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Talks start on new homes

by David McPhee
 dmcph@obantimes.co.uk



A consultation is under way regarding a major housing development on Glencruitten Rise.

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) has submitted a proposal of application notice to develop on the 2.32 hectares of ground.

But residents have concerns, in particular the 'unfit' road to the site. And one resident said it was 'houses for sale' time if work on a development road gets under way.

The site is described as 'potentially challenging and complex' and will require improvements to the road. Currently, it is accessed from an unclassified public road.

The potential development was raised at the Oban Community Council meeting on Monday.

Speaking at the meeting, a member of the public said: 'What I want to know is how this has come about. Oban is gridlocked as it is.' He feared that if the first phase of houses and a development road were approved, it would lead to further phases of housing.

The number of homes that could be built, as well

as the traffic, were also raised. However, there are no details regarding how many homes would be built.

Another member of the public said: 'If it was the only option for Oban, we would say fair enough. But we have the [Dunbeg] corridor on the main road.'

Community councillor Neil MacIntyre said: 'We all know that road is not fit. We have a development up at Glencruitten, which we can't get to. It is crazy.'

Councillor Roddy McCuish, who is on the board of ACHA, said: 'The only information I have is they are looking to try to put some houses up there and it is at the consultation stage. It would need an awful lot of infrastructure work. Funding is not in place and we are a long way from it.'

But he offered to facilitate a meeting between residents, the community council and ACHA.

There was discussion of the association applying to the Scottish Government's Housing and Infrastructure Grant to fund a development road, similar to the one at Kirk Road in Dunbeg. However, Councillor Kieron Green said the road to Glencruitten Rise

is about five times longer than Kirk Road and would cost around £10 million. He said the fund consists of a £15 million Scotland-wide pot and the chances of getting £10 million were 'slim'.

Councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'We have a real issue with any future developments to the south of Oban because of the infrastructure. We are well aware of the congestion there is coming from that part of town and that is why we are looking to the north to develop.'

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon suggested residents form a committee as soon as possible.

Oban Community Council chairwoman Marri Malloy said: 'We will support them if they want to start a group and the community council will definitely come on board.'

Alastair MacGregor, chief executive of ACHA, told The Oban Times: 'With over 600 applicants currently on the list, new homes are needed in the town.'

However, Mr MacGregor said it was not in ACHA's interest to have inadequate access, adding: 'We would wish to ensure any development has adequate arrangements and we will work closely with the local authority planning department.'

Tralee artist Gloria to be honoured



As part of a special In Conversation evening, Oban's Rockfield Centre is hosting a retrospective exhibition of 90-year-old Gloria Young's artwork. Word has it, most houses around Benderloch have at least one of Gloria's paintings on their walls. For the full story, turn to page nine.

Lochaber Model & Craft Show



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With your help last year's show raised £1059 for The Lochaber Mountain Rescue. This year we will be once again donating proceeds to local charities & organisations.

OT

Massage therapist jailed for 14 months'

A massage therapist from Iona who sexually assaulted and secretly filmed clients has been sentenced to 14 months in jail.

Norman James Young, of Tigh na Tobrach, Isle of Iona, pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting two clients and covertly filming 242 people between April 1, 2014, and May 31, 2018. He was sentenced at Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday April 24.

Police found thousands of photographs, many of which were stills from videos, in the 72-year-old's home, from which he operated Mull and Iona Therapeutic Treatment Services. Footage showed Young both giving and receiving sexual acts from male and female clients.

Two women, who received a massage from Young, went to the police after he sexually assaulted them.

Young gave both clients

'Over the course of four years, more than 240 people placed their trust in you. They trusted you to be a certified professional and, over the course of the four years, you have violated that trust by recording them.'

small hand towels to cover their private parts, however, he massaged them in a way to cause the towel to move and inappropriately touched them.

'When the complainer told him she was uncomfortable,'

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

After the women went to the police, Young's home was searched and a concealed camera was found within an advertising placard on the wall of the treatment room and was aimed at the treatment table.

Young's defence solicitor, Laura McManus, said her client was quoted in the criminal justice and social work report as being very remorseful and wanted the complainers spared the ordeal of giving evidence in court.

'He has clarified that he is very upset that they each felt they were violated,' Mrs McManus added.

She said it was his goal to

help them and that he wished to apologise for upsetting them.

Mrs McManus went on to say: 'It's fair to say that at no point was video recording discussed with his clients. At no point did they consent to that.'

'The reason he began that process [filming clients] was to protect himself against potential complaints. He would have a recording to refer to.'

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said: 'Over the course of four years, more than 240 people placed their trust in you. They trusted you to be a certified professional and, over the course of the four years, you have violated that trust by recording them.'

Young received a four-month jail term for each of the sexual assaults, as well as six months for recording clients without consent - a total of 14 months' imprisonment.



Jemma Campbell with son Ashton who are learning British Sign Language with help from the NDCS.

Ashton's big cake bake aims to say thank you

You can have your cake and eat it at a deaf awareness week big bake sale in Oban on Sunday May 12.

Mum Jemma Campbell is hosting the event at Oban Pipe Band Hall in Shore Street between 11am and 1pm, hoping to raise £500 as a thank you to the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS), which has been helping her son, Ashton.

The charity has been funding all their family to learn basic

British Sign Language and in return Jemma has come up with the idea of the bake sale to show appreciation.

People can help by spreading the word about the sale, baking for the day, buying at the event or giving a donation online at justgiving.com/fundraising/jemma-campbell1.

Money raised will help the NDCS continue to support all of the 50,000 deaf children and their families across the UK whenever they need it.

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ABCD secretary Andy Henderson with trustees Alfie McKenzie and Ian MacInnes, and Park Primary gymnasts in their new leotards.

Gymnasts jump for joy over new leotards

Gymnasts at Oban's Park Primary School are jumping for joy in their new leotards.

Funds to buy the new kit came from Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD). The charity was set up in 2000 by volunteers and since then it has raised more than £250,000 and spent in the region of £200,000 on almost 200 projects region-wide to beat the burden of cardiovascular disease.

ABCD was only too happy to fund the new leotards after the last lot it donated five



years ago needed replacing. The latest leotards, in the school colours and with sparkling butterfly wings, are a big hit.

The charity donated £400 to the after-school gym club for

pupils aged nine upwards and led by teacher Kirsty Blainey, with janitor Ronnie Guthrie.

ABCD secretary Andy Henderson and trustees Ian MacInnes and Alfie McKenzie were invited along to watch gym practice last week. Mrs Blainey said: 'The new leotards are great. It really makes the children feel part of a team. A big thank you to ABCD.'

The club came away with silver medals from a recent Argyll-wide Active Schools gymnastics event.

Oban police station is crumbling mess

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Oban police station is not fit for purpose, according to a damning report issued by the Scottish Police Federation (SPF).

The statutory body, which represents police officers in Scotland, recommended that the Albany Street premises be closed immediately after a catalogue of horrifying discoveries was made during inspections at police stations and officer accommodation in Argyll and Bute.

Among myriad issues highlighted, the report revealed that Oban police officers have been forced to salvage office chairs out of dumpsters to replace the broken ones at their crumbling station.

Officials also found that officers had begun covering numerous holes in the building's damp walls with sheets of paper to try improve its appearance.

Paintwork in the food preparation area was found to be covered in mould and flaking off the walls.

Numerous 'ligature points' were identified within the cells area and the victim interview suit at the station was also found to be 'neglected' and in complete disarray.

The 'deep dive' inspection of



The kitchen facilities at Oban police station.

L Division, which also covers West Dunbartonshire, was organised earlier this month after numerous concerns were raised by police officers.

The SPF is now calling for the Scottish Police Authority to immediately close Oban and Lochgilphead stations which they believe are not fit for purpose.

Michael Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute, called the report 'very worrying' and demanded an urgent response from Police Scotland.

'It is shocking that the Oban police station has been allowed to deteriorate in this way,' he added.

'There needs to be a clear, urgent plan for something new and clear, urgent action to make it happen.'

Responding to the concerns Police Scotland's Deputy Chief Constable Fiona Taylor said: 'Work was undertaken immediately to remedy a number of concerns raised by the Scottish Police Federation last week, as the safety and wellbeing of our staff is a priority.

'A range of options for Oban police station are being examined and we are prioritising the capital budget we have been allocated across a multitude of competing demands to achieve as much as we can, as quickly as we can.'

Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron has also called for major improvements following discussions with officers based in Oban.

However, he said he was reassured that the condition of the building, although poor, is not compromising operational effectiveness.

'Like many local people, I was shocked by the photographs I saw following the deep dive report.

'I am grateful to local officers for discussing the situation with me and I admire the fact that, despite these substandard facilities, our police continue to work and perform at the highest levels of service.

'However, the public must have confidence that our

police officers are operating in a safe environment and that working conditions are not compromising their ability to carry out their responsibilities.'

Despite calls to close the stations at Oban and Lochgilphead immediately, Mr Cameron does not think that is necessary, so long as there is a serious commitment by Police Scotland to improve working conditions for staff and ensure the areas used for custody are fit for purpose.

'We must see major improvements, and we must see them made very quickly indeed,' he added.

Mr Cameron assured concerned local residents that he would be questioning Scottish Government ministers in parliament this week and monitoring the situation to make sure the promised improvements actually happen.

POLICE FILES

■ Between March 31 and April 20, an outboard motor was stolen from a sailing boat which is currently grounded on the shore near to Poppies Garden Centre, near Dunbeg.

■ About 11.30am on Wednesday April 24, a quantity of cosmetics and toiletries were stolen from Superdrug and Boots in George Street, Oban.

■ Between noon and 1pm on Thursday April 25, within the car park of Oban High School, a parked red Fiat Panda suffered minor damage to the rear bumper and fog light. The damage is thought to have been caused by another vehicle which failed to stop and report the incident.

■ About 9pm on Thursday April 25, a 36-year-old woman was arrested for allegedly behaving in an abusive manner in Glenshellach Road, Oban, earlier that night. The woman was subsequently charged and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

■ About 12.05am on Saturday April 27, the common close door at 14

Soroba Road was damaged and the glass pane smashed.

■ About 8.30pm on Saturday April 27, in the public car park near to licensed premises in Tobermory, a 31-year-old man was arrested for allegedly behaving in an abusive manner. The man was subsequently charged and issued with a recorded police warning.

■ About 9.40pm on Saturday April 27, a 22-year-old man was arrested outside licensed premises in Tobermory after allegedly assaulting a member of door staff. The man was later charged and issued with a recorded police warning.

■ About 1am on Sunday April 28, in George Street, Oban, a car was stopped and the man, 31, who was driving, was arrested for being under the influence of alcohol. The man was charged, held for court and a report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.

■ If anyone has information in relation to any incident, they can contact police on telephone number 101, or anonymously to Crime-stoppers on 0800 555 111.



Donald Cameron MSP called for 'major improvements, following a recent visit to Oban Police Station.

Oban playpark work goes out to tender

Essential repair work to Oban Community Playpark could start by the end of this month.

Argyll and Bute Council kick-started the 'quick quote' process, via the Scottish Government's Public Contracts Scotland portal, last week with preferred suppliers being asked to submit tenders by May 7.

Once the closing date is reached, the council will review the tenders, confirm with the playpark manufacturer Wicksteed arrangements for payment of the amount of the preferred tender, enter into contract with preferred tenderer and have them onsite as soon as possible after the closing date.

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

Argyll and Bute Council came to an agreement with Wicksteed Playgrounds in regards to the funding of the repair work in March.

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OT

Doubt continues for islands flights

by Kathie Griffiths
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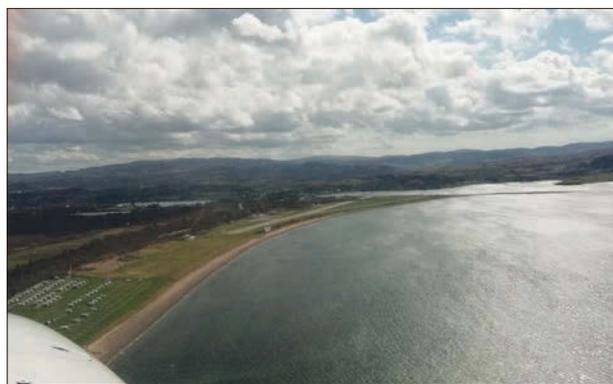
The future of scheduled flights linking Tiree, Coll and Colonsay to Oban is still up in the air.

There is little more than two weeks to go before the flights could be grounded for at least six weeks after a contract for the service was not renewed.

Earlier this year Argyll and Bute Council abandoned the procurement process after only one tender was submitted and was classed as 'non-compliant'.

For the past seven years, the essential air link has been run on behalf of the council by Hebridean Air Services Ltd (HASL) based at Oban Airport. The company also runs a public service obligation for Shetland Islands Council from Dingwall.

Despite the clock ticking,



The approach by air to Oban Airport.

a spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said there was no new update.

'The contract for the air services from Oban to the islands of Tiree, Coll and Colonsay is out to tender and we remain committed to working towards a solution,' he said.

Oban and Isles councillor Roddy McCuish has not given

up hope. He said: 'I am aware negotiations are still going on and I hope there will be a positive outcome for all concerned.'

More than £1.5m in council funding was made available for the three-year contract. Additionally, the council provides £750,000 annually for the operation of Coll,

Colonsay and Oban airports. HASL's current contract runs out on May 15.

Among passengers who rely on the air service are eight young islanders from Coll and seven on Colonsay who travel to school in Oban and use the flights to get back home at weekends. Health professionals also use the service.

Oban High School head-teacher Peter Bain also uses scheduled flights to reach Tiree High School, of which he is also head. Tiree's flights to Oban will be affected by the situation but the island still has flights to Glasgow.

Transport Scotland has just published its invitation to tender air routes from Glasgow to Tiree, Campbeltown and Barra to run from October 25 this year for four years.

The estimated value of the four-year contract is around £20 million.

Cheers to village pub opening again soon

Taynuilt is toasting the news that it is getting its village pub back.

The man behind the Taynuilt Inn re-opening is Oban entrepreneur Paul Sloan, whose latest business venture, Gelato Burger, only opened in Oban's George Street at Easter.

The inn shut as a pub a number of years ago but had been operating as a guesthouse.

Work is ongoing to get it ready inside while the outside has been given a facelift with a fresh coat of white paint. Villagers have heard it could open next month.

Mr Sloan told the Oban Times: 'It is a vintage sports bar, not specific to shinty but certainly with a nod towards it and cricket.'

'The main two bar areas are very old village inn style but it has a complete makeover with wooden beams.'

'The rooms are all being renovated and the entire inn looks completely different.'

Taynuilt Community Council chairman David Sloss said it was good news that the venue's doors will



The Taynuilt Inn.

soon be opening again. 'It's been long-awaited and we are looking forward to it opening.'

'Every village needs one - not to say that the Brander Lodge hasn't stepped up and served us well - but it will be nice to have a hotel and pub back in the heart of the village.'

'It will give us another community hub and I hope it will also bring in extra trade for the Brander Lodge as well,' he said.

The inn's head chef will be Will Murray and the search is now on for a talented second chef.

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Fun and games at Rockfield primary

Pupils at Oban Primary Campus came back after Easter to find that their playground had been transformed.

The children were very excited as new games had been created, brightening up the playground and encouraging everyone to join in and have fun.

The work was able to be completed due to the application for a grant to Tesco Bags of Help Funding, which was submitted by Lyndsay Elliott on behalf of Rockfield PTA and they were awarded the fantastic amount of £4,000 towards an upgrade of the playground.

The designs were chosen

in conjunction with St Columba's PTA.

A spokesperson for the school said: 'We would like to thank Lyndsay for submitting the application, Tesco for the very generous award, Mitie for supporting the project and the PTA for their support in this venture.'

New location sought for memorials

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Ardchattan could get a replacement war memorial for the one locked up inside Achnaba church.

The community council heard earlier this month that contact had been made with the War Graves Commission which was 'positive' about being able to help with a replacement.

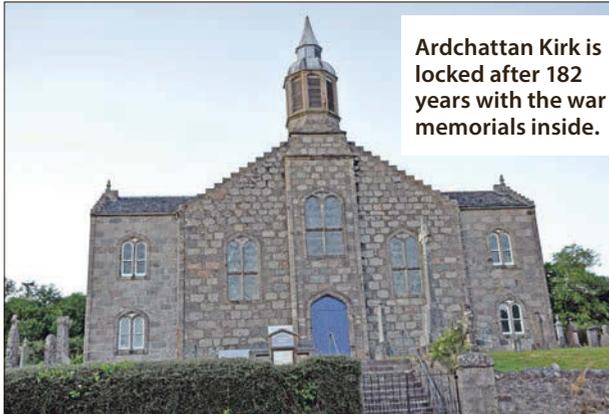
The doors to the lochside church were shut in January for good after 182 years because of straitened financial circumstances.

Although it was decided to sell the church, it is still not on the market.

Church elder John Campbell said he believed the hold-up had been some kind of 'technical issue' to do with the rules and regulations of selling a church-owned property.

This week a Church of Scotland spokeswoman said the sale of the kirk had now been approved by the Presbytery of Argyll and confirmed the building would be advertised in a few weeks.

The church had to lock up the building for security reasons, the spokeswoman added, but that means people



Ardchattan Kirk is locked after 182 years with the war memorials inside.

cannot visit the memorial to pay their respects.

'Because the church has no minister and the building, which is B-listed, has been closed for security reasons, the war memorial is not as accessible to the public as we would like it to be,' said the spokeswoman.

'Once a suitable location has been found, however, we can apply to the local authority for permission to move the war memorial.'

'We would be happy to explore any suitable suggestions with the community council.'

There are two rolls of honour in the church remembering the 39 men from the parish who gave their lives in the Great War and the

Second World War. There is also a stone oval plaque in memory of Ensign John Peter Fraser who died near Ellore, Madras, on March 21, 1948, and was the third son of the Reverend H Fraser of the Ardchattan Free Church.

Other Church of Scotland properties on the market include The Manse at Appin looking for offers of more than £320,000. Set in its own grounds, the listed building has potential for five bedrooms.

Kilmartin Church Hall near Lochgilphead has a price tag of over £70,000 and is currently under offer, so is Inverlussa Parish Church at Achnamara which was previously seeking offers of around £50,000.

Hydro scheme is officially 'awesome'

Dalavich's community powered hydro is officially 'awesome'.

The Awesome Energy project has just been declared a winner at a new event celebrating the best in renewable energy.

The accolade came at the first Highlands and Islands Renewable Energy Awards last week, held in Inverness.

Awesome Energy won the Best Community Energy Project, beating projects from North Uist and Community Energy Scotland.

More than 200 guests attended the glittering evening ceremony, including Dalavich hydro's project manager Carol Thomas.

Mrs Thomas said: 'The fact that we used predominantly local companies in the build



Carol Thomas.

and development, that we use local people to maintain the scheme and that we were able to partner generator to generator to overcome grid curtailment all contributed to our success.

'Many thanks to everyone who has been and continues to be involved in the project.

Now all we need is some rain!'

The awards were set up to showcase, recognise and reward the contribution that energy makes to the Highlands and Islands economy and the businesses at the heart of it.

Dalavich's hydro scheme smashed expectations for its first year in 2018, beating its predicted energy generation target despite a period of big freeze and then a total lack of water over the hot summer.

The project was also able to give back the £6,000 invested by Dalavich Improvement Group, which helped get the funding started to make it all happen.

To find out more about the scheme and about share options go to awesome-energy.com/shareholders.html

New coxswain is thrown in at the deep end

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Oban lifeboat station is pleased to welcome Ally Cerexhe as its new coxswain.

Ally joins the team with a vast range of experience having started as volunteer crew member in 2001, serving at Portpatrick lifeboat station before becoming its full-time mechanic in 2010.

Discussing his new position, Ally said: 'I'm looking forward to taking on the role and continuing the good work of Oban lifeboat station, which has consistently been the busiest all-weather lifeboat in Scotland over the past few years.'

With such a varied area to cover and a vast array of different call-outs, Ally is sure to be kept busy in his new post.

Indeed, having only started officially on April 8, he managed to attend a call-out to a kayaker, who had capsized and was struggling to get back into his kayak, while he was on an appraisal exercise before he had even officially started.



Oban lifeboat station's new coxswain Ally Cerexhe.

Since moving here he has also attended two call-outs on the same day - one to a sinking fishing vessel at Oban Railway Pier and a suspected boat on fire in

Loch Creran. Ally replaces Richard Johnson, who left at the end of last year to take charge of five stations in a new Borders area created by the RNLI.

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OT

Angus puts brakes on after 43 years

by David McPhee
dmpcpee@obantimes.co.uk

For more than four decades, Angus MacLennan has helped ensure mail is delivered from Oban.

He is not a postman, but thanks to his efforts as a mechanic, Royal Mail vans have been running smoothly for 43 years.

However, last Friday was Angus's last shift in the Oban Royal Mail garage.

The former Barcaldine man started in the depot when he was 22.

'I have been shift supervisor for the past 15 years,' he said. 'Before that I was a mechanic.'

Looking back, Angus has nothing but good things to say about his workplace.

'I have very fond memories,' he added. 'It was a good job, working with good people – very good people over the



Angus MacLennan, who retired from the Oban garage last Friday, with his colleagues.

17_T18_RoyalMail01

years and many happy times. 'The Royal Mail has been very good to work for. The years I have been here have been very good.

'Everyone who is here has been here for a long time, so that says it all. If it was not

a good job, people wouldn't stay.'

He wanted to thank all the 'good and friendly' people he has worked with over the years.

The kind words were reciprocated by his colleagues,

who said he would be missed 'very much' and that 'he has been an integral cog in this wheel'.

Angus told The Oban Times he is going to take a couple of weeks off and 'see what happens' now that he is retired.

Prison for man who threatened officers

A 28-year-old man who admitted threatening police officers and harming himself has been sentenced to six months in jail.

Francis Cannon, of 39 Beechworth Drive, Motherwell, pleaded guilty on Wednesday March 27 at Oban Sheriff Court to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner and to causing fear or alarm.

Procurator fiscal Meghan Glancey told the court that on March 3 of this year, at a flat in Oban, Cannon 'smashed an empty beer bottle over his head and stabbed himself in the neck with the broken glass'.

He then took possession of both a Stanley knife and kitchen knife and locked himself in a bathroom before stabbing and slashing himself.

After police arrived, Cannon

made threats to the officers and lowered himself out of the window.

Cannon's defence solicitor told the court that a psychiatric report showed no mental disorders or recommendations from doctors.

'He is aware that his behavior was most bizarre,' his solicitor added. 'The narration was quite shocking for him. He is hoping for some assistance for addiction issues.' He also stated that at the time of the incident Cannon's dog of 11 years had recently been put down.

While being sentenced on Wednesday April 24, Sheriff Patrick Hughes said that given he threatened to stab and slash other people, he saw no alternative to custody.

Cannon's six-month sentence will be backdated to March 4.

Man is ordered to pay compensation to barmen

A man who admitted assaulting two Oban barmen in December has been ordered to pay each of them £400.

Paul John Brown, 49, of 8 Tangfield Place Springburn, Glasgow, pleaded guilty to grabbing one by the throat and punching another in the face.

He also admitted to shouting and swearing, uttering offensive remarks and refusing to leave a licensed premises when asked to do so. He was sentenced in Oban Sheriff Court on Wednesday April 24.

He will have to carry out 240 hours of unpaid work and will be under the supervision of the social work department for the next 12 months.

The incident took place on December 8 and CCTV footage of the incident was shown in court.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said:

'This was a shocking matter. Watching that video was horrifying and I took a note at the time that custody was the likeliest outcome.'

In Brown's defence, his solicitor said: 'He makes clear he is deeply ashamed and remorseful.'

Brown's position was that it occurred after he had been drinking alcohol and had been working away for three weeks and was unable to pick up medication.

On the night in question, he said he was without medication for around five days and was drinking, but since the incident Brown said he had stopped drinking.

Having heard what was said on Brown's behalf, Sheriff Hughes was satisfied it could be dealt with by way of a community payback order.

Man struck colleague with a knife

A 23-year-old man will have to pay £1,000 compensation to a colleague he struck with a knife.

Rhys Gilliland, of 361 Main Street, Bonhill, Glasgow, pleaded guilty to hitting another man on the face with a knife after having 'a few too many' on September 4 last year.

As well as the compensation order, Gilliland will be under the supervision of the social work department for 12 months and will have to carry out 230 hours of unpaid work. He was sentenced on April 24 at Oban Sheriff Court.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty previously told the court: 'There became a point where he pulled down one of the complainants and I believe he had a knife and he felt a slap across his face.'

'He thought he had been slashed. Subsequently, it transpired the slash mark was a scratch.'

In Gilliland's defence, his solicitor said the incident occurred due to a high level of intoxication and that he accepts that his victim has to live with the consequences of his actions.

Oban man has liberty restricted for assault

A Oban man who admitted repeatedly kicking another man will have his liberty restricted.

Ryan McAllister, 23, of 1B Castle Road, Dunollie, was ordered to remain indoors from 7pm until 4am for six months. He is also subject to a community payback order of social work supervision for 12 months and 200 hours of unpaid work.

He admitted, alongside two others whose identities remain unknown, pulling

another man down onto the road, and repeatedly kicking him on the head and body.

The incident took place on November 11 last year and McAllister pleaded guilty on March 27.

The males fled but police officers traced McAllister.

Speaking on April 24 when he was sentenced, his solicitor Eddie Thornton said his client had spent 44 days on remand and found it to be a negative experience and one he did not wish to repeat.

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Sexual gesture man is given order to behave

A 70-year-old Oban man who admitted making a sexual gesture to a councillor while she was in court was sentenced to 12 months 'good behaviour'.

Kenneth McLennan, of Cadderlie, Crannaig-a-Mhinister, Pulpit Hill, previously pleaded guilty to turning round and putting his finger in and out of his mouth towards Councillor Julie McKenzie when she was in Oban Sheriff Court as a witness.

On Wednesday April 24, his sentence was deferred for a period of 12-months for him to be of good behaviour.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said that after 12 months he would receive a penalty, but if the crown can confirm he was of good behaviour, it would be taken into account.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court that McLennan's guilty plea of directing a sexual gesture at Julie McKenzie was accepted on the basis that there was a background of unwanted contact.

However, this background could not be taken into ac-

count when deciding whether to grant a non-harassment order, only the charge itself.

Sheriff Patrick Hughes said the single gesture cannot justify the non-harassment order and refused the crown's motion for the order.

When discussing the background of unwanted attention, McLennan's defence solicitor Eddie Thornton said it was the 'rough and tumble' of political life and people will express contrary views to those who stand for election.

He also stated his client was entitled to be present in court, like any other member of the public.

The court previously heard that on May 21 last year, councillor for Oban North and Lorn, Julie McKenzie was in court as a witness.

After giving evidence, Councillor McKenzie took a seat at the back of the court to watch the rest of proceedings.

While a witness made a reference to the councillor, Mr McGinty said: 'At that point, the complainer, who was sitting at the back, watched as the accused turned round and put his fingers in and out

of his mouth in what might be recognised as a sexualised gesture.'

Mr McGinty added: '[McLennan] accepted contacting the complainer on many occasions and his position is that she is someone in the public eye and his comments to her on social media were fair comment.'

'To his actions in court, his position was that his brace was loose and he perhaps fixed it, but did not recall doing so.'

Sentencing was deferred on two occasions in order for the court to obtain a criminal justice and social work report. When sentencing on April 24 McLennan, Sheriff Hughes said: 'Your conduct on this day can only be described as disgraceful.'

Sheriff Hughes stated that if there were to be a further offence of this nature, not only would it be distressing for the victim, but it would be very serious for McLennan.

'If there is further offending by you, all sentencing options will be before the court, including a custodial sentence,' he added.



Dervaig's community library is stocking up its shelves.

Library is a success story at Dervaig Hall

A community library is starting a new chapter in Dervaig, on the isle of Mull.

Tomorrow, Friday May 3, will see the library, in a room at Dervaig Village Hall, show off its shelves to visitors gathering for a special day celebrating Mull's many community groups and projects.

MSP Michael Russell, who

donated some books from his own personal collection, has also been invited along.

As well as the library, visitors will be able to look round the community orchard and hear about plans to build an outdoor classroom.

Among other groups and craftmakers attending with stalls will be Tobermory

Harbour Association and Mull Native Woodland Group, who are busy preserving the island's biodiversity.

People will also get the chance to look round Dervaig hall's newly refurbished bunkrooms and enjoy a performance by Mull Music Makers at 4.30pm. The event is from 3pm to 5pm.

Festival has Oban up and dancing

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



WHERE IS THIS?



This weekend is a big one for the town as the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival will have the town overflowing with dancers and musicians plus their families and friends.

The talent on show is fantastic. It is honestly inspiring to see the expertise and passion in these young people so, if you can, please support them as they sing, dance and play in lots of different venues around the town.

On Saturday, there will be a pipe band parade to Station Square from the Corran Halls at 1pm and afterwards performances in Station Square from Crackin' Craic, Dice and Rumskee, plus one of our talented local pipers, Innes Munro, and Oban FM.

In the evening, if you fancy a wee dance, then the Festival

Fling is the place to be at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, tickets available on the door and from the Corran Halls during the day.

If you'd like to support HIMDF, then there are raffle tickets available from lots of different places, including the BID4Oban office from 9am to 1pm, and the prizes are great.

Also, if you have children you would like to see involved in future years, then there is

also a Festival Feis with great tutors to encourage the next generation of competitors.

More details of everything to do with the Highland and Islands Music and Dance Festival are available on their website.

The photograph last week was of the fence just behind Dunollie Castle, a beautiful walk round the seafront. This week's is a continuation of that walk.

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Gloria Young at 90 and with her little black sales book in her Tralee studio.

People's gallery will celebrate Gloria's artwork

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Word has it that most houses around Benderloch have a Gloria Young artwork on the wall.

To celebrate the colourful Tralee artist, now in her 91st year, The Rockfield Centre is hosting a retrospective exhibition of her work later this month.

To get the three-day exhibition started, the centre is asking people to bring along their own Gloria Young pictures to display in a people's gallery as part of a special In Conversation evening with the much-loved artist, starting at 7pm with cheese and wine on Thursday May 16.

The main exhibition then opens on Friday May 17 and will run until Sunday May 19 with viewing from 11am to 4pm.

Since 1968, Gloria has sold almost 2,000 paintings, with each and every one recorded in a little black book.

After art school in London, trying to make a living as an artist in Wiltshire was a struggle so she became a

reluctant civil servant at a military base.

It was there that she met her husband, Derek Young, and the couple started to plan their future, and running a children's home was one idea.

A tip-off from Derek's Scottish aunt that Oban Youth Hostel was looking for someone to run it led to the couple starting a very happy life together in Argyll.

After a decade of running the hostel, Gloria's mother gave them enough money to follow their dream and buy a piece of land at Tralee to build a home studio and shop, which they went on to run for 29 years.

Derek, a character in his own right who once flew a glider over Ben Nevis and back to Oban, fashioned a little trailer in those early days to tag on to Gloria's bike so she could take herself off to 'spoiled for choice' places to paint.

She had started out with oils but soon found West Coast insects and transporting fresh work in the trailer was not an easy mix and switched to less sticky watercolours instead.

The shop and success of

her paintings took off. In the summer months she would also hire a little room in Benderloch to sell her work on the main drag through the village. Unknown to her customers, she would make little sketches of some of them under the counter for future inspiration.

Gloria's work is charming and loved by many, capturing the humorous, the human and the beauty of the natural world.

The 90-year-old, who is still painting, also teaches art and gives piano lessons. Coming from a long line of artists in the family, Gloria has a son living in America as a successful artist and a granddaughter about to start art school.

'I'm not painting day and night like I did years ago, but I still enjoy it. I'm looking forward to the exhibition and especially seeing some of my old paintings again that people bring. I might want to buy them back!' she said.

Over the years Gloria has also produced humorous sketches for charity calendars in aid of Cancer Research UK, a cause close to her art.

Rockfield Primary pupils to host art show

Primary six pupils from Rockfield Primary School are hosting their very own art exhibition today (Thursday May 2).

Having been learning all about art in recent months, the children are now ready to

share their own work. Each child has an art folder to share and has contributed to an art gallery wall display in the primary six classrooms.

Visitors are even invited to 'try out' some art techniques if they wish.

VIP guests, parents and friends are invited to the event, which will also be attended by deputy provost Roddy McCuish.

The children are also inviting local artists and members of the community.

Loch Awe's first rowing regatta is a winner

Skiffies from Arran were overall winners of Loch Awe's first regatta at the weekend.

The event brought a buzz to the lochside community of Dalavich as it hosted the inaugural Loch Awe Adventure, attracting skiff teams from near and far who battled techniques and tactics on the water during a 14.5-mile race on Sunday.

In the end it was Arran's Seabag crew who took first place with a winning time of two hours and 35 minutes.

There were 10 boats on the water with 100 skiffies taking part.

Dalavich took ninth place just five minutes ahead of

Oban, whose time was recorded as three hours and 25 minutes.

In second place was St Andrew's Sandbay Century and in third place was Kinghorn's Yolanda.

The overall winning team got a cup and quaichs were handed to those in second and third place. Medallions were also presented to the fastest boat going north and then going south in the big race, won by Sandbay Century and Seabag.

As well as fun on the water, there was live music and camping throughout the weekend organised by members of Kilchrenan, Inverinan

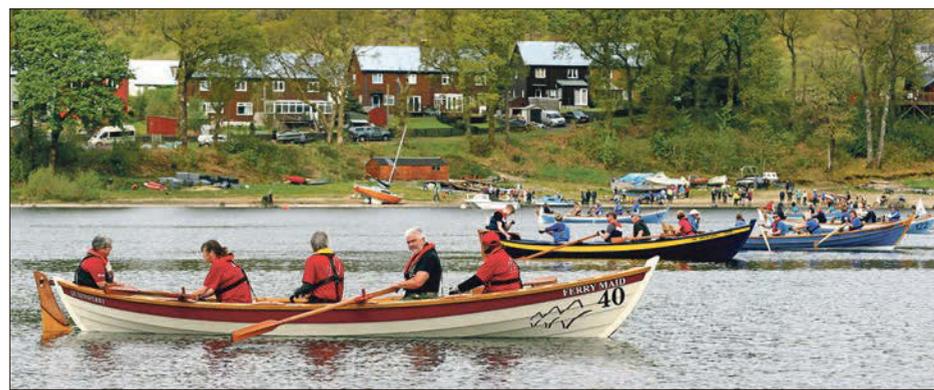
and Dalavich Coastal Rowing Club.

Gordon Leveratt said feedback was good and the event would be back next year, bigger and better.

'It was a success and will absolutely be back next year, but bigger and better and even more challenging.

'All the teams want to be booked in to come back. Everyone enjoyed it, it was a great atmosphere.

'We'd also like to say a big thank you to our main supporters the Taychreggan Hotel and Ardnaiseig Hotel, and to all the others who generously gave us prizes for the raffle to help with funds.'



The crews prepare for the start of the 14.5 mile race.



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On Friday and Saturday, May 10 and 11, the Corran Halls in Oban will be transformed into a hub of knowledge regarding all things sustainable.

Driving Smarter Energy is a fun and engaging two-day event. A transport and sustainability conference for local organisations will take place on the Friday, followed by a clean energy themed family fun-day on the Saturday. Small children will be able to enjoy a bouncy castle, while grown-ups enjoy taking an electric vehicle or ebike for a spin along the coast.



Saturday's event is suitable for anyone who is considering investing in home renewables, using an electric vehicle (EV), improving the energy efficiency of their home, or learning more about active travel across Argyll and Bute. The public are invited to experience the thrill of driving an electric vehicle, with on-the-day test drives available in some of the latest models. For everyone who prefers two wheels, Oban Cycles will be offering electric bike demos on the day as well!

Advisers will be on hand to offer free and impartial advice on home renewables, energy efficiency and switching to an electric vehicle. Learn how you can make smart energy and travel choices, and how you could make your home warmer. Of course, the Corran Halls bouncy castle and a face painter will be available all day too.

You'll also be able to see for yourself just how versatile they are, with a talk from Chris Ramsey, AKA Plug In Adventures, who drove an older electric vehicle all the way to Mongolia. You'll hear about the public charging network, and Home Energy Scotland will highlight the financial support available to help facilitate greener living in your home. More information on Saturday's event can be found here: <http://bit.ly/driving-smarter-energy>.

