

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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# Oban pontoons on crest of a wave for summer season

**LOUISE LEE**  
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PLANS to install pontoons in Oban Bay as early as this May have been warmly welcomed by the business community, following years of wrangling over the proposal.

Oban-based councillor Roddy McCuish revealed the news at a

meeting of Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee last week, in response to a question by Neil Mackay, a former councillor who now works for business community company BID4Oban.

Mr Mackay said plans due to be in place in 2011 'had never materialised', adding that a lack of progress on the pontoon development was limiting the

town's offering to visiting sailors. Councillor McCuish said he was 'pleased to be able to reveal' that six floating pontoons were being sought by Argyll and Bute council in time for the summer tourist season.

Admitting the plans were 'long overdue', councillor McCuish continued: 'Council officers are currently looking for pontoons

and we hope to get them in the water for May this year.'

'I am aware that cruise ships such as The World (the world's biggest cruise ship) and the Queen Mary 2 are coming to the town this year and it is important we look as though we are making progress.'

'It is great that we are moving forward at last.'

Councillor McCuish has met Oban Bay Marine, which initially proposed the project, but asked those at the meeting to help inform the business community.

Graeme Bass, chairman of BID4Oban, said: 'We've worked hard to make cruise ship visitors feel welcome in Oban, providing welcome packs tailored to specific vessels to businesses around town when a ship is due in port.'

'We are delighted to learn that it will soon become very much easier for passengers to come ashore.'

'And we very much look forward to welcoming these visitors as the season progresses.'

'The new facility will be yet another reason for people to love Oban.'

A spokesman for Oban Bay Marine (OBM), which has been granted planning permission for a transit marina berthing in the bay, said on Tuesday: 'We met councillors Roddy McCuish, Elaine Robertson and Iain MacLean on Friday and they explained their idea for the pontoons.'

'OBM is still in discussion with the council vis-à-vis longer-term proposals for a marina in Oban Bay.'

'But until such time as it has details of the temporary proposal that can be shared with OBM, we can't make any comment.'

BID4Oban's business plan states developments in the bay are vital for attracting visitors to Oban, which will generate considerable revenue for the town.



WAVE OF ENTHUSIASM: BID4Oban's Neil Mackay and Graeme Bass welcome the news about the imminent arrival of the Oban Bay pontoons 16\_t08pont7

## Customers dish the dirt over landlines

A FAULTY cable underneath a dirty duct on the main road from Oban is hampering telephones in the Connel area.

Residents in Lora View, North Connel have complained of faulty landlines since the middle of January but BT said it will be next week before the problem can be fixed.

Carol Turnbull of Lorn View said: 'I've been without my BT

landline for a week. My neighbour two doors down has been without a telephone connection since January 18.'

Louise Steel, who lives in the same street, has made a complaint about a constant 'crackling' on the line.

A spokesman for BT Scotland apologised for the delay and said it was working hard to fix the fault.

He continued: 'Openreach engineers traced the problem to a faulty cable underneath the A85. Engineers attempted to fix the fault at the beginning of the month but a number of underground ducts were identified which require unblocking.'

'The earliest date provided by BEAR Scotland to close the road is next Monday (February 23).'

## A CHAMPION LASS



COWGIRL: It was more than beginner's luck at play when smiley nine-year-old Emily Armstrong helped her father, Mark, win a trophy at last weekend's Highland Cattle Society show in Oban livestock centre.

The Tیره primary school pupil had never shown cattle before but helped her family's

Balemartine fold win the yearling heifer championship.

Emily was also runner-up in the young handlers' competition and is desperate to enter the show ring again, even asking her father if she could take her trophy into school.

For more on this year's spring show and sale, turn to pages 16 and 17. 16\_t08highland02

## TIMESLINE

### Postal van thefts and Corsa stolen

A ROYAL MAIL van had parcels and letters stolen from it when it was left overnight in a residential area of Tobermory on Mull.

On the same night a Vauxhall Corsa car was taken from Main Street in the village.

Both thefts happened sometime between 8pm on Wednesday, February 11 and 9am Thursday, February 12.

Witnesses are being sought.

### Coastguard helps pupils to safety

THE COASTGUARD on Benbecula led 59 pupils to safety on Monday after fears the tide might cut them off while the Balivanich primary children were on an after-school cross-country activity session at the beach.

A Western Isles spokesman said: 'No pupils were at risk at any time but we appreciate the vigilance of the coastguard.'

### Shadow to fall on West Highlands

A TOTAL eclipse of the sun will be visible in the West Highlands and islands for the first time in a decade in the Northern hemisphere on Friday, March 20.

People will witness up to 97 per cent of the sun being obscured by the moon at about 9.45am, which will cast a shadow for less than three minutes.

### Argyll council tax to stay the same

COUNCIL tax will be the same in 2015-16 as it has been for the last eight years in Argyll and Bute.

Band D will remain at £1,178 per year with payments to Scottish Water in the same band of £410.85.



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**BUILT TO ORDER**

## Argyll reaches for the Sky

A SUCCESSFUL international businessman has agreed to head up Argyll and Bute's newly formed economic forum.

Nick Ferguson, CBE, who is chairman of BskyB - the biggest broadcasting company in Europe - will take the helm of the group at its first meeting on March 7.

A resident of Tighnabruaich, neighbours described Nick (pictured) and his wife Jane as 'very much part of the community'.

Speaking about his appointment while caught in a snowstorm in the USA, Nick told *The Oban Times* on Tuesday: 'Argyll has a number of sectors in which we have a competitive advantage, such as tourism and food production, and



in which we are very successful.

'I would hope that we can build on those successes and seek to remove barriers to further growth.'

'We'll be working towards unlocking the major development potential of our area, creating jobs and attracting people.'

The forum will focus on job creation, long-term strategic development of the economy and promoting inward investment.

The Financial Times referred to Mr Ferguson last year as a 'leading British private equity boss'.

Nick and Jane Ferguson set up the Kilfinnan Trust and provide scholarships for 12 Argyll students each year to attend Edinburgh University.

## Cargo ship aground

A CARGO ship which ran aground near Ardnamurchan Point at 2am on Wednesday is likely to be stuck for some time, according to the Maritime Coastguard Agency.

No one was injured on the 120m-long Lysblink Seaways container ship and it is not thought to be in any immediate danger.

As *The Oban Times* went to press, tugs were on their way to help free the ship.

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**MP dramming up support on tax cut**

ARGYLL'S MP Alan Reid has called for a cut in the price of a dram. The Lib Dem politician urged Tory chancellor George Osborne to reduce the excise duty on Scotch whisky by two per cent in the last budget before May's general election. The Argyll and Bute MP, who is vice chairman of the all-party parliamentary group on Scotch whisky, had lobbied successfully for a debate on the state of the whisky industry. Speaking in the House of Commons last Thursday, Mr Reid said: 'A bottle of whisky is taxed at 80 per cent, which is far too high. Scotch whisky provides 40,000 jobs directly and indirectly across the UK, 7,400 of which are in Scotland's rural communities. It remains the UK's largest food and drink sector, adding almost £5 billion to the UK economy.'

**Major cash boost will finance trips**

AN Oban youth project has received £5,000 to help arrange trips and activities for members throughout the year. The Oban Youth Café Project (OYC) and funder Scottish Sea Farms have combined to arrange the diary of events during school half terms and summer holidays, something the youth café was unable to do last year because of a lack of money. Lori Hannah, youth worker at OYC, said: 'For some young people, this is the only opportunity they have to get away or take part in something interesting over the school holidays.' OYC works with around 100 12 to 19-year-olds in the Oban area and opened in 2001.

**Lifeboat helps in hospital transfer**

OBAN lifeboat was called out twice over the weekend to Mull and Kerrera to take two people to the mainland for hospital treatment. On Sunday night, the Mora Edith MacDonald, with two paramedics on board, was sent to help transport a woman from Craignure, Isle of Mull. In the early hours of last Friday, the crew had made the short trip to Oban Marina, Kerrera, with two paramedics to help a person suffering from chest pains. Imperial birds are talk of the trust

A FORMER member of the British Antarctic Survey, now based at Dunstaffnage, gave the January lecture at the Argyll and Lochaber group of the Scottish Wildlife Trust. Dr Phil Anderson, of the Scottish Marine Institute, talked about Emperor penguins in Antarctica. Dr Steven Benjamins will speak at the trust meeting today (February 19).

**DOCTORS IN DESPERATE SEARCH FOR BONE MARROW DONOR**



HAPPY FAMILY: Simon and Fiona Hart, with son Jacob, hope that a bone marrow donor can be found to help treat Fiona's rare cancer

**Brave Islay mum longs to be back with her children**

**EUAN PATERSON**  
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A MOTHER of two who has been unable to see her young baby and toddler as she battles against a rare cancer has described her ordeal as 'hell'. Fiona Hart, 31, from Islay, is being treated for EBV lymphoma and is undergoing chemotherapy at Glasgow's Southern General hospital but has been told she needs a bone marrow transplant and doctors are desperately seeking a donor. Fiona has a two-year-old son, Jacob, and gave birth to baby Honor on September 2 last year. But just weeks after Honor's birth, Fiona was admitted to hospital and has barely seen her daughter since. The children are unable to visit their mother because her immune system is severely weakened by the chemotherapy. Fiona, a paediatric nurse, and her husband, Simon, moved back to their native Isle of Islay from Glasgow last year to be closer to family and for firefighter Simon to take up a post at Islay airport. But what should have been an idyllic new life has turned into a nightmare for the couple, whose parents are looking after their children on Islay while Fiona is treated in Glasgow. Fiona had been ill throughout her pregnancy but her condition was only diagnosed in December last year, as doctors had blamed the pregnancy for her symptoms of blocked sinuses and severe swelling in her face. Following the birth, Fiona's

**“**The past few months have been hell. It took so long to get people to believe I was sick ... I feel my wee boy is growing up without me and I have barely seen my wee girl **”**

Fiona Hart

sinus problems worsened. Her face was swollen and distorted with her eyes almost closed by swelling; she lost her voice and she was also found to have abnormal liver function and gallstones, losing more than four stones in weight after the birth. Fiona said: 'The past few months have been hell. It took

so long to get people to believe I was sick but then I was flown off the island because my temperature had gone up to 40 degrees and my heart rate was 140 beats per minute. We didn't know it was the cancer that had caused it until I started treatment in Glasgow. 'The chemotherapy is helping and the swelling has gone down - everything is going in the right direction - but it is horrific being away from the children. I feel like my wee boy is growing up without me and I have barely seen my wee girl. 'I just want to get better and get home; get back to normal.' Since the discovery of Fiona's rare condition - only a handful of people in the UK suffer from that type of lymphoma - Simon has joined the bone marrow register through the charity Delete Blood Cancer and has encouraged others to do so. The 39-year-old, who is staying in Glasgow during Fiona's treatment, said: 'Fiona is my priority but I just feel I'm lost, like I'm not doing enough. 'I have signed up to the bone marrow donor list and it was easy to do. I signed up with Delete Blood Cancer because the Anthony Nolan does not register people over the age of 30. 'The ideal age of a donor is 16 - 30 but when you are 18 or 19 years old you can be quite selfish. 'You don't think of how you could help someone like Fiona. 'The treatment is doubly hard for her because she is missing her children growing up. It's breaking her heart. I admit I was

ignorant before this happened to us but I'm on the register now and hopefully I'll be able to help someone else.' The family has expressed gratitude to fellow Ilich who have sent cards and organised fundraising events. Fiona even joked that her little girl will have clothes until she is five years old. Anthony Nolan was the world's first bone marrow register and is particularly looking for men aged 16 - 30 years. Delete Blood Cancer is an international charity that launched in the UK in 2013 and will accept donors up to the age of 55. Joining the charities' registers is simple to do online and requires only a swab from inside a cheek. Visit either charity's websites to find out how to join the register.

**FACTFILE**

- Someone is diagnosed with blood cancer every 20 minutes.
- Around 2,000 people in the UK need a bone marrow (or stem cell) transplant from a stranger each year. This is usually their last chance of survival.
- You have a 25 per cent to 30 per cent chance of having the same tissue type as a sibling.
- 90 per cent of donations take place via peripheral blood stem cell (PBSC) collection. This is an outpatient appointment and is similar to donating blood.

