

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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inside

# Building your own home

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## Islay man killed by elephant

AN ISLAY man died and his daughter was injured after an Indian elephant attacked them at Koh Samui beach resort, Thailand.

Gareth Crowe, 36, and daughter Eilidh Hughes, 16, who were on holiday, were thrown from the elephant's back after it is believed its trainer hit it with a stick. Mr Crowe was stabbed by the elephant's tusk.

A spokeswoman for Bangkok International Hospital said Ms Hughes was being treated for minor injuries.

Mr Crowe's partner Catherine Hughes and Eilidh's brother Mark are receiving support from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

An FCO spokesman said: 'We are making contact with the local authorities for information.'

The couple moved from Islay to the mainland two years ago.

## Mr David Fellowes

MR DAVID Fellowes, JP, DL, of Cladich, who died peacefully last week, aged 84, is to be the last person to be buried on the island of Innishail, Loch Awe.

He will lie alongside his wife Liz in the family lair in the ancient graveyard.

Mr Fellowes was a lifelong supporter of many national organisations including the Highland Cattle Society, The Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, as well as being a Justice of the Peace and a Deputy Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute. Mr Fellowes, who lived with his family at Lochaweside, also supported community organisations including the Dalmally Show, and the Episcopal Church. He was also chairman of Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council.

His funeral will be held tomorrow (Friday).

## Henry blows a hoolie with ferries feeling its full force



Oban esplanade on Monday night as gale-force winds whipped up the high tide at around 10.30pm. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

STORM Henry caused more than one third of all CalMac sailings to be cancelled, as gusts at more than 100mph swept along the West Coast.

Wind speeds peaked in the early hours of Tuesday morning, with strong winds continuing throughout the day, resulting in 90 per cent of sailings in the Inner, Outer and Southern Hebrides being called off.

Crews at Kilchoan offered additional sailings after two days of cancellations, and staff at Craignuire manned the terminal to allow a late departure last Saturday.

The Lochaline and Fishnish crew were also able to provide two sailings in what have been described as 'horrible conditions'.

But ferries weren't the only victims of the weather, as both trains and buses were also disrupted, with police called out to a number of overturned lorries.

Due to high winds and high tides, waves bombarded the esplanade in Oban and caused waterfalls to flow backwards on Mull.

## TIMESLINE

### Forteith rebrand as part of Bidvest

OBAN-BASED family wholesaler Forteith Foodservice is embarking on a new chapter in its 60-year history after rebranding as part of Bidvest Foodservice Scotland.

Part of Bidvest Foodservice's 24 regional depots across the UK, Forteith Foodservice was set up in 1955 by Jack Forteith.

John Forteith, who is the third generation of his family in the company, is now head of business development at Bidvest Foodservice Scotland.

### Oban Times – the paper of record

**WEEK in week out your Oban Times is there reporting the news and sport that is important to you. We believe passionately in our communities – the people and what's happening in them. And it is important to us that you receive the best value for money.**

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# Argyll to follow Swinney demands over council tax

**LOUISE GLEN**  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

AN 'INTENSE journey of reform' will force an under pressure Argyll and Bute Council to sign a commitment not to raise the council tax this financial year.

Earlier this week it was thought the local authority's leader Dick Walsh and deputy leader Ellen Morton were considering proposing an increase in the council tax to be discussed at the budget meeting next week.

In a letter sent to Scottish Government finance minister John Swinney MSP, Argyll and Bute Council had indicated its unwillingness to co-operate with the budget setting procedure. In

response Mr Swinney outlined stark choices before local authorities. The MSP said the key to challenging budgets is reform and improvement in public services. He did not think reform could be managed by increasing the council tax.

An *Oban Times* investigation revealed the majority of councillors were not in favour of a tax increase, but many feel backed into an 'unprecedented position' by the Scottish Government.

In a letter to John Swinney, Mr Walsh was amongst the 32 Scottish council leaders who refused to sign the budget agreement with the local authority. He now concedes that there is no other choice before the authority.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We are focusing on proposals that will deliver a balanced budget and are aimed at protecting jobs and services as far as possible, given the very challenging financial circumstances that all Scottish local authorities are facing.'

'Our main goal is making sure that any decisions made are the best possible ones for the people of Argyll and Bute. If working in partnership with the Scottish Government or negotiations through COSLA will secure that outcome, then that is what we will do.'

In a letter from Mr Swinney to council leaders, he states: 'The package is focused on delivery of our joint priorities to deliver

sustainable economic growth and to protect the most vulnerable in our society. The measures are set out to... intensify a journey of reform.'

*The Oban Times* wrote to all 35 local councillors on the matter and received replies from 22.

Amongst those in favour of an increase were Councillor Neil MacIntyre. He said: 'Nothing is for nothing, so the more we pay in the better our services will be for everyone.'

Oban councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'I think people would accept a small rise in Council Tax to preserve services, but unfortunately the present directive from the Scottish Government makes that impossible without

incurring financial penalties.' Councillor Robin Currie, of Islay, said: 'I find it extraordinary that the Scottish Government is putting services to our communities at risk. Maybe they should consider giving some of their underspend to our front-line services.'

Former council leader, councillor James Robb said: 'No-one seriously believes the council will turn down around £7million of extra funding for doing nothing – not raising council tax, not sacking any more teachers plus £4-5m extra for social work and to pay a living wage to care workers.'

Councillors comments will appear in full on *The Oban Times* Facebook page on Friday morning.

Oban Times  
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568000



## Police investigate Appin garage fire

A FIRE at a 'landmark' in Appin on Monday morning devastated an iconic building, bringing messages of support from around the world.

The family-run Gunn's Garage, on the turn-off for the Port Appin road, was destroyed after fire tore through the building shortly before 5am.

Pictures of the fire on *The Oban Times* website brought in thousands of messages of support for the owner, Duncan Gunn, whose father started the business in 1963.

No-one was injured in the fire, but as a precaution emer-



Firefighters said the presence of acetylene cylinders made the fire at Gunn's Garage a challenging incident.

gency services evacuated nearby residents to the primary school and asked for the school to remain closed until the area could be made safe.

The A828 between Appin and Ballahullish was closed for

a few hours while firefighters battled to bring the fire under control and make the area safe.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Appin personnel were on the scene within minutes

and they were backed up by two tenders from Oban.

Several high pressure jets were used to put out the flames and cool gas cylinders stored inside and outside the property.

One woman said: 'I heard a noise and it sounded like fireworks. It was terrifying. I looked out of the window and the roof went up.'

Residents said they were devastated for owner Mr Gunn.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's Fire Investigation Unit and Police Scotland are investigating the cause of the fire.

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MULL lines

Could you give up alcohol for a year?

A MULEAICH who has turned his back on alcohol is encouraging others to do the same, by joining his website free of charge and downloading his book.

The One Year No Beer (OYNB) was co-created by Ruari Fairbairns, from the Isle of Mull, and encourages people to support a 30, 90 or 365-day challenge to 'shun alcohol'.

City worker Ruari and colleague Andy Ramage, a former footballer, founded OYNB after chatting in the pub and it dawned on the pair that all aspects of their lives had become deeply entrenched in alcohol.

As they began their alcohol-free challenge and started talking to friends and family, they realised they were not alone. In fact, hundreds just like them wanted to stop drinking but needed support that was not forthcoming.

The men now have more than 5,000 Twitter followers and have just passed 2,000 subscribers to their challenge.

Ruari, a financial broker, wants people to have a better relationship with alcohol and is encouraging people to focus on strengthening the mind and body.

He said: 'OYNB supports a growing community who are shunning alcohol for good as they have realised its corrosive influence on their lives.'

'Giving up booze in today's alcohol-dependent society is hard. OYNB provides an online community, safe from the 'just one more drink' pressure that society considers acceptable today.'

'Members receive support and advice to deal with social pressure from people who have been through it.'

The co-founders of OYNB have also written a book about their experiences of living without alcohol, which is free to download for registered members.

The Professional Football Association (PFA) is the first professional organisation to endorse OYNB, as it looks to encourage people to give up alcohol for 30, 90 or 365 days.

PFA Director of Corporate Social Responsibility John Hudson said: 'The PFA extends its support to this excellent challenge which I'm sure will have a positive, healthy and, in many cases, long-term impact on those who take part.'



Anyone who wants to take part in the OYNB challenge should visit <http://www.oneyearnobeer.com/> or join the closed group on Facebook – OneYearNoBeer

Old boats wanted

The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT) on Mull is looking for any old, unwanted boats to give a new lease of life to the visitors' centre.

The boats will be used as a main feature in HWDT's new underwater explorer room. The boats will be cut in half and the sterns used. Boats should be between 1.2-1.6 metres wide.

Anyone who is able to help should contact the centre by emailing [pippa.garrard@hwdt.org](mailto:pippa.garrard@hwdt.org)

Parents' fears over swim cash and cuts

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk



PARENTS on Islay are warning that the proposed cuts to staffing in schools in Argyll and Bute will put 'education at risk'.

Around a third of the islanders have signed a petition to fight the threat to subsidised swimming lessons for children – while others are demanding a rethink on the cuts.

Speaking on behalf of Islay parents, Fiona MacGillivray of Port Charlotte Primary School Parent Council said: 'As it seems with many schools within Argyll and Bute, it is only just coming to our attention as parents that our children's education is at risk.'

'Our first wake-up call is staff in the school receiving notification of proposed cuts to their hours.'

'The support staff who provide key roles within the school team are the affected element, a source of budget cuts for the council, amongst a list of 150 possible areas/jobs within the council deemed open for reduction, none in the mix being above a head teacher pay grade.'

'It turns out that this notification comes after the 'closing date' for responses to the consultation Argyll and Bute has been having in relation to the cuts to the budget. The proposed staffing cuts will see a 37 per cent cut to our classroom assistants, who at present, are only contracted for 14.25 hours a week.'

'This will bring them down to nine hours a week, meaning less than two hours' support a day.'

'This role implements many of Argyll and Bute's learning initiatives – helping children with dyslexia, dyspraxia, extra help on maths, spelling and reading.'

'Well trained through many council courses, these people are available to help at break times, support on trips and many other elements within the school, helping to relieve the pressure on teaching staff and help advance our children to attain their full potential.'

'The council is due to meet on February 11 to decide the cuts. We want to let it know before

then that cuts within our children's education provision will save it nothing in the long run; it will just mean it will shunt the burden of support onto the high schools or onto adult support when they don't achieve their full potential now.'

Islanders are also concerned that bringing an end to subsidies for swimming lessons for children could have a devastating long-term effect on island life, claiming Islay and Jura parents are worried about their children not being able to swim.

The island's communities wanted a swimming pool to teach children to swim, and worked tirelessly to raise £1million to build the Mactaggart Leisure Centre which opened in 1991.

A decision on funding cuts will be made at a budget meeting of Argyll and Bute Council on February 11.

While Argyll and Bute Council says it will play its part, Mull councillor with special responsibility for children and families Mary-Jean Devon said: 'Children coming to Mull would have the best of everything – a safe environment, fantastic schools and a community that would look out for them.'

'I have been approached by a number of families who would be willing to give a home to children fleeing violence.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson added her support: 'If the Scottish Government wishes to provide housing and shelter for refugee children in Scotland, I am confident that Argyll and Bute will play its part.'

'On a personal level, I would support such a move; to enjoy a happy secure environment is every child's right.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We are awaiting further advice from the UK and Scottish governments in relation to unaccompanied children and the proposed dispersal.'

'Once we have that advice, the council will be able to consider any request received.'

Speaking in response to the UK Government announcement that the UK is to accept unaccompanied child refugees from Syria, Scottish Minister for Europe and International Development Humza Yousaf said: 'The Scottish Government will continue to urge the UK Government to do more to assist with the humanitarian crisis on our doorstep and we stand ready to welcome and support our proportionate share of any additional refugees who come to the UK.'

'Scotland is proud to have received nearly 400 out of the 1,000 Syrian refugees under the Syrian resettlement programme between October and December 2015. I urge the UK Government to do more and increase the number of refugees it is prepared to accept, I reiterate – Scotland is willing to continue playing its part.'

Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs.

Kevin Patrick, director of Lantra Scotland, said: 'We have also received nominations from more employers and training providers this year, which suggests they are increasingly aware of how important it is to support and celebrate new talent.'

'All of our nominees, whether selected as finalists or not, should be extremely proud of their work and I really look forward to celebrating their achievements at the awards ceremony.'

[www.lantra.co.uk/scotland](http://www.lantra.co.uk/scotland)

Bus service campaign

A CAMPAIGN has been set up on social media in order to get an Islay bus service reinstated.

'Evening bus service for Islay' was launched after one resident had to walk four-and-a-half hours in the dark to get home and almost 300 people have 'liked' the page in support.

The bus that previously met the ferry from Oban and Colonsay on a Wednesday night was discontinued in 2005.

MSP motions on MPA defeated

TWO motions put forward by Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor, calling for the Scottish Government to stop plans for marine protected areas (MPAs), including in West Highland waters, were defeated in parliament last week.

Mr McGrigor, who is the Conservative's fisheries spokesman, was speaking at a meeting of the rural affairs, climate change and environment committee.

He said: 'While my motions to annul were voted down, I hope the cabinet secretary took on board the continuing concerns of fishermen.'

Oban graduate in line for prestigious Lantra award

AN OBAN fishery worker has been shortlisted for a prestigious farming award.

Matthew Anderson, 23, who is an assistant farm manager for Dawnfresh Farming Ltd, is one of four nominees in the Lantra Scotland Learner of the Year Awards 2016.

Organised by Lantra Scotland, the sector skills council for the land-based, aquaculture and environmental industries, the awards recognise and reward Scotland's most talented trainees from across the rural sector, as well as helping encourage employers to invest in skills for the future.

Matthew completed a BA (Hons) degree in aquaculture at the Institute of Aquaculture in Stirling, and is now working as an assistant farm manager for Dawnfresh Farming Ltd. He is looking to develop his technical and managerial skills with a view to stepping up into a farm manager's role. He also has plans to attend other leadership programmes.

He is up against Hayley Eccles from Strathcarron, Lisa Askham



Matthew Anderson from Oban, who works for Dawnfresh

from Lochcarron, and finally, the only group entry in the category, Ullapool high school.

The awards ceremony takes place on Thursday March 3.

This year's judging panel of influential figures from across the land-based and aquaculture sectors consists of Ray Jones, former chairman of Scotland Food and Drink, agriculture and rural affairs journalist Erika Hay, Keith Paterson of Forestry Commission Scotland, farmer Keith Redpath, Lisa Connell of the Scottish Salmon Company and Rebecca Dawes of the

Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs.

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[www.lantra.co.uk/scotland](http://www.lantra.co.uk/scotland)

Mull to open homes to refugee children

A CALL by Mull Community Council to bring children to the islands from some of the world's most war-torn countries may become reality as Scotland appeals for children to be brought to safety.

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Bumpy ride due to Storm Henry

ARGYLL and Bute Council bosses say fixing potholes on the road outside Oban high school has been halted due to bad weather.

Social media has been inundated with complaints about the roads in Oban, especially the bumpy section at the traffic lights outside the school.

The work was originally scheduled to be carried out at the start of the week, but was postponed due to storm Henry. Work will now get under way when the weather permits.

This brought a favourable response from retired school teacher Rona MacKenzie who numbered John among her former pupils at Bowmore.

Club member Moira MacGillivray saw to the verse speaking and Jack Prentice praised all participants and endured that the glasses' content did not fall below the recommended level.

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Tel: 01496 810 658

The hoteliers generously

Hugh Smith's letter from ISLAY

Remembering Roy Cameron

THOSE in Highland and Gaelic circles, and Ilich in particular, were truly sorry to learn of the death of Roy (Robert) M Cameron in Kilmarnock's Crosshouse Hospital on January 11. He was 87 years of age and had been unwell for several months.

Although not born on Islay, he was of Port Charlotte stock as his mother was one of the Mackenzie family who operated garage and transport services on the island over many decades.

This family tradition is continued by Roy's cousin John at his Gleneedale garage and engineering works.

Roy received his schooling on the island and, after National Service, he was to spend the

majority of his working life in personnel management.

He spent 25 years in this field at Hysters Ltd in Irvine and during that time he was responsible for personnel matters in Scotland, Holland, Ireland and at the company's head office in London. He also served a three-year period as chairman of the West of Scotland Institute of Personnel Managers.

After retiring in 1989 he became a consultant with Prestwick Circuits before enrolling as a mature student at Glasgow University from where he graduated as a Master of Arts with distinction in Celtic History, Philosophy and Gaelic.

He was a faithful committee member of the Glasgow Islay Association and served as its president from 1993 to 1996. He chaired the annual gathering in 1999 and wrote the association's history to coincide with its 150th anniversary celebrations in 2012.

Roy lived in Stewarton in Ayrshire for more than 50 years and ran the Kilmarnock branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach for more than 10 years, mounting some splendid monthly ceilidhs. He was also an active member and elder at Stewarton's St Columba's Parish church and served as its session clerk for 14 years.

It was here that a service celebrating Roy's life was held on January 25 prior to a cremation at Holmsford Bridge near Dregthorn.

Among those mourning Roy most keenly are his actor son Robin, daughter-in-law Kirsty, daughter Neilian and grandchildren Ewan, Duncan and Katie. Roy's other son Dr Alistair died tragically in 1994.

We will all miss this genial and kindly Ileach along with

his gentle ways and welcoming smile.

Roy's passing leaves the world a poorer place but we who are left are enriched by the memory of his friendship, kindness and integrity.

'Is maith, a dheadh sheirbhich fhirinnich'. (Well done, good and faithful servant).

Rabbie's lunch

MEMBERS of the Port Mòr lunch club held their own tribute to our national bard at a Burns lunch held at Port Charlotte on January 28.

The proceedings were affably chaired by Fergus Muir who also sang with his Gaelic choir colleague David Pomeroy.

The 'great chieftain' was carried in by chef Paul Graham, led by piper James MacEachern, and was lustily addressed by

the knife-wielding Seonaid Baker.

David MacIntosh offered the Selkirk Grace and everyone enjoyed the quality fare provided by Paul and Joan Graham from Bruichladdich's 'Taigh Osda'.

The hoteliers generously



Port Mòr lunch club enjoyed a lunch to celebrate the Bard.

gifted the purvey to the club in memory of Paul's mother, who died last year and was a stalwart member of the Rhinns group.

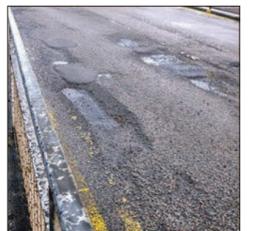
I had the pleasure of proposing the Immortal Memory and John MacIntyre was in top form as he honoured the Toast to the Lassies.

This brought a favourable response from retired school teacher Rona MacKenzie who numbered John among her former pupils at Bowmore.

Club member Moira MacGillivray saw to the verse speaking and Jack Prentice praised all participants and endured that the glasses' content did not fall below the recommended level.

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Tel: 01496 810 658

The hoteliers generously



Potholes by Oban high school.

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LORN lines



Jessie, Kathleen and Tina receive the donation from Iain Blair Simmonds. toScheque01

Legion backs Oban charity

HOPE Kitchen was given a £150 donation from the Oban Royal British Legion to help with running costs.

Iain Blair Simmonds, chairman of Oban Royal British Legion, presented the cheque to founder Jessie MacDonald and volunteers Kathleen and Tina.

Mr Blair Simmonds said: 'We heard about Hope Kitchen giving out 190 meals at Christmas and felt we had to support them.' Ms MacDonald added: 'We worked 12 hours on Christmas eve. As soon as donations were coming in they were going out again to people who needed them.'

Home-Start Burns' supper

HOME-START Lorne held its most successful Burns supper at the Waterfront Fishhouse restaurant in Oban recently.

The 80 people present helped to raise £1,300 for Home-Start while enjoying a supper of mini haggis pies, venison sausage casserole and ginger and treacle tart.

Master of ceremonies Jack Dignan kept the audience entertained during an evening of fun, which also paid tribute to the Scottish bard.

John Archbold, from Mull, gave an informative Toast to the Immortal Memory, outlining Burns' life with well-chosen lines of poetry, and young Alice Needham confidentially addressed the haggis. By popular demand, Willie Cameron, now in Balloch, again gave his riveting delivery of Tam O'Shanter.

North Connel minister Rev Jeff McCormick gave an entertaining Toast to the Lassies, and his wife Fiona gave an equally entertaining and robust reply.

David Condie of Kilchrenan gave a well-balanced Toast to the Land We Live In demonstrating diversity in the land and its people. Kate MacPherson and Gregor Macdonald played the pipes for the event.

Home-Start Lorne's volunteers offer practical and emotional support to help parents give their children the best possible start in life. The charity is running a course for new volunteers in February. If anyone is interested in being a volunteer please contact Aileen Binner on 01631 566749.

Head takes to social media in push to find teachers

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk



Head teacher Peter Bain

A TEACHER shortage in Oban high school has sparked an appeal by the head in a bid to attract mathematicians and biologists to the town.

While all schools in Scotland are suffering due to a lack of available staff in particular subject areas, rural areas have been worst hit, with vacancies being left unfilled for long periods of time.

But Oban head teacher Peter Bain wants to attract people, not only to the high school, but to the life that teaching and living in the West Highlands can bring.

Joining him in the campaign, parents whose children attend the primary Gaelic Medium Unit in Oban are also con-

cerned that a long-term vacancy in the primary school has remained empty and are using their contacts to try to find a replacement.

Mr Bain shared his staffing problems in order that town-folk would pass on the appeal to their friends and relatives in the

hope that any teachers among them might consider moving to the area.

In a social media post, the football-playing head teacher said: 'I would be grateful if everyone could share so we can reach as many potential excellent teachers as possible.'

'Oban high is a large, successful school with one of the broadest curriculum in Scotland.'

'It is innovative, vibrant and full of caring and friendly staff and pupils. It lies in the heart of one of the most beautiful parts of the world.'

'Have a look at our Facebook page and see the wealth of talent in the school and the beautiful countryside on our doorstep.'

'We have our own airport, train station and ferry port, so please feel free to visit us.'

'We are now in need of a maths teacher. This is a full-time permanent position. For information, please call the head teacher.'

In another post, Mr Bain called for help in finding cover for a biology teacher post.

Argyll and Bute Council is currently advertising 16 posts for education staff, including a chemistry teacher in Lochgilphead, primary teachers at Kilmolan and St Columba's in Oban.

Michael Russell was full of praise for the move, saying: 'This is a great community initiative and could be used more widely. Other communities in Argyll have used similar methods to recruit new GPs and the power of social media – and the attractions of Oban – will, I am sure, prove effective.'

Reformers set out new budget plan

ALTERNATIVE budget proposals to Argyll and Bute Council's service choices have been put forward by the authority's opposition reform group, writes Louise Glen.

The group includes councillors Vivien Dance, Michael Breslin and Bruce Marshall.

Mr Breslin explained: 'Council officers have still to make some final comments on technical aspects of our budget but we released this now because the broad thrust of our proposals will not alter.'

'It is also released now to allow anyone reading it to comment on it as there is time to amend it before the council meeting on February 11, where the council budget will be agreed.'

'The council's service choices process is widely accepted as being flawed.'

'Audit Scotland criticised it in its recent Best Value report.'

'The council administration's budget proposals will be based on that flawed and visionless process. Our view is that their proposals will be damaging to our area.'

The group's alternative budget proposes radical reform of the council by:

- Decentralising the council to the four area committees thereby returning decision making and service delivery to a local level.

- Reducing the corporate management costs of the council by some £1.4m.

- Reducing unnecessary travel to and from Kilmory through decentralisation and a greatly increased use of technology.

- Initiating a ground-up review of all budgets from April this year by involving local staff, service users and customers, the businesses and people of Argyll and Bute.

- Moving the council over the next year to a position where year-on-year cuts after that period will not be necessary based on current forecasts.

Councillor Breslin added: 'The reduction in funding means we need to save £10 million plus in the coming year.'

'Our budget achieves this.'

Make a wish on moonbow over Mull



This photograph was taken and sent in by reader Cheryl Callow. She said: 'I took this shot of a moonbow over Loch Cuin at Dervaig on the isle of Mull on Saturday evening [January 23] at 7.40pm. Most people don't see this in their life time.'

Council chief to head up COSLA

THE CHIEF Executive of Argyll and Bute Council has sent a message to the council's 4,000 employees, following the news that she has been appointed head of COSLA, one of Scotland's most influential political bodies.

Mrs Loudon, who has been with Argyll and Bute Council for eight years, will take up her post in May. She said: 'I am grateful for all the work, progress and successes we have delivered together in the seven years that I have been with Argyll and Bute Council.'

'Argyll and Bute is an amazing area and I am honoured to have had the opportunity to contribute to building the prosperous future it deserves.'

'This council benefits from hard working, skilled and dedicated employees and I know you will continue to achieve change where it is needed.'

'There is a lot of work still to be done before I leave in May, but I wanted to thank you for all we have been able to achieve together.'

Parking powers could be devolved

POWERS over parking on pavements could be devolved to the Scottish Parliament.

Labour has tabled an amendment to the Scotland Bill, which is currently going through the House of Lords, to ensure offences in relation to parking at dropped kerbs and double parking will be the responsibility of the Scottish Government.

Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland Ian Murray said: 'Devolving competency over pavement parking to the Scottish Parliament will greatly enhance the protections afforded to Scottish pedestrians, particularly those at greater risk, such as parents with pushchairs, older pedestrians and the visually impaired.'

Stuart Hay, director of the charity Living Street Scotland, said: 'We hope to see an amendment before March. This will give Police Scotland and councils the power they need to keep Scotland's pavements clear of obstructions.'

Affordable home subsidy on the rise

SUBSIDIES that help councils and social landlords keep rents low are being increased following recommendations from an expert group.

Grant subsidies from the Scottish Government have been extended by up to £14,000 and there are also incentives for homes that meet a high green standard.

Housing Minister Margaret Burgess said: 'Housing is at the heart of our ambitions to create a fairer and prosperous country, and councils and registered social landlords will play a critical role in realising that.'

She continued: 'Our new target will be to deliver at least 50,000 affordable homes, which will be backed by more than £3 billion of investment. The new target is a 67 per cent increase in affordable housing supply, with 70 per cent of the new target being for social rent.'

Trial date set for Oban man

AN OBAN man appeared at the town's sheriff court on Monday and denied breaking into cars in the town.

Stuart Andrew Wilson, 41, of 15 Corran Brae, Dunollie, denies four charges all said to have taken place between January 20 and 21 in the town – attempting to force open a locked car with intent to steal at a guest house on Albert Road; being found in the curtilage of the guest house without lawful authority; forcing open a car

on Benavullin Road and stealing a sat-nav and a set of keys, and forcing open another car on the same road and stealing a car radio, an iPod nano and a pair of sunglasses.

Wilson will stand trial on February 29.

Case continued

A 22-YEAR-OLD man of no fixed abode appeared before Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, accused of possessing heroin with intent to supply at a bar in the town on January 31.

Sean Michael Reilly's case was continued without plea until February 3.

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If you have any energy query, contact Alienergy for FREE and IMPARTIAL advice on how to maximise income and save energy. In some cases, we can offer a free home visit.

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# Your by-election candidates

Four people will be vying for your vote at the Oban North and Lorn by-election on February 18. Here, they each offer their personal statements, outlining why you should vote for them



**Kieran Green**  
Speaking regularly to people around Oban and Lorn, I know there are many issues locally. Too often young people leave

because finding jobs that match their skills can be difficult. To prevent this we must use opportunities such as TIF to encourage new and existing businesses to invest, provide apprenticeships, and create a broader range of jobs here. Affordable and social housing are also in short supply. People are waiting years to be allocated a house or flat and I will support more housing being built for those in need. Broadband speeds continue to be a problem for many households and businesses. I will push together with community groups for more cooperation

from BT and the government to address this, and to extend the areas covered by superfast broadband. Parking in Oban remains difficult. There aren't any easy or cheap ways to fix this, but we must start planning now for enough spaces for people to access businesses and facilities. I will fight to protect vital front line public services. However, with government funding falling, and council tax frozen for the last eight years there is not enough money to pay for our roads, schools and social care services. The council needs to be given the freedom to set

council tax at an appropriate level without fear of penalty. I am now standing as an Independent because it is clear that tackling local issues will require working across political lines. My experience includes being a community councillor in Oban and a trade union steward. I work as a computer technician in Oban high school, which I would resign from if elected to work full time as a councillor representing the area. To support affordable housing, protect front line services and encourage investment please vote for me on Thursday February 18.



**Julie McKenzie**  
I live in Oban with my partner and two young sons. This area has been home to me and my family for generations and growing up on the Isle of Seil has given me a great understanding of the things that matter here.

I have worked in the financial and voluntary sector as a manager and drug worker. I am also an Oban community councillor. Recently, I led a high-profile community campaign supporting parents of disabled children in their opposition to Argyll and Bute Council's proposed 45 per cent cut to Additional Support Needs staff.