Driving Smarter Energy Oban is delivered by Home Energy Scotland and Local Energy Scotland in collaboration with BID4Oban, Interreg North Sea Region, Argyll and Bute Council, Resource Efficient Scotland and AllEnergy.

WHY ARE THESE EVENTS HAPPENING?

As part of the implementation of the Local Energy Plan for Oban, Energy Saving Trust are delivering these two events in order to promote sustainable travel and energy efficiency among local businesses, community groups and the general public. With Scotland committed to delivering a shift away from petrol and diesel cars by 2032, the events will give local consumers and businesses the opportunity to experience alternative modes of transport available to help support the shift to cleaner transport.

WHAT DOES THE LINE-UP LOOK LIKE?

On the Friday, we will hear from speakers about the feasibility of shared transport in Argyll and Bute, switching to electric vehicles, and the public vehicle charging network. In addition, you'll see how local organisations could make use of pedal-powered transport, and discuss first-hand some examples of what other local companies are doing to save energy across their operations.

Argyll and Bute Council will outline the council strategy for Oban. Representatives from Mull and Iona Community Trust, Fyne Futures and CoMoUk will then go on to discuss shared transport opportunities in Oban and on the Isles. You can find out how the owner of the Glenuig Inn is running Scotland's exemplar Green Inn in

Arisaig, and how the owner of Fort William-based Elecar is running a taxi company exclusively using electric vehicles. Sustrans will speak about active travel – cycling and walking – in and around Oban, and Resource Efficient Scotland will provide information on how you can save energy at work. Find out more about this jam-packed schedule at <http://bit.ly/driving-smarter-business>.

Anyone is welcome to come along to the Friday event, but it is particularly recommended that representatives from local organisations attend. There will be the opportunity to network with others, and discuss how a more sustainable business community could be helped to thrive in Oban.



SAMS researchers awarded new titles

by Fiona Scott

fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Three leading researchers at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) have received academic promotions from the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI).

Michele Stanley and Finlo Cottier each received the title of Professor, while Claire Gachon has been awarded the title of Reader.

Prof Stanley, originally from Bangor, Northern Ireland, is a biochemist and molecular biologist who is internationally renowned in algal biotechnology research.

Currently SAMS UHI Associate Director of Science, Enterprise and Innovation, she joined the institute in 2006 and has become a leading international expert in the area of blue biotechnology, which seeks to address issues around food and energy security,



SAMS UHI's newest Professors Finlo Cottier and Michele Stanley, centre, with Dr Claire Gachon, Reader.

water availability, ageing populations, increasing carbon dioxide levels and climate change.

Prof Stanley said: 'It has been a privilege to see how SAMS and the wider university have developed over the past 13 years.'

'I am proud to have been a part of it and now to receive a

university professorship.'

Prof Cottier has been part of the SAMS UHI education team since 2001 and has gone on to become one of the UK's foremost Arctic researchers. Already a professor at The Arctic University in Tromsø, Norway, he currently leads the £2m international Arctic PRIZE project, observing how

climate change is affecting the region.

Dr Gachon is from Nancy, France, but recently attained British citizenship and has been at SAMS UHI since 2006, during which time she has helped to develop the laboratory infrastructure at SAMS UHI. She is a leading light in the £6m GlobalSeaweedSTAR project, supporting seaweed farming in the developing world.

SAMS UHI director Professor Nicholas Owens welcomed the appointments, adding: 'The awarding of these titles is just reward for the commitment that Michele, Finlo and Claire have given to SAMS UHI and to marine science generally.'

'All three consistently deliver high quality science that has importance for research, education and industry and are recognised as leaders in their areas of expertise.'



The research vessel Silurian.

Chance to have a 'nosy' in HWDT research boat

The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT) will be visiting Dunstaffnage Marina today (Thursday May 2).

Members of the public are welcome to go along for a guided tour around their specially-equipped research vessel, Silurian.

'This is a great opportunity to talk to our staff about the research work conducted

every year in the Hebrides,' said a spokesperson for the HWDT.

'It is also an opportunity for people to check out our monitoring equipment and take a nosy around the cabins and the galley.'

The tour is free but donations would be welcome. Booking is not required and tours of the boat will run informally, subject to demand.

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

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The Mull Music Festival is over for another year and by the time this goes to print, even the most dedicated and enthusiastic of attendees will have regained their health after what is famous for being a weekend of vigorous celebration with non-stop music and accompanying refreshments.

It's been a few years since I've been to the Mull festival and although I thought I might make it this year, a combination of a few approaching deadlines and getting too sensible in my old age kept me on the straight and narrow.

With the ever-present pull of Facebook on our phones and computers, there were plenty of photos and videos reaching out from the various centres of activity which made me feel that staying at home had been a huge mistake and that I should immediately jump in the car with the accordion, drive to Oban, fire over on the ferry, head straight for Tobermory, moor the car and get in among it all. Abstinence prevailed, though, and on Monday morning I was very grateful it did.

Tobermory is a picturesque

town and, apart from the natural beauty of the bay, there are a few other aesthetic features that create its unique appeal – the multi-coloured houses on the Main Street, the town clock by the pier and the two varnished fishing boats, the Dawn Treader and the Jacobite.

For me, these boats symbolise Tobermory and the Mull Music Festival most powerfully.

They are probably the two most photographed fishing boats on the West Coast due to the beauty of their construction by John Gaff of Girvan, and the pristine condition in which the owners maintain them.

The Dawn Treader is now 30 years old and she still looks brand new.

During festivals over the years these boats were always tied up at the Fishermen's Pier as their respective owners – Alasdair 'Steptoe' MacLean and his twin brother, Calum 'Cally' MacLean – would be joining in the music and celebrations.

Due to ill health, Cally no longer fishes but the Jacobite is still maintained in 'as new' condition as his son Calum

skippers the boat and continues the family tradition. I am very proud that this year, Steptoe has been nominated to the final of Shellfish Fisherman of the Year at the Fishing News Awards, which take place in Aberdeen on May 16.

With a lifetime of successful fishing, and continued commitment to his job even after turning 60, the award could not go to a more deserving recipient.

As far back as I can remember on trips to Tobermory on my father's fishing boats, and later to music festivals, Steptoe, Cally and their brothers were always around.

We either stayed with them or they would be down about the pier and on board chatting with dad. They were always held up by him as bastions of strong work ethic, of how to progress in life and of being top fishermen.

Many years on, they still maintain that mantle and although industry awards are never to be taken too seriously, I, and many others, would very much like to see Steptoe receive the trophy in Aberdeen. My fingers are crossed!

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Bikers from Glasgow and Newcastle hot wheeled it over to Mull for the weekend. 15_T18Mull Music Festival 9



These ladies were enjoying the sound of Crooked Reel in Bar Beag. 15_T18Mull Music Festival 17



Trail West had MacGochans jumping on Saturday afternoon. 15_T18Mull Music Festival 35



Robert MacLeod and Willie Buchanan on the accordions. 15_T18Mull Music Festival 1



Longstay were in for the long haul in The Mishnish. 15_T18Mull Music Festival 7



Crooked Reel performed in Bar Beag to a packed crowd. 15_T18Mull Music Festival 18

Musicians get up to

by Fiona Scott
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



An eclectic mix of traditional treats greeted the thousands of visitors attending the 44th Mull Music Festival last weekend.

Four days of foot-stomping action took place in venues stretching the length and breadth of Tobermory.

Singers, fiddlers, accordianists, guitarists, drummers, pipers and spectators filled the many bars and hotels that had opened their doors, free of charge, to host the event while visitors also spent time browsing the shops and taking in the glorious scenery.

Robert N MacLeod and his wife Nicola own the Tobermory Hotel and were delighted to welcome old and new faces through their doors.

'It's just an absolutely fantastic event that appeals to all ages,' said Robert, whose grandfather Bobby MacLeod launched the festival in the 1970s. The Mull Music

Festival has grown and grown since the early days and I truly believe it is culturally important to our island.

'We would like to thank Tobermory residents for their patience and hospitality over the weekend.

'Also a huge thanks to the police who kept us all in order in a friendly, low-profile way.' From humble beginnings, Inverness band Ho-Ro has risen to meteoric heights in the Scottish music scene over the past three years but, despite preparing for their forthcoming appearance in Canada, band members made a welcome return at the weekend to the place where it all started.

'We were busking here a few years back when someone came and asked as if we wanted to come along to the music festival,' said Ho-Ro member Sean Cousins. 'We have been coming back ever since and love it. It's great to put something back in.'

Other artists making an appearance over the



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High jigs in Mull



Above: The Oban Times caught up with this group of cowboys as they moseyed down Tobermory Main Street. 15_T18Mull Music Festival 9



These girls had a blast in MacGochans. 15_T18Mull Music Festival 21



Ho-Ro went down a storm at the Tobermory Hotel on Saturday afternoon. 15_T18Mull Music Festival 31



Left: Alan and Alan were on form in Bar Beag. 15_T18Mull Music Festival 37



Mull and Iona Pipe Band provided entertainment around the town. 15_T18Mull Music Festival 26



Beinn Lee delivered their west coast style throughout the festival. 15_T18Mull Music Festival 48

weekend included Trail West, A'hoolligan, Crooked Reel, AJ and Ruaridh, Beinn Lee, Davy Holt, Chunks, Allan Crookston and Allan Irvine, Gunna Sound, Peat and Diesel, The Fold, Ron Johnston, Dun Mor, The Robert Robertson Band, Calum MacPhail Band, Mad Ferret, 2 Bob Rocket, Archie McAllister & Friends, Red Pine Timber Co, Katie Whittaker, Shenanigans, Danny Sweet, Lomond Ceilidh Band, Killin Thyme, Brian Nicholson and Friends, Papa Shandy and Mull and Iona Pipe Band.



Brothers Logie and Archie Johnston entertained the crowds in The Tobermory Hotel with an impromptu set. 15_T18Mull Music Festival 44



Left: Andy Riddoch and Ian Maitland from Glasgow have been travelling to Mull for the past 16 years to attend the festival. 15_T18Mull Music Festival 40



The Hector McFadyen Band set an early tempo in the MacDonald Arms. 15_T18Mull Music Festival 4

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BUSINESS NEWS

MP calls for visa action over delays for seasonal workers

The chairman of the Scottish Affairs Committee has written to the Home Office and the Foreign Office after hearing evidence that agricultural seasonal workers might not reach Scottish farms in time for harvest season due to a backlog of delayed visa applications.

In an evidence session with the operators of the government's seasonal agricultural workers pilot scheme held on Tuesday last week, the Scottish Affairs Committee heard there was a risk that Scottish agricultural produce might be left to rot as workers from Ukraine and Moldova face heavily delayed visa processing.

While the Home Office has committed to a three-week turnaround, the committee heard that some visas are taking more than 30 days to process.

The operators stated that this delay was partially due to workers finding it difficult to book appointments at the UK visa offices, with the visa office in Moldova only open two days a week.

In the letter to the Home Office and Foreign Office, the chairman pressed for detail on what steps are being taken to speed up visa applications and whether any additional resources are being allocated to resolve the issue.

The letter also expressed concern about the up-front costs of the visa and administration, which could be acting as a deterrent to some workers.

Committee chairman Pete Wishart MP said: 'The government's pilot scheme was intended to alleviate labour shortages during peak production periods, but if these visa delays continue there is a risk that Scottish farmers will be left high and dry without any support during harvesting season.'

'My committee was told there is a risk that workers won't be on the ground in time. The government needs to do everything it can to support the pilot scheme and ensure Scottish farmers do not have to face rotting produce because of bureaucratic delays.'

Couple launch first gin from North Uist

by Kathie Griffiths
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A dream distillery on North Uist is just a drop of much bigger plans its owners have in mind for the island.

Master distiller Jonny Ingledeew and creative director Kate MacDonald, who both grew up on the island, firmly have their sights set on expanding the business and hope to reveal their ambitious plans soon.

Last week saw the launch of Downpour gin, the first release from North Uist Distillery on the north-west of the island.

'Downpour is just the beginning of our journey. We both grew up in Uist, so it's important

'We both grew up in Uist, so it's important to us that each bottle is distilled, bottled and labelled on the island to enable the business to have a long-term benefit for people here.'

to us that each bottle is distilled, bottled and labelled on the island to enable the business to have a long-term benefit for people here,' said Kate, whose dream, shared with Johnny, was to return to the island to create artisan spirits.

'We have been overwhelmed by the encouragement and support we've been shown and Uist will be at the heart of all of our decision-making as we develop the distillery.'

Their arrival on the island has been welcomed by Mairi Thomson, from Outer Hebrides Tourism, who said: 'It is fantastic to see an entrepreneurial young couple going into business and we wish them the best success.'

'This is also great news for Uist and indeed the Outer Hebrides. We promote local food and drink through our Eat Drink Hebrides Trail and this is another product in our Atlantic larder that we can shout about.'

Downpour can be bought from the North



North Uist Distillery is run by Jonny Ingledeew and Kate MacDonald.



Uist Distillery website at northuistdistillery.com and is the only Scottish gin on the market, say its makers, that embraces the spirit's natural clouding effect coming from tasty

essential oils in the botanicals which include wild Hebridean heather foraged from across the island.

Jonny said: 'Downpour has a bold flavour and packs a delicious punch – all of the flavour from the essential oils we use, including the resulting flavour cloud, has been retained. The flavour is bold in taste but the gin is still a classic juniper Scottish dry gin. There is no mistake that it's a gin and we are very proud of that.'

Distillery neighbour Duncan Griffiths, who owns The Tractor Shed camping pods and bunkhouse nearby, said: 'Kate and Johnny are a nice couple. They've worked very hard and deserve every success.'

'The distillery gives visitors yet another good reason to come and enjoy all the island has to offer. I'm sure my guests will thoroughly enjoy sampling the local gin.'

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Oban's Perle Hotels wins Queen's Award

Perle Hotels has been recognised with the Queen's Award for Enterprise in International Trade by Her Majesty the Queen.

The Scottish hotel portfolio comprises of the Marmalade and Bosville on the Isle of Skye, the Perle Hotel in Oban and most recently, Lochardil House Hotel in Inverness.

The hotel group was also recognised for 'outstanding' short-term growth, having seen its overseas sales soar by 172 per cent over the past three years.

Perle Hotels, established in April 2014, is a unique collection of hotels for the discerning traveller and prides itself on offering luxurious, stylish hotels in memorable Scottish Highland locations.

Perle Hotels is experiencing a period of change. The group recently acquired Lochardil House, is undergoing a new extension project at Marmalade Hotel and is developing the Perle Oban wellness spa.



The Perle Hotel in Oban is developing a wellness spa.

CEO Fasih Rehman said: 'We're proud to have been given a Queen's Award for Enterprise in International Trade by Her Majesty The Queen. It is a testimony to the dedication, hard work and passion from each of our team members.'

'From our humble beginnings on Skye, Perle is pleased to be recognised for the growth that the group has achieved. The Queen's Award is one of the highest forms of recognition that we could receive, and we are honoured to be one of only

eight Scottish recipients in 2019.' The Queen's Awards for Enterprise are given to businesses for outstanding achievement in four categories: International Trade, Innovation, Sustainable Development and also for Promoting Opportunity (through social mobility).

There will be a reception at Buckingham Palace to honour all 201 UK businesses who have received an award.

UK Business Secretary Greg Clark added: 'These awards recognise the innovative products and services being provided by British businesses that are in demand across the world, as well as the sheer determination and hard work that comes with starting and running a business.'

'Many of these winners are small businesses – the backbone of our economy – and we are backing them to grow, increase their productivity and create more jobs and opportunity across the UK.'

CalMac reservations online now easier

CalMac has improved the functionality of its online reservations system.

The ferry and harbour operator has now introduced new features to its web booking system that allows customers to save payment details and make changes to reservations online.

CalMac's head of customer services Alan Hood said: 'Feedback from our customers told us that they wanted an improved ability to "self-serve" tickets, and modifications to bookings, 24 hours a day. We are delighted to introduce two new functions to our ticketing and reservations system to address these needs.'

The saved payment cards feature will enable registered customers to securely store their payment card details. This now removes the need to key in full payment card details for subsequent online bookings, streamlining the booking process for customers.

Registered customers can now also make changes to their booking at their convenience, with the ability to change the date or time of travel, or amend the number of people travelling online.

Read full details on CalMac's website.



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Source: ABC/licreg data as at 01/11/2016

Highlands museum celebrates Canada clan connections

This month has seen Newtonmore's Macpherson Museum open for the 2019 season, featuring an exciting new exhibition.

Macphersons in Canada tells the unique story of the impact members of one clan have had over Canada's vast landscapes and history, covering all 10 provinces and three territories during the past 150 years.

Illustrated through a series of vignettes of individual clansmen and women, the exhibition charts colourful tales of the past and present.

Macphersons over the years have made their mark in Canada in many walks of life, including nursing, politics, religion, medicine, engineering, military, policing, catering, teaching, sport, journalism, farming and more.

The name features in many place-names, including lakes, hills, brooks, rocks, ponds, creeks, towns, streets, schools, buildings, islands and so on. This is a particular feature of the exhibition.

The exhibition is to be officially opened by a representative of the High Commission of Canada in the UK, most likely the Honorary Consul for Canada in Scotland, on Canada Day, Monday July 1.

The maple leaf flag will be hoisted on the flagpole in the front garden of the museum for the occasion. The museum trustees are keen to invite to attend the opening any Canadians or descendants of Canadians living locally. All those interested should contact museum curator Ruis Alcorn on museum@clan-macpherson.org

Entry to the four-star rated museum and Macphersons in Canada exhibition is free.



Newtonmore's Macpherson Museum.

Deer, burning issues

Morvern lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



Wild venison is considered by modern nutritionists to be one of the healthiest meats for human consumption in the western world. Since deer are inherently wild animals living on a healthy diet of grass and wild plants, their meat is all-natural and hormone free. Venison is higher in moisture, similar in protein and lower in calories, cholesterol and fat than most cuts of grain-fed beef, pork or lamb. Little wonder dieticians recommend it.

Our forebears may not have been familiar with carbs, calories, diet and detox, but they certainly knew when venison would be at its best.

'Thanks, dear Sir, for your venison, for finer or fatter never roam'd in a forest, or smoked in a platter,' wrote Sir Walter Scott to a deer-stalking friend who had sent him a haunch of venison.

They did so using their knowledge and common sense by not killing deer when they were either breeding, carrying young or migrating to different areas to feed on mosses, lichens and other plants. In due course, by acts of parliament, these became closed seasons during which it was not permitted to kill animals except if they got into young timber plantations or among crops on agricultural land. Even then a good case had to be made to obtain the necessary licence to shoot them. The statutory closed seasons for red deer in Scotland are: stags, October 21 to June 30; hinds, February 16 to October 20. That was in the good old days.

This was all fine and dandy until after the First World War which saw the demise of many sporting estates followed by the mass slaughter of deer throughout the Second World War to help feed the nation. Deer were shot at any time of the year. Seasons were ignored and the net result was that carcasses were often left out on the hill for days, dragged through peat and dirt to the nearest road and badly butchered in makeshift larders when they eventually got there. By the time the end product entered the food chain much of it was unfit for human consumption. This gave it a bad name and put people off eating it for life – a memory that survives despite today's high standards demanded by EU Food Hygiene Regulations



on traceability and handling. Attitudes by politicians, the Forestry Commission and other government quangos towards deer have changed. Stalkers, to whom deer are a valuable asset in terms of income and employment, are concerned that their numbers are falling at an alarming rate throughout Scotland because licences to shoot out of season and at night are being issued willy-nilly by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). According to legislation, these licences should only be allowed when 'no other means of control which might reasonably be adopted in the circumstances would be adequate'.

A recent freedom of information request (FOI) has revealed that Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) has culled more than 37,000 deer out of season and at night using a standing 'general licence'. The recently released figures show that in 2017-2018, FCS staff and

contractors shot 37,115 deer; 16,746 of them out of season and 14,556 during the hours of darkness. Additional licences held by FCS allow out-of-season shooting on unenclosed woodland and night shooting of deer using vehicle-mounted spotlights and thermal-imaging devices. Private estates and contractors are now, wrongly in my view, applying for these licences and getting them. The deer stand no chance and the question must be asked: where exactly is this huge volume of out of season venison going? Surely not into the food chain?

There is a belief within SNH, supported by statisticians and some radical new-age conservation groups chasing a mouse across a screen, that the Highlands are overrun by deer. This is a myth. How many red deer there are, no one knows, in the same way as no one knows how many gannets alight on a shoal of herring-fry

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s and cuckoos



According to an FOI request, more than 37,000 deer were shot in Scotland out of season and during the hours of darkness in 2017-18. Where have their carcasses gone?

Photograph: William Cameron.

Cunningham MSP, Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Environment at Holyrood, to complain.

We have all read reports and seen photographs in the newspapers of huge moorland fires raging across the Highlands during the past few weeks. If further destruction of some of the finest natural habitat in Europe is to be halted and, more importantly, the risk of life to firefighters lessened, the government agencies must address the underlying reason.

Sunny days with high winds have created tinderbox conditions, but no more than usual. Paradoxically, the real problem lies with FCS, SNH, the National Trust for Scotland (NTS), the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) the John Muir Trust (JMT) and the RSPB who, as landowners, do not always practice – and even actively discourage – any form of traditional, controlled muir-burning.

Not so many years ago Scotland's uplands were burned regularly by shepherds and stalkers who knew what they were doing. Nowadays, with fewer sheep and deer grazing the hillsides and an unprecedented increase in injudiciously placed conifer plantations making the land more awkward to manage, there has been a massive increase in undergrowth. Easily ignited, this thick mat is almost impossible to extinguish.

Spring has been heralded, as always, in Morvern by the arrival of cuckoos, lambs, wheatears and shell-duck in Fiunary Bay. I heard my first cuckoo of the season at Uladale near the foot of Morvern's White Glen on the evening of Monday April 22, two days after shepherd-farmer John Nudds heard it at Achnaha along the Sound of Mull.

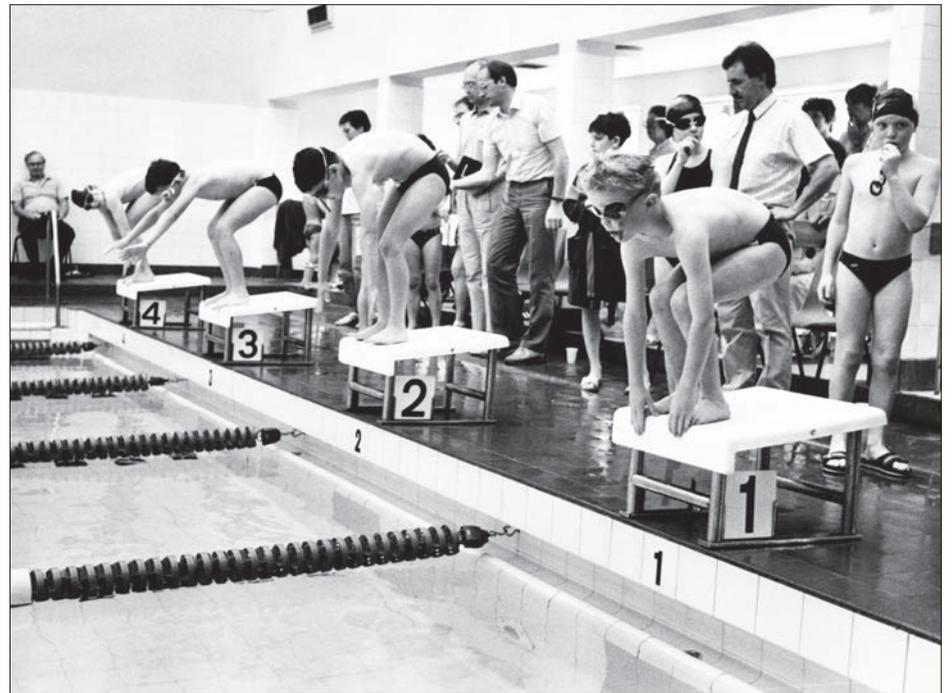
A lamb had a lucky break the same week when a local cyclist, who helps keep Morvern's highways and byways litter-free, stopped to pick up one of many discarded tins of a popular energy drink near Ullin in the White Glen. Hearing an unfamiliar noise, he looked round and discovered a new-born lamb, still partly clad in its after-birth, shivering in a pool of mud below a river bank with no sign of its mother. John Nudds was summoned by mobile telephone and quickly arrived on the scene. But for these caring countrymen, there would have been one less lamb in the world.

off St Kilda, but it is all too obvious to those who work with them that there are a great deal fewer than there were a decade ago.

Computer modelling and dung-counts are worthless. The real issue has little to do with ecosystems or biodiversity and more to do with land nationalisation and expensive community buy-outs. Get rid of the 'toffs with guns and the unacceptable face of capitalism', is what is going on. With new and better means of extracting deer from the hill and more people interested in stalking, there is no need for general licences to be issued to the public or the private sector to shoot deer out of season and, worse still, at night, which is potentially dangerous and barbaric. Call me old fashioned but I believe all animals which are taken in the wild or killed in abattoirs deserve to be treated with dignity. Readers with strong views on the subject should write to Roseanna

DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



This week's archive photograph dates back to May 1990 but has very little information other than: 'Otters gala.' Can anyone identify those pictured or provide information?



General view of Inverlochty village, Fort William. Photo courtesy of the Roamer archive.



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OT

LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HBHousing proposal
requires much
close scrutiny

There was understandable concern expressed this week by a number of people over the application to develop more than two hectares of land at Glencruitten Rise, to the south of Oban.

There were also many different reasons that members of the public, as well as Oban Community Council, gave for their opposition to the proposal, all of them with some merit.

However, this is a complex issue that deserves close scrutiny.

Oban requires more housing, particularly affordable homes, if its economy is to remain buoyant. It is undeniable that good-quality homes are needed if more workers are to be attracted to the town and its surrounding areas.

As we have reported in depth over recent times, there are plans for hundreds of new homes in the Dunbeg corridor, to the north of Oban, a proposal that has also attracted a considerable degree of opposition.

Argyll Community Housing Association has not as yet provided enough information about its intentions, including the number of homes it hopes to build. We will watch this space with great interest.

Fitting tribute to much
loved Benderloch artist

What a marvellous woman Gloria Young remains.

The 90-year-old artist from Tralee has been painting from her home studio for many years and continues to do so.

And what a wonderful idea it is to recognise her contribution to our community with a retrospective exhibition in The Rockfield Centre in Oban this month.

The three-day exhibition should be a fantastic show, especially the people's gallery, and we hope for a big turnout.

Crossroads at Spean Bridge
pose a considerable danger

I leave the main road to go up the Leanachan road at the Spean Bridge crossroads junction three or four times a day, seven days a week.

Almost every time I fear vehicles coming behind me before I exit the main road on to the Leanachan single-track road, are going to hit the back of me – I've had several close calls.

The main reasons are the speed of traffic as they come off the straight section of road and come around the corner about 50m from the crossroads junction, only then to see traffic going up the Leanachan road, and the lack of awareness by the main road vehicles of the possibility that traffic exiting the main road on to the Leanachan will have to stop on the main road if a vehicle is coming along the Leanachan road, as two vehicles won't fit in the mouth of the Leanachan road.

There is also a danger for those exiting from the main road turning right down the High Bridge/Brackletter/Kilmonivaig road as they, too, may have to sit in the main road until oncoming traffic on the main road is cleared.

School minibuses with primary children must face this problem daily.

I asked the community council if it would inquire about the safety issue, asking if the mouth of Leanachan exit could be widened to be similar to the High Bridge/Brackletter/Kilmonivaig exit.

The reply I got was no, BEAR Scotland had said it had trouble with a culvert at this junction. I asked a local resident about that and he told me the only problem with the culvert is when leaves choke it. Some problem!

As I travelled up from Lochy Bridge, I noted at Carr's Corner where there is only one junction to a business yard but there is a big 'Slow' sign painted on the road and a cluster of 30mph signs on both sides. Just by the Inverlochy Castle Hotel entrance, there is a very clear sign with an orange background with the words 'Reduce speed now'.

I don't have a problem with these signs except there seems to be a very inconsistent approach to safety. Are the lives of those using the crossroads at Spean Bridge of less importance? So why do we not have similar signs?

It is only a miracle that there have not been more deaths at this point in the road.

Let us have those of us who use the cross-

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@](mailto: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.

roads junction protected before someone is killed.

Betty MacLachlan, Spean Bridge.

Islay Mòd cancelled for 2019

Sadly, due to unforeseen unavoidable circumstances, Islay's local Mòd will not take place this year.

Originally planned for June 15, the local Mòd Ìle committee decided that it would not be possible to run the event to the standard the island expects.

This was a hard decision to make but we did not feel we had the capacity to deliver our Mòd

this year. Our apologies go out to disappointed supporters and competitors.

However, we plan to use this breathing space constructively. We are looking hard at Mòd activities with the aim of being back better and stronger for 2020.

We will be seeking out best practice from other Mòds around Scotland and looking to other events for fresh ideas. A meeting will be held on June 11 so that all interested Ìleach and stakeholders can input their views and ideas.

We want to retain what is best about our event but keep it fresh for the coming years.'

Neil Baker, Islay Mòd Committee chairman.

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This week's photograph of Oban's pontoons was sent in by Angus Macdonald who said: 'Took this on a walk along the seafront – such a beautiful sunset. West is definitely best.'

Oban is looking wonderful

On a quick litter picking jaunt up to Pulpit Hill and around town, I marvelled at how clean and beautiful Oban Bay looks and really is this year, after all the hard work of the street cleaners and volunteers at the Spring Clean, which spruced "our wonderful little town.

Or is this just because spring is in the air and we've had some glorious weather, the new born lambs along the A85 are bouncing and the council's planted flowers are blooming? It's also wonderful to see lots of the empty shops recently being renovated and filled, hopefully

bringing a vibrancy to town centre. However, the real gem is Ganavan bay beach, immaculately kept clean by the locals and Dougie Dan.

On the whole Oban is rather grand and splendid and how fortunate we all are to live in such a beautiful area.

Stephen Jones, Oban.

Shocking condition of roads

It was great to catch up with constituents in Bowmore, Port Ellen, Port Charlotte and Portnahaven recently as I criss-crossed Islay listening to local issues.

In Bowmore, I heard numerous concerns about ACHA housing conditions, broken street-lighting and crumbling pavements alongside damaged walls.

Our roads and street-lighting department is limited by the funding our council receives from the Scottish Government that has hammered local authority budgets in rural areas.

Many of my constituents have correctly commented that our roads are resembling patchwork quilts given the number of temporary repairs with little long-term resurfacing.

In Port Ellen, the shocking condition of Mansefield Road continues to be raised. Aside from the terrible surface, which is dangerous due to the large number of potholes, there are blocked drains. Inaction in dealing with this road should be considered as unacceptable as it is dangerous.

In Port Charlotte, the centre of the village is sadly still in darkness due to whole streets being without working lighting. Many locals have pointed out that nearly four years without street-lighting is something you would expect in a third world country not the industrial and tax revenue bread basket that is Islay.

While in Portnahaven and Port Wemyss, as well as potholes and broken street-lighting problems continuing to be brought up, more and more residents are complaining about dog fouling issues.

As we all know, the majority of dog owners are responsible and considerate but, sadly, it only takes one or two people to break the rules to make things unpleasant for everyone else. To ensure this problem is limited, I have been speaking at length with our hard-working local and mainland wardens.

I have raised all these concerns and much more with the appropriate departments and will continue to press for local improvements across my council ward.

Councillor Alastair Redman,
Kintyre and Islands ward.

Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Bha e na thoileachas dhòmhsa Diardaoin seo chaidh a bhith an làthair ann an talla Taigh-Baile Inbhir Nis, aitreabh eireachdail agus eachdraidheil, aig tachartas a bha ann fhèin eachdraidheil agus misneachail cuideachd! B' e an tachartas sin cur air bhog oifigeil air an nobhail ùr Còig Duilleagan na Seamraig a choisinn duais Dhòmhnail Meek 2018 dhan ùghdar Ruairidh MacIlleathain.

A dh'aindeoin na tha sinn a' faicinn de leasachadh ann an Gàidhlig tha àireamhan luchd-labhairt fhathast beag agus tha àireamhan luchd-leughaidh nas lugha buileach. Le feum air fàs anns an taghadh leabhraichean aig gach ìre comais gus barrachd leughaidh ann an Gàidhlig a bhrosnachadh, tha a' bhuidheann-foillseachaidh Clàr, a dh'fhoillsich Còig Duilleagan na Seamraig le taic bho Chomhairle nan Leabhraichean, glè chudromach dhan chànan. Nuair a chomharraich Comhairle nan Leabhraichean, ann an 2018, gun robh a' bhuidheann air a bhith dol leth-cheud bliadhna bha aithne ann gum b' e stèidheachadh na buidhne fear de na ceumannan a bu chudromaiche a ghabh àite

dhan Ghàidhlig anns an linn a chaidh. 'S iomadh sgrìobhadh luachmhor Gàidhlig nach robh air a bhith riann an clò mura b' e na rinn Comhairle nan Leabhraichean, agus dh'iar-rainn gach soirbheachadh co-ionann dhan bhuidheann tron an ath leth-cheud bliadhna!

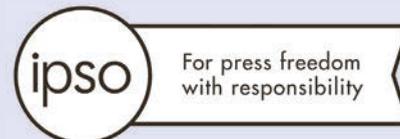
Bha an tachartas seo eachdraidheil agus brosnachail air sgàth gun robhas a' cur nobhail ùr ri litreachas na Gàidhlig le sgeulachd phoilitigeach suidhichte eadar 1896 agus 1922, agus a tha a' gluasad eadar iar-thuath na Gàidhealtachd gu Èirinn, Lunnainn, agus An Fhraing. Chruthaich an t-ùghdar prìomh character ann an Dòmhnall MacCoinnich à Gearrloch a tha tighinn gu bhith na fhear-dion aig Lloyd George a tha na Phrìomhaire ro dheireadh na sgeulachd. Air 7 Sultain 1921 ri linn dhuilgheadasan phoilitigeach ann an Èirinn, ghairm am Prìomhaire coinneamh èiginn den Chaibineat, agus leis gun robh e fhèin agus uimhir eile de na buill air saor-làithean air Ghàidhealtachd chaidh a' choinneamh ainmeil sin air adhart ann an Taigh-Baile Inbhir Nis. Le caochladh characteran làidir tha turas an leughadair air a shnìomh tron

t-stri chothrom bhòtaidh nam ban, agus an iomairt airson poblachd ann an Èireann. Aig amannan tha an sgeulachd gu math dòrainneach ach, ged is e nobhail a th' innte, 's fhiach cuimhneachadh gum bheil i stèidhichte air cùisean a thachair agus air modhan-obrach a bha àbhaisteach!

Ged nach dèanadh Còig Duilleagan na Seamraig an còrr ach gun toireadh i aire às ùr gu pàrtean gu math nàr de dh'eachdraidh Bhreatann, bu mhath sin! Ach tha an leabhar cuideachd tlachdmhor a leughadh le measgachadh de ghaol, de ghràin, is de bhròn, mar a bhithte a' sùileachadh ann an deagh sgeul sam bith.

The 2018 Donald Meek Gaelic Book of the Year Còig Duilleagan na Seamraig was formally launched by publisher CLAR last Thursday at Inverness Town House, one of many locations between Scotland, Ireland, England, and France which feature in an entertaining and thought-provoking story set during turbulent political times between 1896 and 1922. Worth learning Gaelic to appreciate this!

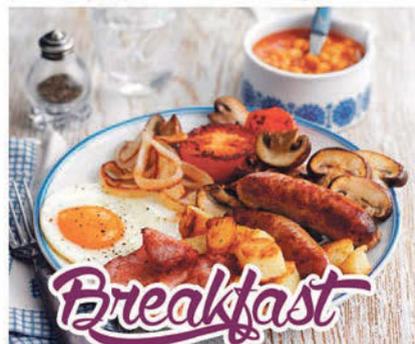
Ailean Caibneil
(Allan Campbell)
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



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



Breakfast

Classic big breakfast

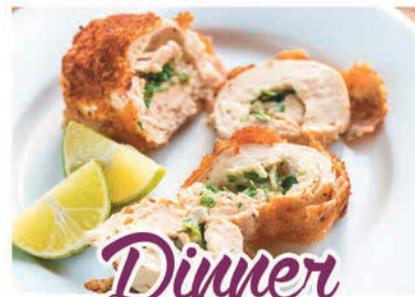
Swap an oily fry-up for a healthy full English breakfast. The Slimming World Classic big breakfast features all your favourite brekkie bits – and it's Syn-free!



