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## Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival Photos and results inside



# Group looks at replacing Eadar Glinn

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



A care home in Oban could be replaced and 'variable needs' housing provided nearby, a new report has revealed.

Eadar Glinn Care Home is currently the subject of a consultation by Oban and Lorn Care Homes and Housing Project. And after a workshop, the preferred possibility was the replacement of the home and the adjacent provision of variable needs housing, known as a 'core and cluster' operation.

The report, by service improvement officer John Dregghorn, states: "The ultimate aim of this project is to produce a single preferred option which meets care home and specialist housing needs."

The Oban and Lorn workshop took place on March

29 and was attended by 24 community representatives, including elected members, the third sector, voluntary organisations, independent providers, trade unions and staff representatives.

The 'core and cluster' operation was the most preferred option out of six. Refurbishment of the existing building came last.

The report added: "This option (the most preferred one) would result in the replacement of Eadar Glinn Care Home with a new small/medium-sized care home facility (core) with associated variable needs housing (cluster) in close proximity."

"Staff working within the core would also provide care and a 24-hour response to those in the cluster. Clients in both core and cluster would also access care from wider community services."

Further work with housing associations would be required to review and develop existing variable needs housing to accommodate tenants with higher levels of care needs. The preferred option may also include proposals for new variable needs housing developments based on the Argyll and Bute Housing Needs Assessment.

"This (nursing care model) option would expand the provision of care to include nursing within the core and cluster," stated the report.

"This could be delivered in several ways but as a minimum there would be a requirement to have access to 24/7 nursing care."

The issue was being discussed at a meeting of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles community planning group yesterday (Wednesday), after The Oban Times went to print.



## North Connel brothers enjoy festival success

After winning three piping competitions at last weekend's Highland and Islands Music and Dance Festival in Oban, North Connel's Gregor MacDonald, back, received the Allan MacInnes Memorial Trophy for accumulating the most points. Gregor, 15, wasn't the only successful MacDonald on Saturday. His younger brother Alexander, 12, front, also picked up silverware for piping. For more on the event see pages 11, 12 and 13, and 55 for full results. 17\_19\_HIMDF19

## Buyer found for Sealife Sanctuary

A buyer has been found for the former Scottish Sealife Sanctuary at Barcaldine.

The site, shut by Merlin Entertainments last October, has been under offer for a number of weeks but the identity of the site's new owners is being kept under wraps until the final paperwork on the deal is done.

Property consultant Galbraith consulted the under offer status but said it was not in a position to discuss it. A spokeswoman for Merlin said it could not comment on the identity of the new owners either and added: "You would need to contact the new owners when they are in situ."

The Oban Times has been told by one source 'it will be good for the area'.

Animals from the sanctuary were relocated to other Merlin sanctuaries across the UK when it shut, but 11 jobs were lost. More than 100 people signed a petition started by Oban High School pupils to keep it open. Merlin said at the time it had explored every option to the keep the centre open, but none offered a viable solution for its long-term sustainability.

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## Mull minister dies in hill walking accident

Tributes have been paid to a 'kind and compassionate' Mull minister who died in a hill walking accident in the Highlands.

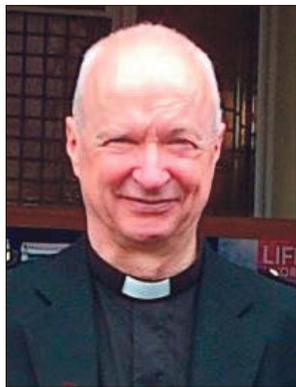
Reverend Johnny Paton embarked on a solo expedition to An Teallach, near Ullapool, on Monday.

The 60-year-old experienced hill walker had set off to an area named the 'Great Wilderness' at 1.30pm, estimating his trip would take seven to eight hours.

His wife Cathy, who was on holiday with him, raised the alarm when he failed to return.

Dundonnell Mountain Rescue Team and HM Coastguard launched a helicopter search of the mountain and discovered his body.

Stewart Shaw, clerk to the Presbytery of Argyll, said:



Reverend Johnny Paton.

'We are shocked and deeply saddened by the sudden loss of a distinguished minister and kindly friend, Rev Johnny Paton.'

Mr Paton, who was a Munro bagger, took up his post on Mull in 2013 and held a variety of positions within the Presbytery of Argyll.

A service at Salen Church at 11am on Sunday will pay tribute to Rev Paton and support will be offered to his family, friends and congregation.

## Lifeboat sent to entangled creel boat

Oban lifeboat was in action at the weekend when a creel boat got entangled in its own fishing gear at 12.20pm on Sunday.

Located in the water between Corran Narrows and Ballachulish, the vessel was towed to moorings by another boat and the lifeboat returned to base ready for service by 3.10pm.

# Impressive art on show at Rockfield

Visitors to Rockfield Primary School in Oban received VIP treatment last Thursday at the school's end of term art exhibition.

Pupils in Primary 6 and 7 proudly displayed their impressive artwork in the afternoon.

Parents and guests were met at the front door, escorted by pupils to class rooms and were offered a glass of red or white - fizzy juice - before being shown portfolios of work.

Children topped up refreshments and discussed their work, with every pupil having a job to do.

One VIP guest was Roddy McCuish, deputy provost for Argyll and Bute Council and councillor for Oban South and the Isles.

Speaking at the event, he said: 'I am delighted to be invited here today in my role as deputy provost. I am amazed at the quality of this

art exhibition throughout all the classes and the way children are allowed and do express themselves all forms of art. I would encourage all schools throughout Argyll and Bute to follow this lead.'

Primary six teacher Claire Campbell said: 'It's a great opportunity for children to share their learning. If children have a purpose for their learning, they enjoy it more.'

'We are raising funds to take the children to Glasgow's Kelvingrove Art Gallery.'

Mrs Campbell said that this term, the children had been focusing on art and had explored different artists and techniques.

She said the children had a wonderful time and that the extra visitors 'made the event really special'.

**Above right and below: Rockfield pupils show off their artwork.**



## Service retains high standard

Argyll and Bute Council's planning service continues to provide a high quality service to businesses and residents, according to a Scottish Government report.

The council submitted its 2017-2018 Planning Performance Framework to Scottish Ministers and maintained the previous year's high standard by scoring 11 green ratings across 15 areas of the service measured.

Only one red rating was allocated relating to the Enforcement Charter which was out of date at the end of the reporting year.

However, a new charter was published in June 2018.

## Countdown to Dunbeg family fun day

Dunbeg Primary School Parent Council is holding its annual family fun day on Saturday May 11.

Among the attractions will be a bouncy castle, beat the goalie, fling the wellie, a coconut shy, an indoor race track, a raffle and bottle stall. And, following its success last year, the assault course returns. Starting at approximately 1pm, there is a section within the school grounds for children up to P2 while

older children can add in a run up the cycle path. Register before 1pm and bring a change of clothes.

There will also be teas, coffees, home-baking and burgers from Jackson's the butchers, Oban. The fun starts at 11am, with the raffle at 2pm.

The school runs the event to raise funds for extra materials, resources and trips for the pupils.

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## Date set for Lonan Drive homes hearing

A date has been set for the public hearing into plans for a housing development at Lonan Drive in Oban.

Councillor Roddy McCuish, who sits on the planning committee, made the announcement at the latest Oban Community Council meeting.

The hearing will take place on Wednesday June 26 in the town's Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

Councillors on the planning committee will inspect the site in the morning. It is expected they will be back at the gathering halls for around 10am.

TSL Contractors Limited's plans to build 44 homes in Lonan Drive was discussed at a meeting of Argyll and Bute Council's planning, protective services and licensing committee last month.

The proposal received 60 public objections, including one from Oban Community Council.

The plans have been recommended for approval by an Argyll and Bute Council planning officer, subject to a pre-determination discretionary hearing.

Reasons for objections included the presence of Japanese knotweed, ruining green space, traffic congestion, impacting wildlife and protected plants and increased risk of flooding.

# Oban 'tree' to honour lost babies

A life-sized copper sculpture of a tree is to take root in a garden at Dunollie Castle so Oban families can honour their babies who have gone too soon.

Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds are working with baby loss charity SiMBA to put the special Tree of Tranquillity in a sheltered, quiet garden area of the grounds.

Susan Simpson from

SiMBA, which helps families to create precious memories of their babies, said: 'We are so grateful for the vision of Dunollie's trustees and their head gardener Eilidh McManus, who have chosen a special area of the estate for the tree.'

Students from Oban High School's Junior Pathways programme have also been helping get the garden ready and MP Brendan O'Hara and

councillors Julie McKenzie and Roddy McCuish have supported the project since it was first brought to Dunollie's attention in 2015.

Fundraising is ongoing to help create natural seating and a path to make it easier to reach the tree. To help, people can either email fundraising@simbacharity.org.uk or donate directly at justgiving.com/campaign/ObanTreeofTranquillity

SiMBA's hope is to have a tree in every maternity district so anyone who has ever suffered the loss of a baby can attach a leaf, engraved with a special message, to a tree close to their home.

Families can go to simbacharity.org.uk/what-we-do/trees-of-tranquillity to request a leaf to get engraved themselves then send it back to the charity in an envelope provided. The leaves are add-

ed to the tree at regular intervals. 'The Tree of Tranquillity is not just for the newly-be-reaved but also parents who sadly lost their baby years ago and were perhaps provided with little or no recognition of their baby's existence. The tree will provide the means to express a private and public declaration in memory of the lost hopes and dreams for the baby. It is a beautiful symbol of remembrance,' said Susan.

## Hospice Friends hand over £30,000 to Dove Centre

The Friends of Oban Hospice, the fundraising arm of the Oban Hospice movement, recently held its AGM at the Dove Centre.

Chairman Iain MacIntyre handed over a cheque for £30,000 to David Entwistle, chairman of Oban Hospice Ltd, the governing body for the Dove Centre.

This funding, which contributes to the running costs of the Dove Centre in Stevenson Street, is the highest annual payment made to date from the Friends, who have raised well in excess of £300,000 over the past 20 years, with money coming from a variety of sources, including events, donations and collection cans.

In his chairman's report, Iain paid tribute to the generosity of the community and his hard-working committee, who are committed to the success of the Dove Centre as an asset for the area. It was stressed that at this time the

Dove Centre was wholly funded by the community.

Iain, who is a founder member of the Oban Hospice movement, is standing down as chairman to be replaced by Anne May, another stalwart of the Friends.

Also standing down are two further long-term members - Margaret MacLean and Catherine Carswell, with both being thanked profusely for their contributions.

Margaret is also a founding member and has served without a break for nigh-on 20 years.

The Friends also welcomed new member Rosemary MacColl, who is pictured to Iain's immediate right.

Apologies for absence were received from Catherine MacKechnie, Lorna Kirkpatrick, David Evans and Marjorie Milton, who continue as members. Shiralene Cave and Karen Campbell were re-elected as secretary and treasurer respectively.



Friends' chairman Iain MacIntyre hands a cheque for £30,000 to David Entwistle.

## POLICE FILES

### Illegal tyre

A routine check by police led to a 40-year-old driver being stopped from continuing his journey as one of his car tyres was in a poor condition.

Officers issued the Prohibition Order, preventing the driver from carrying on until the defect was rectified, after they stopped the car at 1pm on Tuesday April 30 on the A82 near Tyndrum.

Checks also revealed there was allegedly no insurance for the vehicle. The driver was charged with the offences and a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

### Dog attack appeal

Police are appealing for witnesses after a Jack Russell dog was reportedly attacked by two other dogs on a

footpath near Tralee Beach, Benderloch, on Friday May 3.

The dogs were on leads at the time of the incident, however, the attack was such that the Jack Russell later died from its injuries.

The other two dogs, described as a German Shepherd and a Golden Labrador or Retriever, are believed to be owned by a holidaymaker staying in the area.

Any witnesses or anyone with any information should contact police on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

### Drunk driver

A man, aged 49, was charged with drink driving after he was stopped by police at 10.55pm on Saturday May 4 in Breadalbane Street, Oban.

A report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

### Dinghy stolen

A three-metre, grey Maxon Dinghy was stolen from its moorings near Oban Sailing Club sometime between 6pm on Thursday May 2 and 6pm on Friday May 3.

It has a distinctive wooden seat. Police are appealing for any witnesses or anyone with any information to contact them on 101 or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

### Speeding offence

Police stopped a driver for speeding on the A85 near Glen Lochy at 5pm on Friday May 3.

The man, aged 49, was charged and a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

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# Interim flight contract agreed

Flights to and from the Inner Hebrides have been thrown a lifeline after Argyll and Bute Council agreed an interim contract with current operators Hebridean Air.

Fears of an interruption to the service had been growing since the council was forced to re-tender its public obligation service flights between Oban and the islands of Colonsay, Coll and Tiree. An initial

procurement process for the four-year contract failed to attract an acceptable bid and islanders were concerned there would be a gap in provision during the re-tendering process with flights due to cease on Thursday May 16.

Argyll and Bute Council said the interim service would operate to an amended timetable, but stated flights for pupils travelling to Oban on

the mainland for school had been secured. The flights are also used by visiting health professionals and tourists.

Oban South and Isles councillor Roddy McCuish welcomed the interim measures and remains hopeful of a positive overall outcome.

'It is encouraging an interim solution has been found and we are hopeful of getting a four-year tender secured in

the coming weeks,' he told The Oban Times.

Martin McWilliam, Hebridean Air public services obligation manager, added: 'We will continue to operate a reduced flight schedule until September 15. If we secure the bid, the new contract will start from September 16. The funding currently available only allows for this reduced schedule, however.'

An update on the four-year contract will be provided once the outcome of the second procurement process has been fully assessed.

In the meantime, Hebridean Air will continue to run flights to and from Coll and Tiree on a Wednesday and Colonsay on a Thursday. School flights, during term time only, will run on Fridays and Sundays.

## Jemma says thank you with big bake sale

Oban mum Jemma Campbell has come up with a great excuse to eat cake at the weekend.

She is hosting a big bake sale on Sunday May 12 at Oban Pipe Band Hall, Shore Street, from 11am to 1pm, to help raise £500 for the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) as a thank you for helping her three-year-old son Ashton Matthews.

The charity has been funding family members to learn basic British Sign Language.

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.

If anyone can not get to the bake sale, they can still make a donation online at [justgiving.com/fundraising/jemma-campbell1](http://justgiving.com/fundraising/jemma-campbell1)

## 150th Taynuilt Highland Games

Preparations are well under way for the 150th anniversary celebrations of Taynuilt Highland Games.

This year's event will take place on Saturday July 20 and, as well as featuring the traditional heavy and light athletics, Highland dancing and pipe band competitions, will include a primary school athletics league competition for the first time.

'Everyone has been working really hard to make our 150th year something special,' said games secretary Alan Ross.

'We will have a special tent this year to display archived material, allowing visitors to delve into the history of the games. This celebration is also about the future, however, and what better way to emphasise that than to include more junior events.'

Around 2,000 people are expected to descend on the village for the anniversary games and the committee is inviting everyone to go along and experience the family-friendly occasion.

'We want people to experi-

ence for themselves the fun and culture that has kept the games so popular for the last 150 years,' added Mr Ross.

'From the wonderful and haunting music of pipe bands to the supreme expertise and skill of Highland dancers, the prowess and strength of heavy event athletes and so much more.

'Taynuilt Highland Games is a day not to be missed.'

Read more about Taynuilt games' 150th anniversary celebrations in The Oban Times in the run up to the big day.



From left: Alan Ross, Douglas MacCallum and Grant Cooper search The Oban Times' archive for material relating to Taynuilt Highland Games.

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## Overboard passenger safe thanks to CalMac and lifeboat crews

A passenger who went overboard from the Isle of Mull ferry last Friday is safe and well thanks to quick responses from CalMac and Oban Lifeboat crews.

The incident took place during a sailing from Craignure to Oban when the casualty was recovered from the Firth of Lorne by the vessel's fast rescue craft and transferred to Oban lifeboat to be taken ashore.

A CalMac spokesperson said: 'Safety of passengers and crew is our number one priority.

'We drill regularly for the possibility of a person overboard situation and it is testimony to the skill and professionalism of our crews that we were able to deploy so quickly.'

A Police Scotland spokesperson confirmed the casualty, who had been in the water for around 15 minutes, was taken to hospital to be checked over and was found to be 'safe and well'.

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Daniel Zawal and Isla Head with Oban Rotary president Iain MacIntyre and fellow Rotarians Kees Van Rein and Ken Oxland.

## Oban High School duo tell Rotary about Euroscola

The Euroscola day is hosted 10 times a year by the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

It involves 500 young people from across the EU taking part in a day of presentations, questions, discussions and voting on issues relevant to them.

The day is multi-lingual but with the expectation that students can communicate in French and English.

Rotary clubs across Scotland have supported this initiative for more than 20 years and this year Oban Rotary achieved a first in that two candidates from Oban High School qualified – Daniel Zawal and Isla Head – and attended earlier this year.

Daniel and Isla gave a first-class presentation to Rotary members recently of their experience of the Euroscola programme which, of course, is not restricted to one day but involves excursions to France and Germany, visiting many sites of historical and cultural interest.

Both were clear that the five-day programme will live with them for the rest of their lives.



Mull Music Makers entertained at the community group celebration in Dervaig.



MSP Michael Russell with youngsters at Dervaig's new community library in the village hall



Dervaig Primary School pupils are planning a scavenger hunt in the orchard for younger visitors.

# 'Can do' community celebrates on Mull

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

Community groups from across Mull have been showcasing their work at a celebration in Dervaig.

Islanders of all ages gathered at the event on Friday to share success stories and plans for the future.

Mull Native Woodlands

Group announced on the day it has been invited by Kew Gardens to collect native tree seeds to go into its millennium seed bank, an international conservation project to help replace species that might die out.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell was invited to join Friday's party and declared Mull 'a can-do community'.

Mr Russell, who later spoke at Mull Native Woodlands Group's first annual general meeting, told The Oban Times: 'Clearly, this is a can-do community and it was a great idea to come together and celebrate it. It's fantastic. I'm aware just how much effort people are putting in to making this island so special.'

Projects on show last week included Dervaig's community orchard, the new library in the village hall and refurbished bunkrooms.

Other groups and

schemes there were Mull and Iona Community Trust, Tobermory Harbour Association, the Aros walled garden project, Mull ranger Jan Dunlop, Dave Sexton from the RSPB, the Grow, Grow, Grow community interest company and Mull Music Makers.

Mr Russell and visitors were shown round the new library and the community orchard where, so far, volunteers have raised £4,000, with another £1,000 needed, to build an outdoor classroom. The village orchard, now in its third year, has 150 fruit trees, all sponsored by supporters. There are 45 different kinds of apples and even tea bushes.

Orchard volunteer George MacFarlane, 68, who has lived in Dervaig all his life, said: 'There's plenty of jobs to do here, if anyone wants to come and join us.'

One 10-year-old pupil from Dervaig Primary School said:

'I like coming here because there's lots of nature to see and I'm looking forward to eating the apples. I like fruit.'

Head teacher Tricia Evans added: 'We have a lovely school with quite a small playground but no grass so it's lovely we can come and use this space. It's a nice walk up. We think it's wonderful.'



Shed building at Dervaig Community Orchard.



Michael Russell MSP with children from Dervaig Primary School and community orchard volunteers.



Ann Evans from Mull Native Woodlands Group with Kew Garden's seed bank manual.

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# Day-to-day life of a ballet dancer

As Oban's University Town project has grown momentum, it has been fantastic to tell readers more about some of the students and the range of

opportunities available. This month the spotlight falls on Lucy Malin, a third-year BA Dance Degree student from Ballet West, Taynuilt.

Lucy told The Oban Times: 'It's been nearly three years since I arrived at Ballet West which sits at the top of a hill in Taynuilt. The view is beautiful, inspiring and totally different to anything in a busy city.'

'Students live together in Ballet West accommodation or in houses or flats around the village. Year groups are usually mixed and all the houses have their own names, such as Autumn House and Taigh Ard.'

'People are welcoming which makes the village feel peaceful and safe. Living together helps us to live independently for the first time after leaving home, but also to build life-long friendships and a supportive community between students.'

'A typical day at Ballet West

starts between 8am and 9am. The timetable includes lessons in ballet, contemporary, jazz, body conditioning and progressing ballet technique. We also have optional programmes, such as stretch class and Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) syllabus classes.'

'Many Ballet West students, including myself, have passed their RAD advance exams with distinction. This is largely due to the dedication and one-to-one attention provided by teachers at Ballet West to help pupils achieve their full potential leading to a fantastic international reputation for the school.'

'An exciting time in the calendar is the annual tour of Scotland. This makes the school unique as it gives all students the opportunity to

Lucy Malin during a performance.



take part in a full-length ballet production and work with invited guest artists. This year's production was The Nutcracker and I was thrilled to dance the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy and be partnered by professional ballet dancer Maxime Quiroga. It was

inspiring to work with the cast of professional dancers, including Ballet West's Natasha Watson.

'In previous tours, I have danced as a cygnet in Swan Lake and Peasant Pas De Deux in Giselle, with guest artist Dylan Waddell.

It is a special place and has produced many fine dancers who have gone on to work professionally in the industry. I hope, eventually, to be one of them.'

Touring gives students an appreciation of what it is like to dance in a professional dance company. It is not for the faint hearted. There are many late nights, long rehearsals and much travelling, but it is this experience and knowledge of touring every year with the

school that gives students an inner confidence to pursue a dancing career. One of the latest and most exciting developments for Ballet West has been the introduction of the High-Performance Lower School. The lower school caters for students up to age 16. Students are selected via auditions and are trained in Oban. Training is tough and is producing talented future dancers.

'A highlight of my time at the school was getting to the finals of the Genee International Ballet Competition in Hong Kong in 2018. I was the only finalist studying in the UK to do this and it was a major accomplishment for me and one I will always be proud of.'

'Much of the success of the school is due to the dedication and belief that Ballet West invests in its students. It is a special place and has produced many fine dancers who have gone on to work professionally in the industry. I hope, eventually, to be one of them.'

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## Oban swimmers swamped with wetsuit donations

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Oban Sea and Loch Swimmers (Oban Seals) has experienced a deluge of responses following an appeal for unused wetsuits.

Since posting a plea on the Oban Seals Facebook page and sharing with Information Oban last week, the group has accrued almost 30 wetsuits as well as receiving offers to mend torn ones.

On Monday, Nigel Macleod from ZAKS Waterskiing drove up to Oban from Helensburgh to drop off 21 wetsuits in a range of child and adult sizes.

Now retired from water sports because of a knee injury, Mr Macleod said: 'I have enjoyed skiing and diving around Argyll for many years and am pleased to give something that will enable another generation to enjoy what the region has to offer.'

Oban Seals co-founder Stacy Holloway said: 'The kindness, community spirit and friendship we have found since moving to Oban earlier this year has been incredible.

**Oban Seals co-founder Stacy Holloway collected a large donation of unwanted wetsuits from Nigel Macleod earlier this week.**

'Thank you to everyone who has offered to donate a wetsuit, dropped wetsuits off with us and offered to fix torn wetsuits. We are really pleased we can now offer to lend wetsuits to those who are new or cannot afford to buy their own wetsuit to try outdoor swimming.'

Stacy and her husband Max, who also deliver running and swimming training camps through their business WayOutside, hope to make wetsuits available to other water-based clubs and events to help more people enjoy the

sea and lochs in Argyll and Bute. In exchange for borrowing a wetsuit, the couple are suggesting a £2 charity donation in support of Anam Cara Fasgadh and The 4 Rivers Challenge in support of Seals Susan Simpson and George Gray.

Oban Seals is a group for like-minded people of all ages and abilities to come together and enjoy sea and loch swimming.

Anyone wishing to borrow a wetsuit and try the swimming should join the Oban Seals Facebook group.

# Estate plants native forest to save Mull's natural world

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

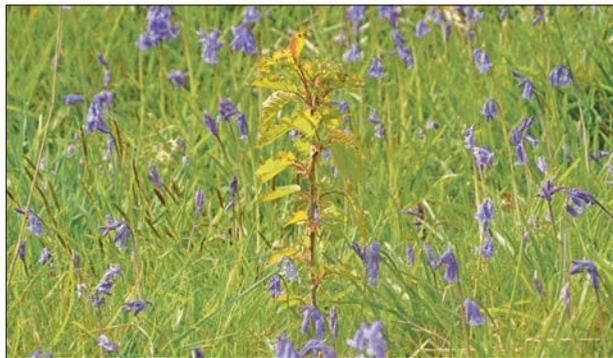


Glengorm estate on Mull is planting 70,000 native trees to help save the island's insects.

So far 35,000 have been planted with the second half to take root next year, says Tom Nelson, whose family have owned the estate for half a century.

The estate harvested a forest of Sitka spruce bought from the Forestry Commission 15 years ago and decided to replace the non-native softwood with different varieties of trees native to Mull.

'It's not the decision the bank manager would proba-



A young native tree grows among bluebells at Glengorm. The blue-headed flowers often grow where ancient woodlands once stood.

bly have wanted us to make because non-native trees are fast growing and good for lots of different uses. It gives

uniformity and gets a good value on it.

'Our new native trees won't really have a great commer-



Tom Nelson from Glengorm Estate.

cial value in the future,' said Mr Nelson.

Mull is famous for its wildlife including having the highest concentration of golden eagles in Europe. It is also the only site of the rare slender Scotch burnet moth.

Mr Nelson added: 'We've planted 35,000 trees this year and will plant the same next year. It's quite a significant forest or it will be once it's grown. The earliest ones we planted are already about 18 inches to two feet tall and leaves are forming on them.

'They have more of an environmental and aesthetic value. The trees will be more random and will bring a lot of bio-diversity.'

'The trees will be more random and will bring a lot of bio-diversity.'

He said he was aware of Mull Native Woodlands Group working with owners and managers of forests and woodlands to encourage planting schemes that increase the variety of plant and animal life but said the estate had already been working on environmental projects for the last 20 years to preserve

wildlife. A second wildlife ranger is to join the team this summer.

According to the island's native woodlands group, there is an estate on Mull that has used pesticides in planting Neonicotoid treated Sitka spruce trees containing two banned fungicides which showed up after a ground sample was analysed by Greenpeace.

Ann Evans, chairperson of Mull Native Woodlands Group, said that the news was disappointing but news of native trees being planted on the island by some other estates gave hope. 'There is a sea of change happening on the island,' she said.

## Grateful thanks to festival organisers

Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk



### WHERE IS THIS?



What a weekend we had for the bank holiday and, more importantly, the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival, which was a huge success as always.

The people who put so much time and effort into organising it must be thanked. They are the real stars of the weekend because without them nothing would happen and the dancers and musicians would not have this amazing event to showcase their talents.

The amount of work it takes to organise an event of this size and complexity is huge and all these volunteers do it willingly and with love.

So on behalf of everyone in Oban, a huge, big thank you to everyone involved in the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival. You are a credit to the town.

What next? Well, in the run-up to Oban Live, which is now only four weeks

away, we still have one or two things to look forward to.

On Tuesday May 14, a slightly more serious event is the Oban Phoenix Cinema Live Screening of All My Sons by Arthur Miller from the Old Vic in London. It has a fabulous cast with Sally Fields and Bill Pullman, two of my favourite actors.

To crown it all, on Saturday May 18 we have two major events on the same day with cruise ship Costa Mediterranea

arriving in the morning to deliver about 2,000 people into the town just in time for Oban Pride, which takes place the same day and sounds as if it will be a fabulous event. More details on both these events next week.

Last week's photograph was of a sandcastle at Ganavan, which I just couldn't resist. I still love building sandcastles. This week's photograph will require a bit more effort to identify, including a walk up a steep hill.

## THE OBAN SPORTIVE 2019

The beauty of a challenge!

Whether you are a seasoned-pro or a keen amateur rider, the Oban Sportive is a beautiful challenge to take on. This year's sportive includes 3 routes that all offer spectacular views, quiet country roads and of course, the odd challenging climb! Finishing any of our routes brings with it a sense of achievement and a real treat of Scottish scenery.

### 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.



OBAN SPORTIVE  
Sunday, May 12th

### 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

Our 56 mile course is quoted as one of the hardest Sportive courses around with repetitive short steep climbs and is on mostly quiet single track roads in the heart of Argyll.

### DON'T MISS

The Ben Cruachan Inn Hill Climb  
Saturday, May 11th  
Entry is now open for this event via  
[www.obansportive.co.uk](http://www.obansportive.co.uk)



Oban Business Improvement District  
[www.bid4oban.co.uk](http://www.bid4oban.co.uk)



OT

# It's whisky galore for German connoisseurs

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Whisky connoisseurs from Germany ended a whistle-stop tasting tour of Scotland with a visit to Oban Distillery last week.

The group of nine, from the Single Malt Whisky Club Sachsen e.V, took in a total of 11 distilleries on their seven-day trip and even managed excursions to the Orkney Islands and Iona within their hectic schedule.

Club founder Jens Burkhardt has been travelling to Scotland to sample the water of life (uisge beatha) for more years than he can remember but is as enthusiastic about the beverage and the country now as he was all those years ago.

'I stopped counting at my 20th visit and now it must be much more,' he said.

'Some say that in my former life I must have been



Jens Burkhardt, in cap, and the Single Malt Whisky Club try Oban's finest and are entertained by Oban High pupils.

a Scotsman. My wife and I celebrated our silver wedding anniversary at the Oban Distillery – not many German couples could say that.'

During the visit the group downed drams from Highland Park, Glen Grant, Glengoyne, Glenlivet, Cragganmore, Glen Garioch, Glendronach, Glen Ord, Tomatin, Talisker and finally Oban, where they were treated to a tour along with a

tasting session with resident whisky expert Jim Rae.

On Iona, the group visited St Columba's Abbey at the request of the majority of the group who feel that it held important meaning for Scotland and the rest of northern Europe.

The abbey is shown and described in seminars attended by the many members of the Single Malt Whisky Club.

'I showed only a small part of



'my Bonnie Scotland' to the group. And this was enough to overwhelm them,' added Jens, who also founded a Stuttgart branch of the club.

'The philosophy of our club is to take the people away from heavy drinking of cheap liquids and towards drinking less but high quality single malt whiskies, and to show and talk about how beautiful Scotland is.

'We see ourselves as the first marketing line to bring people round to the idea of spending their holidays in Scotland, which we are extremely successful and effective at.

'Well, together with the single malts, it is easy work really.'

Pupils from the Oban High School Traditional School of Music entertained the group during the tasting at Oban Distillery.

## Green firms urged to enter awards

The search for Scotland's best green businesses is drawing to a close with just one day remaining to enter the VIBES – Scottish Environment Business Awards – and companies in Argyll and Bute are being encouraged to enter.

The awards, celebrating their 20th anniversary, are calling on businesses of all sizes and sectors that are implementing sustainable practices to get in touch and apply before 5pm tomorrow (Friday May 10).

Since their inception in 1999, the VIBES Scottish Business Awards have recognised and rewarded more than 150 businesses that have championed sustainability by identifying ways to tackle the impact on the planet by reducing consumption on its resources. As part of this year's anniversary celebrations, a special Best of VIBES Award will also be presented to a past winner.

To enter, contact [vibes@sepa.org.uk](mailto:vibes@sepa.org.uk)

### WIN

AN OVERNIGHT STAY FOR TWO AT DALMAHOY HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB



The newly-refurbished Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club, an idyllic four-star hotel on the outskirts of Edinburgh, is celebrating its gorgeous revamp by giving one Scottish Field reader the chance to win a dinner, bed and breakfast overnight stay for two in one of the hotel's opulent suites.

The lucky winner will also enjoy a Champagne afternoon tea as part of their stay. Breakfast and a complimentary three-course meal with



drinks will be served at the hotel's Pentland Restaurant, an authentically Scottish restaurant overlooking the golf course, acres of parkland and views to Edinburgh Castle.

Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club, which lies just seven miles from Edinburgh's city centre, recently completed a major refurbishment, unveiled in spring 2019.

If you'd like a chance to win this amazing prize, answer the following question.  
What is the name of Dalmahoy's restaurant?

Redeemable for the prize stated, dates subject to availability. Reservations to be made in advance. Drinks with dinner include a bottle of house wine or soft drinks. Prize must be redeemed by end August 2019.

### WIN

AN OVERNIGHT STAY FOR TWO IN A DELUXE ROOM WITH FULL SCOTTISH BREAKFAST AT LINKS HOUSE, DORNOCH



Links House is a 5-star, award-winning luxury hotel & fine dining restaurant with the charm, grace and elegance of the world's finest boutique hotels, adjacent to the first tee at Royal Dornoch Golf Club. The fifteen bedrooms at Links House are named after important salmon rivers of the Highlands. In the main house, built in 1843, you will find bespoke



historic rooms. Just across the putting green, The Mews hosts suites, each complete with full bath and walk-in shower, as well as comfortable sitting area. The new Glenshiel hosts five luxury suites with spacious rooms, generous sitting areas, and luxurious bathrooms. Links House affords guests the opportunity to look deeper into the Highlands.

If you'd like a chance to win this amazing prize, answer the following question.  
In which year was the main house at Links House built?

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 (Wyvex Media) will retain your information for a maximum of 24 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.

## Re-opening on menu of popular village inn

A former fisherman and his chef partner will be behind the bar when the Kilchrenan Inn re-opens its doors.

Managers Phil Carr and Pip Pedley are busy getting the inn ready to open again and are still to set a date but said there were 'exciting times ahead' for the popular pub that was originally an 18th century trading post and has previously won rave Tripadvisor reviews as well as securing a Good Food Guide mention.

The successful gastro pub has been shut since October, but should be open by the end of May.

Pip has been a student and a teacher at the world-renowned Ballymaloe Cookery School in Ireland. She was also the in-house chef on the Hebridean Cruise boats out of Oban and has been a private chef working on many Highland estates for shooting and fishing parties. Her last role was chef and front of house at The Feathers Inn in Northumbria.

Phil used to work as a fisherman off the Ross of Mull, as the bosun on the Hebridean Cruises and has hospitality experience from working in bars, hotels and on boats. Recently he ran his own stonemasonry business in Northumbria.

'We have still got lots to do to get everything ready for the opening but we're nearly there. It'll be well worth the wait,' said Phil.

John Fleming from Avich and Kilchrenan



Phil Carr and Pip Pedley are busy getting the Kilchrenan Inn ready to open again.

Community Council said: 'We're delighted that the Kilchrenan Inn is re-opening and would like to wish Pip and her team every success for the future. In small rural areas the village pub is a vital asset to communities allowing people to meet socially and also providing much-needed local employment.'

Pip and Phil are still looking for more staff if anyone is interested and preferably lives nearby.

# Sky's the limit for biscuits made on Mull

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Biscuits made on Mull are being enjoyed by long-haul flight passengers 30,000 feet in the air.

Every week, 35,000 snack-sized packets of Island Bakery biscuits, alternating between lemon melts and shortbread, wing their way to British Airways.

Virgin Atlantic is another jet-setting client ordering about 9,000 packets every week and the bakery has just signed a new deal to supply more of the organic treats to a Middle Eastern airline.

One happy passenger recently tweeted a photo of himself snacking his compli-

## Snacks wing their way to airlines to be enjoyed by passengers 30,000 feet in the air

mentary lemon melts on the tarmac at Singapore airport.

'We don't have salespeople going out knocking on doors so it's great when they come to us.'

'It's great marketing having people sitting 30,000 feet up in the air with nothing much else to do than enjoy our biscuits. Word soon gets round,' said Joe Reade, who runs Island Bakery with his

wife Dawn. The firm now has 35 staff working for it, from a renewable energy-powered bakery built seven years ago using wind and water for electricity and wood for heating the ovens.

Closer to home, people will see the bakery's biscuits for sale on CalMac ferries.

'We sell mainly in the UK in delis and farm shops and in Waitrose but there is also



Island Bakery's Cathy Mellor and John Norman with Mull's award-winning organic biscuits.

demand for them in the Netherlands, Scandinavia, Germany and France,' added Joe.

The bakery was proud to pick up a top award in the Artisan Food category of the 2019 Scottish Rural Awards earlier this year and has plans

to launch new products. 'It's been seven years since we built the factory and each year we've said we really must get round to putting out some new products but haven't. This year we are determined to buckle down and do it,' said Joe.

'We don't have salespeople going out knocking on doors so it's great when they come to us.'

## Lismore healing garden to treat carers

It is widely recognised gardening is good for both physical and mental well-being, especially in a world where many people are more technology-focused and increasingly distanced from nature.

Healing Garden Baile Geamhraidh, on the Isle of Lismore, will be opening the garden to the North Argyll Carers Centre as part of Gardens and Health Week being organised by Scotland's Garden Scheme.

North Argyll Carers is a charity that provides much-needed care for those that care for others, such as parents, partners and children with disabilities or addiction and can't look after themselves.

This time it is the carers that will be receiving the health benefits and relaxation that a garden visit can provide.



Healing Garden Baile Geamhraidh on Lismore.

Garden-owner Eva Tombs will be welcoming the group with a tour and talk about the plants, as well as the opportunity to make some teas using the herbs from the garden.

Eva's unique garden forms part of a biodynamic farm. It has been recently created from a field and has a strong geometric layout that reflects the ecclesiastical history of the island.

It has a vegetable garden, a tree nursery, a physic garden and an orchard.

Wildflowers, birds, bees and butterflies abound in a sea-encapsulated landscape featuring standing stones,

meadows, new woodlands and mountains. There's also a roaming herd of rare breed Shetland horned cattle.

Scotland's Garden Scheme champions health and well-being through gardening, garden visits, volunteering and donations supporting more than 225 charities across Scotland.

Health and Gardens Week runs from May 11 to May 19 and Eva would be delighted to welcome other community groups that might also benefit from a garden visit during this period. Please contact her directly on [eva.tombs@gmail.com](mailto:eva.tombs@gmail.com) or call 01631 760128.

Advertorial

## Eye to eye with John Wallace



### Springtime

I can always tell when Spring is starting, even when locked away in my windowless consulting room, I have had an upsurge in patients who have managed to injure their eyes when gardening and even more who suffer from pollen induced hayfever. At the first hint of warm weather we seem to have an urge to get out into the garden to start planting or to prune back last year's growth.

Gardens are dangerous places to be in. Every year I have to deal with the aftermath of patients using trimmers and other high power garden tools without any form of eye protection. Some of the injuries I have seen can be very painful but will heal in two or three days. Others are potentially



blinding and give a lifetime of pain and poor vision. If a trimmer hits something hard it causes fragments to fly up at incredible speed. Even a tiny fragment flying through the air at very high speed can have massive energy, penetrating the eye and causing devastating injury. Another common type of eye injury is bending down and impaling your eyes on the stems of plants or even garden canes. Virtually

all of these injuries could be prevented by wearing appropriate eye protection.

Hayfever can be very unpleasant for sufferers. If you regularly suffer from hayfever you probably always start symptoms about the same time every year. Nowadays it's often possible to prescribe eyedrops that both reduce the redness and the itchiness caused by hayfever. These are best started two or three weeks before the expected start of your symptoms.

Your optometrist will advise you on the best way to minimise any eye symptoms caused by hayfever. They are also trained to advise on appropriate eye protection which is available in prescription and non-prescription forms.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

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# Record-breaking festival a success



Marco MacGregor, 10, of Oban, won the Primary 4 and 5 Gaelic Song competition. 17\_19\_HIMDF06



Right: Mairi MacCorquodale, 15, from North Connel, won the Scottish Music Piano competition. 17\_19\_HIMDF05

by David McPhee  
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk

This year's Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival (HIMDF) attracted a record number of entrants.

Competitors from all over Scotland made the journey to the festival in Oban.

Primary school competitions took place in the Corran Halls on Friday. Events were held in venues throughout the town on Saturday and on Sunday it was all about Highland dancing in Atlantis Leisure.

HIMDF chairwoman Breege Smyth revealed it would be her last year in the position. Speaking on Saturday after taking part in the parade, she said: 'The festival has been very good. We have had more entries

than ever before. This is my final year as chairwoman. It has been a real pleasure and honour to occupy the role. I am indebted to the hard work and dedication of the committee, conveners and volunteers who make this festival possible.'

Breege described the committee as a 'well-oiled machine' and added: 'It has been a real joy and privilege.'

Vice chairwoman and founding member of the festival Riona MacCormick also enjoyed the festival.

The fact she won a singing competition and the good weather might have had something to do with that.

'We have been quite lucky with the weather,' she said.

'Out of 36 years, we have only had two or three wet ones.'



Oban's Craig McFadyen had a great win in the accordion section, winning the Neil Sinclair Trophy for his March, Strathspey and Reel Pipe. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.



The festival's vice chairwoman Riona MacCormick, left, and chairwoman Breege Smyth. 17\_19\_HIMDF11

More photographs on pages 12 and 13

## MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

angusmacphail@yahoo.co.uk



Well done to all those who organised and took part in the Tiree 10k and half-marathon last weekend. Seeing the online photos following the event was a good source of motivation to don my running shoes on Sunday afternoon and embark on the second last long run before the Manchester half-marathon on May 19.

I had originally planned to do just the 10k in Manchester and the half-marathon in Edinburgh, but I allowed myself to be persuaded into upgrading by the Team Eilidh skipper, Suzanne Whyte.

When it was 10 weeks away it seemed like a good idea. Now that it's 10 days away I feel I was a bit over-confident, especially after the experience of last Sunday's training run, which was brutal.

Nutrition and its immediate effects on the body is not a subject I've ever been too interested in, but having a wife with a PhD in that very subject, I really should have paid more attention to her guidance last Sunday. As she left the house her parting words were: 'Eat that brochan and drink plenty of water before you go and take

a bottle with you.' However, as the weather was cool and I was planning to be taking my time, I didn't pay too much attention, thinking she was just being over-cautious and a bit too professional about it. So off I set along the bonny banks of the Forth and Clyde Canal on what was meant to be a one hour and 50-minute steady run.

The brochan was still in the pot, the bottle of water was happily resting in the car and I was eastward-bound for the Falkirk Wheel like a spring lamb. On the first leg, while heading east, I was feeling particularly nimble and thoughts of how pleasant it was to be out in the fresh air, feeling fit and how enjoyable this running malarkey was were filling my head.

I was happily smiling and saying hello to the many walkers, cyclists, anglers, dog-walkers and fellow joggers I passed. Such was my sense of ease in completing the task, I decided, 'Right! To hell with it, I'm going to run the actual half-marathon distance.'

So, after the first hour, I was still on an easterly course. When I reached the halfway mark of 10.5 kilometres I

swung 180 degrees and began retracing my course. Around kilometre 12, I began to feel a bit thirsty and by the time I had covered 14, I was peching like an asthmatic sheep, my limbs had seized up and every step felt like a battle.

Passers-by were getting nothing more than a grunt by now and I even got a few concerned, 'Are you OK, big man?' inquiries, which is never a good sign.

After struggling and fighting the urge to stop running in an illogical stubbornness to finish the distance, I eventually made it back to the start point having covered the 21.1 kilometres, the last five of which were probably the most painful thing I have ever voluntarily done to my body.

Over the course of the following hours, I must have drunk enough water to float the Clansman in my attempts to rehydrate and the 2,933 calories my Fitbit told me I had burned were eaten probably three times over.

The correlation between lack of food and water and limbs ceasing to work is now etched in my mind. Plenty of fuel will be taken before and during all future half-marathons.

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OT



Competitors in the 12-16 years' fiddle competitions. From left to right: Edie Elliot, Charlotte Slater, Rhiann Matthew, Millie Maclellan, and Rhuaridh Drennan. 17\_19\_HIMDF07



Winners of the junior piping competitions on Saturday morning.



The Argyll and Bute Highland dancing team which part in the Area Finals on Sunday. Photograph: Ronnie Cairns.



Singing adjudicators Kim Carnie and Kathryn Callander with competitors Shona Keith and Alison MacGinty. 17\_19\_HIMDF15



Calum Dunbar, Bobby Allen, Fraser Hamilton, Rhuaraidh Drennan, and Gregor MacDonald each won a piping competition on Saturday afternoon. 17\_19\_HIMDF17



Left: Crackin' Craic entertain at Station Square. 17\_19\_HIMDF13



Left: Chairman of the Netherlorn Piping Society, Iain Hurst, right, thanked former chairman Alistair Dewar. 17\_19\_HIMDF16



Left: Millie Bonniwell from North Connel was the winner of An Communn Gaidhealach an Obain Trophy for Gaelic Song, Primary 1 to 3. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.



It was a hat-trick of wins for these North Connel boys - Fin MacKechnie won the Traditional Scottish March Under 12s, Alexander MacDonald won the March, Strathspey and Reel Pipe for 12-16 years, and Donnie MacCorquodale won the March Strathspey and Reel Tradition and the Gaelic Watzes for 12-16 years. 17\_19\_HIMDF03

## Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival

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Barcaldine Primary School pupils pose for a photograph with 'Bookbug' on Friday at the primary school competitions. 17\_19\_HIMDF01



Anna Smart, who travelled from Auckland, New Zealand, to take part in the festival, came away with silverware for finishing second in the C Grade Pibroch. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.



Lochnell Primary School, Benderloch, were crowned winners of the primary school choirs competition on Friday. 17\_19\_HIMDF02

Right: It was a successful Saturday for Oban's Anna Tait Westwell. The 17-year-old won three singing competitions and three piano solos. 17\_19\_HIMDF14



Isla MacCormick gives her dad John a hand to hold the Mr and Mrs Hugh MacInnes trophy which he won in the March Strathspey and Reel Pipe on Saturday. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.



Oban's Innes MacKay won the Riona T MacInnes Trophy for Scots Song (primary 4 and 5) for his rendition of The Shepherds of the Etives. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.



The victorious Oban High School Wind Ensemble with their mascot Saul. 17\_19\_HIMDF08

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# BUSINESS NEWS

## Loch Melfort Hotel wins Independent Hotelier of the Year

Loch Melfort Hotel enjoyed a successful night at the Scottish Hotel Awards last week, winning the Independent Hotelier of the Year award as well as being highly commended as a pet-friendly hotel.

It is the second time the hotel has won the Independent Hotelier award, having also triumphed in 2013.

Owners Calum and Rachel Ross said: 'We are honoured and humbled to have won this prestigious award again. It is a true reflection of the attitude, commitment, dedication and hard work of every member of our team.'

'It also recognises our wonderful guests who have helped shape what we do here at Loch Melfort Hotel, and their influence on how we have developed the business over the years.'

