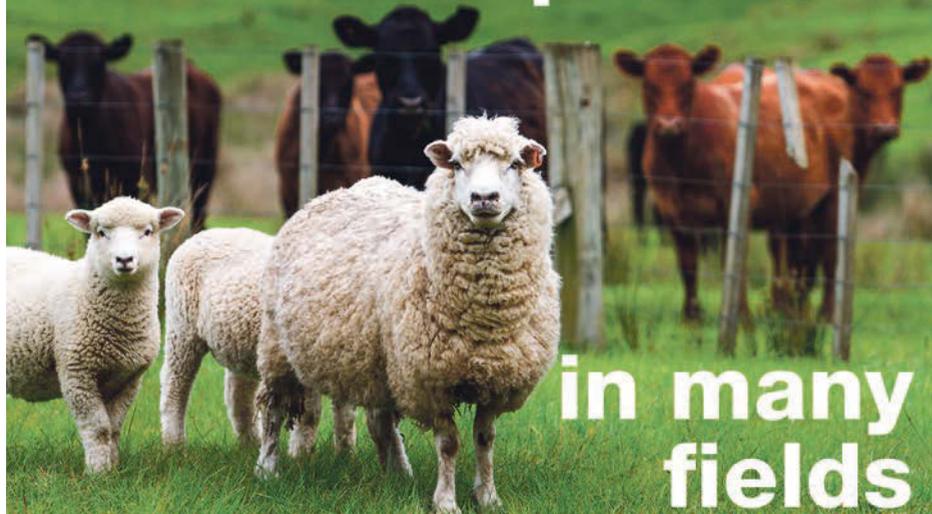
Nerve-jangling Shepherd weaves an eerie tale about a distraught widower who moves to a remote island to start a new life looking after sheep but when strange things start happening to him he is unsure whether his mind is playing tricks or if they are real.

Anyone still waiting for wages should email their invoices to karim@gcfilm production.com

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Golden eagle death prompts alert

Sea eagles could threaten the future of Scotland's iconic golden eagle as well as traditional hill farming, according to a farming union.

The warning comes after a golden eagle was killed by a sea eagle at Kilniver, near Oban.

Farmer Colin MacFadyen was on his lambing rounds at Clachan Farm on April 5 when he noticed a sea eagle pecking the body of a newborn lamb which had been alive a few hours earlier. Around two feet away was the body of a golden eagle.

Mr MacFadyen's father is NFU Scotland Environment and Land Use chairman Angus MacFadyen, who said: 'This incident is another stark reminder of the invasive and dangerous effects sea eagles have had in some areas since they were reintroduced into



A golden eagle was killed by a sea eagle.

Scotland. Sea eagle predation of lambs is a serious issue for hill farmers like myself, not just around Oban but throughout the West Coast and the islands.

'It is our lives and businesses which feel the devastating effects of losing livestock to these apex predators with little to no recourse to stop it.

'With sea eagle predation so widespread in these areas, it is difficult for farmers to maintain the centuries-old tradition of self-sufficient hefted breeding flocks on these hill farms.

'These systems are vital to farmers and crofters in these areas and need to be maintained.'

Seek out Easter fun at Dalavich egg hunt

Best bonnets and an Easter egg hunt are just some of the bank holiday fun events lined up for all the family at Dalavich Community Centre this Monday.

Other activities from noon until 4pm include table top stalls to browse, karaoke and crafts. There will also be a

raffle, barbecue, refreshments and cakes.

Some table spaces are still available for £10 or £5 for charities. Interested? Call 01866 833357 or 07919 017002.

The spring fair is being organised by Kilchrenan and Dalavich Churches

Improvement Fund with Messy Church.

Anyone who cannot wait until Monday to kick off the Easter break can have a go at pitting their general knowledge against others at a quiz at Dalavich Social Club tonight, Thursday April 18, starting at 8pm.

POLICE FILES

Theft of oil

Between October 1, 2018, and March 23, 2019, a quantity of heating oil was stolen from a tank in the garden of a house that was Portnahaven Primary School.

Woman arrested

At about 8.20pm on Wednesday April 10, outside Tesco in Oban, a woman aged 18 was arrested for behaving in an abusive manner. The woman was subsequently charged with the offence and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Abusive behaviour

At about 11.30pm on Thursday April 11, in Shore Street, Oban, a man aged 29 was arrested for behaving in an abusive manner. He was charged and issued with a recorded police warning.

Dangerous driver

At about 10am on Friday April 12, on the A85 near Cruachan Power Station, there was a collision between a red Subaru and black Audi. As a result of inquiries carried out at the scene, a man aged 81 was charged with dangerous driving and a man aged 53 was charged with careless driving. There were no serious injuries as a result of the collision and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Theft from house

Between 11.30am on Monday April 8 and 7pm on Friday April 12, a house on the A85 near to Glen Park, Connel, was broken into and a quantity of cash and jewellery were stolen.

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

Thief stole cash from charity pot

A heartless thief has stolen £30 from the Glengorm Wildlife Project honesty box situated withing Glengorm Visitor Centre on Mull.

The cash went missing sometime between Sunday afternoon and Monday lunchtime.

'This is the first time in two years of running the honesty shop that this has happened,' said a wildlife project spokesperson. I am so disappointed that someone would do this.'

Council tax bill leaves Oban resident enraged

by David McPhee
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk



An Oban resident has hit out after receiving the wrong council tax bill twice, saying: 'Those responsible for this mess deserve to be sacked.'

David Gallant wrote to The Oban Times to voice his anger over the expensive bills from Argyll and Bute Council – and he wasn't the only person to receive an inflated invoice.

A spokesperson for the council said its single persons discount was reviewed in January and if no response was made, this would have resulted in the discount being revoked.

Mr Gallant said: 'This year I received an incorrect council tax bill. The council have now sent me an amended bill, but it is still incorrect.'

It took three attempts for the council to issue him with



Councillor Elaine Robertson, left, and Marri Malloy.

a correct sum. Third time lucky? No, council tax bills should not rely on luck,' he added.

'I have now received a third council tax bill and they have actually got it right.

'It would be helpful if you could get council tax bills right first time. Sending amended bills that are still incorrect is totally unacceptable.

'What about bills sent to



customers with learning difficulties? Or suffering from dementia? Who will check their council tax bills for them?

'I suggest never to pay council tax bills by direct debit. Since they are incapable of issuing correct council tax bills, you might well find you are paying too much and it will take many weeks to put things right.

'Those responsible for this

mess deserve to be sacked.' Mr Gallant wasn't the only person to receive an inflated bill. At the end of March, one person, who usually pays £112, took to social media after Argyll and Bute Council took £729 from her bank account.

Another complained of a £600 bill, but stated it was because they had not filled out a form to continue their single person discount.

However, another said the council tried to take £456 from their dad, despite handing in the forms in November.

Chairwoman of Oban Community Council Marri Malloy said: 'I think it is something that should be looked at. To get it wrong twice is just ridiculous.

'It has given me food for thought. It means I will check it from now on and make sure it is right.'

Councillor for Oban North

and Lorn Elaine Robertson said: 'It is always unfortunate when members of the public receive an unexpected council tax bill. This does cause great concern and is upsetting, but I understand that those involved have been in contact with the department and the issues have been resolved.'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'In January, we undertook a single person discount (SPD) review. Certain recipients of the discount will have received a letter requesting information about their current circumstances. If no response was made to the first or second reminder letters, the SPD would have been removed and civil penalties applied, both of which will have increased the amount due. Anyone concerned about tax bills can call 01546 605511 or email ctax1@argyll-bute.gov.uk



Peppa Pig and Micky Mouse both attended last year's event. 16_T23_CharitiesDay07

Carnival theme for Oban Charities Day

Organisers of June's Charities Day in Oban have come up with a carnival theme to get the party started.

People are being encouraged to get dressed up then get on down and join in the parade on Saturday June 1, leaving the Corran Halls at 1pm.

Oban and Lorn Lions Club wants it to be the biggest and best day yet in the event's history and is reminding would-be stallholders to get in touch quickly.

'With just seven weeks to go, space for stalls in Station

Square is filling up fast, so anyone who is thinking of joining us needs to get in touch quickly,' said Jim Edge from the Lions.

It costs £25 to have a stall on the day.

There will be three prizes for the best in parade and there will also be a best-dressed stall winner.

Application forms are available either from Hannah's Newsagent in Stevenson Street, be emailing obanandlornlionsclub@gmail.com or via the club's Facebook page.

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OT

Design unveiled for memorial to Eilidh

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

The design for the permanent memorial to the Isle of Barra's Eilidh MacLeod, who died in the 2017 Manchester Arena attack, has been unveiled by the trust set up in her memory.

Eilidh, 14, was one of the 22 people killed by a terrorist's bomb following an Ariana Grande concert. Her friend Laura MacIntyre survived but was badly injured.

Trustees said that the 'very special' memorial design is intended to reflect Eilidh's love of music, particularly the bagpipes, and her willingness to support others in the island community where she grew up.

Eilidh, who was immensely proud to be a member of the Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band, loved to play her pipes at community events in Barra and Watersay.



The memorial to Eilidh, who was killed in the Manchester Arena bombing.

The striking sculpture, designed by Essex-based Jenna Gearing, will feature a young female bagpiper with her pipes at rest. The young woman is reaching out her hand to a young boy who is also learning to play the instrument.



The bronze, life-size sculpture is to be located in a newly created memorial garden overlooking Watersay on the Isle of Barra, where Eilidh lived.

Now the design has been agreed, Jenna is busy casting her work with the aim of it

being established on the island in 2020.

Suzanne White, founder of Eilidh's Trust, said: 'Our intention for the sculpture of a young female piper is to ensure Eilidh's life and her legacy are celebrated appropriately. The design has really captured her spirit and created a striking memorial to a very special young girl.'

'It is a beautiful design which honours the community values of unity, love, support and a willingness to help others while at the same time capturing Eilidh's passion for music.'

Suzanne added: 'Our intention is that the memorial will provide the communities of Barra and Watersay and those from further afield with a place of quiet reflection and inspiration.'

Funding for the sculpture was donated from the Ardonagh Community Trust (ACT), the charitable foundation

of The Ardonagh Group, of which Eilidh's aunt, Margaret MacNeil, was an employee.

Eilidh's father Roddy said: 'As a family, losing Eilidh in such a cruel way was truly horrific. We could never adequately thank all the individuals, the communities and Eilidh's friends who gave us so much love and support in our time of need and indeed continue to do so, especially when they were hurting too.'

'Forming Eilidh's Trust and working together with Jenna along with family and friends on Barra has been an uplifting and positive experience for us all. We are incredibly grateful to both ACT and Jenna for their commitment and passion in supporting Eilidh's legacy and the resilient community in which she was raised.'

Jenna Gearing said she was 'incredibly privileged' to be part of such an important memorial.

Dangerous driver given ban from road

A Campbeltown man who drove dangerously through Connel while under the influence of alcohol has been banned from driving.

Gordon McShannon, of 62 Milknowe, Campbeltown, previously pleaded guilty to driving dangerously on the A85 at Connel on February 24 of this year by failing to observe an oncoming vehicle and driving into its path, causing it to take evasive action.

The 67-year-old also admitted to being almost four times over the drink driving limit. He had 86 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 milliliters of breath, when the legal limit is 22mg in 100ml. He was sentenced on April 10 at Oban Sheriff Court.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'These are very serious offences, but you are coming before the court as a first offender and have displayed remorse.' Sheriff Hughes fined McShannon £1,000 and disqualified him for 16 months.

Apologising power provider says sorry with



Islanders on Colonsay who were left without power for two days are being offered £10 each to buy lunch when their supply is cut again next week.

Compensation will be paid to every home affected by the loss of power on Wednesday April 24 from 9am to 5pm while essential work is carried out.

The work is to fit a change-over switch on the mobile generators currently being used to keep Colonsay powered until the underwater cable fault can be fixed.

The switch means the island's supply can be restored more quickly if one of the generators fails.

Power provider Scottish and Southern Electricity

Networks (SSEN) has also promised lessons learned from the 48-hour outage earlier this month are identified, logged and fed into the community emergency plan for all community groups in the Argyll and Bute and West Dunbartonshire Local Resilience Partnership area.

The firm said all properties affected by the interruption to their supplies earlier this month caused by a faulty underwater cable will be compensated for the inconvenience caused.

Initial inspections of the cable are now complete and SSEN has contracted a specialist vessel to carry out more investigations to identify the exact location of the

fault and find out the extent of repair work required.

Until the cable is back working, islanders are getting their power via mobile diesel generators, said a spokesperson for SSEN.

Last week representatives from SSEN and CalMac met key business and community members to discuss and review its resilience plans for the island.

SSEN agreed at the meeting to help further develop the community emergency plan and identify where SSEN resilience funding could benefit customers living and working on the island.

Samantha O'Connor, regional customer relationship manager at SSEN, said: 'We



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Mull and Port Appin among top 10 places

by David McPhee
dmcphee@obantimes.co.uk



Mull and Port Appin have been chosen as being among the best places to live in Scotland, according to The Sunday Times.

Ten Scottish locations were named in the Best Places to Live guide, with Dundee taking the top spot.

The guide is created by using statistics, including up to date house prices, but also the knowledge of The Sunday Times' expert panel. The judges combine the data with their own on-the-ground experience and insight to ensure the chosen locations are places where everyone can thrive.

Port Appin features thanks to 'breathtaking scenery that provides fabulous opportunities for walking, cycling and sailing, and welcoming community spirit'.



The scenery on Mull was described as 'breathtaking'. t16_Mull01

Dr Iain McNicol, who has lived in Port Appin for more than 50 years, said: 'It is a great place to live. It is beautiful and a very friendly community. One of the nice things is that the people actually like and support each other.'

Dr McNicol took over as the Appin GP from his father in 1980. His favourite part of Port Appin is the walk round Clach Thoull. 'It's the gem of Port Appin,' he said.

However, the The Sunday Times said the scenery 'is even

more breathtaking on Mull', which was the only island on this year's list.

Best known as the setting for children's TV favourite Balamory, the judges described it as the perfect Goldilocks option: not too

remote, not too busy, and perfectly Scottish from its white-sand beaches to its gorse-covered slopes and Munro-sized peak, Ben More.

Alexandra Stevens, who recently moved back to the island to open The Gallery Cafe in Tobermory, said: 'What makes Mull a special place to live? There are so many reasons I chose to reside here.'

'Watching the sun come up over Tobermory Harbour. The view of Ben Hiant from the lighthouse path. The sheer and overwhelming beauty on those rare sunny days when colours radiate and waters glisten.'

'It's feeling valued and purposeful. It's support and opportunity. Real bottom-up development and community-led change. It's friendships formed at school that last a lifetime and memories of a childhood spent outdoors.'

Guest house on Skye is one of world's best

Tripadvisor has included a small guesthouse on Skye in its top 25 list of places to stay in the world.

Luxury Hillstone Lodge at Colbost overlooks Loch Dunvegan and offers guests a full breakfast and dinner if they are booked in advance as well as fluffy bath towels, bath robes and toiletries.

The modern building was designed by award-winning architects Rural Design in Portree and is said to be reflecting the traditions and the heritage of the Isle of Skye.

According to Tripadvisor, it reports its travellers saying the energy efficient lodge, built using green construction technology, is one of the best.

It scored an excellent rating from its 412 reviews.

Also on the top 25 list of guest houses worldwide are bed and breakfast establishments in the Yukon, South Africa, Italy, New Zealand and Morocco – and a former jailhouse in Illinois.

th a free lunch

Representatives from SSEN and CalMac with key community representatives from Colonsay.



Saturday saw the first Oban town market of 2019. 17_T16_ObanTownMarket01

Sun shines on year's opening town market

would like to thank local community representatives from Colonsay for their time to discuss positively and constructively how we can support the community and build their resilience for the future.

'We are now doing everything we can to restore the network to normal operations as soon as possible. We will continue to provide regular updates to the community to ensure everyone is kept informed of our progress.'

Anyone who takes up the £10 compensation offer on April 24 needs to claim it back by sending a receipt to Samantha O'Connor, SSEN Perth Depot, Ruthvenfield Way, Inveralmond Industrial Estate, Perth, PH1 3AF.

Vendors were blessed with blue skies on Saturday at the first Oban town market of the year.

Now in its third year, the monthly event is organised by BID4Oban and runs from April until September.

Produce such as meat and seafood, as well as arts and crafts, can be bought.

Andrew Spence, chief executive of BID4Oban, said: 'Trade was brisk with locals and visitors taking advantage of some of the great range of goods on display.'

'The sun shone but it was very windy. This is the third year that BID4Oban has organised town markets and there were new vendors who have joined the market.'

'BID4Oban is still receiving inquiries for this year's markets and it is hoped that the number of stall-holders will increase throughout the year. Any potential vendors should contact BID4Oban at the office on Stevenson Street.'

The market will return on May 25 at Oban's Station Square.

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OT

24 projects celebrate grant funding windfall

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A pot of £25,250 will be distributed around 24 local projects approved by Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee last Wednesday.

Three projects will receive the maximum possible £2,500 allocation from Argyll and Bute Council's Supporting Communities Fund (SCF) with a further 21 splitting the remaining £17,750 between them.

A report detailing recommendations for the SCF awards to Third Sector organisations for Oban, Lorn and the Isles was submitted to the committee at the special meeting.

After full debate and consideration, the council decided to make some amendments to the original report in which 11 projects were set to receive no share of the fund

due to their failure to achieve a high enough criteria score.

Projects to be given the full £2,500 allocation are the Oban Winter Festival, The Roses Charitable Trust and Craignure Recreational Activity Facility Team.

The recommended Oban Winter Festival grant is listed as being for entertainers and workshop costs, with the report adding: 'A grant is recommended to be released upon confirmation of what the workshops will be and that they meet grant conditions.'

Footprint Alba's request for a £2,498 grant for 'installation of local beach boards in Oban reminding the public about marine litter and encouraging litter picks', was reduced to £1,500 to be distributed on the condition that they are granted advertising consent and they take full responsibility for the

ongoing maintenance of the boards.

The boards will be sited at the three areas adopted by Hope Kitchen, the Scouts and Park Primary School to support their efforts.

Mull Museum's grant of £1,000, £1,500 less than the amount requested, will be used for a two-week programme of archaeological works, while the Oban Gaelic Choir, who were denied an award in the recommendations, will now receive £242 towards the cost of their performance at a festival in the Estonian capital of Tallinn in July.

Oban Communities Trust received the same amount of funding towards the running of three weeks of workshops aimed at encouraging young people to make Christmas presents instead of buying them.

Speaking on completion of

the lengthy process, Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee chairperson, Councillor Elaine Robertson, said: 'We have discussed these recommendations long and hard and we, as a committee are minded to give every applicant something.'

'Doing this will go a long way to helping these organisations achieve funding from other sources.'

Full SCF grant awards for 2019/2020 are as follows: Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust (ACT) - £1,250; Air Ghleus - £242; Argyll RDA Carriage Driving Group - £1,650; Bookends Festival (Benderloch) - £400; Coisir Ghaidhlig an Obain (Oban Gaelic Choir) - £242; Comunn Ghaidhealach an Obain (Oban Mòd Academy) - £1,000; Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile (Mull Junior Mòd Club) - £500; C0-Roinn Ghaidhlig Mhuile

agus Idhe (Mull and Iona Gaelic Partnership) - £500; Craignure Recreational Activity Facility Team (Craft) - £2,500; Crossroads North Argyll - £750; Footprint Alba - £1,500; Friends of Kilbride - £1,231; Glencruitten Cathedral of Trees - £1,250; Grab Trust - £242; Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust - £242; Hope Kitchen - £2,300; Mull Museum - £1,000; Oban Communities Trust (The Rockfield Centre) - £242; Oban Winter Festival - £2,500; Oban Youth Cafe - £750; Project Trust - £1,976; Roses Charitable Trust - £2,500; Seil Island Community Hall Charity - £241; Sound Waves SCIO - £242.

Grants will only be awarded funding on receipt of the correct paperwork and an end of project monitoring form if a grant was awarded in previous year.

Teenage

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Islay airport firefighter Donald MacGill has helped make history ... at just 18.

As well as being the youngest firefighter to be employed by Highlands and Islands Airports Limited, he also marshalled in Islay's first flight from Edinburgh.

On days off from the airport, Donald is up and out at 7am to help his grandfather on the family's farms and croft.

Until he joined the fire service full-time at the end of January, he had never stayed away from home before.

He spent three weeks training in Inverness and since then has been on other courses in Fort William and Oban, receiving hands-on experience with breathing apparatus and learning health and safety skills.

Donald is also about to sit his HGV test so he will be able to drive fire engines on call-outs, although working on farms means he already

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Cruise ship visit is just put on hold

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



WHERE IS THIS?



I've just added a whole string of events in the Corran Halls to Oban Town Diary and I'd love to go to all of them.

Between the Corran Halls, The View, Oban Phoenix Cinema and the live music

round the town, I think I could go out at least twice a week quite happily.

I don't know if being responsible for adding events to Oban Town Diary is a good thing or a bad thing to be honest, but I love knowing what's happening in the town but it also means I'm not home very much.

Adding your event online is really simple but if you have any problems just pop a poster into the BID4Oban office on Stevenson Street or email me with a picture or poster and details at kay@bid4oban.co.uk.

The photo last week was above the door of the tourist office. Beautiful, isn't it?

This week I've decided to really challenge you, so good luck.

Public given say in future of Dunollie Wood

Members of the public are being invited to drop in to the Corran Halls on Thursday May 9 to meet the new custodians of Dunollie Wood.

Hosted by Woodland Trust Scotland, the event will run from 3-7pm in order to give everyone a chance to go along and have their say on what they would, and would not,

like to see happen within the 80-acre ancient woodland on the edge of Oban.

A Woodland Trust spokesperson said: 'People can find out how they can get involved in helping look after the wood and other ways they can support us. People can drop in any time - bring the children and have a cuppa.'

The event is free but booking would help the trust prepare for the day. Book at www.woodlandtrust/events or call 0330 333 3300.

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

Islay firefighter makes history



Donald MacGill is the youngest firefighter employed by Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd.

has his tractor and trailer licence, giving him a head start.

Mum Jacqueline said: 'He's a wee grafter. We're all very proud of him.'

Donald initially joined the fire cadets - after leaving Islay High School he had

followed his farming passion. He has also worked as a lifeguard at Mactaggart Leisure Centre in Bowmore.

Donald said: 'We've just started a new rota, four days on and four days off. When I'm not at the airport, I'm working on the farm. Both

jobs are just as important to me. Marshalling in the first flight from Edinburgh with a dozen or so passengers aboard was quite an honour.'

Islay station manager Niall Colthart said: 'Donald has done well in the few short months since he joined

the Highlands and Islands Airports fire service. He is keen to learn and is set to gain his qualification to drive the station fire appliance.

'We hope he will progress in the service and enjoy a successful career.'

Former Oban tall ship sinks in Tenerife marina

A former Oban fishing vessel that was converted into a tall ship has sunk in Tenerife.

The Jean de la Lune was photographed underwater moored at Marina San Miguel with its masts removed.

The French wooden fishing vessel was built in 1957, before being converted in the mid-1970s.

More recently, she was used for sail training and, at the time of the sinking, she was used as a moored hotel run by The Tall Ship Experience.

However, since the sinking, all content has been removed from the website.

Peter Redshaw, who used to live in Craobh Haven, was on holiday in Tenerife on April 5

and went to visit the ship. He said: 'JDL was a vessel which ran out of Oban in the late 80s.

It is rather sad to see the ship capsized and her masts sawn off. Whether she will ever be refurbished is not known.

'It was high tide so she was underwater in such a sorry state. The masts had to be removed as they were leaning over the quay. This happened two weeks ago and on inquiring I was unable to find out how the accident occurred.'

An old crowdfunding page titled Jean de la Lune - The Tall Ship Renovation can be seen online, which asked for £150,000. However, after raising just £18, the fundraiser was closed.



The Jean de la Lune sank in Marina San Miguel.



From the left are Andrew Spence, Linda Battison, Daniel Gillespie and Ann Murray Fraser.

Trio join forces for tourism exhibition

Last week BID4Oban, Oban and Lorn Tourism Alliance (OLTA) and Oban Live exhibited at the VisitScotland Expo at Glasgow's SEC.

This is the first time the three groups have joined forces to exhibit and promote the town as a destination to the many UK and overseas tour operators.

Over the two-day event, which was attended by thousands of tour operators, the group engaged with many interested parties employed within the industry.

There were many appointments pre-booked prior to the event and the team had hundreds of interactions with operators who want to bring visitors to Oban and the

surrounding area. There were hundreds of exhibitors from all sectors of the industry from sole tour operators, hotels, travel companies and many key towns and cities across Scotland.

The event was highly successful and the main message coming from those wanting to visit the area was they want unique travel experiences, bespoke tours and good quality accommodation.

There were a large amount of operators from the Chinese, Indian, Japanese and European markets.

Linda Battison (OLTA) and Andrew Spence (BID) commented how successful the event was 'not only in understanding our future markets

but also what our visitors of the future are wanting'.

'There are huge opportunities for everyone involved in tourism in Oban and Lorn.'

Planning for next year's event has already begun and plans are being drawn up to bring all operators from Argyll and Bute into one area of the exhibition to provide a one-stop shop for potential buyers.

'There is also a need to ensure that we gain improved support for funding and promotion from Argyll and Bute Council,' added Mr Spence.

'Many areas are heavily subsidised by their councils and this in turn improves the economic prosperity for the area.'

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OT

Historic church site heartened by new funding

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A charity preserving a historic church site near Oban is celebrating a £7,000 grant to help it get rid of invading ivy.

Urgent repairs to save the 18th century memorial aisle at Historic Kilbride in Lerags Glen, which includes removing ivy, have already started but the whole conservation project, covering three phases of works, will cost around £300,000 and take years to complete.

Friends of Kilbride have already raised more than £7,000 through their own fundraising but say a first generous grant of a further £7,000 from Carrraig Gheal Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund is 'heartening'.

Friends' chairman Seymour Adams said: 'It's a big vote of

trust in our charity. We are very grateful for that and hope it will now be the first of many more to come.'

The group is hoping other bids to the Oban Common Good Fund, the Crerar Trust, Scottish Sea Farms, the Robertson Trust, Historic Environment Scotland and eventually the Heritage Lottery Fund will also reap success.

The whole site, including the prayer house, more than 300 gravestones – with some dating back to medieval times – and the memorial aisle where MacDougall chiefs and notable family members have been buried since Jacobean times, is about to be recognised as a scheduled monument of national importance.

Hundreds of MacDougalls are expected to descend on Oban this summer in time for

a worldwide clan gathering and many of them will be making a pilgrimage to the Kilbride site.

Built in 1786, the walls of the memorial aisle bear the marble stones of many MacDougalls, recounting the history of the clan and its place in the history of Argyll, but a recent catastrophic collapse of one of its walls meant desperate action was needed to save it and make sure people can keep visiting it safely.

'Work has started and we want to get it as spic and span as we can in time for the MacDougalls gathering as we can,' said Mr Adams.

Removing the ivy is the first phase of works to be carried out. The second stage will be rebuilding the church's end wall and then the third stage will see a sprouting sycamore fully taken away.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



It is nearly two years since Eilidh MacLeod from Barra lost her life in the Manchester Arena attack and in that time the sense of needless cruelty surrounding her loss has not diminished.

Last week, the Eilidh MacLeod Memorial Trust, a charity formed in her memory, revealed the design for a permanent memorial to Eilidh to be erected on Barra. A Highland dancer and piper, Eilidh's musical gifts and encouraging character are to be symbolised by the sculpture.

The press release from the trust that accompanied the unveiling of the design read: 'The design is intended to reflect Eilidh's love of music, particularly the bagpipes, and her willingness to support others in the island community where she grew up.'

'Eilidh loved to play her pipes at community events in Barra and Vatersay. She was also immensely proud to be a member of the Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band which includes children from throughout the

Uists and Barra. The bronze, life-size sculpture is to be located in a newly created memorial garden overlooking Vatersay on the Isle of Barra in the Western Isles where Eilidh lived.'

Having got to know Eilidh's family over the past year, I have been deeply impressed by the dignity, wisdom and strength they have shown and continue to show in these terrible circumstances.

Life is a fleeting flame on a vast ocean, but memory can give continued meaning to the lives of those who have left this world. A permanent memorial is a fitting way to remember a bright and talented young girl whose life was taken long before it should have been and in such a tragically cruel way.

Funding for the sculpture, which is a major project, was donated from the Ardonagh Community Trust and the Eilidh MacLeod Memorial Trust continues to fundraise towards the completion of the memorial and for the ongoing work of the charity.

Last year, mainly through generous donations from the public and from the proceeds of the download release of the song Wishing Well, Skipinnish contributed £6,048.94 towards charity. In comparison to the overall costs, this is a tiny amount, but we were very happy to help in a very small way.

With this in mind, we will again be joining Team Eilidh for the running events in Manchester and Edinburgh on May 19 and 26.

Tomorrow evening (Friday April 19) we will be launching a Justgiving page and again will be hoping to raise some money for the charity through sponsorship. There will be a link set up on our Facebook page and any donations large or small will be greatly appreciated.

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Rockfield's pane and gain

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Contemporary glass specialists and recycling crusaders Gail and Colin Goodall have come up with a smashing idea to put something back into the community.

The couple have reclaimed the broken windows from the former Rockfield Primary School and will make them into bespoke items to be given back to the new Rockfield Centre to sell.

Owners of Highland Glass, the artistic duo will celebrate 10 years of their business this December. But although the Lower Dunollie-based firm enjoys steady custom, Gail admits that it will never make them millionaires.

'It's very much a labour of love for us and seeing the pleasure that our work gives others brings its own rewards,' she said.

'When the opportunity arose to buy Rockfield community shares a few years back we would have loved to have bought some as it is a



fantastic project which will benefit a great many people.

'Everything we make gets invested back into the business, however, and we just couldn't afford it.

'Having travelled to various places to look at different techniques we became quite passionate about recycling, so when we got the glass from the Rockfield Centre we knew exactly what we wanted to do with it.'

Gail and Colin plan to make the Rockfield glass into commemorative items before handing them back so that they can be sold on as an original Rockfield pieces.

The couple have also made decorations from glass reclaimed from Mull and Lochgilphead Church Hall, as well as making jewellery incorporating the ashes of someone's much loved pet.

Almost 90 per cent of items

that the pair produce are made from reclaimed glass.

Gail and Colin Goodall are passionate about the art of glass and the therapeutic benefits that can come from working with it.

The pair have developed a real passion for their work, with both forming a love of glass from an early age.

Colin spent 30 years in the glass industry making stained glass and double-glazed windows and doors before joining Gail, who founded Highland Glass as a hobby which quickly turned into being a full-time role.

'I believe our work is more than just providing art or windows,' said Gail.

The couple also offer workshops in fused and stained glass as well as ceramics.

'Art is therapeutic and can offer so much in terms of confidence, enjoyment and stress relief,' she added.

'People are actually getting decorations that are well over 100 years old, which makes it a bit special,' added Gail.

'It takes a bit more time because reclaimed glass has to be tested and then cleaned up but we think it's worth it and the difference is that it is not going to landfill.'



Lorn and Islands Hospital is celebrating two years of its obstetric scanning service.

Many happy birth days thanks to scanner

Lorn and Islands Hospital is celebrating two years of obstetric scanning success.

A much longed-for facility in the area, the service started on April 10, 2017, allowing local women to access all the planned diagnostic and screening services that are now recommended in pregnancy, such as first trimester screening, detailed scans and growth scans.

Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) midwives are delighted that they have saved 1,749 women from having to travel to Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS hospitals

for antenatal scans. The development of the Lorn and Islands Hospital scanning service was introduced after much collaboration and teamwork between midwifery, radiology and management teams across the HSCP, as well as support received from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and across NHS Highland.

The service is also continuously audited to make sure the HSCP meets the relevant needs of Argyll and Bute families and maintaining clinical governance standards.

Catriona Dregghorn, Argyll

and Bute HSCP interim lead midwife, said: 'Women told us that this was a service that they wanted to be delivered locally and we are so pleased with its success over the past two years.'

'I would also like to highlight that we have a great team with a wide range of skills to deliver these services locally.'

Unplanned care, for example early pregnancy scans, are continuing to be provided in Glasgow as current recommendations require that they need to be provided within a designated early pregnancy service.

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OT

Job hopefuls are caught on the hop

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Jobseekers in Argyll were hopping to it this week in response to a post in the recruitment section of The Oban Times website.

In fact, the advertised role of Easter Bunny received more than 2,040 views and 185 applications in the first 24 hours, despite just being a bit of lighthearted fun thought up by HIJOBS co-founder and commercial director Laura Saunders.

By Monday the post had received 3,647 views and 330 applications.

Under the heading of Marketing and PR, the advertisement for a full time/permanent position read:

'A once in a lifetime opportunity has arisen for a spirited and fluffy individual to join our warren.

'Do you love carrots? The ideal candidate will enjoy lettuce, vegetables and of course lots of crunchy carrots.

'You will be used to small confined spaces and we expect you to have some experience of living in an underground burrow. Discretion is also key, as the live-in accommodation is, of course, in a top-secret location.



Sorry, the bunny has beaten you to it!

'The successful candidate will be expected to disguise themselves well to blend in with other bunnies hopping around in fields, meadows and parks.

'A self-starter, you will also have to lay, decorate and hide eggs all under the cover of darkness.

'A creative background would be helpful but not essential as the need to make baskets and creative appealing egg designs will be a key part of the role.

'If you think you have what it takes to make it in this magical role then please dig out your spotty bow tie and apply before the closing date on Easter Friday.'

When contacted by The Oban Times, Mrs Saunders

said: 'HIJOBS biggest challenge is to make finding a new job as easy and rewarding as possible.

'For most people, it's always been a stressful, tiresome and depressing process for both candidates and employers.

'We always strive to make it better. The Easter Bunny idea was just a bit of lighthearted fun to make some of our jobseekers smile.'

Potential bunnies were told that they could earn from £18,500 to £185,000 per annum plus bonus eggs if their application was successful.

Anyone applying however received a message stating, 'sorry, the bunny has beaten you to it!' and then prompted to 'sign up and jump start their career.



John and Jo Austin with Mike Shilson at Dervaig Community Orchard.

Funds for outdoor classroom at orchard just keep growing

A community orchard on Mull is growing funds to build its own outdoor classroom.

The no-wall classroom in Dervaig should be up and running by June.

The village orchard, now in its third year, has 150 assorted fruit trees all sponsored by supporters. There are 45 different kinds of apples and it even has some tea bushes.

Fundraising, including house concerts and village events and sales, has brought in around £3,000 towards the cost of the classroom so far.

Argyll and Bute Trust, Mull and Iona Community Trust and its Waterfall hydro fund have helped financially and, although more money is still needed, the orchard group is determined to have it up and running soon.

Mike Shilson, from the community orchard, said: 'It

will be a community build with no walls so even on a dreich day our youngsters and people can come up here and still be connected to the outside.

'From little acorns, big trees grow.'

A teacher whose friend sponsored a fruit tree at the orchard in her name, was so inspired after a visit that she created a similar orchard back at her school in a deprived area of Edinburgh.

Land for the Dervaig orchard is on a 15-year lease from the Forestry Commission, which also gave a grant towards the trees. Next to it, on the site of a former tip, is a wheelchair-friendly willow maze.

It was the orchard group which came up with the idea of a celebration day on May 3 at the village hall to promote the work of the island's many

community groups, from 3pm to 5pm.

Invites to come and showcase their work have gone out across the island and Mull Music Makers will be putting on a performance at 4.30pm, receiving donations from offering drinks and cakes.

At 5pm MSP Michael Russell will be addressing Mull Native Woodland Group's first annual general meeting.

'What we have got here on Mull is something to celebrate. What we have in Dervaig is really special but there are so many community groups doing great work that we thought lets share the celebration and promote us all,' Mr Shilson added.

Anyone interested in taking part in the May 3 celebration day can email info@mullnativewoodlandsgroup.co.uk.

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Report says Lonan Drive houses should get go-ahead

A planned housing development in Oban is on course to get the go-ahead – despite having been the subject of nearly 60 objections.

The proposals by TSL Ltd for the site at Lonan Drive were recommended for approval by an Argyll and Bute Council planning officer, subject to a pre-determination discretionary hearing.

Councillors were due to debate the plans at a meeting of the planning, protective services and licensing (PPSL) committee yesterday (Wednesday April 17).

The presence of Japanese knotweed on the site has been among the reasons listed for objection in a report prepared for the meeting by

planning officer Fiona Scott. The council has received 59 objections to the plans for 44 houses, including one from Councillor Jim Lynch, who is not a member of the PPSL committee, and one from Oban Community Council.

Ms Scott's report said: 'The site is within the established settlement area of Oban and therefore has policy support in the adopted Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan 2015. The environmental impacts of the proposal have been assessed and it is considered that any impacts can be addressed during the consideration of any subsequent approval of matters specified.'

See next week's Oban Times and www.obantimes.co.uk

Work on Fionnphort path is now on track

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Work starts next week on a £600,000 path project in Fionnphort for walking and wheeling.

As well as the path being the first section of a proposed long-distance route from Fionnphort to Craignure, which will be a key part of the Iona to St Andrews Pilgrims Way, it will also make a safe passage from the village to Creich Hall for children and adults to enjoy, away from the busy single-track roads.

The project has been spearheaded by a determined steering group of volunteers and developed in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council, Sustrans and designers Mike Hyatt Landscape Architects.

It has been funded by the Scottish Government, through Sustrans.



The new path will keep people in Fionnphort safe and will attract walkers.

Scotland's Places for Everyone, with matched funding coming from Bord na Gaidhlig and support through active travel projects delivered by Argyll and Bute Council and Mull and Iona Community Trust who got the funding.

Chairman of the Fionnphort

Path Steering Group Iain MacDougall said: 'This is a much needed and wonderful new community asset, set in our beautiful landscape beside Loch Pottie. Many people worked hard together to make this a success, including the funders, the landowners, the designers, the Community

Trust, the professional team, the contractors and our steering group.

'I take enormous pride in what our local band of people have achieved, going the extra mile to create a safe passage from the village to our hall, for our children and adults to enjoy.'

Fraser McKenzie, a parent member of the steering group, said: 'Our busy single-track roads make walking and cycling with our children very unsafe. The creation of our path, which is set in moorland, well back from the road, opens up the countryside as an accessible park for us. Our children will love using the path to get to and from the village and to visit their friends.'

Moray Finch, of Mull and Iona Community Trust, added: 'Plans for the path began six years ago based on the Ross of Mull Community Development Plan.'

'In spite of setbacks over funding, the local steering group refused to lose sight of their goal and redoubled their efforts. This success demonstrates what a united local community can achieve in today's challenging circumstances.'

Driver dies after crash near Appin

A 63-year-old man was pronounced dead at the scene following a collision on the A828 south of Appin last Thursday afternoon.

Police and ambulance crews from Oban were called to the fatal accident, which took place just 200m north of the Creagan Inn, at 4.40pm.

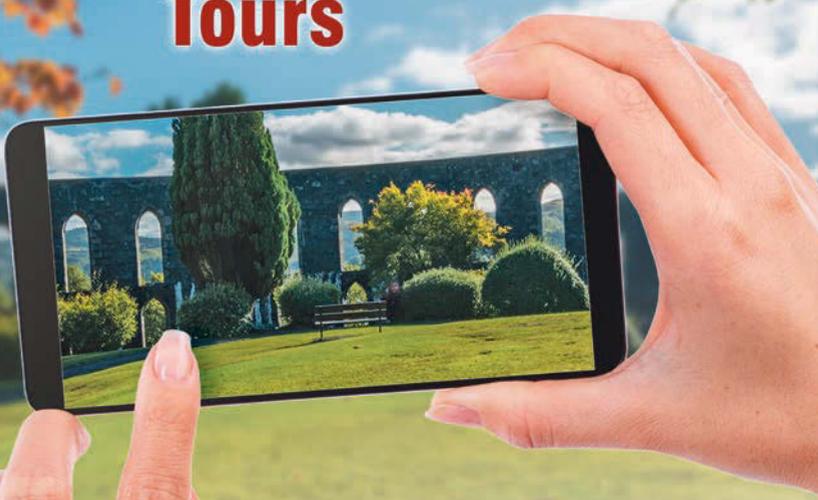
A police spokesperson said that the man, who had been driving a red Vauxhall Meriva, 'may have taken ill at the wheel'.