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

LISMORE

A home and garden event will take place at Achnacroish on Lismore next month.

Gardeners are advised to 'get planting now' ahead of the event on Saturday June 1.

There will be plant swaps and sales, as well as advice on a range of housing issues from experts.

People will also have the chance for a 'blether and tea'.

STORNOWAY

The Trading Standards team at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is reminding residents that the Scottish Government is currently consulting on fireworks in Scotland.

Two events are being held in Stornoway Town Hall on Wednesday May 8 – one at 2pm and the other at 6pm.

Fireworks are traditionally associated with festivities which celebrate events that are important to different communities across Scotland. Fireworks can bring colour and excitement to the special occasions that are important to people.

However, fireworks are potentially dangerous and need to be used safely and handled with care to avoid serious injury.

For some, the noise made by setting off fireworks can be a nuisance, and the disturbance can cause distress to both people and animals.

OBAN

The NHS Highland's interim chairman met with representatives from the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP).

Professor Boyd Robertson visited hospitals in Oban, Lochgilphead and Campbeltown to discuss the importance of delivering quality services with staff, as well as a number of patients.

The visit to Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital also provided an opportunity to discuss with staff progress with the installation of a £1.2 million Siemens scanner within the hospital.



Youngsters at Lomond Nursery get outstanding care, says report.

Youngest learners get 'outstanding' care

A nursery has received top marks in its latest Care Inspectorate Report. Lomond Nursery in Helensburgh achieved the highest possible grades for its quality of care, support and staffing. The

Care Inspectorate awarded it 'outstanding' status. The school is the only nursery service to achieve these grades across the Argyll and Bute area. Ailsa Lawn, head of junior

school at Lomond, said: 'We are incredibly privileged to have such a dedicated and skilled nursery team who take great pride in the relationships they develop with every child, and their families.'



Professor Boyd Robertson visited Lorn and Islands Hospital.

been 'over-egged', according to a councillor.

The final draft of the Making Places document, put together after a lengthy consultation process, went before members of Argyll and Bute Council's Helensburgh and Lomond area committee on Wednesday April 24.

But deputy council leader Councillor Gary Mulvaney suggested that the description of the town was slightly over the top.

He said: 'Helensburgh is a superb town to live in – I've lived in it for 20 years – but when you use the term "world class", are we setting ourselves up for a fall?'

■ A petition to bring the iconic paddle steamer Waverley back to Helensburgh has reached 1,000 signatures after last Saturday's Wave for the Waverley rally.

An estimated crowd of 300 people turned out at the town's pier in glorious sunshine for the weekend event, organised by Helensburgh Seafront Development Project (HSDP).

The crowd, who included local MSPs Jackie Baillie and Maurice Corry, had a clear message at the rally – save the council-owned pier, and help the Waverley return.

SEIL



A plant sale and gardeners' question time on Seil has raised more than £300 for a charity helping farmers and children in Malawi.

SKYE

The annual Armadale Castle, Gardens and Museum of the Isles friends meeting will take place on Saturday June 8.

Starting at 10am, the event is anticipated to be finished 'in good time' for the Princess Margaret of the Isles memorial prize for Senior Clarsash UK, which takes place in the afternoon.

To find out more, email lisa@armadalecastle.com.

HELENSBURGH

A report describing Helensburgh as 'a world-class waterfront town' has

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'Serving Argyll and the Islands'

A grand total of £352.83 was made at a Seed for Life – Feed for Life event in Seil Island Hall last week.

About 60 people were in the audience to pick up top tips from gardening experts, with Phil Moss, Lisa Robinson, Georgina Dalton and Maurice Wilkins on the panel.

The Seil-based charity has already raised more than £16,000 to help the self-sustainable food aid project providing farmers with seed and fertiliser to grow crops and helping feed more than 1,300 pupils a day.

Go to seedforlife.org.uk to find out more.

SOUTH UIST

Little did the Pennsylvania relatives of Margaret Fay Shaw know in 1920 when they packed her off to the home of her ancestors in Scotland to 'sort her out', as they called it, that the orphaned teenager would one day be celebrated as one of the world's first female photographers and cinematographers.

Now a new film celebrating the footage collected by Shaw will premiere at an event in South Uist tomorrow (Friday May 3) as part of the Moladh Uibhist weekend.

Created by the National Trust for Scotland's Canna House archivist Fiona J Mackenzie, Solas (Gaelic for light) uses rediscovered film shot by the US-born folklorist who dedicated her life to documenting Gaelic song.

Shaw left the world a fascinating collection of images and invaluable film of a lifestyle which no longer exists.

She not only took film and photos in the Outer Hebrides but also on Canna, where she lived with her husband and fellow folklorist, John Lorne Campbell, from 1938 when they bought the island, until her death at the age of 101 in 2004.

She spent six years living in the remote hamlet of North Glendale, at South Lochboisdale, on South Uist, between 1929 and 1935 and over the course of these years, she documented a disappearing way of Hebridean life.

This film collection was recently



Stalls galore at Easter Monday's Dalavich spring fair.

Eggs and bonnets help raise church funds

Glorious sunshine blessed Dalavich spring fair, raising £737.

Crowds turned out to support the event at Dalavich Community Centre on Easter Monday in aid of the Churches Improvement Fund and Messy Church organised by the Kilchrenan and Dalavich Churches Forever Committee

with a lot of help from friends and stallholders.

Kilchrenan Primary School ran the bottle stall, the raffle was a hit and Mike Urwin did a grand job flipping burgers at the barbecue.

Homebaking also went down a treat and the children had lots of fun enjoying an Easter egg hunt and entering an Easter

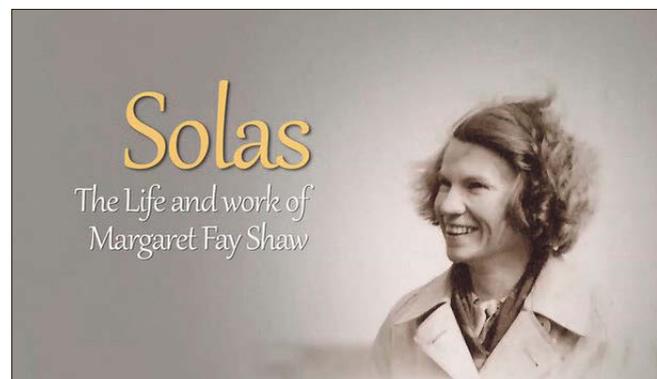
bonnet competition judged by the Reverend Tom Telfer.

Jordan and Leslie Foster won the hamper in the raffle and Carol and Colin Johnston won the meal for two at the Kilchrenan Inn when it re-opens soon. Maria Soep won the one-hour Swedish massage by Dalavich-based Dinah of LLES Well Being.

redigitised by the National Trust for Scotland, which has cared for the island since 1981, to ensure its preservation for years to come.

In the process of carrying out this work archivist Ms Mackenzie uncovered some previously unseen film, including footage of such historically important events as the first plane landing on the Cockle Strand on Barra, in 1936.

Solas uses Shaw's images, films and words to tell the story of her life and the people in that life.



At random

MARTIN LAING

mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



Sign of things to come

I wrote last week to say how much improved Oban town centre is looking, with a number of new businesses now occupying what had been abandoned commercial premises.

Now there is further good news with the appearance in the window of the much-missed Nancy Black's of a sign saying: 'Under offer.'

There is no information yet as to who might be moving in but the Argyll Square premises are of significant importance to the town and it will be a real boost to have these units back in business.

Watch this space.

I also mentioned the ongoing improvements that need to be undertaken, including at the former Rockport Hotel, now open once more and renamed The Whisky Vaults.

I said that the 'garden' entrance to what is still known to many as 'The Woody' required some tidying up and a touch of TLC. The good news is that there are plans in hand to do just that.

I know this because I dropped into the pub just recently – purely in the interests of research, you understand – to have a chat with the new landlord John.

And, I have to say, the refurbished bar has been redesigned in a very stylish way to make it an excellent place to stop by for a drink.

Cup fever strikes

Confession time: in a previous existence, I played football for Bannockburn AFC, and tomorrow night sees Oban Saints travel down to Hamilton to take on my old team in the West of Scotland Cup final.

It is the first major final Saints have reached in more than 50 years of trying, but it gives me a dilemma.

These days, being an Oban resident, I have an obvious soft spot for the Saints and many people have asked if I'm going to the match to cheer them on.

The truth is, as most footie fans will understand, my loyalties still lie with Bannockburn. Still, if Saints triumph, I'll be able to take some solace from that result.

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.

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OUTDOORS

Garden opens with a spring in each step

by Yvonne Anderson
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Keeping a garden is a labour of love. Hours and hours of precious time, relentless physical work, often in gales and rain. And then, there is the expense.

Sounds like a penance to me. But, in return, gardens give a joyful and bountiful feeling to the people who look after them. They are addicted and I am keen to find out why.

Stuart and Shelagh Cannon of Kames Bay Garden, Kilmelford, are preparing to open to visitors this weekend for charity. I thought I'd ask them.

'There is no better salve than sowing a row of carrots after a truly awful day,' Stuart says. 'Moving plants around while mopping up the sound of the thrushes turns your frame of mind into a much more agreeable one.'

Gardens provide therapy: a sense of accomplishment that comforts and heals their owners, alleviating worries and burdens, relaxing the mind. All the owners I've interviewed say that, so it must be true.

Over the past 37 years, it's clear Stuart and Shelagh have poured boundless energy into growing things. Transforming scrub and bracken on a lochside hill to a natural, almost wild, 13-acre garden, blending into the contours of the landscape. Full of vibrant colour all year, there are more than 100 varieties of azaleas, rhododendrons, wild primroses, violets, hydrangeas, fuchsia, roses and agapanthus.

It offers the best of both worlds – the beauty of cultivation softening the wild edges of the natural landscape.

Kames Bay Garden opens in aid of Scotland's Gardens Scheme and St Columba's Church, Poltalloch, on Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5, from 2pm-6pm, £4, with children free.

Stargazing on Tiree is tumbling into infinity

Notes from a windy island

STEPHANIE COPE
ranger@treetrust.org.uk



Since I waved a sad farewell to my mid-twenties, that innate ability of all youthful people to stay up past 11pm has left me.

Now, I'm generally sporting pyjamas by 8pm. At the latest. If you require me to be fully dressed beyond that point, you'll need to come up with something quite compelling.

It was with a sigh of resignation that, on a Monday night, I changed back out of my pyjamas and into more respectable attire. The sofa looked so comfortable. The kettle – just ready to boil for a bedtime mug of herbal tea – called wordlessly from the kitchen. I clicked off the light and closed my front door.

The roads were quiet and the sea was silver as I drove past Traigh Thodhrasdail. In my headlights, the shining eyes of brown hares raced over ditches and under rylock fencing. The fish-white bellies of snipe flashed at the periphery of the beams.

It was all very serene and absorbing – so, slamming on the brakes to avoid a large hedgehog felt abrupt in more than just the obvious sense. I dimmed the lights and stepped out of the car to move him. After all, other drivers would be traveling along this road tonight.

The hedgehog didn't lodge any major objections to being airlifted from the Tarmac and placed safely into nearby pasture. Usually, these little animals tense up – but this one just dangled and snuffled, with my fingers lightly pressed against its warm tummy. Out of harm's way, it trundled off into the gloom.

When I arrived at the agreed spot, there were already several cars. Red headlamps bobbed as people extended tripods, focused cameras, and swivelled telescopes.

This was the inaugural outing of our Tiree Dark Skies group, at the recently listed Dark Sky Discovery Site on Balevullin Bay. We



The Milky Way blasts through the heavens like a glitter cannon. Photograph: Stewart Carr

were here to watch the Lyrid meteor shower (several anxious minutes were spent debating the correct pronunciation of this).

The evening was the brainchild of my colleague Louise – who has kindly taken over the hiring-out of our Tiree Ranger Service telescope – in response to my majestic lack of astronomical knowledge.

Flasks of tea were passed about, picnic blankets were spread and hushed conversation overtook the group.

Identifying stars is challenging enough but at least it's less socially awkward than trying to identify friends and neighbours when you can't see their faces.

This peculiar fact added to the sense of camaraderie, as we clustered together like strange penguins in the dark.

Tiree is blessed with beautiful skies: light pollution levels are low here.

On a good clear night, the Milky Way blasts

its way through the heavens like a slow-motion glitter cannon. It isn't just visible – it looms.

You can stand on your stoop, pulling your dressing gown closer about you, and feel the dazzling light of eternities illuminating your upturned face.

Sometimes, behind the thatch of my roof, yellowish-green columns of aurora shift in a strange titanic silence.

I couldn't give you the name of five stars. I know almost nothing of the constellations, or the rich soup of folklore and mythology that surrounds them. But it doesn't matter. Don't let it put you off.

As we watched for the strike-light of meteors overhead, we were united by something older and more elemental – that teetering moment of vertiginous awe belongs to all of us.

You don't need to know anything about our cosmos to lift your gaze, and find yourself tumbling into infinity.

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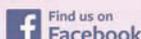


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This week's walks



There was fun for all ages on the water at last year's Push the Boat Out day in Oban.

Everyone invited to Push the Boat Out

Push the boat out and head to Oban Sailing Club later this month.

The club in Gallanach Road is inviting people of all ages to come and try both dinghy and keelboat sailing and powerboating for free on Saturday May 18.

Whether you're completely new to the sport or looking to get back on the water, the Royal Yachting Association's Push the Boat Out day is the perfect time to give it a go.

The nationwide event will see thousands of people taking part in sailing or windsurfing activities, with open days and taster sessions taking place at hundreds of sailing clubs and centres.

'We're inviting the local community to come down to have a go and see what the Oban Sailing Club has to offer and get involved.'

'Who knows, you might just get hooked!' said Iain Campbell, the club commodore.



The event starts at 10am with lots of activities on offer until around 4pm.

Scout groups will also be joining the event this year, added Mr Campbell.

Sailing can be as physical or as relaxing as you want to make it, you can sail with others or on your own, do it competitively or potter about and just enjoy the gentle escape of being outside in the elements.

Oban Sailing Club was formed in

1935 and it is hoped the taster day will boost membership.

Last year's Push the Boat Out saw the public get a chance to row in a skiff. Oban's lifeboat, the Mora Edith MacDonald, also put in an appearance for people to take a peek aboard and inside.

On Monday evenings, the club hosts Monday Mayhem fun sessions where a lot of its young club members and parents get out on the water.

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 May 9: Cam Chreagh and Beinn Chaorach, Tyndrum

There are five splendid Corbetts here, all of which may be done in one long summer's day. In mid winter two of them will make a good day out.

Start on the Auch estate road about 100m SE of its junction with the A82, NN317353, where limited parking is available. Further parking may be found on the verge of the A82, just south of the turning to Auch and 700m further S at a forest road entrance. Follow the estate road to Auch and continue past the farm and over the bridge. Cross WHW and stay on the track to reach the railway viaduct. Turn right and follow the track leading SE up Glen Coralan. When the track ends, continue a rising traverse up Glen Coralan, curving NE to reach the watershed on the boundary line, identified by a fence. Turn E and climb steeply to reach the crest of the NW ridge of Cam Chreagh and follow it to the summit, 884mLR. Descend SW to a col, 638m, then climb to the summit of Beinn Chaorach, 818m. Descend S on a long sloping ridge to reach a track at about 350m alt. Follow it downhill, turning S to reach the CP at Auchertyre. Transport required, 10 minutes from start.

Grade: M+; distance: 14km; height to climb: 860m; map(s): LR50, EX377; meet at: Glencoe car park NN 098 587 at 0850 or Longsdale CP Oban at 0840 for start of walk at 0930.

Leader: Toril Frantzen 07788 264007.

Saturday May 11: Druim Fada, Locheil

A new approach and descent to this hill with much of the approach and return being along forestry paths.

Start at the car park off the A830 at NN040784. Walk N up the forestry track. After 1km take right path (W) at junction. Continue to next junction and turn left (N). Continue uphill ignoring two paths on right. Continue on path for 200m to take rough steep path on right (N) for approx. 1km to stream at edge of forestry with gate visible just ahead uphill. Cross stream and go through gate onto open hillside. Follow bearing of 22 deg (NNE) for 1.4km over open hillside to reach the top of the ridge (spot height 635m). Walk E along the ridge to the trig point 716m at NN055817.

Continue E along the ridge to Stob a' Ghrianain NN087823 744m. From the summit descend SE for approx. 1.2km to reach the ridge above Coire an Lightuinn. Continue on ridge for 1.5km then descend S to E edge of forestry plantation. Continue downhill with boundary fence on Right to gate at NN110804. Though gate and descend on rough path for 200m reaching start of Forestry track W. Ignore two tracks on R (W) then keep R when meeting path from L. Track descends gently and at NN087780 follow track on R down to boundary gate. Leave forest and continue L downhill to cars at houses (NN082771).

Grade: M+; distance: 21km; height to climb: 850m; Maps LR41, EX392. Meet at Fort William WM NN 112 742 at 0900 for start of walk at 0930.

Leader: Trevor Jones 07831 437454.

NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

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

Saturday May 4: An Caisteal, Beinn a' Chroin, Crianlarich

Two fine hills at the head of Glen Falloch. Do one or both. Although they look grassy from below, both hills have some interesting rocky sections on their upper slopes.

Start at the long lay-by on the A82 2km SW of Crianlarich, NN369238. Follow the track SE, under the railway, across the River Falloch and continue for about 1 km to a junction. Leave the track and head S up to Sron Garbh, 709m. Continue S along the bumps and turns of Twistin Hill and climb the N ridge of An Caisteal to its summit, 995m. * Descend S, curving SSE to the col, Bealach Buidhe at 805m. Climb steeply on a zig-zag path through crags to the summit plateau of Beinn a' Chroin. The Munro summit is at NN387185 - the central summit, 942m. It can be difficult to identify. There is a small lochan 28m to the east of it. Continue to the East Top, 940m, then descend its N ridge into Coire Earb. Follow the River Falloch down the glen until the track appears leading back to the start.

* For an alternative descent from An Caisteal, omitting the second Munro, head down SW, curving NW, following the ridge to Stob Glas, 710m. Descend NNW, curving N, cross the Allt Andoran and continue N across moorland. Keep E of some fenced replanted areas to reach the outward track back to the start.

Distance: 12km *10km; height to climb: 1000m *860m. Suggested and coordinated by Christina Tracey.



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2019

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Registration

Registration for the Sportive will be open on May 12th from 6.30 to 7.45am at the Oban Distillery.

Start Times and Places

Both routes will begin and end at the Oban Distillery.

Riders will leave in small groups from 08:00, to ease our impact on local traffic. All riders are required to register before they begin the ride and your timing chip will be scanned as you leave the car park. Spectators who want to see the riders leave please be at Stafford street for 7.45 am.

Loch Awe – 87 miles

Our long course is around Scotland's longest Loch, Loch Awe and passes under the shadow of Ben Cruachan, the "Hollow Mountain".

Loch Avich – 56 miles

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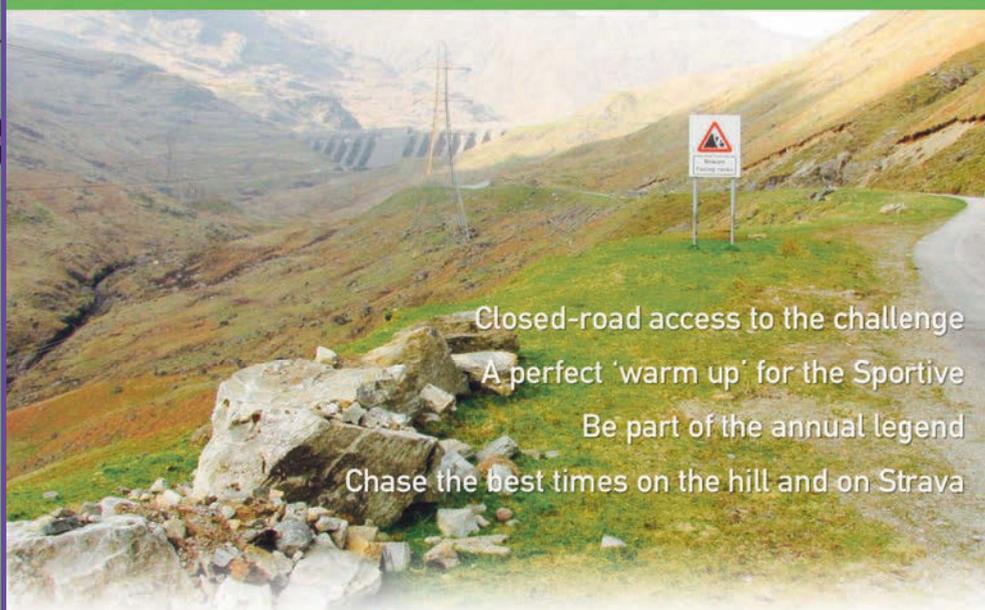
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Riders should gather at the Ben Cruachan Inn on Saturday May 11th, before the race begins. There is car parking available at the Inn or at nearby Loch Awe train station to prepare your kit and your clothing and cycling on to the main road provides a flat warm-up ride to the actual start at the foot of Ben Cruachan. The ride itself - at any speed - is one to be proud of and offers spectacular views of Loch Awe below.

Entry is now open for this event via www.obansportive.co.uk



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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

Fiddlers rally in Oban for 75th consecutive concert

Fiddlers from Caithness to Wales took part in the 75th consecutive Fiddlers' Rally in Oban at the weekend.

About 80 musicians took to the Corran Halls stage to perform at the event, which was organised by the Oban and Lorne Strathspey and Reel Society, in front of the biggest audience the rally has enjoyed for years.

The society was founded by well-known musician Charlie Hunter in 1944 and the first concert was a year later in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, when tickets were three shillings and tuppence and

programmes were a tuppence each in old money.

The weekend's rally kicked off with Oban High School piper Gregor MacDonald, who was later joined on stage by fellow band members.

Guest artists were South Uist singer Paul McCallum, accompanied on the piano by Hamish Menzies from Dingwall, and a Glenfiddich Fiddle champion and Oban masters judge Paul Anderson from the North-East of Scotland, who was accompanied on the piano by Brian McAlpine from Glasgow.

During the concert, tribute

was paid to Maurice Duncan, who was leader of the Oban and Lorne Strathspey and Reel Society from 1992 until his untimely death in 2017, with some of his tunes being played.

The evening was compared by the Reverend Dugald Cameron and the conductor was Helen Jordan. The leader of the orchestra was Jean Boardman.

Douglas Boyd, Sheena Fraser and Kathreen Hunter, who were among the performers, were all on stage at the event's 25th Fiddlers' Rally, with the widow of

Charlie Hunter's son Alastair in the audience. She had made the journey from Aberdeen to be there.

Jennifer Loudon from the Oban and Lorne Strathspey and Reel Society said: 'Fiddlers came from as far north as Caithness to Wales in the South. Oban was the first Strathspey and Reel Society to invite other players from other societies to come and play, and now it is happening all over Scotland. It has become an institution.'

■ Turn to pages 28 for more photographs.



Fiddlers from all over Scotland gathered in the Corran Halls with Oban and Lorne Strathspey and Reel Society to celebrate the 75th Fiddlers' Rally. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

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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 Leugh Mi (rpt)
21.00 **UR | NEW:** Opryle Daniel
21.50 Binneas – Na Trads – Fiddlers' Bid (rpt)
22.00 Mach a Seol (rpt)
22.30 **UR | NEW:** Ameireaga air Film
23.15 Belladrum Highlights (rpt)
23.20 Dhan Uisge (Spar Cave) (rpt)
23.30 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)

DIHAOINE 03 AN CÈITEAN FRIDAY 03 MAY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
18.35 Machair (rpt)
19.00 An Là – News
19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt)
19.30 Bonn Còmhraidh (rpt)
20.00 Òran na Mnà (rpt)
20.30 Fuine (rpt)
21.00 Air an Rathad (rpt)
22.00 Balaich Ronaigh (rpt)
22.45 Belladrum Highlights (rpt)
22.50 Dhan Uisge (Spar Cave) (rpt)
23.00 Skipinnish aig Barrowland (rpt)

DISATHAIRNE 04 AN CÈITEAN SATURDAY 04 MAY

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
17.45 An Là – News
18.00 **UR | NEW:** Scottish Premiership – Dundee v Hamilton Academical
20.00 Machair (rpt)
20.25 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.30 Kerry is Kirsty: Caol Reatha gu Drochaid Sheile (rpt)

21.00 Na Worlds 2018 (rpt)
22.05 Ameireaga air Film (rpt)
22.50 Dhan Uisge (Cuan Sound) (rpt)
22.55 Scottish Premiership – Dundee v Hamilton Academical (rpt)

DIDÒMHNAICH 05 AN CÈITEAN SUNDAY 05 MAY

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
18.15 An Là – News
18.30 Seachd Là – News review
19.30 Sorchar nan Reul (rpt)
20.00 Leugh Mi (rpt)
20.30 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt)
21.00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach (rpt)
22.00 Na Worlds 2018 (rpt)
23.05 Balaich Ronaigh (rpt)
23.15 Belladrum Highlights 2018 (rpt)

DILUAIN 06 AN CÈITEAN MONDAY 06 MAY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Beartas nan Daoine (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.15 Sgeul Seòlaidh (rpt)
20.30 Fuine 55 (rpt)
21.00 **UR | NEW:** Trusadh – Ar Teaghlach
22.00 Port – Druthag Eile (rpt)
22.30 An Là – A' Tuigsinn an Lain (rpt)
23.30 Mach a Seol (rpt)

DIMÀIRT 07 AN CÈITEAN TUESDAY 07 MAY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 Kerry is Kirsty: Asainnte (rpt)
21.00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach (rpt)

22.00 Trusadh – Ar Teaghlach (rpt)
23.00 Òrain Oir (rpt)
23.30 Sorchar nan Reul (rpt)

DICIADAIN 08 AN CÈITEAN WEDNESDAY 08 MAY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Beartas nan Daoine (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 An t-Eilean (rpt)
21.00 **UR | NEW:** An Là – Beò leis an Là
22.00 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)
22.30 Port – Druthag Eile (rpt)
23.00 Opryle Daniel (rpt)
23.50 Dhan Uisge (Cuan Sound) (rpt)

DIARDAOIN 09 AN CÈITEAN THURSDAY 09 MAY

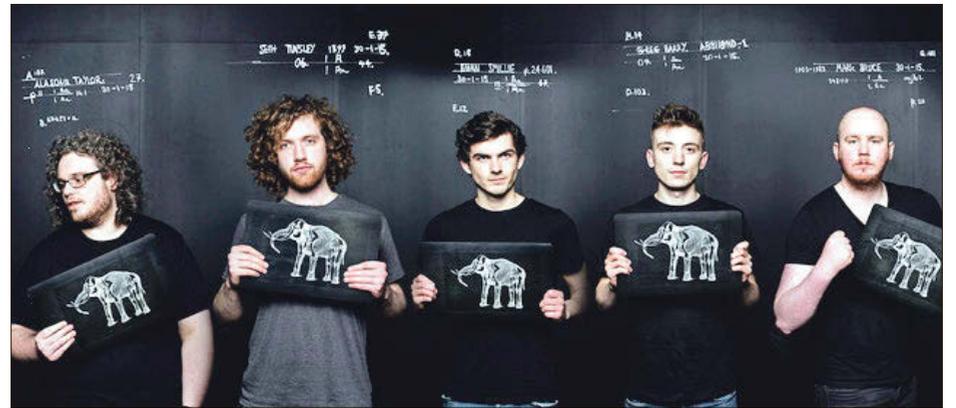
17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming
19.00 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt)
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)
20.00 An Là – News
20.30 **UR | NEW:** Eòrpa
21.00 **UR | NEW:** Opryle Daniel
21.55 Binneas – Na Trads (Tom Orr Scottish Dance Band) (rpt)
22.00 Mach a Seol (rpt)
22.30 **UR | NEW:** Ameireaga air Film
23.15 Belladrum Highlights (rpt)
23.20 Dhan Uisge (Cuan Sound) (rpt)
23.30 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)



BBC.CO.UK/ALBA | BBC.CO.UK/IPLAYER

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Last ticket batch released for Killin Music Festival



Elephant Sessions are headlining at Killin Music Festival 2019.

Killin Music Festival has released its final limited release of tickets.

Previous batches of tickets went fast and organisers are expecting this last lot to go just as quickly.

Revellers will descend on picturesque Killin at the west end of Loch Tay from Friday June 14-16 to enjoy the event's fourth annual offering of music and merriment.

For 2019 the festival welcomes headliners Trail

West, Elephant Sessions and Siobhan Miller.

This year also sees different genres taking to the big stage, including soul-funk phenomenon Tom McGuire and the Brassholes, and fresh indie band, The 101.

And there will be music in the Portnellan Tent for free from Headland, Dlu and Greig Taylor.

'There is something for all tastes, from a relaxed seated concert to bouncing night-time shows. All

events are indoors or under cover, so there is no need to fear the temperamental weather,' said one of the organisers.

There are also lots of free fringe events taking place over the weekend, including the second festival stage, competitions and a craft fair – not forgetting the surrounding stunning scenery to soak up.

To see the full festival line-up and buy tickets go to killinmusicfestival.com.

XpoNorth 2019 music showcase list announced

XpoNorth have revealed the list of acts invited to showcase at this year's conference and showcase for the creative industries.

Taking place on July 3 and 4 at Eden Court in Inverness, the live programme will see some of the most exciting artists from the Highlands and Islands and the rest of Scotland perform across a host of city centre venues. There will also be the opportunity to see two fantastic new acts from Finland and Germany selected through our EXCITE partnership.

A host of talent selected to perform at this year's event will also be offered slots on the XpoNorth Stage at the multi-award winning Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival.

Iain Hamilton, head of creative industries, Highlands and Islands Enterprise said: 'The live showcase element remains an extremely important aspect of XpoNorth and offers a fantastic platform for talent to access a global network of industry professionals – in addition to developing their audience more broadly. It also brings an incredible energy and highlights the diversity and vibrancy of the venue infrastructure in the city.

It is key that the conference

remains a great destination to connect new talent with leading buyers, partners and music consumers and we're delighted with the quality and range of the acts invited to perform this year.'

The list of acts that will perform in July are Amy Lou, Andy Williamson, Annie Booth, BooHooHoo, Broken Chanter, Calum Jones, Cara Rose, Chuchoter, Echo Machine, Emiah, Emme Woods, Fabric Bear, False Friends, Fauves, Ivy Flindt (Germany), Folda, GHØSTWRITER, Goodnight Louisa, Hamish Hawk & The New Outfit, Hannah Slavin, James Leonard Hewitson, Kier Gibson, LaKyoto, Lizzie Reid, Luke La Volpe, LUNIR, LYLO, Mark McGowan, Mark Sharp & The Bicycle Thieves, Megan Airlie, Mike Vass, Miracle Glass Company, Moonlight Zoo, Mt. Doubt, November Lights, Pleasure Heads, Pure Grief, Quiche, Real Life Entertainment, Roddy Johnson, Russell Stewart, Sam Cain, Savage Mansion, Scarlett Randle, Scholesy, SHEARS, Shredd, Solareye, swim school, The 101, The Dazed, Digital Age, The Roov, The Sea Atlas, The Strives, The Woods, Ükku (Finland), Walt Disco,



XpoNorth 2018 was a huge success

WHÿTE, WuhOh, Youth Team. The annual Inverness-based XpoNorth is Scotland's leading creative industries festival and offers delegates access to an exceptional creative programme.

Formerly goNORTH, the conference and showcase is the only festival of its kind in Scotland covering craft, fashion and textiles; writing and publishing; screen and broadcast; digital and technology and music, XpoNorth is a unique event in the UK's creative calendar.

All events are free.

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Piper Anna tunes up for Oban



Anna Smart is flying from New Zealand to compete in the HIMDF's piping competition.

Piper Anna Smart is flying more than 11,000 miles to follow up a top recommendation.

The 18-year-old from New Zealand signed up for this year's piping competition as part of the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival – taking place this Bank Holiday weekend – after word spread to the other side of the world from musicians highly recommending the event.

Anna was just seven when she started piping in Inverkeithing, under Neil Cameron and the Inverkeithing High School Pipe Band, now known as West Fife Schools Pipe Band.

'Nobody in my family played a musical instrument or had any affiliation to the piping world. I began piping because I saw a female bagpiper playing at a family function. I idolised her and the bagpipes in that very moment,' said Anna.

After she moved to New Zealand aged 10, she carried on my piping through bands and solos.

'Since moving to New Zealand and progressing through my piping I have had

so many opportunities. For outsiders to the piping community, many would believe piping is just a pastime and a bit of fun, but I have had so many amazing travel opportunities and amazing things happen throughout my piping journey,' added Anna.

Piping has taken her to Australia, Canada, America, throughout New Zealand, Scotland and now Oban.

Anna has also played at the 2011 Rugby World Cup, performed at Disneyland in 2014, featured in Piping Live's Pipe Idol competition and has been involved with BBC Alba's piping live show.

Anna continued: 'I heard about Oban Festival through word of mouth, where other pipers have heavily recommended that I attend. I couldn't pass up a competition like it.'

Festival organisers said: 'This story will not be alien to many of the piping fraternity in Oban, but the festival should not be overlooked as an opportunity to receive feedback from the judges, meet fellow musicians and share a love of music and culture.'

Why not sign up for the Feis at the Festival on Sunday May 5 from 10am until 3pm at Oban High School. The cost is two classes for £7, or four classes for £10.

The Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival has developed into one of Scotland's major cultural festivals with more than 1,100 participants taking part this year in 125 competition classes in 11 disciplines including piping, accordion, fiddle, clar-sach, piano, recorder, singing, woodwind and brass, highland dancing and choreography.

Tickets are limited and are in great demand, call 07510 841198.

To see more, go to obanfesti-val.org

WHAT'S ON IN OBAN



In partnership with Oban Town Diary BID4oban.co.uk

THURSDAY 2ND MAY

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

8 Week Mindfulness Course
The Rockfield Centre
12-12:30pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dams
FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

FRIDAY 3RD MAY
8 Week Mindfulness Course
The Rockfield Centre
12-12:30pm

Reminiscence Group
Oban Library
12noon-1:30pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dams
Open till 2am

SATURDAY 4TH MAY
Ganavan Sands Parkrun
Ganavan Sands
9:30am-12noon

8 Week Mindfulness Course

The Rockfield Centre
12-12:30pm

Reminiscence Group
Oban Library
12noon-1:30pm

Cearcall Còmhraidh (Gaelic Conversation Group)
Furan Gaelic Centre
12noon- 1:30pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dams
Open till 2am

SUNDAY 5TH MAY
8 Week Mindfulness Course
The Rockfield Centre
12-12:30pm

Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Dams
QUIZ NIGHT at 9.30pm

£1 per person, max of 6 per team
Win £20 bar voucher

MONDAY 6TH MAY
8 Week Mindfulness Course
The Rockfield Centre
12-12:30pm

Slimming World

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

TUESDAY 7TH MAY

8 Week Mindfulness Course
The Rockfield Centre
12-12:30pm

Carers Coffee Morning
North Argyll Carers Centre
10:30am-12pm

WEDNESDAY 8TH MAY
8 Week Mindfulness Course
The Rockfield Centre
12-12:30pm

Beach Clean
Slip opposite Stafford Street
10:30am-12pm

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 3RD MAY

12:00/ 16:15/ 20:00 AVENGERS: ENDGAME 12A
16:30 WONDER PARK PG
18:30 MISSING LINK PG
20:30 EATEN BY LIONS 12A

SATURDAY 4TH

11:00 KID'S CLUB ALADDIN
12:00/ 15:45/ 19:30 AVENGERS: ENDGAME 12A
13:45 WONDER PARK PG
15:45/17:45 MISSING LINK PG
17:45 EATEN BY LIONS 12A

SUNDAY 5TH

12:00/ 15:45/ 19:30 AVENGERS: ENDGAME 12A
12:30 WONDER PARK PG
14:30 THE FIGHT 12A
16:45/18:45 MISSING LINK PG
20:45 EATEN BY LIONS 12A

MONDAY 6TH

12:15/ 16:15/ 20:00 AVENGERS: ENDGAME 12A
12:45 WONDER PARK PG
14:45/16:45 MISSING LINK PG
18:45 EATEN BY LIONS 12A
20:45 THE FIGHT 12A

TUESDAY 7TH

12:00/20:30 EATEN BY LIONS 12A
16:15/ 20:30 AVENGERS: ENDGAME 12A
16:30 WONDER PARK PG
18:30 MISSING LINK PG

WEDNESDAY 8TH

12:15/ 16:15/ 20:00 AVENGERS: ENDGAME 12A
16:30 WONDER PARK PG
18:30 MISSING LINK PG
20:30 EATEN BY LIONS 12A

THURSDAY 9TH

12:00/18:30 MISSING LINK PG
16:15/ 20:00 AVENGERS: ENDGAME 12A
16:30 WONDER PARK PG
20:30 EATEN BY LIONS 12A

OFFERS & competitions

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

WIN

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



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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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Fiddlers rally in Oban for 75th consecutive concert

All photographs: Kevin McGlynn



Special guest Paul Anderson, accompanied by Brian MacAlpine, joined the orchestra to play a set of tunes composed by the late Maurice Duncan.