'We are proud to be a part of the dynamic Scottish tourism sector and are grateful for all the support we have received from our industry colleagues and friends.'

# Career in aquaculture is going swimmingly

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



A modern apprentice working at a fish farming company in Taynuilt is sharing his story to encourage other young people to consider careers in aquaculture.

Somhairle McNally, who is working towards a SVQ Level 2 aquaculture apprenticeship with Dawnfresh at its Loch Etive site, believes the growing industry could offer a great career. He also thinks a modern apprenticeship is an ideal way for people to learn while working.

Somhairle has grown up 'on the water'. He said: 'My love affair of being on the water started when I lived on a small island south of Oban called Easdale and I had to get a ferry to school every day. When I was 10, I moved to Taynuilt and have lived here ever since. Before I came to work with Dawnfresh at its Etive Site in June 2017, I worked at a seal sanctuary.'

'I chose to work with Dawnfresh as it is a great local company with great staff and support for learning. I was given the opportunity to start



Somhairle McNally hopes to inspire other young apprentices.

my SVQ Level 2 apprenticeship in aquaculture last year.

'For me, doing a modern apprenticeship is

'The winter weather can be tough but it's all worth it when the temperature is hitting the high 20s in summer and I'm in a job where I'm working outside all day.'

the perfect way of learning. I'm getting on-the-job training and gaining knowledge of topics from feeding to biosecurity.'

He added: 'Seeing the whole fish farming process from intake to harvest gives me a huge amount of job satisfaction and I love working with my team. The winter weather can be tough but it's all worth it when the temperature is hitting the high 20s in summer and I'm in a job where I'm working outside all day.'

'I would definitely encourage anyone who is thinking about a career in aquaculture. It's a great industry to get into and it's growing so isn't going away soon.'

## BUSINESS MATTERS

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## Rural firms develop novel business ideas

Glamping, distilling, adventure tourism and even outdoor farm fitness are among the novel opportunities open to rural businesses looking for 'diversification inspiration'.

A new guide created by Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) as part of its Rural Brexit Hub highlights successful examples from around the UK and includes advice on how to get new projects off the ground.

Guide author Calum Johnston says that, with current Brexit uncertainty and the onset of reductions in farm subsidy payments after 2021, diversification will become increasingly important for farmers and rural businesses to ensure long-term sustainability.

According to DEFRA and the NFU Mutual Diversification Report 2018, more than 60 per cent of UK farms have diversified, with 63 per cent of businesses stating that diversification is either 'vital' or 'signifi-



Rural firms are diversifying in many ways, including glamping.

cant' to the financial viability of the farm.

As well as case studies of successful projects, Future Proof Your Business Through Diversification includes advice on aspects such as legislation,

planning permission and insurance.

Calum, from SAC Consulting's Food and Drink Team, said: 'Amid the continuing uncertainty over Brexit, more and more farmers are thinking

'This guide highlights a range of exciting opportunities for farms of all sizes.'

about diversification as a way of adding value to their business and helping to ensure financial sustainability.

'This guide highlights a range of exciting opportunities for farms of all sizes and capabilities – from weddings, added-value produce and farm vending, to agri-tourism, leisure-tourism and equine holidays.'

SRUC's Rural Brexit Hub provides online support on the latest Brexit-related activities being undertaken across the organisation, including work by researchers and staff from SAC Consulting.

The Hub is supported by the Scottish Government and the Scottish Funding Council's Universities Innovation Fund.

## Council welcomes Loganair statement

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has welcomed the announcement by Loganair that it will enhance air services and passenger experience to and from the Western Isles.

Loganair said that from the end of last month, all four of its weekday Glasgow to Stornoway services will be operated by the Embraer 145 jet, which has been cutting flight times to as little as 30 minutes since its introduction in January.

And from May 28, one of the four daily Stornoway-Glasgow flights will also provide a new 'same plane' one-stop link from Stornoway directly to London Southend. Benbecula flights to Glasgow on Saturdays and Sundays are also being operated by the Embraer jet.

Councillor Uisdean Robertson, chairman of the comhairle's transportation committee, said: 'This is very welcome news and we are pleased that Loganair is listening to the customers of the Western Isles and is demonstrating commitment to improving the air services for our island communities. Shorter journeys with more seats will increase passenger numbers.'

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## Community seeks crowdfunding to get digging on Mull

Mull Museum is crowdfunding £5,000 for a community dig that could reveal the island's first known Viking building.

Two weeks are planned for a second excavation on the Glengorm Estate this September and volunteers are needed to help with the digging, though no experience is necessary.

Last September a dig at Lephin, led by Claire Ellis of Argyll Archaeology, showed up a probable 13th-century massive walled stone structure surrounded by a stone enclosure just as big and what might date back to Norse times.

So far almost £700 has been raised on Justgiving to make the return dig happen, with other grants and funding also being sought.

'Our aim would be to uncover a good portion of the interior of the structure to determine how the building was used and whether there are burials beneath those floors and, if so, when they date to,' said Hylda Marsh, who is organising the crowdfunding campaign.

'We also want to explore outside and under the enclosure wall to see if we really do have a Norse period hearth and to see if there is an associated structure.'

'This could be the first known Viking/Norse building on Mull. How wonderful it would be to excavate it.'

Lots of carbonised cereal grains, heaps of pottery shards and loads of charcoal, as well as signs of metalworking were found during the first dig.

The excavation also found what could have been the large outline of a grave within the stone enclosure. Fragments of burned bone and masses of charcoal were found outside the enclosure wall and, when a sample of it was being sorted, bits of a bone comb decorated with circles and parallel lines were found, bearing an 'uncanny resemblance' to a comb recovered in Gotland, Sweden, and dated to the Viking period. A radiocarbon date from the charcoal confirmed the fire was made in the 11th or 12th century.

Go to [justgiving.com/crowdfunding/lephin2019](http://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/lephin2019) to make a donation. Anyone interested in volunteering at the dig should email [hyldamarsh@gmail.com](mailto:hyldamarsh@gmail.com)

# Playboys, super yacht

## Morvern lines

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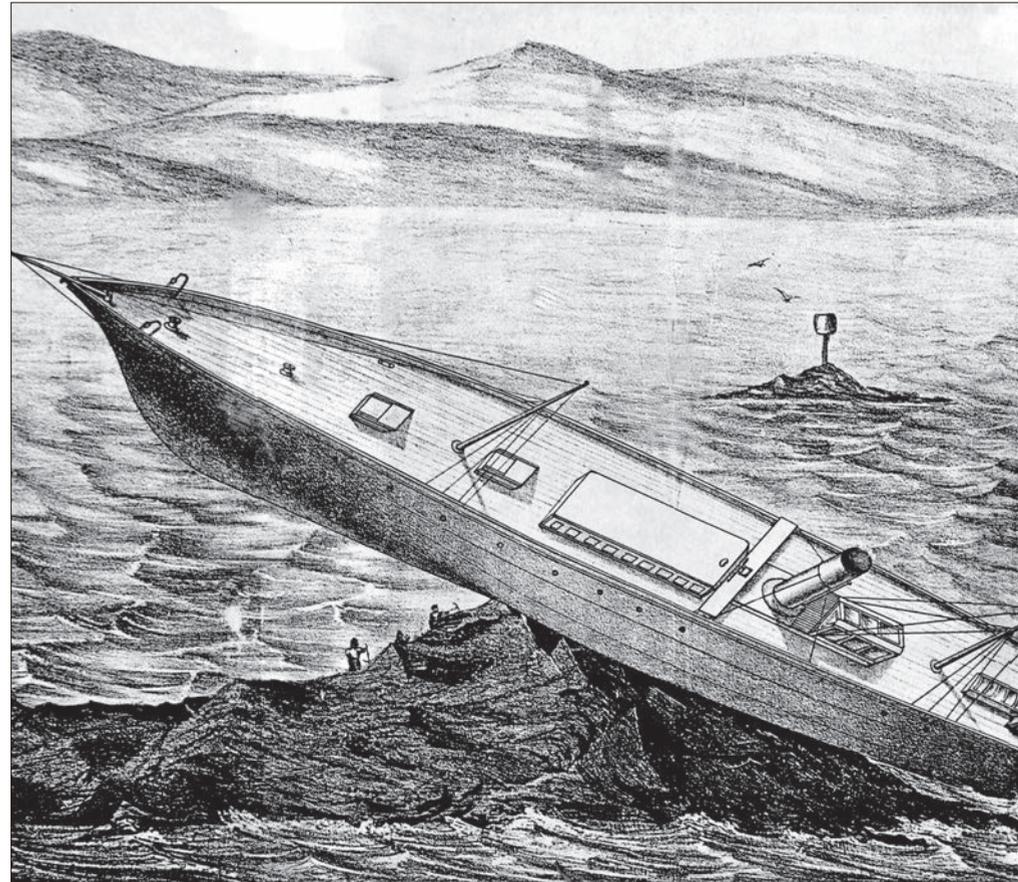
Oligarch is a word which appears a lot in the national press nowadays. It is usually associated with high living and costly divorce cases involving individuals who accumulated wealth and property in the aftermath of the dissolution of the Soviet Union in the 1990s.

An oligarchy is a power structure that allows a few businesses, families, or individuals to rule. In countries such as China, Ukraine, the USA, Zimbabwe, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, they have enough power to turn the country to benefit them to the exclusion of other members. They maintain their power through their relationships with each other. Oligarchy is from the Greek word oligarkhes meaning 'few governing'.

Although you won't come across the phrase much in The Oban Times archives, we've had oligarchs in the West Highlands for centuries. They were known as lairds, clan chiefs, land-owners and factors; some bad, others good, despite the Clearances. Today's Highland variety may not all be rich in gold or guilt-edged bonds and securities, but many still have lots of acres providing valuable incomes from hydro electric schemes, wind turbines, tree planting grants and holiday lets. Their predecessors enjoyed the good life too, and gave employment and fun to a lot of crofters, shepherds and fishermen in the sailing season by persuading them to exchange their sheep shears, salmon nets and peat spades for the life of a seaman aboard their ocean-going yachts.

Argyll had its fair share of wealthy families in the Victorian era; Campbells of Inveraray, Barcaldine and Breadalbane; MacAlpine Downie of Appin, Malcolm of Poltalloch, Rudd of Ardnamurchan, Lord Inverclyde and the Curries of Eriska, to name only some. Few, however, could match Thomas Valentine Smith (TVS) of Ardtornish for his disposable wealth.

TVS (1825-1906) inherited Ardtornish Estate from his father, Octavius, in 1871. The Smiths were successful grocers, distillers and sheep farmers, and the first incomers to buy land in Morvern for sport and holidays. TVS married, aged 15, a woman of 33 whom he divorced in an expensive case in preference to a mistress he later married. Shock-horror!



Those who occupied front seats in the Establishment during Queen Victoria's reign were expected always to observe the invisible barrier that lay between drawing-room society and live-in female friends. But hey, if you have £100 million in your back pocket, own a 40,000-acre estate, employ 160 and there's a 354-ton steam yacht valued at £1.5 million hanging on a mooring in front of your 150-roomed mansion, would you really care what the neighbours thought?

By all accounts TVS was no James Bond. He was a small man, moody, withdrawn, lacking in enthusiasm and said to have had no personal charm. He liked shooting and stalking on his 10,000-acre deer forest and fishing for salmon on the River Aline, but not his family, probably because they didn't approve of him living with his mistress.

TVS's pride and joy was his yacht, Dobhran, Gaelic for sea-otter, which he had built in 1875-6 by Cunliffe & Dunlop, Port Glasgow, in

Yard No 116 of its Inch Works. She was made of iron and driven by a 100hp, two-cylinder steam engine. Her measurements were 193 feet x 22 feet x 13 feet and she carried a crew of more than 20 who, when not aboard, were housed at Achranich near the head of Loch Aline in a building still called The Yacht.

Dobhran was used extensively for stalking expeditions to Inniemore and Eignaig, and for collecting and returning guests to Oban and Greenock. On August 1877, during one of her first major cruises along the north west coast of Scotland, she ran aground with eight guests and a full crew aboard. So well known was TVS and his magnificent yacht that the incident caught the attention of the national press which gave almost daily reports of her rescue.

One of the guests later recorded the incident in some detail: 'On Monday morning August 27, 1887, Dobhran left Loch Aline a little before nine having onboard, Valentine Smith,



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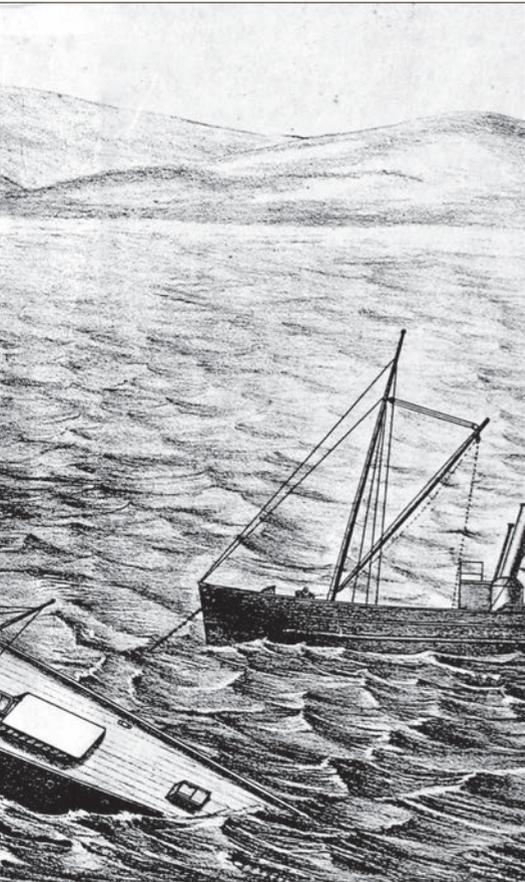


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# s and divorces



Contemporary sketch of Dobhran lying on the rocks near Applecross.

Sketch courtesy of Iain Thornber

Torrison the captain gave the mate his course to steer for Scalpa. The mate mistook Cow Island for Crowlin Island and came upon the Skeir Voie Rock. (There was a small perch on it, not marked on the chart).

'The ladies, Mr Spencer and Herbert all came back to Ardtornish by the Clydesdale [one of J & G Thomson's steamers built for the Glasgow-Stornoway, bi-weekly cargo run] on Thursday. Lord MacDonald's yacht, which was passing up the coast when the accident happened, took the whole party, with the exception of Lothian Nicholson, who stayed to look after the things on the Dobhran, to Strome.

'William Nicholson and Valentine went from there on Wednesday evening to hire a steamer and were housed at the Free Kirk manse, Applecross, where a room was given for all the things saved off Dobhran. The crew were put up in the empty school-house with two good fires and plenty of venison and vegetables sent down by Lady Middleton. An insurance company steamer arrived on Saturday morning from Glasgow. They gave good hopes of getting Dobhran off the rock at the beginning of the next week when spring tides are at their highest.'

The insurance company tug did manage to refloat Dobhran successfully after 10 days. She was towed first to Stromeferry and beached for temporary patches to be put on the hull before leaving for the Clyde for a full repair. The fate of the captain and mate was never mentioned but their colleagues were sent on to London by the local agent for the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society, and from there to Colchester, to which town they belonged. Dobhran was sold by TVS in 1898 to a Mr C. Crespal, Le Harve and renamed Cyrano. In 1902 she was purchased by a Greek family who changed her name to Astrapi and was finally scrapped in 1934 under the name of Doris.

TVS replaced Dobhran in 1900 with the Rannoch, worth £168 million in today's money, and died aboard her in Gourrock Bay in August 1906.

William, May, Helen, Lothian, and Herbert Nicholson, Miss Sellar, Mr Herbert Spencer [and 20 of a crew]. It was a beautiful day, quite calm. Reached Dunvegan Bay, Skye at 5pm. Left at six next morning. Had a bit of a roll across the Minch. Reached Gairloch at 11am.

'Started next morning, Wednesday August 29 at 8am for Loch Carron. At about 10.30am Valentine went into the chart room where he saw the captain who had just come down from the bridge to consult the chart for Loch Carron, having given the mate his course. Between 10.30 and 11, all at once they felt a bump, then a scraping and grating, then the vessel stopped and heeled right over on the port side. In a moment all were on the deck, boats were being lowered and the 28 people on board, in the space of about six minutes, were in them and rowing away from the Dobhran.

'The rock she struck is called Skeir Voie, she was going about 11 knots, off Cow Island, Applecross Bay. When at the mouth of Loch

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



This week we go back to April 1997 and a visit by Conservative Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind to Oban Tourist Information Centre. But who are the ladies and what has them so amused? Can anyone help?

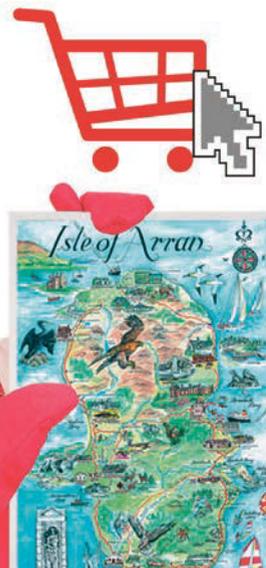
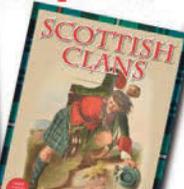


The ladies of Kentallen and Duror WRI pose for a photograph in February 1993.



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## LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)  
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HBSealife Sanctuary  
buyer is good  
news for region

The news we report this week that a buyer has been found for the Scottish Sealife Sanctuary at Barcaldine is very welcome.

However, there is still some mystery over who has made the offer to buy the former tourist attraction.

We have been informed that whoever the prospective purchaser may be, the new owner will 'be good for the area'.

This part of the country has been enjoying an economic boom for some considerable time now, based largely on its hospitality and tourism sectors.

When the Scottish Sealife Sanctuary was closed by Merlin Entertainments at the end of October, it constituted a blow to the attractions of the region.

It was also a harsh blow for the 11 staff who lost their jobs there.

The economic boom looks to be continuing this year, with new businesses opening in Oban and elsewhere, so it is especially gratifying to report the Scottish Sealife Sanctuary development.

We look forward to finding out who has made the offer and what kind of business it will be. Watch this space for more information as it becomes available.

Breege deserves thanks  
for festival contribution

This year's Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival (HIMDF) was the biggest ever, with a record number of entrants competing, and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone involved.

Organising the festival involves a daunting commitment for all who give their time to do so.

Among the stalwarts of HIMDF is the committee chairwoman Breege Smyth who has announced she is stepping down from the position. She deserves thanks.

Oban bed and breakfast  
goes above and beyond

My wife and I are on a 19-day travelling holiday covering Arran, Kintyre, the Western Isles and Skye. We are travelling by car and staying in B&Bs.

While crossing from Mallaig to Lochboisdale by ferry, I realised that I had lost my wedding ring of 42 years. I could only think that I had taken it off at our B&B in Oban.

I contacted Edna Payne at Dana Villa in Oban. What a lovely lady. She arranged for the bedroom to be turned upside down, to find the ring. No luck. She said that she would sift through the dust bag from her vacuum cleaner. Still no luck. Two days later Edna emailed again to say that the ring had been found in the sitting room.

I cannot thank Edna and her team enough. We have found this kind of dedication throughout our visit so far. Many thanks to all those lovely B&B personnel.

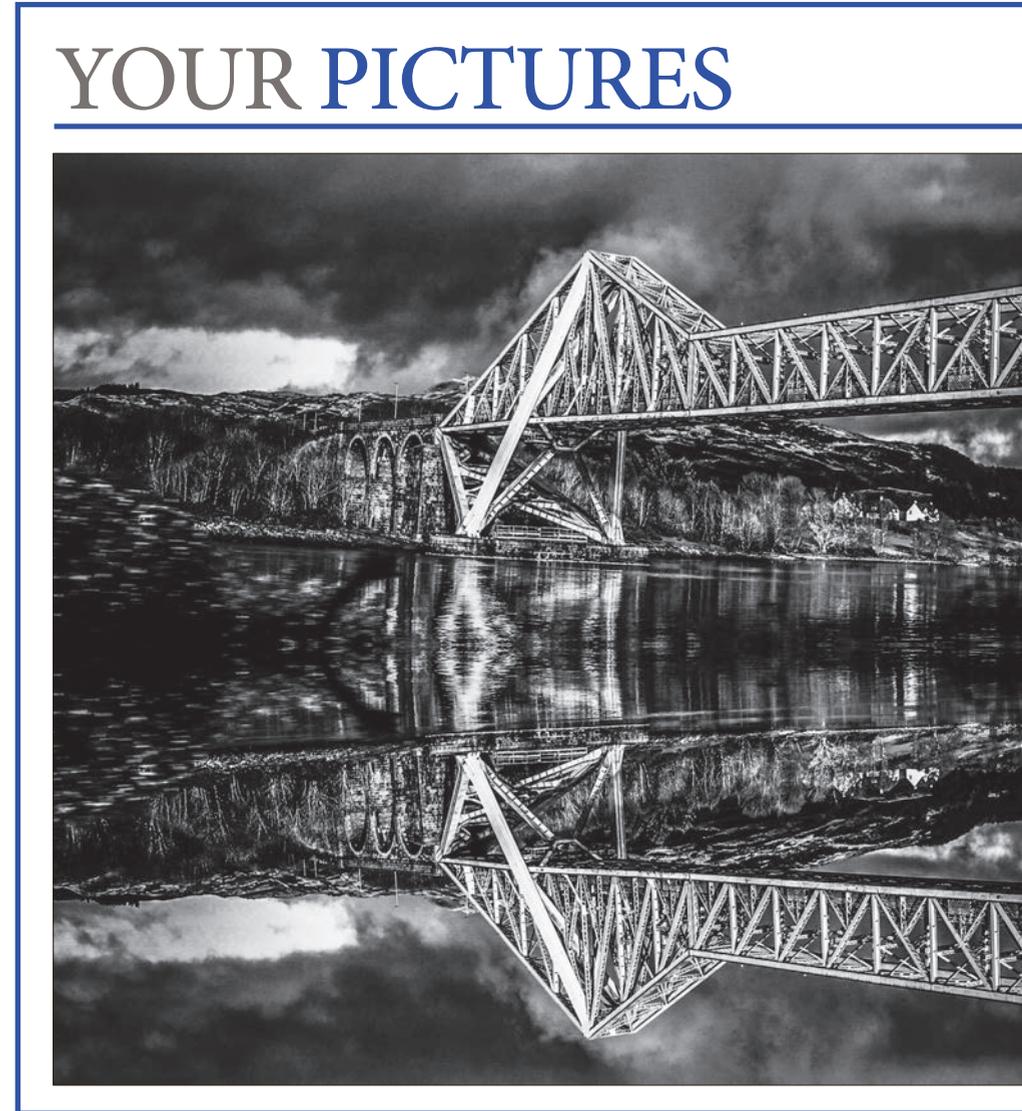
**Ruth and Jim Reeves**  
Trefonen, Shropshire.

Council did not consult  
with Iona before TRO

Your article by David McPhee on April 25, Community council condemns new Mull parking charges, quotes me, as convener of Iona Community Council, saying that the council did not consult with people of Iona at all 'before charging ahead with its Traffic Regulation Order'. This rash, ill-considered legal action, that has landed on us from nowhere, aims to impose £9 day, 365 days a year, parking charges at car parks on Mull, including those at our lifeline ferry services at Fionnphort and Craignure.

In the article, the council's response is to claim it's inaccurate that we weren't consulted before the TRO. It's not inaccurate. It's a fact the council has proudly acknowledged. Worse, it insists it was right to exclude Iona from any pre-TRO consultation because the car parks are on Mull.

This proves the really disturbing lack of understanding by the council of Iona's position as an 'island beyond an island', which can be reached solely via the neighbouring island of Mull, whose community and businesses depend on two lifeline ferry services operating to and from Mull, and for which the car parks



are absolutely integral components of those lifeline services. Iona residents (and visitors) as much as Mull residents use the car parks heavily, without any choice and for long-stay purposes.

The council also wrongly claims in this article that it agreed to 'look at parking charges on Mull' as part of its budget proposals (February 2018). The council did not agree to 'look at' (or consult on a proposal on, or consider impacts of) parking charges, it agreed to bolt straight to introducing the charges, pitching our communities into a formal TRO without any prior warning.

The council's lack of prior consultation or evidence gathering, and persistent lack of understanding of how the car parks are used, or the communities that use them, is just one more depressing demonstration of its complete failure to understand the island way of life.

We urge all councillors to think carefully before applying these harmful charges at lifeline ferry ports and to listen to the unanimous, evidence-based concerns being raised from these islands.

**Shiona Ruhemann**  
Convener, Iona Community Council.



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We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase these each week. If you have a photograph you would like to see published here, send it to editor@obantimes.co.uk, post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or in High Street, Fort William. This week's photograph of Connel Bridge which spans Loch Etive, was sent in by Rachel Wyllie of Seil who took this photograph in January.

## Airport on Skye would damage the environment

Last month I was pleased to support community council colleagues in condemning a proposal that Highland Council donates £170,000 towards a project to develop an airport on Skye.

We had been contacted by a group called Skye and Lochalsh Airport Discussion (SALAD), asking us to back its argument that this is not appropriate use of council funds.

Official paperwork shows that subsidies of £1 million per year will be required in order

to make the airport viable. It seems highly likely therefore, that Highland Council will be required to provide further financial support if this project goes ahead.

If Highland Council wishes to invest in 'public transport', I am sure we can all think of alternatives which would be of greater benefit to the majority of Highland residents.

Our own councillor, Allan Henderson, is chairman of the environment, development and infrastructure committee which will consider this request on May 16.

Acharacle Community Council has written to Councillor Henderson and other relevant parties expressing our disagreement with this proposal.

Quite apart from the fact that this proposal is for an airport the majority of people on Skye don't appear to want, requiring not just start-up funding support when finances are ridiculously tight, but ongoing subsidies each and every year, our primary reason for objecting to the proposal was environmental.

We all know that flying is one of the major contributors to CO2 emissions, and that short-haul flights – the sort proposed from an airport on Skye – cause proportionally more environmental damage.

If we are serious about tackling climate change, we need to be bold. Giving up plastic straws simply won't be enough. I urge Councillor Henderson to take heed of our objections and dismiss this proposal.

**Joanne Matheson,**  
Acharacle Community Council.

## Great to see roads on Islay being resurfaced

It was fantastic to see first-hand the much-needed road resurfacing being done in Ballygrant and Port Askaig.

It was great to hear from our hard-working road staff about the progress being made in improving our infrastructure across Islay. I also checked in on the work being done to improve the local broadband network in Port Charlotte.

It is good to see these latest improvements to our roads infrastructure and broadband capacity. It also shows that, with active campaigning, and in some cases investment from our council, real results can be achieved. I will keep campaigning for faster internet speed and roads resurfacing where needed for every corner of the Kintyre and Islands ward.

**Councillor Alastair Redman,**  
Kintyre and Islands ward.

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



Nach tric a chluinnear gur e ùine fhada a th' ann an seachdain ann an saoghal phoilitigs. Cluinnear bitheanta cuideachd mun chumhachd a th' againn mar mhòr-shluagh nuair a thèid sinn còmhla ann an iomairt sam bith. Cola-deug air ais bha mi a' sgrìobhadh an seo mun fhianais a bha XR (Extinction Rebellion) a' dèanamh agus iad ag amas air aimhreit a sheachnadh fhad 's a bha iad a' cur bacadh air gluasad sluaigh, trafaig, agus gnìomhachas bhailtean mòra gus aire an t-saoghail a thoirt gu suidheachadh èiginneach bhàthachadh na cruinne.

Am beachd chuid tha an iomairt a tha leithid na caileige Suainich Greta Thunberg a' dèanamh, 's gun i ach sia bliadhna deug, a' tòiseachadh ri dùthchannan a mhasladh gus gluasad nas sgiobalta le iomairtean dìon dhan àrainneachd. Aig deireadh cùise 's coma dè bheir buaidh air riaghaltasan fa leth, 's e gun gluais iad a tha cudromach agus taitneach dha leithid XR agus bidh an gluasad sin a' dearbhadh firinn an t-seanfhaicil, "ceilidh ciall masladh".

Nuair a bha mi a' beachdachadh air a' cheist seo roimhe thog mi ceist mun t-seòrsa buaidh a dh'fhaodadh grad-atharrachadh air

poileasaidhean a thaobh dìon stòras na cruinne a thoirt air coimhearsnachdan air iomaill na dùthcha, far nach eil cus roghainn a thaobh a' mhòr-chuid de sheirbheisean agus shochairan. Mar eisimpleir ciamar a ghabhadh dìon a chumail air gnìomhachas luachmhor turasachd nam biodh connadh chàraichean is eile a' fàs tuilleadh is daor buileach?

Tha XR air trì dùbhlain a chur ma choinneamh riaghaltasan an t-saoghail; aideachadh gum bheil suidheachadh èiginneach ann a thaobh blàthachadh na cruinne; stad a chur air gasaichean truaillidh na h-àrainneachd ro 2025; agus gun stèidhich riaghaltasan Còmhhdail Sluaigh gus na h-innleachdan leasachaidh aca a chomhairleachadh is a stiùireadh.

Diardaoin seo chaidh dh'aontaich Pàrlamaid Bhreatainn gum bheil blàthachadh na cruinne na shuidheachadh èiginn is gum bheil coileanadh amasan dìon na h-àrainneachd deatamach. Chaidh cinn-uidhe leasachaidh ùr a chur air Alba, agus ann an òraid aig Co-labhairt Bhliadhna a' Phàrtaidh Nàiseanta thuirt Nicola Sturgeon cuideachd gum bheil suidheachadh blàthachadh na cruinne èiginneach agus

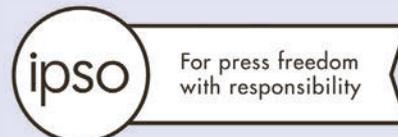
gheall i gun dèan Alba dicheall gus a dhleastanas leasachaidh a choileanadh.

Thuirt Prìomh Mhinistear Alba cuideachd gum bheil Alba air toiseach air a' mhòr-chuid de dhùthchannan an t-saoghail ann a bhith a' cur an gnìomh poileasaidhean gus lughdachadh air gasaichean millteach, agus nan gabhadh stad a chur orra sin buileach ro 2050 gun deante sin.

Dùbhlain bho XR gan coinneachadh gu ìre? Theagamh, agus mar-thà trioblaid aig an Riaghaltas an Dùn Èideann le mar a dh'fhaodadh amasan cruaidhe ùra a dhol calg-dhireach an aghaidh leithid lughdachadh a bha nam beachd air cisean siubhal air plèanaichean! Cha ghabh a h-uile ceist riarachadh ann an seachdain dhripeil phoilitigs!

Have Extinction Rebellion's three challenges to world leaders been acknowledged in Scotland with the First Minister declaring a "climate emergency" and possibly accelerated Scottish Government targets to arrest climate change? There is no doubt that this is an increasingly important issue for the electorate.

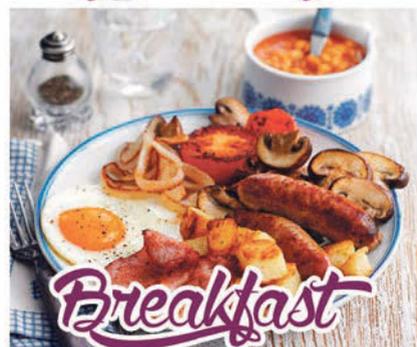
**Ailean Caimbeul**  
(Allan Campbell)  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



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



**Breakfast**

### Classic big breakfast

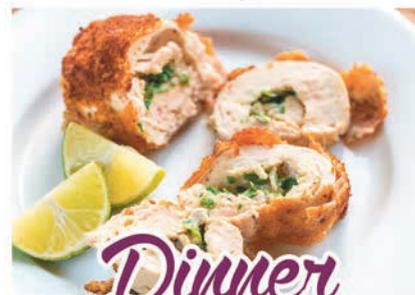
Swap an oily fry-up for a healthy full English breakfast. The Slimming World Classic big breakfast features all your favourite brekkie bits – and it's Syn-free!



**Lunch**

### Couscous salad

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



**Dinner**

### Chicken Kiev & chips

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

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OT

# DISTRICT NEWS

## ISLAY

A messy play class will begin this month in Islay.

The class will take place every Monday in Port Ellen's Cyber Cafe.

It is run by Port Ellen Mothers and Toddlers and will cater to children aged six months to five years old.

The event poster reads: 'Come and unleash their creativity with gloop, foam, spaghetti, rice, paint and much more.' Classes cost £1.

## TAYNUILT

Friends of Taynuilt Primary School will be hosting a spring fair this weekend.

The event will take place on Saturday May 11 at the school from noon and will feature a variety of activities.

There will be a barbecue, a bungee run, treasure hunt, tombola, lucky dip and 'water or wine'.

## MULL

It will be a busy month for Tobermory Library and its Bookbug sessions.

Extra events will take place throughout May to celebrate Bookbug's Big Picnic, which runs from May 13-19.

Bookbug consists of free story, song and rhyme sessions, and is typically aimed at babies, toddlers, pre-school children and their families.

There will be Bookbug classes for all ages on Saturday May 11 and 25 from 2.30pm at the library, which is based in Tobermory High School.

On Thursday May 16 in Tobermory fire station, there will be a Bookbug session with Annabel from 2.30pm.

And on Sunday May 19, there will be Bookbug events on at Tiroran Woollen Woods.

There will be four sessions, which will take place at 10.15am, 11am, 1.15pm and 2pm.

■ The Mull Otter Group will be helping people spot signs of otters on a guided walk on Monday May 13.

The free event will start at 10.30am at Craignure Village Hall.



Adam Hill from North Connel accepts a cheque for £150 from Oban Rotary president Iain MacIntyre.

## North Connel teenager's boost from Rotary

Oban Rotary Club has donated £150 to a North Connel teenager who is volunteering in Kenya this summer.

Adam Hill, 18, who attended Oban High School, has been selected by Voluntary Service

Overseas, a charitable organisation which supports communities in underdeveloped areas in Africa and Asia.

A similar award was made recently to Roanne Lilley from Taynuilt, who is currently

studying at the University of Edinburgh.

Roanne is off to Peru in June as a volunteer research assistant in a team who will be studying the effects of climate change on the Amazon rainforest.



Otter cubs are released on Mull.

Dress for unpredictable weather and uneven terrain. All welcome.

■ Mull Otter Group will be celebrat-

ing World Otter Day on Wednesday May 29 with an event at the Fishnish wildlife hide viewing point.

Eddie the Otter will be in attendance and the group, and anyone who attends, will watch out for live otters, sea eagles and other interesting wildlife.

The event will run from 10am until 3pm.

The group says to bring binoculars, if you have them. All welcome.

## WESTERN ISLES

Western Isles Council will fund the Balivanich Regeneration Project with a capital grant of £223,000.

The Scottish Government an-

nounced in December 2018 that it would provide a £50 million Town Centre Fund for 2019-20, with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar receiving £223,000.

The council has promised it would prioritise Balivanich.

The capital grant aims to encourage town centres to 'diversify and flourish'.

■ A Western Isles MSP has urged all pensioners living on a low income with a partner of working age to check their eligibility for benefits.

Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP

## Sheila has all ingredients for

New cook Sheila Lawson is preparing a batch of treats for Luìng.

Although Sheila is a new face at the Atlantic Islands Centre in Cullipool, she will be a familiar face to many living in the area who will remember her from the Tigh-An-Truish on Seil and, until two years ago, owning The Oyster Bar at Ellenabeich.

With all that experience under her chef's hat, she was working in Argyll College's catering department when the Luìng job opportunity popped up.

Now Sheila is in situ and, along with her kitchen crew, is bracing herself for a busy summer season.

Coming up on Sunday June 16 is a charity afternoon tea in aid of Oban Hospice, Sheila is hoping Seil Sound singers will be dropping in to give a performance. The event starts at 1pm and is by donation, so booking is essential.

'I'm hoping this will become an annual event. We're a charity giving to another charity - it's good to give,' said Sheila, who is making the most of produce from the island and the sea around it.

Alasdair Allan, pictured, warned them to check and claim Pension Credit and Housing Benefit before the UK Government changes the rules on May 15.

The change will see the right to receive those schemes withdrawn from future claimants who have a partner who has not yet reached their own pensionable age.

'It is vitally important that pensioners who find themselves in this situation make use of Age Scotland's free benefit and entitlements check before the changes take place on May 15,' Dr Allan said.



## Time to refuel?



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'Serving Argyll and the Islands'

# the right for Luing job



Atlantic Islands Centre cook  
Sheila Lawson.

'We get bread daily from our bakery and we get scallops and prawns from Luing fishermen. We've got so many talented producers. Home-baking is also a big part of the centre.'

Saturday restaurant nights are a regular feature on the menu and other events to whet the appetite include an Oktoberfest and a spit-roast and fireworks night in November.

## SKYE

Patients on Skye look set to benefit from an innovative paramedic/prescribing project – one of the first of its kind in the world.

Residents on Skye and South West Ross can now enjoy faster access to medicines thanks to James MacGregor becoming one of the first-ever paramedics to receive a prescribing qualification.

Mr MacGregor, 49, received his qualification from the Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, last month.

The legislation allowing paramedics to write prescriptions was amended in April last year.



Oban Bowling Club president Iain Boyd presented Gill Glasgow with her cheque for £2,015.

## Oban Bowling Club's joker is on Gill

With only six cards remaining, the illusive jester in the Find the Joker fundraiser at Oban Bowling Club was eventually routed out last week.

Gill Glasgow from Dunbeg was the lucky winner and received the massive £2,015 rollover jackpot for her efforts.

Gill, a member of the

needlecraft group that gathers at the club every Wednesday, could not believe her luck when she received a telephone call to say that she had won.

'I am still a bit stunned,' she told us. 'I have no idea how I am going to spend it but it will be on something nice.'

'Oban Bowling Club has

made our group so welcome. Everyone is so kind and friendly, this is just an added bonus.'

The joker has now been safely returned to a well-shuffled pack and resumed his hide and seek duties this week with a £50 starting price on his head. Ask at the club how to get involved.

## RUM

Kinloch Castle Friends' Association has submitted a business plan with the aim of acquiring Kinloch Castle, pictured, on the Isle of Rum.

Scottish Natural Heritage, Historic Environment Scotland and Highlands and Islands Enterprise have all helped the KCFA team work to make the plan as comprehensive as possible. The association is now waiting to hear back from the Scottish Government.



## At random

MARTIN LAING

mlaing@obantimes.co.uk



## Positive focus on Argyll

I don't as a rule watch much television but I found myself enthralled in the past couple of weeks by a documentary series called Scotland From The Sky.

Last week presenter James Crawford criss-crossed the country but spent a fair amount of time in and above Argyll.

In particular, he focused on the isle of Belnahua, not far from Oban, and a place about which I must confess I knew very little.

For those in the dark like me, Belnahua is now uninhabited but was once part of the thriving slate industry. Located in the Firth of Lorn, north-west of Luing, its heyday as one of the Slate Islands has long gone, its quarries now flooded by the sea.

There is no ferry service to Belnahua any more, for rather obvious reasons, so it was very interesting to be given a bird's eye view of this once industrious island.

Indeed, as the series' title suggests, stunning Argyll was given a whole new perspective from on high. We are lucky indeed to live in such a glorious part of the world.

## Police deserve better

There has been considerable interest in the story we published recently about the state of Oban police station.

Frankly, it is a crumbling mess.

It was hardly as if the senior ranks did not know. There had been, apparently, numerous complaints from officers which seem to have been ignored.

It was only when the Scottish Police Federation, which represents officers, issued a damning report which called for the station to be closed immediately that commanders in the central belt saw fit to get their fingers out and act.

Why was nothing done before the report was published? Our police officers do a difficult but vital job protecting our communities and they deserve much better from their bosses.

Police Scotland's senior officers and managers should be ashamed of themselves for letting the building fall into such a dreadful condition.

## 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

## First Hebridean Whisky Festival is a dram fine idea

The first Hebridean Whisky Festival is to take place across the islands of Skye, Raasay and Harris this month.

Spread between the four distilleries along the Hebridean Whisky Trail, the festival will feature free tours, tastings, music and special events at Talisker, Torabhaig, Isle of Raasay and Harris distilleries, and the Aros Centre, Portree, between May 21 and 25.

At the Isle of Raasay Distillery on Thursday May 23, whisky pilgrims can hop across the water to the youngest distillery on the Hebridean Whisky Trail for the launch of the exclusive new warehouse and whisky and chocolate tours.

Seasoned whisky connoisseurs and intrepid island explorers can enjoy the spectacular views from the warehouse terrace above the distillery across to the Cuillin mountains on Skye. Those with a sweet tooth can also enjoy the launch of the distillery's new whisky and chocolate tour, with delicious pairings of whisky and chocolate by Finlay MacDonald's Glenshiel Chocolate Company.

The festival kicks off with two days on Skye at Torabhaig Distillery on Tuesday May 21 followed by events at Talisker, the oldest distillery on the trail, the next day, then at Raasay Distillery on the Thursday. You can then follow the self-guided whisky trail route up to Isle of Harris Distillery on Friday May 24.

Meanwhile, in Portree, the Aros Centre will showcase the distilleries at a special Hebridean Whisky Festival tasting stand for the duration of the festival.

The festival finale is taking place at the Sligachan Hotel on Saturday May 25 in Skye. Here all four distilleries will come together in one place for a day of whisky tastings, Hebridean whisky cocktails, cask displays, craft ales and a visit from the Isle of Skye Pipe Band.

# Get on board with nation's themed year

David Adams McGilp, VisitScotland regional director, highlights opportunities for Argyll and the Isles in 2020

The Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 (YCW2020) will shine a spotlight on the impact our waters have on our country and inspire visitors, locals, and the tourism and events sector to get involved and enjoy everything the year has to offer.

The year will celebrate all aspects of Scotland's visitor experience in relation to coasts and waters, with a focus on unique, authentic experiences and sustainable tourism.

The visitor opportunity in terms of experiences and events will focus on our natural environment and wildlife, our historic environment and cultural heritage, activities and adventure, and food and drink.

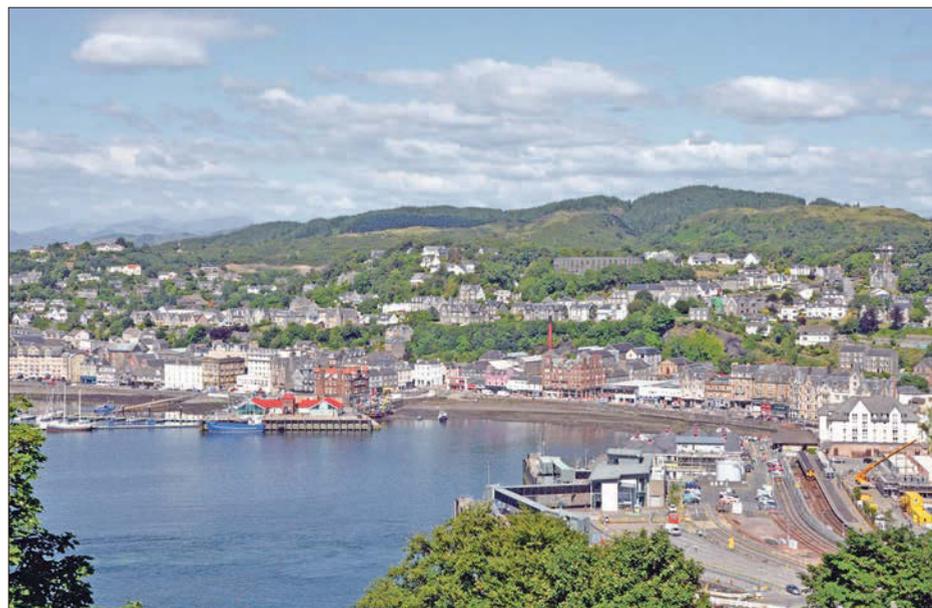
Home to 23 inhabited islands, several long sea lochs and a stunning coastline, Argyll and the Isles can aptly be described as the land of coasts and waters.

The region boasts a range of tranquil beaches, beautiful scenery, fascinating history and a vibrant culture. Combine this with exciting activities, top attractions, some fantastic restaurants and world-famous distilleries, and you can clearly see that Argyll and the Isles is perfectly poised to make the most of the next themed year.

Oban is considered to be the gateway to the isles, with extensive ferry services operating from the town to islands across the region.

However, this special place has a lot more to offer than transport to the islands. Hailed as the seafood capital of Scotland, home to one of Scotland's oldest distilleries and offering adventure and spectacular wildlife in and around the Firth of Lorne, Oban ties into every aspect of YCW2020.

Partnership and collaboration is at the



Oban ticks all the boxes for the Year of Coasts and Waters.

heart of Scottish tourism and I urge every business, group and community in Oban to come together to make the most of this superb opportunity to raise the profile of the town and Scotland on the global stage.

The Little Bay is just one example of a place in the region which has much to gain from 2020. From the gorgeous white sandy beaches of Colonsay to the nine distilleries of Islay, the stunning coast of the Cowal Way to the world-class watersports on the Isle of Tiree, Argyll and the Isles is full of remarkable places that can take full advantage of YCW2020.

It has been announced that one of the five new driving routes, collectively known as The Coig, will be located on the Isle of Bute. Known as 'The Bute', the route takes in much of the island's beautiful coast and it is expected to increase the number of visitors to the island, the length of time they stay and the amount they spend.

The delivery of an exciting programme of special events is an important part of the year and events in the region have the opportunity to apply for the dedicated YCW2020 Events Programme Open Fund which has been designed to create new, high profile opportunities to celebrate our coasts and waters while adding value to the existing calendar of events.

There is also the YCW2020 Partner Programme, which is a non-funded opportunity to align your event with the year and benefit from potential inclusion in VisitScotland promotional activity in celebration of the year.

YCW2020 is an excellent opportunity for Argyll and the Isles to showcase its fantastic offering and bring in visitors which are a major benefit to the region. Tourism is more than a holiday experience – it is the heart of the Scottish economy and touches every community, generating income, jobs and social change.

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## This week's walks



One of the Knapdale beavers. Photograph: Steve Gardner.

## Groups welcome protection for beaver

by Colin Cameron  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Scotland's farming union has stressed beaver management and licensing schemes must be effective after it was announced the mammals have been given protected status in law.