A Ford Ranger containing two adults and two children was also involved in the accident. Minor injuries were treated at the scene with no one requiring hospital admission.

The road was closed both ways from the time of the accident until 10.10pm while an investigation and clean-up took place.

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OT

Cross rehung in Islay war hero's church

A large wooden cross gifted to an Islay war hero Kirk minister by a Scottish school has been rehung in his former church after languishing in a cellar for nearly 20 years.

The cross was presented to Reverend Dr Donald Caskie, who helped save more than 2,000 Allied service personnel during the Second World War, by George Watson's College in Edinburgh.

Known as the Tartan Pimpernel, he played a key role in looking after the welfare of pupils taking part in an exchange programme at Lycee Henri IV in Paris in the 1950s.

The school was so impressed with the kindness of the charismatic minister who led the Scots Kirk in the French capital that it decided to give him a gift as a token of its appreciation. He chose the 8ftx5ft Christian symbol.

Pupils raised money to buy what was known as the 'Watson's Cross' in 1959 through a collection whereby each boy donated



thruppence (three pennies).

It hung behind the chancel in the Scots Kirk in Paris for around 40 years until the building was torn down and it was put into storage.

The church was rebuilt in 2002 but the cross remained in a cellar and largely forgotten about until a former pupil questioned its whereabouts.

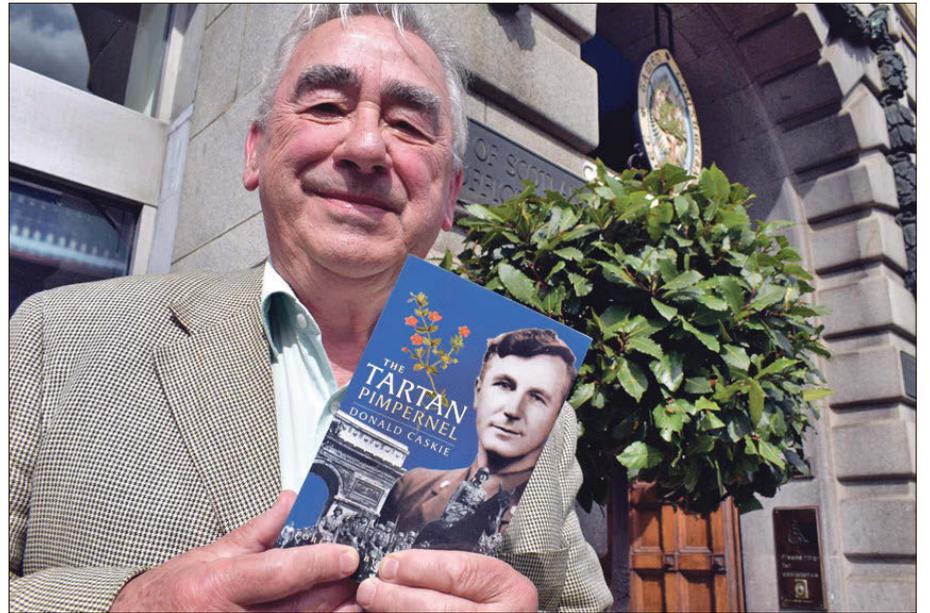
Edinburgh-born Andrew Brown, who was a Watson's pupil from 1952-63 and raised money for its pur-

chase, felt it should be on prominent public display.

He led discussions with the school, St Andrew's Church in Brussels and the Scots Kirk which led to a decision to keep the cross in Paris.

It now has pride of place above a stairwell which leads to the sanctuary and a rededication service was held on Sunday April 7.

Dr Caskie, who grew up on Islay, was the minister at the Scots Kirk from 1938-40 and 1945-1961.



Above: the Rev Dr Donald Caskie's nephew, Tom Caskie, with a book about his hero uncle; far left: Rev Dr Donald Caskie; and The cross now has pride of place above a stairwell which leads to the sanctuary. Photos: Church of Scotland.

the city. While in southern France, he refused safe passage on the last ship bound for the UK and fled to Marseille, where he ran a Seaman's Mission, living a double life and passing the close scrutiny of the Vichy Police, and helped British and Allied soldiers to freedom across mountains into Spain.

He was eventually recruited by British Intelligence officers and was told that his mission was the last link of a chain of safe houses that they had set up, which stretched from the beaches of Dunkirk to Marseille.

The crofter's son operated in the Seaman's Mission for many months until he was betrayed by a traitor.

Dr Caskie was eventually arrested by the Vichy Police, interrogated and banished

from Marseille. He moved to Grenoble where he continued to arrange for the escape of soldiers, seamen and airmen under the cover of being a university chaplain.

Dr Caskie was finally imprisoned by the Gestapo and sentenced to death.

The minister, who was given his nickname by the BBC, had ignored repeated calls from British Intelligence and the Church of Scotland to return home.

His life was only saved through the intervention of a German pastor and he spent the rest of the war in a prisoner of war camp.

Dr Caskie retired and after his death in 1983 at the age of 81 he was laid to rest in the family grave at Bowmore on Islay. His medals are on display at nearby Kilarrow Parish Church.

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Proposed £30,000 immigration salary threshold is bad news

Joanne Starkie is a writer and correspondent for the Immigration Advice Service, an organisation of UK immigration solicitors which provides legal support for those looking to migrate to the UK or hire overseas workers.

Although the UK government is still unable to agree on a clear strategy for leaving the EU, the publication of the Immigration White Paper in December outlined its vision for immigration policy in a post-Brexit Britain.

If this White Paper's policies come into effect, it would see regulations for EU migrant workers being brought into line with the current rules for non-EU workers in the UK.

As it stands, an end to free movement would mean EU citizens who wish to come to the UK for work after Brexit would have to complete a Tier 2 Visa application and, in order to be eligible, be offered a job with a minimum salary of £30,000.

This is incredibly worrying for UK employers who rely heavily on EU workers to fill lower paid roles, as a dramatic and potentially sudden loss of a significant proportion of their workforce with no immediate means of replenishing it would be a devastating blow for businesses across the UK.

As a nation which already

has difficulties in attracting migrant workers, this would hit Scottish industries that are dependent on lower-paid labour particularly hard.

Data released by the Office for National Statistics indicate that as of the end of March 2018, EU net migration to Scotland was at its lowest level since 2012.

Worsen

According to the Scottish Government's International Trade and Investment Directorate, more than one third of Scottish employers are already suffering from recruitment problems because of Brexit and the situation is only going to worsen if the salary threshold comes into effect.

Sectors such as hospitality and social care are reliant on EU migrants to fill their vacancies. One in 12 hospitality employees in Scotland is from an EU country and 94 per cent of jobs in this industry do not come anywhere near the £30,000 salary mark.

Similarly, the social care sector sources 44 per cent of its care home staff from the



The hospitality sector would be hard hit by the immigration salary threshold of £30,000.

EU and as the average wage in this sector is £18,000, it would be set to lose nearly one in 10 of its total workforce because they would not meet the minimum salary requirements.

As well as depriving Scottish industries of essential workers, the £30,000 salary threshold would be likely to increase the gender and age disparity already evident in Scotland when it comes to income.

Currently, less than one third of Scottish women earn £30,000 or more, and only a quarter of people under

the age of 30 achieve this salary. Setting this threshold post-Brexit would lead to a decrease in migrant women coming to Scotland and would also discourage younger people from EU countries from attempting to gain employment in Scotland.

Grim

Considering how grim the outlook is for employers in Scotland that rely on EU workers, is there anything that can be done to countermand the UK government's proposed salary threshold and ensure that Scottish

businesses do not suffer as a result of it?

One solution would be for Westminster to grant Holyrood the power to determine its own visa and salary criteria after Brexit and perhaps allow them to not impose an earnings threshold at all, but this is not something the UK government has shown any interest in supporting at this stage.

While the CBI believes UK immigration regulations should remain centralised after Brexit, it does call for 'greater flexibility' for

Scotland to ensure the nation's needs are considered. It is not clear what form this flexibility would take, but for a country where businesses are generally smaller in scale than in England and many jobs are in remote locations, it is even more important for Scottish employers that EU candidates are not further discouraged from working in Scotland through the imposition of an unrealistic salary threshold.

In these uncertain times, no one knows what the future has in store for Scotland or the UK as a whole, or the extent of the short-term disruption and potential long-term damage that leaving the EU will cause.

If, however, the £30,000 salary threshold specified in the UK government's Immigration White Paper does come into effect and Holyrood is not given the power to set its own visa regulations, Scottish businesses heavily dependent on EU workers will struggle to cope with the loss.

Sectors that are particularly reliant on European employees will become overburdened and understaffed, and the salary-related gender and age disparity in Scotland will become even more widespread.

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HIRE and SUPPLIES

Stone me! Tobermory rocks

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



What do Dracula's Castle, the Sydney Opera House, the high Arctic and Rome's Colosseum have in common?

They are all just some of the far-flung places across the globe where painted Tobermory rocks have turned up – so far.

The woman behind the fun way of putting Tobermory on the world map is Naomi Marsh.

So far Naomi, who runs Island Crafts on Tobermory's Main Street, has painted about 500 rocks. She started out by hiding just 40 around town, never thinking it would take off as it has.

'I don't hear back from some of them for months after they've been hidden and then suddenly they turn up. It's very exciting.

'We encourage people to post a photo on our Facebook [page] when they find one.

'I keep a list of them all and track their journey.

'People can either keep the rocks if they find them or take them away and hide them again somewhere else. They've ended up all over the world,' said Naomi, who has lived in Tobermory all her life.

Tobermory Rocks Facebook page now has more than 800 members.

'It's great fun and gets the kids away from their iPads and out and about in the fresh air getting active, although there are lots of adults who've got hooked on it now and have started painting their own Tobermory rocks to hide in places. It's gone wild – I never thought it would take off like this.

'I go out hiding them in Tobermory and have to sneak about because the kids spot me and try to follow me,' said new mum Naomi, who is still managing to find the time to paint even more rocks despite having baby Finn just 11 weeks ago.



Naomi Marsh's painted stones are turning up at ...

Last week, lots more rocks were hidden as part of a Pebble Dash event for the holidays. One rock discovered has been taken back to Arbroath to be stashed again.

You don't need to spend a fortune to make your own

Tobermory rocks. Use up old nail varnishes, Sharpie pens, acrylic paints or use a layer of clear varnish to waterproof your masterpiece before hiding it ready for someone else to seek – make sure you write Tobermory Rocks underneath.



... the Arctic.



... Dracula's Castle.



... the Colosseum in Rome.



... and, of course, Mull.

eilean eisdeal

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with live music
from 'Creel'

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Tickets £8/6
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Easter weekend at Easdale Island Community Hall

ADVERTORIAL

Friday April 19 – The Lighthouse Keeper – Clydebuilt Puppet Theatre – Puppet Animation Festival 2019 at 2.30pm. Ferries from 2pm. Tickets £5 accompanied under-threes free.

In a tiny quaint village by the sea, Tom the lighthouse keeper fishes by the jaggedy rocks and watches out carefully for the ships sailing by night. In the one and only village café, his friend Belle, the mermaid, makes such delicious ice-cream for her happy customers.

Saturday April 20 – Easter ceilidh dance with live music from Creel. Doors/bar open 7.30pm. Tickets £8/£6, accompanied under-12s free.

Creel

Energetic exciting rip-roaring tunes and songs from the west coast and beyond!

Creel are a foot-stomping band from Oban, comprising some of the west coast's finest talent.

John Mackinnon is one of the Highlands and Islands rising stars. As a founding member of Oban band Rock and Reel, John has played for years around the mainland and Hebrides, gaining his reputation as one of the west coast's most exciting ceilidh band accordionists. Wherever John's box goes, the party is sure to follow!

David Duncan (whistles, voice, bodhran and mandola) is a well-kent face on the Scottish festival and session scene. A prize-winning traditional singer and virtuoso whistler player, David has performed with acts

Everything is fine and dandy in this idyllic fishing village, until one day a wild storm brews up! The glittering undersea life which surrounds these two friends is dangerously disturbed and perhaps nothing will remain the same ... will Belle have to reveal her magical secret?

A beautifully created and delighted told story of friendship, with table-top puppets and original music. Come on in, the water's lovely, but watch out for the crabs!

including Gaelic singer of the year Griogair Laubhriddh and festival punk-folk favourites The Ramshackle Band.

Heather Fothergill is a guitarist and singer who graduated from the prestigious Oban High School of traditional music. Heather has toured Scotland with the Fèis Latharna ceilidh trail – combining the best of traditional ceilidh music with energetic funky-folk riffs – and opened for fiddling great Adam Sutherland. With stompbox and strings, Heather will have you swinging your pals around all night long!

Rosie Lindsay (piano, voice, recorders) has performed ceilidhs and gigs around the UK for years. Hailing from Dumfries and Galloway, Rosie is a trad music graduate of Newcastle University. Her music career has taken her many places including performing tracks from her solo album on Radio Scotland. Her love of traditional Scottish ceilidh music has brought her to settle in Oban – and to join the band of players known as Creel.



Where will your West Highland adventure take you this Easter? Here's a little inspiration...

Discover the secrets hidden inside the mountain that never sleeps

Towering above the picturesque banks of Loch Awe, the mighty Ben Cruachan dominates the stunning, unspoiled landscape.

Cruachan Visitor Centre, nestled in an idyllic setting on the banks of this beautiful loch, offers a unique opportunity for visitors to experience the secrets hidden within the hollow mountain.

Cruachan Power Station, hidden a kilometre deep inside the mountain, is one of the country's greatest engineering achievements. More than 50 years after its construction, it still plays a vital part in electricity generation in the UK. During times when there is a surplus of electricity, water is gradually pumped from the loch to the reservoir high on the mountainside then, when demand for electricity is at its peak, Cruachan roars into life, as water from the high reservoir is released, plummeting through the mountain to power the turbines below.

Cruachan Visitor Centre is a great way to experience all aspects of the amazing mountain. Dramatic guided tours transport visitors deep underground to see the enormous

machine hall, exclusive footage is played via a display within the tunnel itself. An interactive exhibition explains the history and science behind this epic feat of engineering, and there's an interactive house for children to play and learn.

The Hollow Mountain Cafe offers delicious fare – from homemade soup and scones, sandwiches and paninis to freshly-ground coffee and yummy marshmallow topped hot chocolates – in a stunning lochside setting. The perfect place to enjoy spotting some of the amazing local wildlife – from the cheeky pine martens which regularly visit the bird tables, to the majestic ospreys diving into the loch for fish.

The gift shop has an exciting variety of gifts for all ages, including a selection of jewellery, children's toys and knick-knacks, as well as a selection of homeware and Cruachan souvenirs.

'For guided tours on a rainy day or wildlife spotting in the sunshine, Cruachan Visitor Centre is a fantastic place to visit for all ages,' says Sarah Cameron, visitor centre manager.



There's so much to see and do throughout Argyll, the West Highlands and Islands - in our opinion its the best place on earth! What will you do now the weather is improving? How about island hopping to Mull, Iona, Coll, Tiree, Islay, Jura, Gigha and Colonsay, Bute, Arran of Skye? Delve deeper into Scotland's history in Lorn and the Heart of Argyll. Travel through Cowal's rich landscape of contrasts. Walk or cycle along the bonnie banks of Loch

Lomond. Learn to surf on Kintyre's wild west coast and discover the glorious gardens and architecture of Helensburgh and the Clyde Sea Lochs. There's great seafood, boutique shopping, cruising, sightseeing, family fun and festivals all here on your doorstep.

Our rich landscape is as diverse as it is beautiful. Spring is here and Summer is just around the corner! Make the most of it during the Easter holidays and have fun!

Cruachan
The Hollow Mountain

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BUSINESS NEWS

Call for scheme to help fishing industry

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MP Angus B MacNeil has written to Home Secretary Sajid Javid calling for the UK Government's Seasonal Workers Pilot scheme to be extended to include the fishing industry.

The west coast of Scotland fishing industry continues to face a labour shortage crisis and Mr MacNeil has repeatedly



Angus B MacNeil.

called on the UK Government to change immigration rules and allow non-European Economic Area workers to crew on fishing boats.

Mr Javid recently informed MPs that a Seasonal Workers Pilot will commence this month to support the horticulture sector. The scheme will allow non-EU migrant workers to work in UK farms to support farmers growing fruit and vegetables.

Mr MacNeil said: 'Ensuring skippers have enough crew to take a boat to sea is a crucial way the UK Government can support the fishing industry.'

'The start of the Seasonal Workers Pilot this month will allow the horticultural industry to fill labour gaps and the same scheme would make a significant difference to the fishing industry.'

'I have met with six immigration ministers to discuss this issue over the past few years but there has been no progress.'

'However I hope the introduction of this pilot scheme is an indication that the UK Government may be prepared to finally look at the crisis facing the fishing industry.'

'I will write to Home Secretary asking him to intervene.'

Rum is first island to get new fibre network

The Isle of Rum has recently become the first Scottish island and possibly the first island in the UK to receive full fibre to the premises (FTTP) broadband.

The project, which has been led by local broadband operator HebNet CIC, has been made possible by three key local organisations supporting and investing in the project.

The project initially started as Mowi – the world's largest producer of Atlantic salmon – had a requirement for a high quality network link between its shore-based office and fish farm barges which are separated by around 5.5km of land and sea.

Mowi said: 'Our long-term commitment to Rum and the other Small Isles where we conduct our business includes partnering in vital projects that help improve the community.'

Network

'This new fibre network will provide all of us – whether working or residing – with the safety of connectivity and the ability to carry out economic activity that matches the speed and reliability of other communities in Scotland.'

HebNet CIC, the wireless broadband operator and experts in delivering rural connections, engaged with Mowi to design a solution for its shore to barge link. It was clear a fibre-optic solution was the best long-term option given the distance and terrain involved.

While designing the link, the Isle of Rum Community Trust (IRCT) was approached by HebNet CIC as there was a possible option to incorporate FTTP as part of the overall project design.

Denis Rixson, of IRCT, said: 'There was a unique opportunity for us to work with other key stakeholders on Rum that enabled us to deliver FTTP and future-proof the local internet infrastructure on the island.'

'At the same time, we hope Rum can be used as a model for other rural communities with aspirations of delivering their own fibre networks.'

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), which manages the island's nature reserve, was also approached as the design could be widened to



HebNet delivered new fibre broadband to Rum and was filmed for a BBC documentary.

include its sites in the village.

Ian Sargent, from SNH, added: 'We were challenged with providing their staff with a fast, secure and reliable internet connection to one of our remotest office locations in Scotland.'

'After assessing all available options, including testing satellite connectivity for a while, we were delighted with the fibre network proposal by HebNet.'

'The new fibre network allows the Rum National Nature Reserve to be a fully integrated SNH office able to access all network applications, storage, shared telephony with the added benefit of enabling high definition video conferencing functionality for staff to attend meetings virtually.'

This saves travel time and providing an overall greener solution for our island-based colleagues while allowing them more time

based on the island to look after one of Scotland's premier nature reserves.' The wider design was drawn up to include all key stakeholders' requirements and the project got under way in October 2018. In addition to the existing houses and sites in the village being connected, a new housing development to accommodate Mowi workers and provide affordable houses for IRCT was being planned.

Ian Bolas, from HebNet, said: 'HebNet was set up eight years ago to provide a medium-term, affordable broadband service to the Small Isles and Knoydart.'

'As time has gone on and we've developed our network, the medium-term aspect of our plan has now shifted to a long-term plan.'

'The project on Rum with the key stakeholders there has shown that HebNet can deliver fibre to the premises in the most remote and challenging of locations.'

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Twelve businesses take part in next IMPACT30

Twelve Highland business leaders have been selected to take part in the next IMPACT30 programme.

The programme aims to support the next generation of business leaders by providing personalised support, coaching and mentoring.

Over the next 12 months, the participants will be part of a community of like-minded individuals who will share this journey and learn from one another along the way.

Among the 12 are a number from Skye and one from Ballachulish.

IMPACT30 is a 12-month fully funded business growth programme, which is delivered by Anderson Anderson and Brown (AAB) in conjunction with Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

The programme is part of the Highlands and Islands Enterprise 'Northern Innovation Hub, and partly funded by



All the candidates, alongside Mark Bell, from Anderson Anderson and Brown, and Felix Spittal, of HIE.

Inverness and Highland City-Region Deal, a joint £315 million initiative supported by the UK and Scottish governments. This programme also receives financial support from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

People under 35 in a decision-making role within ambi-

tious businesses than three years old are eligible to take part in IMPACT30.

Felix Spittal, senior project manager at HIE, said: 'It's inspiring to see so many young professionals investing in their future, and it's great to be a part of their success.'

Mark Bell, director of eco-

economic development at Anderson Anderson and Brown, said: 'This programme is specifically designed to support the next generation of business leaders and ensure they receive valuable support and guidance.'

The successful candidates are: Anna Macleod of Trusted Travel Buddies, Inverness; Craig Macintosh of Highland Drones, Reay by Thurso; Fergus Thom of Cairn Candles, Granttown-on-Spey; Hannah Burr of Letters to Jinny, Beaully; James Young of Riverbeds Luxury Wee Lodges, Ballachulish; Jennifer Carter Pearson of Or, Portree, Skye; Jo Wilson of 4C Engineering, Inverness; John Smith of Skye Adventure, Portree, Skye; Katie Scobie of Rhidorroch Distillery, Ullapool; Kenny Mackinnon of SeaSkye Marine, Portree, Skye; Tim Stevens and Sally Stevens of Bikerbnb, Inverness; Taran Campbell of Infinity Trampoline Park, Inverness. Visit nih.hie.co.uk

SSC shortlisted for national food awards

The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) has been named as a finalist in three categories at the prestigious Scotland Food and Drink Excellence Awards 2019.

SSC was shortlisted in the Primary Producer of the Year, Business of the Year and Export Business of the Year categories at the annual awards.

The shortlisting recognises the company's achievement in growing its export business through a commitment to Provenance Guaranteed and the development of its clan of brands including Lochlander Salmon, Tartan Salmon Label Rouge and Native Hebridean Salmon.

Native Hebridean Salmon descend from North Uist and reared exclusively in the Hebrides. Craig Anderson, SSC chief executive, said: 'We're delighted to be shortlisted for not one but three categories at these coveted awards. With more than 600 staff across 60 sites in some of the most remote and rural areas of the west coast of Scotland and Hebrides, we are passionate about our Scottish provenance.'

Winners from will be announced at a ceremony on May 23 in Edinburgh.

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Forces veterans wanted for new heritage initiative

Poppyscotland is on the lookout for veterans from every conflict since 1939 for an ambitious new project that will capture their precious stories in a series of interviews.

The Veterans' Voices project, which is being funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Chancellor using LIBOR funds, will seek out veterans from across Scotland to compile a definitive dossier of interviews to cover every conflict over the past 80 years.

Gordon Michie, head of fundraising at Poppyscotland, said: 'Veterans' Voices will be a unique resource of high-quality film archive of interviews with veterans living in Scotland of military conflict from 1939 to the present day. Our ambition is to capture as many of these personal recollections so that their stories can live on.'

'We aim to have an interview with at least one veteran from every conflict where the British armed forces have been stationed since 1939. We also aim to have a range of veterans of different ages, backgrounds and experiences. Interviews will cover veterans' experiences and their thoughts on remembrance.'

'It is important that these stories are captured now before they can no longer be shared, ensuring greater understanding for future generations. What's more, our research has shown that audiences are keen to understand more about recent conflicts and the experiences of our veterans.'

The veterans will be asked the same set of questions giving a unique insight into their experiences and views at different times in history. Poppyscotland will also conduct group interviews to allow intergenerational interaction.

The body of work will be available to view on the charity's learning website and made available to schools. While all veterans are encouraged to get in touch, it is particularly important that interviews include a real social and gender mix.

If you are a veteran and want to tell your story, contact Hannah Uttley on 07833 750937, or at veteransvoices@poppyscotland.org.uk

What is the meaning

Morvern lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



Placenames and their meaning is a subject I am constantly being asked about through this column, which is something of an embarrassment as I am neither a Gaelic speaker nor an 'expert' on the subject.

I am fortunate, however, to know a little about the local history of parts of Argyll and Inverness-shire and to be wary of sitting down with Dwelly's and other dictionaries and playing a guessing game because what you see is never that straightforward, unless it happens to relate to an obvious topographical feature or a famous personal name, and even then there is room for error.

Take for example a place between Glen Dubh and Glen Laudale in Morvern called Meall a Chaise, which, from several Gaelic dictionaries, you would be excused for thinking means, The Hillock of the Cheese and go off with the idea that the feature resembles a wedge of cheese.

Not a bit of it. It means a knoll at the head of a glen which is a far more practical and helpful if you are a shepherd, geologist, stalker or hillwalker.

Edward Dwelly did the Gaelic culture a great service when he wrote his illustrated dictionary in 1930, but I wish someone in the publishing world would take hold of it and enlarge the text which is hard to read without a powerful magnifying glass, even for someone with good eyesight.

With more and more people going to the hills and taking an interest in the landscape, we badly need a book of placenames showing them as they appear on maps along with their meaning. Fiunary, in Morvern, is beginning to be pronounced in song as Unaray, which is no doubt grammatically correct but complete nonsense as there is no such place – another example of a fine old Gaelic placename being murdered by purists.

Interpreting Gaelic placenames is a difficult subject and nigh impossible if the scholar is not a native Gaelic speaker and has no real knowledge of the local dialect or the traditions, humour, mores and customs of the countryside to which they relate. Nine times



out of 10 there is a form of code involved which, without these attributes, is almost impossible to break.

The Gaelic word 'blas', meaning 'taste' or 'flavour' [in the mouth] says it all.

Sunart (Sweyn's fjord) and Strontian (the nose of the fairies) – is rich in interesting placenames.

Corrantee, (the corrie of the seat) on the west slope of Meall Ian, below Ben Resipole, was selected in 1725 as the home of the first miners to come to the Strontian area between the 18th and 19th centuries to work the extensive lead mines. Other names relating to the extraction of lead and silver were: Whitesmith (White perhaps the surname of the blacksmith); Fee Donald, another miner; the derivation of Middleshop is unknown; Bellsgrave, the first element is from a personal name and 'grove' (from groove), an early name for a worked vein. The old name for Scotstown was 'Righe-Raoghull – Ronald's shieling.

Dr Cameron Gillies in his Placenames of Argyll (1906), which has been criticised by his contemporaries for its inaccuracies, is probably correct when he states that the name Scotstown was called after the miners from the Lowlands; likewise the settlement of New York which stood close to John and Kate Campbell's hospitable Ariundle Centre.

Scotstown seems to have been divided into an upper and lower part. The crofts in the former were larger in general than those in the latter which were known as the Cos-dubh. They were more or less one-cow crofts and had, until after the Crofter Commission Act, no official grazings, until granted them in Ariundle.

The 1841 census shows 24 lead miners aged between 16 and 85 years living in Scotstown. The oldest was a woman Ann Cameron aged 87. There were 57 persons under 16 years.

The principal surnames were Camerons (48), followed by the MacPhersons (34) and



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ing of names?



John and Kate Campbell, the Ariundle Centre, Strontian, who welcome visitors to the area and are knowledgeable about the history of the lead mines.

Photograph: Iain Thornber

the steel bow system known in England as metayer, meaning the cultivation of land for a proprietor by one who receives a proportion of the produce, as a kind of sharecropping.

When a tenant was too poor to stock a farm, the landlord came to his assistance, and in return the produce was divided between them, while the tenant on leaving, or at the expiry of his lease, had to return the loan or its equivalent.

The system was quite prevalent in Mull and the adjoining mainland at the end of the 18th century but was condemned as it took from the sub-tenant two rents as well as 12 per cent to 18 per cent for the value of the stock on it. There was in the Hebrides a variation known as Leth-chois.

About the middle of the 18th century the tenant of Ariundle was a Donald Cameron. It is then described as: 'A good farm and part of it possessed by the Mining Company for the benefit of the miners.'

In the same century, the largest tree in Sunart was recorded not far away at Achnalea, which was an oak, 21 feet in girth.

Fee Donald mine, which I have already mentioned, lies at the head of Ariundle and is a tributary of the Strontian river. This is the only mine in the area where antimony was found. Antimony is a chemical element with symbol Sb and atomic number 51. A lustrous grey metalloid, it is found in nature mainly as the sulfide mineral stibnite.

Antimony compounds have been known since ancient times and were powdered for use as medicine and cosmetics, often known by the Arabic name, kohl. The vein from four feet to nine feet wide was partly worked by open cast mainly by four levels driven westwards into the hillside.

In 1857, there is mention in the records of 14 tons of ore and 11 tons of lead being extracted which in 10 years increased to 240 and 168 tons respectively but then fell to 25 and 18 tons.

Fee Donald was abandoned in 1872, probably due to access difficulties and getting the ore to the main crushing yard and then to Loch Sunart for export.

MacMasters (29). The McMasters, of course, had been pushed out of nearby Ardgour at the time of the Lords of the Isles and, again, during the Disruption as they adhered to the Free Church which the Camerons of Lochiel and the MacLeans of Ardgour did not approve of.

In the combined total for Scotstown, Anaheilt, Ardnastang, with Strontian and Drimnatorran added, the Camerons and MacPhersons easily maintained their lead with close on 150 between them; the MacMasters had to yield third place to the MacMillans while the MacPhees came fifth.

I do not know if the placename experts are agreed on the origin of Ariundle. The prefix no doubt refers to the airidh (shieling), but the other part is difficult; it might not be Gaelic at all and come from Old Norse.

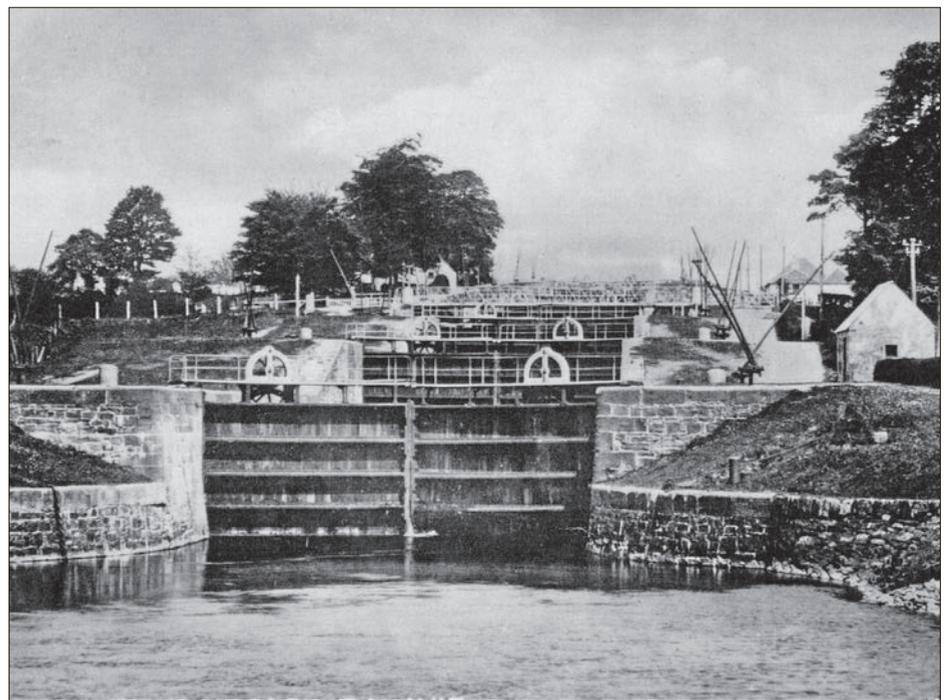
On some old maps, it is shown as Glen Egadale (Glen of the Oaks) and described as a five penny land. At one time it was let on

DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



We travel back to June 1997 this week and a photograph from our archive that says simply: 'Killin nursery'. Clearly the youngsters are celebrating something – hence the cake – but what was the event and who is the gentleman with the knife?



Neptune's Staircase, Caledonian Canal at Banavie, courtesy of the Roamer archive.

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LETTERS

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Hoping Mull film participants will be paid in full

It is not every day that a film production crew and big-name actors come calling on location to an island such as Mull.

It was a cause of some excitement on the island when thespians including Tom Hughes, Greta Scacchi and Kate Dickie were brought to Mull to film the thriller *Shepherd*, especially because there were opportunities for residents to be part of the action as extras and location assistants.

Those involved were promised payment for their roles but in some instances that has not happened and in other cases only part remuneration has been settled.

The confusion made the national media because some of the crew seized footage and equipment to try to force the production company to pay what it owed.

Movie boss Karim Tshibangu spoke openly to *The Oban Times* saying his production firm Castle Valley Films intended to make full payments to all, including island residents for their contributions. Indeed, he praised Mull people for their honesty after some were overpaid for services rendered but returned the extra funds.

Mr Tshibangu has promised to pay up once the row is settled and anyone out of pocket has invoiced anew. We trust he is a man of his word.

Enjoy the holiday weekend activities

Oban should be jumping this weekend with all kinds of activities taking place as part of the Easter celebrations.

As Kay McDonald recounts on page six, the *Oban Town Diary* is packed with events and the town expects many visitors for the holiday weekend.

Whatever you are planning for the next few days, we hope the sun shines and you all enjoy the holiday.

Organic daffodils bring a smile to people's faces

Your correspondent Moira Campbell (Letters, April 11) complains about the beautiful, oxygen-creating emblem of Wales – the daffodil – being invasive.

However, as Strathclyde was once a Welsh kingdom, later to be taken over by Malcolm I, this is a small matter in relation to the invasive Norway spruce, which is farmed all over the Highlands or the lice infecting salmon within Scotland's lochs. That is a practice not permitted in Norway.

And, remember, when you go to buy your shrink-wrapped food, all soft plastic contains a carcinogenic plasticiser that will leach in microscopic amounts into your food.

Yet the humble daffodil looks nice, puts a smile on many people's faces, breathes life into the planet and is organic (unlike the brash left by deforesting which rots and produces pollutants into the atmosphere).

We try to get the balance right but human intervention inevitably usually does not as history tends to repeat itself.

But don't stop complaining as it is good to hear other people's points of view. After all, we are a great British democracy still.

Stephen Jones, Burnside Place,
Millpark, Oban.

Council tax data breach is more serious than a glitch

Am I the only *Oban Times* reader who takes issue with Argyll and Bute Council's recent data breach being called a 'glitch'?

The word glitch makes light of the unlawful disclosure of council tax payers' personal data. It fails to acknowledge the serious nature of the error.

Moreover, given that the barn door was shut after the horse had bolted, I would like to know precisely what 'action' the council has taken. Has the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) been informed, for example?

What other measures have been put in place to make sure such a data breach cannot occur again?

My trust in the council's data security has taken a massive hit and, with regret, I am considering cancelling my *ctax1* email account: this is not the first time that paper communications appear to be a great deal safer.

Margret Powell-Joss, Oban.

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

obantimes.co.uk, post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or in High Street, Fort William. This week's photograph was

Gaelic speakers need greater confidence

In his article last week (We must all fight to save our language', *The Oban Times*, April 11), Angus MacPhail does well to pinpoint identity as one of the strongest reasons to support the Gaelic cause.

In response to the question he quotes about spending money on a dead (sic) language, one answer is that a minority language should not have to be propped up by public money.

What the Highland people need is not so

much public subsidy as the confidence to use their language in a wider range of situations than they do at present.

If *The Oban Times* is reviewing any hotels or restaurants in Gaelic-speaking districts, then the paper might care to include a reference as to the availability of service in Gaelic.

This is obtainable in a few places and I have enjoyed excellent Gaelic-medium service in hotels and guest houses in Acharacle, Stornoway and Inverness, at no greater cost than service in English.

Richard A A Deveria,
Market Street, Aberfeldy.

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sent in by Fiona MacKinnon who said: 'This is a photo of Iona I took last week while on a CalMac/West Coast Motors day trip from Oban with my mother. Stunning day for it.'

Argyll and Bute suffers from poor mobile phone coverage

Mobile phone coverage in Scotland sadly lags behind other parts of the UK.

Here in rural Argyll and Bute, there are particular challenges in delivering an adequate service. Many rural customers are long distances from exchanges and, even with some progress being made in the more populated parts of this constituency, our islands are fairing worst of all in many cases.

Still far too many people and businesses are

struggling for a signal across the Kintyre and Islands ward.

As new airwaves are released for mobile roaming, it is essential that good mobile coverage is extended to where it is needed to help ensure that rural communities have the kind of mobile coverage that people expect in towns and cities, reducing the shocking digital divide.

Much like our broadband, we depend heavily on our mobile phones and are not getting a fair deal. I will continue to work alongside my Conservative colleagues on the council and in the Scottish Parliament to press the various mobile phone providers to improve their levels of service to the Kintyre and Islands ward.

Councillor Alastair Redman,
Kintyre and Islands ward.

Retailer John Lewis does deliver to the islands

I was surprised to read of the difficulties experienced by residents of Oban getting supplies from John Lewis ('Retailer won't deliver to Isle of Oban' The Oban Times, April 11).

In the past decade or so we have purchased several white-goods, including a freezer, a fridge-freezer, a washing machine, a tumble drier, a dish washer and a television set, all from this company.

We have never experienced any problems. Most of these were delivered to Mull within a few days of the order being placed and always by courteous and helpful drivers, and all free of carriage costs.

On one occasion the driver volunteered to take the redundant refrigerator back to the mainland for us, and on another the driver helped me unpack the device and install it. Long may this exemplary service continue.

Dr David Fuller, Killiechonan,
Isle of Mull.

Ferry is a major cause of pollution in Oban

I know that we think of our air in Oban as having relatively low levels of pollution but I was shocked when I looked out the window of my flat on Albany Street on Wednesday April 3 and witnessed the scene before me. The MV Isle of Mull was sitting idling at the pier throwing plumes of blue smoke into the air. I have also seen her throwing up a cloud of black particulate (indicative of unburned diesel) when the throttles are opened on leaving port.

Iain Macdonald, Albany Street, Oban.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Bidh deagh naidheachd do chuid glè thrìc na trioblaid dha càch, agus sin mar a bha riamh 's mar a bhios! Rinn mi fhìn toileachas mòr a bhith a' leughadh gum bheil an dùil ri àrdachadh mòr ann an àireamhan chloinne ann an sgòiltean Alba bhon ath-bhliadhna.

Nach math gum bheil sluagh na dùthcha a' dol am meud agus gum faod sin a bhith a' ciallachadh luchd-obrach a chumas coimhearsnachdan beò, fallain, agus a' cur ri cisean gus seirbheisean na dùthcha a chumail a' dol.

Bha an aithris a leugh mi ag ainmeachadh nan Eilean Siar am measg chàich, far am bheil dragh air a bhith bho chionn ùine a thaobh 's mar a tha òigrìdh gan sioladh a-mach gu tìr-mòr ri linn dith cosnaidh, agus chothroman adhartachaidh. Feumar a ràdh gum bheil Comhairle nan Eilean, Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd, agus Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd, a' dèanamh oidhirpean dealasach an aghaidh an dùbhlain seo agus bithear an dòchas gun toir reachdas ùr dha Eileanan Alba am barrachd leasachaidh leantainneach gu buil.

Tha e inntinneach smaoinneachadh gum bheil Humza

Yousaf, a bha na Mhinistear airson nan Eilean ann an 2016 agus a' gealltainn bhuanachdan maireannach dha coimhearsnachdan nan eilean, a-nise na Rùnaire Ceartais. Gun teagamh tha feum aig na coimhearsnachdan sin uile air an roinn fhèin de cheartas ma tha iad gu bhith buan.

Le seirbheis foghlam na dùthcha aig ìre co-ionann ri seirbheis na slàinte ann am beatha an t-sluaigh chan eil teagamh nach eil iad le chèile cho iarrtach air maoin ri seirbheis eile a th' ann, seach 's dòcha dìon. Tha am fàsgadh air ionmhas poblach fad bhliadhnaichean a-nise a' fàgail gum bheil obair-càraidh sgoiltean air tuiteam air deireadh, gun ghuth air prògram thogalaichean ùra. Ma tha an aithris a dh'fhoillsich a' bhuidheann Scape ceart, a' fàidheadaireachd suas ri ceithir mìle deug chloinne àrd-sgoile a bharrachd ann an 2020, tha seòmraichean-teagaisg a bharrachd gu bhith a dhith air a h-uile Comhairle ach a-mhàin Sealtainn.