The campaign attracted the attention of the national media and we won the day when the council dropped the ill-considered proposal. I also lead the anti-dog fouling community initiative in Oban.

I believe that it's time for change at Kilmory.

For too long we've been conditioned to think that this is as good as it gets – I do not believe this to be true. I will bring a fresh approach to local politics by encouraging community engagement. I want your views to count, so I will hold regular surgeries throughout this vast ward, in order to listen to and be accountable to you.

I share your concerns about our area: our roads, the empty shops, ferries and public transport, digital connectivity, housing, cut backs in employment and education and business rents increasing against a backdrop of ever-deeper austerity cuts.

I will fight hard to oppose the proposed savage council cuts to front line services and staff and also vigorously oppose any action that damages the most vulnerable in our communities.

You have my promise that I will do my utmost to represent you, and ensure that the voices of the Oban North and Lorn communities are heard clearly in the council chamber.

# Colleagues show support for Yvonne

FORMER colleagues of the fiancée of an Argyll man imprisoned in an Indian jail have spoken out in support of her campaign to free him.

Yvonne McHugh, who was reunited with fiancé Billy Irving last month after he was sentenced to five years' imprisonment, has received almost 350,000 signatures on a petition she created.

Billy and six other Brits were charged with breaching arms laws after the anti-piracy ship he was working on strayed into Indian waters with weapons aboard.

Helen McGowan, who is the store manager at Boots in Oban's George Street where Ms McHugh worked before moving to Glasgow from Connel, said: 'This is not from a Boots angle, but from a personal angle.'

'Yvonne was a lovely girl and we really admire her tenacity and strength throughout this. She was really important and was valued by everyone.'

'Even with everything going on over the last year, it didn't affect her work. We would love to have Yvonne back on our team. She was really enthusiastic and always really positive. The way things have turned out is really sad. Anything local people can do to help would be really appreciated.'

Catherine MacLellan, who also works at Boots, said: 'The campaign she is doing is absolutely fantastic. If it was any of us, Yvonne would be out there supporting us too, that's the type of person she is.'

Billy's father, Jim Irving, posted on the social media page 'Bring Billy Back' that Yvonne had surprised her ex-soldier fiancé with a visit, and that the six imprisoned men were in good health and pulling together as a group.

He said that even though there was no requirement for the men to work, Billy was working in the prison bakery making cakes and pies.



Yvonne McHugh, far right, with some of her colleagues from Boots during happier times.



**Pat Tyrrell**  
I am delighted to stand as the Scottish Green Party candidate in the Oban North and

Lorn by-election. I care deeply about Argyll, its people and its natural assets. I know that we can all work together to deliver a fairer and better life for all of us wherever we live.

If elected as your councillor, I will bring a fresh commitment to making Argyll and Bute the best place to live.

I have long experience of working very hard as a nurse and as a public servant dedicating my career to sustaining and improving healthcare for people who live in remote and rural areas. I have deeply held values of fairness, inclusion and justice; I believe that our

services must be strong on listening to and caring for those who need support in our communities.

As your councillor I will dedicate myself to working with local communities to sustain and develop health and social care and housing services for people throughout Oban and Lorn; services which help and support those who need care at all times of their lives.

My three children have benefited hugely from growing up in Argyll. I want to make sure that all of our children and young people continue to have wide-ranging opportunities

that allow them to make the most of their lives – opportunities which enable them to live and work in Argyll when they complete their education and training.

We live in the most beautiful place in Scotland and I want to make the most of our natural assets by building and growing sustainable energy solutions, community-led programmes to improve transport and creating new jobs and businesses that support and enhance our natural environment.

Vote Scottish Greens for a fairer future for all. [www.scottishgreens.org.uk](http://www.scottishgreens.org.uk)



**Andrew Vennard**  
If elected, I will pledge to work with other councillors, commu-

nity groups, local businesses and residents, for the benefit of the area.

I believe that the priorities for the ward include: completing the provision of superfast fibre broadband and improving 4G mobile provision for the area, as these are essential for both job creation and retention in the area; ensuring that healthcare initiatives such as the provision of maternity scanning and NHS dentistry at the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital in Oban are general; that there is additional investment in the local road network, in

particular the A82, A85, and A816, which is necessary to improve road safety; that the rural primary schools in the area continue to be retained; and that long-term projects for the growth of the area, such as the Lorn Arc development plan, and Oban CHORD are utilised to their full potential.

It is clearly the case that some difficult choices will need to be made by Argyll and Bute Council in the coming financial years due to the funding arrangements for local government in Scotland, which have been enacted by the Scottish

Parliament in recent years.

I will try and work with fellow councillors in the Oban, Lorn, and the isles area, as well as the other councillors in Argyll and Bute to try to secure the best deal for the area.

I would also campaign to allow residents to pay their council tax to Argyll and Bute Council in 12 monthly instalments, rather than the 10 months instalments at present.

Though this is a small measure, it would help some households with their budgeting.

I pledge to be a hard-working and accessible councillor.

# No matter where in the world you live, you can learn gaelic with us!

SLEAT in the south of Skye is home to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture which offers a unique learning environment.

Established in 1973, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig is the only college of its kind offering further and higher education courses through the medium of Gaelic. Courses on offer include full-time and part-time, undergraduate and postgraduate, distance-learning courses and short courses.

The College's short course programme has greatly expanded over the years and attracts over 700 people of all ages and nationalities each year. These 5-day and weekend courses, mainly held during Easter and Summer, are a great way to meet new people, learn the Gaelic language and enjoy a good music session or two on campus, at the heart of a warm and friendly community.

**TRADITIONAL**  
In addition to Gaelic tuition, there are also opportunities to take courses in traditional music, step-dancing, art, drama and photography.

For those who have completed a Gaelic short course at the College and want to progress further or for those who want to learn the language in the comfort of their own homes, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's distance learning programme, An Cùrsa



Inntrigidh, is hugely effective. An Cùrsa Inntrigidh is an award-winning course which has been designed to enable people to become fluent in the language and to progress to further study if desired. It is a supported course for complete beginners and learners with a little Gaelic, with emphasis on speaking and listening skills, although reading and writing skills are also an important part of the course.

**GLOBAL INTEREST**  
The course attracts students from all over the world including Canada, the USA, Italy, Germany and Japan. The global interest in Gaelic is constantly growing and An Cùrsa Inntrigidh allows individuals the opportunity to learn Gaelic wherever they are in the world. The Gaelic culture is rich in traditions, song and music – themes that cross all geographical boundaries – and although students may be some distance apart, they get the chance to have contact with each other during weekly telephone tutorials and optional weekend schools. Students can access course materials online and these consist of study workbooks, sound files and tutorial workbooks.

**CONTACT US**  
For a full list of all the courses provided by Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and further information, please visit our website at [www.smo.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk). Thigibh a chèilidh oirnn!



## CÙRSAICHEAN GOIRID 2016 EASTER SHORT COURSES

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Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on the beautiful Isle of Skye offers a unique learning experience and a great variety of 5-day Gaelic and Music courses during the Easter and Summer breaks. For a full list of all courses, please visit our website and come and join us in 2016.



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Gaelic song with Christine Primrose

• Danna Ceum le Sophie Stephenson  
Step dancing with Sophie Stephenson

• Fìdheall le Gabe McVarish  
Fiddle with Gabe McVarish

• Gàidhlig 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9  
Gaelic 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9

**04-08/04/2016**

• Gàidhlig 2, 4, 6, 8 & 10  
Gaelic levels 2, 4, 6, 8 & 10

• Cùrsa ùrachaidh do luchd-labhairt na Gàidhlig  
Refresher course for Gaelic speakers with Alec MacDonald

• Beartas cainnt le Iain Urquhart  
Beartas cainnt with John Urquhart

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Digital Photography with Caillean Maclean

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## Man admits assaulting police during drugs chase

A MAN from Mull snatched back a small packet of cocaine seized by police officers and made a run for it, Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday.

But he fell over and put up a fight, injuring the male and female officers who were trying to arrest him.

The small silver foil packaged contained 0.4g of cocaine worth £20.

Robert Alexander Clark, of Taoslin House, Bunessan, admitted possessing cocaine, and two counts of assaulting a constable in the execution of their duty.

Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty said the officers had seen Clark, aged 31, having a disagreement with another man on Shore Street, Oban, on the night of November 17 last year and went over to talk to the two of them.

The officers saw Clark take a small silver packet from his pocket and took it from him.

'The accused snatched this from the police and ran off, but he tripped and fell,' said the fiscal. 'He struggled violently and during the course of which the police officers ended up on the ground and he repeatedly lashed out at the officers.'

When charged Clark said he was 'really sorry'.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC deferred passing sentence until March 1 for a criminal justice and social work report to be prepared; the court will hear from Clark's defence agent then.

The sheriff warned Clark: 'I am considering all options.'

Oban Times  
newsdesk  
01631  
568000

# Benbecula dad's Facebook weather 'rant' goes viral

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A HOUSE husband from the Western Isles has gone global with his observations on the current weather in Scotland.

Ewan Cameron, who is originally from Harris and who now lives with his family in Crea-gorry, Benbecula, has taken the long view on the winter storms.

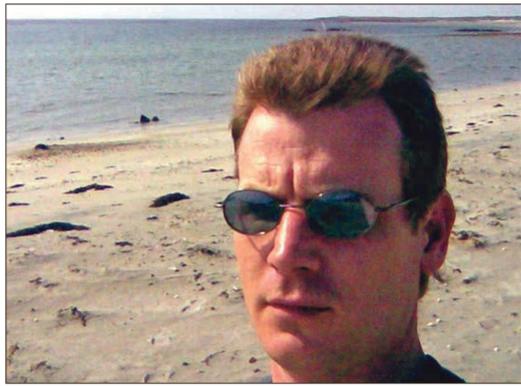
In what has been called 'a rant' and 'common sense' in equal measure, he says he is overwhelmed by the response of his 'winter statement' as it has gone all around the world from his social media page.

Mr Cameron said: 'As you may have gathered I'm more than a little surprised by the reaction.'

'I only really have Facebook to keep in touch with family and friends, and was expecting a handful of likes from a few people who it may have made smile.'

'I have seen it described as a 'rant' and I hope it doesn't come across too 'ranty' as that wasn't the intention, I was more smiling at those things which make us all, including myself, human.'

In his post on Facebook, Mr



Ewan Cameron's views on the weather have gone global.

Cameron said: 'Instead of all wasting time checking the likes of XC and the Met Office continually, I propose that the following statement should be issued every year on the first of October.'

'You live in the Western Isles. It is winter. It will be windy, sometimes very windy.'

'Please remove or tie down

trampolines, garden furniture and anything else liable to blow away.'

'Your electricity supply will be disrupted on occasion. It is a good idea to stock up on torch batteries, camping gas cylinders etc before the day following the first gale as your local hardware store will have none left then.'

'At least one of your FB friends will post 'OMG, I thought the house was going to fall down' after every gale. Unfollow them, they are a drama queen.'

'Do not put your blue bin out five hours before the time you know the bin lorry appears.'

'Do not attempt to keep your blue bin upright by placing a stone the size of your hand on top. Anything smaller than a boulder is inadequate.'

'At least one of your FB friends will post 'OMG, I thought the house was going to fall down' after every gale. Unfollow them, they are a drama queen.'

'Do not expect 'proper' snow like you had when you were a kid

and which you could make snowmen out of. We don't get it any more and if we did you probably wouldn't like it anyway.'

'Do expect horrible wet icy sleety hail slush crap that gets down the back of your neck.'

'Just when you think you've had enough, and moving to the mainland seems like a good idea, one of two things will happen.'

'First option is that somewhere in England will get severe floods. You will appreciate that at least we don't get our homes half filled with raw sewage every winter and really we're doing okay.'

'Second option is that for one day, the wind will stop and the clouds will part. The mountains will be crystal clear, the lochs and sea like mirrors.'

'The sunrise and sunset will be spectacular, you will see all the stars and maybe even the Northern Lights. All gales will be a distant memory and you will remember that you do indeed live in God's Own Country.'

'This forecast will next be updated on April 1, when the winds start to calm and the rainy season starts.'

'The sunrise and sunset will be spectacular, you will see all the stars and maybe even the Northern Lights. All gales will be a distant memory and you will remember that you do indeed live in God's Own Country.'

'This forecast will next be updated on April 1, when the winds start to calm and the rainy season starts.'

'Do not expect 'proper' snow like you had when you were a kid

## Dangerous driving not proven

A 59-YEAR-OLD farm manager, well known in the sheepdog trialling world, who was charged with dangerous driving, had the offence found not proven on Monday at Oban Sheriff Court.

'I am not satisfied beyond reasonable doubt,' said Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC after hearing from a police officer and seeing evidence from a dashboard camera on board the traffic officer's car.

James Wilson Ogston, 59, of Innishewen Cottage, Luib, Crianlarich, denied driving dangerously on the A82 by overtaking a large HGV and a car on a right-hand bend while he did not have a view of the road ahead.

'It was a blind bend with no views because of a large embankment,' a traffic constable said in court.

Ogston, who was on his way home from judging a trial near Strontian, told the court that his driving was not dangerous.

He said: 'I was only doing 50mph and I was watching the road all the time. I was following in convoy, I was the last person to overtake. I let the other cars overtake and I was quite sure the road was clear.'

Sheriff Anderson said the case was not proven.

## Debt support

MSP FOR Na h-Eileanan an Iar Alasdair Allan has encouraged people to take advantage of support available for anyone struggling with winter heating costs.

Charities such as Step Change debt charity has free advice available to those who need it.

Mr Allan said: 'Falling into debt can happen to anyone and nobody should suffer in silence.'

'There is a range of help and advice for any constituents having problems paying their energy or other household bills.'

'I'd strongly encourage anyone who is worried to get in touch with the Scottish Gas Energy Trust to get help and advice.'

## Blaes pitch changes

THE red blaes pitch at Mossfield in Oban will soon be turned green following a decision to transform it into a grass pitch.

The move comes as part of the planning requirements for the new Oban high school and the council's sport pitch and facilities plan.

The use of this area as a grass pitch will not effect the use of the MS Centre, the neighbouring car park or Mossfield Stadium.

Argyll and Bute Council says it is expecting goals to be provided and prices to use the facility will be subject to the charging policy.

## Man jailed for posting explicit pictures

A 39-YEAR-OLD man was jailed for 12 months at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday for posting sexually explicit photographs of his former partner and another woman online.

The picture of his former partner was sent to her son.

John Devaney said his life had hit rock bottom when the couple split after seven-and-a-half years and he had turned to alcohol and cocaine.

Devaney lived at addresses in Oban and Connel, but has recently been living near his family in Paisley.

He admitted sending text messages to his former partner, who lives in the Oban area on December 2, 2014 which were grossly offensive or of an

indecent, obscene or menacing character; that he swore and made offensive and sexual remarks in the messages, and threatened to post sexual photographs of her on the internet.

He also admitted that the following day he intentionally caused the women's son to look at a sexual image of his mother by sending the image to him online.

Devaney also admitted breaching a condition of his bail by having mobile phones capable of accessing the internet.

And he further admitted that between April 30 and May 3 last year he sent a threatening letter to his former partner; posted a sexually explicit image

of another female member of the family online and also entered his former partner's home uninvited and refused to leave when repeatedly asked.

Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty said: 'The complainer wholly accepts the photographs were consensual but never given consent to share.'

Devaney's defence agent, Jane Thompson told Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC: 'My client tells me these types of images were shared with the couples in the past.'

'Well, frankly, more fool them,' said the sheriff.

Ms Thomson added that her client admitted it was 'disgusting behaviour'. She said he had taken the

break-up badly and was aggrieved that some of his belongings were still in the home he had left. She told the court he had never been in trouble before the break-up and had resorted to drinking heavily and cocaine use.

He is now clean of drugs, self-employed, living near his family in Paisley and building a business as a self-employed courier.

Sheriff Anderson sentenced Devaney to a total of 12 months in prison; she had called his behaviour 'pig-ignorant'.

'This was to my mind a persistent course of criminal conduct, despite the opportunities given by the court and the warnings,' the sheriff said.

## Anger at new camping laws

BYELAWS preventing people from camping on some parts of Loch Lomond have been approved.

Aileen McLeod, minister for environment climate change and land reform gave the go ahead after Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority Board said it would help reduce anti-social behaviour in the park.

Ramblers Scotland said: 'We are aware of very strong feelings on this matter from our members, visitors to the park and others enjoying outdoor recreation in Scotland. The vast

majority of people who camp in the park and across Scotland do so responsibly and they will now be penalised by this bylaw.

We believe there is existing legislation which should be properly implemented to tackle any problems in the park.'

The Mountaineering Council of Scotland is also disappointed. CEO David Gibson said: 'This decision goes against the rights to responsible access provided in the Act. We will continue to work with the National Park Authority and others to protect the rights of walkers and climbers.'

## POLICE FILES with Sgt Alan Moore



Iain MacKinnon, Argyll and Bute Council environmental health manager, left, talks to divisional commander Grant Mandors about the work of Loch Watch. 07\_106grantmandors01

## New chief vows more community policing

DIVISIONAL commander Grant Mandors of Police Scotland says officers on the streets will become a normal sight under the new chief constable of Police Scotland, Phil Gormley.

The newly-appointed commander said he was keen to uphold the traditional values of the community police officer.

Mr Mandors was in Oban to meet various local groups and officials.

He heard about various

initiatives and gave his commitment to listening to the community.

Mr Mandors said: 'The Shop a Dealer campaign has seen a return to intelligence-led policing. The response to asking for support has meant Oban's team has increased the number of people on drug-related offences and reduced the quantity of drugs on the street.'

'I would like to praise the community for all the support.'

ADVERTORIAL

## THE FAMOUS 99P SALE AT GORDONS CHEMISTS

The famous 99p sale is on again at your local Gordons Chemists with hundreds of your favourite top brand products flying off the shelves at just 99p.

If money's a little too tight to mention at the moment, you can go on a spending spree at Gordons Chemists and still have change from a pound on all their 99p sale items.

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Our baby range includes Johnson's Baby Oil with 50 per cent extra free and Huggies Baby wipes at just 99p. We have a large household range of 99p products as well, including Domestos Bleach and Cif Floor Cleaner. Airwick Aerosols are also only 99p.

Right Guard and Sanex Antiperspirants are also less than a pound and so too is Radox shower gel. Not forgetting the sensitive shavers among us - Gillette's foam for sensitive skin takes the chore out of shaving with this bargain price!

With nine stores across Scotland, the leading independent pharmacy chain is on your doorstep and you can also shop online at www.gordonsdirect.com. Become a fan on facebook at www.facebook.com/gordonsdirect and follow us on twitter @gordonsdirect



Some of the items available in the 99p sale at Gordons Chemist.

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100's of your favourite top brand products...



\*Offers available from 1st - 27th Feb



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## Furnace

ARGYLL and Bute MSP Michael Russell has given his backing to residents of the village of Furnace on the A83 in Argyll, who have submitted a petition to the Transport Minister demanding action after a spate of accidents on a stretch of the road between the village and Allt Na Ceardaich.

Furnace Community Council has been calling for a 40mph limit on this stretch but despite its attempts, and approaches made previously by the MSP, Transport Scotland is continuing to insist that the limit must remain at 50mph.

Speaking after passing the petition to Derek MacKay, minister for transport and the islands, Mr Russell said: 'This is a long-running dispute and, whilst it continues, lives remain at risk.'

'There have been a number of accidents on the stretch in question and people who use the road and the pavement as well as those who live adjacent to the accident blackspots are going in daily fear of their lives.'

'However, despite that, Transport Scotland remains intransigent.'

'Now 122 people living in the village - a sizeable part of the population - have signed a petition organised by the community council which also indicates that most people want a further reduction to 30mph in the village itself.'

'I hope the minister will realise that the strength of feeling on this matter reflects genuine concern about the possibility of injury and fatalities if the current limits remain and will, therefore, act quickly to enforce a change of heart by Transport Scotland.'

## Coll

COLL community centre An Cridhe has a host of events planned for the remainder of the winter.

Events start today (Thursday) with a seniors' coffee morning from 10.30am till noon.

This will be followed on Wednesday March 2 with a tree planting workshop from 2pm till 3pm following the delivery of 400 trees for the grounds of An Cridhe.

Everyone is being encouraged to help in the tree planting on Saturday March 26 between 2pm and 5pm. For more information call Caroline on 01879 230000.

Organisers are also giving advance notice of the Coll Bird Festival from May 13 to 15.

This year's festival is slightly later than usual, so the chances of seeing as well as hearing a corncrake are high. It will be an opportunity to find out more about Coll's bird and wildlife.

There will be many events happening for all ages including guided walks, boat trips to Lunga, evening talks, a beach clean and a barbecue.

## Lochgilphead

PUPILS showcased their art work at the first exhibition hosted by a Mid Argyll school.

Three of Lochgilphead High School's Advanced Higher art students welcomed dozens of guests to view their work which was recently displayed in the corridor of the main hall.

Ellie Donald, 17, Rhianna Duff, 18, and Kelsey Campbell each plan to shape careers out of their crafty skills and will say farewell to Lochgilphead later this year before they head off to follow their dreams.

Despite there being just three compared to a strong 10 entrants last year, art teacher Neil Cinnamond is not worried. He said: 'This is normal. It was quite unusual to have as many entries as we did last year. This year the students are dedicated and are never out of the department - during and even after school. And they are all planning to go to art school, which is quite different from the group last year, of which only three went to art school.'

'This is good for them because they get to put their work up on the walls and see each piece and how they relate to each other. They never get the chance at this and are always going to other people's exhibitions. This is their own show and it's brilliant for them.'

## Portree

ISLANDERS will be given the chance to discuss any problems they are having with their broadband with BT.

BT's bosses will be attending a meeting at Portree Community Centre on Skye tomorrow (Friday).

This comes after Ian Blackford, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, raised the issue with the internet provider.

## Campbeltown

A PETITION against proposed cuts in the service choices consultation by Argyll and Bute Council saw more than 2,000 people sign.

Handing over the petition, Councillor Donald Kelly from Kintyre said he had managed to double the number of people consulted on the cuts compared to the local authority.



## Dunbeg youngsters pay tribute to national bard

Dunbeg Primary School pupils paid tribute to Scotland's national bard when they held their recent Burns supper. The primary seven pupils, along with class teacher Miss Deirdre Fraser, organised the event. Pupils recited the Selkirk Grace then four of the school's chanter players piped in the haggis. Two of the primary seven pupils were chosen to address it. The Burns lunch ended with toasts to the laddies and lassies, and the singing of Auld Lang Syne.



## Burns afternoon fun at Strath of Appin primary

Ellis Carmichael and Ken Oxland from Oban Burns Club joined staff, pupils and children from the pre-five unit at Strath of Appin Primary School to celebrate Scotland's bard Robert Burns. After a traditional lunch of haggis, neeps and tatties, the guests enjoyed an afternoon of entertainment provided by the children. The children recited poems and sang songs in Scots, including the Shooglie Wooglie. On display was a selection of impressive drawings and paintings by the children, depicting some of Burns' well-known works.



## Inveraray

A LARGE crowd made their way to the Inveraray Inn for the Inveraray and District Accordion and Fiddle Club's first session of the year.

The event took place on February 13, with guest band Robert Nairn Trio, which included Robert on the button accordion, brother Alan on drums, both of whom are from Acharacle, and Ross Wilson from Bunessan, Mull, on the keyboard.

They performed alongside unexpected guest Mòd gold medallist Robert Robertson of the band Skipinnish.

Robert 'hitched' a lift with two members of the trio and entertained the audience with his vocals as well as some songs on the accordion.

Next week the club welcomes the return of the Ian Cathcart Trio as guest artistes.

## Win work with the Public Sector



Argyll and Bute Council has scheduled a series of workshops, over the coming months, to help local businesses tender for work with the Public Sector.

The Supplier Development Programme offers expert training, support and information to help businesses win work and grow their business. And best of all - it's completely FREE.

### Is the Public Sector for You?

24 February 2016, 10am-1pm - Level 1 (Introductory) workshop.

Are you ready to tender? This workshop will help you determine if your business is ready to start bidding. The workshop covers the tender process, Invitations to Tender, PreQualification Questionnaires, Public Contracts Scotland; Quick Quotes and OJEU; Partnering and subcontracting.

### Using Public Contracts Scotland and Other Portals

22 March 2016, 10am-1pm - Level 1 (Introductory) workshop

Public Contracts Scotland is the national public sector portal for Scotland. It lists opportunities for all public sector bodies and has a "Quick Quote" function for lower value contracts. This workshop will help you ensure you are comfortable using this site as well as other portals in the UK and Europe.

### Winning work through the supply chain

28 April 2016, 10am-1pm - Level 1 (Introductory) workshop.

Learn how to find and win sub-contracting work and how to get into the supply chain.

All workshops will be held at The Enterprise Centre, Kilmory, Lochgilphead

To register for any of these workshops either call Business Gateway on 01546 604555 or email [business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk) or visit [www.sdpScotland.co.uk](http://www.sdpScotland.co.uk)



## Pride at award of two new flags

THE HAVOC caused by storm 'Henry' on Monday wasn't enough to stop Barcaldine Primary School pupils showing off their new flags.

The school received its fifth Green Flag from Eco-Schools Scotland, which has recognised the school's achievements towards a sustainable lifestyle.

And they were also awarded a Keep

## Barcaldine

Scotland Beautiful flag to help remind the community not to litter. The children received the flags by working hard and showing Eco-Schools Scotland the breadth of work that they are currently doing or plan to do.

## Stronmilchan

THE B8077 Stronmilchan Road will be closed from March 14 to 28 to allow maintenance work to be carried out.

The closure, just east of the SSE sub-station, is required as overhead power cables need to be lowered. A diversion will be put in place via the A85

trunk road. Brian Rattray, technical officer for Argyll and Bute Council, said: 'We have received a request from Balfour Beatty, on behalf of SSE to close the B8077 Stronmilchan Road.'

## MORVERN lines

### Strontian's New York village housed lead mine employees

ACCORDING to my gazetteer, there are nine places in the UK called New York, none of them in Scotland.

This was not always the case. In 1729 the London-based York Buildings Company leased the Strontian lead mines and built a village which it named New York to house its 500 employees. This settlement, of which no trace now remains, other than as a name on a few contemporary maps, was on the north side of the Strontian River near Ariundle.



The village of New York, near Strontian, from a sketch dated 1733.

Pity the poor citizens of the other New York when their city was brought to a standstill recently by a blizzard. From all accounts the New Yorkers and their city council seem more able to cope with the inconvenience than we can.

It is often the case that whatever hits America we generally get the tail end of it. Should we experience the same heavy snowfalls, heaven help us.

Not long ago, a couple of hail showers and a few sea breezes virtually cut Morvern off from the rest of the world.

An invisible gritter ensued tricky driving conditions on the one and only road from Drimmin through the White Glen to Strontian; the liners on the Oban to Craignure route carrying mail and newspapers to Morvern were 'storm-bound' in Oban and, most frustratingly of all, the broadband connection went down and hasn't been fixed yet.

Subscribers who only use broadband now and again may say 'so what' but for the majority of those who rely on it for business and social media purposes, this was a major blow leading also to the loss of post office counter services and the closure of the only fuel pumps in Lochaline.

As everyone knows, most of the inhabitants of St Kilda were evacuated to Morvern in 1930 because their living conditions were felt not to meet those of a modern world.

There are no St Kildans left in Morvern now. If there were, one can imagine them petitioning the Scottish Government to take them back to their island home where they would undoubtedly be far better off in terms of communication.

At least their elected representatives in Holyrood and Westminster would take an interest in their trials and tribulations, which is more than can be said for ours at the moment, although I dare say with the Scottish elections looming we might witness a burst of activity.

AS TIME unwinds, I never cease to be amazed how often a chance comment or a passing conversation opens a door to the past.

A week ago I heard Fergie MacDonald, world famous band leader and the man from Moidart who popularised the West Highland-style of traditional Scottish dance music, reminiscing on Radio Scotland about his formative years.

One of Fergie's first gigs was held in Kinlochaline Hall, Ardtornish. What memories of that little building, which was demolished in the 1970s, must have flashed into the minds of so many people when they heard mention of it.

Built in 1913 by Gerard Craig Sellar, owner of Ardtornish Estate and Morvern's greatest benefactor, its whist drives, dances, concerts, bowling and debating competitions were so popular it would be no exaggeration to say it became the Albert Hall of Morvern.

It was an extraordinary social hub, drawing people from miles away, including Miss Flora Macrae, who lived at Eignaig, a lonely spot seven miles across the hill on the shores of Loch Linnhe.

Every month or so Flora would set off walking along the old bride path by way of Loch Tearnait to Achranich, round the head of Loch Aline and up by the ancient MacInnes keep to the hall. There she danced and socialised until the wee small hours before wending her way home arriving in time to milk the family cow as the sun rose over Appin. They were a strong and hardy race in these days!

The Morvern landscape has been shaped by the infamous 19th century clearances when a rich and independent Gaelic-speaking tenantry were turned out of their farms to make way for sheep.