**MULL lines**



FAMOUS FIVE: Tobermory pupils are the first in Scotland to complete a study in skills for lifelong learning

**Pupils learn lessons for life**

ANIMALS have brought learning to life for five Tobermory primary school pupils. The children have been taking part in a ground-breaking project led by primary three and four teacher Lilian Mitchell-Stephen. The idea is to use animals to help children learn more effectively - and in doing so discover where they may have strengths and weaknesses in their strategies for learning. For instance, an owl can help them take a broader view, and step back from their project to get new ideas when they are stuck. The tortoise shows them how to persevere and show resilience, whereas the curious cat helps them to make new discoveries and get below the surface to look for deeper meanings. The seven animals are linked to seven dimensions of learning. The children have also completed a question and answer session which provides them with a visual map of their personal learning journey. The pupils are the first in Scotland to complete this Effective Lifelong Learning Inventory profile and it is to be extended across Tobermory's primary and secondary schools.



FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD: members and friends of Salen parish church enjoy a sumptuous meal by candlelight

**The glow of glorious food**

EIGHTY people from all over Mull sat down last Saturday to a fabulous meal in Salen Parish Church. The very popular annual candlelit supper was a lovely evening of good company and excellent food. All the food, mostly local produce, was donated and prepared by members and friends of the church. The major cuts of meat were cooked in the church centre kitchen under the watchful eye of a number of expert chefs. The Rev Johnny Paton welcomed guests and said grace before everyone tucked in. Through the diners' generosity more than £1,000 was raised for church funds. A great deal of time and effort was put into the evening and it has now become an eagerly-awaited annual highlight of the church calendar.



SMILES BETTER: family fun and games in the Aros hall

**Quizzing the good doctor**

THE FUNDRAISERS and crew of Tobermory Royal National Lifeboat Institution hosted two successful events to mark SOS Day at the end of January. A pub quiz held at the Mishnish hotel attracted more than 12 teams and raised more than £270 for the lifeboat charity that saves lives at sea. There was controversy when quizmaster Dr Sam Jones was challenged by fellow crew member and nurse, Mhairi Macadam, over a medical related question, which left Dr Sam vowing to swot up on anatomy for next year's event. The following day saw a frenetic pace with family fun and games at the Aros hall with 'Smiles on Saturday'. It raised £90.

**Chocolate vote for Roses**

ISLANDERS are being urged to vote online for a Mull centre that provides outdoor activities for young carers. The Roses Project plans to bring carers as young as seven years old to a residential holiday at Tavool House this year and has made it on to the shortlist of the Galaxy Hot Chocolate fund competition. Gill Spink at the Roses Project said: 'We need as many people as possible to go to www.galaxyhotchocolate.com and vote for the Roses Project. The winning charities will receive £300 each. 'We would love to be able to use this money to buy the outdoor clothing these children will need.' For more information on the Roses Project, please visit www.rosesproject.co.uk or check out the Facebook page 'Friends of The Roses Project.'

**Final bid to plug hydro scheme**

THERE are just four weeks left to invest in a community hydro scheme in Lochaber. Sunart Community Renewables has offered stakes in the scheme for a previously untapped power source in Strontian and has agreed to extend the share offer by a further fortnight. The group has now received more than £360,000 in shares, mostly from the north west Highlands, although people from all over Britain have also invested. Any funding gap remaining when the share offer closes on March 25 will be plugged by a loan from RBS social and community capital fund and the Scottish investment bank's renewable energy investment fund. To apply for a share, contact Dale Meegan on 07718132680 or see www.SunartCommunityRenewables.org.uk

**Highland wins lights out award**

HIGHLAND council has received an award in recognition of its work for the environment. The local authority was named the World Wildlife Fund's Earth Hour local authority champion joint winner with South Ayrshire council for switching off all lights in many council buildings across the region last March to raise awareness about climate change. Jimmy Gray, Highland council convenor, said: 'Initiatives such as these are an important step in raising the overall awareness of the need to focus on reducing our carbon footprint.' This year's Earth Hour is to be held from 8.30pm-9.30pm on March 28.

**Missing railway parts**

INFORMATION is being sought about a 200-metre miniature railway, run in Ardrishaig by volunteers in the 1980s and early 1990s before being gifted to Campbeltown. Bryan Passey, 77, from Lochgilphead, is keen to find out what has happened to some of the accessories, apart from the locomotive, carriage and track which are now with Machrihanish Airbase Community Company. The missing items include old-fashioned railway lamps, spare sleepers and a water tower. Anyone with any information can contact Mr Passey on 01546 602918.

**Mull family planning**

A TOBERMORY family bakery and cheese business has applied to develop land south-west of the town. J and C Reade and Son propose to build six private houses and six affordable, in four phases, to create an area of light industrial use behind the Island Bakery with the affordable units primarily for employees of the nearby Sgiob-Ruadh Farm and the Island Bakery. The plans for the land, on the B8073 road to Dervaig, was recommended for approval at Argyll and Bute council's planning committee yesterday (Wednesday).

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**Anniversary gig is big ticket item as demand from fans is overwhelming**

THE OBAN Times can exclusively reveal that a further 3,000 tickets will go on sale this Sunday for the Skerryvore Decade concert at Mossfield Stadium, Oban.

Organisers admit they 'underestimated' the interest in the gig to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the trad rock band, which traces its roots to the Isle of Tiree.

But after 1,500 early bird tickets sold out in 55 minutes and a further 1,500 sold in less than 30 minutes last week, organisers have agreed to double the capacity at the May 30 event.

The potential audience of 6,000 is far and away the biggest for a concert headlined by Skerryvore and founding band member and accordion player Daniel Gillespie, who hails from Tiree, said the ticket rush took him by surprise.

Daniel, who had initially expected to sell around 2,000 tickets, added: 'Our decision to release a further 3,000 tickets is based on letting as many people as possible come along.'

'Through the ticket provider Eventbrite, we monitored the second batch of tickets and they were allocated in minutes with purchases being made as far away as Norway, Denmark, Germany and a huge number from England. There were as many as 4,000 people in the ticket shop.'

'This event is a great opportunity, not just for the band, but for Oban too.'

Skerryvore Decade is being organised in conjunction with BID4Oban and features guests including Manran, the Red Hot Chilli Pipers and Sharon Shannon.

After agreeing to increase capacity, organisers have invested in an artificial grass carpet to cover and protect the Mossfield pitch.

Neil Mackay, events manager for BID4Oban, said: 'We are delighted to be working with Skerryvore to produce a high profile and quality event such as this, one that the community can be proud of.'

Tickets will go on sale at 4pm on Sunday from the website skerryvoredecade.com

**No grey areas as cinema is packed**

FIFTY Shades of Grey, the risqué movie blockbuster about a relationship between a multi-millionaire and a student, has sold out at Oban Phoenix cinema.

The excitement shown in the film has led to extra shows being added to the cinema's programme schedule.



**Town's pipe band in the soup over Valentine's event**

OBAN pipe band hall was a popular venue on Saturday when a good number of locals turned out to support the band's Valentine's Day soup lunch.

A selection of homemade soups was enjoyed and the St. Valentine's theme was very evident in the excellent display of home baking.

The committee and band members expressed their gratitude to all the supporters who took the time to bake, to help with the serving and to the many people who came along and supported the event.

The soup lunch raised the sum of £478, which will be used towards the band's travel costs during the 2015 competition season.

**TASTY TREAT:** Rachael Steward, 7, from North Connel, sampled some of the Valentine's-themed baking at the soup lunch

**Island partnership over missing link**

LOUISE LEE  
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AN ISLAND road that has been compared to a cart track by councillors will be replaced with a modern link road - but only if residents can help raise the cash.

Argyll and Bute council had previously agreed to help find money for a community-led initiative on Kerrera to link the north and south of the island by road.

Historically, the island has supported two communities: one at the north of the island linked to the mainland by Oban's North Pier and another at the south with a ferry at Gallanach.

A topographical survey, funded by the council, will assess the viability of the project and, importantly, lay down the extent of the work required.

But the council has warned it cannot fully fund the

project, the cost of which last year was estimated somewhere between £600,000 and £1 million.

Island landowner Dunollie Estates has advised that it would be prepared to allow the ground for the road to be 'acquired' by the community, to enable it to apply for grant funding.

At a meeting of the council's Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee last week, chairman councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'I find it quite incredible that Kerrera doesn't have a road linking one end of the island to the other.'

'This is an opportunity to see what we could do for the island by working in partnership with them.'

'This will be a community-led bid but it is good that Dunollie Estate is doing something that is vital for the community. Kerrera needs to have this infrastructure in place.'

**Loch Etive appeal heard this week**

A DECISION by Argyll and Bute council to grant permission for a 10-cage fish farm on Loch Etive is the subject of an appeal at the Court of Session that began this week.

Protest group Friends of Loch Etive (FOLE) took legal action against the unanimous decision of the planning committee last year to grant permission for the Dawnfresh fish farm at Sailean Ruadh.

FOLE said it was appealing the decision as Dawnfresh already operated five fish farms on the loch.

**Political pundit in Grassroots debate**

WRITER, political commentator and research fellow Gerry Hassan will be the guest of Oban's Grassroots cafe next month.

Mr Hassan will be speaking about a changing Scotland at the Corran halls' McCaig suite on March 5 at 7.30pm.

His activities include speaking at conferences and events in Scotland, the UK and internationally on themes ranging from contemporary Scotland, the UK, social change and imagining the future.

**Dementia group's inspirational talk**

AN EVENING of discussion with two people who have suffered from mental health issues has been described as 'inspirational' by a dementia adviser from Oban.

Around 80 people attended a question and answer session on February 11 at the Phoenix cinema in George Street, where local women Agnes Houston and Nancy McAdam discussed their experiences of living with dementia.

The session was part of the Scottish mental Health Arts and Film festival, supported by the NHS, with 50 per cent of the money from tickets sales going to supporting people with dementia and their carers.

The evening was organised by Alzheimer Scotland's Oban Dementia Resource centre.

**A test triumph for Oban's racing ace**

WILLIAMS Formula One (F1) test driver Susie Wolff will drive the team's 2015 car, the FW37, at Barcelona today (Thursday), the opening day of F1's second pre-season test.

The 32-year-old driver, who is originally from Oban, has been handed a bigger role at Williams after an impressive season last year.

She will be testing the car alongside world champions Lewis Hamilton, Kimi Raikkonen and Jenson Button.

**Rockfield to go back to the community, but at a cost**

LOUISE LEE  
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THE FORMER Rockfield primary school in Oban will be sold to the community for £1,000 - but it won't receive the cash it needs to get rid of dry rot.

The Oban Times understands that the cash offer from Oban Community Trust (OCT) is expected to be recommended to Argyll and Bute council at its meeting in April - but a 'bag of cash' to rid the building of dry rot would not be on offer.

The decision on the future of the B-listed Victorian building was made in private at last week's Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee.

The Oban Times led objections to the secrecy around the decision-making process.

Committee chairwoman Elaine Robertson, deputising for councillor Roddy McCuish who had declared an interest in the matter, said allowing the press to stay in the meeting was 'not in its gift' due to the commercial sensitivity of bidders.

Before press and public were excluded, councillors heard an impassioned plea from the OCT chairman, solicitor Gordon MacNab, who said the group was prepared to take on the building



**STRONG TIES:** Fiona Campbell Smith ties a ribbon to the fence around Rockfield last summer to symbolise its enduring bonds with the people of Oban

'after the dry rot treatment was completed'.

Mr MacNab said: 'All we would ask the council to tackle is the problem of dry rot. We have shown that the building can be saved and will not be demolished.'

'Don't come back and tell us there is no money. We are offering £1,000 and you [the council] treat the dry rot at a

cost of £50,000 - £60,000. The reinstatement [of the building] will be much, much more.'

'You are being asked to support this project,' he said.

'It represents hope - this is special. A massive amount of work has been done by only a few of us. The potential of this is project is huge.'

A council spokeswoman

confirmed the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee had made recommendations to be considered by the full council, but added: 'It is not possible to provide any more details at this stage because this is an exempt item, but council officers continue to work with the community group as it makes progress with its business case.'

**Russell supports union's case to keep island lifeline ferry services in public ownership**

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A LEADING trades unionist has raised concerns that workers' conditions could be put in jeopardy, as the Clyde and Hebridean Ferries Services (CHFS) tender process begins.

Stephen Boyd, who is assistant secretary of the Scottish Trades Union Congress, told MSPs in Holyrood about his fears over privatisation of the service at a meeting earlier

this month. The contract is currently held by operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac), but goes out to full tender in October.

There has been renewed interest from other operators in the Scottish government-subsidised contract.

Mr Boyd said: 'We want safeguards put in place to protect pensions, wages and worker conditions. There are seamen who are paid below minimum wage. We need to ensure that never happens.'

'It's a concern to find out who is going to bid for the contract. Despite the criticism they get, CalMac does a good job on what is a fundamental lifeline service for people on these island routes.'