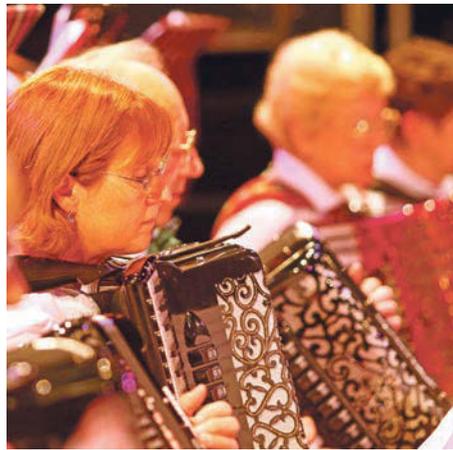
Catriona MacCrindle at the 75th Fiddlers Rally.



Singer Paul McCallum from South Uist.



Conductor Helen Jordan lifts the baton and draws the rally together.



Sandy Orr studies her music at the 75th Oban and Lorne Fiddlers' Rally.



Father and daughter George and Elizabeth Campbell from Taynuilt are part of the Oban and Lorne Strathspey and Reel Society.

We think Fridays are for dramming...



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

Hosting the first Friday Dram Club is Julie Hamilton, from independent bottler Elixir Distillers. Julie will be taking us through 6 malts from Port Askaig.

We hope that you are able to join us on Friday 3 May 2019 for what will be the start of a regular gathering on the first Friday of every month!

Tickets available here:
tickets.ardshiel.co.uk

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Friday
3 May

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*Offer subject to availability. Good for stays Friday-Saturday nights between 1 May 2019 and 30 September 2019 at The Ugadale Hotel. Rate includes VAT and £3 per room night resort fee. Based on 2 people sharing one hotel room.

Dremmwel to make a welcome return

Innovative Breton folk band Dremmwel will visit Tobermory early next month as part of their Scottish tour.

The name means 'horizon' and the band's six albums since 1996 create a fresh and varied take on basic Breton dance music.

Dremmwel toured in Scotland previously in 1997 and 2002 and have graced festivals in Wales, Belgium, Germany, Austria and the USA over the years.

Their most recent CD (Hirbad), meaning Long Stay, is inspired by the 'global jukebox' concept for traditional music, closely associated with the legendary American archivist, Alan Lomax.

The band says: 'The Global

Jukebox is dedicated to our remote ancestors, to our parents, grandparents and teachers, and is a gift offered to present and future generations - a gift of sound, movement, and growing knowledge. It honours the expressive traditions of all peoples, and the cultural diversity that enriches us as individuals, and is crucial to our common survival as a species.'

If you have ever travelled with Brittany Ferries from England or Ireland overnight, you'll have been woken by Dremmwel tunes in your cabin. Theirs is also the only music on sale aboard the fleet.

Dremmwel is celebrating 30 years of the group's develop-

ment, this time through collaborations with musicians from Corsica, Paraguay, the Basque lands and Scotland. Each add new spice to self-penned tunes from the core Dremmwel players who are steeped in the Breton Fest Noz ('night dance') traditions of their native Finistere.

This appearance will appeal to people with an interest in pipes, Celtic harp, dancing, and indeed anyone keen to hear energetic Celtic music played by consummate professionals.

The four core Dremmwel musicians playing on this tour are: Dominique Le Guichaoua, diatonic accordions, binou (Breton pipes), vocals and

mouth organ; René Marchand, bombard, whistles and veuze (another kind of Breton pipes); Daniel Cadiou, guitars, and Marin l'Hopiteau on harp and fiddle.

As an additional treat they will be joined on the tour by Corsican singer Marco Campana, who contributed his haunting polyphonic vocals, characteristic of Corsica's Orezza Valley, to the recent Dremmwel album and Scottish contributors to 'Hirbad' may also take to the stage.

The band will play An Tobar Tobermory, on the isle of Mull, on Sunday May 12 at 8.30pm.

Other dates in their calendar include Portree and Plockton.



Guaranteed to inspire, musicians Dominique Le Guichaoua, René Marchand, Daniel Cadiou and Marin l'Hopiteau will be visiting Tobermory next month as part of their Scottish tour.

Nae-messin' as Moira makes her way to Oban

Moira Bell, Falkirk's hardest woman, with a foul mouth and a heart of gold, will be winging

her way to Oban next month. Hosted by Oban Communities Trust - The Rockfield Centre, Alan Bissett's Moira Monologues will take place at the Corran Halls Studio Theatre on June 13.

And the group want everybody who enjoys a good laugh to join them for a double-dose of the rip-roaring, chain-smoking, nae-messin' heroine created and performed by Bissett.

A cross between stand-up comedy and live theatre, this will definitely be a night to remember!

Moira is a single mum and a cleaner, who can't wait to light a fag and tell her BFF Babs stories about her love life, the karaoke night in the Scotia Bar, cleaning posh folks' hooses, her opinion on Brexit, and, of course, how she protects her darlin' dug, Pepe, from Diesel the rottweiler next door.

Winner of 2017 Fringe First Award and with a clutch of five-star reviews, this is not to be missed.

Speaking to the Oban Times last week, Alan said: 'Oban's a place I've been to many times and always love visiting, but the bold Moira has never been there (she's barely been out of Falkirk), so she's looking forward to strutting her stuff and telling it like it is.'

'Get yourselves ready

for the full force of her!!' Starting at 7.30pm, Alan will perform both Moira Monologues and More Moira Monologues with a short interval in between.

Tickets cost £15 and are available from therockfieldcentre.org.uk, or in person from The Rockfield Centre Charity Shop.

Beware, Moira has some choice language so this show is not for the young or the faint-hearted.



Alan Bissett brings his Moira Monologues to Oban.

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

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

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



Kishorn man releases charity song

Donnie Morrison is a well known man around the "teuchter triangle" in the West End of Glasgow and for some time now everyone has been in aware of his long held ambition, nay dream, to sing on a record with Mary Ann Kennedy.

Well, in the last few weeks, Donnie sensationally got his wish - and what a resounding success it has been. After the passing of his close friend Donnie Campbell from Harris last year - a tremendous character whose passion for music and dancing featured a number of times in my Glasgow Letters - and in memory of many other friends and family members from Harris, Donnie Morrison decided to team up with his cousin Joan Ann MacSween and record the island's anthem, Chi Mi'n Tir, in Watercolour Studios.

Accompanied by Mary Ann on piano and backing vocals, the track has turned out brilliantly and (with its accompanying video posted on Facebook with a variety of pictures of the island of Harris) it certainly pulls at the heart strings. The track

is being used as a fundraiser for Diabetes Research and, incredibly, through the power of social media, they have so far raised almost £2,000 - a tremendous tribute to the memory of those who inspired the recording. As, "the two Donnie's" would have said during the many hours they enjoyed in each other's company: Ho Ho!

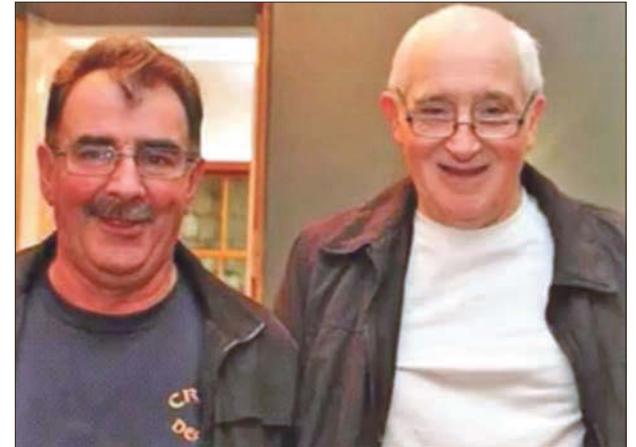
A Quiet Weekend in Glasgow

I can only imagine that the usual haunts in Glasgow were quieter than usual last weekend as half the Highland population of the city emigrated to Main Street, Tobermory, for three nights.

Mull Music Festival, as always, was an absolute cracker. I only made it over on the Sunday, which is slightly quieter than the previous two days, but it was still brilliant to see the pubs in full swing and plenty people outside enjoying the sunny weather for the majority of the day.

Tide Lines looking forward to Barrowland show

On a personal level, I'm greatly looking forward to playing the Barrowland



The two Donnie's: Donnie Morrison, left, who (along with Joan Ann MacSween) has recorded Chi Mi'n Tir in memory of friends and family from Harris including the late Donnie Campbell, right.

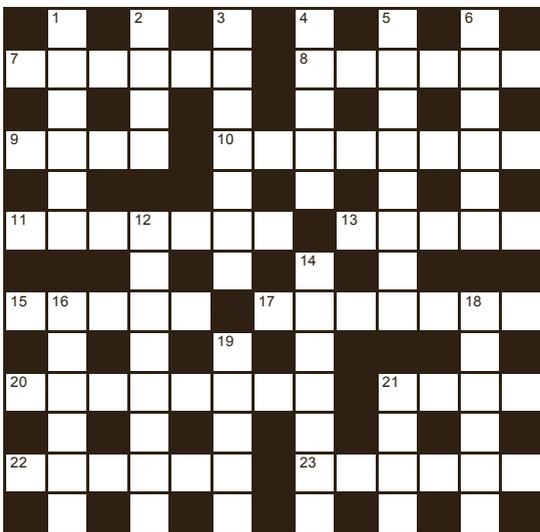
Ballroom with the band in November. For generations, the iconic venue has been synonymous with the famed Glaswegian tradition of going to "the dancing" - a tradition peddled by everyone from Francie and Josie in their famous "are you dancing/are you asking" scene; or, for my generation, the two posh guys from Chewin' The Fat going "down the barrows"!

Strictly Come Cèilidh Dancing

The Mòd Ghlaschu Strictly Coming Cèilidh Dancing

fundraising evening that I wrote about recently is now less than two weeks away on Saturday May 11. It is going to be a mix of a normal cèilidh dancing but with a cèilidh singing competition run along the lines of Strictly Come Dancing with a judging panel of high profile Gaelic singing judges. I don't know who will be chosen as Gaeldom's answer to Len Goodman or Bruno Tonioli to judge the contestants, but I'm sure it will be a fantastic night. It takes place in the Woodside Hall.

Crossword



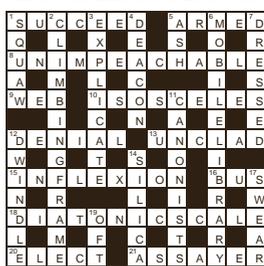
Across

- 7 Weak solution (6)
- 8 Sounds of high speeding cars (6)
- 9 Stuff (4)
- 10 A foot of three syllables (8)
- 11 Newspaper (7)
- 13 Edge of a knife (5)
- 15 Teatime treat (5)
- 17 Trend (3,4)
- 20 Defence technique (8)
- 21 Scenery (4)
- 22 One who lives off the land (6)
- 23 Competing to win over a distance (6)

Down

- 1 Flour for cereal (6)
- 2 Ship part (4)
- 3 Forceful (7)
- 4 Winged (5)
- 5 An ancient influence on the legal systems (5,3)
- 6 Entertained (6)
- 12 Field event (4,4)
- 14 Need (7)
- 16 Culmination (6)
- 18 Austrian port (6)
- 19 Utter (5)
- 21 Second (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



Murder in mind on Oban and Colonsay

Queen of crime fiction Ann Cleeves may not be planning a killing spree on the west coast of Scotland but she has not written off the idea of penning a short story or two pertaining to the area.

The Herefordshire writer responsible for both the Shetland and Vera series of novels, which have since become hit TV shows, dropped in at Waterstones bookshop in Oban on Friday to sign copies of her books and chat to readers.

'I never imagined when I was writing them that the Vera or Shetland books would be made into a TV series,' she told the Oban Times.

'It was just luck really. ITV were looking for a strong female character at the time and picked up on Vera and

then the same production company decided to make Shetland as well.

'I'm just interested in writing the books really, but it has been fun being involved in the shows.

'It's also good because the shows draw more people into the areas.

Tourism

'The north east of England has seen an upturn in tourism since Vera was aired and it has increased on Shetland by 43 per cent since the first book came out. I'm not saying it's all down to the books or TV shows but it has certainly helped.'

Following her visit to Oban, Ann moved on to the Colonsay Book Festival on Saturday and did not dismiss the idea of including either



Sheila Ogilvie from Taynuilt dropped by to say hello to Ann.

the town or the island in a future tale: 'When I'm visiting new places I often get ideas for short stories,' she said.

Ann said goodbye to Shetland hero Jimmy Perez in September last year with the

final book With Wild Fire.

Her latest book, The Long Call, is set in north Devon and will be on bookshop shelves in September, while the next Vera novel will be out next year.

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competition 2019

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You are now voting for the Top 20, with voting closing at 10am on Monday May 13th and the Top 20 announced on Thursday 16th May.

Voting is incredibly close at the moment, so to make sure your favourite makes it into the Top 20, complete the voting coupon (make sure it comes from either the 2nd May or 9th May issues) and either post them to us or hand them in to our Oban or Fort William offices.

Vote for your favourite now!

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& Oban Times

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Baby's name:

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*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 2nd of May 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 May 13, 2019.

001



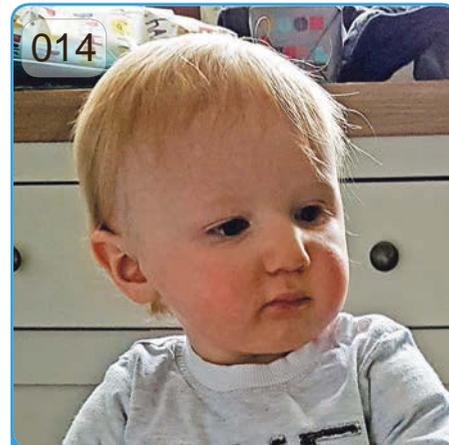
Logan Khan
Born February 2018 Dunbeg

008



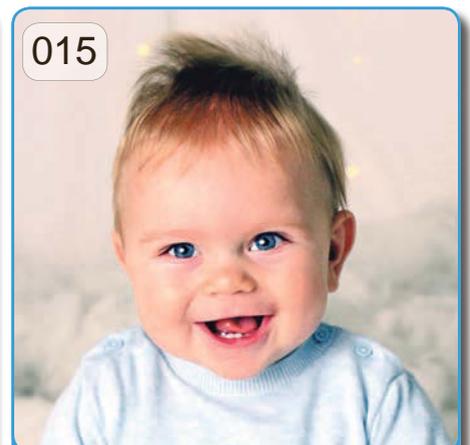
Jessica Gibb
Born November 2018 Lochgilphead

014



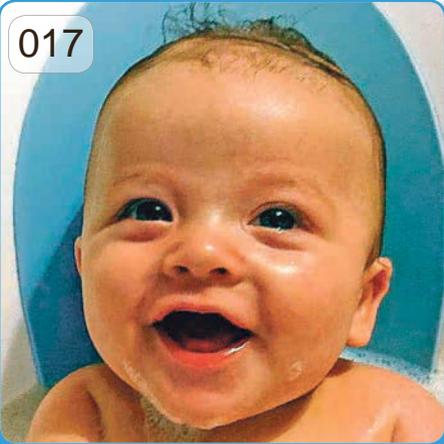
James Aitchison
Born February 2018 Fort William

015



Koa Eldon
Born December 2017 Fort William

017



Matthew Russell
Born October 2018

Oban

018



Olivia Kerr
Born December 2018

Oban

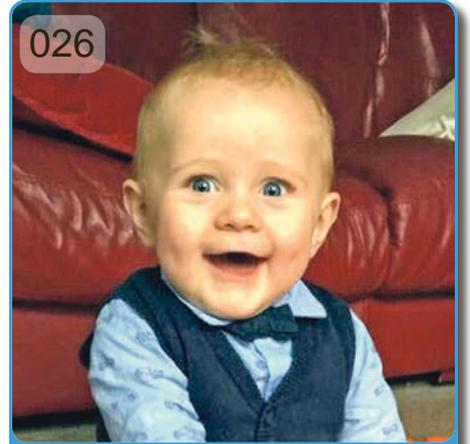
019



Ryan Ward
Born October 2018

Oban

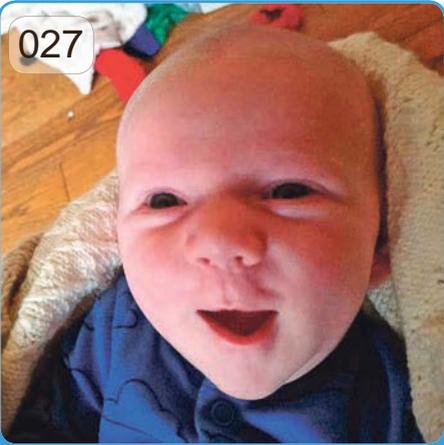
026



Angus John Telfer
Born March 2018

Oban

027



Hunter Smith
Born December 2018

Lochgilhead

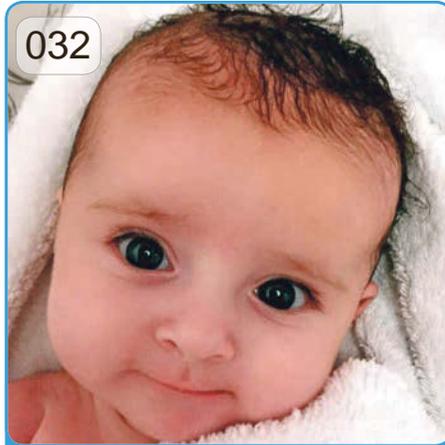
029



Alba McNicholas Smith
Born February 2019

Helensburgh

032



Hollie McMillan
Born October 2018

Oban

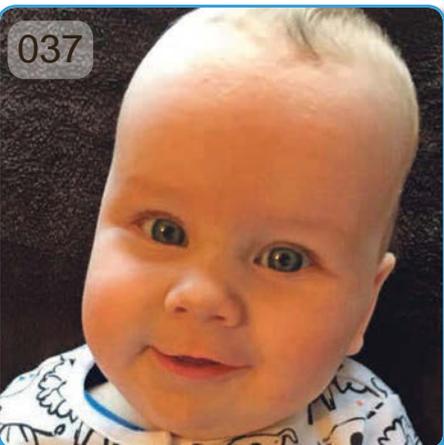
033



James Donald Morrison
Born April 2018

Isle of Islay

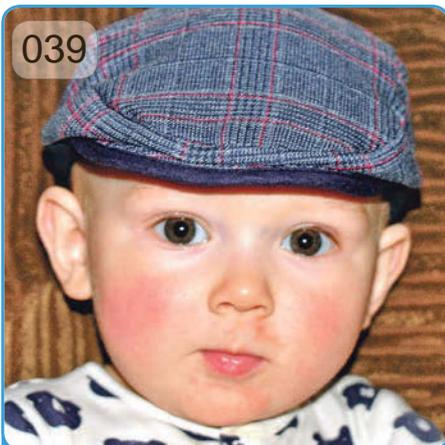
037



Nathan MacKechnie
Born July 2018

Oban

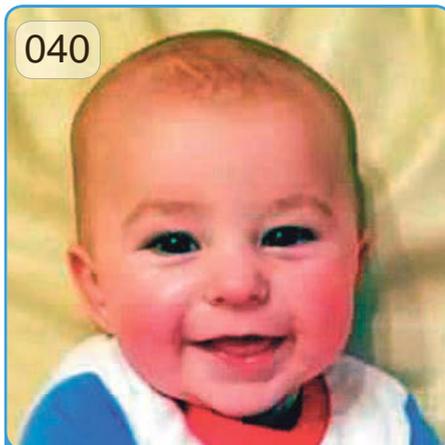
039



Cooper Stewart Cunningham
Born June 2018

Connel

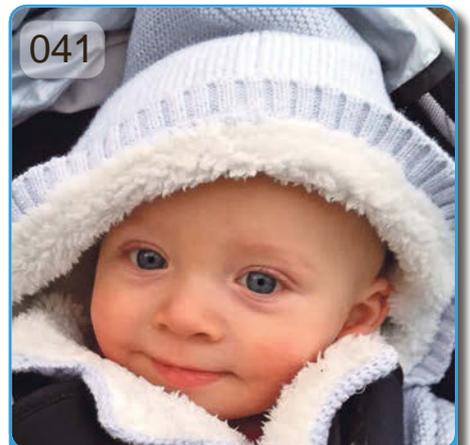
040



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



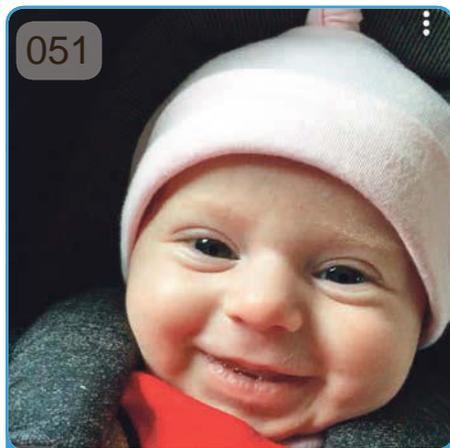
046

Evie Mackinnon
Born July 2017 Oban



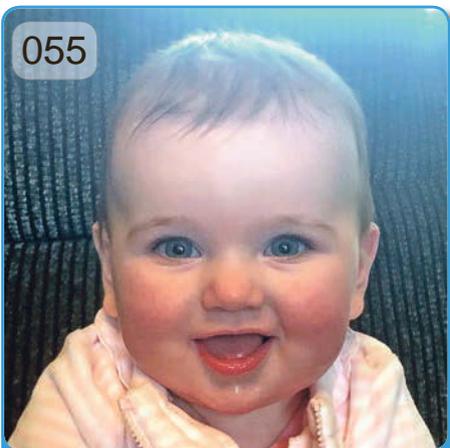
050

Allan Alvadia
Born September 2018 Oban



051

Amelia MacDonald
Born January 2019 Glasgow



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



069

Rowan Ewen Kelly
Born August 2016 Fort William

BONNIE babies competition 2019

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Call for new agricultural policy to meet food production and environmental challenges

NFU Scotland joined WWF Scotland and award-winning crofter Lynn Cassells at the SNP spring conference on Saturday April 27 to highlight the importance of a new agricultural policy post-Brexit that incentivises and rewards agricultural activity and delivers for the environment and climate change.

The panel, chaired by Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy Fergus Ewing MSP, explored opportunities, challenges and benefits of working together to meet future climate change and food production challenges.

NFUS used the opportunity to highlight the proposals in its Steps to Change document, mapping out its vision for a new post-Brexit agricultural policy, which focuses on productivity and financial stability in order to deliver environmental benefits.

WWF discussed the challenges that climate change will bring and the opportunities that exist for Scotland to lead the charge in both reducing our contribution to climate change and using our natural resources to build an

adaptable and resilient food system.

This is the second fringe event that NFU Scotland and WWF Scotland have jointly hosted during this season of party conferences, and follows a similar successful event at the Scottish Labour conference in March.

NFU Scotland director of policy Jonnie Hall said: 'Moving out of the shadow of the CAP, Scotland needs a bold approach to policy which will make Scottish agriculture productive, innovative and, above all, profitable, while delivering the wide range of public benefits around the environment and climate change that are increasingly expected of our farmers and crofters.'

'In NFU Scotland's vision, the three components of a new Scottish agricultural policy – financial stability, productivity and the environment – would work together to enable Scottish agriculture to be more competitive, resilient and profitable.'

'That would allow farmers and crofters to cement their place as the essential first link



Lynn Cassells of award-winning Lynbreck Croft, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy Fergus Ewing, Sheila George, WWF Scotland food and environment policy manager, and NFU Scotland director of policy Jonnie Hall at Saturday's SNP conference.

of a dynamic and fair food and drink supply chain while also providing essential public benefits.'

WWF Scotland food and environment policy manager Dr Sheila George said: 'We're already feeling the impacts of climate change in Scotland and farmers will continue to be at the frontline when facing this challenge.'

'Scottish agriculture can play

a huge role in the fight against climate change, while building resilience, profitability and supporting food production, but it needs support to do so.'

'This means an open dialogue, a focus on finding solutions, and new rural policy that encourages innovation, efficiency and sustainability. We must act urgently, ambitiously and together to rise to the climate challenge.'

Around the markets

LOCHBOISDALE SALE

Monday 22nd April 2019

United Auctions held their annual spring sale at Lochboisdale Auction Mart. A good selection of grazing cattle sold well at levels comparing favourably to prevailing prices at principal mainland centres. Cast Cows also sold well and in keeping with current trends. Sheep of all classes were keenly bid for. Bullocks sold to £960 per head for Limousin Crosses from 15 Ormiclate and to 240 pence per kilo for Aberdeen Angus Cross from 261 Daliburgh levelling out at 204.5 pence per kilo. Limousin Cross Heifers from 15 Ormiclate sold to £840 and Shorthorn Crosses from 20 Balivanich sold to 263 pence per kilo, levelling out at 208.44 pence per kilo. Cast Cows averaged 116.56 pence per kilo, selling to a top of £1100 from 136 Stilligarry.

PRINCIPAL LOTS & PRICES

BULLOCKS
AAx: £880 – 7 Frobost: £810 – 3 Bunavullin.
LIMx: £960 – 15 Ormiclate: £900 – 7 Middlequarter.
SHx: £645 – 20 Balivanich.
SIMx: £830 – 7 Middlequarter.
HEIFERS
AAx: £780 & £700 – 15 Bornish.
BSx: £480 – 20 Balivanich.
LIMx: £840 & £800 – 15 Ormiclate.

SHx: £710 & £680 – 20 Balivanich.
TOP PRICES PER KILO
BULLOCKS
AAx: 240p – 261 Daliburgh: 231p – 3 Bunavullin.
LIMx: £207p – 15 Ormiclate.
SHx: 202p – 20 Balivanich.
SIMx: 202p – 7 Middlequarter.
HEIFERS
AAx: 226p & 219p – 15 Bornish.
LIMx: 229p & 221p – 15 Ormiclate: 216p – 261 Daliburgh.
SHx: 263p, 257p, 242p – 20 Balivanich.
COWS PER HEAD
£1100 – 136 Stilligarry: £970 – 4 Kildonan: £960 – 265 Daliburgh: £910 – 4 Kildonan.
COWS PER KILO
141p – 265 Daliburgh: 136p – 136 Stilligarry: 129p & 126p – 4 Kildonan: 125p – 17 Torlum.
SHEEP
HOGGS
SUFFx: £49 – 409/410 Smerclate.
CROSS
£80 – 6 Milton
BF
£36 – 9 West Gerinish.
EWES
£34 – 9 West Gerinish.
WEDDERS
£39 – 301/324 Kilphedar.
RAMS
£86 – 9 Milton: £78 – 5 Ionad Cheallaidh: £74 – 6 Ormiclate: £70 – 9 West Gerinish.

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Trade body urges householders in Oban to be alert to woodworm this spring



A national trade body is issuing a timely message to householders in Oban to be vigilant to the presence of woodworm.

According to the Property Care Association (PCA), the larvae of woodworm start to bore through timber at this time of year.

Tell-tale signs of an infestation include the appearance of new emergence holes and the dust

– known as frass – which falls from them.

The presence of adult beetles around the home is another indicator.

A spokesperson from the PCA said: "This is the time of year to be vigilant, as adult beetles emerge from timber in the spring and summer.

"Left unchecked, woodworm can damage structural building timbers, furniture and even wooden ornaments.

"Infestations, given time, can even cause structural weakening and, in extreme cases, lead to collapsing timbers within a building.

"If householders think they may have a woodworm problem, the first important step is to ensure it is correctly identified, and then treated accordingly.

"Such works should be highly targeted and carried out by experts. There

are a variety of modern methods of treatment, which are very specialised and should only be undertaken by people who are trained and competent.

"If in doubt, contact a member of the PCA to deal with the issue."

More details on insect infestation, treatment measures and other associated advice can be found at www.property-care.org/lookoutforwoodworm

Financial support must be made available if homelessness proposals are implemented

Responding to the Scottish Government consultation on proposals to suspend local authorities' ability to make local connection referrals and remove the duty to assess for homelessness intentionality, the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) Scotland has called for financial support to help local authorities deal with any increase in demand for housing or support services.

CIH Scotland has welcomed the ambition to tackle homelessness in Scotland and the person-centred approach being taken by the Scottish Government. However, concerns have been raised that the removal of local connection referrals in particular could lead to increased demand in areas where homelessness services are already stretched.

In its response, CIH Scotland also cited concerns from members that removing the current duty for local authorities to carry out intentionality assess-

ments and replacing this with discretionary powers could send the wrong signal to some tenants and result in unintended consequences. In some cases, this could actually hinder progress in supporting tenancy sustainment. CIH Scotland is therefore calling for a review of the current system to better understand how intentionality is being applied, the reasons for variation across Scotland and revision of the current guidance if necessary.

CIH Scotland's policy and practice manager Ashley Campbell said: "Our members are committed to ensuring every person in Scotland has access to a home that meets their needs and the support they need to stay there.

"However, we do have some concerns about how the potential increase in demand in some areas will be addressed by the Scottish Government and would like to see a firm commitment to funding any shortfalls. We know that if we get the approach to

preventing and tackling homelessness right, the long-term savings will far outweigh any short-term costs.

"As well as supporting local authorities to implement new approaches to homelessness, it is essential that the Scottish Government continues to fund new affordable housing at least at current rates beyond 2021. The principle of expanding people's right to a home in the area where they choose to live may not mean much in practice if there are no suitable, affordable homes available."

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16	Renault Scenic Nav DCi	Grey	25,000	£9,950	14	Skoda Rapid TDi	White	27,000	£6,550
66	Dacia Sandero Laureate DCi	Silver	6,000	£8,950	14	Dacia Stepway, LAU. TCe,	Black	25,000	£6,500
66	Renault Clio 1.2 Dyn Nav	White	14,000	£9,750	14	Renault Megan Coupe 1.5 DCi	Blue,	27,000	£6,950
66	Peugeot 208 GTline HDi	Red	14,500	£10,250	13	Renault Megane Dyn DCi Estate	Black	75,000	£5,350
65	Dacia Stepway LAU DCi	White	14,500	£8,500	63	Renault Clio EXP 1.2	White	5,000	£6,250
15	Nissan Micra Visia 1.2	White	24,600	£5,750	63	Toyota Aygo Move	White	32,000	£4,950
15	Peugeot 3008 HDi Allure	Blue	41,000	£9,250	62	BMW Series SPH 1.6	Black	48,000	£8,650
15	Dacia Duster LAU Prime DCi 4x2	Blue	41,000	£8,650	59	Mitsubishi Outlander 2l DCi 4x4		70,000	£6,500
15	Renault Kangoo DCi Van	White	65,000	£6,250	58	Vauxhall Combo Van 1.3 CDTi	Green	68,000	£2,750
64	Renault Clio + Exp	Red	25,000	£7,500	10	Skoda Octavia SE HDi	Grey	70,000	£4,500

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Model shown is Corolla Hybrid Excel 2.0L at £30,085 including optional bi-tone Scarlet Red pearlescent paint at £1,015. Official fuel consumption figures in mpg: Combined: 50.4 – 60.6, CO₂ 89g/km. These are EU tested figures and UK homologated figures will be available prior to the supply of the vehicle. Figures are provided for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption and CO₂ figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results. Fuel consumption and CO₂ produced varies significantly depending on

a number of factors, including the accessories fitted (post-registration), driving style, conditions, speed and vehicle load. All models and grades are certified according to the World Harmonised Light Vehicle Test Procedure (WLTP), which replaces the New European Driving Cycle test procedure (NEDC). All CO₂ figures quoted are NEDC equivalent. This means the CO₂ figures are based on the new WLTP test procedure but calculated (using a standard European calculation method) to allow comparison with the NEDC test procedure and will be used to calculate vehicle tax on first registration. All mpg figures quoted are full WLTP figures. More information can be found by visiting: www.vehicle-certification-agency.gov.uk/fcb/wltp.asp

Prices correct at time of being published. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty, terms and conditions apply. *0% APR Representative only available on new retail orders of Corolla Hybrid between 18th December 2018 and 31st March 2019 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services by 30th June 2019 on a 42 month AccessToyota (PCP) plan with 0%-35% deposit. Toyota Financial Services is a trading name of Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC; registered office Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UZ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time. 8,000 miles per annum, excess miles over contracted charged at 8p per mile. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Participating Toyota Centres. Affordable finance through AccessToyota (PCP). Terms and conditions apply. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty.

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We currently have the following vacancies at our Kishorn build Site.

Site Manager

An opportunity has arisen for a Site Manager to oversee operations on a day to day basis, ensuring that work is completed safely and on time, and within budget, to the right quality standard, for our Aquaculture pens used in salmon farming sites. This is a full-time, permanent post, based at our Kishorn Premises.

Applicants should have experience of managing staff in the construction/production industry or similar, have a good knowledge of current health and safety regulations, be skilled at organizing and solving problems. Interpersonal and mediation skills would also be useful as the candidate will often be the liaison between managers, employees and customers. Experience in Aquaculture, PE pipe welding, project planning, purchasing and logistics would be an advantage. Applicants need to have a full driving licence and experience of Microsoft packages.

Site Technician

An opportunity has arisen for a Site Technician to join our Kishorn build team. Experience in Aquaculture and plastic pens, PE Welding would be an advantage. A Tele-handler licence would be desirable. Applicants need to have a full driving licence.

Salary for the above posts will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. Overnight accommodation may be available in Kishorn when required. Benefits include an employer contributory pension, Cycle to Work Scheme and 27 days holidays plus 4 additional days over the festive period.

Closing date for applications is Friday 10th May 2019. Interested applicants should send their CV with cover letter by email or post to:
Mrs Tracy Cleary, HR Manager, AKVA group Scotland Limited
36F Shore Street, Inverness, IV1 1NF
Tel: 01463 221444
Email: tcleary@akvagroup.com

We require an individual with a Pleasant and Professional Manner to take on the role of **Administration Assistant** in our small but busy office.

A good working knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel are required for this role. Hours are part-time, approximately 16 hours a week.

Please enclose your CV and return by Thursday 9th May 2019 to Box Number 34, c/o The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB.