We must never forget that period in the same way as we cannot gloss over the sacrifices made during the First and Second World wars.

There are times, however, when out of the chaos came good. Forced to leave their native land, it provided many with an opportunity to improve their lot which would have been denied to them had they remained around the shanty village of Lochaline, huddled together like Syrian and Iraqi immigrants.

The MacCalmans, Fergie MacDonald's extended family, are an excellent example.

When Thomas Valentine Smith of Ardtornish evicted them from their small holding above the village of Lochaline, three brothers, James, John and Duncan, took passage to America where, in time, their descendants numbered a surgeon general, a civil engineer in Salt Lake City, who built important bridges over the Mississippi River, the district attorney for the State of Montana, an inspector of hospitals, a minister of the United Free Church, a chaplain-general of the Cameronians and a Nuffield professor of psychiatry at the University of Leeds. Morvern's loss was certainly America's gain.

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## Magical Quidditch cup final trip for Kinlochleven pupils

IT WAS a magical time for pupils of Kinlochleven high school when they were invited to watch the Quidditch Scottish University Cup Final.

The Kinlochleven Midgees were the first Scottish Muggle Quidditch team and caught the eye of St Andrew's University Quidditch Team members, who asked them along to the final.

The match, between St Andrew's and Stirling and Edinburgh universities, was the pupils' first step into the Quidditch sporting world - made famous in the Harry Potter books - and they were able to pick up some tricks of the trade.

Fourth-year pupil Stewart Cameron (S4), was ecstatic about going. He said: 'I have always wanted to go to St Andrews and see the place,

but to go with the school to see one of their Quidditch matches was absolutely amazing.'

Connor Maclean (S1) reported on the trip.

He said: 'The match between Stirling and Edinburgh was dominated by Edinburgh as their chasers zoomed about the pitch scoring like crazy.'

'In the second match St Andrews played Stirling and the game was very tense. We almost got run over by the snitch!'

He added: 'After the matches, all the teams, the Kinlochleven Midgees included, stood by the goals and had a picture taken.'

'Just before the Midgees headed back home, they wrote a card to the teachers saying we are all very lucky to have you as our teachers.'

## TIMESLINE

### Glencoe Massacre memorial events

THE 324TH Glencoe Massacre ceremony will take place on Saturday February 13.

Organisers, The Glencoe Heritage Trust, Clan Donald Highlands and Islands and St Mary's Church, Glencoe, will welcome everyone who wishes to attend.

The church service starts at 11am, followed by a march from Bridge of Coe at noon for the ceremony.

The Rev Simon McKenzie, Lochgilphead, will officiate, with wreaths being laid by various organisations.

### New Fort hospital open 2019/2020

A NEW hospital for Fort William could open around 2019/2020.

The old Belford hospital in the town centre is to be replaced with a new building on the Blar Mor, next to the medical centre and new ambulance and police stations.

NHS Highland bosses are working towards a clinical model for the new hospital and have been meeting with community groups to see what they would like to see in the new hospital.

### Hundreds of new homes needed

AROUND 420 new homes are needed in Lochaber in the next five years.

A growing, as well as an ageing population mean more homes are needed in the area.

David Goldie, Highland Council's head of housing, gave a presentation to Lochaber District Partnership this week.

The properties needed include those for social rent, mid-market rent, private rent and homes to buy.



# Shock figures reveal extent of Lochaber fuel poverty misery

Over 66% of households struggle to pay bills, with more elderly dying in winter

CAREN MCPATE  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

AROUND two-thirds of households in Lochaber can't afford to heat their homes.

The shocking figures revealed that 66.3 per cent are living in fuel poverty and more pensioners die in the winter as a result.

Rising energy costs mean more people are struggling to pay their bills.

A study by Home Energy Scotland said cold and damp

homes affects all ages but particularly children and the elderly.

It can lead to circulatory diseases and respiratory illnesses and have a negative impact on mental health.

In 2013/14 there were 4,060 more deaths during winter in the UK.

In the Highland area, 50 per cent of households live in fuel poverty, with the figure standing at 36 per cent in Scotland.

Alan Grant, community

liaison officer with Home Energy Scotland Highlands and Islands, gave a presentation during a meeting of Lochaber District Partnership this week.

Members were left shocked at the findings.

Highland councillor Angela MacLean, has raised concerns.

She said: 'I go into homes where people have to put on an extra jumper to keep warm because they've been forced to turn the heating down.'

'Many people in the Highlands are struggling to pay

their energy bills and rather than helping, the Scottish Government seem happy to ignore these figures.

'By eradicating fuel poverty here, we would reduce the financial burden on the NHS, ensure our children have somewhere warm to do their homework and guarantee elderly people in our communities don't have to struggle to stay comfortable in their own homes.'

Home Energy Scotland - Highlands and Islands Ad-

vice provides free, impartial and expert advice.

There were 11,688 requests from residents in the Highland area up to March 2015, with 4,316 referrals made.

Scottish Liberal Democrat energy spokesman, Liam McArthur MSP, said: 'In 2016, the year fuel poverty is due to be eradicated in Scotland, no-one should have to make the choice between eating and heating because they cannot afford both.'

'These figures show major regional differences and a widening gap between urban areas and remote areas like our island communities, where fuel poverty and extreme fuel poverty levels have gone up substantially.'

The Scottish Government announced a new national fuel poverty scheme, Warmer Homes Scotland, last year.

It provides full support and advice from insulation to heating and domestic renewables.

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## Technology Matters with John Orr



### Change your password today

WE ALL log on to portals to pay bills and buy stuff both at home and in business. Online transactions are secure (look for the https and padlock icon) and it is important personal or business data necessary for these transactions stays hidden to all but you. There is a weak link right at the start of the online process and that is you, the computer operator. Typically you are required to log on to a portal and then the portal asks for a pre-arranged password to verify who you are. This is known as one factor authentication.

Criminals with computers can quickly run all sorts of combinations and crack a four-digit password in a few hours. In response to this weakness, passwords now typically have to be a minimum of 6 digits and maybe include a capital letter and a numeral. That makes for a difficult to remember recipe and we all tend to look for easy options, disregarding the security aspect.

Huge numbers of the public follow similar trends using passwords such as 'admin!', 'pa55w0rd' 'qwerty!' and '123456'. As you can imagine the hacker who has found your email address will try and access your on line accounts with these common passwords first. And if that doesn't work then a glance at your social media page will yield pet names, spouses and other likely password clues.

Longer passwords are harder to crack and you could for instance use a memorable phrase or the first letter of each word in a favourite song. It's also important to change that password from time to time. Your data security will be greatly enhanced if you use two factor authentication, in other words a second password.

Fortunately there are inexpensive systems around which mean you don't have to remember that second password. Many banks provide a little device which, when operated, generates a 'one use only' code which your computer recognises and this is used in addition to your first password to give access to your bank account. Some of these devices require a four-digit PIN number to work and that is a three factor system which is more secure again. These authentication systems are commercially available, inexpensive and easy to operate.

So beef up your cyber security today by changing your passwords. Go for something longer and do use different passwords for different accounts. When you've done that, I then suggest you investigate two or three factor authentication.

## 72 alive thanks to RNLI volunteer crew

OBAN RNLI Lifeboat launched 62 times last year, rescuing 72 people.

Five of those rescued were under the age of 18, writes David McPhee.

The volunteer crew, which was called out three times in winds with a force greater than seven - the most in Scotland - spent just under 600 hours completing training exercises and dealing with emergencies. And more than half of the Oban station's launches were made in darkness.

Billy Forteith, lifeboat operations manager, said: 'Compared to last year, the number of call outs is fairly stable.'

'Oban RNLI is very important on the west coast - we're one of the busiest stations in Scotland.'

'We have an ongoing sea safety campaign, with the purpose of reducing incidents. The hope is the number will be reduced even further in the future.'

'We had a couple of notable callouts which were technically difficult, but the crew preformed well.'

Throughout the year lifeboats in Scotland launched 1,078 times and rescued 1,046 people, with 499 launches being made in darkness.



The volunteer crew of Oban Lifeboat. Photograph: Steven Lawson.



Bill Leech, left, Charles Struthers and Mike Bullock marvel at one of the main attractions of the museum. 15\_106hesperus1

## Your museum needs YOU!

A SHORTAGE of volunteers at one of Oban's top visitor attractions may threaten its future.

The War and Peace Museum, which has been a part of the community for more than 20 years, needs new blood to revitalise the establishment.

Charles Struthers, chairman of the museum, said: 'We've had to cut some periods of when we're open.'

'It is a fact of life that people come and go, but right now we have lost many of our original volunteers through old age. We currently have only one person under the age of 70.'

'We are looking for new blood to keep the museum going. This is where history can be seen and

where the young can be educated in their heritage and be made aware of the sacrifices made by others for their security. Age or service is not important - volunteering is.'

The War and Peace museum, which received the Queen's Award for voluntary service in 2011, is also in need of volunteer board directors.

Mr Struthers continued: 'The museum is a very valuable asset to Oban and attracts 30,000 visitors every year.'

The museum is open from March until November each year. Anyone who would like to get involved should call 01631 570007, email obanmuseum@btconnect.com or visit www.obanmuseum.org.uk.

## Luss primary pupils flying the flag for Argyll and Bute

ARGYLL and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara visited pupils of Luss Primary School to present the flag the children designed for the Westminster Flag project 2015.

The project marks the 750th anniversary of the Montfort Parliament, where elected representatives met

for the first time to create the House of Commons.

Mr O'Hara said: 'I am delighted to meet the children and staff of Luss primary to say thank you for their hard work in designing a flag which captures the beauty of this wonderful constituency.'



Luss Primary School pupils show off their Argyll and Bute flag.

## Three men arrested on counterfeit allegation

THREE men with 'heavy Irish accents' were arrested on Tuesday afternoon (February 2) after allegedly passing on counterfeit £50 notes in small businesses in North Argyll.

The men, who were detained in Oban shortly after 2pm, were held in custody for a court appearance yesterday, Wednesday.

A report has been made to the Procurator Fiscal.

The men are alleged to have been spending the counterfeit cash and receiving large amounts of cash in change.

Officers also seized a car connected to the men.

Police sergeant Alan Moore told *The Oban Times*: 'Officers identified this serious crime quickly and arrested three men. It is thanks to the vigilance of business people that the men were detained.'

'Businesses should be vigilant in checking the bank notes they are receiving and calling the police if there are any concerns that notes are not genuine.'

'We would like to hear of anyone else who has been effected by this fraudulent behaviour.'

The police can be contacted by visiting Oban Police Station or by calling 101 and asking to speak to the duty sergeant in Oban.

## Music festival consultation

THE TEAM behind May's hot ticket event, Oban Live, is holding a meeting on Friday to talk to the community about the event.

Daniel Gillespie of Skerryvore, artistic director of the event, says working with the community will be key to the event's success.

The group has sent letters to residents in Mossfield and Glencruitten, Oban, advising on their eligibility for the ticket discount scheme.

A meeting will take place in the Parish Church Hall, Glencruitten Road, at 6.30pm tomorrow (February 5).

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# Awareness day highlights high number of young carers and offers a helping hand

YOUNG Carers Awareness Day has highlighted the number of young people who actively look after a family member in North Argyll, with more than 100 eight to 16-year-olds registered for services based in Oban.

But the local service co-ordinator is appealing for other young carers who are not yet registered for support to come forward for help.

Arlene Colewell, who co-ordinates the Young Carers work in Oban for people from the wider area, said: 'At North Argyll Young Carers Service, we aim to provide support to young carers aged eight to 18 and young adult carers aged 18-25.'

'We offer listening/counselling, advice/guidance, advocacy, group activities, training, respite and educational support. We run weekly after-school clubs and a lunchtime drop-in at Oban High School, giving young carers the chance to socialise, get help with homework, play games and talk privately with staff. We also take young carers on day trips and residential adventures during school holidays and provide intensive individual support to young carers in need of more specific interventions.'

'We work closely with other professionals in health,

education and social work to reduce the potential negative impact of caring.

'We currently have 80 young carers and their families registered with the centre and try to ensure that young carers feel valued and supported in the community. However, there are many more unidentified young carers who are not receiving this much-needed support.'

'We are currently funded by Children in Need but this is short-term funding. We do not currently receive funding for our work with young carers from Argyll and Bute Council.'

'In a climate of increased referrals and complex caring situations we are constantly reminded of the crucial role we play in continuing to support young carers and are committed to generating the income needed to sustain this service.'

Thursday January 28 was National Young Carers Awareness Day in recognition of the children and young people who provide unpaid care for a family member with a physical/mental illness or disability including addiction.

Morag MacLean, North Argyll Carers Centre manager, said: 'In 2010, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers published a report, Mapping Of Services to Young Carers in Scotland. It estimated there

were 1,117 young carers in Argyll and Bute.

'Young Carers do practical tasks such as cooking, housework and shopping, provide physical and personal care such as helping someone out of bed or to get dressed, emotional support such as talking to someone who is distressed, collecting prescriptions and administering medications, helping someone to communicate, managing budgets and looking after siblings.'

'Being a young carer can be a positive, rewarding experience and many young carers gain skills and qualities that are admired and celebrated. However, it can have a negative impact on psychological and physical health and development, and can limit a young person's opportunity to enjoy social activities and develop relationships, so they can often feel isolated.'

'Many young carers struggle to balance their education and caring responsibilities, and are more likely to have financial and housing problems, which can result in stress and depression, so they really need support.'

For further information or advice contact Morag or Arlene on 01631 564422 and look at the Facebook North Argyll Young Carers service.



Young carers take part in the annual Oban Raft Race.

## POLICEFILES

VANDALS targeted cars in separate incidents.

A car window was smashed at the Lochell Outward Bound Trust in Lochellside between 9am and 6pm on Thursday January 28.

Meanwhile, a car was vandalised in the main car park at Lochaber high school between 8.15am and 4pm on Wednesday January 27.

**POLICE are looking for six youths in connection with damage to a Fort William shop. They were seen in the doorway of Semi-Chem in High Street, between 7.15pm-8pm on Monday January 25, when damage was caused to an alarm card reader.**

DAMAGE was caused to the rear cables of a trailer when it was parked in a layby at Invergarry. The incident took place around one mile from the Clunie junction on the A87, between 3pm on January 22 and 8.30am on January 25.

**A WINDOW was smashed at Caol Library sometime between 8pm on January 22 and 1.50pm on January 25.**

Police are keen to speak to anyone who has any information on the incidents. Call 101.

## Business as usual for Oban playpark

IT'S business as usual in 2016 for Friends of Oban Community Playpark as no changes have been made to personnel.

The organisation had its AGM late last month and is now planning to focus on raising money for the under-fives section of the park.

The five-to-15 play area is around three working days away from completion, but will not be finished until the weather permits.

Chairwoman of Oban Community Play Park, Lyndsay Elliot, said: 'We are so very close.'



## Dentist sinks his teeth into Scout role, but more volunteers needed

AN ORGANISATION in Oban is scouting for more adults to get involved in volunteering.

West Region Scout Council, which supports Scouts in Argyll, is looking to recruit new leaders so they can continue to offer the service in the town.

Scout leader and dental therapist, Iain O'Neill, 27, left, said: 'It's really important to get more people involved. Scouting in Oban has been going on for a long time. It's one of the oldest groups in Argyll but without more people coming along, we won't

be able to offer Scouting. We need people from walks of life – anyone who would be able to help with anything from going on adventures to maintaining the hall and jobs in between.'

The group, which meet at the Scout Hall behind the Cathedral, is open to all genders

and caters for a series of age groups – Beavers (five year nine months to eight years), Cub Scouts (eight to 10.5 years), Scouts (10.5 to 14 years) and Explores (14 to 18 years).

Mr O'Neill added: 'We go into the woods and build fires and shelters, but we've also

started to plan things online and use the internet more. We're becoming more modern. The more people involved, the more we can focus on planning events for the kids and the more fun it will be.'

For more information, email obanscouts2016@gmail.com

# Celebrating the great outdoors at The Fort William Mountain Festival 2016

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CELEBRATE everything the great outdoors has to offer at The Fort William Mountain Festival (FWMF) 2016

Presented by Jöttnar, the event is being staged in and around Fort William, the heart of the 'Outdoor Capital of the UK', from February 17 to 21.

The Scottish Awards for Excellence in Mountain Culture for 2016 will also be presented.

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. We want to promote the value of the landscape of Lochaber as the best destination in the UK to live, work and play. We have a superb line up of climbers and explorers, mountain films, inspirational speakers and skills workshops. It's not just for adventure addicts though as anyone who appreciates the landscape of the Outdoor Capital of the UK will find something in the mountain festival.'

The festival launch night takes place on Wednesday with a torch lit descent of Aonach Mor on ski, board

and mountain bike. Then settle in at The Pinemarten Café at Nevis Range with tasty food and local beer for a cosy night of mountain tales, sneak peeks at the festival films and a tune or two on the banjo.

On Thursday, enjoy the year's best adventure films in one action packed night.

On Friday, Greg Boswell will showcase his recent adventures. Also on Friday, FWMF Studio Sessions will present Scottish Backcountry, an all-star line-up of backcountry skiing specialists. These standard-setters include Freedom Series winner Robert Kingsland, ski-adventurer Blair Aitken, SkiMo's Di Gilbert, Highland freeskiier Peter MacKenzie, mountain rescue's legendary Davy Gunn and Snowsports Scotland's Iain Ramsay-Clapham.

Captain Reverend Bob Shepton returns to the Highlands with Olivier Favresse and Nico Favresse, two members of the renowned Wild Bunch expedition team, for a presentation on Saturday. Also on Saturday, at the FWMF Studio Sessions, three legends of the downhill and enduro mountain bike scene in Scotland share their passion, knowledge

and experiences. They are Lesley Beck, organiser of the Fort William Mountain Bike Cup and former Olympic skier; Chris Ball, former downhill racer, founder of mountain bike coaching firm Dirt School and managing director of the Enduro World Series and the Enduro MTB Association; and Scotland's Crawford Carrick-Anderson, legend of skiing, motorbike trials, downhill and enduro racing.

On Sunday, a showcase of award winning mountain films from around the world – The Best of Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour - will showcase extreme expeditions and challenges.

The Fort William Mountain Book Festival returns for a second year with legends of mountaineering and climbing entertaining with extracts from their latest page turners.

Organisers have also put together a range of workshops from how to organise an expedition to avalanche awareness. There will also be art and photography competition exhibitions, a film competition and live music. For a full schedule of events, visit mountainfestival.co.uk.

## West Highland College UHI: School of Adventure Studies

The outdoor adventure industry in Scotland is booming providing fantastic career opportunities.

The School of Adventure Studies department in WHC UHI has created a series of courses to equip students with the skills and experience to qualify them for employment in this area with Skye and Fort William being the perfect setting.

The many small islets and sea lochs offer the most amazing coastal wildernesses for kayak and open canoe exploration.

The Cuillin and the Nevis ranges, within close reach of our college centres in Broadford, Isle of Skye and Fort William, provide our students with challenging walking and climbing.

The many cycle routes in the area provide miles of mountain bike practise routes.

Working with our experienced staff and "associate" instructors who are themselves specialists in outdoor disciplines, our students combine academic and practical learning.



Students from the School of Adventure Studies learn about winter climbing.

The School of Adventure Studies offers the following courses:

Certificate in Outdoor Adventure (Broadford, Isle of Skye), Certificate in Outdoor Leadership (Fort William) and 3 degrees and one Masters all in Fort William: BA (Hons) Adventure Tourism Management; BA (Hons) Marine and Coastal Tourism; BA (Hons) Adventure Performance and Coaching and MSc Ecotourism. Standalone NGB awards are also available.

For more information call 01397 874246

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- > MSC ECOTOURISM

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**www.whc.uhi.ac.uk**

# Concern over rising cost of new Gaelic primary school

CAREN MCPATE  
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THE COST of a new Gaelic primary school on Skye has soared by more than £1.5million.

The budget for the Portree school is now expected to rise from £9.285m to £10.8m for the cash-strapped Highland Council.

A report before the education, children and adult services committee said the

current state of the market had pushed up tender prices. There were also only two suitable tenders expressing an interest in the project and the relatively remote location was also a factor, increasing the cost by £715,000.

The cost of external walls and ventilation were also blamed for the need for an extra £475,000. However, the report said that it was hoped this would be reduced during a review with the successful

contractor. It was originally thought it would take a year to build the new school, but will now going to take an extra three months.

Director of the council's care and learning committee Bill Alexander said: 'We are disappointed and frustrated that the tender has come in significantly higher than the estimated costs. We continue to work with colleagues in development and infrastructure to understand why that is the

case.' It was agreed to proceed with the award of the contract as tendering would not reduce the cost and a further delay could result in a price increase.

It was proposed that the extra funds be taken from the life cycle investment budget.

Councillors raised concerns about the additional costs, especially at a time when the local authority was having to save up to £38 million from its budget. Councillor Drew Mill-

er, chairman of the education, children and adult services committee, said: 'I would like to see officers work with the tenderers and the successful company to try and reduce these costs.'

The Eilean a' Cheò councillor was part of the steering group for the new school.

He added: 'I'm really disappointed. I never heard any mention of Skye being remote when the new high school was being planned.'



## Nicole cooks up a place in Rotary contest final

NICOLE Cameron, 16, from Spean Bridge, was runner-up in the annual Rotary West Regional cookery final held at the South Lanarkshire College on January 27.

The talented teenager, from Lochaber High School, wowed the judges with her menu of haggis ravioli with whisky sauce, loin of venison with vegetable stack and rhubarb chutney and white raspberry crème brulee with home-made shortbread.

The judges awarded her second place and she now progresses to represent Lochaber in the Scotland and North of England final on March 4.

Nicole faced stiff competition from eight other contestants, who had all come through their own local heats

in the west of Scotland.

The young chefs are required to prepare a healthy meal of their choice for two people, to demonstrate their ability to be creative without the need for expensive ingredients and to follow the principles of a healthy diet. The young chefs are judged on their healthy menu, planning and organisational skills, hygiene, preparation skills and, of course, the taste and presentation of their meal.

Rotary President Terry Lee said: 'We are delighted Nicole has made it through to the next stage and we will be supporting her at the Scottish and North of England final.'

'It is a real accolade for a Lochaber girl to aspire to this level. We wish her well.'



Work starts to demolish the old Belhaven Ward. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

## Bulldozers move in on former medical centre

BULLDOZERS have moved in to demolish a former medical centre in Fort William to make way for new housing.

The old Belhaven Ward closed in 2013 and was latterly used for physiotherapy and occupational therapy services.

Lochaber Housing Association and Highland Council will redevelop the site into affordable housing, including five wheelchair-friendly bungalows and a block of eight flats.

Retired nurses had the chance to look around their former workplace at the end of last year alongside Fort William councillors Thomas MacLennan and Brian Murphy.

Scottish Social Justice Sec-

retary Alex Neil said: 'House building is at the heart of this government's long-term economic plan. That is why, rather than leaving surplus public sector land idle, we want to see it being put to good use.'

'I am delighted that by releasing this surplus NHS site and keeping it in the public sector for Highland Council to develop affordable housing, it will allow the delivery of much-needed new homes in the Fort William area. Vacant land and property which was previously in public sector ownership - such as by NHS Scotland and Police Scotland - is being used to add to the provision of affordable housing across Scotland.'

## Green light for Vallay sand plan

SAND from a uninhabited island in the Western Isles will be extracted after the Scottish Government overturned a planning decision to reject the plans by the local authority, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

The island of Vallay will now have up to 5,000 tonnes of sand removed over 10 years.

Scottish Natural Heritage had objected to the plans claiming it will have a significant effect on the grassland feature of the unspoiled island.

## More cash to help people living with dementia

LOCHABER Care and Repair is sharing a £1million funding boost to help people with dementia.

The Life Changes Trust, an independent charity set up with a Big Lottery Fund endowment, has awarded the money to Care and Repair, which provides housing sup-

port across Scotland. The money will be used to improve the homes, independence and confidence of people living with dementia, ensuring they receive equipment and adaptations to assist them to continue to live independently within their own homes for as long as possible.

Maureen Cameron, Lochaber Care and Repair manager, said: 'I am delighted the group has received this award from the Life Changes Trust which is a unique opportunity to support people living with dementia, their families and carers in Lochaber.'

# Researcher honoured by university

A FORT William-based researcher has been awarded the title of reader by the University of the Highlands and Islands.

Dr Peter Varley receives the honour in recognition of his contribution to tourism research. Based at West Highland College UHI in Fort William, Dr Varley is director of the Centre for Recreation and Tourism Research. He joined West Highland College UHI in 2009 as programme leader of the adventure tourism management degree and subsequently developed the masters programme in eco-tourism. In 2012, he founded the

Centre for Recreation and Tourism Research as part of the college's School of Adventure Studies, developing a portfolio of consultancy and research services for nature-based and adventure tourism, including a new annual international conference for adventure tourism.

Dr Varley said: 'I am delighted as it recognises the importance of academic study and knowledge exchange for this dynamic and ever-growing Highland industry.'

'The value of the wilder places in the Highlands holds a powerful draw in the

minds of those who visit us, those who have left for other shores and those who dream of visiting us in future.'

He added: 'It is crucial businesses and public agencies work together to deliver the extraordinary experiences of place and culture in which the region is so rich.'

'I firmly believe it is in part through good quality research and innovation that such ideals can be realised.'

'The university is a significant player in such endeavours and the establishment of a reader in the field is an important statement of intent in that regard.'

## A low-carbon alternative to electric heating that could save you up to £880 a year

**What is biomass?**  
Biomass renewable heating systems burn wood pellets, chips or logs to provide warmth in a single room and can power central heating and hot water boilers. Central heating systems using locally sourced sustainable wood fuel are a low carbon alternative to fossil fuels and can be cheaper to run than off-gas alternatives.

**How does it work?**  
A boiler burns logs, pellets or chips, and is connected to a central heating and hot water system. A wood-fuelled biomass boiler could save you up to £880 a year compared to electric heating\*.

**What do I need?**  
Suitable properties should have enough space to install the heating system (inside or outside) and store the fuel, and have a locally available wood fuel source. The benefits of biomass heating

1 Affordable heating fuel  
The price of wood fuel varies considerably but it is often cheaper than other ways of heating your home.

2 Financial support  
Wood fuel boiler systems could benefit from the Renewable Heat Incentive. For a four-bedroom detached house, you could receive payments of around £995 to £1,505 a year\*\*. In addition, the Home Energy Scotland renewables loan scheme is currently open to new applications. Interest-free loans for up to 75 per cent of the total cost of renewables systems are available up to £10,000.

3 A low-carbon option  
The carbon dioxide emitted when wood is burned is the same amount that was absorbed over the months and years that the plant was growing. The process is sustainable as long as new plants continue to grow in place of those used for fuel. There are some carbon emissions caused by the cultivation, manufacture and transportation of the fuel, but as long as the fuel is sourced locally, these are much lower than the emissions from fossil fuels.

For more information call Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282 to find out how you can save energy and more money, and book a free home visit to assess your property.

\*Based on a typical four-bed detached solid-walled home switching from electric storage heating to a biomass pellet boiler. Using an off-peak (Economy 7) electricity price of 7.22p/kWh and a wood pellet price of 4.77p/kWh (bulk price). Prices correct as of January 2016.

\*\*Based on an RHI tariff of 5.14p/kWh, valid for installations made between January 1 and March 31, 2016.

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## Viewpoint

The Oban Times  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8216

To break the council tax freeze or not to break the council tax freeze. That was the question on many councillors' minds this week.

With Highland and Moray councils weighing up the consequences breaking ranks and raising the tax, The Oban Times took the opportunity to ask local councillors their views. Argyll and Bute Council was a house divided.

Councillor Donnie MacMillan said that 'Putting up the

council tax would only mean the families who work for a living would be penalised'. And many agreed with him, taking on board finance minister John Swinney's stark warning of severe penalties for breaking ranks. But many see no way forward without a rise.

The council is in the unenviable position of being caught between a rock and a hard place, but let's hope they can find a way of balancing the books that safe-guards the essential services that so many of us depend on.



## Days gone by – deer stalkers spying in Kingairloch Estate in 1901

This week's flashback photograph was submitted by Oban Times Morvern Lines columnist Iain Thornber and shows deer stalkers spying in Kingairloch Estate in 1901. Digital versions of flashback photos for The Oban Times can be sent to editor@obantimes.co.uk or prints sent to the editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Anyone who wishes a print returned should include a stamped-addressed envelope.

## Protect the Kintyre fishing industry

Sir, Current proposals to create marine protected areas and fishing regulating orders are of considerable concern to the Kintyre business community.

The closure of the main fishing areas available to fishing boats from Tarbert, Carradale and Campbeltown would end the fishing industry in Kintyre. Local processing firms would be forced to close, with a further loss of jobs, and road hauliers in the area would also be affected.

Having run a retail business in Tarbert for almost 60 years, I am aware of the importance of fishing to the local economy.

The annual income generated by the catch of scallops and prawns, landed in Kintyre, runs to millions of pounds.

The suggestion that 'sea-angling tourists' will flock to the area if commercial fishing is restricted, can only be fanciful.