Conservation charities have greeted the news warmly.

The Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS), lead partners in the Scottish Beaver Trial – a five-year programme to reintroduce European beavers to Mid Argyll – welcomed the introduction of European Protected Species status for the Eurasian beaver in Scotland.

From May 1 it became illegal to carry out a range of activities, including lethal control of beavers and destroying established dams and lodges, without a licence. The two organisations urged land

managers to show restraint in controlling beavers while young kits are dependent on their parents. This period runs from April 1 until August 16.

Jo Pike, chief executive of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, said: 'Granting beavers protected status is an important milestone for the return of the species to Scotland's lochs and rivers. It follows decades of work by countless organisations and individuals to demonstrate the positive impacts beavers can have.'

But farming union NFUS has concerns that since the illegal release of beavers on Tayside some years ago, numbers have trebled.

The union recognises the species is here to stay and that, in some locations, beavers and people can co-exist happily, but it believes beavers have negative impacts in particular cases.

NFUS Environment and Land Use Committee chair-

man, Kilniver farmer Angus MacFadyen, said: 'In 2016, NFUS Scotland accepted beavers should be given protected status. Along with several other interested organisations, we acknowledged the value beavers add to Scotland's biodiversity.'

'But we also agreed with these other organisations, and with Scottish Government and SNH, that in some locations there is a clear need to manage this species to minimise undesirable impacts on agriculture.'

'We welcome the statement in the recent open letter published by the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Roseanna Cunningham that the reintroduction "will not be at the expense of the productivity of our rural economy", going on to identify a flexible and responsive licensing system as the solution.'

### LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

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

**Thursday May 16: Meall an Doire Dharach Circuit, Kinlochleven**  
Park at the Grey Mare's Tail car park NN187622. Follow the path that leads to the Waterfall for approximately 200m.

At a junction, (NN1877 6235), keep right and climb the path heading NE through trees on a ridge. Emerging from the trees, follow the path across the slopes of Meall an Doire Dharach to reach a track at NN208634. Turn right on to the track for 0.5km then right again on to a path, which leads to a small dam holding back the waters of Loch Eilde Mor.

Cross the dam, turn right and follow the path adjacent to the pipeline as it contours round the hillside.

At NN210613 take a path, marked by a cairn, which leads off to the right and zig zags down to join the Ciaran path. Turn right and return to Kinlochleven.

Grade: M; distance: 10km; height to climb: 400m; map(s): LR41, EX384; meet at: Glencoe car park NN 098 587 at 0930 for start of walk at 1000.

Leader: Ann Jones, 07770 434114.

### Sunday May 19: Barcaldine to Achnaba, Benderloch

A walk along the coffin route between Loch Creran and Loch Etive.

Take track westwards for 1.5km then south for 1.5km to edge of forest. Cross to open ground between Dubh Loch Mhor and Dubh Loch Beag and then follow rough path south to Achnaba on to public road from North Connell to Bonawe. Transport required.

Grade: L; distance: 8km; height to climb: 150m; Maps LR49, EX376. Longsdale CP, Oban NM862307 or Ballachulish TIC NN083584 or start of walk. Start of walk: B845 south

of Barcaldine NM963404 at 1000. Leader: Ronnie Forbes, 01866 822 611.

### NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Full walk details at [www.nevis-hillwalking.club](http://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](mailto:enquiries@nevis-hillwalking.club).

### Sunday May 12: Stob an Cul Choire, Aonach Mor

This is a spectacular route with some fine views into splendid remote corries. The hydro-scheme mentioned powers the ski centre. The course of the access road should have been reinstated by now but should be useable for access even if greened-over.

Start at the Aonach Mor SC CP, NN171773. Follow the forest tracks E to the start of the hydroscheme track at NN205769. Climb the track until it levels out at about 550m altitude, then head SE steeply up the slope on rough ground to gain the crest of the rocky ridge of Tom na Sroine.

Continue S on this ridge over spot height 918. The ridge narrows with crags on the E side and leads to the summit of Stob an Cul Choire at 1068m. Descend W to the col at about 1000m alt, under the cliffs of Aonach Mor\*.

Climb W up steep rocky ground directly to the summit of Aonach Mor. Head N along the edge of the summit plateau. Once past the head of the first ski-tow the ground dips and narrows to a ridge. Follow this down N. When the angle eases, keep to the fall-line of the slope, curving gradually E down into lower Coire Choille-rai. Make for Allt Choille-rai and follow it down to the forest track. Return to the start.

\*A shorter but no less interesting day omits Aonach Mor: From the 1000m col, turn N down into the impressive Coire Choille-rai and continue to the dam at its lip. Rejoin the hydro-scheme track and follow it down to the forest track..

Distance: 19km \*17km; height to climb: 1291m \*1070m. Suggested by Andrew Gilbert; coordinated by Fiona Wild.



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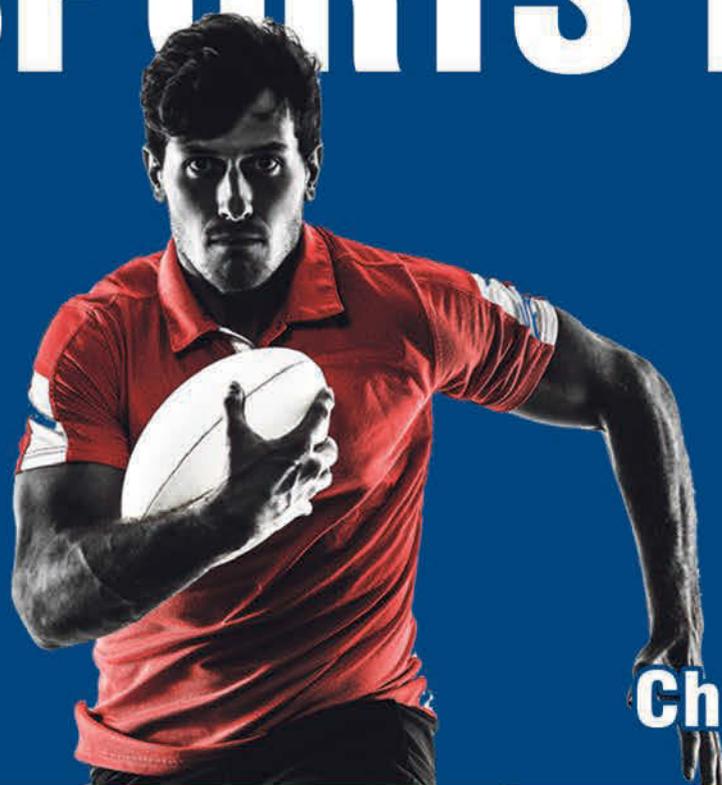
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# All the fun of the games



Everyone knows tartan and whisky are exported all around the world, but did you know this is also true of Highland games?

Amidst the glitz and glamour of Las Vegas, you will find a games day and the first Highland Games is

said to have taken place in America in 1836. North Carolina is the place for all things Scottish from July 11 to 14 this year for the annual gathering of Scottish

clans at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. Across Canada, Australia and New Zealand there are Highland games and every summer dancers and 'heavy' athletes from all over the world come to Scotland to compete in the Highland games 'circuit'. There really can be no greater compliment to the Highlands than the fact that all over the globe people turn out to enjoy our Highland culture, be it dancing, piping, tossing the caber, throwing the hammer and wearing the kilt.

And just like us here in the West Highlands and islands, all over the world there are dancers and pipers rehearsing, athletes in training and heavy athletes working out in the gym, all getting ready for their big day. Likewise, here at home, the events are run mainly by volunteers who are already

putting in the hours arranging and organising to make sure each games day is a success this summer.

The competitions began to find the strongest warriors for the battles, the swiftest runners to be messengers and the best dancers and pipers to entertain clan chiefs and their guests. There is also the chance for people to socialise. That can still be seen today in the West Highlands and Islands with so many of the games taking place during Glasgow Fair holiday in July. In days gone by, this was the only time people who left to find work in the city could get home to see their families. So turn out and support the games this summer and enjoy our unique Scottish tradition that stretches back through the centuries and which, as it goes forward, has travelled to all points of the compass.

## Taynuilt Highland Games Saturday July 20

The 150th Taynuilt Games will be celebrated this year - an event that has always had a reputation for being a friendly games, welcoming

foreign tourists from far and wide as well as people from throughout Scotland and the UK. Taynuilt Highland Games has run since 1859 and has only

been halted during times of war and crisis.

The games also have great events for everyone to join in, from climbing the greasy pole to throwing the

Nant Stone, a huge boulder taken from the bed of the nearby river.

The march through the village to the games field is always a wonderful sight.

**TAYNUILT HIGHLAND GAMES**  
**Saturday**  
**20th July 2019**  
**from 11am**

**Celebrating 150th Anniversary**

1pm march from Taynuilt Inn to the sports field  
*led by Oban Pipe Band*

Highland Dancing, Piping, Heavy Events, Athletics and Junior events, Hill Race

## Kenmore Highland Games Wednesday July 3

Kenmore Highland Games, known locally as 'the friendly games', is organised by Kenmore and District Sports Association and was started in 1972. As well as all the traditional events, including Highland dancing, 'heavy'

competitions, piping, and track events the games has its own 'Throwing the Tirnie Stone', an almost spherical stone found on Tirnie Farm, Kenmore, weighing 101lbs. Come and join this small community enjoy its big day out.

**Kenmore Highland Games**  
 Kenmore Sports Field  
**3rd July 2019**  
 5.30pm – 9.30pm  
 Heavy Events, Track Events, Highland Dancing, Hill Race, Children's Races

**Contact: Sarah Kelly**  
**Tel: 01887 830281 or mobile 07754 497889**



**GLENGARRY HIGHLAND GAMES**  
**Saturday 6th July**  
**at the Shinty Pitch, Invergarry**  
**Gates Open 9.30am**  
**Dancing Commences 10am**  
**Games Officially opened 1pm**  
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 Highland Games, Stalls, Sideshows and much more.

**Glengarry Highland Games Saturday July 6**

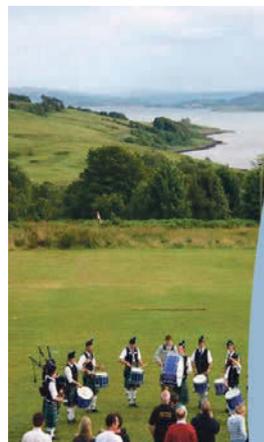
There are two Glengarry Highland Games and the one here in Scotland is held at the village shinty club's playing field.

The other, at Maxville, Ontario, has grown

into one of the largest in the world, with 50 pipe bands taking part, as it is one of the competition venues for the American Pipe Band Championships.

Though the original is now in the shadow of

the Canadian games, the spirit remains the same - a great day out for all the family with piping, dancing, track and field events, stalls food and plenty activities and races for children.



**MORVERN HIGHLAND GAMES**  
 CHILDREN'S SPORT AT 10AM  
 OFFICIAL OPENING 12 NOON WITH  
 ADULTS ATHLETICS, HEAVY EVENTS,  
 MULL & IONA PIPE BAND, DANCING DISPLAYS, WIFE CARRYING RACE,  
 THE MORVERN MILE, FOOD STALLS, COMMUNITY STALLS,  
 BOUNCY CASTLE, FACE PAINTING, CHAINSAW CARVINGS,  
 ICE CREAM VAN, LIVE MUSIC AND MUCH MUCH MORE!!  
**SATURDAY 13TH JULY 2019**  
**KNOCK PARK, LOCHALINE**  
 JOIN US AT 'THE MOST SCENIC HIGHLAND GAMES IN SCOTLAND!'

**Morvern Games and Gala Week runs from Saturday July 13 to Sunday July 21**

During the week there is something for the entire family, including a float parade, children's sports, Highland games, live music, duck race, clay pigeon shot, open water swim, darts competition, pool competition, indoor bowls, Lochaline sand mine tour, table tennis tournament, dog agility, children's cook day, allotment open day, herbal walk, church exhibition and teas, producers' market, race night, heritage walk, bingo, quiz night, Highland hustle, yoga, Drimnin

cinema night, charity dinner at Whitehouse Restaurant, auction night for MS, Big Morvern Run, regatta, fishing competition, crab catching, shinty, survivors' dance-beach party and more.

Morvern Games and Gala Week was reinstated in 1987 after a period of abeyance.

A highlight in the Morvern calendar, it is an opportunity for organisations to hold events throughout the week with the support and assistance of the Games and Gala Week

committee. The week begins with Morvern Highland Games, held on the second Saturday in July.

The date is to coincide with the Glasgow Fair with the intention of attracting the diaspora home for the holidays and enjoy the events throughout the week.

There will be a mini bus meeting the ferry from Mull and picking up people around the village.

This should reduce traffic at the field and save people the long walk up the hill.



**Southend Highland Games Saturday July 20**

There are bigger Highland games with larger crowds, but is there another Highland games where people have this much fun or visitors are made to feel so welcome?

The tiny village of Southend, on the tip of the Kintyre peninsula, holds its games in the afternoon and into the evening.

There are all the traditional field

events, piping and dancing and a range of senior and field events with cash and voucher prizes. Southend always places an emphasis on children's events.



**SOUTHEND HIGHLAND GAMES**  
**Saturday 20th July 2019**  
**5.30pm for 6.00pm**  
**Southend Playing Field**  
 Under 16 half mile race.

Come and enjoy - traditional highland dancing competitions, Piping, Full range of Senior track and field events with cash and voucher prizes. Children's races and many other fun events. Full Kintyre Schools Pipe Band will play at 5.45pm and again during the evening. Beat the goalie. Other Novelty Events and craft stalls. Licensed bar for over 18's with separate soft drinks bar. Burgers, ice-cream etc available on field. There is room for more stalls on the field. Please contact John Galbraith on 830235 or email [polliwilline@btconnect.com](mailto:polliwilline@btconnect.com) Hot food also available at Muneroy Tearooms and Argyll Arms Hotel, Southend RING FRANCES OR LYNN WITH YOUR BOOKINGS TO SAVE DISAPPOINTMENT. ALL COMPETITORS ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE OWN INSURANCE.

The Oban Times and Lochaber Times would like to wish all competitors and organisers a very successful Highland Games season

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



### Inveraray Highland Games Tuesday July 16

This is one of the big days in the Highland Games calendar, held in the shadow of Inveraray Castle at Winterton Park. It features the world caber tossing championship so expect to hear accents from all over the world.

Traditionally, His Grace the Duke of Argyll leads the parade

to the games field through the Royal Burgh with Inveraray and District Pipe Band playing and this has to be one of the most iconic scenes in Highland life. Cycling and wrestling are also included in the packed programme. There's so much going that the day's events begin at 9am.

### Mull Highland Games Thursday July 18

As venues go, they don't come more spectacular than Erray Park, Tobermory. The games take place with the Sound of Mull and the hills of Ardnamurchan as the backdrop.

Events include heavyweights, light field events and Highland dancing and the park is also a great place to begin – and end – a hill

race with the pipe band playing and spectators cheering the runners home. This show has no trade stands.

Mull Games always has a great atmosphere and that extends to the trip there are back on the ferry. Make sure you get your tickets booked in advance as the boats are always packed on games day.



### Bute Highland Games Saturday August 24

Bute Highland Games makes a welcome return to their traditional second last Saturday in August slot on the Highland Games circuit.

Chairman Douglas Lyle and the organising committee of Bute Highland Games are delighted to welcome as this year's chieftain Samantha Ella Embury, a member of the Bute family who is involved in the Bute Family Trust, set up by her grandfather, which supports good causes on the island.

She is also passionate about supporting young people who

may be at risk and has worked in this field in Brazil and the UK. She is married to Gavin and they have two children, Louie and Honor.

The High Street Stadium at Rothesay is a scenic backdrop for the Bute Games, also known as the 'family friendly games'.

There is something for everyone - pipes and drums; Highland dancing; athletics; heavy events; wrestling; junior shinty and the ever popular, scenic 10K road race.

Trade stands, catering and attractions for youngsters are also on offer.

### Inveraray Highland Games

Winterton Park, Castle Grounds

**Tuesday 16th July 2019**

Local and Open Events from 9.00 am

**SOLO PIPING** (Local and Open)

**HIGHLAND DANCING** (Local and Open)

**HEAVY, FIELD & TRACK EVENTS**

(Local and Open)

incl. **WORLD CABER**

**CHAMPIONSHIP**

**CYCLING, WRESTLING**

**INVERARAY & DISTRICT PIPE BAND  
(Grade 1)**

will parade from Church Square to the Games Field at 10.45am

Full Catering Facilities on Field

Trade Stands, Side Shows, Free Children's Entertainment

**ADMISSION:** Adults £8.00: OAP's £5.00

Children £3.00: Family Ticket £20.00

**FREE PARKING**

Email: [secretary@inveraray-games.co.uk](mailto:secretary@inveraray-games.co.uk)

[www.inveraray-games.co.uk](http://www.inveraray-games.co.uk)

### Mull Highland Games

**Thursday 18th July 2019 10.30am**

**Erray Park, Tobermory**

- Solo Piping - Highland Dancing -

Heavy and Light Track

and Field Events

Scottish Light Field Jumps

Championship

A great day out for all the family

Refreshments available on the field.

No trade stands

Contact: Florence Kirsop

Tel: 01688 302275



**Saturday August 24th 2019.**  
Public Stadium • Rothesay • Isle of Bute

Pipe Bands & Drum Majors  
Highland Dancing • Heavy Events  
Athletic Events • Wrestling  
10k Road Race • Junior Shinty

**A Great Day Out**

[www.butehighlandgames.org](http://www.butehighlandgames.org)  
[info@butehighlandgames.org](mailto:info@butehighlandgames.org)



**Cowal Highland Games**

**Saturday August 29-31**

Cowal Highland Gathering is the home of the World Highland Dancing Championships. Attracting the best highland dancers from across the world since the championships began in 1934, when Gladys S Bruce from Largs took the juvenile World Champion title, Cowal Highland Gathering continues to be the place where every Highland Dancer wants to perform.

2018 saw a record-breaking 768 dancers travel from as far away as Canada and Australia to compete for the most prestigious trophies in the highland dancing world.

Saturday August 31 also sees the Cowal Pipe Band Championships, the

oldest pipe band competition in the world, taking place.

Around 50 bands will perform during the day, all aiming to leave Dunoon with some of the Gathering's most historic trophies. Don't miss one of the Cowal Highland Gathering's 'must see' moments, marking the finale to the event, when the massed bands play in unison in their salute to the Chieftain.

Cowal Highland Gathering also hosts an international heavy athletics competition, which attracts some of the best strongmen and women from across Europe. Competitors from Scotland, Germany and Iceland will go head-to-head in individual and team competitions.

Also included in the

cost of admission is access to the popular Cowal Ceilidh Tent, which this year is headlined by Skerryvore, with Beinn Lee, Rhuvaal and Donald Black supporting them.

We have not forgotten our younger audience either. As well as all the traditional elements you would expect from a highland gathering, we also have a range of free family attractions which this year includes stunt bike shows, Artie's Tartan Tales, puppet shows, arts and crafts workshops, crazy golf, mountain bike tracks and flying displays from Kintail Birds of Prey.

Discounted tickets and additional information available now at [www.cowalgathering.com](http://www.cowalgathering.com)

**Newtonmore Highland Games**

**Saturday August 3**

The games are held in the heartland of the Clan Macpherson with the clan's annual rally and march to the

games. This year's chieftain is Angus Macpherson of Baillid. The march includes massed pipe bands

and leads the way to The Eilan, the home of the games.

There are open and local heavy events which attract a good field; open track, field and traditional heavy events.

Another feature of the games is the Creag Dhubh Hill race plus a full schedule of dancing. With trade stalls, food and beer tent, this is a wonderful, traditional games.

**Newtonmore Highland Games**

**Saturday 3rd August 2019. 10.30am-5pm**

- Massed pipe bands march through the village to the games at 1pm
- Open Piping 11-3pm
- Highland Dancing Competition from 12.30pm
- Open Track & Field Athletics 1pm
- Open Traditional Heavy Events 1pm
- Clan Macpherson rally and march to the games
- Creag Dhubh Hill Race 3.15pm
- Trade Stalls - Food & Beer Tents

**Helensburgh and Lomond Highland Games Saturday June 1**

Helensburgh and Lomond Games are unique in that the event is linked to two clans, the Colquhoun and the MacAuley, whose chiefs alternate the duties of chieftain of the games.

Traditional competitions such as the dancing and athletics are on show along with the 'heavy' events like tossing the caber.

Spectators can join in by competing in a

variety of events for old and young at the games which are held at Helensburgh Rugby Club grounds.

The origin of today's games can be traced back to 1889.

Dunoon, 29th - 31st August, 2019

# Cowal 2019

Don't miss the most spectacular, Highland Games in the WORLD!



**fantastic family fun**

Gig at the Gathering, Friday 30th August, 7pm.

Tickets on sale but hurry!

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

*"The Friendly Games"*

## Helensburgh & Lomond Highland Games

**Saturday 1st June 2019**

[www.helensburghandlomondgames.co.uk](http://www.helensburghandlomondgames.co.uk)

Rugby Grounds, Rhu Road Higher, Helensburgh G84 8JZ - 10:00am

Novice & Professional Heavyweights & Highland Dancing - 12 Noon

*"Solo Piping and Athletics from 1pm"*

Opening Parade & Ceremony by Games Chieftain  
Chieftain, Sir Malcolm Colquhoun of Luss - 12:30 pm

Open Heavyweights, Senior and Youth Foot Races, Solo Piping, Highland Dancing, Hill Race included are – Scottish 22lb Shot Put, British 90m and Scottish 200m foot races.

Over £7000 prize money Many family attractions,  
Trade / food stalls – Beer tent

Free shuttle bus service from Pier car park to Games

# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Stage play opens doors for gossip

Smash hit Scottish play *Doorways In Drumorty* takes to the Benderloch stage next week.

Set in a 1920s gossipy, rural Aberdeenshire community, the play is laugh-out-loud funny, say its makers.

Being brought to the Victory Hall on Wednesday May 15 by Awkward Stranger in association with Hame productions, it follows the story of Jessie McLean, who seemed destined to become a spinster when at 16 the young man she fell in love with left town never to return, leaving her alone and unfulfilled.

Then, 35 years later, a girl in a similar though more extreme version of her own circumstances, helps Jessie discover an

inner courage which she uses to foil the myopia of those around her. Set alongside her own tale are six vignettes depicting the experiences of other characters in the town.

Playwright and author Mike Gibb has been writing for the theatre since the late nineties and has produced a stream of Scottish-themed musicals and plays including the internationally acclaimed *Outlander the Musical*.

This year is the 90th anniversary of Lorna Moon's critically acclaimed novel *Dark Star* which provides one of the stories for the play.

Born and raised in Strichen, Aberdeenshire, Lorna Moon was

a poet and leading Hollywood screenwriter as well as an author. For years, she was Hollywood's highest paid female scriptwriter, writing screen plays for movies starring the biggest film stars of the era such as Norma Shearer, Gloria Swanson, Lon Chaney Jr, Lionel Barrymore, Douglas Fairbanks Jr and Greta Garbo.

Her book of short stories '*Doorways in Drumorty*' was banned from the local Strichen library for 50 years because the town's inhabitants were horrified at recognising themselves in the book's characters.

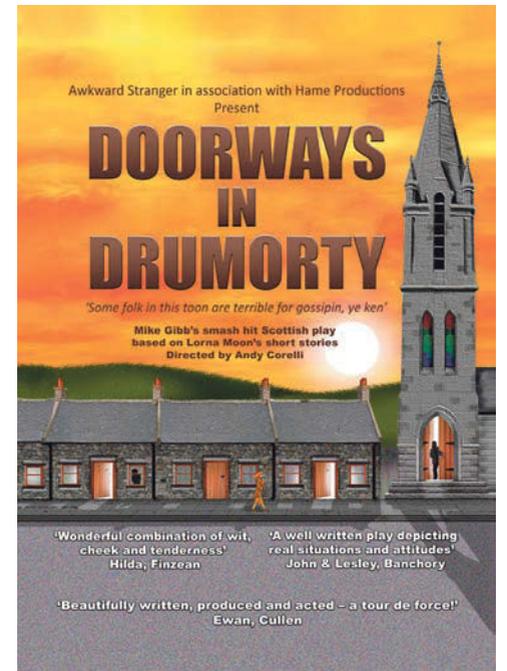
Speaking about the latest tour, Mike Gibb said: 'The question I get asked most about my stage work is 'when are you doing

*Doorways in Drumorty* again?' and I am therefore delighted that Andy Corelli has put together this amazing tour that will introduce the wonderful world of Drumorty to so many people the length and breadth of Scotland.'

The play starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are £12 or £10 for under 26-year-olds available from 01631 720498 and terry@backwoodsman-stoves.co.uk

'Please come and support local live theatre, especially a group which is visiting us in Benderloch for the first time,' said Terry Donovan.

The production is being supported by North East Arts Touring and Aberdeenshire Council.



'Some folk in this toon are terrible for gossip, ye ken'



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# M'ALBA

## MY ALBA

### 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  
**UR | NEW:** Eòrpa  
21.00 **UR | NEW:** Opry le Daniel  
21.55 Binneas – Na Trads (Tom Orr Scottish Dance Band) (rpt)  
22.00 Mach a Seo! (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)

### DIHAOINE 10 AN CÈITEAN FRIDAY 10 MAY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
18.35 Machair (rpt)  
19.00 An Là – News  
19.25 **UR | NEW:** SWPL Cup Final 2019 – Hibernian Ladies v Glasgow City  
21.45 Belladrum Highlights (rpt)  
22.00 Black Lake (rpt)  
22.45 Dhan Uisge (Cuan Sound) (rpt)  
22.50 Na Worlds 2018 (rpt)

### DISATHAIRNE 11 AN CÈITEAN SATURDAY 11 MAY

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
17.45 An Là – News  
18.00 **UR | NEW:** Scottish Premiership – Livingston v Dundee  
20.00 Machair (rpt)  
20.25 Froachy Bay (rpt)  
20.30 Kerry is Kirsty: Asainte (rpt)  
21.00 Na Worlds 2018 (rpt)

22.05 Ameireaga air Film (rpt)  
22.50 Dhan Uisge (Loch Maree) (rpt)  
23.00 Scottish Premiership – Livingston v Dundee (rpt)

### DIDÒMHNAICH 12 AN CÈITEAN / SUNDAY 12 MAY

16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
18.15 An Là – News  
18.30 Seachd Là – News review  
19.30 Eòrpa (rpt)  
20.00 Leugh Mi (rpt)  
20.30 An t-Eilean (rpt)  
21.00 Montecassino (rpt)  
21.45 Sgeul Seirbheis (rpt)  
22.00 Farpaisean Chon-Chaorach (rpt)  
23.00 Black Lake (rpt)  
23.45 Belladrum 2016 – Rachel Sermanni (rpt)

### DILUAIN 13 AN CÈITEAN MONDAY 13 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 Fuine S5 (rpt)  
21.00 Trusadh – Carraighean Cuimhne (rpt)  
22.00 Port – Druthag Eile (rpt)  
22.30 An Là – Beò leis an Lan (rpt)  
23.30 Mach a Seo! (rpt)

### DIMÀIRT 14 AN CÈITEAN TUESDAY 14 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 Kerry is Kirsty: Srath Narann (rpt)  
21.00 Am Fear Cinnidh Òg (rpt)  
22.00 Trusadh – Carraighean Cuimhne (rpt)  
23.00 Òrain Oir (rpt)  
23.25 Froachy Bay (rpt)  
23.30 Sorchar nan Reul (rpt)

### DICIADAIN 15 AN CÈITEAN WEDNESDAY 15 MAY

17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.00 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.25 An Là – News  
19.35 **UR | NEW:** Championship Playoffs 2019  
21.55 **UR | NEW:** Belladrum Highlights 2018  
22.00 **UR | NEW:** An Là – A' beartachadh an Làn  
23.00 Opry le Daniel (rpt)  
23.50 Dhan Uisge (Loch Maree) (rpt)

### DIARDAOIN 16 AN CÈITEAN THURSDAY 16 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 Leugh Mi (rpt)  
21.00 **UR | NEW:** Opry le Daniel  
21.55 Binneas – Na Trads (Cathy Ann MacPhee & Maggie MacInnes) (rpt)  
22.00 Mach a Seo! (rpt)  
22.30 **UR | NEW:** Ameireaga air Film  
23.15 Belladrum Highlights 2018 (rpt)  
23.20 Dhan Uisge (Loch Maree) (rpt)  
23.30 Fonn Fonn Fonn (rpt)



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

## An 'atmospheric travelogue in music and words'

The snowbound north of the Yukon is the setting for a critically-acclaimed musical interpretation of Robert Service's best-known poem.

Internationally renowned cellist Christine Hanson, and eight of Scotland's finest musicians, come to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's main hall on Skye this Saturday, May 11, to perform The Cremation of Sam McGee.

Commissioned by Celtic Connections in 2005 with the original narration by the late Michael Marra, Christine's enthralling musical interpretation of 'strange things done in the midnight sun' in Canada's far north has been described as 'superbly atmospheric travelogue in music, words, and images' and receives the highest of praise wherever it is performed.

Music has taken Christine Hanson from touring Canada's High Arctic with a

tango trio to playing jigs and reels in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland. While classically trained, in her roles as cellist, composer and sound designer Christine is eclectic in her musical explorations.

Set to a projected backdrop of icescapes by Ted Harrison, one of Canada's most popular artists, Christine has enlisted the musical talents of Anna Massie, fiddle and guitar; Gordon Gunn, fiddle; Kevin Murray, guitar and mandolin; Kevin McGuire, double bass; Rick Taylor, trombone; James Mackintosh, percussion; and Brian McAlpine, piano and accordion, to bring Sam McGee and the icy Yukon setting to life in a 'chilling, enthralling and entertaining work'.

The narrator is Gerry Cambridge, who also plays harmonica.

The Cremation of Sam McGee begins at 7.30pm.

Tickets and further information from [www.seall.co.uk](http://www.seall.co.uk)



Canadian Cellist, Christine Hanson, joins eight of Scotland's finest musicians for her latest Scottish Tour.

## Poet presents wildscapes in words for his sister

Acclaimed as one of Scotland's finest poets and prose writers, Seil-based Kenneth Steven has published a new poetry collection called West. Inspired by the wildscapes of Scotland, the collection is dedicated to Kenneth's late sister Helen Steven, who was a justice and peace worker for the Iona community.

Best known as a poet, whose admirers included poet laureate Ted Hughes, Kenneth is a novelist and children's author too. He grew up in Highland Perthshire and was taken

every summer to the west coast and islands including Iona, which he says has been his spiritual home from childhood. The poems in West are ones he hoped Helen would love in particular, Kenneth said, 'about places of wildscape in the west of Scotland for which she had such particular fondness.'

One of them that he says is perhaps at the heart of the collection is: 'SALT: When you have forgotten what it means to have the wind hurrying your window all night long it's time to find the is-

land. There is a gate – beyond, a track that's made of sand winding down the machair. You'll hear the sea long before you're there, or the shoulders of the island have opened so that all the horses of the west are galloping the beach, again and now again. And if you should open too and let in light, it is because the breakages within you are so many, and the salt, no matter how it hurts, will heal.' The launch of West, published by Wild Goose Publications, is at Waterstones in Oban on Wednesday May 8 at 6.30pm.

## All roads lead to Scotland for Harringsay's finest

Harringay's favourite boy-band, The Budapest Café Orchestra, embark on a ninth annual consecutive tour of Scotland, taking in some of the most remote and the most midge-ridden parts of the Highlands and Islands en route.

Since 2011 the intrepid BCO have chalked up more than 150 concerts across St Andrew's fair isle and even dedicated their landmark 2014 album The Gaelic Chronicles to their beloved

spiritual homeland. A music-driven phenomenon, the infectious energy of the BCO is likely to sweep audiences off their feet and stay in their hearts forever.

Described as 'the finest purveyors of folk and gypsy-flavoured music this side of a Lada scrapheap', the four-piece outfit kick off the west coast leg of their tour on June 17 on Skye and finish at Benderloch Village Hall on June 21.

June 17 – Watnash

Ardmore House; 18 – Skye Elgol Hall; 19 – Arisaig Village Hall; 20 – Tobermory Aros Hall; 21 – Benderloch Victory Hall.

Dame Jocelyn Bell called it: 'Eclectic acoustic four-piece playing awe-inspiring music in amazing places... their gorgeous Mahler is simply stunning.'

Go to [www.budapestcafeorchestra.co.uk](http://www.budapestcafeorchestra.co.uk), facebook.com/budapestcafeorchestra or twitter.com/bco100 for more info or to book tickets.



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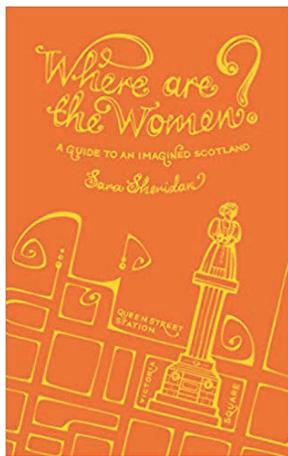
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# Where are the Women? - a guide to an imagined Scotland



Sara Sheridan.

Can you imagine a different Scotland, a Scotland where women are commemorated with statues and in street names and buildings?

Inspired by Rebecca Solnit, who famously renamed all the New York subway stations after inspirational women, author Sara Sheridan could and suggested to HES – the public body which looks after Scotland's historic environment – that she write a guidebook to that alternative nation.

The result is *Where are the Women*, published today (May 9), which offers a fascinating insight into what might have been. The book is a revelation to read, highlighting as it does the many women whose remarkable achievements have gone largely unnoticed.

Here readers will find the cave on Staffa named after Malvina rather than Fingal

and the West Highland Way ends at Fort Mary.

They can also read about the bravery of the women who resisted the Highland Clearances, Lady Anne Mackintosh, who held opposing political views to her husband and backed the Jacobites during the 1745 uprising, or poet Mairi Mhor nan Oran, who was outspoken in her support of land rights for the Gaels.

Sorley MacLean said no Gaelic poet had more *joie de vie* than Mairi Mhor.

For most of recorded history, women have been sidelined, if not silenced by men who named the built environment after themselves.

Sheridan, one of the Saltire Society's most influential women, past and present, writes: 'If women don't see themselves represented in the world around them, the unspoken message is that

our stories and achievements don't matter'. Now she invites everyone to look unflinchingly at Scotland's heritage and bring those women who have been ignored to light.

*Where are the Women?* offers a pioneering look beyond the traditional male-dominated histories to reveal a new picture of Scotland's history and heritage.

# Storming sounds forecast as Mudslide head to Benderloch

It's time to don the dancing shoes again as Argyll blues band Mudslide head for the Benderloch Palladium with a blistering set list.

This delicious blues band make a most welcome return to The Victory Hall, this Saturday (May 11) when great music, super songs and dancing are all on the menu.

From the wild west coast of the region this five-piece outfit bring a wealth of professional and semi-professional experience from diverse musical backgrounds and a passion for the blues, they create foot-tapping, spine-tingling, stormin' sounds.

Their set list encompasses all styles of blues with songs from Stevie Ray Vaughan to Clapton, Gary Moore to Joe Bonamassa plus some original material and older classics.

With an enviously tight



Mudslide are all set to rock the Benderloch Palladium.

rhythm section, blistering guitar solos, dazzling keyboards and soulful vocals, Mudslide are guaranteed to get a place dancing.

A band spokesperson said: 'It is not our plan to become world famous, we just love listening to and playing the blues whilst clutching on to the thin straws of reality.'

Gig organiser Joy Cameron added: 'Do come and join us for what is bound to be a storming blues session.'

Phone 01631 720247 to book seats...some are already claimed, so don't be shy. Tickets are £12 in advance, £14 on the door, bar and doors open 7.30pm, music from 8pm.

# WHAT'S ON

In partnership with Oban Town Diary [BID4oban.co.uk](http://BID4oban.co.uk)



## THURSDAY 9TH MAY

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

**Oban Health Walks**  
Oban Congregational Church  
10-12pm

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

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Duns**  
FREE JUKEBOX EVERY THURSDAY

**FRIDAY 10TH MAY**  
**8 Week Mindfulness Course**  
The Rockfield Centre  
12-12:30pm

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Duns**  
Davie Rollo. Open till 2am

**SATURDAY 11TH MAY**  
**Ganavan Sands Parkrun**  
Ganavan Sands  
9:30am-12noon

## 8 Week Mindfulness Course

The Rockfield Centre  
12-12:30pm

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

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Duns**  
Sandra Macbeth. Open till 2am

## SUNDAY 12TH MAY

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

**Live Music & Entertainment @ Markie Duns**  
QUIZ NIGHT at 9.30pm  
£1 per person, max of 6 per team  
Win £20 bar voucher

## MONDAY 13TH MAY

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

**Slimming World**  
Union Street/Argyll Street,  
Lochgilphhead

5.30pm & 7.30pm  
Tel: Rhona 07880 878906

**Drumming & Music Making**  
Taynuilt Sports Pavilion  
6.30pm-7.30pm

## TUESDAY 14TH MAY

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

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

## WEDNESDAY 15TH 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](http://www.obanwhatson.co.uk) for more details. To list your event, please call **01631 568000**

## WHAT'S ON AT YOUR LOCAL CINEMA THIS WEEK

Tel: 01631 562905 or see

[www.obanphoenix.com](http://www.obanphoenix.com) for more details

### FRIDAY 10TH MAY

12:00/ 16:15 SHAZAM! 12A  
16:30/ 19:15 AVENGERS: ENDGAME 12A  
20:15 RED JOAN 12A

### SATURDAY 11TH

11:30 WONDER PARK PG  
12:00/ 15:30 SHAZAM! 12A  
13:30 MISSING LINK PG  
15:00/ 18:45 AVENGERS: ENDGAME 12A  
18:15 EATEN BY LIONS 12A  
20:15 RED JOAN 12A

### SUNDAY 12TH

12:00/ 16:30 SHAZAM! 12A  
12:30 MISSING LINK PG  
14:30 EATEN BY LIONS 12A  
15:00/ 18:45 AVENGERS: ENDGAME 12A  
19:15 RED JOAN 12A

### MONDAY 13TH

16:15 SHAZAM! 12A  
16:30/ 19:15 AVENGERS: ENDGAME 12A  
20:15 RED JOAN 12A

### TUESDAY 14TH

12:00 / 20:00 RED JOAN 12A  
16:00 SHAZAM! 12A  
16:15 AVENGERS: ENDGAME 12A  
19:00 NT LIVE: ALL MY SONS

### WEDNESDAY 15TH

16:00 SHAZAM! 12A  
16:15 MISSING LINK PG  
18:15 AVENGERS: ENDGAME 12A  
19:00 RAISED VOICES: A KIND OF SEEING  
20:45 RED JOAN 12A

### THURSDAY 16TH

12:00/16:30/19:15 AVENGERS: ENDGAME 12A  
16:15 SHAZAM! 12A  
20:15 RED JOAN 12A

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# The Ugadale Hotel at Machrihanish Dunes announces the addition of renowned chef Gordon McNeill

Renowned Scottish chef Gordon McNeill is taking the reins as executive chef at the Kintyre Restaurant and Bar, which is located within The Ugadale Hotel at The Village at Machrihanish Dunes.

The appointment of McNeill as executive chef signals a bright new dawn for The Ugadale, where his culinary creations will be warmly received by hotel guests and the community, who will now be able to bear witness to his exceptional talents.

Chef McNeill will join chef Greig Smyth at The Royal Hotel and chef Colin Bellamy at The Old Clubhouse Pub to complete The Village at Machrihanish Dunes' 'dream team' of culinary artists.

McNeill was born on the island of Gigha. He cut his teeth in the catering business at the Putechan restaurant on the Kintyre coast before serving a working apprenticeship at several of the west coast's

top restaurants. A spell at the Gleneagles Hotel was followed by a stint at prestigious Tuddenham Mill, before he spread his wings abroad, working for two private families in Italy.

A return to Kintyre to visit family after an absence of 18 years resulted in a chance meeting with the new owner of the business that was to become The Boat House in Gigha, a meeting which started a working relationship that was to last six years and see McNeill earn a reputation for producing the finest dishes, specialising in the use of local seafood.

McNeill had the desire to take all the experience he had gained during his time at the Boat House – along with his natural inventiveness and boundless enthusiasm for his craft – and bring it to a bigger and more accessible stage. So he was delighted when the opportunity presented itself to have his name associated with the prestigious Ugadale Hotel. The hotel has always

had a reputation for serving high quality cuisine, but it would be fair to say that the focus has previously been on producing high-quality menus for visiting golfers and hotel guests rather than on creativity, and McNeill is keen to change this.

'People rightly come to stay at The Ugadale for the golf, and that will never change,' said McNeill.

'But it is my goal to have people also come here specifically to enjoy the food that we produce, rather than just to eat here because it is the restaurant attached to the hotel.'

McNeill's enthusiasm for local produce and the incredible variety of creative cuisine that he can come up with is highly infectious.

With the right ingredients available on the day, he says that he is looking forward to producing menu offerings like:

■ Queenies cooked with Springbank whisky and Arran Cheddar

■ Tandoori lobster tail with horseradish, apple, cucumber and mint

■ Sashimi Tuna with pickled ginger, soya and wasabi

Although the focus of McNeill's set menus will be on seafood, shellfish and grill, his use of daily specials boards will ensure that a changing and always interesting selection of exciting offerings will be available daily.

Greg Sherwood, president of Southworth Golf, which oversees management of The Ugadale Hotel and Kintyre Restaurant and Bar, had this to say about the hiring of McNeill: 'Everyone at the hotel is incredibly excited to have Gordon join our team.'

'We have always strived to offer the very best food and beverage in the Kintyre region, and there's no doubt that chef Gordon's experience, expertise and vision are going to make our menu offerings more creative and appealing than ever.'

'I know that hotel guests

and local residents alike are going to marvel at what he and his team are doing. It will be a very special culinary experience, and one unlike any other in Kintyre.'

The Ugadale Hotel in Machrihanish was painstakingly restored and reopened in 2012.

It immediately earned luxury four-star status, having undergone a rigorous review process by VisitScotland.

Since then, it has earned a slew of awards, including Best New Hotel, Best Golf Hotel, and Best Small Hotel from the Scottish Hotel Awards and Golf Tourism Scotland, while The Ugadale Cottages have themselves earned the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence.

The Ugadale Hotel features 22 rooms and suites, many with stunning golf course and ocean views, the boutique Serenity Spa, a fitness center, and dining options that include The Kintyre Restaurant and Bar for more formal dining and



The Old Clubhouse Pub for a casual bite.

The Royal Hotel offers 23 rooms, all overlooking picturesque Campbeltown Harbour, along with the lively Black Sheep Pub and a fine-dining restaurant, the Harbourview Grille.

The Village at Machrihanish Dunes is a majestic destination where guests can experience the striking beauty of Scotland, enjoy premier links-style golf, dine and relax.

For more information, or book a stay, visit <http://machrihanishdunes.com>.



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## WILD

/wild/ adjective

### 1. A natural state

"The stunning, wild dunes of Machrihanish make up the world's most natural golf course."

### 2. Attractive, exciting

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### 3. Our Summer Weekend offer from £106 pp\*

"Unlimited golf, soup & sandwich, mini whisky, and a luxury stay in The Ugadale hotel - at a wild price!"



1586 810 019 | [MACHDUNES.COM](http://MACHDUNES.COM)

\*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.

# Ballet West brings showcase to Oban

Ballet West's students will be showcasing their skills at the Corran Halls later this month.

For the first time the Upper School students on degree courses at the Taynuilt-based vocational ballet school will be joined by exceptional young dancers from the new Ballet West High Performance Lower School.

The Oban show is on Saturday May 18 starting at 2.30pm and then at 7.30pm with a performance at the Macrobert Arts Centre in Stirling on Saturday May 25 at 7.30pm.

They will be performing original works by award-winning choreographers Natasha Watson, Angelique Harris, David Page and Indra Reinholde as well as a classical repertoire restaged by Jonathan Barton, who is vice principal at Ballet West and Sayward Harris ten Hove, artistic manager at Ballet West High Performance Lower School.

Ballet West Principal Gillian Barton said: 'I am enormously proud of the achievements of Ballet West's students over the past year; their successes in international competitions, in their academic courses and in their career development.

'The annual showcase performances demonstrate the breadth of experience the dancers have gained in classical ballet, modern ballet and contemporary during their three-year degree course, which combines training in technical dance skills with the genuine performing experiences required by dancers working today.'

Tickets are £15, call 01631 567333 to book.

The showcase is the last performance for year-three dancers as students of Ballet West and is the final assessment they take before graduating with a BA(Hons) in Dance and setting off on professional careers.



Photo by Ryan J Davies

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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](mailto:robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk)



## Comunn an Taobh-an-Iar turns 50

Comunn an Taobh-an-Iar is celebrating the association's 50th anniversary this year with a concert on Friday evening alongside the Bearsden Fiddlers in Milngavie Town Hall.

For this special occasion, it has put together a fantastic line-up of singers and musicians.

Association piper Kenneth MacFarlane will start the night off and other artists include Deirdre Graham, Maeve MacKinnon, Gillebride MacMillan and Alasdair Whyte. Amy Lewis and Allan MacDougall will perform a fiddle and guitar duo and Ryan Corbett (who recently played for none other than Prince Charles) will entertain on the accordion.

Tickets are £10, which includes a complimentary glass of wine or a soft drink. The evening begins at 7.30pm.

## Prince Charles enjoys RCS performance

I mentioned briefly that Ryan Corbett recently played for Prince Charles - and I bet

you thought The Oban Times' Glasgow Letter was one of the few places you wouldn't be reading about royalty this week after Meghan Markle gave birth to the most recent royal baby.

The Prince was visiting the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and sat alongside Outlander star Sam Heughan (used to fighting alongside an altogether different Prince Charlie) for a performance by students.

## Strictly Come Cèilidh Dancing

The weekend has finally arrived for the Mòd Ghlaschu Strictly Coming Cèilidh Singing fundraising evening and further details have been announced on Facebook in a post that read as follows: Mòd Ghlaschu would like to invite you along to our latest fundraising event, to be held on Saturday May 11, in the Woodside Hall.