'Nobody wants to see the service become privatised and suffer in quality as a consequence.'

Part of the briefing presented by Mr Boyd highlighted fears that if the CHFS contract was privatised, the Scottish government could be

exposing Scottish seafarers to the low-cost crewing practices common in other areas of the UK shipping industry.

According to Mr Boyd, some non-UK seafarers working on vessels around the Scottish and UK coastline are paid below minimum wage, with one Lithuanian firm paying £1.64 an hour.

MSP for Argyll and Bute, Michael Russell, who attended the meeting, said there was cross-party support for the ferry tender remaining a

public service. 'There were elected members present at the meeting from Labour, some independent and others from the SNP, including John Swinney,' he said.

'There was very strong support for the trade union position that CalMac needs to remain a public service. In fact, not one person in attendance felt CalMac should be privatised. The SNP strongly supports the belief of the trade unions that CalMac remains a public body.'

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# McCaig's red-y to take on noses

STEVEN RAE  
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STAFF at Oban's Oxfam store on George Street were worried the town would have nowhere to buy red noses for this year's Comic Relief, as the store is to close for maintenance on February 24.

However, staff at McCaig's Warehouse on the Railway Pier have stepped in and taken over the mantle as official supplier, until the work is done.

Claire MacPhee, manager of Oxfam, said: 'With Comic Relief on March 13, it would have been a shame if no-one had a chance to buy a nose in the town.'

Shona Wood, manageress at

McCaig's, added: 'We didn't want the charity to lose out and it's such a great cause to support, especially for people who come to Oban from the islands to get their noses.'

Oxfam is selling noses until the shop closes on February 24, when McCaig's will take over, until Oxfam reopens on March 19.

TAKE IT AS RED:  
Claire MacPhee (second from right) with McCaig's Warehouse staff Morvern Stobbart, Amanda Pitts and Shona Wood, who are 'delighted' to support the Red Nose Day appeal



# Bring space travel to Kintyre, urges MP for Argyll

MACHRIHANISH could still be the launchpad for space travel as a decision looms closer on a UK spaceport.

Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid told parliament last Thursday that the former RAF base, community-owned since 2012, was the right place for the UK to reach for the stars.

Mr Reid said: 'I have backed the Machrihanish Airbase Community Company buy-out from day one as it is a dedicated group looking to bring prosperity to Kintyre.'

'For Machrihanish to become the home of UK commercial space flights would be a tremendous boost for the area.'

Greg Clark, minister for universities, science and cities, said there would be an announcement soon on which of the six-short listed locations had been chosen, with a view to a spaceport being opened by 2018.

He said: 'I met with ministers earlier this month to discuss progress in delivering the UK's first spaceport.'

'A cross-governmental team is taking forward the national space flight agenda and the government has undertaken a public consultation on eight potential locations, including Machrihanish, and the criteria that will be used to select the location of a UK spaceport.'

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has recommended that a UK spaceport be established at a coastal location.

## £37.5M BUDGET 'SAVINGS' CONFRONT COUNCIL BUT ADMINISTRATION REMAINS POSITIVE ABOUT THE FUTURE

# It's time to talk up Argyll urges deputy as tough times lie ahead

LOUISE LEE  
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PEOPLE are being challenged to 'talk up Argyll and Bute' in order to turn around its flagging economy.

In an upbeat and largely uncontested budget meeting at Argyll and Bute council's Lochgilphead headquarters last Thursday, the predominant words used by both the leader and deputy leader were 'challenge' and 'progress'.

Council leader Dick Walsh defended a one per cent cut from every council department budget, excluding economic development, and said this would lead to a period of financial stability for the council.

Referring to an expected £27 - £37 million deficit in the budget, the council leader continued: 'In our two-year programme of financial stability, we have planned strategically for the budget challenge in 2016 and beyond. We cannot do as much for our communities as we would like.'

'The council is investing mil-



“A bright future as long as people talk up Argyll”

Ellen Morton (Pictured above)

lions of pounds in regenerating our communities.'

He pointed to investment in schools, in various cultural projects such as the Kilmartin museum, the Bute pavilion and the Heritage of the Sea, in local infrastructure such as roads and transport links.

He said: 'Difficult decisions will have to be made, but we will make decisions in the interests of all.'

However, council deputy leader Ellen Morton stole the headlines when she announced the appointment of Nick Ferguson, chairman of BSKyB, to head up a council forum to deliver 'opportunity for the area'.

Mr Ferguson, who has a house in Tighnabruaich, replaced James Murdoch as chairman of the global satellite company.

Deputy leader councillor Ellen Morton spoke about the 'bright future' for Argyll, as long as people 'talk Argyll up - don't talk it down'.

She said this phrase would be her rallying call to everyone - from politicians to ordinary



“Difficult decisions will have to be made”

Dick Walsh (Pictured above)

people. She said she had six pages from the head of economic development outlining the positive economic opportunities in Argyll and Bute.

Mrs Morton continued: 'What service do we do our thousands of staff members if we criticise the council.'

'To build an atmosphere of confidence in Argyll we must build confidence amongst the people who live here. Confidence inspires confidence and lots of progress can be made on that.'

'We are not pretending there are no challenges. We will need to make £37.5 million of savings.'

'We will need to make tough, difficult choices as part of a series of actions.'

'We don't wish a salami slice approach - cutting services to ribbons - we don't want job losses and redundancies.'

Turning to negotiations with unions, she said: 'What they expect is strong clear leadership from this administration.'

'We need to be sure we give people the leadership they deserve and talk Argyll up.'

## Jobs and houses to drive council's vision for future

COUNCIL leader Dick Walsh said his planners were treating job creation and housing growth as key priorities.

He said council planning officers were turning around applications in an average of 10 weeks.

Councillor Walsh added that developing innovative areas of industry would help to stem the population decline by making Argyll 'an even more attractive place to live and work'.

Pointing to the work of professional experts Business Gateway in helping to create 15,000 jobs since its inception a decade ago in Argyll and Bute, he said partnership working would secure the area's long-term socio-economic objectives.

Mr Walsh continued: 'It is time to focus on the long-term strategic development of Argyll and Bute council.'

'Our local development plan has a clear 'open-for-business' approach.'

'We have officers in place in our planning department to make business and opportunity possible.'

## Population fall is a risky business

A 'RISK' register prepared by Argyll and Bute council shows how seriously it is taking the falling numbers of people in the area.

The 'population and economic decline' risk report presented to elected members at last Thursday's full council meeting suggests there could be reduced employment, lower earnings, failing businesses and a poor perception of the area.

A decline in population would, the report states, reduce government funding and in turn increase the cost of living for residents.

Bruce West, head of economic development, told councillors and senior officers that there were a number of 'planned mitigations' in place to stem population decline.

These included a 'holistic approach to economic development and action plans' and maximising the potential for partnerships to bring external funding into the area.

He said plans such as the CHORD capital programme of regeneration works and an economic development action plan, alongside a newly-formed economic forum, would be keys to the council's success in reversing the trend.

## Eagle population to be surveyed

GOLDEN eagle numbers in Argyll and the West Highlands are to be the subject of a fourth population survey.

Co-funded by Scottish Natural Heritage and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the six-month survey on the bird of prey will see licenced surveyors from the RSPB's centre for conservation science working with the Scottish Raptor Study Group to monitor numbers.

Dr Daniel Hayhow, from the RSPB centre, said: 'These birds do not breed until they are four or five years old, so having accurate numbers of breeding pairs will help us assess how the population is faring at the moment, and in the future.'

All British golden eagles are found in Scotland except for a solitary male in the Lake District. Most of the population, which was surveyed in 1982-83, 1992 and 2003, is in the West Highlands and islands.

## Souper fundraiser for Oban festival

THERE was a good turnout to a soup lunch in Kilmore hall in aid of the forthcoming Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival.

The afternoon, held last Saturday, raised £350 for the festival in Oban, which is held during the first weekend in May and attracts competitors from all over the country.

# School over-crowding a 'time bomb' for Dunbeg

DUNBEG'S rapid expansion was described as a 'time bomb' with restricted parking spaces, a school bursting at the seams and cars treating the area as a 'racetrack'.

Dunbeg community council raised 'serious concerns' with Argyll and Bute councillors last Thursday about why so many houses had been built without a proper action plan to provide adequate shops and services.

Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee held a meeting in the village's Scottish Association of Marine Science (SAMS) at Dunstaffnage and questions were raised by community council members on why the area had been expanded 'without a thought' for the area's long-term future.

Area committee convener Roddy McCuish said he was concerned that no meeting about the future of the area had

taken place and called for one to be convened as a matter of urgency. He said: 'We will set up a group in Dunbeg and look at the situation now.'

'I am very aware of the situation and I have been monitoring it regularly.'

'It is vital the headteacher is involved in this conversation because it seems that we have no time to lose.'

Councillor Iain Angus MacDonald added: 'We are not now at a stage where we need to look at the wider picture.'

'We should review the work that is planned at Dunstaffnage, with housing and other major developments. We should look at individual problems as identified by the community and other professionals.'

'We need to have a workshop with the community.'

Councillor Neil MacIntyre said dealing with pressure on

the school was the number one priority: 'Once we complete all the major developments here in Dunbeg there will be no room for a school. This is a time bomb unless we do something about it.'

'I would rather deal with the school expansion first; where the school has to go is the most important issue here.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson, said: 'I also had representation from the shop because of the lack of parking spaces there.'

'The extra 50 people up at Marine Court has made a great difference to the number of people using the shop. I was going there today, but I didn't bother because there was nowhere to park.'

Councillor Iain MacLean added: 'We don't have a master plan. Despite all the individual plans circulating around Dunbeg, we need to draw up one.'

# Community has no meeting place after village hall was sold last year

SIX MONTHS after councillors agreed to sell a village community hall, residents are calling for another one to be built.

Dunbeg's community hall near the school was sold in 2014 by Argyll and Bute council only

for residents to complain they have nowhere to meet.

Speaking for Dunbeg community council at last Thursday's Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee meeting, resident Bill Harvey said: 'There is an issue here that we have

nowhere to meet. We could use the school but it is not fit for purpose and rather crowded.'

'When pupils and parents are in the school hall it is very difficult.'

'The community needs a larger place to get together.'

He said a school needed to be built with a hall big enough for the community use at nights.

'It would be a good idea to set up a committee. It is all about partnership working with the community involved,' he added.

Chairman of the area committee Roddy McCuish said: 'We used to have a vibrant hall. Building something in conjunction with the school for a dual purpose makes it attractive to funders and to other funding.'

Mr McCuish said a further report would be made to the area committee on any progress of a new school and community space.

## Councillors all a-twitter

THE USE of social media forum Twitter has been suggested to get the attention of trunk road maintenance contractors BEAR Scotland after no representative turned up for a meeting of Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee.

The wry comment came from Connell community councillor Les Stewart. He said: 'For 10 years we have had this difficulty with Transport Scotland's road managers at BEAR Scotland and before

them Transerve. The problem is we don't have the named liaison personnel that we need.'

A BEAR Scotland spokeswoman said there were quarterly meetings with Argyll and Bute council, Transport Scotland and Police Scotland to discuss a variety of roads issues. 'The next meeting is planned for tomorrow, Friday February 20, in Arrochar and attendance at individual area committees can be discussed further then.'

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**Finance director's final presentation**

THE FINANCE director of Argyll and Bute council stepped down at the end of last week after presenting his last budget to councillors.

Bruce West, who started as the chief accountant for the local authority in 2010, was described as 'measured and calm' and 'difficult to replace', by council leader Dick Walsh.

Mr West implemented a number of major funding projects during his time as head of finance - including a roads maintenance budget and £30 million worth of funding through the CHORD projects.

The local authority has appointed an interim director to work three days a week until a permanent replacement is found.

The post is currently being advertised on myjobscotland.com.

Mr West will take up his new post as financial director of Argyll Community Housing Association later this month.

**Anti-social policy under spotlight**

ARGYLL Community Housing Association (ACHA) is urging tenants to take part in a review of its antisocial behaviour policy.

The policy covers issues such as possession, dealing and cultivation of drugs, violence and threats of violence, abuse, including homophobic, racial abuse and sexual abuse, loud music, harassment and general neighbour nuisance.

In particular, the association is interested in receiving feedback regarding the length of time ACHA should take to fully resolve a complaint.

Tenants can fill in a short survey on the website acha.co.uk.

The closing date for the consultation is February 21.

**Road works close A83 overnight**

WORK is set to start on a section of the A83 trunk road on the shores of Loch Fyne between Dunderave Castle and Drishaig from Sunday evening to Friday morning.