Dha cuid de Chomhairlean, leithid bhailtean Obair Dheathain agus Dhùn Èideann, tha Scape den bheachd gum bi feum air faisg

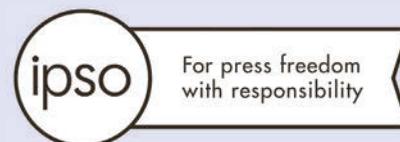
air leth-cheud seòmar a bharrachd, neo theagamh sgoil ùr neo dhà.

Le Scape an sàs ann an dealbhadh, agus comhairleachadh air libhrigeadh sheirbheisean poblach, tuigear gun can cuid gur dòcha gum bheil iad a' dèanamh beagan tarraing air uisge gu am muileann fhèin san aithis! Ach chan urrainn dha gin a chomhairlean àicheadh gum bheil mòran sgoiltean air a dhòigh bhuaithe, agus gum bheil feum air leasachadh gun dàil ma tha sinn dol a thàladh agus dol a ghleidheadh an seòrsa sàr luchd-teagaisg air am bheil feum.

Scape Group's forecast of a dramatic increase in school pupil numbers should be good news for Scotland's future economy and society, but such an outcome will depend on quality education in modern and stimulating buildings.

Such an environment is also critical to the recruitment and retention of dedicated high-quality teachers. Both outcomes demand immediate accelerated investment in our education estate.

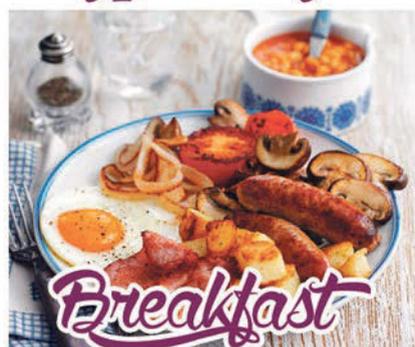
Ailean Caimbeul
(Allan Campbell)
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



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



Breakfast

Classic big breakfast

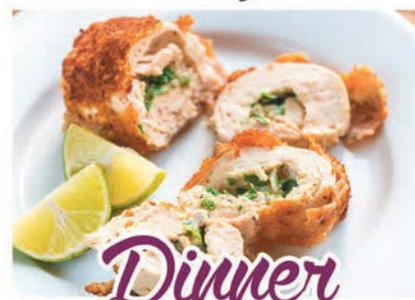
Swap an oily fry-up for a healthy full English breakfast. The Slimming World Classic big breakfast features all your favourite brekkie bits – and it's Syn-free!



Lunch

Couscous salad

Fab warm or cold in a packed lunch box, this satisfying salad is simple to make: fry peppers, courgettes, onions and mushrooms using low calorie cooking spray, then add to couscous (cooked as per the packet instructions). Crumble in 45g feta, sprinkle with fresh chopped mint and, if you're eating it cold, dress with fat free vinaigrette.



Dinner

Chicken Kiev & chips

It's easy to make this tasty, filling classic: Chicken Kiev (2½ Syns). Enjoy with Free chips, green beans, carrots and broccoli. For dessert, make up a sachet of raspberry flavoured sugar-free jelly crystals, sink some fresh/frozen raspberries in before the jelly has set and top with a swirl of fat free natural fromage frais

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OT

DISTRICT NEWS

OBAN

Celtic Praise will be hosting a series of events in Oban on Easter Monday, April 22.

The evening will start from 6.30pm in St John's Cathedral on George Street. This follows the successful Winter Praise held there during Oban Winter Festival.

Pastor Stuart Lawson of Oban Baptist Church and local teacher Helen Daniels will begin the night with children's songs and stories.

The main programme starts at 7pm with the house band leading a selection of modern praise songs and traditional hymns. Oban Gaelic Choir will also be on hand to perform.

Speaking about the event, Fiona Campbell said: 'The team who run these praise events are all involved in local churches.'

'Easter Praise aims to welcome all Christians in the Oban area, plus folk who are interested in celebrating Easter, to join together in informal songs, words and prayers.'

ISLAY

A fitness class on Islay for all abilities will start on Monday April 29.

Chit Chat's Sian Black will run Fit Islay in the Cyber Cafe in Port Ellen from 11am.

The class can be done seated or standing and it will help improve balance, flexibility and strength. It will cost £2 per session.

To book a place, contact Gill Chasemore by emailing chitchat-islays@outlook.com or call 07569 174299.

■ The first distillery to be built on Islay since 2005 opened its doors to the public last Friday.

Built with a £12 million investment, Ardnahoe Distillery has been built with both whisky connoisseurs and tourists in mind.

The distillery has plans to welcome 20,000 visitors each year and is set to create up to 30 new jobs on the island.

The fulfilment of a long-held dream by Hunter Laing and Company,



Members of Oban High School's Traditional Music Group receive the cheque for £500 from Sue Porter, branch teacher, left, and Joan Robertson, branch chairman, right, of Oban and Lorn Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

Annual dance weekend raises cash for musicians

Oban and Lorn branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society welcomed 160 Scottish country dancers to the Corran Halls, Oban, on March 8 and 9 for its 58th annual weekend school, raising £500 for the Traditional Music Group at Oban High

School in the process. Dancers from all over the UK and from as far away as New Zealand attended classes taught by Gary Coull, Old Meldrum, accompanied by Adam Brady, from Dundee, on piano.

The bands of Luke Brady and Scott Band kept everyone dancing

the nights away on Friday and Saturday.

The organisation said it was delighted to be able to support the Traditional Music Group at Oban High School with the £500 proceeds from its raffle at the Saturday dance.



Ardnahoe is situated on the island's north-east coast between Caol Ila and Bunnahabhain distilleries.

Ardnahoe is producing a classic peated spirit for maturation in ex-American bourbon barrels and ex-Spanish sherry casks.

■ A date has been set for the Big Bowmore Bake Off.

Baking enthusiasts are being asked to bring their delicious creations to the Bowmore Distillery Visitor Centre on Saturday April 20.

The event, which will raise funds for the MacTaggart Leisure Centre, starts at 11am.

'Come along for a cuppa and a free tour, all welcome and lots to see and do,' the organisers said.

JURA

A chilli eating contest is one of the activities that will take place at the Jura curry night to raise money for the island's children and school.

For £15, residents can get a curry of their choice, with rice and sides.

The night starts at 7.30pm in Jura Village Hall tomorrow (Friday April 19). There will be games and prizes, including the chilli contest.

Tickets can be purchased from Jura Community Shop, Jura Surgery or from Louise by emailing jurajuniors@gmail.com.

TAYNUILT

Taynuilt Golf Club will be hosting a free 'Get Into Golf' night in May.

Clubs and coaching will be provided at the come-and-try session on Friday May 3 from 6.30pm.

People will learn how to chip, putt and swing, followed by tea and cakes.

For more information or to register interest, contact secretary@taynuiltgolfclub.co.uk

DALAVICH

A quiz night will take place in Dalavich Social Club on April 18 from 8pm.

The event will cost £1 per person, with a maximum of six per team.

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At random

MARTIN LAING

mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



Participants can expect music, comedy and fun, with prizes for the winners.

ISLAY



Kintyre and Islands councillor Alastair Redman was all smiles when a new public litter bin was installed at the bus stop in front of the museum in Port Charlotte on Islay. He said: 'This will help the problem of litter being dropped over the wall into the graveyard behind the bus stop. Hopefully, this helps to clear up the litter and dog fouling issues. Since being put in place the new bin has been very positively received by residents.'



Launching at the Regent Hotel last week, the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival was given a boost in the form of a £600 donation from Oban Rotary Club. Pictured here is president Iain MacIntyre presenting Breege Smyth, chairperson of Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival, with a cheque for £600. Also pictured are clarsach player Jessica Main, dancer Eilidh MacAulay and piper Kate MacPherson.

Spring is in the air

I'm tempting fate here but as I write this, the sun is beaming down – as it has been for several days – and there is a real feeling of spring having sprung.

Oban has been transformed as usual into the stunning place it is and it's great to see so many people with broad smiles back on their faces.

The sense of wellbeing that a bit of sunshine restores is manifest for me in a number of ways, among them the comments from visitors to the town.

Many of those tourists have come from the cruise ships that have dropped anchor in Oban. To a man and woman, they have been full of praise for the fantastic location and warm welcome they have received.

There is also, of course, a significant spin-off benefit for the town's businesses with visitors spending in our shops, cafes, pubs and restaurants.

I've sung the praises of the team at BID4Oban plenty of times in this space but want to do so again. Chief executive Andy Spence and his colleagues do a great job of promoting Oban and greeting visitors. We should all be grateful for their efforts.

Long may the feelgood factor continue.

Pavement blight

Another subject I've raised here before is the unsightly and possibly unhealthy discharge from the doorway of Spice World, between the New Look and Superdrug shops in Oban's George Street.

It is still there and is as bad as ever. It continues to flow right across the pavement and down the gutter in the parking bays. It is being trampled even further by people passing along the street.

I have called on several occasions for someone to fix this problem and repeat that request again.

I fear this is a public health issue and enforcement action should be taken against the building's owners to carry out repairs.

It may be as simple as a leaking downpipe and easy enough to fix but it should be addressed with some sense of urgency.

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.

WHHA gives cash windfall for Martyn's Monday Club

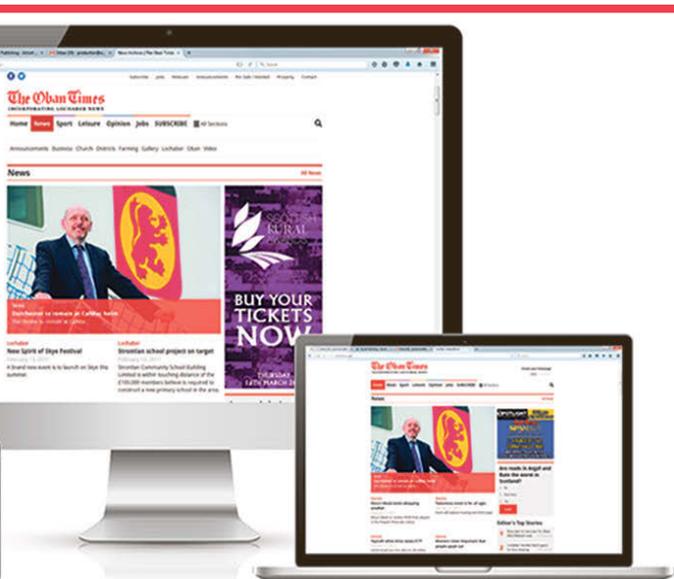
Staff at West Highland Housing Association held a raffle to raise funds for Martyn's Monday Club and Martyn's Monday Club Ladies' Group.

Martyn's Monday Club aims to provide peer to peer support for men and women over the age of 18, who are struggling with mental health, feeling down, sad or lonely or feeling isolated.

If you would like to find out more please visit www.martynsmondayclub.co.uk or check out Martyn's Monday Club on Facebook. Or if you would like to come along for a chat, Martyn's Monday Club meets at the Hope Kitchen, Soroba Road, on Mondays between 7pm and 9pm and the ladies' group on Tuesdays between 7pm and 9pm.



Presenting the cheque to Billy Ferguson from MMC and Shona MacMillan from MMC Ladies' Group are Lianne MacIntyre, Lewis MacPhee, Jason Wyllie and Liam Orr from WHHA.



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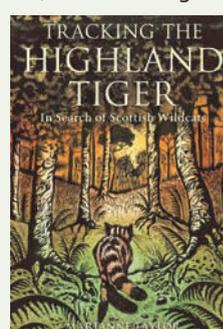
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OUTDOORS

New book goes in search of the 'Highland tiger'

Tracking the Highland Tiger is a nature narrative by Marianne Taylor going in search of the mysterious and rarely seen Scottish wildcat – Britain's rarest mammal and one of the most endangered carnivores in the world.

The Scottish wildcat's guile and ferocity are the stuff of legend. No docile pet cat, but a cunning and shadowy animal,



elusive to the point of invisibility, fearless in the face of danger.

Throughout time, those who saw one would always remember its beauty – the cloak of dense fur marked with bold tiger stripes, the green-eyed stare and haughty sneer, and the broad, banded tail whisking away into the forest's gloom.

Driven to the remnants of Scotland's wilderness, the last few wildcats now face the most insidious danger from their domesticated cousins.

Estimates suggest that the population of Scottish wildcats could be as low as just 30, and they remain on the very brink of extinction.

In *Tracking the Highland Tiger*, the author/illustrator and photographer who has written many natural history books, goes on an adventure through history, literature and the Scottish Highlands to catch a glimpse of Britain's rarest mammal and meet the people striving to save it from extinction.

At a time when Britain's wildlife is in steep decline, *Tracking the Highland Tiger* is a story of hope, and how, through conservation efforts, we can begin to turn things around.

The hardback book is out on June 13.

Study says grouse shoots boost hares

The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) says new analyses published in the *European Journal of Wildlife Research* shows that driven grouse shooting provides a net conservation benefit to Scotland's mountain hare population.

The study for the GWCT examined mountain hare counts over a 16-year period from 2001 to 2017, undertaken concurrently with spring grouse counts within 76 sample blocks across Highland, Grampian and Tayside.

Pointing dogs were used to search blocks of moorland for grouse, with mountain hares sightings being recorded to calculate an index of their density.

The study period has enabled GWCT to describe different intensities of cyclic hare population change between regions.

The GWCT said the study confirmed previously reported positive associations between management for driven grouse shooting and hares, predator control being considered a major factor in determining mountain hare abundance.

Studies by others have shown that foxes can account for up to 90 per cent of hare mortality, and reductions of generalist predators such as foxes and stoats by gamekeepers probably improve hare survival, while strip burning to promote new heather growth may help hare diet.

Within two of the study areas, Grampian and Highland, the GWCT said, 'hare abundance was significantly higher on driven grouse moors than on moors managed for walked-up shooting, or where there was no shooting interest'.

In Tayside, although a lower abundance was noted, indices remained 'relatively stable' on driven moors compared to declines of 40 per cent per annum on non-grouse moors. Lower abundance may be a consequence of fragmentation of moorland habitats and afforestation during the late 20th century which has created upland landscapes less suitable for mountain hares.



Photograph: Andy Howard.

Dr Nick Hesford, GWCT, lead author of the study, said: 'Our findings contrast with the conclusion of recent declines on moors managed for driven grouse shooting recently reported by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and the RSPB. Average abundance indices for Highland at 10.6 hares per sq km and Grampian at 10.1 per sq km are broadly in line with those reported in 1951 for the central Highlands. Our data refute the assertion that hare culling on driven grouse moors has an overall impact on the Scottish mountain hare population. Instead, we found that abundance indices were higher on moors where driven grouse shooting takes place, and less so where grouse were walked-up or not shot at all.'

'The benefits of grouse moors to hare populations, probably from fewer predators and better foraging, appear to outweigh the disbenefits from sporting harvest of hares or tick-related culls, and driven grouse estates seem to provide a net conservation benefit to our mountain hare populations.'

Scottish Gamekeepers' Association chairman Alex Hogg said: 'This long-term research shows how much the narrative about mountain hare conservation in Scotland has become distorted.'

'What is now clearer is that, away from grouse moors, little or no management is being carried out that will improve the lot of this keystone species, either today or in future.'

'While fixating on grouse moors, where management takes place but hare populations are still sustainable or increasing, Scotland has become so distracted that it has failed to realise that hare numbers away from grouse moors are dropping away alarmingly.'

'The pattern of 40 per cent annual declines on non-grouse moors in Tayside is evidence of this.'

'We back the proposal from SNH to develop a surveillance scheme so that legislators can get a true picture of where Scotland has lost once viable mountain hare populations and why.'

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This week's walks



The draft trees and woodland strategy outlines how the park will guide woodland enhancement.

Views sought on plan for national park

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority has launched a public consultation on its strategy for how trees and woodlands are to be enhanced and used within the national park.

The draft trees and woodland strategy outlines how the National Park Authority and Scottish Forestry will guide woodland enhancement and creation within the national park to help meet important local and national targets.

The document sets out plans to deliver a wide range of benefits, including increasing woodland coverage, particularly of native trees, the creation of forestry sector jobs and promoting outdoor recreation activities to help improve the health and wellbeing of those visiting, living in and working within the national park.

The strategy supports outcomes and objectives detailed in the National Park Partnership Plan to widen social, environmental, cultural and economic benefits to communities and will help deliver both Scottish Government and national park priorities relating to how woodlands help to tackle climate change, and benefit biodiversity and sustainable development.

The forestry industry is vitally important to rural economies through the creation of jobs and skills development.

Many opportunities for rural economic expansion are outlined in the strategy, including ways to improve woodland management skills and how to maintain and diversify the production of timber products, haulage and timber transport.

The draft trees and woodland strategy also highlights the growing potential and opportunity for communities to own or manage assets within the national park and deliver a variety of projects including community woodland projects.

Simon Jones, director of conservation and visitor operations at Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority, said: 'The trees, both in the form of native woodlands and productive forests, are not only vital to ecosystems across the area but they are also of national importance both in terms of timber production and their rich biodiversity.'

To read the strategy and respond to the consultation, go to www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/treesandwoodlands.

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 25: Ben Lora, Benderloch

Start at the car park at Benderloch, NM 905381.

Follow the path from the car park, turn first right, then steeply up through the trees and out on to the open ground. A good path leads over a boggy area then a short steep section up to the summit. Return by the same route.

Grade: L; distance: 5km; height to climb: 308m; map(s): LR49, EX376; meet at: Longsdale CP Oban NM862307 at 0915, Ballachulish TIC NN083584 at 0915, for start of walk at 1000.

Leader: Ronnie Forbes, 01866 822611.

Saturday April 27: Beinn Bheag Kinlochleven

A hill that one passes every time one walks from Altnafeadh to Kinlochleven.

Start beside the power station NN 189 618 follow West Highland Way to top of the pipelines then follow the conduit to NN 2226 5971 turn south east up to the Bealach at NN 2296 5918 then walk up ridge to summit of Beinn Bheag 616m.

Continue west to meet the West Highland Way. Follow this down to the start.

Grade: M+; distance: 15km; height to climb: 650m; Maps LR41, EX392. Meet at Fort William WM NN 112 742 at 0900 or Glencoe car park NN 098 587 at 0940, for start of walk at 1000.

Leader: Toril Frantzen, 07788 264007.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Full walk details at www.nevishillwalking.club. If anyone would like to go out on the walk please contact

club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783 or email enquiries@nevishillwalking.club.

Saturday April 20: Stob a' Bhealach an Sgriodain, Sgorr an Tarmachain, Strontian

The approach to this Corbett is more commonly made from the north. Either way it is a difficult one to get at. This route is less well known and ideal for Easter Weekend, avoiding the crowds.

Start at Kinlochran on the forest road, NM818673, where parking is available. Head N across the River Hurich, turning E to the buildings at Glenhurich. Continue on the track NE up Glen Hurich.

At a T-junction turn E to reach the end of the track and continue E for 50m to the fence at the forest boundary. Scale the fence and follow it NNW uphill to another fence at 460m alt. Scale this and head NE diagonally up the slope to a summit at 701m. Continue NE on the high ground for about 0.9km, crossing two more fences, curving SE to reach the Bealach an Sgriodain. Continue SE to the summit of Stob a' Bhealach an Sgriodain.

Return to the 701m summit* and follow the broad ridge SW along the watershed between Glen Hurich and Loch Shiel, over Meall nan Allt Beithe, 714m, and up to Sgorr an Tarmachain, 756m. Keeping to the watershed, descend SW over Sgurr an Easain and Sgurr na Greine to reach Maman Odhar. Locate the start of a forest track at NM709694 and follow it down the CP at Polloch, NM792689. Transport required, five minutes from start.

*For an easier day that omits Sgorr an Tarmachain, descend E from the 701m summit, soon curving SE to a small summit at 607m. Turn S and head for Meall Daimh, 575m, then SE down its rough and contorted spur to a sharp bend in the River Hurich at Mam Beathaig. Ford the river to reach the track on the opposite bank and head W, following it to Glenhurich and back to Kinlochran.

Distance: 20km *18km; height to climb: 1000 *900m. Suggested and coordinated by Andrew Gilbert.



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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Solo Amy brings folk-pop to St Mary's Space

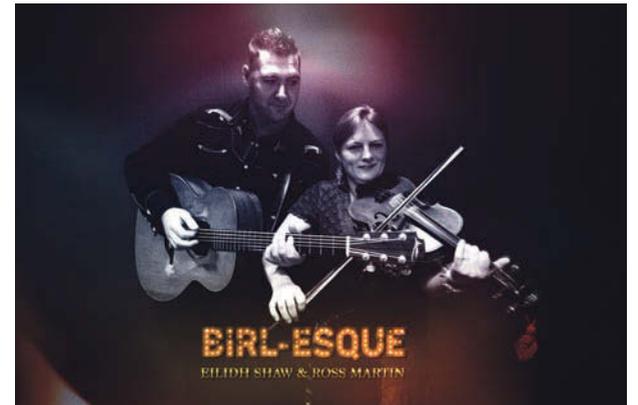
Scottish solo artist Amy Duncan will be at St Mary's Space, Fasnaclloch, tonight April 18 with her intimate and emotive songs combining layered vocals with intricate acoustic guitar loops and electronics to create a dreamy folk-pop sound. Doors open at 7.30pm, ready to start at 8pm. Donations on entry. Booking on 01631 730449 is essential.

Amy Duncan will be at St Mary's Space for a house concert tonight, April 18.



Good Friday gig at Victory Halls

USA, Orkney and next stop Benderloch Palladium. Musicians Eilidh Shaw and Ross Martin bring their talent on tour to the Victory Halls tomorrow April 19. Bar and doors open at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from 01631 720247.



Eilidh Shaw and Ross Martin, performing here in Birl-esque, will be at Benderloch's Victory Hall.

A Grand Day Out Open for Good Causes

Knock Newhouse
Open 27&28 April, 12 May
1.30-5pm.

Owned by Hew & Bar Service, this stunning six-acre woodland garden centres on a waterfall, lochan and lily pond. Since 1960 constant planting has taken place and azaleas, camellias, hoheria, eucryphia, and other flowering shrubs abound. There are over 100 species of rhododendron alongside hybrids. Mature and young trees include acer, oak, alder, eucalyptus and a rare Wollemi pine.

£4.00 Delicious teas and home-baking. Proceeds to MND Scotland and Scottish Episcopal Church. Scoop up your waterproofs and aim for A83. Half a mile south of the Lochgair Hotel. Crae and Inverary Gardens nearby.

Kames Bay Garden
Open 4&5 May 2-6pm.

Stuart and Shelagh Cannon invite you into 13 acres of natural, almost wild garden, blending into the contours of the coastal landscape. Relax on hidden benches and enjoy magnificent views over Loch Melfort, Shuna, Luing and Scarba. Full of vibrant colours all year, there are more than 100 varieties of azaleas. Also rhododendrons, wild primroses, violets, hydrangeas, fuchsia, roses and agapanthus and with acer, prunus and sorbus. Walking shoes recommended for woodland, pond and hillside walks.

£4.00 Scrumptious teas and plants for sale. Proceeds to St Columba's, Poltalloch. A816 Oban to Lochgilphead Road. Visit www.scotlandsgardens.org for more info.

M'ALBA

MY ALBA

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:** Opry le 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)

DIHAOINE 19 AN GIBLEAN FRIDAY 19 APRIL

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
18.35 Machair (rpt)
19.00 An La – News
19.15 Sgeul Seòlaidh (rpt)
19.30 Bonn Còmhraidh (rpt)
20.00 Oran na Mnà (rpt)
20.30 Fuine (rpt)
21.00 A' Suathadh Ri Iomadh Rubha (rpt)
22.00 Corp agus Anam (rpt)
22.50 Dhan Uisge (River Garry) (rpt)
23.00 ALT (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 20 AN GIBLEAN SATURDAY 20 APRIL

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
17.45 An La – News
18.00 **UR | NEW:** Scottish Premiership – Livingston v St Mirren
20.00 Machair (rpt)
20.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
20.30 Kerry is Kirsty: Morar gu Arasaig (rpt)

21.00 **UR | NEW:** ALT
22.00 Ameireaga air Film (rpt)
22.50 Belladrum 2016 – Gruff Rhys (rpt)
23.00 Scottish Premiership – Livingston v St Mirren (rpt)

DIDÒMHNAICH 21 AN GIBLEAN SUNDAY 21 APRIL

16.00 **UR | NEW:** Scottish League 1 – Arbroath v Raith Rovers
18.10 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
18.15 An Là – News
18.30 Seachd La (rpt)
19.30 Sorchar nan Reul (rpt)
20.00 North Coast 500 – le Anne London (rpt)
20.30 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)
21.00 Maignstir Aonghas (rpt)
22.00 ALT (rpt)
23.00 Corp agus Anam (rpt)
23.50 Dhan Uisge (Sanna) (rpt)

DILUAIN 22 AN GIBLEAN MONDAY 22 APRIL

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Beartas nan Daoine (rpt)
19.25 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.15 Sgeul Seòlaidh (rpt)
20.30 Fuine (rpt)
21.00 **UR | NEW:** Trusadh – Làithean Sgoile – An Ard-sgoil
22.00 Port (rpt)
22.30 Iùl a Chiuil (rpt)
23.00 An Sgrùdaire (rpt)
23.45 Belladrum 2016: Gruff Rhys (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 23 AN GIBLEAN TUESDAY 23 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: Coigeach (rpt)
21.00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach (rpt)
22.00 Trusadh – Làithean Sgoile – An Ard-sgoil (rpt)
23.00 Òran na Mnà (rpt)
23.30 Sorchar nan Reul (rpt)

DICIADAIN 24 AN GIBLEAN WEDNESDAY 24 APRIL

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Beartas nan Daoine (rpt)
19.25 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)
22.25 Port (rpt)
23.00 Opry le Daniel (rpt)
23.50 Dhan Uisge (Sanna) (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 25 AN GIBLEAN THURSDAY 25 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:** Opry le Daniel
21.55 Binneas – Na Trads – Stuart Liddell (rpt)
22.00 **UR | NEW:** An Sgrùdaire
22.15 Belladrum 2016: Breabach (rpt)

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



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Kathleen Robertson was last year's Unsigned winner kicking off the festival.



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Make your mind up time

Anyone still deciding who to vote for as this year's Unsigned Oban Live winner, can hear the four acts battle it out at a shortlist gig tonight.

Doors open at The View in George Street at 6.30pm for a 7pm start until 9pm. Entry on the night April 18 is £3.

The four acts chasing the Unsigned slot at Argyll's biggest live music concert Oban

Live this June are 4Below, S-Mac, Crackin' Craic and The Argyll Ceilidh Trail in the local category of Scottish Sea farms Unsigned Oban Live 2019 competition.

The public will decide the winner via an online voting poll which opened April 1 and closes noon on April 22. Go to obanlive.com/unsigned. The public are invited along to support

their favourite act and the evening is expected to be a good opportunity for those still undecided to watch the bands perform live,' said Oban Live's head of communications, Pauline Clifford.

Kathleen Robertson was last year's Unsigned winner and wowed the audience at Oban Live 2018 when she opened the two-day music festival.



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Scottish Sea Farms

WHAT'S ON



In partnership with Oban Town Diary BID4oban.co.uk

THURSDAY 18TH 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 19TH APRIL

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans
Crooked Reel. Open till 2am

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

SATURDAY 20TH APRIL

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dans

Jono. Open till 2am

Live Music & Entertainment @ The Lorne Bar Oban
From 9pm. Free Entry
Genovia Bassoon Concert
St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe. 3pm

SUNDAY 21ST APRIL

Easter Sunrise Service

Pulpit Hill. 8am

Handel Messiah - Oban Bach Choir And Orchestra
St John's Cathedral, Oban
7.30pm

Live Music & Entertainment @

Markie Dans

Disco with Dave
Easter opening hours

Live Music & Entertainment @

Markie Dans

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

MONDAY 22ND APRIL

Slimming World

Union Street/Argyll Street,
Lochgilphead
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Tel; Rhona 07880 878906

WEDNESDAY 24TH 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 19TH APRIL

12:15 PEPPA PIG: FESTIVAL OF FUN U
12:30/ 14:00 DUMBO PG
15:00/ 17:15 WONDER PARK PG
16:30 FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS 12A
19:00 US 15
19:30 THE FIGHT 12A

18:00 FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS 12A
20:15 THE FIGHT 12A
20:30 US 15

TUESDAY 23RD

12:00/ 16:15/ 18:15 WONDER PARK PG
15:00 DUMBO PG
17:30 FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS 12A
20:00 US 15
20:15 THE FIGHT 12A

WEDNESDAY 24TH

12:00/ 15:30 FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS 12A
16:30/ 18:00 WONDER PARK PG
18:30 THE FIGHT 12A
20:00 US 15
21:00 AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR 12A
23:59 AVENGERS: ENDGAME 12A

SATURDAY 20TH

11:30/ 16:30 PEPPA PIG: FESTIVAL OF FUN U
12:00/ 15:15 DUMBO PG
13:15/ 14:30/ 18:15 WONDER PARK PG
17:45 FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS 12A
20:15 US 15
20:15 THE FIGHT 12A

THURSDAY 25TH

12:00/ 16:15/ 20:00 AVENGERS: ENDGAME 12A
16:15/ 18:15 WONDER PARK PG
20:15 THE FIGHT 12A

SUNDAY 21ST

12:00/ 17:00 DUMBO PG
12:15 PEPPA PIG: FESTIVAL OF FUN U
14:00/ 18:15 WONDER PARK PG
14:30 FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS 12A
16:00 MONTHLY MUSICAL: THE WIZARD OF OZ
19:30 US 15
20:15 THE FIGHT 12A

MONDAY 22ND

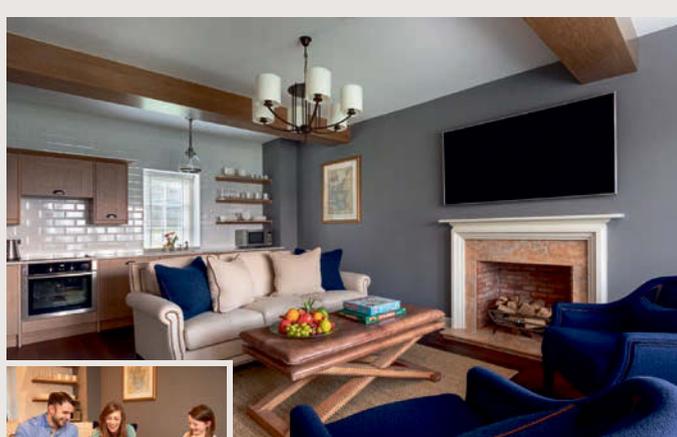
13:30/ 16:15/ 18:15 WONDER PARK PG
13:45/ 15:30 DUMBO PG

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.**

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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 (Wylex 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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Ballet West students take gold and silver in New York

Three outstanding young students from Ballet West's High Performance Lower School in Oban have achieved top awards in the finals of the prestigious Valentina Kozlova International Ballet Competition in New York.

Seventeen-year-old Josie Ridgway was awarded a gold medal in the Contemporary Division III while Tenika Rush, 12, received a gold medal in the Contemporary Division I. Michaela Fairon, 13, achieved a silver medal in the Classical Student Division.

The Ballet West High Performance Lower School students and their mentors originate from South Africa and came to Scotland to join the new school in autumn 2018.

The school is led by artistic manager Sayward ten Hove and internationally-acclaimed award winning choreographer, Angelique Harris.

Their students have received accolades at prestigious dance events globally since 2012.

Ballet West principal Gillian Barton congratulated the students and their teachers at the High Performance Lower School.

She said: 'This is an incredible result for Michaela, Josie and Tenika. I am so, so proud of them.'

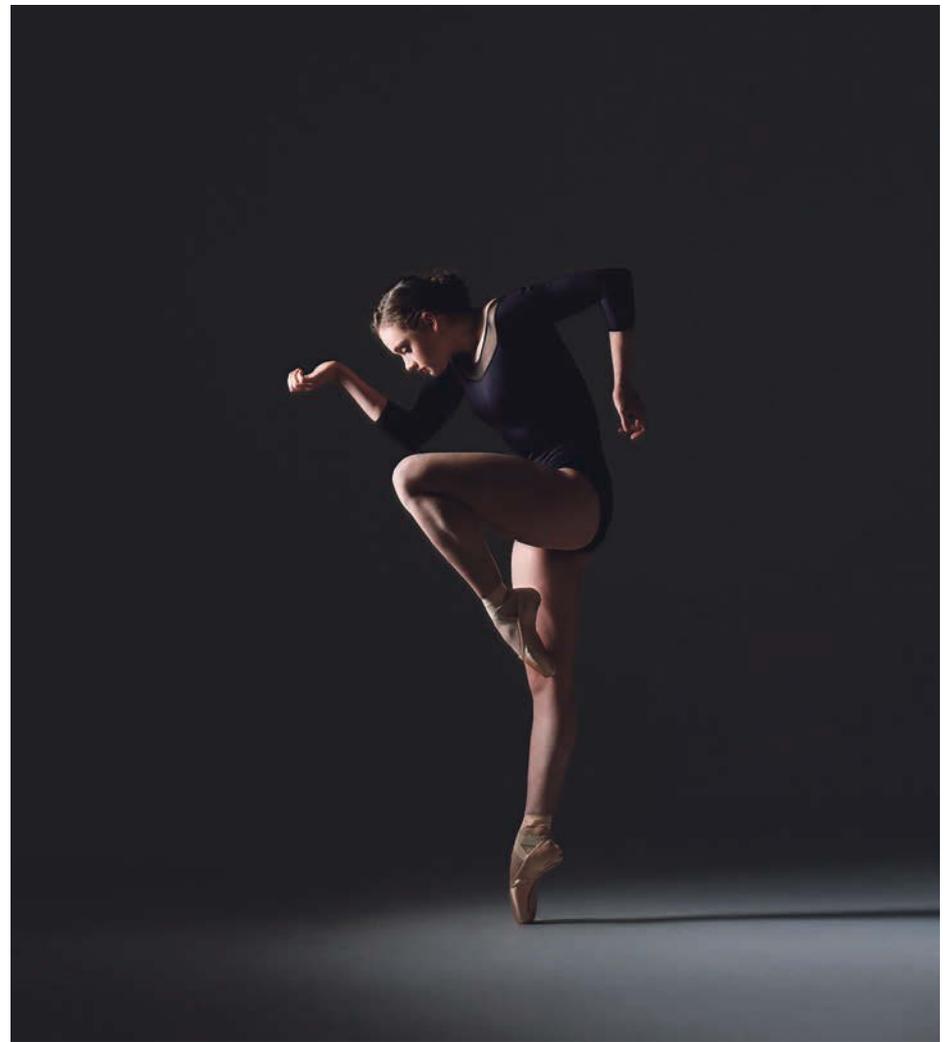
Josie and Michaela were both invited to perform work created for them by Angelique Harris, at the gala which followed the awards ceremony.

Josie danced *Das Nicht*

and Michaela performed *Vuurvliegje*.

While in New York all three students took part in classes with leading dance teachers including Valentina Kozlova and Charla Genn. The team also took part in a mini shoot with renowned New York dance photographer Rachel Neville and took in a Knicks game at Madison Square Gardens after the event.

Students had to qualify to be in the finals and finalists came from all over the world with the chairman of the judges Andris Liepa of Russia heading up the adjudication panel of 16 judges from Belgium, Brazil, France, Latvia, Mexico, Panama, Russia, South Korea, USA, Hungary and Austria.



17-year-old Josie Ridgway won the gold medal in Contemporary Division III.

Photographs: Rachel Neville.

THE VILLAGE AT MACHRIHANISH DUNES

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Easter Sunrise Service
Easter Sunday

Join us at 8am at Pulpit Hill for a time of praise and reflection to celebrate the Good News of Easter.

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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

St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe

Sat 20th Apr, 3pm
Easter Tea

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under 16s free

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telephone 01631 568000

*Offer subject to availability. Good for stays Sunday-Thursday nights between 1 May 2019 and 30 September 2019 at The Ugadale or Royal Hotels. Rate includes VAT and £3 nightly resort fee and is based on 2 people sharing one hotel room or 4 people sharing a 2-bedroom cottage.



Michaela Fairon, 13, won Silver in the Classical Student division.



Tenika Rush, 12, won Gold in Contemporary Division I.

Get your entries in now for Oban Mòd

Organisers of this year's Oban and Provincial Mòd are hoping entries will come in early.

The closing date is April 26 but the earlier the entries are submitted, the better says Moira Dunlop.

No late entries will be accepted, as April 26 is the absolute cut-off date.

'People don't need to wait to the last minute before they send in their entries, the sooner we get it the better,' said Mrs Dunlop.

The juniors' day with 90 classes is on Friday May 31

and the adults' day with 23 competitions is on Saturday June 1.

Competitors with their own choice songs need to send in their own music and translation too as some of the adjudicators are non-Gaelic speakers.

Entries can be sent to the Furan Gaelic Centre at Oban Corran Halls or direct to Mrs Dunlop at Sealladh Eite, Achaleven Road, Connel, PA37 1PF.

Any questions? Call 01631 710565.



Còisir Ghàidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich - Isle of Mull Gaelic Choir. 16_T23_ObanMod25

Cathedral plays host to the classics

St John's Cathedral is the venue for a trio of musical treats over the next month or so starting with a performance of Handel's Messiah by the Oban Bach Choir and Orchestra.

Taking place this Sunday, April 21, at 7.30pm, this performance will be conducted by Norman Nicholson and the soloists are: Marie Claire Breen, soprano; Christine Sjolander, alto; Christopher Josey, tenor; and Simon Hannigan, bass.

The following Saturday, April 27, the George Street

cathedral hosts the first concert of the Oban Music Society summer season which will take the form of a piano recital by Peter Seivewright.

J S Bach's Goldberg Variations and Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Sonata are the pieces of choice in a programme which starts at 7.30pm.

Seats and programmes will be available at the door for both of the above events.

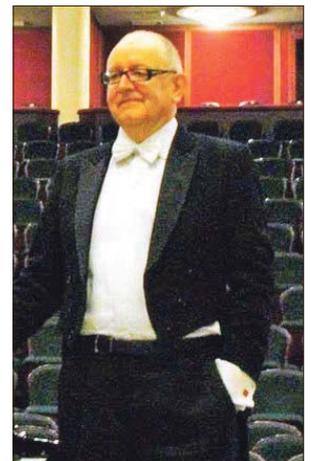
Finally, the world-famous Dunedin Consort will be performing in St John's on

Saturday May 11 at 7pm. The concert will consist of pieces performed by J S Bach at his audition for the role of Thomaskantor at the Thomaskirche in Leipzig in 1723.

Tickets are available from this website:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dunedin-consort-bach-the-last-resort-tickets-49806522650>

Pianist Peter Seivewright will be performing in St John's Cathedral on April 27.



We think Fridays are for dramming...



ARDSHIEL
—HOTEL—
Restaurant & Whisky Bar

and what better way to finish your week than at the Ardshiel Hotel.

We hope that you can join us for our inaugural event that will be held on **Friday 3 May 2019**.

Our host for the very first Friday Dram Club will be Julie Hamilton, UK Brand Ambassador for independent bottler Elixir Distillers. Julie will be taking us through her range of bottlings from Port Askaig.

Port Askaig is a range of Islay single malt whiskies that embodies the unique spirit of Islay and its people. Nestled into the north coast of the island, Port Askaig has been the gateway to Islay for hundreds of years.

We hope that you are able to join us for what will be the start of a regular gathering on the first Friday of every month!

Tickets available here: tickets.ardshiel.co.uk



Save the date!

