

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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### Skerryvore celebrate 10 year anniversary with a special gig

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### Lochaline celebrates with its Mod medallists



### MOTHER CLAIMS CHILDREN MISSING OUT ON VITAL EDUCATION BECAUSE OF 'CRAZY' RULE OVER ROADS TREATMENT

# Anger over gritty problem

LOUISE LEE  
lle@obantimes.co.uk

A 'CRAZY' rule that doesn't allow grit vehicles to treat rural back roads is seriously disrupting children's education.

Mother-of-two Katie Cox, of Glen Lonan, near Taynuilt said she has been battling officialdom for three years to overturn a rule that prevents grit lorries treating roads unless 12 children or more from that area are using a school bus.

Mrs Cox says every time she challenges officials or councillors they are 'blinkered' to the fact that 17 children travel the route in two separate trips.

For the past fortnight, children sitting high school prelim exams were forced to almost 'dig themselves out' in order to get to school, said Mrs Cox.

'But some parents simply can't get to school,' she said, 'and it means already this year their children have missed a good number of days at school.'

'All this could be solved if the grit lorry came another half a mile along the road. If that happened then the school minibus could pick up pupils and make sure they get to school, even in bad weather.'

'The minibuses are not built for Argyll winters and that means they can't cope with an untreated road.'

'The simple fact is this - 17 children live at our end of Glen Lonan and we want our road gritted.'

'I am sick of being told 'no' because we live in a rural area. There are children, elderly people, employees who all live in the glen and we are all affected when the gritter doesn't get through. Doctors and nurses can't even make house calls.'

'It is really a lot of nonsense; if the road needs gritted then it needs to be done.'

'I am not for a minute criticising the workers - they are only working on someone else's orders.'

She continued: 'This has been going on for years. I have tried to get the local authority to see sense and I have contacted coun-

cillors, community councillors and officers to try to get them to come a bit further up the glen in order that our children can get to school.'

'Some parents have given up. They just keep their children at home because they don't have an alternative.'

However, an Argyll and Bute council spokesman said: 'It is not possible to treat all routes at the same time.'

'The council must adopt a priority system to ensure that treatment is targeted to the areas of greatest need first.'

'These routes are treated in order of priority, from one to four; priority one routes are A class roads which extend from trunk roads; priority two routes are A and B class roads linking towns; priority three routes are service or school bus routes with a minimum of 12 occupied seats

and priority four (P4) routes are all other public roads.'

'Within the P4 routes we have identified the 'next most important' routes which we would move on to after working on the P1-P3 routes.'

'The approaches to rural schools are also gritted, however it is not possible to treat the start of every journey to a school.'

'In this particular case, following the scheduled mid-term review of treatment routes, the P3 pre-treatment route was extended some 600 metres to Lonan House.'

'However, it is simply not practical to extend it any further as this will have a knock-on effect to the completion of the P2 route which includes the service bus route to Dalavich'

'This is one of our 'next most important' routes and, when a vehicle becomes available following the P1-P3 runs, it is treated.'



SNOWED IN: the school minibus serving Glen Lonan struggles to navigate the snow-covered roads



CRAZY RULE: mother Katie Cox says the lack of gritting on rural roads is affecting children's education

## Former swimmer to make Scotland rugby debut

EUAN PATERSON  
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

A YOUNG rugby player has been handed her international debut just two years after switching sports.

Former swimmer Abigail Evans, 18, was delighted to just be included in the Scotland women's Six Nations rugby championship squad this year.

But on Tuesday, the Scottish Rugby Union announced the Oban teenager would start the opening match against France this Saturday in Nantes.

The winger, one of the youngest squad members, is one of

four new caps who will start against France. Since changing sports, the Northumbria University student has played rugby at under-20 level and captained the under-19 sevens squad.

Bonawe woman Dee Bradbury is the women and girls representative on the Scottish Rugby Council and also coached Abigail at netball.

She said: 'I am not surprised by how quickly Abigail has reached this level because she is an exceptionally talented all-round athlete.'

Dee's sons Magnus and Fergus have been called up to Scotland's under-20 and under-18 squads, respectively.



QUICK START: Scotland winger Abigail Evans is set to make her international debut.

### TIMESLINE

#### Police in search for bearded smasher

POLICE are looking to trace a man who kicked the window of the Balmoral pub in Craighard Road, Oban, causing the glass to smash.

The incident happened sometime in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The man, who was described as being of stocky build, had a beard. He was with a woman and both individuals appeared to be in their late 30s.

#### MP Reid calls for joined-up service

MP FOR Argyll and Bute, Alan Reid, met senior officials from Vodafone to demand a more 'joined-up approach' to restoring services in the county.

Several parts of the constituency suffered loss of mobile coverage and broadband after stormy weather at the start of the year. Services on Islay and Tiree are still affected.

#### Donations to NHS Highland increase

CHARITABLE donations made to NHS Highland increased by £5,000 last year.

In 2014 the health board received donations totalling £767,000.

Donations are typically received from patients and relatives, funeral collections, legacies and bequests.

#### Shinty gets major sponsorship deal

FISH farming company Marine Harvest has pledged the largest ever sponsorship deal with shinty's governing body, the Camanachd Association.

The exact value of the six-figure sponsorship deal has not been disclosed.

See sports pages for more.



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## Councillors buck the trend to earn a round of applause from the public

EUAN PATERSON  
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

COUNCILLORS received a round of applause from around 80 members of the public at the conclusion of a radical area committee meeting in Oban's Corran Halls.

On Tuesday night the seven councillors representing Oban, Lorn and the Isles sat amongst the audience as they opened the floor to any subject, without the support of council officers or solicitors.

Issues raised at the two-and-a-half hour meeting included parking charges in Oban, fortnightly bin collections, landfill and fly tipping, the influence of council officers over councillors, dry rot at the old Rockfield school building, the vacant Harbour Bowl building, the shortage of elderly care, the delay in setting up Soroba community centre, the possible introduction of a roadsman on Kerrera, the menace of dog fouling, the future of Oban airport, depopulation in

Argyll and Bute, council staff shortages, the lack of suitable apprenticeships and the high cost of sports pitches.

Speaking after the meeting councillor Roddy McCuish, area committee chairman, promised to repeat the meeting, admitting it would take a while to 'digest all the information' councillors had received. Councillor McCuish had earlier welcomed the public, saying: 'This is very much your meeting. We are here to find out what we have done wrong,

what we have done right and where we are going in the future.'

As the fast-paced meeting came towards a close, BID4Oban events manager and former councillor Neil Mackay said: 'As you will know I work in events and this meeting is a new event.'

'I think it's a breath of fresh air.'

Businessman Renato Di Ciacca said: 'I think you should be applauded for tonight. It was very brave.'

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**Full steam ahead for town trains**

STEAM trains are on the starting blocks for another train service to Oban. While Oban community council heard there was no official announcement, David Gallant told the meeting he understood Abellio ScotRail Limited had asked Network Rail for 'paths' to operate two additional - steam - train services each way between Oban and Glasgow. In a prepared document, Mr Gallant said: 'Running these trains would require construction of turntables at Oban and at Kyle of Lochalsh. It is not known whether higher fares will be charged for steam trains or whether concession cards and railcard discounts will apply. The present steam train service between Fort William and Mallaig is operated by a company based in Carnforth and is unlikely to be effected.'

**A bridge too far for roads firm**

A RAILWAY bridge between Connel and Taynuilt needs remedial work carried out on it, Oban community council has heard. But the roads agency which carried out the inspection has referred the work to Network Rail. Councillor Elaine Robertson told the community council: 'I have received an email regarding Achnacloch bridge to say BEAR Scotland has carried out an inspection and the work needs to be carried out by Network Rail as the bridge is its property.' Councillor Robertson agreed to pursue the matter on behalf of the community council.

**NHS finances in Argyll healthy**

ARGYLL and Bute community health partnership, a subsidiary of NHS Highland, is heading for an underspend at the end of 2015. The news of the healthy financial position was in stark contrast to the overall NHS Highland budget - after it overspent by £2.5 million last year and had to ask the Scottish government for help. However, one area that was causing the authority concern in Argyll and Bute was that of staff. A note to NHS Highland board members said: 'There are a number of cost pressures to be managed, the most significant of which relates to medical locums.' Medical locums cost upwards of £100 an hour.

**Islay students' song moves from class to iTunes chart**

**EUAN PATERSON**  
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

MUSIC students at Islay high school hope to be chart toppers with a charity single they wrote, performed and produced entirely in their own classroom. The single, Home, is performed by Islay high school choir and written by Advanced Higher music pupils Millie Mitchell and Heather Hope, with a solo from classmate Mairi MacGillivray. The song, recently released on iTunes, is the culmination of a school project, organised by senior pupils, that began last year to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the beginning of WWI. The Remembrance project included a wide range of subjects: pupils in biology learned about the healing qualities of sphagnum moss and created authentic wound dressings; PE pupils took part in a football match commemorating the famous Christmas Day game played in no-man's land; and English, history, people and society, maths, art and technical classes joined forces to transform one corridor in the high school into an interactive timeline. It included a replica trench, a diary extract from a pupil's great grandfather and a memorial wall of those from Islay and Jura who lost their lives in WWI. An inspired Millie, who has ambitions to become a music teacher, said the song she wrote with Heather was her contribution to the school's effort. 'The idea for the song was quite spontaneous,' said the 17-year-old. 'All the S6 pupils were organising the Remembrance Day service in the school and wanted to make it cross-curricular and really special. It started off with Mairi's solo, then we added harmonies and worked out harmonies for the choir.' Music teacher Craig Weatherhogg said: 'The choir performed the song as part of the service

and everyone said it was amazing, so we decided to record it and put it on iTunes, with the proceeds of any sale going to the Poppyscotland appeal.' The recording, editing and mixing was all done on recently acquired software within the school's music department. Ahead of Remembrance Day a group of Islay pupils walked

from the military cemetery at Kilchoman to nearby Kilchiaran Bay, discovering more about the war ships HMS Otranto and HMS Tuscania, which sank off Islay during the First World War. The group laid a single poppy and read poems of remembrance at the memorial. Photos taken by S6 student Caitlin Marrion during the walk later formed part of

a presentation for Remembrance Day and one of her images is used to illustrate the single. Mr Weatherhogg added: 'Everyone was in agreement that 100 years on, the Great War has left its mark on us all and we have a duty to show our respect by remembering what those before us did, and the sacrifices they gave, for our sake.'



**ON SONG:** Islay high school pupils Millie Mitchell sitting at the piano with fellow songwriter Heather Hope behind (left) and Mairi MacGillivray

**Back road not safe, says councillor**



THE BACK road from Connel to Oban 'is not safe' and drivers should be discouraged from using it when the main A85 Connel and Oban road is closed. An accident (pictured left) involving a flat-bed truck and a bus near the Halfway House Filling Station, that blocked the road at 8am last Friday for an hour, saw more than 200 cars use the route. Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee chairman Councillor Roddy McCuish told Oban com-

munity council about discussions with officials over use of the 'C'-listed road. He said: 'The back road is not safe and people are encouraged not to go there. The police will do their utmost to close the road and will be coming to tell the area committee what we can do.' After the accident, the truck driver man was cut from his vehicle and taken to Lorn and Islands Hospital with a fractured arm, head and other injuries.

**RNLI is seeing more 'shouts' to pleasure crafts**

**Oban lifeboat spends most hours out at sea**

**EUAN PATERSON**  
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

THE CREW of Oban lifeboat spent the most hours at sea in 2014, compared with every other lifeboat in Scotland. Figures released by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) last week revealed the Oban lifeboat was one of the busiest in the country, attending 68 call outs, or 'shouts' last year, six behind the top ranked Broughty Ferry. But the Oban crew spent more than 785 hours at sea while on shouts during 2014, the highest figure in the country. Oban lifeboat rescued 120 people during 2014, the second highest figure in Scotland and more than double the Oban figure from 2013. Oban coxswain John Hill said the figures came as a bit of a surprise. He said: 'We knew we had a busy year but the mix of incidents has been much the same. I think we are just doing a little bit more of everything. I can't honestly put my finger on anything and say, "That's why we were so busy"; it is just the nature of lifeboat shouts that you can get an extremely busy year from time to time.' The trend across the west Highlands and islands suggested the coastline is becoming more popular for



**IN DEMAND:** Oban lifeboat was one of the busiest in Scotland in 2014

pleasure craft and yachts. Across Scotland there was an increase in the number of call outs to assist power pleasure craft, sailing boats, rowing boats and people in the water. However, there was also a reduction in the number of fishing boats requiring help. Barra lifeboat had its busiest year since 2010, attending 12 shouts and rescuing 28 people, in comparison to last year's figures of eight and three, respectively. Tobermory lifeboat also proved to have an industrious crew, spending 724 on 27 call outs in 2014. Tobermory rescued 49 people in 2014, 10 more than the previous year. Mallaig lifeboat was the

second busiest lifeboat in the west Highlands and islands, with 37 call outs and 58 people rescued. Last year the Lochaber crew had 40 call outs and 37 rescues. Kyle of Lochalsh lifeboat station had almost exactly the same statistics as the previous year, with 22 call outs. The island-based lifeboats at Port Askaig, on Islay and Portree, on Skye, both had 18 call outs in 2014, with the Islay crew rescuing 24 people. The Lamlash-based Isle of Arran lifeboat was slightly less busy on 2013, attending 13 shouts, compared with 20 the previous year. Campbeltown and Tighnabruich lifeboats were both launched 10 times last year.

**MULL lines**



**TUNES OF GLORY:** Young pipers take to the stage

**Piping hot in Aros hall**

AN evening concert in Tobermory's Aros hall by Mull and Iona school pipers raised £231. Piping tutor Calum MacLean opened the evening on Friday, January 16, with a couple of tunes from a group of eight young chanter players from Tobermory, Dervaig, Salen and Lochdonhead primaries. After they finished a further eight pipers took to the stage accompanied by Calum for a selection of tunes. The audience was entertained with solo piping performances by Alexander Anderson, Fraser Mitchell and Lewis Dillon. Calum thanked John Archbold, Iain Elwis and all those that braved the weather to come and support the young pipers.



**SWEET TASTE OF SUCCESS:** world champion Alex McMillan and his wife, Mary, who scooped third prize

**It's mince at the Mishnish**

THE Mishnish pub in Tobermory was on Saturday January 24 the host of the Mince and Tatties world championships. Entrants were all vying for the well sought after Mince and Tatties World Championship trophy. First place went to Alex McMillan, a previous winner, who titled his mince and tatties as 'a classic school dinners creation' with his wife, Mary McMillan, taking the respected third spot. Second place went to Robert Crumlish, who also won the innovation award for the creation of a mince and tatties rollie polly. Robert's partner, John Norman, was last year's winner. The three judges, Hebridean Lodge chef/owner Helen Swinbanks, Mishnish head chef Paul Jakiel and previous Mishdish restaurant manager Wil Craig, said that the quality of entries was very high this year, highlighting the continued popularity of the event and the high culinary standards present in the local mull community. West Coast fiddler Archie McAllister, with his brother on the box, entertained the mince and tatties crowd into the wee hours.

**Best rally's new sponsor**

LABELLED by motorsport aficionados as 'the best rally in the world', this year's three-day Mull Rally will have a new sponsor: Beaton's Building Supplies. The new five-year deal ensures the long-term future of the event which was the first all-Tarmac event to be held on closed-off public roads in the UK and gives the three-day event on the Hebridean island a major boost. This year's Beaton's Building Supplies Mull Rally will take place on Friday, October 9, through to Sunday, October 11. 'We've always wanted to put more back into Scottish motorsport and the opportunity to become title sponsor of the Mull Rally was one we couldn't ignore,' said Ross Marshall, director of Beaton's Building Supplies. Marshall, who previously raced in Legends at both National and Scottish level, contested last year's Mull Rally in his Ford Escort MkII, finishing 23rd in the 130-car field, which included entries from all over the world. The entry list for the 2014 event, the 45th running of the Mull Rally, also included Ross's father, fellow company director John Marshall, in his Escort.

**Tobermory's future bright**

TOBERMORY Harbour Association has been awarded £212,082 from the UK government's Coastal Communities Fund. The project will deliver improvements to visitor facilities and infrastructure at Tobermory harbour. A spokesman for THA said: 'Car park, signage and promenade improvements will connect facilities better in and around the harbour area, supporting local tourist, hotel, catering and nature tour businesses, and creating direct and indirect jobs within the local and wider island economy.' The award was part of £2 million of funding for Argyll and Bute, announced by MP Danny Alexander, chief secretary to the treasury. Accepting the award, leader of Argyll and Bute council councillor Dick Walsh said: 'It is very encouraging to have this support from the UK government. The fund supports projects which will have a long-term economic benefit to communities, creating jobs and sustainable growth. There is always huge competition for these funding pots so securing this amount of funding is a ringing endorsement of the different, innovative projects in Argyll and the long-term benefits that they will have. It shows that the economy in Argyll and Bute is strong, that it's one of opportunity and that there are lots of exciting developments planned.'

**Free Business Skills workshops**

**Introduction to Social Media - 11 February** - A half day workshop giving you an overview of how you can use sites like Facebook and Twitter to interact with customers to promote and grow your business.

**Developing a Social Media Strategy - 11 February** - Do you already use Social Media sites like Facebook, Twitter and Linked In, but want to know how to use them more effectively to promote and grow your business? This workshop will show you tips and tricks that can make Social Media a business tool (as well as a fun way to engage with your customers!).

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**Online trading essentials - 17 February** - For businesses considering selling products or services, or taking bookings or payments online. You will be introduced to the basics of online trading, the essentials needed and the legislation relating to online trading.

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JURY UNANIMOUSLY REJECTS TEARFUL PLEA FROM MAN WHO RAN ISLAND ADVENTURE CENTRE FOR DECADES

# Landowner guilty of sex abuse

**COURT REPORTER**  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

A LAND-OWNER who ran outdoor adventure courses for children on an island south of Oban for more than 35 years has been found guilty of sexually abusing three boys in the 1980s.

Torquil Johnson-Ferguson, 65, was found unanimously guilty by a jury at Oban sheriff court on Monday of lewd, indecent and libidinous practices towards the boys on three separate occasions between 1981 and 1986.

One was aged nine or 11 years, another aged 11 or 12 and another aged 13.

Johnson-Ferguson, who lives at Solwaybank, Chapel Knowe, Canonbie, Dumfries and Galloway, denied the offences which took place on the island of Rua Fiola, owned by the accused and his wife, where they ran Wild Island Exploration Ltd from 1976 to 2014.

The trial, which began on Monday last week, heard from three victims, one of whom had flown from New Zealand to give evidence.

On Friday the third victim, now married and in his 40s, told the

jury he had been on a course on the island in 1986 where he said the accused had been the only instructor with his group.

He broke down in tears as he recounted the moment he was sexually abused by Johnson Ferguson after he came to the bottom of a zip slide, into a muddy pool.

He said he contacted the police in late 2013 after he told his wife what had happened to him, following a discussion about the Jimmy Savile case.

Asked why he had not reported the incident at the time, he replied: "When someone does something wrong, you tell the teacher. When the teacher does something wrong, who do you tell?"

In the witness box, Johnson-Ferguson told the jury he went to a boarding school in Hampshire where he was constantly bullied. As a result he hated bullying and would not stand for it on Rua Fiola.

Asked by his solicitor Gary McAteer if he regarded himself as the type of man who would abuse children, he replied: "I used to say a child is more valuable than a lorry load of diamonds. I



ABUSE OF TRUST: Torquil Johnson-Ferguson Photograph Kevin McGlynn

would never damage, hurt, injure or molest a child."

He broke down in tears on the witness stand as he recalled how Rua Fiola was regarded by inspectors as the best in Britain.

Mr McAteer asked him: "Is there any possibility you did something inappropriate or indecent to these boys?"

The accused answered: "No, my natural child-care training would prevent me from molesting a child. I would not do it."

In his submissions Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty said: "It is the Crown's case that Torquil Johnson-Ferguson was someone who sexually abused susceptible, damaged, fragile and difficult children."

He asked how it was possible for three men to go to the police separately at different times to report that the same man had sexually abused them on the same island, on the same course and two in the same cave, in the same manner.

He said when parents sent their children away on a residential course with a stranger in charge, they placed their trust in that stranger to look after their children.

"There is no greater breach of trust than when that person goes on to sexually abuse those children," he said.

Mr McAteer challenged the jury to remember what they were doing in 1981 or 1986. He pointed out that one of the witnesses did not even remember being to the island twice.

"In my submission, when you look at the evidence there should be no doubt that you can't convict."

"Human memory is frail in time and should not be relied on for corroboration and support."

He said there were too many contradictions and inherent problems with the evidence of witnesses, calling one of the witnesses' recollections 'wholly unbelievable and fantastical'.

Following Johnson-Ferguson's conviction, Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC called for criminal justice social inquiry reports before sentencing on March 2.

She told Johnson-Ferguson: "All options are available to me and one of these is a custodial sentence."

She made an interim order to place the accused on the Sex Offenders' Register.

## Highland bosses admit cash crisis would have led to axed operations

A £2.5 MILLION bail-out from the Scottish government stopped the cancellation of operations and cutting vital services, health bosses admitted at a public hearing yesterday (Wednesday).

Grilling NHS Highland directors, Holyrood's public audit committee claimed health board chairman Gary Coult, chief executive Elaine Mead, finance director Nick Kenton and internal auditor Chris Brown gave 'fudgy' answers when responding to questions.

The NHS Highland team members said they were not complacent in managing the £750 million budget and that the government bail-out was an exception.

The committee heard there was no 'plan B' if the government had refused its request for additional funds.

Chief executive Elaine Mead admitted that the £2.5 million shortfall would have led to the cancellation of operations.

## Hope comes in the form of cash boost as appeal assists Oban soup kitchen

HOPE Kitchen, a project providing food and shelter to vulnerable people in Oban, has received a welcome boost £2,000 from the STV Appeal 2014.

The appeal helps children in poverty and estimates that in Argyll and Bute more than 19 per cent of children fall into that category.

Hope Kitchen is open four days a week providing a hot meal and drop-in service for the town.

It serves around 350 food portions a month from its Argyll Street premises.

Hope Kitchen service manager Sue Vest said: "We are extremely grateful to the STV Appeal for providing this money which will be used to further our work."

## Keep a tight grip on our village pub

THAT'S THE CRI DE COEUR FROM LOCHAWE STALWART OVER DEVELOPMENT PLAN

**LOUISE LEE**  
llee@obantimes.co.uk

AN HISTORIC village pub is at the centre of a planning battle after plans to turn it into three flats were rejected by the community.

National company Commercial First wants to turn the pub into flats in order to 'maximise returns for clients' while the community council is eager to keep the bar and restaurant as a village attraction.

The 'Tight Line' pub in Lochawe village on the A85 trunk road, has a price tag of £135,000. A planning application was

submitted in late October for change of use from a public house to three residential flats.

Described by Bell Ingram estate agents as 'in need of renovation, modernisation and upgrading', the building has two bars and a two bed-room flat.

Ian Craig of Glenorchy and Innishail community council urged villagers to think seriously before they endorsed plans for flats in the former stable building built in 1871.

Mr Craig said: "If this goes through this will be one of the biggest losses to the community."

"It will be a terrible shame if we allow the Tight Line to vanish

from the heart of our community. Where will there be for anyone to meet in the village?"

"I have a strong feeling about letting it go for residential use."

"It will rip out the heart of the village."

"There are monies available to have a hostel or something if we are of the same mind to take it forward."

"If there is a prospect of development work at Cruachan Two [an extension to the Cruachan power station] and continued tourism development then there will be many people around in the village to support both a hostelry and accommodation."

"It would be superb to have somewhere in the village where people could stop and have something to eat as well as stopping to get a welcome."

"This building should not be given a change of use until every other avenue has been explored."

A spokesman for the estate agent declined to comment on the application.

A former stable building, The Tight Line was built in 1871 the hotel has been out of use for 18 months.

Loch Awe itself is Scotland's third largest freshwater loch, which is renowned for its trout fishing.



HEARTBREAK: Ian Craig says losing the 'Tight Line' pub would tear the heart out of the village

## No threat to jobs at Oban school

RUMOURS that eight teaching posts are to be axed next year at Oban high school have been strenuously denied by Argyll and Bute council.

Concerns had grown among some parents that the teaching jobs were to be cut at the town school due to a fall in pupil numbers.

However, an council spokeswoman said: "There are no plans to reduce staffing levels at Oban high school."

## Straw poll reveals Oban public not happy with Stafford Street changes

A 'PEN and paper' sample of public opinion carried out by a community councillor revealed an overwhelming majority against the pedestrianisation of Stafford Street in Oban.

That's the claim of Oban community councillor George Berry, who said that of the 30 people he interviewed, 27 were against the plans. Speaking at Oban community council last

week, he said: "I went out with a pen and paper and talked to people. The result I got was pretty terrible."

"People are saying the councillors could have spent their money on better things."

He said taxi drivers were angry they could no longer use Stafford Street as a route on to George Street and had to drive all the way around the town.

Mr Berry continued: "Argyll

and Bute council has only licenced 13 taxi spaces with no more new spaces being considered. As one lady said to me, "We don't need terrorists in the town, we have them here already!"

However, Oban-based Argyll and Bute councillor Neil MacIntyre replied: "There was a 12-week consultation and only four members of public went to the public meeting."

## Four years for dealer who was 'high up on the food chain

**COURT REPORTER**  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

IN ONE of the final sentences he passed before retiring last week, Sheriff Douglas Small sent down a drug dealer for four years, while issuing a warning to would-be dealers in Oban.

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His co-accused, mother-of-five Jennifer McIver, 38, had pled guilty to the same offence at an earlier date and she was sentenced to 286 days in prison.

Police who entered the house with force on August 8 this year found Montague with McIver and Andrew McKenzie, 33, who lived at the address searched.

However, charges were dropped against McKenzie, who went on to give evidence in the trial. DNA from Montague and McIver, but not from Mr McKenzie, had been

found on one or two knotted packages of heroin found in the flat.

On the last day of the four-day proceeding, procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty said Montague was 'high up on the food chain' in the drugs world.

Sentencing Montague and McIver, both Helensburgh, last week, Sheriff Small said: "The total value of drugs found within the two bags amounted to £1,400."

"I have repeatedly said from this bench that people convicted of the supply of drugs will be dealt with severely."

After passing sentence on McIver, who had one previous conviction for drugs offences, he explained Montague was 'in a different category' to the co-accused, pointing out Montague's previous conviction for a drugs offence involving heroin in 2010 at Dumbarton sheriff court.

Sheriff Small told Montague: "You have a schedule of previous convictions that is lengthy, to say the least."

Montague's four-year sentence was backdated to August 8 2014 when he first taken into custody.

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editor@obantimes.co.uk

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**In the frame for FilmG honours**

BUDDING moviemakers in the Highlands have submitted a record breaking number of entries to this year's FilmG national Gaelic short film competition.

Voting is now open for the 79 submissions, including 28 adult entries, with the winner to be announced in Glasgow in March.

Lochaber, Plockton and Mallaig high schools have all taken part covering difficult issues including war and self harm. Skye Highland Dance Group and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig students have also submitted entries.

FilmG project manager Floraidh Forrest said: 'Those who made films have gone to a lot of effort developing their stories as well as filming and editing.'

Films can be viewed online at [www.filmg.co.uk](http://www.filmg.co.uk) and voting is open until March 20.

**Website hits all the right notes**

A MUSIC website based in Oban has been given an accreditation for its outstanding service to customers.

Musicscotland.com, operated by Argyll Square's Oban Music shop, has been named a Gold Trusted Merchant by Feefo, the global feedback engine for online businesses.

The accreditation is based on the customer service feedback gathered by Feefo over the previous year and the gold standard is reserved for businesses gaining an average service rating of between 95 per cent and 100 per cent.

Ratings and reviews are verified via sales data, meaning only customers that have completed a transaction can give feedback.

**More complaints to NHS Highland**

AN INCREASE in the number of complaints to NHS Highland caused board members, who met on Tuesday, concern.

The highest number of complaints was in relation to waiting times and cancelled appointments.

Board members agreed to 'monitor' the situation and would take the necessary action. The number of complaints was not given to members.

**FARMER WARNS AGAINST COMPLACENCY AFTER THIEVES TARGET KILNINVER PROPERTY IN RAID**

**Rural crime crackdown**

**EUAN PATERSON**  
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

A FARM owner whose property was raided by thieves last month has warned others against complacency over security, as Police Scotland launches a campaign to tackle rural crime.

Operation Quarterlight was launched last Friday to reduce vehicle thefts and in Argyll the campaign is targeted at thefts of agricultural vehicles and equipment.

Nigel Mitchell, of Barrochreal Farm, Kilninver, had a quad, generator and other items stolen from his barn sometime between January 2 and 3 after thieves smashed through railings and fencing to get to it.

The thieves even used Mr Mitchell's own tools to break through fencing as they made their escape.

'I fell into the trap of being over-complacent,' admitted Mr Mitchell, who is chairman of Kilninver and Kilmelford community council. 'We are on the main road so I didn't think theft would ever be an issue

here, especially with the type of fencing I've got. I didn't lock the back door when I was out in the field, but I do now. Times have changed and people can move around the country so much easier now, so I would urge everyone to be more vigilant.'

Asked how the impact of the theft had affected him, he added: 'The word 'victim' is very emotive but you do feel an intrusion.'

'It has certainly made me more apprehensive and worried that they will come back again and I have lost sleep over it.'

'Every time a car goes by on the road at night your ears prick up to hear if it has stopped. You become paranoid.'

'I'm 6ft 6ins, I'll take anything on but at night I now have to go around with a torch and check everything is locked up.'

Mr Mitchell praised the police for their quick response - officers arrived at his home 20 minutes after the theft was reported - and the police victim support officer keeps him up to date with the investigation.

'PC Jeremy Moore has been round a couple of times since.



TARGETING RURAL CRIME: Operation Quarterlight had its Argyll launch at Killellan Farm, Dunoon.

The follow-up has been spot on. 'To be fair, the 101 phone number worked very well, though I had concerns about it initially.' Since last April, six quad bikes have been stolen in Argyll, along with more than 2,000 litres

of red diesel. The nationwide Operation Quarterlight was launched last week in Edinburgh by Assistant Chief Constable Campbell Thomson, with the Argyll and Bute launch at Killellan Farm in Dunoon last

Thursday. Police officers across Argyll are urging people living in rural communities to ensure equipment and vehicles are kept secure, for example, in a locked shed, garage, or outbuilding when they are not being used.

**Urgent appeal for Coll breakwater**

**STEVEN RAE**  
srae@obantimes.co.uk

A CROFTING industry representative has claimed that poor transport links may eventually make his native island of Coll uninhabited.

Colin Kennedy, who describes himself as 'born and bred' on the island, has likened it to the situation on the island of St Kilda, which was evacuated in 1930 and has remained uninhabited since.

Mr Kennedy, 54, who also owns a wind turbine on the island, is now urging the Scottish government to build a breakwater to reduce the impact bad weather has on ferries.

He said: 'I'm living out on an island, I understand that, but the service really is appalling.'

'Boats don't come here when there is bad weather and I can accept that, but recently there was an eight-day period where there was no boat at all.'

'It's coming to a point where

people can no longer properly live their lives. You can't say now that you'll leave the island on a Tuesday and come back on a Thursday - it's becoming impossible to plan ahead.'

'You're forced to just watch the weather and hope for the best.'

'At least if a breakwater was built it would mean some of the sailings just now that are cancelled, when it's touch-and-go, would make it.'