The £180,000 work by BEAR Scotland will take place between 8.30pm and 5am and involve resurfacing and drainage improvements to reduce the risk of flooding.

A new section of safety barrier will also be introduced to the loch side verge.

Traffic will be allowed to pass through the works at hourly intervals.

**New members for Oban camera club**

OBAN news photographer Kevin McGlynn was guest judge at the regular Monday meeting of Oban Camera Club when the subject was 'sport'.

The club, which boasts several new members and is experiencing a renewed vigour, was able to produce digital images of subjects ranging from watersport, rugby, football, bowls and hang gliding.

Alex Clark won the first two prizes, with Hugh Wilson in third place.

**Rugby club hosts quiz and dance**

OBAN Lorne rugby club will host a fundraising quiz and dance after the first team plays Clydebank this Saturday.

The match will kick off at 3pm, before the quiz begins around 7pm in the clubhouse at Glencruitten.

**Plea for drivers to slow down on single-track Dunbeg 'motorway'**

LOUISE LEE  
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A 30-MILE-per-hour road in Dunbeg has been described by a community stalwart as a 'motorway' at a meeting of Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee.

The description came days before a dog was pulled under a passing car on the same road.

The dog is understood to have escaped the incident on Kirk Road unscathed - but, said mother-of-three Valerie Brown, next time may see something 'more harmful'.

Valerie was walking behind another woman next to the single-track road when the woman's young dog was pulled under a speeding car, possibly by its lead.

Valerie said: 'I was worried that if I had been a few minutes earlier it might have been one of my kids.'

'People need to slow down on the road or someone will be injured, or worse.'

Valerie, who was in the area on holiday, says she will think twice before walking along the road again.

Grandmother Marleen McInnes, a resident of the Dunbeg since the 1940s, told a meeting of Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee, held last week in the village, that she had raised the matter of speeding cars on Kirk Road over many years but nothing had ever solved the problem.

Mrs McInnes said: 'Cars race down the road as if they are on a motorway. Drivers seem to forget they are in a village.'



VIGILANT: Police officers young and old are telling drivers to slow down on Kirk Road

'Traffic calming measures put in place a few years ago have failed to slow down the traffic. We need sleeping policemen.'

A further 25 homes are being built following 50 homes completed last year and as yet no path to the houses has been constructed.

Marleen continued: 'Cars now have to pull up onto the verge to allow vehicles to pass. It is not a suitable road for so many cars.'

'I have been told there are plans in hand to deal with the situation but we have not, as a community, been told anything.'

Little Learners' nursery manager Kathleen McNiven is also worried about speeding traffic.

She said that, as part of the youngsters' curriculum, they were often out and about on the road walking to the village or the beach.

Mrs McNiven said: 'All the children have luminous yellow vests that do make traffic slow down when they see them. But we want them to think about the children who might be on the road and drive at a slow pace.'

Oban, Lorn and the Isles area chairman Roddy McCuish said at the area committee meeting that he would be pursuing the matter with the council's roads manager,

**“I was worried if I had been a few minutes earlier it might have been one of my kids. People need to slow down or someone will be injured, or worse”**

Valerie Brown  
Mother

who would come back to the community council.

A spokesman for the council said: 'Progress with the Lorn Road/Kirk Road redevelopment through the Tax Incremental Funding (TIF) scheme is something we will explore.'

'We would advise anyone with concerns about speeding motorists and/or dangerous drivers to contact the police.'

**Light relief as drivers talk of 'near misses' on busy single-file bridge**

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A FAULTY set of traffic lights on the busy Connel bridge has led to some 'near misses', according to comments posted online by local drivers.

Members of the Oban and Lorn Road Watch page on Facebook described vehicles having to swerve to avoid head-on collisions as the traffic lights on the single-lane bridge turned green simultaneously at both approaches.

Jennifer Louise Leiper posted a comment on her Facebook page on February 10 saying: 'I was there at about half-past two this afternoon and the lights turned green and traffic was still coming towards us. It's a very dangerous situation.'

Victoria Huddlestone also reported on the same day: 'At 12.30 a car and trailer in front of me narrowly avoided an accident. The traffic lights are not to be trusted.'

And Colin Thomson added: 'At 6.30 there was problem. Going over to Benderloch, lights changed and traffic nearly came towards me. Was 40 metres from exiting.'

On Monday, a spokeswoman for BEAR Scotland said the roads authority had inspected the lights on the bridge and had discovered a fault: 'The sensors on the bridge which detect traffic moving in one direction to ensure that it has cleared the bridge before instigating a green light for traffic in the other direction were faulty.'

'Following the temporary repair works were undertaken last week. Our electrical team will be



working on refurbishing the traffic signal equipment on the Connel bridge and both approaches to it.

'This work is being brought forward to combine with a bridge repairs scheme which will be undertaken next month.'

'The main purpose of this work is to replace worn cables and detection equipment for the traffic signals.'

'The improvements will also include additional on-bridge traffic detection.'

Margaret Adams, chairwoman of Ardhattan community council, said: 'Obviously this was of concern to residents as a situation where cars are travelling head-on towards each other is extremely dangerous. I'm glad the matter has been dealt with and hope that the measures BEAR Scotland plan to put in place will mean this will not happen again.'

**TROUBLED BRIDGE:** local drivers have reported 'near misses' on the Connel bridge following the failure of traffic lights on the busy single-lane route across the Falls of Lora

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**Campaign says 'no' to women travelling for maternity scans**

MOTHERS, fathers and grandparents are being asked to say 'no more travelling for routine maternity scans' by turning out to a meeting in the Corran Halls, tonight (Thursday).

The campaign, started by Labour party UK parliamentary candidate Mary Galbraith and Argyll and Bute councillor Mary-Jean Devon will demand a return of local scans for women in Argyll hospitals.

A flurry of activity over the last two weeks after the campaign was launched has seen thousands of people visiting the group's Facebook

page and even more signing up to support the campaign.

Mothers-to-be at present have to travel to the Vale of Leven or Paisley hospital for the routine procedure.

NHS Highland have said it is aware of the situation but due to a lack of staff qualified to perform the procedure it believes women will get the best treatment at busier hospitals.

Councillor Devon, who is the local authority spokeswoman for children and families, said: 'We have seen various successes over the years to secure better services

for women. This campaign is a continuation of work that is already being done.'

'Mull now has a midwife-led clinic on the island, which is a benefit to young mums.'

'We have also managed to secure accommodation for pregnant women who want to leave the island to have their babies and they can now stay near to the hospital without it costing young families.'

The meeting, starting at 7pm, will be hosted by councillor Devon and Ms Galbraith with Pat Tyrell from NHS Highland taking part.

**Oban cinema records mixed financial year**

OBAN'S community-run cinema is seeking ideas for its forthcoming business plan following a mixed financial picture at the turn of the year.

Year-end results revealed Oban Phoenix Cinema's finances were in a precarious position.

However, a series of cost reductions and a profitable start to the year have allowed for a turnaround in fortunes.

A community meeting to discuss ideas for the charity's 2015 - 2020 business plan will be held in the cinema at 10am on Saturday, February 28 when the financial situation will be shared with the community.

A spokeswoman for the cinema said: 'Measures put in place to reduce our overheads have resulted in a much healthier financial picture for the cinema.'

'The last few months, at arguably one of the most difficult times of the year, have seen the cinema turnover a small profit.'

'There are many more people visiting the cinema more often - but we would still urge those who have not been to come and enjoy a film.'

'It is likely we will marginally increase the cost of tickets from April 1 and at the same time establish a membership scheme to make sure we pass on benefits to people who are resident in the area.'

**Ferry routes go out to tender**

HEBRIDEAN and Clyde ferry routes are now up for grabs after the Scottish government announced the start of a tendering process for the £1 billion contract.

The selection process for the next Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services (CHFS) contract, which will run from October 1, 2016 for up to eight years, got underway on Tuesday, inviting potential bidders.

Scottish transport minister Derek Mackay has committed up to £1bn of funding to support the lifeline ferry services, in addition to fares revenue, and to secure the Road Equivalent Tariff, which greatly reduces fares, on CHFS routes.

Mr Mackay said: 'We are looking to award a contract that runs for a period up to eight years. This will make it more attractive to potential bidders by giving the operator more opportunity to deliver service improvements and efficiencies over the course of the contract.'

Mr Mackay reiterated the government's commitment that there would be no 'unbundling' of the services, with all routes offered as a single contract.

**CalMac ferry sold**

THE FORMER CalMac vessel *MV Saturn* has been sold to Pentland Ferries but the sale price will not be disclosed.

Former owner Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL), said it could not disclose the sale price because of commercial confidentiality.

The publicly-owned company said the money would be reinvested in CMAL.

The *MV Saturn*, launched in 1977, was retired in 2011.

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**Plockton**

THE ANNUAL Burns supper was once again organised by Robert and Meryl Kennedy in aid of local charities on January 23.

Sixty people attended and after the Selkirk Grace by Peter MacKenna guests enjoyed a meal of scotch broth, haggis turnips and potatoes then coffee and shortbread which had been cooked at the Plockton Inn.

The haggis was carried in by Calum MacKenzie to piping by young Alastair Sharp.

Dougie Pincock addressed the haggis and after the meal Peter McAllister proposed the toast to Robert Burns and also recited Holy Willie's prayer.

Dougie Pincock recited 'Tam o' Shanter and various members of the audience sang Burns songs. Neil MacRae, Achmore proposed the Toast to the Lassies and Mary Jane Campbell replied. Music was by Dougie, Neil and Wilfur Matheson.

Charlie M MacRae proposed the vote of thanks at the close which ended with a Spaniard in the audience singing the first verse of Auld Lang Syne.

THE WESTER Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh community councils held a ward forum on the afternoon of January 22 in Plockton hall.

This meeting was open to the public and representatives from Shieldaig, Lochcarron, Achmore and Stromeferry, Kyle and Plockton and district community councils were present.

Chairman was local councillor Biz Campbell, first speakers were Chief Inspector Colin Gough and Inspector Lynda Allan from Police Scotland, who spoke of their police plans for the ward.

Main questions from the audience were the lack of police attending community council meetings and the chaos in Kyle when the Skye bridge closed, preventing people getting to the Co-op store.

The next speaker was Phil Green of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, who spoke of the ward fire service plan. The main question was the role of volunteers when there was a major heather fire.

The final speakers were Lynn Clark and Tim Stott from the Highland council development and infrastructure service, who came to explain the future of West Highland and Islands local development plan.

The role of community councils and how much influence they have on the plans was a point of contention with the planners.

PLOCKTON dramatic society presented the pantomime Captain Hook's Revenge by Richard Coleman over three evenings and one afternoon at Plockton high school on January 22, 23 and 24 to appreciative audiences.

Twenty-nine people took part in the show, produced by Sarah Bruce with assistance from Gill James and Lynn Bruce.

Stage manager was Alec Townend and 23 backroom staff helped to make the panto a success.

**Coll**

RESIDENTS on Coll are being reminded they still have time to complete a housing survey, organised by an island community group.

The survey, created by Development Coll in conjunction with Argyll and Bute council, was drafted for residents to get as detailed a view as possible of the needs of the island's residents.

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) and Rural Housing Scotland are also to be consulted on the results of the survey. Development Coll has emphasised that the opinions of those with no need for social housing are also important, and are a positive way of supporting people who do not own their own house or have security of tenancy. Therefore, they are encouraging as many people to submit forms regardless of their housing status.

If anyone needs a survey, ring 01879 230 000 or visit An Cridhe to pick one up. For any issues filling it in, contact Iona MacPhail, regional housing manager for ACHA, on 01546 605 936, or Jodie MacLeod, project officer for Rural Housing Scotland, on 01680 812 903.

DEVELOPMENT Coll is reminding members of the annual general meeting this coming Monday, February 23, at 8pm at An Cridhe.

All full, associate and junior members are welcome to the meeting, but only full members are eligible to vote on matters arising.

Anyone wishing to check their membership status should contact the An Cridhe office on 01879 230000.



**Chocolate goes down a treat at Fort school Fairtrade talk**

Fort William RC pupils were delighted when staff from a local shop visited armed with chocolate. The guests, Findlay MacLean and Lynsay Brown from the Co-op in Caol, visited the school to teach the children about Fairtrade products sold in store.

**North Ballachulish**

**Curtain up on great war play**

A GAELIC drama group visited St Bride's primary school to perform an educational play about the great war.

The north Ballachulish children enjoyed the production by Meanbh-chuileag, about a young man called up to war before returning as a wounded hero.



