

# LOCHABER TIMES & OBAN TIMES

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## Cross country team have historic weekend

**WE STAND BY UKRAINE | WIN: A LUXURY TREATS HAMPER WORTH £53.99 - SEE PAGE 26**

### Justice of Peace



**A new JP for Fort William has been sworn in**

• See page 2 for more

### Kirsty's Kids



**Work in Ukraine sparks heart-felt donation**

• See page 7 for more



Aisling Flavin, Ava MacLennan and Iona Tonks with art and design teacher, Vicky Barclay. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

### Lochaber pupils snap up Rotary awards

Three budding young photographers from Lochaber High School have snapped up all the awards in the annual Rotary Club of Lochaber photographic competition. Submitting images on the theme of The Power of Water, Aisling Flavin was winner of the Intermediate age group, while Ava MacLennan was runner up. Iona Tonks, who is also studying Higher photography at school was the winner of the Senior section.

Rotary Club convener, Mike MacGruer said: "Thank you to the girls for their entries and congratulations on their success. The photographs will now be passed on to the regional competition to compete against other clubs."

## FRUSTRATION OVER LOSS OF BUSES

by Jamie Wills  
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A petition asking Highland Council to reinstate frequent bus services between Corpach, Fort William and Plantation has been launched amidst continued discontent at timetable cuts introduced last summer.

The petition, started on Wednesday January 29, had 129 signatures by Tuesday February 4. It opened two days after a meeting of Kilmallie Community Council saw several residents complain to Highland councillors about the negative effects that poor and reduced services were having

on their lives, as well as feelings that Lochaber was being overlooked in favour of Inverness.

Prominent amongst the complaints was the replacement of the N46/N47 service in July, which reduced connections between Corpach, Fort William and Plantation from every 30 minutes to every hour between 9.30am and 5.30pm.

Highland Council had said the change was necessary because the tendered supplier, Shiel Buses, was experiencing timetable unreliability caused by traffic congestion, particularly on the A82. It has maintained that a lack of funding means adding a fourth bus to the route in order to maintain a more frequent schedule is impossible.

However, for Janis Strachan, the Corpach resident who started the petition, the notion of cutting buses because they are not hitting scheduled times is counter-productive.

"We knew they were having bother keeping the timetable, but to blame that as a reason for stopping the buses? They have effectively made the traffic congestion worse because if people can't get on the bus, what do they do? They get a taxi, or a friend to run them, or they drive. They should be encouraging people to go on the buses, instead of doing what they did. If they actually sorted the roads, which is the main problem, they wouldn't have this.

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