A breakwater is a structure which protects an anchorage from the effects of the weather, allowing boats to berth and depart in more challenging conditions.

The decision to build a breakwater would ultimately be made by Transport Scotland, which is responsible for the operation of ferry services in Scotland, along with fellow Scottish government body Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL), which owns the ferries, harbours, ports

and infrastructure of the ferry services. Stewart MacLennan, who is managing director of islands haulage firm MacLennan Motors said the situation was a problem but there were no easy answers.

Mr MacLennan lives on Tiree, and his firm delivers to Coll and Tiree from its Oban base.

He said: 'I know people who have gone to Coll for a funeral and ended up stuck on the island

for five or six days. We can have vehicles stuck on islands and we need them elsewhere to do other deliveries, so they are held up, and also can have vehicles full of goods and they have to sit in the yard. It's a whole chain of events.'

He said that Coll was notoriously difficult for boats loading and unloading, especially in rough conditions.

'Coll has always had an issue with visibility and poor lighting,' he said.

'It's also a narrow bay so the boats seem to struggle.'

'During the bad weather, sometimes CalMac gives Coll a designated vessel which means if there's bad weather and a sailing is off, they will put an extra sailing on that day or the next to cover it, but that isn't always possible.'

'Everyone would love more boats and more sailings, but the truth is CalMac can't commit to that as it is running at its costs as best it can.'

The Scottish Ferries Plan, published in 2012, set out the long and short-term plans for ferry routes in Scotland.

The model service would be to provide a daily sailing from Coll and Tiree to Oban in winter as well as summer.

When asked if a breakwater would be considered to improve sailings and services to Coll, a Transport Scotland spokesman said it was not an issue that had been raised.

He said: 'We are working with CMAL and CalMac to look at the vessel and infrastructure investments needed across the whole of the Clyde and Hebrides network to support the implementation of the Ferries Plan over the next 10 years.'

'We have already given the go-ahead to CMAL to procure two new large ferries which, with the redeployment of existing vessels, should bring benefits to a large number of communities, including Coll.'

**Poverty outrage as thousands turn to welfare grants to survive**

THOUSANDS of people in the Highlands are applying for a 'community care' grant to survive, prompting outrage from politicians.

New figures released by the Scottish government show more than 6,000 applications have been made to the Scottish welfare fund since its inception 18 months ago.

The grant is provided to families 'under exceptional pressure' or to allow young people to live independently when they may otherwise have to go into care and data shows the number of people relying on the fund is on the rise as 1,477 applications were made from July to September 2014, compared to just 618 for the same period the previous year.

Dave Thompson, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, said: 'It is appalling that a nation of Scotland's wealth has folk forced to live in poverty, with an increasing amount of people who are working, having to make applications to the Scottish welfare fund, in order to top up their earnings for basic necessities.'

Alex Neil, the Scottish government cabinet secretary for social justice, added: 'That anyone should live in poverty in a wealthy country is completely unacceptable and we'll continue to tackle poverty and inequality to create a more prosperous and fairer society.'

**Safety group shortlisted for national awards**

AN CAMPAIGN group in the Western Isles has been short-listed for two national awards for its work in accident prevention and raising awareness.

The Outer Hebrides Community Safety Partnership has been recognised in the 'innovative media' and 'people's choice' categories of the Scottish Community Safety Network Awards for the summer and winter safety advice booklets and informative signage created by the partnership.

Winners will be announced at a ceremony in Glasgow's Grand Central Hotel on March 2.

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**Appin ladies enjoy annual dinner**

Members of Appin SWRI enjoyed their annual dinner at the Holy Tree hotel, Kentallen, last Thursday. After the meal, the fun continued with quizzes and charades.

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Final application deadline is 10th March 2015, with claims made by 31st May 2015.

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\* Retail businesses ineligible due to restrictions applied to European funding

**Mòd brings major benefits to venue**

THE ROYAL National Mòd, which this year comes to Oban, generated more than £3.5 million for the business community in Inverness, host city for the 2014 event.

A report by The Market Specialists estimated Inverness benefited to the tune of £3,547,661 by hosting Gael-dom's premier festival.

The report also revealed Inverness entertained more than 9,000 visitors, 78 per cent of who came from outside the city.

**Time dragging on for counselling**

ONE in five people referred to NHS Highland for psychological therapies such as counselling are waiting longer than 18 weeks for an appointment.

NHS board members heard last week that work is ongoing to improve access to the service to make sure people are seen within the Scottish government's target of four months.

**Lorna has designs on the land of beaches, forests and mountains**

**EUAN PATERSON**  
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

AN ILLUSTRATOR who was inspired to create a book about an adventurous Highland girl during visits to Argyll is giving *Oban Times* readers the chance to win a signed copy.

Lorna Freytag moved to Oban last October with her husband Daniel, who grew up in the town, and their two children.

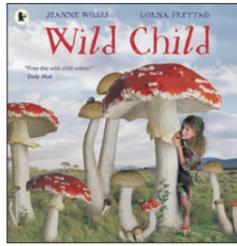
But it was previous visits to the town - and a case of homesickness while living in London - that inspired the book 'Wild Child'.

Lorna creates her imaginative illustrations by separately photographing scenic landscapes and a model, combining the two to dramatic effect.

Landscapes in Easdale, Kilmartin and Barcaldine help make up the illustrations for 'Wild Child'.



**INSPIRED:** Illustrator Lorna Freytag says she was inspired by Argyll when she designed the cover for *Wild Child* (pictured above right)



'Many of the images in 'Wild Child' feature landscapes from around the west coast,' said Lorna. 'The house is actually a retouched version of the beehive cell at the Kilmartin Museum. 'Daniel, the children and I had been visiting the Argyll area a lot over the last few years and decided to make the move permanent. 'The landscapes are amazing

and being a bit of a city girl - I'm originally from Edinburgh - Oban has the perfect mix of cafés, shops and people along with the forests, beaches and mountains. A perfect balance for me.'

'Wild Child', written by children's author Jeann Willis, was released on paperback on January 1 and follows on from Lorna's previous work on a 'Wizard of Oz' adaptation and the 'My Humongous Hamster' books.

For a chance to win a signed copy of the book, draw your own wild child and send your entry, with your name, age, address and school, to: 'Wild Child' competition, *The Oban Times*, Lochavullin Estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

The two best entries, judged by Lorna, will win a signed copy of the book. Deadline for entries is Friday, February 20 2015.

**Enough salt to see out the cold snap, say road bosses as temperatures fall**

MOTORISTS in the Highlands have been assured there is plenty of salt to grit roads following the recent snow and ice.

Spokesmen from Highland council and BEAR Scotland, who work together to treat icy roads, have both confirmed they have large supplies of road grit which is replenished throughout the winter.

The assurance came amid concern from the public that the recent cold snap would cause supplies to run out.

William Gilfillan, director of Highland council's community services, said: 'We have plenty of salt in stock at our 41 depots across the Highlands.'

'On average, our annual winter salt usage is around 50,000 tonnes of salt and our current salt tonnage in the Highlands is 39,518 tonnes in stock.'

'We also have a healthy 6,298 tonnes at the Inverness harbour store and a further 3,500 tonnes arriving by boat this weekend and more on our order books.'

Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's operating company representative for the north west, added: 'There is no shortage of salt stocks.'

'We have around 35,000 tonnes between our north west and north east units which is continuously being replenished.'

**Light touch helps to boost hospice**

FRIENDS of Oban Hospice raised more than £10,000 at the annual 'Light Up a Life' event in the Corran Halls in the town.

The winter fundraising campaign encourages people to make a donation to the appeal, write in the book of remembrance and add a light to a display at the venue.

The Friends thanked everyone who donated and the volunteers who delivered leaflets, organised fundraising events and attended the ceremony.

**Couple leave their stamp on the town**

AN OBAN couple said a fond farewell last Friday, as the Esplanade Post Office and store closed after 24 years with them behind the counter.

Colin and Lynn Galbraith, who moved to Oban in 1991 and opened the store and Post Office in July of that year, thanked customers for their support over the years.

Lynn, who is originally from Arizona, said: 'We have so many good memories here, and it's all been down to the fantastic customers.'

'Words can't say how much they have meant to us.'

Sharon Black, who started working at the store a year after the couple took it over, said: 'It's been like a family unit here. The sad part, for me, is that I won't see our regulars anymore. 'It's the end of an era, because

this is the last wee post office unit in the town, which is sad.

'The customers we've spoken to are really going to miss the pet dog, Eachan, too. He's been here for the past 14 years and everybody knows him.'

Lynn said she was planning to study computing, as well as do some voluntary work in the town's Oxfam store on George Street. Colin, originally from Mull, said he would be devoting his time to Eachan, his garden and his armchair.

While the post office is now shut, the store will remain open until next Friday (February 13).

**FIRST CLASS:** From left: Colin (with Eachan), Lynn and Sharon on Friday, as the post office counter closed for the last time



**Jail for fisherman who launched savage attack after Islay bar row**

**COURT REPORTER**  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

A FISHERMAN who almost killed a man for trying to defuse an argument he was having with a woman in a bar on Islay has been jailed for six years.

Andrew MacGillivray, 33, a father-of-three, was also ordered to be monitored in the community for three years after his release from prison.

He punched Keith Cameron, 41, and stood on his chest, causing his ribs to crack, and assaulted him to the danger of his life, near to a pub in Port Ellen, on March 23 last year.

The High court in Glasgow previously heard Mr Cameron was fortunate to be alive.

Sentencing MacGillivray at the High court in Paisley on

**I would do it again and worse**

Andrew MacGillivray

Monday, judge Lord Bannatyne told him: 'This was a brutal, sustained and wholly cowardly assault.'

'It was a pre-meditated revenge attack and the results were extremely serious and Mr Cameron is very lucky to be alive.'

The court heard that MacGillivray got into an argument with a woman in the bar and Mr Cameron stepped in to try and

calm him down. MacGillivray was asked to leave the pub, but waited nearby for Mr Cameron.

When he spotted his victim, he knocked him down with a punch before battering him as he lay on the ground and standing on his ribs.

Mr Cameron - who is known locally as Cabana - was later spotted by a passing couple who knew him but they were unable to recognise him due to his injuries.

As an ambulance took Mr Cameron to hospital, MacGillivray returned home and told his wife: 'I think I've killed Cabana. I hope he's OK. I know I hurt his ribs.' He insisted Mr Cameron had a 'go' at him in the bar before MacGillivray later launched his frenzied attack.

MacGillivray said he stood on Mr Cameron's ribs, heard them crack and the victim's chest 'went as flat as his stomach'.

Police later arrested MacGillivray but, before being held, he told his father-in-law: 'I did it - I would do it again and worse. If you want to be hard, you have to act hard.'

Mr Cameron had injuries to his face, eye and significant fractures to his chest.

He was eventually flown to the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow for treatment.

A doctor said the injuries to the chest were more commonly found when a heavy object falls onto a person.

The court was told that MacGillivray has expressed remorse and regret for what he did to Mr Cameron.

**No takers as units still under wraps**

NO NEWS on Oban's purpose-built dental health unit at the Lorn and Islands hospital is good news for another dental practice set to open in a former hardware store in the town, writes Louise Lee.

NHS Highland confirmed there were no bidders for the state-of-the-art dental units, which cost millions, after negotiations with a second dentist had fallen through.

Meanwhile, a planning application for a new dental centre in the former Mica hardware shop on Lochside Street has been lodged with Argyll and Bute council.

Last week, Oban community council heard that the cost of hiring the hospital dental surgeries was £165 an hour. Community councillors said these costs were prohibitive and were at the root of the problem.

Duncan Martin, secretary of the community council, told the meeting: 'NHS dental services say it has funding to create two new surgeries in the hospital. And they say they have plans to interview potential practitioners but due to the weather conditions, these have been cancelled. The health board is anxious to recruit dentists.'

Marri Malloy, chairwoman of the community council, said: 'This issue has become a white elephant. What will happen to the dental unit at the hospital? No one knows. We have been talking about this for years. We just need a solution.'

A spokesman for NHS Highland said there was no movement at present on the Oban dental units.

He also confirmed that NHS Highland health board members had listened to concerns at a meeting last week about the lack of progress over the units.

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Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

**Sleat**

ABRIDGED minutes of Sleat community council, south Skye, January meeting:

Rob Ware (secretary) gave a short update on the Forestry Commission Scotland Clan Donald Lands Trust project. A letter was received from the commission saying all future woodland projects would be communicated to the community council. Roddy Murray (acting chairman) reiterated the importance of public involvement.

Mr Ware said a road problem had been identified at Camuscross upper area where the gritting machine was unable to get through because of badly parked vehicles. A message was being sent to residents to try to avoid this during winter. Highland council also had a sign put up at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig because there was a lack of white lines. The community council had stressed the urgency of repairs to damaged culverts at Ord and Achnaclloch.

Sleat Transport Forum was making progress and items such as patient transport, community transport and the Broadford airstrip will all be discussed at the group meetings. A public meeting was to be arranged for mid-February to introduce the forum to the community.

The community council received a request from community nurses for a donation for equipment which they hope to be pressure cushions for care of patients at home. It was agreed that this was a good cause. The councillors agreed that it would give £250 now and following a budget review might be able to give some more money later this financial year.

The next meeting will be held on March 3 at Tarskavaig Hall, 7.30pm.

**Tyndrum**

A GOLD mining company has seen its share price rocket after estimates show there may be three times as much gold in reserves in a Tyndrum mine as previously thought.

The mine, owned by Scotgold Resources, is located at Cononish, around a mile from the village.

The company has seen its share price rise after publication of a new independent report, which shows a 201 per cent increase in the estimated amount of gold in the mining area compared to a previous study published in 2012.

The new assessment suggests 248,000 ounces of gold could be at the site, and that the quality of gold is also better than previously thought.

Following the publication of the report, Scotgold Resource's share price lifted by 29 per cent on the London stock exchange.

The firm, which is headquartered in Perth, Australia, now plans to use three-dimensional computer modelling to assess how best to mine the gold.

**Tiree**

TREE parents are being reminded that their children may be eligible for Early Learning and Childcare (ELCC).

ELCC is a Scottish government policy aimed at building confidence and capability for children from birth to starting school.

The policy supports parents to work, provide economic security for their families and routes out of unemployment and poverty.

All three-year-old children born between March 1, 2012 and February 28, 2013 will be eligible, over a two-year period, dependant on their birthday.

Children are eligible to start the Monday after their third birthday, unless it falls between March and June, in which case they will start in August, the same as the school term.

Children must be three by the first in-service day of the new school term in August to start on the first day of term, otherwise it will be the Monday after they turn three.

Parents and carers must register children in person between February 2 and 6, showing a birth certificate or passport to verify their date of birth.

**Tarbert**

ARGYLL Community Housing Association (ACHA) has completed its first new-build homes in Oakfield, Tarbert.

The eight properties were built in just more than a year by Mid Argyll-based construction firm M and K MacLeod, with a value of more than £1 million.

Retired sheltered housing warden and housing volunteer Sandra MacKenzie officially opened the one and two-bedroom homes on Friday. For 30 years Sandra worked as a sheltered housing warden and then, following retirement, served as a housing association board member.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's chief executive, said: 'To have Sandra carrying out this opening in her home village in a community where she gave so much to housing and caring is fully warranted. I have known Sandra for 10 years and in that time I would simply describe her as a 'housing hero'.'

Financial contributions to the building work came from the Scottish government and Argyll and Bute council, as well as ACHA.

**Arisaig**

RAINFALL at Arisaig in January was the highest this century at just under 10 inches, according to amateur meteorologist Ranald Coyne.

The average daily temperatures for the first month of 2015 of between 1.2°C and 7°C, normal for this time of year.

The coldest night was -4°C, just below average and the hottest day was 12°C, just above average.



**Uig**

**Sunday school children raise £1,020 at silent auction**

THE CHILDREN of Uig Free Church Sunday school raised more than £1,000 through a silent auction.

The event, held in Kilmuir primary school on January 25, was well supported by the community and raised £1,020, to be split between Leprosy Mission Scotland and the Save the Children ebola crisis fund.

**CHARITY BOOST: Uig Free Church Sunday school pupils raised £1,020 for charity during a silent auction**



**Rum**

ALL FIVE species of insect-eating, carnivorous plants in Britain can be seen on a new weekly guided walk starting on the isle of Rum this year.

Community rangers are inviting the public to go for a two-hour trek every Tuesday morning in Kinloch glen, with the chance to see a variety of other wildlife too.

There is no need to book, attendees are only asked to wear strong boots, bring cameras and binoculars, and meet at 10am outside Kinloch village hall.

The Isle of Rum community ranger service is also leading walks on Wednesdays aimed at day trippers to learn about area's nature and the cultural heritage, starting from Kinloch ferry terminal at 11.45am.

More information is available by emailing ranger@isleofrum.com.

**Skye**

EYE-CATCHING photos of crofting scenes on Skye are being sought for a competition on the island.

Amateur photographers are urged to enter pictures and the winning entry will be used on the cover for the Skye Agricultural Show's official 2015 programme.

For more information see <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Skye-Agricultural-Society/114392338649465>.

**Islay residents praised for parcel effort**

THE CONSERVATIVE candidate for Argyll and Bute in this year's general election has praised people on Islay for their support of the armed forces.

Alastair Redman, who is the postmaster in Portnahaven, made the comment after the latest batch of parcels collected at the village post office were prepared for shipping to Afghanistan last Wednesday. He said: 'No matter what your politics,

we are all proud of our country's heroic armed forces. Thanks to everyone who contributed to our latest batch of parcels destined for our forward operating bases in Afghanistan.'

In May last year, the post office sent out the 3,000th food package to troops since 2007.

Alastair is pictured in the post office with local lad James Holmes, who helped put the parcels together.

**Search on for mystery Kilchoan benefactor**



VOLUNTEERS who run Kilchoan community centre were delighted but surprised to receive a late Christmas card - with an anonymous donation to hall funds.

The mystery card delivery had no name or address so community centre committee members have taken to the Kilchoan Diary website, run by local man Jon Haylett, in an attempt to thank the benefactor.

Mr Haylett posted a photo of the card on his blog and added: 'This is a special 'thank you' to whoever sent this lovely card to the community centre with a very kind donation - but no name or address was given. They hope that the generous person is a diary reader and that they can express their thanks this way.'

**PLEASANT SURPRISE: an anonymous donation was delivered to Kilchoan community centre in this Christmas card**



**Strath of Appin Burns winners**

Children from Strath of Appin primary school who competed at the recent Robert Burns event for schools, held in the Corran Halls, Oban. The children, pictured with their medals, entered various competitions including recitation, solo singing, art and writing in Scots.

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LOTTERY FUNDED



**Crianlarich**

CRIANLARICH primary school pupils and staff invited members of the community to join them at their Burns Supper on January 23.

The children sang songs, recited poetry, played music and danced to entertain the guests, before the traditional haggis, neeps and tatties were piped in.

After the meal, guests were asked to join in the dancing and then everyone joined hands to sing Auld Lang Syne.

A school spokeswoman said: 'This event was a combined effort and everyone had a brilliant afternoon. Many thanks to the children, parents, parent partnership, school staff, Rod and Reel, Crianlarich Store, Brodie's and all our invited guests.'

**STEPPING OUT: pupils, staff and guests enjoy traditional Scottish dancing at the Burns supper.**



**Onich**

MORE than 80 people gathered at St Bride's primary school, Onich, for the annual Burns supper.

Local piper John MacCallum piped in the haggis for primary seven pupil Sophie Cameron to deliver the address with the help of Lewis Moran, also primary seven.

Later Mr MacCallum presented Logan Kelly, primary six, with the St Bride's Burns quail which he won for singing Burns songs.

**SUCCESS: John MacCallum presents Logan Kelly with the St Bride's Burns quail**



**Toy sale boosts school funds**

Kinlochleven primary school and nursery held a toy sale to raise funds for the pupils' eco projects. Teachers described the event as 'a great success' and £50 was raised. Connor MacLean and Lily Campbell are pictured manning a stall at the sale

CAMPAIGNERS AWAIT OUTCOME OF COUNCILLORS' VOTE ON PLANNED PRICE HIKES

# Decision time over Corran ferry fares

**EMMA CRICHTON**  
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

HIGHLAND councillors were deciding today (Thursday) whether to back price hikes to a ferry service connecting remote peninsulas to central Lochaber.

Campaigners have argued the proposed four per cent annual increase for the next three years on the Corran ferry, bringing a single trip to £9.25, will drive families away from Morvern and Ardnarmurchan and put off visitors to the area but a report recommends members of the council's community services committee vote to approve the increases, the first of which will be implemented in April this year.

A book of 30 tickets currently costs a reduced £69.50 but this will also rise under the proposals. Tony Boyd, chairman of campaign group Free Crossing for Corran (FC Corran), said: 'It unbelievable that they believe

the answer is to keep hitting us with higher fares. If you're a family and one of you work in Fort William, combine that with a weekly trip over for food shopping and any social events and you could easily go through two books of tickets a month, that's more than £100 out of a tight family budget.

'If you add a four per cent rise to that every year for the next three years, it's going to make people think about moving away. Even tourists coming over for the day will be put off when they see the price of a ticket.'

'Tourism, crofting, fish farming, all of these industries are going to be hit hard if this is approved.'

Mr Boyd also questioned the figures presented in the report, which says Corran Ferry, which runs across Loch Linnhe between Ardgour and Corran, ran at a deficit of £221,674 last year. He said: 'The report says £52,000 was spent on so-called other costs but everything from

staff wages to fuel and insurance seems to be accounted for so it seems like an awful lot of money not to be accounted for in detail.

'They have also estimated a rise in fuel costs of five per cent per year but the cost of fuel has dropped considerably this year so I don't see why we're not getting the benefit of that.'

'I think Highland council needs to look at figures much more closely.'

Highland council officials had previously considered transferring the running of MV Corran and its relief vessel, MV Maid of Glencoul, to Transport Scotland but the report also recommends no further discussions about this should take place, which Mr Boyd said 'baffles him'.

He said: 'If the Corran is running at a loss and is such a dead weight round the neck of Highland council why wouldn't it want to pass it on to Transport Scotland? Transport Scotland subsidises low-use buses and

trains in remote areas so there's no reason it can't do that for the ferry and we wouldn't be constantly charged more.'

But a Transport Scotland spokesman said it was 'open to further discussions' with the possibility of taking over Corran. He added: 'The Scottish government is willing to assume responsibility for all lifeline ferry services in Scotland, including those run by local authorities.'

'However, any transfer of responsibility would be subject to agreement of the principles set out in the Ferries Plan and the Scottish government being satisfied of the 'lifeline' nature of a service. We are aware of concerns in the local community regarding increased fares on the Corran Ferry. As the service is currently the responsibility of the Highland council, the Scottish government has no power to intervene.'

A Highland council spokesperson was unavailable for comment.

## High school Burns supper a class act

A FUNDRAISING Burns supper run by Lochaber high school pupils raised more than £2,000.

Tickets for the event, held in the school on Saturday night, combined with raffle ticket sales, raised £2,300 for the sixth year pupils' trip to London later this month.

A four-course traditional meal, cooked by David McQuillan and Kevin Fraser from Highland council's catering service, was followed by speeches, recitations and musical entertainment finishing off with dancing to the Lochaber high school ceilidh band.

Jim Sutherland, head teacher, said: 'After an excellent meal we had some outstanding performances from pupils who paid a fitting tribute to our national bard. I would like to pay a special thanks to Douglas Simpson, guest speaker who delivered the Immortal Memory, our sponsors The Alexandra Hotel and the Ben Nevis Distillery, and Mrs Jacqui Hume who coordinated the whole event.'

Money raised will be used when 100 sixth years travel to the capital for a long-weekend of museum visits, sightseeing, shows and activities.



SUCCESS: pupils made speeches and recitals at their fundraising Burns supper, with the help of guest speaker Douglas Simpson, middle, and head teacher Jim Sutherland 20\_06lochaberburns01



HIGH NOTES: Lauren Byrne, left, and Hannah MacRae, performed live as part of Celtic Connections

### Students in festival spotlight

TWO LOCHABER students travelled to Glasgow to contribute to the annual Celtic Connections traditional music festival.

Hannah MacRae, from Fort William, and Lauren Byrne, from Glenfinnan, both music students at West Highland College UHI, performed live for a broadcast on Celtic Music radio, as well as being interviewed about their course and attending various workshops. Lauren said: 'It was a fantastic experience to take part in Celtic Connections.'

### Pensioner ordered to pay up for poaching

A FORT William pensioner has been ordered to compensate the owner of Glenfinnan Estate for poaching a deer from the land.

James Kennedy, of Tigh na Feidh, Achintore Road, was fined £100 and told to pay the land owner £70 for taking, killing and disembowelling the hind on February 2 last year.

Kennedy, who will celebrate his 70th birthday tomorrow (Friday), pleaded guilty via letter at a previous hearing but sentencing was deferred for his personal appearance.

At Fort William sheriff court on Tuesday, defence solicitor Urfam Dar said, despite not offending for almost 30 years, 'old habits die hard' for the former gamekeeper, who has five previous convictions for poaching.

He added: 'His firearm has been seized and he has issued a formal apology to the landowner. Mr Kennedy does a lot of volunteering and I think there would be more benefit if this was dealt with financially.'

Sheriff Richard Davidson said it was the pensioner's volunteer work which had saved him from prison.

He said: 'This was once a hanging offence but fortunately for you we have moved to more enlightened times. In light of your work in the community I think the way to deal with this is by monetary fines rather than a custodial sentence.'

### Cash boost for Room 13

AN INTERNATIONAL charity founded in Fort William has secured £16,000 to develop its roots.

Room 13, which started as an art project at Caol primary school in 1994, now has 50 studios all over the world but now volunteers are hoping to improve facilities in the village where the project was founded.

Corpach Boatbuilding donated £8,000 towards a new gallery and workshop in Caol, as the school building is soon to be demolished and this was match-funded by Arts and Business Scotland.

Claire Gibb, chief executive

of Room 13 International, said: 'The support of both organisations is critical to us at this stage of our development.'

The new premises will be christened with a launch event on April 30, which also marks the 21st birthday of Room 13.

The celebration will showcase the achievements of the last 21 years and look to the future. Ms Gibb added: 'We are delighted to have a new independent base for Room 13 in Caol. This place is recognised worldwide as the home of Room 13, and the new space offers huge potential to develop a vibrant creative hub.'



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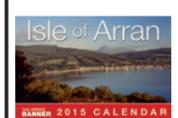
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# Give a cat a home



## Ten reasons why cats make great pets:

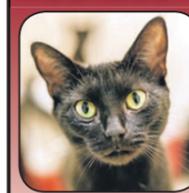
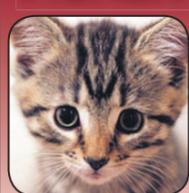
- 1 Cats are great family pets, and can be taught by children to play games that are traditionally associated with dogs, such as fetch.
- 2 Cats are natural acrobats and love to play. If you take out a toy fishing pole or a cat dancer toy they will leap, run, and pounce which is great entertainment to watch.
- 3 Cats are extremely loyal. They love to be petted, held, and cuddled. If you give them a bit of attention you'll get a lot of love in return.
- 4 Most cats are litter-box trained which means you won't have to walk them on cold, rainy days.
- 5 You can leave a cat home alone for a few hours, since they don't need to be walked. However, they do need attention, love, and care. If you're going away for the weekend or longer, it's important to hire a pet sitter.
- 6 Cats don't require bathing. They are meticulous about grooming themselves. If you have a long-haired cat, daily brushing is essential.
- 7 You can teach a cat to come when called, to not scratch the furniture, and to retrieve a toy. Just like clicker training with dogs, you can teach cats with a clicker. It's a good idea to purchase a cat training video or book that you can watch or read together as a family before you get your cat.
- 8 Cats don't require constant attention. They are happy just being near you. They love to be petted, brushed, and fed. Yet you won't have to dote on them all day.
- 9 When cats purr, it's like a little motor going off. This natural purr is extremely relaxing.
- 10 Cats are brilliant at living in compact spaces. If you have a small house, your cat will still be able to exercise using the space it has and its natural agility.

To re-home one of these cats call 01852 300362

With eight million pet cats in the UK, and 17 per cent of households having one, there is no doubt that cats make fantastic pets.

**Small Paws Rescue in Balvicar, which rescues and re-homes cats and kittens, is running a re-homing drive.**

**The Oban Times and kind-hearted supporting businesses have teamed up with Small Paws to help find loving homes for these cats.**

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ABUSER: Mark Maclennan

### Nursery boss found guilty of raping three-year-old child

A NURSERY boss has been convicted of raping a three-year-old child in the centre where he worked.

Mark Maclennan, 30, raped the boy at a Lochaber nursery between August 2012 and May 2013.

On Friday January 30 he was also found guilty of sexually abusing a girl at drama rehearsals held in Stirling and Dunfermline and at her home in Dunblane between October 2007 and July 2010 when she was aged between 12 and 15 and he was acting as a chaperone for a theatre company.

Maclennan was cleared of a charge of sexually abusing a girl at the nursery when she was aged between four and five. The jury found that charge against him not proven.

He was also found guilty of having thousands of images of child porn on the computer he brought into the nursery to help the children with their IT skills and a further four on the laptop at his then home in Stirling.

Judge John Morris QC told Maclennan: 'Given what you have been convicted of a prison sentence is almost inevitable.'

Judge Morris remanded Maclennan in custody and deferred sentence until February 27 at the High court in Edinburgh for background reports.

## VICIOUSLY HIGH TIDES SEE GLENCOE GROUP'S GROUNDS CRUMBLE INTO WATER AND TRAINING BOATS LEFT DAMAGED

# Urgent appeal for ground repair cash or boat club could go under

EMMA CRICHTON  
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

GLENCOE Boat Club could soon be under water if more is not done to protect the grounds from fierce winter storms, according to worried members.

The pontoon and foreshore boasts stunning views of Loch Leven but club commodore Robert Watt said viciously high tides in the last three years have caused parts of the club grounds to crumble into the water, as well as damaging boats used to train budding young sailors.

As Glencoe Boat Club committee bought the grounds from Ballachulish Estates and owns as far as low water, it does



FEARS: Glencoe boaters worry their club could soon be underwater. From left: David Southcott, vice-commodore, Alex Blanc, treasurer, and Robert Watt, commodore

not qualify for funding from Crown Estates so has had to fork out thousands from club funds to pay for emergency repairs.

Mr Watt said: 'We have had to spend large amounts on retaining walls and drains behind the club buildings where landslip and rain were flooding the premises but the main problem has been storm surges which have damaged the pontoon and removed large areas of the foreshore.'

'When we bought the land and premises we inherited the unusual situation of owning the foreshore to low water which means we do not appear to qualify for funding from the Crown Estate's coastal communities fund, despite paying thousands every year in mooring fees.'

'If the ground keeps crumbling away like this the whole club will be under water and eventually it will start affecting the road [the A82, situated directly behind the club] and then there will be real problems.'

'We spent £1,000 on 60 tonnes of rock to protect the grounds from the tide but we need 10 times that amount of rock and we still have to pay for repairs after that.'

Mr Watt said members of the boat club committee had applied for funding from various organisations, including the Crown Estate coastal communities fund, but with no success. The group plans to do as much fundraising as possible to fund repairs but said it won't

come close to the amount it needs. He added: 'We can do raffles and all the rest of it but that's a drop in the ocean. It won't even touch the sides. We really need some major grants or something like that, before it's too late.'

Many young people in south Lochaber are taught to sail at the club, but without a quick solution Mr Watt said this wouldn't continue. We train the youngsters to a standard that they can go out on the water and sail a boat on their own. We take it seriously but some of the boats we use to do this have been damaged in the storms and they're not cheap to replace so if we don't get some help soon we won't have boats left to teach with.'