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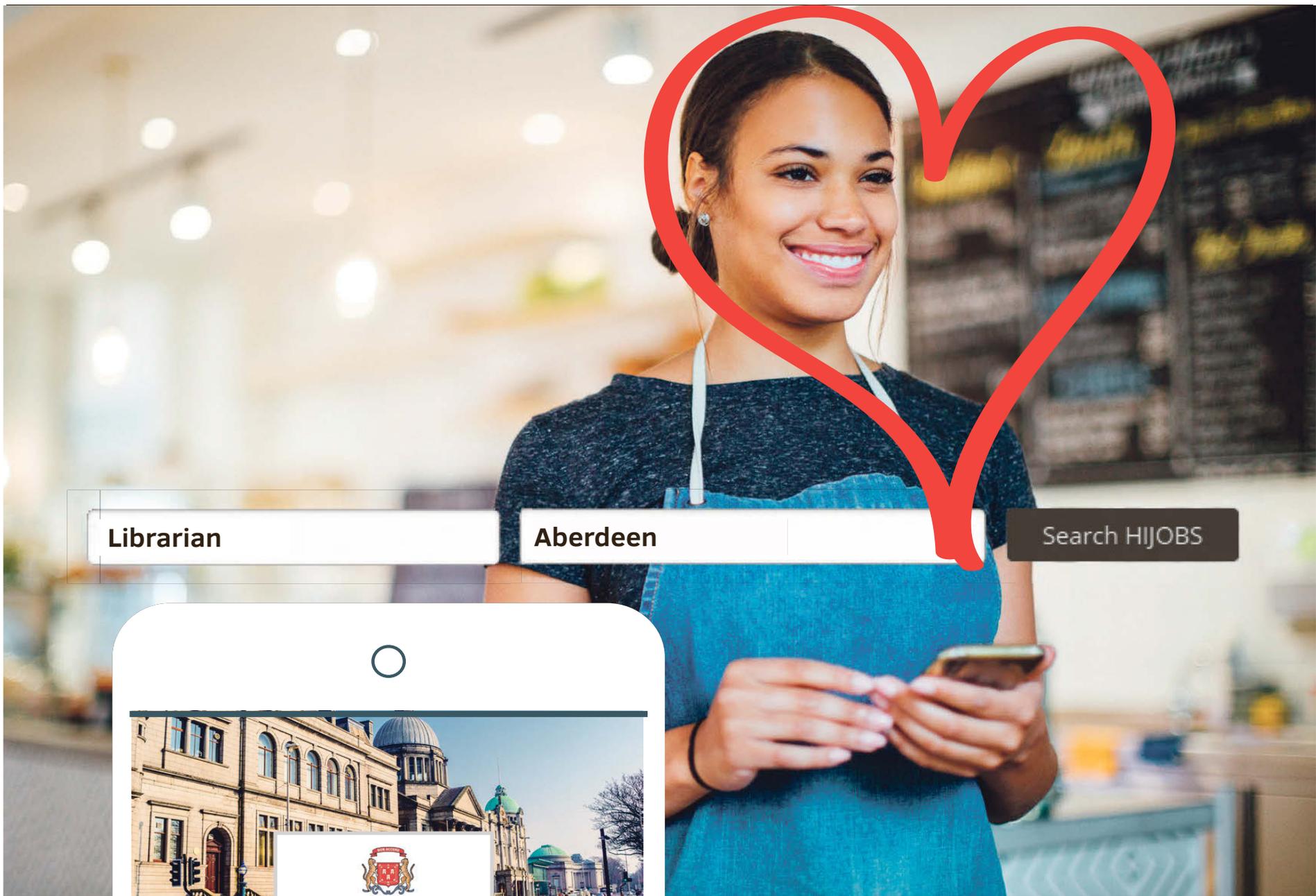


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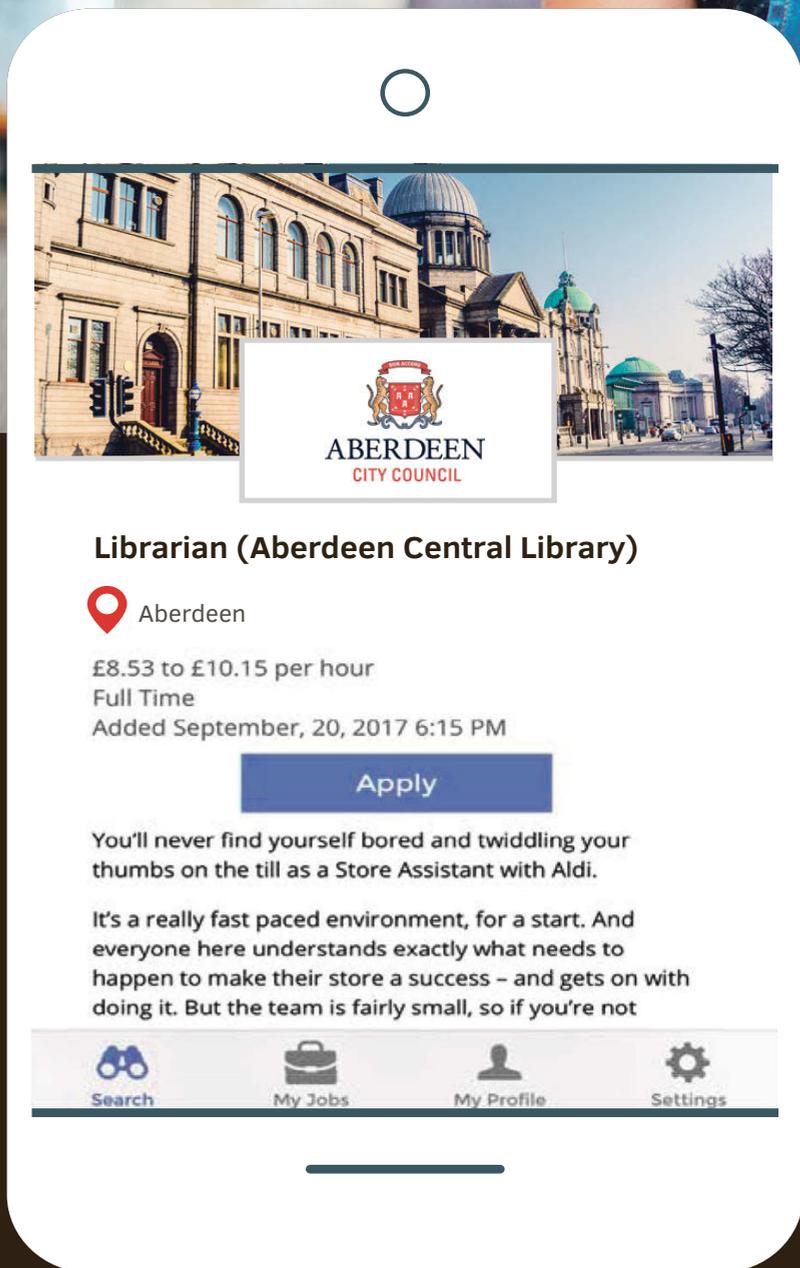
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PROPOSED DIVISION OF A CROFT BY OWNER-OCCUPIER CROFTER

Joseph MacLeod is applying to divide the owner-occupied croft at 12 Shielfoot, Ardnamurch and Sunart into two new crofts.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, info@croftingscotland.gov.uk by May 30, 2019.

PROPOSED LET OF A CROFT

Joseph MacLeod is applying to let the tenancy of the croft at 12 Shielfoot, Ardnamurch and Sunart, to Kirsten MacLeod, of 12 Albert Road, Ballachulish.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, info@gov.scot by May 30, 2019.

PROPOSED LET OF A GRAZING SHARE(S)

Joseph MacLeod is applying to let the tenancy of the grazing share(s) pertaining to the croft at 12 Shielfoot (Share), Ardnamurch and Sunart to Kirsten MacLeod of 12 Albert Road, Ballachulish. Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, e-mail info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk by May 30, 2019.

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.

2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.

3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.

4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.

5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.

6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the

Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.

9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other

charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.

10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.

11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions. Published by Wyvex Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB, Tel: (01631) 568000 www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. http://termsandconditions.wyvexmedia.co.uk



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A85 TRUNK ROAD (OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON USE OF ROAD) ORDER 2019

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order under sections 2(1) and (2), 4(1) and 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, temporarily prohibiting traffic on that length of the A85 Tyndrum - Oban Trunk Road from its junction with Corran Esplanade, Oban in a generally north easterly direction to the junction with Dunollie Road, Oban then in a southwards direction in Dunollie Road and George Street, Oban to its junction with Queen's Park Place, Oban, a distance of 750 metres or thereby.

The Order, which is required to facilitate the holding of the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival Parade and to enable members of the public to watch this event will be in operation from the 4th May until the 5th May 2019. It is anticipated the closure will be for 20 minutes and will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the length of road as is indicated by the appropriate traffic signs.

The Order does not apply to vehicles while being used in an emergency for fire brigade, ambulance, police or coastguard purposes or a vehicle being used for facilitating the holding of the relevant event.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

Alternative routes are not required.

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/road-orders/?roadorderregion=1291>

For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit www.trafficscotland.org.uk

S P DAVIES

A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House,
58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A83 TRUNK ROAD (FURNACE TO CUMLODDEN) (40MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2019

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they propose to make the above speed limit Order under section 84(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 which will have the effect of imposing a 40mph speed limit on that length of the A83 Tarbet - Lochgilphead - Campbeltown Trunk Road from a point 1.242 kilometres or thereby south west of the extended centre line of the junction with the C36 Furnace Side Road to a point 130 metres or thereby south west of the point where that trunk road meets the extended western gable wall of Number 1 Cumlodden Cottages, a distance of 1.558 kilometres or thereby.

Full details of the proposal are contained in the Order which, together with a plan showing the length of road involved and statement of the Scottish Ministers' reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined free of charge during normal business hours from 2 May until 5 June 2019 at the offices of Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF; Argyll & Bute Council, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD and Furnace Village Store, The Cross, Furnace, Inveraray, PA32 8XN.

Any person wishing to object to the proposed Order should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Director of Roads, c/o Scott Danks, Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF quoting reference A83/NW/SD by 5 June 2019.

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/road-orders/?roadorderregion=1291>

A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House,
58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF



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TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A83 TRUNK ROAD (INVERARAY) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF WAITING, LOADING AND UNLOADING) ORDER 2019

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS hereby give notice that they have made the above Order, under sections 2(1) and (2), 4(1) and 14(1)(a) and (4) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, which will have the effect of temporarily prohibiting waiting, loading and unloading on that length of the A83 Tarbet - Lochgilphead - Campbeltown Trunk Road from its junction with the entrance to The Avenue Car Park, Inveraray, in a generally northerly direction in Main Street South, Main Street West, Main Street East, then in a north westerly direction to its junction with Front Street East and Front Street West, a distance of 410 metres or thereby.

The Order, which is required to facilitate works on the trunk road will be in operation from 05th May until 15th May 2019 and will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the length of road as is indicated by the appropriate traffic signs.

The Order does not apply to vehicles while being used in an emergency for fire brigade, ambulance, police or coastguard purposes; or a vehicle being used to carry out the works.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

An alternative route for traffic during the prohibition is not required. A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/road-orders/?roadorderregion=1291>

For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit www.trafficscotland.org.uk

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Argyll and Bute Council

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

REPAIR WORKS TO SLIPWAY, CUAN SLIPWAY, ISLE OF SEIL, ARGYLL

Notice is hereby given that Argyll & Bute Council have applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of repairs to a slipway at:

Cost	£60,000	
Location	Latitude	Longitude
Cuan Slipway, Isle of Seil, Argyll	56° 16.067' N	05° 37.758' W
	56° 16.070' N	05° 37.769' W
	56° 16.098' N	05° 37.748' W
	56° 16.106' N	05° 37.762' W
	56° 16.109' N	05° 37.758' W
	56° 16.105' N	05° 37.745' W
	56° 16.100' N	05° 37.738' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Cuan Slipway Office/Waiting Room.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference: **06871** and **Argyll & Bute Council**.

Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application and, where necessary, be published online, however personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing.

A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot or Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



Argyll and Bute Council

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (STAFFORD STREET, OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2019

On Monday 29th April 2019, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order under Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, which will make it unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle on that length of Stafford Street (adjacent to Oban Distillery), which extends from its junction with George Street (A85 Trunk Road), in an easterly direction for a distance of 50 metres or thereby. Exceptions will apply to any vehicle which is being driven upon the direction or with the permission of a police constable in uniform; or being used in an emergency for fire brigade, ambulance or police purposes. The restrictions which are required to facilitate the Oban Sportive Event shall be effective when indicated by signs, between 0100 hours and 1700 hours on Sunday 12th May 2019.

Alternative Route: There is no alternative route.

Head of Roads and Amenity Services,
1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:
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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
19/00722/PP	Partial demolition, refurbishment and extension of building to form offices and warehouse, erection of shed, cycle shelter, bin store and installation of entrance gates, external lighting, resurfacing and re-positioning of wash bay	Scottish and Southern Energy, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll And Bute
19/00702/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference 15/03188/PP (Change of use of storage building to form dwellinghouse, erection of extensions, alterations to access bellmouth, formation of new driveway and installation of septic tank and soakaway)	Land South Of Craignuek, Benderloch, Oban, Argyll And Bute
19/00754/LIB	Replacement of 10 single glazed timber sash and case turret windows to double glazed windows of the same style and finish	Greystones, Dalriach Road, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 5EQ
19/00774/PP	Alterations and sub division of 1 flat into 2 flats	5 Polfearn House, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute, PA35 1JQ
19/00753/PP	Erection of building and yard (Class 4, 5 and 6), installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land West Of Glenview, Glenevedale, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute
19/00621/PPP	Site for the erection of 2 dwellinghouses	Land North Of Burnside Cottage, Lotts, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute

Notice is hereby given that J And C Reade And Sons has submitted a Masterplan to Argyll and Bute Council in respect of Potential Development Area PDA 6/52 of the Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan 2015. There is a requirement within this PDA for the provision of mixed density mixed housing (50% affordable) development and business and industry development.

A copy of the Masterplan (reference 19/00817MPLAN) may be inspected Monday to Friday during normal opening times at Area Office, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban, or by logging on the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications during the period of 28 days beginning with the date of this notice.

Any person who wishes to make representation to the Council about the Masterplan should make them in writing to Planning, Housing and Regulatory Services, Area Office, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AW before the 30th May 2019.

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
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The Gas (Calculation of Thermal Energy) Regulations 1996

Notice is hereby given that, in pursuance of Regulation 8 of the Gas (Calculation of Thermal Energy) Regulations 1996, the calorific value of natural gas supplied by SGN (formerly known as Scotland Gas Networks) on and after 2 April 2019 shall be set out in the schedule.

Schedule

A calorific value of 39.0 megajoules per cubic metre in the Strathclyde region
Part of the local authority district of Argyll and Bute

Dated 2 April 2019
By authority of SGN



Blast date:
Fri 3rd May 2019
Blast time: 12:00hrs - 14:00hrs
Banavie Quarry

www.highland.gov.uk



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>; electronically at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, CHARLES KENNEDY BUILDING, ACHINTORE ROAD, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6RQ; or electronically at your nearest Council Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
19/00795/FUL	Plot 4, Campbell Road, Banavie	Erection of house
19/01747/FUL	Premier Travel Inn, Airds Way	Erection of an annexe to the hotel to provide additional bedrooms, alterations to car parking, landscaping, and other associated works

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

NEW PRIVATE MOORING, LOCH SUNART

Notice is hereby given that Mr A Fray has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of a new private mooring at:

Location	Latitude	Longitude
Loch Sunart	56° 42.632N	0005° 43.817W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at the village store and Post Office, Main Street, Acharacle PH36 4JL

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference: **06979** and **Mr A Fray**.

Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application and, where necessary, be published online, however personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing.

A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot or Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.

First Registration of a Croft

Gregor Livingstone and Stuart Livingstone has registered their croft Balindore, Ardchattan and Muckkairn on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 19th December 2019.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C5777.

Oban & Lorn Riding for the Disabled

AGM

Monday 27 May 2019
11.00 am
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Antiques and Collectables

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KITKAT TEAPOT Never used. Excellent condition. Made in England, £25 including postage Telephone 01475 726360.

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TWO FRAMED AVRIL PATON PRINTS Avril Paton, Glasgow artist famous for her paintings of Glasgow tenements. Backcourt & the famous, Kissing 25cmx-25cm, £50 Telephone 0330 1136496.

Audio Equipment

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Books

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LOCAL AND SCOTTISH HISTORY Out of print hardback copy of Bygone Lochaber by Somerled MacMillan 1971 Publication/By Davidson/Glasgow. Rare Book, £65 Telephone 0330 1136496.

THE GAELIC NOTES IN THE BOOK OF THE DEER Kenneth Jacksons Hardback copy, historical notes on the famous Book of Deer. This is the Orthography and language. Rare, £70 Telephone 0330 1136496.

Building / DIY

ANGLE GRINDER, £25 Telephone 01586 552834.

DRILL Power Devil, £30

Telephone 01586 552834.
ELECTRIC SAW Black and Decker, £30 Telephone 01586 552834.

HAMMER DRILL JCB rotary, £40 Telephone 01586 552834.

HEAT GUN Black and Decker, £20 Telephone 01586 552834.

JIGSAW Black and Decker, £20 Telephone 01586 552834.

MASONRY CUTTER complete with discs, £50 Telephone 01586 552834.

MITER SAW 350mm, £40 Telephone 01586 552834.

QM82 INVERTER 230 - 240 volts, £60 Telephone 01586 552834.

REPLACEMENT CHIMNEY POTS for older houses, ornate Victorian/Edwardian pots in various sizes and colours, £40 Telephone 01631 564578².

Camping & caravan Equipment

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Domestic Appliances



POWER PET 6 VACUUM CLEANER Vax

2200 watts, 3L capacity, long hose, with attachments, hardly used as I need an upright now.
Campbeltown

£49

Tel 01586 554537

Domestic Pets

COCKER SPANIEL BITCH PUPS FOR SALE 1 x red, 1 x lemon & roan. Both parents from working background. Pups are legally docked and dew clawed, will be microchipped & have first injection. Ready to go

Saturday 27th April.
Location: Isle of Islay, Telephone Please contact 07415652071² for more info.

Garden

60 METERS ROLL DEER FENCE WIRE Unused. 60 mts by 7ft 6 in high. 12 graded grid part of 100 mt roll. Current value 120, sell for. Heavy lift 2 person, £60 Telephone 0330 1136496.



BIG SHED

6m x 3m, wooden clad, double stable door and single stable door, 2.5 years old, perfect condition, can be viewed at Tayinloan.

Telephone 01700 811672 or 07721 383363
£1800

GARDEN VAC Flymo GV 650 Electric Garden Vac/Blower. Hardly used, £15 Telephone 07966 435245.



SCANDANAVIAN CHALET

2m x 2.4m, 3m high (on stilts) wooden clad, 2.5 years old, perfect condition, can be viewed at Tayinloan.

Telephone 01700 811672 or 07721 383363
£1000

SHREDDER Challenge Xtreme FD 2402 electric shredder, £39 Telephone 07966 435245.

VINTAGE CART WHEELS and smaller implement wheels. Colourful garden display items. Prices from £30, Telephone 01631 564578².

VINTAGE CHIMNEY POTS Vintage chimney pots in various sizes and styles, make lovely garden planters. Prices from £40, Telephone 01631 564578².

VINTAGE HAND PLOUGH restored and painted green and red. Will make a fine garden feature. Can deliver, £80 Telephone 01631 564578².

VINTAGE LAWN ROLLERS cast iron and decorative, for working use or colourful garden feature, various sizes from £90, Telephone 01631 564578².

Garden Machinery

HEDGE TRIMMER & GRASS STRIMMER Draper, Petrol 32.5cc, never used, brand new, cost £130 but will sell for, £99.99 Telephone 01397 772052.

Hobbies and Crafts

NEWHOME SEWING MACHINE V.G.C, £60 ono Telephone 07528 769012².

PEARLISED PAPER & CARD, white, blue and pink colours in stock, available in A3/A4/A5 sizes, from 13p per sheet. Contact Krisp Print on 01586 554975.

TOYOTA SEWING MACHINE in good working order, £50 Telephone 07528 769012².

Kitchen

APILCO PORCELAIN 14 PIECE SET Made in France. Black with gold edging. VGC, £35 including postage Telephone 01475 726360.

Lost and Found

FOUND IN CRINAN - SUNDAY 28/04 Ladies Silver Bangle with inscription in Welsh, Telephone 07787 242907.

Miscellaneous

BEEHIVES X 4 Langstroth complete hives, as new condition, two supers each, all frames and excluders included, no bees, £250 ono Telephone 01631 730323.

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BIRTHS

TINDALL - Iain and Fiona (née Wallace) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their daughter Eleanor Rose, on March 18, 2019 at Forth Valley Royal Hospital. Thanks to all of the staff and also everyone at Oban Maternity unit.

ENGAGEMENTS

SCOTT - KEMPSEY - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Angus, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Colum Scott of Kilmore, by Oban and Glenaros, Isle of Mull and Annabel, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Kempsey of Sutton Farm, Claverley, Shropshire.

DEATHS

FAITHFULL - Montague Albert, (Tormore, Fionnphort). Passed away quietly at Marie Curie Hospice, Frogstone, Edinburgh on April 16, 2019, aged 92. A devoted husband to the late Joan, and dad to John and David, playful grandfather to Alec and Annusha, and fond friend to their mothers Cath and Devika. An inspiring teacher, and lifelong seeker after truth. A celebration of his life will be held at Lorimer Chapel, Warriston Crematorium, Edinburgh, on Tuesday, May 14, at 12 noon. No flowers please, but donations to charities of your choice appreciated.

HILL - Peacefully at home on April 28, 2019, after a short illness, Linda Hill, loved and missed by Gordon, Alex, Siobhan, Colline, Gracie, Daniel, Flora and Norrie. Funeral will take place at Cardross Crematorium, Main Road, Cardross on Tuesday, May 7 at 12.15 pm. Retiring collection/donations if desired for The RDA, Oban.

HUTCHISON - Suddenly on April 26, 2019 at her home in Caol, Fort William, Ena Clark (née MacInnes), dearest mother of Stephen and Caroline, treasured granny of Carrie, Cheryl, Vicky, Emma and Connor, loving sister and aunty xx

MACCALLUM - Alistair (Ally). (Formerly Glenfinlas, Brig O' Turk). After a long illness at Borders General Hospital on Sunday, April 28, 2019, Alistair, aged 94 years, sadly missed by Nanny and family. Cremation service at Borders Crematorium, Melrose on Thursday, May 9 at 1.00pm to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please.

MACLEAN - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on April 25, 2019, after a long illness, Eric MacLean (Electrician), beloved son of the late Sarah and Jackie MacLean (Lighthouse Keeper), a dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle, a good friend to many. Funeral service will take place from Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Breadalbane Street, Oban on Wednesday, May 8 at 1.00 pm. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for Hope Kitchen Oban.

McPHEE - Suddenly at her home, on April 24, 2019, Bessie McPhee (née Muirden), aged 78 years, of 1 Cairnbaan Cottages, Cairnbaan, by Lochgilphead, beloved wife of the late Neil McPhee, much loved mother of Douglas and May, loving granny of Neil, Stuart, Iona and Callum and a dear mother-in-law, sister, aunt and cousin to all the family. A good neighbour, dear friend and former work colleague to many. Funeral service will be held in Lochgilphead Parish Church, on Friday, May 3, 2019 at 12.00 noon, thereafter to Achabreac Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations to Ardfenaig Residential Home Comfort Fund.

WALLACE (Dingwall/Corpach) - Peacefully at home on Tuesday April 23, 2019, Iris aged 68 years, beloved wife of Jimmy, loving mother to Jason and Lisa and a dear granny of Lexy and Struan and younger sister of Elizabeth. Funeral service at Inverness Crematorium on Friday May 3, 2019 at 2pm. Family flowers only please. Donations, if so desired, may be given at the service for CLAN Haven Aberdeen. All family and friends are respectfully invited.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMPBELL - Marie, peacefully at the Belford Hospital on April 5, 2019. All the family would like to express their gratitude to all family, friends and neighbours from near and far for their kindness and support following the loss of our mum, grandmother and great-grandmother for all the cards, letters, flowers and phone calls and expressions of sympathy shown. A very big thank you to the Belford Hospital for their care and kindness and attention given from the doctors and all the nurses, McFall Funeral Directors for all their help, support and professional care, McDonald Bros Florist, for their beautiful flowers and arrangements. Dr Calder and Dr Wilmington at Ballachulish Medical Practice for their care over the years, to Jimmy Forsyth for the organ music, Joan Fullerton, Marie MacLachlan and Christine Garwood for all their help before and during the service, not to forget Father Basil, St. Mun's RC Church, Ballachulish for conducting the funeral service and to everyone who attended on the day. Donations of £496.90 will be split between Macmillan Nurses, Lochaber and Belford Hospital.

McCRACKEN - Lorna, Catherine and Scott would like to thank everyone for cards, flowers, baking and phone calls received following the very sudden passing of Graeme. Special thanks to Oban Airport staff and Oban Fire Service for the overwhelming send off, also to Michael and Struan and Donald MacKinnon for the beautiful service, to Justine, Ian MacInnes and Royal Hotel and to everyone who travelled from near and far to be with us. A very generous donation was raised for the Family Support Trust. Thank you all. God Bless.

McLACHLAN - Stuart and family would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for the support and messages of sympathy following the recent sad loss of Annie. Our special thanks go to all the doctors, nurses and care team at the Lorn Medical Centre for their care and attention, to Matthew Ramsay for a comforting and personal service and to all who attended, to David McEwan for the lovely music, to the Argyll Arms Hotel for the excellent

purvey, and to Kenny and staff at T A Blair for the caring and professional services and advice. The sum of £574.60 was raised for Macmillan Nurses Oban and Marie Curie.

MEMORIALS

DEMPSTER - In everlasting memory of a much loved husband, father and pappy Donald John, who passed away April 30, 2011, also remembering with love Robert and John Dempster.

You have crossed the flowing river
To the land that's evergreen
How we long to see you
But the river runs between
Sadly missed.

- Jessie, John, Marie, Cathy and Donald John.

DOWNIE - Alister, husband, father and grandfather, who died May 2, 1999.

Twenty years have passed
Still loved and remembered.

- The Downie and McLean families.

JOHNSTON - In loving memory of George, who died on May 3, 1989.

Treasured memories.
- Your loving family x

MACKECHNIE - In loving memory of our dear parents John, died April 29, 1972 at Kilmalieu and Catherine, died March 6, 1953.

The flower we lay upon your grave
may wither and decay
But our love for you who sleeps
beneath will never fade away.

- Inserted by their family.

McAFFER - Fondest memories of a dear uncle John, who passed away May 4, 2009. Also remembering a dear mother and granny Annie, who passed away May 15, 1990. Loved and remembered every day.

- Dugie, Teen, Angela and Alexander.

McGILLIVRAY - Treasured memories of a dear husband, Don, who died May 3, 2016.

There are no tomorrows for us to share
But yesterday's memories are
always there.

-Sheena and family, Fort William.
RUSSELL - In memory of Martin Donald, loving son, brother, uncle and friend, passed away May 1, 2012. Cherished memories of your compassion and gentle nature
Always in our hearts.

- Mum, Dad, Rachael, William and the boys.

SINCLAIR - Achaleven Farm. Treasured memories of dear grandparents Donald, who died March 21, 1985 and Duncan, who died May 6, 2003. Although you can't be here with us We are truly not apart
Until the final breath we take
You're always in our hearts.
- Your loving grandchildren and all the family xxx

TAYLOR - Remembering always with love my darling husband William, who passed away May 5, 1992.

I will never cease to miss you
As the years may come and go
You will live with me forever
Because I loved you so.
- Violet.

TAYLOR - Cherished memories of a loving dad and grandpa William, who passed away on May 5, 1992.

To us he was so special
Someone set apart
His memory will live forever
Engraved within our hearts.
- Shaun, Tony, Steven and families.

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Malcolm Wright, chief executive NHS Scotland, Boyd Robertson, chairman of NHS Highland (interim), Cabinet Secretary Jeane Freeman, Iain Stewart, chief executive NHS Highland.

Cabinet Secretary holds NHS Highland annual review

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport Jeane Freeman has undertaken NHS Highland's annual review.

Ms Freeman joined new NHS Highland chief executive Iain Stewart, interim chairman Professor Boyd Robertson and other senior members of the NHS Highland team to reflect on the health board's successes and some of its challenges in the year to March 31.

Ms Freeman said: 'I was pleased to be able to attend the annual review, and to meet patients and members of staff and hear their views. I would particularly like to thank all

the staff for their hard work and dedication over the past year.

'There is a new senior management team in place in Highland and this was an opportunity for me to hear about their plans to take the board forward and meet the challenges NHS Highland faces, and to continue to deliver an excellent level of care for everyone across the region.'

Professor Robertson said: 'It is clear that there is a lot of excellent work being done by our people in NHS Highland. I am especially impressed by the many service redesign

initiatives, such as NHS Near Me, which makes it easier for patients living in remote and rural parts of the Highlands to access appointments.

'There have also been some welcome improvements in the way we are dealing with waiting times and, although there is more to be done, the trend is encouraging.

'Utilising technology was a constant theme throughout the day and it's reassuring that we're leading the way in thinking outside of the box to deliver services to our patients.'

Mr Stewart added: 'This

is a time of change for NHS Highland. As we celebrate the very many examples of excellent health care delivered by our board over the past year, we also need to recognise that we are facing some considerable challenges in balancing the needs of such as large and diverse area with the financial and other resources available to us.

'As we look to the future, we intend to focus upon delivering first-class care to all of our people in the Highlands and Argyll and Bute and, at the same time, balancing our books and making sure that

everyone providing that care feels valued, respected and listened to.

'Our geography presents us with unique challenges and it is encouraging to emphasise that innovation and research is at the heart of how we address these issues.

'I would like to thank all of our 10,500 dedicated staff who work tirelessly day after day to deliver high-quality health and social care services. We are eternally grateful for their diligence and we are committed to supporting them to develop services across Highland.'

THOUGHT for the week

It is often said that the opposite of faith is doubt. This is untrue.

The reality is that the opposite of faith is fundamentalism. For in fundamentalism there is no space for contrary opinions, ideas, practices or ways of life.

The fundamentalist cannot cope with people who disagree – and so in their opinion others are unworthy, dangerous and no great loss if they are consigned to hell.

In Sri Lanka, we saw a fundamentalist walk to the front of a church on Easter Sunday, just when the children all came out for a talk. Then he detonated his backpack, murdering wee boys and girls.

A flawed, weak faith cannot cope with people who disagree – so it retreats into fundamentalism.

A strong faith can cope with all sorts of challenges, new understandings and ways people live. Further, it is important to realise that fundamentalism is not restricted to religion.

Stalin was a fundamentalist atheist who killed countless Christians directly and indirectly in his terror.

Simply, people and movements, whether political, social or religious, can all be prone to fundamentalist tendencies.

Perhaps we can all help nip things in the bud by not demonising those with whom we disagree, by tempering our language and acting kindly. This is simple to say, and hugely difficult to do.

The death and resurrection of Christ shows us the Way.

Rev Dugald Cameron
(Kilmore and Oban)

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First league win for red a

Newtonmore and Inveraray made cup progress and Lovat lead shinty's top flight again following the shinty action on Saturday April 27.

Mowi Premiership

Kilmallie 1

Oban Camanachd 3

After two draws from four matches, Oban Camanachd recorded their first league win of the season, beat-

ing Kilmallie 3-1 at Canal Parks.

Kilmallie's Martin Stewart started a two-match ban following his red card against Kinlochshiel the previous weekend. Boss John Stewart played Michael Rodger in attack where he joined Liam MacDonald in the full forward positions.

Oban Camanachd's Gary McKerracher missed out as he completed his two-game suspension. Manager Stephen Sloss was also without Aidan MacIntyre, Chrissie MacMillan, Scott McKillop, David Lafferty, Willie Neilson and Keith MacMillan. Lennon Campbell, Ross Campbell and Craig Easton made up the visiting bench.

Oban Camanachd's opener came on 35 minutes when Daniel MacVicar, at full stretch around the penalty spot, played on a long Daniel Madej free-hit to Daniel Cameron on the left whose snap-shot beat home keeper Shane Gillies.

Daniel MacVicar added a second three minutes later. Another long ball, this time from Scott MacMillan, saw Craig MacDougall, Daniel Cameron and Andrew MacCuish combine to press the Kilmallie defence, preventing them from clearing the danger, and when the ball broke to Daniel MacVicar, he tucked it home from outside the 'D'.

The game was flowing from end to end in the second half when Kilmallie pulled a goal back. Home substitute Daniel Stewart capitalised on a defensive lapse from Oban Camanachd full back Daniel Madej, his only mistake of the game, and Stewart fired home a great shot to make it 2-1 with 71 minutes gone.

Kilmallie's chances of getting a leveller suffered a blow when skipper Liam MacDonald, who had earlier been booked, received his marching orders for lashing out at Oban Camanachd defender Daniel Sloss who was grounded at the time. A melee followed, with others fortunate not to receive the referee's attention, before the man in black Martin MacLean restored order.

Andrew MacCuish sealed the win four minutes from time, scoring on the turn, low and hard into the net, to make it 3-1.

A couple of minutes later, Andrew MacCuish took a heavy blow as he shielded the ball in the corner and had to come off, with Lennon Campbell coming on in his place.

Defender Daniel Sloss and Daniel Cameron up front were best for the Oban side.

Oban Camanachd assistant manager Kenny Wotherspoon was pleased with the win. He added: 'We need to build on this win and we desperately need the guys carrying niggling injuries to return to boost our numbers. Col Glen will be tough opponents this week and we'll have to put in a good performance against them. It would be good to have players back for that game and for Caberfeidh in the league the week after.'



Kilmallie's Liam Cameron tackles Oban Camanachd's Scott MacMillan.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Kinlochshiel 2

Kyles Athletic 2

Kinlochshiel twice came from behind to draw 2-2 with Kyles Athletic in their re-arranged league match at Kirkton.

The visitors, playing up the slope, got off to a terrific start after 30 seconds. Referee Archie Ritchie penalised Kinlochshiel centre Donald Nixon for jumping at the throw-up. When the resultant free-hit was played into the home danger area, keeper Stuart MacRae's clearance came off Colin MacDonald on the left and Thomas Whyte took the ball across goal before finding Robbie MacLeod who lifted a shot from the right into the net.

The goal rocked Kinlochshiel and they took time to settle, soaking up pressure before eventually levelling on 26 minutes. Duncan Matheson found Scott MacLean with a low ball down the middle and, as he was falling forward, MacLean slipped the ball to Keith MacRae who hammered home a shot from the right.

Kinlochshiel immediately replaced MacLean with John MacRae whilst, 11 minutes later, Scott MacDonald took over from Ross MacRae for Kyles.

It took a smart Stuart MacRae save to prevent Thomas Whyte putting Kyles back in front and the Kinlochshiel custodian also did well to deny Scott MacDonald from the re-bound.

With four first half minutes remaining, the visitors thought they had regained the lead. Thomas Whyte played a short free-hit to Colin MacDonald who netted but referee Archie Ritchie ruled the players weren't the required distance when the ball was played.

Kinlochshiel almost went in front when Duncan 'DA' MacRae's long hit-in from the left fell for Keith MacRae. But his snap-shot from a central position was brilliantly saved, high to his right with his

caman, by Kyles keeper John Whyte. Whilst Kyles took the initiative from the start of the first half, Kinlochshiel almost did likewise from the re-start. Ali Nixon thumped a hit-in from the right goalwards and Jordan Fraser latched onto the ball but Roddy Macdonald did just enough to ensure the ball went wide.

Kyles went back on the attack and forced a series of corners before Scott MacDonald put them back in front on 57 minutes. Robbie MacLeod's initial shot was saved by Stuart MacRae but the lively MacDonald was quickly in to turn home the rebound.

Kinlochshiel brought Duncan 'WD' MacRae on for wing centre Ali Nixon midway through the second half whilst Kyles replaced full forward Colin MacDonald with George Thomson.

Thomson almost made an immediate impact, turning home a cut-back but it was deemed the ball had just gone out of play off a home defender before the strike so Kyles had to settle for a corner.

Jordan Fraser's shot from the Kinlochshiel right went wide of the far post before Fraser limped off with Scott MacLean returning to the fray.

A great strike from George Thomson went just over the junction between bar and post, on the keeper's right, as the match moved into the closing stages.

To the delight of the home support, Kinlochshiel drew level for a second time with five minutes remaining. Conor Cormack, who was terrific throughout, launched the ball forward from just inside his own half on the right. With keeper John Whyte, defender Neil MacVicar, who had a fine game, and forward Keith MacRae all drawn to the ball, it took a wicked bounce on the fiery surface and ended up in the back of the net.

Kingussie 0 Lovat 3

Lovat replaced Kingussie at the top of the table as they beat Kingussie 3-0 at the Dell.

Greg Matheson fired Lovat ahead just after three minutes. Matheson anticipated that a long ball from midfield would drop over the home defence and he was in the right place to touch the ball into the net.

Marc MacLachlan made it 2-0 on five minutes when he collected the ball around 25 yards from goal and ran in an arc to the right before sending a sweet strike past Rory MacGregor in the home goal.

Greg Matheson got his second and Lovat's third on 65 minutes. Lewis Tawse prevented the Kingussie defence from clearing their lines and the ball came to Matheson with his back to goal. He spun and hit the ball in one movement, sending it bulleting into the net before the keeper could move.

Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup – quarter final

Inveraray w/o v Taynuilt

Premiership side Inveraray were given a walk-over into the Scottish Sea Farms Glasgow Celtic Society Cup semi-finals when Taynuilt from South 1 were unable to raise a team for their match at the Winterton.

Inveraray now travel to face Oban Camanachd in the semi-finals on Saturday May 18.

Glasgow Mid Argyll host Kyles Athletic in the other semi-final.

cottages.com MacTavish Cup – quarter-final

Newtonmore 6 Caberfeidh 2

Holders Newtonmore reached the semi-finals by beating Caberfeidh 6-2 at the Eilan.