GENEROUS: teacher Joy McAllister (right) with the clan leaders and deputies who organised the fundraising quiz.

**Morar**

MORAR ladies proved they are made of strong stuff when guest speaker Henrik Chart spoke about his work on the bacterial causes of food poisoning.

Despite the subject matter, which included a slideshow and visual aids, the 10 members of the village's Scottish Women's Rural Institute branch still managed to enjoy the refreshments, prepared and served by Audrey MacEachen and Christine Haynes.

Flora Lawrie was the winner of this month's baking competition for her delicious pancakes and was also joint winner of the Valentine's poem contest, along with Eleanor Read.

The raffle was won by Henrik Chart.

A bowling evening has been organised for tonight (Thursday February 19) and the next meeting will be on March 5 when the invited speaker will be Georgia Gillies of Wicked Willow, who is scheduled to give a demonstration of her work.

**Islay**

A HISTORIC Islay building is set to become a backpackers' hostel if a planning application is successful.

The Manse in Port Ellen, situated on the A846, is adjacent to the Distillery Burn, around half a mile from the village centre.

The planning application states that the building is currently used as a residential house.

**Strath of Appin**

PUPILS and staff at Strath of Appin primary school supported British Heart Foundation's Wear It Beat It day on February 6 by wearing red to school.

Fundraising activities organised by clan leaders and deputies included the preparation of red fruit salads, skipping, red nail painting and a red-themed quiz.

The school also organised and ran a beetle drive, which saw a great turnout of children, family and friends.

Everyone was delighted to find out that these two fundraising events had been very successful and that the total amount of money being sent to the British Heart Foundation, to help people affected by heart and circulatory disease, was £230.

**Ballachulish**



HOT OFF THE PRESS: Ballachulish primary school pupils distribute the latest edition of Balla Blethers

**Read all about it**

BALLACHULISH villagers can catch up with news from their school as the new copy of Balla Blethers is hot off the press.

The newspaper, produced by the primary seven pupils, is available from the school or the tourist information centre in the village.

**MORVERN lines**

ON MY journey round south and Mid Argyll with Adam Short, traveller and adventurer from Bournemouth, I met some wonderful folk.

Argyll is known the world over for its hospitality and friendliness and it is good to find that that tradition still stands despite the super fast highway along which most of us travel these days.

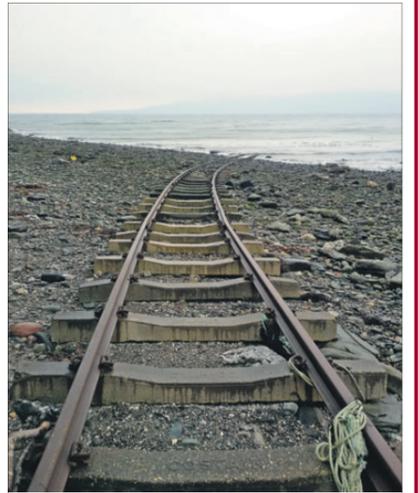
Not only have we had donations for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and Save the Children, the two charities we are supporting, we have often been given free meals and accommodation and couldn't have been made more welcome along the way. Unfortunately though there are still some landowners who have not completely embraced the right to roam ethic.

At times our way along the long coastline was potentially barred by a variety of intimidating signs prohibiting all but breathing and indicating numerous threats and dangers which translate into 'we don't like visitors, this is our beach so keep out', all of which we ignored and carried on as any sensible and responsible walker should do.

One of the finest beaches we visited on the Cowal peninsula was Kilbride Bay, just south of the village of Kames. It stretches for almost a mile and is backed by some fascinating dunes. It attracts many sea birds and boasts a huge variety of interesting shells. Access is easy, it is family and pet friendly and a must for anyone visiting the area.

By the rocks, just beyond nearby Craig Lodge Farm, there is a mystery. It is a stretch of rail track about 60 yards long and supported by concrete bearers, leading from a rock face down into the sea. Usually these are associated with boathouses but this is not the case here.

A webpage indicates it and a nearby bunker were part of a World War Two military training installation in the run up to the D-Day landing. Remains of these interesting times are becoming rare. Hopefully Historic Scotland will soon list both and give them the protection they undoubtedly deserve.



MYSTERY: an unusual rail track running into the sea at Kilbride Bay

KEEN to have news from Morvern, I called in at the Argyllshire Advertiser office in Lochgilphead.

And I was delighted to hear that news editor of *The Oban Times*, Euan Paterson, had become sports writer of the year and that Emma Crichton, also of *The Oban Times*, based in the Fort William office, was shortlisted in the young journalist of the year category in the annual Highlands and Islands Media Awards.

Congratulations to Euan and Emma, who have been an inspiration to me and have steered me through a few 'potholes' in Morvern Lines these past few years.

I WAS also delighted to hear that Morvern, after a great deal of lobbying, is to benefit from the government's rural fuel rebate scheme, which will allow the local retailer to discount on the fuel duty on unleaded petrol and diesel.

Not before time, given that in all but a few respects the Morvern peninsula is all but an island with none of the benefits.

Local motorists will be hoping this means the inordinately high costs at the pump, the highest on the UK mainland, will be reduced to bring it into line with those elsewhere in Lochaber.

DURING the recent bad weather, I was interested to see how Argyll and Bute arranged its road gritting programme.

In most cases it was exemplary with even the side roads being regularly treated. The news that Highland council is considering trimming its winter maintenance budget does not bode well for Morvern and Ardnarnach and needs to be resisted.

Jobs and ease of traffic are vital to the economic and social stability of any area. So too is high speed internet access. It is sad to see Morvern is falling well behind in the government's programme and that very little is being done by local businesses to push for it.

As someone said to me a few months ago, 'Lochaline - always at the cow's tail'.

Iain Thornber  
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

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SCOTTISH RURAL AWARDS

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LIVE JAZZ MUSIC



**Kinlochleven pupils go behind the scenes at supermarket**

Kinlochleven primary school pupils enjoyed a tour of a supermarket as part of a class topic about food. The primary three, four and five children visited Morrison's Fort William to learn about the shop's various departments and enjoyed a sneak peek behind the scenes

**Estate in running for wedding prize**

A MORVERN estate has been shortlisted for an award celebrating the best in the Scottish wedding industry. Ardtornish House, near Lochaline, is in the venue category for the north west region of the Scottish Wedding Awards. Kathryn McLaughlin, visitor services manager, said: 'We are delighted to be nominated for this award. Ardtornish House is such a unique, romantic venue in a beautiful picturesque setting.'

Voting is open to the public and the winner will be announced at a ceremony in Glasgow's Crowne Plaza on Tuesday February 24.

**Keys stolen from Lochaline quarry**

POLICE are appealing for help to find keys stolen from a business in the Morvern peninsula. Between 4.30pm on Friday February 6 and Monday February 9 four keys were removed from a board at Lochaline Quartz and Sand Quarry. Anyone with information about this crime is asked to come forward by contacting local police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously via 0800 555111 or www.crimestoppers-uk.org/.

**Road repair trials on Highland roads**

NEW TECHNOLOGY which could transform road repairs is being trialled by Highland council. The equipment uses high-powered air streams to clear debris and fill potholes. The use of a small hot box is also under trial, which could allow council workers to carry out permanent repairs all year, instead of the current temporary service in winter. Councillor Graham MacKenzie, chairman of the community services committee, welcomed a report into the trial's progress. He said: 'I am extremely pleased with the findings so far.'

**RURAL COMMUNITIES FIGHT TO SAVE SERVICE BRANCHES FACED WITH CLOSURE IN COUNCIL COST-CUTTING EXERCISE**

**Villagers make their point**

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

RURAL communities are fighting to save their 'vital' Highland council service points as the majority of branches face the axe.

People in remote villages from Lochaber to south Skye have hit back at cost-cutting proposals from the local authority, which will see 22 of 35 service points, including Mallaig, Kinlochleven, Achacrae and Broadford, close their doors. Fort William, Kyle and Portree are among the few that will remain open under the plans.

Highland council's customer services review board has cited lack of use as the reason for reducing the facility, which is used to pay bills and get face-to-face advice from council staff. They believe £355,220 could be saved by closing the facilities, although half of this will be invested to improve telephone and online services.

Some of the branches will be replaced with 'access points' in libraries under the proposals, thought to be computers to be used for general advice and information.

But this has raised concerns about how elderly people, or those who are not computer-literate, will receive help as they could soon face up to 80-mile round trips to service points.

Maureen McColl, of Arisaig community council, said people in west Lochaber were 'very concerned'.

She added: 'We have an older population and public transport to Fort William isn't regular.'

'Pensioners will be forced to travel 35 miles just to speak to someone face-to-face then be waiting hours for a bus or a train back. It's very worrying.'

Concerns have also been raised about the loss of jobs if service points are closed.

Catrina Spence, of Kinlochleven community council, said she doesn't feel the council has been clear about

what will change. She said: 'Our service point in Kinlochleven is already in the library and there's three girls working there. I've asked if the staff will be removed and told no, so if we're already in a library and we won't be losing the girls I don't understand how they can be saving money? It doesn't add up.'

The issue is open for public comments until mid-March, before it is reconsidered by the council's customer services board.

Audrey Sinclair, chairwoman of the customer services board, said: 'Before any decision can be made, it is important to hear the views of the people that live in these areas so that we can understand how any changes may impact on communities. We also want to hear any alternative options local people may want to suggest for the way services are delivered.'

On Skye, community councils in the south of the isle were meeting last night (Wednesday) to discuss how best to protect the Broadford service point.

Roddy Murray, chairman of Sleat community council, was active in campaigning against the closures when they were first mooted by Highland council last year.

He said: 'Broadford service point serves a wide area, much of it without public transport and the additional travel will cause hardship for those requiring services and unable to use modern technology. 'Loss of employment will also adversely affect the local area where alternative employment is difficult to find. Community councils in south Skye are concerned at the continuing loss of public services from their communities and the centralisation and expansion of these in the urban parts of the area and elsewhere in Scotland.'

**Aidan's fundraiser boosts Diabetes UK by £445**



A young diabetes sufferer has raised more than £4,000 with the help of his schoolmates. Aidan Young, primary four, front, organised a fundraising day at Banavie primary school and raised £445.67 for Diabetes UK. Pupils at the school wore onesies and paid to have their nails painted last Thursday, with all proceeds being donated to the charity. 20\_108banavie01

**Exhibition puts spotlight on inspirational women**

THE ACHIEVEMENTS of women in Lochaber will be celebrated at an exhibition in Fort William.

The event, to mark International Women's Day, will promote inspirational women in the area and worldwide to encourage others to reach their full potential.

Duncansburgh Hall will host the exhibition, organised by Lochaber Women's Aid, on Thursday March 5.

Lorraine Revitt, service manager of Lochaber Women's Aid, said: 'Our exhibition will feature information about a

range of pioneering women from the worlds of politics, business, sport, art, music and community action.

'We hope to inspire the next generation of local women by highlighting the achievements of women living and working in the Lochaber area.'

'We want to show that regardless of where you are living, working or learning, you too can make it happen.'

The exhibition will run in two sessions, 12noon to 2pm and 5pm to 8pm and will also feature a timeline of the development of women's rights.

**Celebrations short-lived as transport funds dry up**

ARISAIG primary school pupils should be celebrating after reaching the national finals of an anti-racism competition.

But the guitar-playing children face disappointment as there aren't enough school funds left to pay for a bus to make the day trip to Glasgow for the awards ceremony next month.

The youngsters penned a song for the 'show racism the red card' competition with the help of local musician Jim Hunter but were devastated to hear they may not make the final at Hampden.

Now pupils and teachers are appealing for anyone who can help to provide transport.

Chai Jones, head teacher at Arisaig primary school, said: 'We just need a one-day hire for the round trip but at this time of year we've spent every penny we have.'

'Jim has reorganised his fèis classes and guitar exams so he can accompany the children.'

'I just wonder if someone out there could give us a hand with the transport?'

For more information contact Arisaig school on 01687 450282.

**Sound of music heard over the sea to Skye**

TRAVELLERS on a Highland ferry service were surprised with an impromptu musical performance.

Trombonist Simon Johnson and trumpet player Hedley Benson, two members of the BBC's Scottish Symphony Orchestra, joined passengers of the Skye-Raasay boat last week before unveiling their instruments and playing for the bemused onlookers.

The surprise concert is part of a UK-wide classical music education project and Portree-based ATLAS Arts joined the BBC to implement workshops on Skye last week.

Pupils of all of the isle's primary schools, Portree high school and Sabhal



Bemused passengers of the Skye to Raasay ferry enjoyed an impromptu performance by Hedley Benson, left, and Simon Johnson

Mor Ostaig enjoyed visits during the residency and the primary children also had exclusive access to the orchestra's rehearsal for a concert on Friday night.