Previous attempts to operate such businesses have failed. The actions of the Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust and Community of Arran Seabed Trust appear to be setting the communities of Arran and Kintyre against each other when working together to promote tourism could benefit both.

In 2007, a press release issued by the Scottish National Party stated Kintyre had been 'badly let down in the past'. A vehicle ferry

between Antrim and Kintyre was seen as 'a vital component of future success'. Despite an assurance that, if elected, an SNP government would reintroduce such a service, it has failed to materialise. Experience of the short-lived summer car ferry service between Campbeltown and Ballycastle, which ran from 1997 to 1999 suggests Arran and Islay also benefited from tourists arriving in Kintyre via this route.

Government officials have blamed financial cutbacks for their failure to keep this promise. Nevertheless major projects on the east coast - road, rail, tram and new Forth Bridge - have been progressed. At the same time a budget under-spend of several hundred million pounds has been reported.

The economy of Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay is already under threat from existing transport problems on the A83.

An agreement must be reached to protect the Kintyre fishing industry and the promise of a Kintyre/Antrim vehicle ferry service must be kept. Ian Y Macintyre, Tarbert.

## Council cuts misery down to Holyrood

Sir, As councillors in Argyll and Bute move towards making drastic cuts to services forced on them by their reducing budget, there is a chink of light for councils in England.

The Westminster government is allowing council tax increases spe-

cifically to pay for increased social care costs.

Sadly there is no such relief for councils in Scotland, where the skinflint government in Holyrood refuses to allow councils to increase the council tax without penalising them by cutting their already miserly grants.

To make matters worse, our MSP, who should be fighting on behalf of residents for a better deal from Holyrood, actually does the opposite by attacking the council.

I think people now realise the cuts being imposed on services by our council lie at the door of the government in Holyrood which persists in dictating how much our council is allowed to spend.

David Pollard, Salen, Mull.

## Roads can't cope with extra ferry traffic

Sir, The introduction of Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) has seen a sharp increase in road traffic on the Western Isles.

Considering the roads are in more or less the same condition as they were back in the 1970s - and I know because I have travelled to Argyll, Skye, Islay, Jura, Mull, Skye, and the Outer Isles on a regular basis over the past 40 years - can I ask the government and the local councils, what road improvements have been done to allow for this onslaught of traffic?

All of the above locations deserve better roads.

Angus Campbell, South Uist.

## Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON  
robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk

## Farewell Celtic Connections 2016

CELTIC Connections is over for another year and, after I write this Glasgow Letter, I think I am going to climb into my bed and sleep for the whole of February.

The festival has been yet another phenomenal success and I have had such an enjoyable few weeks.

Last week, I attended Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn's concert in the Old Fruitmarket - a husband and wife banjo duo.

For a man who has won 15 Grammys, Fleck is not nearly as well known in this country as he should be - something which was brought to my attention when I told one of my friends I was going to his concert and they replied: 'Béla Fleck? Who is she?'

It was a tune he wrote called Big Country which first got me into his music (we recorded it on our Western Ocean album) so I leapt with excitement when he included it in his Celtic Connections set.

The way in which two people sitting down with banjos captivated a sold-out Old Fruitmarket with incredible skill and banter was unbelievable.

## Altan gets City Halls on its feet

LAST week, I was fortunate enough to record a couple of songs with Irish greats Altan for a BBC Alba series called Seirm which will be aired later this year.

For a band who have sold more than a million records and written themselves into Irish music legend, I found them to be totally humble, laid back, and amazingly good craic. So laid back, in fact, that they asked me to join them for a song at their concert in the City Halls - only two nights after I had first met them!

It was massive pleasure just to be at

the concert, never mind to sing at it. The energy those guys produce from the stage is unreal.

The city halls, home of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, has seen some wonderful music in its time, but I suspect that this was one of the first times the whole audience has stood on its feet and danced around like loonies for the last couple of numbers!

## Skipinnish at Celtic Connections

ON BEHALF of all the Skipinnish boys I'd just like to say a massive thank you to every one of the two and a half thousand people who came to the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall to hear us on Saturday night.

It was one of the most enjoyable and memorable gigs I have ever performed - largely thanks to the most responsive audience I think I've ever performed to at a sit-down concert.

I've been a massive fan of the Saw Doctors for years so it was pretty much a dream come true to have Leo Moran and Anto Thistlewaite onstage with us.

Their high-octane set at the beginning of the night got the audience in the mood for a party. It was also amazing to have Rachel Walker performing with us, who started me off singing in Gaelic when I was a wee boy.

Celtic Connections 2016 has been memorable to me for many reasons - but being on stage on Saturday night was particularly unforgettable.

## Young Musician of the Year

CONGRATULATIONS to Mohsen Amini (the incredible concertina player from Glasgow) who, on Sunday evening in the Glasgow City Halls, was deservedly named

the BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year 2016. What a stunning set he played! I thoroughly enjoyed sitting in the audience listening to all the artists who are at the top of their game.

Without any Lochaber bias at all, I particularly enjoyed the performance of Hannah Macrae, who I genuinely thought did Lochaber proud. She looked elegant on the stage, had the fiddle singing, was true to her roots in the Gaelic music she chose to perform, and conducted herself with total professionalism. Hannah is only 18 so her time will definitely come.

Another good friend of mine, Lismore's Murray Willis, should also be very proud of his performance - he had the audience in stitches and there was a lovely style to his set. Congratulations to all the finalists for getting so far and putting on a fantastic evening of music.

## What's on

Sunday February 14: The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Rt Rev Dr Angus Morrison, will preach during a joint Gaelic and English service at 11.30am.

Saturday February 20: The Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Marag Supper in the Partick Burgh Hall.

Friday February 26: The Glasgow Uist and Barra Association Ceilidh Dance in the Crawford Hall.

Saturday February 27: The Glasgow Skye Association's Buntata's Sgadan evening.

## Pub scene

Islay Inn: Friday February 5: Deep River. Saturday February 6: Crooked Reel. Wednesday February 10: Quiz Night. Park Bar: Friday February 5: Trail West. Saturday February 6: Dodgy Ground. Sunday February 7: Scott Harvey.

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

A RÈIR coltais dh'fhaodadh foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig a bhith air àicheadh dha còrr air ceathrad chloinne ann am baile mòr Ghlaschu!

'S e suidheachadh leamh da-rìribh a tha sin chan ann a-mhàin air sgàth a leithid a bhith a' tachair anns a' bhaile a th' air a bhith cho adhartach agus cho brosnachail a thaobh FMG fad bhliadhnaichean, ach cuideachd dha pàrantan a th' air co-dhùhadh an dileab luachmhor seo a thoirt dhan cuid chloinne!

Agus chan e gainnead luchd-teagais as coireach an turas seo ach gainnead rùm ann an sgoiltean Gàidhlig a' bhaile. Bhiodh seo na bhuille cuideachd dha luchd-leasachaidh na Gàidhlig is uimhir de strì ga dhèanamh gus àireamh chloinne ann am FMG àrdachadh, agus shaoilinn gum bi Riaghaltas na h-Alba cuideachd airson leithid a bhacadh air amasan Phlana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig a sheachnadh.

Ach chan iad sgoiltean Gàidhlig Ghlaschu an aon fheadhainn aig am bheil duilgheadas a thaobh àireamhan.

Tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd air nochdadh gum bheil barrachd iarrtais air àite ann an cuid de

sgoiltean bhaile Inbhir Nis na theid aca air a choinneachadh, agus feumar a rèir choltais a' chaid chothrom a thoirt dhan chloinn a tha a' còmhnaidh ann an sgìrean frithealaidh nan sgoiltean. Bidh seo a' ciallachadh gum feann ann an cuid a theaghlacaidh a bhith a' dol gu sgoiltean eadar-dhealaichte bho chèile.

'S iomadh facal a tha mi a' cur asam mu luchd-dealbhachaidh ach saoilidh mi gum bheil mi ceart ceistean a thogail mu carson a tha fhathast ceadan gan toirt seachad airson leasachaidhean mòra taigheadais gum chùmhnaidh ma choinneamh luchd-togail gum feum iad goireasan comhairsnachd iomchaidh a thogail cuideachd, tràth san leasachadh.

Nach eil e follaiseach gum bheil ceudan de theaghlacaidh ùra ann an sgìre sam bith dol a chruithachadh feumalachd airson goireasan leithid bùitheatan, raointean spòrs is cur-seachad, agus sgoiltean!

Carson a tha e do-dhèanta a rèir choltais dha luchd-dealbhachaidh na rudan sin uile a cheangal ri chèile gus nach tachair leithid na tha sinn a' faicinn an-dràsta far nach eil sgoiltean comasach gabhail ris na tha de chlànn ag iarraidh unnta.

Tha sinn air mòran a chluinntinn fad bhliadhnaichean a-nise mun 'bhuannachd cead-dealbhachaidh' a tha Comhairle an a' sìreadh bho bhuidhean-leasachaidh is togail, ach chan aithne dhomh gum bheil sgoil air nochdadh a leithid sin fhathast.

Ach tha fhios gun dèanadh e ciall gum biodh luchd-leasachaidh a' cur suas co-dhùid togalaichean sgoile ged nach biodh ann ach togalach lom a b' urrainn dha Comhairle a chriochnachadh is uidheamachadh.

GROWING Gaelic Medium Education (GME) pupil numbers is a key objective of the National Plan for Gaelic and Bòrd na Gàidhlig works hard to promote this.

How desperately disappointing then, for parents, children and the Scottish Government, to find that 40 children in Glasgow may be denied this cultural birthright because the GME schools there cannot accommodate the numbers applying.

These numbers signify Gaelic development success but neither the children involved nor the language should be victims of such progress.

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Ailean Caimbeul

Send your letters and stories to  
editor@obantimes.co.uk



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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,

Crannon 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

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We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

## 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.

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# Arena

> cinema, radio and what's on listings > leisure ideas > local events

## Bagpipe amnesty declared

A CHARITY is asking people to dig out any old bagpipes they may have lying about so children who want to learn the instrument can breath new life into them.

The Scottish School's Pipes and Drums Trust (SSPDT) realise bagpipes can be very expensive but believe children in Argyll and Bute, and across Scotland, should have the opportunity to learn.

Trust Chief Executive Alexandra Duncan Said: 'Piping and being part of a band develops a wide range of life and employability skills, including teamwork, individual and shared achievement, discipline, commitment and self confidence, as well

as musicality. It is a shame that the vast majority of our young people are not offered the chance to learn our national instruments in schools.

'The SSPDT is helping more than 1,000 children across the country to learn the pipes and drums in state schools. This includes youngsters from some of Scotland's most deprived areas who would never have the chance to learn piping.'

Bagpipes can be handed in to Oban or Helensburgh Fire Stations. Don't worry if they need a bit of work to make them playable as Wallace Bagpipes has offered its services for free to ensure donated pipes are in perfect working order.



The appeal is launched at Govan Fire Station (05bagpipes01)

## Artists take to island buses for inspiration

TWO artists in Lewis and Harris will take to the buses to look for inspiration for artwork to be displayed in concrete bus shelters on the island.

Roos Dijkhuizen and Janie Nicoll have been chosen by youth engagement project, Uncharted,

to create artwork based on their bus experiences. These will then be temporarily displayed in bus shelters.

Two young artists will also be mentored to create artworks for display in the bus shelters and all four artworks are

expected to be on display in April.

Another commission D'ainm nad fhuil - Your Name in Your Blood - has been awarded to Lewis artist Calum Angus Mackay. Bealach, a creative project being delivered with funding

from Creative Scotland, awarded the commission.

It will explore examples of text that appears almost as island graffiti on most weekends of the year, at many roadside locations throughout Lewis and Harris. The tradition dates back to

the days of the black-house, where clean white sheets were preserved in celebration of births and marriages.

Calum will also work with young people attending an art club at an arts centre An Lanntair for six weeks.

## Last release of Runrig Musical Magic

RUNRIG is the most significant cultural entity to emerge from Gaelic Scotland in living memory. It is with a mixture of pride, happiness, excitement and sadness that I write about them to mark the release of what is said to be their last ever studio recording.

*The Story* was officially launched on Friday January 29 and as the pre-released title track reflected, it is a cracker. The album is an eclectic retrospective narrative based on the band's amazing journey from a modest ceilidh band to being the biggest celtic music act the world had ever seen.

There has been much speculation that this will also be Runrig's last year of live performance. Happily, I can confirm that this is not true! Rumours in the music world are rife but predictably most are not true.

I spoke to Malcolm Jones before writing this to get an answer from the proverbial horse's mouth, and he confirmed that the band will be hitting some big stages in 2017 and beyond.

Identifying a favourite band is like choosing a favourite whisky. It's almost impossible - it depends on mood, company, time of year, time of day, location, temperature and an infinite number of other indefinable variables that affect our hearts, minds and bodies. However, if I had the chance to listen to just one more band before being exiled to a rock north of St Kilda to live in solitude with no music or drama for the rest of my life, that band would be Runrig.

Their career has been long and incredible. Highlights include bringing a *Gaelic Song* to number 17 in the UK charts; playing to more than 100,000 people at Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh; attracting more than 50,000 fans to a concert on the banks of Loch Lomond, and recently celebrating their 40th anniversary at the massive Party on the Moor with over 20,000 fans. They have sold well over one million records and in so doing have spread Gaelic music to parts of the world that otherwise would never have known of

its existence - their releases still chart highly in Scandinavian countries and Germany, where they have huge fan bases.

All bands that have emerged as part of the wonderful renaissance of traditional music in Scotland in the last 20 years have a lot to thank Runrig for.

When Runrig began in 1973, there was no precedent for what they were doing. There was almost none of the funding that helps all the bands of today, be that directly or through the events and festivals at which we all perform. However, their grit, determination, talent and passion for music conquered all obstacles and they brought Gaelic culture to a world stage, and made it fashionable. More importantly, Runrig gave a confidence in identity to young Gaels, the effect of which can still be felt today.

Runrig paved the musical way for all who came after them and they are still the biggest and still the best. Their new album is a great encompassing symbol of their years of musical magic.

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# Happy Valentines Day

# I LOVE YOU

WHEN it comes to what to get a loved one for Valentine's Day, it's often a straight choice of whether to 'go traditional' or 'think outside the box'. Overwhelmingly it appears as though Brits are in the former camp, according to a survey of 550 males and females conducted by Sales Alert site LoveSales.com.

The survey asked users what they think people really want for Valentine's Day to get an insight into people's romantic side, and discovered that traditional ideas are still the most popular choice by far. Ninety-two per cent of respondents chose one of what could be considered a 'clichéd' Valentines surprise, with a mix of options that would suit any budget.

Unsurprisingly, being taken out for a romantic meal in a restaurant took the top spot. When it came to splashing the cash, a weekend away was the second most popular idea, with 10 per cent of respondents opting to leave the stress of modern life behind for some quality time.

A spa break and pampering was next with 8 per cent, which goes to prove that you can't beat being the centre of attention for a while, especially at the expense of your partner.

Perhaps surprisingly, lingerie was not a popular option, with just one per cent of respondents choosing to spice up their relationships with something a bit racier.

Perfume or aftershave seemed a better bet with three per cent opting for their favourite fragrance or a change of scent, but handbags, shoes or clothes seems the safest bet for a purchase with five per cent opting for a fancy new wardrobe

accessory over anything else.

The clichés are still a good choice if there's a bit less to spend though. Flowers (7%) and chocolates (6%) both made the list in respectable positions, suggesting this is one time of year where you can get away with a lack of imagination.

Even on a tighter budget, LoveSales.com customers still offered plenty of food for thought when it comes to treating your other half. Being cooked for (7%) needn't cost a lot, but is still a popular treat, and a romantic ten per cent simply wanted to spend quality time with their partners, no matter what it is they do. Time away from the kids also made an appearance with five per cent of the votes, and seven per cent simply wanted a surprise or an outing with a difference, so there are still points to be scored for imagination.

And for those who find Valentine's Day to be more of a chore, spare a thought for the three per cent of respondents that said all they want is a partner.

'Our survey was meant as a bit of fun, but showed that generally we're quite traditional as Brits when it comes to ideas for Valentine's Day,' said Keir McConomy, Founder of LoveSales.com. 'It's also interesting to see that people have found ways to celebrate on all levels of budget, and in some cases don't expect anything particularly extravagant at all.'

In fact just eight per cent of respondents chose a slightly less obvious gift, with some of the more creative being a hamster, a rose bush, and gardening tools to do the wedding. Perhaps traditional is the best bet after all.

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# Arena

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## Highlands is high spot for arts

A HIGHLAND-BASED conference and showcase event devoted to fostering creative careers across the Highlands and Islands is set to demonstrate to the wider world that a remote location is no bar to forging a career in the creative industries.

Last year, XpoNorth attracted more than 1,400 delegates and key international decision makers in the fields of screen, broadcast, craft, fashion, writing, publishing and music.

With international names coming to the heart of the Highlands, the event is a rare opportunity to make a career in the creative arts.

Announcing programme headlines for this year's XpoNorth on June 8 and 9, XpoNorth director, Amanda Millen, said: 'Creativity is a big part of who we are in the Highlands and the digital age has been a game-changer for creatives in the region.'

'This year, for the first time, the conference element of XpoNorth – the only event of its type in Scotland to focus solely on the creative industries – is to be based at Eden Court Theatre in Inverness.

'XpoNorth will contain more than 30 panels covering topical subjects in the fields of gaming, design, fashion, textiles, screen, broadcast, writing and publishing, not forgetting XpoNorth mainstay: music.'

Millen also announced that this year, XpoNorth's hotly-contested showcase platform will be open to writers and publishers, as well as musicians and filmmakers.

Millen said: 'XpoNorth is famous for being the place where creative industry insiders spot 'the next big thing'. Competition is always intense and our music and short-film showcase sessions are always incredibly popular.'

'We're hoping we will get the

same response from writers looking to pitch to publishers. 'I'm delighted to say that the window for musicians, filmmakers and writers to showcase their work on the prestigious XpoNorth stage is now officially open.'

Submissions should be directed through the XpoNorth website and the deadline is midnight on Friday April 1.'

The role of architecture in the creative industries is also celebrated as part of this year's Scotland-wide Festival of Architecture, part of Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design, 2016.

Attendance at XpoNorth is free on registration. To register, visit xponorth.co.uk

Running alongside the conference will be a succession of networking, gaming playground, free training, parties and receptions around Inverness.

XpoNorth is also offering

free placements to anyone interested in working on its new live XpoNorth Live! television station.

Focusing on young people, a host of workshops and hands-on training aimed at under-25s is on offer. These will focus on digital media, lyric and song writing.

Other training initiatives include a hands-on Hit the Ground Running course, which offers people a no-nonsense taster of what it's like to work behind the scenes in TV drama.

Last year, the short-film showcase attracted an unprecedented number of submissions at just under 3,000, from the UK and 34 countries around the globe. There were 104 films screened, including a short film shot on a GoPro in the waters around Orkney by local filmmaker, Mark Jenkins.

The all-important evening

music showcases, which allow emerging talent to be seen and heard by all the right eyes and ears, saw applications continue to grow.

Last year, more than 2,000 applications were whittled down to 64 slots and delegates were treated to sets from the likes of Kathryn Joseph, who later won Scottish Album of the Year, and up-and-coming Inverness band, Spring Break.

Amanda Millen, a former BBC producer who also heads up ScreenHI, the screen and broadcast wing of XpoNorth, added: 'This year, I think XpoNorth has come of age.'

'There is so much creative activity going on in the Highlands and Islands, and the digital era has opened up possibilities, which means that it's a fantastic place to make work and to do business.'

'We look forward to welcoming all our delegates to the Highlands capital in June.'

### CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Making your location your USP; selling designs to worldwide audience
- The positive impact music festivals have had on the Highlands & Islands economy
- News Gathering, BBC-style – the apps and add-ons we can all use
- The dark art of crafting and writing a long-running soap
- 21st-century magazine publishing in Scotland and beyond
- Virtual reality – Go Beyond The Frame (and blow your mind...)
- Children's media grows up in Scotland
- Keynote speech by Professor Irene McAra-McWilliam OBE of the Glasgow School of Art Institute for Design Innovation (InDI), based in Forres
- Are Tech Companies the New Powerhouses of the Creative Industries?
- Meet the all-important music supervisors who place music in films, TV, advertising and video games
- Getting to grips with Google Garage – a major new skills programme from Google
- History – putting the Highlands on the map

Formerly known as goNORTH, XpoNorth is devoted to boosting creative careers in the Highlands and Islands and beyond and takes place this year in Inverness on Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 June.

The only event of its kind in Scotland devoted to crafts and designer fashion, gaming, publishing, screen and broadcast, design and music, XpoNorth is also attended by leading creative industry insiders, who take part in workshops, panels and masterclass sessions over the course of both days.



### Five areas of creativity to build a career

#### XpoNorth Screen and Broadcast

ScreenHI is XpoNorth's screen and broadcast network. Led by former BBC producer, Amanda Millen, it operates all year round and supports businesses and individuals working in film, television, radio and video games across the Highlands and Islands.

#### XpoNorth Music

Led by Alex Smith, XpoNorth Music is the industry network established to support the development of musicians and music businesses across the Highlands and Islands.

#### XpoNorth Design

Recently established to support flourishing design community in Highlands and Islands. Hosted by Creative Futures Partnership, a collaboration between The Glasgow School of Art (GSA) and HIE. Led by the Institute of Design Innovation (InDI), a research institute within the GSA.

#### XpoNorth Writing and Publishing

The sector head of Emergents Writers is Peter Urpeth. His role is to nurture creative talent in the field of writing and publishing across the Highlands and Islands.

#### XpoNorth Craft, Fashion and Textiles

The sector head of Emergents Makers is Pamela Conacher, who leads a team which provides a programme of advice, training and support for the craft, fashion and textile sector in the Highlands and Islands.

## Gaelic events at Scottish Storytelling Centre

THE Scottish Storytelling Centre is supporting Gaelic by hosting a series of events in the language as part of its winter programme.

Four productions will take place in February and March aiming to entertain all ages and Gaelic abilities.

The programme kicks off on February 5 with *Reading the Gaelic Landscape*, hosted by John Murray. John will explain how place names help us understand the landscape and the folklore behind the names.

There are productions of the play *Shrapnel* on March 15 and 16. The play is by Theatre Gu Leor and is adapted from the book by Tor-mod Campbell.

The play follows a man on the run from psychopathic detective Walter Shrapnel after being accused of a crime he didn't commit. On his journey through Edinburgh he meets all kinds of misfits and

there is animations and live music. The production is subtitled making it suitable for non-Gaelic speakers.

*Adventures with the Gaelic Tree Alphabet* is one for the kids to enjoy. An Gille Dubh, the guardian of the trees, watches from atop the highest mountain as his land is cleared. It is up to Sine to tell his tale, bringing in Gaelic poetry and song and introducing themes such as nature, the decline of Gaelic and the

Highland clearances. The workshop takes place on March 19.

Stenhouse Primary School and Tynecastle High School will perform *Iolaire*, which tells the story of the boat of the same name that sank just off Stornoway on New Year's Day 1919. The boat was taking home soldiers who had fought in the First World War and 200 men from Lewis and Harris were drowned. The production takes place on March 21.

## Showcase for young musicians

YOUNG musicians from Argyll and Bute are being encouraged to apply to perform at an event in Glasgow which will be attended by the movers and shakers in the music industry.

The two-day event is held in Glasgow and sees musicians receive feedback and allows them to network with people such as Radio Scotland host Vic Galloway and composers Jim Sutherland and Craig Armstrong. Last year Argyll Band Na Sudan Ur was chosen to perform.

Vic, who is hosting the event, commented:

'Exchange is an amazing opportunity for young people to be seen and heard by experts in the field and get the answers to the burning questions every aspiring musician has about how to break into the industry.'

'Last year's event saw some amazing acts from across Scotland and this year's event promises to be even better – with more industry panels, events and acts.'

The event is in partnership with Music For Youth. Chief executive Judith Webster said: 'We would urge musicians

from all genres to come along to what promises to be one of the most exciting and talked-about youth music events taking place in Scotland this year.'

The event is held on March 4 and 5 and teachers and parents are invited to attend, as well as young musicians themselves.

To apply you must be 21 or younger, based in Scotland and have two tracks recorded to send with your application.

Application can be made on the Music For Youth website and the deadline is February 8.

## Writers get archive access

WRITER Kevin MacNeil has been working with Lewes Castle museum and archive and Stornoway arts centre An Lanntair to create a short story based on the herring girls.

As part of Between Islands, a project bringing together people from the Western Isles, Orkney and Shetland, Kevin, Alison Miller from Orkney, and Roseanne Watt from Shetland will have access to museums and archives on all three island groups to research and inspire a new work.

Kevin said: 'It's a great honour to be working alongside An Lanntair, the museum, Alison, and Roseanne, creating stories around the

rich history and traditions of these islands.

'I've been very moved and inspired by my personal research into the stories of the herring girls.'

'An Lanntair has long established itself as a great community hub and now, having been granted the privilege of a guided tour around the new museum, I think it, too, is going to become a beloved resource for islanders and tourists alike.'

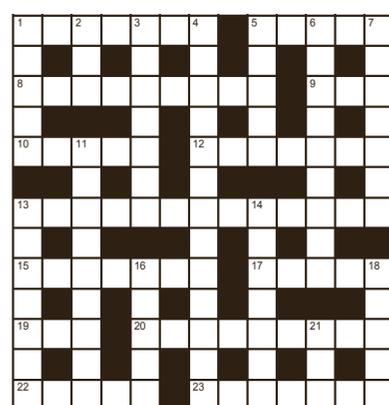
'A museum reminds us not only to be grateful to our predecessors but to be mindful of what we are leaving for future generations - and I believe the same can be said for literature itself.'

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#### Across

- 1 Living area (7)
- 2 Puzzle of words and pictures (5)
- 8 Out to get the magic one (5-4)
- 9 Whisky grass (3)
- 10 Block (5)
- 12 Journal (3,4)
- 13 I can't explain this word! (13)
- 15 High stacks of fodder (7)
- 17 Large American beaver (5)
- 19 Employ (3)
- 20 Fresh rinse (9)
- 22 The ground we stand on... (5)
- 23 ...this one crouches (7)

#### Down

- 1 Carved (5)
- 2 Computer program - not quite a mechanical person (3)
- 3 Tops forming a junction shape (1-6)
- 4 Very surprised (13)
- 5 Threadbare (5)
- 6 Child who works with a handcart (6-3)
- 7 Small patch of colour (7)
- 11 Child's bedtime toy (5,4)
- 13 Known only by the group or company (2-5)
- 14 Tractor with excavator (7)
- 16 Energy but not a fast mover we see (5)
- 18 One who puts you in your place (5)
- 21 Afflict (3)

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# Social scene

## Cinderella pantomime

SEIL Island lived out their very own Cinderella story last Saturday in their annual pantomime. The island's drama group performed *Cinderella of Seil* to sell-out audiences. The 15-strong production, including four children, staged two shows – one in the afternoon and one in the evening. Wendy Dugdale, treasurer of Seil Drama Group, said: 'We had two male performers dressed up as women and they were fabulous.' Anyone who would like to get involved in future productions can do so by searching for Seil Drama Group on social media.



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05 February - 11 February 2016

**Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip (U) 112mins**  
Sat: 13:00, Sun: 12:15, 17:00

Through a series of misunderstandings, Alvin, Simon and Theodore come to believe that Dave is going to propose to his new girlfriend in New York City - and dump them. They have three days to get to him and stop the proposal.

**Dad's Army (PG) 119 mins**  
Fri, Mon, Wed: 16:30, 18:45, Sat: 15:00, 17:10, Sun: 19:30, Tue: 16:30, 19:00, Thu: 16:30, 21:00

The Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard platoon deal with a visiting female journalist and a German spy as World War II draws to its conclusion.

**Jonas Kaufmann - An Evening with Puccini 90mins**  
Thu: 19:00

Directed by Brian Large. Produced by Arts Alliance. The world's greatest tenor brings the beauty and power of Puccini to cinemas.

**Joy (12A) 144mins**  
Daily Except Sat, Sun: 16:15, Sat: 15:30, Sun: 14:45  
Joy is the story of a family across four generations and the woman who rises to become founder and matriarch of a powerful family business dynasty.

**Kids Club: Garfield (U) 82mins**  
Sat: 11:30  
Children's Classic: Jon Arbuckle buys a second pet, a dog named Odie. However, Odie is then abducted and it is up to Jon's cat, Garfield, to find and rescue the canine. Kids £4 - Adults free!

**Room (15) 138mins**  
Fri, Mon, Wed: 21:00, Sat: 18:15, Sun: 17:15, Tue, Thu: 18:45  
A modern-day story about the boundless love between mother and child; young Jack knows nothing of the world except for the single room in which he was born and raised.

**Silver Screening - Dad's Army 119mins**  
Sun: 14:30  
Silver Screening - Concessions (age 60+) entry just £2.50! Includes complimentary tea and cake. The Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard platoon deal with a visiting female journalist and a German spy as World War II draws to its conclusion.