Friday 3 May

CALL TO BOOK
01586 552133
VISIT US ardshiel.co.uk

THE CELLAR BAR

BEST VIEW IN TOWN

Open 11-1am
Corran Esplanade

LIVE SPORTS DAILY

Football
Super league
Rugby
Six nations
SPL
Premier League



Heineken cup
Tennis
UFC
Basketball
Ice hockey
Champions league

LIVE MUSIC

MONTHLY POOL GAMES

DOG FRIENDLY

DOMINOES & BOARD GAMES

FREE POOL & DARTS

Your local radio listings
Tune in to 103.3Fm or listen live at www.obanfm.com or on the Tuneln app. For requests, competitions or questions please call us on 01631 570057 or email: studio@obanfm.org.uk



MONDAY: 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 breakfast show, 9.00 Monday morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds Monday Mix, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland fling with Rosie MacColl, 20.00 John McLuckie's show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Through the night with Clyde 2
TUESDAY: 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 Breakfast show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday morning, 13.00 Macky on Fm, 17.00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest praise with Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Clyde 2 through the night with the Greatest Hits.
WEDNESDAY: 08.00 am on Fm, 08.10 breakfast show, 09.00 Sounds Scottish repeat, 10.00 The Comfort Zone with Lesley Blair Simmonds, 13.00 Doug Carmichael in the afternoon. 17.00 Drivetime with Campbell Cameron, 19.00 Country meets Rock & Roll with Len Ford & Kenny MacLachlan alternating, 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre, 12.00 Midnight through the night with Clyde 2.
THURSDAY: 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00

Christine's collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo till midnight then Through the night with Clyde 2.
FRIDAY: 08.00 breakfast show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny aka Harry, Janet, and Anna, 17.00 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country meets Country with Jackie Craig, 21.00 Peter Rainnie 12.00 Midnight through the night with Clyde 2.
SATURDAY: 08.00 The Breakfast show with Stephen MacPhee. 10.00 Saturday Morning live with Linda Crosher, 13.00 Clyde2 Sports and the Greatest hits, 18.00 Sports view - Oban Fm Dream team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo till Midnight then Through the night with Clyde 2 and the Greatest Hits.
SUNDAY: 09.00 Sunday Morning with Breege, 11.00 Sunday brunch with Allan MacKechnie, 13.00 Clyde 2 on a lazy Sunday afternoon with the Greatest Hits, 19.00 New Country show - David Entwistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Clyde 2 through the night with the Greatest Hits.

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Happy Easter!

Easter time (much like the lead up to Christmas or the height of summer) always feels a little quieter to me in Glasgow because of the amount of Highlanders and islanders who return home at this time of year.

One such islander was telling me recently he had gone home with his children to the Isle of Mull to visit his parents. He said to his mother: 'In this good weather, the kids are keen to get the kayak out on the water.' She misheard entirely and mistook the word kayak for cailleach! Her reply, therefore, was: 'If they think they're getting me anywhere near the water, then they can think again!'

Wherever you are spending Easter, I hope you all have a lovely weekend. And don't be taking any cailleachs out on the water!

New music from Beinn Lee

Beinn Lee have released a new single - an original Gaelic song entitled Anam Saor - alongside a music video that blends footage from Hebridean beaches with the band playing in the unmistakable debating chamber of Glasgow University Union.

The song is a cracker that is sure to be a hit on the Highland festival scene this summer and beyond - especially the section of vocables which I can imagine

being sung by big crowds. It is available for download on all digital platforms. Myself and the Tide Lines boys also have a single on the way - to be released tomorrow, April 19, called Running at the Dark.

As the summer approaches, this time of year is always full of new music so I will try and keep this column up to date with what is being released by whom.

Morino Day

The Park Bar's bi-annual Morino Day will be held this Sunday, April 21. This is an event that attracts the best dance band accordion players from all over the country to celebrate the famous Shand Morino type of accordion.

The tunes begin at 3pm and go on until closing time. In a tradition that has developed over the years the Morino Day has been taking place in the Park, everyone who plays receives a steak pie at dinner time.

Over the course of the day, you are guaranteed to hear some absolutely tremendous music so, if you have no plans for Easter Sunday and are at a loose end during the day or evening, I recommend a trip to the Park.

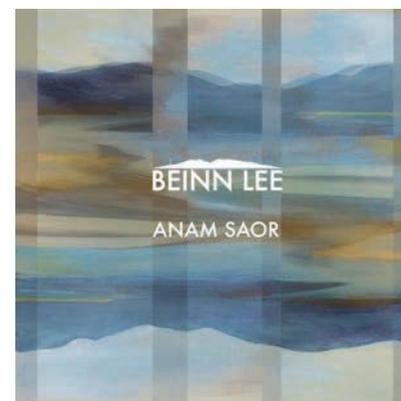
What's on

Saturday April 27: Glasgow Skye Association annual spring concert (Wee Skye) in the Crawford Hall, Beith Street, at

7.30pm. Saturday April 27: Glasgow Islay Association to host Tartan Pimpernel play in Partick Burgh Halls at 3pm. Saturday May 11: Mòd Ghlaschu Strictly Come Cèilidh Dancing fundraising evening in the Woodside Hall.

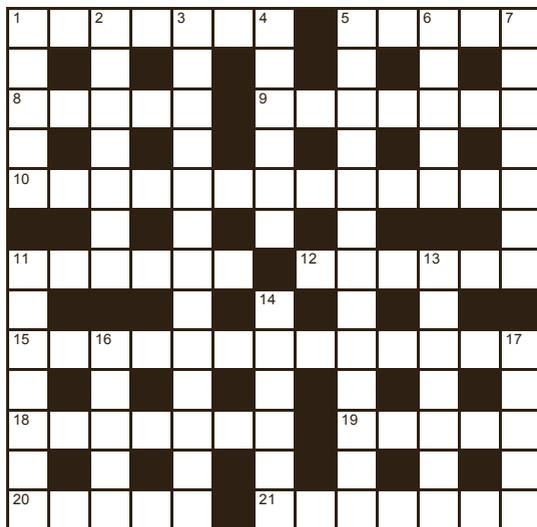
Pub Scene

Islay Inn
Friday April 19: J Clarke 5
Saturday April 20: The Raggaeals
Sunday April 21: Better Days Coming
Sunday April 21: Park Bar Morino Day, from 3pm.



The artwork for Beinn Lee's excellent new single, Anam Saor - incorporating a painting by Orla Stevens.

Crossword



Across

- 1 An andiron (7)
- 5 Drink enthusiastically (5)
- 8 Parting word (5)
- 9 Involving idealised perfection (7)
- 10 Destructive fire (13)
- 11 A salt of hydriotic liquid (6)
- 12 Round shape (6)
- 15 In a flash (13)
- 18 Shipping hazard (7)
- 19 Amphitheater (5)
- 20 One of the water lily family (5)
- 21 Uncoordinated (7)

Down

- 1 Old French money (5)
- 2 Occupied the throne (7)
- 3 Fraudulent people (6-7)
- 4 Ill will (6)
- 5 Seen at the start of passage taken from a book (9,4)
- 6 Way out (5)
- 7 Back (7)
- 11 First (7)
- 13 Infectious disease (7)
- 14 Black mark (6)
- 16 Winter weather (5)
- 17 Rise (5)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



75th anniversary fiddlers' rally concert

Oban and Lorne Strathspey and Reel Society are getting ready for their 75th consecutive fiddlers' rally concert which will take place next Saturday, April 27. On stage, for the concert, there will be in excess of 75 musicians, mainly fiddle players and accordionists. The society was founded in 1944 by Charlie Hunter, a well known Oban musician. It's current conductor is Helen Jordan, who is also well known in the town.

Paul Anderson and Paul MacCallum will be this year's guest artistes. Paul Anderson, who was a friend of local fiddler Maurice

Duncan who died in 2017, is a Glenfiddich fiddle champion as well as an Oban Masters judge.

Maurice had been leader of the society since 1992 and some of his tunes will be included in the concert as a tribute to him.

Paul MacCallum, accompanied by Hamish Menzies, is a Mòd gold medallist and well known in the Oban area and throughout the west coast.

As usual, the rally will not only include local members but also fiddlers from several Strathspey and Reel Societies from as far north as Caithness to as far south

as Wales. The concert will be held in the Corran Halls on Saturday April 27 and will start at 7.30pm. Tickets

are now on sale. For further information, please see our Community Notice Board in this week's issue.



Oban & Lorne Strathspey & Reel Society
75th Anniversary Fiddlers' Rally Concert
Saturday 27th April 2019
Corran Halls, Oban 7.30pm
Guest Artistes
Paul Anderson and Paul MacCallum
Tickets £10 Concession £9

BONNIE babies

competition 2019

**WIN
£500**

Vote now for your top 30!

Our readers never, ever let us down! You have been voting in droves for our Bonniest Baby and today we can unveil the top 50 – as chosen by you!

You now have the unenviable task of whittling these cute wee munchkins down to our top 30.

Voting closes at 10am on Monday April 29th. You know the drill by now, just select your favourite and complete the voting coupon and either post it to us or hand it in to our Oban or Fort William offices.

Our top 30 will be published on Thursday 2nd May – Vote for your favourite now!

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

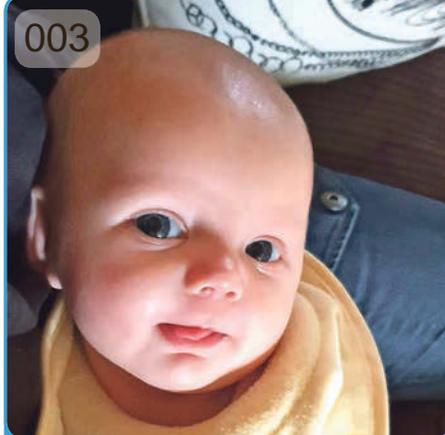


Laura Rose MacDonald

Born September 2018

Dunbeg

003



Makayla-Leigh Lawrie

Born October 2018

Caol, Fort William

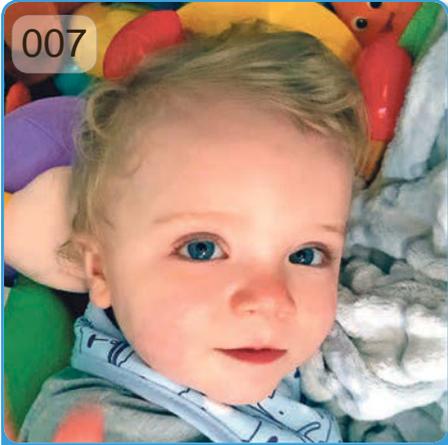
005



Myles O'Neill Gibson

Born October 2018

Fort William



007

Tony Cranston
Born February 2018 Ardrishaig



008

Jessica Gibb
Born November 2018 Lochgilphead



010

Caleb Ellis
Born January 2019 Edinburgh



012

Elliot Martin
Born November 2018 Benderloch



013

Kendall Cameron
Born December 2018 Fort William



014

James Aitchison
Born February 2018 Fort William



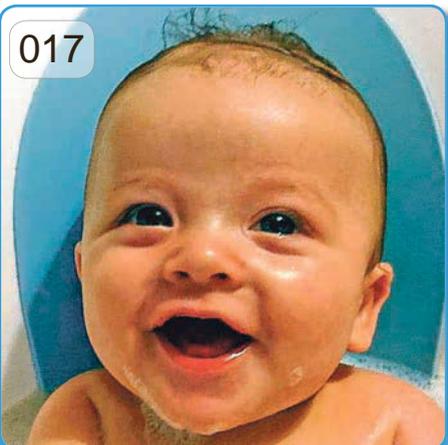
015

Koa Eldon
Born December 2017 Fort William



016

Eva Anna Varadi
Born May 2018 Oban



017

Matthew Russell
Born October 2018 Oban



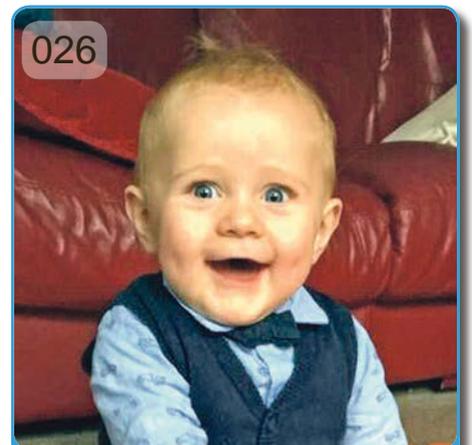
018

Olivia Kerr
Born December 2018 Oban



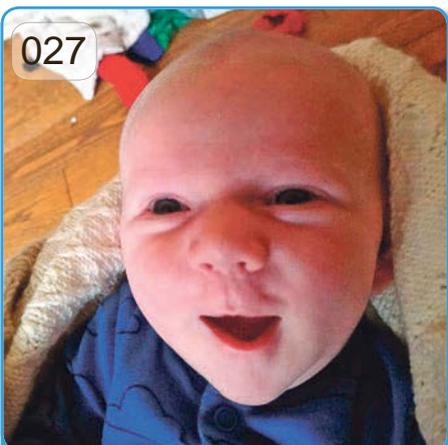
019

Ryan Ward
Born October 2018 Oban



026

Angus John Telfer
Born March 2018 Oban



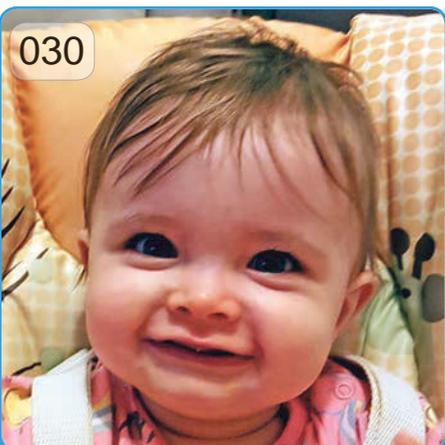
027

Hunter Smith
Born December 2018 Lochgilphead



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



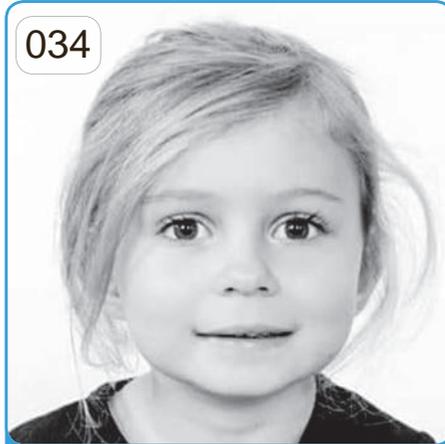
032

Hollie McMillan
Born October 2018 Oban



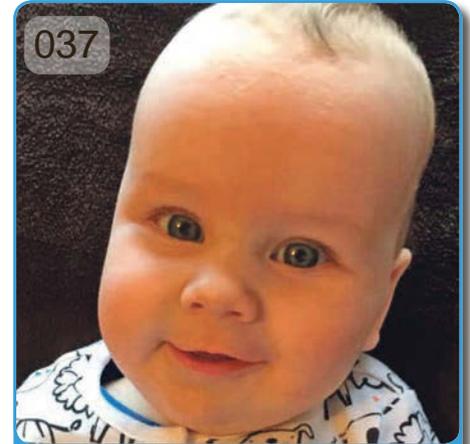
033

James Donald Morrison
Born April 2018 Isle of Islay



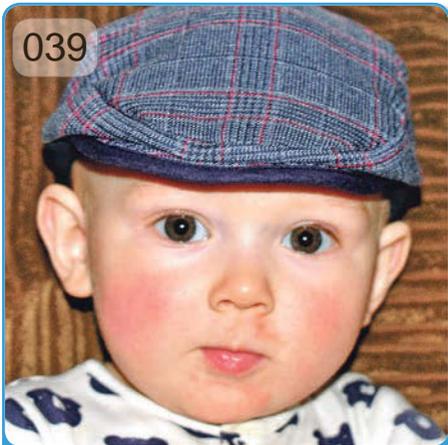
034

Amy Freitas
Born July 2015 Oban



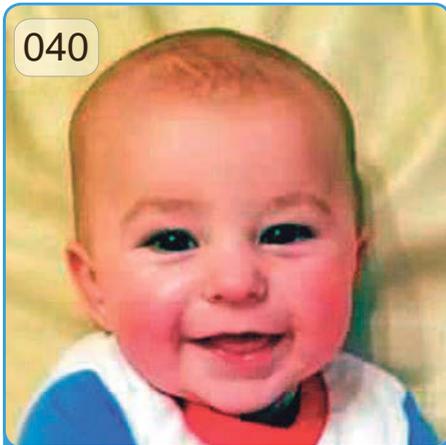
037

Nathan MacKechnie
Born July 2018 Oban



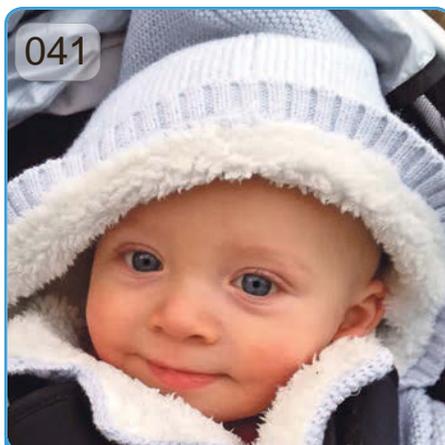
039

Cooper Stewart Cunningham
Born June 2018 Connel



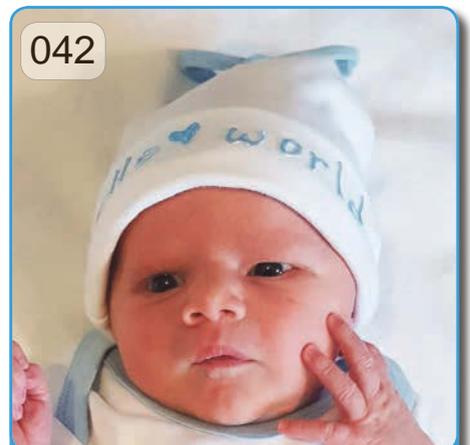
040

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



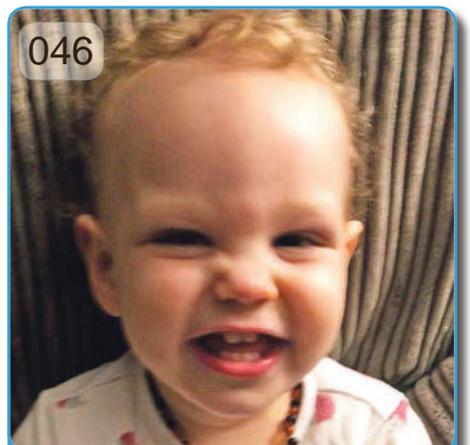
044

Darcy Poulton Watson
Born May 2016 Isle of Mull



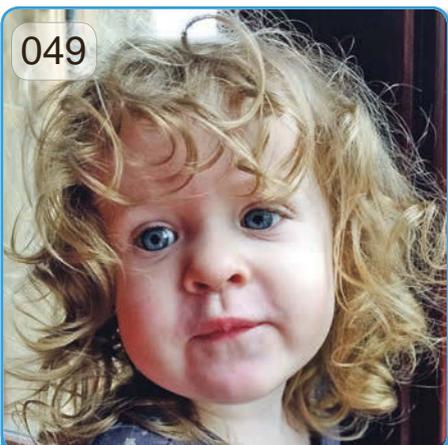
045

Willow Durkin
Born December 2017 Oban



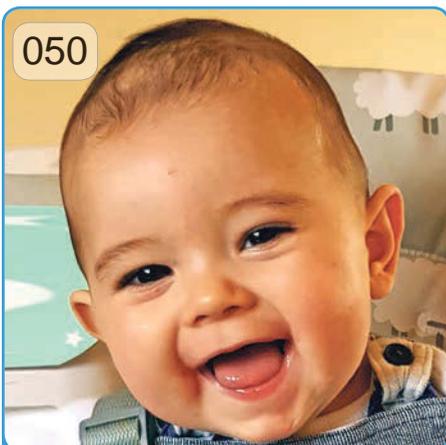
046

Evie Mackinnon
Born July 2017 Oban



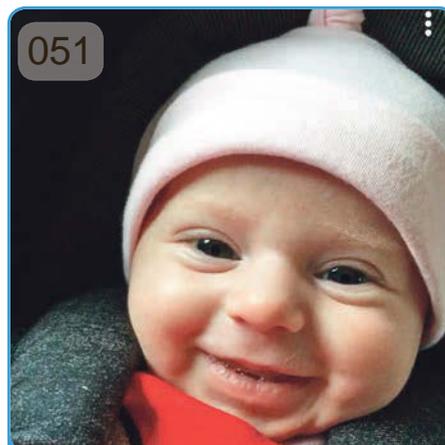
049

Alice Muir
Born April 2017 Glasgow



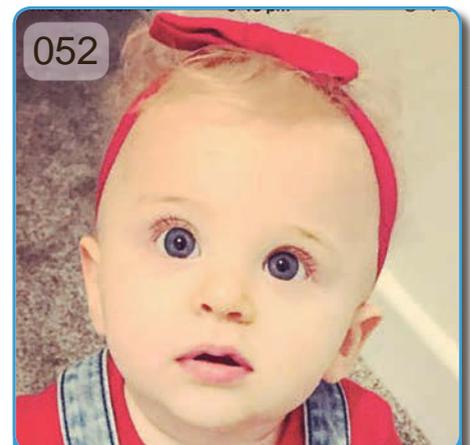
050

Allan Alvadia
Born September 2018 Oban



051

Amelia MacDonald
Born January 2019 Glasgow



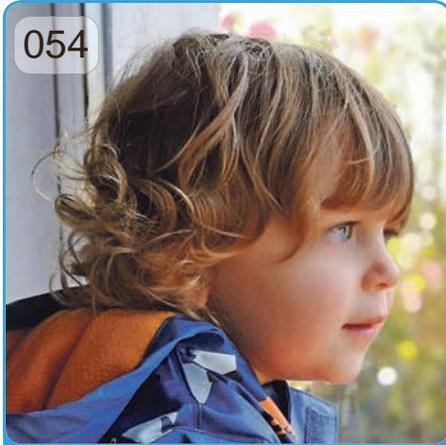
052

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



057

Lewis Peterson
Born February 2019 Kilninver



058

Mila Mccracken
Born November 2017 Oban



059

Ella Fyfe
Born September 2018 Caol, Fort William



061

Emma Maclean
Born September 2018 Oban



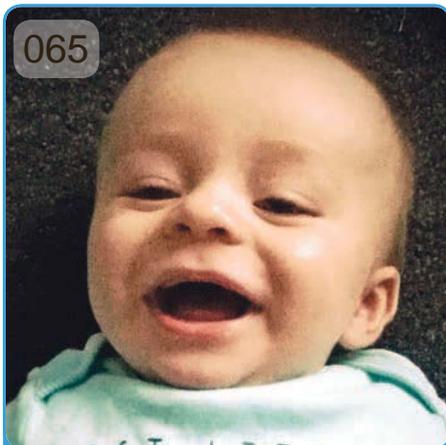
063

Lauren Gillies
Born September 2016 Arisaig



064

Andrew Kea Innes
Born November 2016 Easdale



065

Carter Harvey
Born May 2018 Oban



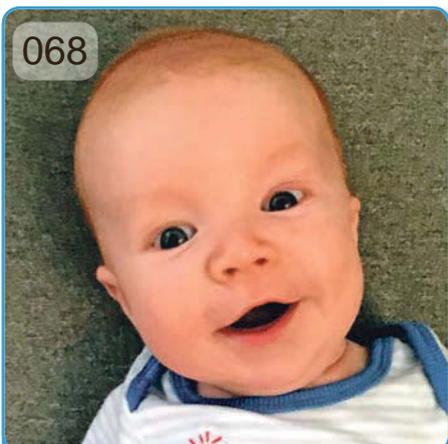
066

Ruaridh Freo Innes
Born October 2018 Easdale



067

Harry Hainsworth
Born May 2018 Fort William



068

Seumas Duncan MacNeil
Born January 2019 Barcaldine

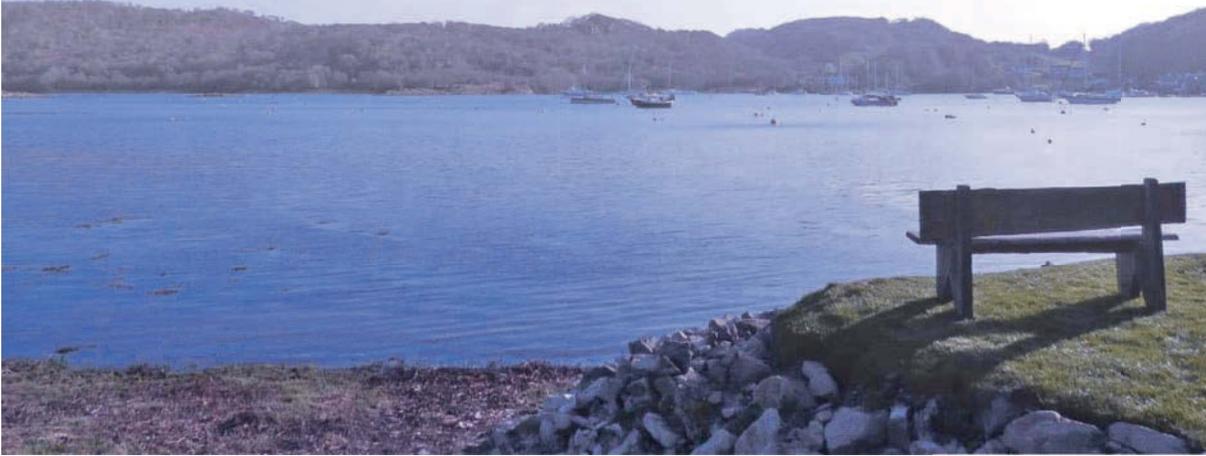


069

Rowan Ewen Kelly
Born August 2016 Fort William

BONNIE babies competition 2019

Can you think of a better view whilst enjoying the finest locally caught seafood?



STARTERS

SOUP OF THE DAY £5

With warm bread roll and butter

SEAFOOD SOUP £6.50

Our own recipe served with a warm bread roll and butter

POTTED CRAB £8

With toasted ciabatta

PÂTÉ OF THE DAY £7

WARM GOATS CHEESE SALAD £7.50

With a honey and mustard dressing

HADDOCK, TIGER PRAWNS AND VINE TOMATOES £8

Baked in chilli, herb and garlic olive oil served with a warm bread roll

BALSAMIC ROASTED MUSHROOMS £7.25

On toasted ciabatta with dressed leaves

FISH

FISH & CHIPS £12

Fresh haddock fillet in our own beer batter with tartare sauce

OVEN BAKED SCOTTISH SALMON FILLET £16.50

With spinach mash potatoes, prawn and garlic butter and crispy dulse seaweed

HADDOCK, SMOKED SALMON & PRAWN GRATIN £16.50

Oven baked with a cheese, cream and leek sauce, topped with breadcrumbs and served with rustic chips and salad

SHELLFISH

CLASSIC MOULES MARINIÈRE

STARTER £7.75 **MAIN** £14

Mussels steamed in white wine, cream, garlic and onions served with a warm bread roll or swap to chips for £2

MUSSELS

STARTER £8 **MAIN** £14

Steamed in chilli, chorizo and white wine served with a warm bread roll or swap to chips for £2

HAND DIVED TAYVALLICH LANDED KING SCALLOPS

STARTER £12 **MAIN** £25

Pan seared with a choice of garlic butter or chorizo or chilli and lemon butter

Served with rustic chips and a dressed salad

HAND DIVED TAYVALLICH LANDED KING SCALLOPS £26

Pan seared served with Stornoway black pudding, kale mash and a white wine & dill cream sauce

SOUND OF JURA LANGOUSTINES

STARTER £10 **MAIN** £20

Served hot with garlic butter or cold with garlic mayonnaise

Served with rustic chips and a dressed salad

SOUND OF JURA DRESSED CRAB £17

Served cold with langoustines, dressed salad, garlic mayonnaise & a warm bread roll or swap to chips for £2

OVEN BAKED DRESSED CRAB £18

With an apple smoked cheddar and breadcrumb crust served with langoustine, dressed salad, & a warm bread roll or swap to chips for £2

EVERYTHING ELSE

CURRY OF THE DAY £11.50

Served with wild rice, popadom, our own chutney & spiced onions

BURGER OF THE DAY £11

Served on a brioche bun with rustic chips, salad & onion rings

CHICKEN AND CHORIZO RAGU £11.50

On a bed of tagliatelle with fresh parmesan and garlic bread

10 OZ SCOTTISH SIRLOIN STEAK £23

With rustic chips, salad, balsamic roasted vine tomatoes, onion rings & peppercorn sauce or garlic butter Add 3 langoustine £6

10 OZ POPESEYE RUMP STEAK £18

With rustic chips, salad, balsamic roasted vine tomatoes, onion rings & peppercorn sauce or garlic butter Add 3 langoustine £6

CONFIT CRISPY PORK BELLY £13

With a satay sauce, saffron rice and green beans

ROASTED CHERRY TOMATO RAGU £10

On a bed of tagliatelle served with toasted ciabatta (vegan)

SIDES

RUSTIC SKIN ON CHIPS £3.25

SEASONAL VEGETABLES £3

MIXED LEAF SALAD £3

ONION RINGS £3

2 WARM BREAD ROLLS AND BUTTER £2

GARLIC BREAD £3

SOUND OF JURA DULSE SEAWEED £4.25

SOMETHING SWEET

BANOFFEE PIE £6

KEYLIME PIE £6

With vanilla ice cream

CRANACHAN £6

Traditional Scottish recipe of raspberries, toasted oats, cream and Isle of Jura malt Whisky

WARM CHOCOLATE BROWNIE £6

With chocolate sauce and vanilla ice cream

WEE ISLE DAIRY ICE CREAM

CHILDRENS £3.80 **ADULTS** £5.70

Made on Gigha - ask us what flavours we have

LEMON SORBET £4

SCOTTISH CHEESE BOARD £7.50

Kintyre apple smoked cheddar, Scottish Brie and Stilton

Tayvallich, Lochgilphead,
PA31 8PL www.tayvallichinn.com



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

For reservations contact us on 01546 870282

West Coast PROPERTY

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T: 01292 591715 e: enquiries@theweehousecompany.co.uk

Younger homeowners waste over £100 on professional help for small DIY jobs

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

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Landlord Registration Number:
396367/130/04471

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Facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

- Two thirds (66%) of young homeowners (18-34 year olds) are planning a home improvement project this year.
- Three quarters (75%) don't feel confident enough to put up curtain poles, blinds and light fixtures themselves.
- Younger homeowners are spending more than £100 on getting a professional for a small DIY job they could do themselves.

Younger homeowners are wasting more than £100 on professionals for each small DIY job that they could do themselves.

SVA Property Auctions Ltd
13 Great King Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6QW
Tel: (0131) 624 6660
E-mail: info@sva-auctions.co.uk

The following are among 34 Lots to be offered for Sale by Auction in Glasgow on Wednesday 1st May 2019.

Nr INVERARAY (Furnace): Former Treatment Works with possible development potential - 431 sq.ft. on 0.15 acre. EPC: N/A

CAMPBELTOWN (Former Auchinlee Care Home): Listed building and land. Conversion and development potential - 1,139 sq.m. (12,261 sq.ft.) on site 0.92 ha (2.27 acres). EPC: G

www.sva-auctions.co.uk

Two thirds (66%) of 18-34-year-old homeowners are planning on completing a home improvement project this year, but new research has revealed the significant sums of money they are wasting by getting a professional in to do minor jobs.

The study, carried out by Anglian Home Improvements, looked to discover the DIY jobs homeowners feel confident enough to attempt themselves and which they normally leave to the professionals.

The results showed a significant difference between generations, with some age groups far more willing to have a go at jobs themselves around the home.

The younger homeowners, aged 18-34 years, were found to not feel comfortable performing a number of home improvements, from installing curtains to hanging pictures.

When it comes to painting, only 37% of those aged 18-34 are confident enough to decorate themselves. Less than a third (30%) will change their own light fixture and only 19% would be comfortable putting up a curtain pole or blind. Similarly, fewer than one in five (18%) would hang their own pictures and only 16% would build their own flat-pack furniture.

This lack of DIY confidence is proving costly for young homeowners as the average cost of a painter and decorator is nearly £300 and getting a handyman to put together flat-pack furniture for you will set you

back around £70. The percentage of 18-34-year-old homeowners who admit they would get a professional in are paying an average of £102.20 for a professional to do one small DIY job.

The average prices for professional help to complete the top DIY jobs young people aren't doing themselves are:

1. Painter and decorator (£296).
2. Handyman to build flat-pack furniture (£70).
3. Electrician to change a light fixture (£55).
4. Handyman to put up curtain poles or blinds (£45).

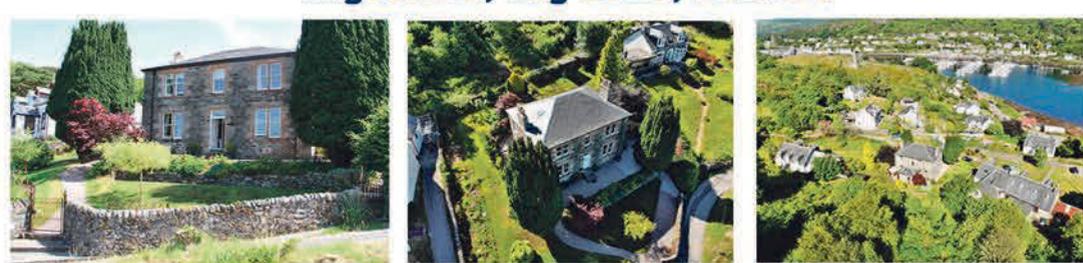
Handyman to hang pictures (£45).
Commenting on the findings, Costas Kariolis, head of digital marketing at Anglian Home Improvements, said: 'It's really positive to see that so many homeowners are planning on carrying out home improvements this year, whether they'll be doing it themselves or getting in the professionals.'

'Cost, time and confidence seem to be the main reasons people are more likely to pay someone to help around the house rather than make home improvements themselves. In light of this, we have partnered with various home experts and influencers to provide homeowners with useful and tips on how to save money on DIY projects.'

To read the tips click here: <https://www.anglianhome.co.uk/goodtobehome/home/the-true-cost-of-diy/>



Ingleside, Big Brae, Tarbert



We are delighted to market this stunning 5-bedroom detached Victorian Villa set in a prime location within the picturesque village of Tarbert. Its elevated position within the village allows for beautiful views across Tarbert Harbour and the hills beyond. The property has been sympathetically restored in recent times to introduce the comforts of modern living whilst retaining many original features throughout the house. This family home with its mature well-maintained and landscaped garden is impeccably presented.

Offers Over: £392,500

Ref: 1317 **Home Report Available.** **EPC Rating: F36**

Quay Cottage, Inveraray



2-bedroom detached cottage

Offers Over: £150,000

Home Report Available
EPC: D67 Ref: 1314

PRICE REDUCTION

Alta - Upper Tighnabruaich



2-bedroom upper floor flat

Offers Over: £105,000

Home Report Available
EPC: F21 Ref: 1345

Call us today on **01546 603118**

enquiry@argyll4sale.net www.argyll4sale.net
10 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8LZ

SFHA, Shelter Scotland and CIH Scotland announce new research to build case for social housing investment post-2021

The aim of the new research project is to establish how many homes are needed in Scotland in the years post-2021 as well as how much additional investment is required to build these new homes.



The Scottish Federation of Housing Associations (SFHA), Shelter Scotland, and the Chartered Institute of Housing Scotland have announced their intention to form a partnership to commission new research on housing supply requirements in Scotland post-2021.

As the Scottish Government's programme to build 50,000 new homes between 2016 and 2021 continues into its third year, the aim of the new

research project is to establish how many homes are needed in Scotland in the years post-2021 as well as how much additional investment is required to build these new homes.

The new research follows on from a previous project launched in 2015 by the partners and carried out by researchers from Sheffield Hallam University, University of Sheffield, and the Centre for Housing Research at the University of St Andrews.

Sally Thomas, SFHA chief executive, said: 'We are delighted to be partnering with Shelter Scotland and the Chartered Institute of Housing in Scotland on this critical research.'

'It is vital that post-2021, social housing providers can continue to deliver the housing that Scotland needs, and this research will be key to ensuring that happens.'

Callum Chomczuk, the Chartered Institute of Housing

Scotland national director, added: 'We know that all across the country, people are priced out of the housing market and are unable to find a safe, warm affordable home in a place they want to live.'

'We hope this new research will help inform the Scottish Government's affordable housing programme post 2021.'

Graeme Brown, director of Shelter Scotland, said: 'Our housing emergency is the re-

sult of decades of underinvestment in affordable housing in Scotland.'

'While the current building programme includes the largest expansion of social housing since the 1970s much more will be needed to meet the demand that has built up over the last 40 years. This research will give us critical information on what action is needed after 2021 to ensure everyone has access to an affordable safe and secure home.'

The commissioning partners have issued a tender to carry out the research and are now inviting interested researchers to submit their bids.

Any researchers interested in finding out more information about the project should submit their inquiries to the SFHA's research and policy officer, Conor Hill, in the first instance. Telephone either 0141 567 6231 or 07887 888349 or email him at chill@sfha.co.uk.



NEW TO THE MARKET

Kenilworth Cottage, Victoria Park, Minard



Kenilworth Cottage is a spacious 2-bedroom detached bungalow, situated on a corner plot, therefore benefitting from a spacious wrap-around garden. With stunning uninterrupted views over Loch Fyne, the large picture window in the lounge and the conservatory are a real selling point of the property.

Accommodation also comprises of 2 large double bedrooms (1 en-suite), family bathroom, kitchen and porch.

Offers Over: £165,000

Ref: 1350 Home Report Available. EPC Rating: E53

4 Weem Flats, Lochgilphead



3-bedroom,
First floor Flat
Offers Over:
£110,000
Home Report Available
EPC: C70 Ref: 1282

PRICE REDUCTION

Ardencreena - Upper Ileen Road, Tarbert



2-bedroom
upper floor flat
Offers Over:
£99,500
Home Report Available
EPC: G14 Ref: 1308

enquiry@argyll4sale.net www.argyll4sale.net
10 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8LZ

Call us today on **01546 603118**

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



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
TO FIND OUT MORE & DOWNLOAD APPLICATION PACK

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Vacancy: Procurement Manager - Fort William / Oban based Starting Salary £28 - 30k per annum

Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges (APUC) is the Centre of Procurement Expertise for, and jointly owned by all of Scotland's Universities and Colleges. It provides a wide range of procurement related services both as a core shared team and at institutions throughout Scotland.

As part of that service, APUC employs a team of Procurement Managers working across partner institutions throughout the University of the Highlands & Islands (UHI). Due to internal career advancement, we are now recruiting for an experienced procurement professional to operate as the operational procurement manager for a number of UHI Institutions in the West Highlands and Islands. The role will involve regular travel and will cover all categories and spend areas within the institutions as well as ensuring that the relevant supporting activities including reporting are completed in line with institutional and statutory needs.

The role provides excellent opportunity for progression over time, and offers generous holidays, flexible hours with competitive remuneration and pension arrangements while working with a fascinating and inspiring client community. If you are interested in finding out more, please see our websites: www.uhi.ac.uk / www.apuc-scot.ac.uk

How to Apply

To apply for the role, please email your full CV (two pages maximum) to careers@apuc-scot.ac.uk along with covering letter (no more than one page), explaining why you feel you would like to work in this role, noting your current salary level.



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



Have the following vacancies

Experienced Groundworkers Experienced Pipe Layers

Positions are for works in the Oban Area
Please apply in writing or by email stating previous experience to

Donald MacDonald

Site 13a, Kilmory Industrial Estate,
Lochgilthead, Argyll, PA31 8RR

Email address: donald@damacdonald.co.uk



are looking to recruit an accountant
in their accountancy practice

Can be based in either

Campbeltown or Tarbert

Please apply with your CV to

Susan.McFadyen@wdargyll.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/>



Applications are invited for the following posts: -
**CUSTOMER SERVICE ADVISORS -
CONNEL DEPOT**

1 x Full Time, 40 hours per week (8.00am -
5.00pm, Mon - Fri)

1 x Part Time, 20 hours per week (9.00am -
1.00pm, Mon - Fri)

We require 2 motivated and customer focused individuals to join our team, to provide support to the day to day running of our fuel distribution operations.

A good telephone manner, customer care and communication skills together with competent computer skills and an aptitude to work with figures is required. Experience of working in an office and processing customer orders through to delivery would be advantageous. Full product training will be provided.