Norma Bolton, music development officer for Highland council, said: 'A long time has been spent discussing and planning this residency

and it will be very exciting for so many pupils on Skye to experience the unique thrill of seeing and hearing a full symphony orchestra and getting involved in a much closer way with the musicians at the workshop sessions.'

'I'm sure this unique experience will be talked about for many years.'

**People power helps to clean up Longsdale**



Pictured is councillor Elaine Robertson with Longsdale Crescent residents, and representatives from ISS, ACHA, along with Kevin Lock, the Community Payback scheme supervisor. 16\_108gardening01

A MULTI-partnership effort to clear up an area of Oban has been heralded a success by an Oban-based councillor.

Elaine Robertson, who serves the Oban, North and Lorn ward, had her gardening gloves on and rolled her sleeves up to help clear up an area of ground on Longsdale Terrace, next to Hazeldene Crescent, on Monday.

She was joined by those on Community Payback orders, formerly known as community service, staff from ISS - the main ground maintenance contractor for Argyll and Bute council, ACHA, ISS, the community payback workers and residents coming together for the work has been a great success.'

Councillor Robertson explained: 'The main idea behind this endeavour

was a multi-partnership effort, to get an area tidied up that has been sorely needing it for a long time. There is a bit of confusion as to who actually owns some of the land, so Argyll and Bute council, ACHA, ISS, the community payback workers and residents coming together for the work has been a great success.'

**Feet kept tapping at Oban music club**

A FEW well-kent local faces headlined the February club night of Oban accordion and fiddle club.

Hector MacFadyen on lead accordion, Matthew MacLennan on piano, Maurice Duncan on fiddle and Kevin McGlynn on drums brought out a fantastic turnout to the town's

Royal Hotel. Hector, who has been playing at the club since 1978, kept the night going with non-stop music, a few jokes and even a song.

Oban and Lorn Strathspey and Reel Society also came along to play a few sets, kindly giving up their practise night to support the club.

Other supporting players were chairman Michael Garvin, Caitlin Curran, Liam MacLean, Janet Graham, Daniel Hobbs and Seumas McArthur.

Next month's guest band is the Andy Kain Trio, which will play on March 5 in the Royal Hotel. Everyone is welcome to attend.



The Hector MacFadyen band. 108accordion1no

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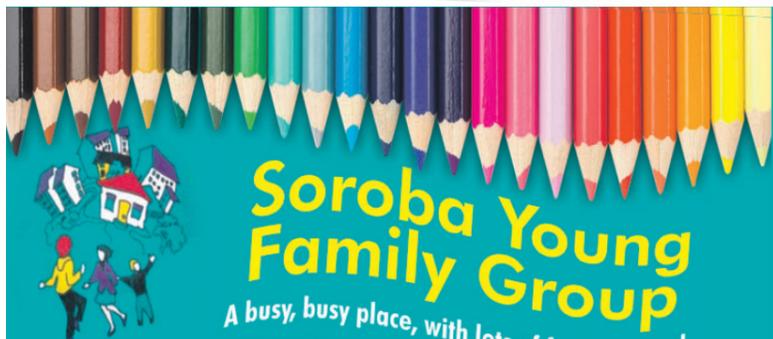
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# Celtic



## Soroba Young Family Group

*A busy, busy place, with lots of fun going on!*

At Soroba Young Family Group we aim to provide a happy, stimulating and safe environment to help your child to thrive and develop, to be the best they can be. We have sessions for all age groups and work hard to meet the needs of the community. Did you know that your child will learn more during the first five years of their life than they will at any other time? That is why your child's early years' experiences are so important. Our Doodlers room offers a respite crèche facility. This runs two mornings a week, a Monday and Friday 9.15am - 11.30am, at £3 per session. It is a popular group with lots of opportunities for your child to explore and discover new skills. If you would like more information on this group please contact the centre directly. Staff will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

We have a "best start group" that also runs two mornings a week, a Wednesday and Thursday, 9.15am - 11.30am, at £5 per session. This group is only available to use if you intend to register your child with Soroba Young Family Group for their preschool provision. It is a gentle introduction into the nursery environment. Staff plan these sessions to ensure your child has positive experiences of meaningful play. It is a great opportunity to make new friends, thrive and to help smooth the transition into pre-school education making it as enjoyable as possible.

We run a variety of Stay and Play groups and thanks to securing funding, these are now available at no cost to our users. We have a Stay and

**Play** Cultural Cooking and best of all there is no cleaning up as Soroba staff do that for you - so much fun for the children and grandparents.

Our three - five unit runs five days a week during school term time. Our staff are all qualified and we are dedicated to making this experience as enjoyable a time as possible for your child. It is our goal to help every child to meet their full potential and we do this by providing tailored learning experiences to meet the needs of those who attend our groups. We are confident that not only will your child feel comfortable and welcomed, but you will too. It is so important that you are confident in your childcare provider so we make it a priority to work with each family providing for their individual needs.

Through fundraising and grant support Soroba Young Family Group aims to provide your family with new opportunities. Historically we have given children the opportunity to explore outdoor play using external organisations such as Dunollie House, swimming at Atlantis Leisure, soft play, Zumba, dancing, exercise and music classes. We offer children a wealth of experience and opportunities to learn through play in a fun way which is so valuable to your child's learning.

Our new homework club operating from January to April this year offers support to primary one children and has been extended to older children.

Why not get in touch with the centre, call us on 01631 565263 or pop in for a visit, we would love to meet you and your family. We are confident there is a group that will meet your needs.



**A**S PEOPLE live longer and longer, caring for those with health issues becomes more important than ever.

In the past 50 years, average life expectancy in the UK has risen from just over 70 years old to just over 80 years old.

With an ageing population, the Scottish Government initiative called The Reshaping Care for Older People aims to improve services for older people by shifting care towards anticipatory care and prevention.

Older people are an asset to any country and preparing for an increasingly ageing population is one of the biggest national challenges.

The older population is likely to increase by around two thirds in the next 20 years and because of this change is needed in how care is delivered.

Around 90,000 older people receive some kind of care, whether in their own home, a care home or long-term hospital care. If Scotland

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## ACUMEN

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**Do you use mental health services?  
Do you look after or support someone who uses mental health services?**

**We would like to hear from you!**

**Who we are:** ACUMEN is a charity, acting independently from statutory services, and run by a Voluntary Board of Directors and a team of 5 Staff.

**What we do:**

- Collect the views, experiences and stories of people who use mental health service and unpaid carers (e.g. family and friends) by organising regular meetings and other events.
- Raise community awareness of mental health issues.
- Give feedback to mental health service managers and committees about your experiences.
- Provide information about mental health services, other organisations and events.
- Visit link clubs and other groups offering support and sharing information.
- Organise the Argyll and Bute Link Club Conventions

**You can also become a member of ACUMEN - It's free!**

**For more information contact:**

**Tina Jordan**  
Development Worker Argyll & Bute  
Tel: 0787 908 1017  
Email: [tina@acumennetwork.org](mailto:tina@acumennetwork.org)




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Main office: 21 High Street Oban. 01631 564839  
Reg. Charity Number SC029947 Company Number 277345

# are

continues delivering care the way it does presently, an extra 23,000 people will need care by 2016.

A total of £70 million will be made available via the Older People's Change Fund for the 2014-15 financial year. NHS boards and their local authority partners submitted change plans, detailing how they proposed to spend this funding.

But care is not just for people in their twilight years.

From birth people are vulnerable, and some need support for a range of physical, mental and emotional issues throughout their lives, encompassing a whole umbrella of health problems.

Mental illness is common, affecting thousands of people in the UK.

According to the Mental Health Foundation:

- One in four people will experience a mental health problem at some point in their lives
- Around one in 10 children experience mental health problems
- Depression affects around one in 12 of the whole population
- Rates of self-harm in the UK are the highest in Europe at 400 per 100,000
- 450 million people world-wide have a mental health problem

Most people who experience mental health problems recover fully or are able to live with and manage their illness, especially if they get help early on.

Ending the stigma of mental health within society is proving to be particularly challenging.

Although so many people are affected, there is still a strong social stigma attached to mental ill health and people with mental health problems can experience discrimination in all aspects of their lives.

Stigma and discrimination can also worsen someone's mental health problems, and delay or impede their getting help and treatment, and their recovery.

Social isolation, poor housing, unemployment and poverty are all linked to mental ill health. So stigma and discrimination can trap people in a cycle of illness.

The Equality Act 2010 makes it illegal to discriminate directly or indirectly against people with mental health problems in public services and functions, access to premises, work, education, associations and transport.

For care in Argyll and Bute for people of all ages and health needs, speak to your GP, call into one of the specialist facilities in the area, or visit: [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/social-care-and-health](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/social-care-and-health)

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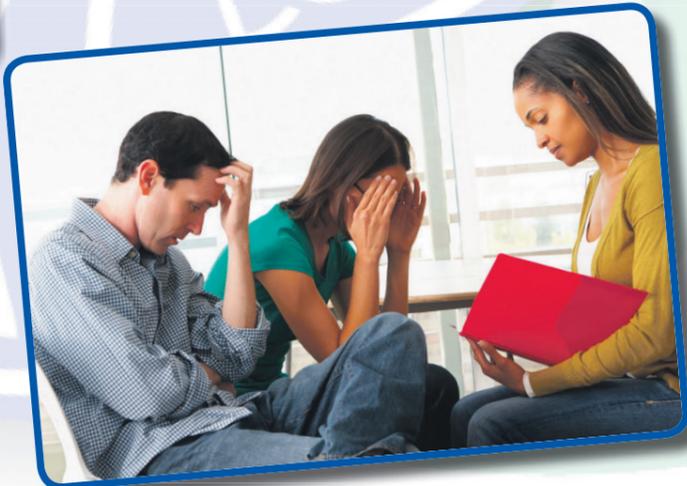
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We know it happens... So let's talk...

Those who are left behind after someone takes their own life can be helped by talking to others who have experienced the same. If you have been personally affected by a suicide and are looking for help and advice, we offer a range of support groups throughout Argyll & Lochaber.

For more information

Contact: Anne on 07552 503118 or Joyce on 01397 700958

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## VISITATION AT TAYNUILT Prayer Group Meetings

7pm Wednesdays  
Men's Prayer 7pm Tuesdays  
Craig Lodge, Dalmailly  
Visitation Catholic Church, Taynuilt.



The Self Directed Support Roadshow is coming to town



Please come along if you have any questions about Self Directed Support

This roadshow will help you if -

- you are getting social care support
- you are thinking of getting support
- you want to know what to do next

The roadshow will be on Mull on Wednesday 25 February 2015 at Mull and Iona Community Hospital Conference Room from 10am-12pm  
*It is free, informal and informative*

If you are unable to attend or would like more information about Self-Directed Support, please contact us at: [personalisation@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:personalisation@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

or visit your local Social Work Office or telephone **01546 605517**

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# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## An inspired appointment

The appointment of Nick Ferguson to lead the council's economic forum certainly doesn't lack in boldness nor ambition. A high-flying executive with an international pedigree second to none, Mr Ferguson's bona fides are beyond reproach.

What will the man who replaced James Murdoch at the top of global broadcasting giant BSkyB bring to the table?

Well, just for starters, what about entrepreneurial energy and nous, dynamism and experience - in spades. Living as he does in Tighnabruich, he has a self-professed love of the region. This has all the makings of an inspired appointment.

### Glasgow Letter

#### Mull and Iona Gathering

A SUCCESSFUL gathering, with a good crowd in attendance, was held last Friday, February 13, in the Piping Centre.

The evening was chaired by E Mairi MacArthur with a speech full of nostalgic memories of summers gone by on the islands.

The Mull and Iona Pipers began the music and Eilidh Munro and Norman Mackinnon provided solo Gaelic song. Eilidh's rendition of Muile nam Fuar Bheann Mòr was a particular hit with the audience, while Norman had everyone joining in on songs including Balaich an lasgaich.

Carissa Bovill's stunning performance of Scots and Burns songs accompanied on clàrsach endeared her to the audience immediately.

Stuart Cameron gave a few tunes on the box and then played with Deoch 'n' Dorus for the dance.

#### Care for a Ceilidh

ON TUESDAY February 10, I sang alongside Darren Maclean, Shona Masson, Kerr Gibb and Paul Younger at Jordanhill House for the 50th 'Care for a Ceilidh'.

This is a charity set up by Donald MacLeod, a native of Stornoway but living in Glasgow, to put on ceilidhs for residents of care homes around the city.