**Sing-A-Long Sound of Music**  
Sat 19:00  
A woman leaves an Austrian convent to become a governess to the children of a Naval officer widower. Dress-up and sing-a-long event! Raffle on the night and a prize for the best costume!

**Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens (12A) 156mins**  
Sat: 12:45, Sun: 12:00  
A continuation of the saga created by George Lucas set thirty years after Star Wars:  
Episode VI - Return of the Jedi (1983).

**The Revenant (15) 176mins**  
Fri, Mon, Wed: 19:00, Sat: 20:45, Sun: 19:45, Tue: 21:10, Thu: 21:15

Inspired by true events, THE REVENANT captures one man's epic adventure of survival and the extraordinary power of the human spirit. In an expedition of the uncharted American wilderness, legendary explorer Hugh Glass (Leonardo DiCaprio) is brutally attacked by a bear and left for dead by members of his own hunting team. In a quest to survive, Glass endures unimaginable grief as well as the betrayal of his confidant John Fitzgerald (Tom Hardy). Guided by sheer will and the love of his family, Glass must navigate a vicious winter in a relentless pursuit to live and find redemption.

**Coming Soon**  
**Kids Club: Big Hero 6 (PG)**  
13/02/2016  
Children's Classic. The special bond that develops between plus-sized inflatable robot Baymax, and prodigy Hiro Hamada, who team up with a group of friends to form a band of high-tech heroes.  
Kids £4 - Adults free!

**Spotlight (15)**  
12/02/2016  
SPOTLIGHT tells the riveting true story of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Boston Globe investigation that would rock the city and cause a crisis in one of the world's oldest and most trusted institutions.

## SMO to host centenary exhibition

SABHAL Mor Ostaig is to host an exhibition and symposium on the life and work of Jon Schueler, 100 years after his birth. The American artist spent time living in Mallaig and his art was inspired by the landscapes and seascapes he saw there. Magda Slavenson, curator of the Jon Schueler estate, said: 'The Sound of Sleat became to Schueler a place of experience, memory and mood. The specificity of this body of water fed Schueler's paintings, their imagery enlarged through layers of memory. How appropriate and challenging that the symposium celebrating the artist's centenary should be held on Skye, an island seen through changing weather from his studio in Mallaig.'

The event will be held from May 27 to 29 and there will be an in-depth look at the artist's work and more informal events. Donnie Munro, director of development, funding and the arts at Sabhal Mor Ostaig, said: 'Sabhal Mòr Ostaig is delighted to be initiating, hosting, and co-promoting this important international visual art event, which celebrates the birth of internationally renowned artist Jon Schueler, a prominent member of the New York School of Abstract Expressionist painters, an artist who developed a profoundly deep experiential affinity with the Sound of Sleat, leading, arguably, to the production of some of his most celebrated works.'



Jon Schueler's work will be exhibited. T06jon01

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Advertise in the Community Noticeboard for just £16.67 (plus VAT)  
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

**Oban Congregational Church**  
**COFFEE MORNING**  
Saturday 6th February  
10.30am - 12.30pm  
Tea or Coffee & Cakes £3.00  
All proceeds to church funds

**Inveraray & District Accordion & Fiddle Club**  
Inveraray Inn  
Wednesday 10th February  
At 8.00pm  
Guest Artists  
From Lanarkshire  
Ian Cathcart Trio  
Supporting players most welcome

"See local press for details"



"Your local paper - a must-see"



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For requests, competitions or questions please email: [studio@obanfm.org.uk](mailto:studio@obanfm.org.uk) or call us on 01631 570057

MONDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1700 Drivetime With Marcus, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McLuckie's Show, 2100 David Cullen

TUESDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are Made of This with Ken Hunter, 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, 1900 Country Meets Rock with Len & Ken, 2100 Gordon's Grooves

THURSDAY: 0800 Morning show, 1100 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drivetime with Stephen, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's Ceilidh, 2200 Margo Till Midnight

FRIDAY: 0800 Jean Ainsley Breakfast Show, 1000 Teeny and Tiny Show, 1300-1500 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 Lavin

SATURDAY: 0800 Breakfast Show, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crosner, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis

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



**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.**

<p><b>Lorie</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Alba West Coast Taxis</b> Oban 0800 123444</p>	<p><b>Mel</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Melfort Village</b> Hilmelford By Oban 01852 200257</p>	<p><b>Catfish</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Oban Fish and Chip Shop</b> George St, Oban 01631 569828</p>	<p><b>Firkin</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Fin's Place</b> 11 Tweedmill, Oban 01631 566220</p>	<p><b>Jimmy</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Carpet &amp; Flooring Services</b> Lochavullin Ind Est Oban 01631 563684</p>
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**Ten reasons why cats make great pets:**  
To re-home one of these cats call 01852 300362

- Cats are great family pets, and can be taught by children to play games that are traditionally associated with dogs, such as fetch.
- 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.
- 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.
- Most cats are litter-box trained which means you won't have to walk them on cold, rainy days.
- 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.
- Cats don't require bathing. They are meticulous about grooming themselves. If you have a long-haired cat, daily brushing is essential.
- 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.
- 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.
- When cats purr, it's like a little motor going off. This natural purr is extremely relaxing.
- 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.

<p><b>Sparky</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>OBAN ELECTRICAL SERVICES LTD</b> 19 Stevenson St, Oban 01631 564203</p>	<p><b>Rio</b></p> <p>Supported by Chaytan Shergill at the <b>COLUMBA HOTEL</b> The North Pier, Oban 01631 562183</p>	<p><b>Treadle</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Islay Woollen Mill</b> Bridgend, Isle of Islay 01496 810563</p>	<p><b>DavieChips</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Jewson</b> Sinclair Drive, Oban 01631 562208</p>
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<p><b>Skip</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>John MacLachlan Ltd</b> Torrin Gorm Ind Est, Oban 01631 566370</p>	<p><b>Ian</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Tralee Bay Holidays</b> Benderloch, By Oban 01631 720255</p>	<p><b>Kumho</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Herries Tyres</b> Quarry Rd, Oban 01631 570000</p>	<p><b>JJ</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>City Plumbing Supplies</b> 7E Glengallan Rd, Oban 01631 567640</p>	<p><b>Clementine</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>R A Clement Associates</b> 5 Argyll Square, Oban 01631 562643</p>	<p><b>Tessa</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>The Lochnell Arms</b> North Connell, By Oban 01631 710408</p>	<p><b>Feochan</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>The Image</b> 5 Airds Place Oban 01631 566322</p>	<p><b>Lora</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Scottish Sealife Centre</b> Barcaldine 01631 720386</p>	<p><b>Fionn</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>The Ferry Shop</b> Fionnphort, Isle of Mull 01681 700470</p>
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If you would like to rehome one of the cats from Small Paws, or more information, please contact Pat Blunsden on  
**01852 300362**  
or **07818 636613**  
**www.smallpaws.co.uk**  
Small Paws Rescue, Achabeag, Cuan Rd, Balvicar  
Small Paws Rescue is a registered charity SC044301



<p><b>Manda</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Oban Veterinary Surgeons</b> Tweeddale St, Oban 01631 562876</p>	<p><b>Herbie</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Hazelbank Motors</b> Lynn Road, Oban 01631 566476</p>	<p><b>Socat</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>THE OBAN TIMES</b> Lochavullin Ind Est, Oban 01631 568000</p>	<p><b>Campbell</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Campbeltown Courier</b> Main &amp; Longrow South, Campbeltown 01586 554646</p>	<p><b>Squeak</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>ARGYLLSHIRE ADVERTISER</b> Lochgilphhead 01546 602345</p>	<p><b>Brody</b></p> <p>Supported by <b>Arran Banner</b> Brodick, Isle of Arran 01770 302142</p>
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# Farming

## Oban Highland Cattle Show and Sale celebrates 125<sup>th</sup> event



**North Argyll Branch Blackface Sheep Breeders Association**  
**AGM**  
 Wednesday 24th February 2016 at 8pm in the Falls of Lora Hotel, Connel  
 The annual stock judging will be held on Friday 12th February at 7.30pm at Dalmailly Auction Mart (by kind permission of United Auctions).

**ARGYLL SMALL WOODS COOPERATIVE**  
 In association with **THE ROYAL SCOTTISH FORESTRY SOCIETY**  
 Invite all woodland owners, managers & workers to their Argyll Spring events

**Wednesday 17th February 12-4**  
 The pros and cons of Woodland grazing and shelter wood management.  
 Barrandroman farm, Knipoch. Light lunch provided.

**Wednesday 17th February 19.30 - 21.30**  
 SRDP funding for small woodlands and the launch of MyForest woodland planning software.  
 Cullfaill Hotel, Kilmelford. Light refreshments provided

**Thursday 18th February 09.30 - 13.00**  
 Woodland access, timber transport and the challenges of re-stocking.  
 Kilmore wood and Ardmaddy estate. Light lunch provided.

To book a place on any of these events contact:  
 Neil Donaldson 07810 810818  
 mail@donenvironmental.co.uk

Supported by: Forestry Commission Scotland  
 Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

THE Highland Cattle Society will celebrate its 125th annual spring show and sale at Oban Livestock Centre, Oban, this month.

The judge, Donald MacNaughton of the Rannoch Fold, will cast his eyes over a total of 114 animals - seven aged bulls, eight senior bulls, 23 two-year-old bulls, 13 yearling bulls, five senior heifers, 11 three-year-old heifers, 16 two-year-old heifers, 27 yearling heifers, three cows and one unaltered female.

Donald is no stranger to the show and sale ring. He and his family, who originate from the island

of Kerrera, have bred Highlanders all their lives.

In fact, Mr MacNaughton has been coming to Oban for the last 52 years, only missing one show during that time, which just happened to be the opening show. Mr MacNaughton himself has won the Oban show, has twice won the 'Glasgow' show (City of Glasgow International Show), and has never been out of the top three in any show he has exhibited at.

Young handlers will have to impress Catherine McKechnie if they are to win the Woodneuk Cup.

As well as the show and sale on Monday February 15, both starting at 10am, there are also a number of social events taking place.

Before the show and sale start, the society will meet for its annual general meeting at 5pm on February 13 at the Royal Hotel in Oban. A drinks reception and casino evening will follow at the same venue to welcome exhibitors from across the country.

The Provost of Argyll and

Bute Council, Len Scoular, has kindly sponsored the drinks reception, which begins at 6.30pm.

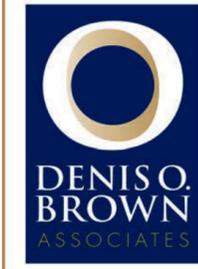
The aim of the drinks reception is to welcome new members to the society, meet up with fellow Highland breeders and allow potential buyers to meet with vendors.

Trophies and prizes will be presented by various guests at a ceilidh in the Royal Hotel on February 14. Tickets are available from the Highland Cattle Society for £25, including dinner.



Dougie MacDonald, Tyree, Benderloch, won the young handler's prize last year, to the delight of the locals in the crowd. 16\_t08highland07

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Patron: Her Majesty The Queen - Scottish Charity No. SC013974

### Highland Cattle Society

## 125<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY SPRING SHOW & SALE OF HIGHLAND CATTLE

114 Entries - 51 Bulls & 63 Females

Show - Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 10am  
 Sale - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 10am  
 Venue: Oban Livestock Centre, Oban

Pre show & sale events to be held at The Royal Hotel, Oban include:  
 AGM - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 5.00pm  
 Drinks Reception / Casino Evening - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 6.30pm

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

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Stirling Agricultural Centre

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Monday 2nd May  
 Sale of Pedigree Highland Cattle

Wednesday 18th May  
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Contacts  
 Donald Morrison 07771 644507  
 Raymond Kennedy 07545 207927  
 01786 473055 stirling@uagroup.co.uk  
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New Holland 5840, 4wd, c/w Quicke 750 loader, 2008, 85hp approx, mechanical shuttle, 2 spools.....	£18,495
John Deere 6110, 4wd, 2002, reg. c/w Quicke loader/joystick/3rd service, left hand shuttle, power quad, 85HP approx.....	£17,995
Kubota ME 8200 4 wd c/w Kubota LA1251 Loader, Air Con, RSHP approx, 980 recorded hours, hydraulic shuttle.....	£17,495
Takeuchi TB153 Excavator, 5 ton, 2007, hydraulic quick hitch, 1 bucket, twin speed tracking, rubber tracks 80%.....	£15,995
Kubota ME5700, 4WD, 2006, c/w Kubota Loader/ifti bucket, shuttle box, 60hp, air con, 80% turf tyres.....	£15,495
Manitou MLT 629 120 LSU, 2001, c/w pallet forks, 6 metre reach, 3 ton lift, c/w pallet forks.....	£14,495
John Deere 6200 4wd, c/w Trimo loader, 1995, 5hp approx, Powequad transmission, telescopic PUH.....	£13,495
John Deere 6100 4wd, 1996, same owner for 12 years, 3815 recorded hours, 75 HP, PowerQuad, Air con.....	£13,295
John Deere 6300 4WD, 1996, 90hp, power quad, 3700 recorded hours, telescopic hitch.....	£12,495
Massey Ferguson 2210, 4wd, 2003, c/w Massey Ferguson 871 loader, shuttle, 2 spools, 53 HP, 1935 recorded hours, air con.....	£12,495
Case CS78, 2001, Synchro Forward and Reverse, 4WD, 2 Spools, Toplink, Pickup Hitch, Trailer Braking Valve.....	£11,995
Massey Ferguson 3075 Autotronic, 1994, 4WD, Reg: 86 HP, 5088 Recorded Hours, 4x2 Powershift, Ex Local Farm.....	£11,995
Kubota L5740 4wd, 2010, c/w W & A Wilson front linkage, 4 cylinder, 60hp approx, hydrostatic, air con cab, 697 hours.....	£11,995
Manitou MLT 524 Turbo, 2000 X reg, c/w pallet forks, ex local farm, 5m reach, 2.4 ton lift, front spools, Maniifa PUH.....	£11,495
Renault Pales 210, 2001, 3 cylinder Deutz, 52 hp, 4100 recorded hours, shuttle box, 2 spools, over sized flotation tyres.....	£8,795
Kubota BX2350 4wd Hydrostatic Drive c/w Snow Blade, 2010, 3 cylinder 23HP, 1600 recorded hours, 1 spool.....	£7,495
Case 795 4wd, 1990, c/w Quicke 4560 loader/muck fork/lever control, 77HP approx, 1 spool, PUH, V5 document, low cab height.....	£7,495
Ford 3910 2wd, 1989, 50hp approx, 2773 recorded hours, same owner for past 15 years, column change, PUH.....	£5,295
Polaris Ranger Utility Vehicle, Diesel, 2010, Green, Agri registered, reg: S160 FCM, good tyres.....	£4,295
Kawasaki Mule 3010 Diesel, tipping body, bench seat, half cab.....	£3,495
Honda Fourtrax 420cc, Auto, selectable 2wd/4wd, independent suspension.....	£3,495
Yamaha Grizzly 450cc, 2011, auto, 4wd, tow ball.....	£3,295
Yamaha Grizzly 350cc, 2008, auto, 4wd, tow ball.....	£2,995
Yamaha Grizzly 350cc, 2007, auto, green, 4wd, tow ball.....	£2,995
Suzuki King quad, 500cc, brand new, power steering, auto, UK delivery £95, save £250.....	now £7,200
Suzuki 400cc King quad, 2015, brand new, red, manual, UK delivery £95, save £800.....	now £4,999
Arctic Cat 400cc Alterra, brand new, roof legal, winch, red or green.....	£4,490

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They will be bursting with ideas on where to look for stories, understand the importance of fostering great contacts and knowing their patch and be capable of working on their own initiative as well as part of a team.

They should also hold a full driving licence.

As well as writing for the newspaper of record for the West Highlands, they will be expected to take pictures on the job, as well as contribute to our social media channels.

In return for all this we offer a competitive salary, great experience and training, as well as private health care and an enhanced pension.

Please apply by email, sending your CV, plus a covering letter and some examples of your work to: Alison Arden - [ali@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ali@obantimes.co.uk)

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We are currently recruiting for a Senior Marine Operative based at our site at Quarry Point, Loch Fyne. Under the direction of the site manager, you will lead a small team in all the day to day operations of the site and will assume responsibility for staff, vessels and equipment.

Applicants must have proven leadership, fish husbandry and organisational abilities along with good numerical and IT skills. The successful applicant must also be committed to high standards of health & safety of staff and understand the importance of environmental issues. A full clean driving licence is also essential for this position.

The Scottish Salmon Company is 100% focused on Scotland. We produce our salmon with a pride recognised at home and around the World. We require passionate individuals dedicated to delivering the highest standards in all aspects of our business from animal husbandry to customer service.

In return we offer a competitive salary package within a successful and innovative company committed to sustainability. To apply and/or request a detailed job specification please use the contact details below. Please note applications are requested by CV and covering letter.

Angela Gibson  
 The Scottish Salmon Company  
 Ardkinglas, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8HB  
 Tel: 01499 600 430 [angela.gibson@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:angela.gibson@scottishsalmon.com)  
 Closing date for applications: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016  
[www.scottishsalmon.com](http://www.scottishsalmon.com)

**Scotland's Finest**

**dawnfresh farming**  
**Area Manager**  
 Loch Etive, near Taynuilt

Dawnfresh Farming Ltd, part of the Dawnfresh Seafoods Group, is the largest Trout Farming Company operating in the UK. Our Marine and Freshwater farms are located throughout Scotland, England and Ireland.

We are currently looking to identify a suitably qualified and highly motivated individual to undertake the role of Area Manager for our five seawater farms on Loch Etive, near Taynuilt, Argyll.

As Area Manager you will be fully responsible for the day to day planning, running and reporting of all five farms, 25 staff and producing >3,000t annually of 5.5kg Rainbow Trout (Steelhead).

Reporting to the Production Manager, the successful candidate will already be a Farm Manager within the aquaculture industry. Essential skills will require the demonstrable aptitude for managing and motivating personnel plus an ability for developing site infrastructure and establishing best farming practice, with first class planning and organisation abilities and a high degree of computer literacy. In addition, applicants should have a full driving licence.

We offer an attractive salary package along with the opportunity to develop your management career within a company at the forefront of UK trout farming

Our production in Loch Etive is expected to double within the next 2-3 years with the re-development of existing sites and the further potential for opening new production in a separate geographic region(s).

Assistance with relocation may be available.

If you are interested in applying for this position please send your CV, by 15 February 2016, to:

Jane McCusker, HR Advisor, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS. Office 01698 810008, E-mail: [jane.mccusker@dawnfresh.co.uk](mailto:jane.mccusker@dawnfresh.co.uk)

Informal enquires can be made to Gideon Pringle, Mobile 07747 487232, E-mail [gideon.pringle@dawnfresh.co.uk](mailto:gideon.pringle@dawnfresh.co.uk)

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**Outline of job role and purpose**

To undertake a number of general administrative duties including:

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- Creating and updating records on our in-house computer system and data input.
- Producing court documents.
- Preparing files for court hearings.
- General photocopying and filing.
- Dealing with numerical calculations.
- Accounting for monies in accordance with financial guidelines.
- Undertake light portering duties as required.
- You will have regular contact with court users, including members of the Judiciary and the legal profession. As such you be required to competently answer queries giving consistent and reliable advice.
- You will work within a small team with regular management support and will be responsible for your own time.
- Assist with preparing statistical information and other returns to ensure standards of work meet the agreed level.
- Assist in clearing up of criminal courts by preparing court minutes, issuing letters, ordering reports and filing complaints as necessary.
- Process and enter fine payments onto computer system and reconcile at end of day.

The above lists are not exhaustive and the job holder may be required to undertake such duties as may reasonably be requested within the scope of the post.

**Outline of candidate profile.**

You as one of the successful candidates must be focused on providing a high quality service to all court users. You should have a flexible approach to work and be prepared to work in a team environment and be willing to develop and acquire new skills as your job demands. The ability to get on with others is an essential quality.

We offer an interesting work environment, 25 days holiday entitlement (pro rata), 11.5 days Public and Privilege holidays (pro rata) and a civil service pension. Training is provided and there are a variety of opportunities for career progression in the service.

If you are interested in this challenging and rewarding opportunity, you may apply online at [www.scotcourts.gov.uk/](http://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/) recruitment. For further information on the post please contact David Bell, Executive Support Officer, North Strathclyde Business Team, Paisley. Email: [dbell@scotcourts.gov.uk](mailto:dbell@scotcourts.gov.uk), Direct Dial: 0141 847 6721.

There are no formal qualifications for this post.

The closing date for the post is 26th February 2016.  
 Interviews will be held on the 17th March 2016.

The Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service is exempt from the protections of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (1974). This permits us to ask applicants details of both spent and unspent convictions, along with details of any formal cautions that you may have. Individuals without existing security clearance will always be considered as all successful applicants will require a standard level Disclosure check completed before employment can commence.

The SCTS is committed to equality and diversity in employment and service delivery  
[www.scotcourts.gov.uk](http://www.scotcourts.gov.uk)

**Community Enablement Co-ordinator**  
 Argyll and Bute TSI are seeking part-time co-ordinators to work on their community resilience as Community Enablement co-ordinator (2 posts):

Lorn & the Isles (20 hours per week) and Lochgilphead, Mid-Argyll (7.5 hours per week) – Salary £11.25 per hour.

The co-ordinator will establish and deliver a range of initiatives as part of a team designed to support older people to remain living in their own homes, to make social connections, and reduce loneliness.

The closing date is 22nd February at 5pm and interviews will take place in early March. For job description and application pack phone 01631 564839 or email [shirley@argylltsi.org.uk](mailto:shirley@argylltsi.org.uk).

For informal discussion phone 01631 564839 and speak to Glenn Heritage, CEO, ABTSI.  
 Charity No: SC 029947 Company No: 277345

**West Property is looking for an energetic and ambitious person to join our rapidly growing Estate and Letting agency based in Oban.**

We are looking for someone with excellent people skills, able to communicate effectively with customers in person and on the phone, well developed IT skills, organisation and time management skills. Sales experience would also be beneficial. Full training will be provided and salary is based on experience. Immediate start.

Please send your CV and covering letter to West Property, 9 Combie St, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HN.  
[n.macphail@west-property.co.uk](mailto:n.macphail@west-property.co.uk)

**Enable Scotland**  
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 Please contact Kirsty on 01631 565062 between 10am - 2pm  
 email [kirsty.mackenzie@enable.org.uk](mailto:kirsty.mackenzie@enable.org.uk)  
 Application forms can be found on Enable Scotland's website or collected from our local office at Unit 3, Macleod Buildings, Lochavullin Road, Oban.

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**dawnfresh farming**  
**Boatman – Fixed Term Contract**  
 Loch Etive, near Taynuilt

Dawnfresh Farming Ltd, part of the Dawnfresh Seafoods Group, is the largest Trout Farming Company operating in the UK. Our Marine and Freshwater farms are located throughout Scotland, England and Ireland.

We are currently looking to identify a suitably qualified and highly motivated individual to undertake the role of Boatman at our seawater farms on Loch Etive, near Taynuilt, Argyll.

You will be responsible for skippering our workboats and must hold either a Boatmasters Licence or RYA Day Skipper qualification or above and your qualification must be commercially endorsement. In addition, applicants should have a full driving licence.

This position is initially for a period of 6 months with the possibility of being made permanent at the end of the contract.

If you are interested in applying for this position please send your CV, by 24 February 2016, to:

Jane McCusker, HR Advisor, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS. Office 01698 810008, E-mail: [jane.mccusker@dawnfresh.co.uk](mailto:jane.mccusker@dawnfresh.co.uk)

**MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION REQUIRE**  
**COUNTERBALANCE FORK-LIFT OPERATOR**  
 WRITTEN APPLICATIONS WITH CURRENT QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED  
 Kilmory Industrial Estate  
 Lochgilphead PA31 8RR  
 or e-mail – [lil@mkmacleod.co.uk](mailto:lil@mkmacleod.co.uk)

**VALMAR HANDLING SERVICES LTD**

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The key responsibilities are –

- Service, Maintenance and Repair of both Valmar's and our Clients Mechanical Handling Fleets.
- The ability to fault find both Mechanical and Electrical problems.
- Experience on Diesel Sideloaders and Diesel Counterbalance trucks is essential.
- To possess First Class communication skills.

**Client Base**

Our Client base consists of "Blue Chip" Steel, Concrete and Timber Accounts (including the largest home grown timber company in the UK).

**Qualifications**

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Specific product training will be provided as required.

A competitive salary, transport and benefits package is included.

**To apply please email a CV to [martinvalente@valmarhandling.co.uk](mailto:martinvalente@valmarhandling.co.uk), or post to: Martin Valente, Valmar Handling Services Ltd., 17 Springburn Place, College Milton, East Kilbride, G74 5NU.**

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public notices

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
15/04486/LBC	St Adamnans, Duror	Repointing the external walls of the church
15/04731/FUL	The Town Pier, Fort William	Replacement timber shed
16/00025/MSC	Plot 4 Campbell Road, Banavie, Fort William	Erection of house
16/00168/PIP	Site 320M North West of Achnabobane Farmhouse Spean Bridge	Erection of dwelling
16/00205/FUL	Land NE of Narrach Bridge, Kinlochleven	Borrow pit
16/00245/FUL	Land NW of Heisker, Banavie, Fort William	Erection of dwelling house
16/00247/FUL	Unit 1, North Road, Fort William	Redevelopment of site to demolish existing structures & construct food & non-food retail floorspace with associated car parking, servicing & access
16/00313/FUL	Former Police Station, High Street, Fort William	Proposed Hotel

Time period for comments is 14 days. 15/04486/LBC is 21 days  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

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.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/03531/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, formation of vehicular access and installation of treatment plant	Land South East of Old Schoolhouse Cladich Dalmally Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dalmally
16/00160/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of sewage treatment plant	Eredine House Eredine Dalmally Argyll and Bute PA33 1BP	Sub Post Office Dalmally

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 DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/03166/PP	Conversion of two stables buildings and Square Cottage (including change of use) to form guest accommodation and estate offices, associated parking area, walled garden and drainage	Jura House Craighouse Isle of Jura Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura
16/00102/PP	Installation of run of river hydro scheme	Land North West of Jura House Craighouse Isle of Jura Argyll and Bute PA60 7XY	Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.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.

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
ROADS(Scotland) ACT 1984 - ADOPTION OF ROADS

In accordance with the terms of Section 1(4) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, Argyll and Bute Council propose to add to their List of Public Roads, the following length of road:  
**Achaleven Road Extension, Connel (No.079)**

From its former termination 196 metres or thereby northeast of its junction with the track to the Achaleven Reservoir and Black Lochs, extending in a north easterly direction for a distance of 183 metres or thereby to the kerbline at the level crossing, 5 metres or thereby from the British Rail gate, including the turning head 6 metres in length and a 2 metre wide service strip/ verge or to the nearest boundary fence or wall, whichever comes first.

Full details together with a plan are available for public inspection during normal office hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the offices of:  
1. Connel Post Office, Main Street, Connel;  
2. Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban.

Any person wishing to object to the proposal should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Head of Roads & Amenity Services, Argyll and Bute Council, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RD by 4th March 2016.

(DISABLED STREET PARKING - OBAN, LORN & THE ISLES)(VARIATION)(NO.2) ORDER 2016

Argyll and Bute Council proposes to make an amendment to an existing Order in accordance with the introduction of the Disabled Persons' Parking Places (Scotland) Act 2009 and the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The Order will introduce new bays and delete existing bays no longer required. The effect of the order will be to make it an offence for anyone to park in a marked disabled persons' parking place unless they are the holder of a valid blue badge and are using it in accordance with the terms of the national blue badge legislation.

This order affects the following streets in OBAN - Lismore Crescent, Longsdale Crescent, Longsdale Terrace, Miller Road and Jura Road. Full details of these proposals, which form the proposed "The Argyll and Bute Council (Disabled Street Parking - Oban Lorn & the Isles) (Variation)(No.2) Order 2016", together with Plans, and a Statement of Reasons for proposing to make this Traffic Regulation Order, are available for inspection during normal office hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the offices of:  
(i) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban;  
(ii) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

Any person wishing to object to the proposals should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll by 26th February 2016.

Jim Smith, Head of Roads & Amenity Services, 1A Manse Brae, LOCHGILPHEAD PA31 8RD

COUNCILLOR'S SURGERY  
Councillor Roddy McCuish (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)  
Councillor Roddy McCuish can be contacted by email - [Roddy.McCuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Roddy.McCuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk) or by telephone 01631 567854. Councillor McCuish will be happy to arrange meetings to suit constituents.

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



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997, AS AMENDED  
ADVERTISEMENT UNDER SECTION 67(2) OF THE MAKING OF A REVOCATION ORDER OR MODIFICATION ORDER

CONDITIONAL PLANNING PERMISSION FOR ERECTION OF FOUR CHALETS AT TIGH AN DARIACH, BY TAYNUILT, ARGYLL

REFERENCE NUMBER: 95/00036/DET (ALTERNATIVE REFERENCE 01/95/0781/DET)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Argyll and Bute Council have made an order under section 65 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to revoke the above planning permission.