In the first instance, applications, in writing only, giving brief details together with a C.V. if available to: -

The HR Department, Gleaner Oils Ltd
Milnfield, Elgin, Moray, IV30 1UU

Or by e-mail to : hr@gleaner.co.uk

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



Librarian

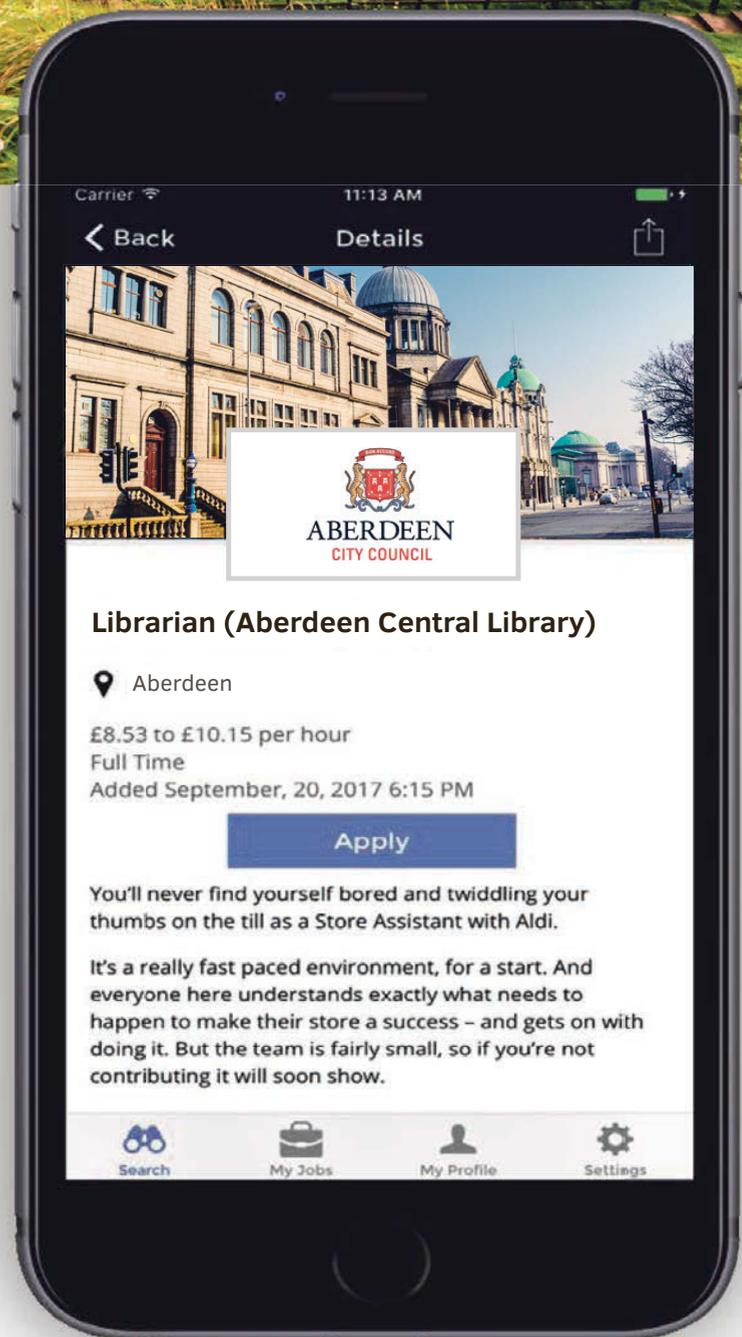
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The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> ; electronically at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, CHARLES KENNEDY BUILDING, ACHINTORE ROAD, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6RQ ; or electronically at your nearest Council Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
19/01245/FUL	Land 180M West Of Garrygualach Kingie, Invergarry	Reinstatement of existing building as a house with associated extensions/alterations
19/01549/FUL	Land 150M SE Of Craighulish Achaphubil, Fort William	Erection of house
19/01492/FUL	Ben Nevis Inn Achintee, Fort William	Erection of additional bunkhouse accommodation
19/01594/FUL	Bunroy Holiday Park Bunroy, Roy Bridge	Demolition of existing chalet, erection of chalet
19/01559/FUL	Site 320M North West Of Achnabobane Farmhouse Spean Bridge	Erection of house and Garage

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Librarian Aberdeen Search HIJOBS

Librarian (Aberdeen Central Library)
Aberdeen
£8.53 to £10.15 per hour
Full Time
Added September, 20, 2017 6:15 PM

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Argyll and Bute Council

PLANNING

These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12.30 -13.30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, your Local Customer Service Point and by logging on to the Council's website at www.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
19/00481/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage, installation of septic tank and formation of 2 accesses	Plot 4, Lagganmore, Kilinver, Oban, Argyll And Bute
19/00604/PP	Alterations, extension and change of use of former school to (class 10) non residential institution and (class 11) assembly and leisure, formation of vehicular access and installation of septic tank	Kerrera Primary School, Kerrera, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4SX
19/00616/LIB	Internal and external alterations to facilitate redevelopment of existing steadings buildings	Land To The North West Of Dunollie House, Ganavan Road, Oban, Argyll And Bute
19/00617/PP	Redevelopment of existing buildings to form museum reserve collection store, shop, cafe, studio/gallery, incorporating office space, stores and library. Extension to car park to provide additional parking	Land To The North West Of Dunollie House, Ganavan Road, Oban, Argyll And Bute
19/00150/PP	Erection of 10 dwellinghouses and installation of septic tank	Phase 2, Land South West Of Red Lodge, Barcaldine, Argyll And Bute
19/00197/PP	Amendment to planning permission ref: 18/00375/PP (Residential development comprising 300 dwellings, ground re-modelling, new roads, infrastructure, open space, landscaping, community woodland and area for community facilities). Change in height from three storey to two storey (L4 Block T05B) and installation of air source heat pump	Land West Of Dunstaffnage Mains Farm, Dunbeg, Argyll And Bute
19/00669/PP	Demolition of chalet and erection of dwellinghouse	Corrie, Port Appin, Appin, Argyll And Bute, PA38 4DE

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION

A Macinnes
7 Ruaig, Tiree
0.100 ha - Amenity ground
97520

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 17/05/2019. 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/open-ness-and-customer-care.

DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED

G Macarthur
3a Caoles, Tiree
95051
0.08 ha
Reason - Site for a dwelling house
Condition - With fencing conditions.

Full details at www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

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THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL give notice that they have made The Highland Council (A82 Trunk Road And Other Roads, Inverness Area) (Temporary Prohibitions Of Traffic And Temporary Speed Restrictions During The 'Etape Loch Ness 2019' Cycling Event) Order 2019 to enable the following prohibitions or restrictions to be introduced when such a restriction or prohibition is identified as applying to the whole or a part or parts of the length of road by means of one or more of the traffic signs prescribed in diagram 7105 of the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016(b) or by means of no waiting cones, as prescribed or authorised in section 64 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

1. To temporarily prohibit any motor vehicle, trailer or cycle from:
(a) Travelling in any direction on the A82 Dalnottar – Inverness Trunk Road between its junction with Bught Drive, Inverness, and its junction with the C1118 General Booth Road, from 06:00hrs to 07:15hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(b) Travelling in any direction on the A82 Dalnottar – Inverness Trunk Road between its junction with the C1118 General Booth Road, Inverness, and its junction with the A831 Drumnadrochit – Cannich – Beauly Toll Road, from 05:35hrs to 08:05hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(c) Travelling in any direction on the A82 Dalnottar – Inverness Trunk Road between its junction with the A831 Drumnadrochit – Cannich – Beauly Toll Road and its junction with the private road leading to Urquhart Castle, from 06:35hrs to 08:15hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(d) Travelling in any direction on the A82 Dalnottar – Inverness Trunk Road between its junction with the private road leading to Urquhart Castle and its junction with the U1766 Dalcataig Road, Invermoriston, from 06:20hrs to 09:05hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(e) Travelling in any direction on the A82 Dalnottar – Inverness Trunk Road between its junction with the U1766 Dalcataig Road, Invermoriston, and its junction with the B862 Fort Augustus – Whitebridge – Torness – Dores – Inverness Road, from 07:00hrs to 09:35hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(f) Travelling in any direction on the B862 Fort Augustus – Whitebridge – Torness – Dores Inverness Road between its junction with the A82 Dalnottar – Inverness Trunk Road and its junction with the B852 Dalcrag Bridge – Foyers – Inverfarigaig – Dores Road, from 07:10hrs to 10:55hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(g) Travelling in any direction on the B852 Dalcrag Bridge – Foyers – Inverfarigaig – Dores Road between its junction with the B862 Fort Augustus – Whitebridge – Torness – Dores and its junction with the U1177 Foyers Road, from 07:45hrs to 11:05hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(h) Travelling in any direction on the B852 Dalcrag Bridge – Foyers – Inverfarigaig – Dores Road between its junction with the U1177 Foyers Road and its junction with the B862 Fort Augustus – Whitebridge – Torness – Dores – Inverness Road, from 07:45hrs to 11:55hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(i) Travelling in any direction on the B862 Fort Augustus – Whitebridge – Torness – Dores – Inverness Road between its junction with the B852 Dalcrag Bridge – Foyers – Inverfarigaig – Dores Road and Holm Roundabout, from 08:15hrs to 12:45hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(j) Travelling in a northbound direction on the B862 Fort Augustus – Whitebridge – Torness – Dores – Inverness Road between Holm Roundabout and its junction with the B861 Inverness – Leys – Inverarnie Road (Ness Bridge Junction), from 08:35hrs to 13:00hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(k) Travelling in any direction on Ness Walk, Inverness, between its junction with Young Street and its junction with Ardross Terrace, from 08:15hrs to 13:00hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(l) Travelling in any direction on Ardross Terrace, Inverness, between its junction with Ness Walk and its junction with Bishops Road, from 08:15hrs to 13:00hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(m) Travelling in any direction on Bishops Road, Inverness, between its junction with Ness Walk Upper and its junction with Ardross Terrace, from 18:00hrs on Saturday 27th April to 15:30hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(n) Travelling in any direction on Ness Walk Upper, Inverness, between its junction with Bishops Road and its junction with Ballifeary Lane, from 05:30hrs to 08:00hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(o) Travelling in any direction on Ness Walk Upper, Inverness, between its junction with Ballifeary Lane and its junction with Bught Road, from 18:00hrs on Saturday 27th April to 08:00hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(p) Travelling in any direction on Bught Road, Inverness, between its junction with Ness Walk Upper and its junction with Bught Avenue, from 18:00hrs on Saturday 27th April to 08:00hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(q) Travelling in any direction on Bught Road, Inverness, between its junction with Bught Avenue and its junction with Whin Park, from 21:00hrs on Saturday 27th April to 08:00hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(r) Travelling in any direction on Bught Avenue, Inverness, between its junction with Bught Road and its junction with Bught Lane, from 18:00hrs on Saturday 27th April to 07:30hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(s) Travelling in any direction on Bught Drive, Inverness, between its junction with Bught

Avenue and its junction with the A82 Dalnottar – Inverness Trunk Road, from 05:30hrs to 07:10hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(t) Travelling in a southbound direction on the A8082 Inverness Southern Distributor Road between Ness Side Roundabout and Holm Roundabout, from 08:35hrs to 13:00hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
2. To temporarily restrict any motor vehicle, trailer or cycle from exceeding a speed limit of 20 miles per hour on:
The B862 Fort Augustus – Whitebridge – Torness – Dores – Inverness Road between Holm Roundabout and its junction with the B861 Inverness – Leys – Inverarnie Road (Ness Bridge Junction), from 08:35hrs to 13:00hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
3. To temporarily prohibit any motor vehicle, trailer or cycle from waiting on any of the roads listed in item 1 of this notice.
4. In the event of there being one or more incidents occurring on any of those lengths of the A82 Dalnottar – Inverness Trunk Road which are listed in item 1 of this Notice, and which result in the road being closed, a Contingency Plan arrangement will come into effect. In any such event motor vehicles, trailers and cycles will be prohibited from:
(a) Travelling in any direction on the A82 Dalnottar – Inverness Trunk Road between its junction with Bught Drive, Inverness, and its junction with the C1118 General Booth Road, from 06:00hrs to 07:15hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(b) Travelling in any direction on the A8082 Inverness Southern Distributor Road between its junction with Tomnahurich Roundabout (A82) and its junction with Holm Roundabout, from 05:50hrs to 07:15hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(c) Travelling in any direction on the A8082 Inverness Southern Distributor Road between its junction with Holm Roundabout and its junction with Essich Roundabout, from 05:50hrs to 07:15hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(d) Travelling in any direction on the C1064 Ashie Moor Road between its junction with the A8082 Inverness Southern Distributor Road and its junction with the U1096 Essich – Bunachton – Dunlichity Road, from 05:50hrs to 08:40hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(e) Travelling in any direction on the U1096 Essich – Bunachton – Dunlichity Road between its junction with the C1064 Ashie Moor Road and its junction with the C1068 Daviot – Balnafoich – Dunlichity Road, from 05:50hrs to 08:40hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(f) Travelling in any direction on the C1076 Loch Ashie – Brin Road between its junction with the U1096 Essich – Bunachton – Dunlichity Road and its junction with the C1064 Ashie Moor Road, from 05:50hrs to 08:40hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(g) Travelling in any direction on the C1064 Ashie Moor Road between its junction with the C1076 Loch Ashie – Brin Road and its junction with the B862 Fort Augustus – Whitebridge – Torness – Dores – Inverness Road, from 05:50hrs to 08:40hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(h) Travelling in any direction on the B862 Fort Augustus – Whitebridge – Torness – Dores – Inverness Road between its junction with the C1064 Ashie Moor Road and its junction with the U1088 Torness – Leadclune – Oldtown – Errogie Road, from 06:30hrs to 09:15hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(i) Travelling in any direction on the U1088 Torness – Leadclune – Oldtown – Errogie Road between its northernmost junction with the B862 Fort Augustus – Whitebridge – Torness – Dores – Inverness Road and its southernmost junction with the B862 Fort Augustus – Whitebridge – Torness – Dores – Inverness Road, from 06:30hrs to 09:40hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(j) Travelling in any direction on the B862 Fort Augustus – Whitebridge – Torness – Dores – Inverness Road between its junction with the U1088 Torness – Leadclune – Oldtown – Errogie Road and its junction with the C1080 Inverfarigaig – Errogie Road, from 06:55hrs to 09:40hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(k) Travelling in any direction on the C1080 Inverfarigaig – Errogie Road between its junction with the B862 Fort Augustus – Whitebridge – Torness – Dores – Inverness Road and its junction with the C1084 Inverfarigaig – Glenlia Road, from 06:50hrs to 10:20hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(l) Travelling in any direction on the C1084 Inverfarigaig – Glenlia Road between its junction with the C1080 Inverfarigaig – Errogie Road and its junction with the B852 Dalcrag Bridge – Foyers – Inverfarigaig – Dores

Road, from 06:50hrs to 10:20hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(m) Travelling in any direction on the B852 Dalcrag Bridge – Foyers – Inverfarigaig – Dores Road between its junction with the C1084 Inverfarigaig – Glenlia Road and its junction with the U1177 Foyers Road, from 07:00hrs to 10:45hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(n) Travelling in any direction on the B852 Dalcrag Bridge – Foyers – Inverfarigaig – Dores Road between its junction with the U1177 Foyers Road and its junction with the B862 Fort Augustus – Whitebridge – Torness – Dores – Inverness Road, from 07:00hrs to 11:30hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(o) Travelling in any direction on the B862 Fort Augustus – Whitebridge – Torness – Dores – Inverness Road between its junction with the B852 Dalcrag Bridge – Foyers – Inverfarigaig – Dores Road and Holm Roundabout, from 07:30hrs to 12:00hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(p) Travelling in the northbound direction on the B862 Fort Augustus – Whitebridge – Torness – Dores – Inverness Road between Holm Roundabout and its junction with the B861 Inverness – Leys – Inverarnie Road (Ness Bridge Junction), from 07:50hrs to 12:15hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(q) Travelling in any direction on Ness Walk, Inverness, between its junction with Young Street and its junction with Ardross Terrace, from 07:50hrs to 12:15hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(r) Travelling in any direction on Ardross Terrace, Inverness, between its junction with Ness Walk and its junction with Bishops Road, from 07:50hrs to 12:15hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(s) Travelling in any direction on Bishops Road, Inverness, between its junction with Ness Walk Upper and its junction with Ardross Terrace, from 18:00hrs on Saturday 27th April to 15:30hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(t) Travelling in any direction on Ness Walk Upper, Inverness, between its junction with Bishops Road and its junction with Ballifeary Lane, from 05:30hrs to 08:00hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(u) Travelling in any direction on Ness Walk Upper, Inverness, between its junction with Ballifeary Lane and its junction with Bught Road, from 18:00hrs on Saturday 27th April to 08:00hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(v) Travelling in any direction on Bught Road, Inverness, between its junction with Ness Walk Upper and its junction with Bught Avenue, from 18:00hrs on Saturday 27th April to 08:00hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(w) Travelling in any direction on Bught Road, Inverness, between its junction with Bught Avenue and its junction with Whin Park, from 21:00hrs on Saturday 27th April to 08:00hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(x) Travelling in any direction on Bught Avenue, Inverness, between its junction with Bught Road and its junction with Bught Lane, from 18:00hrs on Saturday 27th April to 07:30hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(y) Travelling in any direction on Bught Drive, Inverness, between its junction with Bught Avenue and its junction with the A82 Dalnottar – Inverness Trunk Road, from 05:30hrs to 07:10hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
(z) Travelling in a southbound direction on the A8082 Inverness Southern Distributor Road between Ness Side Roundabout and Holm Roundabout, from 07:50hrs to 12:15hrs on Sunday 28th April 2019.
The Order, which is required to ensure the safe passage of participants taking part in the 'Etape Loch Ness' Cycling Event, will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the lengths of road as are indicated by the appropriate traffic signs or cones.
Emergency services' vehicles, being used in an emergency for ambulance, coastguard, fire brigade or police purposes, and vehicles employed to ensure the safety of the event participants are exempt from the restriction and prohibitions detailed in the Order.
Vehicles driven under escort are exempt from the restriction and prohibitions detailed in the Order.
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Cyclists who are registered to participate in the 'Etape Loch Ness 2019' Cycling Event are exempt from the restriction and prohibitions detailed in the Order.
A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available for viewing at the following address:
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66	Renault Clio 1.2 Dyn Nav	White	14,000	£9,750	14	Dacia Stepway, LAU. TCe,	Black	25,000	£6,500
66	Peugeot 208 GTline HDi	Red	14,500	£10,250	14	Renault Megan Coupe 1.5 DCi	Blue,	27,000	£6,950
65	Dacia Stepway LAU DCi	White	14,500	£8,500	13	Renault Megane Dyn DCi Estate	Black	75,000	£5,350
15	Nissan Micra Visia 1.2	White	24,600	£5,750	63	Renault Clio EXP 1.2	White	5,000	£6,250
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New Brexit date: trick or treat?

NFUS political affairs manager **Clare Slipper**, pictured, uses NFU Scotland's blog to ponder on the new Halloween deadline for Brexit with the European Council agreeing to a further extension to the Article 50 Brexit negotiating period to October 31, 2019. That brought welcome relief from the prospect of a no deal, cliff-edge exit from the EU on April 12.

Theresa May's preferred date was June 30; the EU 27 generally wanted a 12-month extension. What we have now is somewhere in the middle, but many believe that another extension is not out of the question.



What is key is that, if the House of Commons does pass the Withdrawal Agreement, then the UK can leave at any time before October 31.

A key milestone is May 22. If the UK has not ratified the Withdrawal Agreement by this date then it must hold elections for the European Parliament. If it does not, it will automatically be expelled on June 1.

The UK government is already putting plans in place to hold elections and it is entirely possible that we end up in the rather bizarre situation where we elect six new Scottish MEPs who will never take

up their seats. Furthermore, the EU Council has made it clear that the Withdrawal Agreement on the table cannot be reopened. What is up for discussion is the non-legally binding Political Declaration on the Future Relationship. This puts the onus back on the cross-party talks between Theresa May and Jeremy Corbyn's teams to find a pathway that is deemed acceptable to the House of Commons which is, as it stands, bitterly divided.

This is where the real bread and butter is for NFU Scotland

and its members, who have been crystal clear that a no deal would be catastrophic for the whole agricultural industry and our iconic food and drink sectors and that must be avoided at all costs. It is absolutely vital that any extension to the negotiating period is used constructively rather than as a can-kicking exercise to avoid a no deal.

Cross-party talks between the two major UK parties have not yet borne fruit. However, the buzz around the talks suggests that the compromise could be in entering a customs union with the EU after Brexit.

An EU-UK customs union would remove the threat of any new tariffs and customs checks on goods being traded. However, any new customs agreement with the EU would need to be totally comprehensive and include regulatory alignment with EU standards.

Around the markets

Islay - United Auctions held their second spring sale of 612 grazing cattle on Saturday April 13. A good offering of quality bred stock sold well and to a strong force of mainland buyers. Bulls sold to average 231.5 pence per kilo or £876.85 per head and heifers levelled out at 224.6 pence per kilo or £782.44 per head. Bulls sold to a top of £1190 per head from Islay Estates and to 272 pence per kilo for Charolais crosses from Tallant. Charolais heifers from Craigfad sold to £1050 per head whilst Bayview led this section at 274 pence per kilo for British Blue Cross.

Principal lots and prices.
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AAx: £1100(6) - Craighens : £1065(5) - Ballimartin : £1060(10) - Craighens : £1045(9) - Ballimartin : £1030(8) and £1000(7) - Craighens : £990(10) - Octomore : £985(9) - Craighens : £950(2) - Octomore : £950 - Craigfad : £940(5) - Ballimartin : £905(8) - Craighens : £900(2) - Tallant.
BRBx: £920 and £900 - Bayview.
CHARx: £970 - Tallant : £940(13) - Craigfad.
LIMx: £1080 - Corry(2) and Kilchiaran : £1060 - Lossit(3) and Ballimartin(3) : £1040(4) and £1035(8) - Ballimartin : £1035(6), £995(4) and £990(5) - Kilchiaran : £980(2) - Tallant : £940(4) - Ballimartin : £940 - Corry : £930(2) - Octomore : £920

- Lossit and Tallant(3) : £910 - Corry : £905 - Ballychatrigan : £900(5) - Kilbride.
LUING: £1190, £1120(6), £1035(2) - Islay Estates.
SHx: £785 - Kilchiaran.
SIMx: £940 - Corry : £930 - Kilchiaran.
Heifers,
AAx: £940, £910(6) and £900(5) - Craighens.
BRBx: £980 and £880 - Bayview.
CHARx: £1050 and £915(4) - Craigfad.
LIMx: £980(2) - Lossit : £970 - Tallant : £950(6) - Lossit : £930 - Tallant : £900 - Ballychatrigan(3) and Otomore : £890 - Brybruich and Octomore(2) : £885(5) - Kilchiaran.
SHx: £785 - Kilchiaran.
SIMx: £820(3) - Corry.
Top prices per kilo.
Bulls.

AAx: 243p(9) - Craighens : 242p(9) - Ballimartin : 241p(8), 240p(4) and 238p(6) - Craighens : 237p(2) - Tallant : 234p(7) and 232p(8) - Craighens : 230p - Ballychatrigan.
BRBx: 238p - Bayview.
CHARx: 272p and 269p(3) - Tallant : 258p - Corry : 255p(2) - Mansefield : 247p and 244p - Kinnabus : 240p(7) - Craigfad.
LIMx: 271p(3) - Sannaigmore (G Bignal) : 264p(8) - Ballimartin : 263p(5) - Kinnabus : 262p and 260p - Sannaigmore - (G Bignal) : 259p(3) - Tallant : 259p - Corry : 257p - Lossit : 256p(5) - Kilchiaran : 255p(4) - Ballimartin

: 254p(2) - Lossit : 252p - Kilbride : 250p(2) - Tallant : 250p(4) - Kilchiaran : 249p(5) - Kilbride : 248p(6) - Kilchiaran : 248p - Mansefield : 247p - Kinnabus : 246p - Corry and Octomore : 244p(2) - Corry : 244p(3) - Kinnabus : 242p(4) - Ballimartin : 240p(4) and 238p - Kinnabus : 237p(3) - Kilbride : 236p(2) - Corry : 235p - Corry.
LUING: 225p(2) - Duich.
SHx: 221p(3) - Kilchiaran.
SIMx: 270p(3) - Corry : 270p - Kinnabus : 262p - Sannaigmore (G Bignal) : 249p(8) - Kinnabus : 241p(2) - Corry : 240p - Kinnabus : 236p - Corry : 230p - Corry.
Heifers.
AAx: 237p - Ballimartin : 232p(2), 231p(6), 230p(3) and 229p(11) - Craighens.
BRBx: 274p and 232p - Bayview.
CHARx: 253p - Kinnabus : 242p(2) and 241p(2) - Tallant : 238p(2) - Corry : 237p, 234p(9) and 233p(3) - Craigfad : 232p(6) - Mansefield : 224p(6) - Corry.
LIMx: 267p - Tallant : 253p(7) - Kinnabus : 251p(2) - Sannaigmore(G Bignal) : 247p - Corry : 244p(6) - Ballimartin : 243p(2) - Bayview and Kilbride : 242p - Octomore : 241p - Tallant(8) and Lossit(2) : 240p - Corry : 238p(6) - Lossit : 237p and 235p - Kilchiaran : 232p - Mansefield and Bayview : 230p(5) - Duich.
SIMx: 251p - Sannaigmore (G Bignal) : 234p(3) and 226p(2) - Corry.

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GOLDEN WEDDING

MACINNES - Neil and Caroline, (née Smith), were married on April 19, 1969 at St. Columba's Cathedral, Oban by Monsignor Thomas Wynne.

DEATHS

GALLACHER - Peacefully at Dundonald House Care Home, Kilmarnock on April 15, 2019, in her 89th year, Margaret (née Gillies), mother of William, David, Allan, Ann, James and the late Ian. Funeral will take place from Muckairn Parish Church, Taynuilt on Friday April 26, at 1.00 pm thereafter to Muckairn Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for Dundonald House Care Home.

KNIGHT - Audrey Allan, aged 83, of Craignure, Mull, died suddenly at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley. Much loved wife of James, mother of Andy and Juliet and grandmother to five grandchildren. She will be very badly missed by all. The family would like to thank the staff of Craignure and Oban Hospitals who showed her such kindness and care throughout her illness.

MACALPINE-DOWNIE - Shirley Agnes, (née Reid), died on Saturday, March 30, 2019. Funeral will be at 12.20pm on Wednesday, April 24, at Kingston-Upon-Thames Crematorium, Surrey. No flowers. Donations to St. Matthew's Church, Surbiton, care of FW Paine 020 8399 2060.

MACDOUGALL - (Inverness). Sadly passed away on April 9, 2019, William Graham MacDougall, "Grampa", 35 Culduthel Mains Circle, Inverness, aged 54 years, legendary landscape gardener. Devoted father to Calum and Nicola, dearly loved brother to Irene, brother-in-law to Ian and precious uncle to Ian and Karen, much loved partner to Catherine Cameron. Will be sorely missed by loyal, appreciative clients and countless friends. Funeral service on Wednesday, April 24 at 2:00p.m. in the funeral home of William T. Fraser and Son, Culduthel Road, Inverness, thereafter interment on Saturday, April 27 at 12 noon in Pennyfuir Cemetery, Oban. All friends respectfully invited to funeral home and graveside service.

REID - Suddenly at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on Saturday April 6, 2019, aged 56, Willie Reid, much loved husband to Tracey, son of the late Willie and Vera Reid, father, brother, brother-in-law and uncle. Will be sadly missed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CURRIE - The family of the late Agnes Currie would like to thank all family, friends, neighbours and colleagues for the support shown to them in their sad loss of Agnes. To Dr Fiona McLennan and the nurses at the Lorn Medical Centre. Thanks

also to the Marie Curie nurse for her support, Ian of D&A Munn for his professional guidance and care, to Donald MacKinnon for his comforting words, to Justine at The Thistle and the Rose and Lynette at Petals for the beautiful floral tributes and to the Royal Hotel for their excellent buffet. Final thanks to all who paid their respects to Agnes at the church and graveside. The sum of £769.61 was raised for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

MACCORMICK - Margaret and family would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness, support, cards and messages of sympathy following the sad loss of Ronnie. Special thanks to Lorn Medical Centre, Macmillan Unit and Marie Curie for the care they gave to Ronnie throughout his illness. We would also like to thank Ian at D&A Munn for his help through this difficult time, thanks to Alyson Stewart for delivering beautiful services and giving Ronnie the send off he truly deserved, thanks to the Argyllshire Gathering Halls and Martyrs Bay restaurant. To Ken, Davy and the boys on Iona for making it possible for Ronnie to go home to his final resting place. A final thank you to all who came to celebrate Ronnie's life in Oban and Iona. Your generous donations raised £1089.41 for Marie Curie. Ronnie will never be forgotten and will be sorely missed by all.

MACMILLAN - The family of the late Florence MacMillan would like to thank everyone for their love and support following their sudden and devastating loss. The kindness shown made this difficult time more bearable. A special thanks to those who travelled to Leeds and Kinlochleven to say their good-byes to Flo. The sum of £636 was raised for the Stroke Association Leeds Branch and ward L3 ITU Leeds General Infirmary.

ROBERTSON - The family of Anne would like to thank relatives and friends for their attendance in church and at the graveside and for their expressions of love and sympathy. Special thanks to doctors, nurses and staff at Easdale Medical Practice, Macmillan nurses, carers from Oban and Bute, Rev Ken Ross for an uplifting service, John Simpson (Oban) for the scripture reading and prayer, Ian MacInnes of D&A Munn for services rendered and everyone who provided generously for

the refreshments served in Toberonochy Hall, Luing. The sum of £717 was gathered and donated to Tear Fund.

ROSS - The family of the late Mary (Maimie) Ross would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their many expressions of sympathy and kindness extended to them following their recent sad loss. Heartfelt thanks go to Fairfield Surgery and especially to the District Nurses who cared with compassion and kindness. Special thanks to Rev. Canon Dr John Cuthbert for his personal service and to McFall Funeral Directors for their guidance and attention to detail. Finally thanks to all who came to pay their last respects and who donated generously to the British Heart Foundation. The sum of £610.80 was raised.

MEMORIALS

ALLAN - Jimmy. In loving memory of my dad, who died April 12, 1967, in his 45th year. Always in my thoughts.
- John x

BUCHANAN - In loving memory of Willie my darling husband, who died on April 23, 2011. A precious dad to Mary, Katy and Hugh. Also greatly loved and missed by his mother Molly and all his Morar family.

MACEWAN - In loving memory of Sandy (Glencoe and Oban), died April 21, 2018.

With the coming of the spring
The hills weep their loss
Of the beauty of the snow
Which covered their peaks in winter blanket,
Waterfalls gush to clear this land
For summer to come and light the paths
Where feet tread in search of views
From mountain top and craggy summits,
The fading light of autumn brings a different hue
Preparing for the return of the white blanket,
The cycle continues year on year but without your footsteps on this land you held so dear,
Sandy, this glen will always be your rest
Be free and at piece in his heart.
Proud to be a shepherd
- With love from all the family.

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of our mum, granny and great-granny Rachel, who passed away April 21, 2016. Loving and kind in all her ways

Precious are the memories.
- Neil, Jennifer, Charles and families.

PHILLIPS - 8th Anniversary Mary Kate, a loving wife, mum, granny, a dear sister, sister-in-law and auntie.

Treasured memories
With all our love
-The family in Australia, Skipton, Fort William, Benbecula and South Uist

PURDEN - Precious memories of our son Angus, who left us April 22, 1998. It broke our hearts to lose you But you didn't go alone For part of us went with you The day God called you home You left us precious memories and though we cannot see you You are always by our side You left a place no one can fill You're always in our hearts and thoughts son.
- Mum and Dad xx.

PURDEN - In loving memory of my brother Angus who left us April 22, 1998. Love and miss you always.
- Frances x.

SWAINSON - Mum. She was a mother so very rare Content in her home and always there On earth she toiled in heaven she rests God bless you mother You were the best. You will always be our hero Thank God you are wind beneath our wings We miss you so much. Back in daddy's arms.
- Marie and Jacqueline.

GRADUATION



DR KIRSTY SHONA HILL

Kirsty graduated from The University of Glasgow with a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Marine Science with Sensor Development. Kirsty is the daughter of Dennis and Shona Hill, Fort William



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Obituary – Anne Flavell

A visit to Tobermory will never be quite the same again with the passing of Anne (Annie) Flavell – or Cookie, as she was known.

Stalwart of the chandlery Seafare on Tobermory's Main Street for 41 years, Cookie and her veritable Aladdin's cave of seafaring goods were an institution of Tobermory, meaning so many things to so many different people.

Annie's nickname was forged early on when she qualified in Hotel and Catering management.

Her first job was as CCC with the Post Office. Before she started work, Annie had to sign the Official Secrets Act and it can only now be safely revealed what CCC actually stood for – 'Chief Custart Curdler'.

She thereafter worked in various places in Edinburgh before moving to the Clachaig Inn in Glencoe where she was one of two chefs and became known as Cookie.

Her life was changed forever when she arrived in Tobermory in 1976. At that time, Seafare was a small supplies shop for local diving businesses. Cookie took it and built it up into a proper emporium which has grown and grown and is now renowned on the West Coast. Indeed for many, Seafare is the 'go to' place in Tobermory.

As well as being an integral part of the community of Tobermory, Annie got involved with the RNLI 20 years ago, when she volunteered to become a DLA, or deputy launch assistant. This is an important role involving taking the decision whether or not to authorise the launch of the lifeboat.

In 2010, she was awarded the RNLI silver medal in acknowledgement of her role. In 2013, she became the treasurer of the RNLI, working tirelessly behind the scenes and devoting hours every week to managing the station's finances.

Cookie's hard work and dedication were recognised last year with the award of the RNLI's prestigious Gold Badge. A low-key, private presentation was held at the station after Lifeboat



Day, when Cookie had finished counting the money. As in so many areas of her life, she was modest, unassuming and never wanted any fuss. But alongside her hard work, she was indeed the life and soul at every RNLI station social event, had the greatest sense of fun and loved a bit of mischief with any excuse to party.

Anne was also treasurer of the Tobermory Harbour Association for many years and her support for the community company was unwavering.

She also helped West Highland Yachting Week with several aspects of the event, including the famous window dressing competition in Tobermory.

Nothing was too much effort or too much time for her. Because she was

part of Main Street in Tobermory with Seafare, she became well known and loved by many visitors as well as the locals – she has been a constant presence in the lives of several generations of village children especially her niece Frankie, her nephews Jim and Matt, and her nephew Frank, who hails from London.

Tobermory's Main Street is known the world over for its iconic coloured houses. Yet in reality it is the people of our community who bring colour to the town. And Cookie was certainly one of the town's most colourful characters.

Without her in the doorway of her shop, Main Street will seem a little monochrome, especially in the summer when there will be no excuse for

a chat and a laugh with Cookie outside Seafare.

Nothing was too silly for her and there are many tales of her exploits and the famous back shop 'lock in' sessions at Seafare. Cookie's parties and lunches were legendary and in particular the 'prime wine time'. She was much loved for her dry and sometimes wicked sense of humour.

Once on a dull winter's day she persuaded a willing close friend to dress up in some sailing gear and climb into the shop window to give a few passers-by a start as he winked at them.

Above all, she was affectionate and dependable – someone who everyone knew they could trust. She had many friends and valued her relationships with all of them. For many she was indeed a legend.

And as was outlined at her farewell service in the Western Isles Hotel, only Cookie could make something out of being the proud purveyor of 'Creeping Crack Cure' at Seafare.

The sealant has now been renamed 'Finds and Fixes Leaks' which doesn't have quite the same ring.

Seafare was the embodiment of Cookie in so many ways. As well as the serious and practical chandlery stock at the back of the shop, there was a selection of silly stuff, such as hats and even cow bells at the front.

Seafare was somewhere you could go for a laugh or for some advice. Indeed, Cookie has helped countless 'yotties' the length and breadth of the West Coast and farther afield with their queries and problems.

She was a great sounding board. She never judged, and her advice was invariably wise counsel.

Tobermory Harbour Association stated via social media: 'Where would our boat owners have been without Seafare? We will miss you Anne and thank you for all you did for our harbour and for all our visitors afloat.'

When news was broken to the lifeboat crew about Cookie, one member commented: 'The world needs more Cookies, not one less.'

THOUGHT for the week

'This Good News about the Kingdom will be preached through all the world for a witness to all people'
– Matthew 24:14.

What is good about the things you think are bad? A strange question perhaps!

Yet sometimes we need to pause, get behind our own opinions, prejudices and biases, and be open to the possibility of other views.

Whether it's international politics, or a neighbourly misunderstanding, the starting point is often, 'I am right and you're wrong.'

The Greek gang of three philosophers – Socrates, Plato and Aristotle – have taught us well to debate from our rightness.

A later character had a different philosophy of life and taught the way of love. He spoke of a kingdom where the first shall be last, the poor shall be rich, enemies are loved, and all things made new.

Jesus's death, remembered on a day we call Good Friday, and his resurrection marked on Easter Sunday invite us all into a narrative bigger than all our own stories together – a story of new possibility – a way of transformation and love ... good news for all people.

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Controversial decision at Tig

Saturday April 13 saw Kingussie leap-frog Lovat to top the Mowi Premiership, whilst Mowi National Division leaders Fort William recorded a fifth successive victory.

Mowi Premiership

Kyles Athletic 4 Oban Camanachd 3

Kyles Athletic eventually saw off Oban Camanachd, winning 4-3 in a match with one key controversial moment at Tighnabruaich.

Kyles were minus Sandy MacKenzie. Roddy MacDonald once again started in defence with

Paul MacArthur on the bench. Oban Camanachd were without Scott McKillop and Aidan MacIntyre through injury, whilst Daniel Madej and Chrissie MacMillan were also missing. Daniel Cameron returned from suspension and Andrew MacCuish was back in the starting line-up.

Kyles had the better first half chances and took the lead four minutes before the break. The ball broke to Colin MacDonald who made no mistake, scooping an effort home.

The Oban side were forced to make a change at the break with David Lafferty coming on for the first time this season in place of Malcolm Clark who had a niggling hamstring.

Oban Camanachd started the second half all guns blazing and Daniel MacVicar levelled on 48 minutes. Scott MacMillan's shot from the penalty spot was saved by John Whyte but MacVicar turned the rebound home from the tightest of angles when the home defence perhaps thought the ball might go out of play.

Andrew MacCuish was first to react to a rebound from another John Whyte save on 53 minutes and he tucked home, low and hard from the edge of the 'D' to put Oban Camanachd 2-1 ahead.

The game's controversial moment came on 63 minutes. Oban Camanachd had been attacking but a clearance swiftly put the hosts on a quick break. There was no doubt Ross MacRae was originally tripped by Keith MacMillan and then collided with Daniel Sloss. However, the Oban Camanachd camp were adamant the infringement took place at least a couple of yards outside the 'D'.

However referee Robert Baxter pointed to the spot and Daniel Sloss and Gary McKerracher were booked for their parts. Robbie MacLeod converted the penalty, knee-high to keeper Cameron Sutherland's right, to make it 2-2.

There was worse to follow for the Oban side as Gary McKerracher was shown a second yellow card for something said to the goal judge after the penalty was converted and the visitors were reduced to 11 players.

This was definitely a turning point and Ross MacRae put the hosts back in front three minutes later when his shot from distance beat the keeper.

Ross MacRae got his second to make it 4-2 on 81 minutes, driving a shot under the keeper from around the penalty spot.

Oban Camanachd made a late surge and Andrew MacCuish turned Calum Miller a minute from time before blasting a cracking shot into the net from 18 yards.

Oban Camanachd threw Daniel Sloss up front in search of an equaliser but Kyles saw out the closing stages to maintain their 100 per cent record and notch their third win of the season.

Speaking after the match, Oban Camanachd assistant manager



The controversial foul that led to the Kyles' penalty looks as though it was outside the box.

Kenny Wotherspoon said: 'I thought the penalty award was a very poor decision and it left us bitterly disappointed.'

'The referee was some way back when he gave the decision and the goal not only cost us the lead as it brought Kyles back into the game but we lost Gary (McKerracher) whilst Daniel (Sloss) was also booked.'

'We had Kyles on the back foot at the time and it was a very poor call which left us feeling robbed from what was a winning position.'

'It was positive to see three away goals scored though, especially with 'Papa' getting a double.'