'Strictly Come Ceilidh Singing is an event that is sure to entertain. We have a variety of contestants lined up to battle it out to be crowned the ceilidh singing king or queen. They'll be performing for our



very own panel of judges, who'll have the hardest task of the night.

'Along with the excellent entertainment from our contestants, we also have the fantastic Charlie Kirkpatrick Band on hand to provide some music for the dancing.'

Doors are open from 7pm for a 7.30pm start. There will be a bar and of course a raffle. Tickets are £10. To reserve your ticket please get in touch via social media or email [info@modghlaschu2019.com](mailto:info@modghlaschu2019.com).

## Massed Gaelic choirs

I have been enjoying watching footage of Glòir - a spectacular concert in the Usher Hall described as 'a celebration of

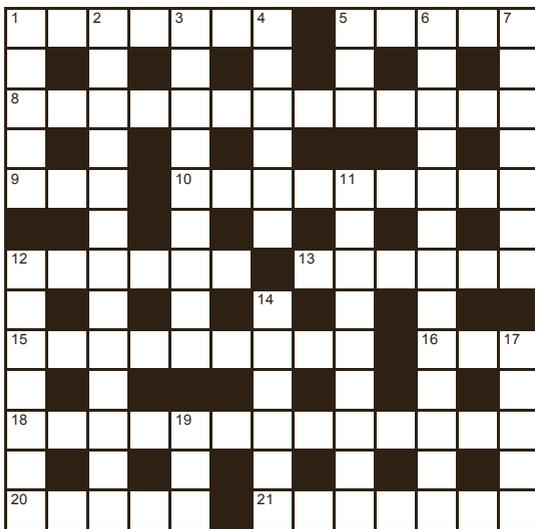
Gaelic spiritual music led by the massed Gaelic choirs of Scotland in memory of John MacLeod.'

John MacLeod, who died in January 2018, was a much-loved champion of the Gaelic language in Scotland and the president of An Comunn Gàidhealach for 10 years.

The evening was hosted by Cathy MacDonald and featured the massed Gaelic choirs of Scotland, Soisgeul (the Gaelic gospel choir), Na Clarsairean (the Scottish Harp Orchestra), the City of Edinburgh Music School, and the children of Bun Sgoil Taobh na Paire.

All proceeds from the event are to be donated to MND Scotland.

# Crossword



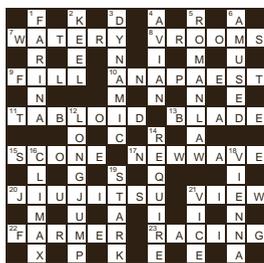
Across

- 1 Used for experimenting with new machinery (4,3)
- 5 Unspoken (5)
- 8 Sweet treat (4,9)
- 9 Her (3)
- 10 Spoke about something incorrectly (9)
- 12 Tune out (6)
- 13 Evenly (6)
- 15 Embarrass (9)
- 16 Large tree (3)
- 18 Unwarrantedly (13)
- 20 High nest (5)
- 21 Looker of a looker (7)

Down

- 1 List of actions (2-3)
- 2 Army rank (8,5)
- 3 Having two branches (9)
- 4 Sleepy (6)
- 5 Very (3)
- 6 One of the founders of a club (7,6)
- 7 Early week day (7)
- 11 A wrist bone (9)
- 12 Using ones own staff (2-5)
- 14 Slobber (6)
- 17 Head of a city (5)
- 19 Lawyer's advice for a girl (3)

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

## Let's Celebrate work starting at The Rockfield Centre

View the plans & meet the team  
Take part in activities  
All welcome  
**Friday 10th May**  
12pm-3pm & 4pm-7pm  
at the Rockfield Centre  
Tea, Coffee, Cake, Fizz, Music  
Look forward to seeing you all there

**ROB LUFT & ELINA DUNI**  
Contemporary Jazz Guitar & Song  
St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe  
**Friday 17th May, 7.30pm**  
Refreshments  
£10 (£8 Friends) on door under 16s free



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# BONNIE babies

## competition 2019

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### Vote now for your top 20!

It's time to unveil our fabulous Top 30 Bonniest Babies. How you managed to select the top 30 from all these wee cuties, we will never know, but you did it and here they are. The eagle-eyed among you will have spotted that there are actually 34 babies as we had a four-way tie for 30th place

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!**

### VOTING COUPON

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The Oban Times  
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I would like to vote for:

Baby number\*: .....

Baby's name: .....

Please post to The Oban Times, Bonnie Babies VOTE, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

\*Baby number must be supplied. This can be found at the top left of each baby photograph.

**Photocopied voting coupons will not be accepted and will not count as one vote.**

You may send in multiple voting coupons in one envelope. Coupons can also be handed in to our offices in Oban and Fort William.



Terms & conditions: One coupon counts as one vote. From Thursday the 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](mailto: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



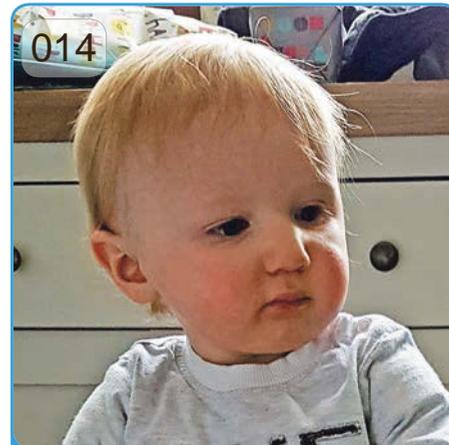
Logan Khan  
Born February 2018 Dunbeg

008



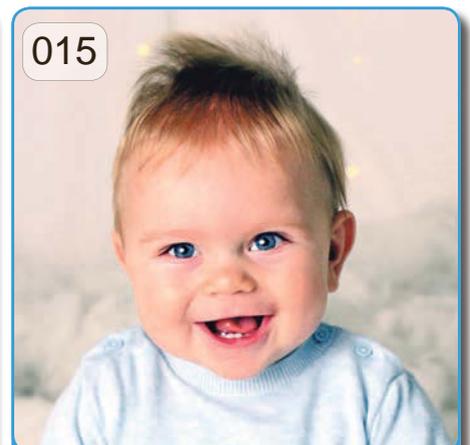
Jessica Gibb  
Born November 2018 Lochgilphead

014



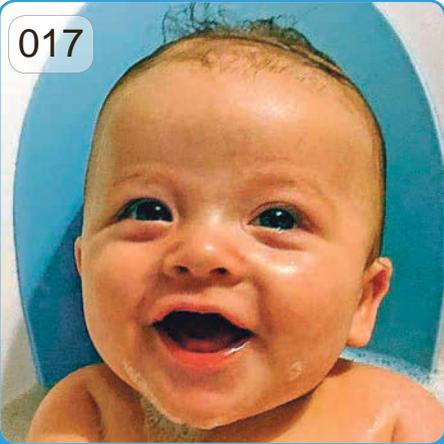
James Aitchison  
Born February 2018 Fort William

015



Koa Eldon  
Born December 2017 Fort William

017



Matthew Russell  
Born October 2018

Oban

018



Olivia Kerr  
Born December 2018

Oban

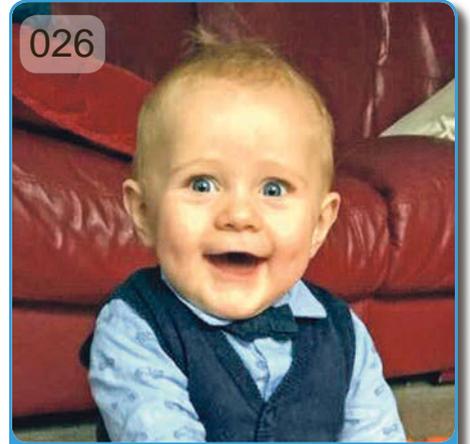
019



Ryan Ward  
Born October 2018

Oban

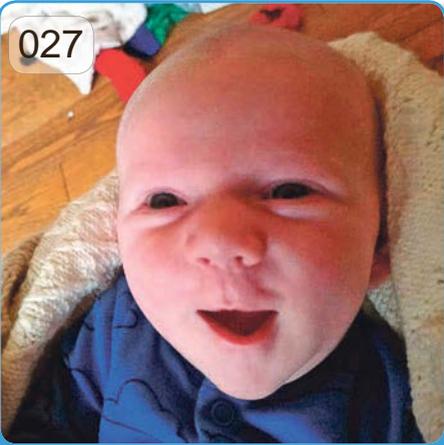
026



Angus John Telfer  
Born March 2018

Oban

027



Hunter Smith  
Born December 2018

Lochgilhead

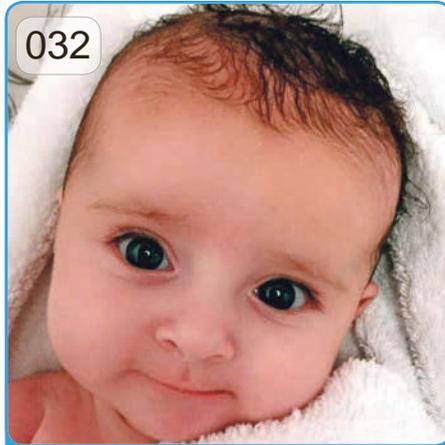
029



Alba McNicholas Smith  
Born February 2019

Helensburgh

032



Hollie McMillan  
Born October 2018

Oban

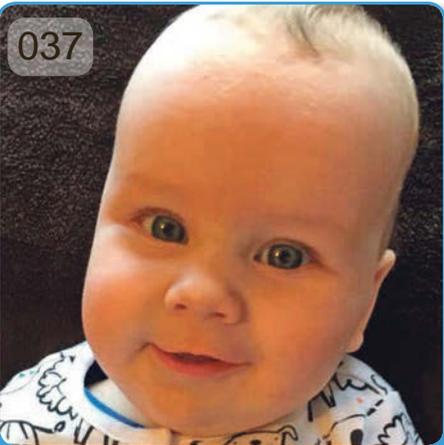
033



James Donald Morrison  
Born April 2018

Isle of Islay

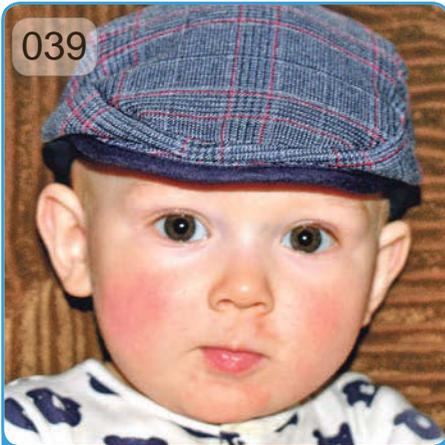
037



Nathan MacKechnie  
Born July 2018

Oban

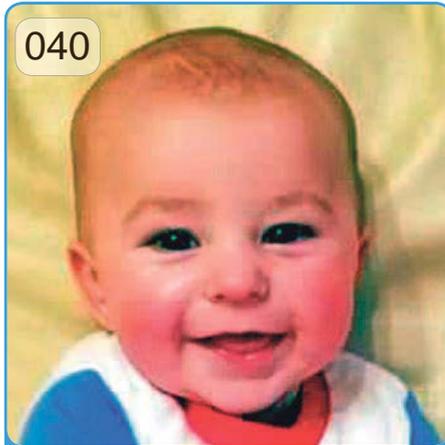
039



Cooper Stewart Cunningham  
Born June 2018

Connel

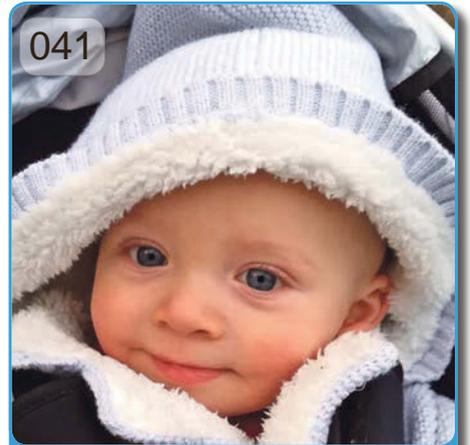
040



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



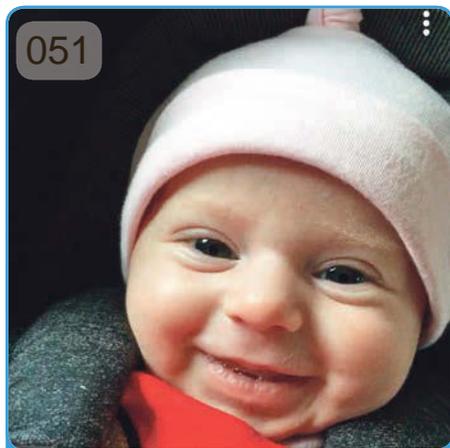
046

Evie Mackinnon  
Born July 2017 Oban



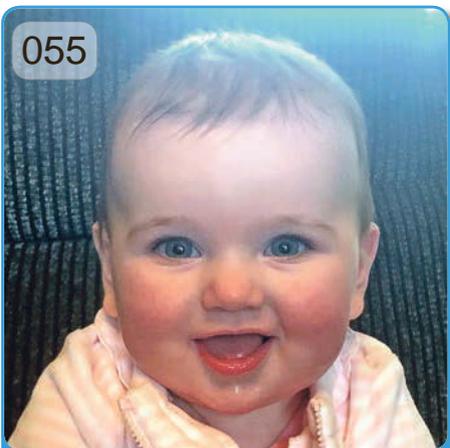
050

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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# Climate change report sees farmers and crofters playing their part

Scotland's farmers and crofters must be recognised as part of the solution to delivering on the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) 'net-zero' target according to NFU Scotland.

The report published on May 2 stated that Scotland had greater potential to remove emissions from its economy than the UK overall, and could credibly adopt a more ambitious target of reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) by 2045. The CCC's recommendation covered all sectors of the Scottish economy.

NFU Scotland President Andrew McCornick said: "The CCC recommendation that Scotland can achieve net-zero emissions by 2045 is era-changing and a huge moment in the climate change debate for Scotland's farmers and crofters.

"It is now extremely likely that the Scottish Government will adopt this recommendation and emission target, and look to all sectors of society and industry, including food and farming, to play their part in delivering. That will require massive change within Scottish agriculture.

"Our farmers and crofters are green by nature, we are starting from a very good place and we will work with the government to help the industry

become a world leader in low carbon farming.

"Our farmers and crofters are on the front line in experiencing the impacts of climate change. They are increasingly having to adapt to changing weather patterns and increased volatility in order to maintain their businesses and still put high quality food on the table.

"They take their environmental responsibilities incredibly seriously and continue to adopt practical, workable solutions and improvements to the challenge of climate change. Agriculture is a source of greenhouse gas emissions, and farmers and crofters are a big part of the solution in helping tackle the collective challenge that we face.

"In our "Steps to Change" document, looking at future support arrangements for Scottish farming post-Brexit, we give serious consideration as to how measures such as improving soil health, managing slurries and manures, and targeting inputs to improve soil carbon storage as routes to reducing emissions might be supported in the future.

"In addition to what can be achieved through new agricultural policies, government must also invest in



helping the industry and place greater emphasis on advice and support. As an example, the current Farming for a Better Climate (FFBC) scheme, designed to assist farmers and crofters in identifying actions that can improve productivity, save money and reduce emissions works well, but is significantly under-resourced.

"For government to deliver on its part, there is a strong justification for enhancing this type of funding and initiative in the future, in order to

incentivise further take-up of these practices.

"Reducing agricultural emissions in Scotland will be fundamentally challenging to businesses but need not be at the expense of producing food, cutting livestock numbers or exporting our emissions by relying on food imports.

"Policymakers in this area understand Scotland is unique. Our landscape and climate mean that much of Scotland's farmland is un-

ploughable and unsuitable for crops other than grass. However, that grass is readily converted by Scotland's cattle and sheep into fresh, tasty meat and milk while delivering the many environmental and economic benefits of grass-fed beef, dairy and sheep production.

"It remains our concern that while Scottish farming already plays an important role in reducing emissions, the way our agriculture is represented in the greenhouse gas inventory and reporting structures does farming a serious disservice, ignoring the key environmental role farmers and crofters in Scotland provide. That is something we believe must be urgently addressed as this debate continues.

"If net zero targets are to be laid in legislation, there is now an opportunity for government and organisations to work together to set the agenda. To secure the facts, NFUS is planning to work with Scottish research institutions to establish a fellowship to capture what is currently understood about agricultural emissions in Scotland and to communicate that information in a user-friendly way to key industry stakeholders in order to create a solid platform from which to move forward."

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# It's show time

Your guide to the best agricultural shows in the area



# Support our

Go along to an agricultural show or two this summer and find out more

Can you think of any other industry which is such a vital part of community life that everyone turns out in force to support it? Visit a show and see for yourself.

An agricultural show is a great day out but to the farming community an agricultural show is way, way more than that.

Farming is almost a definition of anti-social hours. Do you get fed up if you have to work an evening or a weekend now and then? Farming folk would laugh in disbelief – livestock and the weather make sure that farming is never a nine-to-five job. It truly is a way of life.

A show gives people the chance to catch up with old friends and socialise. There will be plenty of craic in the tea tent or at the bar and the show dance in the evening or at the Young Farmers' stall. One of the joys of an agricultural show is that people have time to stop and catch up with neighbours, friends and other people in the community whom they might not see from one year's show day to the next.

Many people outwith the farming community are often surprised at how many exhibitions and trade stands there are at agricultural shows, even the smaller ones. So expect to see stalls for organisations like the Forestry Commission, NFUS or SNH at shows, or dealerships in farm vehicles and implements – from a four-wheel-drive truck, or a plough, to rotary tedders to silage wagons. Farming is such an all-consuming job that it makes more sense for agricultural suppliers to go the customers rather than the customers visit their showrooms.

There will also be stalls or agents for feed and fertiliser and agricultural suppliers. Likewise stalls selling country clothing and overalls which everyone can appreciate.

Look out too for a host of food stalls selling baking, sweets, hot food and often farmers' market stalls selling produce. Each show has its loyal band of tradespeople.

The Royal Highland Show at Ingliston, Edinburgh, is considered the start of the agricultural show season and



## WEST ARDNAMURCHAN SHOW

*Kilchoan, Friday 19 July*

This is a well-established show with a reputation for providing a fantastic family day out. The agricultural show starts the day at 9.30am, with the main family events following at 11.30am.

The day includes children's races with a hill race for seniors and juniors, likewise heavy events and a pet show, produce show and stalls for everyone to enjoy. There is an all-day barbecue, and bar and live music on the field from 5pm onwards with A'Hooligan. All this is in the beautiful Kilchoan setting, making for a memorable day.



## BUNESSAN SHOW

*Bunessan School Ground,  
Friday August 2*

The first of the Isle of Mull's two agricultural shows, this might be one of the smaller ones but it has a big heart; it has a reputation for being one of the friendliest shows around.

The show committee describe the event as a 'traditional show' with a full schedule of livestock classes plus plenty more for people to enjoy at the showground alongside the village primary school, especially lots of children's competitions with home baking, preserves and gardening classes.

The day also ends in the traditional way, with a show dance in the village hall, this year with Beinn Lee, starting at 9pm.

## KINTYRE AGRICULTURAL SHOW

*Anderston Park,  
Campbeltown, Friday August 2*

Kintyre is home of the famous Mull of Kintyre Cheddar, so expect to see some of the finest dairy cattle in the show ring, along with beef cattle, sheep and Clydesdales, plus plenty of livestock which had good wins at the Royal Highland Show.

Kintyre Show always has a good selection of stalls and action from the Kintyre Young Farmers. There will be a parade of old tractors a great dog show, and produce show. A day not to be missed.



**West Ardnamurchan  
Show & Sports**  
**Friday 19th July 2019**

Enjoy a fantastic family fun day in beautiful surroundings at Kilchoan's well established Show and Sports. Agriculture Show runs from 09:30 to 11:30 and all the Main Events start at 11:30.

Attractions include: All Day BBQ & Bar; Senior & Junior Heavy Events; Junior Sports; Children's amusements start 11.30 am; Pet Parade & Races; Tug-o-War; Stalls; Baking & Horticulture Competitions; Senior & Junior Hill Race; Live music and refreshments on the field from 5pm onwards (A'Hooligan)

More information online: [facebook@westardnamurchanshowandsports](https://www.facebook.com/westardnamurchanshowandsports)

**BUNESSAN SHOW**  
**Friday 2nd August 2019**  
**Bunessan School Ground**  
**Gates open 9.30am**

*Traditional Highland and Island Agricultural Show*  
Entry: Adult £4.00, Conc £2.00, Car Parking £2.00

Licensed Dance to follow in Village Hall  
**Beinn Lee Band 9pm**

**Kintyre Agricultural Show**  
**Friday 2nd August 2019**  
**Anderston Park,**  
**Campbeltown**  
**Gates Open 8am**

 Established 1855

**Dairy & Beef Cattle, Sheep, Clydesdales,  
Horses & Ponies. Old Tractors & Dogs  
Produce Show**

Entry: Adults £6.00, Children £3,  
Family Tickets £12.00  
Free Parking

# Local farmers

## More about farming's role in the life and work of the West Highlands



Dalmally Show here in Argyll is one of the last. Dalmally is famous for its Highland cattle classes; Kintyre, with its award winning creamery, has a show where some of the best dairy cattle in Scotland can be seen. Across Argyll and Lochaber, the sheep classes, especially the blackface classes, are full of first-class livestock.

Shows usually start in the morning, with competitors arriving early to settle their livestock down and add some finishing touches to the grooming before judging begins. The more public events, dog or pet shows or gymkhana, begin around noon.

The finale of the show is a parade of champions from all the classes including the presentation of the honour of best in show – the overall winner of all the day's events.

Most agricultural shows have a produce or handicraft or 'industry' tent – a marquee full of excellent home-grown fruit and vegetables and flowers, home-made jams and preserves,

and crafts, all waiting to be judged. This is open to the public once the judging has been done. Look out for the children's competitions as well – every show has them, including prizes in the show ring for best young handlers.

Horse shows and dog shows are not only events for serious competitors, but also have fun events like fancy dress and dog with the waggiest tail.

Terrier racing and gun-dog scurries also have classes for people to enter family pets as well as working dogs.

The main show ring will often feature entertainment – whether it is a tug-of-war, a demonstration of chainsaw carving, a parade of vintage farm vehicles or the local pipe band. Each year the shows vie with each other to put on the best events; likewise the music at the show dances held afterwards will have some of the West Highlands and islands' leading musicians.

So turn out and support your local show and celebrate all the hard work our farming community does every year.

### LORN AGRICULTURAL SHOW

*Common Grazings, Tralee Bay,  
Saturday, 3 August*

The Common Grazings land is a phenomenal beach venue for a show which draws the crowds from the farming community and people from miles around. The morning is given over to stock judging. The event is also home to the Oban Poultry Show. There is a traditional home industries tent, dog show, terrier racing and plenty of equestrian events. If you want more horse power, look out for the vintage tractors. With Highland dancing competitions and pipe band, the show committee has to be congratulated on creating a day out with such a wide appeal for everyone and this year make sure you catch the show by The Drakes of Hazard.

### SALEN SHOW

*Glenaros Showfield,  
Thursday August 8*

Mull and Morvern Agricultural Society hosts the annual Salen Show at the Glenaros Showfield; one of two shows held on the island.

At the cattle and sheep classes, you can see entries from all over the island and from farms on the mainland. There is always a fine selection of Highland cattle on show. At the horse show, you will see everything from cheeky little Shetlands through to show jumpers and everything from Highland ponies to thoroughbreds.

The dog show accepts entries on the day and competition is always fierce.

The handicraft and produce tent is always well supported and so are the horticultural classes.

The day ends with a barbecue rounding off a really great day out at a traditional and welcoming show.

### MID-ARGYLL SHOW

*Kilmory, Lochgilphead,  
Saturday August 10*

The Mid-Argyll Agricultural Show is a major event with hundreds of exhibitors entering competitions in baking, produce, crafts, flowers and vegetables, as well as the dog and livestock classes.

Fergus Lyon and Catriona MacLeod will be presidents for this the 122nd Mid-Argyll Agricultural Show supported by vice-president David Renwick.

Enjoy watching the judging of cattle, sheep, dogs, horses, ponies and poultry competitions and along with regular attractions are the display of vintage tractors and the pets section together with terrier racing competitions.

Watch out for Mid Argyll Pipe Band, mini rugby and a bike display.

After the success of the gun dog scurry, this competition will once again take place.

The system of using the school car park and free shuttle buses taking people from Lochgilphead Front Street up into the show ground, via the school car park will operate again as it proved popular last year.

### Lorn Agricultural Show Saturday 3rd August, 2019

**Common Grazing's Tralee,  
Benderloch**

Showfield opens 9.00am

Amazing venue on the beach at Tralee,  
All the usual attractions + many more

Find us on Facebook **The Drakes of Hazard**  
Lorn Agricultural Show

Mull and Morvern Agricultural Society  
 **SALEN SHOW**   
THURSDAY 8TH AUGUST 2019  
SHOWFIELD AT GLENAROS  
GATES OPEN 10AM  
ENTRY ADULT £5, CONC £3,  
FAMILY £14  
BBQ TO FOLLOW

**MID-ARGYLL  
SHOW 2019**   
Saturday 10th August at Kilmory, Lochgilphead  
Showfield Opens at 9am  
Main ring attractions • Childrens Activities  
Mid Argyll Pipe Band • mini rugby • bike display  
Variety of trade stands and food stalls  
Gin and Prosecco bar  
[www.mid-argyllshow.co.uk](http://www.mid-argyllshow.co.uk)



## SUNART & DISTRICT SHOW

*Strontian showfield,  
Saturday August 10*

The judging of the livestock classes at the Sunart and District Agricultural Society Show starts at 9.30am but the family fun lasts all day.

There are classes for sheep, cattle, poultry and a dog show and this year will see the return of the horse show. For the younger members of the family, Bubble the clown will be on hand to provide entertainment and there will be a licensed dance for all the family starting at 9pm.

Show day is a big event for the Sunart community and well supported by holiday makers. This is a great day out for everyone with a wonderful, welcoming family atmosphere.

## APPIN SHOW

*Tynribbie Croft, Appin,  
Saturday August 17*

On the shore of Loch Linnhe with the iconic Castle Stalker in the background, Appin Show has a fantastic location.

This is the show's 62nd year and support continues to grow for the event. Farmers from the Isle of Lismore come over to enter livestock in the show alongside farms in and around Appin, in the classes for sheep, cattle including Highlanders, Clydesdale horses, and a dog show. There is a handicraft and floral art and garden produce section along with a poultry show; this year there will be honey classes as well. Given its location, the show is able to stage its own hill race alongside children's games and races and Highland dancing.

This is a show with the emphasis on a good time for all the family.

## DALMALLY AGRICULTURAL SHOW

*The Mart Park,  
Saturday September 7*

Dalmally Show traditionally brings the show season to a close, and does so in style.

The hard-working show committee describes the show as 'a celebration of our rural community', and rightly so. Over the years, Dalmally has built up a formidable reputation with its Highland cattle classes, probably only second in the land to the Royal Highland Show.

These are alongside the other classes for commercial beef cattle, blackface sheep, and poultry, and competitions for dogs, baking, preserves, horticulture, painting and much more.

With the village shinty ground alongside the show, Dalmally also stages a junior shinty tournament. Add to all this an excellent mix of stalls and exhibitors, pipe band, dog show, heavy horses and birds of prey demonstration, and you have a show with a formidable reputation which all makes for a great day out.

### Sunart & District Agricultural Society Show & Family Fun Day Out



**Saturday 10th August 2019**

Strontian Showfield  
Judging Commences 9.30am

Sheep, Cattle, Poultry and Dog Show  
Local Crafts, Highland Dancing,  
return of the Horse show and so much more  
**Including Bubbles the Clown!**

Adults: £ 5, Child: £2  
Family: £12, Concession: £3

Family licensed dance from 9pm onwards

### 62nd Annual Appin Agricultural Show

**Saturday 17th August 2019**  
**Tynribbie Croft, Appin**

**Judging Starts 10am**

**Sheep, Cattle, Highland Cattle, Dog show, Clydesdale  
Horse Display, Childrens' Games / Races, Handcrafts,  
Floral Art, Flowers, Veg, and Honey, Highland Dancing,  
Vintage Engines, Hill race and poultry section.  
PLUS Lots More!**

**Entry: Adults £ 5.00, Children & Conc £3**  
**Free Parking**

### Dalmally Agricultural Show

**Saturday 7th September 2019**  
**The Mart Park, Dalmally**  
**Gates open 9am**

Highland Cattle, Main Ring Attractions,  
Trade Stands. Something for all the Family!

Pipe band, dog show, birds of prey,  
heavy horse display.



[www.dalmally-show.co.uk](http://www.dalmally-show.co.uk)



## One week to go until single application form deadline

With the Single Application Form (SAF) window closing on Wednesday May 15, NFU Scotland is encouraging crofters and farmers to prioritise filling out their forms as soon as possible.

The good weather over the past few weeks may have seen farmers prioritise busy spring work over their SAF, but the union would now urge these farmers to take the time to fill out their application form, either online or by a paper copy which can be collected from local area offices.

The online application process has seen significant improvements in recent years and the clear majority of applications are now made online. By submitting applications online, the system will flag any errors before submitting your application. Individuals can also go to their local area office where staff will be on hand to assist those completing their form online.

Farmers and crofters are reminded to submit all supporting documentation and keep a proof of submission, including the date.

## Kintyre's first Valais Blacknose sheep?

A young farmer from Kintyre has introduced the first Valais Blacknose sheep into the area and now she wants to find out what local crafters could make from its highly-prized wool.

Caitlin Ronald has just completed her HNC in agriculture with Argyll and Oatridge Agricultural Colleges and is working towards her HND.

She has brought, she believes, the first ever Valais Blacknose ram to Kintyre and will be adding some ewes to her flock once lambing is over.

'I have always liked this breed and found a breeder who lives near Ayr,' said Caitlin.

And so she bought Fin Westwood of Glenstockdale, who is known to his friends as Mumfy.

This Swiss breed looks like it has escaped from the pages of a children's picture book, with its fluffy black face and leg markings.

But looks aside, from a farming point of view, it is a very hardy breed and its wool commands high prices – at present anything from £25 to £50 for a fleece. The Valais



Caitlin Ronald with Kintyre's first Valais Blacknose sheep, Mumfy.

Blacknose is bred primarily for its wool and fleeces can weigh around 4kg.

Caitlin described it as a lovely, soft and high-quality wool. She said: 'I want to find out what local crafters would make of this wool, for spinning, knitting and felting. It would be good to think that we could have some Kintyre Valais crafts.'

Those interested in the breed might be able to catch sight of this latest addition at this year's Kintyre show, as Caitlin is thinking of showing him.

## Around the markets

### Dalmally

United Auctions Annual Spring Sale on May 4, saw 302 grazing cattle, 36 breeding cattle and 114 sheep of all classes pass through the mart.

Bullocks sold to average £785.84 (-£3.69) whilst heifers levelled out at £741.77 (+£8.35).

Bullocks sold to 265p per kilo for Limousin crosses from Dall and heifers peaked at 256p per kilo for Hereford cross bulling heifers from Clachan, Tiree sold to £1,100. Breeding cattle from Homeston sold to £1,400.

All classes of sheep sold at satisfactory levels.

Principal lots and prices:

Top prices per head:

Bullocks:

AAx: £940 – 10 Eoligarry, Barra: £890(2) – Poltalloch.

BSx: £840(2) – Auchlyne.

BRBx: £910 – Craig.

CHARx: £960(3) – Tiraghoil:

£950(2) – Fearnoch: £910 –

Tiraghoil: £890 – Barnakill:

£890(6) – Ardmaleish: £890(5)

– Tiraghoil.

LIMx: £950(2) – Craignafeoch:

£940 – Ardmaleish: £920 – Craig:

£920 – Tom Ne Coille: £910(2)

– Croftintygan: £900 – Craignafeoch:

£880(3) – Ardmaleish.

SALx: £760 – Barnakill.

SHx: £770(2) – Auchlyne.

SIMx: £960 – Achnacree more:

£910(2) – Tiraghoil: £880 – 10

Eoligarry, Barra.

Heifers:

AAx: £730 – Craig Farm.

BSx: £830 – Auchlyne

CHARx: £930(2), £920(2) –

Fearnoch: £900 – Auchlyne: £900

– Fearnoch: £860(3) – Fearnoch.

LIMx: £910 – Tom Na Coille:

£900(2) – Craignafeoch: £860 –

Croftintygan.

LUING: £650 – Clachan Farms.

SALx: £900, £860(2) and £820(2)

– Brackley.

SHx: £830(2) & £820 – Auchlyne.

SIMx: £900 – Brackley: £830 –

Dunach Estate.

Breeding cattle:

Bulling heifers:

AAx: £1,060 – Clachan Tiree.

HERx: £1,100, £1080(2), £1060,

£1040(2), £1,030(2) – Clachan,

Tiree.

Cows with calves:

£1,400 – Homeston, Campbel-

town: £1,320, £1,280, £1,260,

£1,200, £1,180, £1,150, £1,140,

£1,120, £1,110 and £1,100 –

Glenure Estate.

In-calf cows:

£1,240(2), £1,180, £1,140,

£1,100, £1,080(2) – Homeston,

Campbeltown.

Bull:

£1,450 – Homeston, Campbel-

town (AA)

Top prices per kilo:

Bullocks:

AAx: 257p – Scotstown: 235p(2)

– Poltalloch.

BSx: 252p & 248p – Glenure

Estate.

CHARx: 259p – Tiraghoil: 252p

– Dunans: 247p(2) – Fearnoch:

244p(4) – Barnakill: 243p(3) –

Tiraghoil: 239p(6) – Ardmaleish:

238p(4) – Barnakill: 235p –

Dunans: 230p(5) – Tiraghoil.

LIMx: 265p – Dall Farm: 263p – 13

Eoligarry, Barra: 262p – Glenure

Estate: 259p(2) – Poltalloch: 251p

– Glenure Estate: 248p – Ellary

Farms: 248p(3) – Ardmaleish:

247p(3) – Ellary Farms: 246p(3)

– Ardmaleish: 243p – Poltalloch:

240p – Craig Farm: 238p – Dall

Farm: 236p(2) – Glenure Estate:

235p – Tom Na Coille.

SALx: 244p – Barnakill.

SIMx: 262p – Glenure Estate:

260p – Tiraghoil: 252p – Glenure

Estate: 249p(3) – Ellary Farms:

242p(2) & 239p(2) – Glenmachrie:

236p – Achnacree more: 236p –

Glenure Estate: 234p(4) – Ellary

Estate: 234p – 10 Eoligarry, Barra.

Heifers:

AAx: 242p(5) – Scotstown.

CHARx: 240p – Tullochmhor:

236p – Barnakill: 234p(2)

– Dunans: 230p and 225p(4) –

Barnakill.

LIMx: 256p – Tiraghoil: 239p – 13

Eoligarry, Barra: 238p(3) – Glenure

Estate: 235p – Dall: 234p(4) –

Tiraghoil: 233p – Ardmaleish

233p(3) – Poltalloch: 232p – 10

Eoligarry, Barra.

SALx: 244p(2) and 224p(4) –

Brackley.

SIMx: 249p and 241p(2) – Dunach

Estate: 237p – Tiraghoil: 230p(2) –

Glenamachie.

Sheep:

Hoggs:

TEXx: £58 – Silvercraigs.

CROSS:57 – Garrogie Estates.

BF: £64 – Silvercraigs: £50.50 –

Tullochmhor.

Ewes:

Chev: £46 – Silvercraigs

BF: £40 – Silvercraigs.

## WIN ONE OF FIVE PAIRS OF TICKETS TO THE 179th ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW

Preparations are well underway for the 179th Royal Highland Show, taking place from the 20 - 23 June 2019 at the Royal Highland Centre in Edinburgh.

A celebration of the country's best in farming, food and rural life, the four-day event, supported by the Royal Bank of Scotland, provides the best opportunity to get up close to farmyard animals, sample exceptional food and drink and experience rural living at its most vibrant.

With a dedicated forestry area, an award-winning farrier display, a bustling countryside area, rural crafts, a huge range of farm machinery and a dazzling array of food and drink, there's something for everyone from every walk of life.

Children aged 15 and under go free with an accompanying adult, and the RHET Discovery Centre is a must visit for curious youngsters looking to discover more about the countryside and where their food comes from. This year, it will come alive with a cooking workshop, live demonstrations and interactive sessions.

Visitors can also witness record breaking attempts in the Forestry Arena with the Scottish Pole Climbing and Utility Pole Climbing Championships taking place alongside thrilling bike displays and forestry demonstrations. In addition, a packed programme of music and entertainment will keep the whole family happy.

Proud to display Scotland's traditional skills, visitors will marvel at the skillfulness of competitors as the show plays host to the Scottish Open Farriery Championship horse-shoeing and shoe-making competitions.

This year, the spotlight will also be on the iconic Clydesdale Horse in celebration of the power behind farming at the turn of the 20th century.

For foodies, a visit to Scotland's Larder Live! is an absolute must, offering a chance to taste new and exciting artisan food and drink from across Scotland. Visitors can also catch the line-up of some of Scotland's greatest chefs and see the results of this year's Scottish Bread, Cheese, Butter and Ice Cream Championships unfold.

Extensive shopping opportunities lie in the Show's 13th avenue arcade, where shoppers will be spoiled for choice with the exceptional array of country fare on offer including pet accessories, jewellery, arts and crafts and garden furniture.

The Royal Highland Show truly has something for everyone – so come and join us for a unique and hugely enjoyable day out!



To win a pair of tickets just answer the following question:  
**What age of children can go free to the Royal Highland Show?**

**NB: Closing date for entries is May 31 2019**

Five winners will each receive two adult tickets valid for entry on any single day to the 2019 Royal Highland Show between the dates of 20 June 2019 – 23 June 2019.

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](http://www.scottishfield.co.uk). Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 30 June 2019. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize to win a bottle of Whitetail Gin.**

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 (Wykes 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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\*At the end of the agreement there are three options: i) pay the optional final payment and own the vehicle; ii) return the vehicle: subject to excess mileage and fair wear and tear, charges may apply; or iii) replace: part exchange the vehicle.  
With Solutions Personal Contract Plan. 18s+. Subject to availability and status. T&Cs apply. Offer available when ordered by 1 July 2019 from participating retailers. Excludes SE Technology range. †KAROQ TDI engines receive £1,950 deposit contribution and KAROQ TSI engines receive £1,250. KODIAQ £2,000 deposit contribution. Indemnities may be required. ^Service plan covers first two consecutive services limited to 1x Oil and 1x Oil and Inspection service. Offers are not available in conjunction with any other offer and may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Accurate at April 2019. Freepost ŠKODA Financial Services.  
Official fuel consumption WLTP for the ŠKODA range in mpg (litres/100km): Combined 58.9 (4.8) to 30.1 (9.4). NEDC equivalent CO<sub>2</sub> combined emissions for the ŠKODA range are 167 to 96 g/km.  
Figures shown are for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> figures with other vehicles tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including the accessories fitted (post-registration), variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load. There is a new test used for fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> figures (known as WLTP). The CO<sub>2</sub> figures shown however, are based on a calculation designed to be equivalent to the outgoing (NEDC) test cycle and will be used to calculate vehicle tax on first registration. For more information, please see www.skoda.co.uk/owners/wltp-info or consult your retailer. Data correct at April 2019. Figures quoted are for a range of configurations (including non-UK) and are subject to change due to ongoing approvals/changes. Please contact your retailer for further information.

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## Scotland's builders buck Brexit

Scotland's small building firms had a strong start to 2019, in contrast to the UK construction SME sector more broadly, which detracted for the first time in six years, according to the Federation of Master Builders (FMB) Scotland.

Key results from the FMB's state of trade survey for Q1 2019, which is the only quarterly assessment of the UK-wide SME construction sector, include:

- UK-wide, SME workloads declined for the first time in six years as more respondents stated lower workloads (29 per cent) compared with the final three months of 2018 (13 per cent);

- In Scotland, there was a jump of 10 percentage points compared with the previous quarter. 30 per cent of weighted responses were positive, up from 20 per cent in Q4 2018;
- Skills shortages eased slightly among some occupations. Bricklayers were once again the trade in most short supply with 64 per cent of firms having difficulties hiring them;
- A record-breaking 88 per cent of SME builders anticipate that material prices will rise further in the next six months;
- Almost three-quarters (71 per cent) of construction SMEs expect wages and

salaries to increase over the next six months, up from 66 per cent in the previous quarter.

Gordon Nelson, director of FMB Scotland, said: 'It's encouraging that the Scottish construction industry is bucking the wider Brexit trend with workloads and enquiries in rude health.

'However, the UK-wide picture is very different with the construction SME sector overall detracting for the first time in six years.

'Scotland's good fortune could be due to fewer EU workers being based north of the border compared with other parts of the country, like in London where one-in-

three construction workers are from the EU.

'Relying less heavily on migrant workers has meant that the Scottish construction industry hasn't fallen fowl of thousands of EU workers returning home during the long march to Brexit due to no longer feeling welcome in the UK, or sure of their future here.'

Nelson continued: 'However, Scotland's builders mustn't be complacent as, looking ahead, the first minister has indicated that if the UK does leave the EU later this year, she wants a second independence referendum before the next Scottish Parliament election

in 2021. This additional political uncertainty, on top of the continued uncertainty stemming from Brexit, could impact on the construction sector in Scotland. 'The fear is that a looming second referendum could test consumer confidence this year and next.

'For construction SMEs, this is particularly concerning as their prospects are vulnerable to dips in consumer confidence as so much of our work comes from the private domestic sector.'

Nelson concluded: 'At the UK level, the Government would be wise to reduce VAT from 20 per cent to

five per cent on all housing repair, maintenance and improvement (RM&I) work.

'Reducing VAT on RM&I work could boost the UK economy by more than £15bn over a five-year period, according to independent research by Experian.

'This reduction in VAT could also create 4,000 new construction jobs in Scotland specifically.

'Such a VAT reduction has the backing of more than 60 business groups and charities as there is no other policy that would provide an immediate boost to the economy, reaching every corner of the UK.'

## Mackintosh at the Willow is named Scotland's 'Project of the Year'

Mackintosh at the Willow, Glasgow, has been named Project of the Year at the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Awards 2019, Scotland, which celebrate the top, community-led built projects from across the country and the talent behind them.

The restoration of the Willow Tea Rooms triumphed over 35 of the country's most inspiring property projects to win the Building Conservation category, before being named the overall Project of the Year, Scotland. The highly acclaimed title is presented to the category winner that demonstrates outstanding best practice and commitment to adding value to its area.

RICS judges said that incredible care was taken to preserve original features and to faithfully recreate original furniture and fittings through detailed research and use of local artisans and craftsmen.

Since its transformation, the Willow Tea Rooms in Glasgow has attracted international interest from those wishing to learn more about architectural



pioneer Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

Chairman of the judging panel for the RICS Awards, Scotland, Colin Smith MRICS, said: 'Great care and attention to detail was taken during this restoration. Additionally, a trust was established to manage the building and the £10million used to restore it internally and externally has also been utilised to provide wider long-term community benefits.

'A diverse range of innovative projects, of all sizes and budgets, made the shortlist this year and the winners are truly representative of Scotland's best

and most innovative built projects that are having a significant positive impact on their communities. The teams behind these winning projects should be very proud of their exceptional achievements.'

Other winners included the The Garment Factory, Glasgow, which took the Commercial title, the V&A, Dundee, which won the Tourism and Leisure category and the Music Hall, Aberdeen, the Community Benefit award.

Hosted by Catriona Sheerer, the awards were held on May 2 at The Sheraton Grand Hotel and Spa, Edinburgh.

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Closing date: 8am on Tuesday 21st May 2019. Interviews will be held on Tuesday 28th May 2019.

To apply: Download an application pack from [www.kilmartin.org/home/get-involved/vacancies/](http://www.kilmartin.org/home/get-involved/vacancies/).

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010  
Loch Etive, Rhuba Na Staing**

Notice is hereby given that SIMEC GHR Argyll Ltd has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of construction of a landing pad at:

Cost	£5,000 - ≤ £50,000	
Location	Latitude	Longitude
Loch Etive,	56° 29.272' N	05° 08.183' W
Rhuba Na Staing	56° 29.276' N	05° 08.190' W
	56° 29.280' N	05° 08.183' W
	56° 29.276' N	05° 08.177' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Taynuilt Post Office, Taynuilt, PA35 1WU. 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](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot), quoting reference: 06997 and SIMEC GHR Argyll Ltd.

**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](mailto:ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot) or Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.

**Proposed Zip Wire Experience,  
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Public Information Event**

JAHAMA Highland Estates (JHE) invites you to attend a drop-in information event in relation to the installation of two zip wires in Kinlochleven.

The event will take place on 23rd May 2019 between 10:00-5:00pm, at Kinlochleven Village Post Office and will provide information on the proposals. Representatives of the Project Team will be on hand to answer any questions.

Please note that this notice does not relate to a planning application and comments should not be made to The Highland Council (THC). Any comments made to JHE are not representations to THC. If a planning application is subsequently submitted by JHE, normal neighbour notification and publicity will be undertaken and you will have the opportunity to make formal representations regarding the proposal at that time.

**Good Vehicle Operator's License**

Corrigan Contractors Limited trading as Corrigan Contractors of Ardgour, By Fort William, PH33 7AB is applying to change an existing license as follows

To change existing conditions or undertakings applying at the operating centre at Home Farm, Ardgour, By Fort William, PH33 7AB from one vehicle and two trailers to two vehicles and three trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office

**First Registration  
of a Croft**

Gregor Livingstone and Stuart Livingstone has registered their croft Balindore, Ardchattan and Muckairn on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 19th December 2019. Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C5777.

**First Registration  
of a Croft**

James Robert Ardagh has registered their croft 9 Cleadale on the Isle of Eigg 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 10th January 2020.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is I3525

**Port Ramsay  
Common Grazing**

There will be a meeting of the shareholders of Port Ramsay Common Grazing

on Saturday 25th May 2019, 2.30 pm at No 4 Port Ramsay, Isle of Lismore.

The purpose of the meeting is to appoint a new Grazing Committee.

All Shareholders are invited to attend.