### Power cut claims should be made

A HIGHLAND politician is urging those affected by recent power cuts to claim compensation.

Any Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) customers who lost electricity for a consecutive period of 48 hours or more between Friday January 9 and Monday January 12 can make a claim, said Rhoda Grant, MSP for the Highlands and Islands.

She added: 'Due to the extreme nature of the weather and the hurricane force winds that battered the north last month it did mean that a small number of homes may have gone without a power supply for a consecutive 48-hour period and those affected should use their right to claim for a compensation payment.'

Claims to SSE can be made via phone, email or an online form.

### Ivor delivers site safety message to young Fort pupils

FUTURE pupils of Fort William's new Gaelic school welcomed an unusual visitor, who taught them about safety on construction sites.

Ivor Goodsite also updated Fort William RC's Gaelic nursery and primary one and two classes about progress of the new building, set to open in August.

Violet Smith, head teacher, said: 'The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit. The Gaelic nursery children are doing a topic about builders and construction so the visit helped to endorse their work.'



KEEP SAFE: Ivor Goodsite, left, accompanied by Alistair MacLean, project manager for the new Gaelic school, visited Fort William RC

### Challenge fund backs Lochaber

A LOCHABER group aiming to reduce the region's carbon footprint has received a grant of more than £89,000 for this year's projects.

Lochaber Environmental Group was awarded £89,594 from the Climate Challenge Fund to be used for energy information sessions in schools and to provide extra support to help households reduce their energy use.

Dave Thompson, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, said: 'We know education is a key factor in forming habits that young folk take into their adult lives so it is particularly pleasing to learn there will be energy information sessions run in schools.'

'This will help facilitate an ethos of carbon footprint reduction which in turn will bring environmental benefits to the community.'

### Look to the stars in Caol

CAOL primary school pupils are looking forward to an astronomer paying them a visit this month.

But this is not only for children as professor John C Brown, 10th astronomer royal for Scotland, has planned a mystery tour of the cosmos, for all ages. The professor will be at the school all day on February 24, before delivering a lecture and leading a star-gazing exercise (weather permitting) in the evening. All proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to Macmillan cancer support.

For more information or to book a ticket call Caol primary school on 01397 703366.

### Budding chef's recipe for success



A LOCHABER teenager has made it to the national final of a cooking competition.

Gregor Mews, left, from Roy Bridge, won second place at the Rotary International young chef district final in East Kilbride after winning the regional competition run by the Lochaber branch.

The budding cook's menu of pea soup, pan-fried sea bass with herb mash and mussels and a dessert of chocolate and raspberry fondant won him a place at the Scottish final, to be held in Dundee on March 7.

### Island communities celebrate windfall

COMMUNITIES across Skye and the Western Isles are celebrating following the announcement of more than £2 million pledged to the islands.

Development projects from Barra to Skye have received £2,645,935 through the UK government's communities fund, part of more than £116.6 million distributed all over Britain.

Tighean Inne Gall, a group set up to promote energy efficient tourist accommodation in the outer Hebrides, gained £497,419 through the scheme, which will be used to support and improve energy efficiency and promote the use of renewables for bed and breakfast, self-catering and small tourism-related businesses.

Stewart Wilson, director of Tighean Inne Gall, said: 'We are thrilled at the opportunity to reduce our tourism carbon footprint and make more eco-tourism available through greater energy efficiency and use of renewables.'

Work on a redundant quayside space on South Uist can now be completed as the group behind the project has received £221,973, which will be combined with £30,000 from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to finish the pontoon, landscaping and seating area at Lochboisdale.

Kirsty MacCormick, development manager for Stòras Uibhist, the estate management group behind the Gateway Lochboisdale project, said: 'We are very excited to have secured these funds which will enable us to deliver an aspect of the Lochboisdale regeneration project which we consider to be key to achieving our aims of revitalising the Lochboisdale area.'

On Skye, Carbost pier will have its access road upgraded and a boat launching slipway constructed thanks to a £170,200 grant.

A 'community hub' on Sleat will be established, including food shops and cafes to be run as social enterprises, thanks to £712,775 donated to the Camusross and Duisdale initiative.

Charles Kennedy, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, said: 'Living in the Highlands and islands comes with the knowledge that in this part of the world we face particular challenges. The coastal communities fund, however, has made a big difference in the bid to overcome those challenges.'

Other groups to benefit were Barra and Vatersay Community Limited (£698,568), Uist Wool (£125,000) and Vatersay Community Association (£220,000).

### ARGYLL & BUTE ALCOHOL & DRUG PARTNERSHIP

If you or a member of your family need support with drug or alcohol use there is help available...

we can help, please contact us

ABAT

The Argyll and Bute Addiction Team (ABAT) service is available

Monday - Friday 9 - 5

(appointments out with these hours can be arranged)

Please ask your GP, health or social work professional to refer you to your nearest service.

To informally discuss your own or someone else's use of alcohol or drugs or learn more about our service please contact the main office on

01546 605602

When referred a trained nurse or social worker will meet with you and discuss your problems and what support you think would be helpful for you to make the changes you feel are needed to improve your life.

addaction

Addaction has been commissioned to provide a new recovery service across Argyll and Bute. The service is for people and families who need support around their own or someone else's drug or alcohol use.

It's a really simple process to access our services. Call us between the hours of 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday on 0800 206 1460 or 01369 704406

One of our experienced staff will be on hand to speak with you and provide support.

They will also arrange to meet you in person in a location that is convenient for you. We can also be contacted by email on argyllandbute@addaction.org.uk

Argyll and Bute Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) works in partnership to prevent and support recovery from the harmful use of alcohol and drugs

The ADP commissions community addiction services throughout Argyll and Bute

addaction

www.argyllandbuteadp.info



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# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES  
In the cold light of day

The current snap of Siberian-style weather certainly brings its challenges for the people charged with keeping our communities on the move.

Where Highland council and Bear Scotland are confidently asserting they have enough salt to grit the roads of Lochaber, their neighbours in Argyll and Bute are faced with the dilemma of how far can finite resources in terms of personnel and material be stretched to serve those communities that lie on the periphery such as Glen Lonan.

No one doubts the good intentions of the council, but common sense must prevail in the cold light of day. The education of Glen Lonan children must also become a priority.

## Glasgow Letter

### Celtic Connections

AS THE curtain falls on Celtic Connections 2015, I don't think I will be the only student looking ahead with trepidation to catching up with all the studying I should have been doing in January!

Last weekend was a fitting finale to a successful festival. Daimh-mòr and Skerryvore put on a great night in the Old Fruitmarket on Friday, although I arrived just as Daimh-mòr was playing its final set.

Having lived in the West Highlands all my life, I haven't yet grasped this concept that concerts actually start on time in Glasgow.

Things are very different down here: there wasn't even a raffle!

Thankfully, I had sources at the venue who confirmed Daimh-mòr got the night off to a flying start. Griogair Labhraidh's Gaelic rap (or bàrdachd - Gaelic poetry) was apparently brilliant. Rap music is not my cup of tea, but having heard Daimh perform it before I think it has managed to fit it into its set tastefully.

It by no means seems out of place within sets of puirt-a-beul and, in fact, it gives a great lift when the tune comes back in. I arrived in time to hear Skerryvore, who were excellent. At one point, four of them left the stage leaving only the Gillespie brothers and Craig Espie to knock out a few jigs old style with just the box, whistle, and fiddle. When the others re-emerged, they all joined in with the Gingerbroom Jigs. This was a lovely wee addition to a great set which also featured many high-energy, catchy songs from the pen of singer Alec Dalgligh.

At the end of the evening, the band announced its plans for its 10th anniversary celebrations on May 30. An open air gig will be held at Oban's Mossfield Stadium and helping the boys celebrate will be acts such as Sharon Shannon, The Red Hot Chili Peppers, and some bunch of chancers called Skipinnish!

The night after Skerryvore, Manran played to a packed out ABC. I couldn't manage along to that one but, judging by clips I've seen from mobile phones, the atmosphere was electric.

### Cruinn

IN MY opinion, one of the bands of the festival this year was Cruinn.

Fiona MacKenzie, Rachel Walker, James Graham and Brian O hEadhra all have incredible voices and the sound when they sing in four-part harmony makes the hairs on the neck stand up. They were on top form in the Mitchell Theatre on Sunday night. Their set was varied, from James Graham's stunning

### Press Policy

WE AT The Oban Times endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@obantimes.co.uk; telephoning the editor on 01631 568046; writing to the editor at The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter.

You can either telephone IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body which deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers and magazines. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

rendition of Guma Slàn do na Fearaibh and Rachel Walker's beautiful Griogair Cridhe, to a rousing Three rowing song that had the audience singing along.

### Govan Gaelic Choir

GOVAN Gaelic Choir is holding a silent auction and ceilidh on Friday February 6 at 7.30pm in the West of Scotland Cricket Club, Peel Street, Partick.

The night includes food and the chance to win anything from a tartan onesie to a kitchen sink. Tickets are available from choir members or at the door.

### Mull and Iona

THE MULL and Iona Association's annual gathering is on Friday February 13.

It will be chaired by E Mairi MacArthur and the singers include Mòd Gold Medallists Eilidh Munro and Norman MacKinnon. Stuart Cameron will be giving a few tunes on the accordion and Carissa Bovil will be singing and playing the harp.

After the concert, the tables will be cleared away and the dance begins - to the music of Deoch 'n Dorus.

I thoroughly enjoyed this night last year and it looks set to be another good one.

### Well done

ON SUNDAY, the Young Traditional Musician of the Year was won by Claire Hastings - a very talented Scots singer from Dumfries. Congratulations to Claire and all the other contestants.

### What's on

**Thursday February 5:** Comunn an Taobh-an-Iar Spring Ceilidh at Ellangowan Social Club, Milngavie.

**Friday February 6:** Govan Gaelic Choir silent auction and ceilidh at the West of Scotland Cricket Club in Partick.

**Sunday February 7:** Stirling An Comunn ceilidh, Lesser Albert Hall. Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association, Marag supper, Partick Burgh Halls.

**Friday February 13:** Clydebank and District Highland Association Ceilidh in the Napier Hall in Old Kilpatrick. Mull and Iona Association, annual gathering concert and dance in the National Piping Centre.

### Pub scene

**Park Bar**  
Friday: Gunna Sound.  
Saturday: Horo.  
Sunday: Robert Robertson. Islay Inn.

**Friday: The Keelies.**  
**Saturday: The Raggaeals.**

**Robert Robertson**  
robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



## Travelling through the Pass of Melfort

This week's flashback photograph is of the Pass of Melfort in the late 19th century. Driving is a Duncan MacColl, in a tall beige top hat, who was a coach driver from Glen Etive living in Oban. He was a well-known sight on the west coast having jobs in Taynuilt, Loch Lomond, Dalmally and Tarbert amongst other places. Mr MacColl died in his 85th year in the 1930s leaving behind five children and 21 grandchildren. Digital versions of flashback photos for The Oban Times can be sent to editor@obantimes.co.uk or prints sent in to Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Anyone who wishes a print returned should include a stamped, addressed envelope.

## Letters to the editor

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB  
email: editor@obantimes.co.uk Telephone: 01631 568000  
www.obantimes.co.uk Fax: 01631 568001

### Kintyre dialysis campaign deserves better

Sir, I am utterly shocked and horrified that NHS Highland has told the Kintyre dialysis campaign that it must raise another £61,000 to pay for a kidney dialysis unit at Campbeltown Hospital.

The Kintyre dialysis campaign has worked incredibly hard and has already raised £50,000. To be told by the health board that it must raise another £61,000 before the badly needed unit can be prepared is disgusting.

During the referendum campaign, the SNP told us wrongly that the only way to stop the NHS being privatised in Scotland was to vote for independence. Now an agency of the SNP government is demanding that kidney patients have to raise money to pay for their treatment.

This is the worst form of privatisation. The SNP government should be ashamed of itself and should pay this money now for the new unit.

### Your Letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page.

The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification.

Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

### Islay Letter

#### Give us the tools

IN THE days of working horses and well-maintained harnesses, father and son saddlers Peter and Archibald Campbell plied their trade in Port Charlotte and the surrounding area.

With the introduction of more mechanical methods of farming the demands for the saddlers' services diminished and the business was discontinued.

The tools of the Campbells' trade had been donated to the National Museum of Scotland in the early 1970s and were stored at the Museum of Rural Life at East Kilbride.

This led Archibald's granddaughters Gael Roy and Wendy Feist to ask that the tools should be returned to the local museum at Port Charlotte and their request was granted. Museum staff are now setting up a display which will feature more than 20 of the Campbells' tools as well as photographs showing the Campbells at work.

Anyone who has a piece of leatherwork or other objects created by the saddlers should contact the museum who will incorporate any such objects into the display.

So well known were the Campbells in their native village that the street in which their workshop was situated became known in English as 'Saddlers' Brae' and is referred to in Gaelic as

Otherwise kidney dialysis patients will be faced with the long and exhausting trip to the Vale of Leven Hospital three times a week.

**Alan Reid, Argyll and Bute MP.**

### Do more to maintain mobile signals

Sir, I have been absolutely shocked by the obscene amount of time that the mobile signal has been either unacceptably poor, with the added hassle and cost of roaming charges, or just down completely in many areas of Argyll and Bute.

I have been getting complaints from people on Mull, Islay, Colonsay, Jura, Bute, Campbeltown, Dunoon and many other areas of Argyll. It has been nearly six weeks that some areas have been without a mobile phone signal.

To make matters worse, some properties in Argyll and Bute have been without a working land line for more than four weeks and some are being told they

will have to wait a further two weeks before their lines are working again.

Many properties across Argyll and Bute have been experiencing painfully slow internet speeds and crackling on their phone lines for years yet little is being done by BT to provide long term solutions.

The blame most certainly does not lay with the hard working front line BT engineers who have been working hard in terrible weather, but the management which has a lot to answer for as there has not been enough manpower or materials directed to Argyll and Bute over the years and now we are seeing the consequences on this.

Our mobile phone, landline and broadband services are lifelines to our rural communities and must be better maintained. **Alastair Redman, Unionist and Conservative candidate, Argyll and Bute.**

### Political posters

Sir, In the cause of balanced reporting, I would be grateful if you would inform your readers that the vandalism of referendum posters was by no means perpetrated by one side, P Dolan, *The Oban Times*, January 29.

The 'Yes' side had cause to complain to local police on more than one occasion. However, that is now history and most of us have ceased to whine.

I support the use of political posters during an election and would like to thank the young people

involved in 'Grassroots' for their sterling efforts.

**Dot Macdonald, Pulpit Hill, Oban.**

### Support mental health research

Sir, Despite the fact the link between poor mental health and poverty is well established, we have only scraped the surface in trying to understand causes and cures.

In the Highlands and Islands we have a history of reluctance to report symptoms and seek help. When we are brave enough to do so, many have had to wait months before seeing clinicians.

Recently we have seen a huge increase in young people affected by depression, eating disorders and self-harm at a stage in their lives which should be full of hope. It is heart breaking and I would like to understand why this is happening and what can be done to prevent further suffering.

So I am disappointed at the Scottish government decision to drop funding for mental health research to £860,000 last year - from around £7m in 2007 - and its disgraceful track record for funding mental health services. I support the recent call from the Royal College of Psychiatrists for the Scottish government to match its words with action on mental health research.

**Kate Stephen, prospective Scottish parliamentary Lib Dem candidate for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch.**

the Highland scene and his father and namesake is a former president of An Comunn Iealach.

Mother Ena also keeps the flag flying and she will always be associated with Gaelic matters and the ceilidh scene in Stirling.

The 2015 gathering, the association's 153rd to date, will be hosted by current president Janette MacArthur.

### Opera highlights

ARIAS from 'The Magic Flute', 'La Traviata' and 'Carmen' will soar in the Bowmore village hall tonight, February 5, when Scottish Opera presents a quality selection of operatic highlights.

The event - curtain up 7.30pm - will also include excerpts from some of the Savoy operas.

The performances, which feature four singers and a pianist, are supported by Friends of Scottish Opera and Islay Arts Association.

Scottish Opera has always been keen to share its talents with members of rural communities since it first took to the road as Essential Scottish Opera in 1994.

Once it has the Islay gig under its belts, it will perform at 17 other venues throughout the country. **Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JX. Telephone: 01496 810658.**

## Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

THA MEASADH NEO-EISIMEILEACH air Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail 2014 ann an Inbhir Nis a-nise air fhoillseachadh agus tuigidh sibh carson a tha na bha an sàs ga dheasachadh agus ga chur air adhart glè mhoiteil. Chan e a-mhàin gun robh àireamh nam farpaiseach suas chun na h-ìre a b' àirde riaghailteach Mòd Nàiseanta, ach bha mòran shlatan-tomhais eile cuideachadh aig ìrean nach fhacas roimhe.

Air ciad sealladh tha cuid de na figearan cha mhòr do-chreidsinneach, ach cha ghabh àicheadh gun do thachair cùisean mar a tha an aithisg aig The Market Specialists a' mineachadh. 'S dòcha gur i an teachdaireachd as cudromaiche an dearbhadh gun do chuir seachdain a' Mhòd còrr air trì mìle gu leth millean not ri eaconamaidh baile agus sgìre Inbhir Nis! Tha fhios gum bi am fiosrachadh sin feumail dha gnìomhachasan anns gach sgìre dom bi am Mòd Nàiseanta a' dol, agus na bhrosnachadh dha luchd-malairt barrachd taice a chur ris na Comataidhean Deasachaidh Ionadail le aithne dhan bhuanachd a dh'fhaodas iad fhaotainn às. Cha b' iongnadh leithid seo ga chosg tron t-seachdain ann an Inbhir Nis nuair a chithear gun robh còrr air naoi mìle a' tadhal air a' Mhòd. Bha miltean eile a' tadhal air an liuthadh tachartas a bha a' dol air an Iomall ach chan eil àireamhan againn mun coinneimh sin.

Chan eil teagamh nach comharraich cha mhòr a h-uile duine am Mòd Nàiseanta mar a' phrìomh thachartas Gàidhlig gach bliadhna. Agus choilean Mòd Nàiseanta 2014 amasan agus rùintean luchd-tadhal gu ìre na b' àirde na chunnacas roimhe. Chuala luchd-measaidh bho dheicnear anns gach ceud gun robh cùisean na b' fheàrr fiù 's na bhiodh dùil fo naoi de na slatan-tomhais. 'S e còig an àireamh a b' àirde thuige seòl Fhuair a h-uile duine a bha ann an nàbaidh na fèise seòil eachdais, agus rinn luchd-malairt deagh chosnadh. Tha Mòd Nàiseanta a' còrr còig air ceithir ceud gu leth mìle not agus gun teagamh tha taic bho sporain phoblach air leth cudromach. Ach nuair a chithear còig not air fhichead ga chosg ann an Inbhir Nis ma choinneimh gach not a chuir leithid Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd ris a' Mhòd, feumar aideachadh gur math a b' fhiach an tasgadh. Fiù 's ga dheasachadh thar Alba gu lèir, choisinn am Mòd naoi not ma choinneimh gach not poblach a chaidh ris. Chaidh ceud is ochd cosnadh a chruthachadh ri linn a' Mhòd, agus ghlac e aire còrr air trithead is seachd mìlean ann am meadhanan an t-saoghail. Sin Seachdain na Gàidhlig!

A BOOST of more than £3.5m to the local economy in excess of 9,000 attendees at the 2014 Royal National Mod in Inverness.

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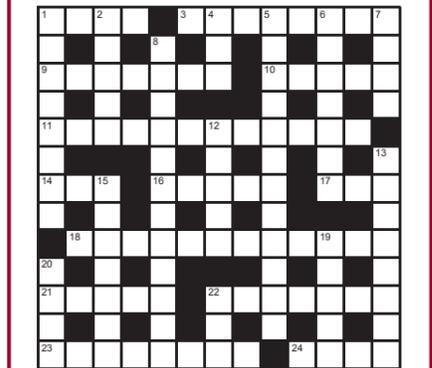
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# 10 years in the making

Skerryvore celebrate their landmark anniversary in style with a special gig

FROM playing pubs and village halls across Argyll and the isles to entertaining tens of thousands of fans in concerts all over the globe, the phenomenon of Skerryvore has been just 10 years in the making.

To celebrate this landmark anniversary the band will play a special gig at Oban's Mossfield Stadium, Skerryvore Decade, on May 30 - and they are bringing a few friends along to join the party: Skipinnish, Red Hot Chili Pipers, the Scott Wood Band and Sharon Shannon will all take the stage.

The announcement of where the highly-anticipated gig would take place was made during Skerryvore's sell-out show at Celtic Connections in Glasgow last Friday.

Skerryvore accordion player Daniel Gillespie, a native of Tiree and organiser of the island's award-winning music festival, explained how Oban as the concert venue 'made sense' and described Mossfield as having 'phenomenal potential' as a major music festival venue.

Describing the excitement around the event, he said: 'People were saying they were coming to the concert before they even knew where the venue was - they just wanted to come.'

'Oban is the natural venue for us because Argyll and the isles were so prominent in the early years of the band and we are keen to return to that point.'

'The town is ready for a major festival; it already has the infrastructure to do that and this anniversary event is a chance to see how the town reacts to that.'

Formed as a foursome on the Isle of Tiree in 2005, Skerryvore have progressed from traditional 2/4 ceilidh marches and reels to an iconic trad rock sound that has captured the imagination of fans in the US and across Europe, as well as their native west Highlands.

The multi-award winning band have now performed in 25 countries and represented Scotland in cities such as Dubai, Beijing, Shanghai, Madrid, Munich and New York.

But despite this international acclaim, and the band now being based in Glasgow, Oban was chosen as the venue for what Daniel expects to be 'the biggest and best concert to date'.



Daniel, whose brother Martin also plays in the band, admits the 10-year anniversary has crept up on him.

But he insists the whole band, now a seven-piece outfit, is ready for a big night of celebration at Skerryvore Decade, an event that has been a long time in the planning.

ously influenced by Scottish bands with traditional roots, such as Runrig.

The Mossfield anniversary concert is expected to attract 2,000 people, a figure that would boost the area's economy by around £500,000.

He said: 'We want this concert to be a celebration of all 10 years, the past and the present in terms of music.'

'The band have progressed from very traditional music, influenced by the west coast ceilidh scene. We wanted to keep progressing and to get to the next step we had to write our own material. The band members we have added have also given us a bigger sound.'

'The journey we have been on has been amazing, starting in small pubs on the west coast to playing in front of tens of thousands of people in the States or Europe and we want to celebrate that by making this concert the biggest and best concert to date.'

Known for their high-energy performances, Skerryvore have built on the foundation of a west coast following to excite new fans in large parts of Europe, particularly Germany and Denmark, markets previ-

**OBAN Times readers are being given the chance to buy their Skerryvore Decade tickets for a reduced price when they go on sale tomorrow (Friday).**

The discount will be applied to the first 100 tickets only, so don't delay.

To apply for your discounted tickets, enter the code obantimes10 after clicking 'Enter Promotional Code' on the event website, skerryvoredecade.com.

Alternatively, enter the following link, which will automatically apply the discount to your tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/skerryvore-decade-tickets-1541776986?discount=obantimes10>



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# Hidden Corners



THE WRITER and philosopher Gilbert K Chesterson once quipped: "The traveller sees what he sees, the tourist sees what he has come to see".

His words can be better applied to the West Highlands than they can to many other parts of the UK, such is the diversity and sparse nature of the area's communities.

Not one visitor guide can detail everything there is to see in this unique landscape.

Any visitor to the west Highlands will know of the area's famous landmarks, the stunning seafood restaurants, the scenic railway journeys and hikes and the natural beauty of the flora and fauna.

But those who do their homework will realise that some of the most intriguing sights and experiences are not always the most obvious - as will those who do no homework at all! Connel village store is one example of a trusted and treasured local shop, which stocks an Aladdin's cave of unique local goods and essential items.

You may not find these shops on a 'must see' list of tourist hot-spots but there are few better places to get a flavour of the local community and the goings-on in each part of the country.

Fishing on Loch Awe is a popular activity for visitors to Oban and Lorn, but how many of them will know about Loch Awe boat yard at Ardbrecknish? This long-established and trusted boatyard and boat hire business will give you the best chance of success on the famous loch.

While most activity centres and theme parks will be obvious to even the untrained eye, the Scottish Sealife Sanctuary near Barcaldine is set back from the A828, amongst the forest. Upon further inspection, however, visitors will find an array of spectacular west coast wildlife, guaranteed to be a fun day out for the family.

Achnalarig Riding Stables is situated near Glencruitten, outside Oban, and away from the main trunk road. The stables boasts one of the area's leading riding schools and has a number of forestry rides and hill treks suitable for budding and experienced riders.

For a range of local services too, it is worth taking a detour off the high street. Oban's popular Stove Centre is tucked away in the town centre, so make sure you seek it out to take advantage of the business's great offers.

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# 2015 For MOUNTAIN FEST

18th - 22nd



**T**HE FORT William Mountain Festival is back for 2015, with five days of workshops, sporting events, films and lectures.

Staged in the heart of Lochaber, the Outdoor Capital of the UK, from Wednesday February 18 to Sunday February 22, 2015, this is an experience not to miss. Enjoy the best winter walking, climbing and skiing conditions of the year and be inspired by the packed programme of films, speakers, workshops and exhibitions.

Celebrating culture and sport from the hills, the event kicks off with a launch night on February 18, including a torchlight descent of Aonach Mor by outdoor athletes on skis, bike and foot.

Afterwards, the Pinemarten Café at Nevis Range will play host to retired Fort William surgeon David Sedgwick and former Lochaber Mountain Rescue team member Mick Tighe as they present 'Mountain Magic, Mountain Rescue, Mountain Hospital' as well as hosting a number of people with tales of Ben Nevis to tell.

Among the many speakers across the five-day event is Finlay Wild, winner of the Ben Nevis race for the fifth consecutive year, who will team up with fellow hill runner Nicky Spinks for an evening of film and chat about all things mountain-related.

But it is by no means all lectures and presentations, there are plenty of hands-on workshops lined up for those with itchy feet. Enthusiasts can attend courses on ice climbing in Kinlochleven, skiing and snowboarding in Torlundy or winter walking at Nevis Range.

A two-day guided tour of Ben Nevis or a rock safari in the surrounding glen are both perfect for novices while language buffs can attend a Gaelic taster session to learn mountain, hill and geographic names.

Photography fans will be well catered for with a red deer photo safari while mountaineering courses at Scotland's only via ferrata in Kinlochleven are available as part of the festival for the first time.

For the cyclists, Saturday evening will be 'bike night' and film director Stu Thomson, the man behind Cutmedia, will be talking all about working with his close friend and world-famous biker Danny MacAskill.

Mike Pescod, chairman of the Highland Mountain Culture Association, organisers of the festival, said: 'The Fort William Mountain Festival celebrates our wild landscape and the opportunities it presents.

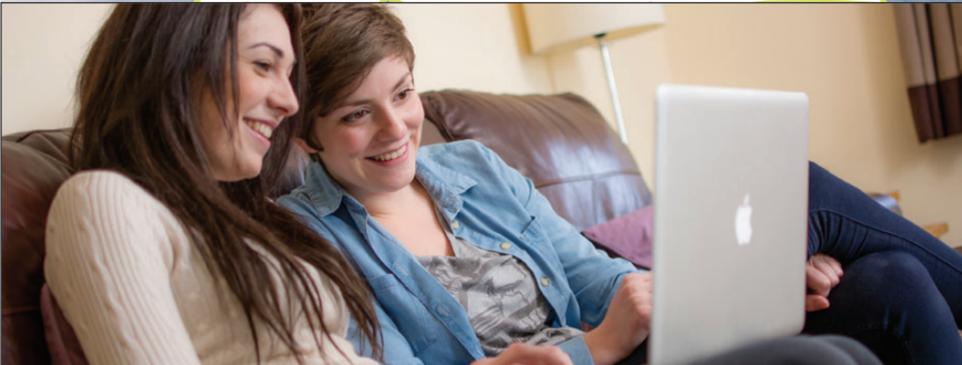
'It's guaranteed to inspire, entertain and educate. The mountains and glens that surround us influence our culture in many ways. We want to promote the value of the landscape of Lochaber as the best destination in the UK to live, work and play.

'The mountain festival includes a superb line up of top climbers and explorers, mountain films, inspirational speakers and skills workshops.

'It's not just for adventure addicts though, anyone who appreciates the landscape of the Outdoor Capital of the UK will find something for them in the festival.

'Whether it is the beauty of the landscape, our engagement with it or the opportunities we find in it, celebrating our natural capital is the vision of The Outdoor Capital of the UK.'

A full programme of events can be found at [www.mountainfestival.co.uk](http://www.mountainfestival.co.uk).



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\* new degrees are subject to validation  
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# Fort William Mountain Festival

14th - 22nd February



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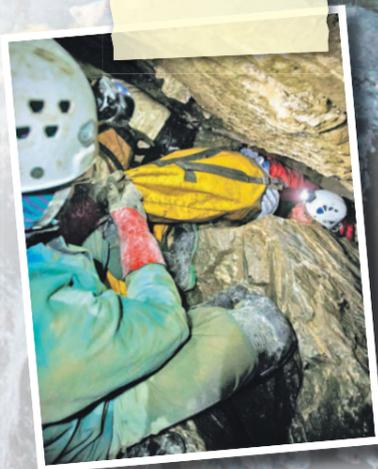
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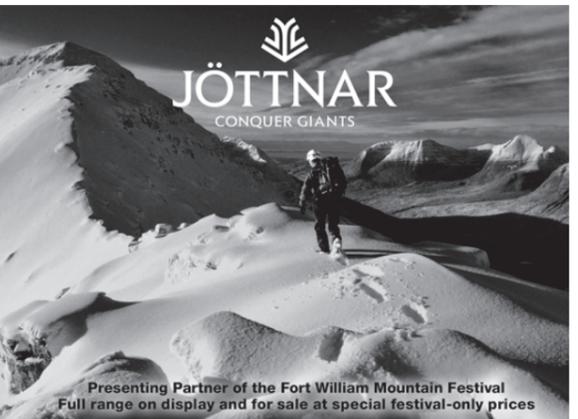
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[www.mountainfestival.co.uk](http://www.mountainfestival.co.uk)



**Eye to eye**  
with John Wallace

**Eyes At Work And Play**

Last weekend I treated myself to a skiing trip. Ironically there was too much snow and I only managed to ski for a few hours instead of the planned three days. With all that spare time on my hands I started thinking just how much we take our eyes for granted, particularly at work and play.

Just think about how we spend our working day. Most of us working in office environments, spend several hours each day staring at a VDU screen or reading with an occasional period spent looking in the far distance. Our eyes evolved for distance vision and were never designed for prolonged close work. Our eyes often respond by becoming myopic (short sighted) which means they can naturally focus very closely without any effort. I am seeing more and more office workers who have become myopic later in life. Myopia was, until recently, something that occurred in our teenage years and not in middle age.

When I did manage to ski last weekend the sun was very intense for most of the day. In fact it was so intense it was impossible to do anything without wearing high quality ski goggles to protect my eyes. Later the light changed and conditions became very difficult due to very poor light as the snow started to fall. Then I had to wear contrast enhancing goggles to help me see my way down the mountain. Not only did I expect my eyes to give me clear comfortable vision but I expected them to perform in extremes of brightness and very poor visibility.

Despite needing our eye to function in extreme environments for which they were never designed, we take vision for granted. That's until something goes wrong. Ask your optometrist how you can maximise your visual comfort at work and play.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP  
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# Kilmartin a 'unique and important' destination

PLANS for the rejuvenation of Kilmartin Museum were shared at a meeting with the community.