'We're looking forward to this week's derby with Oban Celtic at Ganavan. We'll hopefully have Aidan MacIntyre back for that one and let's hope shinty does the talking.'

'I had three great seasons at Oban Celtic but my role now is to get our side ready for this game and we'll train at Ganavan during the week as part of our preparations.'

The Oban derby is a 2.30pm throw-up and will be refereed by Deek Cameron.

Lovat 0 Newtonmore 3

Reigning champions Newtonmore showed any doubters they are still a force to be reckoned with, scoring three times in the first half to beat title challengers Lovat 3-0 at Balgait.

Newtonmore took the lead on four minutes. Steven Macdonald floated in a perfect free-hit from the left and Iain Robinson took a great touch inside before driving low past Stuart MacDonald, beating the keeper on his left side.

Newtonmore were clearly fired up for this game and added a second on 11 minutes. Fraser MacKintosh launched a hit-in from near the corner flag on the right which went over both Daniel Grieve and Glen MacKintosh before coming off Callum Cruden's feet. Glen MacKintosh was in the right place between the defenders to expertly whip the ball into the net.

The visitors had a penalty claim

with Callum Cruden on the ground inside the 'D' but the ball was cleared for a corner.

Glen MacKintosh got his second to make it 3-0 on 34 minutes. Jamie Robinson played in a low corner from the left and Daniel Grieve fell to the ground as he tried to clear. With referee John Angus Gillies playing advantage, Glen MacKintosh took the chance to stroke the ball home on the turn, low past Stuart MacDonald on his left, to make it 3-0.

Lovat conjured up what was only their second shot at goal on 41 minutes. Marc MacLachlan won the ball and fired goalwards but Kenny Ross saved well with his stick.

The visitors were awarded a penalty when Glen MacKintosh played a defence-splitting pass and Martin Mainland ran across the 'D'. But his reckless challenge brought Evan Menzies down, earning him a yellow card. Glen MacKintosh, on a hat-trick, placed the spot-hit but Stuart MacDonald was quickly across the goal saving with his feet to his right, turning the ball away for a corner.

Iain Richardson was shown a yellow card for bringing down a Lovat forward outside the 'D' with five minutes remaining. The resultant free-hit was played into the 'D' where Fraser Heath initially touched the ball before coming out of the D and scoring. It was a close call but the referee ruled it offside.

Kinlochshiel 1 Kingussie 4

With Lovat losing to Newtonmore, Kingussie took full advantage as they came from behind to beat Kinlochshiel 4-1 in their 3pm throw-up at Kirkton.

It was an even opening before Kinlochshiel, playing down the slope, took the lead on 11 minutes. Mark MacDonald won possession at the back and he picked out Duncan 'WD' MacRae who played the ball on to Duncan Matheson who found John MacRae on the right. MacRae cut in before blasting a waist-high shot across keeper MacGregor and into to the net. Kingussie drew level on 31 minutes. Savio Genini

took a pass from Roddy Young and threaded a low shot by a couple of defenders which went in off keeper Stuart MacRae's left post.

It was Kingussie who took a 2-1 lead into the break with Roddy Young again the supplier.

This time Savio Genini's shot took a wicked bounce off the fiery surface before going over the goalie's shoulder.

Kinlochshiel's John MacRae, who looked lively during the first 45 minutes, had gone down injured late in the half and had to be withdrawn at the break with a hamstring problem. Keith MacRae took over at full forward.

Roddy Young extended Kingussie's advantage on 52 minutes when he gathered the ball around 35 yards from goal before thumping it high into the net.

Savio Genini completed his hat-trick six minutes later, running to the front post to turn home James Falconer's corner from the left.

Caberfeidh 3 Kilmallie 1

Caberfeidh collected their first points of the season as they beat Kilmallie 3-1 at Castle Leod.

Craig Morrison gave Caberfeidh th lead on 10 minutes but Kilmallie, who had Michael Rodger back, levelled on 28 minutes through Craig MacIsaac.

Robbie Brindle made it 2-0 on 34 minutes and Kevin Bartlett added a third with five minutes remaining.

Inveraray 0 Lochaber 1

Lochaber picked up two valuable points as they beat Inveraray 1-0 in their 3pm throw-up at the Winterton.

It was a cold, windy day and the visitors played with the elements in the first half.

Lochaber, who hit the bar during the first period, took the lead on 38 minutes with Ryan Johnstone scoring following a goalmouth scramble.

Inveraray, including Connor Howe who joined from Oban Camanachd during the week, came close to a leveller after the break with Lochaber

Fixtures

Saturday April 20

Cottages.com MacTavish Cup second round

Glenurquhart v Skye
Martin MacLean
Beaully v Strathglass
Andy MacLean
Kingussie v Lovat
Iain Kennedy

Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup second round

Bute v Kyles Athletic
Ross Brown - 3pm
Oban Celtic v Oban Camanachd
Deek Cameron
At Ganavan.
Glasgow MA v Ballachulish
David Mitchell

Mowi Premiership

Lochaber v Newtonmore
John Angus Gillies
Kinlochshiel v Kilmallie
Calum Girvan

Mowi North Division 1

Aberdeen Uni v Caberfeidh
John Matheson - noon
Fort William v Kingussie
Des McNulty
Glengarry v Inverness
Alex MacVicar
Lovat v Glenurquhart
Archie Ritchie
Newtonmore v Skye
Brian MacKay

Mowi South Division 1

Col Glen v Taynuilt
Robert Baxter
Lochside Rovers v Glasgow MA
Lachie Wood

Mowi North Division 2

Inverness v Strathspey
Callum Duff
Lochcarron v Beaully
Steven MacLachlan
Strathglass v Kilmallie
Ronnie Campbell

Mowi South Division 2

Aberdour v Ardnamurchan
Graham Fisher
Bute v Oban Celtic
Neil MacDonald - noon
All throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated.

h nabruaich

Results

Saturday April 13

Sutherland Cup first round

Kingussie 4 v 1 Lewis
Strathglass 3 v 0 Aberdour

Mowi Premiership

Caberfeidh 3 v 1 Kilmallie
Inveraray 0 v 1 Lochaber
Kinlochshiel 1 v 4 Kingussie
Kyles Ath 4 v 3 Oban Caman
Lovat 0 v 3 Newtonmore

Mowi National Division

Glasgow MA 1 v 0 Beaulieu
Fort William 6 v 0 Strathglass
Glenurquhart 7 v 0 Bute
Oban Celtic 2 v 5 Skye

Mowi North Division 1

Inverness 1 v 2 Newtonmore
Aberdeen Uni 0 v 1 Glenurquhart
Kinlochshiel 0 v 4 Fort William
Skye 0 v 0 Lovat

Mowi South Division 1

Aberdour 7 v 3 Ballachulish
Glasgow Mid Argyll 3 v 0 Taynuilt
Lochside Rovers 3 v 4 Kyles Ath
Inveraray 4 v 2 Tayforth

Mowi North Division 2

Beaulieu 6 v 2 Inverness
Boleskine 1 v 5 Lochcarron

Mowi South Division 2

Bute 3 v 0 Kilmory
Oban Celtic 0 v 5 Glenorchy

goalie Callum MacDonald saving well from Fraser Watt after a well-worked free-hit.

Inveraray's Hamish MacLellan cleared a ball off the line to prevent the Spean Bridge men getting a second.

One concern for Lochaber boss Michael Delaney is an injury to Shaun Nicholson who nipped in to win the ball as Robert Wood went to shoot for goal but ended up taking the full swing across the ankles.

Mowi National Division

Fort William 6 Strathglass 0

Fort William stay on top of the National Division after beating Strathglass 6-0 at An Aird.

Alexander MacMillan got the opener on 14 minutes and Lewis Morrison added two more on 21 and 61 minutes, either side of Arran MacPhee's 23rd minute strike, to make it 4-0 at the break.

Alexander MacMillan got his second on 65 minutes and Lewis Clark rounded off the win on 71 minutes.

Oban Celtic 2 Skye 5

Skye Camanachd saw off a plucky Oban Celtic fight-back to win 5-2 at Mossfield.

Oban Celtic were still without the injured Neil Carmichael, whilst Jamie Forgive failed to recover from a knock and Daniel MacMillan

served the final game of his suspension. Ross MacMillan continued in defence with Andy MacDonald at full centre.

All three Oban Celtic substitutes played for the second team earlier in the day, whilst 17 year old Scott Mossman started both games.

Skye travelled with the same squad that beat Beaulieu the previous week, minus Chris Rose and Ross MacKinnon but they were boosted by the return of last season's player of the year Stewart Grant who started on the bench.

With a strong breeze blowing down the park, Skye chose to take the wind advantage but it was Oban Celtic who made by far the better start and they looked sharper and hungrier in every challenge during the first quarter of the match with Ross MacMillan commanding at half back and Ally McKerracher a constant threat in attack.

McKerracher was through one-on-one with Skye keeper Ryan Morrison but he sent the ball past the post. It also took a smart stop with his feet from the Skye custodian to keep the scores level.

It was Skye who took the lead on the half-hour following a strike on goal from Ross Gordon. Home keeper Jack Hill made the save but Ian MacLellan was quickest to react as the ball broke and he got the final touch to make it 1-0.

Continued on page 56.



Celebrations from Kingussie's Savio Genini after finding the back of the net against Kinlochshiel. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

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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.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

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The two entries who got nearest the ball and each receive £25 are:

G Milliken
Glasgow
K MacInnes
Oban

Continued from page 51.

Three minutes later, a quick-taken free-hit from outside the penalty area caught out the Oban Celtic defence and Jordan Murchison found time and space to rifle the ball into the back of the net to make it 2-0.

Despite being two goals down, Oban Celtic continued to be a threat, particularly on the break, and, on the stroke of half-time they pulled a goal back after the some good forward play and, with the Skye defence failing to clear. Ally McKerracher got by his marker to score.

Skye attacked from the restart but it was Oban Celtic who drew level on 48 minutes through danger man Ally McKerracher who showed great skill to flick the ball before volleying past a helpless Morrison in the Skye goal.

The goal lifted the hosts but their joy was short-lived as Skye full centre John Gillies showed great athleticism to first win the ball in midfield and then play a long pass to Will Cowie. Gillies continued his run forward, receiving a return pass from Cowie on the right before taking a touch and firing a rocket-shot into the top corner of the net to make it 3-2 with 55 minutes on the clock.

Skye, with Cowie and Murchison swapping positions to great effect, began to take control of the game with John Gillies and Iain Nicolson in no mood to let the lead slip for a second time.

A neat finish from Will Cowie on the hour made it 4-2 before referee Alex MacVicar gave a straight red card to Oban Celtic's Ross MacMillan for a late challenge on Will Cowie, meaning the home side had to play out the final 15 minutes a player short.

Whilst Skye certainly didn't have it all their own way, their superior fitness was now evident and they took control with Will Cowie getting his second on 80 minutes to make it 5-2.

There was a late chance for Oban Celtic substitute Jamie Anderson, who had come on for Scott Mossman, but he was just unable to get on the end of a ball forward.

After the match, Oban Celtic assistant manager Les Kinvig said: 'Despite the defeat, we can see definite signs of improvement. There are plenty positives as Skye are a good side and we definitely made a game of it. It was the first time this season where we have played proper shinty and we were very much in the game for the first 70 minutes. We showed great fight and we're looking forward to getting a number of players back over the next few weeks, including Peter Currie who has joined the club.'

'We need to continue the good play into the derby against Oban Camanachd this week and just cut out some of the mistakes that have been costing us goals.'

Glenurquhart 7 Bute 0

Glenurquhart beat Bute 7-0 at Blairbeg.

A mixture of injury and unavailability meant Bute travelled with just 11 players.

Ewan Brady got Glenurquhart off to a great start with tap-in after three minutes.

And it was Brady again with a rasping shot from the side on 15 minutes to double the home side's lead.

Finlay Ralston added a third a minute later to make it 3-0 at half-time.

Ewan Brady completed his hat-trick five minutes after the interval.



Fort William's John MacMaster in a race for the ball during the Mowi National Division game against Strathglass. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Neale Reid produced a quality finish as he blasted home number five on 52 minutes and he got his second on 70 minutes with another good finish.

Bute battled hard with Iain McDonald doing his best to hold things together, but Glenurquhart substitute Oliver Black made it 7-0 a couple of minutes later.

Glasgow Mid Argyll 1 Beaulieu 0

Glasgow Mid Argyll recorded their first league win of the season, beating Beaulieu 1-0 in their 3pm throw-up at Yoker.

The game's decisive moment came on 41 minutes when the ball was played in to Oliver MacRae's feet on the edge of the box. MacRae turned and hit a low shot past Beaulieu keeper Josh Grant into the bottom right corner of the net.

Sutherland Cup Kingussie 4

Lewis Camanachd 1

The Kingussie second team beat Lewis Camanachd 4-1 in their 1.30pm throw-up at the Dell.

Strathglass 3 Aberdour 0

The Strathglass seconds saw off the Aberdour seconds 3-0 at Cannich.

Mowi North Division 1

Kinlochshiel 0 Fort William 4

The Fort William colts got off to a great start in their noon throw-up against the Kinlochshiel colts at Kirkton.

Playing down the slope, Fort William had the ball in the net within 15 seconds with youngster Victor Smith scoring.

Smith added a second a couple of minutes later as Kinlochshiel missed the influence of full centre Colin MacDiarmid, called up by the first team.

Kinlochshiel manager Willie MacRae moved Keith MacRae to full back and that

stemmed the tide towards the home goal. Kinlochshiel substitute Lewis MacVicar saw a shot from the right well saved by Stuart Disher as the home side tried to get back in the game.

Cal Brown, who was earlier booked after catching Kinlochshiel's Corran Jack, who limped off, made it 3-0 on 30 minutes, scoring from a corner on the left.

Sandy MacDiarmid in the home goal made a couple of good saves, with the second denying Victor Smith a hat-trick.

Fort William added a fourth with six minutes remaining when Victor Smith flicked on a long ball from Grant Disher. The hosts had the chance to clear but Alexander Kennedy won the ball on the left and sent it low into the net.

There were a number of good young players on show with Kinlochshiel's Archie MacRae and Fort William's Hamish Shaw both set to follow the footsteps of their older brothers in the game.

Elsewhere, the Skye Camanachd reserves and the Lovat reserves shared the points in a goalless draw at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree, whilst the Newtonmore second team recorded a 2-1 win over Inverness in their noon throw-up at the Bught Park.

The Glenurquhart second team beat Aberdeen University 1-0 at Balgownie.

Mowi South Division 1

Lochside Rovers 3 Kyles Athletic 4

Four-goal Luke Thornton inspired the Kyles Athletic seconds to a 4-3 win over Lochside Rovers in their 3pm throw-up at Ganavan.

Luke Thornton gave Kyles the lead on four minutes but two quick goals from Lennon Campbell on 36 and 38 minutes had Lochside 2-1 ahead at the break.

Luke Thornton completed his hat-trick five minutes into the second half but Lewis Buchanan made it 3-3 on

55 minutes. When referee Graham Fisher awarded the visitors a penalty a couple of minutes later, Luke Thornton got his fourth goal of the game and it was the one that eventually separated the sides.

Aberdour 7 Ballachulish 3

The top two sides in South 1 clashed at Silversands where Aberdour ran out 7-3 winners against Ballachulish.

Aberdour had most of the early pressure but struggled to find the target.

Ballachulish took advantage, capitalising on confusion in the home defence, to take the lead on 19 minutes through Duncan MacDonald with what proved to be the only goal of the first half. Lewis Bryson added a second Ballachulish goal on 52 minutes but that seemed to immediately spark the hosts into action.

With the excellent David MacKenzie pushed into attack, Aberdour scored five goals in 11 minutes.

Alec Mitchell drew Lisa MacColl's side level with a goal straight from the re-start and then again on 54 minutes.

Ruaridh Reid netted on 57 minutes and David McDougall on 62 and 63 minutes made it 5-2 to turn the match on its head.

David McDougall got his third to make it 6-2 on 75 minutes and although Duncan MacDonald got his second from Ballachulish with three minutes remaining, Ruaridh Reid bagged his second goal of the game a couple of minutes from time to make it 7-2.

Glasgow Mid Argyll 3 Taynuilt 0

The Glasgow Mid Argyll reserves defeated Taynuilt 3-0 in their 12.30pm throw-up at Yoker.

Seb MacMillan gave GMA the lead on 18 minutes but they had to wait until 20 minutes from time before Connor MacLeod got their second.

Andy McGhee rounded off the 3-0 win on 77 minutes.

Inveraray 4 Tayforth 2

The Inveraray colts beat Tayforth 4-2 in their 3pm throw-up at the Winterton.

Mowi North Division 2

Lochcarron recorded a good 5-1 win against Boleskine at Smith Park whilst the Beaulieu second team beat the Inverness second team 6-2 at Braeview Park.

Mowi South Division 2

Oban Celtic 0 Glenorchy 5

After a goalless first half, Glenorchy beat the Oban Celtic seconds 5-0 in their noon throw-up at Mossfield.

Robert MacLachlan put Glenorchy ahead on 51 minutes and Murray MacKay added a second a couple of minutes later. Kieran MacKay added two more on 65 and 80 minutes, whilst Conor Sartain made it 5-0 with five minutes remaining.

Bute 3 Kilmory 0

Kilmory suffered their first league defeat of the season as they lost 3-0 against the Bute reserves at the Meadows.

The islanders took the lead on 20 minutes. Referee Ross Brown awarded the hosts a penalty and Thomas Morrison converted from the spot. Ben Clarke netted on 30 and 66 minutes to seal the win.

WCA round-up

There was a busy Women's Camanachd Association fixture card.

Mowi National Division

Lochaber 9

Ardnamurchan 0

League leaders Lochaber stay out in front after beating Ardnamurchan 9-0 at Spean Bridge. Kirsty Delaney scored four times, Thea Robertson grabbed a double and Amy Disher, Mairi Duncan and Hanna Dougan got the others.

Badenoch 5 Strathspey 0

Badenoch were 5-0 derby winners against Strathspey at the Dell.

Zoe Reid and Megan Ralph both hit doubles, with Ruth Forbes grabbing a debut goal.

Skye Camanachd 15 Aberdour 0

Skye Camanachd overcame Aberdour 15-0 at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree. Lorna MacRae scored five times, Jenna Beaton bagged four, Caitlin MacLean grabbed a hat-trick and Abby MacLean got the other.



Lewis Morrison lines up a shot on the Strathglass goal.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Finally a final for Saints

Continued from page 60

Douglas into the postage stamp corner to give Shortlees the lead.

Saints responded straight from the re-start with Cammy Hill skipping past three challenges on the left and picking out James Ford in the middle for a low shot which Garry Murdoch did well to hold.

Willie Gemmell converted two free-kicks when the two sides met in the West of Scotland Cup last season and he came within inches of finding the net in the 14th minute. Scott Maitland's driving run on the left was halted by James Ferguson on the corner of the Shortlees box, from where Gemmell curled a good effort just wide of Garry Murdoch's left-hand post.

Winners of the competition in 2016, Shortlees continued to hold the upper hand without posing too much of a threat to Saints keeper Graham Douglas, who was well protected by his back four.

Saints brought themselves back into the match in the 37th minute after good work on the right by Cammy Hill. After beating Kieran

Paterson, Hill got to the byeline and picked out James Ford arriving in the middle. With the ball slightly behind him, Ford's stabbed effort wasn't the cleanest of strikes and keeper Garry Murdoch parried to his right.

The rebound fell to Lewis Cameron who saw his first-time effort blocked by Gordon Minor. The Shortlees defence still couldn't clear the danger, however, and Donald Campbell was next to line a up a strike which Minor again blocked before the ball eventually broke to Matthew Kelly who buried it in the bottom corner past the right hand of the Shortlees keeper.

Cruel

Having hauled themselves back level, Saints were dealt a cruel blow with the loss to injury of co-manager Donald Campbell. In a tussle close to the near touchline with Keir Knapp, Campbell twisted his lower back and fell to the ground in agony. There was nothing Davie Buchanan's magic sponge could do to retrieve the situation and Campbell had to be replaced by David Beaton with one minute of the first 45 remaining.

There was great concern on the Saints bench when



Matty Kelly fires home the equaliser. Photograph: Gerry Moore.

Campbell lost the feeling in his right leg and the St Andrew's first aid crew immediately arranged for him to be taken to Wishaw General Hospital. Fortunately, after treatment, Campbell returned after the final whistle to rejoin the travelling party for the bus journey home.

With the wind at their backs for the second half, Saints started brightly and James Ford sent a hook shot from a long Willie Gemmell throw-in flashing across the face of goal, just wide of Garry Murdoch's left-hand post in the 48th minute.

Dismissed

The Ayrshire men had a loud penalty kick appeal dismissed after the team captains had a coming together in the 51st minute. On the right edge of the Saints penalty area, Keir Knapp's pace took him away from Dene Cassells who slid in and sent his opposite number sprawling.

Referee Joe Todd immediately blew for a foul and, after consultation with his stand-side assistant Scott Bunting, gave a free-kick just outside

the box, a decision which infuriated the Shortlees bench. Saints got their noses in front in the 64th minute from the head of skipper Dene Cassells who bagged his fifth goal of the season so far.

David Beaton was hauled down by James Ferguson just outside the Shortlees box on the Saints left, level with the penalty spot. Willie Gemmell sent the free-kick to the back post where Dene Cassells out-jumped Kieran Paterson on the six-yard line and thumped a header past the helpless Garry Murdoch to give his side the lead.

Cammy Hill's persistence by the corner flag won Saints a 70th minute free-kick on the left. Lewis Cameron's delivery was headed behind for a corner kick from where Cameron picked out Cammy Hill for a glancing near-post header just wide of Garry Murdoch's right-hand post.

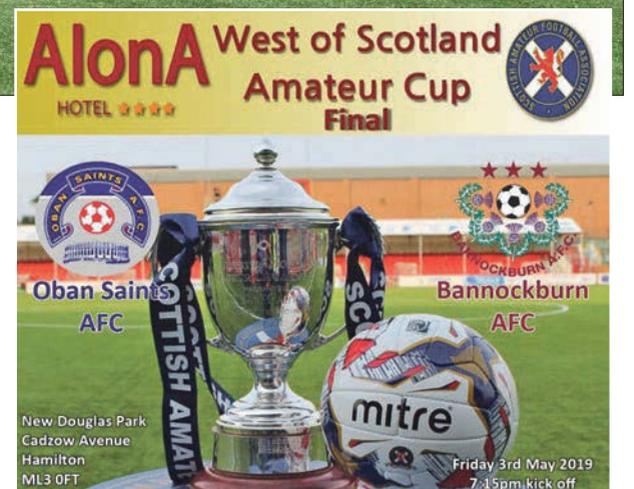
Saints good second half performance continued with a James Ford shot from the right edge of the box which Shortlees keeper Garry Murdoch did well to hold to



Donald Campbell sees the funny side of things as he leaves on a stretcher. Photograph: Derek Black.



Saints captain Dene Cassells wheels away after heading home the winning goal. Photograph: Derek Black.



Saints take on Bannockburn in the final of the West of Scotland Cup at New Douglas Park on Friday March 3.

his right.

The Ayrshire men made a change, replacing Douglas Robertson with Murray Johnston. Saints followed suit five minutes later, withdrawing James Ford and introducing Matt Rippon.

Cammy Hill had a good chance when the young striker raced through on goal but delayed his shot too long and was foiled by the combined efforts of Kieran Paterson and Garry Murdoch.

Stretched

With the clock ticking down, Shortlees pushed giant centre-half Gordon Minor into the attack leaving them stretched at the back. In the 85th minute, Lewis Cameron sent David Beaton through on the left from where he picked out Cammy Hill for a left foot shot which Garry Murdoch, diving to his right, did well to claw away.

It was end to end stuff at this point and Shortlees had the ball in the net but had Murray Johnston's close range header from a Keir Knapp cross correctly ruled out for offside.

A cynical late 91st minute challenge on Lewis Cameron by a clearly frustrated Keir Knapp caused players on both sides to momentarily lose their cool. Referee Todd, who along with assistants Scott Bunting and Stuart

FOOTBALL

Broadfoot handled proceedings well, calmly restored order and issued yellow cards to Cammy Hill and Gordon Minor before giving Steven MacLeod and Keir Knapp their marching orders.

With play back under way there was more work for the officials in the fourth of the six added minutes when the previously substituted Douglas Robertson was shown a red card for his unwelcome comments from the bench towards fourth official Tony McCann.

Mr Todd eventually brought an entertaining semi-final for the large crowd to a close confirming a return trip for the final for Saints in just under three weeks.

The Saints management and players would like to extend grateful thanks to all those who sent good luck messages for the match and especially to the loyal band of supporters who made the journey to Hamilton and to Aulay Dunn for generously helping to defray some of the cost of the bus to the semi-final.

Saints are on the road again this Saturday with a trip to face Motherwell Thistle in the quarter-final of the Scottish Amateur Football League Jimmy Marshall Trophy.

OT

GOLF



Pictured are the winners of the friendly competition held at Dalmally Golf Club to mark the start of the 2019 golf season. Ladies from Dalmally, Glencruitten, Taynuilt, Lochgilhead and Seil Island all took part in an extremely enjoyable day. Left to right – Kirsty Mackenzie (Glencruitten), Ann Colthart (lady captain, Dalmally) and Louise McLeod (Glencruitten).

Gents v ladies at Dalmally

A very close match between the Dalmally ladies against the gents decided on the last group of three in the clubhouse, resulted in the gents pipping the ladies by just over one Stableford point. With a great field, the ladies had an average Stableford score of 24.3 against the gents' 26.

With the course playing extremely well, the very cold easterly wind from the Baltic made an additional challenge. The ladies were well represented with two beginners, while the gents relied on many of the male club stalwarts. While the actual victory went to the gents, the ladies had a well deserved moral victory. Angus MacGillivray, club gents' captain, thanked all who played, and looked forward to the return grudge match next year.

Open competitions: Seniors' Open – ladies and gents – Wednesday May 22 – individual Stableford entry fee: £20 – includes refreshments (55+ years – gents, 50+ years – ladies).

Three-man team Stableford – Sunday June 30 – entry fee: £45 per team – includes refreshments (breakfast and after playing).

Gents' open – Sunday July 28 – individual strokeplay – entry fee: £20 – includes refreshments (breakfast and after playing). Prizes for top scratch and handicap, nearest the pin and longest drive.

Mixed foursomes – Sunday August 18 – entry fee £20 per player/£40 per couple – includes refreshments.

Ladies' Open Triam – Saturday September 21 – entry fee £45 per team of three, includes refreshments.

For more information or to enter any of these events phone/text/voicemail: Tony Graham 0789 991 4429, email dalmallygentsgolf@outlook.com or phone: Etive Brown 01866 822211, e-mail plusitive@gmail.com or visit www.dalmallygolfclub.co.uk.

Fun greensome at Seil

Isle of a Seil golf club held its first fun competition of the season a nine-hole greensomes on Sunday April 14 with members and some guests competing.

The course was in excellent condition due to the fine dry weather and hard work of our team of volunteer groundsmen.

Winners – Mark McDougall and Peter Hines; runners-up – Bill Dempster and George Hannah. Longest drive – 3rd yellow tee – Mark McDougall, red tee – Aaron MacLarty. Nearest pin at the 4th – Colin Dickey, 8th – Peter Hines.

OBAN SAINTS' YOUTHS

Results and fixtures

Last Sunday's results: Rutherglen 1, Under 13s 1. Scoring for Saints was Aidan MacDonald. BSC Glasgow 1, Under 14s 7. On target for Saints were Kyle Cooper (3), Ross MacKay (2), Ruairidh Buchanan and Andrew Nicol. Under 15s no game; Under 16s. No game.

Due to the Easter holiday weekend there are no youth team fixtures on Sunday

Athletes invited to run into Mull

Triathletes from all over Argyll are gearing up for a pre-season tester as entries open for the eighth annual Mull Triathlon.

Held on Sunday May 12, the event takes place in and around the Isle of Mull Hotel and Spa and consists of a 400-metre swim (24 lengths of the pool), 10-mile bike ride and 2.5k run.

Ian Wright of Mull Runners is taking on the role of chief organiser for the first year and is looking forward to welcoming both experienced and 'come and try' athletes on the day.

'It's a relaxed event, aimed at people who haven't done a triathlon before but would like to have a go – although experienced triathletes are

also welcome to come and test their fitness and sharpen their transition skills ahead of the new season,' he said.

Entries opened for islanders in February but are now open to everyone.

'We do follow British triathlon regulations in case participants want to carry on and do other events,' added Mr Wright.

The event is enthusiastically supported by the local community, particularly the Mull Runners, who will have a large team of volunteers in situ on the day.

Prizes will be given out for: overall male; overall female; first team; first U18 male; first U18 female; first over-50 (any gender).

Refreshments and home

TRIATHLON

baking will be available throughout the event for a small donation.

Triathlon running order and details: 10am to 10.45am, registration at Isle of Mull Hotel swimming pool; 10.45am – race brief for all competitors, poolside; 11am to 1pm – swim heats; 1.15pm – cycle and run starts (staggered start times); 2.30pm to 2.45pm – prize-giving in pool carpark.

Entries should be made at <http://www.mullrunners.com/mull-triathlon/> and cost £20. Teams will be accepted but each team member should enter individually, stating the team name on their entry.



Competitors get ready for the off in the cycling stage.

Hockey men keep promotion chances alive

Oban	3
Dumfries	2
West District – Division 3	

Last weekend the Oban men's team travelled down to Glasgow to take on the side from Dumfries.

Oban gained early control of the game with solid play from the back of the field by Gavin Yates, Lorne Binnie and George Gauley. Ryan Jones put in another brilliant shift in defence with some courageous tackles and speed at getting back when

Dumfries came on the attack. Stuart Head opened up the first half scoring, after being played into the top of the D by Theo Andrews.

Dumfries reacted, to this and attacked the Oban defence through some gaps created in the middle of the park, slotting home an equaliser, which David Love was unlucky not to save.

Oban kept their heads up and reacted well to the equaliser with a long period of attacking play eventually resulting in a short corner, from which Theo blasted the

ball into the corner of the goal for a half-time 2-1 lead.

The lads knew they had plenty of work to do in the second half, which started with some prolonged periods of play up the wings from Zeph Petit on the left and Jensen Binnie on the right. Stuart slotted home another peach after some well worked attacking play from Grant Matheson and Daniel Davidson up front.

Jack Johnston was unlucky not to add to his goal tally after being played into the D by the midfield. The goal tally continued with Dumfries

HOCKEY

slotting in a second, but with five minutes to go it was too late for the home team to even the scores. Final score: Oban 3, Dumfries 2.

This weekend's MOTM was Stuart Head, for some great goals under pressure and superb attacking play from midfield. Well done Stuart. Thanks to Charmaine Love for doing a great job umpiring.

The next game is against Hillhead on April 27 in Helensburgh.

swim, cycle, and



Triathlon cyclists get to grips with the Mull course.

John McPhee takes points on raceday at Austin

In contrast to the intense rain that fell on Saturday at the Circuit of the Americas, the Sunday action in Austin took place under sunny conditions for the Moto3 World Championship riders. The PETRONAS Sprinta Racing duo experienced mixed fortunes in the third race of the year with Oban's John McPhee managing to finish the contest in 14th place.

On the opening laps of the race, a large group formed that consisted of 19 riders, including John and teammate Sasaki.

As the laps went by, the leading riders made their attack, stretching the group that the PETRONAS Sprinta Racing pair were at the back of - McPhee in 18th and Sasaki in 19th.

This prevented both riders from closing in on the top spots, although John would

fight for 12th place - eventually finishing 14th.

John said: 'I'm disappointed with today's result. It was a difficult race from the very beginning. I gambled with the hard rear tyre because I thought that on the final laps it would be better.'

'I don't know if that was the issue or not but I struggled for speed and pace, especially at the beginning of the race.'

'When I was riding alone I

MOTO3

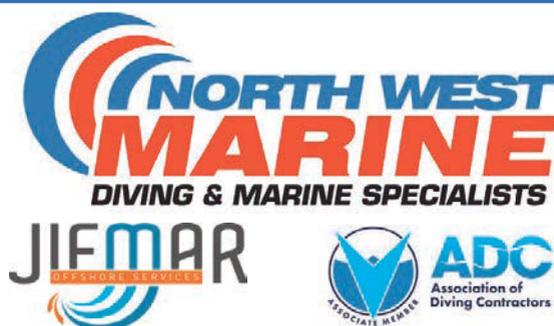
felt fast and that I could set a good lap time, but my biggest problem was trying to overtake the other riders.'

'We learned a lot in this race, but we have work to do for Jerez.'

'The main thing is that the speed is there, so we need to continue working to be in the fight from the beginning of the race.'



John McPhee, No 17, in action during the Circuit of the Americas Grand Prix in Austin, Texas, last Sunday.



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WEATHER

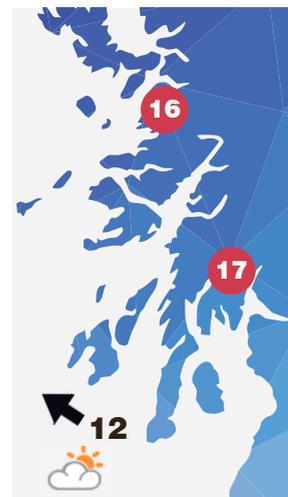
Thursday
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
9°C to 19°C.

Friday
Sunny and a gentle breeze
Temperatures
9°C to 17°C.

Weekend Outlook

Saturday
Light cloud and a gentle breeze

Sunday
Light rain in the afternoon with a gentle breeze
Temperatures
8°C to 14°C.



FRIDAY

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)

Thur	04.51	4.0	11.23	0.5
	17.19	3.9	23.23	0.3
Fri	05.29	4.1	12.02	0.4
	17.53	4.0	** ** *	**
Sat	00.06	0.2	06.06	4.2
	12.39	0.4	18.27	4.0
Sun	00.49	0.3	06.41	4.1
	13.16	0.5	19.02	4.0
Mon	01.29	0.4	07.16	3.9
	13.52	0.7	19.37	3.8
Tues	02.10	0.7	07.50	3.6
	14.30	1.0	20.12	3.6
Wed	02.50	1.0	08.24	3.4
	15.11	1.2	20.50	3.4

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.

Athletes invited to swim, cycle, and run into Mull

John McPhee takes points on raceday at Austin



The Oban Saints squad pictured before the West of Scotland cup semi-final held at New Douglas Park, Hamilton, last Saturday. Match report and photos: Derek Black

West is best as super Saints reach cup final

Oban Saints	2
Shortlees	1
West of Scotland Cup -- semi-final	

After more than 50 years of trying, Saints finally reached the final of one of the major cup competitions with a 2-1 victory over Shortlees in the West of Scotland Cup semi-final at the Hope CBD Stadium, home of Hamilton Academical, last Saturday afternoon.

Keir Knapp gave Shortlees the lead direct from the corner flag early in a first half which the reigning

Ayrshire Amateur Football Association Premier League Champions enjoyed the better of.

Saints, however, recovered and drew level through a 38th minute Matty Kelly strike before suffering a major blow with the loss to injury of Donald Campbell on the stroke of half-time.

Saints gave a far better account of themselves in the second half and a towering 64th minute header from captain Dene Cassells from a Willie Gemmell free-kick sealed the win and booked a return to Hamilton for the

final against four-time competition winners Bannockburn on Friday May 3.

Following the previous week's experimental line-up against Port Glasgow, Saints were along far more recognisable lines for their biggest test of the season so far against the current Scottish Amateur Cup holders. Craig MacEwan and Dougal Graham were unavailable so Graham Douglas lined up in goal behind a back four of Jamie Graham, Steven MacLeod, captain Dene Cassells and Scott Maitland. Matty Kelly got the nod for the holding midfield role

alongside Willie Gemmell. Ahead of them were James Ford, Lewis Cameron and Cammy Hill with Donald Campbell leading the line. Making up a youthful bench were David Beaton, Daniel Croarkin, Ruaridh Horne, Fraser MacFarlane and Matt Rippon.

Saints made a promising start playing into the strong cold wind and Shortlees keeper Garry Murdoch had to come through a pile of bodies to punch clear a second minute Lewis Cameron cross from the left wing.

Sixty seconds later, Dene

Cassells glanced a Lewis Cameron free-kick from the left corner of the box wide of Garry Murdoch's left-hand post.

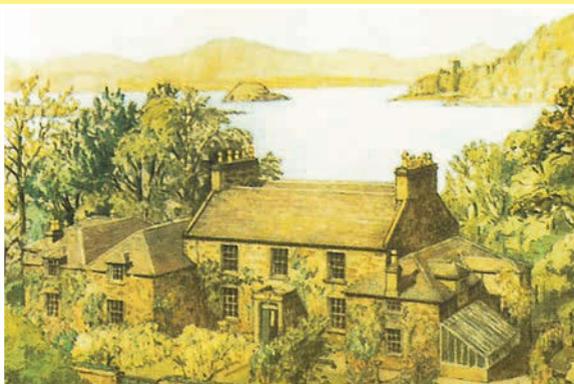
Jamie Graham was penalised for a fifth minute foul on Shortlees skipper Keir Knapp on the left. Knapp's delivery into the box was headed behind by Lewis Cameron. Set piece expert Knapp put the resulting corner kick into the danger area which Saints could only partially clear with the ball eventually returning to Knapp who sent a left foot volley wide of target.

An eighth minute cross

from the right from Greig Rankin was headed behind at the back post for a corner kick by Jamie Graham.

Renowned as one of the biggest talents in the amateur game, Keir Knapp gave a glimpse of why he is held in such high regard by curling his slightly wind assisted corner kick beyond the despairing grasp of Graham

Continued on page 57



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Fort family witnesses fire at Notre-Dame Cathedral

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A Fort William father has told how onlookers stood in tension-filled silence, with many elderly Parisiennes in tears, as they witnessed the inferno that engulfed the world famous Notre-Dame Cathedral in the French capital on Monday evening.

Hundreds of firefighters had rushed to the cathedral to battle the blaze which took 15 hours to finally extinguish, leaving large sections of the 850-year-old UNESCO World Heritage Site as blackened ruins.

Investigation

The cause of the fire is not yet clear but a mammoth investigation has been launched into what happened at the cathedral, which was partially clad in scaffolding for renovation work.

Among the throng of visitors late on Monday afternoon were Martin Stewart, girlfriend Siobhan Innes and son, Lucas, aged eight, who



The Stewart family caught the flames on camera before the fire took hold, with devastating results.

arrived in Paris on Monday for a week's holiday that was to take in the sights before heading to Euro Disney.

The three tourists from Fort William had left their visit to Notre-Dame as the last port of call on an enjoyable day's sightseeing.

Speaking to the Lochaber Times from Paris the morning after the fire, Mr Stewart, who is employed at the BSW sawmill in Corpach, told us what he witnessed.

He said: 'We were visiting the sights and Notre-Dame was the last place on the list – and it was by far the best. It was absolutely stunning attention to detail inside and out.'

'After coming out of the cathedral, we were just about to leave the area when the doors were closed and then we noticed wisps of smoke coming from the roof. I assume now that the doors were closed as a fire precaution to

stop people going back in. It was absolutely mobbed with people at the cathedral when we were visiting and as we watched that wee bit of smoke quickly turned into flames coming from the middle of the building and from the side near the two bell towers.

'It seemed to take ages for the first fire engines to arrive, it was certainly at least 20 minutes. I don't know if that was because it is such a busy area.