**First Registration of a Croft**

Daniel Hamilton and Barbara Hamilton has registered their croft 6 Uragaig, Uragaig, Colonsay, on the Crofting Register held by Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by December 29, 2019.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C5784.

**First Registration  
of a Croft**

Alan Gray has registered his croft 7 Blaich, Ardgour 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 January 23, 2020.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C5892.

**First Registration  
of a Croft**

Stuart Livingstone has registered their croft 18 Airds Bay, Ardchattan and Muckairn on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 4th January 2020.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C5841.

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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](http://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
19/00496/PP	Erection of workshop and store from two containers linked together with a clear coroline roof, installation of composting toilet and associated works	Land South Of Tanunda, Glencruitten, Oban, Argyll And Bute
19/00787/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of vehicular access	Land North West Of Port Rainich Cottage, Torloisk, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
19/00796/LIB	Installation of replacement windows, door and rooflight	11 Ellenabeich, Isle Of Seil, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4RQ
19/00819/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, garage, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of vehicular access	Land North Of Ardnacross, Aros, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
19/00763/PP	Erection of replacement dwellinghouse and siting of temporary residential caravan	Vacant Site, Formerly An Gleannan, North Connell, Oban, Argyll And Bute
19/00830/PP	Installation of replacement windows, door and rooflight	11 Ellenabeich, Isle Of Seil, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4RQ
19/00751/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Garden Ground Of Ardchattan Parsonage, Bonawe, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA37 1RG
19/00855/PPP	Renewal of planning permission reference 16/00911/PPP (Site for the erection of 5 dwellinghouses)	Land South Of Railway Station, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute
19/00812/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of sewage treatment plant	Land Adjacent To Traigh Bhi, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
19/00848/LIB	Installation of replacement roof covering and rainwater goods	16 Toberonochy, Isle Of Luing, Oban, Argyll And Bute, PA34 4UE
19/00776/PP	Construction of new access road to provide access to distillery buildings	Ardbeg Distillery, Ardbeg, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute, PA42 7EA
19/00806/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, multi-purpose building, use of land for the siting of 3 no. holiday letting huts. Refurbishment of existing dwellinghouse (Leonard's Cottage), installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of access with associated parking areas	Land North East Of Oran Na Mara, Knockrome, Craighouse, Isle Of Jura, Argyll And Bute, PA60 7XZ

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Council's website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:  
[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)  
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)



**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**  
**PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>; electronically at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, CHARLES KENNEDY BUILDING, ACHINTORE ROAD, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6RQ; or electronically at your nearest Council Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link [https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a\\_to\\_z](https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z)

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
19/00948/FUL	Land 110M SE of Heart of Glencoe Glencoe	Erection of 2 no. Staff Cottages
19/01203/FUL	Slipway, Annat, Corpach, Fort William	Upgrade of slipway and erection of concrete abutment
19/01650/FUL	Woodlands Cottages, Belford Road Fort William	Erection of 6 no Flats. (Amendment to 17/05383/FUL - minor design changes and slight re-positioning within application site)
19/01760/FUL	Land 30 Metres South West of Glen Lurach, Brecklet Road Ballachulish	Erection of house (renewal of 16/01774/FUL)
19/01772/FUL	The Garrison Hotel, High Street Fort William	Erection of 10 no. self catering units to the rear of The Garrison Hotel, Fort William
19/01789/FUL	Site 4, Glen Nevis Business Park Fort William	Demolition of existing workshop and erection of replacement workshop
19/01849/FUL	Bruach Mhor, West Laroch, Ballachulish	Erection of extension to house to form self-contained holiday letting unit
19/01788/FUL	1 Banff Crescent, Upper Achintore, Fort William	Proposed Holiday Pod

**Time period for comments is 14 days**  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

**CROFTING COMMISSION**  
**COIMISEAN NA**  
**CROITEARACHD**  
**DECROFTING**  
**APPLICATION**

UEMA Day  
3 Ichrachan, Glenorchy & Innishail  
0.148 ha - Site for a dwelling house  
97880

Written comments from any member of the crofting community within the locality of the croft and any expressions of demand for the croft (which may be made public), may be sent to the Crofting Commission by 07/06/2019. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot)

The Crofting Commission takes the protection of your privacy seriously. To safeguard your personal data and make sure that it is accurate, we only collect and/or store the data necessary to carry out our functions as a regulatory body. You can find a copy of our Privacy Notice at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/openness-and-customer-care](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/openness-and-customer-care).

**DECROFTING**  
**DIRECTIONS ISSUED**

RA Douglas  
Part Shieling, Arisaig & Moidart  
91316  
0.20 ha  
Reason - Proposed new development  
Condition - With fencing conditions.

EBM Dawson  
33 Achadafail, Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon  
92946  
0.19 ha  
Reason - Proposed new development  
Condition - With fencing conditions.

Full details at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)



**SCOTTISH FIELD'S**  
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**Argyll and Bute Council**

**REPAIR WORKS TO MARINE STRUCTURES**

Argyll and Bute Council plans to let a contract to carry out repair works to marine structures across the mainland region and the Islands. The contract will be advertised on the Public Contacts Scotland website. Further details on this contracting opportunity can be obtained from [Artem.Derevyankin@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Artem.Derevyankin@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:  
[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)  
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



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**The Glencruitten**  
**Cathedral of Trees**  
**(SCIO)**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL**  
**MEETING**

Followed by an  
Open Meeting  
Saturday 11th May 2019  
at 11am

The Meeting Room,  
OBAN LIBRARY,  
77 Albany Street, OBAN  
All welcome.

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## Antiques and Collectables

TWO FRAMED AVRIL PATON PRINTS Avril Paton, Glasgow artist famous for her paintings of Glasgow tenements. Backcourt & the famous, Kissing 25cmx-25cm, £40 Telephone 0330 1136496<sup>2</sup> (Kinlochiel).

## Baby Equipment

TRAVEL COT Mamas & Papas cot with thick, clean mattress, mattress protector and cot sheets. Can deliver in Oban area, £35 Telephone 07931 790919.

## Books

LOCAL AND SCOTTISH HISTORY Out of print hardback copy of Bygone Lochaber by Somerled MacMillan 1971 Publication/By Davidson/Glasgow. Rare Book, £50 Telephone 0330 1136496 (Kinlochiel)<sup>2</sup>.

## Building / DIY

OAK 3m length of dark oak (144mm x 44mm) in original packaging, £85 Telephone 07703 130367.

REPLACEMENT CHIMNEY POTS for older houses, ornate Victorian/Edwardian pots in various sizes and colours, £40 Telephone 01631 564578<sup>2</sup>.

## Car Accessories

SKODA YETI CAR MATS Set of new mats for Skoda Yeti, including reversible boot liner. Never used, £50 Telephone 07931790919.

## Clothes, Shoes and Accessories

TWP KIPLING HANDBAGS never used, one mustard coloured, one wine coloured. Lochgilthead area, £20 each Telephone 01546 606587.

## Domestic Appliances

BOSCH FRIDGE FREEZER White, good working order, clean condition, 50/50 split, £50 Telephone 01631 562645.

ELNAPRESS IRONING MACHINE In excellent condition complete with replacement ironing and

sleeve board cover. This appliance also has a steam facility, £75 Telephone 07796 491362.

HONEYWELL DEHUMIDIFIER 10 litre dehumidifier in excellent working order. Instruction and extension hose included, £60 Telephone 01631 750011.

TABLE TOP FRIDGE Currys Essential 47 litre white table top fridge. Small ice box & shelf. 11 months old. Height 49cmx43x46cm. VGC, £40 Telephone 07899 866574.

## Furniture

TWO TV TABLES chrome legs, will come apart to move. Black glass 32"W x 16"D x20"H. Other 39"W x 18"D x 19"H. Lochgilthead area, £15 each Telephone 01546 606587.

VICTORIAN FOUR POSTER single bed with carved posts. Excellent condition. New mattress. Oban area. Collect only, £95 Telephone Telephone/text 07846465550.

## Garden



### 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



### SCANDANAVIAN CHALET

2m x 2.4m, 3m high (on stilts) wooden clad, 2.5 years old, perfect condition, can be viewed at Tayinloan.

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or 07721 383363

£1000

VINTAGE CART WHEELS and smaller implement wheels. Colourful garden display items. Prices from £30, Telephone 01631 564578<sup>2</sup>.

VINTAGE CHIMNEY POTS Vintage chimney pots in various sizes and styles, make lovely garden planters. Prices from £40, Telephone 01631 564578<sup>2</sup>.

VINTAGE HAND PLOUGH restored and painted green and red. Will make a fine garden feature. Can deliver, £80 Telephone 01631 564578<sup>2</sup>.

VINTAGE LAWN ROLLERS cast iron and decorative, for working use or colourful garden feature, various sizes from £90, Telephone 01631 564578<sup>2</sup>.

## Garden Machinery

BOSCH HEDGE CUTTER new, bosch cordless easy hedge cutter 12 v. never used. original price £85, £50 Telephone 01631750011.

FLYMO Cordless/rechargeable strimmer along with Flymo 330 electric lawnmower, both in good working order, £45 Telephone 07934 491712.

GARDENLINE ELECTRIC POLE HEDGE Rarely used excellent condition electric hedge trimmer. Collect Oban area, £37 Telephone 07767 615184.

HEDGE TRIMMER & GRASS STRIMMER Draper, Petrol 32.5cc, never used, brand new, cost £130 but will sell for, £99.99 Telephone 01397 772052<sup>2</sup>.

QUALCAST 30CC PETROL BRUSH CUT Rarely used excellent condition petrol brush cutter. Collect in Oban area, £50 ono Telephone 07767 615184.

## Health and Fitness

BREVILLE HEALTH FRYER Health air fryer used a few times. Cooks with 1 spoon oil. In original box & instructions. Green & black colour. VGC, ££35 Telephone 07899 866574.

## Hobbies and Crafts

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WHITE TOYOTA SEWING MACHINE includes free box of accessories, cottons, thimbles etc. Lochgilthead area, £25 Tel 01546 606587.

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SENNHEISER HEADPHONES Model HD590 with 1/4" jack connection. Black. Made in Ireland, £30 including postage Telephone 01475 726360.

## Home Furnishings

LARGE RUG Substantial thick pile rug. Mainly pink with flower pattern. Good condition, £50 Telephone 01631 562645.

## Kitchen

ROYAL WORCESTER EVESHAM VALED 30 pieces, 6 dinner plates, 6 soup/cereal bowls, 6 side/salad plates, 6 cups and 6 saucers, hardly been used, no cracks, £75 Telephone 07796 491362.

## Leisure and Lifestyle

TOPSTYLER BY INSTYLER electric hair pods, never used, Lochgilthead area, £10 Telephone 01546 606587.

## Miscellaneous

3 VICTORIAN CHIMNEY POTS Good condition, £25 Telephone 01631 562645.

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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## Pet Accessories

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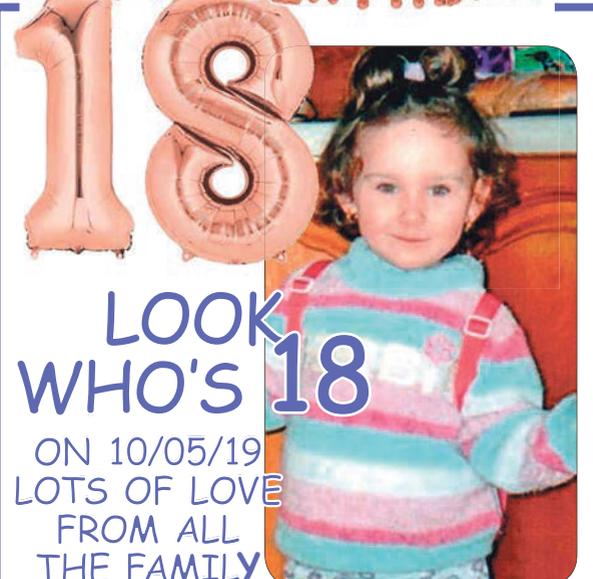
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## PERSONAL

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



## DEATHS

**DRUMMOND** - Frank. Peacefully at home with his family, after a brave fight on Saturday May 4, 2019. Frank, dearest husband of Anne-Marie, loving and loved dad to Steven, Alan and Emma, daughter-in-law Katie and Roxi, proud grandpa of Ella and Fergus, dear brother to Vivienne, Joan, Gordon and Andrew and beloved son to Joan and the late Iain.

**FERGUSON** - Suddenly, but peacefully, at the Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, on May 2, 2019, Mr James Ferguson, in his 84th year, of 8 Fernoch Park, Lochgilphead, beloved husband of Catherine (Kay), née Cameron, much loved and loving father of Alison and Ewen, much respected father-in-law of Sally and a much loved papa to Ross, Anna and Jack. Dear brother of the late Charles Ferguson, and a dearly loved brother-in-law, uncle and cousin to all the family. A good neighbour, dear friend and former work colleague to many. Funeral service will be held at Cardross Crematorium, today, Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 2.15pm. All friends are respectfully invited to attend. Family flowers only please.

**LOPEZ** - Peacefully at home on May 3, 2019, aged 58, Aldo Gaetano Luigi Lopez, beloved son of Aldo and Eleanor, much loved brother of Tania, Graham, Tino and Luigi, a dear brother-in-law, uncle, nephew and cousin. Sorely missed.

**MACCUISH** - Peacefully at home with his family on April 30, 2019, in his 88th year, Alasdair, beloved husband of Peggy, much loved dad of Ewan and the late Annmarie, a loving seair, brother, uncle and friend. Funeral will take place from St. Columba's Cathedral, Oban on Friday, May 10 at 10.00 am, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for St. Columba's Cathedral.

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**MACDONALD** - Eileen formerly of Telford Place, Claggan, Fort William. Peacefully after a short illness on May 3, 2019, Eileen Macdonald (née Timbrell), aged 89 years. Devoted wife of Kenneth for fifty seven years. Proud mother of Kenneth and Lesley, mother-in-law of Elaine and Kenny. Loving grandmother of Sarah, Emma and Andrew. Funeral service will take place from St Marys Church, Fort William on Wednesday 15, May at 12 noon followed by interment in Glen Nevis Cemetery. RIP. Family flowers only please, if desired donations to Parkinson's UK.

**MACFARLANE** - Lies, formerly of Spean Bridge. Peacefully at The Meadows, Thringstone, Leicester on April 20, aged 85. Loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. A Requiem Mass will be held on May 28 at The Sacred Heart Church, Loughborough.

**MOSSMAN** - It is with great sadness that David, Stephanie, Gregory and Yvonne announce the death of their beloved father Robert (Bob) on April 13, 2019 at the Grasse Hospital (France), after a long illness. Grand-Pa to Sophie, Scott and Kaylie Jo, great grand-pa to Halie Jo and Amber and much loved partner to Françoise. Gone too soon.

**NIVEN** - Andrew, formerly of 13 Corran Brae, Oban, brother of Dunnie and the late Margaret Niven, passed away peacefully on May 4, 2019 on the island of Crete.

**PACITTI** - Peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family, on May 6, 2019, aged 85, Luigi Pacitti, beloved husband of Dorina, Dad to Franco, Riccardo and Adelmo, much loved grandad. Sorely missed.

**STEIN** - Betty Ker, widow of Ronald, passed away peacefully at home on April 29, 2019, aged 97. Dearly loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. The family wish to thank all those who, for many years, provided the care which allowed her final wish to be fulfilled. Private service for family and friends at Falkirk Crematorium on May 11, 2019. Family flowers only. Donations to RNLI.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**LAWSON** - The Lawson family would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for all their kind messages of condolence after the sad loss

of Bill. Special thanks to Hamish Hoey and Son Ltd, Rev Margaret Miller and The Brander Lodge. Finally thank you to everyone who contributed to the collection for Oban Hospice Ltd. The total raised was £400.00.

**MACDOUGALL** - Calum and Nicola MacDougall would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their cards, flowers and kind expressions of sympathy following the sad loss of their dad William. Special thanks to Rev. Ian Manson (Inverness) and John Simpson (Oban) for their support and comforting service; also to William T Fraser & Son, Funeral Directors for their professional guidance and arrangements. Thanks are also extended to Police Scotland for their compassion during this difficult time.

## MEMORIALS

**BOWMAN** - In loving memory of my beloved husband Ian and our dearest dad, father-in-law and papa, lost to us on May 13, 2015. His calm presence is sorely missed but our happy memories keep him ever close to us all.

- Mary and family, Biggar and Tobermory.

**CLARK** - Thomas Goldie. Precious memories of my dear uncle Tom, died 10 years ago on May 4, 2009.

A much loved son, brother, uncle and friend. He will be loved and missed forever.

- From Mary and Bobby.

**GROUNDWATER** - In loving memory of Marie, dearly loved wife, mother and granny who died May 12th 2014.

Always in our thoughts.  
- John and family.

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of a darling son and brother Johnnie, died May 12, 2014 and also a dear husband and father Calum, 'Auch', died August 31, 1997. We miss you more than words can say You live on in our hearts every day.

- Your loving mum, sister Marie and brother-in-law Calum, Killin and Roy Bridge.

**MACDONALD** - Treasured memories of a very dear mum and granny Kathleen, who passed away May 15, 2018.

Never more than a thought away Loved and remembered every day. - By all the family, Ballachulish, East Kilbride and Bridge of Earn.

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of Marilyn MacDonald, passed away May 10, 1998, loving and devoted wife and mother to Billy, Morven, William and Andrea. Never more than a thought away Loved and remembered every day.

**MACKAY** - In loving memory of our mum and gran Nan MacKay, died May 10, 2012.

If roses grow in Heaven Lord Please pick a bunch for me Place them in my mother's arms And tell her they are from me And when she turns to smile Place a kiss upon her cheek and hold her for awhile Because remembering her is easy I do it every day

But there is an ache within my heart that will never go away.

- Violet, Hugh and families.

**MACPHEE** - In memory of our dad Alexander (Sandy), who died at his home Coire-Leis, Camaghael on May 11, 1974.

We had a dad in a million We loved to the end We lost two precious things that day

Our dad and our best friend. We miss you dad.

- Daughter Mary and family and son Alex and family.

**MELDRUM** - Precious memories of my husband William James, who died May 11, 2017, (F.W). Treasured memories All my love.

- Cathy.

**STEELE** - Loving memories of our dad Ian, who died May 9, 1984.

- Morag and Alan.

**WATT** - In loving memory of our mother Mary Watt (Maimie), who died May 12, 1984 (35 years).

Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts.

- Catherine and family, Tobermory, Arthur, Sheena and family, Alexandria.

Oban Times

## THOUGHT for the week

Easter is over and all that's left are the crumpled wrappers of too many chocolate eggs and a stale hot-cross bun or two.

And rumours of an amazing happening 2000 years ago. How could it be true? Could a thoroughly dead man (crucifixion was a terrible way to die and the Roman soldiers made sure there was no life left) really come back to life? Were his disciples spreading 'fake news'?

Well, those first followers of Jesus certainly believed he was alive, and were even prepared to face death themselves rather than deny their Lord Jesus.

In the middle of my mother's funeral service 20 years or so ago, these words popped into my head: 'What if it's not true?'

What a time to doubt!

Yet, that experience led me to question and to think more deeply, and I came to a deeper faith in Jesus Christ.

My Canadian cousin's husband was a barrister, and when I visited them we had many a lively discussion about Christianity. 'Prove it!' was his constant demand. All I could ever give him was what in legal terms might be called circumstantial evidence of lives changed (not least my own) and hope in seemingly hopeless situations.

Let us not be afraid of doubts but embrace them and question and ponder.

Uncertainty is a healthy part of faith. A quotation may help: 'Faith is a bird which senses the dawn and sings though it is yet dark.'

Rev Joyce Watson,  
St Columba, Isle of Iona.

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# Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival results 2019

## ACCORDION and FIDDLE MASTERS

ACCORDION 1 - Lagavullin Distillery Trophy 2 - Iain Campbell and Donald William Campbell Memorial Trophy: 1 - Colin Brown, Burntisland; 2 - John Burns, Kilsyth; 3 - Ciorstaidh-Sarah Chaimbeul, Skye.

FIDDLE 1 - Oban Distillery Trophy 2 - Gordon MacLachlan Memorial Trophy: 1 - Anne Mitchell, Inverurie; 2 - Shannon Stevenson, Erskine; 3 - Jack Westwell, Oban.

## JUNIOR SOLO PIPING, CHANTER AND DRUMMING COMPETITION

Class 21, Chanter - Under 12 years - Scale and two-part tune: The Muir Trophy 1 - Rio Arkell, Campbeltown; 2 - Arran John Brown, Campbeltown; 3 - Ciara Wallace, Campbeltown; 4 - Ruairi Cottier, Oban; 5 - Anna Forgive, Oban; 6 - Barnaby Munns, Kirn.

Class 21A, Chanter - Under 12 years, four-part tune: Argyll Print 1 - Zara MacLeod, Connel; 2 - Flynn Porter, Lenzie; Frances Shand Kydd Trophy - awarded to the most promising competitor in Classes 21, 21A, and 21B, awarded to - Matthew Lowe, Benderloch.

Class 21B, Chanter - 12 years and under 14 years - March: Wm Leslie Meikle Memorial Trophy 1 - Archie Munns, Kirn; 2 - Fergus France, Oban; 3 - Nicola Duncan, Oban; 4 - Robyn Main, Oban.

Class 22 Novice March - Under 14 years: Oban Electrical Services 1 - Grace Kelman, Inverness; 2 - Alexander MacDonald, North Connel; 3 - Sam Dods, Oban; 4 - Anndra Monk, Bearsden; 5 - Calan McGuigan, Bunnassan. The Lodge Earraghaidheal Trophy awarded to the highest placed Argyll resident player in Class 22 was awarded to - Alexander MacDonald, North Connel.

Class 22A Ground of a Piobaireachd - Under 15 years: D Watt and Son trophy 1 - Alexander MacDonald, North Connel; 2 - Matthew McKerral, Campbeltown; 3 - Callum MacInnes, Oban.

Class 23 Piobaireachd - Under 15 years: Pipe Dreams trophy 1 - Ruairidh Drennan, Drumnadrochit; 2 - Hector Finlayson, Erbusaig, Kyle; 3 - Finlay Peden, Broxburn; 4 - Fraser Hamilton, Paisley; 5 - Calum Dunbar, Inverness; 6 - Thomas Wilson, Co. Down.

Class 24 3 March - Under 15 years: The Willie MacCallum Trophy for March Playing 1st - Fraser Hamilton, Paisley; 2 - Calum Dunbar, Inverness; 3 - Dugald MacKenzie, Bridge of Allan; 4 - Ruairidh Drennan, Drumnadrochit; 5 - Andrew Russell, Forfar; 6 - Ewan Allan, Livingstone.

Class 24 A Strathspey and Reel - Under 15 years: Cameron Family Trophy 1 - Fraser Hamilton, Paisley; 2 - Logie Johnston, Bunnassan; 3 - Archie Clark, Crieff; 4 - Ruairidh Drennan, Drumnadrochit; 5 - Ewan Allan, Livingstone; 6 - Calum Dunbar, Inverness. The Billy Kirkham Trophy awarded to the player with the highest aggregate in Classes 23, 24, 24A, and 24B was awarded to - Fraser Hamilton, Paisley.

Class 24B Jig - Under 15 years: Tommy Askew Memorial Trophy 1st - Calum Dunbar, Inverness; 2 - Archie Clark, Crieff; 3 - Hector Finlayson, Erbusaig, Kyle; 4 - Jack McGowan, Dumfries; 5 - Finlay Peden, Broxburn; 6 - Gregor Grierson, Dumfries.

Class 25 Piobaireachd - 15 years and

under 18 years: Angus MacAlister Memorial Quaich 1 - Gregor MacDonald, North Connel; 2 - Emma Hill, Connel; 3 - Ronnie McIntosh, Fort William; 4 - Bobby Allen, Glasgow; 5 - Eosaph Chaimbeul, An Caol; 6 - Cameron May, Lesmahagow.

Class 26 March - 15 years and under 18 years: Ryan MacPhail Memorial Trophy 1 - Gregor MacDonald, North Connel; 2 - Emma Hill, Connel; 3 - Cameron May, Lesmahagow; 4 - Hamish Drennan, Drumnadrochit; 5 - Bobby Allen, Glasgow; 6 - Thomas Young, Kirn.

Class 26A Strathspey and Reel - 15 years and under 18 years: Chris Crowe trophy 1 - Gregor MacDonald, North Connel; 2 - Emma Hill, Connel; 3 - Hamish Drennan, Drumnadrochit; 4 - Archie MacLean, Isle of Skye; 5 - Bobby Allen, Glasgow; 6 - Cameron May, Lesmahagow.

Class 26B Hornpipe and Jig - 15 years and under 18 years: Bill Crowe trophy 1 - Bobby Allen, Glasgow; 2 - Cameron May, Lesmahagow; 3 - Hamish Drennan, Drumnadrochit; 4 - Gregor MacDonald, North Connel; 5 - Eosaph Chaimbeul, An Caol; 6 - Archie MacLean, Isle of Skye.

The Allan MacInnes Memorial Trophy, awarded to the player with the most aggregate points in Classes 25, 26, 26A, and 26B, was given to Gregor MacDonald, North Connel.

Class 400 Stick and Pad (14 years and under): Oban Music trophy 1 - Morag Gemmell, Oban; 2 - Kai MacKechnie, North Connel; 3 - John Allan Wallis, Inverness; 4 - Aaron MacLarty, Balvicar; 5 - Ben Docherty, Oban; 6 - Hannah Benson, Oban.

Class 401 March (four-part) (14 years and under): Royal Bank of Scotland trophy 1 - Robbie MacKay, Oban; 2 - Callum Grieve, Glenrothes; 3 - Janey MacLellan, Johnstone; 4 - Musashi Miller, Oban.

Class 401A 6/8 March (14 years and under): Netherlorn Shield 1 - Callum Grieve, Glenrothes; 2 - Robbie MacKay, Oban.

Class 402 Hornpipe and Jig (15 years and under 18 years): United Auctions trophy 1 - Jamie Wallis, Inverness.

Class 403 Four-Part March, four-part Strathspey, four-part Reel (15 years and under 18 years): The Adam McCracken Trophy 1 - Jamie Wallis, Inverness.

Class 405 Four-part March Tenor Drumming: The John Livingstone Memorial Trophy 1 - Catriona Duncan, Edinburgh; 2 - Fiona Cruikshank, Benderloch; 3 - Rowan Gemmell, Oban; 4 - Olivia Gage, Oban.

## SENIOR PIPING

Class 27 Piobaireachd - Grade A and P, Trophies: 1 Cooper Salver, 2 Dugald MacColl Memorial: 1 - Sarah Muir, Glasgow; 2 - William Geddes, Glasgow; 3 - Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge; 4 - Cameron MacDougall, Nigg; 5 - Darach Urquhart, Glasgow.

Class 27A Piobaireachd - Grade B, Trophies: 1 Royal Bank of Scotland, 2 Walter Drysdale: 1 - Ben Duncan, Edinburgh; 2 - William Rowe, South Queensferry; 3 - John Dew, Glasgow; 4 - Finlay Cameron, Roy Bridge; 5 - John MacDonald, Bridge of Con.

Class 27B Piobaireachd - Grade C, Trophies: 1 Ronald Lawrie Memorial Trophy, 2 Walter Drysdale Memorial: 1 - Gavin Hardie, Glasgow; 2 - Anna Smart, New Zealand; 3 - Connor Kellett,

Kyle; 4 - Andrew Hutton, Glasgow; 5 - Robert Low, Mold.

Class 28 March, Strathspey and Reel - Grade A and P, Trophies: 1 Reid Family Trophy, 2 HIMDF: 1 Ben Duncan, Edinburgh; 2 - Steven Leask, Glasgow; 3 - Sarah Muir, Glasgow; 4 - Allan Russell, Kelty; 5 - Darach Urquhart, Glasgow.

Class 28A March, Strathspey and Reel - Grade B, Riona T MacInnes trophy 1 - John Dew, Glasgow; 2 - Kris Coyle, Carrickfergus; 3 - Callum Wynd, Dunblane; 4 - Johnathon Simpson, Bo'ness; 5 - Edward Gaul, Dundee.

Class 28B March, Strathspey and Reel - Grade C: Fusion Marine trophy 1st - Connor Kellett, Kyle; 2 - Enora Morice, Glasgow; 3 - Ross Conner, Campbeltown; 4 - Andrew Hutton, Glasgow; 5 - Scott MacLean, Kilmartin.

## ACCORDION - JUNIOR and OPEN

Class 31 Traditional Scottish - March - under 12 years: HIMDF trophy 1 - Finn MacKechnie, North Connel

Class 31B Gaelic Waltzes - 12 years and under 16 years: Iain MacPhail trophy 1 - Donnie MacCorquodale, North Connel; 2 - Alexander MacDonald, North Connel.

Class 32 March, Strathspey and Reel - 12 years and under 16 years: Iona Shop trophy 1 - Donnie MacCorquodale, North Connel.

Class 33 March, Strathspey and Reel (Pipe) 12 year and under 16: Duncan Campbell trophy 1 - Alexander MacDonald, North Connel; 2 - Donnie MacCorquodale, North Connel. The John Allan Memorial Cup awarded for the highest aggregate in Classes 31B, 32 and 33 was awarded to Donnie MacCorquodale, North Connel.

## OPEN ACCORDION

Mr and Mrs Hugh MacInnes, Beechglade trophy for highest aggregate in Classes 34A and 35A8 was awarded to John MacCormick, Oban.

Class 34A March, Strathspey and Reel - Button: Mr and Mrs Hugh MacInnes, Beechglade trophy 1 - John MacCormick, Oban.

Class 34B March, Strathspey and Reel (Traditional) - Open: McIntee Family trophy 1 - John Burns, Kilsyth; 2 - Ciorstaidh-Sarah Chaimbeul, Skye; 3 - Susan MacFadyen, West Kilbride.

Class 35A March, Strathspey and Reel (Pipe) - Button: - Mr and Mrs Hugh MacInnes, Beechglade trophy 1 - John MacCormick, Oban.

Class 35B March, Strathspey and Reel (Pipe) - Open: Neil Sinclair trophy 1 - Craig MacFadyen, Oban; 2 - Colin Brown, Burntisland; 3 - Susan MacFadyen, West Kilbride. The Jimmy Shand Scotrail Trophy awarded for the highest aggregate in Classes 34B and 35B was won by John Burns, Kilsyth.

Class 36A Gaelic Waltzes (Traditional) - Open: Iain MacPhail trophy 1 - John Burns, Kilsyth; 2 - Ciorstaidh-Sarah Chaimbeul, Skye; 3 - Craig MacFadyen, Oban.

Class 36B Own Composition - Accordion or Fiddle: Angus and Ella MacFadyen Memorial Trophy 1 - Alex Morrison, Stoke on Trent; 2 - John Burns, Kilsyth; 3 - Colin Brown, Burntisland.

## FIDDLE

Class 41 Slow Air and March - Under 12 years: Bossards Patisserie

Oban trophy: 1 - Niamh Jane Stainthorpe, Dumfriesshire; 2 - Mimi Spence, Dervaig, Isle of Mull; 3 - Rose MacInnes, Oban. Frances Shand Kydd Trophy awarded to the most promising competitor in Class 41 was given to Palmo Jones, Bunnassan, Isle of Mull.

Class 42 March, Strathspey and Reel - 12 years and under 16 years: Accordion Club trophy 1 - Rhiann Matthew Aberdeenshire; 2 - Charlotte Slater, Aberdeenshire; 3 - Ruairidh Drennan, Drumnadrochit.

Class 43 Slow Air - 12 years and under 16 years: McLachlan Trophy 1 - Charlotte Slater, Aberdeenshire; 2 - Rhiann Matthew, Aberdeenshire; 3 - Ruairidh Drennan, Drumnadrochit.

Class 44 March, Strathspey and Reel - Open: Calum MacPhail trophy 1 - Rosie Winchester, Aberdeenshire; 2 - Anne Mitchell, Inverurie; 3 - Helen Jordan, Oban.

Class 45 Slow Air (Traditional) - Open: Christine MacKenzie trophy 1 - Jean Boardman, Oban; 2 - Rosie Winchester, Aberdeenshire; 3 - Jack Westwell, Oban.

Class 47 Traditional Scottish - Band/Group Open: 1 - Northeasters; 2 - Mull Music Makers.

## WOODWIND and BRASS

The HIMDF Lorne Trophies awarded to the overall winner in Woodwind and overall winner in Brass competitions: Woodwind Winner - Sasha Clement, Dingwall; Brass Winner - Amy Paterson, Campbeltown.

Class 201 - Woodwind - Elementary (less than one year's experience) 1 - Lily Robinson, Taynuilt; 2 - Krishnan Davidson, Taynuilt; 3 - Katie Anne MacLeod, Inveraray.

Class 202 Woodwind - Open: 1 - Alex Elliot, Oban; 2 - Violet Turnbull, Lochgilphead; 3 - Jemma MacDonald, Lochgilphead.

Class 210 Woodwind (Secondary first year): 1 - Ruby-Jo Phillips, Lochgilphead; 2 - Aisling Duncan, Oban.

Class 211 Woodwind - Intermediate (Secondary second and third year): 1 - Sarah Garvin, Oban; 2 - Mo Inall, Taynuilt; 3 - Holly Herbert, Kilmichael.

Class 212 Woodwind - (Secondary fourth, fifth and sixth year): 1 - Sasha Clement, Dingwall; 2 - Hazel Spence, Lochgilphead.

Class 213 Ensemble: 1 - OHS Wind Ensemble; 2 - Lochgilphead Campus Wind Ensemble.

Class 214 11 Duet Woodwind or Brass: 1 - Holly Herbert and Ruby-Jo Phillips, Kilmichael; 2 - Aisling Duncan and Gemma Carswell, Oban High School; 3 - Megan Day and Alice Jackson, Oban High School.

## BRASS Primary

Class 301 Elementary (less than one year's experience): 1 - Carla Renton, Campbeltown; 2 - Jewel Logan, Lochgilphead; 3 - Tom Pendreigh, Lochgilphead.

Class 302 Open: 1 - Charlie Colville, Campbeltown; 2 - Cara MacFadzen, Campbeltown; 3 - James Barr, Campbeltown.

Class 303 Primary Ensemble 1st - Campbeltown Brass.

## BRASS Secondary School Age

Class 310 (Secondary 1st year): 1 - Finlay Love, Ardrishaig; 2 - Leila Ritchie, Lochgilphead; 3 - Emily Carter, Lochgilphead.

Class 311 (Secondary second and

third year): 1 - Rona Campbell, Campbeltown; 2 - Kyle Paterson, Campbeltown; 3 - Drew Cunningham, Campbeltown.

Class 312 Senior (Secondary 4th, 5th and 6th year): 1 - Amy Paterson, Campbeltown.

Class 313 Ensemble: 1 - Campbeltown Brass; 2 - Argyll Brass Ensemble.

## SINGING PRIMARY

The Gillies Cup awarded for the highest marks overall in singing competitions was given to Feorlin Renton, Inveraray.

Class 63 Scots Song - Primary 1 to 3: HIMDF trophy 1 - Millie Bonniwell, North Connel; 2 - Mollie MacKenzie, Oban.

Class 65 Scots Song (Primary 4 and 5): Riona MacInnes trophy 1 - Innes MacKay, Oban; 2 - Evayne Symes, Appin.

Class 66 Prescribed Song (Primary 4 and 5): Arthur Gillies trophy 1 - Aiobhann Clark, Oban; 2 - Evayne Symes, Appin; 3 - Oliver Clark, Oban.

Class 67 Scots Song (Primary 6 and 7): Frances Shand Kydd trophy: 1 - Feorlin Renton, Inveraray; 2 - Niamh Stainthorpe, Dumfries.

Class 68 Prescribed Song (Primary 6 and 7): HIMDF trophy 1 - Niamh Stainthorpe, Dumfries.

Class 69 All Primary Children: HIMDF trophy 1 - Feorlin Renton, Inveraray.

Class 71 Songs from the Shows - All Primary Children: Berni McMillan trophy 1 - Feorlin Renton, Inveraray; 2 - Niamh Stainthorpe, Dumfries; 3 - Aiobhann Clark, Oban.

## GAELIC SINGING

Class 63A Gaelic Song (Primary 1 - 3): An Comunn Gaidhealach an Obain trophy 1 - Millie Bonniwell, North Connel; 2 - Jaime Eve MacIntyre, Oban; 3 - Lucie Spreadbury, Oban.

Class 65A Gaelic Song (Primary 4 and 5): Comann nam Parent an Obain trophy 1 - Marco MacGregor, Oban; 2 - Aoiobheann Clark, Oban; 3 - Bethan Neil, Benderloch.

Class 72A - Gaelic Song (Secondary 1 and 2): MacGill-Eain Lochabuidhe trophy 1 - Shauna MacLeod, Oban; 2 - Lauren MacLeod, Oban.

Class 67A Gaelic Song (Primary 6 and 7): Comann nam Parent an Obain trophy 1 - Feorlin Renton, Inveraray; 2 - Erinn Higgins, Oban; 3 equal - Olivia Gage, Oban; 3 equal - Niamh Jane Stainthorpe, Dumfries.

## SECONDARY and OPEN

Class 73A Gaelic Song (Secondary 3+): HIMDF trophy 1 - Anna Tait Westwell, Oban.

Class 73 Scots Song - Secondary 3 plus: HIMDF trophy 1 - Anna Tait Westwell, Oban.

Class 76B Songs from the Shows - Secondary 3 plus: MacKinnon Family trophy 1 - Anna Tait Westwell, Oban; 2 - Maria Clark, Oban.

Class 82 Folk Singing Solo: Oban Gaelic Choir trophy 1 - Shona Keith, Lochgair.

Class 84 14 Scottish Song (English or Gaelic): Argyll Oils trophy 1 - Riona MacCormick, Oban; 2 - Shona Keith, Lochgair; 3 - Alison McGinty, Ardrishaig.

Class 85 Songs from the Shows:

The Highlands Restaurant trophy 1 - Shona Keith, Lochgair; 2 - Alison McGinty, Ardrishaig. The Anne MacDougall Memorial Trophy, awarded for the person with the highest aggregate in Classes 84 and 8, was won by Shona Keith, Lochgair.

Class 86 Classical Song: HIMDF trophy 1 - Shona Keith, Lochgair; 2 - Alison McGinty, Ardrishaig.

LADY FERMOY PIANO and CLARSACH COMPETITIONS The Lady Fermoy Trophy is awarded for the most meritorious performance overall in the piano competitions for those 18 years and under and was won by Fiona Cruikshank, Benderloch.

## PIANO

Class 90 Piano Solo - Grade 1: Caroline Boyle trophy 1 - Finn Turnbull, Dervaig, Isle of Mull; 2 - Grace Kelman, Inverness; 3 - Alasdair Campbell, North Connel.

Class 95 Piano Solo - Grade 4: Peter and Peggy Sinclair trophy 1 - Isabelle Davidson, Perth; 2 - Mairi MacCorquodale, North Connel; 3 - Anndra Monk, Glasgow.

Class 95a Piano Solo - Grade 5: 1 - Anna Tait Westwell, Oban.

Class 97 Piano - Scottish Music, Grade 3,4, or 5: 1 - Mairi MacCorquodale, North Connel.

Class 98A Piano Solo - Classical Period: 1 - Fiona Cruikshank, Benderloch; 2 - Lewis Sutherland, Glasgow.

Class 100A Piano Solo - Romantic Period: Bryce Stewart trophy 1 - Lewis Sutherland, Glasgow.

Class 100C Piano Solo - Classical Period: 1 - Antonina Clement, Dingwall; 2 - Jack Tait Westwell, Oban.

Class 100D Piano Solo - Modern Period: 1 - Jack Tait Westwell, Oban; 2 - Antonina Clement, Dingwall. The Margaret Burns Trophy is awarded for the most meritorious performance overall in adult classes 100C and 100D and it was given to Antonina Clement, Dingwall.

## CLARSACH

Class 55 Solo Advanced: The Russell Quaich 1 - Isy MacLean, Isle of Skye; 2 - Isabelle Davidson, Perth.

Class 58 Solo - Recital of Scottish/Gaelic Music: Soroba House trophy 1 - Anna Tait Westwell, Oban; 2 - Isy MacLean, Isle of Skye.

Class 59 Solo - Non Traditional: HIMDF trophy 1 - Anna Tait Westwell, Oban; 2 - Isy MacLean, Isle of Skye.

## SCHOOLS SINGING AND RECORDER

Class 61 Primary Choirs - Accompanied Sinclair Family trophy 1st - Lochnell Primary; 2 - Park Primary; 3 equal - Rockfield Primary and Taynuilt Primary.

## RECORDER

Class 103 Primary Recorder Groups: Agnes Connelly trophy 1 - North Lorn Recorder Group.



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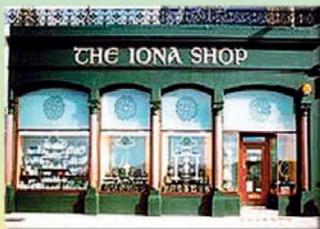
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# This year's Am-

Oban's amateur golfers will be teaming up and teeing off at Glencruitten Golf Course on Sunday June 2 for The Oban Rotary Club's annual Am-Am competition.

The competition, now in its 34th year, will feature players from as far afield as Dunblane, Crief, Glasgow, and Stirling.

Since its inception in 1985, the event has raised £187,000 for local good causes, making it the main fundraiser for Oban Rotary Club - accounting for around 60 to 70 per cent of the charity's annual funds.

Around 45 teams are expected to compete in the Rotary Am-Am. Each team will consist of four golfers, and the best two scores from each hole will be taken into account.

Last year's winners were Oban Camanachd, consisting of Scott McMillan, Niall MacFarlane, Edward Swift and Danny MacVicar.

The competition supports many popular events, including the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival, which took place last weekend.

The club also supports many youth and sporting activities and regularly contributes to the Laurinburg school exchange as well as high school outdoor trips and events.

On top of this, Rotarians continue to support The

North Argyll Young Carers Centre - two years ago Oban Rotarians committed £12,000 to the centre, to be distributed over three years.

This funding had a domino effect for the centre, which supports young carers in the area through respite care.

It helped the charity secure £83,836 from BBC Children in Need, which will also be distributed over three years.

Speaking at the time, Morag MacLean, manager at North Argyll Carers Centre, said: 'The [Children In Need] funding is great, but we could not do what we do without the continued support from the rotary.'

Rotary funding has also helped West Highland Tennis Week, Glencruitten Junior Golf coaching, Oban High School and its pipe band, and the Dove Centre.

On top of this, Rotary Club of Oban also funded the provision of a defibrillator at Ganavan Sands beach.

In addition to the support from all the club members, the event is greatly assisted by youngsters from Police Scotland Youth Volunteers, whose eagle-eyed ball spotting helps the competition run smoothly.

The competition is also dependent on the co-operation of the members of Glencruitten Golf Club, who make their facilities available, and the very generous con-

tributions offered by many businesses which sponsor the event.

A raffle is also held on the day in aid of Mary's Meals, which supports children throughout the world.

Donald Morrison will be at the helm of the auction, which includes a special bottle of whisky, of which there are only 30 in existence.

David Mudie, convener of Oban Rotary Club, said: 'We had a gallon bottle of whisky last year that was auctioned for £200.

'The Rotary Club motto is 'Service Before Self', and there are a great number of worthy local causes out there. We are spreading our money quite wide, so we manage to cover a lot of projects that bigger sponsors cannot.

'For many causes, especially for children, small amounts such as £50 or £300 is a lot of money, so we try to make funds available. That's what this is all about.'

Last year's tournament raised £12,000 and £650 of that went to Mary's Meals.

'Even after that,' Mr Mudie said. 'We have got an excess of £11,000. If you take away £4,000 that is committed, we still have £7,000, which goes out in donations from £50 to £500 - sometimes more if the need arises.'

The Am-Am came about as a result of a friendship between Oban Rotarian Terry



Macnair, and Roy and Shirley Erskine, who are the grandparents of Andy and Jamie Murray, the internationally renowned tennis players.

This led to an invitation from Dunblane Rotary to send a team of four to their inaugural Am-Am and, on their return, it was decided that Oban Rotary could do likewise, and the Oban Am-Am was born.

From these modest beginnings, Oban Rotary's golf Am-Am has gone from



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# Am is teed up for June



The Oban Times is one of 100 sponsors of the Rotary Club's annual Am-Am. From left are Oban Rotary Club president Ian MacIntyre, Oban Times operations director Keith McIntyre, Oban Times finance director George Graham and Oban Rotary Club convener Dave Mudie.

strength to strength, having raised more than £187,000 for local causes.

More than 100 sponsors and nearly 200 players are expected for this year's event.

Rotary convener Mr Mudie added: 'Because The Oban

Times publicises the work that we do, we get requests just about every week from people or organisations with needs.

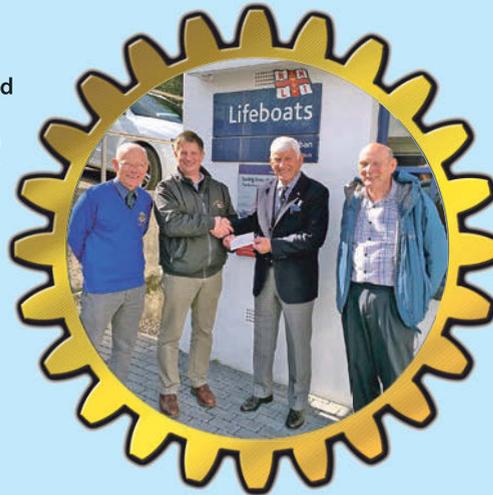
'We can't cover them all, but we are able to support a variety of worthy causes.'



Oban Rotary president Ian MacIntyre handed a cheque for £200 to Homestart secretary Karen Scott. Homestart offers support, through volunteers, to young parents throughout North Lorn and Mull.

Poppy Honeyman, who is from Taynuilt and a former pupil of Oban High School, received a cheque for £300 towards her costs of volunteering in Uganda.

Oban RNLI treasurer Andrew Mead accepted a cheque from Oban Rotary Club.



Oban Rotary Club president Ian MacIntyre presents Breege Smyth, chairperson of Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival, with a cheque for £600. Also pictured are dancer Eilidh MacAulay and piper Kate MacPherson.

Ian MacIntyre meets some of the Dalmally pupils to hand over a cheque.