The scheme, born over two years ago, has seen a phenomenal rise in popularity.

Donnie has no trouble getting artists, with countless musicians readily offering their services, and he even receives requests from residents' families looking for him to provide birthday parties for their loved ones.

Donnie told me he loved to see the elderly residents have so much fun. 'I also love the fact the musicians enjoy taking part so much,' said Donnie.

Next stop for 'Care for a Ceilidh' is Erskine House for war veterans on Tuesday March 10.

Performing that night will be Annabel MacLennan, Alasdair Whyte, and Kenneth Thomson.

#### No joke

DONNIE is no stranger to fundraising.

Last year, at an event in The Park Bar which attracted the attention of the world media, he raised funds for care homes in the Western Isles by breaking the Guinness World Record for the highest number of jokes told in an hour.

I answered his phone that evening while he was driving - casually telling the caller that Donnie would speak soon. 'We're just passing the Islay just now,' I said.

'That's us passing the New Golden Bell, that's us just turning off Argyll Street.'

Eventually, having handed over to Donnie, it transpired I had just spoken live on 'Good Morning Melbourne' and that, courtesy of my

#### Press Policy

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

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

We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can either telephone IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body which deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers and magazines.

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

senseless blethering, half of Australia now know the directions from Kelvingrove to The Park Bar!

#### Oidhche de Phìobaireachd

THE COMUNN Oiseanach's night of piping in The Park Bar was a huge success.

The quach for the Gaelic air competition was won by Micheal Steele who represented The Royal Scottish Conservatoire, while the medley was won by Callum Watson of Strathclyde University.

#### Annual concert

GLASGOW Islay Gaelic Choir will be holding its annual concert on Friday February 27 at 7.30pm in Bearsden Burgh Hall.

The evening will be chaired by Alasdair Gillies. Tickets are £8 and free for children under 15.

#### Tire Association

ON SATURDAY February 28, an evening of dinner, drama and music will be held in Ralston community hall, Allantown Avenue, starting at 7pm.

The Tiree West End Players will be performing 'An Coigreach', a humorous bilingual play by Mable MacArthur. Tickets are £16 and audience members must bring their own refreshments. Contact Morag-Anne on 07763 126390 for more details.

#### What's on

**Friday February 27:** Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir annual concert, Bearsden Burgh Hall, 7.30pm. Glasgow Uist and Barra Association Ceilidh Dance, Crawford Hall.

**Saturday February 28:** Tiree Association Drama Night, Ralston Community Hall, Paisley, 7pm.

**Saturday February 28:** Glasgow Sky Association Buntata's Sgadan, Crawford Hall.

**Saturday February 28:** Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Buffet Ceilidh, Partick Bowling Club.

**Wednesday March 4:** An Lochran's Traditional Music Session at the Lismore.

**Friday March 6:** Glasgow Islay Association Annual Gathering Concert, Glasgow University Union.

**Saturday March 7:** Glasgow Uist and Barra Association Annual Invitational Piping Competition, Piping College.

**Saturday March 7:** Clydebank and District Highland Association Ceilidh Dance, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick.

#### Pub scene

**Park Bar:** Friday February 20, Eriskay Lit. Saturday February 21, Robert Robertson.

**Sunday February 22,** Robert Robertson.

**Islay Inn:** Friday February 20, Parting Glass. Saturday February 21, Black Velvet. Sunday February 22, Open Mic.

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



## Opening of MacGregor Court, Oban, 1986

Scottish health minister and Argyll and Bute MP John Mackay, second left, opened the new Oban town centre development, MacGregor Court, built by M and K MacLeod, Lochgilhead. Murdo, left, and Kenneth MacLeod are pictured with Mr MacKay and the internationally renowned industrialist and banker Sir Iain MacGregor, originally from Kinlochleven, whom the building is named after. Digital versions of flashback photos for The Oban Times can be sent to editor@obantimes.co.uk or prints sent in to Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Anyone who wishes a print returned should include a stamped, addressed envelope.

## Letters to the editor

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB  
email: editor@obantimes.co.uk

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000  
Fax: 01631 568001

#### Explain A830 road work

Sirs,  
Copy of letter to Transport Scotland regards the A830 road:

While upgrading road surfaces is always welcome, it is baffling to the travelling public why for the second time the perceived best section on a 40 mile road is grubbed up to be resurfaced, in the middle of winter, when other worn out and dangerous sections are ignored.

When asking for other work to be kept clear of the busy summer season we are always told 'Oh you cannot tar in a Highland winter!'

Who is guiding Transport Scotland when this patently wrong priority of work is carried out? I know I will get the response that the road was surveyed, with a highly technical machine, and the outcome was that the section east of Callop should be done

immediately. The only road problem here is free flowing water from a forestry road going across the carriageway, when there is a deluge of rain. Solution, divert the ditch.

Firstly the machine should be scrapped and the geography checked, as it is more likely to be west of Callop, not East, before Glenfinnan village and up through the village. It could also have been Rannoch, west of the Dearbridge or Lochailort village. In fact it could have been most of the Lochailort to Glenfinnan section but not east of Callop.

Instead you are determined to lower the speed limit to 50mph on the main trunk road between Lochailort and Glenfinnan, when the community councils of Mallaig, Morar and Arisaig are clearly against this measure. Yet you ignore Glenfinnan's call for an extension of the 40mph zone to cover the dangerous National Trust

#### Decline in Islay dental service

Sir,  
We will soon have no full-time dentists on Islay.

The decline in service, which has been shocking, is nothing to do with the hard-working and thinly stretched dentists and dental nurses. I have been contacted by people who have had to wait for weeks for dental treatment. We are currently paying, through taxes, for a service we are not receiving.

The centralisation of our health service to the Highlands has been an unmitigated disaster, with too much being spent on management and bureaucrats and not enough on front-line services.

**Alastair Redman, Unionist and Conservative Candidate, Argyll and Bute.**

#### Step in the right direction

Sir,  
Congratulations on reporting the campaign to protect and preserve the Tinkers' Heart feature which is situated close to the Lochgoilhead Hell's Glen road end where it meets the Cairndow to Strachur road.

I first became aware of this when I lived for some years in Lochgoilhead. Last summer I attended a discussion, with songs, from the highly entertaining Jess Smith in Oban and followed this up with attending a talk on Deeside where Jess was the principle speaker. Her forebears belonged locally to the St Catharines shore.

High up, above Loch Fyne, looking over to Inveraray, this simple monument marks a significant and unique traditional wedding site for Scotland's Travelling community and one that deserves support and proper preservation.

The actual monument is on bare ground that can be of minimal agricultural value. While scheduling the heart as a historic monument would not automatically bring the benefits that the Travelling community seek it would, could and should start the process in recognising the importance of the community as part of Argyll and of Scotland's heritage.

**Kenneth MacColl, Oban.**

#### Your Letters

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

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

Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed.

Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

#### Islay Letter

#### Gathering entertainers

PERFORMERS at An Comunn Ileach's annual gathering, to be held in the Glasgow University Students' Union on Friday March 6 at 7.30pm, will provide a variety of songs and instrumental music guaranteed to please and entertain patrons.

The lady soloists are Janet Campbell and Linda MacLeod, neither of whom are strangers on the city's Highland scene. Janet, now resident in Mull, continues to sing with Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir while Linda, a native of North Uist and a Glasgow University graduate, has recently researched and helped to preserve a number of unpublished Gaelic songs that have a particular connection with her Uist neck of the woods.

Keeping up with the ladies will be Angus MacLeod and Andrew MacTaggart, successful singers in the world of Gaelic and opera. Angus, who has family connections with Skye, the Uists and Lewis, is a lead partner in an Inverness legal firm and won the men's gold medal last year at the Royal National Mòd in the Highland capital.

Andrew is a classically trained baritone who regularly appears with Scottish Opera and also sings with the Paisley Philharmonic as well as guesting at other high profile events. His grandfather farmed at Kilchiaran on the west coast of the island and he is the great nephew of the late Mysie Thomson, one time deputy secretary of the association.

Upping the tempo will be accordion and piano selections from brothers Alan and Kyle Rowan from Edinburgh. Their mother Mairi comes from Islay and their career soldier father Gordon is proud of his Tiree roots. They are also the grandsons of the late Hester Stewart, formerly of Cornabus, and their grandfather Angus remains a keen speckle Bownmore resident.

Piano accompaniments will be the responsibility of Kirsteen Grant, conductor of Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir and a Mòd gold medalist to boot, and the concert opening selections will be provided by the group's pipe major Andrew McCowan Junior.

Guest chairman is Peter Malcolm Campbell, manager of Cardhu Distillery, who served in a similar capacity at Port Ellen Maltings and at Lagavulin.

The event will be hosted by president Janette MacArthur and then organisers are hopeful that this, the 154th annual gathering, will continue to receive the support it enjoys from city Gaels and grass root Illich.

#### Distillery's former chief goes Irish

THE FORMER managing director of Bruichladdich Distillery has bought a Guinness brewery in Ireland and plans to transfer it into an Irish whisky distillery.

Mark Reynier bought the premises from owners Diageo after it decided to move production to its flagship

St James Gate Guinness brewery in Dublin.

The new owner plans to convert the premises into a malt and grain whisky distillery which should be in production by 2016. It will initially have an annual capacity of three million litres, although it is envisaged that will double in time.

Backing the distiller is his former Bruichladdich partners including Sir John MacTaggart, taking on the role of chairman and John Adams as finance director. They, along with 50 private shareholders, will form the holding company 'Renegade Spirits'.

Mark Reynier was the moving force behind the purchase and eventual re-opening of Bruichladdich Distillery. He remained in control until the company was sold to Remy Cointreau in 2012.

Waterford, situated in the Munster Province of Ireland's south east region, is world famous for its high quality crystal. With the opening of its first distillery it may become equally famous for its high quality uisce beatha.

#### Gaelic award

CONGRATULATIONS to Laura Howitt, a Gaelic teacher at Dunoon Grammar School, who recently won the Innovation in Education award sponsored by a national daily newspaper.

Laura is no stranger to these shores having spent time as a Gaelic tutor at Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile.

**Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JX. Telephone: 01496 810658.**

## Beachd Ailein Ailean Caimbeul

CHA ROBH AN T-OGHA as òige agam ach trì bliadhna nuair a bha i a' sealltainn dhomh mar a dh'obraichinn am fòn-làimhe agam! Agus chan eil inbheach ag am bheil eòlas air òigridh an-diugh nach bi mothachail air cho ealanta 's a tha iad uile le teicneòlas de gach seòrsa, agus gu sònraichte meur-chlàr choimpiutair. Tha bliadhnaichean bho thòisich innleachdas didseatach air gluasad a-staigh air dèideagan chloinne agus mar a tha clann a' fas, bho cha mhòr ire leanabain, tha iad a' cur eòlas air uidheamachd eileagtronigeach. Cha bheag an t-iongnadh leithid seo a bhith a' tachairt ann an saoghal anns am bheil inbhe choimpiutairean agus an Eadar-lìon a sior fhàs cumhachdach. Le ceadhnaich sochairan sòisealta bhàrdaichean ann an riochd didseatach seach air pàipear, feumaidh cuid a dhaoine, aig nach eil fiù 's dachaigh, comasan choimpiutair ionnsachadh gus an cuid sochairan a thogail. Cha b' ann an-dè a thòisich cuid a' cogadh an aghaidh adhartais agus dh'ionnsaich sinn uile san sgoil mun Rìgh Canute a dh'fheuch ri seòl-mara a cheannachadh le cumhachd rìoghail, agus tha tuigse mhath air ciall an fhacail "Luddite!"

Ach am bheil tuigse agus aonta air luach adhartais teicneòlach a' ciallachadh gum bu chòir an litreachas is eile a fhuair sinn mar dhileab, fhàgail as ar dèidh agus ar sìostam foghlaim gu lèir a chur an urra ri choimpiutairean? Tha Roinn an Fhoghlaim aig Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd an sàs ann am pròiseact rannsachaidh ann an Acadamaidh Alanais far am bheil dh'eadh de na sgoilearan as sine air iPad Mini fhaotainn airson an cuideachadh len cuid obrach sgoile. A rèir aithris bhon luchd-teagaisg tha an goireas seo air ùidh ionnsachaidh a bhrosnachadh gu mòr, fiù 's am measg feadhainn nach robh air cus oidhirp a dhèanamh fon t-sìostam teagaisg thraidiseanta. Deagh naidheachd!