Ideas such as more car parking spaces, increased museum education space and storage space for unique artefacts were all discussed at the consultation held in the museum's cafe.

Architects Reiach and Hall presented updates to designs for the museum's proposed new building.

More than 40 people attended the event to hear presentations from architects, museum trust chairman Gordon Gray Stephens and museum director Sharon Webb.

Mr Gray Stephens explained the outcome of funding applications meant it had to look at a reduced cost of the overall design for a new building.

The community was reminded of the unique and important nature of Kilmartin Glen and the information the area can give to understanding the past from the earth's earliest times.

It is hoped that as people become more aware of the special nature of the area more people will want to come and visit.

It was considered important that people were given the opportunity to see much of the collection which is currently held in near-capacity storage.

**Car park**  
A car park is being considered on land at the side of the road on the bend into Kilmartin on the Lochgilphead side of the town.

The car park would increase parking for the museum and the village - but would be for smaller vehicles only.

The spaces would be built on a nylon mesh structure, known as Geogrid, rather than a concrete car park with access into the village

and the museum via steps and a ramp.

The plans for the buildings would see a connectivity between the manse and the stables with walk ways between the various displays, office accommodation and education rooms.

**Reflect landscape**  
Architects said the theme of the project would reflect the landscape and ensure there was a feeling of warmth and welcome for visitors.

The community discussed the plans for an hour after the presentations and made comments which will inform future funding applications.

Owen, development officer at Kilmartin Museum, said: "We are really encouraged by the numbers of people who are turning out to our consultations and who support the proposed redevelopment project."

"The previous suggested architectural scheme was well liked, however, the feedback we have received indicates that the suggested new scheme is even better."

"The overflow car park proposal was generally well received and we will continue consulting with local residents to secure a satisfactory solution."

"We received lots of positive feedback about the activities that a redeveloped Kilmartin Museum would be able to provide and we are particularly excited about the opportunities that could come from providing a temporary gallery, education and events space and accessible collection store."



Above and below: Designs for Kilmartin Museum which were presented to the community.



## Reunion plans in place for staff of former Corpach paper mill

FORMER staff of the old Fort William paper mill are to reunite this year to mark 50 years since the start of productions and 10 years since its closure.

Anyone who worked at the Wiggins Teape (latterly Ajro Wiggins), branch is invited with their partners to the buffet and dance, to be held in the Nevis Centre on September 26.

Music will be provided by Ballochmyle and a short cabaret, featuring several former workers, is planned.

The Corpach paper and pulp mill opened in 1965 and for 40 years was a major employer in the area, with more than 1,000 staff at its peak. The branch closed in September 2005 and the landmark powerhouse, which towered over the shores of Loch Eil, was demolished in April 2008.

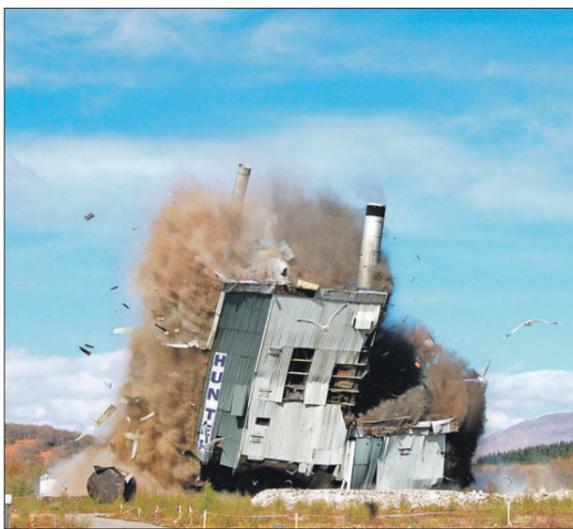
Ian Petrie, the former engineering manager, said: "It's hard to believe that it has been 10 years since the mill closed and we thought that it would be a good idea to organise a reunion to mark the occasion."

"We also realised that 2015 is the 50th anniversary since production began and that is something to celebrate."

"We have spoken to many of our former colleagues and everyone is very enthusiastic about the idea. So we want to ask everyone who worked at the mill to save the date."

Tickets will go on sale in the Nevis Centre after Easter.

In the meantime, email corpachmillreunion@btinternet.com for more information.



The former Corpach mill powerhouse was demolished in 2009

## Heart of Argyll flies the flag at Dutch Holiday Fair

HEART of Argyll Tourism Alliance's chairman Jonathan Sheldrick flew the flag for tourism last week as he, together with Alec Howie and Hans Kok, attended the Dutch Holiday Fair in Utrecht from January 13 - 18.

The Netherlands is one of the largest markets for tourists visiting Argyll and the isles, and with the fair attracting more than 117,500 visitors last year, this was an excellent opportunity to showcase what Heart of Argyll has to offer.

The team has a strong tourism background but all have their own strengths.

Jonathan has ties to Holland and attended this fair, promoting Argyll, last year.

Hans, a native of the Netherlands now living in Tarbert, is one of the forces behind the Loch Fyne Viking Festival.

And Alec, who is the harbour master in Ardrishaig, was the go-to person on marine tourism.

Jonathan, Alec and Hans were joined during the four days by Paul Freeman, business development and partners manager of CalMac and Maggie Anderson, marketing executive Northern Europe, VisitScotland.

With 2015 designated as Scotland's Year of Food and Drink, the Argyll and the isles stand featured some nibbles, supplied by Food From Argyll, which went down very well with visitors to the fair.

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**Historical talk about land ownership in Movern**

LOCHABER Local History Society's February meeting tonight (Thursday) sees the return of Richard Sidgwick as he gives a presentation about land ownership in the region.

Speaking in the Ben Nevis Hotel from 8pm, he will focus on Movern and Ardnamurchan, and explain how successive ownerships have shaped both the landscape and people.

Mr Sidgwick has spent most of his life involved with estate management in the area, putting him in a unique position to share his experiences.

**Gaelic music school planned for summer in the Hebrides**

THE AGENDA for a Gaelic music summer school in the Hebrides has been announced, with a number of 'outstanding' tutors returning for 2015.

Ceòlas, in South Uist, will kick off the season with a song conference from May 22-24 with speakers Gillebride MacMillan, Jo MacDonald and Naomi Harvey.

Then in July the official summer school will kick in with Howie MacDonald and Dwayne Cote, both fiddle, and Cheryl MacQuarrie, step dance, all travelling from the north American island of Cape Breton to tutor.

Also returning to teach song are Margaret MacLennan and Paul McCallum, with Griogair Lawrie on hand for piobaireachd, song and ceol mòr.

Jayne MacLeod from Ness in Lewis will be working with Ms McQuarrie to teach step dance whilst Gaelic immersion classes will be covered by Catriona MacIntyre and Catriona Black.

Other tutors include Fin Moore, piping for dance, Angus Nicolson, piping, Alasdair White, fiddle and Patsy Sneddon, clarsach.

For more information contact Mary Schmöller on 01878 700154 or info@ceolas.co.uk

**Fiddle halted once again**

FOR THE second month running, the weather was most unkind to the Inveraray and District Accordion and Fiddle Club with the result that the club night on January 14 had to be cancelled.

Fingers are now crossed for February 11 when the ever popular Skipinnish Ceilidh Band take the stage as guest artistes.

# Hebridean sightings soar for harbour porpoises but plunge for basking sharks

HARBOUR porpoise sightings off Scotland's west coast increased by 25 per cent in 2014 compared to the previous year while sightings of basking sharks unexpectedly fell by 33 per cent, during marine research expeditions carried out by Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust.

The charity's research also revealed dramatic evidence of a shark attack on a member of an endangered group of killer whales thought to be the UK's only resident population of orca.

The latest studies were carried out in a research season lasting from May to October last year, and form part of the trust's unique long-term monitoring of whales, dolphins and porpoises - collectively known as cetaceans - in the Hebrides.

Kerry Froud, biodiversity officer at Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust, said: "Our findings add to knowledge about cetacean distribution, abundance and habitat use in Scotland's western seas - and allow us to make informed recommendations to protect these remarkable species."

"This pioneering research is vital for effectively conserving the world-class biodiversity of these waters - and for securing the long-term future of spectacular cetaceans and iconic basking sharks."

The trust's teams of marine scientists and volunteers encountered 574 groups of harbour porpoises during 2014 - a 25 per cent increase in the rate of sightings compared to 2013.

Reasons for this increased sighting rate - of up to eight groups per 100 kilometres surveyed - may include conducive weather and calm seas, making the unobtrusive porpoise easier to detect.

Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust has previously discovered that the Hebrides hosts one of Europe's highest densities of the harbour porpoise, the UK's smallest cetacean - but

Scotland still has no protected area for this species as required under European Union directives.

Basking shark sightings fell by 33 per cent from the previous year to 16 encounters - showing a trend of decreasing sightings of the world's second biggest fish in the area over recent years.

This does not necessarily indicate a reduction in population size - as possible explanations include a shift further offshore in the distribution of plankton, the sharks' favourite food.

The distribution of plankton within the water will also dictate where basking sharks are feeding - which means they may still be present, but not feeding at the surface.

Notable highlights during 2014 included two separate encounters with what is believed to be the UK's only known resident population of killer whales - five males and four females known as the West Coast Community.

This small, isolated population of orca has never produced offspring since studies began, raising fears that it faces imminent extinction.

Evidence of drama emerged when one of the group's males - known as John Coe - was observed with a large area of his tail fluke missing. Consultations with experts suggest that this was almost certainly the result of a shark attack.

Another outstanding close encounter featured minke whales riding in the bow-wave of the trust's research yacht Silurian. This was unexpected as minke are usually elusive and shy of boats.

In July, an individual minke approached Silurian with what appeared to be blue plastic strapping wrapped round and embedded in the front of its head - a stark reminder of people's impact on the marine environment.

The crew was unable to disentangle the whale. Cetacean entanglement in fishing gear and litter can cause mobility problems,

injury and even slow and agonising death. Other human activities causing increasing stress on cetaceans and basking sharks include fisheries bycatch, climate change, pollution, underwater noise and habitat damage.

Silurian - previously used in the filming of the BBC's The Blue Planet series - covered more than 4,500 nautical miles during 2014, equivalent to crossing the North Atlantic three times. It surveyed to the Saint Kilda archipelago - the remotest inhabited part of the British Isles - twice, rounded the Mull of Kintyre to the south and reached Cape Wrath, mainland Britain's most north westerly point.

In total, the surveys recorded more than 1,400 encounters with cetaceans and basking sharks, and recorded almost 600 hours of underwater acoustic detections of cetaceans.

Good weather conditions for surveying allowed twice as many photo identification opportunities than in 2013. This technique allows individual cetaceans or basking sharks to be identified by their distinctive markings, often shedding new light on population sizes and social dynamics, and whether individuals interact with other populations. The latest results are currently being analysed.

The annual surveys depend on paying volunteers. In 2014, 65 volunteers clocked up 760 survey hours - working with scientists on visual surveys and acoustic monitoring with underwater microphones or hydrophones, and identifying individual cetaceans through photography.

Western Scotland's seas are one of Europe's most important habitats for cetaceans and one of the UK's most biologically productive areas. So far 24 of the world's 83 cetacean species have been recorded in the region, many being national and international conservation priority species.



CLOSE UP: Minke next to the Silurian boat.



ST KILDA: The groups adventures often take them to waters near St Kilda.



BITE: John Coe a male Orca with a piece of his tail fluke missing.

# New 'lease' of life for Tighnabruaich Gallery



Robbie, Penny and Andrew at the Tighnabruaich Gallery.

WHILE MOST young British artists gravitate to creative hotspots such as London, Glasgow and Manchester to further their careers, Robbie Baird from Tighnabruaich is taking a different path.

The 25-year-old has set up as an art gallery proprietor in rural Argyll, thanks to Tighnabruaich Gallery owners Penny and Andrew Graham-Weall.

The couple, who have enjoyed success running the business since 2008, took Robbie on as an apprentice last year and showed him the ropes of running a gallery.

Over the summer, Robbie also set up his own 'pop-up' gallery, Briars and Thorns, in a vacant premise next door to the gallery in the heart of Tighnabruaich.

Penny and Andrew have now moved away from the area to Hereford.

### Leased out

But rather than selling one of the foremost galleries in the west coast of Scotland on the open market they have leased it to Robbie, who plans to continue bringing in new artists, selling his own work as well as putting his fresh stamp on this exciting venture.

Robbie hopes that in a few years he will be in a position to buy the gallery.

"It's a unique arrangement but it's one that suits both parties," said Penny.

"We have been so impressed with Robbie's

commitment, creativity and enthusiasm for running the gallery and we feel that as well as leaving it in good hands, we'll be helping a young artist to stay close to home in Argyll and forge a dynamic career."

Robbie formerly worked at Portavadie Marina as the sales and events co-ordinator but sees his future in the art world, both as a painter with his own following and as someone who recognises, promotes and sells the work of other established and emerging talents in the UK.

### Progression

"This feels like a natural progression for me," said Robbie.

"I've known the gallery most of my life - meeting Jolomo [John Lowrie Morrison] here when I was eight years old, taking classes with Jean Marshall in the back room, buying art supplies from Shona and Ian Dobbie, and then going on to sell my own work here aged 16 with Penny and Andrew."

"It's great to be able to step up, showcase up-and-coming talent and take the gallery on its next adventure."

"Not many young artists get an opportunity like this, to learn the business side of art while having time, space and freedom to develop themselves artistically," said Robbie.

"As well as selling my own paintings, I'll be moving the gallery in a slightly different direc-

tion while staying true to the core principles established by Penny and Andrew."

"That's to say keeping a focus on high quality while ensuring the art on display appeals to loyal and new customers alike."

### New work

Robbie will continue to show new work by some of the gallery's favourite artists, including Jan Nelson, Tommy Fitchett, Brian Bartlett and Ernie Upton.

But he will be introducing new talent as well, including Eleanor Carlingford and Sara Bor, in a series of exhibitions throughout the year.

Penny and Andrew, meanwhile, are not quitting the art world altogether.

"From now on we'll be based in England but will be taking the gallery on the road as a 'pop-up' venue and also visiting the affordable art fairs that are an established part of the UK art scene," explained Andrew.

### Exhibition

Robbie will start the 2015 season with MMXXV, an exhibition featuring all the artists showcased in the 2015 calendar.

It opens on February 14 and runs until 28 February 2015.

An open invitation to the preview night and the official 'relaunch' of Tighnabruaich Gallery on Friday February 13 2015 at 6.30pm.

<b>Oban Phoenix Cinema</b>	<b>Big Hero 6</b>	Fri 6	11:20, 13:40, 16:00, 18:20		
		Sat 7	11:20, 13:40, 16:00, 18:20		
		Sun 8	11:20, 13:40, 16:00, 18:20		
		Mon 9	11:20, 13:40, 16:00, 18:20		
		Tue 10	11:20, 13:40, 16:00, 18:20		
		Wed 11	16:30		
		Thu 12	11:20, 13:40, 16:00, 18:20		
	<b>The Theory of Everything</b>	Fri 6	15:30, 18:00	Sat 7	17:55
		Sun 8	17:55	Mon 9	15:30, 18:00
		Tue 10	15:30, 18:00	Wed 11	15:10
		Thu 12	15:30, 18:00		
	<b>Kingsman: The Secret Service</b>	Fri 6	20:40	Sat 7	20:40
	Sun 8	20:40	Mon 9	20:30	
	Tue 10	20:30	Wed 11	17:35	
	Thu 12	20:30			
<b>Wild</b>	Fri 6	20:30	Sat 7	20:30	
	Sun 8	20:30	Mon 9	20:40	
	Tue 10	20:40	Wed 11	20:30	
	Thu 12	20:40			
<b>Paddington</b>	Sat 7	11:00, 13:15	Sun 8	11:00, 13:15	
<b>Annie</b>	Sat 7	15:30	Sun 8	15:30	
<b>RSC: Loves Labours Lost</b>	Wed 11	19:00			

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<p>Highlands &amp; Islands Music &amp; Dance Festival <b>SOUP LUNCH</b> Kilmore Village Hall Sat 7th Feb 12-2pm Live music, baking and raffle</p>	<p><b>Advertise in the Community Noticeboard for just £16.21 (plus VAT)</b> This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number. All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page Please ask for details</p>	<p><b>To advertise in the WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD</b> Telephone: <b>01631 568000</b></p>

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**THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS**

**MONDAY:**  
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Jim Edge, 1700 Drivetime With Danni Hay, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McLuckie's Show, 2100 David Cullen, 2200 American Jukebox with Michelle

**TUESDAY:**  
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show with Maggie May, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are Made of This with Ken Hunter, 1330 The Quiz with Danni Hay, 1500 Lesley Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 1900 Sounds Scottish with Archie Cameron, 2000 Highest Praise with Stuart, 2100 Elaine Lamb, 2300 Northern Soul with Gordon Covey

**WEDNESDAY:**  
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Sound Scottish (repeat), 1000 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Elaine Lamb, 1700 Drivetime with Campbell and Coll, 1900 Country Meets Rock with Len & Ken, 2100 Gordon's Grooves

**THURSDAY:**  
0800 Maggie May's Carousel, 1100 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drivetime with DJ Taz, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's Ceilidh, 2200 Margo Till Midnight

**FRIDAY:**  
0800 Jean Ainsley Breakfast Show, 1000 Teeny and Tiny Show, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Weekend Warmup with Ian Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 1845 Sports View, 1900 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 2000 Friday Night with Innes, 2100 TFI Friday with Jim Lawn

**SATURDAY:**  
0900 Maggie's Swingin' Sixties, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowscher, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis

**SUNDAY:**  
0900 Sunday Morning with Breege, 1100 - 1400 Allan, 1630 Archie Darling, 1800 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 1900 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 2100 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott

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If you have just got engaged congratulations. It is great news and something that everyone will want to share with you. There is so much to organise and get ready. Your special day and the parties and events that lead up to it should be all about you as a couple. As you plan to spend your lives together there are many people who will be keen to help and advise you on how to make the most of your time. Our advertisers here are all keen to see you have your best day and are likely to go above and beyond to make sure that happens. Weddings can be at the highest end of the price range or at something more affordable for you and your partner. There is so much to think about - perhaps who is going to pay for the wed-

ding, how many people you are going to have to share in your big day. Preparations can take a long as you need them to and sometimes when you really need help, even at the last minute, there are people on hand to help. Planning your perfect wedding day can be both fun and exciting. Ask anyone who has been married and they will tell you all about their wedding down to the final details of the event. What they wore, who was at the event, the dances, the food, the celebration and that's people this is a really important day - one that no one would want to take any risks with. A dress is equally as important as a kilt or a morning suit - as is the outfits for all your guests including your mother's outfit and your fathers.

Planning for every eventuality is really important. Last year when a young bride from Dunbeg got married she was sent into a panic because the road had closed and no one - not even her and her groom could get to their reception in town. But never fear, the other thing a bout getting married is that everyone wants to do their best and help. A boat was launched and instead of arriving in the back of her father's car she arrived on a sailing boat into Oban bay. Something she would never have planned but it made her day very special indeed. The west coast is now promoted all over the world for people to come here and have a beautiful day and who could imagine anywhere quite as wonderfully scenic to enjoy a day with your loved ones.



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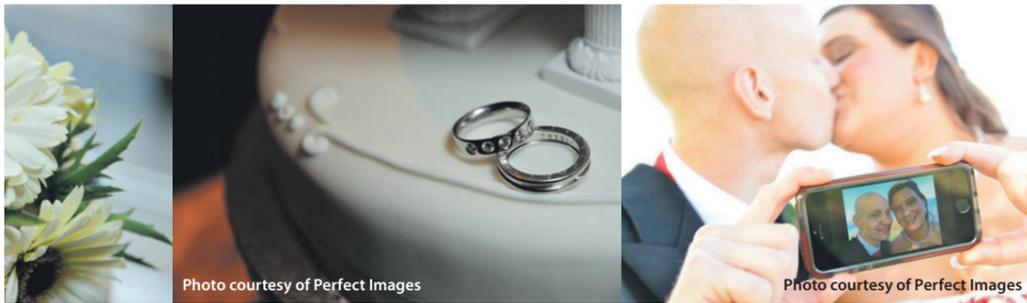
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Social scene

# Lochaline celebrates with its Mod medallists



PROUD: Tutor Riona Whyte, centre, was proud of the two Royal National Mod silver medallists – Hector Mackechnie and Donna Dugdale 16\_106social11

LOCHALINE celebrated the Royal National Mod success of one of its own, with style, last Friday night in the village hall.

The traditional tunes of Trail West filled the hall while Hector Mackechnie, friends from his choir, Burach, and the friends of Donna Dugdale of Tobermory, a fellow Royal National Mod Silver medal winner, danced into the wee small hours.

Stuart Jackson, formerly of Lochaline, who now lives in Portree, said: 'It was a great chance for the local community to celebrate Hector's success at such a prestigious event as the Royal National Mod.'

'It is nice to see everyone enjoying a social event in the parish that was hosted and funded entirely by Hector's fellow choir members in Burach.'



WINNERS: Donna Dugdale, Mull and Hector Mackechnie, Lochaline, silver pendant winners at last year's Inverness Royal National Mod



TRAIL WEST: Traditional musicians Trail West from Tiree played great sets of dance music 16\_106social12



CHEERS: Ann Barlow from Oban toasts the silver medallists 16\_106social11



JACKSON CLAN: Three generation of Lochaline family the Jacksons. Most of the family are singers 16\_106social16



SELFIE STICK: The rage for taking a self-portrait photograph has not been missed by the people of the west coast as Craig Lindsay shows with a branch attached to his mobile phone 16\_106social19



CHOIR MASH UP: A mixture of Burach and Mull choirs sang to the packed hall 16\_106social14



TRAVELS: Salen singer Megan Whyte had recently returned from her travels 16\_106social13



DANCING QUEENS: Rachel Bolton, 12, and Flori Anna Lawrence, 10, enjoyed the party 16\_106social14



NEWLY ENGAGED: Ally Nudds with fiancé Mairi Jackson 16\_106social18



WALTZ: Mairi MacFarlane from Kilchoan with Reay Whyte during a sedate dance at the Lochaline party 16\_106social15



PARTY: A party without balloons is no party at all thanks Isla Mackechnie 16\_106social10

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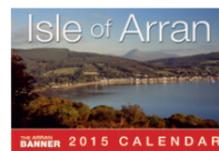
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## 'Extreme concerns' raised on land reform proposals by estate owners

SCOTTISH Land and Estates, which acts as a voice for all land and estate owners in the country, has raised 'extreme concerns' at a consultation document on the Scottish government's land reform bill proposals.

The organisation has said it is concerned about the proposal in the documents to allow ministers to intervene if a landowner is seen to be a barrier to sustainable development, simply because of the scale of ownership and raises the European Convention on Human Rights as having implications on such a policy.

It also says current business rates exemptions for sporting estates should not be brought to an end.

In its formal response, Scottish Land and Estates said it was committed to transparency and accountability of land ownership but wished the Scottish government to deliver effective community planning framework and ensure existing powers were fit for purpose before introducing more.

It felt that tenant farming would be best supported by 'dealing with agricultural holdings legislation separately'.

David Johnstone, chairman of Scottish Land and Estates, said: 'Landowners are committed to playing their part in building sustainable and empowered rural communities and whilst there are measures within the consultation

that we can support, there are proposals that would leave us with serious concerns.

'Overall, we would like to see far more acknowledgement from government of the significant problems facing rural development.

'A myriad of research into rural growth has been carried out over the years which indicate that numerous barriers exist - yet the focus remains solely on land ownership. There is no evidential basis for this approach.

'Research on barriers to rural development in Scotland repeatedly identifies planning regulations, other regulations, broadband, housing and transport as the main issues.

'It is disappointing that the Scottish Government is still not taking action to address these nor is it taking steps to provide more effective community planning and local decision making.

'This focus on ownership persists despite clear evidence that privately owned land is employed overwhelmingly productively and is already delivering a wide range of public benefits.

'It benefits local communities through tourism, job creation, agriculture, housing and more.

'We remain firm in our assertion that private and community ownership should not be viewed as opposite ends of a spectrum - both ensure the viability of our rural areas.'

## Community land group backs 'renewed momentum for change'

WITH just five days to go until the deadline for comments on the proposed land reform bill, Community Land Scotland, which represents community land owners, is encouraging individuals and groups to make representations to the Scottish government, no matter how short.

A rallying call to anyone keen to support radical change in land ownership has been made by David Cameron, chairman of Community Land Scotland.

Mr Cameron said: 'Community Land Scotland was formed just five years ago partly because we felt the momentum had gone out of land reform.

'Today, we have the opportuni-

ty to back renewed momentum for change.

'Community land owners are showing there are new ways to own land and bring change, and community ownership is just one way.

'Scotland still has the most concentrated land ownership patterns anywhere in the world and they concentrate influence, power and wealth in very few and often very privileged hands. The time for change is long past and we need to take the opportunity we have today to promote the change we want.

'The Scottish government is proposing a new Land Reform Commission, giving ministers new powers to intervene in land

transactions and ask whether a particular ownership would be in the public interest.

'There are also proposals to open up transparency about who owns what land in Scotland, as well as a strong policy statement that land ownership and use should be about greater fairness and social justice. These are all matters that are worth supporting.

'It is vital that people in Scotland who feel as I do - that the land laws of Scotland need changing, that we need more diversity of ownership, that we need greater fairness and social justice in land - need to make their views and support for change known to the Scottish government.'

More information on the proposed land reform bill and details on how comments can be made can be found at: <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/land-reform-and-tenancy-unit/land-reform-scotland>

## 'Landmark day' as red tape removed from vulnerable zones restrictions

AS OF Monday some 2,200 Scottish farms will be partially or fully lifted out of Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) restrictions.

This landmark change follows years of the National Farmers Union Scotland lobbying for a more transparent and scientific method for designating the NVZs.

It is understood that all land managers whose farms are being fully or partially removed will receive a letter

from the Scottish Government notifying them of the change.

The letter will also include information on how to access field level maps of the new boundaries. These will be available from today (Thursday).

(NFUS's deputy director of policy Andrew Bauer said: 'This is a landmark day that will see a 24 per cent reduction in the area of farmland in Scotland affected by

Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) restrictions.

'Cutting out the NVZ-related red tape and requirements faced by thousands of farmers in the de-designated areas is an excellent result after several years of behind-the-scenes lobbying by NFUS and other stakeholders.

'This marks significant progress and the development and adoption by Scottish Government and

SEPA of more robust and proportionate testing to determine nitrate levels. That is something NFUS has been pursuing for some time.

'Those who are being removed from the NVZ are not being given a one-way ticket out - if groundwater nitrate levels increase they could potentially be re-designated in future reviews so the great work must continue.'

## Farm business plan workshops

FARMERS in Argyll and Bute are being encouraged to register for a free workshop to help them develop their farm business plans.

The workshop, which is being held at the Falls of Lora Hotel in Connel today (Thursday), is the final stage of the national Planning for Profit initiative, being run by Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) to help farmers review their business and determine their future farm policy.

The project is supported by the Scottish Government, QMS and the National Farmers Union of Scotland.

The objective of the Planning for Profit initiative is to ensure

farm businesses are competitive and well placed to benefit from opportunities ahead.

Johnny Mackey, head of industry development at QMS, said: 'There is a real need to improve farm productivity to increase our competitiveness and a key objective is to provide a structured approach for farm business planning.'

The project, which launched in November 2013, has already produced a guide for farm planning for farmers and held a number of regional meetings and farm visits across the country.

Farmers who are interested in attending are encouraged to register for both the initial and fol-

low-up workshop. The February 5 workshop will focus on training, on farm business planning and how to review a business.

The second workshop, on February 19, also at the Falls of Lora, will allow participants to work in more detail on assessing their options, identify a future business plan, and to test it within the group.

Booking is essential for this event and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

To book a place at the workshop, contact Kirsty at QMS on 0131 472 4040 or email [info@qmscotland.co.uk](mailto:info@qmscotland.co.uk).

For more information, visit [www.qmscotland.co.uk/planning-profit](http://www.qmscotland.co.uk/planning-profit)

## Market reports

UNITED Auctions held its annual January sale of 268 head of cattle at Lochboisdale auction mart.

The bullocks sold to a top of £1,260 for a CharX from Morrison, Rhughashinish.

Heifers sold to a top of £1,000 for CharX also from Morrison, Stillgarry.

Leading prices per kilo for the bullocks was 300.00p/kg for a LimX sold by Macleod, Frobost.

Heifers got a top of 305.00p/kg for a LimX from MacDonald, Gimsay.

Overall the bullocks averaged £789 per head and 240.56p/kg and the heifers averaged £656 per head and 222.85p/kg.

Top prices:  
Bullocks:  
Kilphedar (AA) £1,100; Drimisdale (AA) £930; North Boisdale (AA) £910; Kilphedar (AA) £900; Dunganichy (BA) £900; Stillgarry (CH) £1,260; Stillgarry (CH) £1,180; Stillgarry (CH) £1,140; Stillgarry (CH) £980; Garrieganichy (High) £640; Howmore (Lim) £1,160; North Boisdale (Lim) £1,010; West Ger-

inish (Lim) £970; West Gerinish (Sim) £1,050; West Gerinish (Sim) £1,030; West Gerinish (Sim) £1,000.

Heifers:  
Stillgarry (CH) £1,000; Howmore (Lim) £850; Frobost (AA) £790; Dunganichy (BA) £760; West Garinish (Sim) £760.

OTM cows: North Boisdale (Lim) £880; Daliburgh (Sim) £800; Ormiclate (CH) £700.

Breeding cattle:  
Heifer with calf at foot; Stonebridge £1,320.

In calf cow; Stonebridge £1,320.

Leading prices per kilo:  
Bullocks: Frobost (AA) 268p; West Gerinish 268p; Baleshare (AA) 263p; Dunganichy (BA) 273p; Rhughashinish (CH) 268p; Stillgarry (CH) 255p; Frobost (Lim) 300.00p; Daliburgh

(Lim) 288.00p; Dunganichy (Lim) 286.00p; Dunganichy (Lim) 275.00p; Daliburgh (SH) 231.00p; West Gerinish (Sim) 273p; West Gerinish 265p.

Heifers: Frobost (AA) 240p; Milton 236p; Dunganichy 275p; Dunganichy 261p; Stillgarry 223p; Grimsay 305p; Dunganichy 269p; Dunganichy 261p; West Gerinish 238p.

## Drainage in the pipeline

WITH all the wet weather about at this time of the year, this is an ideal opportunity for farmers and crofters to have a look and think about how well water is draining off their land.

Wet soils limit grass growth by keeping the temperature of the soil down and reducing soil bacterial activity.

In addition, Niall Campbell from SAC Consulting in Oban said: 'With the recent definition of the new field regions for CAP payment, it is important that farmers maintain PGRS land under the Region 1 classification.

'Ensuring that PGRS fields are well drained will help to achieve this aim.'

To help provide the latest information and highlight local issues on drainage, a drainage update is being hosted at the SRUC Kirkton and Auchtertyre Hill and Mountain Research Unit, near Tyndrum, on February 11. Seamus Donnelly, SAC consulting drainage specialist, will be leading the talks. The meeting starts at 1pm with a light lunch. If anyone wishes to come along, it is important to book a place - call SAC Consulting Oban on 01631 563093 or email [frbs@oban@sac.co.uk](mailto:frbs@oban@sac.co.uk). The meeting is being supported by Scottish Government as part of its VAS programme.