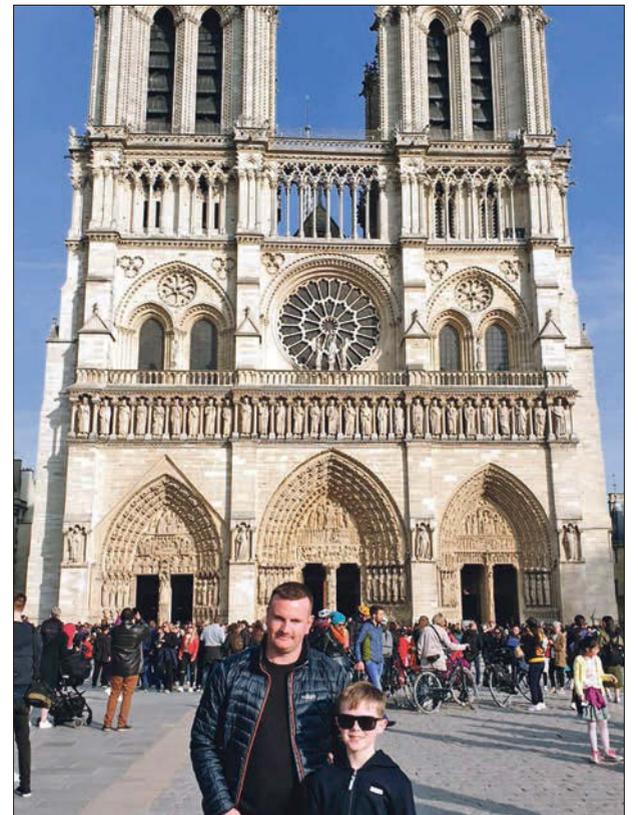
'We watched for about an hour but the police eventually moved us back as hot ash was falling everywhere, dropping on top of everybody.

'We were at the front of the building, so couldn't quite see all of the fire but what we did see was frightening.

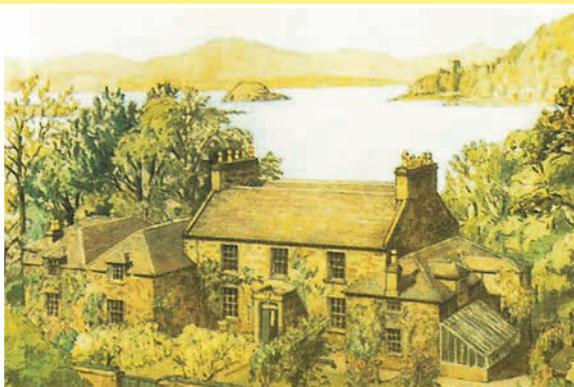
'The intensity of the fire was astonishing and the huge clouds of black smoke were just billowing out across the city.'

Mr Stewart said there

Turn to page five.



Martin Stewart and his son Lucas outside Notre-Dame Cathedral a short time before the fire broke out.



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LT

Lochaber is turned blue for World Parkinson's Day

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A number of well-known local landmarks across Lochaber were illuminated blue for World Parkinson's Day 2019 last Thursday.

Mallaig harbour authority's 'The Wall', Neptune's staircase and Cameron Square in Fort William were all lit up with blue illuminations – the official colour of the Parkinson's UK charity – to raise awareness of the condition and try to help change attitudes.

All the locations involved normally have some form of lighting during the rest of the year, but for several special blue filters were made to create the effect for World Parkinson's Day.

The Lochaber branch of Parkinson's UK holds meetings on the last Tuesday of the month between 2pm



Cameron Square in Fort William and Neptune's Staircase were both lit up blue to raise awareness of Parkinson's disease. Photographs: Iain Ferguson

and 4pm at the Alexandra Hotel in Fort William. It meets regularly to provide people with Parkinson's, their families and carers with an opportunity to chat and share experiences and advice.

This year sees the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Lochaber group and co-ordinator Claire Gunner says response to the blue illuminations had been very positive.

'The reaction from people who saw it has been very positive, which is fantastic,' she told us.

'The Lochaber group has quite a few members now and is very active and people have



found it a positive experience being involved.

'The event also involved a collection and, while it has not been totalled up yet, people are usually very generous when asked to

donate to the charity.' Anyone wishing to find out more about the Lochaber branch of Parkinson's UK can contact Claire on 01397 709864 or Margaret MacDonald on 01397 7772443.

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Emily Bryce in the restyled Glencoe Visitor Centre Cafe. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Glencoe centre reopens after £1m makeover

After a £1 million makeover, the refurbished Glencoe Visitor Centre opened its doors to visitors again last week, writes Mark Entwistle.

The renovations to the National Trust for Scotland property, which attracts around 200,000 visitors each year, have been carried out during the past few months.

The trust wanted visitors to learn about the iconic heritage site in a more immersive way than the previous centre allowed.

Visitors can now explore themes such as Glencoe Through Time, which tells

the story of the Glencoe Massacre, and Inspirational Glencoe, which explains how the surrounding landscape has inspired writers, composers and artists.

Added to these themes are Tales of Glencoe, looking at the myths and legends of the area, Origins of Glencoe, which takes visitors back 700 million years, and an exhibition on mountaineering in the glen.

Emily Bryce, NTS operations manager for Glencoe and Glenfinnan, said: 'After six months of hard work and a lot of investment, our team is delighted to open

the doors to visitors again at our Glencoe Visitor Centre.

'We hope everyone will enjoy our new film telling Glencoe's story, our Pioneers of the Peaks exhibition, dedicated to mountaineering in the glen, a fantastic new café and a shop filled with distinctive Scottish products.

'Our aim has been to offer a gateway to exploring Glencoe for the local community and tourists alike, leaving visitors with a passion for the place, an understanding of the conservation work we do here and a desire to protect it for future generations to enjoy.'

Nevis Bakery sorry for food label mistake

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Nevis Bakery has issued a sincere apology to the family of a four-year-old boy who was hospitalised after eating one of its Empire biscuits.

The Fort William-based bakery has said it claims 'full responsibility' for omitting to label eggs as an allergenic ingredient on the product's packaging, which led to the child suffering an anaphylactic shock.

The company was fined a total of £6,000 and ordered to pay more than £3,000 in legal costs after pleading guilty at Belfast Magistrates' Court last Tuesday (April 9) to the complaint.

Stephen Bingham, the father of four-year-old Joshua, from County Down, told the court that his son reacted after eating the biscuits at a cafe in Belfast. Mr Bingham said that his son would have died if the family had not had an EpiPen with them.

In a statement, representatives of Nevis Bakery said: 'We take full responsibility and accountability for this

unfortunate incident and wish to sincerely apologise to the family involved for the distress caused.

While we do not in any way wish to minimise the severity of the issue, it arose as a result of a small change



in recipe that was not immediately updated on packaging.

'When we became aware of the incident, we took immediate and effective steps to deal with the matter and have implemented procedures to ensure full compliance and safety going forward.

'We have fully engaged with all agencies, including the Food Standards Agency and Allergen UK, and we wish to

reassure our customers that we have taken this incident extremely seriously and can guarantee the future accuracy of our product labelling.

'We are a small, family-run business and we are committed to continuing to provide high-quality bakery products, as we have done for 38 years.'

The prosecution was taken by Belfast City Council, which has been working in partnership with Highland Council to ensure a UK-wide product recall was launched and the biscuit was removed from sale.

Nevis Bakery has since reissued the Empire biscuits with the correct allergen information and ingredients clearly listed on the packaging.

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'We can confirm that officers from the council's environmental health team assisted Belfast City Council with the response to the incident and the subsequent investigation. Businesses have clear responsibilities to ensure allergens are identified and should follow the guidance available on Food Standards Scotland website.'

Former Fort William shinty player is reprimanded for headbutting opponent

A shinty-playing maths teacher has been reprimanded by education bosses after he was convicted of headbutting an opponent at the end of a match.

Liam MacIntyre, 35, originally from Oban, was charged with assault after he attacked a rival Glasgow Mid Argyll player at Yokermill, Glasgow, at the end of a match in May 2014. The incident occurred after his Fort William team was awarded a contentious goal in the final minutes of the Camanachd Cup first round tie.

MacIntyre was fined £750 after being convicted of headbutting the victim to his severe injury at Glasgow Sheriff Court in May 2016. He was also ordered to pay his victim £500.

However, MacIntyre failed to immediately in-

form his employers, South Lanarkshire Council, that he had been charged by police, despite working at schools in the area.

The General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS), following a hearing in Edinburgh in February, decided against striking off MacIntyre. However, due to the serious nature of the misconduct, it enforced a 12-month conditional registration order and reprimand.

MacIntyre also admitted at the hearing to behaving in an 'intimidating and aggressive manner' towards a teaching colleague in a separate incident. The panel also heard he had previous court convictions for assaulting a police officer and resisting arrest during an incident in his home town of Oban in 2008.

In a written ruling, the

GTCS said: 'In the panel's view, the teacher's conduct did fall significantly short of the standards expected of a registered teacher. The incidents, each of which gave rise to criminal convictions, were plainly serious. The criminal behaviour was repeated and occurred in different contexts.'

MacIntyre said he made an 'honest mistake' in not informing the teaching council of the charge and claimed he had been given advice not to report the case. At the hearing, MacIntyre acknowledged that the charge of assault was a 'serious matter' but said he assumed his employer would be notified automatically.

MacIntyre won two Camanachd Cup titles during his time with Fort William and has represented Scotland at an international level.



The Lochaber Geopark team at the launch of the Save Lochaber Geopark campaign in the organisation's Fort William High Street centre. Photo: Abrightside Photography

Activists launch Save Lochaber Geopark

Lochaber Geopark has this week officially launched a crowdfunding campaign to keep the organisation alive in response to funding cuts.

The community-run, not-for-profit charity based in Fort William launched the Save Lochaber Geopark campaign on Tuesday at its High Street base.

The geopark team have set out to raise £55,000 to keep the charity going after the Scottish Government

confirmed it will no longer be supporting Scottish geoparks.

The money raised by this new crowdfunding campaign will be spent on employing the organisation's full-time project manager and ensuring a self-sustaining future for the geopark. The aim is to keep the organisation's visitor centres open, which would allow it to continue to provide a full range of indoor and outdoor educational activities.

Lochaber Geopark, founded in 2004 and run purely on a voluntary basis until 2013, serves the entire Lochaber region, covering more than 4,500 square kilometers, including Ben Nevis, Glen Coe, the Silver Sands of Morar and the Small Isles.

To support the Save Lochaber Geopark campaign, visit the Lochaber Geopark Facebook page or website and follow the links to the crowdfunding page.

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LT

Corran Ferries need major investment

Both of the vessels which provide the Corran Ferry service are showing their age and need considerable sums spent on improvements.

Lochaber Area Committee, which met last week in Strontian, discussed the ferry situation and were told by Richard Porteous, roads operations manager at Highland Council with responsibility for the ferry, that the steering gear on both vessels needed refurbished.

'That means you are talking hundreds of thousands of pounds. Also the ramps on the main vessel are now 18 years old and are reaching the end of their lives. That will also cost hundreds of thousands – the list goes on and on,' he said.

'We are reaching a critical point with serious investment required.'

GET INVOLVED

email us at fort@obantimes.co.uk

Councillors hear ferry pleas from residents

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Communities on the Ardnamurchan peninsula appreciate that living in such remote rural areas comes at an extra cost when compared to elsewhere, but they are fed up with governments paying what local people see as just lip-service to supporting them.

That is what local Highland councillors were told when the future of the Corran Ferry service was being discussed at last week's meeting of Highland Council's Lochaber Area Committee.

Held in the Sunart Centre at Strontian, the meeting spent well over an hour discussing the vital lifeline ferry service.

HITRANS (Highland and Islands Transport Partnership) is currently working to deliver a Scottish Government



Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) looking at the future options for crossing the Corran Narrows.

This includes the possibility of constructing either a bridge or a tunnel as an eventual possible alternative to the current ferry service.

However, ahead of council-

lors discussing progress made to the Corran Ferry service, the meeting heard from Joanne Matheson on behalf of Acharacle Community Council.

Representatives of five community councils on the Ardnamurchan peninsula were present for the discussion.

Ms Matheson said people living on Ardnamurchan appreciated that, due to the remoteness of the area, they could not expect services to be right on their doorstep.

'We accepted that rural living is more expensive than urban living and the double whammy is the distance from services which means an increased cost to access those services – we understand that,' she said.

Local communities are in favour of charging cyclists and foot passengers on the Corran Ferry. They currently travel for free.

'But the Scottish and UK governments have continually claimed they want to support rural communities, yet time and time again we see them supporting measures that go completely against that declaration.

'There are approximately 1,500 people living in the areas represented by our five community councils. Already this year we have seen a three per cent increase in our council tax bills.

'People on Ardgour and elsewhere already have to pay more to access things like GP and dental appointments because it means travelling to Fort William and using the ferry.

'In terms of employment, there are difficulties for young people trying to access jobs in Fort William because of transport issues.

'And while for us living here it might just be a rise of 7p on ferry fares, it is yet another 7p rise on top of all the other rises.'

Ms Matheson went on to highlight how last year the combined efforts of the five community councils led to the reversal of plans to keep

the Dail Mhor care home at Strontian closed.

She added: 'We now have a good working relationship with NHS Highland as a result and we are looking to do the same with you [Highland Council] over the Corran Ferry.'

'We understand the budget process the council has to undergo and that there are difficult issues for the council to address, but this is impacting on communities.'

Committee chair Andrew Baxter (Fort William and Ardnamurchan) said the most important thing was the appeal from the community councils for the council to work with them on the ferry issue.

'A lot of money and time has already gone on consultants' reports which have then been either left to gather dust on shelves or just dismissed,' he said.

'These are the five most successful community councils when it comes to getting change for this area – you just have to look out of the window and see what they achieved with the new school.'

Committee members agreed to take up the offer from the community councils to work closely with Highland Council in future years on this issue.

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Foot passengers and cyclists t

Highland Council officials have been instructed to progress work as soon as possible that will see the installation of ticketing machines which will see foot passengers and cyclists charged for using the Corran Ferry.

Currently such ferry users are allowed to travel for free but last week's meeting of Highland Council Lochaber Area Committee, at Strontian, heard local communities were in favour of such a move to help keep the vital lifeline ferry service viable.

HITRANS (Highland and Islands Transport Partnership) is currently working to deliver a Scottish Government Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) looking at

the future options for crossing the Corran Narrows.

This includes the possibility of constructing either a bridge or a tunnel as an eventual alternative to the current ferry service.

At last week's meeting, councillors heard the current 'antiquated' system for collecting fares is incompatible with smart technology and the present system and support for push-button machines have become outdated and represent a risk to service reliability which must be addressed.

There is no capacity to take payments by smart-card, web-based sales or mobile phone pre-payment apps and the current temporary solution for taking card payments is proving to be time con-

suming and unreliable. To address these issues, council staff are actively looking at new ticketing providers and systems to make it easier to gather meaningful statistics and keep accurate records. The report presented to the committee also highlighted that the introduction of charging for foot passengers is being progressed.

They and cyclists will be charged a fare and the committee told officials it must be implemented in the current financial year.

The Corran Ferry is the busiest single service in Scotland carrying 270,000 vehicles every year.

The council's roads operations manager, Richard Porteous, who has responsibility for the ferry, also gave



Another of the photographs of the burning cathedral taken by Fort William tourist, Martin Stewart, on Monday.

Online 'storymap' details FW2040 masterplan

A new online 'storymap' detailing the progress of future projects and developments in Fort William was launched this week.

The Fort William 2040 masterplan is now available as an interactive map where users can track the town's big developments, including the new STEM Centre at Blar Mhor and Liberty factory expansion.

The service also gives people access to information on the many individual projects being led by various organisations, groups and businesses.

Around 120 people attended a public consultation event at the Nevis Centre last September to give feedback on the FW2040 masterplan, which sets out all the developments expected to be completed in the town within the next 21 years. The information and comments gathered at the event and during consultations since then have been used to refine the plan and develop a delivery programme.

Councillor Allan Henderson, chairman of the council's infrastructure committee, said: 'We are really grateful for the contribution people have made to drawing up the FW2040 vision and delivery programme. With this input FW2040 can now act as the joint mission statement for making Fort William and Lochaber a great place to live, work, invest in and visit.'

The next stages of FW2040 could benefit from the new Place Principle that was recently approved by cabinet. Planners have vowed to continue dialogue with communities, working alongside elected councillors, to monitor the changes.

Councillor Andrew Baxter, Lochaber area leader, said: 'We want people to understand what changes are proposed in the Lochaber area and when they might happen, but also to feel more engaged in shaping their future.'

The FW2040 map can be viewed at highland.gov.uk/FW2040 as well as the report which can be read in full.

Fort father tells of Notre-Dame shock

Continued from page one. was a palpable air of shock among the crowds watching alongside him and his family: 'Everyone was pretty quiet, either taking photos or just watching.'

'All you could hear were sirens. And a lot of the more elderly French people were

in tears. They just couldn't believe it.'

Just hours after the last flames were doused, pledges to donate hundreds of millions of euros to rebuild the shattered cathedral were already flowing in from around the world.

Emergency workers had

managed to save precious artworks and religious artefacts, including what is reputed to be the crown of thorns worn by Jesus before his crucifixion.

Asked if he thought so much money should be spent on restoring the iconic place of worship, which sits on a small island in the Seine river

– much of which was built in the 12th and 13th centuries – Mr Stewart had no doubts.

'They should definitely rebuild it. Absolutely. It was an amazing place and hopefully will be again.'

■ Watch Martin Stewart's video online at www.lochaber-times.co.uk.

Warning over council tax scammers

Highland Council is warning of a council tax scam whereby scammers are cold calling households, claiming the resident can have their council tax band reassessed for a payment of £150.

Allan Gunn, head of revenues and customer services, explained: 'Any communica-

tion with council tax payers from the council's corporate resources service about something like a refund would be in writing. We would never cold call asking for bank details. Anyone receiving such an unsolicited call is advised to end the call immediately. Under no circumstances give any

personal details to the caller. If anyone has a neighbour or relative who may be more susceptible to such activity, it would be helpful if this advice was passed on to them.

'If you have any doubt about a call, please call the council's freephone council tax helpline on 0800 393811.'

to pay the ferryman

an update on the overall ferry situation.

Committee chairman, Councillor Andrew Baxter said it was interesting to note that Transport Scotland referred to the ferry as a 'lifeline service', but nowhere in the reports was it mentioned if Highland Council thought likewise.

'Does the council regard it as lifeline service also?' asked Mr Baxter. 'Yes,' answered Mr Porteous.

Mr Porteous went on to say he guessed the timescale for HITRANS to undertake its study would be within the next 18 months, given the government's Strategic Transport Report 2 was due to be completed within the next three years.

In the meantime, coun-

cillors have supported the recruitment of two new crew members following a staffing review that highlighted the need for more resilience in order to continue providing a sustainable ferry service.

The council is also currently advertising for a project manager for a two-year fixed-term appointment.

The remit of the post includes progressing all aspects for the Corran Ferry Service Outline Business Case, determining future proposals for capital investment in vessels, slipway structures, service delivery methods and future fares in close consultation with council members and stakeholders.

The project manager will also be involved with the current ferry operations.

Caledonian Canal reopens after works delay

The Caledonian Canal was due to reopen yesterday (Wednesday April 17), a week later than expected.

Engineers working on the £5.3 million lock gate replacement works at Kytra and Fort Augustus encountered some unexpected issues with the historic fabric of the lock chambers and were not able to meet the originally planned reopening date on April 8. Other areas of the canal have remained unaffected and operational since March 25.

Scottish Canals apologised for the disruption caused to boating customers and thanked them for their understanding in what has been a 'challenging' engineering project.

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Roads cash warning as repair backlog grows

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The cost of fixing the growing backlog of Lochaber road repairs stands at more than £5million, councillors have learned.

Members of Lochaber Area Committee, which met at Strontian last week, were discussing Highland Council's proposed 2019/20 roads maintenance programme for Lochaber.

Councillor Allan Henderson, Caol and Mallaig, chairman of the council's Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee, pulled no punches in outlining just how serious the situation was in Lochaber.

'Budgets are reduced and costs are going up. There's nothing left to spend on roads other than general maintenance.

'We are spending peanuts compared to what needs to be spent on our roads.'

We are at a very dangerous point. At the moment it's all about paying staff and general maintenance. There's nothing left to pay for extra material.'

The council's roads operation manager Richard Porteous told the meeting a kilometre of basic overlay on a single track road cost £40,000.

Mr Henderson added: 'Maintaining the roads [in Lochaber] is an almost impossible task which has to be replicated across Highland region.'

'Skye is like crater country – like the surface of the moon

– and parts of the A861 are getting close to that.'

Last year's roads budget for Highland region was just over £20million, but this year has seen a £500,000 drop because although revenue had increased by £1.5million, capital had decreased by £2million.

Committee chairman Andrew Baxter, Fort William and Ardnamurchan, said the backlog was concerning, to which Mr Porteous replied this was just the priority list backlog and that there were other items over and above that.

Mr Baxter said non-Lochaber councillors on Highland Council had made a strong case for more roads money to be spent in areas where there are more roads.

'But I think we should resist. Their roads network is far more modern and they don't



Councillor Allan Henderson warned the amount currently being spent on road repairs in Lochaber was 'peanuts' compared to what needed to be spent.

have to contend with the west coast weather. Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch have a greater proportion of roads that fall into the worst state category,'

he said. 'Funding should be spent on the roads that need it most.'

Mr Henderson said he could not disagree with that but it was a line of thought that would have to be supported across Highland. Mallaig has a population of about 1,000 people and the roads are in a horrendous state and Morar's roads are way below what they should be,' he said.

Highland Council roads and transport boss Tracey Urry said the council should be spending three times what it is spending now just to keep up the current standard of roads.

Mr Henderson added: 'We are spending peanuts compared to what needs to be spent on our roads.'

The committee agreed to note the proposed 2019/20 Roads Maintenance Programme for Lochaber.



Five trains were rebranded with a special remembrance logo.

ScotRail Alliance raises record £130,000 for Poppy Appeal

The ScotRail Alliance raised £130,000 for the 2018 Scottish Poppy Appeal – up 25 per cent – breaking the previous record set in 2017.

Fundraising included donations from ScotRail customers, free on-duty travel for Poppyscotland staff across the ScotRail network and providing Poppyscotland with access to retail space in stations.

Five trains had their ScotRail branding replaced with a specially-designed logo to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. The logo depicted soldiers charging on the front line above the words 'Remembrance 100'.

Collection tins were placed at all ScotRail ticket offices in the run-up to Armistice Day 2018.

The record-breaking final total of £127,912 is more than double the amount raised in 2016 (£57,892) and up 25 per cent on the previous record set in 2017 (£95,293).

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Source: ABC/Icreg data as at 01/11/2016

Speed checks planned near schools

Officers from Highland and Islands Road Policing will be conducting speed checks outside schools after children return from the Easter break on Tuesday.

Sergeant Gus Murray said the safety of children travelling to, from and around schools was a concern for the whole community.

'The 20mph schemes form part of a package aimed at improving road safety and to

encourage more children to walk or cycle to school.

'There is no doubt that inappropriate speed is one of the most serious road safety problems on Scotland's roads and causes death and injury to many people each year.

'Unfortunately, the danger caused by speeding drivers has not yet been accepted by the public in the same way as the danger caused by drink-drivers.'

VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

If you are not already a member of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, now is a great time to join.

We are an active and engaged organisation that works hard to help our members achieve their business goals.

Part of the chamber's role is to make sure the views of the local business community are fed into the Scottish Chambers of Commerce network, helping to ensure the 'powers that be' regionally and nationally hear local business views on key issues. As a single business it can be difficult to make yourself heard, but as a member of Lochaber Chamber you have a much louder voice.

This has become even



more important recently as Dr Liz Cameron OBE, director and chief executive of the Scottish Chambers of Commerce, has been named as the new Scottish Business representative to advise the UK Government on strategic trade policy issues.

Commenting on the appointment, Dr Liz Cameron said: 'I am delighted Scottish

Chambers of Commerce has been appointed to represent the views of the Scottish business community on the UK Government's new Strategic Trade Advisory Group.

'The Scottish Chambers of Commerce Network plays a central role in driving business growth in Scotland's communities and I look forward to actively raising the interests of all businesses across Scotland as we shape the country's future trade policy.'

Make sure your business views are heard by joining Lochaber Chamber of Commerce. Call 01397 705765 or visit www.lochaberchamber.co.uk to join online.

Work on Fort cinema to restart next week

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Construction work on Fort William's new cinema is due to re-start next week, it has been confirmed.

The site has been idle for several weeks following the demolition of the former dilapidated cinema building and the former DV8 clothes store on the Cameron Square site.

However, Angus MacDonald, the Moidart businessman behind the project, confirmed to the Lochaber Times he expected work to resume on Tuesday.

'We've had planning permission for a while but needed to wait for other paperwork including a building warrant. Now we have all that we can get going again,' he said.

It is hoped the new two-screen cinema, with cafe and restaurant, will be open by



The old cinema and the former DV8 clothes store were demolished in February and March; while no work has taken place since the demolition, businessman behind the venture, Angus MacDonald, right, expects it to resume on Tuesday.

May 2020, in time for the Scottish Six-Days Trial motorcycle event.

Skye-based architectural firm Dualchas Architects has designed the new complex with the aim of creating a striking building 'very much

of its place and making a strong reference to traditional Highland architecture'.

Fort William has been without a working cinema for 12 years, despite several attempts in the recent past to restore one in the town.



Mòd Loch Abar entry deadline

The deadline for entries to this year's Lochaber Provincial Mòd is fast approaching.

The annual festival of Gaelic music and song take places on Friday June 7 and Saturday June 8 at Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar in Caol and organisers are hoping for a great turnout of young musicians.

All entries must be submitted by Friday May 17. Entry forms are available from Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar or from Mòd organiser Moira Robertson at moirarobertson15@gmail.com or on 07743 110720.

Forms

Online entry forms and syllabuses are also available on the Mòd Loch Abar Facebook page.

The syllabus and online entry form can also be accessed by scanning the QR code on posters around the town and on social media.

The provincial competition is a forerunner to the Royal National Mòd being held in Glasgow this year between Friday October 11 and Saturday October 19.

Loch Linnhe harbour trust idea floated

Concerns are being expressed again that increasing levels of marine traffic on Loch Linnhe are leading to congestion and the risk of a possible incident.

The concerns have come from some stakeholders who are proposing the creation of a harbour authority to manage the marine traffic within the loch.

At last week's meeting of Lochaber Area Committee, held in Strontian, councillors were asked to note previous work carried out and to consider undertaking further consultation with users of the loch.

Loch Linnhe is classed as unregulated waters but is used by a growing number of vessels ranging in size from small leisure craft to cruise liners.



Loch Linnhe is used by a growing number of vessels ranging in size from small leisure craft to cruise liners.

Its restricted nature, especially at the Corran Narrows, brings all vessels into relatively close proximity.

Councillor Denis Rixson (Caol and Mallaig) cautioned: 'The feeling from the ground up is that this is something that needs to be looked at. But

part of me is wary of spending too much money without first finding out if there is that level of interest.'

Committee chair Andrew Baxter (Fort William and Ardnamurchan) said there were so many unknowns when it came to the viability of any such new harbour authority.

'A number of community groups have approached Lochaber Area Committee about this but, given all the different interests, it would be difficult for the community to take the lead and so I think it falls to us to drive it forward.'

The committee agreed a stakeholders meeting was vital and to seek the establishment of a steering group as a way of taking the subject forward.

Warning against giving rabbits as Easter gifts

The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) is advising people in Lochaber and elsewhere in Scotland against buying rabbits as Easter gifts, for fear of a surge in abandonments.

SSPCA chief superintendent Mike Flynn said: 'Last year we rescued a staggering 493 pet rabbits across Scotland and this year is proving to be challenging as well, with 116 rabbits already taken in. There are lots of loving rabbit owners who treat their pets like one of the family and give them all the care and attention they need, but sadly this isn't true in all cases.

'The biggest issue is rabbits being put in a hutch and left at the bottom of the garden, with many enduring a life of solitude and boredom.

'Rabbits are highly intelligent and sociable animals who can make fantastic family pets, though we strongly advise parents that they and not their children need to take responsibility for their welfare.

'People should not buy rabbits on impulse and should make an informed decision by learning about rabbit care first. Pets are not toys and should never be given on a whim or as a gift.'

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Deer dies after being caught in goal netting

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Fort William Football Club issued a statement last Thursday morning saying it was 'extremely saddened' to discover that a deer had died as a result of becoming tangled within goal netting at its Claggan Park ground in the town.

The club said: 'Fort William FC is working with the Highland Council, which is responsible for the ground maintenance, to ensure proper steps are taken to secure the park with adequate fencing to ensure this doesn't happen again.'

The animal is believed to have been dead for some time when it was first found by local

resident Janet Robertson, who was out walking her two dogs.

'Yes, I found it. I was walking my dogs up past the track road/SSE access when two [other] young deer came out of nowhere which spooked my dogs,' she told the Lochaber Times.

'I accidentally dropped the lead and my terrier chased the deer through the side gate to Claggan field which was open and the chase continued in there.

'Eventually I got her on a lead and continued towards the main gate to exit which was when I noticed the dead deer. I didn't know if it was dead initially as I couldn't get too close with having my - now hyper - dogs.

'There was a car outside the

polytunnels and I found a chap who I asked if he had a Stanley knife to free the deer.

'He did and he cut the tangled netting but the deer was dead. I was going to take a photo but I didn't think it was fitting to capture and went straight to Facebook instead to get someone to remove the dead animal and also for some action to be taken in removing the netting so it couldn't happen again.'

The club no longer has the services of a dedicated groundsman and until it can take over maintenance of the ground from the council - which would allow it to erect deer fencing - the club is limited in what it can do as the ground is classed as a public park.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

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It is nearly two years since Eilidh MacLeod from Barra lost her life in the Manchester Arena attack and in that time the sense of needless cruelty surrounding her loss has not diminished.

Last week, the Eilidh MacLeod Memorial Trust, a charity formed in her memory, revealed the design for a permanent memorial to Eilidh to be erected on Barra. A Highland dancer and piper, Eilidh's musical gifts and encouraging character are to be symbolised by the sculpture.

The press release from the trust that accompanied the unveiling of the design read: 'The design is intended to reflect Eilidh's love of music, particularly the bagpipes, and her willingness to support others in the island community where she grew up.

'Eilidh loved to play her pipes at community events in Barra and Vatersay. She was also immensely proud to be a member of the Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band which includes children from throughout the

Uists and Barra. The bronze, life-size sculpture is to be located in a newly created memorial garden overlooking Vatersay on the Isle of Barra in the Western Isles where Eilidh lived.'

Having got to know Eilidh's family over the past year, I have been deeply impressed by the dignity, wisdom and strength they have shown and continue to show in these terrible circumstances.

Life is a fleeting flame on a vast ocean, but memory can give continued meaning to the lives of those who have left this world. A permanent memorial is a fitting way to remember a bright and talented young girl whose life was taken long before it should have been and in such a tragically cruel way.

Funding for the sculpture, which is a major project, was donated from the Ardonagh Community Trust and the Eilidh MacLeod Memorial Trust continues to fundraise towards the completion of the memorial and for the ongoing work of the charity.

Last year, mainly through generous donations from the public and from the proceeds of the download release of the song Wishing Well, Skipinnish contributed £6,048.94 towards charity. In comparison to the overall costs, this is a tiny amount, but we were very happy to help in a very small way.

With this in mind, we will again be joining Team Eilidh for the running events in Manchester and Edinburgh on May 19 and 26.

Tomorrow evening (Friday April 19) we will be launching a Justgiving page and again will be hoping to raise some money for the charity through sponsorship. There will be a link set up on our Facebook page and any donations large or small will be greatly appreciated.

'The Star of the Sea in clear island skies

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Firm 'proud' to fund centre

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Energy firm SSE Renewables says it is extremely proud to have played a key funding role in the building of the new £1 million Cill Chuimein Medical Centre in Fort Augustus.

Through funds associated with SSE Renewables' projects in the area, including Bhlaraidh wind farm and Glendoe hydro electric power station, SSE Renewables was able to provide £600,000, more than half of the funds needed to build the state-of-the-art medical facility.

The development and construction of the new centre, opened last Wednesday by Mairi Gougeon, Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment, has been driven by Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company and is a perfect example of how communities can use renewables funding to help deliver sustainable, long-term benefits for their community.



Jim Smith, managing director of SSE Renewables, said the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company has driven many fantastic projects in this community for more than a decade.

'The team behind it are volunteers who dedicate their time and efforts into identifying innovative projects that will help drive long-term success for the area and I would like to thank everyone in the community company

for their hard work to deliver this amazing and sustainable project,' he said.

The new centre secures a much-needed local GP service to this rural area, avoiding residents having to travel to Fort William or Drumnadrochit for GP services, saving locals up to a 64-mile round trip for standard medical care.

Harry Whiteside, chairwoman of Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company, added: 'As with

any rural community, a medical centre is absolutely essential to the health and wellbeing of the people, and

Mairi Gougeon, Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment, cuts the ribbon to open the new medical centre, watched by Harry Whiteside, chairwoman of Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company.

when our centre burned down we knew we had to do something.

'It's been just over two years in the making, and now we have a medical centre double the size of the last one, meaning more people can be seen in a day and allowing the centre to expand beyond just

GP services into others such as podiatry and optometry.

'We also have a lift in place, so the centre is now accessible to all, and we are trialling the new Near Me video consulting service as well.

'None of this would have been possible without the help of all our funders, in particular SSE Renewables, who allowed us to draw down additional funding from the Bhlaraidh Wind Farm Fund, so we could bridge the final funding gap for this project and get it developed and delivered quickly.'

Now that the centre is up and running, it is expected it will secure up to 10 long-term jobs for the local community.

WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

■ Fort William Photographic Society's first evening photo walk of the year will take place on Tuesday April 23. Meet at 7pm in one of the car parks in Glen Nevis beyond the youth hostel. New members welcome. Look for tripods and cameras.

■ Lochaber High School presents a joint wind band concert on Tuesday April 23 which will feature music from LHS Wind Bands, LHS Pipe Band and Stadtkapelle Fuerstenfeldbruck. Free tickets for this concert are available from the school office.

■ Kilmallie Shinty Club are hosting a fundraising race night at Tradewinds for club funds this Saturday, April 27. Starter's gun is at 8pm. There will be a raffle. To buy or sponsor a horse, speak to Cath MacKay.

■ Friends of Nevis is holding its spring litter pick and curling ponds tidy-up on Sunday April 28. Meet at Ben Nevis Highland Centre (Woolen Mill) at 10.30am and finish about 3.15pm. Come for a couple of hours or whatever time you can spare. Under-18s should be accompanied by an adult. Coffee, lunch and all

equipment will be 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 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.

More talks proposed on Fort festive lighting

Council officials are to seek more discussions with Fort William Town Team about the erection of the town's Christmas lights and decorations.

At last week's Lochaber Area Committee meeting in Strontian, councillors were discussing a report into the costs in 2018 for Christmas lighting and decorations in Lochaber.

It was last year that Highland Council axed the £35,000 budget previously spent on

Christmas lighting in the area. The majority of communities in Lochaber already install their own Christmas lights.

However, larger displays, such as Fort William, include many cross-street and specialist decorations which require the use of platform access vehicles, for which operators must have specialist training.

Fort William has previously enjoyed a free council service to erect and remove Christmas lighting.

From the 2019 festive season

onwards, however, it will need to either directly deliver, or provide £8,000 in funding, to cover the costs.

The committee agreed that the council should engage with community groups in Fort William to discuss the changes and explore options.

Committee chairman and councillor Andrew Baxter said: 'I think the town team feels that, with dwindling active numbers, they are not able to take on another big project like this.'

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Lochaber lichen is living legacy of Sec



Brian Coppins surveys one of the incinerated trees for the rare fire lichen. Photograph: Andy Acton.

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber is famous for its link to the Commandos and other special forces which trained in the area during the Second World War, and much of that time saw live ammunition being used.

One result of this and the use of other live ordnance such as grenades and explosives was that a forest fire raged across the hillside at Loch Arkaig in 1942.

Now scientists surveying Loch Arkaig pine forest, near Spean Bridge, have discovered rare 'fire' lichen growing on the stumps of some of those trees destroyed by the flames.

The Carbonicola anthracophila lichen only grows on charred conifer trees and has been recorded at just three other locations in the UK - Glen Affric, Glen Quoich and Glen Strathfarrar.

British Commandos and Allied Special Forces, includ-

ing the Free French trained at Loch Arkaig during the war and the fires saw Scots pines cooked in their own resin.

They were preserved, still standing like ghost trees across the hillside, and now, 75 years on, the 'fire' lichen is a living legacy of that blaze.

Woodland Trust Scotland bought Loch Arkaig pine forest in partnership with local

group Arkaig Community Forest at the end of 2016, with support from players of People's Postcode Lottery.

The lichen survey was commissioned from experts Andy Acton and Brian Coppins to help inform long-term conservation management at the site.

The four-day survey found around 150 different species. In their report, the two

experts said they had only scratched the surface of what the forest might hold.

The Carbonicola anthracophila was found on just two tree stumps and Mr Acton said it was the first time he had seen this particular species, so it was particularly exciting.

'But Brian referred to it as a "mega tick", so he was clearly excited too. Brian found it



Wartime commando training took place in the forest around Loch Arkaig.



The loch was also used for live fire explosion behind this group of

Fresh faces at careers service

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Two new faces have joined the West Highland branch of Developing the Young Workforce (DYW).

Oliver Stephen, from BSW Timber, has been appointed as the new chairman of the or-

ganisation's advisory board, and Ashley Woodhouse has joined the team in the new position of employer engagement and policy adviser.

Launched in late summer 2016, DYW West Highland forms part of the Scottish Government's youth employment strategy, which aims

to ensure young people in Scotland have the skills and confidence needed to make the seamless transition from school to the workforce. There are 21 regional DYW groups in Scotland, leading and driving the change in employers' engagement with schools and colleges.

Oliver Stephen is a mill manager at the largest sawmill in the UK with just under 200 employees, processing in the region of 500,000 tonnes of timber each year from its Corpach base.

BSW has taken on 21 modern apprentices in the past seven years, 19 of whom

are still employed by the company.

Mr Stephen has worked in various roles at BSW over the past eight years before becoming the youngest mill manager in 2017.

He said: 'I am enthusiastic and committed to everything I sign up to. And I love to nurture relationships within the teams that I manage. I find nothing more satisfying than seeing other people achieve success under my guidance.'

'The reason I applied for the chairman's position was to help shape opportunities for the young people of the Highlands.'

Ashley Woodhouse joins the DYW West Highland team in the new post of employer engagement and policy adviser.

While his remit covers the whole of the West Highland area, he will have a particular focus on Wester Ross, where he is based.

Mr Woodhouse spent much of his early career in Wester Ross and the central Highlands, before leading Forestry Commission Scotland's modern apprenticeship and skills programme and latterly working as a learning and development manager contributing to development



Oliver Stephen.



Ashley Woodhouse.

of the industry skills agenda. He has also conducted several voluntary roles with a range of youth and sports clubs and school-based partnerships, including school boards and parent councils.




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Second World War commando training

first, then the hunt was on for more, and I went on to find it on another stump,' Mr Acton explained.

Woodland Trust Scotland has partnered with Arkaig Community Forest – a local community-based charity, which shares the ambitious, far reaching and long-term goals for the 1,027-hectare site.

Together the two organi-

sations intend to carefully and sensitively restore native woodland habitats across the entire forest and demonstrate the ecological, social and economic value of ancient woodland restoration.

The aim is also to support the remote community living around the forest to benefit from active sustainable forest management activities, such as woodfuel

production, eco-tourism and adding value to timber.

The forest is home to wild boar, sea eagles, golden eagles, ospreys, pine martens and deer, among many other species. A live osprey nest camera supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery currently streams online the antics of resident pair Louis and Aila.

Loch Arkaig is not just

famous, however, for its wild and remote beauty.

It was the location for a sequence in the smash hit movie Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows. Steeped in history, the area is also the ancestral home of Clan Cameron, and legend has it that a consignment of gold sent from France to help fund the escape of Bonnie Prince Charlie is hidden in the forest.



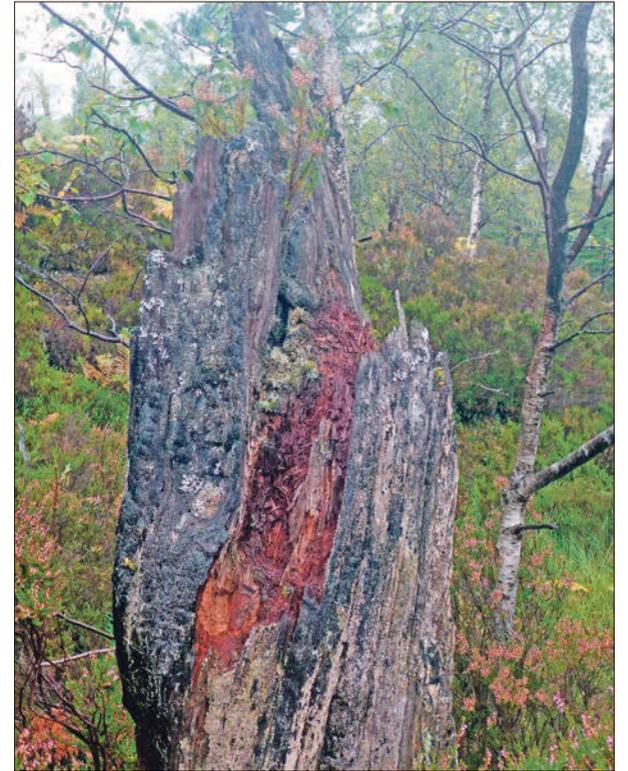
training, as seen from the commandos.