Iain Robinson followed up his hat-trick against Lochaber the previous week with an early double on 19 and 24 minutes. His first came when Glen MacKintosh did well to retain possession on the left and found Evan Menzies. Caberfeidh keeper Ewan Pilcher saved Menzies' low shot, but his clearance was blocked by Robinson who swept the ball home.

The same players combined five minutes later. Robinson won the ball in midfield and found Menzies on the left who played the ball down the line to Glen MacKintosh. Robinson had continued his run forward and had to veer his run to the right to get onto MacKintosh's low cross and he finished in style with a low shot across the keeper.

Glen MacKintosh made it 3-0 on 35 minutes. Menzies touched a ball forward to MacKintosh who took

Fixtures

Saturday May 4

Artemis Macaulay Cup

First round

Aberdour v Glasgow Mid Argyll

David Mitchell

Bute v Oban Celtic

Robert Baxter

Col Glen v Oban Camanachd

Graham Fisher

Inveraray v Kyles Athletic

Ross Brown - 4pm

Caberfeidh v Skye

Brian MacKay - 3pm

Kilmallie v Newtonmore

Des McNulty - 3pm

Kinlochshiel v Lovat

Deek Cameron

Lochaber v Kingussie

Graham Cameron

Liberty British Aluminium

Balliemore Cup first round

Taynuilt v Aberdeen University

Lachie Wood

Sutherland Cup second round

Newtonmore v Kinlochshiel

Archie Ritchie

Inveraray v Glenurquhart

Lucy McNulty - 1pm

Skye v Lochside Rovers

Callum Duff

Glasgow Mid Argyll v Lovat

John Angus Gillies

Boleskine v Kingussie

Steven MacLachlan

Caberfeidh v Strathglass

Andy MacLean - noon

Strathspey v Kyles Athletic

Martin MacLean - 1.30pm

Bullough Cup first round

English SA v Ballachulish

Euan Pearson

Noon throw-up at St Andrews.

Mowi National Division

Strathglass v Beaulay

Calum Girvan

Mowi North Division 1

Fort William v Inverness

Alex MacVicar

Mowi North Division 2

Kilmallie v Inverness

Ronnie Campbell - noon

Mowi South Division 2

Glenorchy v Oban Celtic

Neil MacDonald

Kilmory v Aberdour

Iain Kennedy - 2pm

All throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated.

nd blacks

Results

Saturday April 27

Cottages.com MacTavish Cup Second round

Newtonmore 6 v 2 Caberfeidh

Scottish Sea Farms

Glasgow Celtic Society Cup Second round

Inveraray P v P Taynuilt
Taynuilt unable to field a team,
walk-over to Inveraray

Liberty British Aluminium Balliemore Cup first round

Fort William 3 v 0 Oban Celtic
Aberdour 4 v 1 Beauly
Glenurquhart 7 v 2 Glengarry
Bute 6 v 0 Ballachulish
Glasgow Mid Argyll 2 v 0 Skye
Col Glen 0 v 4 Strathglass

Strathdearn Cup Preliminary round

Lovat 6 v 1 Lewis

Mowi Premiership

Kinlochshiel 2 v 2 Kyles Athletic
Kilmallie 1 v 3 Oban Camanachd
Kingussie 0 v 3 Lovat

Mowi North Division 1

Caberfeidh 0 v 3 Fort William
Glenurquhart 0 v 4 Newtonmore
Inverness 3 v 3 Skye
Kingussie 5 v 0 Kinlochshiel

Mowi South Division 1

Glasgow MA 3 v 2 Inveraray
Kyles Athletic 2 v 1 Tayforth

Mowi North Division 2

Lochcarron 3 v 1 Kilmallie
Strathspey 3 v 3 Boleskine

Mowi South Division 2

Ardnamurchan 0 v 9 Glenorchy
Bute 2 v 3 Aberdour
Oban Celtic 1 v 2 Kilmory

Liberty British Aluminium Balliemore Cup – first round

Fort William 3 Oban Celtic 0

Arran MacPhee made the difference as Fort William beat Oban Celtic 3-0 at An Aird.

Fort William's Mark Grant was free of his two-game suspension, but JD MacMaster missed out with a hand injury. Oban Celtic's Ross MacMillan served the second game of his three match ban. Rory Bruce was still missing and Andy MacDonald was sidelined after suffering a calf injury in training. Peter Currie was back to boost the squad though and started.

The visitors created a couple of early chances. Daniel MacMillan had a rasping shot on 18 minutes which keeper Paul MacKay did well to get his stick to with the ball coming back off the post.

Continued on page 60

the ball wide on the left before firing low across the keeper's outstretched left foot.

Ewan Pilcher made an excellent save from Michael Russell's strike from distance three minutes into the second half. As the ball came back out to Russell, he passed to Evan Menzies in a central position who lashed the ball home to make it 4-0.

Evan Menzies got his second on 57 minutes.

Iain Robinson and Glen MacKintosh combined and when the ball came to Menzies on the edge of the 'D', he took a touch before scoring.

Robbie Brindle pulled a goal back on 64 minutes, finishing well as the ball broke to him just outside the 'D'.

Craig Morrison crashed a penalty into the top corner of the net on 81 minutes, beating keeper Kenny Ross on his left side, after referee Calum Girvan penalised the goalie for kicking the ball away.

Glen MacKintosh had the final say when he made it 6-2 a minute from time. MacKintosh volleyed home Evan Menzies' flick on from the left of the 'D'.



Oban Celtic's Ally McKerracher shields the ball from Fort William's Lachie Shaw during last weekend's Liberty Aluminium Balliemore Cup tie at An Aird. 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 Campbelltown Courier, Main Street, Campbelltown; The Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead or the Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

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The two entries who got nearest the ball and each receive £25 are:

- V McNab
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- F Mackie
Lunga Road, Oban

Continued from page 59

Ally McKerracher then went through and it took another good MacKay save to keep the match scoreless.

Fort William took the lead on 27 minutes. Arran MacPhee cut in from left to get onto a Lachie Shaw ball and MacPhee blasted home.

Ally McKerracher squeezed an effort past the post at the other end and it remained 1-0 until the break.

Another well-struck Arran MacPhee shot made it 2-0 10 minutes into the second half.

Arran MacPhee completed his hat-trick on 69 minutes. The home forward lines' persistence prevented the Oban Celtic defence from clearing their lines and, when the ball broke to MacPhee around 15 yards out, he made no mistake.

Oban Celtic's Neil Carmichael picked up a groin strain and finished the game playing full forward.

Whilst Arran MacPhee's treble was significant, Fort William youngster Lachie Shaw had a terrific game and was unplayable at times.

This was a good game, with good shinty on display from both teams, keeping the An Aird crowd entertained throughout.

After the match, Oban Celtic assistant manager Les Kinvig said: "This was a marked improvement on how we played against Fort William in the league a few weeks ago and that's what we've asked of the players."

"We competed all over the park and both keepers had plenty work to do. With a rub of the green, we could have taken something from the game."

"We hope to have Rory Bruce back for the trip to Bute in the Macaulay this Saturday but the tie might be too early for Andy MacDonald."

**Glasgow Mid Argyll 2
Skye Camanachd 0**

Glasgow Mid Argyll scored a goal in each half to beat Skye Camanachd 2-0 in their 3pm throw-up at Yoker.

With the first half drawing to a close, Calum McLay neatly converted a re-bound, after keeper Morrison had initially saved from Garry Luke, to give the hosts the lead on 41 minutes.

Oliver MacRae sealed GMA's passage to the next round with a well-taken, low finish after winning possession on 59 minutes.

Glasgow Mid Argyll now travel to face Tainuilt or Aberdeen University, who play their tie this Saturday, in the Balliemore Cup quarter-finals on Saturday May 25.

**Bute 6
Ballachulish 0**

Bute were too strong for Ballachulish, winning 6-0

in their 3pm throw-up at the Meadows.

Ian McDonald gave Bute the lead on 15 minutes and William Boag added a brace on 20 and 25 minutes, either side of a John MacCallum effort on 24 minutes.

William Boag completed his hat-trick five minutes into the second half and Craig Fisher got the sixth on 75 minutes.

Next up for Bute is a home tie against Fort William.

**Aberdour 4
Beaully 1**

Mowi South 1 side Aberdour pulled off the shock of the round as they beat National Division opponents Beaully 4-1 at Silversands.

David MacKenzie and Angus Thorburn scored twice for the hosts, with Jack MacDonald countering.

**Col Glen 0
Strathglass 4**

Strathglass scored two early goals to extinguish any chance of a cup shock against Col Glen at Glendaruel.

Scott Douglas did the damage, striking on four and eight minutes, before completing his hat-trick on the half-hour.

Ruari Strachan made it 4-0 five minutes before half-time.

Strathglass are at home in the next round against Inverness who got a first round bye.

**Glenurquhart 7
Glengarry 2**

Glenurquhart were too strong for Glengarry, winning 7-2 in their 3pm throw-up at Blairbeg.

The hosts were without injured trio Ally MacKintosh, Calum Smith and Michael Brady, whilst Neale Reid started on the bench. Glenurquhart defender Lachie Smith was also unavailable and he will also miss his side's next match after passing through the disciplinary points threshold.

Glengarry had already lost 4-2 to Glenurquhart's second team in a Mowi North Division 1 match this term and they were without influential skipper Rhuairaidh MacDonald who served a one-match ban.

However, Glengarry shocked their hosts when they took the lead on 10 minutes. Referee John Wood played advantage as Glenurquhart full back John Barr appeared to 'kick' the ball and Nick Dalgety swept it into the net.

James MacPherson drew Glenurquhart level on 14 minutes, scoring from the narrowest of angles after good lead-up play from Oliver Black and Connor Golabek.

MacPherson sent a rasping drive into the net on 34 minutes before Connor Golabek tapped home on 40 minutes to make it 3-1 at the break.



Lovat's Jennifer Mair with Kinlochshiel's Maree Mackenzie in action during their Mowi North Division Two match at the weekend. Photograph: Neil Paterson.

James MacPherson converted a penalty to complete his hat-trick on 48 minutes and Connor Golabek got his second three minutes later.

Nick Dalgety got his second to make it 5-2 on 73 minutes but a hat-trick goal from Connor Golabek on 78 minutes and a fourth from James MacPherson a minute later rounded off the 7-2 win.

Glenurquhart have home advantage in the last eight against Aberdour.

**Strathdearn Cup –
preliminary round****Lovat 6
Lewis Camanachd 1**

The Lovat second team scored five times in the second half to beat Lewis Camanachd 6-1 in their 1pm throw-up at Balgate.

**Mowi North
Division 1****Caberfeidh 0
Fort William 3**

The Caberfeidh colts went into their match against the Fort William colts at Castle Leod a point clear of Glengarry and the Lovat reserves at the top of the table.

Caberfeidh had Scott MacPhail at full back and Stuart Kryzanowski in attack, whilst Fort William duo David Wright and Duncan Stevenson were suspended.

Both teams had picked up good results of late so this was a much anticipated game.

Fort William got off to a great start as Davie Duncan won possession on the left and played the ball across the defence where Grant Disher hit a low drive which beat keeper Iain McCall inside his

left post. Fort William created a good chance on 10 minutes when Davie Duncan again won the ball and found young Victor Smith, but his 20-yard shot went over the bar.

At the other end, Stewart Kryzanowski passed up a great chance five minutes later when he broke free 15 yards from goal but his shot went past keeper Stuart Disher's right post.

Kryzanowski again found space 20 yards out but he failed to hit the target.

There was a great battle between Finlay Coleman and Davie Duncan throughout the first half and, with Sean Cameron influential in midfield along with the experienced Neil Clark, Fort William took their one-goal advantage into the break.

The pattern of play remained unchanged in the second half and, on 49 minutes, Sean Cameron found Donnie Walker, who had swapped positions with wing forward Davie Duncan because of a shoulder injury. Walker crossed from the left and Grant Disher sent the ball over the keeper and his second goal of the game made it 2-0.

Fort William went in search of a third and Victor Smith played a good one-two with Greig Kelly before shooting wide from 18 yards.

Caberfeidh created two good chances to get back in the game. The first was a neat passing move between Stewart Kryzanowski and Ruairaidh MacLennan and the latter's shot was cleared off the line by Kyle Grant who played well as part of a solid Fort William defensive unit.

John Ritchie was picked out in the clear 14 yards from goal and he knocked the ball into

the 'D' where MacLennan looked set to score but Sean Cameron nipped in to clear the danger.

Greig Kelly put the outcome beyond doubt on 80 minutes when he fired Fort William's third goal past a helpless McCall in the home goal.

This was a fine Fort William performance, with Davie Duncan man of the match, followed closely by the experienced Sean Cameron.

Caberfeidh played well in stages but were not clinical enough in front of goal.

Finlay Coleman did well at right wing back, whilst Ruairaidh MacLennan worked hard throughout the 90 minutes.

Elsewhere, the Kingussie seconds beat the Kinlochshiel seconds 5-0 at the Dell, the Newtonmore reserves maintained their 100 per cent record with a 4-0 win over the Glenurquhart reserves at Blairbeg and the Inverness first team and the Skye seconds drew 3-3 at Bught Park.

**Marine Harvest
South Division 1**

The Glasgow Mid Argyll seconds edged out the Inveraray seconds 3-2 in their 12.30pm throw-up at Yoker and the Kyles Athletic colts beat Tayforth 2-1 at Tighnabruach.

**Marine Harvest
North Division 2**

League leaders Lochcarron made it five wins out of five, maintaining their perfect start to the league season, as they beat the Kilmallie reserves 3-1 at Battery Park, whilst Strathspey Camanachd drew 3-3 with Boleskine at Grantown Grammar School.

**Mowi South
Division 2
Oban Celtic 1
Kilmory 2**

The Oban Celtic second team gave a good account of themselves before going down 2-1 against second-placed Kilmory at Ganavan.

Fulton Ronald and John Hill both featured for the Oban side against the title contenders.

Kilmory's Alister MacArthur scored the only goal of the first half on 25 minutes and Adam Johnston added a second on 70 minutes.

David MacInnes pulled an Oban Celtic goal back 15 minutes from time but, with Steven Gilmour in the Kilmory goal making some great saves, Kilmory stayed in front to take both points.

This was an evenly-contested match with lots of promising youth players on show for both sides.

**Bute 2
Aberdour 3**

The Bute colts staged an impressive comeback before eventually losing 3-2 to the Aberdour colts in their noon throw-up at the Meadows.

**Ardnamurchan 0
Glenorchy 9**

Glenorchy over-powered Ardnamurchan, winning 9-0 at Spean Bridge.

Conor Sartain scored four times, whilst Kieran MacKay and Murray MacKay bagged braces and Ryan Barclay got the other.

WCA round-up

The Mowi Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup semi-finalists are known following the weekend Women's Camanachd Association shinty action.

**Mowi Valerie
Fraser****Camanachd Cup –
quarter-finals****Ardnamurchan 0
Skye Camanachd 17**

Last year's beaten finalists Skye Camanachd were 17-0 winners against Ardnamurchan in a tie switched to Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

Caitlin MacLean (1); Lorna MacRae (9); Jenna Beaton (1); Sarah Corrigan (4); Holly MacPhee (1) and Christina MacDonald (1) were the goalscorers.

**Lochaber 4
Glenurquhart 2**

Lochaber beat Glenurquhart 4-2 at Spean Bridge.

Sarah Fountain and Iris Erskine scored for Glenurquhart, but Amy Disher's double and strikes from Mairi Duncan and Natalie MacDonald sent Lochaber through.

**Strathspey 1
Aberdour 0**

Arabella Kinnaird scored the only goal as Strathspey defeated Aberdour 1-0 at Grantown Grammar School.

**Badenoch W/O
v Dunadd**

Holdings Badenoch received a walk-over when Dunadd were unable to field a team for their tie at the Dell.

**cottages.com
MacTavish Cup
semi-final draw**

The semi-final draw for the cottages.com MacTavish Cup will take place today (Thursday May 2) at 11am at Bught Park, Inverness.

Arrows fly at Scottish Field Archery Championships

Argyll Field Archers recently hosted the Scottish Field Archery Championships for the tenth time at Inverawe.

Forty archers from across the UK arrived to compete in dry but chilly conditions with the breeze adding to the natural challenge of the 24-target course through the Inverawe woodlands.

Field archery is a format of modern archery on a multi-target course - often compared to a golf course - set out over all kinds of terrain including fields, woods and forests.

Typically this includes up and down and cross-slopes shots and challenges of light, dark and shadow. The targets

ARCHERY

are set at different marked or unmarked distances and may have to be shot up or down gradients, at a variety of different distances or shooting angles which adds variety to the challenge and enjoyment.

Archers aged from 12 to well over pension age competed over the two days through the undulating terrain set amongst the trees which was described by many of the competitors as the most beautiful course in the country, a reason so many come back year after year.

Competition was in seven bow categories split into age and gender divisions over the two days with qualification for the UK squad up for grabs in some of the classes.

Full results can be found on the events page at <http://scottisharchery.org.uk>



Trophies and medals.



Competitors take aim at targets during the championships.

Otters make a splash at top swimming event

Youngsters from Oban's Otters Swimming Club mixed with the best aquatic athletes in the country at last weekend's British Championships.

Taking place at the Tollcross International Pool in Glasgow, the event ran from April 16 to 21 with 12 Otters acting as medal bearers and/or kit carriers on the final three days.

As well as getting to watch the amazing action in the pool, the Oban swimmers rubbed shoulders with some of their heroes and three of the 12 were delighted to be given gold medals won by Duncan Scott, James Guy and Siobhan-Marie O'Connor.

'It was a fantastic weekend anyway but to be given a medal by one of the winners made it extra special,' said



Molly Gilchrist with Rebecca Addlington.



Oban Otters represented their club and town at the British Championships at Tollcross, Glasgow, last weekend.

Otter Andrew Boyle who received Duncan Scott's 200m freestyle medal from the last event of the week.

Juliette Main received James Guy's 100m butterfly gold, while Rachel Carre was given the 200m individual medley gold medal won by Siobhan-Marie O'Connor.

'It was a total surprise to get one of the medals,' added Juliette.

'Some of the swimmers gave them to the volunteers and we were just lucky to be in the right place at the right time.'

Rachel said: 'Watching the different swimming styles and seeing the best British swimmers perform at Tollcross was a fantastic experience and totally inspiring.'

'Getting one of the medals was the icing on the cake.'

Some of the youngsters also met double Olympic gold medallist Rebecca Adlington OBE who stopped for an impromptu chat and photo shoot in between her broadcasting duties.

It was a busy three days for the Otters who, as well as presenting medals and carrying kit at the televised event, also did TV interviews themselves.

Volunteer coach Lyndsay Elliott said: 'The Oban Otters representatives at the British Championships were just brilliant.'

'We got feedback from the organisers who said they were one of the nicest groups

SWIMMING

of volunteers there and that their behaviour had been exemplary throughout.'

It was back to training for the Oban swimmers this week with Andrew, Juliette and Tayler Robinson focusing on the Future Stars meet at Tollcross on Saturday May 11.

Representing the Oban Otters at the British Championships were: Abby Docherty, Edie Elliott, Andrew Boyle, Rachel Carre, Megan Carre, Molly Gilchrist, Kay Logan, Jessica Main, Juliette Main, Kai Mackechnie, Callum MacInnes and Tayler Robinson.

Oban club's father and son compete at national karate competition

Father and son Rab and Seoras Neil, members of Oban Shotokan Karate Club, travelled to Irvine to compete in the Scottish Karate Union's National Karate Championship last weekend.

Seven-year-old Seoras made his tournament debut competing against Max from Irvine Takeda Club. Seoras started off comfortably, initiating good posture, speed and timing to gain first score against his opponent.

Both continued showing off their excellent controlled kicking and punching techniques resulting in an out-



Rab, left, ready to execute his famous yakazuki punch. standing performance, much admired by the applauding spectators. Seoras was unable to hold on to his lead though and lost the match.

However, his dad Rab won silver in the veteran section 35 years and over after competing against the best from top clubs around Scotland.

After two tough preliminary stages, Rab narrowly made it through to the quarter final.

From then on he got his second wind and sailed through. The final turned out to be an exhausting bout as both competitors gave no quarter. Rab scored two points with spectacular yakazuki punches to his opponent's side.

However, he was unable to maintain the momentum and lost the final by four points to two.



Seoras Neil preparing for his debut at the SKU Karate Championships.

OT

GOLF

MacIntyre's magic deserts him

After making 10 out of 11 cuts in his first year on the European Tour circuit, Glencruitten's Robert MacIntyre failed to make the cut in the Trophee Hassan II tournament held at the Royal Golf Club, Dar Es Salam, Morocco last week.

This was Robert's first tournament after a five-week break so perhaps that had something to do with it.

In round one, he carded a five over par 78 which featured three birdies, six bogeys and a double bogey on the ninth.

In round two, the 22-year-old left hander fared little better with three birdies, three bogeys and two double bogeys at the 10th and 18th to give him a four over par round of 77 to finish with a two round total of 155.

Robert will be hoping to get back into the groove on his next outing which will be the British Masters hosted by Tommy Fleetwood held at Hillside Golf Club in Southport from May 9 to 12.

Glencruitten

Martin Rae recorded a score of 67-4 = 63 in the Stokes Qualifier on Saturday at Glencruitten. Robert Wright, Phillip Murphy, Charles MacIntyre and Alan Jamieson all had net 64.

Pickford's Qualifier is on Saturday with Eclectic Round 4, and Stableford on Tuesday.

Isle of Seil

Six teams competed in a fun competition on Sunday afternoon. Prizes were kindly donated by John Taylor.

Winners: John Taylor, John Morgan, Kyle Gilroy.

Runners-up: Ian Yyllie, Gordon McKenzie, Pat Mill.

Longest drive at 3rd yellow tee – Mark McDougall; red tee – Mary Phillips. Nearest pin at 8th – Pat Mill.

Craignure

Result of the Anniversary Open played at Craignure Golf Club: 1: Barry Whenman (34 points); 2 Ronnie Wilson (33); 3 Steve Wilson (28). The Anniversary Open celebrates the re-opening of the Craignure course in 1980. The winner receives a silver quach.

SCOTTISH AMATEUR FL RESULTS AND FIXTURES

Results and fixtures

Last Saturday's results: Premier Division – Oban Saints v Inverclyde, unfulfilled fixture, Inverclyde unable to raise a team. Premier Division One – Castlemilk 10, Campbeltown Pupils 0. Jimmy Marshall Cup, quarter-final – Alba Thistle 5, Dunoon 1.

Friday's fixture: West of Scotland Cup final – Oban Saints v Bannockburn, New Douglas Park, Hamilton, kick-off 7.15pm. Saturday: Premier Division – Dunoon v Goldenhill; Premier Division One – Campbeltown Pupils v Easthall Star; Premier Division Two – Cardross v Tarbert.

OBAN SAINTS YOUTH TEAMS

Results and fixtures

Last Sunday's results: Under 13s, no game; Thistle Weir 3, Under 14s 12. Scoring for Saints were Kyle Cooper (6), Cooper MacIntyre (2), Ewan Mctavish, Ruairidh Buchanan, Craig Rankin and Andrew Nicol. Under 15s 8, Ardencaple 0. On target for Saints were John Douglas (3), Ross Higgins (2), Tommy McCrindle, William MacEwan and John MacDonald. Under 16s 4, Drumchapel 2. Saints goalscorers were Connor Moore (3) and Ruairidh Munro.

This weekend's fixtures: Saturday – Under 13s v Milton Rovers; Sunday – Glasgow Boys v Under 13s; Celtic Juniors v Under 14s; Under 15s v Busby; Under 16s v Summerston.

Saints are ready Bannockburn

A big crowd is expected to travel from the town to support the team

Oban Saints
Bannockburn

West of Scotland Cup – final

Oban Saints return to Hamilton this Friday evening for the West of Scotland Amateur Cup final, the biggest match in the club's 59-year history. After 45 years of trying Saints finally reached the final of one of the Scottish Amateur Football Association's major cup competitions with a 2-1 victory over Shortlees in the West of Scotland Cup semi-final at New Douglas Park, Hamilton, on Saturday April 13.

After Keir Knapp had given Scottish Amateur Cup holders Shortlees the lead direct from the corner flag early in the first half, Saints recovered and drew level before the interval through a Matty Kelly strike. Despite the major blow of losing Donald Campbell to injury 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 the return visit to the home of good friends Hamilton Academical for the final.

Saints preparations for Friday's final were hampered last Saturday by the cancellation of their scheduled home league fixture against Inverclyde, who were unable to raise a team, thereby forfeiting the fixture.

Practice match

In order to ensure their players received some valuable game time, co-managers Donald Campbell and Willie Gemmell arranged a full-scale practice match involving 24 players including special guest stars Alex Craik and Ross Maitland, who both looked as though they had never been away. The two



Mascots at the final for Saints will be Donald Campbell, aged 10, son of co-manager Donald, and Jack Cassells, five, son of captain Dene.

sides shared eight goals with all the players putting in good shifts to stake their claim for a place in the cup final squad.

Saints cup final opponents Bannockburn, who celebrate their 50th anniversary this year, are one of the biggest names in Scottish amateur football. The men from Ladywell Park have lifted the West of Scotland Cup on four

previous occasions adding to their impressive trophy haul which includes three Scottish Amateur Cups and eight Caledonian League Premier Division titles.

Bannockburn's run to the final of the West of Scotland Cup not only boasts an incredible 38 goals but also includes the scalps of 2006-07 winners St Patrick's FP and current holders Colville Park.

The 'Burn cantered through the early rounds blowing away Saturday morning league opponents Cambusnethan Colts, Libertine Accies and West of Scotland at home before being drawn away against cup holders Colville Park in round four. Bannockburn edged the battle of the Central League giants to set up a fifth round tie against Tynecastle, one of the biggest names in Saturday morning amateur football.

Tynecastle ran Bannockburn closer than any other team in the competition so far. However, the 'Burn ultimately prevailed by the odd goal in five.

Old Caledonian League foes Dumbarton Academy FP were the quarter-final

One step closer to promotion for Oban men

The campaign for league promotion took another huge leap forward as Oban Men's Hockey Club edged a comfortable win against a well equipped Hillhead side.

It was a well-deserved win for the team, who have dedicated their Saturdays since September to come out and play hockey. Credit to Hillhead who had spells of attack, but were unable to put enough goals past David Love to impact the result.

Early scoring

Scoring started early with Theo Andrews and Grant Matheson both going on the break to make the scoreline 2-0 at half-time.

Oban managed the game well with superb decision making and communication off the ball, both in attack and defence.

More goals came in the second half from Stuart Head, Gavin Yates, Grant Matheson and George Gauley. Jensen Binnie picked up his first goal of the season, with some

creative play up both wings with Zeph Petit.

There was another stand-out performance from Ryan Jones at left back, with some cracking clearances and composure under pressure.

Credit to Gavin Yates who put in a great shift, while having man flu, and also do-

ing a wee stint up front, with Callum Vardy stepping back and Lorne Binnie doing his usual shift in defence.

Great goal

This weekend's man-of-the-match is Jensen Binnie for a great goal under pressure and superb attacking up the field and stepping back in defence

HOCKEY

when required.

Thanks to Charmaine Love for doing another great job as umpire.

The next game is against Uddingston on May 11 at Taynuilt. Please come along and support the team.

Close-run cup final for Abi and Aimee

Local rugby duo Abi Evans and Aimee Johnstone lost out on a cup win by a narrow margin last weekend. Playing on the international pitch at BT Murrayfield, the girls were part of the Hillhead Jordanhill ladies side competing the Sarah Beaney Cup final against Watsonians.

Impressive

Both sides showed plenty of attacking rugby in the early stages of the encounter, with Scotland international Hannah Smith displaying an impressive turn of pace to score the first try of the

day for Hillhead which Mairi McDonald converted. The lead didn't last for long, though, as Alice King dotted down to bring the capital side back into it. Nicola Nightingale slotted the conversion.

Watsonians went ahead with Allie Tucker shrugging off several tackles to score under the posts making an easy conversion for Nightingale.

Mairi McDonald slotted a penalty for Hillhead before the break to narrow the gap to four points at 14-10.

Watsonians gave themselves

WOMEN'S RUGBY

an 11-point cushion in the 62nd minute when Emma Evans finished off a fine passing display. Lana Skeldon stroked over the conversion.

Hillhead kept the pressure on, spending 10 minutes camped in their opposition 22 before finally being rewarded.

A high tackle by Megan Gaffney prevented Evans from scoring. Gaffney was given a yellow card and Hillhead were awarded a penalty try to take the final score to 21-17.

for the Battle of



The Oban Saints squad line-up at New Douglas Park before their 2-1 West of Scotland Cup semi-final win over Shortlees.
Cup final preview and photo: Derek Black

opposition where two goals from Steven Knox and a successfully converted penalty kick from Kenny McLellan saw Bannockburn through to a semi-final tie against the Accies' neighbours St Patrick's FP.

The eagerly anticipated all Central Scottish Amateur Football League semi-final lived up to its billing and produced a thrilling display of attacking football from both sides with Bannockburn's clinical finishing ultimately earning them a place in the final by virtue of a 6-2 win.

Saints were scheduled to play Rannoch at Glencruitten in round one of the competition. However, the Greater Glasgow Premier AFL Division Three outfit elected not to fulfil the fixture hand-

ing the tie to Saints by way of a walkover.

In round two, Uddingston took Saints to extra time at Toryglen before the D & K Lafferty-sponsored Oban side went through thanks to goals from Craig MacEwan (2), Lewis Cameron and Donald Campbell.

Dig deep

Saints were made to dig deep in round three when they travelled to take on Kilsyth in the third round but goals from Craig MacEwan, Matty Kelly and David Beaton gave Saints a 3-0 win.

Old rivals Thorn Athletic were the visitors to Glencruitten for the fourth round where the Oban outfit turned in a first class performance to win 3-1 against the Caledonian League leaders.

Craig MacEwan, Matty Kelly and James Ford were on target for Saints.

Goals from James Ford (2), Keir MacLean, Lewis Cameron and Fraser MacFarlane saw Saints dispose of Neilston in the fifth round.

Old friends Cambria were the visitors to the Oban Community 3G pitch in the quarter-final in what turned out to be a cracking game played before a big crowd. Craig MacEwan put Saints in front before the 2016 West of Scotland Cup winners equalised. Lewis Cameron then thumped home a great strike to put Saints in the lead and Daniel Croarkin put the icing on the cake with a late goal to make the final score 3-1.

New Douglas Park, Hamilton, was the venue for the

FOOTBALL

semi-final against current Scottish Amateur Cup holders Shortlees.

Keir Knapp put the Kilmarnock side in front, but Matty Kelly equalised just before half-time.

Saints pressed hard for the winner and this they got when captain Dene Cassells headed home a Willie Gemmell free kick to put Saints into their first national final.

Saints secretary David Buchanan said: 'The town's buzzing and we thank everybody for their good wishes.'

'We are expecting a big crowd of supporters to make the journey to support the team. Those travelling on the team coach are reminded that it leaves the station at 2.15pm.'

Hundreds get into gear for Oban Sportive

Cyclists are signing up for this month's Oban Sportive, an action-packed two-day charity challenge.

Riders will include Markus Stitz, who became the first person to cycle round the world on a single-speed bike.

Organisers are describing the Sportive as a 'must do' charity event giving riders a choice of three routes and an awesome test of skill on the gruelling but rewarding Ben Cruachan Inn hill climb.

New for this year is an eight-mile gravel stage added in two sections to the 56-mile Loch Avich course and sponsored by Oban Cycles shop.

The Sportive is being supported by Oban Distillery where the event will start and finish under its iconic archway on Sunday May 12.

Another route option in addition to the 54-mile course and the gravel route is 87 miles around Scotland's longest loch, Loch Awe.

Riders will leave in small groups from the distillery

at 8am on the day to ease any impact on local traffic. Everyone needs to register before they start and will have a timing chip scanned as they set off.

Organisers are keen to stress the day is a sportive and not a race and say whether riders are amateurs or seasoned pros, 'the Oban Sportive is a beautiful challenge to take on'.

The hill climb is on Saturday May 11 as a warm-up to the next day's sportive taking in a 2.7-mile stretch rising about 1,044ft with an average gradient of 6.9 per cent - riding this one is against the clock and each other. There will be a staggered start with the first rider at 2pm.

Markus Stitz will be joining riders over the weekend and will be giving a talk at Oban Distillery Bar on Saturday May 11 at 8pm.

Home baking at feed stations will help fuel riders on the waymarked and marshalled routes with soup and



Markus Stitz.

rolls at the finish. Minimum age for riders is 16 and everyone must wear a protective helmet, taking part entirely at their own risk.

Andrew Spence from BID4Oban, who are also supporting the event, said: 'We see this event a big part of Oban's calendar of events and we're excited about the distillery's support.' Aggregate Industries, who operate Glen Sanda Quarry, are also a major supporter.

CYCLING

Nicholas Charlton of the Rusty Cycle Shed and chairman of the event organisers, North Argyll Cycle Club, said: 'It's been great to see the benefits this event has brought to Oban. It's been an introduction for many locals to cycling.'

'It's showcased parts of the scenic Sustrans Route 78, has helped focus attention on improving the road conditions for all and has brought together the cycle club, local businesses and organisations to attract visitors from all over the UK.'

The Sportive, now in its seventh year, has attracted hundreds of cyclists each time and with the support of Oban Rotary has raised £20,000 for local charities and good causes.

Entries can be made in advance online or on the day. To find out more go to obansportive.co.uk.

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WEATHER AND TIDES

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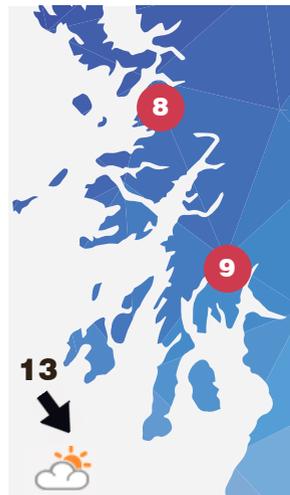


WEATHER

Thursday
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze
Temperatures
5°C to 13°C.

Friday
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
3°C to 9°C.

Weekend Outlook
Saturday
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze
Sunday
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze
Temperatures
6°C to 11°C.



FRIDAY

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday May 2, 2019 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	04.18	3.6	10.38	1.2
Thur	16.33	3.5	22.51	1.1
Fri	04.53	3.7	11.09	1.0
	17.05	3.6	23.22	0.9
Sat	05.27	3.9	11.39	0.8
	17.35	3.7	23.52	0.8
Sun	05.59	3.9	12.10	0.7
	18.03	3.8	***	**
Mon	00.24	0.8	06.29	3.9
	12.42	0.7	18.32	3.8
Tues	00.58	0.8	07.00	3.8
	13.16	0.7	19.05	3.8
Wed	01.35	0.9	07.36	3.7
	13.55	0.8	19.43	3.7

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.

Saints are ready for the Battle of Bannockburn

Arrows fly at Field Archery Championships

Fun in the sun at fourth Oban football festival

Oban and District Sunday Football League hosted their fourth annual football festival last Saturday at Mossfield, the rugby pitch and Oban Community 3G pitch.

Large crowds at all three venues were treated to some fantastic entertainment from all of the 60 teams taking part across the 2007 to 2013 age groups, with around 500 children playing on the day.

The Oban teams at each age group were joined by teams from Lochnell FC and a number of travelling teams from Lochgilhead, Campbeltown, Falkirk,

Fife, Glasgow, Dumbarton, Dunoon, Helensburgh, Perth and Fort William. There was also a new five-team girls section played in Oban for the first time.

In the 2007 age group, the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund trophy was won by Fort William, who defeated Lochgilhead Red Star 2-0 in a close final. Oban Blue Brazil narrowly missed out on qualifying on goal difference.

The fair play awards were presented to Syngenta Colts (2008s), Glasgow Boys Club (2009s) and Ardencaple (2010s).

CYCLING

The organising committee would like to thank the large number of volunteers who helped make the day a huge success.

They would also like to thank all those who kindly provided event sponsorship: Gleaner Oils for sponsoring the medals, RA Clement Associates

Chartered Accountants, Dougie Dan's catering, Fiuran Property, Breckenridge, Oban Sports Shop and Tesco Oban. Also a big thanks to the council ground staff.



Oban Blue Brazil 2007s are delighted with their medals



Lochnell 2009s keeper Finn MacKechnie thwarts Fort William in a goalmouth scramble.