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DRIVETIMES SAILING TIMES GARAGES CAR DEALERSHIPS MOTORING NEWS

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14 Skoda Fabia Elegance, 1.6TDI CR, Estate, Silver, 14,000 Miles, .....	£10,650
63 Skoda Octavia S, TDI Estate Silver 14,000 miles.....	£14,750
63 Skoda Octavia Elegance, 1.6TDI CR, Grey, 11,250 Miles, .....	£14,500
13 Skoda Octavia SE TSI, Blue 16,600 miles, .....	£11,500
13 Peugeot 107 Allure, 5dr, blue, 12,000 miles.....	£7,250
61 Renault Pzaz 1.2 SDR Red, 8,500miles.....	£6,250
11 Renault Kangoo Exp, 1.6 Auto, Grey, 16,000 miles.....	£6,750
60 Renault Clio Dyn 1.5dci, 5Dr, Silver, 59,000 miles.....	£5,550
59 Citroen C4 Cool, HDI, 5dr, silver, 28,000 miles.....	£3,500
58 Honda CRV 2.0 SE Auto, Blue, 55,000 miles.....	£8,500
58 Renault Scenic Conquest, DCI, Orange, 62,000 miles.....	£5,500
57 Citroen Berlingo Desire 1.6 Deisel Grey, 90,000.....	£3,500
57 Suzuki SX4 DDIS, 5 Dr Hatchback, 1.9 Diesel, Blue, 54,000 miles.....	£4,495
57 Honda Jazz se 1.4, 5dr, Grey, 79,500 miles.....	£3,500
54 Honda CRV Sport Vtec 2.0 ltr Blue, 91,000 miles.....	£3,950

**COMMERCIALS**

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## Renault reveals Kadjar – Captur's big brother

Buoyed by the success of Captur, Renault is continuing its offensive in the world of crossovers with the launch of Kadjar, the brand's first C-segment crossover.

In a fast-growing and extremely popular area of the market, Kadjar will boost Renault's ambitions on the international stage, as it is due to go on sale initially in Europe and in many African and Mediterranean Basin countries, followed by China.

This sibling to Captur shakes up established thinking by bringing an innovative and attractive proposition to the crossover market. The Renault Kadjar stands out through its fluid, athletic exterior styling. Meanwhile, its interior is both sporty and refined, courtesy of the quality of the materials employed and the attention that has gone into its finish.

Available with either four- or two-wheel-drive transmission, the Renault Kadjar encourages adventure while at the same time delivering easy manoeuvrability in town thanks to its compact footprint (4.45 metres long x 1.84 metres wide).

Furnished with high-quality interior appointments and modern equipment, the Renault Kadjar offers advanced connectivity with the R-Link 2<sup>nd</sup> multimedia system, along with a relaxed experience behind the wheel, courtesy of the latest driving aids.

The Renault Kadjar also benefits from a range of particularly efficient engines which position it at the forefront of the segment in terms of low fuel consumption and CO2 emissions.

The Renault Kadjar will be unveiled to the public at the 85th Geneva Motor Show which opens to the public on March 5, 2015.

It will go on sale in the summer and is scheduled to appear in RHD form in the UK in the Autumn.

**RENAULT KADJAR, A NEW STYLE FOR THE CROSSOVER MARKET**

Renault is positioning itself in the C-segment crossover market with a design that blends strength and elegance. With its Flame Red launch colour, the Renault Kadjar brings a breath of fresh air to the market and plays upon its power of seduction.

**Fluid, athletic exterior styling**

The Renault Kadjar is a C-segment crossover that draws from the cues associated with SUVs, saloons and estates. It shares the DNA of the Captur concept car, along with hints of the DeZir concept car. Captur illustrates the 'Explore' petal of Renault's design strategy – a world that evokes dynamism, strength and adventure – while DeZir, the concept car born from the 'Love' petal, endows the vehicle with an emotional, sensuous touch. Kadjar is moreover presented in Renault's Flame Red colour which is emblematic of vehicles that inspire passion.

The big brother to Captur brings a new proposition to the crossover market through its unique design which marks a break from the segment's current trends. The Renault Kadjar combines a bold personality with seductive appeal. Its compact footprint (4.45 metres long x 1.84 metres wide) and low roofline (1.60m) accentuate the vehicle's dynamic stance.

Continues across the head lights enhances the visual impression of width and contributes to Kadjar's assertive character. Its flowing, athletic silhouette is reinforced by the muscular form of its wings, while the sensuous fluidity of its lines is accentuated by the finish of the doors which are flush with the sills.

The sculpted sides and powerful shoulders also contribute to the overall sensation of dynamism and strength. At the rear, the bodywork subtly integrates the bumper and firmly establishes the Renault Kadjar as a high-quality vehicle.

**A seductive take on the world of crossovers**

In addition to its sensuous appeal, Kadjar incorporates all the indispensable cues of the crossover world. Its generous ground clearance (190mm) provides an immediate impression of strength and hints at Kadjar's ability to head off the beaten track.

The structured form of the grille heightens the assertive character expressed by the front end, while the front and rear skid plates – characteristic of SUVs – underline the Renault Kadjar's adventurous temperament.

The large 690mm wheels and rims of up to 19-inches (depending on version) are further pointers to the Renault Kadjar's sporty nature.

The lower door protective mouldings reinforce the model's solid stance, while the black wheel arch extensions form an extension of the lower part of the body and provide another indication of the vehicle's taste for escaping the crowd, as do the anodised aluminium roof bars which add to Kadjar's dynamic poise.

Kadjar stands apart from other crossovers in its segment thanks to features which bestow it with an elegant touch without taking anything away from the sensation of robustness it exudes.



The front end exudes an impression of strength. The manner in which the chrome strip con-

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# Peugeot 308 GT – with performance and style

The showroom success enjoyed by the award-winning Peugeot 308 looks set to reach even greater heights with the arrival of a new dynamic flagship – the stunning 308 GT.

Available in hatchback and SW body styles, both models offer assertive new styling, outstanding performance-oriented engines and bespoke chassis modifications to create a lower ride height. The result is an exceptional on-the-road experience that will delight the most enthusiastic drivers. The enhancements clearly embody Peugeot's continued move up-market, highlighted by the 308's recognition as the 2014 European Car of the Year.

The new Peugeot 308 GT retains all the elements which have made the 308 range such a huge commercial hit throughout Europe. This includes the striking exterior design, innovative Peugeot i-Cockpit cabin, versatile interior and high perceived quality.

Remarkable engine efficiency, with high fuel economy and ultra-low emissions, is also part of the 308 GT package.

### Assertive sporty styling

The 308 GT's unique design quality is immediately obvious. The iconic Peugeot Lion emblem has moved from the bonnet's leading edge to the front grille, with three horizontal blades on either side. For optimum vision in all circumstances, the 308 GT has been fitted with top-of-the-range headlights made up of 62 LEDs.

Exclusive new direction indicators also distinguish the 308 GT from other models. Their dynamic sequential operation, moving from the inside to the outside, emphasises the technological identity of the car. They are placed above the new air scoops which supply the engine with additional cooling.

The 308 GT presents a great aerodynamic and stylistic purity, most notable where the black lacquered door mirrors merge with the tinted windows. Visibly widened by its side sill finishers, the 308 GT sits on 18-inch 'Diamant' wheels, shod with Michelin Pilot Sport 3 tyres. Their fluted spokes and engraved motif are also available on 308 GT-Line models.



At the rear, the 308 GT offers a striking and distinctive posture, due in part to the lacquered black diffuser and stylish twin exhaust pipes. The GT signature is integrated into the tailgate, as well as the front grille and front wings.

The range of colours for the 308 GT includes the new and exclusive 'Magnetic Blue'. Evocative of the blue historically reserved for French competition vehicles, this bold shade suits the car's fluid and dynamic lines, while emphasising its lowered ride height.

An exclusive new ambience is also achieved in the car's cabin, with both the roof lining and upper window pillars finished in anthracite. Red stitching adds a performance air to the upholstery trim and is also found on the dashboard, door panels, gear lever gaiter and floor mats. Aluminium-detailing on the pedals, coupled with stainless steel sill finishers in the door apertures, add the finishing touch.

Vital in any sports-oriented car is the correct driving position. It's already ideal in this new model because of the ergonomics of the Peugeot i-Cockpit, as seen in every 308. The driver can adjust the height and reach of the compact steering wheel, which is unique to this car due to its perforated leather trim and GT badge. The instrument panel bears a new chequered flag motif background and switching on the ignition produces a GT welcome message. To complement this,

the large touchscreen displays a new colour scheme dominated by red and black, titled 'Redline'.

### Remarkable dynamic performance

To deliver maximum enjoyment, the 308 GT features enhanced new chassis settings. Ride height has been lowered by 7mm at the front and 10mm at the rear for a more dynamic drive. The revised suspension is mated to a choice of high-performance engines, one petrol and one diesel, that both meet stringent Euro 6 emissions standards.

The four-cylinder 1.6-litre THP 205 Stop & Start petrol engine is specified with a six-speed manual gearbox to make the most of its 285Nm of torque, available between 1,750 and 4,500rpm. This high level of performance is combined with well-controlled CO2 emissions and fuel consumption, from just 130g/km and 50.4mpg. Engineers used all of the brand's expertise to achieve a remarkable power-to-weight ratio of just 5.85kg/hp (171hp per tonne) on this model.

The four-cylinder 2.0-litre BlueHDi 180 diesel engine also offers a high level of performance. It delivers its maximum power of 180hp at 3,750rpm and its maximum torque of 400Nm at 2,000rpm. Highlighting Peugeot's attention to engineering detail, reducing the thickness of wall casings and the use of engine ancillaries only when required has led to a 7kg weight

saving. With a power-to-weight ratio of just 7.3 kg/hp (136hp per tonne), this engine needs only 5.5 seconds to accelerate from 50-70mph in fifth gear. With a capacity of 1,997cc, it presents remarkable CO2 emissions of just 103g/km, with official fuel consumption of 70.6mpg.

### A heightened driving experience

At one with the Peugeot i-Cockpit, the 308 GT driver is at the heart of the driving experience due to the 308 range's standard-fit compact steering wheel and head-up instrumentation. Pleasure is further enhanced by the Driver Sport Pack, standard on every 308 GT. This includes:

- amplified and more sporty engine noise
- instruments illuminated with red display
- instrument panel that displays the power and torque delivered, turbo pressure, longitudinal and transverse acceleration
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# West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

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## Top tips to maximise your property's potential for selling

### Presenting your garden

Gardens are too often forgotten in the race to make the most of a property, but their condition can sometimes be the deciding factor on value. It's a common-held belief that the decision on whether or not to buy a property is made within the first few moments of viewing it.

The state of the front garden is therefore a prime consideration for anyone choosing to sell their home:

Drive-by desirability is all important as first impressions really do count.

Make sure your front garden is neat, tidy and easily maintained. Hanging baskets and flower troughs establish the cared-for look without creating too much work. Any lawn areas should be neatly trimmed, and trees cut back and controlled. A well-presented front door, with pots alongside it, goes a long way towards generating a sense of welcome.

The back of the house is arguably even more important than the front, as this is where the most work is likely to lie. Today's busy

lifestyle means the majority of people don't have much time to spend on gardening, so creating some low maintenance areas is invaluable. Decking, paving and woodchips can be used to differentiate areas of the garden and simplify them, often generating a very desirable 'outside room' space, which will be attractive to buyers.

Smaller and larger gardens alike will also benefit from the definition of specific areas for herbs, flowers and vegetables.

Those with larger gardens should try to create a sense of flow within the space, which draws the visitor in and avoids the garden area being perceived as an undefined 'patch' of land. This can be done using well positioned pathways, lawns, pots and flowerbeds.

Any trees and hedges should be kept under control and fences maintained.

If there is space, you could consider installing a summer house and a shed.

Boost the value of your house, by improving your home in these relatively inexpensive ways. You may find this enjoyable; and fur-



thermore it will make your house more attractive when the time comes to sell.

It can also enhance the general streetscape and consequently the perception of the area as a desirable place to live.

This will raise house prices all round, thereby keeping both you and the whole neighbourhood happy.

### Maximise your kitchen

A welcoming kitchen is one of the biggest attractions for potential house buyers. Whether you have a comfortable family oriented meeting place or a stylish singletons galley, the kitchen is most often the heart of the home.

Regardless of your budget, there are a number of simple ways you can maximise its attraction to buyers and speed up the sale of your house:

Replacing your entire kitchen to attract buyers is not always necessary. Often the cost of installing a new kitchen outweighs the value it will add to your asking price. Like all home decor, the kitchen will still be subject to personal taste, so if it does not appeal to your buyers they will refit it upon moving in anyway.

If your kitchen is very dated,

simple changes can make all the difference. Painting the cupboard doors, replacing handles or taps and re-grouting the tiles can all give a new lease of life.

Clean and de-clutter. Viewers may even look in your cupboards so ensure shelves are cleaned and all contents are organised. Any pet bowls should go outside as potential buyers may not be animal lovers so could be put off by the sight of half-eaten pet food.

If necessary, box up items you don't use very often and put them in storage. If your cupboards and drawers are overflowing, buyers will assume there is little storage space, which can be off-putting. Keep work surfaces as clear as possible to enhance the appearance of cleanliness.

Flowers or pot pourri on window sills create a welcoming atmosphere and add a fresh fragrance.



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Argyll South & Argyll North  
£14,835 - £23,380 (Band E) Ref: 4558 (North) & 4559 (South)

Two exciting opportunities have arisen for a Network Maintenance Operative's. One will cover the South Argyll area and one will cover the North Argyll area. You will be expected to ensure the effective and efficient repair and maintenance of the network infrastructure (water network, drainage network and pumping stations) with minimal disruption to the customer. Some of the key accountabilities will include - carrying out planned & emergency repairs, work planning and dealing with customers. You will be required to participate in a standby rota and out of hours working. Previous Network experience is desirable for this role.

For further information about this post please see visit [www.scottishwater.co.uk/careers](http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/careers)

Only online applications can be accepted at [www.scottishwater.co.uk/careers](http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/careers)  
Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 27 February 2015.



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The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

**Reporter**

An enthusiastic, multi-skilled Reporter is required to join the award-winning Wyvex Media newspaper group.

The successful candidate will have a solid foundation in journalism, good leadership qualities, excellent communication skills, a great deal of energy and at least two years experience. A full driving licence is essential.

This is an exciting opportunity with excellent salary and benefits package.

To apply, please send a covering letter of application with CV by email to: [ali@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ali@obantimes.co.uk)

Argyll & Bute Care & Repair is an organisation that is committed to caring for the elderly and disabled community and we are looking to recruit a Manager and an Administration Assistant.

**Argyll & Bute CARE & REPAIR**

**Care & Repair Manager, covering Argyll & Bute Area**  
Salary £40,000 per annum (pro rata) / £28571 per annum  
25 hours per week

This permanent Manager post will involve investigating & delivering new opportunities for business expansion, and securing ongoing funding.

- This post is to ensure an effective service to clients, through delivery and operation of the Care and Repair service. To provide practical, financial & technical services, information and advice to elderly and disabled householders throughout Argyll & Bute.
- To ensure the activities of Argyll & Bute Care & Repair accord with company policy, comply with regulatory and legislative requirements, are carried out within budget, and achieve value for money.
- Staff management and development
- To promote Argyll & Bute Care & Repair positively, through all activities. Knowledge and understanding of housing, presentation & IT skills, and good customer service skills are all essential. A full driving license and access to a car is also essential.

**Administration Assistant, Oban**  
Salary £14,390 per annum (pro rata) / £6167 per annum 15 hours per week

We are looking to recruit a part time Administration Assistant to work alongside our Administrator, this is a **fixed term contract to 31st March 2016**. This post will involve providing an administration service for the general office, including reception and telephone management. The postholder will assist in delivering professional front line services to customers and provide personal and confidential administration assistance to the staff.

Fundraising experience would be desirable.

For an informal chat or to find out more about these posts please contact Helen Kessell, Chairperson on 01546 602091  
An Application form, Full Role Profile and Person Specification are available by emailing: [estewart@abcarerepair.co.uk](mailto:estewart@abcarerepair.co.uk)  
Closing Date for both posts: 12 noon on Friday 13th February 2015

Scottish Natural Heritage is the leading public body responsible for advising Ministers on matters relating to the natural heritage. The natural environment is a key asset that underpins Scotland's wealth, health and quality of life. Our job is to conserve this resource, to promote its sustainable management and to encourage people to access and enjoy it responsibly.

**Reserve Support**  
Grade B  
Rum, South Highland

We're looking for 2 people to support the operational delivery of the Rum reserve management plan. Here, you'll undertake practical estate management with practical deer management, therefore you'll need a Deer Management Qualification. Working with a small team, you'll contribute to biological monitoring of NNR and the management of other South Highland NNRs.

For further information regarding the post, please contact Lesley Watt, Vacancy Manager, SNH, 01687 462026 or email [lesley.watt@snh.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.watt@snh.gov.uk)

For further information regarding the application process, please contact Nikki Hossack, HR Services, Scottish Natural Heritage, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, tel: 01463 725182, email: [recruitment@snh.gov.uk](mailto:recruitment@snh.gov.uk)

Closing date for applications is midnight, 16 February 2015.

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**Crinan Hotel and Crinan Coffee Shop**

**Staff Vacancies**  
Reception, Bar, Coffee Shop - full or part time.

Come out to Crinan and enjoy working with an enthusiastic team.

We look forward to hearing from you.  
[reservations@crinanhotel.com](mailto:reservations@crinanhotel.com)  
or phone 01546 830261

**Phlebotomist/Healthcare Assistant**

Lochgilphead Medical Centre has a part time vacancy for a phlebotomist/healthcare assistant. This post would be for 8 hours weekly. Starting salary is dependent on experience.

SVQ qualification and a knowledge of computer data entry would be an advantage but not essential.

Please contact **Muriel Miller, Practice Manager** or **Sheila Clarke, Practice Nurse** on 01546 462002 for further information, job description and application forms.

Closing date for applications is 28.2.2015

**CLYDE MARINE**

Seasonal staff required. Full/Part Time

**BOATMASTER**

We have vacancies for the above in Oban and Fort William from May to August 2015. Candidates must be enthusiastic, self motivated, flexible, and be in possession of Tier1 Level 2/Tier 2 BML or equivalent and provide high levels of customer service. If holder of CoC assistance may be provided to obtain a BML.

To apply, please forward your CV and certificates by post or email to: [ClydeMarineServicesLtd,VictoriaHarbour,Greenock,PA151HW.admin@clyde-marine.co.uk](mailto:ClydeMarineServicesLtd,VictoriaHarbour,Greenock,PA151HW.admin@clyde-marine.co.uk)

**Ross Electrical**

REXEL GROUP

**Branch Manager: Oban**

**The opportunity:** We are looking for an individual who is ready to take their career to new level

**The person:** An existing manager or sales person ready to take on this exciting challenge

**The responsibilities:** Branch P&L reporting, budget and cost control - as well as stock management & branch staff

**The benefits:** Excellent salary package, including bonus scheme, car, pension, private medical care & other benefits

**The location:** Covering Argyll and the islands

A 'can do' attitude is essential, as well as an enthusiasm to lead sales strategies, motivate a team and ensure the branch meet & exceed targets.

Ideal for someone with a dynamic attitude - with a great opportunity to manage their own business, with the freedom to make strategic decisions on a daily basis.

If this sounds like the right role for you - then please apply in writing to:  
**Craig Thompson Regional Director**  
Ross Electrical, 17-25 Devon Place, St Andrews Ind Estate  
Glasgow G41 1RB  
[craig.thompson@rosselec.co.uk](mailto:craig.thompson@rosselec.co.uk)  
Closing date 13th February 2015

**WANTED**  
Help with general house work and ironing

Two or three hours a fortnight (Dunbeg area)  
Phone 01631 566362 late afternoon

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**  
**Oban Times**

**Argyll Resources Group**

We have the following vacancies:

**LGV driver - Oban depot**  
**LGV driver - Fort William depot**  
**Waste Transfer Operative - Oban**

Please apply stating which job you are interested in to: [ArgyllResourcesGroup,TorranGormIndustrialEstate,ObanPA344PL](mailto:ArgyllResourcesGroup,TorranGormIndustrialEstate,ObanPA344PL)

Tel 01631 566370, email [susan@argyllresources.co.uk](mailto:susan@argyllresources.co.uk)  
An application form can be downloaded from [www.argyllresources.co.uk](http://www.argyllresources.co.uk) under the people and vacancies section

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01496 302 642  
[callumkill.estate@gmail.com](mailto:callumkill.estate@gmail.com)  
[www.callumkill.com](http://www.callumkill.com)

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**Oban based Civil engineering and marine contractor requires Experienced Labourer Working Charge Hand/ Working Foreman**

Please send cv to jobs@alchemycontracting.co.uk

**Workboat Crew**  
Experience an advantage but not essential  
Please send cv to jobs@seawork-scotland.co.uk

**RELATIONSHIPS SCOTLAND**  
Counselling, mediation & family support services

**Couple Counselling Argyll**  
have a **VOLUNTEER RELATIONSHIP COUNSELLOR OPPORTUNITY**

We are seeking a qualified counsellor, based in North Argyll to train for Relationships Scotland's Certificate in Couple Counselling starting in April 2015

To find out more, contact Carol Collis, Manager  
e-mail: info@argyllcouplecounselling.org or 01852 300514  
SCO23995

**Am Birlinn Restaurant**  
We are recruiting for the 2015 season:

1. Head Chef
2. Experienced reliable committed manager to organise day to day running.
3. Sous chef, some experience desirable but could suit a willing enthusiastic trainee.

Excellent pay rates and free accommodation for the right applicants.  
C.V.s to Pat & Iain Morrison, Penmore Mill, Derivaig, Mull PA75 6QS  
Tel. 01688 400242/297 E mail info@turusmara.com

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RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT  
**Oban Times Oban Times**

**Full Time and Part Time Administrator / Receptionist - Ice Factor Kinlochleven**

Ice Factor Kinlochleven is seeking to recruit experienced administration and reception staff. Ideally you will have a passion for the outdoors and a strong track record in reception duties (from hotel or similar environment). Core tasks include bookings (online, telephone and face to face), processing of member records on the database, invoices, daily cash handling and preparation of reconciliation files for the company finance team. Accuracy and a keen eye for detail are critical.

Ice Factor has a fantastic track record in customer service, and you will be expected to demonstrate the utmost professionalism when dealing with clients at the busy reception.

Training will be provided between Snow Factor in Glasgow and Ice Factor Kinlochleven which may require off site training.

**Please apply in writing, with accompanying CV to:**  
**Jean.MacDonald@snowfactor.com**  
Closing date for applicants is 10th February 2015

**Lynn of Lorne CARE HOME**

**We are currently recruiting a Charge Nurse, Nurses, Care Assistants and Housekeeping Staff to complement our existing skilled team**

You must have a flexible approach to shift pattern and be able to work nights and weekends. Advanced skill training can be given to successful candidates.

Knowledge and experience of working in care desirable.

Variety of hours and competitive rates of pay. Professional qualifications on offer to successful candidates

**Please contact the Manager Louise Glasgow on 01631 702078 for application form or further information**

**Scottish autism**

**West of Scotland Area Services - Oban Saturday Club**

**Support Workers (SA/140) - Permanent 6 hours per week £14,718 - £15,392 (pro rata)**  
**Casual opportunities also available £7.65 per hour**

**Autism Practitioner (SA/141) 6 hours per week £16,510 - £18,687 (pro rata)**

Scottish autism seeks to promote and provide care, education, support and opportunities for individuals with autism of all ages throughout Scotland.

We have exciting opportunities within our Saturday Club and Evening Outreach Services for Casual Support Workers and an Autism Practitioner with an interest in developing a career working with people on the Autism Spectrum within West of Scotland services.

For more information on the above jobs, please visit our website: [www.scottishautism.org](http://www.scottishautism.org)  
Closing Date: 16 February 2015  
Registered charity number is SC009068

We are a market leading UK company within the timber industry, employing over 800 people and with a Group turnover in excess of £200m. With seven profit centres in the UK and one in Latvia, **We are BSW.**

**Management Accountant**

- Competitive Salary + Benefits & Bonus Scheme
- Based Fort William • Relocation Assistance available

With 5 direct reports across our Fort William and Boat of Garten sites - which together form a combined £60m turnover operation - your role will focus on helping the management teams to understand the financial implications of their strategic and tactical decisions, with a strong emphasis on driving improved profitability. Ideally we're looking for a fully qualified management accountant, with a good level of technical expertise, who can demonstrate a relevant background and successful track record in a similar role, gained within a related fast moving production/manufacturing environment.

**For more information and to apply, visit [www.bsw.co.uk/vacancies](http://www.bsw.co.uk/vacancies)**  
Closing Date: Tuesday 17th February 2015.

**We are BSW.** **BSW Timber**  
Five generations of investment, ensuring the future is safe for the sixth.

**Leading the way in Learning Disability**  
ENABLE Scotland is a dynamic, vibrant and expanding organisation dedicated to improving the lives of people across Scotland.

**Team Leader/ Team Facilitator**  
Location: Oban. Salary: £24K - £26K DOE. 39 hours per week.

We require a Team Leader to join our established team to help our users achieve the lives they want to live. You will be experienced in working with adults with learning disabilities.

You will also have an SVQ 3 in Health & Social Care or equivalent. You will be experienced in using a person centred approach and have the leadership skills to successfully manage your teams.

**Personal Assistants in Care**  
Location: Oban. Salary: £7.80 per hour (Sessional hours).

**Are you looking for an opportunity to make a difference? Would you like a job that is rewarding?**  
If that involves wanting to support people with learning disabilities then we would love to hear from you.

Please contact the local office for further details or information on **01631 565062**, email [kirsty.mackenzie@enable.org.uk](mailto:kirsty.mackenzie@enable.org.uk) or visit [www.enableScotlandjobs.org.uk](http://www.enableScotlandjobs.org.uk)  
Closing date: **20 February 2015.**  
ENABLE Scotland is an equal opportunities employer. Scottish charity number SC009024.

**Janitor/Cleaner (Permanent)**  
£13,697 - £14,970 pro rata Southend Primary School Ref: CME35244  
10 hours per week, Term Time

**Technician (Permanent)**  
£24,198 - £26,443 Lochgilphead Ref: DVR00691

**Clerical Assistant (Temporary)**  
£14,599 - £15,457 pro rata Witchburn Road, Campbeltown Ref: CTC00240  
17.5 hours per week

01546 604334

Closing date unless otherwise stated: 20 February 2015.  
To apply visit our website [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs)

public notices

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid**

A Meeting of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee will be held in Room 1, Ground Floor, SAMS, Dunbeg at 10:30am - Wednesday 11th February 2015

Members of the public are welcome to attend and a public question time will take place during the meeting. Questions can be asked on the day or can be submitted in advance to the Area Committee Manager, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT. Telephone: 01631 567945.

The Agenda for the meeting will be available to view from Wednesday 4th February at the Service Point, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AW and at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Douglas Hendry**  
Executive Director - Customer Services

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**Early Learning and Childcare Enrolment Notice**  
Funded Pre-school Places 2015/2016

All children born between 1 March 2011 and 28 February 2013 are entitled to a funded Early Learning and Childcare place during the session 2015/2016.

Enrolments will be accepted during the week commencing 09 February 2015 for all funded places.

If you wish to enrol your child for a place please contact your local Primary School, Playgroup or Nursery for information on registered centres in your area and the enrolment procedure.

Gaelic Medium provision is available in certain areas: please contact Highland Council Family Information Service for details.

Information is also available from: Highland Councils Childcare & Early Education Service on 0845 6011345 or email: [familyinformationservice@highland.gov.uk](mailto:familyinformationservice@highland.gov.uk)

Information Leaflets are also available from Highland Council Service Points

**Please Note:** Remember to take your child's birth certificate or other official confirmation of birth with you when you go to enrol.

**Fios Clàrachaidh airson Ionnsachadh Tràth agus Cùram-chloinne**  
**Àitean Ro-sgoile Maoinichte 2015/2016**

Tha coir aig pàist sam bith a rugadh eadar 1 Màrt 2011 agus 28 Gearran 2013 air àite ionnsachadh Tràth agus Cùram-chloinne maoinichte anns an t-seusan 2015/2016.

Thèid clàrachaidhean a ghabhail san t-seachdain a' tòiseachadh 09 Gearran 2015 airson gach àite maoinichte.

Ma tha sibh airson ur pàist a chlàrachadh, bu chòir dhuibh bruidhinn ris a' bhun-sgoil, cròileagan no sgoil-àrachaidh ionadail agaibh airson fiosrachadh mu ionadan clàrachaidhean san sgìre agus mar a bu chòir dhuibh clàrachadh.

Tha solar tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig ri fhaotainn ann an cuid de sgìrean: cuiribh fios gu Seirbheis Fiosrachadh Teaghlach Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd.

Cheibhear fiosrachadh cuideachd bho: Seirbheis Cùram-Chloinne agus Foghlam Tràth Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd air 0845 6011345 no post-d: [familyinformationservice@highland.gov.uk](mailto:familyinformationservice@highland.gov.uk)

Cheibhear bileagan-fiosrachaidh bho ionadan-seirbheis Chomhairle na Gàidhealtachd **Cuimhneachaidh:** Thoiribh leibh teisteanas-breith ur pàist no dearbhadh-breith oifigeil eile nuair a bhios sibh a' clàrachadh.

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid**

**PLANNING**

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will be open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/02633/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage (amendment to planning permission reference 11/00105/PP)	Plot 6 Ossians North Connel Oban Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Ledaig
14/02964/PPP	Site for the erection of 10 metre x 6 metre storage shed.	Storage Shed Land South of Harbour House Caolis Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute PA77	Tiree Area Office
14/02986/PP	Formation of access road	Land South West of Inverleigh Bridge of Orchy Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmally
14/03012/PP	Formation of vehicular access, landscaping and drainage.	Land North East of Glenshellach Farm Glenshellach Road Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4QJ	Oban Area Office
15/00074/PP	Demolition of semi derelict craft shop/ workshop, erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Craft Centre 3 Kenovay Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute PA77 6UJ	Tiree Area Office
15/00112/PP	Installation of external plant and erection of external canopy with fenced enclosure	Co-Operative Retail Services Ltd Scarinish Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute PA77 6UH	Tiree Area Office
15/00147/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South East of An Lamtair Isle of Coll Argyll and Bute PA78 6TB	Sub Post Office Isle of Coll
15/00164/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 11/02328/PPP - Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse	Croft No. 5 Kiltvaree By Connel Connel Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Connel
15/00180/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 1 Cnoc Fennaig House Balvicar Isle of Seil Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4TF	Sub Post Office Balvicar

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Lochgilphead Brae PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/02674/LIB	Enlargement of existing window	Port Askaig Hotel Port Askaig Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA46 7RD	Sub Post Office Port Askaig
15/00175/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference 11/02370/PP (Erection of dwellinghouse with integral garage).	Land North West of Museum Port Charlotte Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

Argyll and Bute Council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://planning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

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.