Two of the dead pines destroyed during the war. Photograph: John Macpherson/WTML.



Is Bonnie Prince Charlie's gold in the forest?



The 'fire' lichen was discovered on a burned tree. Photograph: Andy Acton.

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Design unveiled for memorial to Eilidh

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

The design for the permanent memorial to the Isle of Barra's Eilidh MacLeod, who died in the 2017 Manchester Arena attack, has been unveiled by the trust set up in her memory.

Eilidh, 14, was one of 22 people killed by a terrorist bomb following an Ariana Grande concert. Her friend Laura MacIntyre survived but was badly injured.

Trustees said the 'very special' memorial design is intended to reflect Eilidh's love of music, particularly the bagpipes, and her willingness to support others in the island community where she grew up.

Eilidh, who was immensely proud to be a member of Sgoil Lionacleit Pipe Band, loved to play her pipes at community events in Barra and Vatersay.

The striking sculpture, designed by Essex-based Jenna Gearing, will feature a young female bagpiper with her pipes at rest. The young woman is reaching out her hand to a young boy who is also learning to play the instrument.

The bronze, life-size sculpture is to be located in a newly-created memorial



The design has been created by Sussex-based artist Jenna Gearing in consultation with Eilidh's family. Photograph: Jenna Gearing/ACT/Eilidh's Trust. Inset: Eilidh MacLeod.

garden overlooking Vatersay on the Isle of Barra, where Eilidh lived. Now the design has been agreed, Jenna is casting her work and is aiming to have it established on the island in 2020.

Suzanne White, founder of Eilidh's Trust, said: 'Our intention for the sculpture of a young female piper is

to ensure Eilidh's life and her legacy are celebrated appropriately. The design has captured her spirit and created a striking memorial to a very special young girl.

'It is a beautiful design which honours the community values of unity, love, support and a willingness to help others, while at the

same time capturing Eilidh's passion for music.'

Suzanne added: 'Our intention is the memorial will provide the communities of Barra and Vatersay and those from further afield with a place of quiet reflection and inspiration.'

Funding for the sculpture was donated by Ardonagh Community Trust (ACT), the charitable foundation of The Ardonagh Group, of which Eilidh's aunt, Margaret MacNeil, was an employee.

Eilidh's father Roddy said: 'As a family, losing Eilidh in such a cruel way was truly horrific. We could never adequately thank all the individuals, the communities and Eilidh's friends who gave us so much love and support in our time of need and indeed continue to do so, especially when they were hurting too.'

'Forming Eilidh's Trust and working with Jenna along with family and friends on Barra has been an uplifting and positive experience for us all. We are incredibly grateful to ACT and Jenna for their commitment and passion in supporting Eilidh's legacy and the resilient community in which she was raised.'

Jenna Gearing said she was 'incredibly privileged' to be part of such an important memorial.

Concern over new contract grows among rural GPs

Growing disquiet among rural GPs over the SNP Government's controversial new GP contract has been highlighted.

Highlands and Islands Scottish Conservative MSP Donald Cameron has told Cabinet Secretary for Health Jeane Freeman that more than nine in 10 GPs would reject the contract if they had the chance.

Mr Cameron's comments follow the recent resignation of Dr David Hogg, vice chairman of the Rural GP Association of Scotland (RGPAS), who quit a Holyrood working group in protest at the failure of the SNP Government to properly address the issue.

Reject

In an exchange in the Scottish Parliament Mr Cameron told the Cabinet Secretary: 'A recent survey of rural GPs showed that 82 per cent of members of the Rural GP Association of Scotland believe the outlook for rural healthcare is worse under the new contract and that 92 per cent of its members would reject the contract if they were given an opportunity to vote on it now.'

And he asked: 'What reassurance can the cabinet secretary give rural GPs, who

are clearly desperate and feel that their voices are being ignored by her Government?'

Speaking after the debate, Mr Cameron said: 'Although the Health Secretary referred to looking at these concerns, her response will have failed to reassure our GPs working in rural areas that the Scottish Government intends to do anything to rectify this massive threat to the service they provide.'

Confidence

'The SNP repeatedly fail to understand that confidence in the future of our rural and island communities is underpinned by access to healthcare and people living here need to know that they can get to see a GP.'

'Our communities need reassurance the SNP Government understands the importance of this but, unfortunately, they just don't seem to get it.'

'My Scottish Conservative colleagues and I will continue to press ministers as we cannot allow this matter to continue to be neglected by the SNP.'

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A musical pit-stop during the 2018 Harris Tweed Bike Ride.

Stornoway welcomes return of Harris Tweed Bike Ride

The annual Harris Tweed Bike Ride returns to Stornoway this Saturday, April 20.

The sedate, civilised parade round town includes pit-stops for refuelling and nourishment.

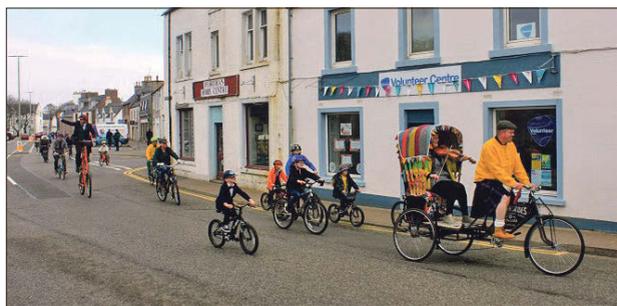
And in the grandest traditions of the Tour de France, the best dressed rider receives 'Le Maillot Jaune aka 'An Geansaidh Buidhe' aka 'The Yellow Jersey', specially knitted for the occasion, while the youngest winner gets The White Jersey.

There will also be an oppor-

tunity to try on tweed from the Harris Tweed Authority collection, available in An Lanntair's foyer on the day.

Ticket price includes tea and a scone at the end of the ride. There will also be stop-offs at Charles Macleod's for black pudding, plus Lews Castle and the Harris Tweed shop for additional refreshments and photographs.

The event, now in its fourth year, is part-financed by the Scottish Government and the European Community Outer Hebrides LEADER 2014-2020 programme.



Last year's event.

Council pushes case for large scale power cable

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is continuing to press its case for the installation of a larger capacity cable to export electricity to the Western Isles.

Representatives of the comhairle met OFGEM officials last week as part of a consultation on a new interconnector to the Western Isles.

OFGEM has stated it is 'minded' to recommend a 450MW cable, while the comhairle, developers and SSE have all made the case for a 600MW cable which would offer more capacity for exporting electricity from renewable energy schemes in the islands.

The comhairle outlined a robust case to OFGEM, including projected figures of the amount of energy likely to be produced through

renewable schemes in the next few years. OFGEM is also meeting with developers during the consultation.

Councillor Roddie Mackay, leader of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, said: 'There are three wind farm schemes already consented and contracted - LWP Stornoway Wind Farm, Uisenis and FORSA Druim Leathann Wind Farm.

'However, there is every indication of further schemes currently in the pipeline, which will produce a substantial amount of electricity.

'We presented evidence to OFGEM of a demonstrable need for 530MW which, without reference to future needs, is sufficient to warrant a 600MW interconnector.

'The cost difference of in-

stalling a larger cable is in the region of £27million or 4.5 per cent of the costs, but if it is done at a later stage it would cost substantially more. Our estimates are that a new supplementary 150MW cable would cost around £270m, so it is in the best interests of consumers to 'future proof' the means of exporting electricity from the islands and install the bigger cable.'

The comhairle has also highlighted the risks of installing an undersized cable, including the end of the Community-Owned Energy Sector, the loss of offshore wind potential in Europe's area of best resource and the impact on the auction competitiveness of the LWP and FORSA schemes which would be more economic on

a 600MW cable. Mr Mackay added: 'The comhairle has been committed to renewable energy schemes in the islands and has supported community projects through Community Energy Scotland.

'The comhairle has arranged a meeting with OFGEM with representatives from the community projects currently in the system, as well as our partners at Community Energy Scotland. I am confident the comhairle will wish to continue that support but there must be a way to market for the electricity produced otherwise they will simply not go ahead.

'The comhairle calls on OFGEM to recognise the robust case that has been made and to recommend the larger cable.'

Islanders urged to recheck safety of tumble dryers

Island residents are being urged to check if their tumble dryers are safe.

The appeal comes from Na h-Eileanan an Iar MP Angus MacNeil who is supporting calls from consumer group Which? for the UK Government to ensure all fire-risk tumble dryers are removed from UK homes.

Which? UK estimates there could be up to 500,000 unmodified fire-risk tumble dryers still being used, more than three years after the first safety notice was issued. Mr MacNeil appealed to island

residents to check if their machines were affected when the first safety notice was issued in 2017. He was subsequently involved in supporting several constituents in ensuring relevant modifications were carried out or the machine was replaced.

The UK Government's Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) published their review on Whirlpool's modification programme last week and concluded modified machines are safe to use. Which? UK has, however, received reports that some modified machines are

continuing to have safety issues. It is now urging the government to take urgent action to keep unsafe products out of people's homes and for manufacturers and retailers to remove unsafe products from the market without delay.

Mr MacNeil added: 'I would urge constituents to check again if their machine is affected. I am supporting Which's campaign for the UK Government to do more to deal with this matter. It is just not enough to make soft recommendations to the firms responsible.'

Bar Rio

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LETTERS

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

Controversy over Corran Ferry refuses to die

The controversy over fares and increases to fares on the Corran Ferry simply refuses to go away.

Understandably so.

People living on the Ardnamurchan peninsula say they accept that their choice of where to reside comes at a price but also that they feel they are being unfairly treated.

As we report this week, HITRANS (Highland and Islands Transport Partnership) is working to deliver a Scottish Government Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) looking at the future options for crossing the Corran Narrows, including the possibility of constructing either a bridge or a tunnel as an eventual possible alternative to the current ferry service.

That is all well and good but presumably such potential solutions are a very long way down the road.

In the meantime, Highland Council is proceeding with plans to begin charging foot passengers and cyclists to use the Corran Ferry where there has not been a cost previously.

This is a thorny issue as the council struggles to make ends meet, but remote and rural areas deserve greater support.

Enjoy the holiday weekend activities

Fort William and elsewhere in Lochaber should be jumping this weekend with all kinds of activities taking place as part of the Easter celebrations.

There are a number of events and the area expects to host many visitors for the holiday weekend.

Whatever you are planning for the next few days, we hope the sun shines and you all enjoy the holiday.

Organic daffodils bring a smile to people's faces

Your correspondent Moira Campbell (Letters, April 11) complains about the beautiful, oxygen-creating emblem of Wales – the daffodil – being invasive.

However, as Strathclyde was once a Welsh kingdom, later to be taken over by Malcolm I, this is a small matter in relation to the invasive Norway spruce, which is farmed all over the Highlands or the lice infecting salmon within Scotland's lochs. That is a practice not permitted in Norway.

And, remember, when you go to buy your shrink-wrapped food, all soft plastic contains a carcinogenic plasticiser that will leach in microscopic amounts into your food.

Yet the humble daffodil looks nice, puts a smile on many people's faces, breathes life into the planet and is organic (unlike the brash left by deforesting which rots and produces pollutants into the atmosphere).

We try to get the balance right but human intervention inevitably usually does not as history tends to repeat itself.

But don't stop complaining as it is good to hear other people's points of view. After all, we are a great British democracy still.

**Stephen Jones, Burnside Place,
Millpark, Oban.**

Council tax data breach is more serious than a glitch

Am I the only Oban Times reader who takes issue with Argyll and Bute Council's recent data breach being called a 'glitch'?

The word glitch makes light of the unlawful disclosure of council tax payers' personal data. It fails to acknowledge the serious nature of the error.

Moreover, given that the barn door was shut after the horse had bolted, I would like to know precisely what 'action' the council has taken. Has the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) been informed, for example?

What other measures have been put in place to make sure such a data breach cannot occur again?

My trust in the council's data security has taken a massive hit and, with regret, I am considering cancelling my ctax1 email account: this is not the first time that paper communications appear to be a great deal safer.

Margret Powell-Joss, Oban.

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

obantimes.co.uk, post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or in High Street, Fort William. This week's photograph was

Gaelic speakers need greater confidence

In his article last week (We must all fight to save our language', The Oban Times, April 11), Angus MacPhail does well to pinpoint identity as one of the strongest reasons to support the Gaelic cause.

In response to the question he quotes about spending money on a dead (sic) language, one answer is that a minority language should not have to be propped up by public money.

What the Highland people need is not so

much public subsidy as the confidence to use their language in a wider range of situations than they do at present.

If The Oban Times is reviewing any hotels or restaurants in Gaelic-speaking districts, then the paper might care to include a reference as to the availability of service in Gaelic.

This is obtainable in a few places and I have enjoyed excellent Gaelic-medium service in hotels and guest houses in Acharacle, Stornoway and Inverness, at no greater cost than service in English.

**Richard A A Deveria,
Market Street, Aberfeldy.**

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DISTRICT NEWS

KILMALLIE

Kilmallie Community Council (KCC) held its March meeting in the village's community centre on March 25.

Items discussed included:
Blar planning: 'Masterplanning', STEM centre and housing proposals: Despite supporting the objectives of the project and the basic design of the building, KCC had objected to the STEM centre application, primarily because of the lack of an integrated plan for the Blar Mor site. In particular, KCC noted that considering each proposed development individually will miss the one-off opportunity to maximise the benefits of separate projects on the site through co-ordinated developments.

KCC wants much greater attention placed on connected civic space, complementary aesthetics, development of active travel networks and minimising the overall carbon footprint. The aim should be to achieve a high quality urban design that uses the space in the most efficient way and avoids environmental damage associated with further disturbance of the peat bog. These concerns have become more acute since Highland Council has been going ahead with the clearance of the wider Blar Mor site. Both the West Highland College UHI representatives and KCC agreed the lack of an adequate masterplan, insufficient consideration of transport links and lack of proper assessment of the climate change implications of developments on the Blar site as a whole will create serious problems for the area and the well-being of future generations.

It was recognised West Highland College UHI is not in a position to address these concerns directly and there was no wish to risk or delay positive developments. It was therefore agreed to withdraw the objection to application on the understanding that:

- The revised design for building incorporates solar panels
- Provisions are made to connect the building to a district heating scheme



Talk Lochaber enjoy lunch

Members and volunteers of Talk Lochaber, who produce an audio version of the Lochaber Times and other publications every week, gathered at their annual social and lunch in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

- There is a commitment to sharing car parking with the proposed hospital to minimise the area designated for car parking on the Blar site.

Puffin crossing at Corpach: Poor weather had delayed the work. There is currently no date set for the official 'ribbon cutting'.

Proposal to relocate asphalt plant from Banavie Quarry to Carr's Corner: Breedon has submitted a planning application to move the asphalt plant to Carr's Corner. The application has yet to be determined following an objection from a property developer concerned about the impact on possible future developments. Following a meeting of the quarry liaison group, KCC wrote to planning outlining the impacts of current quarry operations on residents and how these would be reduced if the asphalt plant was no longer operated at Banavie.

Corpach deep water port feasibility study: An action from a previous meeting had been to follow up with Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) whether there had been any progress on the feasibility study for a deep water port in Corpach. Alastair Nicholson from HIE informed KCC that the outcome of the Planning and Environmental Appeals Division report on the West Plan, due in April 2019, will be important in establishing the extent of land zoned for development, which will inform the finalisation of plans for the Corpach Port site. A draft

plan is intended to be finalised once there is clarity on the outcome of the Reporter's process.

Access to Canal from B8004 at Shengain: KCC had been informed the stile on the north side of the canal beside the Shengain aqueduct that allowed access to the canal towpath had been removed. The stile had been in disrepair and Scottish Canals had removed it because of safety concerns. Scottish Canals had put up temporary signs directing walkers to a gate further up the canal but had indicated it did not intend to replace the stile because of a lack of funds. Concerns were raised about the loss of the natural route between the road and the towpath and that the alternative route was inconvenient and close to dwellings. It was agreed to approach Scottish Canals again to ask for the stile to be reinstated or replaced by a gate in the original location.

Request from Nairn River Community Council (NRCC) to respond to a questionnaire: NRCC had contacted all community councils in Highland asking questions about experiences of dealing with Highland Council. Although the questions were not directly related to KCC experiences, it was agreed to respond highlighting the difficulties KCC had in this regard, particularly with respect to planning.

Traffic speeds in Drumfada Terrace: A resident of Drumfada Terrace raised concerns over the

speed of traffic and about the process for obtaining a 20mph speed limit or at least advisory 20mph signs. This is similar to the issues in Hillview Drive where 20mph signs were installed. The first stage is to request Highland Council roads department to measure the speed of the traffic. If most speeds are close to 20mph but with some much faster then there is a good case for signs.

The next meeting of KCC will be at 7.15pm on Monday April 22 in Kilmallie Community Centre.

FORT WILLIAM



There were plenty of laughs – as well as rubbish collected – at Sunday's Big Spring Clean in Fort.

Volunteers were out on Sunday cleaning up litter and power washing areas across Fort William.

The Town Team committee was delighted with the efforts of members and volunteers and said: 'Thank you so much to everyone who came along to our Big Spring Clean.'

'We had a fantastic turn out and you all did a fabulous job of cleaning and tidying Fort William. We cleaned up the Parade, the war memorial, the library, Cameron Square, the steps down to the underpass, Viewforth and Middle Street car parks, lanes off the High Street, the High Street from the Hub to the Sore Feet statue and much much more.'

'Belford Gardens was tidied a few days ago and James [Kennedy] has done a fabulous job power washing everything in the town. He still has more to do so you may see him out.'

'Thank you to Cobbs for its donation of cakes and scones, and to Cathy for making the lemon fudge slice.'

'Most of all, thank you to everyone for sparing the time to come along and help us. It really makes such a difference and we've gained new volunteers who have agreed to be included in future events.'

FORT WILLIAM

A charity's plans to reduce suicide and social isolation in Fort William will be the focus of an open meeting in the town.

Organised by Lochaber Hope, the meeting will be held in the Nevis Centre on Tuesday April 30 from 7-9pm. With suicide rates in the Highlands higher than the national average, constituency MSP for Lochaber Kate Forbes said it was a welcome move: 'This is a very important meeting in Lochaber. Too often those who need help don't seek it, particularly in rural areas like the Highlands. Suicide has affected so many families in the Highlands, where the figures are much higher than the national average. It is good to see Lochaber Hope arranging this meeting and I hope many people attend. We need to start being more open about mental health and suicide prevention. For too long they have been taboo topics.'

There is a similar scheme in Oban.

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Tony Weldon, right, accepts the trophy and certificate from area president Eric Munro.

Legion branch recognised with award

Fort William and District branch of Royal British Legion Scotland was again awarded the Henderson Trophy by the legion's Highlands and Islands area council.

The prize is awarded to the most progressive branch without a club and recognises the commitment of the committee, branch members, friends and supporters.

The Fort William branch maintains an active programme throughout the year including

Remembrance, social and sports events. It held a successful Burns supper, attended area sports events and are due to host the national cribbage competition. A summer beach party is planned.

Membership is open to all former service personnel, members of the emergency services including mountain rescue teams and the Merchant Navy. For more information email rblsfortwilliam@gmail.com

Fire crews rescue two cows in one day

Fort William fire crews had a busy day last Thursday, April 11, when they were twice called out to help rescue a cow stuck in a bog.

Around 10am, three Scottish Fire and Rescue appliances, one from Fort William and two from Inverness, were called to Kinloid, Arisaig, where an 18-year-old cow named Dolly had become trapped in a bog. After helping crofter Hugh MacDonald successfully dislodge

the bovine, the crews left the scene just after 1pm.

Later that day, at around 3.30pm, two Fort William crews were called out again, this time to help save a Highland cow which was found struggling, trapped in a bog near Steps Cottage, at Canal Bridge, Banavie.

This time the crews rescued the stricken animal in just under an hour.

Retro Roamer

fort@obantimes.co.uk

More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

Robbie Robertson was doing his bit for Entente Cordiale when he went to the aid of a Frenchman who had locked his keys inside his car at Aonach Mor car park. Having been contacted to help extricate the keys, the man from Nevis Garage soon solved the problem. After receiving profuse 'mercis' and kisses on both cheeks, Robbie went to his own motor to set off back to Caol. Only to discover he had left the keys in the ignition, with the car doors tightly shut because of the new-fangled central locking system.

It won't be long till the hay fever season. So let's put ourselves out to grass for a while. It was alleged at Tuesday's Lochaber District Council meeting 'there could be elephants in the long grass in Upper Achintore!' I don't know about elephant grass, but I'm sure David Bellamy on safari had problems picking his way through the pampas grass in Corpach. It really is time the region was harvesting the overgrown verges alongside the A82. Every year the local authority high heid yins fail to realise the grass is really growing under their feet.

The rain is not confined to our area, as Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team (LMRT) members will testify after their Alpine training exploits at Lauterbrunnen. 'Leaves from the LMRT Journal' confirm that on July 11: 'The course got off to a bad start, weatherwise, with torrential rain overnight and in the morning.' And the entry for July 14 reports: 'Rain and more rain. So we decided to take the day off and, hopefully, tack an extra day onto the training session.'

Wee boy in Safeway in the driving seat of the shopping trolley, with his mum pushing him up and down the aisles. Nothing unusual in that, except this laddie was going 'vroom, vroom' as they negotiated

corners - with a frozen pizza for a steering wheel!

There are that many bikes zooming along our pedestrianised High Street, in both directions, that a local bylaw is being considered to make it compulsory for them to be fitted with bells. Come to think of it, when did you last hear the sound of a bicycle bell?

The front page of the Glasgow Herald on Monday informed us west coasters that the West Highland Way sign in Milngavie is constantly being turned around by tearaways. The result is unsuspecting wayfarers are setting off in the wrong direction. All for the sake of a few strong screws to anchor the sign to its post. An accompanying cartoon shows two West Highland Way walkers cutting an ice hole in the Antarctic, with one saying to the other: 'This can't be Mallaig!' Which it wouldn't be if they had completed the West Highland Way in any case!

I'm still referred to as 'Biscuits'. Well, with the surname 'Abernethy' that's quite acceptable. I've had the nickname since primary one so it came as quite a surprise to me when an elderly professional gent, getting geared up for a needle match at Fort William Golf Club, was also addressed as 'Biscuits'. 'How come you're calling me 'Biscuits?'' he queried. 'Because you're Gray & Dunn, that's why,' came the unsympathetic response.

'City Lights' star Jan Wilson was the only non-German member of the cast of the film being shot on location in Kilchoan. Jan plays the part of a youth hostel warden and her role called for her to drive an ancient Morris Minor along the narrow road to Ardnamurchan Lighthouse. That presented a problem. Jan doesn't drive. However, thanks to the wonders of modern

movie-making, the scene will be screened.

Walking through the Parade on Friday, I met members of the district council's gardening squad. 'Hi, de Hi', I called to the illustrious group. 'Hoe de Hoe,' they chorused in unison, wielding their implements. And they wield them to such good effect that the lawns and flower beds in the Parade are a picture.

An American proclaimed to anyone within earshot - and beyond - that Fort William Tourist Office staff, who all wear the Flower of Scotland tartan must, therefore, be members of the same clan!

A couple came into the tourist office. Girl, in a distressed state, asked at the desk: 'Parlez vous Francais?' Came the reply: 'Un petit peu'. Whereupon, in broken English, the girl said haltingly: 'I have an animal in my leg. One with an 'ead on eet, I am ver' frightened.' Whereupon she propped her leg on the counter, rolled up her jeans and pointed: 'Look, eet 'as legs, too.' The offending tick was quickly extracted by the versatile staff - and quietly squashed. 'Next tourist enquiry, please!'

Dougie was visiting home-from-home Hillhead in Glasgow at the weekend. A Chinese lassie came up to him and asked: 'Please, how I get to university?' Dougie replied: 'Just you stick in at school, hen.'

Council chairman Neil Clark's first civic role was to deliver the speech of welcome at the granting of the Freedom of Lochaber to the Queen's Own Highlanders. As an adjunct to it, he asked the assembled company: 'Did you know, if you spell Cameron backwards - not that I've ever known any backward Camerons - it comes out as 'No other Regiment Ever Mastered A Cameron?'

LT

ATHLETICS



Runners set off on the gruelling race on Aonach Mor.
Photograph: John O'Neill.

Aonach Mor race

On a beautiful April day, runners faced the gruelling the Aonach Mor Uphill race at Nevis Range.

The wind was strong and just too much for the gondola at Nevis Range to be running so an alternative course was used for this year's race.

Eoin Lennon, from Highland Hill Runners, was in fine form and came storming home in first place in a time of 24:26, ahead of unattached Samuel Arroyo del Alamo, in 24:54. Third place was Sam Alexander, of Westerlands, in 25 minutes exactly.

The first junior, in an amazing fifth overall, was Angus Wright, from Team East Lothian, on holiday in the Highlands from North Berwick in a time of 25:55.

Catrina Morrison, of Highland Hill Runners, was first lady in a time of 29:22, followed by teammate Diana MacDonald in 30:26. Third lady was Megan Wright, from Highland Bog Trotters, in a time of 33:52.

Full results available on the Off Beat Bikes website.

The next race in the Off Beat hill running series is the Glencoe Mountain Uphill Running Race on Saturday June 8.

TEN-PIN BOWLING

Singles league results

After week two of the 10-pin bowling singles leagues at The Nevis Centre in Fort William Tony Whitelocke is the new leader of the scratch league with 37 points. Last week's leader Brian Stewart is now in second place with 33 points, with Iain Gregor also on 33 points. The handicap league is now also led by Tony Whitelocke on 37 points. Jean Fisher moves into second place on 32 points followed by Gary Cowan on 31 points.

Tony Whitelocke is the new leader in the chase for the Nevis Radio High Pin Trophy with 957 pins, followed by Brian Stewart in second with 936 pins and Brian Johnstone in third with 909 pins.

The top individual scratch game this week came from John Weller with the season high of 211. Also this week, Tony Whitelocke had a 178 and Tony Weldon had a 176. Tony Whitelocke had the best three-game scratch series with 478, followed by John Weller with 441 and Tony Weldon with 440. John Weller's high scratch game also yielded the top handicap game of 263 followed by Tony Weldon with 235 and Tony Whitelocke with 221. Tony Weldon also had the top three-game handicap series with 617 followed by Tony Whitelocke with 607 and John Weller with 597.

LOTTERY NUMBERS

Lochaber club lotteries

Fort William Golf Club's lotto numbers last week were two, five and 16. There was no winner so the jackpot for the draw today, Thursday April 18, will be £600.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers last week were 12, 13 and 14. There was no winner so this week's jackpot will be £400.

Caol Community Centre bingo club's lotto numbers were seven, 15 and 19. There was one winner this week, Sonia. Next week's jackpot will be £100.

The numbers in Lochaber Camanachd Club's lottery on Tuesday April 9 were eight, 11 and 16. There was no winner so the jackpot for Tuesday April 16 was £400.

The numbers in the Caol Regeneration Lotto this week were two, 14 and 18. There was no winner this week. Next week's draw has a prize of £200.

Julie throws first jack

On a sunny, but windy afternoon on Saturday April 15, Fort William Railway Bowling Club got the new 2019 season under way.

Julie Fraser, wife of Fort William Railway Bowling Club president Kevin Fraser threw the first jack to officially open the Inverloch green for the forthcoming season.

Inset: Kevin Fraser presents a bouquet of flowers to his wife Julie, as a thank you for officially opening the 2019 season.



Julie Fraser throws the first jack to officially open the Inverloch green for the 2019 SEASON. Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Fort William Table Tennis teams narrowly beat Inverness

Fort William's Table Tennis club hosted a special event recently when they played the first ever challenge match against members of Inverness Table Tennis Club at the Nevis Centre.

The Fort fielded three teams of four at the day-long event, with the first team taking a well deserved victory. Monte Bleasdale remained undefeated, and was well supported by John Grant as they managed to hold off the challenge posed by the visitors' first team. Both Angus MacDonald and Alin Popu came close to increasing the team's winning margin in two of the matches but each of them narrowly lost.

It was Fort William's second team that proved altogether too strong for the Inverness team as both Simon Jeffrey



Competitors in the first Fort William v Inverness Table Tennis Club event which was held in the Nevis Centre on Saturday. Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

and Costi Dimitru won all their matches. Julie Magen only suffered one defeat and Harry Williamson chipped in with one win to give the team a resounding victory which

TABLE TENNIS

was ultimately led to the home side's overall victory in this match.

Unfortunately the Fort's third team found the going a little tough, as only Neil Cameron Jr managed to win a match. However, as this was the penultimate match of the evening to be played, Cameron Jr can take great credit in taking the Fort over the winning line, in what turned out to be a very tight but enjoyable contest for all participants.

Special thanks must go to Rae Jack for bringing his team from Inverness, and to Fort William chairman John Grant for organising the event with the Nevis Centre.

Inverness are already

plotting revenge and a return challenge match is to be organised for sometime in September.

The club therefore are always on the lookout for new players of any standard. Visit the club's website for more details and make contact if you feel like giving table tennis a go.

Results were as follows: First Team: Fort William 9 - 7 Inverness - Monte Bleasdale (played 4, won 4), John Grant (p4, w3), Angus MacDonald (p4, w1) and Alin Popu (p4, w1).

Second Team: Fort William 11 - 4 Inverness - Simon Jeffrey (p4 w4), Costi Dimitru (p4, w4), Julie Magen (p3, w2) and Harry Williamson (p4, w1).

Third Team: Fort William 1 - 9 Inverness - Aileen MacFazdean (p4, w0), Neil Cameron (Senior) (p3, w0), Neil Cameron (Junior) (p2, w1) and John Steele (p1, w0).

Overall result: Fort William 21 - 20 Inverness



Fort William claimed a narrow victory over their Inverness counterparts.



First in the High School A vault, Alexander MacNiven. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Lochaber gymnasts put on a show at Nevis Centre

Lochaber Gymnastics Club held its second club competition on Saturday with dozens of young athletes taking part.

From vaulting to floor routines, there was plenty of action in the Nevis Centre as the youngsters showed off their acrobatic skills.

The judges on the day were Holly Cantrill, Pam Cantrill, Abbie Blackhall and Hannah Corner with help from Molly Blackhall and Robyn Blackhall. The coaches were Claire Cameron, Fiona MacDonald, Doug Little,

Esther Gunn and Amanda Blackhall. Viv MacDonald, another committee member and coach, was the compere for the day.

The organisers said: 'Well done to all the gymnasts that competed in our club competition! And a big thank you to the judges and the coaches for making it happen.'

The club runs gymnastics classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week at The Nevis Centre and currently has approximately 250 gymnasts. The club also hold

a Gala evening every year in June and participate in Dance Platform in November.

For more information on the club contact them via their Facebook page.

Results: Primary 4: Floor - 1 Kaela Denholme. 2 Isla Dennison. 3 Katie Pescod. Vault - 1 Miguel Reis-Forrester. 2 Katie Pescod. 3 Douglas Gosling.

Primary 5: Floor - 1 Andzelina Gerasimuka. 2 Rosie Servant. 3 Stevi-Leigh Love. Vault - 1 Sarah Burton. 2 Rosie Servant. 3 Eva MacDonald.

Primary 6/7 A: Floor - 1 Aleksandra Gerasimuka. 2 Karolina Bertelje. 3 Ruby Weir. Vault - 1 Karolina Bertelje and Chloe Reynolds. 2 Ebony Morrice

GYMNASTICS

and Aleksandra Gerasimuka. 3 Ruby Weir. Primary 6/7 B: Floor - 1 Cerys Denholme. 2 Zuzanna Matuszczak. 3 Megan Dallas. Vault - 1 Ava MacDonald. 2 Zuzanna Matuszczak. 3 Maisie Dallas.

High School A: Floor - 1 Elizabeth Morgan. 2 Urzsula Borowy. 3 Julia Borowy. Vault - 1 Alexander MacNiven. 2 Anna Gray. 3 Elizabeth Morgan.

High School B: Floor - 1 Lilly MacDonald. 2 Amy Ionita. 3 Jennifer Ladyman. Vault - 1 Lilly MacDonald. 2 Jennifer Ladyman. 3 Zoe Sinclair.

High School C: Floor - 1 Tara Sinclair. 2 Siobhan Chambers. 3 Scott Macleod. Vault - 1 Tara Sinclair. 2 Siobhan Chambers. 3 Scott Macleod.

Mallaig title defence gets off to perfect start

Mallaig	9
Gairloch/Aultbea Utd	0
Skye and Lochalsh AFA	

Mallaig's league title defence got off to a perfect start on Saturday as the blues hammered Gairloch in the opening fixture of the new season.

The home side took an early lead through Ross Douglas after getting on the end of a squared Andrew Sneddon cross which set the tone for the match. They continued to look lively in the opening exchanges as Douglas and Andy Cunningham both went close before Gairloch were reduced to 10 men for a deliberate handball on the line. Cunningham made no mistake from the spot to double Mallaig's lead.

The blues maintained the high intensity that they had started the game with and were soon three goals up thanks to Tom Benfield who finished low past the GA goalkeeper.

The visitors deployed a long throw-in tactic by launching the ball into the Mallaig box at every opportunity, which almost paid off for them when debutant Fraser Davis had to clear a header off the home goal line. Davis, who has had an excellent season for the Mallaig under-18's, played a role in the fourth goal after he ran the length of the pitch with the ball, exchanging passes with the midfield, before squaring to Andrew Sneddon who calmly finished

to make it four.

Cunningham, last season's player of the year, made it 5-0 soon after with a headed finish from close range.

Man of the match Scott Maclean who, despite playing the majority of his football for Mallaig at full back, slotted in at centre midfield controlled the match and was the catalyst for the Mallaig onslaught in attack.

The goals kept coming for Mallaig after the half-time break as Cunningham who

FOOTBALL

completed his hat-trick with an easy tap-in. The seventh came immediately from the restart as Scott Maclean won the ball in the middle of the park and found Sneddon who unleashed a beauty of a long range strike to double his goal tally for the day.

Andy Cunningham got his fourth of the game as he took a short corner to Sneddon who gave it back to the Englishman who hit a low shot towards goal that missed everyone and went in at the front post.

The scoring was rounded off by Benfield who raced to the goal and coolly placed the ball into the bottom left corner as he sealed a brace.

The win means Mallaig sit top of the William Wilson league, having been awarded three points when Portree failed to raise a team in the previous week's scheduled fixture.

Mallaig are away to North West Skye this Saturday.



Mallaig celebrate winning the league title last season

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WEATHER

Thursday
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
9°C to 19°C.

Friday
Sunny and a gentle breeze
Temperatures
9°C to 17°C.

Weekend Outlook

Saturday
Light cloud and a gentle breeze

Sunday
Light rain in the afternoon with a gentle breeze
Temperatures
8°C to 14°C.



FRIDAY

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)

	04.51	4.0	11.23	0.5
Thur	17.19	3.9	23.23	0.3
Fri	05.29	4.1	12.02	0.4
	17.53	4.0	***	**
Sat	00.06	0.2	06.06	4.2
	12.39	0.4	18.27	4.0
Sun	00.49	0.3	06.41	4.1
	13.16	0.5	19.02	4.0
Mon	01.29	0.4	07.16	3.9
	13.52	0.7	19.37	3.8
Tues	02.10	0.7	07.50	3.6
	14.30	1.0	20.12	3.6
Wed	02.50	1.0	08.24	3.4
	15.11	1.2	20.50	3.4

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 gymnasts put on a show at Nevis Centre

Fort William Table Tennis teams triumph

Fort now two years without a league win

Fort William	0
Fraserburgh	7
Highland League	

Seven goals was the difference at a bright and breezy Claggan Park on Saturday as Fraserburgh brushed aside a youthful Fort William team, despite having four first-half goals disallowed.

The defeat now means that Fort William have not won a Highland League match in two years, a record which they hope to avenge in their two remaining home matches.

The visitors, on the other hand, playing their final match of the season, claimed all three points with five second-half goals to consolidate a third place finish in the Highland League.

The match looked to have gotten off to the worst possible start for Fort William as the Broch put the ball in the back of the net in the opening minute of play, only for the officials to rule the goal out.

Fort William did not heed the early warnings, however, and just four minutes after kick-off defender Callum Fraser turned the ball into the back of his own net to put Fraserburgh 1-0 up.

This seemed to jolt the Fort defence into action and they managed to hold out for 20 minutes.

The visitors then had another goal chalked off for a handball before they had yet another goal disallowed just minutes later. Scott Barbour doubled the Broch's

advantage 10 minutes before half-time.

Fort manager Russell MacMorran would be buoyed by the performance and was hopeful of a turnaround.

His hopes were dashed, however, when Sean Butcher made it 3-0 to the visitors in the 58th minute. His strike was followed up by Aiden Combe who scored a fine fourth goal for his team on the hour mark, which all but secured the win for Fraserburgh.

There was a silver lining for the Fort on Saturday as 16-year-old Kyle Dignan made his first appearance in the gold and black when he came off the bench to replace Ryan Henderson in the second half.

Fellow under-17 player Sam MacKenzie also made a substitute appearance, his second this season. Manager MacMorran continues his policy of using the remaining fixtures this season to blood some of the promising young talent in the youth ranks.

Fraserburgh finished off the scoring with strikes from Paul Campbell, Butcher and Combe to take the Broch's tally to seven for the day.

Fort William remain bottom of the league on minus seven points following a points deduction earlier in the season for fielding ineligible players.

They are at home this Saturday to Forres Mechanics in the penultimate league match of the season.

Manager Russell Mac-



The Fort's Aidan Taylor battles hard but is outnumbered by Fraserburgh players.

Photo: Iain Ferguson, alba photos

Morran said he was disappointed in the manner of the defeat, adding: 'When you put it in perspective, it's a very hard one for us to take considering the last two performances. 'We just didn't turn up to

the races. They beat us 13-0 earlier in the season so it is a bit of an improvement.'

He pointed out that the Fort team had an average age of 20 years and three months.

'We were confident that we could take something from

FOOTBALL

them on Saturday or at least a lower scoreline,' he continued. 'We've still got two games to go so there's time for the guys to shake it off.'

Jags put four past Jordanhill

FOOTBALL

South Lochaber Thistle	4
Jordanhill	0
GGPL Division Two	

South Lochaber Thistle secured an impressive victory against Jordanhill at Kinlochleven on Saturday.

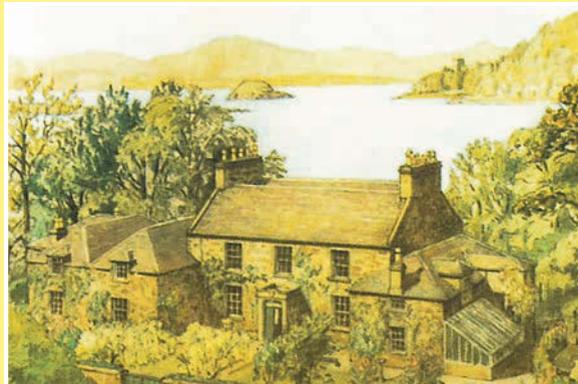
Two goals each from Martin Munro and Andrew MacLean gave the home side a comfortable victory over the Glasgow team, who sit three positions above them in the division.

Holding midfielder Cameron Grant put in a man of the match display as the Jags kept a clean sheet and maintained their solid defensive record this season, having conceded the second fewest goals in the league.

SLT now sit seventh in the league table and are at home on Saturday against Boswell.

Oban Saints in West Cup final

Oban Saints reached the final of the West of Scotland Amateur Cup by virtue of a 2-1 win against reigning Scottish Cup holders Shortlees, at New Douglas Park, Hamilton, last Saturday. Goals from Matty Kelly and Dene Cassells sent the Oban side through to the final where they will face Bannockburn on Friday May 3 at New Douglas Park.



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