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# No major shocks in Mac

## Artemis Macaulay Cup – first round

**Col Glen v Oban Camanachd W/O**  
Oban Camanachd were the first team into the Artemis Macaulay Cup quarter finals when it was confirmed on Friday afternoon South 1 side Col Glen were unable to raise a team for their match at Glendaruel. Oban Camanachd manager

### Fixtures

#### Saturday May 11

#### Tulloch Homes Camanachd Cup first round

Beauly v Inverness  
John Angus Gillies  
Strathglass v Oban Celtic  
Deek Cameron - 3pm  
Bute v Glasgow Mid Argyll  
David Mitchell - 3pm  
Skye v Taynuilt  
Martin MacLean  
Ballachulish v Fort William  
Ronnie Campbell

#### Sutherland Cup second round

Strathspey v Kyles Athletic  
TBA - 1.30pm

#### Mowi Premiership

Inveraray v Newtonmore  
Robert Baxter  
Kingussie v Kilmallie  
Ross Brown  
Kinlochshiel v Lochaber  
Andy MacLean  
Lovat v Kyles Athletic  
Iain Kennedy  
Oban Camanachd v Caberfeidh  
Lachie Wood

#### Mowi North Division 1

Aberdeen Uni v Kinlochshiel  
Archie Ritchie  
Glengarry v Kingussie  
Graham Cameron  
Glenurquhart v Skye  
Calum Girvan  
Fort William v Lovat  
Graham Fisher  
Newtonmore v Caberfeidh  
Callum Duff

#### Mowi South Division 1

Col Glen v Aberdour  
Euan Pearson  
Lochside Rovers v Inveraray  
Ewan MacDonald

#### Mowi North Division 2

Kilmallie v Lochcarron  
Jim Innes  
Lewis v Boleskine  
Henry MacInnes  
Strathglass v Inverness  
TBA - noon

#### Mowi South Division 2

Aberdour v Oban Celtic  
Neil MacDonald  
Bute v Glenorchy  
Lucy McNulty - noon  
Kilmoryv Ardnamurchan  
Des McNulty

All throw-ups 2.30pm, unless stated.

Stephen Sloss will hope the unexpected break will allow several of his players to recover from niggling injuries and join Gary McKerracher, now free of suspension, in returning for the league match against Caberfeidh at Mossfield this Saturday.

#### Kilmallie 1 Newtonmore 5

Newtonmore are through to the next round after beating Kilmallie 5-1 in their 3pm throw-up at Canal Parks.

Kilmallie won when the sides met in the league at the start of the season, but Glen MacKintosh on 15 minutes and Michael Russell three minutes later made a repeat result seem unlikely.

Iain Robinson made it 3-0 on 23 minutes and a second from Glen MacKintosh on 32 minutes made it 4-0 at the break.

Kilmallie's Calum MacDougall pulled a goal back on 54 minutes but when referee Des McNulty awarded a penalty to the visitors on 58 minutes, Conor Jones stepped up to score from the spot.

#### Bute 3 Oban Celtic 1

Bute edged out a spirited Oban Celtic side 3-1 at the Meadows.

Bute took the lead on 15 minutes when a long ball down the middle was collected by Iain McDonald whose low, 20 yard-shot beat the keeper to his right.

The Oban side went back on the attack, with Neil Carmichael beating his man and winning the ball. But as he went through on goal, he was taken down by Scott Harvey just outside the 'D'.

Craig Fisher gave Bute a 2-0 interval lead when he finished well with five first half minutes remaining.

Oban Celtic pulled a goal back 10 minutes into the second half after John Douglas battled to win the ball deep on the left. Douglas took a touch before finding Neil Carmichael who beat his man and slipped the ball past keeper Kevin Queen to make it 2-1.

Carmichael took a nice touch to beat his man again and was brought down at the edge of the 'D' for a second time by Scott Harvey who this time was shown a yellow card by referee Robert Baxter.

Jamie Anderson sent the ball over from the resultant free-hit.

Full centre John MacCallum and attacker Iain McDonald were good for Bute and the clinching goal came 10 minutes from time when Willie Boag's 20-yard shot on the angle from the left was misjudged by keeper Iain MacFarlane and the ball sneaked into the net.

After the match, Oban Celtic assistant manager Les Kinvig said: 'We're obviously disappointed to lose the game but, considering the players we were missing, we're reasonably happy with the performance. Just having a couple of the missing players available would have made such a difference. We had chances



Kyles Athletic's Andrew King and Inveraray's Connor Howe in a tussle for the ball during the Artemis Macaulay Cup tie at the Winterton.

Photograph: Stephen Lawson.

at 2-1 but their third goal killed us. We weren't outplayed or outclassed. Michael MacKinnon was playing with an injury and Neil Carmichael is managing a groin problem but 14-year-old John Douglas played the full 90 minutes and 16-year-old Charlie Campbell Roberts was involved after getting a Saturday morning call-up.

'We will have Ross MacMillan back for Strathglass in the Camanachd Cup this week and Ally McKerracher should return too, so that will help us.'

#### Kinlochshiel 2 Lovat 3

Artemis Macaulay Cup holders Kinlochshiel are out of this year's competition after losing 3-2 against Lovat at Kirkton.

Lovat went ahead on six minutes. A good Lorne MacKay ball forward was fed to Greg Matheson on the left and he shot into the bottom corner of the net to make it 1-0.

Kinlochshiel drew level four minutes later.

Keith MacRae was too fast for the Lovat defence as he made a powerful run down the right and his fierce shot on the run flew across the keeper, going in off his right post.

Kinlochshiel went in front a couple of minutes into the second half when Keith MacRae leathered the ball home after Stuart MacDonald had denied John MacRae.

The lead only lasted six minutes. Fraser Heath and Marc MacLachlan combined to prevent the Kinlochshiel defence clearing their lines and when the ball broke to Greg Matheson, who ran in at pace, his low shot flew past the keeper before he could react to make it 2-2.

Marc MacLachlan notched what proved to be the winning goal with eight minutes remaining. MacLachlan got by Paul MacRae before running into the 'D' and, with little back-lift, his powerful shot gave the keeper no chance.

Lovat will be concerned at an arm

injury suffered by Greg Matheson. Kinlochshiel's Conor Cormack was influential at buckshee back and Lovat found it difficult to get by him, whilst Keith MacRae is close to being back to his best.

Lovat's Lorne MacKay played a key role in the win and his stick work was very good throughout.

This was a physical game at times but it was well-refereed by Deek Cameron who kept his cards in his pocket during the 90 minutes.

The win sets up a great tie in next month's quarter finals as Lovat meet Newtonmore at Balgate.

#### Lochaber 1 Kingussie 5

It is not so long ago that Kingussie were ruing a cup record that saw them exit several major tournaments at the first round. It has been different this year though and Kingussie ran out 5-1 winners against Lochaber at Spean Bridge.

Kingussie led 2-0 at the break with Ruaridh Anderson finding the net on 28 and 42 minutes with two good finishes.

Lochaber's Martin Johnstone pulled a goal back on 65 minutes but two goals in two minutes from Ryan MacWilliam on 74 minutes and Liam Borthwick a minute later had the visitors 4-1 ahead.

Liam Borthwick got his second a couple of minutes from time to round off the 5-1 win.

#### Inveraray 0 Kyles Athletic 3

Kyles Athletic were 3-0 derby winners against Inveraray in their 4pm throw-up at the Winterton.

A big crowd gathered for this game and Thomas Whyte's strike on 13 minutes was the only goal of the first half.

Inveraray had their share of pressure during the first 45 minutes, but Roddy Macdonald was mopping up everything they had to offer in the Kyles defence.

Colin MacDonald made it 2-0 five minutes into the second half.

Kyles Athletic wing centre Paul MacArthur was sent off by referee Ross Brown for a reckless swing but the hosts didn't take advantage of the extra man and George Thomson added a third goal on 74 minutes, finishing off a counter attack.

Kyles Athletic are now off to Mossfield to play Oban Camanachd in the last eight of the tournament.

#### Caberfeidh 4 Skye Camanachd 2

Premiership side Caberfeidh beat National Division Skye Camanachd 4-2 in their 3pm throw-up at Castle Leod.

Skye goalie Ryan Morrison didn't have much to do during the first 20 minutes but he was beaten on 21 minutes when, against the run of play, wing centre Ryan MacKay received the ball 20 yards out and, with a number of bodies in front of him, he scored high into the goal to make it 1-0.

Skye were punished for missed opportunities when Ryan MacKay's beautiful, low drive on 29 minutes beat Ryan Morrison at the far post.

The hosts went further ahead five minutes before half-time when Colin MacLennan produced a smart finish to make it 3-0 at the break.

Craig Morrison added a fourth on 64 minutes to put the game beyond Skye.

The islanders dug in though and continued to attack the home goal, eventually finding the net through Jordan Murchison's unstoppable shot from outside the box.

However, with just three minutes remaining, they had left themselves too much to do.

Skye's Stewart Grant got his name on the scoresheet with seconds remaining to make it 4-2.

Caberfeidh have an away tie in the next round of the Macaulay when they head to the Dell to face Kingussie.

#### Aberdour 0 Glasgow Mid Argyll 3

Glasgow Mid Argyll were 3-0 winners against Aberdour at Silversands.

Calum McLay gave GMA the lead on 30 minutes as he lashed a ball from Iain Luke high into the net past a helpless keeper.

Calum McLay got his second seven minutes later, with Garry Luke this time the supplier. McLay's shot from the back of the 'D' nestled in the top corner of the net.

The excellent Calum McLay completed his hat-trick on 71 minutes. Iain Luke's initial shot was well-saved but McLay got to the re-bound to make it 3-0.

Glasgow Mid Argyll now travel to play Bute in the quarter finals.

## Mowi National Division

#### Strathglass 1 Beauly 5

Beauly recorded their first win of the season, beating cottages.

# Maclay Cup



## Results

### Saturday May 4

#### Artemis Macaulay Cup

##### First round

Aberdour 0 v 3 Glasgow MA  
Bute 3 v 1 Oban Celtic  
Col Glen P v P Oban Camanachd  
Col Glen unable to raise a team, walkover to Oban Camanachd  
Inveraray 0 v 3 Kyles Athletic  
Caberfeidh 4 v 2 Skye  
Kilmallie 1 v 5 Newtonmore  
Kinlochshiel 2 v 3 Lovat  
Lochaber 1 v 5 Kingussie

#### Liberty British Aluminium

##### Balliemore Cup first round

Taynuilt v Aberdeen University  
Aberdeen unable to raise a team, walkover to Taynuilt

#### Sutherland Cup second round

Newtonmore 5 v 0 Kinlochshiel  
Inveraray 0 v 2 Glenurquhart  
Skye 0 v 2 Lochside Rovers  
Glasgow Mid Argyll 1 v 7 Lovat  
Boleskine 4 v 4 Kingussie  
Boleskin won 2-0 on penalties  
Caberfeidh 2 v 1 Strathglass  
Strathspey P v P Kyles Athletic  
Due to bereavement

#### Bullough Cup first round

English SA 4 v 2 Ballachulish

#### Mowi National Division

Strathglass 1 v 5 Beauly

#### Mowi North Division 1

Fort William 1 v 2 Inverness

#### Mowi North Division 2

Kilmallie 3 v 1 Inverness

#### Mowi South Division 2

Glenorchy 3 v 1 Oban Celtic  
Kilmory 5 v 2 Aberdour

com MacTavish Cup semi-finalists Strathglass 5-1 at Cannich. Jack MacDonald scored four times and youngster Euan MacCormack got the other, with Michael Stokes countering.

## Liberty British Aluminium Balliemore Cup – first round

### Taynuilt W/O v Aberdeen University

Taynuilt were given a walk-over into the Liberty British Aluminium Balliemore Cup quarter finals when Aberdeen University, with student exams taking their toll on the squad, were unable to raise a team for their match at Taynuilt Sports Field.

Taynuilt will now host Glasgow Mid Argyll in the next round on Saturday May 25.

## Sutherland Cup – second round

### Skye Camanachd 0 Lochside Rovers 2

Two early goals gave Lochside Rovers a 2-0 win against Skye Camanachd's second team at Pair nan Laoch, Portree. Skye co-managers David MacInnes and Daniel Morrison included veteran Chris Rose, whilst Ruairaidh MacLeod again lined up in attack following his two goals against Inverness the previous week.

Skye made a bright start but and Chris Rose shot wide of the keeper's left post in the opening minutes.

Lochside took the lead three minutes though when Daniel Sloss sent a great ball up the left side and as Skye keeper Murphy Henderson tried to clear Lennon Campbell's low cross, he missed his hit and Lewis Buchanan turned the loose ball into

Continued on page 60



Kilmallie's Innes Blackhall tackles Newtonmore's Steven MacDonald.

Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

# new SPOT THE SHINTY BALL



THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2550

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph below. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

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**Easy to enter**  
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 2pm Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.  
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.  
**Competition rules**  
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.  
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The two entries who got nearest the ball and each receive £25 are:  
**C MacFadyen Connel**  
**H Hope Lochgilphead**

Continued from page 59

the net from the right of the 'D' to make it 1-0.

The visitors doubled their advantage on eight minutes when Michael MacQueen thumped the ball home after keeper Murphy Henderson had saved twice in quick succession.

Lochside always looked the more likely to add to their tally and their defence of Daniel Sloss, Scott Robertson, Jordan Keir and Craig Easton protected keeper Brian MacCallum to the extent that he hardly had a save of note to make during the game.

The Lochside forward line of Kieran Lopez, Lennon Campbell, Lewis Buchanan and Michael MacQueen played some nice one touch shinty but were unable to add to their tally.

Lochside introduced youngster Innes Jackson late in the game and he came on to a big cheer.

Lochside Rovers manager Brian MacCallum was more than pleased with his side's performance. Speaking immediately after the final whistle, MacCallum conceded the victory was more straightforward than he had expected: 'It was fairly comfortable and although periods of play were even, our forwards took their chances. Lewis Buchanan is deadly when he gets the opportunity and Michael MacQueen is helping us out and he is a big player for Lochside.'

'It was also a help to have Daniel Sloss involved. He is something special and he's in the first team at 16 years old for a reason.'

'Craig Easton is another who has come on leaps and bounds. He's been working hard on his hitting and that showed today. He's dominating and he's so quick. He's the sort of defender you

don't really want to come up against. We are in a hard part of the draw but we'll take it a game at a time and see where we end up.'

### Newtonmore 5 Kinlochshiel 0

Holders Newtonmore seconds were too strong for the Kinlochshiel seconds, winning 5-0 at the Eilan.

Ewan Fraser's hat-trick and strikes from James Ross and Craig MacLeod made the difference.

### Inveraray 0 Glenurquhart 2

The Glenurquhart colts scored twice in the second half to beat the Inveraray colts 2-0 in their 1pm throw-up at the Winterton.

The pitch was in great condition for this tie and Inveraray welcomed Euan McMurdo and Peter McIntyre back into the starting line-up.

Glenurquhart travelled with a strong squad and, with no first team game, the experienced John Barr took a place in the starting 12 as he works his way back from injury.

The first half was a fairly even affair with young Gregor Mather in the Inveraray goal making some fine saves.

Peter McIntyre thought he'd done enough to score when he lost John Barr only to see his shot cleared off the line, so it remained goal-less at the break.

Glenurquhart made the better start to the second half and their pressure paid off on 55 minutes when David MacLennan drove a low shot through the keeper's legs.

Inveraray introduced Craig Taylor who immediately made an impact when he found space in the Glenurquhart defence but his shot went inches wide.

Glenurquhart finished the tie off with four minutes remaining as Jed Stoddart



**Lovat number 12 Marc MacLachlan finds space to fire home the winning the goal against Kinlochshiel.** Photograph: Neil Paterson.

bundled the ball over the line to send his side into the next round.

Full centre Allan Cameron continues to be a stand-out for Inveraray, whilst young forward Cameron Bremner was dangerous for Glenurquhart every time he got the ball.

The match was expertly handled by referee Lucy McNulty.

### Glasgow Mid Argyll 1 Lovat 7

The Lovat seconds turned in a powerful first half performance to defeat the Glasgow Mid Argyll seconds 7-1 at Yoker.

The Lovat seconds have home advantage against their Beauly or Ballachulish counterparts in the Sutherland Cup quarter finals on Saturday June 1.

### Boleskine 4 Kingussie 4

After extra-time. Boleskine won 2-0 on penalties.

The Kingussie reserves went into their tie against Boleskine at Smith Park as favourites and Russell Menzies on 32 minutes and Ryan Borthwick on 35 minutes had them 2-0 ahead.

Alan Knox pulled a goal back a minute later though and it remained 2-1 at the break.

A second from Russell Menzies on 58 minutes made it 3-1.

Boleskine fought back and Sean Fraser on 74 minutes and James Anderson on 85 minutes meant the regulation 90 minutes finished 3-3.

Ryan Borthwick got his second on 96 minutes to put the visitors back in front.

Boleskine fought back again and Scott Knox made it 4-4 in 103 minutes. With no further scoring, referee Steven MacLachlan took the tie to a penalty shoot-out.

And it was lower league side Boleskine who took the honours, winning the shoot-out 2-0 with Scott Knox and Alan Knox converting the penalties that made the difference, coupled with some heroic goalkeeping from Clive Girvan in the home

goal. Boleskine now travel to Oban to play Lochside Rovers in the last eight of the tournament.

### Caberfeidh 2 Strathglass 1

The Caberfeidh colts came from a goal down to beat the Strathglass colts 2-1 in their noon throw-up at Castle Leod.

Caberfeidh travel to Glenurquhart in the next round.

### Strathspey Camanachd P Kyles Athletic P

The tie between Strathspey Camanachd and the Kyles Athletic second team at Grantown Grammar School was postponed because of a bereavement.

The tie has been rescheduled for this Saturday. The eventual winners will travel to the Eilan to play holders Newtonmore seconds.

### Bullough Cup – first round English SA 4 Ballachulish 2

The English Shinty Association (ESA) beat the Ballachulish seconds 4-2 in their noon throw-up at St Andrews.

Alan Clark gave Ballachulish the lead on four minutes, but former Kingussie player Chris Holleysong levelled a couple of minutes before the break and James Livingstone put the ESA ahead on the stroke of half-time.

John MacDonald made it 2-2 on 57 minutes but second goals from Chris Holleysong on 69 minutes and James Livingstone a minute from time gave the ESA a 4-2 victory.

Ballachulish duo John MacDonald and Andrew MacDonald were sent off by referee Euan Pearson.

### Mowi North Division 1 Fort William 1 Inverness 2

The Inverness first team came from a goal down to beat the

Fort William colts 2-1 at An Aird.

Fort William's Duncan Stevenson was suspended but David Wright was free of his ban.

The first half ended goal-less but youngster Victor Smith gave the hosts the lead three minutes after the re-start.

Charlie MacDonald scored his fourth goal in two matches to draw Inverness level on 57 minutes, whilst Jack Craig netted what proved to be the winner on 65 minutes.

Inverness finished the match with 11 players as David Campbell was sent off by referee Alex MacVicar.

### Mowi North Division 2

#### Kilmallie 3 Inverness 1

The Kilmallie colts came from a goal down to beat the Inverness colts 3-1 in their noon throw-up at the Canal Parks.

Finlay Calder gave Inverness the lead on four minutes with what was the only goal of the first half.

The second half was just a couple of minutes old when Ben MacKinnon levelled.

Iain MacIntyre on 52 minutes and Bryan MacKay on 61 minutes secured Kilmallie's victory.

### Mowi South Division 2

#### Glenorchy 3 Oban Celtic 1

Glenorchy maintained their 100 per cent start to the season, beating the Oban Celtic seconds 3-1 in a hard-fought encounter at Mart Park.

Lennan MacKechnie and Murray MacKay were both involved in the build up to Glenorchy's opening goal on nine minutes, with Kieran McKay thumping Murray MacKay's pass high into the net.

It was almost two 60 seconds later but Murray MacKay's effort came back off the crossbar.

Oban Celtic equalised on 25 minutes with a fine individual goal from Daniel MacMillan

who ran from the middle of the park before sending a low 25-yard shot past Andrew Smith in the home goal.

Kieran McKay got his second a couple of minutes into the second half with Murray MacKay again the supplier as he took Iain Livingstone's pass before beating his marker and picking out McKay who took a touch before sending a waist-high shot into the net.

Oban Celtic were in the game throughout, but Conor Sartain clinched Glenorchy's fourth straight league win on 73 minutes when he gathered possession following Duncan McLaughlin's hit-in and fired low and hard into the net from 20 yards.

### Kilmory 5 Aberdour 2

Kilmory earned a hard fought 5-2 win over the Aberdour reserves in their 2pm throw up at MacRae Park.

Alistair MacArthur on five minutes and Hal Jones on nine minutes gave the hosts an early cushion.

Roddy MacColl's goal on the half-hour mark made it 2-1 at the break.

The Aberdour colts drew level 10 minutes after the re-start with Roddy MacColl getting his second.

A second from Alistair MacArthur on 70 minutes, a second from Hal Jones on 74 minutes and an Alex Cunningham strike with just 10 minutes remaining gave Kilmory a 5-2 victory.

### WCA round-up

The Women's Camanachd Association focus returned to top flight league action over the weekend.

### Mowi National Division

#### Skye Camanachd 8 Lochaber 0

The league's top two, Skye Camanachd and Lochaber, met at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

Skye went into the game top of the table but only ahead of Lochaber and Badenoch on goal difference. And the islanders had played a game more.

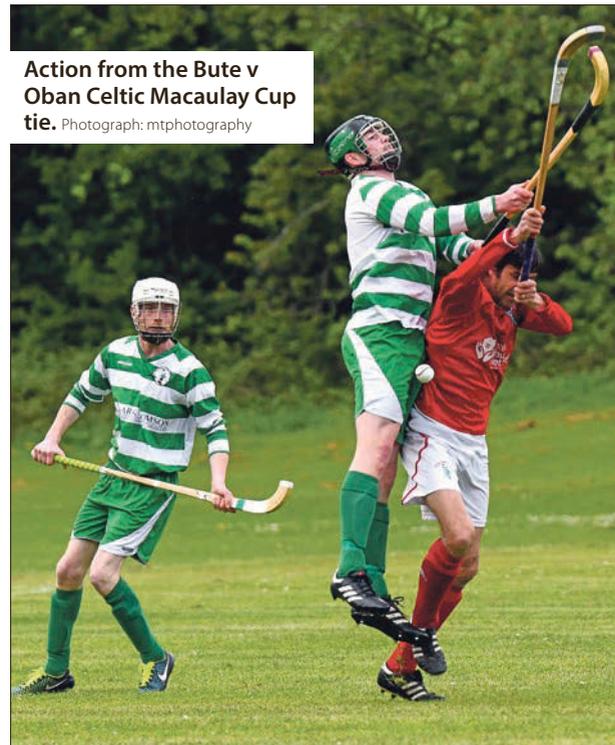
Skye took the early initiative against an understrength Lochaber side and Sarah Corrigan and Lorna MacRae grabbed hat-tricks, with Jenna Beaton and Abby MacLean getting the others.

### Aberdour 5 Glasgow MA 2

Aberdour defeated Glasgow Mid Argyll 5-2 in a match played at Silversands.

### Ardnamurchan P Strathspey P

The game between Ardnamurchan and Strathspey was postponed because of a bereavement.



**Action from the Bute v Oban Celtic Macaulay Cup tie.** Photograph: mtphotography

# Saints did the town proud

## Continued from back page

down for Sean Heaver's late run which left the Saints defence flat footed. Heaver's cross picked out the unmarked Knox who sliced his effort wide of target, much to the relief of the large Saints contingent in the technical area and in the stands.

Having enjoyed a let-off at the end of the first half, Saints weren't so fortunate moments after the start of the second 45. Cammy Hill was robbed by Kenny McLellan on the halfway line as Saints looked to press forward.

McLellan's quick through ball for Chris Ogilvie on the right wing turned the Saints defence with the Bannockburn wide man sending an inviting ball into the Saints box. Dene Cassells did well to get back but his attempted clearance landed at the feet of Steven Knox who took great delight in making up for his first half miss by tucking the ball past Graham Douglas from close range.

### Easy decision

An injudicious 50th minute Matty Kelly challenge on David Grant sent the big striker sprawling in the Saints box giving Mr Holms an easy decision to point to the penalty spot. Kenny McLellan sent Graham Douglas in the wrong direction but saw his spot kick come back off the upright to save Kelly's blushes.

From a well-defended Bannockburn corner, Saints worked their way forward on the left in the 53rd minute. Cammy Hill and Matty Kelly were both involved before Scott Maitland sent Lewis Cameron in behind the Bannockburn defence with the outside of his left foot. Cameron had just the keeper to beat and passed the ball across Adam Young and into the bottom corner to bring Saints level.

The Oban side almost made it a quick-fire double two minutes later when Adam Young stood tall at his front post making a good save to deny Cammy Hill from a narrow angle after the Saints youngster had jinked his way along the bye-line.

Saints took the lead on the hour mark after exploiting a mishit clearance from Bannockburn keeper Adam Young. Lewis Cameron's ball over the top looking for the run of Cammy Hill was met on the volley by Young five yards outside his box.

Not making the contact he desired, Young's attempted clearance fell kindly for James Ford who resisted the temptation to shoot, instead slipping the ball to Cammy Hill. Showing maturity beyond his years, Hill rounded keeper Young and, from the corner of the six-yard box, passed the ball into the far bottom corner to make the



Cammy Hill, number nine, makes it 3-3.

score 2-1. Before play could re-start Craig MacEwan, who was struggling with a calf injury, made way for the fresh legs of David Beaton.

The Saints lead lasted barely five minutes as Bannockburn came roaring back with two goals in as many minutes, through Stephen Knox and Ryan Weir.

Saints looked for a quick response of their own with a Cammy Hill near-post header from a short corner routine on the left which Adam Young gathered at the second attempt.

Now approaching veteran status, Jamie Graham and Willie Gemmell, who had both put in good shifts against the pace of Sean Heaver and Ryan Weir respectively, made way for youngsters Ruaridh Horne and Daniel Croarkin.

### Perfectly weighted

Parity was restored in the 74th minute when Cammy Hill produced another composed finish on the end of a perfectly-weighted Lewis Cameron through-ball calmly steering the ball past Adam Young's right hand and in off the base of the upright.

David Beaton and James Ford both had efforts off target before Matthew Kelly, who had run himself to a standstill, was replaced by Matt Rippon in the 82nd minute.

The first period of extra time for Saints began in the same disappointing manner as the

second half of normal time had when substitute Darren Walker was left unmarked at the back post to head a corner kick past the helpless Graham Douglas.

Sean Heaver once again put on the afterburners on the left and fired over a perfect cross for Knox whose powerful header from 10 yards was sensationally pushed round his left hand post by Graham 'Sugar' Douglas.

Knox wasn't to be denied his hat-tick goal which came in the tenth minute when he peeled away from Dene Cassells to collect a pass from strike partner David Grant and fired high into the net past Sugar's left hand.

Matt Rippon made a good 15th-minute run to reach David Beaton's right wing cross but, with the ball slightly behind him, failed to find the target with his header.

Saints were handed a possible lifeline in the 17th minute when Lewis Cameron was tripped in the Bannockburn box. The Saints leading goalscorer couldn't take advantage and, with Adam Young guessing correctly, sent his penalty kick wide of the keeper's right hand post.

Despite giving it everything they had, there was no way back for Saints and they were picked off on the break when the fresh legs of substitute Declan Wood raced through on the left and squared to David Grant for a simple



James Ford is blocked by a Bannockburn defender.

tap-in for his 51st goal of the season.

Grant's strike rounded off the scoring and sealed a fifth West of Scotland Cup success for Bannockburn in this their 50th anniversary year.

Despite the frustration of defeat, Saints can be proud of their achievement in reaching their first major cup final and running one of the biggest names in Scottish amateur football extremely close in a terrific advert for the amateur game.

### Double

Saints now turn their attention to domestic action where they still harbour hopes of a league and cup double to end their time in the Scottish Amateur Football League on a high before their summer move to the Central Scottish Amateur Football League.

## FOOTBALL

The Saints management and players thank everyone who sent good luck messages for the match, their sponsors Aulay's Bar and D & K Lafferty Contractors, the Oban Livestreams crew and especially to the loyal band of supporters who made the journey to Hamilton.

The club would also like to thank Hamilton Academical for being excellent hosts and the West of Scotland District Committee for their slick organisation of an enjoyable evening.

Saints have no game on Saturday.

Their next outing is on Wednesday May 15 when they have a vital league match away to table-toppers St Joseph's FP.



Cammy Hill celebrates his goal which put Saints 2-1 in front.



Steven MacLeod keeps his eye on the ball, watched by Stephen Knox.



Saints co-managers Willie Gemmell and Donald Campbell with Kenneth Lindsay, chairman of the Western District Executive Committee of the Scottish Amateur FA.



Saints captain Dene Cassells with the two club mascots, his son Jack and co-manager Donald Campbell's son Donald Junior and goalkeeper Graham Douglas.

OT

## BRIDGE

## Oban Bridge Club hold AGM

Oban Bridge Club recently held its 2019 annual general meeting. The meeting, following dinner in The Olive Garden, saw president Nina Graham stand down after her year of office. Nina was succeeded by vice president David Marshall, who takes over the reins for the 2019/20 season.

Meanwhile Sue Pollard was elected as this year's vice president. Joy Usher was re-elected as club secretary and Neil Fraser as treasurer.

Other committee posts were filled by Alice Wilson, Pam McGuire, Margo McIntyre, Keiron Green and Morag Telfer. Nina Graham continues to serve on the committee as immediate past president. Alison Dunn proposed a vote of thanks to Nina.

Following the AGM the summer prizegiving was held. Prizewinners were Jim Ross Trophy - David Pollard and Jack Suchodolski; W D Campbell Trophy - Sandy Murray and Margo McIntyre; Donald Johnston Trophy - David Pollard, Jack Suchodolski, Wilma Frew and John Strettle; West Highland Trophy - Kilchrennan Club;

Scottish Bridge Union Trophies: Bill Monteith Cup - Sandy Murray and Margot McIntyre; Alex Evsovitch Trophy - Nina Graham and Wilma Frew

Club Winter Rankings: A group - third place Alison Dunn; second place David Pollard; first place Jack Suchodolski.

B Group - third place Alice Wilson; second place Agnes McFadyen; first place Anne Kunz

Frances Robb Tray for best pair: David Pollard and Jack Suchodolski and An Ruaig Quaich for best improver: Anne Kunz.

Club Summer Rankings: third place Neil Fraser; second place David Pollard; first place Alison Dunn

The evening concluded with a very enjoyable game, with 36 players taking part.

## GOLF

## Taynuilt

On Friday evening, PGA Professional Andrew MacRae introduced the come-and-try event. Ten juniors and 23 adults tried their hand at the game. There was enthusiastic feedback and there is hope to build on this success.

On Sunday 76 players were welcomed to the MacKenzie Welding Ltd, Taynuilt Mixed Open Competition and despite a strong cold wind and the odd shower good scores were returned.

Results: Winners in handicap category: 1 Alice MacCalman (Taynuilt GC) and Ian MacMillan (Taynuilt GC) 63.5 (20.5); 2 Christine and Stuart Cameron (Glencruitten GC) 64 (18.0); 3 Rena Ritchie (Dalmally GC) and Shaun Squire (Dalmally GC) 65.5 (25.5).

Gross Category: 1 Anne MacCalman (Taynuilt GC) and Andy Ronald (Taynuilt GC) 71; 2 Carol and Robert MacLarty (Taynuilt GC) 82 BIH; 3 Mary Phillips (Isle of Seil GC) and Mike Wardrop (Taynuilt GC) 82.

Ladies nearest the pin at 15th hole: Christine Cameron (Glencruitten GC); Gents nearest the pin at 2nd Hole: Mike Urwin (Taynuilt GC)

Ladies longest drive at 7th hole: Christine Cameron (Glencruitten GC); Gents longest drive at 10th hole: Andy Ronald (Taynuilt GC).

## Glencruitten

Alistair MacLean scored 60 - 2 = 58 to lead the Pickfords Qualifying at Glencruitten on Saturday. Alan Jamieson was next with a score of 69 - 10 = 59, followed by Andrew McHardy with a score of 72 - 11 = 61.

On Saturday the Captain of Dunstaffnage and Isis Trophies first round takes place and on Sunday Save The Children (mixed).

## OBAN SAINTS YOUTH TEAMS

## Results and fixtures

Last weekend's results: Saturday - Under 13s 9, Milton 1 Rovers. On target for Saints were Aidan MacDonald (4), Zander Craik (2), Duncan MacEwan, Gabriel Tidser and an OG. Sunday - Glasgow Boys 6, Under 13s 1. Saints goalscorer was Zander Craik. Celtic Juniors 1, Under 14s 2. Scoring for Saints was Kyle Cooper (2). Under 15s 3, Busby 7; Saints marksmen were Ross Higgins (2) and John Douglas. Under 16s 3, Summerston 2. Connor Moore (2) and Ross Campbell were on target for Saints.

Next weekend's fixtures: Under 13s no game; Ashfield Juniors v Under 14s v; Under 15s are finished their season; Sunday: Under 16s v Ardencaple.

# Calcutta Cup on show at Mull 7s

Around 30 teams are to scrub down on Mull next weekend as the 'worlds most sociable sevens' tournament prepares to kick-off.

Mull RFC is hosting its 34th tournament on Saturday, May 18, and, with Game of Thrones as this year's theme, the Sevens Kingdom of Garmony are adapting the 'win or die' ethos of the cult TV show to 'win or have lots of fun trying'.

In addition the Calcutta Cup, retained by Scotland following their dramatic 38-38 draw at Twickenham earlier this year, will be on display for all to see.

Sponsored this year by the

Isle of Mull Hotel and Ingelas Islands, the celebration of the abbreviated game is scheduled to start at 12.30pm but with many of the visiting teams staying on the island the night before an earlier kick-off may be an option.

Mull RFC secretary Duncan Swinbanks said: 'It's great to see so many teams from all over Scotland attending the sevens.'

'It's very appropriate that the Calcutta Cup is coming to the world's most entertaining sevens in celebration of the world's most entertaining game.'

'Our Game of Thrones theme will be backed up by



Calcutta Cup.

one of superheroes, for those who don't watch the TV show, so it will be an ideal opportunity for people to unleash their inner IronMan, Wonder Women, Jon Snow or Deanerys Targaryen.

'We wish all the participating teams good luck and

## RUGBY 7S

look forward to an exciting tournament.'

Teams from Stirling, Lenzie, Glasgow, Dundee, Kirkcaldy and Grangemouth are among many who will do battle with the local clubs this year.

Mull and Iona Pipe Band will be entertaining the troops on the day.

As well as individual trophies for both the men's and women's tournaments their are also prizes to be picked up for Fun and Fair Play, Best Highlands and Islands Team, Player of the Tournaments and, of course, Most sociable Team.

## Seahawks all set to spring into sevens action

A group of cheerleaders are all set to soar in their first ever showcase at the Mull Sevens on Saturday, May 18.

Seahawks Cheerleading Academy was formed in July last year by Lucy Wilson, with a little help from her mum 'Cheer Mum Pat', and has come on in leaps and bounds ever since.

Based in Tobermory, the club currently boasts 54 regular cheerleaders ranging from ages three to 12 years old, a roll which rises to around 72 in the summer months when those who can't attend during the winter return.

Lucy has been involved in competitive 'all star cheerleading' for a number of years in North Yorkshire, and when her parents moved back to Mull in 2017 she was reluctant to go with them



Seahawks Cheerleading Academy are all set for their first public appearance at the Mull 7s.

and leave the sport she loves so much behind. However,

after a lot of planning, Lucy managed to set up Seahawks

## CHEERLEADING

and has never looked back since. Lucy works full-time as a receptionist at the Tobermory surgery and gives up her day on a Sunday to coach four squads.

'My talented cheerleaders are some of the funniest, kindest, hard working and determined kids I have ever met and they never fail to make me beam with pride and give me goosebumps when they hit their routines perfectly,' she said.

'I love cheerleading but I coach because there's no feeling like realising you're making an impact on these children's lives,' she said.

The invitation to appear at the sevens came late last year and the Seahawks are keen to prove to everyone how amazing 'all star cheerleading' is.

## Oban Cricket Club start season with away win

Oban Cricket Club travelled to Carradale on Sunday May 5 and began their 2019 with a satisfying away win.

Batting first, Oban started badly, losing two early wickets, but Jack Whiteley and Ronnie Kelly led a recovery, taking the score past 50.

Andrew Leach then continued the recovery by playing a superb innings, reaching 51-not-out and helping Oban reach a decent total of 160 all out.

In reply, Andrew Leach was equally as effective with the ball, taking two wickets in

## CRICKET

the first over of the Carradale innings with some fine swing bowling. The home side continued to struggle and when Leach removed Scott Weir with another fine swinging delivery, the innings was in disarray at seven for four.

A minor recovery helped Carradale reach 69 before they lost their last wicket and Oban were the victors by 91 runs. Oban's next game is the reverse fixture against Carradale at Taynuilt on Sunday May 19.

## Twelfth place finish for John McPhee in Spain

Oban's John McPhee achieved a season-best finish of 12th in the Spanish Grand Prix as well as setting the fastest lap with a new circuit record of 1:46.365, while teammate Ayumu Sasaki also took points by crossing the line in 15th.

## Fastest

For the third time from the four races so far this season, John added points to his tally and was one of the fastest riders in the opening stages of the race.

The PETRONAS Sprinta Racing rider opted for the

## MOTO3

soft rear tyre and this helped him to set the new circuit record on lap two as he moved up to sixth place early on.

Halfway through the contest, the Briton's pace dropped, although he would pick it back up on the final laps.

After four races, John McPhee is 20th in the overall standings, with nine points. The next Moto3 round will be the French GP, held at Le Mans from May 17-19.

# Max raises the bar at Scottish Championships

Olympic weightlifter Max Buchanan is pushing his way up the national rankings after coming third in the Scottish Championships.

The 31-year-old fitness instructor from Oban lifted 113kg in the snatch discipline and 125kg in the clean and jerk to take third podium spot at the recent national competition in Pitlochry. One place better than he achieved last year and a personal best lift to boot.

'I was super happy with that result,' said Max.

'I'm at a stage in my competitive career now where it is highly unlikely that I will achieve European or World standards.

'It's more about competing against myself and if I can lift just that little bit more every time and improve my ranking then I have reached my goal.'

Currently ranked fourth in Scotland and 21st in Britain Max's latest placing should give him another boost and he is now looking to compete further afield.



Olympic weightlifter Max Buchanan.

'Weightlifting isn't a government-funded sport so it's a pretty expensive sport if you want to travel,' he added.

'It's something I love doing though and it would be great to get some overseas experience under my belt.

'The journey to becoming an athlete is a long one and requires a heavy investment of time and money - any support is appreciated.'

That support for Max, a level four strength and conditioning coach, comes mostly from Atlantis Leisure

from where he runs his own business.

Max is one of 17 athletes who have enjoyed Elite status at the community-funded sport and leisure facility, meaning he was able to make use of the facilities free of charge to assist him in maintaining his fitness.

'I am very impressed that Atlantis is willing to support athletes,' he added.

'Through the benefits of swimming for joint health and the benefits of sauna sessions on muscle recovery,

## WEIGHTLIFTING

I have been able to maintain my body through my heavy training.'

Max believes that hard work and a love of sport have got him where he is today and is looking forward to reaching his goals of the future.

As far as he is aware he is the only Olympic weightlifter in the Argyll and Bute area. That being the case, he is keen to encourage others to maintain a healthy lifestyle and, perhaps, take up the sport themselves.

'Making just small changes to your diet and exercise regime can make a massive difference,' he said.

'Working with weights can benefit you immensely both physically and mentally no matter what age, shape or size you are. I would encourage everyone to give it a go whether it's for competition, muscle tone or to cure back pain. If you do it right with some professional advice it can change your life.'

## Martial arts

IAIN RODGER

editor@obantimes.co.uk



### Kyokushinkai Karate

The club members are working hard towards the next grading tests which will be held on June 15-16 and also towards the National Summer Camp in the Peak District which starts on June 28. Club instructor Iain Rodger is an instructor at the camp.

New members are now welcome after the June grading test and classes continue through the summer holiday period.

For further information on the Oban Kyokushinkai Karate club please contact Iain Rodger (6th dan) for a friendly chat on: 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk, alternatively send a message to Caledonia Kyokushin on Facebook.

### Kickboxing

After a brief pause due to circumstances beyond the club's control the adult session restarted yesterday, May 8 at 6pm, said Coach Wullie Rodger. 'This is the perfect time for beginners to start, although anyone wanting to take part will be welcome any time. Also after a layoff the juniors Sunday session is restarting on May 11 at 11am and again beginners are always welcome.'

Anyone can find the club on Facebook, Senshi Do Kickboxing or email shihanwill@gmail.com.

### Shukokai Karate

The Argyll clubs are holding their spring grading on Sunday May 26 at 12.30pm at Dalmally Community Centre and as usual will have a small internal competition afterwards. Parents and family are welcome to attend and refreshments will be available.

Argyll Shukokai has clubs in Inveraray, Oban and Dalmally.

Anyone interested in joining those clubs can get details from Kenny Gray on 07884 183905.

### BJJ & MMA

Oban MMA had Scotland's most successful coach and UFC trainer James Dolan up teaching at the academy on April 27. This two-hour seminar covered wrestling for novi BJJ. For those that don't know what novi is, here is a brief explanation: The Dogi, or Gi for short is the uniform worn by martial artists, novi, is simply no uniform.

Students were taken through various scenarios and options from different positions through to securing the

back and submitting an opponent. The smaller details made this an extremely helpful two hours.

Coach Coogie Potter said: 'Classes have been focusing on passing guard and confirming position the last few weeks but will now be returning to submissions from positions.

'We are resetting our Thursdays and Fridays to beginners of MMA and BJJ from May. If any new folk are interested in either these, it would be the ideal time to start.'

The team train Monday to Fridays at 7.30pm and are always looking for new members. If anyone would like to try out BJJ or MMA, Oban BJJ can be found on Facebook or email coogiepots@gmail.com.

### Wado Kai Karate

Classes continue as normal at Dunbeg school Tuesday nights 6.30pm-8.30pm and at Park for under 11s on Monday's at 3.30pm.

If anyone would like more information about Wado Karate or would like to talk about the sport please contact: Park School - Mike Faulkner m.faulkner6@btinternet.com; Dunbeg School - Sensei Chris Bruce (7th Dan) at crb999@btinternet.com.



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## WEATHER

### Thursday

Light showers and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures  
5°C to 10°C.

### Friday

Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures  
5°C to 11°C.

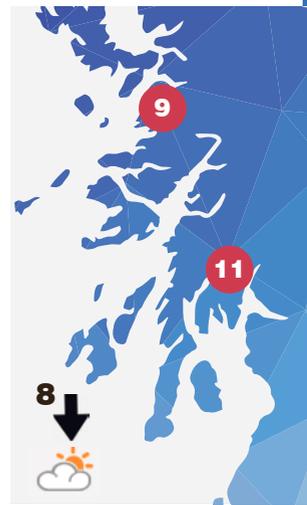
### Weekend Outlook

#### Saturday

Sunny and a moderate breeze

#### Sunday

Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures  
7°C to 13°C.



FRIDAY

## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday May 9, 2019 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	02.17	1.0	08.18	3.5
<b>Thur</b>	14.39	1.0	20.27	3.5
<b>Fri</b>	03.09	1.2	09.07	3.2
	15.32	1.1	21.19	3.3
<b>Sat</b>	04.17	1.4	10.12	3.0
	16.36	1.3	22.27	3.2
<b>Sun</b>	05.41	1.5	11.53	2.8
	17.50	1.4	**.**	**
<b>Mon</b>	00.06	3.1	07.10	1.5
	13.48	2.9	19.06	1.3
<b>Tues</b>	01.53	3.2	08.30	1.3
	14.52	3.1	20.18	1.1
<b>Wed</b>	02.56	3.5	09.30	1.1
	15.40	3.4	21.20	0.9

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.

Max raises the bar at Scottish Championships

Oban Cricket Club start season with away win

# Saints were so near yet so far

## Extra time proves a step too much for young Oban outfit

Oban Saints	3
Bannockburn	3
Bannockburn win 6-3 after extra time	
West of Scotland Cup final	

Oban Saints finished best of the rest when their valiant bid to secure their first major trophy ended in failure at New Douglas Park last Friday night. In front of a crowd of 623, and a further 1,400 or so watching on various live streams around the world, Saints ran four-time-cup-winners Bannockburn extremely close in a thrilling nine-goal West of Scotland Cup final before ultimately coming up short in extra-time.

After a goalless first half the flood gates opened in the second half where the lead changed hands three times before the 90 minutes ended with three goals apiece. Man of the Match Steven Knox opened the scoring for Bannockburn one minute after the restart with Lewis Cameron levelling and Cammy Hill edging Saints ahead on the hour mark.

Knox added the second of his hat-trick in the 65th

minute before Ryan Weir put Bannockburn ahead for the second time just two minutes later. Another composed finish from 17-year-old Cammy Hill took the tie into extra-time where Bannockburn's greater experience proved decisive.

Substitute Darren Walker took full advantage of a free header from a corner kick to get the three-time Scottish Amateur Cup winners noses in front again from where they didn't look back. Steven Knox completed his hat-trick to give the tiring Saints, who expended every ounce of energy they had, a mountain to climb and, after Lewis Cameron sent a penalty kick wide of target, David Grant rounded off the scoring from a counter attack in the dying minutes.

Saints lined up with Graham Douglas in goal behind a back four of Jamie Graham, Steven MacLeod, Captain Dene Cassells and Scott Maitland. Co-manager Willie Gemmell occupied the holding mid-field role alongside Matty Kelly. Ahead of them were James Ford, Lewis Cameron and Craig MacEwan with Cammy Hill leading the



The Oban Saints starting line-up with mascots Jack Cassells and Donald Campbell Jnr. Match report and photos Derek Black

line. Unfortunately the other co-manager Donald Campbell failed to overcome an injury sustained in the semi-final against Shortlees and didn't even make the bench. On the bench were David Beaton, Daniel Croarkin, Dougal Graham, Ruaridh Horne and Matt Rippon.