The Council have been notified by the owner or lessee (if any); the occupier of the land, and all persons who in the Council's opinion will be affected by the Order that they do not object to the Order.

Any person who will be affected by the Order and who wishes for an opportunity of appearing before, and being heard by, a person appointed by the Scottish Ministers, must give notice in writing to the Scottish Ministers, Planning and Architecture Division, Planning Decisions, 2H (South), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ no later than 3rd March 2016.

If no such notice is given by that date the Order will take effect by virtue of the provisions of Section 67(7) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 on 17th March 2016 without being confirmed by The Scottish Ministers.

Date 4th February 2016  
Charles Reppeke, Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES  
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

LETTINGS COMMERCIAL PROPERTY SALE PROPERTY REVIEWS PROPERTY NEWS LOCAL ESTATE AGENTS

**UK house prices to rise by 6 per cent in 2016**



Although housing has climbed the policy agenda, with supply issues dominating the private housing market, the forecast from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) suggests that the likely increase in prices in 2016 will outstrip any rise in household income.

'Housing has clearly leapt up the Government's agenda, but despite the raft of initiatives announced over the past year, the lags involved in development mean that prices, and for that matter rents, are likely to rise further over the next 12 months,' said Nicola MacPhail, managing partner at West Property Sales & Lettings. 'Lack of stock will continue to be the principal driver of this trend, but the likely persistence of cheap money will compound it for the time being.'

Looking further out, there is some justification for taking a more optimistic view of new build with significant incentives being put in place to deliver starter homes. 'While this may not on its own stem the upward trend in house prices, it could help to slow the rate of growth to something closer to the probable rise in household incomes,' Nicola said.

'Critically, our principal concern with the measures announced by the Government is that it is overly focused on promoting home ownership at the expense of other tenures. Discouraging buy-to-let could see private rents take even more of the strain if institutional investment doesn't increase significantly, particularly given the likely reduced flows of social rent property going forward.'

The strongest areas of the UK for transaction levels are likely to continue trends seen in 2015, with the North East, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland outpacing the rest of the UK.

Nicola continued: 'There have been many welcome supply side measures in the productivity plan to balance the likes of help to buy. The brownfield fund, local plan enforcement and new development corporations should help get more homes built, and the passage of the housing and planning bill is key. We still, however, need to help councils, housing associations and community land trusts get building in order to get anywhere close to a co-ordinated and coherent strategy across all tenures.'

According to Nicola, ramping up housing supply is positive, but home ownership should not be the only game in town given the amount of private rented accommodation needed. 'A mix of market and rented housing is required and starter homes should not be seen as the panacea to solving the housing crisis, but as forming part of a larger mix to meet the wide range of housing need the country is crying out for.'

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**OIRO £230,000**

**Whinfield, Glenmore Road, Oban**

- Detached house
- 3 bed / 2 bath
- Quiet location
- Lovely views over Oban
- Well maintained property
- EPC Rating - 33 (F)

**OIEO £200,000**

**Cuan Ferry, Isle Of Seil**

- Detached Cottage
- 2 Bed / 2 Bath
- Sea Views
- Large garden
- Beautiful island location
- EPC Rating G (01)

**OIRO £190,000**

**14b Albert Lane, Oban**

- First floor flat
- 3 Bed / 1 Bath
- Close to Oban town centre
- Communal drying area & private parking
- EPC Rating - D (65)

**OIRO £110,000**

**Bramble Cottage, Calgry**

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# West Coast **MOTORING** TIMES

✔ DRIVETIMES ✔ SAILING TIMES ✔ GARAGES ✔ CAR DEALERSHIPS ✔ MOTORING NEWS

## Dacia Sandero a four-time winner at What Car? awards



Dacia has picked up the title of What Car? 2016 'Best Small Car for less than £12,000' with its Sandero 1.2 Ambiance hatchback for the fourth consecutive year.

First picking up the accolade in 2013 following the brand's entrance into the UK car market, and retaining the award in 2014 and 2015, the practical and affordable supermini has taken the honours once more to truly reaffirm its popularity alongside the rest of Dacia's 'shockingly affordable' range.

Commenting on the decision to give the award to the Sandero for the fourth time,

Jim Holder, editorial director, What Car? said: 'If you're looking for budget motoring, it's hard to go wrong with the Dacia Sandero.'

In entry-level specification it's the cheapest new car available in the UK, yet it offers comfortable seating for four adults and a big boot. We'd recommend spending a little more on the slightly higher-specification Ambiance version, though. It adds several key creature comforts, including remote central locking, electric front windows and Bluetooth connectivity, which makes the Sandero much more enjoyable to own.'

Louise O'Sullivan, Head of Dacia UK said: 'We're delighted that the judges at What Car? have recognised the Sandero's qualities for a fourth consecutive year – especially given that starting from a 'shockingly affordable' price of £5,995 you can get one from just half the amount of the category it competes in.'

The Dacia Sandero is a five-door hatchback, available in three trim levels with a choice of two petrol engines and one diesel engine. Pricing starts from £5,995, making it the lowest priced new car on sale in the UK

today. The specific Ambiance version chosen by What Car? comes with features such as Bluetooth connectivity, electric windows and USB connectivity.

Dacia continued its prodigious rise in the UK with another strong year of sales, with 26,267 new Dacia vehicles sold during 2015, up 10 per cent compared to 2014. Dacia recorded 3.5 million sales across Europe in November 2015 since relaunching in 2004.

For more information on the Sandero, as well as the rest of Dacia's award-winning range, please visit [www.dacia.co.uk](http://www.dacia.co.uk)

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**Call 07789855381 for a hassle free sale**

**WANTED**

All 4 x 4s, old or new Toyota Hilux, land cruiser, all pickups single or double cabs, any condition, runner or not, high miles no problem.

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62 Renault scenic XMode DYN, T/T, DCI, Red, 41,000 Miles.....£8,500  
12 Renault Clio Exp+, 1.2, 3dr White, 18,250 miles.....£5,750  
61 Renault Wind roadster, GT line 1.6 convertible, black, 58,000 miles.....£5,250  
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**PERSONALS**

**THANK YOU!**

I would like to thank all who visited, sent flowers and telephoned during my eight week stay in the Golden Jubilee Hospital. Special thanks to Mr Kinninmonth and theatre staff and all in Ward 2 West who made my stay more bearable. Very special thanks to Angela and Kenneth MacQuarrie whose kindness. I shall never be able to repay.

Hughina Spence, Tobermory

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**BIRTHS**

**MULLEN** - At the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, on January 6, 2016, to Michael and Victoria (née Sloan), a daughter Emily Claire. First grandchild for Winifred and Michael, Taynult and second grandchild for John and Penny, Johnstonbridge.

**GOLDEN WEDDINGS**

**DEMPSTER - McKNIGHT** - Cammy to Ina on February 5, 1966 at St Oran's Manse, Connel. Congratulations and much love, Derek, Linda, Deirdre and families xx

**LIVINGSTONE** - Gilbert to Ethel (née MacDonald) at Oban Parish Church on February 4, 1966. Present address: Druimvuic, Appin

**DEATHS**

**BERRY** - Peacefully in Cradlehall Nursing Home on Saturday, January 30, 2016, Michael beloved son of Katie and the late George and dear brother of George. R.I.P.

**CLARK** - Peggy (née Brown). Suddenly, on Thursday January 28, at Fairview Nursing Home, Bannockburn, Peggy (formerly from the Isle of Colonsay), aged 75 years. Dearly beloved wife of the late Angus Ross Clark, a much loved mum to Morag, Dugie, Don and Gavin, a loving mother-in-law, and adoring granny to Nicola, Paula, Ryan, Cooper, Taylor, Dara and Iona and dearly loved sister to May. "Lives on within our hearts".

**DONALD** - Peacefully at the Lynn of Lorne Care Home, Benderloch, on February 1, 2016 in her 86th year, Margaret Donald (née Wardrope), formerly of George Street, Ayr and latterly of Kilbride Farm, Balvicar, much loved mum, granny and great granny.

**FELLOWES** - David Lyon JP, DL of Cladich, died peacefully on January 27th, 2016, aged 84. Dearly beloved husband of the late Liz, loving father of Emma and Mark, adored Manta to Alexander, Violet, Rosanna and Davina. Funeral service at St. Conan's Kirk, Lochave on Friday February 5th at 11a.m. Burial private.

**GALLOWAY** - Peacefully, at Lynn of Lorne Residential Home, Benderloch, on January 28, 2016, William Galloway (Bill), in his 91st year, 3 Croft View, North Connel, formerly of Strathaird, Connel and Bonawe Quarries, dearly beloved husband of Ella McCulloch, much loved father of Elma and Sandra, loving father-in-law of Jim and Tam and a loving and much loved papa, great grandpa and opa. Service was held at Ardchattan Parish Church, Achnaba, on Wednesday, February 3. An interment service will be held in Kilkerran Cemetery, Campbelltown, today Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 12.30pm.

**HART** - Peacefully, at Eadar Glinn Care Home, on February 1, 2016, aged 97 years, John, (Jock), formerly of 51 Longsdale Crescent, Oban,

beloved husband of the late Chrissie, much loved father of Robert and the late Sandy and a dear grandfather and great-grandfather. Will be sadly missed.

**JOHNSTON** - Morag Johnston (née Sykes), originally from Liveras, Broadford, died peacefully in NZ January 30, 2016, aged 96. Much loved widow of Nigel and mother of Rhona, Katrin, Quentin and Charles.

**KERR** - Kathleen née Toal. Died peacefully at the Belford Hospital, Fort William on Tuesday February 2, 2016. Beloved wife of Michael, a loving sister and sister-in-law and also a dear aunt and great-aunt. Requiem Mass will be held on Saturday February 6, 2016 at 11am in St. Margaret's RC Church, Roy Bridge; thereafter to Cille Choirill Cemetery. Family flowers only please. R.I.P.

**MACINDEOR** - Peacefully at his home, on January 20, 2016, Iain Hugh MacIndeor, aged 88 years, of 21 Glenfyne Park, Ardrishaig, beloved husband of the late Isobel MacGregor, much loved father of Lynn, John, Connie, Alasdair, Duncan, Rose, Gregor and the late Patricia and a treasured grandpa and great grandpa. A much respected father-in-law, and dear brother, uncle and cousin to all the family. A good neighbour, dear friend and former work colleague to many. Funeral service was held in Ardrishaig Parish Church, followed by interment at Achabreac Cemetery. Forever in our thoughts.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**CHRYSAL** - The family of the late Alasdair Chrysal would like to thank everyone most sincerely for the sympathy and support shown following their sad loss. Thanks go to the staff at the Mid Argyll Hospital for their compassionate and professional care during Alasdair's short illness, to Stan Lupton Funeral Directors, Rev. Roderick Campbell for an uplifting service and to Ethel the organist for playing some of Alasdair's favourite tunes. Thanks to the shopkeepers of Inveraray for their show of respect which was noticed and to the staff of The George Hotel for the catering. Special thanks to Stuart Liddell for piping at the funeral. Last but not least thank you to all of ours and Alasdair's friends for attending the service and showing your respects to a much loved member of the community. The retail collection raised the generous sum of £1650 which will go to The Glenaray Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital and Inveraray Pipe Band.

**MACDONALD** - Marybell would like to thank most sincerely family, friends, neighbours and former colleagues for the kindness shown to her on the death of her beloved and wonderful husband John Angus. The amount of Mass and sympathy cards, flowers, calls and visits received were overwhelming. Special thanks to Cordia, the district nurses and doctors O'Neill and McNaughton for all the care and

attention shown to John Angus before his death. Thanks also to Alex MacIntyre and Murdo MacLellan for all the assistance given and for taking John Angus's remains home to Uist. Cockburn Funeral Home for the arrangements. Monsignor John Gilmartin and Canon Donald MacKay for their spiritual support and prayerful masses. Beathg Mhoireasdan and the Daliburgh choir for their singing. Organists Ann and Pauline. Pipers Ross Campbell and James MacLean. Jessie and her team for providing lunch in St Peter's Hall supplied by the 'Stepping Stones' restaurant. Grave diggers Angus Walkers and friend. For all who attended both Masses in Glasgow and Uist and those who waited patiently at the pier and in the church to receive the remains, thank you.

**MACKINNON** - Phemie and all Hamish's family would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their attendance at the recent service and at Glen Nevis. Also for their cards, calls and thoughtfulness after their recent loss. Special thanks to Maureen for all her help and support. Thanks to Dr Tangney and the staff of Glen Mor Surgery for their care of Hamish over the years. To Rev Muirhead for her comforting service and to Mike McFall and his staff for their efficient funeral arrangements, to Fay and Marlene for the lovely buffet at the Caol Community Centre. The sum of £545 was collected at the church for Glen Mor Surgery.

**MACLACHLAN** - Hugh, Rosemary, Nan and Alisdair would like to express their sincere thanks to relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy extended to them by letters, cards, telephone calls and the flowers they received in the recent sad loss of Ann. Special thanks to Dr Swann, Nurses David and Annie, The Pines Medical Practice for the loving care, attention and support during mum's illness. Thanks also to Jessie Colquhoun Marie Curie Nurse and special thanks to Rev Gordon Mair for his comforting service, John McLellan Funeral Directors for excellent, caring funeral arrangements and to all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside and finally thanks to Kilchoan Community Centre for the catering.

**PEARSON** - Helen and family wish to thank all friends and relatives for their kind expressions of sympathy by way of cards, phone calls, flowers, visits and baking received on Davie's passing. Thanks to all staff who cared for Davie at the Lorn and Islands Hospital and the Lorn Medical Practice, to the Rev Dugald Cameron for his comforting service at church and graveside. Special thanks to all at D & A Munn for their professional, caring and efficient funeral arrangements and their support and comfort shown to the family with the swift arrangements of the second interment. Finally thanks to everyone who came from near and far to pay their respects at church and graveside. We were humbled by the numbers present and uplifted by the glorious singing. The retail collection raised £1156 shared by ABCD and the Macmillan Suite.

**PILKINGTON** - Jackie and family would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their immense support with expressions of sympathy, flowers, cards and phone calls for our loss of Marjorie, a dear mum, nana and big nana. Special thanks to the day and night doctors and nurses in ward I, Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban for their dedicated care in mum's last days with grateful thanks to all the paramedics, to the Lynn of Lorne and all the caring staff, with sincere thanks for making her feel at home and safe and looking after her so well. To the Glassary ward's doctors and nurses at the Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead for taking good care of her in the early stage of her illness. A sincere thank you to Ian McInnes of D & A Munn for making all the funeral arrangements with great efficiency and kindness and organizing the catering arrangements at the Coaching Inn, Cardross, which was very much appreciated. Thank you to the Reverend Ian Miller at Cardross Crematorium for his warm and comforting service and to her godson Stephen for his reading and words of thanks. Grateful thanks to the organist. The family would like to thank everyone who attended the service and who very kindly donated to the Oban Dementia Resource Centre which totalled £250.

**MEMORIAMS**

**BUCHANAN** - Treasured memories of our dear mum, mother in law and granny, Jean, who passed away on February 10, 2015. Much loved and missed, always in our thoughts. - Hamish, Carolyn, James, Alan and Lora X

**BUNTING** - Donald. Never from the heart that loves will your memory ever fade. - Sister Isabel and family

**CAMBELL** - David Glenn (The Bear), 5/2/2012 Always remembered Always in our thoughts Always loved and always with us. - Mary, Glenn, David and Maree.

**CAMPBELL** - David - 2/10/60 - 5/2/12 He brought happiness to so many people. With the kindness in his heart and his great big laugh. When I'm upset, I feel him close to me. Helping me along another day. I will miss you forever, my lovely son. R.I.P.

**CAMPBELL** - Treasured memories of my brother David who passed away four years ago. Times passes memories stay. Loved and remembered every day. - Kenneth and family, Inverness.

**CAMPBELL** - In loving memory of my young brother David (The Bear), who passed away on February 5, 2012. Death leaves a heartache. Difficult to heal. You left good memories. No-one can steal. - Diana, Mel, Gwen and Lorna, sister, brother-in-law and nieces.

**CAMPBELL** - David (Bear) taken on February 5, 2012. In loving memory of those who are forever present in our hearts. - Marina, David, Davina and Iona, sister, brother-in-law and nieces.

**CAMERON** - Remembering always Linda, beloved partner of Alec (Tottie MacNicol), died February 5, 2012.

**GUNN** - Treasured memories of Alice, much loved mum, who passed away 20 years ago, February 9, 1996. Remembered with love - Linda, Janice and Calum.

**MACARTHUR** - Morag. In loving memory of my mum who passed away on February 5, 2013, in Sandaig, Tiree. Always remembered. - Duncan.

**MACDONALD** - Remembering a much loved mother Catherine, granny and great gran, who passed away on February 6, 1998, and loved ones gone before and since. Deep are the memories Precious they stay. No passing of time. Will take them away. - Jean and family, 47 Drumfada Terrace, Corpach, Fort William.

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of my dear wife Catherine MacDonald, Churchfield House, Kinlochewe who passed away on February 1, 2007. Also remembered at this time my dear cousins Hugh MacDonald, Stronaba Farm, Spean-Bridge who passed away on February 1, 1984 and Robert MacDonald who passed away on January 17, 1990 at Maidstone, Kent. Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away. - Malcolm MacDonald

**MACLACHLAN** - In loving memory of uncle Ian who died February 2, 2005. Fondly remembered by - Nephew Gordon, cousin Sheena and family and Joseph

**MACLEAN** - Cherished memories of Ian (Cleansy) 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 (Cleansy). Another year and lots of silent tears. Love and miss you always. - Libby, Pat and family

**MACLEAN** - Cherished memories of Mary Campbell MacLean (née MacDonald), a darling wife, mother, granny and mother-in-law, who died February 8, 2005. We miss your smile, your cheery ways, we missed the things you used to say and when old times we do recall, its then we miss you most of all. - Alistair, Dugald, Arlene and families

**MCKINNEY** - In loving memory of our dear brothers, Charlie died February 1, 2013, Owen February 12, 2009 and Maurice June 26, 2001. Always in our thoughts. - Jessie and Pat.

**MORRISON** - In loving memory of my dear brother Donald John who passed away on January, the 28, 2015 at his home in Kyle. Also in memory of all our loved ones gone before. Because you are missed so very much by those you left behind and although you are out of sight you are never out of mind. - Mary K MacQueen and family, Fort William.

**PATERSON** - In loving memory of a dear mother, mother-in-law, gran and a devoted partner of Willie for 35 years, Mary who died on February 5, 2015. We often lie awake at night while the world is fast asleep. We think about our lovely mam we lost with tears upon our cheeks We cannot get over losing you no matter how we try We will keep you in our hearts until the day we die Miss you so much mum, love always - Andrew, Robin, James, Rhonda, Maureen, Jaqueline, Allan, Stephen, we James, Orla xx Till we meet again Mary Love you always and forever - Willie xx

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**YOUNGSTERS from Oban High School do themselves proud.**

East Kilbride - were more experienced as were all the other contenders. 'In other words, all the other participating schools had previous knowledge of the event and indeed the venue which was quite grand and therefore a little bit intimidating whilst this was our first time.

'That said, the three OHS pupils very much enjoyed the experience and as did the parents who came along. 'Clare Bryden, the OHS English teacher who took on board with enthusiasm our initiative for this competition is very keen to continue our involvement with an anticipated increase in the number of competitors next year for our local competition which as indicated leads to a district competition and thereafter to a competition at a national level.

'Each member of the teams received a certificate of participation from Rotary District Governor, Andy Lees. 'It is unfortunate that due to school holidays in February clashing with the senior competition a team from OHS will not be able to take part.'

Oban High School (OHS) did themselves proud at a Rotary Club public speaking competition held in Glasgow.

The team from Oban High School were chosen as part of a competition held in Oban last year. Iain MacIntyre of Oban Rotary Club said: 'As a follow on from our local Youth Speaks Competition in the Royal Hotel, Oban in November the winning intermediate team for 11 to 13-year-olds went forward to the district competition which was held in the Pollockshaws Burgh Hall on Sunday January 31, 2016.

All nine schools competed. The format is based on a three person team: a chairman, a speaker and the third person giving a vote of thanks. 'The standard was in many ways beyond belief given the age of the participants and the subjects chosen but I am very pleased to say that our three from Oban High School acquitted themselves very well and the only difference I noted was that the winners - St Andrews and St Brides High School,

Oban Rotary was represented by Iain MacIntyre seen here with English teacher Clare Bryden and from left to right Asher Petit (Speaker), Stuart Head (Chairperson), and Zeph Petit (Vote of Thanks).



Oban Rotary was represented by Iain MacIntyre seen here with English teacher Clare Bryden and from left to right Asher Petit (Speaker), Stuart Head (Chairperson), and Zeph Petit (Vote of Thanks).

**LIFE lines Wet and Windy**

The eighth named storm of the season struck at the beginning of the week, hard on the heels of the last seven. It feels like dry days are becoming rare and fabled things: memories from our past and frustrating reminders of our current meteorological challenges. Even in this advanced technological age there is absolutely nothing we can do about the weather. For months, people around the British Isles have been flooded out, deprived of electricity, forced to cancel their travel plans and kept away from work and school.

Extreme weather is not a new phenomenon, but the patterns seem to have changed. Everyone remembers the exceptional summers of the 1970s, and in some places they marked the end of haymaking. More constant temperatures across seasons and increased precipitation in the years since have been interrupted by noteworthy heatwaves on a handful of occasions - the summer of 2014 for example - so we have come to expect rain, and even treat it as normal. Is this a consequence of global warming and ecological negligence, or a predictable trough in a climatic cycle measured across millennia? Either way, it is dispiriting for some and devastating for others: how are farmers and growers expected to cope with such adverse conditions? My dad worked outdoors half his life and he used to say 'it never rained yet but it dried up' in response to complaints about the weather. He was always proved right of course. Eventually. And maybe only for a matter of hours.

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**GRADUATION**



**JENNIFER BROWN**  
Graduated from the University of Stirling BSc with Merit in Adult Nursing. Jennifer was also awarded the University Research Prize for her final project. Daughter of Neil and Hilary Brown, Jennifer is a former pupil of Park Primary and Oban High Schools. She has taken up a Staff Nurse post at the Royal Marsden Hospital, London.



**TEILO HULL**  
Graduated with an Honours degree in Sound Engineering and Technology from Chester University. Teilo is the son of Rupert and Lynn and the grandson of Margaret and the late John Thomson. Teilo is a former pupil of Park Primary and Oban High School. Everyone is very happy and proud.

**Thought for the week**

Rest in the Lord, wait graciously for him. Psalm 62:1-2

WHEN looking beyond our own communities and out into the world, we might be forgiven for thinking that the future is rather bleak. News is seldom positive. Turmoil seems to be the norm. Recently, I hit saturation point in what I felt I could absorb. So, I made a decision to temporarily disconnect myself from the daily dose of worldly troubles. You see, rather than spurring me to action, it was causing me to lose hope. I needed to better balance what I was feeding my mind. So, along with this disconnect I decided to try to notice and take note of the many wonderful things that surround me, and so find the peace that is found in rest and in calm. Choosing to fix my mind on those things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable and praiseworthy has not only restored my sense of hope, but importantly it has recharged my energies to reengage with the challenges we face both at home and abroad. Just like Sabbath rest restores mind and body, let us deliberately seek out the hope, so that we can have renewed strength for the challenging days ahead.

Stuart Lawson - Oban Baptist Church



**FRANCES YOUNG**  
Graduated from Teeside University with a BSc Honours in Sports Therapy (First Class). Youngest daughter of Roddy and Sandra Young. Frances is a former pupil of Lochnell Primary School and Oban High School.

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# Saints beat the Loyal and the weather to reach fifth round

Oban Saints	3
New Farm Loch	1
West of Scotland Cup - 4th Round	

OBAN Saints overcame New Farm Loch and the tail end of storm Gertrude to secure their place in the fifth round of the West of Scotland Amateur Cup on the Oban Community 3G pitch last Saturday afternoon.

Manager Alex Craik had the rare luxury of being able to name the same squad for the third game running but decided to make two changes to his starting line-up bringing in Scott Maitland and Allan Mackay with Willie Gemmell and Dean Smith dropping to the bench.

The visitors won the toss and chose to have the benefit of the wind in the first half leaving Saints to kick-off into the howling gale blowing from the games park end.

In the opening two minutes the decision to allow the match to proceed looked questionable as Saints were locked inside their own half and unable to get the ball under control.

New Farm Loch, or the Loyal as they like to be known, rained in high balls and wind assisted long throws which had the Saints defence in all sorts of trouble.

David McArthur headed a long throw behind for a corner kick which was lifted over everybody but, thankfully for Saints, landed on top of the crossbar and bounced behind for a goal kick.

The home side weathered the early Loyal storm and had their own first chance in the fourth minute when a neat Craig Mac-

Ewan back heel opened up space for a Mackay shot which keeper Blair Cousar tipped around the post for a corner kick.

In the 23rd minute David McArthur made a driving run into the box and won a corner kick. Ross Maitland landed his corner kick straight onto the forehead of MacEwan, who bulleted a powerful header over the crossbar from seven yards out.

The D & K Lafferty-sponsored Oban side were knocking on the door now and the breakthrough came just one minute later.

Donald Campbell played a diagonal pass to Ross Maitland who tore through the inside left channel and, from the corner of the box, curled a delightful finish past the despairing dive of Blair Cousar and into the far corner of the net to give Saints the lead.

The home side ended the half on the front foot and in the 44th minute MacEwan looked set to double Saints lead when he beat the offside trap and attempted to round Cousar only to be caught by the slightest of touches by the visiting keeper.

MacEwan went down under the challenge but referee Stephen Payne, who handled the match well throughout, ruled that he had gone to ground too easily and booked the Saints man for simulation.

It was a satisfied Saints camp at half time well pleased that they had negotiated the testing first half conditions to emerge with a clean sheet and a slender lead on which to build.

The visitors kicked off the



Craig MacEwan was clearly brought down by New Farm Loch keeper Blair Cousar but the referee failed to give the spot kick and MacEwan was booked for simulation. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

second half and shocked Saints in the first minute when Graeme Cook pounced on a loose ball on the corner of the box after Saints had failed to deal with a long throw-in from the left touch line.

The Loyal right full back rifled an unstoppable shot across

Thomas McCulloch and into the bottom corner to bring the visitors level.

In the 51st minute MacEwan went down in the box for the second time of the afternoon and this time referee Payne had no hesitation in pointing to the penalty spot for a clear trip by Cook.

Regular penalty taker Campbell took aim for the bottom corner but was thwarted by an excellent finger tip save low down to his left by Cousar.

Parity for the visitors lasted only one minute longer though when Campbell tricked his way along the byeline and squared to MacEwan to tap in from one yard out.

Manager Craik made the first

of his changes replacing Jamie Graham at the heart of the defence with Dene Cassells.

A rare foray upfield brought the Loyal a 70th minute free kick after David McArthur was penalised for a push on Kevin Michael.

The wide man sent over a good cross to the back post where Gavin Cooper stole in between Cassells and McArthur to get in a powerful header which McCulloch saved well, diving to his left despite the referee ruling that the New Farm Loch substitute had strayed off-side.

Ross Maitland then made way for Gemmell with Scott Maitland moving forward and Gemmell joining Paul Kerr and Campbell in the middle of the park.

## Football

With 10 minutes remaining Dean Smith replaced Allan Mackay at centre forward and quickly made a telling contribution. Chasing down a Campbell pass in the inside left channel Cassells showed good perseverance to draw a foul from Cook winning a free-kick 24 yards from goal in prime Gemmell territory.

Gemmell didn't disappoint, curling a right-foot shot around the wall and inside the far post past the despairing left hand of Cousar for the killer third goal.

Craik then made his final change bringing on Keith Millar to replace Paul Kerr as the mid-field anchor.

Saints failure to add to their tally is almost entirely due to the lightning reflexes of New Farm Loch keeper Cousar, who stood firm behind his tiring defence to deny Saints with a string of magnificent saves.

With the match over as a contest and hail showers now adding to the weather problems the referee's final whistle was a welcome sound for all.

Full credit to both sets of players and referee Stephen Payne for producing an entertaining game in extremely challenging conditions.

Saints reward for this victory is a home fifth round tie against Central Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division runaway leaders Colville Park.

Manager Craik was a delighted man after the game. He said: 'We played some good football in difficult conditions.'

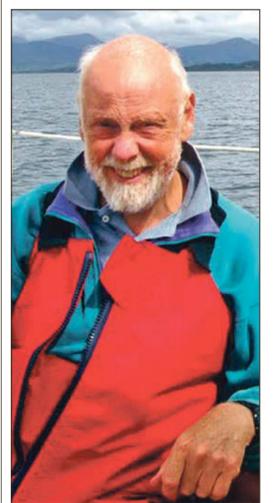
'They certainly made a game of it but if it wasn't for the goalkeeper we could have scored six or seven.'