Fort William: winners of the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Trophy in the 2007 age group.



Oban Spartak 2012s show off the teamwork that earned them their medals.

Lochaber Model & Craft Show



SPONSORS: Caley Timber and Building Supplies • The Glenspean Lodge
LBS Fort William • Highland Titles • S & A Cameron Spean Bridge • Ferguson Transport

Nevis Centre | Fort William Saturday | 4th May | 10am-4.30pm
Adults £2.50 | Kids & Concessions £1.50

- Craft Tables
- Model Exhibits including Trains, Tractors, Buses, Boats, Trucks, Cranes, Helicopters and much more
- Working Railways
- 1:24 Scale Truck Exhibits
- The Tartan LUG (Lego users group)
- Traders Selling Model Trucks, Tractors, Trains, Parts & Accessories

With your help last year's show raised £1059 for The Lochaber Mountain Rescue. This year we will be once again donating proceeds to local charities & organisations.

5th Year!

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Thursday 2 May, 2019

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Action to tackle Lochaber's 'scary' suicide problem



Father and son gear up for Six Days Trial

Father and son Paul Paterson senior and junior will take their place among some of the finest trial riders in the world next week as the Scottish Six Days Trial (SSDT) roars into action. For the full story and more on the SSDT 2019, turn to page five. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber likes to be branded as the outdoor capital of the UK but it is in danger of becoming better known locally for a rising number of people either taking their own lives or contemplating suicide.

And that was the reason for a well-attended public meeting in Fort William's Nevis Centre on Tuesday night, when various groups agreed to help form two new peer-to-peer mental health support groups for the town – one for men and one for women.

Representatives from Martyn's Monday Club in Oban, the Samaritans, Ewan's Room and Mikey's Line all gave heartfelt talks on how their organisations came into being.

The meeting was hosted by Fort William-based Lochaber Hope and its manager Alyson Smith explained why it had been felt necessary to organise such an event.

"The Highland statistics

don't reflect Lochaber's statistics when it comes to suicide for men in the 24 to 45 age group.

"The rate is much higher here," she said.

"Between February last year and February this year, we had 14 men and three women come through the doors of Lochaber Hope and say they were going to commit suicide.

Scared

"In the first two weeks of February this year alone we had six people, with the youngest aged just nine, saying they wanted to kill themselves.

"It is something we have been doing a lot of work on because we knew we had to do something."

Asked if she would describe the situation in Lochaber as a crisis, Ms Smith paused: "Scared is how I feel. If we don't do something now, things are going to be a lot worse in five years."

She said it was extremely difficult to put an actual figure on the number of people

who took their own lives in Lochaber each year, but the 14 men and three women she had earlier referred to were all still alive.

Her Lochaber Hope colleague Carrie Starkie added: "We have got to find ways of breaking the stigma that still exists about mental health and get people talking," she said.

"There is an increasing number of people telling us they feel they'd be better off dead and that is hugely concerning."

Among those attending was Joyce Wells, whose 36-year-old son Gary ended his life when he walked in front of a train at Inverlochty in 2014.

She said peer support groups were badly needed in Fort William and was therefore delighted the meeting had proved so positive.

"It is definitely needed here and if it can save one life, it will be worth it," she added.

Anyone interested in helping with the new groups should contact Lochaber Hope on 01397 704836.

Lochaber Model & Craft Show



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With your help last year's show raised £1059 for The Lochaber Mountain Rescue. This year we will be once again donating proceeds to local charities & organisations.

LT

Mallaig young musicians wow audiences in China

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A group of young traditional musicians from Mallaig High School and their teacher have returned after a visit to China saw them fly the flag for Lochaber and Scotland.

The recent four-day trip to Chengdu and Beijing saw the five-strong party from Mallaig take part in the 9th Young Cultural Ambassador Event.

The group played at three local schools, as well as the performing at the opening and closing ceremonies of the main event, which was at the Sichuan Conservatoire.

The four young Mallaig High musicians, who were accompanied by the secondary's music department head, Lauren Moir, also managed to take in some sightseeing while there, including a visit



to see pandas and the Great Wall of China at Mutianyu near Beijing, which also gave S2 pupil Struan Robertson the chance to play his pipes atop one of the world's most famous man-made landmarks.

The visit was organised by the Confucius Institute of

Scottish Schools. Ms Moir told the Lochaber Times the visit had been fantastic and could not praise highly enough the four Mallaig High students – Ellie Tevendale, 17, Scots fiddle; Georgia Dennis, 17, guitar; Struan Robertson, 14, Highland bagpipes; and

Anna Robertson, 16, Scots fiddle.

'It was an amazing trip. We had no real expectations of what would be involved. The festival organisers wanted some young traditional Scottish musicians to take part and provide a Scottish flavour as the winners of the competition were to receive a prize of performing at the Edinburgh International Festival,' she told us.

'We had very warm and friendly welcomes wherever we went and people loved hearing traditional Scottish tunes being played.

'I've heard they are still



The trip to China by the party from Mallaig High School proved a great success, with Struan playing his bagpipes on the Great Wall.

talking about us in Chengdu. We had also taken some photographs with us that showed where those in our wee group all came from.

'Two of the party live on Knoydart and some of the Chinese young people could not believe they had to travel to school by boat.

'We were so popular and I'm so proud of the kids. They did so well – they were very open, friendly and engaging, and were wonderful ambassadors,

not just for Mallaig High, or Lochaber, but for Scotland generally.'

The young musicians are regular performers in Lochaber and further afield, who between them have tallied up competitive playing and public performances including Celtic Connections, Blas Festival, Feisean and a host of trad music events.

For more photographs from the youngsters' trip, visit www.lochabertimes.co.uk.

Smelter boss joins GFG team for Loch Ness race

An 18-strong team representing the GFG Alliance, including some of the organisation's top directors, took to Highland roads on two wheels at the weekend as they pedalled furiously around Loch Ness to raise cash for a range of good causes.

Both GFG's chief investment officer, Jay Hambro, and chief executive of its industrial businesses, Liberty Industries Group, Dr Douglas Dawson, led the way as the team from GFG – the business which owns the aluminium smelter at Fort William – set a red hot pace along the 66-mile route of the annual Etape Loch Ness road race.

As well as supporting the official event charity Macmillan Cancer Support, Dr Dawson was cycling on behalf of the Motor Neurone Disease Association, raising a total of more than £10,000.

Group general counsel Simon Nasta also completed



The GFG Alliance team get ready for the start of the race.

the course for Alive and Kicking, an African sports charity, raising almost £5,000 in the process.

'Raising money for a cause as worthy as the Motor Neurone Disease Association has made all the effort and hours involved while training for this gruelling cycle ride on a GFG Alliance, hand-made Shand Cycles classic Rizello road bike worthwhile,' Dr Dawson said.

'As a Scotsman, I'm proud to have participated in this iconic event within the cycling calendar set to the backdrop of such stunning scenery. The aching legs are a sacrifice worth making.'

Shand Cycles, which is part of the GFG Alliance and manufactures bikes at its base in Livingston, was also at the event providing free mechanical and technical assistance to riders.

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Kentallen man pleads guilty to assault

A man from Kentallen has admitted assaulting two men at a Lochaber hotel two years ago and behaving aggressively towards them.

Donald Reid, 36, pleaded guilty to two charges of assault and one of threatening behaviour when he appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court last Wednesday (April 24).

Reid, who lives at Kentallen Travellers' Site, also pleaded not guilty to a further charge of threatening behaviour in the police vehicle after the incident, a plea which was accepted by procurator fiscal Martina Eastwood.

The court heard that on September 28, 2017, Reid acted in a threatening or abusive manner at the hotel by uttering threats of violence and behaved aggressively, putting two men in a state of fear and alarm.

Reid then assaulted an employee of the hotel by pushing him, poking him on the face and seizing him on the body. He then assaulted another man by throwing liquid over him and seizing him on the body.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald deferred sentencing to obtain a social work report. Reid will appear in court again for sentencing on Tuesday May 21.

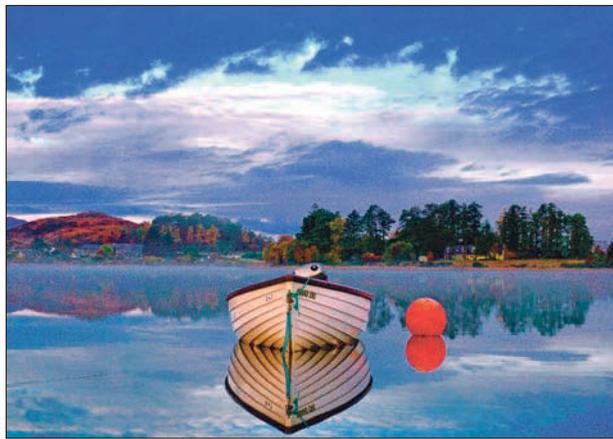
Claggan man tried to bite policeman

A Claggan man admitted assaulting a police officer when he appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court last week.

Sean Laskey, 29, of Carn Dearg Road, pleaded guilty to assaulting PC Dean Gillies at Fassifern Road, Fort William, on March 24, 2018, by attempting to bite him on the body.

Laskey pleaded not guilty to a separate charge of acting in a threatening or abusive manner by shouting, swearing and making abusive remarks at police officers. Procurator fiscal Martina Eastwood accepted Laskey's plea of not guilty.

Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald deferred sentencing until Tuesday May 21 to obtain a criminal justice social work report.



Ellen Kammerath's photograph entitled 'Misty November Morning on Loch Shiel' won the competition.

Stunning Loch Shiel photograph to be hung in Scottish Parliament after winning contest

A stunning photograph of a boat on Loch Shiel has won an MSP's constituency photography competition.

Budding photographers from Kate Forbes's Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch constituency were invited to enter her 'Made in the Highlands' themed contest and more than 150 submissions were made.

The winner is Ellen Kammerath from Acharacle

with her entry entitled 'Misty November Morning on Loch Shiel' which will now be framed and showcased in Ms Forbes's Scottish Parliament office in Edinburgh. Runners-up were Lukas Bornheim from Fort William and Stuart Lilley from Laggan.

Ellen said: 'I am very happy that a picture of the Ardnamurchan Peninsula has won the Made in the Highlands photo competi-

tion. It's such a wonderful place that deserves more attention.'

'A huge congratulations to Ellen for winning the competition, as well as to Lukas and Stuart on being runners-up,' said Ms Forbes.

'There are a lot of amateur photographers in the Highlands who deserve broader recognition and hopefully this competition has done that.'

Lochaber schools facing a threat of strike action

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Schools across Lochaber may be disrupted if pupil support staff who are members of the GMB vote for strike action in the row over cutbacks.

On Monday, pupil support staff in Highland Council voted overwhelmingly to move to an industrial action ballot against cutbacks.

In a consultative ballot of GMB Scotland members, staff voted by more than 93 per cent against proposals for the redeployment of 63 Additional Support Needs (ASN) staff across the local authority.

It is understood 400-plus of the more than 1,100 pupil support assistants (PSAs) employed by the council are GMB members - although it is unclear how many of that 400 work in Lochaber schools.

Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Andrew Baxter, chairman of the local authority's Lochaber Area Committee, is a former education committee chairman.

He is unsure how many of the PSAs working in Lochaber schools are GMB members, but told the Lochaber Times: 'This could have an impact in our local schools.'

Highland Council needs to save £2.8 million from its ASN budget, which includes PSA provision.

The local authority says it has the highest reported levels of ASN staff in Scotland and has launched a three-year phased approach to re-align this role to where, it says, it is most required.

But local GMB representatives have said the

'A challenging working environment isn't getting any easier and these proposals are the final straw for many staff.'

redeployment plan could leave already hard-pressed staff faced with the prospect of 'unmanageable' work-life balance changes.

GMB Scotland senior organiser Drew Duffy commented: 'GMB members have overwhelmingly rejected their employer's stealth cuts plan for the future of additional support needs delivery in our schools.'

'For years our members have been working longer and harder with less resources and for less pay in real terms. A challenging working environment isn't getting any easier and these proposals are the final straw for many staff.'

'We warned the council their plans were unacceptable and ignorant of the realities of employment within the Highlands region, never mind running roughshod over any work-life balance commitments of our members.'

'When an employer attempts to impose a flawed process that's driven by cuts and not consultation, they cannot be shocked when the scale of rejection against them is so significant.'

'Our message to the council is clear: listen to your staff

and our members - step back from these proposals and let's talk about the future of service delivery together to avoid the real possibility of industrial action.'

Asked for its reaction to the GMB ballot plans, a Highland

Council spokesperson commented: 'We are continuing to work with all trade unions, including GMB, and will continue to do so throughout the process.'

'Some of the comments made by GMB are unaccept-

able and there is no evidence to substantiate these claims.'

'The council is committed to protecting jobs in the Highlands and we are confident we can manage the change without any job losses.'

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Investigation work starts on Caol flood scheme

Highland Council is to carry out investigative work on the old BSW pipe at Caol's foreshore in preparation for a multi-million pound flood protection scheme.

The work will be carried out by contractors in May, although dates are not yet confirmed. The investigation will involve excavating a hole near the top of the beach, between the church and shops.

Between visits, contractors may need to leave a hole open on the foreshore, but this will be secured with fencing to deter unauthorised access and reinstated after the investigation work is finished.

Caol and Lochside have historically been subjected to flooding, with the last significant flood in 2005. The project forms part of the council's Local Flood Risk Management Plan and is one of a number of schemes which the council plans to implement within the next six years.



Ryan Flaherty, Michael Matheson MSP, Right Honourable David Mundell MP and Kevin Craven, chief executive officer Serco UK and Europe, cut the ribbon for the new sleeper carriages.

New sleeper service carriages hit the tracks

Serco Caledonian Sleeper has launched its new £150million fleet, but Lochaber passengers will have to wait to see them in action.

The new carriages made their debut on Sunday, April 28, on the Lowlander route between London and Glasgow/Edinburgh.

This will be followed by their introduction on the route between London and

Fort William in the coming weeks. The new trains offer accommodation ranging from new comfort seats for the budget traveller to ensuite double bedrooms.

The service has been hailed as one of Lonely Planet's 'Super Sleeper Trains' and the London to Fort William service made the world's best-selling travel guidebook's top 10 list.

Teenager fined £700 for careless driving

A Claggan teenager has been fined £700 after being found guilty of careless driving.

Ross McConnell, 18, of Carn Dearg Road, also had his licence endorsed with six penalty points when he appeared before Sheriff Eilidh MacDonald at Fort William Sheriff Court last Thursday (April 25).

Sheriff MacDonald found McConnell, a Marine Harvest factory worker, guilty of driving over a zebra crossing without slowing down or stopping while pedestrians were on the crossing on January 12 this year.

The court heard that just before 11pm on January 12, there had been a hostile interaction between McConnell and a group of three people, who cannot be named for legal reasons, in McDonald's restaurant in Fort William. The row continued into the car park before McConnell got into his car. The group

of three, one boy and two girls all aged under 18, began crossing the zebra crossing on Camanachd Crescent between McDonald's restaurant and Morrisons supermarket.

The two girls then stopped on the crossing and one of them stopped on the road, getting down on all fours, which was described as 'just mucking about', before they heard McConnell's car turn out of the junction on to Camanachd Crescent towards them. At this point the male pedestrian walked on to the pavement on the other side.

McConnell continued to drive his car across the zebra crossing without slowing down, missing the two girls still on the crossing, and continued to drive northbound to the roundabout.

One witness told the court McConnell was driving 'too close' to the pedestrians and said he was concerned they 'might have got hit' by McConnell's car.

In defence, solicitor Stephen Kennedy said McConnell was not going faster than the 30mph speed limit when he crossed the crossing.

'These two young ladies were stationary as he approached,' said Mr Kennedy. 'In fact, not only were they stationary but one of them was lying on the crossing, almost in a press-up position. But neither of them were moving.'

Mr Kennedy added: 'I submit it was not the safest thing to do, but I would say it is a different thing altogether to say he was driving in a dangerous manner.'

Sheriff MacDonald found McConnell guilty of careless driving. She endorsed his licence with six penalty points and fined him £700.

In sentencing, she told McConnell: 'It was clear you were being taunted by these girls and they were mucking about on the crossing. Unfortunately you rose to the bait.'

Broadcasters back Lochaber Geopark campaign

Two leading broadcasters are backing the Save Lochaber Geopark campaign.

The community-run, not-for-profit charity Lochaber Geopark launched a crowdfunding campaign earlier this month to try and keep the organisation alive following funding cuts.

Last week, former BBC presenter Professor Iain Stewart, known as 'geology's rock star' and current president of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, took to Twitter saying:

'Lochaber no more? The magnificent geo-wonderland of Lochaber Geopark is crowdfunding for survival. Please support them.'

Fellow broadcaster Paul Murton, presenter of Grand Tours of Scotland, is fronting the fundraising effort and appeared in the campaign video which went live last week.

The video and crowdfunding site can be found through the Lochaber Geopark Facebook page and website.



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Duo keep it in the family at 2019 trial

by Neill Bo Finlayson
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

One of the most eagerly-anticipated events in Lochaber will this year see a father and son go head-to-head.

With more than 250 riders descending on hills and rivers across the area next week, this year's Scottish Six Days Trial (SSDT) will be particularly special for the Paterson family.

Father and son Paul senior and junior will take their place among some of the finest trial riders in the world.

It is believed this is the first time two generations of a Lochaber family have competed in the same year.

The Patersons believe they are the first father and son to compete in the SSDT in the same year.

Paul senior has ridden in the SSDT for several years.

His son, 17, is a first timer,



Paul senior, left, and Paul junior believe they are the first father and son to compete in the SSDT in the same year.

Photograph: Abridgeside Photography.

having only just passed his Compulsory Basic Training – a required condition for entry.

Young Paul is no stranger to trials bikes, however, or many of the hard cross-country

routes for which the SSDT is world famous, having always shown an interest in his dad's machines and wanting to go out with him.

At just two years old, he was given his own mini trials bike

'He got his first motorbike at just two and there has been no stopping him.'

and took to it as a natural, always keen to ride with Paul senior. It is due, in part, to these years spent on the hills that less than a week after his 17th birthday Paul junior became the proud owner of a shiny new licence and was lucky enough to get in through the ballot.

Paul senior said: 'I'm so proud to be riding with my son and as far as we are aware, we will be the only local father and son to ride in the SSDT.'

'He has always shown a great interest in riding and always wanted to come out with me. He got his first motorbike at just two and there has been no stopping him.'

Organiser releases list of daily routes

With just a few days to go until the start of the world-famous Scottish Six Days Trial in Lochaber, the organising Edinburgh and District Motor Club has released daily routes.

Now in its 108th year, the trial will welcome 268 riders from every corner of the world. So popular is the trial that entry has again been oversubscribed, with a ballot being held.

The event runs from Monday May 6 to Saturday May 11, with the traditional parade down Fort William's High Street on Saturday May 4.

Under the guidance of clerk of the course Jeff Horne, the Edinburgh and District team has, as ever, plotted a different course for each day, with more than 500 miles being travelled by the competitors during the six days of the event. Each day also provides 30 observed sections to test the riders.

The traditional Bank Holiday Monday opening route eases competitors into the week with more than 71 miles from Leanachen to Spean Bridge, across to Kinlochleven via Blackwater, finishing at the popular Lagnaha sections.

Tuesday sees the return of a 24-mile road ride north to historic Laggan Locks before heading over the moors to spectator favourite Creag Lundie.

The rest of the week takes in many of the now famous groups, with Friday featuring the traditional ride around the Moidart peninsula. Saturday sees a finish on the lower slopes of Ben Nevis, with the final observed section up Town Hall Brae for the benefit of Fort William residents.

For full details of the routes visit ssdt.org. Official programmes are available at outlets around Fort William.

Lochaber opens its arms to ex-para Chris and Jet

One man and his dog are walking round the Ardnamurchan peninsula this week as part of a marathon 7,700 mile trek of the UK coastline.

Chris Lewis, sporting his Welsh 'cilt', and his rescue dog Jet set off from their native Swansea in south Wales in July 2017 to raise cash for charity.

He visited Oban a year ago and has since visited the Western Isles and the Inner and Outer Hebrides.

So far the intrepid pair have raised more than £57,000 of their £100,000 target for SSAFA, the armed forces charity, which provides practical and emotional support for serving personnel, as well as veterans and military families in the UK and worldwide.

Chris was in the Parachute Regiment but left to care for his daughter. By his own admission, he had his 'ups and downs', eventually becoming homeless.

He turned to SSAFA for help and, once back on his feet, he decided, with his daughter now away at college, it was time to help others by



Chris Lewis and Jet in Lochaber last week.

raising funds for the charity and started his epic walk.

Using his army training, Chris has camped and foraged on his trip, but is always glad to accept food and donations for SSAFA as he goes along.

He says he has found the kindness of strangers in the Highlands overwhelming at times, from simple bowls of water for Jet on hot days, to a tent donated when his was wrecked in winter gales.

Speaking to the Lochaber Times, Chris said: 'I have fallen in love with the West Coast and the islands. Everyone has been so generous and helpful and I have been blown away by the scenery. I would seriously like to come and settle here in the future.'

Follow Chris on his FB page, Chris Walks The UK, and donate to SSAFA on his Chris Walks UK Coastline page on Justgiving.com

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WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

In anticipation of the society's annual trip to Corroun on May 11, Marion Barrie, who grew up there, will be giving a talk at the Alexandra Hotel tonight (Thursday May 2) at 8pm. The talk is illustrated and full of anecdote and history of one of Lochaber's most remote communities – much more so when Marion was young. And on Thursday May 9, also in the Alexandra Hotel, another talk on Lochaber's own disease, Sibbens, by Chris Robinson will be preceded by a brief AGM at 7.30pm. The origins of this disease are obscure but were almost certainly imported from abroad and caused much misery and anxiety in Lochaber 250 years ago – and spread throughout Scotland. All welcome at both events. Scotland's first Conscious Living Fair takes place at Duncansburgh Macintosh Church in Fort William on Saturday May 11 from 10am to 4pm as part of World Fairtrade Day. Come along to workshops focusing on

mindfulness, healthy and sustainable eating, mending your wardrobe, and more. Timetable will be posted on Facebook and Instagram events pages (Conscious Living Fair Fort William) next week, and details of all participants can be found there now.

Lochaber Transport Forum is holding an open meeting in the Duncansburgh Macintosh Church hall on Tuesday May 14 at 11am.

Kilmallie Community Centre in Corpach is welcoming the Cork Accordion and Fiddle Club to its concert tomorrow (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.

Staff and volunteers from the Caol-based charitable organisation Lochaber Sensory Care for sight and hearing support will be paying an outreach visit to Mallaig on Tuesday May 7. The LSC team will be based in Mallaig Medical Centre from 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

They will offer support and advice to those with sight loss or hearing loss and will also retube and maintain NHS hearing aids and supply batteries for these. No appointment necessary for this free, friendly service.

Fort William Accordion and Fiddle Club are hosting a musical evening on Tuesday May 7 at 7.30pm. The evening will be dedicated to local artists and will take place at the Railway Club in Inverlochy. All welcome.

Marie Curie Lochaber Fundraising Group would like to invite you to a daffodil coffee morning at St Andrew's Church hall, behind the church, Fort William, on Thursday May 16. Tea, coffee and homebaking available. For more information, contact Claire MacDonald on 07551 703649.

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The first glimpse of the new egg in the osprey nest at Loch Arkaig pine forest.
Photograph: Woodland Trust.

Relief as Loch Arkaig ospreys back in focus

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Fans of a live internet stream from the osprey breeding site at Loch Arkaig, near Spean Bridge, are breathing a sigh of relief after an egg was laid, settling the question of which nest the birds were going to use.

Louis and Aila returned to the nest at Loch Arkaig pine forest in the first week of April, but since then have behaved very erratically and seemed to be dividing their time between the nest with the camera, and another platform a mile away without one.

However, Aila laid her first egg on the evening of Tuesday April 23, at 6.25pm and George Anderson, of Woodland Trust Scotland, admitted the process had seemed like 'osprey egg roulette crossed with the hokey cokey'.

Mr Anderson added: 'We were really worried they weren't committing fully to the camera nest where they have laid the past two years.'

'First, Aila, the female, disappeared for a few days. Then after she came back they both went off and were

seen primping up the nest a mile away.

'Ironically, this was on a platform we built ourselves hoping to attract other birds to nest in the area. Obviously we are happy for the pair to nest anywhere so long as they are successful – but people around the world enjoy tuning in to their antics online so we would have been gutted if they had done a flit on us.'

'They are such an eccentric pair, so we never know what they are going to do. As they continued to nip back and forwards between the two nests, and egg time got closer, we knew the question was about to be settled once and for all. It's a huge relief we seem to have won egg roulette. We kept our nest-cam Kardashians on screen.'

One of the reasons the birds may have been thinking of a move is that their normally sheltered nest took a battering from high winds from an unusual direction.

For a couple of days the wind funnelled down the glen and right at them. Viewers have also speculated that they were being spooked by other birds of prey in the area – golden eagles and sea eagles are both in residence.

The live osprey nest camera at Loch Arkaig pine forest in Lochaber is supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery.

Loch Arkaig is the most challenging nest camera site in the UK, as there is no visitor centre, electricity supply or internet connection onsite.

Everything has to be solar powered and the signal is beamed across the loch before it can enter the Lochielnet system and then out to the world.

The live stream will run until the autumn – including on the screen in the Lochaber Times office window in Fort William High Street – when it is hoped some chicks will be fledged. Ospreys usually produce clutches of three eggs with a day or two interval between each laying.

Woodland Trust Scotland bought Loch Arkaig pine forest in partnership with local group Arkaig Community Forest at the end of 2016. The live camera stream began the following season.

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Fort's Holly joins Greta for Westminster talks

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Fort William climate activist and Lochaber Times columnist Holly Gillibrand teamed up with Swedish teenage environmental campaigner Greta Thunberg at Westminster last week to plead with national politicians to do more to tackle climate change.

Lochaber MP and SNP Westminster leader Ian Blackford joined fellow political leaders Jeremy Corbyn, Vince Cable and Caroline Lucas, among others, to meet with the young climate change campaigners to discuss how to respond to the climate crisis.

Greta, 16, has already been nominated for the Nobel peace prize after triggering worldwide environmental protests with her series of school climate strikes in Sweden.

Ms Gillibrand, who attend-



ed the parliamentary round table talks, was praised by Mr Blackford for her 'exemplary' efforts to raise awareness of the climate crisis.

Holly has been striking from classes at Lochaber High School in Fort William every Friday morning since January in an effort to focus more attention on the climate change emergency.

Mr Blackford said: 'I met with two incredible young women, Greta Thunberg and Holly Gillibrand, who is from Fort William in my constituency.

'Holly's and Greta's efforts in encouraging more action on climate change across the globe have been exemplary. Along with countless other young people, they are

Greta Thunberg, far left, pictured next to Holly Gillibrand, Anna Taylor and George Bond (both from the UK Student Climate Network).

leading the way in the fight against climate change.

'Leaders of all countries, including in the UK, must listen to the voice of the next generation - it is their planet to inherit, after all - and play their part in tackling the climate crisis.'

Giving her views on the trip to Westminster, including her impressions of Ms Thunberg, Holly told the Lochaber Times this week: 'I met with UK party leaders, including Jeremy Corbyn and Caroline Lucas, to discuss climate change and the action that the UK parliament should be taking.

'Greta Thunberg was at the meeting, as well as Anna

Taylor and George Bond from UKSCN. We reached an agreement on some important steps that they [the UK party leaders] can take together to tackle the climate crisis.

'I hope that the meeting will lead to the real and necessary action that we need to take. Obviously it has had an impact, with Jeremy Corbyn calling for the parliament to declare a national climate emergency and Nicola Sturgeon also declaring a climate emergency as the First Minister of Scotland.

'Greta was very nice but she doesn't speak unless she has something to say. At the meeting, Greta put it across to the MPs that they need to be communicating with young people who are from the UK, instead of her. I found her speech very powerful, especially when she talked about the UK's "creative carbon accounting".'

Appeal after metal cables stolen in Fort

Police in Fort William are appealing for information following the theft of a large quantity of electrical cabling.

A yard at the Ben Nevis Industrial Estate was broken into between 11.10pm on Tuesday April 23 and 1am on Thursday April 24.

A quantity of cabling valued at a mid-four-figure sum was stolen.

Detective Sergeant Andy Bilton said: 'This cabling is very heavy and would have required a vehicle to move it.

'We would urge anyone who may have seen activity around the industrial estate at the time to let us know, even if it didn't seem particularly noteworthy at the time.'

Anyone with information can contact police by calling 101, quoting reference NP1211/19, or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Kenny's arboreal antics aid Ardgour Primary

Last week saw Kenny Turnbull serve his last day aboard the Corran Ferry, swapping his sea boots for full-time work as a tree surgeon, writes Mark Entwistle.

Fully qualified with more than 10 years' experience in the business, Kenny has now opened his own firm, Fort William-based K Trees.

And one of his first jobs was a 'freebie' to help Ardgour Primary School by removing two dangerous trees overhanging the playground as a goodwill gesture to the community.

'I've been on the Corran Ferry for the past three years,



Kenny Turnbull with one of the problem trees at Ardgour Primary School.

but the opportunity arose to go full-time with the tree surgery. I've got two wee boys and want to spend more

time with them and my wife. My shift pattern on the ferry meant I wasn't seeing them as much as I wanted to, so when this chance came it was a no brainer really.'

And Kenny says he was happy to help out with the primary school's tree situation as not only is he a former pupil, but his dad, Brian, was head teacher from the late 1970s to the early 1990s.

'The two trees had really low branches blocking off part of the playground so the kids couldn't really use that area,' Kenny explained. 'I was happy to do it and put something back into the community.'

VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

Hospitality is a key part of our local economy and it's important we make this an attractive and rewarding industry for staff in order to provide our guests with the best possible experience.

That's why Lochaber Chamber of Commerce and West Highland College UHI are hosting a special hospitality business event.

This lunchtime talk and networking lunch will give tourism and hospitality businesses a chance to check out the training on offer at

the college and the chance to chat to Nigel Patterson, business development manager at West Highland College UHI, about the kinds of skills training that would be most useful for hospitality businesses.

We'll also hear from Caroline Gregory, inspirational hotelier and passionate champion of staff training and development. Caroline has been the owner and manager of The Lovat Hotel in Fort Augustus for the past 14 years, and will give a short

talk on the importance of investing in your staff team, how she deals with the challenges of rural recruitment and retention of staff, and what she believes it takes to make your hospitality business a really rewarding place to work.

The hospitality sector event will be held on Tuesday June 4, from 12.30-2.30pm at West Highland College UHI, Fort William.

Visit www.lochaberchamber.co.uk for event details and to book your place.

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Faroese missionary ship calls at Corpach

A Faroese missionary ship docked in Corpach harbour for a weekend of community activities.

The Juvel II was bought in 2008 by a group from the Faroe Islands who had started a Christian summer boat ministry in 1977.

The 45-year-old vessel now visits remote locations as part of its missionary work.

The ship arrived at Corpach on Friday with a 23-strong party from the Faroes aboard. Allan Smillie, a member of one of the Lochaber congregations who organised the visit, said: 'The ship has been to the Hebrides before but this is the first time it has visited the Scottish mainland. There were various community activities, including an open ship event when people could see round the Juvel II.

'The visit was a great success and all the events were well-attended.'

Fort first shinty club to achieve gold status

Fort William Shinty Club has become the first club in the sport to receive a sportsScotland Clubmark Accreditation Scheme Gold Certificate.

The scheme is designed to support clubs and volunteers who have ambitions to be the best they can be.

All clubs have to affiliate to the Camanachd Association and complete Foundation Level, after which they can progress towards achieving higher levels.

To achieve gold status, a club has to meet operating requirements, including fielding as many levels of teams as possible, provide a minimum of two qualified referees to officiate regularly at senior level and three at youth level, have changing rooms, showers and toilets for male and female members and have their own website, Facebook and Twitter account.

Club chairman Duncan



Ronald Ross, right, and Gary Reid, centre, present the Gold SportScotland Clubmark Accreditation Certificate to Fort William Shinty Club chairman Duncan MacPhee, left.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos.

MacPhee said: 'The gold certificate belongs to all of you – to our club – which we

are proud to declare is a club open to all. You have all, in one way or another, contrib-

uted to this certificate. Our club committee has served us well and are too numer-

'The gold certificate belongs to all of you – to our club – which we are proud to declare is a club open to all.'

ous to mention.' He added: 'Many thanks to everyone and congratulations on this magnificent and thoroughly well-deserved achievement.'

Ronald Ross, Camanachd Association regional development manager, and Gary Reid, partnership manager at sportsScotland, presented the award to the club on Monday evening, April 29, where players and supporters helped mark the special occasion.

Lochaber siblings in big screen movie western

Lochaber's rising stars of the big screen Megan and Jack Daynes will be seen in a new independent Western movie.

Attack on Tranquility is produced by Samson Video Productions and Tranquility Productions, and premieres at Belmont Film House in Aberdeen on Sunday.

Megan, who along with Jack is a former pupil of Kinlochleven High School, says she was excited to get the lead role as Mollie Parker in the movie which was filmed last summer, in a small replica



Megan Daynes plays Mollie Parker in the film.

Photograph: Lyn Reid.

western town on the outskirts of Huntly in Aberdeenshire.

The design of the town of Tranquility was the brainchild of Alistair Baranowski who, in 2005, built the frontier American West town in the field behind his home.

Joined by her brother Jack, who acted alongside Megan as a stunt extra, the brother and sister team enjoyed gun fights, bar brawls and going back in time to live in the Wild West.

The movie's plot sees Mollie Parker living a peaceful life in Tranquility with her suitor Sheriff Mickey Garrett, played by Aberdeen actor Devon Thompson.

But the quiet life and hopes of a Sunday social date are abruptly stopped when Crazy

Jack's Gang come to town causing mayhem, death and destruction.

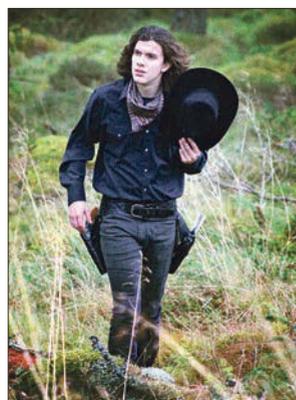
Megan told the Lochaber Times: 'Living in the frontier town was an amazing opportunity.

'We were back in the Wild West with no running water, electricity or heat.

'Getting away from today's fast-paced world and 'un-plugging' was a treat. My lodgings for the week were behind bars in bunk beds in the jail house.

'The director, cast and crew have all become great friends.'

Jack added: 'It was great putting some of my recent stunt training into practice. No spoilers, but it is a lot of fun to 'fight' with your sister in a whole new way.'



Jack Daynes worked as a stunt extra on the western.

Photograph: Lyn Reid.



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Work on Fort coastal defence progressing

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

More than 450 blocks, each weighing 1.5 tonnes, have now been put into position as part of the upgrading of coastal defences along the A82 in Fort William's Achintore Road.

The work is part of the recent investment from Transport Scotland of £465,000, to install a more robust system which will ensure the integrity of the A82 is maintained.

Works began on April 1 with initial implementation of a number of environmental exclusion zones and mitigation measures onsite.

Initial operations involved excavation of the existing defence system and cutting and formation of the shore-side embankment of the A82.

Foundations for the new sea barrier then followed to



allow installation of the new modular retaining wall.

Following the installation of the 450 blocks, ongoing operations now involve finishing the wall which will then see more than 1,000 tonnes of rock armour protection installed along this section of coastline. Once completed,

operations will focus on the construction of a wider footway through this section and the installation of a new crash barrier system to improve road user safety.

However, progress has been unachievable in a localised section of the site due to the presence of nesting birds.

Work progressing on the Achintore Road coastal defences this week.

Photographs: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

This has meant restricted access during the incubation period, and therefore works will unfortunately require an additional week to construct this specific section of the site.

Traffic management is required up to the expected completion date of May 17. However, the signals will be removed during the period between May 6-11 to minimise delays during the Six Days Trial motorcycle event.



Council calls for clarity on ferry delay

Councillor Uisdean Robertson has said the Scottish Government must demand more information from Ferguson Marine Engineering on the further slippage in delivery dates of the two ferries ordered, following an update from Paul Wheelhouse MSP, the minister for energy and islands.