**COUNCILLOR'S SURGERIES**  
Councillor Roddy McCuish (E.W.4 Oban South and the Isles)  
Councillor Roddy McCuish will be holding a surgery on Friday 6th February from 3.00pm - 5.00pm in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban  
He can be contacted by e-mail - [roderick.mccuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:roderick.mccuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk) or by telephone 01631 567854

**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 between the hours of 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

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
14/04776/FUL	Land 110M SW of Ardgour Road, Caol, Fort William	Amendments to fenestration, timber cladding and high level glazing for new Gaelic School (original permission 13/02346/FUL)
15/00123/FUL	Land 30M SE of Glenloch Nevis Bridge, Glen Nevis, Fort William	Erection of new dwelling house
15/00185/FUL	Plot 1, Land 30M North East of Fulnafern, Arivegaig, Acharacle	Erection of house and extension of access road, formation of parking and turning area, and construction of septic tank and soakaway
15/00186/FUL	Plot 2, Land 30M North East of Fulnafern Arivegaig, Acharacle	Erection of a croft house, extension of the access, and installation of a septic tank and soakaway
15/00194/FUL	88 Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Lochyside, Fort William	Proposed extension and interior alterations to commercial unit to extend sales, storage and office accommodation
15/00196/PIP	Land 40M West of Air An Oir Mallaig Bheag, Mallaig	Erect house

**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)

**First Registration of a Croft**

John Allan MacKintosh has registered their croft 49.50 and Part 52 Banavie, Kilmallie 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 October 20, 2015.

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 C574

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 THE MARINE LICENSING (PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013**

Tobermory Harbour Association,

the prospective applicant, hereby gives notice of a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) to be undertaken in advance of the submission of a marine licence application(s) to Marine Scotland for a prospective development comprising construction of New Pier, Slipway and Boat Servicing Area and installation of Floating Breakwater/Wave Attenuator at Ledaig, Tobermory, Isle of Mull.

Further information in respect of the prospective development may be obtained by contacting Phase 6 Project Manager, Taigh Solais, Ledaig, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6NR.

A public event which will include a presentation of the prospective development and opportunity for public discussion with the prospective applicant is to be held at Aros Hall, Tobermory on Tuesday 24th March between the hours of 1930-2100.

Any persons wishing to submit comments should submit these to the prospective applicant at Tobermory Harbour Association, Taigh Solais, Ledaig, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6NR or at [phase6@tobermoryharbour.co.uk](mailto:phase6@tobermoryharbour.co.uk) before 31st March 2015.

Persons submitting comments in response to Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) are advised that comments submitted to the prospective applicant at this time are not representations; in the event that prospective applicant submits a formal application(s) for marine licence(s) then there would be an opportunity to submit representations to Marine Scotland at that time.

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EVERY WEEK IN THE OBAN TIMES, WE HAVE A SELECTION OF LOCAL SERVICES TO ADVERTISE HERE, PLEASE CONTACT 01631 568000 OR ADVERTS@OBANTIMES.CO.UK

**COUNSELLING**

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Do you have a relationship problem?  
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Appointments are available in  
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Call 01631 563297  
www.argyllcouplecounselling.org  
SCO23995

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**Happy 21st birthday**

Sophie MacLennan  
11th February  
Lots of love  
Mum, Dad, Morgan, Buster  
Nana, Grandad,  
Uncle Robert &  
Uncle Joe xxx

**Happy Golden Anniversary**  
to Irene (Dobie) and Albert Main,  
6th February 1965.  
Love from all the family xxx

**BIRTHS**

**WRIGHT** - Charles and Michelle (née Kay) are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful son Michael Charles, born January 19, 2015. Thanks to all staff at Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

**GOLDEN WEDDINGS**

**MAIN - DOBIE** - At St. John's Cathedral, Oban on February 6, 1965 by the Very Rev. Canon Charles Copland, Albert to Irene.

**DEATHS**

**BAXTER** - Peacefully on Thursday, January 29, 2015, Ian, beloved husband of the late Isobel, father to Caren, Angelina, Melanie and the late John and papa to Donnie, Calum, Shannon and Joseph. Funeral service was held yesterday, February 4, at St. Modan's Church, Benderloch, followed by interment today, Thursday, February 5, at the Linn Cemetery, Glasgow.

**BUCHANAN** - Peacefully, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on Saturday, January 31, 2015, aged 48 years, Anne Valerie, (née MacPhee), beloved wife of Michael, sister of Margaret and the late Angus, auntie to Carol, Alan, Kenneth and Cheryl. Forever in our hearts.

**BURNETT** - Ian (formerly Caol), died peacefully at home in Barrhead on February 1, 2015. Loving husband to Catherine, father to Fiona and Paul and dear big brother to Joyce and Maureen, Inverloch.

**CAMERON** - Suddenly at home on January 25, 2015, Ian, much loved son to Sybil and the late John Cameron and beloved brother to Colin.

**CAMERON** - Bruce Duncan, (formerly of Strontian). Passed away, at the Western General Hospital, on January 29, 2015, aged 47. Bruce was a much loved partner of Jane, a dearly loved brother to Alison and Elspeth, a dear uncle to Jamie, Neil, Ross and Lewis, and son of the late Marjorie Fraser and the late Dr Neil Cameron. Funeral at the Borders Crematorium, Melrose, on Friday, February 6, at 2pm to which all family and friends are invited. No flowers and no black ties please.

**FERGUSON** - Neil, peacefully on January 29, 2015 in Girvan Community Hospital after a short illness, loving husband of Patricia, (née Brown). Funeral at Masonhill Crematorium, Ayr, at 12 noon on Monday, February 9, 2015.

**KENNEDY** - Angus, Q.P.M. Much loved husband of Fiona. After a short illness at his beloved home Cloiche, Isle of Coll on February 1, 2015. Funeral service on the Isle of Coll on Saturday, February 7. A retreatal collection in aid of Scottish Air Ambulance.

**KNOX** - Peacefully at home, after a long illness borne with fortitude and grace, John, dearly loved husband of Patricia and adored father of Eilidh. Formerly of J G Kincaid and Co. Greenock and a stalwart of 7th Greenock Boys Brigade Company. Funeral service at Greenock crematorium on Saturday February 7, 2015 at 11am. All who knew him are welcome. Family flowers only please.

**MACBRAYNE** - Peacefully at home, 2 Hillview Terrace, Ardishaig, on January 29, 2015, Jessie MacKinnon MacBrayne, (née Fairservice), in her 93rd year. Beloved wife of the late Duncan MacBrayne. Dearly loved mum of Katrina, Janette and Duncan. Much respected mother-in-law of Hugh, Melvyn and Lesley. Adored and adoring gran and great-gran. Funeral service will be held in Ardishaig Parish Church today, Thursday February 5, 2015 at 12noon, followed by service at Craigton Crematorium, Cardonald at 3.30pm. Family flowers only please.

**MACKENZIE** - Peacefully on January 29, 2015, Alex, 13 Lorn Drive, Glencoe. A much loved brother and uncle who will be sadly missed.

**MACLARTY** - Peacefully, at the Mid Argyll Hospital, on January 29, 2015, Margaret MacLean MacLarty, (née Hawthorn), aged 72 years, of The Homestead, Ardferr, beloved wife of Angus, much loved mother of Mary, Hazel, Sandra and Christy and cherished granny of Ceri and Millie. A dear sister, aunt and cousin to all the family. Funeral service was held at Craignish Parish Church, on Wednesday, February 4, followed by interment at Kilvaree Cemetery, Ardferr. Sadly missed.

**MACMILLAN** - Andrew (Andy), late of Heathercroft, passed away peacefully on January 28, 2015 at his home in Altonoa, USA.

**MCOMBIE** - Suddenly at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on January 31, 2015, in his 77th year, Albert McCombie (Bert), beloved husband of the late Cathie, dear dad to Elizabeth, John and the late Joe a much loved father-in-law, grandad and great-grandad.

**PARROTT** - Passed away on February 1, 2015 in her 87th year, Lucienne Blondine (née Vandeput) beloved wife of the late Donald and mother of the late William, mother of Raymond, mother-in-law of Lorraine and grandmother of Daniel and Neville. Funeral service will take place at The Baptist Church, Oban on Friday February 6, 2015 at 2.30pm and followed on at Cardross Crematorium on Saturday February 7, 2015. Family flowers only, retreatal collection/donations will be gratefully passed to the Baptist Church. In our hearts and never forgotten.

**RENNIE** - George William, suddenly but peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on January 29, 2015. Much loved father of Morvern and Morag and grandfather to Colin and Fiona. Respecting George's wishes there were no formal funeral arrangements, however close family, some friends and neighbours attended a short service at Cardross Crematorium on February 4, 2015, to say goodbye. Thank you to all staff in Oban hospital, care professionals of Oban District and the doctors and staff at Connel Surgery for their care over the last years. With Dad's death following so quickly after Mum's (Nancy), January has been an awful start to 2015 for the family. Morvern and Morag would like to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported our family at this sad time. We are truly overwhelmed by your love and care.

**SCOTT** - John Martin passed away peacefully at home on January 28, 2015 following a long illness. Much loved and loving husband of Mary, father of Chris, Jane and Tim, grandpa of Robert, Freya, Rhona and Neil and brother of Margaret. There will be a gathering of family and friends to remember Martin's life in Taynuilt Sports Pavilion at 2.00pm on Sunday, February 8.

funeral arrangements and also the Lochnell Arms Hotel for the funeral lunch. Thanks to everyone who attended Donald's funeral. A generous donation of £540.00 was raised for Oban Hospice and we extend grateful thanks to all those who contributed.

**ROBERTSON** - The funeral of the late Mary Robertson (née Simpson), took place on the January 14, 2015 at the Parish Church, Tobermory, thereafter to the Upper Cemetery. Wife of the late Iain MacKinnon Robertson of 5 Rockfield Road, Tobermory, she passed away peacefully at The Isle of Mull and Iona Community Hospital, Craignure, after a short illness. Many thanks are due to all the medical team and staff at Tobermory Surgery and the Hospital staff at Craignure for the care of her health and wellbeing over the past years. Special thanks are due to the wonderful team of carers who helped make her final years so comfortable and happy. To Rev. John Paton, Billy McClymont and Douglas MacNeillage M.B.E. for their professionalism and empathy in the organisation of her funeral service, also to the staff of The Park Lodge Hotel, Tobermory, for the reception following the interment. To all who attended and those who sent messages of support and sympathy to her sisters, Annie (Capewell) and Katie (Weatherall), her daughter Marion and son Niall, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was dearly loved and will be greatly missed. A retiring collection at the Church service, in aid of Cancer Research, raised the sum of £350.

**SEMPLER** - Peter and the family of the late Mary Sempler would like to thank all relatives, friends, neighbours and work colleagues for the many kind expressions of sympathy, cards, phone calls and visits received following their sad loss. Special thanks to the staff of the Mid Argyll Hospital and Ardfeina Residential Home for their exceptional care and compassion given to Mary. Grateful thanks to Rev Roddy MacLeod for an uplifting and comforting service; Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for professional service; to The Scotch Heather Shop for beautiful floral tributes and to Donald and his staff at the George Hotel, Inveraray for fine purvey. Finally, our thanks to all who attended at church and graveside to pay their respects. The retreatal collection raised over £1,000 for The Salvation Army and the Inveraray British Legion.

who are forever present in our hearts.  
- Sister Marina, Brother-in-law David and Nieces Davina and Iona, Reading.  
**GALL** - In loving memory of Victor, who died February 8, 1993.  
A new year comes  
Another goes  
But the gates of memory  
Never close.  
Gone but not forgotten.  
- Richard, Linda and family, Lochy Bridge.

**MACALLISTER** - In loving memory of Billy, who passed away February 8, 2011. Our lady of the isle, pray for him  
Sacred hearts of Jesus, have mercy.  
- From his loving wife Maryjane and family

**MACARTHUR** - In loving memory of my mum Morag, who passed away February 5, 2013  
Always remembered.  
- Duncan.

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of my dear husband, Lachlan MacDonald, who died February 7, 2003.  
My thoughts are always with you  
Your place no one can fill  
I know you walk beside me  
And when my life is through  
I pray that God will take my hand  
And lead me straight to you  
Loved and remembered always  
- By your loving wife, Ellen xxx

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of our dear dad, Lachlan MacDonald, who died February 7, 2003.  
Another year has passed  
Since that sad day  
The dad we loved was called away  
His life was full of kindly deeds  
A helping hand to those in need  
A pleasant smile  
A heart of gold  
No better person, this world could hold  
Loved and remembered always.  
- Donald, Ellen, John and Eleanor

**MACINNES** - In loving memory of Roddy, who died February 6, 2013. Dear husband of Peggy, loving father and grandfather.  
You're always close beside us, in everything we do  
You were our greatest treasure,  
God's gift to us was you.  
RIP. Sadly missed.  
- Peggy and family, Eriskay and Oban.

**MACLEAN** - In loving memory of my gran Anag MacLean, who sadly passed away on February 10, 2011. Loved and remembered always.  
- Christina xx.

**MACLEAN** - In loving memory of John, a dear husband, father and father-in-law, who died February 8, 2014.  
Close in our hearts you will always stay, loved and remembered every day.  
- Molly, Lorna and Grant.

**MACLEAN** - Cherished memories of Ian (Cleasny), a much loved son, brother and uncle, who died February 5, 2004.  
Though absent, you are very near  
Still loved, still missed and very dear.  
- Mum, Dad, Ann, Sandra and families

**MACLEAN** - Ian (Cleasny). In loving memory of Ian. Always loved, forever missed.  
- Libby, Pat and family.

**MACLEAN** - 10th anniversary. In memory of Mary Campbell MacLean, a dear sister, sister-in-law and auntie, who died February 8, 2005.  
Those we love don't go away  
They walk beside us every day  
Unseen, unheard but always near  
Still loved, still missed and very dear.  
- Margaret, Archie, Fiona and Duncan

**MCKINNEY** - In loving memory of our dear brothers, Charlie, died February 1, 2013, Owen, February 12, 2009 and Morris, June 26, 2001. Always in our thoughts.  
- Pat and Jessie.

**PARKER** - Precious memories of Jean, a much loved wife, mother and gran who passed away on February 9, 2014.  
We thought of you with love today but that is nothing new  
Yesterday and days before that too  
We think of you in silence, we often speak your name  
All we have are memories and your picture in a frame  
Your memory is our keepsake with which we'll never part  
God has you in his keeping, we have you in our hearts  
- Jim, Mary and Iain. James and Sharon and families.

**RUSSELL** - Treasured memories of my dear wife Mary, who died on January 20, 2010. Love never ends.

**TIMBRELL** - In loving memory of Albert, died February 7, 2014. RIP.  
A loving brother and uncle  
Sadly missed and always in our thoughts.  
- Mary and family.

**WILSON** - Ian (Wilsie). Taken suddenly February 5, 2010. Sadly missed, always in our thoughts.  
- Margaret, Jamie, family and stepfamily.

**Obituary**  
**Robin Horne**  
1941 - 2015

WORD will have spread far and wide of the recent passing of Robin Horne who died peacefully in his own home in Taynuilt on January 5.

Robin was born in 1941 in Cuishney, Aberdeen and spent the majority of his working life shepherding in the west of Scotland. He was a familiar and regular exhibitor of fine cross lambs and store calves at Dalmailly and Oban markets over many years, establishing early a reputation for top quality stock off the hills of Glen Lonan above Taynuilt.

He arrived at Barguilean Farm as a young man and devoted much of his entire life to building up the reputation of that farm with great skill and determination. He managed the farm with Neil Macdonald and later his son Sam Macdonald and during that time oversaw a transformation of the farm.

Robin brought imagination and energy to the work of re-establishing Barguilean Farm from its post-war state of dereliction, allowing it to take its place among a handful of leading hill farming estates in the west of Scotland.

The work involved 1,400 acres of improved grazings, new and improved sheds and steadings, the development of a fine cross Highland suckler herd of 80 cows and many other significant improvements to the farm.

Robin was a man of many parts. Hard-working, dedicated to jobs in hand, resourceful and imaginative. He was skilled in many crafts, and could turn his hand to anything. No job, large or small, was too difficult and if innovative ways of solving a problem were required he would fashion them.

No piece of equipment was safe from improvement and he was a master with welding torches and skilful with tools of any kind. He took pride in his work and Barguilean today bears the stamp he left on it when he retired to continue work on his own croft in Glen Lonan with its fine small flock of dearly beloved Jacob Sheep.

The high point in a long and distinguished farming career was the visit of Prince Charles to Barguilean, in July 1979. The farm he devoted his life to was chosen as the high point of a study tour of the Highlands that Prince Charles embarked on that year.

The farm was asked to provide a 'photo-op' for the accompanying world's media and Robin surreptitiously chose an awkward and malevolent ewe for the young Prince to be photographed shearing. The ewe bucked and kicked with the Prince on board, and as



The Oban Times

the photographers snapped the moment, the prince quipped: 'Golly, that almost did for the dynasty.'

The story was published all over the world and Robin featured on Newsweek magazine's People page. Retirement was not a word in Robin's vocabulary. He was an early riser and had plans for each day. He found time for a range of tasks around the house and in the garden he created there.

He would walk the mile-and-a-half up to his croft each day and back and attend to the day-to-day work of his flock.

He was a regular and familiar figure on the road up from the village and enjoyed stopping to talk with many friends along the way.

He found it very difficult initially having to move from his house Robmar, up the Balindore Road, into the village when declining sight meant the loss of his driving licence.

But in the few years Robin and his wife Marge were living in the community he found great contentment and made an assortment of new friends.

The death of his wife Marge last year came as a dreadful shock to him and he spoke understandably of the great sadness and loneliness that he felt at her going.

He will be remembered with great fondness and admiration by the many people who knew him.

The shepherding community will feel his death with particular sadness and his company at sheep and cattle sales around the county will be greatly missed.

An invitation is extended to all friends and acquaintances to celebrate Robin's life at a service in the Muckairn Church of Scotland, Taynuilt, at 11am on Saturday, February 7 and afterwards at the Taynuilt Village Hall for tea and refreshments. SM

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**Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB**  
Tel: 01631 568000  
Fax: 01631 568001  
www.obantimes.co.uk

**Editorial**

- News Editor**  
Euan Paterson  
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk
- Reporter**  
Emma Crichton  
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk
- Reporter**  
Louise Lee  
lle@obantimes.co.uk
- Reporter**  
Steven Rae  
srae@obantimes.co.uk
- Web Co-ordinator**  
Marian Miller  
mmiller@obantimes.co.uk
- Newsdesk**  
Oban 01631 568060  
Fort William 01397 703003  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising**

- Advertising Executive**  
Rhona McKillop  
adverts@obantimes.co.uk
- Advertising Executive**  
Nadine Ross  
nross@obantimes.co.uk
- Advertising Executive**  
Danielle Martin  
dmartin@obantimes.co.uk
- Advertising Executive**  
Toni MacIntyre  
tmacintyre@obantimes.co.uk
- Advertising Executive**  
Shannon Feaks  
sfeaks@obantimes.co.uk

**Branch Offices**

- Fort William**  
Tel 01397 703003
- Lochgilphead**  
Tel 01546 602345
- Campbeltown**  
Tel 01586 554646
- Aran**  
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**Thought for the week**

**Faith changes**

IT'S a surprising fact that for the past half century, the proportion of people saying that they believe in God has remained essentially the same. Instead of the 'death of God' that some were predicting, something quite different is taking place. Last week the national press reported a survey carried out by Professor David Voas from the Institute of Social and Economic Research. Professor Voas says

that dividing people into believers and atheists is too simplistic. These days, people's beliefs are more varied and individual. In the past perhaps, most people believed in the God of the Bible, a personal God who loves his children and is grieved by sin. Nowadays, many people think of God as a 'higher power', the source of love, energy and wisdom, the creative power within individuals and within the

cosmos. They find God not in the Bible, but in their own experience of the world. People might still believe, but their belief is often radically different from that of their parents and grandparents. This changing faith is accompanied by changing beliefs in what it is to be human and what is considered right and wrong. But that is another story. David James, Glenclutten House

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OT



AWARD WINNERS: Prizewinners at Lochaber Sports Association annual awards

# Sports association annual awards

THE TALENT of Lochaber athletes was recognised at an awards ceremony at the weekend. Presentations were made on behalf of Lochaber Sports Association on Friday night, with prizes for sportsperson, team, coach and young sportsperson of the year.

Reverend Bob Shepton from Appin, who was named UK Yachtman of the Year last year at 78 years old, kicked off the celebrations at Lochaber Yacht Club with a presentation about his adventure to the Arctic seas before awards were handed out.

Lochaber Athletic Club's Finlay Wild was

named sportsperson of the year after he won the Ben Nevis Race for the fifth consecutive year in September.

Jim Hamilton, also of LAC, was honoured for his work behind the scenes at sporting events, along with Ally MacKinnon, president of Lochaber Rugby Club (LRC).

**Determination**

It was a triple celebration for the rugby team as LRC was named team of the year for showing determination in the face of diversity as work was finally finished at Banavie, after two seasons without a home pitch to play on.

And third of the LRC successes was Blair MacRaild who won coach of the year.

Two new awards were created this year to recognise distinguished service to Lochaber's sporting community.

One went to Tom Cameron, who has run Lochaber Judo Club for 50 years.

Jane Blanchard of Lochaber Sports Association said of the sporting stalwart: 'He has devoted huge swathes of his time to coaching both juniors and seniors and to driving players the length and breadth of the UK in order for them to take part in gradings and competitions.

'His commitment to the sport is absolute, a worthy recipient.'

The second award in this category went to Colin (Coco) Neilson, who founded Fort William Football Club in 1972.

**Much loved**

Ms Blanchard said: 'Colin and his wife, Grace, never miss a home game and are much-loved and respected supporters of the club.'

Full list of winners: behind the scenes - Jim Hamilton, LAC, and Ally MacKinnon, LRC; sportsperson of the year - Finlay Wild, Loch-

## Sports awards

aber Athletic Club; coach of the year - Blair MacRaild, LRC; team of the year - Lochaber Rugby Club; club most active in the promotion of sport - Jog Scotland; young sportsperson of the year - Cameron Whyte, Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club; youth endeavour award - Freya MacDonald, Falcons Netball Club; long and distinguished service - Tom Cameron, Lochaber Judo Club, and Colin Neilson, Fort William Football Club.

## Entries open for Scottish downhill championships

### Cycling

ENTRIES are now open for the 2015 Scottish downhill cycling series and championships, starting in Glencoe and ending the season in Glencoe.

Each of the six rounds offers nine categories of racing to accommodate all ages and abilities, three of which will take place in Lochaber.

The first Highland event will be held in Glencoe on May 23 and 24, the second race in the series. The event will then move up to Fort William on June 27 and 28 before travelling further north to Aberdeenshire.

It will then be back to Glencoe for the bikers, who will complete the final race of the season on August 29 and 30.

For more information go to [www.scottishcycling.org.uk](http://www.scottishcycling.org.uk).

## Mini rugby returns to Banavie

### Rugby

MINI rugby will return to home turf at Banavie this weekend.

Lochaber Rugby Club's junior training has been held at the King George V while the home pitch was under improvements but the first session after the winter break on Saturday (February 7) will see the youngsters return to Banavie.

Training starts at 10am and boys and girls from primary three to second year are welcome.

## Skye Camanachd win Johnstone tournament



FINALISTS: Lochaber Ladies made it to the final of the Johnstone tournament 20\_06shinty01

A SNOWY drive to Fort William was worthwhile for Skye Camanachd Ladies as they won the Johnstone tournament for the second year in a row.

The islanders' A team saw off locals Lochaber Ladies 5-1 in the Nevis Centre on Saturday to pick up the trophy at the annual event after defeating hosts Glengarry A's team 5-4 in the semi final.

Lochaber fought hard in their semi-final to beat Badenoch and Strathspey 5-3 but it wasn't enough when they met last year's winners in the final.

As well as winning the tournament, run for the last 18 years by Glengarry, Skye's Lorna MacRae continued the team's success when she was named player of the tournament, also for the second year running. Sponsor Ailsa Johnstone handed out the trophy and medals after the final.



WINNERS: Skye Camanachd Ladies captain Rosalind Lamont accepts the trophy from tournament sponsor Ailsa Johnstone as her teammates show off their medals 20\_06shinty02

## Fort William 'not at the races' says manager

### Football

LOSING for the first time since November was a bitter pill to swallow for Fort William Football Club players and fans as the team went down 4-0 against Nairn County on Saturday.

The defeat came after a delayed start to the Station Park fixture as boulders falling on the A82 at Urquhart Castle meant the Fort bus had to detour to make the preliminary round of the Breedon Aggregates Highland league cup.

But after the Claggan side's best efforts to make the game, two goals from Nairn's Conor Gethins combined with more from Sam Urquhart and Robbie Duncanson put an abrupt end to Fort William's winning streak.

Fort manager Calum MacLean said: 'We just weren't at the races on Saturday. We hadn't played for five weeks so we were really rusty. After being out of it so long we weren't prepared for it.'

Ironically, Fort William's next game is away to Nairn again on February 14 when they attempt to achieve five consecutive Highland League wins.

MacLean added: 'We can't play any worse than we did on Saturday, so I'm very optimistic and we're hoping for a win.'

The next game at Claggan Park is against Rothes on Wednesday February 18 when Fort begin their battle against a fixture backlog of 10 games.

## Alleycats still lead scratch division

ALLEYCATS have maintained their scratch division lead in the Lochaber Building Supplies ten pin bowling league.

After week 14 of the Nevis Centre event the 'Cats have 62 points, followed by The Creeps, still in second place with 59 points and Ardtoe/Nevis Radio knock Rotavators out of third place with 56 points.

Alleycats have also taken over the top spot in the handicap division with 57 points. Rotavators dropped to second with 56 points after losing 5-0 to Fairway Fillies. Ardtoe/Nevis Radio are in third place with 47 points.

The top individual scratch game this week came from Rossamy Wareing (Ardtoe/Nevis Radio)

## Ten pin bowling

with 187 including five strikes in a row. Wareing also had the top handicap game of 239 and the top two handicap series with 425.

Brian Johnstone achieved the top two-game scratch series with 332. Alleycats again swept the board this week in the team honours with the top scratch team game of the week of 638, the top handicap game of 810, the top two-game scratch series of 1,272 (the season high) and the top two handicap team series of 1,616.

The highest scratch averages are currently all held by Alleycats players with Pam Weller on 157 followed by Tony Whitelocke on 154 and Brian Johnstone 145.

## Boxers bring home the silverware

### Boxing

LOCHABER'S boxers were celebrating more success at the weekend when four returned home from the Scottish Intermediate Championships with silverware.

Cameron Whyte, 12, of Lochaber Phoenix boxing club kept up his achievement of winning every major competition he has entered when he claimed the title against Doon Valley's Jack O'Keefe.

**Quality showings**

Club official Steve Docherty said of the Spean Bridge boy: 'Cameron has produced countless quality showings over the years but this was perhaps his best yet. Due to training at least five days a week he is constantly trying to improve and is contin-

uing to show the benefits of his dedication.'

Middleweight Adam Watson is also in line for a gold medal this Sunday as he came through a gruelling semi-final against Craig Bailey of Millennium Boxing Club on points at the weekend.

Not to be outdone, Luca Micheletti of Kinlochleven-based Claymores boxing club picked up a gold at the weekend after dominating Moiz Khan of Kelvin to become the 64kg Scottish Intermediate champion.

Kevin Aitchison, 15, of Phoenix, claimed a silver after losing on a split decision against Springhill's Cooper Walker.



TWO IN A ROW: Skye's Lorna MacRae was named player of the tournament for the second year in a row 20\_06shinty03

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# Youngster breaks two records at Sportshall Athletics meet

## Kilmichael Glassary girl could be a star in the making

A 10-year-old Argyll athlete has proved herself a potential star of the future after breaking two age-group records in one day at Oban's Atlantis Leisure.

Jilly Lefebvre, from Kilmichael Glassary, was named under-11 champion at the Oban area Sportshall Athletics competition on Saturday and in winning the title, she broke two records - and was close to breaking more.

Jilly threw the javelin 17.75 metres to add almost a metre to her own record and then proceeded to smash the record in the high jump set by Emma Thompson in 2009.

Emma's record was 1.27 metres and Jilly added 12 centimetres to

### Athletics

that mark, finally clearing 1.39 metres.

Jilly also excels in the running events and was only half a second off the record in the four-lap race, recording 57.8 seconds.

Isla Head was the under-13 champion, winning six events but had to work hard to finish ahead of Hannah Teape from Taynuilt, who won the high jump with 1.40 metres. Third and fourth overall were twins Zoe and Emma Brown from Rockfield Primary.

Eve Milarvie, from Lochnell Primary, was the under-7 champion, winning four events with some style and improving on her runner up position last year. Eve impressed in the two-lap and four-lap races, leading from start to finish. Two girls from Park, Pamela Ingram and Layla Addison, finished second and third overall in this age category.

Lucy Blue, from Park, won the under-9s contest thanks to wins in the two-lap, four-lap, long jump and speed bounce.

The entry numbers in the girls events was disappointing, only providing a third of the total entry.



**POCKET ROCKET:** Little Jilly Lefebvre pulls out a big throw to break the javelin record.



**CLOCK WATCHING:** Oban athletics coaches Jade MacEwan and Alfie MacKenzie keep time during the speed bounce.

The under-7 boys was the largest group and ended with Rhys Walker from Rockfield winning on overall points. Rhys impressed in winning the two-lap in 34.1 seconds, the four-lap in 80.4 second and also the standing long jump. Another Rockfield boy, Connor MacAulay, was runner-up and Lucas McLeod from Achaleven was third.

Jacques Coates from Park Primary won the under-9 age group thanks to success in the two-lap race in 27.7, four-lap race in 64.3 and the triple jump.

Ryan Hill, also from Park, impressed in winning the high jump,

clearing 1.07metres. Rhys Millar, Rockfield, excelled in the javelin winning with 14.25 metres. Other event winners in this section were George Pagan, Rockfield, in the long jump and Ewan Dowd from Park in the speed bounce.

Daniel Teape from Taynuilt was outstanding in winning the under-11 age category with wins in six out of seven events.

Daniel's best event was the high jump in which he cleared 1.29 metres, just one centimetre below the record set by Scott Black in 2010. Finlay MacLean from Rockfield won the speed bounce in the under-11s with 72 jumps in

30 seconds.

Finbar Dunne was the under-13 champion and also a record breaker. Finbar's favourite event is the shot putt; he won the Scottish under-13 title at Aberdeen last August and also topped the Scottish under-13 rankings in this age group in 2014.

On Saturday Finbar added five centimetres to the old record set in 2003 with a throw of exactly 11 metres.

Also in the shot putt event Murdo Masterton from Dunbeg came close to breaking the long-standing under-17 record set by James Campbell from Craignure. Mur-

do's mighty throw of 12.85metres was the closest to the record in recent years.

Successful athletes from Saturday will now qualify to take part in the Argyll final to be held at Atlantis Leisure on Saturday, March 21.

The final will start at 1pm with registration from 12noon.

The final will bring together the best young athletes from the competitions at Lochgilphead, Campbeltown and Tobermory plus the qualifiers from Saturday.

The Argyll series of Sportshall competitions is promoted by Mid Argyll Athletic Club.



**BIG THROW:** Young heavy-weight competitor Murdo Masterton went close to the under-17 shot putt record.



**CHAMPIONS:** Pictured are the prizewinners from the recent Argyll and Bute secondary schools badminton championships at Atlantis Leisure centre in Oban.

## Feathers fly at badminton championships

BUDDING badminton players took part in the annual Argyll and Bute secondary schools championship recently in Oban.

More than 30 competitors from Lochgilphead, Campbeltown, Dunoan, Hermitage and Oban battled against each other on January 26 in singles, doubles and mixed doubles competitions, separated into under-14, under-16 and under-19 age groups.

Amongst the prizewinners at the competition, held at Atlantis Leisure centre, were Gregory McGeachy and Katie Todd from Lochgilphead, who won the under-14 mixed doubles. Gregory was

### Badminton

also victorious in the under-14 boys' doubles with partner Alistair Cupples.