Saints kicked off but it was Bannockburn who were first to threaten with lightning quick Scottish Amateur international Sean Heaver giving a fifth-minute indication of the threat he would pose on the left by racing away from Jamie Graham onto a David

Grant pass to fire a low shot into the side netting.

Saints got forward in the eighth minute with Matty Kelly's cross from the left being headed behind at the back post for a corner kick. Willie Gemmell's push in the back of Bannockburn defender meant Saints failed to capitalise on Lewis Cameron's delivery from the corner flag.

In the 23rd minute Craig MacEwan cut inside onto his right foot and curled a decent effort from 18 yards just wide of Bannockburn goalkeeper Adam Young's left hand post.

MacEwan was involved again two minutes later when

he was felled just inside the Bannockburn box, however, referee Ross Holms chose to ignore the loud Saints appeal for a penalty kick and waved play on.

Good work by Lewis Cameron opened up a shooting opportunity for Matthew Kelly, who unfortunately failed to replicate his semi-final goal scoring heroics pulling his low right foot shot wide of Adam Young's right hand post.

Saints continued their good spell with James Ford making good ground on the right wing before laying the ball back to Jamie Graham

## FOOTBALL

to swing in a dangerous cross which Craig MacEwan headed on target but straight at Adam Young.

As the clock ticked down to the half time interval Saints survived a major scare when Steven Knox missed a glorious opportunity to open the scoring. Assistant referee Josh Hay correctly kept his flag

Continued on page 61



## Summers At Atlantis

Holiday Camps every Monday to Friday from July 1st to August 7th



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For more details contact [kevin.keen@atlantisleisure.co.uk](mailto:kevin.keen@atlantisleisure.co.uk)

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No 8458

Thursday 9 May, 2019

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VOTE FOR YOUR TOP

### Lifesaving stem cell donor found for Fort girl Chloe



### Bomb disposal experts deal with Caol device



# Ending homelessness in Lochaber could be in sight

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

If 325 proposed new houses for Upper Achintore get the green light from planners, it could help eradicate homelessness in Lochaber within the next few years.

So says Alex Farquhar, chairman of Fort William Community Council and a member of the board of management of Lochaber Housing Association for the past decade.

Mr Farquhar is concerned only negative viewpoints on the development at Upper Achintore are getting media coverage.

In March, the Lochaber Times reported that more than 200 objections to the planning application from Link Housing had been lodged with Highland Council.

If the development does get the go-ahead, it is expected Lochaber Housing Association would manage some of the properties.

Mr Farquhar believes his 10 years on the housing association's board have given him a

deep insight into the housing situation facing Lochaber.

'I recently attended a tenants' meeting and the vast majority of them, and others I have spoken with, are more concerned that there is close oversight of this development at Upper Achintore when it comes to things like roads, drains and bus routes,' he said.

'There are approximately 650 new houses currently in the planning process to be built locally - including those proposed for Upper Achintore - and that is almost the same number as those languishing on the housing list.

'We are close to being able to eliminate homelessness in Lochaber. Imagine being able to say we have rid Lochaber of homelessness. How fantastic would that be?

'The impact that giving someone a warm and comfortable house to live in can be life transforming for the better. It has to be seen to be believed. But there have been many inaccurate statements made about the Upper Achintore development and I am very concerned the whole

picture is not being presented to the public.

'This is an area of land that has been allocated for housing for about 40 years and it has taken seven or eight years for the Upper Achintore project to get to this stage.

'People say the homes will be for workers at the new alloy wheels factory, but the truth is it would be a mixed development, with some for sale, some for rent and some as affordable housing, and many would be allocated according to the existing housing waiting list.'

Mr Farquhar confirmed a public meeting will be held on May 27 - the venue is still to be decided - which Link Housing will attend.

Lochaber Foodbank manager Alex McConachie agreed there was a desperate need for more homes in Fort William.

'We see quite a few people at the foodbank who are homeless and that's worrying,' he said.

'More homes would help and there were always plans for more houses to be spread out when they were first building Upper Achintore.'



### 'Jurassic' riders enliven Fort bike parade

There was more than just a touch of a carnival feeling at the start of this year's Scottish Six Days Trial, with Sunday's parade of motorcycles and riders along Fort William enlivened with the appearance of these three riders from Costa Rica. Dressed as dinosaurs - the Central American country was the setting for the Jurassic Park movie - they were promoting the country's own event, entitled the Jurassic Trial Costa Rica. Full story - page 64.

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Lochaber modellers with their impressive display centred on the WW2 HMS Ark Royal.



John Wade, 80, from Duror exhibited his hand-built model of Paddle Steamer Glencoe.

# Show is model for success

Robert Anderson, six, and brother Glen, three, were fascinated by the world of Lego at one of the Tartan Lug exhibits.

All photographs:  
Iain Ferguson, alba.photos



As well as trains, planes and automobiles, this year's Lochaber Model and Craft Show boasted scale creations of everything from a paddle steamer to earth-moving equipment.

And the variety of displays on show across the 130 tables that filled Fort William's Nevis Centre on Saturday certainly proved a hit, according to organiser Robert Wilson, from near Roy Bridge.

'This year was the fifth time we staged the show and

I reckon there must have been between 500 and 600 people through the doors on the day,' he told the Lochaber Times.

'It was really well attended with a lot of positive feedback. We had modellers from as far afield as the central belt, Stornoway and Caithness. We also had crafts such as candles, jewellery and the always-popular home baking.'

This was the second year the show had used the Nevis Centre. Last year

the event saw more than £1,000 donated to Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team.

This year, money will be distributed to four local charities.

Mr Wilson added: 'The show is not about making money - we just want to put on something for the public we think there is a need for.'

'And if we can encourage a few more youngsters to think about taking up modelling and not sitting in front of a computer so much, then all the better.'

## Graffiti on UK's highest point is cleaned up

The summit of Ben Nevis has been the venue for countless incredible feats and death-defying sights over the years but the recent appearance of graffiti on the UK's highest mountain has been met with shock and disappointment.

Fortunately, a small team from the John Muir Trust, which owns the mountain estate, scaled the ben to remove the green spray-paint from the summit trig point.

The graffiti had been reported towards the end of last summer but, owing to other commitments and the weather, the clean-up was only attempted last Monday (April 29) when John Muir Trust conservation officer Nathan Berrie and property manager Alison Austin were doing routine checks of the mountain.

Mr Berrie said that with a record 160,000 visitors to Ben Nevis last year, maintaining the mountain is getting more challenging.

'The graffiti highlights a much wider issue with how we value nature and wild places like the summit of Ben Nevis,' he said. 'A number of visitors to Ben Nevis are there for the challenge rather than to enjoy its nature and in some cases



Conservation officer Nathan Berrie removing the graffiti.

this results in irresponsible behaviour.'

Concerned about the impact of the anti-graffiti solvent on snow buntings and a number of rare lichens, they only used a small amount and, as a result, the graffiti is not completely removed. However, it is the intention to continually work away at it during one of the group's monthly volunteer work parties.

Mr Berrie added: 'Unfortunately, litter is a common occurrence on the ascent of Ben Nevis and, with the growing use of plastics such as water bottles and baby wipes, we are having to use valuable staff time to manage it.

'However, it is extremely important to acknowledge the majority of visitors who summit the mountain are responsible and leave no trace. In particular, we would like to thank all the volunteers who come out with us and pick up litter on Ben Nevis throughout the summer months.'

'We believe it is part of all of our history and culture so we encourage more visitors to come along and enjoy what Ben and Glen Nevis have to offer,' he added.

For those who wish to help the John Muir Trust through volunteering opportunities, get in touch via the trust's website.

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# Mowi move would put 150 jobs at risk

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Mowi has announced the relocation of jobs from Lochaber to its new base on Skye is a 'preferred choice', potentially putting 150 jobs at risk.

Bosses at the company, formerly known as Marine Harvest, have backed plans to house all of its operations in a state-of-the-art £93 million fish feed plant in Kyleakin, which is set to open in the coming weeks after trial operations went live last week.

The target for completion and full operation of the new plant is 2024.

Mowi's fish processing employs around 150 people in Lochaber between the harvest station at Mallaig, the teams involved in transportation and the staff at the Blar Mhor processing plants.



**Ben Hadfield prefers the relocation option.**

However, their jobs may be under threat if plans to relocate go ahead.

Ben Hadfield, chief operating officer at Mowi Scotland, said that although 'all options are on the table', creating a one-stop factory in Kyleakin and shifting operations from Lochaber is the company's number one option. 'We would be able to bring our

'At Kyleakin, we could build a facility with future capacity in mind.'

salmon directly from our farms by sea to Kyleakin and the pier would not limit the size of vessels transporting the salmon, as is currently the case at Mallaig, where the salmon are harvested.

'At Kyleakin, we could build a facility with future capacity in mind and we could harvest, process and fillet the fish all in the same location.'

Mr Hadfield said there were many things that needed to come together before a decision was finalised.

'Consultation will continue over the next few months and we will start to commission specific feasibility and impact studies to inform a detailed

plan ready for the end of the year,' he added.

The company said it planned to retain its Lochaber employees and find ways to keep skilled staff in processing. It also said housing and infrastructure would be a consideration during consultation with all key stakeholders.

One of the options still on the table is to increase capacity in the company's Fort William plant, either by expanding the current facility at Blar Mhor, or by identifying a suitable site elsewhere in the town. However, the company confirmed this was not a preferred option.

A spokesman for Mowi added: 'We felt it important to have this discussion with staff now, so we can find solutions that satisfy the needs of the company, its staff, and the communities where we operate.'



**Banavie Road in Caol was cordoned off and people were evacuated.** Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

## Bomb disposal experts deal with Caol device

Royal Navy bomb disposal experts were rushed to a property in Caol on Sunday night after a local angler fished in Loch Arkaig, near Spean Bridge.

A small number of residents in Banavie Road were evacuated as a precaution after Police Scotland was made aware of the item of suspected ordnance within the garden of a property.

The item - which was historic - had been returned to the property without having

been identified as possible ordnance, having been found earlier in the day.

A Police Scotland spokesperson told the Lochaber Times: 'The item was removed to a safe location later that evening and was destroyed by Royal Navy explosive ordnance disposal shortly before 8.30am on Monday May 6.'

'A small number of properties on Banavie Road were evacuated as a precaution during Sunday evening and residents are thanked for their understanding.'

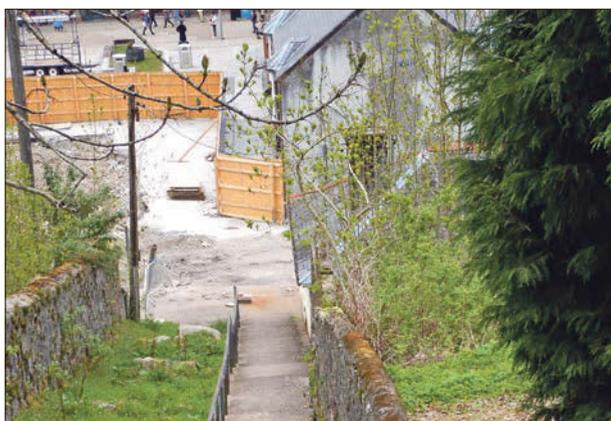
## Town Hall Brae open as usual for Scottish Six Days Trial event

Assurances have been given that the Town Hall Brae will be open as usual for riders and spectators this Saturday for the flagship finish to the Scottish Six Days Trial (SSDT), despite fears to the contrary.

Concerns had been raised by spectators that the iconic final route of the SSDT would be jeopardised by the construction of a new cinema on adjacent land.

However, landowner and cinema developer Angus MacDonald said that necessary measures would be taken to ensure riders and spectators had access to the Rocky Brae for the final trial route this Saturday.

He said: 'This Friday our diggers come back on site again and will be moving loose stuff on that side. We will be opening up the hoardings for the Six Days



**Construction hoardings are to be moved out of the way to allow access to the Town Hall Brae off Cameron Square.**

Trial. Then it will be closed up again for construction to be started.'

The site has been idle for several weeks following the demolition of the former dilapidated cinema building and the former DV8 clothes

store on the Cameron Square site.

It is hoped that the new two-screen cinema, with cafe and restaurant, will be open by May 2020, in time for next year's SSDT motorcycle event.

## Fort Men's Shed prepares to host open day

Fort William Men's Shed is holding an open day on Saturday at its premises on the Blar Mhor Industrial Estate.

Running from 11am to 4pm,

the event will let the wider community discover more about the charitable organisation and its various activities. There will be hand-crafted

items for sale, orders taken for garden furniture, bird tables, picnic tables and more. There will also be surplus tools and garden equipment for sale.

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## Glencoe Massacre site to be excavated

The National Trust for Scotland is inviting history and archaeology enthusiasts to help expose a site from the Glencoe Massacre of 1682 this weekend.

The charity's archaeologists and volunteers have been undertaking the excavation at Achtriachtan, uncovering a turf- and stone-built house that dates back to the time of the Glencoe Massacre.

Visitors to the excavation event on Saturday will have the opportunity to open a large trench and record any findings and artefacts that emerge during the dig.

The information gathered will help the trust develop plans to construct a replica turfhouse at the National Trust for Scotland's revamped Glencoe Visitor Centre.

Derek Alexander, head of archaeology at the National Trust for Scotland said: 'Glencoe is brimming with history and this is a great chance for enthusiasts to help



Visitors will have the chance to excavate the site of the Glencoe Massacre this weekend.

archaeologists reveal more about the people who once lived in the heart of the glen.

'We've already had great feedback on our new and improved visitor centre. The replica turfhouse will only

add to the visitor experience, giving our guests a real insight into what life was like here. It's another example of how we are weaving the stories of Glencoe throughout the visitor centre. These great

new facilities make it even easier for the trust to share our love of Scotland and help people experience and value this beautiful place. It's a job we're proud to do.'

The event starts from the

Glencoe Visitor Centre on Saturday May 11 across three two-hour slots: 10am to noon, 1pm to 3pm and 3pm to 5pm.

To take part or find out more, visit the NTS website.

## Anger over Lochaline ferry

Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron has urged the Scottish Government to 'get a grip' on continuing problems facing residents and businesses who are dependent on ferries.

Mr Cameron renewed his call for action following news that ferry operator CalMac is proposing to remove vehicles for up to eight weeks on the Lochaline-Mull route, an announcement which has caused consternation among those who rely on the service.

It is understood residents may face a detour of 80 miles as a result.

## Motorcycle bursts into flames

A male motorcyclist needed hospital treatment for a leg injury after his Yamaha R1 machine burst into flames after being involved in a collision on the A830, near Glenfinnan, early on Friday afternoon.

Nobody in the other vehicle, a red Vauxhall Corsa, was injured.

# SCOTTISH FIELD'S JUNE ISSUE OUT NOW

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# MSP says foster care situation is 'heart-breaking'

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber MSP Kate Forbes says she finds it 'heart-breaking' that some of her youngest and most vulnerable constituents are being sent miles away from their home areas due to a lack of foster carers in Highland region.

In an effort to tackle the issue, Ms Forbes has launched a new campaign aimed at increasing the number of foster carers in the Highlands – and thus preventing children from being placed such far distances away.

It is understood that there are 30 children in Highland Council's area waiting for an adoptive home, as well as five children waiting for a permanent foster family and 10 children who are in need of a respite foster family.

The MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch's investigation also found that there are only



Kate Forbes MSP.

133 registered foster carers in the region (some of these will be couples, so not all individual carers).

According to the latest figures obtained under Freedom of Information requests, Highland Council is responsible for 122 children in foster care, 61 in residential care, 41 with independent agencies

and 100 in kinship care.

Ms Forbes commented: 'I am elected to represent all the people of my constituency and it breaks my heart that some of the littlest and most vulnerable of my constituents are sent miles and miles away because of lack of foster carers locally.

'The Highlands is one of the most welcoming places, with a big heart for hospitality.

'That should extend to those in the care system who, for whatever reason, cannot stay with their birth parents and need us to step up to the mark and care for them.

'There are, of course, many changes required but the first is for the people of our communities to see the need on their front doorstep.'

Ms Forbes says she intends making further suggestions in the coming weeks on how the number of foster carers in the Highlands could be increased.

# Lifesaving stem cell donor found for Fort girl Chloe

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A mother from Fort William says she is overwhelmed after receiving news that a potentially lifesaving stem cell donor has been found for her daughter.

Chloe Purvis, who is nine years old, was initially diagnosed with MDS (myelodysplastic syndrome), an extremely rare type of blood cancer, at the end of last year.

Chloe's mum, Sarah, had taken her to see her GP in November when she noticed that the youngster was getting particularly out of breath and was feeling more tired than usual.

Doctors initially struggled to give a definitive diagnosis, and a bone marrow biopsy later confirmed that she did not have MDS but severe aplastic anaemia, another extremely rare blood disorder.

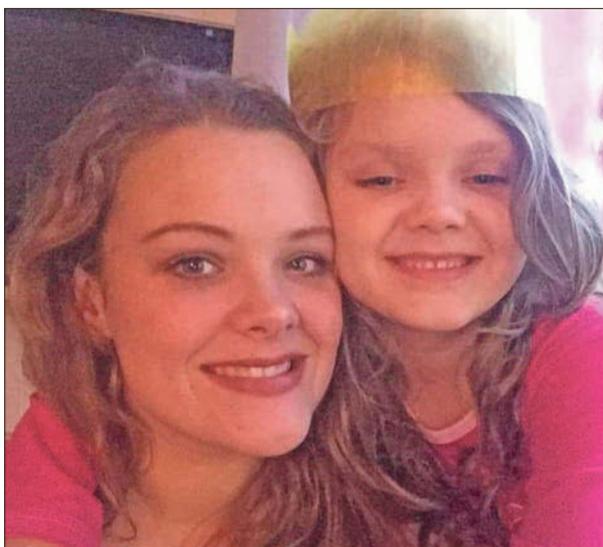
Her family was told Chloe, who needs to have a transfusion every five to seven days, urgently needed a stem cell transplant if she is to be cured.

Sarah had been worried that a donor may not be found for Chloe, as a match had not been found within the family.

This is where blood cancer charity Anthony Nolan jumped into action and searched the worldwide stem cell register for a special stranger who could save Chloe's life.

And the great news this week is that, thanks to an anonymous donor, her transplant will now take place in a couple of weeks.

Sarah said: 'Finding a match for Chloe so quickly was such an amazing feeling. Waiting for a match is tough, and when we were told one had been found, it was overwhelming.'



Chloe and mum, Sarah.

'We are so lucky to have a match and are so grateful to Chloe's donor for giving our beautiful daughter a future.'

Sarah is also keen to encourage others to register as

potential donors for those people still waiting for a match. She added: 'It's not just about Chloe, others are still waiting for their own life savers.'

'We are so lucky to have a match and are so grateful to Chloe's donor for giving our beautiful daughter a future.'

Chloe's grandmother, Gillian, has been showing her support by raising money for Anthony Nolan through Facebook, as well as having organised a fundraising event in a few weeks.

And players at Fort William Football Club have signed up to the Anthony Nolan register.

Amy Bartlett, regional development manager for Scotland, said while it was heartbreaking to hear that Chloe needed to have a transplant, it was great to hear that a donor had been found

and her transplant could go ahead.

'Sadly, not everyone can find a lifesaving match but joining the Anthony Nolan register - which is a simple process - could change the life of someone like Chloe,' said Ms Bartlett.

'We're particularly calling on young men aged 16-30 to consider joining the Anthony Nolan register as young men provide 50 per cent of all stem cell donations but make up just 18 per cent of our register. All it takes is a form and a cheek swab - but without you there is no cure.'

To find out more about joining the Anthony Nolan register, or to find out more about the different ways to support it, visit [www.anthonynolan.org/Chloe](http://www.anthonynolan.org/Chloe)

And Gillian's fundraising page can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/donate/2352797478276804/>

## Lochaber residents asked for views on Airbnb holiday lets

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Airbnb holiday lets in Lochaber will be in the spotlight as residents are being urged to give their views on whether stricter regulation for short-term leases should be introduced.

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on short-term letting controls, which it described as a 'subject of much controversy' which 'evokes strong opinions'.

The government will also be conducting research into the direct effects of short-term lets on communities, neighbourhoods and housing supply across Scotland.

In response to the announcement, Fort William Accommodation Marketing Group (FWAMG), which represents B&Bs and guesthouses in Lochaber, said it will ensure equality for its members when competing with Airbnb.

FWAMG vice-chairman John Jarvis-Jones said: 'The trouble is that, as a landlord, you can earn more in a week from Airbnb than you can renting a residential property

'Airbnb has to be balanced with the pressures on housing stock for local people who can't find affordable accommodation.'

Kate Forbes MSP

on a monthly basis. If you live in a property that's rented out to Airbnb, you can claim the lodger's allowance of £7,500 per year tax free.

'This has given some in the area an immediate advantage over those legitimate businesses that concur with current legislation regarding fire, health and safety, food safety and insurances and taxes.'

Kate Forbes MSP welcomed the consultation and urged her constituents to give their views on a new system of regulation to make sure short-term lets face the same normal controls as any other accommodation would.

'Airbnb has broadened the

accommodation available to tourists in many parts of my constituency,' said Ms Forbes.

'It is a helpful source of income for many people during the summer.'

'But that has to be balanced with the pressures on housing stock for local people who can't find affordable accommodation.'

Airbnb said it wished to form a good partnership with governments and to work together on clear rules that allow everyone to benefit from tourism in Scotland.

A spokesperson said: 'Almost half of Scottish hosts say the additional income helps them afford their homes and we look forward to working with the Scottish Government to support the sustainable growth of modern people-powered tourism.'

The consultation runs until July 19 and the survey can be accessed on the Scottish Government website.

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## VIEW FROM THE CHAMBER

Businesses are becoming increasingly aware that personal issues don't just stop at the office door but can have a real impact on working life.

Mental health issues can be a major contributing factor in staff absences and problems at work. It is to everyone's benefit that mental health is increasingly acknowledged as a health issue like any other.

Another key issue that is seldom discussed openly in relation to work and business is alcohol and drug use.

How do you approach the subject sensitively if you think one of your co-workers may have a problem? How do you make sure that you understand the issues around drug use and how drug or alcohol use might affect staff in their working life?

Individual businesses will have their own approach and policies, but many of us need more understanding of the basic issues around drug and alcohol use.

As part of Lochaber



Chamber of Commerce's role to provide information and training on key topics that affect business, we'd like to invite members of the local business community to join us at a basic drug and alcohol awareness training day.

The training will be led by Sharon Holloway, development manager at Highland Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, and we will also be joined by PC Katy Duncan from Police Scotland, who will give us a short introduction to the local situation and what support the police offer.

By the end of the training participants will be confident that they know more about:

- how stigma can impact upon substance use;
- different drug types and their effects;
- what is meant by prevention and harm reduction;
- tools and techniques to use for motivating change;
- services and resources that are available.

This basic drug and alcohol awareness training day will be held on Thursday June 6, from 9.30am to 4.30pm at The Moorings Hotel in Fort William. See [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk) for event details and to book.

### YOURSTORY

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A total of 34 vehicles were found to be untaxed during the two-day operation.

## Fort police crackdown on untaxed vehicles

Officers from the Road Policing Unit in Fort William have been working with the DVLA to tackle untaxed vehicles on the streets of Fort William.

A total of 34 vehicles were found to be untaxed during the two-day operation on April 29 and 30 and, of these, 20 were subsequently seized by the DVLA.

A number of other road traffic offences were also de-

tected during the operation relating to the condition of vehicles, storage and vehicles being stored or used in public places.

Reports will be sent to the procurator fiscal in due course as appropriate.

The owners of the vehicles clamped and/or seized will receive a fine as well as having to pay the appropriate tax owed to the DVLA.

Highlands and Islands

Police Division says operations such as this follow directly on from concerns raised by the community about untaxed and/or abandoned cars – which have a clear detrimental effect on a neighbourhood.

There is also an obvious danger in vehicles which are not roadworthy – whether that is due to their condition or because they are untaxed or uninsured.

# Viaduct trail opens with TV crew on hand

by Mark Entwistle  
[mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk)

There was a good turnout of invited guests to walk the newly upgraded Glenfinnan Viaduct Trail on Sunday.

The weather remained fair for most of the day as people walked the 1.4km upland footpath between the Grade B-listed railway station at Glenfinnan and the A-listed viaduct. The trail was upgraded with funds made available by the rail industries to encourage visits to Glenfinnan to be made by train.

Those at the opening walk also enjoyed the spectacle of the Jacobite steam train crossing the viaduct on one of its first journeys of the new season. There was further excitement due to the presence of a film crew making a documentary on the West Highland Line.

Hege Hernæs, secretary of the West Highland Railway



Hege Hernæs talks to the TV crew at Sunday's event.

Picture: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Partnership, said it had been a great day. 'The sun came out just as the party of invited guests arrived at the viaduct viewpoint where piper Katie MacRae was waiting to greet them,' she said.

'The funders from ScotRail and Network Rail were quite amazed by the numbers of tourists who had already gathered on the hillside above the viaduct, and they left Glenfinnan with a sense of pride at having contributed

to an important visitor facility at the behest of the local community.

'The television crew was from Flint TV, which is making a documentary about the West Highland Line for Channel 4. The other invited guests were people who had contributed to the project. There were also representatives of the tourist industry who hopefully took home the message that the best way to visit Glenfinnan is by train.'



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# Work starts on new £1.5m Glencoe bridge

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

A new £1.5 million project has been commissioned by Transport Scotland that will involve the replacement of an existing sub-standard bridge, which supports the A82 near Glencoe, Ballachulish.

The bridge is in poor condition and continuing to deteriorate, meaning that it needs to be replaced for the safety of road users.

Work to replace the structure, located about one kilometre southeast of Glencoe village, was due to begin on Monday for up to six months.

The new, wider box culvert bridge will carry the trunk road over the Allt Fhiodhan burn which flows into the River Coe. It has been designed to last for 120 years, and has been widened by more than six metres in total. New safety barriers will also be installed to improve safety.

The new structure will be wide enough to incorporate a footway and the existing



footpath from the Glencoe Visitor Centre and nearby camp site to Glencoe Village will be realigned over the new bridge. An existing timber footbridge located further upstream is in poor condition, so will be demolished once the new footpath alignment is complete.

Once complete, approximately 1,200 tonnes of rock armour will be installed around the new structure to protect the foundation and the river banks from any

potential wash-out during high river flows.

A new, greener embankment will also be created using an innovative technique known as 'willow spiling'. This involves planting willow saplings into the bank in two tiers before the plants are woven together into a terrace formation helping to create a new, strong natural river bank downstream of the new structure.

The project needs to be carried out through the

**The A82 Allt Fhiodhan Bridge in Glencoe will be replaced.**

summer months to avoid any disturbance in the stream during the sensitive salmon spawning season later in the year.

To allow the installation of the new culvert to take place, a temporary two-way diversion road will be constructed next to the site, allowing road users to safely continue their journeys on the A82 with minimal impact during the project.

Commenting on the project, Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's north west representative, said: "This £1.5 million project is vital in ensuring the A82 trunk road remains a safe, reliable route to towns and villages in the north west of Scotland.

"Our teams have designed

the project to include a temporary two-way diversion road, ensuring the A82 remains open throughout this major project and disruption is minimised.

"The new bridge will mean a stronger, wider, reliable structure for years to come along the route, with a new footpath alignment installed for pedestrians travelling between the Glencoe Visitor Centre and nearby campsite to Glencoe village.

"We take our commitment to working with the environment very seriously, and we need to carry out this project during the summer to avoid impacting on the salmon spawning season.

"Our teams will, however, do all they can to complete the project as quickly and safely as possible, and work to minimise disruption wherever they can."

## Fort hosts memorial service

Highland Hospice was due to host a special memorial service yesterday (May 8) at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Episcopal Church in Fort William.

This event was offered through Grief Matters Highland, a new partnership between Highland Hospice, Cruse Bereavement Care Scotland, Crocus Group and the NHS Chaplaincy Services whose aim is to provide support for people of all ages across the Highlands who have experienced a bereavement.

Highland Hospice's Counselling and Bereavement Services Team Lead Una Smale said, before the service, that people would be invited to plant bulbs in planters which would brighten up the hospice courtyards and gardens for years to come.

If anyone would like more information about the charity's work email [clinsec@highlandhospice.org.uk](mailto:clinsec@highlandhospice.org.uk)

## More than 400 respond to Fort community survey

Hundreds of people who live and work in Fort William have responded to a recent survey carried out by the Fort William Community Action Group (part of the Lochaber Community Partnership, LCP), writes Mark Entwistle.

The purpose of the survey was to capture views from as many people as possible living or operating businesses in the catchment area for Lundavra Primary School – including Upper Achintore, Plantation, An Aird, Achintore Road/Seaford Gardens, Belford Road, Cameron Road, Alma Road, Victoria Road and the High Street.

More than 400 people responded, providing detailed information on subjects such as transport links, how safe the area feels, the environment, facilities, services and amenities, local employment, housing and opportunities to participate in and influence community life.

While the partnership has five core partners – The

Highland Council, NHS Highland, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Highlands and Islands Enterprise – more than 20 other organisations helped carry out the survey, working with individuals and groups who may not normally feel confident or able to respond.

### Interests

This resulted in information being received from people and groups across a wide age range and from many backgrounds and interests.

The Fort William Community Action Group (consisting of LCP partners, agencies and community organisations) now has the task of sifting the large quantity of information received, providing an overview of the opinions and most importantly translating them into actions.

The information will help ensure existing resources target the areas in most need and will ultimately help to

reduce inequalities. This phase of work is expected to take around eight weeks, after which further engagement with other groups and individuals is likely in order to progress the actions.

Lochaber Area Committee chairman Councillor Andrew Baxter said: "The response to this survey work has been exceptional.

"Hundreds of people of all ages have taken the time to provide very high quality information about what is important to them in the area where they live and work.

"These responses will now inform and guide partners allowing the delivery of improved services into the area.

"It complements the similar work under way in Caol and Kinlochleven.

"Within Lochaber, these three communities have been identified as currently experiencing higher levels of inequality, hence agencies and partners focussing efforts on them."

## THE OBAN SPORTIVE 2019

The beauty of a challenge!

Whether you are a seasoned-pro or a keen amateur rider, the Oban Sportive is a beautiful challenge to take on. This year's sportive includes 3 routes that all offer spectacular views, quiet country roads and of course, the odd challenging climb! Finishing any of our routes brings with it a sense of achievement and a real treat of Scottish scenery.

### 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.

**OBAN SPORTIVE**  
Sunday, May 12th

### 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

Our 56 mile course is quoted as one of the hardest Sportive courses around with repetitive short steep climbs and is on mostly quiet single track roads in the heart of Argyll.

### DON'T MISS

The Ben Cruachan Inn Hill Climb  
Saturday, May 11th  
Entry is now open for this event via  
[www.obansportive.co.uk](http://www.obansportive.co.uk)



**Oban Business Improvement District**  
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LT

# New shinty pitch ready late summer

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Kinlochshiel Shinty and Community Sports Club's board meeting last Friday saw members informed that the new pitch at Balmacara, near Kyle of Lochalsh, is almost certain to be ready for use by the end of July.

After difficulties with the contractor going into liquidation and last summer's weather not being conducive to getting the right growth of grass, the club is now confident that practise sessions and the long-awaited and widely anticipated first matches on the pitch will be able to go ahead in the course of this season.

This will be very welcome

news for players in all the club's teams, coaches, supporters and the wider community giving Lochalsh, Kintail and the surrounding area one of the best shinty facilities and playing surfaces in the country.

Chris Nixon, board chairman of Kinlochshiel Shinty and Community Sports Club Ltd, told the Lochaber Times this week: 'This is excellent news for all associated with our club and we are all looking forward to seeing our teams practising and, hopefully, playing matches on the new pitch very soon.'

'We are most grateful to all funders of this initiative and also to club office bearers and volunteers who are working

very hard on the final preparations to ensure the grass is ready for playing on.

'Once the fencing and car park are finished off we should be up and running. It has been frustrating not to have been on the pitch sooner but we wanted to be absolutely sure the surface was right.'

'I hope club supporters and our communities will appreciate that it has been right to delay usage until now. This is indeed a very exciting development for sport in our area.'

The club has long-term ambitions for a clubhouse and high quality changing facilities, but in the short-term it is planned to have temporary changing-rooms with showers.

## WIN

AN OVERNIGHT STAY FOR TWO AT DALMAHOY HOTEL & COUNTRY CLUB



The newly-refurbished Dalmahey Hotel & Country Club, an idyllic four-star hotel on the outskirts of Edinburgh, is celebrating its gorgeous revamp by giving one Scottish Field reader the chance to win a dinner, bed and breakfast overnight stay for two in one of the hotel's opulent suites.

The lucky winner will also enjoy a Champagne afternoon tea as part of their stay. Breakfast and a complimentary three-course meal with



drinks will be served at the hotel's Pentland Restaurant, an authentically Scottish restaurant overlooking the golf course, acres of parkland and views to Edinburgh Castle.

Dalmahey Hotel & Country Club, which lies just seven miles from Edinburgh's city centre, recently completed a major refurbishment, unveiled in spring 2019.

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](http://www.scottishfield.co.uk). Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 30 June 2019.

**Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize to win a bottle of Whitetail Gin.**

If you'd like a chance to win this amazing prize, answer the following question.  
**What is the name of Dalmahey's restaurant?**

Redeemable for the prize stated, dates subject to availability. Reservations to be made in advance. Drinks with dinner include a bottle of house wine or soft drinks. Prize must be redeemed by end August 2019.

## WIN

AN OVERNIGHT STAY FOR TWO IN A DELUXE ROOM WITH FULL SCOTTISH BREAKFAST AT LINKS HOUSE, DORNOCH



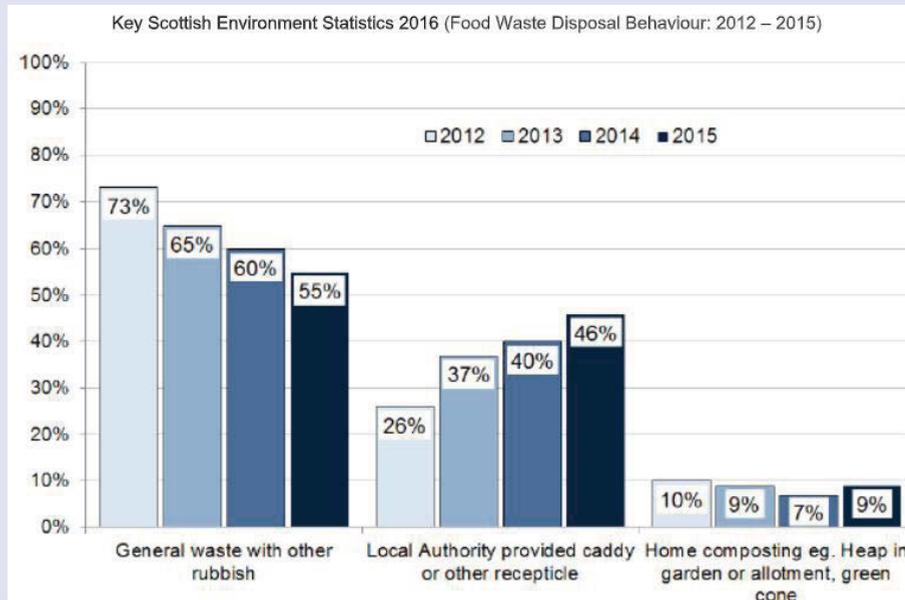
Links House is a 5-star, award-winning luxury hotel & fine dining restaurant with the charm, grace and elegance of the world's finest boutique hotels, adjacent to the first tee at Royal Dornoch Golf Club. The fifteen bedrooms at Links House are named after important salmon rivers of the Highlands. In the main house, built in 1843, you will find bespoke



historic rooms. Just across the putting green, The Mews hosts suites, each complete with full bath and walk-in shower, as well as comfortable sitting area. The new Glenshiel hosts five luxury suites with spacious rooms, generous sitting areas, and luxurious bathrooms. Links House affords guests the opportunity to look deeper into the Highlands.

If you'd like a chance to win this amazing prize, answer the following question.  
**In which year was the main house at Links House built?**

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 (Wyvex 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.



The figures show an improvement for food waste disposal.

## Free starter packs to grow your own food

As the growing season starts again in earnest, Lochaber Environmental Group's (LEG) Go, Grow and Glow project has set out to help people from all over the area to grow food.

With the best will in the world, there are many reasons why some people simply never grow their own food.

Just as the Scottish Government saw large increases in the number of people who composted their food waste when given the equipment to do so, as seen in the Key Scottish Environment Statistics 2016, LEG is helping to remove the barriers that stop people from growing their own



food. Supported by a series of workshops, LEG has put together a Growing Starter Pack which includes seedlings, a folding raised bed and liner, along with organic compost. These starter packs will be given away free to those who attend LEG's 'planting out' workshop at the Greenfingers community garden in Claggan on May 11, details of which can be found on Eventbrite

at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/lochaber-environmental-group-14013065592>.

On May 11, LEG will also be running a 'bike kitchen' event at the Conscious Living Fair outside the Duncansburgh Macintosh Church from 10am to 4pm. Bring a bike along for a free health check, and help and advice with small repairs.

Lochaber Environmental Group is funded by the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund.

If anyone would like a free home composting starter kit, or wants to find out more about help with growing, get in touch with Stephen on 01397 700090 or [info@lochaberenviron.org.uk](mailto:info@lochaberenviron.org.uk).

## WHAT'S ON in Lochaber

■ Tonight (Thursday May 9), 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. Anyone is welcome.

■ 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 Fair Trade Day. Go along to workshops focussing on mindfulness, healthy and sustainable eating, mending clothes, and more.

■ Staff and volunteers from the Caol-based charitable organisation Lochaber Sensory Care for sight and

hearing support will be paying an outreach visit to Morvern on Monday May 13. The LSC team will be based in Morvern Medical Centre in Lochaline from 10.30am to 12.30pm. 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 Photographic Society's next practical photography evening meeting will take place on Tuesday May 14, and will meet at the Inchree Falls car park at 7pm. All are welcome, including potential new members. ■ Marie Curie Lochaber Fundraising Group would like to invite people 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.

■ Kilmallie Singers Present: For The Love of Music! Conductor will be Catherine Cameron and accompanist Jennifer Skene. The event takes place in Kilmallie Community Hall on Saturday May 18 at 7.30pm. Tickets available on the door - £6 adults, £4 concessions, £1 children.

■ Fort William Rainbows and Brownies are holding a fundraising coffee morning on Saturday May 18 at the Salvation Army Hall, Nevis Place, from 10am to noon. Go and enjoy cake and bacon rolls with coffee. Money raised will be shared between Girlguiding in Fort William and the Red Cross disaster fund, a charity chosen by the girls.

# Faroes mission ship visit to Lochaber hailed a hit

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Last week the Lochaber Times briefly reported on the visit to Corpach harbour by the Christian missionary ship, Juvel II, from the Faroe Islands.

Organisers of the visit have now sent more information about the success of the visit to the area.

Organisers told the Lochaber Times that among the 23-strong crew were nine teenagers, who had given up two weeks of their school break for the visit to Mull, Oban and the Fort William area.

The youngest on board was 16, with the oldest over 80, and almost everyone slept on board the ship.

The Faroese brought a full band boasting guitars, keyboard, cajon and squeeze box, and played music, painted the



Left: some of the crew of the Juvel II were clearly pleased to be in Corpach. Captain Gullak is on the far right.

Below: The Rev Richard Baxter welcomes Evald, first mate, and fellow crew member Thorvald to the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church in Fort William.

faces of hundreds of youngsters, led games and activities, and also performed dramas and songs and spoken words in churches, halls and out in the open air.

Organiser Alan Smillie said: 'In Fort William hundreds of people came on board to have a cuppa and a tasty homemade Faroese treat.'

'Many had a tour of the former Danish military ship and part-

time ice breaker. They met the engineer in the engine room, had a photo on the captain's chair in the spacious wheelhouse, visited the kitchen and the sleeping quarters.'

On Friday night the Faroese visitors and a number of locals were spoiled with a feast hosted by Guisachan Guest House and Women Aglow. On Sunday the team spread out to take part in four church services, sharing

their mission to the west coast of Scotland. Mr Smillie added: 'People were very encouraged and grateful for the 23 Faroese and their organisation – with all its volunteers self-funding – who are giving back to Scotland the spiritual gift of the good news of Jesus that was given to them by Scotland a long time ago. The boat will now visit the west coast of Greenland as it has for the last 10 summers.'



MSP Kate Forbes with Islands Minister Paul Wheelhouse MSP on Skye.

## Mallaig to Armadale crossing gains additional ferry sailings

The popular Mallaig to Armadale crossing will be served by additional sailings on a three-year pilot from March 2020 in a bid to extend the tourist season, the Islands Minister Paul Wheelhouse MSP has told campaigners on Skye, writes Mark Entwistle.

The news was announced at a meeting on Friday involving the Islands Minister, constituency MSP Kate Forbes and groups from both sides of the route, including the Sleat Transport Forum, the Road to the

Isles Marketing Group and Highland councillors.

Mr Wheelhouse also confirmed that the Loch Bhrusda will be sent to Mallaig for extended periods of the winter when it is not being used for refit relief, which is expected to modestly benefit the 2019/20 timetable.

Ms Forbes said: 'This commitment is a step in the right direction. I am delighted that Mr Wheelhouse has listened to me and campaigners who have been pushing for changes to the ferry route.'

'I know that it has been a difficult few years, and it does not look like it is going to dramatically improve immediately.'

'However, there are definitely tweaks that can be made to improve this and I'm delighted that Mr Wheelhouse is willing to consider these.'

'Apart from anything else, it is good to welcome him to meet with representatives from Mallaig and Skye to hear first-hand about the impact of the ferry service on the communities and economies of these areas.'

Advertorial

## Eye to eye with John Wallace



### Springtime

I can always tell when Spring is starting, even when locked away in my windowless consulting room, I have had an upsurge in patients who have managed to injure their eyes when gardening and even more who suffer from pollen induced hayfever. At the first hint of warm weather we seem to have an urge to get out into the garden to start planting or to prune back last year's growth.

Gardens are dangerous places to be in. Every year I have to deal with the aftermath of patients using trimmers and other high power garden tools without any form of eye protection. Some of the injuries I have seen can be very painful but will heal in two or three days. Others are potentially



blinding and give a lifetime of pain and poor vision. If a trimmer hits something hard it causes fragments to fly up at incredible speed. Even a tiny fragment flying through the air at very high speed can have massive energy, penetrating the eye and causing devastating injury. Another common type of eye injury is bending down and impaling your eyes on the stems of plants or even garden canes Virtually

all of these injuries could be prevented by wearing appropriate eye protection.

Hayfever can be very unpleasant for sufferers. If you regularly suffer from hayfever you probably always start symptoms about the same time every year. Nowadays it's often possible to prescribe eyedrops that both reduce the redness and the itchiness caused by hayfever. These are best started two or three weeks before the expected start of your symptoms.

Your optometrist will advise you on the best way to minimise any eye symptoms caused by hayfever. They are also trained to advise on appropriate eye protection which is available in prescription and non-prescription forms.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

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# Skye MSP Forbes hopeful for Portree harbour progress

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Skye MSP Kate Forbes says she is hopeful that Portree and Braes Community Trust's plan to redevelop the town's harbour can be progressed, following a meeting between the group and the Scottish Government's islands minister Paul Wheelhouse MSP.

Ms Forbes met with the trust's development officer Fiona Thomson earlier in the year and offered to work with them to help fulfill the harbour's potential – including facilitating the discussion with Mr Wheelhouse.

The community has been attempting to secure significant investment for Portree



harbour for three decades. Ms Forbes said: 'Regenerating Portree harbour is long overdue. At a time when there is pressure on the harbour

infrastructure and a significant increase in visitors, it's obvious how important this work is. I first met with people to discuss the harbour

From left, Alistair Danter, Skye Connect; Kate Forbes MSP; Alexander MacDonald; Paul Wheelhouse MSP and Councillor Ronald MacDonald.

project a month or so ago and I offered them all my support.

'That's why I asked Paul Wheelhouse if he'd be willing to meet them and hear more about it. Since meeting them, I've visited Stornoway Port Authority to see how it's made so much progress with its regeneration plans.

'Anything is possible in Portree with the right people, the right plan and the right funding.'

## £600,000 Skye crossing upgrade to start Monday

A new £600,000 maintenance project to upgrade essential components on the iconic Skye crossing is to begin next week.

The project is scheduled to begin on Monday and will last for up to eight weeks.

To keep road workers as well as motorists safe, temporary traffic lights will be in place at various periods throughout the project.

For safety, the footway within the traffic management area will be closed while traffic lights are in operation, with pedestrians diverted to use the other side of the bridge.

The 1,600m-long crossing is made up of two bridges, both of which require new expansion joints.

Expansion joints are essential components on

large bridges as some bridge sections can move by up to 24cm during changes in temperature between the summer and winter months.

The existing joints on the Skye Bridge crossing require maintenance to ensure the continued safe use of the crossing and the smooth passage of vehicles over the joints, helping to ensure the bridges continue to operate safely for years to come.

Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's North West Representative, said: 'These essential maintenance works will help to ensure that both bridges in the iconic Skye Crossing are functioning properly and to a safe standard, meaning that they can continue to function as a key route to Skye.'



## MacPhail

ANGUS MACPHAIL

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Well done to all those who organised and took part in the Tíree 10k and half-marathon last weekend. Seeing the online photos following the event was a good source of motivation to don my running shoes on Sunday afternoon and embark on the second last long run before the Manchester half-marathon on May 19.

I had originally planned to do just the 10k in Manchester and the half-marathon in Edinburgh, but I allowed myself to be persuaded into upgrading by the Team Eilidh skipper, Suzanne Whyte.

When it was 10 weeks away it seemed like a good idea. Now that it's 10 days away I feel I was a bit over-confident, especially after the experience of last Sunday's training run, which was brutal.

Nutrition and its immediate effects on the body is not a subject I've ever been too interested in, but having a wife with a PhD in that very subject, I really should have paid more attention to her guidance last Sunday. As she left the house her parting words were: 'Eat that brochan and drink plenty of water before you go and take

a bottle with you.' However, as the weather was cool and I was planning to be taking my time, I didn't pay too much attention, thinking she was just being over-cautious and a bit too professional about it. So off I set along the bonny banks of the Forth and Clyde Canal on what was meant to be a one hour and 50-minute steady run.