Councillor Robertson, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's chairman of transportation and infrastructure, said: 'Ferguson Marine must tell their client, but more importantly our island communities, exactly when these ferries will be in service. Scottish Government must demand this information, not only through their ownership of CMAL, but on the basis of the massive loans they have given this shipyard.'

'This is not an issue for political point-scoring but for everyone to get together with a common aim of getting these ferries completed as quickly as possible.'

MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

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The Mull Music Festival is over for another year and by the time this goes to print, even the most dedicated and enthusiastic of attendees will have regained their health after what is famous for being a weekend of vigorous celebration with non-stop music and accompanying refreshments.

It's been a few years since I've been to the Mull festival and although I thought I might make it this year, a combination of a few approaching deadlines and getting too sensible in my old age kept me on the straight and narrow.

With the ever-present pull of Facebook on our phones and computers, there were plenty of photos and videos reaching out from the various centres of activity which made me feel that staying at home had been a huge mistake and that I should immediately jump in the car with the accordion, drive to Oban, fire over on the ferry, head straight for Tobermory, moor the car and get in among it all. Abstinence prevailed, though, and on Monday morning I was very grateful it did.

Tobermory is a picturesque

town and, apart from the natural beauty of the bay, there are a few other aesthetic features that create its unique appeal – the multi-coloured houses on the Main Street, the town clock by the pier and the two varnished fishing boats, the Dawn Treader and the Jacobite.

For me, these boats symbolise Tobermory and the Mull Music Festival most powerfully.

They are probably the two most photographed fishing boats on the West Coast due to the beauty of their construction by John Gaff of Girvan, and the pristine condition in which the owners maintain them.

The Dawn Treader is now 30 years old and she still looks brand new.

During festivals over the years these boats were always tied up at the Fishermen's Pier as their respective owners – Alasdair 'Steptoe' MacLean and his twin brother, Calum 'Cally' MacLean – would be joining in the music and celebrations.

Due to ill health, Cally no longer fishes but the Jacobite is still maintained in 'as new' condition as his son Calum

skippers the boat and continues the family tradition. I am very proud that this year, Steptoe has been nominated to the final of Shellfish Fisherman of the Year at the Fishing News Awards, which take place in Aberdeen on May 16.

With a lifetime of successful fishing, and continued commitment to his job even after turning 60, the award could not go to a more deserving recipient.

As far back as I can remember on trips to Tobermory on my father's fishing boats, and later to music festivals, Steptoe, Cally and their brothers were always around.

We either stayed with them or they would be down about the pier and on board chatting with dad. They were always held up by him as bastions of strong work ethic, of how to progress in life and of being top fishermen.

Many years on, they still maintain that mantle and although industry awards are never to be taken too seriously, I, and many others, would very much like to see Steptoe receive the trophy in Aberdeen. My fingers are crossed!

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Consultation on firework safety

The Trading Standards team at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is reminding residents the Scottish Government is currently consulting on fireworks in Scotland.

A spokesperson commented: 'The Scottish Government is keen to hear your views on whether the regulations on how fireworks are used needs to be improved. Events are being held in Stornoway Town Hall on Wednesday May 8 at 2pm and at 6pm. We would encourage everyone with an interest in fireworks to attend.'

Roadworks on A87 south of Portree

Work to resurface a stretch of the A87 south of Portree was due to start at the beginning of this week.

The £125,000 investment by Transport Scotland will see improvements to more than a kilometre of the road.

The project was scheduled to begin on Monday and should be finished by 7am on Saturday May 4.

A 10mph convoy system has been in place during the daytime work. During the overnight work tomorrow (Friday), temporary traffic lights will also be in place at the junction of the A87/A855.

GET INVOLVED
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Concern over mortgage arrears

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch has the highest level of mortgage arrears in Scotland.

The figures, released in a new, hard-hitting report by a national debt charity, have prompted concern from constituency MSP Kate Forbes.

According to Step Change, 29 per cent of their clients in this particular area are affected by mortgage debt, with the average being a colossal £16,155.

The average debt for the Highlands and Islands as a region was £4,612 and for Scotland was £2,832. Step

Change helped more than 30,000 people in Scotland last year.

The same report also showed the Highlands and Islands has the highest electricity bill arrears out of the eight Scottish regions with £1,143 and the second highest for gas debt at £685.

Ms Forbes said: 'These figures are extremely worrying, driven by higher utility costs and more economic fragility. Behind every figure is a family struggling to make ends meet and feeling the weight of debt on their shoulders.'

'A lot of poverty in the Highlands goes unseen and unchecked, so reports like this are important for bringing facts to light. Charities, like Christians Against Poverty and Step Change, can help families deal with debt and I would strongly encourage anyone with the burden of debt to get in touch with them.'

'There are obviously particular pressures in my constituency, which means the average mortgage debt is significantly higher than the Highland average. The gap

between average income and average house prices is wider than in many other parts of Scotland. There will be additional reasons for these figures, not least the much lower number of properties to let or to rent, leaving people with little choice but to buy.'

'The solutions to this are many and varied. Whilst the Government has a programme of work that means more than 75,000 new homes have been built across Scotland since the SNP came to power, there remains a challenge with second homes

in the Highlands absorbing additional housing and driving up prices.

'We also need to make sure it is 'mixed tenure' and there are different types of affordability – properties to rent, shared equity schemes and self-build funds.'

'These figures are, of course, indicative of a lack of construction over 10 years ago and I would hope that with a renewed focus on accessible, affordable housing and increased supply, we start to see a reduction in these unacceptable high levels of debt.'

Three Chimneys sold after 34 years

Famous Skye eaterie The Three Chimneys has been sold by owners Shirley and Eddie Speirs after 34 years.

The world-renowned restaurant with rooms, at Colbost, has been bought by Scots-born international hotelier Gordon Campbell Gray, who is returning to live in Scotland.

The Three Chimneys will be part of his new Scottish hotel and restaurant collection, The Wee Hotel Company.

All current staff will remain in position, including head chef Scott Davies, whose style of cooking and commitment to using hyper-local produce has grown The Three Chimneys' reputation as one



Shirley and Eddie Speirs have sold Skye's famous Three Chimneys to Gordon Campbell Gray, right.

of the best restaurants in the world. Reservations in the restaurant, and bookings for 'The Three Chimneys' six adjacent bedroom suites in The House Over-By, will be honoured under the new

ownership and the current management team will remain.

The Speirs, who reopened The Three Chimneys in 1985, will remain indirectly involved with the business for

a transitional period ensuring a smooth handover.

Shirley said: 'Eddie and I have dedicated most of our working and family life to The Three Chimneys and are extremely proud of how the restaurant has developed over the past three decades.'

'This could not have been possible without the support of many wonderful people, who have all worked exceptionally hard to help us build our reputation.'

'Together we've taken The Three Chimneys' biggest business constraint – the restaurant's remote location – and turned it into a unique selling point. We have now reached a point in our lives

where we want to travel more and work a little less.'

'Our focus has been on finding the right person who shares our vision for the long-term future of The Three Chimneys and we are extremely pleased to have found that person in Gordon. We know The Three Chimneys, The House Over-By and our exceptional team will be in great hands.'

Mr Gray added: 'I cannot tell you how privileged I feel to have been given the opportunity to buy The Three Chimneys. I am very flattered they would allow me take over the reins of their amazing achievement and the simply outstanding team.'

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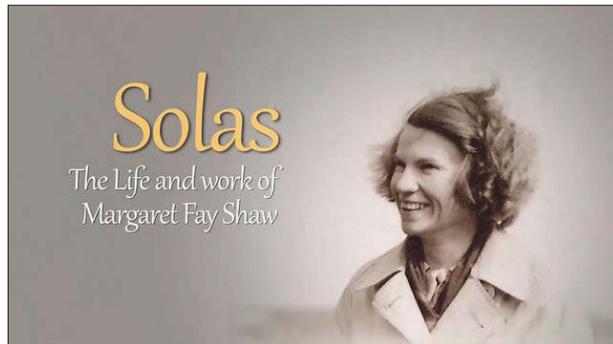
Uist film premiere a fitting tribute to Margaret's work

by Mark Entwistle
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Little did the Pennsylvania relatives of Margaret Fay Shaw know in 1920 when they packed her off to the home of her ancestors in Scotland to 'sort her out' as they called it, that the orphaned teenager would one day be celebrated as one of the world's first female photographers/cinematographers.

And now a new film celebrating the footage collected by Margaret will premiere at an event in South Uist tomorrow (Friday May 3) as part of the Moladh Uibhist weekend.

Created by the National Trust for Scotland's Canna



House archivist, Fiona J Mackenzie, Solas – Gaelic for light – uses rediscovered film shot by the US-born folklorist who dedicated her life to documenting Gaelic song.

Margaret Fay Shaw left the world a fascinating collection

of images and invaluable film of a lifestyle which no longer exists.

She not only took film and photographs in the Outer Hebrides but also on Canna, where she lived with her husband and fellow folklorist John Lorne Campbell from 1938, when they bought the island, until her death, aged 101, in 2004.

As a teenager, the young Margaret was sent to St Bride's School in Helensburgh and it was here, at a school recital, that she first heard Gaelic being sung by Victorian song collector Marjory Kennedy Fraser.

Margaret decided there and then to make finding the 'pristine version of Gaelic song' her 'life's quest'. She spent six years living in the remote hamlet of North Glendale,

South Lochboisdale, South Uist, between 1929 and 1935 and over the course of these years, she documented a disappearing way of Hebridean life.

This film collection was recently redigitised by the National Trust for Scotland, which has cared for the island since 1981, to ensure its preservation.

During this process, archivist Ms Mackenzie uncovered some previously unseen film, including footage of the first plane landing on the Cockle Strand on Barra in 1936.

'I am delighted we have produced this lovely piece of work, to profile the work of an incredible woman who had the foresight to save for the world today, a piece of Scottish lifestyle which would have otherwise disappeared.'

Solas uses Margaret's images, films and words to tell the story of her life and the people in that life.

Using two broadcasts which she made for the BBC in the 1950s and the words of her close friend and companion, Basque-born Magda Sagarzazu, their own recorded voices tell how their lives were affected by the islands, the people, the animals, crofting, the birds, the songs and the sounds.

The film also uses samples from the sound archive recorded by Campbell during the 30s and 40s in the Hebrides, primarily Barra, South Uist, Eriskay and Canna.

Inspire

During the production of the film, Ms Mackenzie was also keen to demonstrate how an archive can inspire new and current creative work.

Lewis piper James Duncan Mackenzie, a member of the band Breabach, was commissioned to produce a new soundtrack for the film. He and fellow musicians spent a week in Canna House, using the films to produce a suite of new music.

Ms Mackenzie said: 'I am delighted we have produced this lovely piece of work, to

profile the work of an incredible woman who had the foresight to save for the world today, a piece of Scottish lifestyle which would have otherwise disappeared.

'It is only right the film is premiered in the middle of the community which took Margaret to their hearts and were so generous with their time, language, love and culture.'

'Margaret said Uist was the place 'where she was loved the best' and we hope that this will be evident in the film.'

'We are very grateful to the National Trust for Scotland USA Foundation for making this project possible and for the opportunity to prove that archives can be a living entity, not merely a collection of boxes on the shelf.'

'All of the people involved in the production, the editor, the musicians, the studios, have been inspired by the work of Margaret and John Lorne Campbell and all are keen to continue this work, using the wonderful resources contained in Canna House to celebrate the life and work of these two incredible people.'

'John and Margaret Campbell would be delighted we are using the old to create the new.'



One of Margaret Fay shaw's images.

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LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@obantimes.co.uk
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HBRelief mingles
with excitement
over ospreys

It is difficult to overstate the level of interest around the world – never mind in Lochaber and across Scotland – in the Loch Arkaig ospreys.

So it is of little surprise that we report this week the relief mingled with excitement after the nesting pair produced an egg in the nest covered by a remote camera.

According to George Anderson, of Woodland Trust Scotland, the mating pair of ospreys, named Louis and Aila, have behaved very erratically and seemed to be dividing their time between the nest with the camera, and another platform a mile away without one.

Luckily for all interested parties, the egg was laid in the nest with the camera.

Loch Arkaig is the most challenging nest camera site in the UK, as there is no visitor centre, electricity supply or internet connection onsite.

The chick, if and when it hatches, faces a perilous start to life but we, along with people around the world, are enthralled and will watch its journey with interest.

Great ambassadors
from Mallaig High

Mallaig High School's head of music, Lauren Moir, tells us this week of how proud she is of the four traditional musicians from the pupil body following their recent sojourn to China.

The youngsters visited a number of famous places, including Beijing and the Great Wall of China, as well as some lesser-known destinations.

What a wonderful opportunity this trip presented to the students involved, who are, apparently, still being talked about.

They should all be proud of themselves, as their school is of them.

Crossroads at Spean Bridge
pose a considerable danger

I leave the main road to go up the Leanachan road at the Spean Bridge crossroads junction three or four times a day, seven days a week.

Almost every time I fear vehicles coming behind me before I exit the main road on to the Leanachan single-track road, are going to hit the back of me – I've had several close calls.

The main reasons are the speed of traffic as they come off the straight section of road and come around the corner about 50m from the crossroads junction, only then to see traffic going up the Leanachan road, and the lack of awareness by the main road vehicles of the possibility that traffic exiting the main road on to the Leanachan will have to stop on the main road if a vehicle is coming along the Leanachan road, as two vehicles won't fit in the mouth of the Leanachan road.

There is also a danger for those exiting from the main road turning right down the High Bridge/Brackletter/Kilmonivaig road as they, too, may have to sit in the main road until oncoming traffic on the main road is cleared.

School minibuses with primary children must face this problem daily.

I asked the community council if it would inquire about the safety issue, asking if the mouth of Leanachan exit could be widened to be similar to the High Bridge/Brackletter/Kilmonivaig exit.

The reply I got was no, BEAR Scotland had said it had trouble with a culvert at this junction. I asked a local resident about that and he told me the only problem with the culvert is when leaves choke it. Some problem!

As I travelled up from Lochy Bridge, I noted at Carr's Corner where there is only one junction to a business yard but there is a big 'Slow' sign painted on the road and a cluster of 30mph signs on both sides. Just by the Inverloch Castle Hotel entrance, there is a very clear sign with an orange background with the words 'Reduce speed now'.

I don't have a problem with these signs except there seems to be a very inconsistent approach to safety. Are the lives of those using the crossroads at Spean Bridge of less importance? So why do we not have similar signs?

It is only a miracle that there have not been more deaths at this point in the road.

Let us have those of us who use the cross-

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.

roads junction protected before someone is killed.

Betty MacLachlan, Spean Bridge.

Islay Mòd cancelled for 2019

Sadly, due to unforeseen unavoidable circumstances, Islay's local Mòd will not take place this year.

Originally planned for June 15, the local Mòd Ìle committee decided that it would not be possible to run the event to the standard the island expects.

This was a hard decision to make but we did not feel we had the capacity to deliver our Mòd

this year. Our apologies go out to disappointed supporters and competitors.

However, we plan to use this breathing space constructively. We are looking hard at Mòd activities with the aim of being back better and stronger for 2020.

We will be seeking out best practice from other Mòds around Scotland and looking to other events for fresh ideas. A meeting will be held on June 11 so that all interested Ìleach and stakeholders can input their views and ideas.

We want to retain what is best about our event but keep it fresh for the coming years.'

Neil Baker, Islay Mòd Committee chairman.

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DISTRICT NEWS

SKYE

The annual Armadale Castle, Gardens and Museum of the Isles friends meeting will take place on Saturday June 8.

Starting at 10am, the event is anticipated to be finished 'in good time' for the Princess Margaret of the Isles memorial prize for Senior Clarsash UK, which takes place in the afternoon.

To find out more, email lisa@armadalecastle.com.

PLOCKTON

March in Plockton saw 5.3 inches of rain. The warmest day was 12°C compared with 17°C in February. The coldest night was 0.8°C, with only five dry days.

On Easter Sunday, April 21, the latest Easter for 30 years, the annual open air service was held at the Glack, Plockton's famous open air church site.

Around 40 people attended on a damp but dry morning. The service was conducted by Reverend Roddie Rankin.

The Lochalsh branch of Legion Scotland held its annual cheese and wine evening in the Lochalsh Hotel on April 6. Around 40 members attended.

The grand spring raffle raised £810 for funds. The Lochalsh branch of Legion Scotland president presented gifts to retiring chairman Noel Gordon and to Doug Burgoyne, who did so much work at the Plockton war memorial which is now admired by everyone.

Plockton Drama Club members travelled to Nairn to take part in the divisional finals with their play 'Bridal Terrorism' by Bill Rosenfield. Producer was Gill James. Although unplaced, they enjoyed their visit.

At a concert in Plockton Hall on April 3, Andrew Finn Magill of the USA, and Sean Gray, Scotland, were supported by students from Plockton Music School.

Seonaid Mackenzie of Harbour Street, Plockton, celebrated her 90th birthday on April 11 with a party in her house attended by most of the village.

A new cafe at Duirnish called The Croft Cafe opened on April 25, with a party for Duirinish and Drumbuie residents. The owner is Mary Dobson.

MALLAIG

Representatives of communities from both sides of the Mallaig-to-Armadale crossing will meet with Islands Minister Paul Wheelhouse next week after MSP Kate Forbes secured a meeting to discuss future improvements to the route.

The meeting will take place at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Sleat, Skye tomorrow (Friday) and will include members of Sleat Transport Forum and representatives from the Road to the Isles marketing group.

Ms Forbes, constituency MSP for both sides of the crossing, met with Mr Wheelhouse at the Scottish Parliament at the end of last year when she stressed the need for long-term improvements on the route and raised the possibility of a pilot scheme for the 2019/20 winter service.

This would involve the Loch Bhrusda being deployed to Mallaig for two or three extended periods when it is not being used for refit relief.

Ms Forbes said: 'It is really important the minister listens directly to community representatives and that is why I have invited him to my constituency. The ferry is a critically important link between Mallaig and Sleat, used for shopping, visiting friends and work.'

'After the last few years of disruption, since the MV Coruisk was removed, people want to know there is light at the end of the tunnel.'

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The gold award-winning Lochaber High School band. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

Lochaber High School band strikes gold

Lochaber High School Senior Wind Band struck gold at the recent national finals of the Scottish Concert Band Festival, held every year in Perth Concert Hall.

Appearing at the event for the fifth time, they played an exciting and challenging programme of original concert band music and were pre-

sented with a gold award. This was the fifth time they have won a gold or gold plus award at the finals, an achievement no other band in their class has ever managed.

Adjudicators and organisers commented on the band's musicality, professionalism and their excellent deployment on stage.

Head teacher Scott Steele commented: 'I am incredibly proud of all the young musicians in Lochaber High School and members of the senior wind band have once again shown they can perform exceptionally well at a national level year after year. Well done to everyone involved.'



Lundavra pupils raise £130 for trust

Lundavra Primary School presented a cheque for £130.27 to Lochaber Rural Education Trust. The money was raised at the school's monthly community cafe. Photograph: Abrightside Photography.

Pupils enjoy Seeds to Supper project

Primary school pupils have been learning how to grow vegetables as part of Lochaber Rural Education Trust's new Seed to Supper project.

Sixteen pupils from Inverloch Primary School and 10 from St Columba's RC Primary School enjoyed their visit to the trust, based in Fort William, on a lovely spring day.



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The litter pickers enjoy a well-earned lunch break.

Spring sunshine brightens spirits at Friends of Nevis litter pick

Excellent weather boosted the spirits of everyone taking part in the Friends of Nevis spring litter pick in Glen Nevis and curling ponds tidy.

'We want to thank all the volunteers who took part. It was great to have so many helpers of all ages,' said a spokesperson. 'Litter was cleared from as much of the glen as possible and the curling ponds area was tidied up. Thanks go to the Ben Nevis Highland Centre, who

once again supported the event.' Forthcoming events include a drop-in bird ringing session in the visitor centre car park on Sunday May 19. Help is also always needed at monthly footpath maintenance days. For more details or to join in an event, visit www.friendsofnevis.co.uk, email Roryinfo@friendsofnevis.co.uk or telephone Rory at the Nevis Landscape Partnership office on 01397 701088.

It was a fine spring day for the event, which saw the pupils learning about growing vegetables.

Photographs: Abridge Photography.



Retro Roamer

fort@obantimes.co.uk

More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

During the Monday 'town holiday', Fort William High Street was congested with traffic for long periods. The cause? The trusty signs, opposite each other and proclaiming 'Waiting This Side Today' and 'No Waiting This Side Today', had not been changed around. So local drivers, aware of regulations for the street, parked on the 'No Waiting This Side Today' area, because the signs should have been altered to 'Waiting This Side'. Are you with me so far? Visitors, of course, followed the signs and that caused High Street havoc for most of the morning.

We were holidaying in Ireland last week. It was great, a laugh a minute. 'If I was you, Sorr, I wouldn't start from here.' Such was the response in Donegal to my request for directions to put us on the right road. That made a change from the normal parting shots like: 'Take the third right past O'Shaughnessy's Store and the fourteenth left at Fahy's Farm. You can't miss it.'

Aye, Ireland's an eye opener. I mean, have you seen a small saloon car towing a tractor in Lochaber recently? The road signs are great too. Coming up to a bad bend you get one marked 'Slow' and a wee bit further along there's another saying 'Slower'.

We called on Tom Lally at his pub in Garrafrauns, near Dunmore. Tom's the sports-keen landlord who stays in Fort William with the Denney family when he's over here for Camanachd Cup finals. While we were in the pub, he produced a letter he had received from the Denneys that very morning which mentioned they had handed over to Roamer some cuttings Tom had sent following his latest visit to the Fort.

Meanwhile there's something 'Hielan' going on in Seagull City. I'm told that, as of this week, lots of gulls

have deserted Mallaig because they can't stand the noise of the work being carried out at the harbour to accommodate the ro-ro ferry.

Members of Mallaig Senior Citizens Club were being coach-driven to the theatre in the capital city as guests of the Cameron Mackintosh Foundation. There they enjoyed the performance of 'Les Miserables' being staged by their local impresario by adoption. They thoroughly enjoyed it. Then, by popular choice, the coach driver was asked to head for Ingliston Market. Mystery, however, surrounds the subsequent announcement over the tannoy there: 'Ingliston Market welcomes the Hoochters and Teuchters from Mallaig'.

Finlay dug up the Fort's old gas main from under the High Street, outside the Jack. Part of it had a metal plate attached, stamped, almost inevitably 'Glenfield & Kennedy Ltd, Kilmarnock'. The metalwork is now away in the back of a big lorry. But it was briefly reunited with its former gasworks, with a detour past Central Garage.

'Are we in Fort William yet?' That was the question from the tourists who presented themselves at our Cameron Square Visitor Centre. On being reassured they had indeed reached the Fort, their spokesman said, in all seriousness: 'Oh good. Can you now tell us how to reach Lochaber?'

Having seen the snow on the mountain tops, two Germans arrived at the Aonach Mor ticket desk, desperate to find out if they would be able to see any 'snow geese animals' on the ski slopes.

Bus driver Ricky raised a lot of laughs on the way along Alma Road on Thursday. Just up from Charlecote, he stopped the bus, dived out and proceeded to prune

the protruding foliage from a hedge. 'Every time I come up here, that hedge just about breaks off my wing mirror,' Ricky announced to his bemused passengers. Having got going once more, the bus pulled up above the pathway to Victoria Road. Ricky nipped out again and snapped off a sticking-out branch from another hedge, before resuming the otherwise normal town run which was rapidly becoming reminiscent of a tour with the Beechgrove Garden's Hit Squad.

Bonnie Glenfinnan's local entertainer Joe Gillies was appearing in Malta with Madonna. Well, that's Joe's story. But he has had to water down his own version because he was spotted in Valetta by Violet Smith of Lochside Primary School. At which time, Joe was carrying on his shoulder a three foot statue of the Madonna which he had just bought and was taking back to Lochaber for one of his relatives.

I was passing what many locals maintained should always be the Town Park when I witnessed a throwback from the 1960s. There was Pat Cassidy, in full flight, crossing Belford Road and heading for the Craigs to retrieve a shinty ball hit with more vigour than accuracy by one of the youngsters he was coaching. Pangie Kennedy was more spot on. Playing at right back - and playing for time - Pangie walloped the ball out of the park and into the back of Henderson's lorry which was heading home to Acharacle.

The booklet title, The Kennedies of Lochaber, has been concerning me for some time. And now, page eight of a current local magazine is questioning how 'Kennedies' can be a correct plural of the clan. For example, did you ever hear Bob Proudfoot refer to his family members as 'Proudfeet'?

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LT

SPORTS NIGHT



10-pin bowlers at the Nevis Centre.

Lochaber 10-pin bowling singles league results

After week three of the 10-pin bowling singles leagues at the Nevis Centre in Fort William, Brian Johnstone continues to lead the scratch league with 70 points followed by Gary Cowan with 66 points and Pam Weller in third place with 65 points. The handicap league is now led by Gary Cowan on 61 points followed by Iain Gregor on 55 points and Ton De Ruk on 54 points. Brian Johnstone continues to lead in the chase for the Nevis Radio High Pin Trophy with 1833 pins followed by Gary Cowan with 1810 followed by Pam Weller in third place with 1765 pins.

The top individual scratch game this week came from Gary Cowan with a game of 180. Also this week Brian Stewart had a 170. Gary Cowan had the best three-game scratch series this week with 488 giving him this week's maximum of 20 scratch points followed by Brian Johnstone with 465 and Brian Stewart with 439. Gary Cowan had the top handicap game of 225 followed by Ton De Ruk with 220 and Steve Day with 217. Gary Cowan also gained the maximum 20 handicap points this week with the top three-game handicap series of 623 followed by Ton De Ruk with 593 and Bill Clark with 581.

LOTTERY NUMBERS

Lochaber club lotteries

Fort William Golf Club's lotto numbers last week were 2, 6 and 14. There was one winner of the £700 jackpot. The prize for the draw today, Thursday May 2, will be £100.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers last week were 12, 16 and 17. There were no winners this week so next week's jackpot will be £400.

Caol Community Centre bingo club's lotto numbers were 6, 12 and 18. There were no winners this week. Next week's jackpot will be £300.

The numbers for the Lochaber Camanachd Club lottery drawn on Tuesday April 23 were 3, 5, and 9. There was no winner. The prize for Tuesday April 30 was £600.

The numbers in the Caol Regeneration Lotto this week were 2, 6 and 17. There was no winner this week. Next week's draw has a prize of £400.

GOLF

Robert fails to make cut

After making 10 out of 11 cuts in his first year on the European Tour circuit, Oban's Robert MacIntyre failed to make the cut in the Trophee Hassan II tournament held at the Royal Golf Club, Dar Es Salam in Morocco last week.

Robert will be hoping to get back into the groove on his next outing which will be the British Masters hosted by Tommy Fleetwood held at Hillside Golf Club in Southport from May 9 to 12.

Mallaig march on in Highland Amateur Cup

Tomatin	1
Mallaig	2
Highland Amateur Cup	

Mallaig kicked off their 2019 Highland Amateur Cup campaign with an encouraging away win over last season's quarter-finalists Tomatin.

The Lochaber side made a quick start to the game with chances early on through Graeme Stewart, Ryan MacDonald and Andrew Sneddon.

Looping header

The breakthrough eventually came midway through the first half when Mallaig striker Archie Gillies picked up the ball on the right side of the box and put a perfect cross into the box for Angus MacNaughton whose looping header found the far corner to give the visitors a deserved lead.

Tomatin continued to battle on and came close to an equaliser but a long range volley cannoned off the bar and to safety.

Soon after Mallaig respond-



Mallaig Football Club.

ed to extend their lead. Andy Cunningham was the creator this time as he picked up the ball on the left-hand side and looped a cross into the box for Archie Gillies to head past goalkeeper to double Mallaig's lead.

Tomatin came out firing in the second half as they went close through two free kicks, one that flew past the far post and another which the Mallaig 'keeper couldn't hold on to, but the follow up was fired high over the bar from close in.

The home side did eventually get a goal back when a cross from the left flank was nodded in at the back post to get them back into the game.

Galvanise

However, Tomatin's goal only seemed to galvanise the Mallaig side in the second half. Andy Cunningham had his shot from close range saved and Mallaig pushed forward as the introduction of Tom Benfield caused the Tomatin defence problems.

Mallaig were able to see the game out and seal their place

FOOTBALL

in round one where they will host Balloan Compass.

The west coast team's man of the match this week was Aaron Mclean who was very solid at the back and put in a number of vital blocks and tackles. There was an honourable mention for Archie Gillies whose goal and assist were pivotal in Mallaig's victory.

Next up for Mallaig is Kyle at home this Saturday in the GF MacRae Cup.

Nelson helps Baa-baas to victory in USA



Glencoe's Helen Nelson was part of the Baa-baas women's team side who defeated the USA 3-3 in Denver. Helen is pictured barging her way through the USA defence. Photo: Barbarians

Kilmallie youths presented with new strips by BSW



Oliver Stephen, mill manager at BSW Timber, presents Kilmallie Shinty Club's under-14 squad with a new set of strips. Photo: A Brightside Photography.

Strong contest in Lochaber dinghy race season openers

The Lochaber Yacht Club dinghy race season kicked off on Wednesday April 17, in light and shifty wind conditions.

It was a snakes and ladders game with place changes according to small gusts from the east and off the Ben, often a tricky wind direction. The buoyed course took in two laps opposite LYC clubhouse, heading over close to the Treslaig shore.

The first race was won by Mike Campbell in his Phantom, second was Jon Gay and Amanda Henderson in a Laser 5000, third was Brian and Graeme Fallows sailing a Wayfarer.

Campbell relished the victory and said it was great to

be back on the water after the winter break.

Particularly well done to fourth-placed Vince Dean in his Laser, this being the slowest design. Dean had to contend with fluky conditions once the faster designs had finished.

These races using the Portsmouth Handicap system to cater for differing types of boats will continue into September.

The following race night on Wednesday April 24 featured a calm, almost drifting start. Unfortunately, the starting horn had failed so there were a few boats late over the starting line. Competition hotted up with the appearance of



The dinghy race season got under way this month.

a moderate to strong north easterly as it became a game of two halves.

There were many lead changes in the triangular course, including one capsized. Spinnaker tangles meant the fastest rated boat trailed the fleet for much of the race. This 'knitting' was not ideal for its handicap result but amusing for spectators. The results were Brian and Graeme (Wayfarer) in first place, Keith and Ian (Albacore) in second, Jon and Amanda (Laser 5000) in third, and Vince (Laser) in fourth.

SAILING

The club's yacht race series started this week on Monday April 29.

LYC's regular Thursday night introductory and training nights are also now under way. The club has recently acquired several additional large training dinghies which are available to members or on instructed 'come and try it' Thursdays at 6pm.

Come along and try sailing at LYC, Achintore Road, Fort William. lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk.



Light and shifty wind conditions made it difficult for racers.



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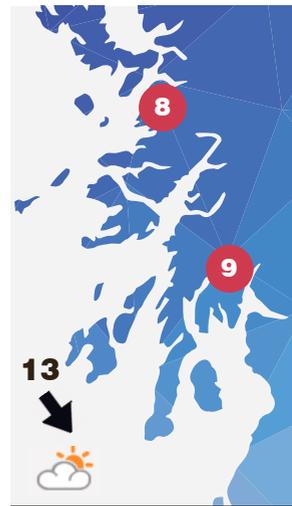
Thursday
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze
Temperatures
5°C to 13°C.

Friday
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze
Temperatures
3°C to 9°C.

Weekend Outlook

Saturday
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze

Sunday
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze
Temperatures
6°C to 11°C.



FRIDAY

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday May 2, 2019** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	04.18	3.6	10.38	1.2
Thur	16.33	3.5	22.51	1.1
Fri	04.53	3.7	11.09	1.0
	17.05	3.6	23.22	0.9
Sat	05.27	3.9	11.39	0.8
	17.35	3.7	23.52	0.8
Sun	05.59	3.9	12.10	0.7
	18.03	3.8	***	**
Mon	00.24	0.8	06.29	3.9
	12.42	0.7	18.32	3.8
Tues	00.58	0.8	07.00	3.8
	13.16	0.7	19.05	3.8
Wed	01.35	0.9	07.36	3.7
	13.55	0.8	19.43	3.7

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.

Mallaig march
on in Highland
Amateur Cup

Kilmallie youths
presented with
new strips by BSW

Nine-man Fort finish season without a win

Fort William	1
Wick Academy	5
Highland League	

Fort William brought the curtain down on their 208/19 Highland League campaign with a defeat to Wick Academy on Saturday, meaning the club has now gone two successive seasons without a win.

The Fort put in a stirring final performance of the season at Claggan Park where there was just one goal to separate the teams before both Jordan Andrew and Aidan Taylor were sent off within the space of 10 second-half minutes.

The previous meeting between these two teams was abandoned after 38 minutes with the Fort leading 1-0, so the Lochaber side were hopeful of avoiding back-to-back seasons without victory.

However, Wick's dominant second-half performance, helped considerably by the two red cards, was enough to ensure the Fort finished bottom of the league and without a win, conceding 245 goals and scoring 21. The team end the campaign with -7 points, having been deducted points earlier in the season for fielding an ineligible player. The Fort's last league victory came in April 2017.

Despite this, manager Russell MacMorran remains positive about the season, considering the club was on the brink of collapse this time last year.

'We needed to get to the end

Jordan Andrew beats the goalkeeper to the ball but is unable to direct it on target. Photo: Abridgeside Photography.



of the season to start fresh again,' he said. 'The club is still here and we've defied a lot of people this year and we are in a good position for the start of next season. We don't resemble the club from last year and that's a good thing.'

An eager Claggan crowd saw the Fort start the match brightly and they went close to opening the scoring within

five minutes after an Aidan Taylor free-kick found Jordan Morrison in the box who was unable to direct his effort on target.

They were able to hold out until just five minutes before half-time when Sam MacKay broke the deadlock.

The Fort's promising start was soon undone just 10 minutes into the second period

doubled the Scorries' lead in the 67th minute with a superb strike, before Alan Hughes and Davie Allan put the game out of sight for Fort William.

There was to be a consolation goal for the home side, however, when Scott Hunter stepped up to the spot after a foul in the box. Showing no signs of nerves, Hunter dispatched the penalty with an audacious 'panenka' chipped penalty, leaving the goalkeeper red-faced as he picked the ball out of the net.

Allan rounded off the scoring for Wick just before the final whistle.

Manager MacMorran said he was 'extremely disappointed' with the final result and felt the two red cards made the difference.

'We were on top for a lot of the game and they weren't really creating many chances other than set-pieces. It's disappointing in terms of the actual result but we've got to take the positives.

'We were down to nine men and still causing them problems and still making chances. Where we were before Christmas, that would never have happened.'

With the season now over, MacMorran, who was initially appointed on an interim basis, is hoping to remain at the helm for the 2019/20 campaign.

When asked about his future at the club, he said: 'If it's myself, then brilliant. If you asked me at the start when I just came in to stabilise the team, I would've said no. But now I'd love to take it on.'

Jags come back from a goal down to win

FOOTBALL

Eastwood Parkmount	1
South Lochaber Thistle	4
GGPL Division Two	

South Lochaber Thistle came from a goal down to beat Eastwood Parkmount in the south side of Glasgow.

The Jags responded just six minutes after falling behind to Eastwood and tied the match before half-time. After the break, they took the lead before Martin Munro and Andrew MacLean secured the victory with another goal each. Bradley Flannigan, named as the visitors' man of the match, put in a commanding performance for the Kinlochleven-based side.

The victory leaves SLT in third place in the league, 11 points behind first place Ballieston but with five games in hand.

This Saturday Thistle are at home to Westerlands in Kinlochleven with a 2pm kick-off.

Oban Saints on cup final duty

Oban Saints will take a large travelling support to New Douglas Park, Hamilton, on Friday night when they take on high-flying Bannockburn in the final of the West of Scotland Cup. Kick-off is 7.15pm, with referee Ross Holms in charge.



Lochaber Model & Craft Show



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Nevis Centre | Fort William Saturday | 4th May | 10am-4.30pm
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- Craft Tables
- Model Exhibits including Trains, Tractors, Buses, Boats, Trucks, Cranes, Helicopters and much more
- Working Railways
- 1:24 Scale Truck Exhibits
- The Tartan LUG (Lego users group)
- Traders Selling Model Trucks, Tractors, Trains, Parts & Accessories

With your help last year's show raised £1059 for The Lochaber Mountain Rescue. This year we will be once again donating proceeds to local charities & organisations.

**5th
Year!**