Karen MacCorquodale, who is an Active Schools co-ordinator for Argyll and Bute council, said: 'The competition was excellent, the players really gave it their all. For many, this will be their first taste of real competition, so it gives them a great chance to play against other players from different schools in Argyll and Bute, and hopefully make some new friends at the same time.'

## Green Machine face tough test in Regional shield final

OBAN Lorne will look to take a team of supporters to Old Anniesland as they aim to pick up their first trophy in two years.

BT National Bowl winners in 2013, Oban Lorne contest the regional shield final this Saturday against GHK, with the winner progressing to the national shield semi final, one game away from a shield final appearance at Murrayfield Stadium.

Coach Corrie Louw has a full strength side to choose from for Saturday's game; stand-off Andrew Abraham will be cutting short his skiing holiday in France to play the fixture, while flanker Dan Hull will make the journey north from Southampton for the match.

GHK have been performing extremely well in West Division 1 this season and lead the table after winning all 13 of their league fixtures so far this season.

The Green Machine will take confidence from beating three West 1 sides en route to the final. Oban's shield wins this season have been: 31-12 v Allan Glens, a

bye against fellow West Division 2 side Cambuslang; 17-14 v Garnock; and 20-9 against Carrick.

The team have been training four nights per week for the past month and have impressed in their two league fixtures so far



**KEY PLAYER:** Andrew Abrahams - cutting short skiing holiday.

### Rugby

this calendar year by scoring 93 points and conceding 0.

The squad and management team will be leaving Oban by coach at 2pm on Friday and will take part in a team run in Glasgow that evening.

Kick off on Saturday is at 2.30pm and supporters' bus seats are now at limited availability.

Anyone interested should contact Tommy Sutherland at the Regent Hotel.

Oban Lorne's West Division 2 fixture away to Paisley last Saturday was called off at short notice last week due to a frozen pitch in Paisley.

Meanwhile, Oban under-16s beat Dalziel at North Connel on Sunday with only 12 players. The team play Strathendrick at home this Sunday.

Etive Vikings and Oban Minis held indoor training at Atlantis Leisure on Sunday morning. More than 20 players turned up for some touch rugby training.

## Iron Monkey invite Lochaber people to prove their mettle

ORGANISERS of a fitness and wellbeing group have invited the people of Lochaber to prove their mettle in a unique endurance challenge.

The Iron Monkey, a company which organises events across the country aimed at 'helping people live longer and happier lives', launched its latest programme in partnership with staff at HW Wood Energy biomass heating specialists in Torlundy last Thursday. Workers at the plant took turns to see how quickly they could carry 50 bags of wood pellets, each weighing 10 kilograms, one by one across a 25-metre space, covering a total distance of 1.5 kilometres.



**CHALLENGE:** Members of staff at HW Energy in Torlundy took part in a unique endurance challenge on Thursday in conjunction with fitness group The Iron Monkey

**Coming close**

HW Wood Energy director Stuart Reid managed the feat in seven minutes and 49 seconds, coming close to beating a world record for the challenge, while Lynsey MacGillivray had the quickest time out of all the ladies, finishing in nine minutes and 58 seconds.

Anyone interested in taking part in the challenge, at one of four different venues in Lochaber this year, can book on the website www.the-iron-monkey.com.

## Shinty set-up for new season announced

THE CAMANACHD Association directors approved the following adjustments to team placement in the senior leagues for the 2015 playing season at a recent board meeting:

- Directors approved Bute shinty club's request to complete in South Division 1 rather than the National Division.
- Directors approved Inverness shinty club's request to be promoted from North Division 1 into the National Division to fill the vacancy left by Bute shinty club.
- Directors approved Glengarry shinty club's request to compete in North Division 2 rather than North Division 1.
- Directors approved Kinlochshiel shinty club's request that their second team be promoted to North Division 1 to fill the vacancy left by Glengarry shinty club.

The above changes result in the

following league structure for 2015:

**Premiership - 10 teams**  
Fort William, Glenurquhart, Inveraray, Kingussie, Kinlochshiel, Kyles Athletic, Lochaber, Lovat, Newtonmore, Oban Camanachd.

**Marine Harvest National Division - 8 teams**  
Ballachulish, Beaulie, Caberfeidh, Glasgow Mid Argyll, Glenorchy, Inverness, Kilmallie, Skye

**Marine Harvest North Division One - 9 teams**  
Beaulie, Fort William, Glenurquhart, Kingussie, Kinlochshiel, Lochacron, Lovat, Newtonmore, Strathglass.

**Marine Harvest South Division One - 9 teams**  
Aberdour, Bute, Inveraray, Kilmory, Kyles Athletic, Lochside Rovers, Oban Celtic, Strachur, Taynuilt.

### Shinty

**Marine Harvest North Division 2 - 10 teams**  
Aberdeen University, Bole-skine, Caberfeidh, Glengarry, Inverness, Kilmallie, Lewis, Lochaber, Skye, Strathspey.

**Marine Harvest South Division 2 - 8 teams**  
Aberdour, Ballachulish, Bute, Col Glen, Glasgow Mid Argyll, Glenorchy, Oban Lorn, Taynuilt.

The 2015 fixture list for senior competition will be issued on Thursday February 12.

For further information on fixtures and league structure please contact Astie Cameron, Camanachd Association Operations Manager, on astie.cameron@shinty.com or telephone 01463 715931.

## Oban Filling Station Cup reaches semi final stage

### Pool

THE OBAN Pool League's Filling Station Cup goes into the semi-final stage after four re-sounding quarter final victories.

The first quarter-final featured The Lancaster 'B' against The Outreach and despite the friendly nature of the clash The Lancaster 'B' showed no mercy in despatching their opponents.

The second tie looked to have given current cup holders The Lochavullin's Cellar a relatively easy passage to the semi-final but The Lochavullin put up a good fight.

The Lancaster 'A', with home advantage, took advantage of a lacklustre Gluepot performance and blitzed through the singles without reply.

The concluding fixture of the last eight saw Ben Lora's boys The Lochnell visit Markie Dans 'B'. The visitors edged the singles by the odd one in seven and their superiority in the doubles was enough to seal their spot in the draw.

Results: Outreach 2-6 Lancaster B; Lochavullin's Cellar 6-3 Lochavullin; Lancaster A 6-0 Gluepot; Markie Dans B 3-6 Lochnell.

In the league championship, The Lochavullin's Cellar strengthened their grip on this year's championship, with their sixth consecutive victory coming against The Lochnell.

League results (January 29): Lochavullin's Cellar 5-5 Lochnell; Markie Dans B 8-2 Lochavullin; Outreach 3-7 Gluepot.

## Cairnbaan rink win Holland Trophy

### Indoor bowls

THE WINNERS of the Gary and Robert Holland Memorial Trophy, hosted by North Connel Bowling Club, were the rink from Cairnbaan, skipped by A MacKay, with C Clark, R MacLean and J Clark, who defeated Connel in the final skipped by F Ronald, S Carr, M Carr and R MacLeod. Twelve rinks took part.

The Lorn Championships took place in Kilmore on December 20, and the winner of the singles was Neil MacCorkindale, Kilmore, who defeated Hugh MacLeod, North Connel, in the final.

The doubles were won by Neil MacCorkindale and John Cameron, Kilmore, who defeated Adrian MacKay and Jock Clark, Cairnbaan.

	P	Pts
Kilmore	7	64
Cairnbaan	6	57
Benderloch	7	51
Connel	6	42
North Connel	7	38
Easdale	7	22
Taynuilt	7	9

## Oban Athletic on their travels

### Football

OBAN Athletic's West of Scotland premier division match away to Millerston Thistle was called off last weekend when the pitch was declared unplayable due to snow.

The same fixture has been arranged for this Saturday with a 2pm kick off.

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CHALLENGE MATCH: Oban Camanachd and Lochside Rovers players line up before last Saturday's challenge match at Mossfield 15\_106shinty01

## Oban Camanachd prepare for new shinty season

A PLUCKY Lochside Rovers made a game of it against an under-strength Oban Camanachd when the two teams met last Saturday.

Oban Camanachd's two teams crossed camans at Mossfield in a pre-season fixture and the senior side ended up 4-1 winners after the match was level at half time.

Connor Howe scored for the junior side, with Aidan MacIntyre, Andrew 'Papa' MacCuish, Lorne Dickie and Robert Alexander scoring for Camanachd.

**Demanded**  
Missing a number of players to work commitments last Saturday, Oban Camanachd manager Gussie Campbell demanded a

full turnout for this weekend's pre-season match against Inveraray.

Campbell said: 'I think Lochside would have taken more out of the game than us. I was very impressed with them, considering they have a very young team. I think the average age is around 18.'

'I was particularly impressed with young Craig 'Winky' MacDougall, who was up against Daniel Cameron, last season's National Division player of the year.'

**Turn up**  
'This week we are playing a team outwith the club, so every squad member must turn up

because the season is just around the corner.

'We need a full squad at these games to find out who is playing where in the team.'

Oban Camanachd will play Glasgow Mid Argyll on February 28 to complete their pre-season schedule.

Lochside Rovers, meanwhile,

### Shinty

play Ballachulish at the Jubilee Park on February 21, then Fort William juniors away on February 28.

Lochside are managed by Gareth Evans and David MacCuish this season.

### Fundraiser for Billy Irving Shinty

TAYNUILT shinty club's pre-season match against Glenorchy this weekend will be used as a fundraiser for their stricken striker Billy Irving, who is being held in India.

Billy and his anti-piracy ship mates were arrested by the Indian authorities and accused of carrying illegal weapons. Although the charges have been quashed, the case is the subject of an appeal and Billy cannot leave the country.

A raffle, teas and gate money from this weekend's match will go towards helping Billy, who has no income but must sustain himself while in India.

The match has a throw up time of 1pm at Taynuilt sportsfield.

Taynuilt have another home fixture against Ballachulish the following weekend and then an away match to Glengarry on February 21 to complete their pre-season.

### Oban Saints youth results and fixtures Youth football

ALL games involving Oban Saints Youth teams were postponed last weekend due to pitches being unplayable.

This weekend's fixtures: Clydebank v Under 13s; Renton Craigandro v Under 14s; Dumbarton United v Under 15s; Under 16s v Ardencaple; Baljaffray v Under 19s.

### Saints at home to Alba on Saturday Football

OBAN Saints senior team will be back in action on Saturday with a home premier division league game against Alba Thistle. The match will take place at Glencluith with a 2pm kick-off. Referee in charge is David Stirling.

Last weekend's Jimmy Marshall cup tie away to Easthall Star was called off due to the pitch at Stepford being unplayable after the heavy snow.

### Islay golf results Golf

MEDAL played Sunday January 25 - 1 A Blair 81-11=70; 2 B O Neil 87-14=73; 3 C Holyoake 78-5=73. Css 72.

February medal played Sunday February 1 - 1 A Livingstone 87-11=76; 2 R McIntyre 81-4=77; 3 D Livingstone 90-8 82. Css 74.

### Scottish Amateur League results and fixtures Football

LAST Saturday's results: Premier Division - Alba Thistle v Campbeltown Pupils postponed; Premier Division Two - Dunoon Athletic 1, Paisley 3; Lochgilphead Red Star 4, Drumchapel Colts 2; Jimmy Marshall Trophy first round - Dunoon v Jamestown; Easthall Star v Oban Saints; Coronation Cup first round - Rossvale v Tarbert all postponed.

Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division Finnart v Campbeltown Pupils; Haldane United v Kings Park Rangers; Oban Saints v Alba Thistle; Thorn Athletic v Busby.



RECORD BREAKER: Robert MacIntyre

## Oban golfer breaks two records in the United States

AN OBAN golfer has written his name in the record books State-side after breaking two records at a course in Arizona.

Robert MacIntyre, now a student at McNeese University in Louisiana, set a new course record at Sewailo Golf Club, Arizona with a 63 (eight under par) in his final round.

His final round performance at the 15-team Arizona Intercollegiate was also the lowest score ever posted by a McNeese player in any competition.

MacIntyre finished third in the overall standings and helped his team to a third place overall, despite opening with a disappointing 77 in the first round.

The 18-year-old told *The Oban Times*: 'I felt great going into the week but I had a bad first round.

On the second round I started to settle into it and the last round was just perfect. I don't think I could have done much more to better that round.'

MacIntyre's fellow freshman, Andreas Krokeide, added a four-under-par 67 in the final round to finish with an even par 213 in the event, good enough to tie for 13th place.

'Andreas played his game today

### Shinty

and put together a solid score, but obviously the story was MacIntyre,' said head coach Austin Burk.

'To set the course record by two strokes is incredible. Our two freshmen shot a 63 and 67 against a nice field.'

MacIntyre's record-breaking round included an eagle on the par four 16th hole at Sewailo.

The McNeese Cowboys shot a 279 on the day's final round, just two strokes off the best round of the day, and finished the event with a four-over-par 856, while beating four nationally ranked teams in the process.

The Cowboys finished the tournament one stroke ahead of California, the 2004 national champions, and Iowa State.

'We beat some of the best teams in the country today but it did not surprise me at all,' said Burk. 'We have a young team but a great team.'

McNeese Cowboys teed off on Monday at the Sea Best Invitational, hosted by Jacksonville University and played at the TPC Sawgrass in Jacksonville, Florida.

# Marine Harvest agree six-figure sponsorship deal

'Shinty remains a key part of community life'

FISH farming company Marine Harvest has committed to a six-figure sponsorship deal with the Camanachd Association, the largest sponsorship deal the game has ever seen.

On Monday the game's governing body, the Camanachd Association announced the new three-year deal, which extends the company's backing of shinty to 30 years.

As part of the new deal Marine Harvest takes on the title sponsorship of the new-look Marine Harvest Premiership, previously sponsored by the Orion Group.

This is on top of Marine Harvest's on-going sponsorship of the National League and north/south area leagues.

The agreement also sees Marine Harvest continue its support for women's and youth shinty, the Scotland senior national shinty team, the annual shinty/hurling international match and the annual shinty awards night.

Jim Barr, president of the association, said: 'This is great news for shinty and represents the largest single sponsorship investment in the sport to date.'

'The commitment of support shown by Marine Harvest over many years, and today extended for a further three, adds tremendous value to the continued promotion and development of our sport.'

'Shinty is an important part of Scotland's sporting and cultural

heritage and remains a key part of community life in many areas across the country. The whole shinty community will be delighted that such a successful company continues to show such faith in our great game.'

Alan Sutherland, managing director of Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd, said: 'We are

delighted to continue our support for shinty, having seen it thrive and develop at all levels.

'We are very pleased to sponsor the premier league and to continue our commitment to the area and national leagues, as well as women's and youth shinty.'

'Marine Harvest is 50 years old and is the largest salmon farming

### Shinty

company in Scotland.

'Shinty is a great fit with the areas where we farm and process our fish and we are proud to be able to play our part in supporting the game.'



DEAL: Camanachd Association Sponsorship announcement with Marine Harvest launch at the Eden Court, Inverness. Left to right, Russell Jones (joint first team manager of Kingussie), Alan Sutherland (managing director Marine Harvest) and Ally Ferguson (first team manager of Lochaber)

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**WEATHER**

**Thursday** Misty  
Winds light easterly  
Temperatures 1°C to 4°C.

**Friday** Cloudy with sunny spells  
Winds light easterly  
Temperatures 1°C to 4°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Cloudy on Saturday  
Cloudy on Sunday  
Winds light northerly  
Temperatures 4°C to 6°C.

**TIDAL INFORMATION**

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, February 5, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am			pm		
Thur	00.30	0.9	06.26	4.0	13.09	1.1
Fri	01.05	0.9	06.58	4.0	13.40	1.2
Sat	01.38	1.0	07.29	4.0	14.11	1.3
Sun	02.09	1.1	07.58	3.9	14.38	1.4
Mon	02.37	1.2	08.25	3.7	15.00	1.6
Tues	03.07	1.4	08.55	3.5	15.27	1.7
Wed	03.44	1.6	09.31	3.4	16.11	1.9

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-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



**Skerryvore celebrate 10 year anniversary with a special gig**

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**Lochaline celebrates with its Mod medallists**



**CAMPAIGNERS AWAIT OUTCOME OF COUNCILLORS' VOTE ON PLANNED PRICE HIKES**

# Decision time over Corran ferry fares

**EMMA CRICHTON**  
crichton@obantimes.co.uk

HIGHLAND councillors were deciding today (Thursday) whether to back price hikes to a ferry service connecting remote peninsulas to central Lochaber. Campaigners have argued the proposed four per cent annual increase for the next three years on the Corran ferry, bringing a single trip to £9.25, will drive families away from Morvern and Ardnamurchan and put off visitors to the area but a report recommends members of the council's community services committee vote to approve the increases, the first of which will be implemented in April this year.

A book of 30 tickets currently costs a reduced £69.50 but this will also rise under the proposals. Tony Boyd, chairman of campaign group Free Crossing for Corran (FC Corran), said: 'It unbelievable that they believe

the answer is to keep hitting us with higher fares. If you're a family and one of you work in Fort William, combine that with a weekly trip over for food shopping and any social events and you could easily go through two books of tickets a month, that's more than £100 out of a tight family budget.

'If you add a four per cent rise to that every year for the next three years, it's going to make people think about moving away. Even tourists coming over for the day will be put off when they see the price of a ticket.

'Tourism, crofting, fish farming, all of these industries are going to be hit hard if this is approved.'

Mr Boyd also questioned the figures presented in the report, which says Corran Ferry, which runs across Loch Linnhe between Ardgour and Corran, ran at a deficit of £221,674 last year. He said: 'The report says £52,000 was spent on so-called other costs but everything from

staff wages to fuel and insurance seems to be accounted for so it seems like an awful lot of money not to be accounted for in detail. 'They have also estimated a rise in fuel costs of five per cent per year but the cost of fuel has dropped considerably this year so I don't see why we're not getting the benefit of that.

'I think Highland council needs to look at figures much more closely.' Highland council officials had previously considered transferring the running of MV Corran and its relief vessel, MV Maid of Glencoul, to Transport Scotland but the report also recommends no further discussions about this should take place, which Mr Boyd said 'baffles him'.

He said: 'If the Corran is running at a loss and is such a dead weight round the neck of Highland council why wouldn't it want to pass it on to Transport Scotland? Transport Scotland subsidises low-use buses and

trains in remote areas so there's no reason it can't do that for the ferry and we wouldn't be constantly charged more.'

But a Transport Scotland spokesman said it was 'open to further discussions' with the possibility of taking over Corran. He added: 'The Scottish government is willing to assume responsibility for all lifeline ferry services in Scotland, including those run by local authorities.

'However, any transfer of responsibility would be subject to agreement of the principles set out in the Ferries Plan and the Scottish government being satisfied of the 'lifeline' nature of a service. We are aware of concerns in the local community regarding increased fares on the Corran Ferry. As the service is currently the responsibility of the Highland council, the Scottish government has no power to intervene.'

A Highland council spokesperson was unavailable for comment.

# High school Burns supper a class act

A FUNDRAISING Burns supper run by Lochaber high school pupils raised more than £2,000.

Tickets for the event, held in the school on Saturday night, combined with raffle ticket sales, raised £2,300 for the sixth year pupils' trip to London later this month.

A four-course traditional meal, cooked by David McQuillan and Kevin Fraser from Highland council's catering service, was followed by speeches, recitations and musical entertainment finishing off with dancing to the Lochaber high school ceilidh band.

Jim Sutherland, head teacher, said: 'After an excellent meal we had some outstanding performances from pupils who paid a fitting tribute to our national bard. I would like to pay a special thanks to Douglas Simpson, guest speaker who delivered the Immortal Memory, our sponsors The Alexandra Hotel and the Ben Nevis Distillery, and Mrs Jacqui Hume who coordinated the whole event.'

Money raised will be used when 100 sixth years travel to the capital for a long-weekend of museum visits, sightseeing, shows and activities.



**SUCCESS: pupils made speeches and recitals at their fundraising Burns supper, with the help of guest speaker Douglas Simpson, middle, and head teacher Jim Sutherland**



**HIGH NOTES: Lauren Byrne, left, and Hannah MacRae, performed live as part of Celtic Connections**

## Students in festival spotlight

TWO LOCHABER students travelled to Glasgow to contribute to the annual Celtic Connections traditional music festival.

Hannah MacRae, from Fort William, and Lauren Byrne, from Glenfinnan, both music students at West Highland College UHI, performed live for a broadcast on Celtic Music radio, as well as being interviewed about their course and attending various workshops. Lauren said: 'It was a fantastic experience to take part in Celtic Connections.'

## Cash boost for Room 13

AN INTERNATIONAL charity founded in Fort William has secured £16,000 to develop its roots.

Room 13, which started as an art project at Caol primary school in 1994, now has 50 studios all over the world but now volunteers are hoping to improve facilities in the village where the project was founded.

Corpach Boatbuilding donated £8,000 towards a new gallery and workshop in Caol, as the school building is soon to be demolished and this was match-funded by Arts and Business Scotland. Claire Gibb, chief executive

of Room 13 International, said: 'The support of both organisations is critical to us at this stage of our development.'

The new premises will be christened with a launch event on April 30, which also marks the 21st birthday of Room 13. The celebration will showcase the achievements of the last 21 years and look to the future.

Ms Gibb added: 'We are delighted to have a new independent base for Room 13 in Caol. This place is recognised worldwide as the home of Room 13, and the new space offers huge potential to develop a vibrant creative hub.'

## Pensioner ordered to pay up for poaching

A FORT William pensioner has been ordered to compensate the owner of Glenfinnan Estate for poaching a deer from the land. James Kennedy, of Tigh na Feidh, Achintore Road, was fined £100 and told to pay the land owner £70 for taking, killing and disembowelling the hind on February 2 last year.

Kennedy, who will celebrate his 70th birthday tomorrow (Friday), pleaded guilty via letter at a previous hearing but sentencing was deferred for his personal appearance.

At Fort William sheriff court on Tuesday, defence solicitor Urfam Dar said, despite not offending for almost 30 years, 'old habits die hard' for the former gamekeeper, who has five previous convictions for poaching.

He added: 'His firearm has been seized and he has issued a formal apology to the landowner. Mr Kennedy does a lot of volunteering and I think there would be more benefit if this was dealt with financially.'

Sheriff Richard Davidson said it was the pensioner's volunteer work which had saved him from prison.

He said: 'This was once a hanging offence but fortunately for you we have moved to more enlightened times. In light of your work in the community I think the way to deal with this is by monetary fines rather than a custodial sentence.'



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## Tirade of abuse lands man in jail

A 'DRUNKEN tirade of abuse' has earned a Kinlochleven man 10 months in prison.

An upstairs neighbour of Bretton Gunn, of 9 Garbhenn Crescent in the village, had to phone the police twice in 24 hours because he was banging, stomping and shouting in his home, Fort William sheriff court heard on Tuesday.

The 67-year-old then shouted and swore at the police officers who arrived on both occasions, in the early hours of January 10 and the morning of January 11, including swearing at them and telling them he wasn't going anywhere, said fiscal deputy Fraser Matheson.

He added: 'When the police arrived they said it was clear Mr Gunn was drunk and they received what they said

was a drunken tirade of abuse. He was taken to Fort William police station and cautioned but when he arrived home on the morning of January 11 he started making a nuisance of himself again and the complainant called the police again who were repeatedly sworn at and had to take him to the station for the second time.

Defending solicitor Luke O'Curry said Gunn was frustrated after a phone call with his partner on the first occasion and had not intended anyone to overhear him.

He added: 'When he returned from the police station on the second morning he wasn't trying to make a nuisance of himself.'

'He walks with a limp and has to lean heavily on his right foot, which can be

noisy on laminate flooring if he has forgotten to take his shoes off. 'He is used to living in an isolated environment away from the community and has developed bad habits.'

But sheriff Richard Davidson decided Gunn's neighbours 'deserve some peace'.

He said: 'These charges are your 40th and 41st offences nothing gives me any encouragement that you will take any heed of a community payback order in any significant way.'

'It's time to give your neighbours in Kinlochleven some peace.'

Gunn, who pleaded guilty at a previous hearing, was sentenced to 10 months' imprisonment, as well as a further two months for an incomplete community payback order from an unrelated offence.

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**UNDER 16 / OAP 1 GAME - £1**

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**The Nevis Centre**  
An Aird, Fort William  
Tel. 01397 700707



ABUSER: Mark Maclennan

### Nursery boss found guilty of raping three-year-old child

A NURSERY boss has been convicted of raping a three-year-old child in the centre where he worked.

Mark Maclennan, 30, raped the boy at a Lochaber nursery between August 2012 and May 2013.

On Friday January 30 he was also found guilty of sexually abusing a girl at drama rehearsals held in Stirling and Dunfermline and at her home in Dunblane between October 2007 and July 2010 when she was aged between 12 and 15 and he was acting as a chaperone for a theatre company.

Maclennan was cleared of a charge of sexually abusing a girl at the nursery when she was aged between four and five. The jury found that charge against him not proven.

He was also found guilty of having thousands of images of child porn on the computer he brought into the nursery to help the children with their IT skills and a further four on the laptop at his then home in Stirling.

Judge John Morris QC told Maclennan: 'Given what you have been convicted of a prison sentence is almost inevitable.'

Judge Morris remanded Maclennan in custody and deferred sentence until February 27 at the High court in Edinburgh for background reports.

## VICIOUSLY HIGH TIDES SEE GLENCOE GROUP'S GROUNDS CRUMBLE INTO WATER AND TRAINING BOATS LEFT DAMAGED

# Urgent appeal for ground repair cash or boat club could go under

EMMA CRICHTON  
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

GLENCOE Boat Club could soon be under water if more is not done to protect the grounds from fierce winter storms, according to worried members.

The pontoon and foreshore boasts stunning views of Loch Leven but club commodore Robert Watt said viciously high tides in the last three years have caused parts of the club grounds to crumble into the water, as well as damaging boats used to train budding young sailors.

As Glencoe Boat Club committee bought the grounds from Ballachulish Estates and owns as far as low water, it does



FEARS: Glencoe boaters worry their club could soon be underwater. From left: David Southcott, vice-commodore, Alex Blanc, treasurer, and Robert Watt, commodore

not qualify for funding from Crown Estates so has had to fork out thousands from club funds to pay for emergency repairs.

Mr Watt said: 'We have had to spend large amounts on retaining walls and drains behind the club buildings where landslip and rain were flooding the premises but the main problem has been storm surges which have damaged the pontoon and removed large areas of the foreshore.'

'When we bought the land and premises we inherited the unusual situation of owning the foreshore to low water which means we do not appear to qualify for funding from the Crown Estate's coastal communities fund, despite paying thousands every year in mooring fees.'

'If the ground keeps crumbling away like this the whole club will be under water and eventually it will start affecting the road [the A82, situated directly behind the club] and then there will be real problems.'

'We spent £1,000 on 60 tonnes of rock to protect the grounds from the tide but we need 10 times that amount of rock and we still have to pay for repairs after that.'

Mr Watt said members of the boat club committee had applied for funding from various organisations, including the Crown Estate coastal communities fund, but with no success. The group plans to do as much fundraising as possible to fund repairs but said it won't

come close to the amount it needs. He added: 'We can do raffles and all the rest of it but that's a drop in the ocean. It won't even touch the sides. We really need some major grants or something like that, before it's too late.'

Many young people in south Lochaber are taught to sail at the club, but without a quick solution Mr Watt said this wouldn't continue. We train the youngsters to a standard that they can go out on the water and sail a boat on their own. We take it seriously but some of the boats we use to do this have been damaged in the storms and they're not cheap to replace so if we don't get some help soon we won't have boats left to teach with.'

### Power cut claims should be made

A HIGHLAND politician is urging those affected by recent power cuts to claim compensation.

Any Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) customers who lost electricity for a consecutive period of 48 hours or more between Friday January 9 and Monday January 12 can make a claim, said Rhoda Grant, MSP for the Highlands and Islands.

She added: 'Due to the extreme nature of the weather and the hurricane force winds that battered the north last month it did mean that a small number of homes may have gone without a power supply for a consecutive 48-hour period and those affected should use their right to claim for a compensation payment.'

Claims to SSE can be made via phone, email or an online form.

### Ivor delivers site safety message to young Fort pupils

FUTURE pupils of Fort William's new Gaelic school welcomed an unusual visitor, who taught them about safety on construction sites.

Ivor Goodsite also updated Fort William RC's Gaelic nursery and primary one and two classes about progress of the new building, set to open in August.

Violet Smith, head teacher, said: 'The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit. The Gaelic nursery children are doing a topic about builders and construction so the visit helped to endorse their work.'



KEEP SAFE: Ivor Goodsite, left, accompanied by Alister MacLean, project manager for the new Gaelic school, visited Fort William RC

### Challenge fund backs Lochaber

A LOCHABER group aiming to reduce the region's carbon footprint has received a grant of more than £89,000 for this year's projects.

Lochaber Environmental Group was awarded £89,594 from the Climate Challenge Fund to be used for energy information sessions in schools and to provide extra support to help households reduce their energy use.

Dave Thompson, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, said: 'We know education is a key factor in forming habits that young folk take into their adult lives so it is particularly pleasing to learn there will be energy information sessions run in schools.'

'This will help facilitate an ethos of carbon footprint reduction which in turn will bring environmental benefits to the community.'

### Look to the stars in Caol

CAOL primary school pupils are looking forward to an astronomer paying them a visit this month.

But this is not only for children as professor John C Brown, 10th astronomer royal for Scotland, has planned a mystery tour of the cosmos, for all ages. The professor will be at the school all day on February 24, before delivering a lecture and leading a star-gazing exercise (weather permitting) in the evening. All proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to Macmillan cancer support.

For more information or to book a ticket call Caol primary school on 01397 703366.

### Budding chef's recipe for success



A LOCHABER teenager has made it to the national final of a cooking competition.

Gregor Mews, left, from Roy Bridge, won second place at the Rotary International young chef district final in East Kilbride after winning the regional competition run by the Lochaber branch.

The budding cook's menu of pea soup, pan-fried sea bass with herb mash and mussels and a dessert of chocolate and raspberry fondant won him a place at the Scottish final, to be held in Dundee on March 7.

### Island communities celebrate windfall

COMMUNITIES across Skye and the Western Isles are celebrating following the announcement of more than £2 million pledged to the islands.

Development projects from Barra to Skye have received £2,645,935 through the UK government's communities fund, part of more than £116.6 million distributed all over Britain.

Tighean Inne Gall, a group set up to promote energy efficient tourist accommodation in the outer Hebrides, gained £497,419 through the scheme, which will be used to support and improve energy efficiency and promote the use of renewables for bed and breakfast, self-catering and small tourism-related businesses.

Stewart Wilson, director of Tighean Inne Gall, said: 'We are thrilled at the opportunity to reduce our tourism carbon footprint and make more eco-tourism available through greater energy efficiency and use of renewables.'

Work on a redundant quayside space on South Uist can now be completed as the group behind the project has received £221,973, which will be combined with £30,000 from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to finish the pontoon, landscaping and seating area at Lochboisdale.

Kirsty MacCormick, development manager for Stòras Uibhist, the estate management group behind the Gateway Lochboisdale project, said: 'We are very excited to have secured these funds which will enable us to deliver an aspect of the Lochboisdale regeneration project which we consider to be key to achieving our aims of revitalising the Lochboisdale area.'

On Skye, Carboist pier will have its access road upgraded and a boat launching slipway constructed thanks to a £170,200 grant.

A 'community hub' on Sleat will be established, including food shops and cafes to be run as social enterprises, thanks to £712,775 donated to the Camusross and Duidale initiative.