The Oban side face two big games in the next two weeks.

This Saturday they travel to take on Stirling City in the sixth round of the Scottish Cup and the following weekend they face Colville Park in Oban in the fifth round of the West of Scotland Cup.

## Hard work of Ian Gibson recognised at RYA Scotland sailing awards

### Sailing



Ian Gibson

SENIOR sailing instructor at Oban Sailing Club (OSC) Ian Gibson was shortlisted for Instructor of the Year 2015 at the RYA Scotland sailing awards held in Glasgow.

Although Gibson did not win on this occasion, his invaluable work and dedication to the club over many years was highlighted.

Gibson has organised and run the Royal Yachting Association Level 2 dinghy course for 29 years, principally for juniors from Oban High School. He was responsible for the club becoming recognised as an RYA training centre and has trained more than 350 Oban juniors during his time, some of whom have gone on to be selected for the Scottish Squad and others to gain qualifications and employment in the marine industry.

As the principal of an RYA training centre, Gibson donates his time voluntarily to manage it and has been a member of the OSC committee for many years as the training officer and in the general management of the club.

He was also involved for nine years with Oban Sea Cadets - a mark of his dedication to the development of marine training for youngsters in the Oban area.

He said: 'I have really enjoyed teaching youngsters and some adults to sail at Oban Sailing Club. I particularly like seeing the transformation from cautious beginners to happy confident sailors. Sailing is a sport I was introduced to at a very young age and it has continued to bring me great pleasure and fulfilment. I am extremely proud to be in a position that allows me to give the same opportunities to others. I am also grateful to those who felt I was worthy of an award.'

Mandy Peden, OSC secretary, who has also been a major contributor to OSC in general and in organising club training, said: 'Ian is much loved by our juniors - his mellow, relaxed approach and sense of fun and humour have introduced many youngsters to the adventure of dinghy sailing.'

'He is always keen to let older juniors come and help at the course - this has become very popular over the last few years creating a social opportunity for the new participants. We are delighted his hard work has been recognised in the nomination for this award.'



Craig MacEwan forces the ball over the line for Saints second goal. 17\_106saints01

## Opening fixtures Shinty

**Saturday March 5**  
**Marine Harvest Premiership**  
 Glenurquhart v Oban Camanachd  
 Kingussie v Lochaber  
 Kinlochshiel v Newtonmore  
 Kyles Athletic v Fort William  
 Skye v Lovat

**Marine Harvest National Division**  
 Glasgow Mid Argyll v Ballachulish  
 Inveraray v Bute  
 Inverness v Beaulieu  
 Kilmallie v Caberfeidh

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
 Fort William v Beaulieu  
 Lovat v Skye  
 Newtonmore v Kinlochshiel  
 Strathglass v Kingussie

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
 Aberdeen v Kyles Athletic  
 Lochside Rovers v Inveraray  
 Oban Celtic v Col Glen  
 Taynuilt v Strachur

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
 Aberdeen University v Inverness  
 Boleskine v Kilmallie  
 Caberfeidh v Lewis  
 Lochaber v Lochcarron  
 Strathspey v Glengarry 1.30pm

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
 Bute v Oban Lorn  
 Dunoon v Glasgow Mid Argyll  
 Tayforth v Aberdour



Some members of Spartak Football Club pictured in their new tracksuits which were kindly provided by D & K Lafferty, Contractors, Oban.

## Argyll and Bute schools badminton championship results

### Badminton

**UNDER 14: Boys' singles** - Alan Mollins, Dunoon; runner-up Andrew Tyre, Dunoon. **Girls' singles** - Kathryn Lindsay, Dunoon; runner-up Niamh Evans, Dunoon.

**Boys' doubles** - Alan Mollins and Andrew Tyre, Dunoon; runners-up Fraser MacBrayne and Gregor Campbell, Campbeltown.

**Girls' doubles** - Niamh Evans and Kathryn Lindsay, Dunoon; runners-up Martyna Madej and Megan Danson, Lochgilphead. **Mixed doubles** - Alan Mollins and Kathryn Lindsay, Dunoon; runners-up Andrew Tyre and Niamh Evans, Dunoon.

**Under 16: Boys' singles** - Neil Littleton, Campbeltown; runner-up Conor Adams, Dunoon. **Girls' singles** - Nicole Thomson, Campbeltown; runner-up - Susan Shaw, Campbeltown. **Boys' doubles** - Neil Littleton and Alasdair Ferguson, Campbeltown; runners-up - Conor Adams and William Goan, Campbeltown. **Girls' doubles** - Nicole Thomson and

Rhona O'May, Campbeltown; runners-up - Susan Shaw and Nicola McKerral, Campbeltown. **Mixed doubles** - Neil Littleton and Nicola Thomson, Campbeltown; runners-up - Conor Adams and Lauren Keith, Dunoon.

**Under 19: Boys' singles** - Josh Coates, Lochgilphead; runner-up, Stuart Adams, Dunoon. **Girls' singles** - Lizzie Stirling, Dunoon; runner-up - Iona MacNicol, Lochgilphead. **Boys' doubles** - Aaron Whitefield and Josh Coates, Lochgilphead; runners-up Rhuairidh Brown and Ciaran MacPhie, Lochilphhead. **Girls' doubles** - Lizzie Stirling and Isla McGarry, Dunoon; runners-up Kirsty McGillivray and Caitlin Meany, Dunoon. **Mixed doubles** - Stuart Adams and Lizzie Stirling, Dunoon; runners-up - Josh Coates and Shannon Wilson, Lochgilphead.

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## Caring, sharing Oban Sailing Club wins prestigious award

'I think it is a wonderful way for one award to recognise the dedication of so many'

OBAN Sailing Club (OSC) is celebrating after winning the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Scotland award for Sailing Club of the Year 2015.

RYA Scotland acknowledged the work of all three clubs that were shortlisted for the award, including Banff and Perth Sailing Clubs, and were delighted when OSC proposed on the night that it should be shared across the nominees.

James Allan, chief executive of RYA Scotland, said: 'This was entirely unexpected but absolutely the kind of thing we see across the boating community on a regular basis. I think it is a wonderful way for one award to recognise the dedication of so many.'

OSC commodore Finlo Cottier said: 'This is absolutely tremendous for our club. There are many, many people who currently, and in the past, have put in long hours to ensure the club does all it can for its members and the community. We're hugely reliant on the contribution by our volunteers and everyone has been justly rewarded by the RYA with this award.'

He added: 'Over the past couple of seasons we've had a lot of

support from the RYA Scotland development team and our sincere thanks go to them.'

Sailors from across Scotland received top honours at the awards' presentation held at the Glasgow Science Centre as RYA Scotland recognised the achievements and outstanding commitment of Scotland's volunteers, coaches, instructors, officials, clubs and performance sailors.

Immediate past commodore John Peden, who received the award on behalf of OSC, said: 'We are all pretty chuffed as we have been working away in our own little bubbles and it is great to see the clubs being rewarded in this way. Our colleagues at OSC are 'over the moon'. So much effort goes into sailing and without the volunteer help from so many people within clubs, the sport just wouldn't happen.'

He added: 'I think it's very important that it's not only the highly tuned competitive side of sailing that is recognised. A huge number of people, especially kids, get into sailing to have fun. They enjoy it for what it does for them and that's great. It doesn't need to be more than that. Getting kids enjoying sailing is important, since if they enjoy it

### Sailing

they may move on - but they don't have to. That's just what it's all about.'

The award of club of the year recognised a number of developments at OSC including the new, revamped dinghy programme implemented in 2015 to form a vibrant series including fun events, double-handed races, team racing and dinghy orienteering.

Off the water, member engagement in the club's development has been impressive. Fundraising for new dinghies and equipment saw £11,000 raised over the last couple of years, much of it gratefully received from trusts including MacQueen Brothers Charitable Trust, Scottish Sea Farms and the Oban Common Good Fund in recognition of the club's growing role in supporting community partnerships and participation. Funding has also been secured from Argyll and Bute Third Sector, Oban Rotary and Oban Lions Club.

Over the next few years there are big plans for development, including replacing the worn-out dinghy-launching slipway, which is freely available for use by any-



Finlo Cottier, commodore, and John Peden, immediate past commodore of Oban Sailing Club, with the RYA Scotland Sailing Club of the Year Award. Photo: Marc Turner

one. Also highlighted in the keel-boat programme was the club's highly successful Round Mull

Race. Organised for more than 30 years the event is increasing in popularity and recently joined

with Skye Sailing Club to be part of the West Highland Offshore Series.

### Scottish Amateur Football League results and fixtures

**Football**

LAST Saturday's results: West of Scotland Cup, 4th round - Oban Saints 3, New Farm Loch 1. All other games involving Argyll teams were cancelled due to the weather. In fact the only game played in the SAFL was the Oban Saints v New Farm Loch.

Next Saturday's fixtures: Scottish Amateur Cup, 5th round - Stirling City v Oban Saints; Premier Division - Campbeltown Pupils v Goldenhill; East Kilbride RR v Shawlands; Inverclyde v Finnart; St Joseph's v Alba Thistle; Premier Division One - Dunoon v Motherwell Thistle; Neilson v Lochgilphead Red Star; Premier Division Two - Tarbert v Rosehill Star.

### Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

**Youth football**

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s v West Park United, postponed; Under 14s 4, Kilpatrick 0. Scoring for Saints were Aaron McKay (2), Jamie Forgievie (2); Cali Thistle 2, Under 15s 5. On target for Saints were Keir MacLean, Kenny Black, Rory Dowd and Scott Mossman (2). Under 16s v Port Glasgow, postponed; Under 19s v Milngavie, postponed.

Next weekend's fixtures: Under 13s no game; Drumchapel United v Under 14s; Under 15s v Loch Lomond; Under 16s no game; Milngavie v Under 19s.

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Mini rugby players at the indoor festival held at Atlantis Leisure in Oban.

## Rugby off as weather wins again

**BT West Division One**  
**Garnock P-P Oban Lorne**  
OBAN Lorne's visit to bottom placed Garnock was postponed on Saturday due to travel concerns. This is the ninth Oban fixture of the season postponed due to the weather.

With 11 games still to play between now and the end of the season Oban Lorne are now facing a fixture headache with games being rescheduled as far ahead as April 30.

Team training has also been disrupted over the past couple of months. The Glencruitten pitches have been out of action for most of this time and with no other sporting facilities available for use the team have been forced to either cancel training or use the blaes pitch which is now not fit for use.

Oban Lorne will hope to get back to league action on February 13 as Garnock RFC visit Glencruitten.

The Oban Lorne clubhouse will be open this weekend for Saturday's Six Nations fixtures, France v Italy and Scotland v England. Games will be shown

live on the big screen and new sound system. Everyone is welcome.

**BT West Division 4**  
**Argyll and Bute P**  
**Police Scotland P**  
ARGYLL and Bute were again left without a fixture on Saturday as Police Scotland RFC called the fixture off with concerns over travelling.

This Saturday Argyll and Bute host Kintyre RFC in a friendly match at Glencruitten. Kick off will be at 2pm.

The next league fixture for Argyll and Bute is at home to Glasgow East RFC on Saturday February 13.

**BT Women's National League 1**  
**Oban Lorne P-P**  
**Aberdeenshire Quines**

OBAN Lorne Ladies fixture at home to Aberdeenshire was postponed on Sunday due to the weekend weather. The next game for Oban Ladies is away to Glasgow University on Sunday February 21.

Oban Lorne Ladies Rugby Club

### Rugby

will be running a come-and-try session this Saturday at Atlantis Leisure in the town between 3pm-4pm. The team are keen to attract some new players to the section as they build on their first ever season in National Division 1. All abilities and experience are welcome to come along.

### Mini Rugby

MINI rugby in Argyll and Bute kick started the new year with an indoor festival at Atlantis Leisure last Sunday.

Players from Oban Lorne, Etive Vikings, Isle of Mull, Mid Argyll and a first-ever outing from players at Tarbert attended the three-hour festival in the Atlantis games hall.

The festival was a fantastic way to start off the 2016 season for the players with everyone mixing together and having great fun on the day.

The 2016 Mini Rugby Dalriada season starts on Sunday March 6 with a festival held in Lochgilphead, hosted by Mid Argyll RFC.

## OFS Cup throws up two derby matches

ROUND eight of the Oban Pool League saw four of the five scheduled fixtures going ahead as planned, with the second leg of the 'Super Six Series' involving the triumvirate headlining the matches.

For the second consecutive week Lochnell's title credentials were in for a thorough examination as they frequented 'The Combie Street Colosseum' and defending champions the Lochavullin's Cellar.

Failure to return over the Connel Bridge with a minimum of a point would effectively curtail the notion of a maiden championship in the eyes of the pragmatists. The home side were looking to extend their impressive undefeated streak spanning across three separate calendar years and remain on course for an unprecedented fourth straight league crown.

On their previous outing Lochnell suffered their only defeat courtesy of the Lancaster 'A', cruelly being taught the significance of taking the early initiative in the process. A harsh lesson they seem to have taken on board, as they proceeded to grab the upper hand in what turned out to be an ill-tempered affair, in stark contrast to their aforementioned encounter.

Unfortunately tasteless taunts were far too tangible and both captains will be instructed to remedy this behaviour before it manifests and either deem it acceptable.

The Lochavullin's Cellar have not lifted league trophies without having granite resilience and like alley cats they clawed back

the deficit. Heading into the penultimate doubles match both teams were level pegging, but the pendulum of momentum had swung in favour of the holders.

On numerous occasions in recent seasons the home side have triumphed in the face of adversity, so it was almost uncharacteristic with the comeback almost complete that they allowed Lochnell to rally and prevail with both points and end their impressive run.

The Lochnell will quite rightly believe that their conquest to lift the championship is firmly back on track, dismissing their preceding loss as a blip on their otherwise unblemished campaign. The victory might just of blown away a psychological barrier that has hindered the Connel side for too long, the jury will remain out for now.

### Exploit

The Lancaster 'A' took the opportunity to exploit the defeat of their rivals and go two points clear at the league summit. Their hospitality was extended out to former bitter foes Markie Dans 'A', who made the short journey across the Corran Esplanade in hurricane conditions.

To summarize the match, if Markie Dans 'A' continually take knives to a gun fight, inevitably they will get shot down and that was exactly the theme throughout many of the frames. In spite of all their endeavour and exuberance their inability to pull the trigger whilst in dominant positions allows their opponents chances they shouldn't be afforded. An opportunistic Lancaster 'A' were all too happy to be the benefac-

tors of their charitable nature and luxuriously claimed the points on offer without any major dramas.

In the race for the top five battle Lancaster 'B' edged a close-fought contest on their travels against fellow hopefuls the Gluepot. Both sides commenced the match on the back of victories, but neither could produce the fluency required to grab it by the scruff of the neck. A sequence of four single successes was the defining factor for the visitors, leapfrogging and dislodging their hosts from the top half of the table by virtue of game difference.

The concluding tie of the week was a bottom half tussle between Markie Dans 'B' and the Lochavullin. Both have introduced several new players to the league this year which has been greatly received, although predictably sees them languishing towards the wrong end of the table. Markie Dans 'B' with home advantage, presided over a one-sided singles session which all but secured the win and eventually ran out comfortable winners.

Tonight's Oban Filling Station Cup (OFS Cup) quarter-finals

### Pool

have thrown up not one but two derby clashes as the leagues top four outfits all managed to avoid each other in the draw. Lancaster 'A' and 'B' will do battle as will Markie Dans 'A' and 'B' with Outreach and Lochavullin hosting Lochavullin's Cellar and Lochnell respectively.

The Gordon and Strathern Limited January flyer was won by Chris Anton defeating John Telfer in the final. The finalists came through a field of 20 players in The Lancaster Hotel last Friday in the inaugural event which will be held on a monthly basis throughout the year.

Results 28/1/16: Gluepot 5-7 Lancaster B; Lancaster A 9-3 Markie Dans A; Lochavullin's Cellar 5-7 Lochnell; Markie Dans B 8-4 Lochavullin; Outreach P-P Wide Mouthed Frog'

Fixtures 04/2/16 - OFS Cup Quarter finals: Outreach v Lochavullin's Cellar; Lancaster A v Lancaster B; Lochavullin v Lochnell; Markie Dans B v Markie Dans A

### OBAN POOL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE

	P	W	D	L	Ff	Fa	Fd	Pts
1 Lancaster A	8	8	0	0	77	19	58	16
2 Lochnell	8	7	0	1	69	27	42	14
3 Lochavullin's Cellar	8	7	0	1	67	29	38	14
4 Markie Dans A	8	4	1	3	58	38	20	9
5 Lancaster B	8	4	0	4	51	45	6	8
6 Gluepot	8	4	0	4	48	48	0	8
7 Markie Dans B	8	2	1	5	40	56	-16	5
8 Lochavullin	8	2	0	6	38	58	-20	4
9 Wide Mouthed Frog	7	0	0	7	12	72	-60	0
10 Outreach	7	0	0	7	8	76	-68	0

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**WEATHER**

**Thursday** Heavy rain  
Winds moderate west south westerly  
Temperatures 7°C to 9°C.

**Friday** Light rain  
Winds moderate west south westerly  
Temperatures 3°C to 8°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Light rain showers on Saturday  
Light rain on Sunday  
Winds moderate west south westerly  
Temperatures 2°C to 6°C.

**Stop Press:** New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

**TIDAL INFORMATION**  
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday February 4, 2016** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST

Date	am			pm		
Thur	02.38	3.0	08.05	1.9	15.05	3.1
Fri	03.34	3.2	09.17	1.7	15.55	3.3
Sat	04.19	3.5	10.17	1.4	16.37	3.5
Sun	04.59	3.7	11.05	1.1	17.15	3.7
Mon	05.38	4.0	11.48	0.8	17.50	3.9
Tues	00.02	2.9	06.14	4.1	12.29	0.6
Wed	00.42	0.4	06.50	4.2	13.09	0.5

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardershaig	-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

**FREE**  
inside

# Building your own home

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## Magical Quidditch cup final trip for Kinlochleven pupils

IT WAS a magical time for pupils of Kinlochleven high school when they were invited to watch the Quidditch Scottish University Cup Final.

The Kinlochleven Midgees were the first Scottish Muggle Quidditch team and caught the eye of St Andrew's University Quidditch Team members, who asked them along to the final.

The match, between St Andrew's and Stirling and Edinburgh universities, was the pupils' first step into the Quidditch sporting world - made famous in the Harry Potter books - and they were able to pick up some tricks of the trade.

Fourth-year pupil Stewart Cameron (S4), was ecstatic about going. He said: 'I have always wanted to go to St Andrews and see the place,

but to go with the school to see one of their Quidditch matches was absolutely amazing.'

Connor Maclean (S1) reported on the trip.

He said: 'The match between Stirling and Edinburgh was dominated by Edinburgh as their chasers zoomed about the pitch scoring like crazy.'

'In the second match St Andrews played Stirling and the game was very tense. We almost got run over by the snitch!'

He added: 'After the matches, all the teams, the Kinlochleven Midgees included, stood by the goals and had a picture taken.'

'Just before the Midgees headed back home, they wrote a card to the teachers saying we are all very lucky to have you as our teachers.'

## TIMESLINE

### Glencoe Massacre memorial events

THE 324TH Glencoe Massacre ceremony will take place on Saturday February 13.

Organisers, The Glencoe Heritage Trust, Clan Donald Highlands and Islands and St Mary's Church, Glencoe, will welcome everyone who wishes to attend.

The church service starts at 11am, followed by a march from Bridge of Coe at noon for the ceremony.

The Rev Simon McKenzie, Lochgilphead, will officiate, with wreaths being laid by various organisations.

### New Fort hospital open 2019/2020

A NEW hospital for Fort William could open around 2019/2020.

The old Belford hospital in the town centre is to be replaced with a new building on the Blar Mor, next to the medical centre and new ambulance and police stations.

NHS Highland bosses are working towards a clinical model for the new hospital and have been meeting with community groups to see what they would like kept and what they would like to see in the new hospital.

### Hundreds of new homes needed

AROUND 420 new homes are needed in Lochaber in the next five years.

A growing, as well as an ageing population mean more homes are needed in the area.

David Goldie, Highland Council's head of housing, gave a presentation to Lochaber District Partnership this week.

The properties needed include those for social rent, mid-market rent, private rent and homes to buy.



# Shock figures reveal extent of Lochaber fuel poverty misery

Over 66% of households struggle to pay bills, with more elderly dying in winter

CAREN MCPATE  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

AROUND two-thirds of households in Lochaber can't afford to heat their homes.

The shocking figures revealed that 66.3 per cent are living in fuel poverty and more pensioners die in the winter as a result.

Rising energy costs mean more people are struggling to pay their bills.

A study by Home Energy

Scotland said cold and damp homes affects all ages but particularly children and the elderly.

It can lead to circulatory diseases and respiratory illnesses and have a negative impact on mental health.

In 2013/14 there were 4,060 more deaths during winter in the UK.

In the Highland area, 50 per cent of households live in fuel poverty, with the figure standing at 36 per cent in Scotland.

Alan Grant, community

liaison officer with Home Energy Scotland Highlands and Islands, gave a presentation during a meeting of Lochaber District Partnership this week.

Members were left shocked at the findings.

Highland councillor Angela MacLean, has raised concerns.

She said: 'I go into homes where people have to put on an extra jumper to keep warm because they've been forced to turn the heating down.'

'Many people in the Highlands are struggling to pay

their energy bills and rather than helping, the Scottish Government seem happy to ignore these figures.

'By eradicating fuel poverty here, we would reduce the financial burden on the NHS, ensure our children have somewhere warm to do their homework and guarantee elderly people in our communities don't have to struggle to stay comfortable in their own homes.'

Home Energy Scotland - Highlands and Islands Advice

provides free, impartial and expert advice.

There were 11,688 requests from residents in the Highland area up to March 2015, with 4,316 referrals made.

Scottish Liberal Democrat energy spokesman, Liam McArthur MSP, said: 'In 2016, the year fuel poverty is due to be eradicated in Scotland, no-one should have to make the choice between eating and heating because they cannot afford both.'

'These figures show major

regional differences and a widening gap between urban areas and remote areas like our island communities, where fuel poverty and extreme fuel poverty levels have gone up substantially.'

The Scottish Government announced a new national fuel poverty scheme, Warmer Homes Scotland, last year.

It provides full support and advice from insulation to heating and domestic renewables.

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Do Your Eyes Feel Dry or Uncomfortable Using A Computer?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have You Been Told You Have Dry Eyes or Blepharitis?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do You Use Comfort Drops To Help But They Don't Seem To Work?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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## New blanket will benefit patients

AN INNOVATIVE body-length blanket that keeps patients warm during surgery and helps reduce the risk of infection after an operation is being tested by NHS Highland.

The specially-designed device has sealable openings that allow surgical teams access to different parts of the body. By being able to open and close the blanket over a specific area, the surgical team can keep the rest of the patient's body warm - crucial in ensuring patients avoid harmful post-operative complications.

Professor Watson, NHS Highland's director of innovation, said: 'The team has developed a great solution to a common problem. We hope we can market the product to benefit more patients.'



The A82 between Glencoe and Tyndrum on Monday morning where two lorries were blown over as Storm Henry took hold. A further incident saw another HGV on its side less than an hour later. On Tuesday there were more reports of vehicles off the road. See The Oban Times Facebook page for weather round-up.

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# Concern over rising cost of new Gaelic primary school

CAREN MCPATE  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

THE COST of a new Gaelic primary school on Skye has soared by more than £1.5million.

The budget for the Portree school is now expected to rise from £9.285m to £10.8m for the cash-strapped Highland Council.

A report before the education, children and adult services committee said the

current state of the market had pushed up tender prices. There were also only two suitable tenders expressing an interest in the project and the relatively remote location was also a factor, increasing the cost by £715,000.

The cost of external walls and ventilation were also blamed for the need for an extra £475,000. However, the report said that it was hoped this would be reduced during a review with the successful

contractor. It was originally thought it would take a year to build the new school, but will now going to take an extra three months.

Director of the council's care and learning committee Bill Alexander said: 'We are disappointed and frustrated that the tender has come in significantly higher than the estimated costs. We continue to work with colleagues in development and infrastructure to understand why that is the

case.' It was agreed to proceed with the award of the contract as tendering would not reduce the cost and a further delay could result in a price increase.

It was proposed that the extra funds be taken from the life cycle investment budget.

Councillors raised concerns about the additional costs, especially at a time when the local authority was having to save up to £38 million from its budget. Councillor Drew Mill-

er, chairman of the education, children and adult services committee, said: 'I would like to see officers work with the tenderers and the successful company to try and reduce these costs.'

The Eilean a' Cheò councillor was part of the steering group for the new school.

He added: 'I'm really disappointed. I never heard any mention of Skye being remote when the new high school was being planned.'



## Nicole cooks up a place in Rotary contest final

NICOLE Cameron, 16, from Spean Bridge, was runner-up in the annual Rotary West Regional cookery final held at the South Lanarkshire College on January 27.

The talented teenager, from Lochaber High School, wowed the judges with her menu of haggis ravioli with whisky sauce, loin of venison with vegetable stack and rhubarb chutney and white raspberry crème brulee with home-made shortbread.

The judges awarded her second place and she now progresses to represent Lochaber in the Scotland and North of England final on March 4.

Nicole faced stiff competition from eight other contestants, who had all come through their own local heats

in the west of Scotland.

The young chefs are required to prepare a healthy meal of their choice for two people, to demonstrate their ability to be creative without the need for expensive ingredients and to follow the principles of a healthy diet. The young chefs are judged on their healthy menu, planning and organisational skills, hygiene, preparation skills and, of course, the taste and presentation of their meal.

Rotary President Terry Lee said: 'We are delighted Nicole has made it through to the next stage and we will be supporting her at the Scottish and North of England final.'

'It is a real accolade for a Lochaber girl to aspire to this level. We wish her well.'



Work starts to demolish the old Belhaven Ward. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

## Bulldozers move in on former medical centre

BULLDOZERS have moved in to demolish a former medical centre in Fort William to make way for new housing.

The old Belhaven Ward closed in 2013 and was latterly used for physiotherapy and occupational therapy services.

Lochaber Housing Association and Highland Council will redevelop the site into affordable housing, including five wheelchair-friendly bungalows and a block of eight flats.

Retired nurses had the chance to look around their former workplace at the end of last year alongside Fort William councillors Thomas MacLennan and Brian Murphy.

Scottish Social Justice Sec-

retary Alex Neil said: 'House building is at the heart of this government's long-term economic plan. That is why, rather than leaving surplus public sector land idle, we want to see it being put to good use.'

'I am delighted that by releasing this surplus NHS site and keeping it in the public sector for Highland Council to develop affordable housing, it will allow the delivery of much-needed new homes in the Fort William area. Vacant land and property which was previously in public sector ownership - such as by NHS Scotland and Police Scotland - is being used to add to the provision of affordable housing across Scotland.'

## Green light for Vallay sand plan

SAND from a uninhabited island in the Western Isles will be extracted after the Scottish Government overturned a planning decision to reject the plans by the local authority, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

The island of Vallay will now have up to 5,000 tonnes of sand removed over 10 years.

Scottish Natural Heritage had objected to the plans claiming it will have a significant effect on the grassland feature of the unspoiled island.

## More cash to help people living with dementia

LOCHABER Care and Repair is sharing a £1million funding boost to help people with dementia.

The Life Changes Trust, an independent charity set up with a Big Lottery Fund endowment, has awarded the money to Care and Repair, which provides housing sup-

port across Scotland. The money will be used to improve the homes, independence and confidence of people living with dementia, ensuring they receive equipment and adaptations to assist them to continue to live independently within their own homes for as long as possible.

Maureen Cameron, Lochaber Care and Repair manager, said: 'I am delighted the group has received this award from the Life Changes Trust which is a unique opportunity to support people living with dementia, their families and carers in Lochaber.'

## Researcher honoured by university

A FORT William-based researcher has been awarded the title of reader by the University of the Highlands and Islands.

Dr Peter Varley receives the honour in recognition of his contribution to tourism research. Based at West Highland College UHI in Fort William, Dr Varley is director of the Centre for Recreation and Tourism Research. He joined West Highland College UHI in 2009 as programme leader of the adventure tourism management degree and subsequently developed the masters programme in eco-tourism. In 2012, he founded the

Centre for Recreation and Tourism Research as part of the college's School of Adventure Studies, developing a portfolio of consultancy and research services for nature-based and adventure tourism, including a new annual international conference for adventure tourism.

Dr Varley said: 'I am delighted as it recognises the importance of academic study and knowledge exchange for this dynamic and ever-growing Highland industry.'

'The value of the wilder places in the Highlands holds a powerful draw in the

minds of those who visit us, those who have left for other shores and those who dream of visiting us in future.'

He added: 'It is crucial businesses and public agencies work together to deliver the extraordinary experiences of place and culture in which the region is so rich.'

'I firmly believe it is in part through good quality research and innovation that such ideals can be realised.'