The brochan was still in the pot, the bottle of water was happily resting in the car and I was eastward-bound for the Falkirk Wheel like a spring lamb. On the first leg, while heading east, I was feeling particularly nimble and thoughts of how pleasant it was to be out in the fresh air, feeling fit and how enjoyable this running malarkey was were filling my head.

I was happily smiling and saying hello to the many walkers, cyclists, anglers, dog-walkers and fellow joggers I passed. Such was my sense of ease in completing the task, I decided, 'Right! To hell with it, I'm going to run the actual half-marathon distance.'

So, after the first hour, I was still on an easterly course. When I reached the halfway mark of 10.5 kilometres I

swung 180 degrees and began retracing my course. Around kilometre 12, I began to feel a bit thirsty and by the time I had covered 14, I was peching like an asthmatic sheep, my limbs had seized up and every step felt like a battle.

Passers-by were getting nothing more than a grunt by now and I even got a few concerned, 'Are you OK, big man?' inquiries, which is never a good sign.

After struggling and fighting the urge to stop running in an illogical stubbornness to finish the distance, I eventually made it back to the start point having covered the 21.1 kilometres, the last five of which were probably the most painful thing I have ever voluntarily done to my body.

Over the course of the following hours, I must have drunk enough water to float the Clansman in my attempts to rehydrate and the 2,933 calories my Fitbit told me I had burned were eaten probably three times over.

The correlation between lack of food and water and limbs ceasing to work is now etched in my mind. Plenty of fuel will be taken before and during all future half-marathons.

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LT

# Paramedic James makes history

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Patients on Skye look set to benefit from an innovative paramedic prescribing project – one of the first of its kind in the world.

Residents on Skye and South West Ross can now enjoy faster access to medicines thanks to James MacGregor becoming one of the first paramedics to receive a prescribing qualification.

Mr MacGregor, 49, received his qualification from Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen last month. The legislation allowing paramedics to write prescriptions was amended in April last year.

Once the preserve of GPs, prescribing by qualified allied health practitioners in a primary health care setting has increased in recent years – making much better use of nurses' and doctors' time.

Mr MacGregor is no stranger to adapting to new roles. He became NHS Highland's first advanced paramedic practitioner as part of the local 10-strong multi-disciplinary Rural Support Team (RST) four years ago.

He joined the RST after almost 20 years as a paramedic



One of the world's first paramedic prescribers, James MacGregor, pictured near Applecross.

with the Scottish Ambulance Service.

Married with three young children and living in Dingwall, he said that his advanced paramedic practitioner role is very similar to that of the better-known

'advanced nurse practitioner' and that 'the two roles are interchangeable'.

Mr MacGregor, who started the non-medical prescribing course last September, commented: 'Being a prescriber is a huge improvement for me.

Before I qualified, my patients would be seen by me, and I would then do an assessment.

'After that, I would then have to talk to a doctor or GP to get them to sign off the medication, so having this prescribing qualification changes the whole dynamic significantly.'

Having successfully completed his course, he is now able to assess and also write prescriptions for his patients independently.

Currently, however, Mr MacGregor is only able to prescribe for patients in a primary care setting, although he said this may change in the future.

While being one of the world's first, Mr MacGregor – who works in Urgent Care Centre in Portree or does the out-of-hours cover for the resident GP in Applecross on alternate weekends – says he will not remain alone as a paramedic prescriber for long. Others, including colleagues in NHS Highland, are following in his footsteps.

'A fellow paramedic based at the Broadford is likely to qualify by the end of the year. And more paramedic practitioners are applying, so this time next year there could be a whole different dynamic in the rural support team.'



Kyle RNLI lifeboat Spirit of Fred Olsen.

## Kyle lifeboat launched to search for aircraft

A major search began after an aircraft emergency beacon was activated in the area around the Skye Bridge and Plock of Kyle.

Kyle lifeboat was launched along with Portree lifeboat, the UK Coastguard helicopter and multiple local Coastguard units on Wednesday May 1.

The volunteer crew from Kyle RNLI were alerted by the UK Coastguard shortly after 9.30am, after a signal was received from an aircraft emergency beacon in the local area.

Kyle lifeboat Spirit of Fred Olsen launched at 9.38am and immediately began a search of the area around the Plock of Kyle and the Skye Bridge.

Portree lifeboat, the UK Coastguard helicopter from Stornoway and multiple Coastguard units from Kyle,

Broadford and Portree all began a systematic search of the area and the surrounding coastline looking for any sign of an aircraft or beacon.

After completing a thorough search of the area, nothing was found, and at 11.55am the search was stood down.

Kyle lifeboat returned to station and was refuelled and made ready for service by 12.15pm.

A Kyle RNLI spokesperson said: 'Although this was a false alarm, it shows the importance of having an emergency beacon onboard your vessel or aircraft, and the difference it can make in an emergency.'

'Within minutes of the signal being received, the Coastguard were able to task multiple agencies to the scene to begin searching the area.'

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# Community welcome for new pontoons

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

New pontoons have been installed in Dunvegan on the Isle of Skye.

The new visitor pontoons have been installed in the heart of the village at the head of Loch Dunvegan by the Dunvegan Mooring Association (DMA), with support from Crown Estate as part of a development programme to attract and retain visiting sailors.

Dunvegan Moorings Association is one of 125 mooring groups and associations managing areas of seabed under agreement from Crown Estate Scotland, allowing local communities to manage areas of seabed for the benefit of their members.

This type of local management often acts as a catalyst for projects such as Dunvegan, which will benefit local and visiting sailors, businesses and the wider area.

Iain Houston, chairman of Loch Dunvegan Moorings Association, who led the project, said: 'Marine tourism



The new Dunvegan pontoons.

is very important to the economy of coastal communities and we in Dunvegan are very grateful for the assistance and overall support we've received from Crown Estate Scotland on this project.

'Improved access from the sea to this coastal village will encourage and assist local enterprises by bringing increased trade.

'I'd also like to thank the Dunvegan Community Trust, Greig Seafood, MacLeod Estate and Highland Council, without whose support this would not have been possible.'

Paul Bancks, coastal asset

manager at Crown Estate Scotland, said he was delighted that the new pontoons at Dunvegan will be ready to receive visitors in the upcoming sailing season.

'Community-led projects such as this can add real value to local businesses and provide a new destination for resident and visiting sailors,' he said.

'Iain Houston has been instrumental in the delivery of this project and he deserves great credit for the time and energy he has dedicated to improving the facilities in his local community.'

## Comhairle puts priority on Balivanich town centre project

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is set to prioritise the Balivanich Regeneration Project under the Town Centre Fund for 2019/20.

The Scottish Government announced in December 2018 that it would provide a new ring-fenced £50 million Town Centre Fund for 2019-20 within the local authority capital settlement.

Following that announcement, the Scottish Government confirmed in March 2019 that the award for Na h-Eileanan Siar was a capital grant of £223,000.

The purpose of the grant is to enable local authorities to stimulate and support place-based economic in-

vestments which encourage town centres to diversify and flourish, creating footfall through local improvements and partnerships.

Councillor Donald Crichton, chairman of the Sustainable Development Committee, said: 'Following discussions with the Scottish Government, it is proposed to prioritise this grant to support the recently approved Balivanich Regeneration Project. The report on the Balivanich Strategic Vision to the Sustainable Development Committee in September 2018 was endorsed by the comhairle.

'The Balivanich Regeneration Project meets the

key criteria for the use of the Town Centre Fund in relation to adopting a town centre-based approach to regeneration and in relation to the Place Principle.'

In population terms, North Benbecula, which includes Balivanich, has a total of 790 residents, while South Benbecula has a population of 532, a total of 1,032.

Typically, the Scottish Government use the National Records of Scotland (NRS) definition of a town centre which is a minimum population of 500, while the Scotland's Towns Partnership (STP) has a working definition of a town as a population of 1,000.

## Politicians urge support for interconnector

Highlands and Islands Scottish Conservative MSP Donald Cameron and SNP MP Angus Brendan MacNeil have urged the Scottish and UK Government to back calls for the interconnector for the Western Isles to have enough capacity to benefit local community groups.

Mr Cameron made his appeal during questions in the Scottish Parliament last Thursday, while Mr MacNeil was speaking in climate change debate in the House of Commons on Wednesday.

Mr Cameron asked the Minister for Energy,

Connectivity and the Islands, Paul Wheelhouse, to call on Ofgem to strongly reconsider the case for a 600mw interconnector.

Speaking outside the chamber later, Mr Cameron said with 400Mw of the capacity available already committed, it did not seem to be much of a risk to Ofgem to put in 600Mw of capacity. I am very confident that communities in the Western Isles will seize the opportunity to bring forward renewable energy projects if they know the capacity will be available,' said Mr Cameron.

Mr MacNeil asked Environ-

ment Secretary Michael Gove MP to push Ofgem to approve a 600MW interconnector.

He said: 'A major help in reducing the UK's carbon footprint is the inclusion of a 600MW interconnector to the mainland - from the best wind resource in Europe.

'At the moment Ofgem is talking about a 450MW link. For just 4p more for the bill-payer, we could do a lot more.

'Will he stamp on Ofgem and when they talk about concerns for the consumer, will they talk about concerns for the consumer's environment and not a tawdry 4p on people's bill?'

# Bar Rio

## Cocktail Menu

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## LETTERS

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

## Stem cell donor is great news for brave young Chloe

It is heartwarming to be able to report this week the great news that a stem cell donor has been found for Fort William girl Chloe Purvis.

Chloe, who is nine years old, has been fighting severe aplastic anaemia, an extremely rare blood disorder, since the end of last year.

However, thanks to the charity Anthony Nolan, a donor was found from its register and Chloe is now scheduled to have a lifesaving transplant within the next couple of weeks.

This highlights only too clearly how important it is for people to join the register, a simple and straightforward procedure.

As we report this week, players at Fort William Football Club have signed up to the Anthony Nolan register and we would urge anyone who can to follow suit to do likewise.

And as Chloe's case illustrates only too clearly, we all have it in us to save a life. To support, visit [www.anthonynolan.org](http://www.anthonynolan.org) for more information.

## Police deserve praise for crackdown on road tax

On the surface, people who have failed to tax their vehicles might appear to be of fairly low priority for the police.

However, the Road Policing Unit in Fort William has been working with the DVLA to tackle untaxed vehicles in the town. And rightly so.

Untaxed vehicles are often also uninsured and can be in a dangerous condition, both of which can have serious repercussions by causing accidents and in their aftermath.

The Road Policing Unit in Fort William is to be commended for its action.

## Oban bed and breakfast goes above and beyond

My wife and I are on a 19-day travelling holiday covering Arran, Kintyre, the Western Isles and Skye. We are travelling by car and staying in B&Bs.

While crossing from Mallaig to Lochboisdale by ferry, I realised that I had lost my wedding ring of 42 years. I could only think that I had taken it off at our B&B in Oban.

I contacted Edna Payne at Dana Villa in Oban. What a lovely lady. She arranged for the bedroom to be turned upside down, to find the ring. No luck. She said that she would sift through the dust bag from her vacuum cleaner. Still no luck. Two days later Edna emailed again to say that the ring had been found in the sitting room.

I cannot thank Edna and her team enough. We have found this kind of dedication throughout our visit so far. Many thanks to all those lovely B&B personnel.

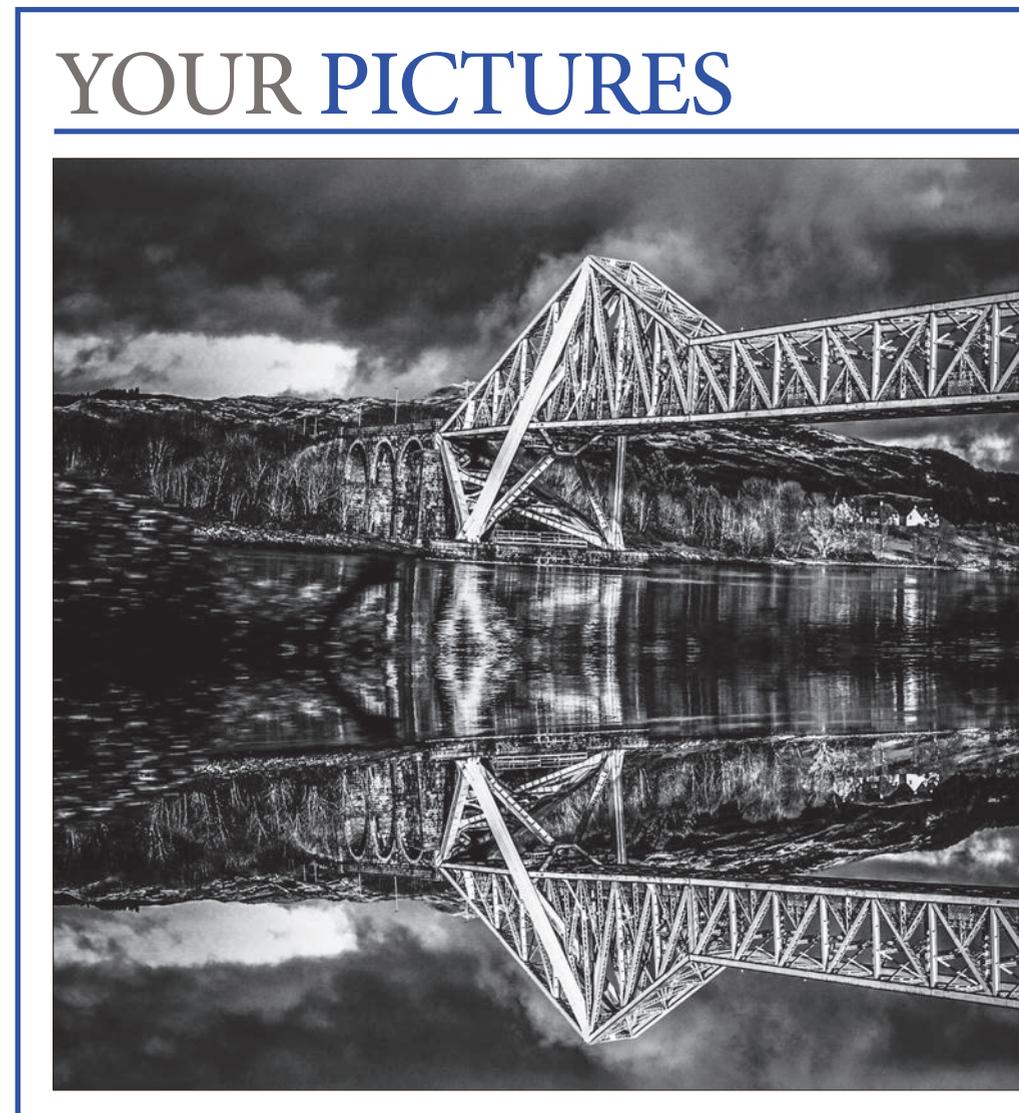
**Ruth and Jim Reeves**  
Trefonen, Shropshire.

## Council did not consult with Iona before TRO

Your article by David McPhee on April 25, Community council condemns new Mull parking charges, quotes me, as convener of Iona Community Council, saying that the council did not consult with people of Iona at all 'before charging ahead with its Traffic Regulation Order'. This rash, ill-considered legal action, that has landed on us from nowhere, aims to impose £9 day, 365 days a year, parking charges at car parks on Mull, including those at our lifeline ferry services at Fionnphort and Craignure.

In the article, the council's response is to claim it's inaccurate that we weren't consulted before the TRO. It's not inaccurate. It's a fact the council has proudly acknowledged. Worse, it insists it was right to exclude Iona from any pre-TRO consultation because the car parks are on Mull.

This proves the really disturbing lack of understanding by the council of Iona's position as an 'island beyond an island', which can be reached solely via the neighbouring island of Mull, whose community and businesses depend on two lifeline ferry services operating to and from Mull, and for which the car parks



are absolutely integral components of those lifeline services. Iona residents (and visitors) as much as Mull residents use the car parks heavily, without any choice and for long-stay purposes.

The council also wrongly claims in this article that it agreed to 'look at parking charges on Mull' as part of its budget proposals (February 2018). The council did not agree to 'look at' (or consult on a proposal on, or consider impacts of) parking charges, it agreed to bolt straight to introducing the charges, pitching our communities into a formal TRO without any prior warning.

The council's lack of prior consultation or evidence gathering, and persistent lack of understanding of how the car parks are used, or the communities that use them, is just one more depressing demonstration of its complete failure to understand the island way of life.

We urge all councillors to think carefully before applying these harmful charges at lifeline ferry ports and to listen to the unanimous, evidence-based concerns being raised from these islands.

**Shiona Ruhemann**  
Convener, Iona Community Council.



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# DISTRICT NEWS

## ARISAIG

There will be an opportunity to visit a great selection of different gardens around Arisaig on Saturday June 22, when the village will be hosting its mid-summer Garden Trail.

Visitors will have the opportunity to chat to residents about plants that thrive on the west coast, as well as the different techniques used for sowing and growing.

The starting point is the Land, Sea and Islands Centre where folk can buy their entry ticket and trail map, at a cost of £5 per person, which includes refreshments with delicious homemade cakes.

A selection of plants will also be for sale and organisers hope to have several electric bikes for hire on the day.

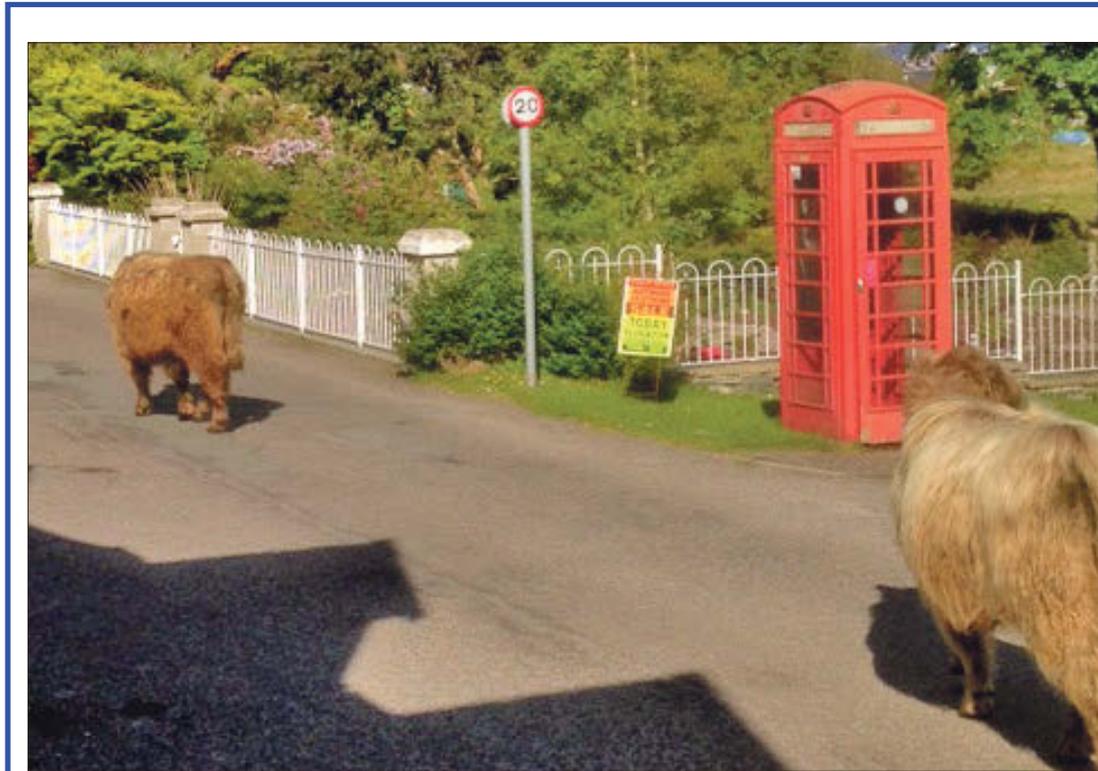
The event is being organised by the Arisaig Eco Project (Arisaig Community Trust) and the Arisaig and District Gardening Club.

## CORPACH

Following last year's highly acclaimed performance of Mozart's Requiem, next Saturday, May 18, the Kilmallie Singers will perform a wide-ranging selection of music at their annual spring concert, which will feature familiar works alongside items that will be new to their audience.

The programme includes classical works, such as Handel's rousing Hallelujah Chorus, songs from well-known stage shows Les Miserables and Sweet Charity, and music from the pop charts of the sixties and seventies, made famous by prolific songwriter Burt Bacharach and well-known Swedish group Abba.

The focal point of the concert will be a performance of The Armed Man by Karl Jenkins. Subtitled A Mass for Peace, the work is a powerful and compelling account of the descent into, and terrible consequences of war. In complete contrast to the drama of the final movement of The Armed Man, the choir will perform a magical new



Cows pictured in Plockton's Harbour Street at the weekend after an absence of 15 years. The agreement banning the animals from the village's streets and grassed areas expired recently and there has been controversy surrounding the animals being allowed to roam free once again.

## Plockton's Charlie enjoys day at Ross County

As a reward for raising nearly £6,000 for the Maggie's Centre in Inverness over the course of the last two football seasons, Charlie MacRae, from Plockton, along with his family, recently enjoyed a tour of Ross County's stadium in Dingwall, as well as sitting down

to lunch with the players and coaches.

A former player with the club in the 1964-65 season, Charlie has been a supporter of the Victoria Park side for 50 years and has hardly missed a match.

'It was a fantastic day and being

able to take my family, as well as having lunch with the players and coaches, just made it out of this world,' he told the Lochaber Times this week.

'I am so grateful to all those who helped make it such an enjoyable day.'

work by American composer Elaine Hagenberg, entitled The Music of Stillness, a beautiful and emotive setting of Sara Teasdale's poem There will be Rest.

The choir, led by Catherine Cameron and accompanied by Jennifer Skene will be joined in a rendition of Butterfly by three talented young percussionists, Tilly Knight, Giorgio Berardelli and Chloe Reynolds, all of whom

attend Lochaber schools and play in Lochaber High School Junior Wind Band. Tilly and Giorgio also play with the senior band.

The Kilmallie Singers are delighted that they will be adding an extra dimension to the concert. The choir's youngest member, Erin Nicolson, will also perform a solo item.

The event will take place in Kilmallie Community Hall,

Corpach. Tickets, priced £6 for adults, £4 for concessions and just £1 for children, will be available from members or on the doors, which will open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

A retiring collection will be taken on behalf of the choir's chosen charity, Clic Sargent (Scotland). Over the years the choir has raised more than £8,000 for this cause.

## FORT WILLIAM

Fort William Community Council (FWCC) held its April meeting at An Drochaid, Claggan. The following matters were discussed: **Highland Council planning applications**

**Ben Nevis Inn:** It was agreed that FWCC was supportive of the application and in favour of the fact that the development was within the grounds of the present building and was sensitive and in keeping with the Barn. A query was raised about whether non-reflective sheeting would be used as this was a preferred option. It was agreed the secretary would post a comment on the planning website.

**Upper Achintore development of 325 houses:** Concerns have been expressed and reported back to FWCC over the last four to six months, with a small number of residents against the development and a larger number agree the need for the development but have planning issues. After a full and detailed discussion, in agreement with the residents' representative in attendance, it was agreed the secretary would post comments to the planning service as follows:

'The overall layout of the development, it was agreed, is not conducive to creating good happy places to live. Thought needs to be given to the series of cul de sac principle - where people and families can interact, play safely; feel a sense of ownership and pride in their small community.'

'Development of 325 houses on

## Countdown

It's time to submit nominations for this year's Lochaber Voscars.

The Lochaber Voscars (volunteers' Oscars) is a special red-carpet event, now in its fifth year.

The event is an ideal opportunity to say 'thank you' to the incredible number of people who are part of

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the site – 12 houses per acre: It was agreed this is too many, creating density. The recently published FW2040 plan advises a maximum of 350 houses over the much larger area that includes this site, the land south of Lochview estate and the land below Lundavra Road. The community has a right to respond to this modification.

‘We have a query with regard to the process of the application: the detailed application being lodged on the same day as the ‘in principle’ application. We are sympathetic to the fact that the building of new social housing is imperative; however, the process involved requires standing up to public scrutiny and approval based on meaningful community consultation

‘Land drainage is absolutely critical. The SUDS engineer’s services should be retained to monitor the success of the SUDS scheme long term. We know from experience in this area that lack of good drainage can create massive problems. This is evident below the Heathercroft development, where the residents’ gardens have become saturated since the development of the flats.

‘The CC has serious concerns that there is insufficient knowledge of the local terrain or the heavy rainfall in the area and would urge that local advice and input is sought.’

**Amalgamation of FWCC and Inverlochry and Torlundy Community Council (ITCC):** The chairman welcomed members of ITCC, who joined the meeting at

8.30pm: Andy MacKenna, chair, Flora McKee, sec, Loraine Revit, Deirdre Coull and Annemarie MacLachlan. The formal public consultation period ends on May 31. Sec advised CCs have been encouraged to respond, individually or as a CC to feedback on the proposed amendments.

It was agreed to hold a joint CC community consultation event in the week of May 20 in Fort William to gather views on the recommendation within the report to amalgamate the two CCs. Request that a Highland Council representative attend the meeting to give an update on the FW2040 plan. An invitation will also be extended to the other CCs within the Fort William Area CC Partnership. Venue and time to be decided and posters agreed.

**AOCB:**

AGM: Secretary advised that she was not available to attend on date set last year of June 18. The meeting agreed to set a new date to the week prior, Tuesday June 11. Secretary to publicise change of date.

Nevis Partnership: Letter of support requested for their funding application to SNH Natural Cultural and Heritage Fund for the proposed Nevis Field Centre. Agreed. Secretary to action.

Pumptrack: Letter of support requested. Agreed. Secretary to action. Secretary put in her apologies for May meeting.

The chairman thanked the Lundavra Community Action Group and ITCC members for attending the meeting.



KCFA aims to show how Kinloch Castle on Rum can be brought back to life to benefit the island.

## Association submits its business plan for castle asset transfer

Kinloch Castle Friends Association (KCFA) has submitted its business plan for the asset transfer of the famous 19th-century hunting lodge on the Isle of Rum.

With a new business plan in place, KCFA hopes to show the castle can be brought back to life and provide much-needed

accommodation for the island.

The plan has been presented to Scottish Natural Heritage which continues discussions with KCFA.

A specialist in the restoration of historic buildings has been employed to look at the building.

Scottish Natural Heritage, Historic Environment Scotland

and Highlands and Islands Enterprise have all helped the KCFA team work to make its plan as comprehensive as possible.

KCFA now awaits due consideration from the Scottish Government.

A copy of the business plan can be found on the association’s website.

## begins and excitement mounts ahead of Lochaber VOSCARS

Lochaber’s vibrant third sector.

Dani Drummon, Active Citizens Development Worker with Voluntary Action Lochaber, said: ‘We estimated that Lochaber has more than 3,000 volunteers and this number is growing.

‘It’s thanks to the commitment,

skills and dedication of the volunteers and the voluntary organisations that so much happens in our area.’

The Voscars awards are split into the following seven categories; Volunteer of the Year (over 25), Young Scot Volunteer of the

Year (under 25), Organisation of the Year, Lifetime Achievement Award, Board/Committee Member of the Year, Good Neighbour of the Year and Best Supporting Organisation.

If anyone knows someone or an organisation that has significantly

contributed to volunteering in the Lochaber area, then please do nominate them for an award.

Nomination forms are available from Voluntary Action Lochaber, Highland Council Service Points and Lochaber libraries or by email at volunteering@valochaber.

org or online at [valochaber.org/lochaber-voscars-2019/](http://valochaber.org/lochaber-voscars-2019/)

Entries to be returned to Voluntary Action Lochaber by noon May 25 for the event which will be held in the Ben Nevis Hotel on Thursday, June 6 as part of National Volunteers Week.

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# Scotland's builders buck Brexit

Scotland's small building firms had a strong start to 2019, in contrast to the UK construction SME sector more broadly, which detracted for the first time in six years, according to the Federation of Master Builders (FMB) Scotland.

Key results from the FMB's state of trade survey for Q1 2019, which is the only quarterly assessment of the UK-wide SME construction sector, include:

- UK-wide, SME workloads declined for the first time in six years as more respondents stated lower workloads (29 per cent) compared with the final three months of 2018 (13 per cent);

- In Scotland, there was a jump of 10 percentage points compared with the previous quarter. 30 per cent of weighted responses were positive, up from 20 per cent in Q4 2018;

- Skills shortages eased slightly among some occupations. Bricklayers were once again the trade in most short supply with 64 per cent of firms having difficulties hiring them;

- A record-breaking 88 per cent of SME builders anticipate that material prices will rise further in the next six months;

- Almost three-quarters (71 per cent) of construction SMEs expect wages and

salaries to increase over the next six months, up from 66 per cent in the previous quarter.

Gordon Nelson, director of FMB Scotland, said: 'It's encouraging that the Scottish construction industry is bucking the wider Brexit trend with workloads and enquiries in rude health.

'However, the UK-wide picture is very different with the construction SME sector overall detracting for the first time in six years.

'Scotland's good fortune could be due to fewer EU workers being based north of the border compared with other parts of the country, like in London where one-in-

three construction workers are from the EU.

'Relying less heavily on migrant workers has meant that the Scottish construction industry hasn't fallen fowl of thousands of EU workers returning home during the long march to Brexit due to no longer feeling welcome in the UK, or sure of their future here.'

Nelson continued: 'However, Scotland's builders mustn't be complacent as, looking ahead, the first minister has indicated that if the UK does leave the EU later this year, she wants a second independence referendum before the next Scottish Parliament election

in 2021. This additional political uncertainty, on top of the continued uncertainty stemming from Brexit, could impact on the construction sector in Scotland. 'The fear is that a looming second referendum could test consumer confidence this year and next.

'For construction SMEs, this is particularly concerning as their prospects are vulnerable to dips in consumer confidence as so much of our work comes from the private domestic sector.'

Nelson concluded: 'At the UK level, the Government would be wise to reduce VAT from 20 per cent to

five per cent on all housing repair, maintenance and improvement (RM&I) work.

'Reducing VAT on RM&I work could boost the UK economy by more than £15bn over a five-year period, according to independent research by Experian.

'This reduction in VAT could also create 4,000 new construction jobs in Scotland specifically.

'Such a VAT reduction has the backing of more than 60 business groups and charities as there is no other policy that would provide an immediate boost to the economy, reaching every corner of the UK.'

## Mackintosh at the Willow is named Scotland's 'Project of the Year'

Mackintosh at the Willow, Glasgow, has been named Project of the Year at the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Awards 2019, Scotland, which celebrate the top, community-led built projects from across the country and the talent behind them.

The restoration of the Willow Tea Rooms triumphed over 35 of the country's most inspiring property projects to win the Building Conservation category, before being named the overall Project of the Year, Scotland. The highly acclaimed title is presented to the category winner that demonstrates outstanding best practice and commitment to adding value to its area.

RICS judges said that incredible care was taken to preserve original features and to faithfully recreate original furniture and fittings through detailed research and use of local artisans and craftsmen.

Since its transformation, the Willow Tea Rooms in Glasgow has attracted international interest from those wishing to learn more about architectural



pioneer Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

Chairman of the judging panel for the RICS Awards, Scotland, Colin Smith MRICS, said: 'Great care and attention to detail was taken during this restoration. Additionally, a trust was established to manage the building and the £10million used to restore it internally and externally has also been utilised to provide wider long-term community benefits.

'A diverse range of innovative projects, of all sizes and budgets, made the shortlist this year and the winners are truly representative of Scotland's best

and most innovative built projects that are having a significant positive impact on their communities. The teams behind these winning projects should be very proud of their exceptional achievements.'

Other winners included the The Garment Factory, Glasgow, which took the Commercial title, the V&A, Dundee, which won the Tourism and Leisure category and the Music Hall, Aberdeen, the Community Benefit award.

Hosted by Catriona Sheerer, the awards were held on May 2 at The Sheraton Grand Hotel and Spa, Edinburgh.

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# Saints were so near yet so far

## Extra time proves a step too much for young Oban outfit

Oban Saints	3
Bannockburn	3
Bannockburn win 6-3 after extra time	
West of Scotland Cup final	

Oban Saints finished best of the rest when their valiant bid to secure their first major trophy ended in failure at New Douglas Park last Friday night.

In front of a crowd of 623 and a further 1,400 or so watching on various live streams around the world, Saints ran four-time-cup-winners Bannockburn extremely close in a thrilling nine-goal West of Scotland Cup final before ultimately coming up short in extra-time.

After a goalless first half the flood gates opened in the second half where the lead

changed hands three times before the 90 minutes ended three goals apiece. Man of the Match Steven Knox opened the scoring for Bannockburn one minute after the restart with Lewis Cameron leveling and Cammy Hill edging Saints ahead on the hour mark.

Knox added the second of his hat-trick in the 65th minute before Ryan Weir put Bannockburn ahead for the second time just two minutes later.

### Extra-time

Another composed finish from 17-year-old Cammy Hill took the tie into extra-time where Bannockburn's greater experience proved decisive.

Substitute Darren Walker took full advantage of a free header from a corner kick to get the three-time Scottish



The Oban Saints starting line-up with mascots Jack Cassells and Donald Campbell Jr. Match report and photos Derek Black

Amateur Cup winners noses in front again from where they didn't look back. Steven Knox completed his hat-trick to give the tiring Saints, who expended every ounce of energy they had, a mountain to climb and, after Lewis Cameron sent a penalty kick wide of target, David Grant

rounded off the scoring from a counter attack in the dying minutes to make the final score 6-3.

Despite the frustration of defeat Saints can be proud of their achievement in reaching their first major cup final and running one of the biggest names in Scottish amateur

football extremely close in a terrific advert for the amateur game.

The Saints management and players would like to extend grateful thanks to all those who sent good luck messages for the match and especially to the loyal band of supporters who made the journey to

### FOOTBALL

Hamilton. The club would also like to thank Hamilton Academical for being excellent hosts and the West of Scotland District Committee for their slick organisation of an enjoyable evening.



Cammy Hill celebrates his goal which put Saints 2-1 in front.



Saints defender Steven MacLeod keeps his eye on the ball watched by Bannockburn striker Stephen Knox



Cammy Hill, No 9, makes it 3-3.



Saints co-managers Willie Gemmell and Donald Campbell with Kenneth Lindsay Chairman, centre, of the Western District Executive Committee of the Scottish Amateur FA.



James Ford is blocked off by a Bannockburn defender.

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## GOLF

## Fort William golf results

Gents: The 1912 Cup competition was played at Fort William Golf Club on Saturday, April 20, with the following result: 1 Charles Luxton net 64 (82 – 18); 2 Darren Quigg net 68 (91 – 23); 3 Josie Sweeney net 69 (85 – 16).

On Sunday April 21 an 18-hole strokeplay competition was played with the following result:

1 Michael Rodger net 66 (79 – 13); 2 Kevin Ferguson net 67 (85 – 18) BIH; 3 Brian Gillespie net 67 (79 – 12.)

On Saturday April 27 the April Medal was played with the following result: Section One - 1 Peter Stewart net 66 (79 – 13); 2 Padraig McNeil net 71 (79 – 8) BIH; 3 Alan Overend net 71 (82 – 11). Section Two - 1 Kevin Ferguson net 66 (84 – 18); 2 Willie MacDonald net 68 (84 – 16); 3 Pat Cassidy net 71 (86 – 15).

On Tuesday April 30 a 12-hole stableford was played with the following result: 1 Henry MacDonald 29 points; 2 Willie MacDonald 28 points (BIH); 3 Brian Stewart Jnr 28 points.

On Saturday May 4 the Captain's Prize was played with the following result: 1 Alex Stewart net 64 (78 – 14); 2 Nicholas Hough net 65 (74 – 9); 3 Brian Gillespie net 66 (78 – 12).

On Sunday May 5 an 18-hole stableford was played with the following result: 1 David MacPherson 39 points; 2 Ali Shearer 38 points; 3 David Matheson 37 points

Ladies: On Sunday April 14 a par competition was played with the following result: 1 Helen Brian 3 up BIH; 2 Ann Lovatt 3 up; 3 Rosemary Macintyre 1 down.

On Sunday April 28 a 12-hole par competition was played with the following result: 1 Ann Lovatt 1 up; 2 Kathleen Leitch, all square.

On Tuesday April 30 a medal and eclectic was played with the following result: 1 Ann Lovatt net 68 (94 – 26); 2 Kathleen Leitch net 73 (90 – 17).

On Saturday May 4 the Cameron Trophy 1st Round stableford was played with the following result: 1 Kathleen Leitch 31 points (BIH); 2 Kim Topping 31 points; 3 Liz Merry 10 points.

## TEN-PIN BOWLING

## Ten-pin scratch league

After week five of the ten-pin bowling singles leagues at The Nevis Centre in Fort William, Brian Johnstone and Gary Cowan lead the scratch league both with 81 points followed by Pam Weller in third place with 79 points.

The handicap league is still led by Gary Cowan on 73 points followed by Tony Whitelocke on 68 points and Andrew Brown on 64 points.

Gary Cowan is the new leader in the chase for the Nevis Radio High Pin Trophy with 2,271 pins closely followed by Brian Johnstone with 2,257 pins and Tony Whitelocke in third place with 2,220 pins.

The top individual scratch games this week came from John Weller and Andrew Brown, who both rolled games of 194.

Also this week, Gaynor Weldon had a 182 and Brian Stewart had a 174. John Weller had the best three-game scratch series this week with 492 giving him this week's maximum of 20 scratch points followed by Gaynor Weldon with 481 and Tony Whitelocke with 474.

John Weller also had the top handicap game this week of 243 followed by Gaynor Weldon and Alma Sorley both with 242 and Andrew Brown with 238.

## LOTTERY

## Lochaber lottery numbers

Ballachulish Shinty Club: This week's (May 4) shinty lottery numbers were 7, 12 and 13. No winners again this week, so it is a £600 draw next week.

Caol Community Center: For May 5 – Numbers were 7, 10 and 14. No winners so £400 is the prize for next week.

Caol Regeneration Lotto: For May 2 – Winning numbers were 4, 6 and 15. Donella Lamont won the £400 jackpot. The next draw is on May 9 when the jackpot will be £100.

Fort William Golf Club: For May 2 – Winning numbers were 2, 3 and 19. No winners so the prize will be £200 for the draw tonight (May 9).

Lochaber Camanachd Club: For April 30 – Winning numbers were 1, 5 and 13. No winners. £700 next week.

# Mallaig hammer Kyle in cup tie goal-fest

Mallaig	13
Kyle	0
GF MacRae Cup	

Mallaig progressed to the next round of the GF MacRae Cup after a convincing home victory against Kyle.

Mallaig started on the front foot and went close on numerous occasions before Andrew Sneddon continued his fine start to the season.

He cut in from the right wing and curled a beauty of a shot into the far top corner, which left the Kyle keeper rooted to the spot.

Mallaig continued to dominate throughout the first half as they moved the ball around nicely and created numerous chances.

The lead was doubled through Andy Cunningham, who finished well after a lovely team move.

The third came shortly after through David Currie whose low effort evaded everyone and crept in at the back post.

Currie was involved again for the fourth goal as he won the ball back inside the Kyle box before sliding it across goal for Archie Gillies to finish.



Mallaig's Andrew Sneddon in a low tackle with Paddy Macinnes. Picture Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Andy Cunningham turned creator for the fifth and sixth goal as his well-timed through-ball was met by Angus MacNaughton, who poked the ball under the Kyle goalie for number five before Cunningham set up Archie Gillies, who finished well for the sixth of the afternoon. That left the half-time scoreboard reading Mallaig 6, Kyle 0.

In the second half, Mallaig quickly picked up from where they left off in the first, with David Currie getting his second of the game from an Archie Gillies pass which was beautifully dummied by Andy Cunningham, allowing Currie to convert for Mallaig's seventh of the afternoon.

Cunningham got his second of the afternoon as he

## FOOTBALL

finished well inside the box after a nice pass from Marc Maclean.

The ninth was a first Mallaig goal for Fraser Davis, who is playing his first season with the senior team off the back of a fine season with Mallaig 18s, marked his third appearance with a well-taken goal as he finished coolly after a neat give-and-go with Angus MacNaughton.

Number 10 followed shortly after, as David Currie set up Angus MacNaughton who finished well for his second of the afternoon.

The 11th of the afternoon was another well-created and taken goal as two of Mallaig's youth players combined.

Kian Cameron did well to control a high ball before setting up Tom Benfield, who finished well.

Angus MacNaughton got his hat-trick for number 12 as he played a nice one-two with David Currie before finishing into the bottom left corner.

MacNaughton's fourth and Mallaig's 13th was a nice way to bring the game to an end as Tom Benfield drove down the right before squaring the ball for Angus who made no mistake.

It was a good win for Mallaig who will face Glenelg at home next weekend in the next round of the cup.

Man of the match this week went to Angus MacNaughton, who was involved throughout with four goals and two assists along with his usual tireless running and immense work rate.



Mallaig's David Currie is tackled by Kyle's Callum Flanagan.



Large schools overall result- 1 Banavie (72pts); 2 Lundavra (67 pts); 3 Caol (40pts).

# Banavie swimmer smashes own primary crawl record

Once again this year, a record was broken in the Lochaber Primaries Inter-School Swimming Gala at the end of April.

Sean Troy Cann, from Banavie, smashed the record he set last year by over a second, swimming 50m front crawl in a time of 33.34s.

The event is organised annually by High Life Highland staff from Lochaber Leisure Centre and the Active Schools team.

The smooth running of the event was made possible by a team of volunteers from Lochaber Leisure Centre Swim Team and S4 pupils from Lochaber High School who gave up their valuable study leave.

The day began with 25m heats in backstroke, breaststroke and front crawl, in which individuals raced to

win points for their school in the small, medium or large schools categories.

The fastest six boys and girls in each event were then invited to swim in the finals which were held over a distance of 50m.

Once again points were up for grabs to add to their school's totals. Individual finals over, the pupils also competed in relay events, and once more the points were tallied.

Results: girls' backstroke: 1 Yasmin MacCallum (Invergarry), 40.97s; 2 Lauryn MacKenna (Lundavra); 3 Emily Essex (Banavie).

Boys' backstroke: 1 Shaughn-Paul Dunlop (BSGLA), 41.31s; 2 Sandy Halewood (Banavie); 3 Sorley Swabey (Spean Bridge).

Girls' breaststroke: 1 Andzeline Garasimuka (Lun-

davra), 44.34s; 2 Yasmin MacCallum (Invergarry); 3 Layla Orr - MacIntyre (Lochaline).

Boys' breaststroke: 1 Toby Jackson (Banavie), 52.87s; 2 Reiss Campbell (Caol); 3 Nicolas Huback (Lundavra).

Girls' front crawl: 1 Charleigh Adams (Lundavra), 34.63s; 2 Helen Jones (Lochaline); 3 Mya MacCallum (Invergarry).

Boys' front crawl: 1 Sean Troy Cann (Banavie), 33.34s (new record); 2 Calum Stewart (BAGLA); 3 Robbie Gilfillan (Lundavra).

Large schools relay: 1, Banavie; 2, Lundavra; 3 Spean Bridge.

Medium schools relay: 1, BSGLA; 2, St Columba's RC; 3, Ballachulish.

Small schools relay: 1, Lochaline; 2, Invergarry; 3, Lady Lovat.

## SWIMMING

In the small schools swimming trophy overall competition, first place went to Invergarry, second was Lochaline and in third place was Lady Lovat.

In the medium schools, first placed was Bun Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar, second was Ballachulish and third was Mallaig.

For the large schools, in first it was Banavie, second was Lundavra, and third was Caol.

A trophy was also awarded for the pupil who improved most in school swimming lessons. This went to Kaedie-Lei Neville from Spean Bridge. The Whole School Challenge Cup, based on performance in this year's swimming lessons, went to Banavie Primary.



Sean Troy Cann smashed his own record to win the front crawl event.



Banavie won the schools challenge shield.



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### WEATHER

**Thursday**  
Light showers and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures  
5°C to 10°C.

**Friday**  
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures  
5°C to 11°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
**Saturday**  
Sunny and a moderate breeze  
**Sunday**  
Sunny intervals and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures  
7°C to 13°C.



FRIDAY

### TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday May 9, 2019** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

	02.17	1.0	08.18	3.5
<b>Thur</b>	14.39	1.0	20.27	3.5
<b>Fri</b>	03.09	1.2	09.07	3.2
	15.32	1.1	21.19	3.3
<b>Sat</b>	04.17	1.4	10.12	3.0
	16.36	1.3	22.27	3.2
<b>Sun</b>	05.41	1.5	11.53	2.8
	17.50	1.4	***	**
<b>Mon</b>	00.06	3.1	07.10	1.5
	13.48	2.9	19.06	1.3
<b>Tues</b>	01.53	3.2	08.30	1.3
	14.52	3.1	20.18	1.1
<b>Wed</b>	02.56	3.5	09.30	1.1
	15.40	3.4	21.20	0.9

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.

Banavie swimmer smashes own crawl record

Mallaig hammer Kyle in cup tie goal-fest

# Crowds out for start of Scottish Six Days Trial

The 2019 Scottish Six Days Trial is now well under way after three days of competition.

At the weekend, the Edinburgh and District Club's scrutineers worked as efficiently as ever to both check and officially mark each competitor's machine while the office crew were equally diligent with the riders' paperwork to ensure full legality.

Following technical control, competitors then took part in the official cavalcade down Fort William High Street.

This is quite a spectacle, capturing the imagination of locals and tourists alike and an occasion that the for-

## FOOTBALL

eign competitors particularly enjoy.

The high point was the Costa Rican riders who turned out as dinosaurs, advertising their own country's 'Jurassic Three Day Trial'.

### Flagged down

The first rider away on Monday morning was popular Catalan Carles Casas, who was starting his 30th Scottish Six Days Trial and was flagged down the start ramp by 2019 guest of honour, the 1969 SSDT winner Bill Wilkinson, followed by the rest of the international field at one-minute intervals.



Some welcome sunshine brought out the crowds for the parade along the High Street in Fort William on Sunday. Picture: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image



One of the Lochaber riders, Ally Morrice.



The Park Ferme on Sunday.



Another local rider, George Gage.

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