Charles Kennedy, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, said: 'Living in the Highlands and islands comes with the knowledge that in this part of the world we face particular challenges. The coastal communities fund, however, has made a big difference in the bid to overcome those challenges.'

Other groups to benefit were Barra and Vatersay Community Limited (£698,568), Uist Wool (£125,000) and Vatersay Community Association (£220,000).

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MOTHER CLAIMS CHILDREN MISSING OUT ON VITAL EDUCATION BECAUSE OF 'CRAZY' RULE OVER ROADS TREATMENT

# Anger over gritty problem

LOUISE LEE

lle@obantimes.co.uk

A 'CRAZY' rule that doesn't allow grit vehicles to treat rural back roads is seriously disrupting children's education.

Mother-of-two Katie Cox, of Glen Lonan, near Taynuilt said she has been battling officialdom for three years to overturn a rule that prevents grit lorries treating roads unless 12 children or more from that area are using a school bus.

Mrs Cox says every time she challenges officials or councillors they are 'blinkered' to the fact that 17 children travel the route in two separate trips.

For the past fortnight, children sitting high school prelim exams were forced to almost 'dig themselves out' in order to get to school, said Mrs Cox.

'But some parents simply can't get to school,' she said, 'and it means already this year their children have missed a good number of days at school.'

'All this could be solved if the grit lorry came another half a mile along the road. If that happened then the school minibus could pick up pupils and make sure they get to school, even in bad weather.'

'The minibuses are not built for Argyll winters and that means they can't cope with an untreated road.'

'The simple fact is this - 17 children live at our end of Glen Lonan and we want our road gritted.'

'I am sick of being told 'no' because we live in a rural area. There are children, elderly people, employees who all live in the glen and we are all affected when the gritter doesn't get through. Doctors and nurses can't even make house calls.'

'It is really a lot of nonsense; if the road needs gritting then it needs to be done.'

'I am not for a minute criticising the workers - they are only working on someone else's orders.'

She continued: 'This has been going on for years. I have tried to get the local authority to see

sense and I have contacted councillors, community councillors and officers to try to get them to come a bit further up the glen in order that our children can get to school.'

'Some parents have given up. They just keep their children at home because they don't have an alternative.'

However, an Argyll and Bute council spokesman said: 'It is important to appreciate that it is not possible to treat all routes at the same time.'

'The council must adopt a priority system to ensure that treatment is targeted to the areas of greatest need first.'

'These routes are treated in order of priority, from one to four: priority one routes are A class roads which extend from trunk roads; priority two routes are A and B class roads linking towns; priority three routes are service or school bus routes with a minimum of 12 occupied seats

and priority four (P4) routes are all other public roads.'

'Within the P4 routes we have identified the 'next most important' routes which we would move on to after working on the P1-P3 roads.'

'The approaches to rural schools are also gritted, however it is not possible to treat the start of every journey to a school.'

'In this particular case, following the scheduled mid-term review of treatment routes, the P3 pre-treatment route was extended some 600 metres to Lonan House.'

'However, it is simply not practical to extend it any further as this will have a knock-on effect to the completion of the P2 route which includes the service bus route to Dalavich'

'This is one of our 'next most important' routes and, when a vehicle becomes available following the P1-P3 runs, it is treated.'



SNOWED IN: the school minibus serving Glen Lonan struggles to navigate the snow-covered roads



CRAZY RULE: mother Katie Cox says the lack of gritting on rural roads is affecting children's education

## Former swimmer to make Scotland rugby debut

EUAN PATERSON

epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

A YOUNG rugby player has been handed her international debut just two years after switching sports.

Former swimmer Abigail Evans, 18, was delighted to just be included in the Scotland women's Six Nations rugby championship squad this year.

But on Tuesday, the Scottish Rugby Union announced the Oban teenager would start the opening match against France this Saturday in Nantes.

The winger, one of the youngest squad members, is one of

four new caps who will start against France. Since changing sports, the Northumbria University student has played rugby at under-20 level and captained the under-19 sevens squad.

Bonawe woman Dee Bradbury is the women and girls representative on the Scottish Rugby Council and also coached Abigail at netball.

She said: 'I am not surprised by how quickly Abigail has reached this level because she is an exceptionally talented all-round athlete.'

Dee's sons Magnus and Ferus have been called up to Scotland's under-20 and under-18 squads, respectively.



QUICK START: Scotland winger Abigail Evans is set to make her international debut.

## TIMESLINE

### Police in search for bearded smasher

POLICE are looking to trace a man who kicked the window of the Balmoral pub in Craighard Road, Oban, causing the glass to smash.

The incident happened sometime in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The man, who was described as being of stocky build, had a beard. He was with a woman and both individuals appeared to be in their late 30s.

### MP Reid calls for joined-up service

MP FOR Argyll and Bute, Alan Reid, met senior officials from Vodafone to demand a more 'joined-up approach' to restoring services in the county.

Several parts of the constituency suffered loss of mobile coverage and broadband after stormy weather at the start of the year. Services on Islay and Tiree are still affected.

### Donations to NHS Highland increase

CHARITABLE donations made to NHS Highland increased by £5,000 last year.

In 2014 the health board received donations totalling £767,000.

Donations are typically received from patients and relatives, funeral collections, legacies and bequests.

### Shinty gets major sponsorship deal

FISH farming company Marine Harvest has pledged the largest ever sponsorship deal with shinty's governing body, the Camanachd Association.

The exact value of the six-figure sponsorship deal has not been disclosed.

See sports pages for more.

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JURY UNANIMOUSLY REJECTS TEARFUL PLEA FROM MAN WHO RAN ISLAND ADVENTURE CENTRE FOR DECADES

# Landowner guilty of sex abuse

**COURT REPORTER**  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

A LAND-OWNER who ran outdoor adventure courses for children on an island south of Oban for more than 35 years has been found guilty of sexually abusing three boys in the 1980s.

Torquil Johnson-Ferguson, 65, was found unanimously guilty by a jury at Oban sheriff court on Monday of lewd, indecent and libidinous practices towards the boys on three separate occasions between 1981 and 1986.

One was aged nine or 11 years, another aged 11 or 12 and another aged 13.

Johnson-Ferguson, who lives at Solwaybank, Chapel Knowe, Canonbie, Dumfries and Galloway, denied the offences which took place on the island of Rua Fiola, owned by the accused and his wife, where they ran Wild Island Exploration Ltd from 1976 to 2014.

The trial, which began on Monday last week, heard from three victims, one of whom had flown from New Zealand to give evidence.

On Friday the third victim, now married and in his 40s, told the

jury he had been on a course on the island in 1986 where he said the accused had been the only instructor with his group.

He broke down in tears as he recounted the moment he was sexually abused by Johnson Ferguson after he came to the bottom of a zip slide, into a muddy pool.

He said he contacted the police in late 2013 after he told his wife what had happened to him, following a discussion about the Jimmy Savile case.

Asked why he had not reported the incident at the time, he replied: 'When someone does something wrong, you tell the teacher. When the teacher does something wrong, who do you tell?'

In the witness box, Johnson-Ferguson told the jury he went to a boarding school in Hampshire where he said he was constantly bullied. As a result he hated bullying and would not stand for it on Rua Fiola.

Asked by his solicitor Gary McAteer if he regarded himself as the type of man who would abuse children, he replied: 'I used to say a child is more valuable than a lorry load of diamonds. I



ABUSE OF TRUST: Torquil Johnson-Ferguson Photograph Kevin McGlynn

would never damage, hurt, injure or molest a child.'

He broke down in tears on the witness stand as he recalled how Rua Fiola was regarded by inspectors as the best in Britain.

Mr McAteer asked him: 'Is there any possibility you did something inappropriate or indecent to these boys?'

The accused answered: 'No, my natural child-care training would prevent me from molesting a child. I would not do it.'

In his submissions Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty said: 'It is the Crown's case that Torquil Johnson-Ferguson was someone who sexually abused susceptible, damaged, fragile and difficult children.'

He asked how it was possible for three men to go to the police separately at different times to report that the same man had sexually abused them on the same island, on the same course and two in the same cave, in the same manner.

He said when parents sent their children away on a residential course with a stranger in charge, they placed their trust in that stranger to look after their children.

'There is no greater breach of trust than when that person goes on to sexually abuse those children,' he said.

Mr McAteer challenged the jury to remember what they were doing in 1981 or 1986. He pointed out that one of the witnesses did not even remember being to the island twice.

'In my submission, when you look at the evidence there should be no doubt that you can't convict.'

'Human memory is frail in time and should not be rely on for corroboration and support.'

He said there were too many contradictions and inherent problems with the evidence of witnesses, calling one of the witnesses' recollections 'wholly unbelievable and fantastical'.

Following Johnson-Ferguson's conviction, Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC called for criminal justice social inquiry reports before sentencing on March 2.

She told Johnson-Ferguson: 'All options are available to me and one of these is a custodial sentence.'

She made an interim order to place the accused on the Sex Offenders' Register.

## Highland bosses admit cash crisis would have led to axed operations

A £2.5 MILLION bail-out from the Scottish government stopped the cancellation of operations and cutting vital services, health bosses admitted at a public hearing yesterday (Wednesday).

Grilling NHS Highland directors, Holyrood's public audit committee claimed health board chairman Gary Coult, chief executive Elaine Mead, finance director Nick Kenton and internal auditor Chris Brown gave 'fudgy' answers when responding to questions.

The NHS Highland team members said they were not complacent in managing the £750 million budget and that the government bail-out was an exception.

The committee heard there was no 'plan B' if the government had refused its request for additional funds.

Chief executive Elaine Mead admitted that the £2.5 million shortfall would have led to the cancellation of operations.

## Hope comes in the form of cash boost as appeal assists Oban soup kitchen

HOPE Kitchen, a project providing food and shelter to vulnerable people in Oban, has received a welcome boost £2,000 from the STV Appeal 2014.

The appeal helps children in poverty and estimates that in Argyll and Bute more than 19 per cent of children fall into that category.

Hope Kitchen is open four days a week providing a hot meal and drop-in service for the town.

It serves around 350 food portions a month from its Argyll Street premises.

Hope Kitchen service manager Sue Vest said: 'We are extremely grateful to the STV Appeal for providing this money which will be used to further our work.'

## Keep a tight grip on our village pub

THAT'S THE CRI DE COEUR FROM LOCHAWE STALWART OVER DEVELOPMENT PLAN

**LOUISE LEE**  
llee@obantimes.co.uk

AN HISTORIC village pub is at the centre of a planning battle after plans to turn it into three flats were rejected by the community.

National company Commercial First wants to turn the pub into flats in order to 'maximise returns for clients' while the community council is eager to keep the bar and restaurant as a village attraction.

The 'Tight Line' pub in Lochawe village on the A85 trunk road, has a price tag of £135,000. A planning application was

submitted in late October for change of use from a public house to three residential flats.

Described by Bell Ingram estate agents as 'in need of renovation, modernisation and upgrading', the building has two bars and a two bed-room flat.

Ian Craig of Glenorchy and Innishail community council urged villagers to think seriously before they endorsed plans for flats in the former stable building built in 1871.

Mr Craig said: 'If this goes through this will be one of the biggest loses to the community.'

'It will be a terrible shame if we allow the Tight Line to vanish

from the heart of our community. Where will there be for anyone to meet in the village?'

'I have a strong feeling about letting it go for residential use.'

'It will rip out the heart of the village.'

'There are monies available to have a hostel or something if we are of the same mind to take it forward.'

'If there is a prospect of development work at Cruachan Two [an extension to the Cruachan power station] and continued tourism development then there will be many people around in the village to support both a

hostelry and accommodation. 'It would be superb to have somewhere in the village where people could stop and have something to eat as well as stopping to get a welcome.'

'This building should not be given a change of use until every other avenue has been explored.'

A spokesman for the estate agent declined to comment on the application.

A former stable building, The Tight Line was built in 1871 the hotel has been out of use for 18 months.

Loch Awe itself is Scotland's third largest freshwater loch, which is renowned for its trout fishing.



HEARTBREAK: Ian Craig says losing the 'Tight Line' pub would tear the heart out of the village

## No threat to jobs at Oban school

RUMOURS that eight teaching posts are to be axed next year at Oban high school have been strenuously denied by Argyll and Bute council.

Concerns had grown among some parents that the teaching jobs were to be cut at the town school due to a fall in pupil numbers.

However, an council spokeswoman said: 'There are no plans to reduce staffing levels at Oban high school.'

## Straw poll reveals Oban public not happy with Stafford Street changes

A 'PEN and paper' sample of public opinion carried out by a community councillor revealed an overwhelming majority against the pedestrianisation of Stafford Street in Oban.

That's the claim of Oban community councillor George Berry, who said that of the 30 people he interviewed, 27 were against the plans. Speaking at Oban community council last

week, he said: 'I went out with a pen and paper and talked to people. The result I got was pretty terrible.'

'People are saying the councillors could have spent their money on better things.'

He said taxi drivers were angry they could no longer use Stafford Street as a route on to George Street and had to drive all the way around the town.

Mr Berry continued: 'Argyll

and Bute council has only licenced 13 taxi spaces with no more new spaces being considered. As one lady said to me, "We don't need terrorists in the town, we have them here already".'

However, Oban-based Argyll and Bute councillor Neil MacIntyre replied: 'There was a 12-week consultation and only four members of public went to the public meeting.'

## Four years for dealer who was 'high up on the food chain

**COURT REPORTER**  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

IN ONE of the final sentences he passed before retiring last week, Sheriff Douglas Small sent down a drug dealer for four years, while issuing a warning to would-be dealers in Oban.

Dale Montague, 27, appeared for sentencing at Oban sheriff court last Wednesday after he was found guilty by jury on January 6 of being concerned in the supply of heroin at 19 High Street, Oban on August 8 last year, while on bail.

His co-accused, mother-of-five Jennifer McIver, 38, had pled guilty to the same offence at an earlier date and she was sentenced to 286 days in prison.

Police who entered the house with force on August 8 this year found Montague with McIver and Andrew McKenzie, 33, who lived at the address searched.

However, charges were dropped against McKenzie, who went on to give evidence in the trial. DNA from Montague and McIver, but not from Mr McKenzie, had been

found on one or two knotted packages of heroin found in the flat.

On the last day of the four-day proceeding, procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty said Montague was 'high up the food chain' in the drugs world.

Sentencing Montague and McIver, both Helensburgh, last week, Sheriff Small said: 'The total value of drugs found within the two bags amounted to £1,400.'

'I have repeatedly said from this bench that people convicted of the supply of drugs will be dealt with severely.'

After passing sentence on McIver, who had one previous conviction for drugs offences, he explained Montague was 'in a different category to the co-accused', pointing out Montague's previous conviction for a drugs offence involving heroin in 2010 at Dumbarton sheriff court.

Sheriff Small told Montague: 'You have a schedule of previous convictions that is lengthy, to say the least.'

Montague's four-year sentence was backdated to August 8 2014 when he first taken into custody.

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Argyll and Bute Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) works in partnership to prevent and support recovery from the harmful use of alcohol and drugs

The ADP commissions community addiction services throughout Argyll and Bute

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FW



CHALLENGE MATCH: Oban Camanachd and Lochside Rovers players line up before last Saturday's challenge match at Mossfield 15\_306shinty01

## Oban Camanachd prepare for new shinty season

A PLUCKY Lochside Rovers made a game of it against an under-strength Oban Camanachd when the two teams met last Saturday.

Oban Camanachd's two teams crossed camans at Mossfield in a pre-season fixture and the senior side ended up 4-1 winners after the match was level at half time.

Connor Howe scored for the junior side, with Aidan MacIntyre, Andrew 'Papa' MacCuish, Lorne Dickie and Robert Alexander scoring for Camanachd.

### Demanded

Missing a number of players to work commitments last Saturday, Oban Camanachd manager Gussie Campbell demanded a

full turnout for this weekend's pre-season match against Inveraray.

Campbell said: 'I think Lochside would have taken more out of the game than us. I was very impressed with them, considering they have a very young team. I think the average age is around 18.

'I was particularly impressed with young Craig 'Winky' MacDougall, who was up against Daniel Cameron, last season's National Division player of the year.

### Turn up

'This week we are playing a team outwith the club, so every squad member must turn up

because the season is just around the corner.

'We need a full squad at these games to find out who is playing where in the team.'

Oban Camanachd will play Glasgow Mid Argyll on February 28 to complete their pre-season schedule.

Lochside Rovers, meanwhile,

### Shinty

play Ballachulish at the Jubilee Park on February 21, then Fort William juniors away on February 28.

Lochside are managed by Gareth Evans and David MacCuish this season.

## Fundraiser for Billy Irving Shinty

TAYNUILT shinty club's pre-season match against Glenorchy this weekend will be used as a fundraiser for their stricken striker Billy Irving, who is being held in India.

Billy and his anti-piracy ship mates were arrested by the Indian authorities and accused of carrying illegal weapons. Although the charges have been quashed, the case is the subject of an appeal and Billy cannot leave the country.

A raffle, teas and gate money from this weekend's match will go towards helping Billy, who has no income but must sustain himself while in India.

The match has a throw up time of 1pm at Taynuilt sportsfield.

Taynuilt have another home fixture against Ballachulish the following weekend and then an away match to Glengarry on February 21 to complete their pre-season.

## Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

### Youth football

ALL games involving Oban Saints Youth teams were postponed last weekend due to pitches being unplayable.

This weekend's fixtures: Clydebank v Under 13s; Renton Craigandro v Under 14s; Dumbarton United v Under 15s; Under 16s v Ardencaple; Baljaffray v Under 19s.

## Saints at home to Alba on Saturday

### Football

OBAN Saints senior team will be back in action on Saturday with a home premier division league game against Alba Thistle. The match will take place at Glenruitten with a 2pm kick-off. Referee in charge is David Stirling.

Last weekend's Jimmy Marshall cup tie away to Easthall Star was called off due to the pitch at Steppford being unplayable after the heavy snow.

## Islay golf results

### Golf

MEDAL played Sunday January 25 - 1 A Blair 81-11=70; 2 B O Neil 87-14=73; 3 C Holyoake 78-5=73. Css 72.

February medal played Sunday February 1 - 1 A Livingstone 87-11=76; 2 R McIntyre 81-4=77; 3 D Livingstone 90-8=82. Css 74.

## Scottish Amateur League results and fixtures

### Football

LAST Saturday's results: fixtures: Premier Division - Alba Thistle v Campbeltown Pupils postponed; Premier Division Two - Dunoon Athletic 1, Paisley 3; Lochgilhead Red Star 4, Drumchapel Colts 2; Jimmy Marshall Trophy first round - Dunoon v Jamestown; Easthall Star v Oban Saints; Coronation Cup first round - Rossvale v Tarbert all postponed.

Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division Finnart v Campbeltown Pupils; Haldane United v Kings Park Rangers; Oban Saints v Alba Thistle; Thorn Athletic v Busby.



RECORD BREAKER: Robert MacIntyre

## Oban golfer breaks two records in the United States

AN OBAN golfer has written his name in the record books State-side after breaking two records at a course in Arizona.

Robert MacIntyre, now a student at McNeese University in Louisiana, set a new course record at Sewailo Golf Club, Arizona with a 63 (eight under par) in his final round.

His final round performance at the 15-team Arizona Intercollegiate was also the lowest score ever posted by a McNeese player in any competition.

MacIntyre finished third in the overall standings and helped his team to a third place overall, despite opening with a disappointing 77 in the first round.

The 18-year-old told *The Oban Times*: 'I felt great going into the week but I had a bad first round.

On the second round I started to settle into it and the last round was just perfect. I don't think I could have done much more to better that round.'

MacIntyre's fellow freshman, Andreas Krokeide, added a four-under-par 67 in the final round to finish with an even par 213 in the event, good enough to tie for 13th place.

'Andreas played his game today

### Shinty

and put together a solid score, but obviously the story was MacIntyre,' said head coach Austin Burk.

'To set the course record by two strokes is incredible. Our two freshmen shot a 63 and 67 against a nice field.'

MacIntyre's record-breaking round included an eagle on the par four 16th hole at Sewailo.

The McNeese Cowboys shot a 279 on the day's final round, just two strokes off the best round of the day, and finished the event with a four-over-par 856, while beating four nationally ranked teams in the process.

The Cowboys finished the tournament one stroke ahead of California, the 2004 national champions, and Iowa State.

'We beat some of the best teams in the country today but it did not surprise me at all,' said Burk. 'We have a young team but a great team.'

McNeese Cowboys teed off on Monday at the Sea Best Invitational, hosted by Jacksonville University and played at the TPC Sawgrass in Jacksonville, Florida.

# Marine Harvest agree six-figure sponsorship deal

'Shinty remains a key part of community life'

FISH farming company Marine Harvest has committed to a six-figure sponsorship deal with the Camanachd Association, the largest sponsorship deal the game has ever seen.

On Monday the game's governing body, the Camanachd Association announced the new three-year deal, which extends the company's backing of shinty to 30 years.

As part of the new deal Marine Harvest takes on the title sponsorship of the new-look Marine Harvest Premiership, previously sponsored by the Orion Group.

This is on top of Marine Harvest's on-going sponsorship of the National League and north/south area leagues.

The agreement also sees Marine Harvest continue its support for women's and youth shinty, the Scotland senior national shinty team, the annual shinty/hurling international match and the annual shinty awards night.

Jim Barr, president of the association, said: 'This is great news for shinty and represents the largest single sponsorship investment in the sport to date.'

'The commitment of support shown by Marine Harvest over many years, and today extended for a further three, adds tremendous value to the continued promotion and development of our sport.'

'Shinty is an important part of Scotland's sporting and cultural

heritage and remains a key part of community life in many areas across the country. The whole shinty community will be delighted that such a successful company continues to show such faith in our great game.'

Alan Sutherland, managing director of Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd, said: 'We are

delighted to continue our support for shinty, having seen it thrive and develop at all levels.

'We are very pleased to sponsor the premier league and to continue our commitment to the area and national leagues, as well as women's and youth shinty.

'Marine Harvest is 50 years old and is the largest salmon farming

### Shinty

company in Scotland. 'Shinty is a great fit with the areas where we farm and process our fish and we are proud to be able to play our part in supporting the game.'



DEAL: Camanachd Association Sponsorship announcement with Marine Harvest launch at the Eden Court, Inverness. Left to right, Russell Jones (joint first team manager of Kingussie), Alan Sutherland (managing director Marine Harvest) and Ally Ferguson (first team manager of Lochaber)

# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

F MacColl  
Caithness Place  
Fort William

M MacColl  
Bentalla Crescent  
Isle of Mull

## THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £1700

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. 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. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

### 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 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

### Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mistaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



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AWARD WINNERS: Prizewinners at Lochaber Sports Association annual awards

## Sports association annual awards

THE TALENT of Lochaber athletes was recognised at an awards ceremony at the weekend. Presentations were made on behalf of Lochaber Sports Association on Friday night, with prizes for sportsperson, team, coach and young sportsperson of the year.

Reverend Bob Shepton from Appin, who was named UK Yachtman of the Year last year at 78 years old, kicked off the celebrations at Lochaber Yacht Club with a presentation about his adventure to the Arctic seas before awards were handed out.

Lochaber Athletic Club's Finlay Wild was

named sportsperson of the year after he won the Ben Nevis Race for the fifth consecutive year in September.

Jim Hamilton, also of LAC, was honoured for his work behind the scenes at sporting events, along with Ally MacKinnon, president of Lochaber Rugby Club (LRC).

**Determination**

It was a triple celebration for the rugby team as LRC was named team of the year for showing determination in the face of diversity as work was finally finished at Banavie, after two seasons without a home pitch to play on.

And third of the LRC successes was Blair MacRaidl who won coach of the year.

Two new awards were created this year to recognise distinguished service to Lochaber's sporting community.

One went to Tom Cameron, who has run Lochaber Judo Club for 50 years.

Jane Blanchard of Lochaber Sports Association said of the sporting stalwart: 'He has devoted huge swathes of his time to coaching both juniors and seniors and to driving players the length and breadth of the UK in order for them to take part in gradings and competitions.

'His commitment to the sport is absolute, a worthy recipient.'

The second award in this category went to Colin (Coco) Neilson, who founded Fort William Football Club in 1972.

**Much loved**

Ms Blanchard said: 'Colin and his wife, Grace, never miss a home game and are much-loved and respected supporters of the club.'

Full list of winners: behind the scenes - Jim Hamilton, LAC, and Ally MacKinnon, LRC; sportsperson of the year - Finlay Wild, Loch-

### Sports awards

aber Athletic Club; coach of the year - Blair MacRaidl, LRC; team of the year - Lochaber Rugby Club; club most active in the promotion of sport - Jog Scotland; young sportsperson of the year - Cameron Whyte, Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club; youth endeavour award - Freya MacDonald, Falcons Netball Club; long and distinguished service - Tom Cameron, Lochaber Judo Club, and Colin Neilson, Fort William Football Club.

### Entries open for Scottish downhill championships

#### Cycling

ENTRIES are now open for the 2015 Scottish downhill cycling series and championships, starting in the borders and ending the season in Glencoe.

Each of the six rounds offers nine categories of racing to accommodate all ages and abilities, three of which will take place in Lochaber.

The first Highland event will be held in Glencoe on May 23 and 24, the second race in the series. The event will then move up to Fort William on June 27 and 28 before travelling further north to Aberdeenshire.

It will then be back to Glencoe for the bikers, who will complete the final race of the season on August 29 and 30.

For more information go to [www.scottishcycling.org.uk](http://www.scottishcycling.org.uk).

### Mini rugby returns to Banavie

#### Rugby

MINI rugby will return to home turf at Banavie this weekend.

Lochaber Rugby Club's junior training has been held at the King George V while the home pitch was under improvements but the first session after the winter break on Saturday (February 7) will see the youngsters return to Banavie.

Training starts at 10am and boys and girls from primary three to second year are welcome.

## Skye Camanachd win Johnstone tournament



FINALISTS: Lochaber Ladies made it to the final of the Johnstone tournament 20\_06shinty01

A SNOWY drive to Fort William was worthwhile for Skye Camanachd Ladies as they won the Johnstone tournament for the second year in a row.

The islanders' A team saw off locals Lochaber Ladies 5-1 in the Nevis Centre on Saturday to pick up the trophy at the annual event after defeating hosts Glengarry A's team 5-4 in the semi final.

Lochaber fought hard in their semi-final to beat Badenoch and Strathspey 5-3 but it wasn't enough when they met last year's winners in the final.

As well as winning the tournament, run for the last 18 years by Glengarry, Skye's Lorna MacRae continued the team's success when she was named player of the tournament, also for the second year running. Sponsor Ailsa Johnstone handed out the trophy and medals after the final.



WINNERS: Skye Camanachd Ladies captain Rosalind Lamont accepts the trophy from tournament sponsor Ailsa Johnstone as her teammates show off their medals 20\_06shinty02

### Alleycats still lead scratch division

ALLEYCATS have maintained their scratch division lead in the Lochaber Building Supplies ten pin bowling league.

After week 14 of the Nevis Centre event the 'Cats have 62 points, followed by The Creeps, still in second place with 59 points and Ardtoe/Nevis Radio knock Rotavators out of third place with 56 points.

Alleycats have also taken over the top spot in the handicap division with 57 points. Rotavators dropped to second with 56 points after losing 5-0 to Fairway Fillies. Ardtoe/Nevis Radio are in third place with 47 points.

The top individual scratch game this week came from Rossamy Wareing (Ardtoe/Nevis Radio)

#### Ten pin bowling

with 187 including five strikes in a row. Wareing also had the top handicap game of 239 and the top two handicap series with 425.

Brian Johnstone achieved the top two-game scratch series with 332. Alleycats again swept the board this week in the team honours with the top scratch team game of the week of 638, the top handicap game of 810, the top two-game scratch series of 1,272 (the season high) and the top two handicap team series of 1,616.

The highest scratch averages are currently all held by Alleycats players with Pam Weller on 157 followed by Tony Whitelocke on 154 and Brian Johnstone 145.

### Boxers bring home the silverware

LOCHABER'S boxers were celebrating more success at the weekend when four returned home from the Scottish Intermediate Championships with silverware.

Cameron Whyte, 12, of Lochaber Phoenix boxing club kept up his achievement of winning every major competition he has entered when he claimed the title against Doon Valley's Jack O'Keefe.

**Quality showings**

Club official Steve Docherty said of the Spear Bridge boy: 'Cameron has produced countless quality showings over the years but this was perhaps his best yet. Due to training at least five days a week he is constantly trying to improve and is contin-

#### Boxing

uing to show the benefits of his dedication.'

Middleweight Adam Watson is also in line for a gold medal this Sunday as he came through a gruelling semi-final against Craig Bailey of Millennium Boxing Club on points at the weekend.

Not to be outdone, Luca Micheletti of Kinlochleven-based Claymores boxing club picked up a gold at the weekend after dominating Moiz Khan of Kelvin to become the 64kg Scottish Intermediate champion.

Kevin Aitchison, 15, of Phoenix, claimed a silver after losing on a split decision against Springhill's Cooper Walker.



TWO IN A ROW: Skye's Lorna MacRae was named player of the tournament for the second year in a row 20\_06shinty03

### Fort William 'not at the races' says manager

#### Football

LOSING for the first time since November was a bitter pill to swallow for Fort William Football Club players and fans as the team went down 4-0 against Nairn County on Saturday.

The defeat came after a delayed start to the Station Park fixture as boulders falling on the A82 at Urquhart Castle meant the Fort bus had to detour to make the preliminary round of the Breedon Aggregates Highland league cup.

But after the Claggan side's best efforts to make the game, two goals from Nairn's Conor Gethins combined with more from Sam Urquhart and Robbie Duncanson put an abrupt end to Fort William's winning streak.

Fort manager Calum MacLean said: 'We just weren't at the races on Saturday. We hadn't played for five weeks so we were really rusty. After being out of it so long we weren't prepared for it.'

Ironically, Fort William's next game is away to Nairn again on February 14 when they attempt to achieve five consecutive Highland League wins.

MacLean added: 'We can't play any worse than we did on Saturday, so I'm very optimistic and we're hoping for a win.'

The next game at Claggan Park is against Rothes on Wednesday February 18 when Fort begin their battle against a fixture backlog of 10 games.

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WEATHER		TIDAL INFORMATION			
<b>Thursday</b>	Misty Winds light easterly Temperatures 1°C to 4°C.	Tide tables for Oban during the week from <b>Thursday, February 5, 2015</b> are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)			
<b>Friday</b>	Cloudy with sunny spells Winds light easterly Temperatures 1°C to 4°C.	<b>Date</b>	<b>am</b>		
<b>Weekend Outlook</b>	Cloudy on Saturday Cloudy on Sunday Winds light northerly Temperatures 4°C to 6°C.	<b>Thur</b>	00.30 0.9 06.26 4.0 13.09 1.1 18.50 4.0		
		<b>Fri</b>	01.05 0.9 06.58 4.0 13.40 1.2 19.20 3.9		
		<b>Sat</b>	01.38 1.0 07.29 4.0 14.11 1.3 19.50 3.8		
		<b>Sun</b>	02.09 1.1 07.58 3.9 14.38 1.4 20.18 3.7		
		<b>Mon</b>	02.37 1.2 08.25 3.7 15.00 1.6 20.47 3.1		
		<b>Tues</b>	03.07 1.4 08.55 3.5 15.27 1.7 21.23 3.3		
		<b>Wed</b>	03.44 1.6 09.31 3.4 16.11 1.9 22.06 3.2		
		Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)			
		Ardrisaig	-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		
		<b>Ferry Crossings/Sea States</b>			
		Oban to Barra/South Uist		Moderate	
		Oban to Coll/Tiree		Moderate	
		Kennacraig to Islay		Moderate	