'The university is a significant player in such endeavours and the establishment of a reader in the field is an important statement of intent in that regard.'

## A low-carbon alternative to electric heating that could save you up to £880 a year

**What is biomass?**  
Biomass renewable heating systems burn wood pellets, chips or logs to provide warmth in a single room and can power central heating and hot water boilers. Central heating systems using locally sourced sustainable wood fuel are a low carbon alternative to fossil fuels and can be cheaper to run than off-gas alternatives.

**How does it work?**  
A boiler burns logs, pellets or chips, and is connected to a central heating and hot water system. A wood-fuelled biomass boiler could save you up to £880 a year compared to electric heating\*.

**What do I need?**  
Suitable properties should have enough space to install the heating system (inside or outside) and store the fuel, and have a locally available wood fuel source. The benefits of biomass heating

1 Affordable heating fuel  
The price of wood fuel varies considerably but it is often cheaper than other ways of heating your home.

2 Financial support  
Wood fuel boiler systems could benefit from the Renewable Heat Incentive. For a four-bedroom detached house, you could receive payments of around £995 to £1,505 a year\*\*. In addition, the Home Energy Scotland renewables loan scheme is currently open to new applications. Interest-free loans for up to 75 per cent of the total cost of renewables systems are available up to £10,000.

3 A low-carbon option  
The carbon dioxide emitted when wood is burned is the same amount that was absorbed over the months and years that the plant was growing. The process is sustainable as long as new plants continue to grow in place of those used for fuel. There are some carbon emissions caused by the cultivation, manufacture and transportation of the fuel, but as long as the fuel is sourced locally, these are much lower than the emissions from fossil fuels.

For more information call Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282 to find out how you can save energy and more money, and book a free home visit to assess your property.

\*Based on a typical four-bed detached solid-walled home switching from electric storage heating to a biomass pellet boiler. Using an off-peak (Economy 7) electricity price of 7.22p/kWh and a wood pellet price of 4.77p/kWh (bulk price). Prices correct as of January 2016.

\*\*Based on an RHI tariff of 5.14p/kWh, valid for installations made between January 1 and March 31, 2016.

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## Islay man killed by elephant

AN ISLAY man died and his daughter was injured after an Indian elephant attacked them at Koh Samui beach resort, Thailand.

Gareth Crowe, 36, and daughter Eilidh Hughes, 16, who were on holiday, were thrown from the elephant's back. Mr Crowe was stabbed by the elephant's tusk.

A spokeswoman for Bangkok International Hospital said Ms Hughes was being treated for minor injuries.

Mr Crowe's partner Catherine Hughes and Eilidh's brother Mark, who were not on the elephant excursion, are receiving support from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

An FCO spokesman said: 'We are making contact with the local authorities for information.'

The couple moved from Islay to the mainland two years ago.

## Henry blows a hoolie with ferries feeling its full force



Oban esplanade on Monday night as gale-force winds whipped up the high tide at around 10.30pm. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

STORM Henry caused more than one third of all CalMac sailings to be cancelled, as gusts at more than 100mph swept along the West Coast.

Wind speeds peaked in the early hours of Tuesday morning, with strong winds continuing throughout the day, resulting in 90 per cent of sailings in the Inner, Outer and Southern Hebrides being called off.

Crews at Kilchoan offered additional sailings after two days of cancellations, and staff at Craignuire manned the terminal to allow a late departure last Saturday.

The Lochaline and Fishnish crew were also able to provide two sailings in what have been described as 'horrible conditions'.

But ferries weren't the only victims of the weather, as both trains and buses were also disrupted, with police called out to a number of overturned lorries.

Due to high winds and high tides, waves bombarded the esplanade in Oban and caused waterfalls to flow backwards on Mull.

## TIMESLINE

### Forteith rebrand as part of Bidvest

OBAN-BASED family wholesaler Forteith Foodservice is embarking on a new chapter in its 60-year history after rebranding as part of Bidvest Foodservice Scotland.

Part of Bidvest Foodservice's 24 regional depots across the UK, Forteith Foodservice was set up in 1955 by Jack Forteith.

John Forteith, who is the third generation of his family in the company, is now head of business development at Bidvest Foodservice Scotland.

### Oban Times – the paper of record

**WEEK in week out your Oban Times is there reporting the news and sport that is important to you. We believe passionately in our communities – the people and what's happening in them. And it is important to us that you receive the best value for money.**

This week, The Oban Times goes up to 85p.

It is always a difficult decision to make, but we believe The Oban Times is worth it – and we hope you agree.

Not only do we provide you with more news and information about your community, your schools and your organisations than any other newspaper in the region, over the next few months we plan to introduce more of what you want. More news, more features, more entertainment, more value for money.

## Mr David Fellowes

MR DAVID Fellowes, JP, DL, of Cladich, who died peacefully last week, aged 84, is to be the last person to be buried on the island of Innishail, Loch Awe.

He will lie alongside his wife Liz in the family lair in the ancient graveyard.

Mr Fellowes was a lifelong supporter of many national organisations including the Highland Cattle Society, The Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, as well as being a Justice of the Peace and a Deputy Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute.

Mr Fellowes, who lived with his family at Lochaweside, also supported community organisations including the Dalmally Show, and the Episcopal Church. He was also chairman of Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council.

His funeral will be held tomorrow (Friday).

# Argyll to follow Swinney demands over council tax

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

AN 'INTENSE' journey of reform will force an under pressure Argyll and Bute Council to sign a commitment not to raise the council tax this financial year.

Earlier this week it was thought the local authority's leader Dick Walsh and deputy leader Ellen Morton were considering proposing an increase in the council tax to be discussed at the budget meeting next week.

In a letter sent to Scottish Government finance minister John Swinney MSP, Argyll and Bute Council had indicated its unwillingness to co-operate with the budget setting procedure. In

response Mr Swinney outlined stark choices before local authorities. The MSP said the key to challenging budgets is reform and improvement in public services. He did not think reform could be managed by increasing the council tax.

An *Oban Times* investigation revealed the majority of councillors were not in favour of a tax increase, but many feel backed into an 'unprecedented position' by the Scottish Government.

In a letter to John Swinney, Mr Walsh was amongst the 32 Scottish council leaders who refused to sign the budget agreement with the local authority. He now concedes that there is no other choice before the authority.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We are focusing on proposals that will deliver a balanced budget and are aimed at protecting jobs and services as far as possible, given the very challenging financial circumstances that all Scottish local authorities are facing.'

'Our main goal is making sure that any decisions made are the best possible ones for the people of Argyll and Bute. If working in partnership with the Scottish Government or negotiations through COSLA will secure that outcome, then that is what we will do.'

In a letter from Mr Swinney to council leaders, he states: 'The package is focused on delivery of our joint priorities to deliver

sustainable economic growth and to protect the most vulnerable in our society. The measures are set out to... intensify a journey of reform.'

*The Oban Times* wrote to all 35 local councillors on the matter and received replies from 22.

Amongst those in favour of an increase were Councillor Neil MacIntyre. He said: 'Nothing is for nothing, so the more we pay in the better our services will be for everyone.'

Oban councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'I think people would accept a small rise in Council Tax to preserve services, but unfortunately the present directive from the Scottish Government makes that impossible without

incurring financial penalties.' Councillor Robin Currie, of Islay, said: 'I find it extraordinary that the Scottish Government is putting services to our communities at risk. Maybe they should consider giving some of their underspend to our front-line services.'

Former council leader, councillor James Robb said: 'No-one seriously believes the council will turn down around £7million of extra funding for doing nothing – not raising council tax, not sacking any more teachers plus £4-5m extra for social work and to pay a living wage to care workers.'

Councillors' comments will appear in full on *The Oban Times* Facebook page on Friday morning.

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## Technology Matters with John Orr



### Change your password today

WE ALL log on to portals to pay bills and buy stuff both at home and in business. Online transactions are secure (look for the https and padlock icon) and it is important personal or business data necessary for these transactions stays hidden to all but you. There is a weak link right at the start of the online process and that is you, the computer operator. Typically you are required to log on to a portal and then the portal asks for a pre-arranged password to verify who you are. This is known as one factor authentication.

Criminals with computers can quickly run all sorts of combinations and crack a four-digit password in a few hours. In response to this weakness, passwords now typically have to be a minimum of 6 digits and maybe include a capital letter and a numeral. That makes for a difficult to remember recipe and we all tend to look for easy options, disregarding the security aspect.

Huge numbers of the public follow similar trends using passwords such as 'admin1', 'pa55w0rd', 'qwerty1' and '123456'. As you can imagine the hacker who has found your email address will try and access your on line accounts with these common passwords first. And if that doesn't work then a glance at your social media page will yield pet names, spouses and other likely password clues.

Longer passwords are harder to crack and you could for instance use a memorable phrase or the first letter of each word in a favourite song. It's also important to change that password from time to time. Your data security will be greatly enhanced if you use two factor authentication, in other words a second password.

Fortunately there are inexpensive systems around which mean you don't have to remember that second password. Many banks provide a little device which, when operated, generates a 'one use only' code which your computer recognises and this is used in addition to your first password to give access to your bank account. Some of these devices require a four-digit PIN number to work and that is a three factor system which is more secure again. These authentication systems are commercially available, inexpensive and easy to operate.

So beef up your cyber security today by changing your passwords. Go for something longer and do use different passwords for different accounts. When you've done that, I then suggest you investigate two or three factor authentication.

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## 72 alive thanks to RNLI volunteer crew

OBAN RNLI Lifeboat launched 62 times last year, rescuing 72 people.

Five of those rescued were under the age of 18, writes David McPhee.

The volunteer crew, which was called out three times in winds with a force greater than seven - the most in Scotland - spent just under 600 hours completing training exercises and dealing with emergencies. And more than half of the Oban station's launches were made in darkness.

Billy Forteith, lifeboat operations manager, said: 'Compared to last year, the number of call outs is fairly stable.'

'Oban RNLI is very important on the west coast – we're one of the busiest stations in Scotland.'

'We have an ongoing sea safety campaign, with the purpose of reducing incidents. The hope is the number will be reduced even further in the future.'

'We had a couple of notable callouts which were technically difficult, but the crew preformed well.'

Throughout the year lifeboats in Scotland launched 1,078 times and rescued 1,046 people, with 499 launches being made in darkness.



The volunteer crew of Oban Lifeboat. Photograph: Steven Lawson.



Bill Leech, left, Charles Struthers and Mike Bullock marvel at one of the main attractions of the museum. 15\_106hesperus1

## Your museum needs YOU!

A SHORTAGE of volunteers at one of Oban's top visitor attractions may threaten its future.

The War and Peace Museum, which has been a part of the community for more than 20 years, needs new blood to revitalise the establishment.

Charles Struthers, chairman of the museum, said: 'We've had to cut some periods of when we're open.'

'It is a fact of life that people come and go, but right now we have lost many of our original volunteers through old age. We currently have only one person under the age of 70.'

'We are looking for new blood to keep the museum going. This is where history can be seen and

where the young can be educated in their heritage and be made aware of the sacrifices made by others for their security. Age or service is not important – volunteering is.'

The War and Peace museum, which received the Queen's Award for voluntary service in 2011, is also in need of volunteer board directors.

Mr Struthers continued: 'The museum is a very valuable asset to Oban and attracts 30,000 visitors every year.'

The museum is open from March until November each year. Anyone who would like to get involved should call 01631 570007, email obanmuseum@btconnect.com or visit www.obanmuseum.org.uk.

## Luss primary pupils flying the flag for Argyll and Bute

ARGYLL and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara visited pupils of Luss Primary School to present the flag the children designed for the Westminster Flag project 2015.

The project marks the 750th anniversary of the Montfort Parliament, where elected representatives met

for the first time to create the House of Commons.

Mr O'Hara said: 'I am delighted to meet the children and staff of Luss primary to say thank you for their hard work in designing a flag which captures the beauty of this wonderful constituency.'



Luss Primary School pupils show off their Argyll and Bute flag.

## Three men arrested on counterfeit allegation

THREE men with 'heavy Irish accents' were arrested on Tuesday afternoon (February 2) after allegedly passing on counterfeit £50 notes in small businesses in North Argyll.

The men, who were detained in Oban shortly after 2pm, were held in custody for a court appearance yesterday, Wednesday.

A report has been made to the Procurator Fiscal.

The men are alleged to have been spending the counterfeit cash and receiving large amounts of cash in change.

Officers also seized a car connected to the men.

Police sergeant Alan Moore told *The Oban Times*: 'Officers identified this serious crime quickly and arrested three men. It is thanks to the vigilance of business people that the men were detained.'

'Businesses should be vigilant in checking the bank notes they are receiving and calling the police if there are any concerns that notes are not genuine.'

'We would like to hear of anyone else who has been effected by this fraudulent behaviour.'

The police can be contacted by visiting Oban Police Station or by calling 101 and asking to speak to the duty sergeant in Oban.

## Music festival consultation

THE TEAM behind May's hot ticket event, Oban Live, is holding a meeting on Friday to talk to the community about the event.

Daniel Gillespie of Skerryvore, artistic director of the event, says working with the community will be key to the event's success.

The group has sent letters to residents in Mossfield and Glencruitten, Oban, advising on their eligibility for the ticket discount scheme.

A meeting will take place in the Parish Church Hall, Glencruitten Road, at 6.30pm tomorrow (February 5).

LORN lines



Jessie, Kathleen and Tina receive the donation from Iain Blair Simmonds. r05cheque01

Legion backs Oban charity

HOPE Kitchen was given a £150 donation from the Oban Royal British Legion to help with running costs.

Iain Blair Simmonds, chairman of Oban Royal British Legion, presented the cheque to founder Jessie MacDonald and volunteers Kathleen and Tina.

Mr Blair Simmonds said: 'We heard about Hope Kitchen giving out 190 meals at Christmas and felt we had to support them.' Ms MacDonald added: 'We worked 12 hours on Christmas eve. As soon as donations were coming in they were going out again to people who needed them.'

Home-Start Burns' supper

HOME-START Lorne held its most successful Burns supper at the Waterfront Fishhouse restaurant in Oban recently.

The 80 people present helped to raise £1,300 for Home-Start while enjoying a supper of mini haggis pies, venison sausage casserole and ginger and treacle tart.

Master of ceremonies Jack Degnan kept the audience entertained during an evening of fun, which also paid tribute to the Scottish bard.

John Archbold, from Mull, gave an informative Toast to the Immortal Memory, outlining Burns' life with well-chosen lines of poetry, and young Alice Needham confidentially addressed the haggis. By popular demand, Willie Cameron, now in Balloch, again gave his riveting delivery of Tam O'Shanter.

North Connel minister Rev Jeff McCormick gave an entertaining Toast to the Lassies, and his wife Fiona gave an equally entertaining and robust reply.

David Condie of Kilchrenan gave a well-balanced Toast to the Land We Live In demonstrating diversity in the land and its people. Kate MacPherson and Gregor Macdonald played the pipes for the event.

Home-Start Lorne's volunteers offer practical and emotional support to help parents give their children the best possible start in life. The charity is running a course for new volunteers in February. If anyone is interested in being a volunteer please contact Aileen Binner on 01631 566749.

Head takes to social media in push to find teachers

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A TEACHER shortage in Oban high school has sparked an appeal by the head in a bid to attract mathematicians and biologists to the town.

While all schools in Scotland are suffering due to a lack of available staff in particular subject areas, rural areas have been worst hit, with vacancies being left unfilled for long periods of time.

But Oban head teacher Peter Bain wants to attract people, not only to the high school, but to the life that teaching and living in the West Highlands can bring.

Joining him in the campaign, parents whose children attend the primary Gaelic Medium Unit in Oban are also con-



Head teacher Peter Bain

cerned that a long-term vacancy in the primary school has remained empty and are using their contacts to try to find a replacement.

Mr Bain shared his staffing problems in order that town-folk would pass on the appeal to their friends and relatives in the

hope that any teachers among them might consider moving to the area.

In a social media post, the football-playing head teacher said: 'I would be grateful if everyone could share so we can reach as many potential excellent teachers as possible.'

'Oban high is a large, successful school with one of the broadest curriculum in Scotland.'

'It is innovative, vibrant and full of caring and friendly staff and pupils. It lies in the heart of one of the most beautiful parts of the world.'

'Have a look at our Facebook page and see the wealth of talent in the school and the beautiful countryside on our doorstep.'

'We have our own airport, train station and ferry port, so please feel free to visit us.'

'We are now in need of a maths teacher. This is a full-time permanent position. For information, please call the head teacher.'

In another post, Mr Bain called for help in finding cover for a biology teacher post.

Argyll and Bute Council is currently advertising 16 posts for education staff, including a chemistry teacher in Lochgilphead, primary teachers at Kilmodan and St Columba's in Oban.

Michael Russell was full of praise for the move, saying:

'This is a great community initiative and could be used more widely. Other communities in Argyll have used similar methods to recruit new GPs and the power of social media – and the attractions of Oban – will, I am sure, prove effective.'

Reformers set out new budget plan

ALTERNATIVE budget proposals to Argyll and Bute Council's service choices have been put forward by the authority's opposition reform group, writes Louise Glen.

The group includes councillors Vivien Dance, Michael Breslin and Bruce Marshall.

Mr Breslin explained: 'Council officers have still to make some final comments on technical aspects of our budget but we released this now because the broad thrust of our proposals will not alter.'

'It is also released now to allow anyone reading it to comment on it as there is time to amend it before the council meeting on February 11, where the council budget will be agreed.'

'The council's service choices process is widely accepted as being flawed.'

'Audit Scotland criticised it in its recent Best Value report.'

'The council administration's budget proposals will be based on that flawed and visionless process. Our view is that their proposals will be damaging to our area.'

The group's alternative budget proposes radical reform of the council by:

- Decentralising the council to the four area committees thereby returning decision making and service delivery to a local level.

- Reducing the corporate management costs of the council by some £1.4m.

- Reducing unnecessary travel to and from Kilmory through decentralisation and a greatly increased use of technology.

- Initiating a ground-up review of all budgets from April this year by involving local staff, service users and customers, the businesses and people of Argyll and Bute.

- Moving the council over the next year to a position where year-on-year cuts after that period will not be necessary based on current forecasts.

Councillor Breslin added: 'The reduction in funding means we need to save £10 million plus in the coming year.'

'Our budget achieves this.'

Make a wish on moonbow over Mull



This photograph was taken and sent in by reader Cheryl Callow. She said: 'I took this shot of a moonbow over Loch Cuin at Dervaig on the isle of Mull on Saturday evening [January 23] at 7.40pm. Most people don't see this in their life time.'

Council chief to head up COSLA

THE CHIEF Executive of Argyll and Bute Council has sent a message to the council's 4,000 employees, following the news that she has been appointed head of COSLA, one of Scotland's most influential political bodies.

Mrs Loudon, who has been with Argyll and Bute Council for eight years, will take up her post in May. She said: 'I am grateful for all the work, progress and successes we have delivered together in the seven years that I have been with Argyll and Bute Council.'

'Argyll and Bute is an amazing area and I am honoured to have had the opportunity to contribute to building the prosperous future it deserves.'

'This council benefits from hard working, skilled and dedicated employees and I know you will continue to achieve change where it is needed.'

'There is a lot of work still to be done before I leave in May, but I wanted to thank you for all we have been able to achieve together.'

Parking powers could be devolved

POWERS over parking on pavements could be devolved to the Scottish Parliament.

Labour has tabled an amendment to the Scotland Bill, which is currently going through the House of Lords, to ensure offences in relation to parking at dropped kerbs and double parking will be the responsibility of the Scottish Government.

Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland Ian Murray said: 'Devolving competency over pavement parking to the Scottish Parliament will greatly enhance the protections afforded to Scottish pedestrians, particularly those at greater risk, such as parents with pushchairs, older pedestrians and the visually impaired.'

Stuart Hay, director of the charity Living Street Scotland, said: 'We hope to see an amendment before March. This will give Police Scotland and councils the power they need to keep Scotland's pavements clear of obstructions.'

Affordable home subsidy on the rise

SUBSIDIES that help councils and social landlords keep rents low are being increased following recommendations from an expert group.

Grant subsidies from the Scottish Government have been extended by up to £14,000 and there are also incentives for homes that meet a high green standard.

Housing Minister Margaret Burgess said: 'Housing is at the heart of our ambitions to create a fairer and prosperous country, and councils and registered social landlords will play a critical role in realising that.'

She continued: 'Our new target will be to deliver at least 50,000 affordable homes, which will be backed by more than £3 billion of investment. The new target is a 67 per cent increase in affordable housing supply, with 70 per cent of the new target being for social rent.'

Trial date set for Oban man

AN OBAN man appeared at the town's sheriff court on Monday and denied breaking into cars in the town.

Stuart Andrew Wilson, 41, of 15 Corran Brae, Dunollie, denies four charges all said to have taken place between January 20 and 21 in the town – attempting to force open a locked car with intent to steal at a guest house on Albert Road; being found in the curtilage of the guest house without lawful authority; forcing open a car

on Benavullin Road and stealing a sat-nav and a set of keys, and forcing open another car on the same road and stealing a car radio, an iPod nano and a pair of sunglasses.

Wilson will stand trial on February 29.

Case continued

A 22-YEAR-OLD man of no fixed abode appeared before Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, accused of possessing heroin with intent to supply at a bar in the town on January 31.

Sean Michael Reilly's case was continued without plea until February 3.



Swimmers braved the chilly waters of the Corran Narrows of Loch Linnhe on Sunday. The Highland Open Water Swim attracted 19 people who swam around 380 metres to the lighthouse. It was the fourth event of its kind with further swims planned for Skye and the Sound of Mull. Donations to take part are being made to children's cancer charities. Photo: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

## Another Fort game falls foul of the weather

### Football

LAST Saturday's Highland League match between Inverness Clach and Fort William was postponed after two pitch inspections on Saturday morning left the referee with no option but to call the game off despite the heroic efforts of Clach supporters and ground staff to clear snow from the Grant Street pitch.

Fort William will be hoping the weather improves to allow their away Highland League Cup game against Forres Mechanics to take place at Mosset Park on Saturday.

The next scheduled home game for Fort William is on Saturday February 13 when Nairn County are the visitors.

Meanwhile the club confirmed the signing of John Cameron from Nairn County on a one-month loan deal.

Fort lad John, 26, is a player of proven Highland League quality. Having started out at Ross County, he then moved to Brora Rangers before joining up at Station Park.

The club also signed Kane Hull and Stephen Rennie from Inverness Caledonian Thistle.

Both players are part of Duncan Shearer's ICT under-20 team and have joined on a six-month youth development loan deal.

Midfielder Kane can play in both the central role and on the left, while Stephen is equally at home at left back or in midfield.

The club are also delighted to announce the appointment of David Osborne as their new goalkeeping coach.

Fort manager Ally Ewen said: 'When Ozzy applied it was a no-brainer. He is vastly experienced and will be a valuable addition to our coaching team.'

## Alleycats are still the top dogs

### Ten pin bowling

AFTER week 13 of the Lochaber Building Supplies ten pin bowling leagues at the Nevis Centre in Fort William, Alleycats stay at the top of the scratch division with 63 points followed by The Creeps with 50 points. Ardtoe & Co are in third place on 44 points.

The handicap division is much closer where The Creeps are the leaders with 45 points with Ardtoe & Co in second place only one point behind on 44 points. British Legion Fort William are in third place on 39 points.

Individually this week the best game was rolled by Tony Whitelocke (Alleycats) with a 195. Gary Cowan (Ardtoe & Co) had a 174. Tony Whitelocke swept the board with the top handicap game of 234, the top two-game scratch series of 348 and the top two-game handicap series of 426.

Ardtoe & Co had the best scratch game of 633, the best handicap game of 858 and the best two-game handicap series of 1,573. Alleycats had the top two game scratch series of 1,190.

The top scratch average is held by Pam Weller (Alleycats) on 154 followed by Tony Whitelocke on 153 and Ben Weller (The Creeps) on 151.

# Lochaber Phoenix boxers fail to get the rub of the green



Cameron Whyte.  
Photo: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

SOMETIMES no matter how well prepared and conditioned a boxer is, on occasion fate decrees that victory will not go his way.

This seemed the case for boxers of Lochaber Phoenix Boxing Club last weekend where the rub of the green just would not go their way.

Saturday afternoon saw 13-year-old Cameron Whyte represent Scotland in an international match against England held in Newcastle where he faced Adam Aziz. Whyte had a controversial decision to Aziz in the final of the Monkston Cup last year so was looking for revenge and he started very brightly in the opening

round beating Aziz to the punch and continued this in the second round. Aziz had the better of the last round as he realised he was behind but much to the Scotland camp's dismay the decision went to Aziz.

Things didn't really improve results wise for the Lochaber team at the Scottish Intermediate championships at Ravenscraig in Motherwell.

Welterweight Adam Watson faced Elgin's Charlie Lynott in the quarter finals. Watson was guilty of being too passive in round one and Lynott took the round due to his busier work rate. Watson gained the upper hand

in the second round as he landed some powerful clean shots driving Lynott to the ropes.

Watson started the last round very brightly but as it progressed the contest regressed to a lot of holding and mauling with few clean shots landing. Unfortunately the split decision went to Lynott but the contest highlighted some improvements that need to be made and Watson should become a better boxer due to this bout.

Youth welterweight Kevin Aitchison contested a final against Martin Kerr from Renfrewshire on Sunday and displayed some nice boxing

skills and a quality jab but used his straight backhand on too few occasions.

Aitchison possesses huge power with his straight right hand but used it so sparingly it wasn't really a factor in the contest which meant that whilst Kerr was both hands, Aitchison was only using one which left him at a huge disadvantage.

This was perhaps the deciding factor in the decision going to Kerr but Aitchison looks like he is not far away from a very good performance.

Fourteen-year-old Ewan Easson came to this competition unbeaten but had never boxed at

### Boxing

this level before. His opponent, Insch's Jimmy Laing, is regarded as the most improved boxer in the North of Scotland this season and the quality of this contest was as good as it promised to be on paper.

The judges preferred the more aggressive work of Laing who held ring centre to the back foot movement of Easson, who used lateral movement and changes of direction to wrong foot Laing.

This bout was a joy to watch and very close but the Lochaber club's luck didn't change and the very tight decision went to Laing.

# Win for local club in new regional competition

LOCHABER Squash Club played Gordonstoun Squash Club in their first match of a new Highlands and Islands Squash Association League Cup. The league will encourage competition between the more distant clubs in the association.

The teams met at Lochaber Leisure Centre on Saturday with Lochaber wearing their new shirts sponsored by Highland Waterworks.

Playing in reverse order the level four match was between Donald Smith (LSC) and Alfonso Brandin (GSC). The first two games followed a similar pattern with neither player gaining any advantage until the latter stages when Smith won crucial points to lead 2-0. In game three he exerted more control from the outset to win the match 3-0.

Next on were Andy Bilton (LSC) and Andrew Lyall (GSC).

This match went to five games with the result in doubt to the end. Lyall took an early lead in game one; Bilton was back on terms but could not save the game. He reversed the position in game two and was too strong in game three to lead 2-1. Lyall led throughout game four to level the match at 2-2. Both players had used power and guile to good effect but tiredness took its toll on both as Bilton closed out game five to win 3-2.

The level two match saw Ian Black (LSC) play Pete Richardson (GSC). In game one neither gained an advantage as both players struck the ball very hard before Black edged the game. Richardson came back strongly in game two but Black held on

### Squash

to win narrowly. In game three it was level at 7 all before Black took four points to win 3-0.

The level one match Alan Love (LSC) and John Georgeson (GSC) was the highlight of the day. Both players maintained the pressure in extended rallies with variations of power and touch. Georgeson won the first game by a narrow margin. Love won 11-4 in games two and three but this did not reflect the quality of the play. Georgeson won a close game four to level the score. The final game was even before Love took the lead to seal a win for Lochaber. LSC thanked Gordonstoun for a very enjoyable match and the leisure centre staff for their assistance.



Lochaber and Gordonstoun Squash Club members.

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**WEATHER**

**Thursday** Heavy rain  
Winds moderate west south westerly  
Temperatures 7°C to 9°C.

**Friday** Light rain  
Winds moderate west south westerly  
Temperatures 3°C to 8°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Light rain showers on Saturday  
Light rain on Sunday  
Winds moderate west south westerly  
Temperatures 2°C to 6°C.

**FRIDAY**

**Stop Press:** New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

**TIDAL INFORMATION**  
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday February 4, 2016** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am				pm			
Thur	02.38	3.0	08.05	1.9	15.05	3.1	21.13	1.8
Fri	03.34	3.2	09.17	1.7	15.55	3.3	22.04	1.5
Sat	04.19	3.5	10.17	1.4	16.37	3.5	22.46	1.2
Sun	04.59	3.7	11.05	1.1	17.15	3.7	23.24	0.9
Mon	05.38	4.0	11.48	0.8	17.50	3.9	***	**
Tues	00.02	2.9	06.14	4.1	12.29	0.6	16.23	4.0
Wed	00.42	0.4	06.50	4.2	13.09	0.5	18.58	4.0

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardershaig	-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