Ach saoil an e cruinn-leum ro mhòr a th' ann co-dhùnadh leithid sin de ghòireas a thoirt dha còrr air 30,000 sgoilear feadh sgoiltean na Comhairle? Chan e a-mhàin na dh'fhaodadh leithid sin a chosg aig àr far am bheil a' gearradh sheirbheisean gus cumtasan na Comhairle a chothromachadh, tha cuideachd cunnartan mòra gu bhith na lùib leithid an Eadar-lìon agus an seòrsa mi-fheum a dh'fhaodadh cuid a dhèanamh den uidheamachd. 'S ann air luchd-teagaisg a thigeadh an t-uallach feuchainn ri smachd a chumail air na modhan cleachdaidh sin. Bha mi a' leughadh gun robh cuid a' moladh cuid den chosgais a bhiodh an lùib na h-innleachd seo a choinneachadh le bhith a' ceannach nas lugha de phàipear is de leabhraichean. 'S e mo thuigse nach eil teicneòlas a' cur às do leabhraichean, agus tha mi 'n dòchas nach atharraich sin!

WHILE welcoming the contribution which computer technology can make to education, as demonstrated in the Highland Council research project at Alness Academy, I fervently hope that paper books will continue to be at the core of our education system and that reading hard copy will remain a popular leisure activity for generations to come.

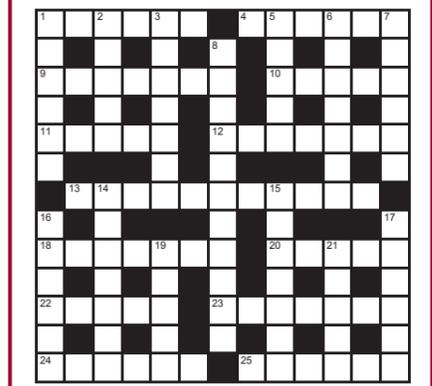
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## LAST week's SOLUTION

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**Bus stop confusion irks passengers**

BUS DRIVERS are refusing to use a stop months after it was erected by Highland council as they say it has not been registered.

Angry public transport users in Spean Bridge were shocked to be told the new bus stop at Nursery Park in the village could not be used, despite the months the community spent campaigning for it.

The bus stop was erected in December to serve the Fort William - Inverness route run by CityLink but John Fotheringham, chairman of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry community council, said when he was waited for a bus there he has been told it is not an official stop and he must use the one at the other end of the village.

He said the organisations involved should be communicating better and said they have 'a complete disregard for the community'. He added: 'I complained to CityLink and was told it has not been registered as an official bus stop but it was erected by Highland council four months ago.'

'I don't know which one is at fault but it seems to me like a complete lack of common sense and communication between the two. We fought continuously to have this much-needed bus stop put in. Now it's here, we're told we can't use it. It's completely ridiculous.'

A CityLink spokeswoman said the bus stop was not currently registered but they were 'working through the necessary processes' to resolve this.

A Highland council spokeswoman said the problem was caused by a 'misunderstanding'.

She added: 'One of our transport officials met with Stagecoach, which operates the route under contract to Citylink, on Friday and they agreed bus drivers would stop there as of Monday (February 16).'

**Goose heads back onto the menu**

ATRIAL of goose shooting in the Western Isles could boost the local economy by putting the bird back on the menu.

The pilot of a planned three-year cull on Lewis and Harris, launched on Monday, will allow licenced landowners and farm owners to kill geese in an attempt to reduce agricultural damage caused by the bird while maintaining a steady population.

But the project, by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the National Goose Management Review Group, will also trial the sale of the poultry under licence, allowing some hunters, hotel and restaurant owners to provide a locally-sourced high protein dish.

Similar trials are underway on Uist, Coll, Tiree and Orkney, which have growing populations of greylag geese which damage crops.

Lewis-based Roddy MacMinn of SNH said: 'It is clear that the greylag goose population on Lewis and Harris has increased significantly in recent years.'

'Since we began an annual count in 2010 numbers have increased by more than 45 per cent.'

'We are responding to a request from the local goose management group to help them manage the population to a more sustainable level.'

'Our initial target is for an additional 2,200 geese to be shot this year as we aim to deliver a significant population reduction by 2017.'

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES AS BIG LOTTERY CASH GOES INTO CREATING NEW SPORTS AND RECREATION AREA

# Delight in Plantation as work starts on old course revamp

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

WORK has started to transform an abandoned golf course in Fort William into a new sports and recreation area.

Construction started on Monday in Plantation, which is recognised as one of the most deprived areas in the Highlands, following a grant of more than £247,000 from the Big Lottery.

A playpark, mini mountain bike track, high wire, scramble net and adult fitness area will all feature at Pine Grove as well as picnic tables and benches at viewpoints.

The plans are a result of five years of work by Plantation Community Association (PCA) and hinged on a bid for funding from the Big Lottery Community Spaces Scotland fund, which granted £247,436 in March last year.

Helen MacKenzie, chairwoman of PCA, said: 'It's just fantastic that work has finally started after



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: members of Plantation Community Association and local children gather to watch the progress of their new recreation area 20\_f08plantation01

**“**We've been chomping at the bit to get started.**”**

**Helen MacKenzie**  
PCA chairwoman

five years of hard work. It was a bit of a struggle at the start but we've been chomping at the bit to get started ever since we got the funding through.

'We're so glad we can do something that will benefit the community because it was just muck, mire and overgrown and it's a good size of land.'

Lesley-Ann Boath, secretary of PCA, added: 'We're delighted that we can finally put something back into this community because Plantation had nothing

for a long time and this will be great for all ages. We're really excited.'

The pair also thanked everyone who has helped make their dream a reality, with a special mention to the three builders who have worked through wind and rain this week.

The hard work of the PCA committee was also recognised in November last year when they were named Tenant and Resident Group of the Year by Tenant Participation Advice Services Scotland. As well as planning the recreation area, the group regularly volunteers in the community and runs a kids club every Wednesday.

Thomas MacLennan, councillor for Fort William and Ardnamurchan and leader of the Lochaber Area Committee, welcomed the work. He said: 'It's great to see the community doing something positive with this area and bringing all of these new facilities into the community.'

## Schools celebrate much-loved Nana



WINNERS: John MacInnes presents the Nana MacInnes Memorial Cup to Ballachulish primary school pupils 20\_f08nana01

A MUCH-LOVED south Lochaber lady's life was celebrated when her son presented memorial cups to primary schools where she served as a dinner lady.

Nana MacInnes worked in both Ballachulish and Duror primary schools for almost 15 years until the age of 73.

When she passed away after a short illness in October last year her family decided to commemorate the great-grandmother with trophies which will be presented annually to a child from each school for endeavour or citizenship.

Erin MacCallum-Millar, six, is the first to receive the Nana MacInnes Memorial Cup for Duror primary school after she cut off seven inches of her hair to be made into a wig for a child cancer charity the Little Princess Trust, raising almost £500 in the process.

Marilyn MacDonald, head teacher at Duror, said: 'Duror primary school is delighted to receive the Nana MacInnes Memorial cup. It was a unanimous decision that in this first year, the cup is being presented to Erin.'

'The whole school and community is so proud of Erin and feel she is a worthy first winner of Nana's cup for showing outstanding citizenship.'

A pupil from Ballachulish primary school will be picked to receive the cup in June, the end of the academic year.

Sam Clark, head teacher, said: 'Nana would approve of this award as she was always encouraging the pupils to do their best in every aspect of school life.'

'She enjoyed watching the pupils receiving certificates, medals and trophies.'

John MacInnes, the oldest child of the late Ms MacInnes, presented the trophies at Ballachulish primary school on Friday.

He said: 'Mum adored children, and despite the family trying to talk her into retirement on more than one occasion, it really was a pointless exercise. Eventually, after turning 73, we persuaded her the time was right.'

'We feel as a family, this is one of the last things we can do for our mum, ensuring that her memory and attachment to the schools will live on, and that in the years to come when some pupil asks who was Nana MacInnes, the story of the wee cheery dinner lady will re-emerge.'

The memorial trophies will be handed down to the new winner each year but the winning children will receive a smaller version to keep forever.



HELPING YOUNG PATIENTS: Erin MacCallum-Millar is the first Duror primary school pupil to win the Nana MacInnes Memorial Cup for donating her hair to the Little Princess Trust

## Descendants gather to mark massacre

DESCENDANTS of those killed in the massacre of Glencoe gathered on Friday to mark the anniversary of the treacherous attack.

This was the 323rd memorial service to commemorate the events of February 13 1692, when 38 members of the MacDonald clan were killed in their beds and many more died of exposure on the mountains when trying to escape government soldiers.

Pupils of Glencoe and St Bride's primary schools and members

of the public also turned out to pay their respects at the moving commemorations, organised by Clan Donald Highlands and Islands, The Glencoe Heritage Trust, and St Mary's Church Glencoe.

The day began with a requiem service in St Mary's, followed by the traditional march from the Bridge of Coe to the Glencoe memorial where wreaths were laid and another service was held.

Reverend Adrian Fallows officiated at both ceremonies.



GATHERING: The traditional march from Bridge of Coe to the Glencoe Memorial 20\_f08glencoe01

**SABHAL MÒR OSTAIG**  
Ionad Nàiseanta Cànan is Cultar na Gàidhlig

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### Càisg - Easter 2015

In 2015 why not spend a week on Skye at Scotland's National Centre for Gaelic language & culture? Our courses include Gaelic language & song, traditional music and dance. For Easter 2015, we will be running a special course for native speakers of any level who seek to improve their reading, writing and speaking skills.

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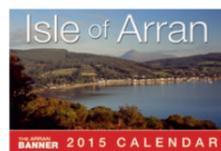
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Social scene

Mull Fèis Ceilidh, Argyll Arms Hotel, Bunessan



FOOT TAPPING: Jane and Sandy Brunton enjoyed the music of the ceilidh 16\_108fies2



ORGANISERS: (left) Kate Peerie, Morven Gibson, Vivki MacLean from the fèis organisation and Jennifer Johnson with Seren 16\_108fies5



READY FOR A HOOLEY: Glen MacKellar with Elizabeth Wilson and Jessie MacKellar, all from Bunessan. 16\_108fies6



GREAT NIGHT: (left) Shirley Blacoe and Alex James were enjoying the music. 16\_108fies6



MOTHER AND SON: Alasdair Whyte with Riona Whyte. Riona is one of the fèis movement organisers on the island 16\_108fies1

LAUGHING: (left) Euphie Wood and Maimie Brunton, both Bunessan 16\_108fies4

A MULL FÈIS ceilidh delighted the residents of the Ross of Mull last Thursday night when some of the best traditional musicians took to the stage to show off their skills. Not even the lack of a sound system put the band members off their track after one was provided from the Bunessan villagers. The Fèis tutors' concert was held in the Argyll Arms Hotel, with many people turning out to support the

event. Anda Wilson had to cart along his public address system in order for the music to be heard. The fèis movement offers Gaelic music, dance and song tuition to people of all ages. Musicians (pictured left) Ross Wilson, Alan Henderson, Ali Murray and the Glenelg brothers Iain Cameron and Murdo Ewan Cameron made up the band for the evening. 16\_108fies8



FRIENDS: Fraser and Alison Mckenzie with Rowan and Zoe MacCallum 16\_108fies9

Rotary club enjoys historical talk

ALMOST 60 people enjoyed a historical talk about Ben Nevis at the Rotary Club of Lochaber's annual partners' lunch. Dr Chris Robinson made a return visit to the club on February 11 and gave a presentation about the myth, dating back to the 1800s, that a vein of lead exists on the Ben. He explained to a fascinated audience that, although the rumour had proved to be false, in 1904, when the old summit observatory was being demolished, the lead was stripped from the roof, crammed into a barrel, and sent rolling down Ben Nevis. It found its way into five finger gulleys, smashed and dispersed throughout the rock face and proved impossible to economically recover and is still there today. Rotary branch president John Harvey thanked Dr Robinson for his talk.



BEN NEVIS: Dr Chris Robinson gives a talk to rotary club

Guest trio live up to expectations at Skye accordion and fiddle meet

SKYE Accordion and Fiddle Club members and friends held a well-attended February meeting in the usual venue of the Royal Hotel, Portree. On this occasion it was Aly 'K' MacPherson who carried out the duties of master of ceremonies. Mr MacPherson, who had just arrived home that evening from a spell of duty sailing the high seas, carried out his task with style and got the evening under way by introducing various local players to entertain the audience. On drums were Donald John Campbell and Donald MacRae, on fiddles were Caerina Campbell, Ellie MacPherson

and Wendy Riva, on piano John Cameron and on accordions were Mr MacPherson, John Cameron and John MacGilvary. The club was particularly pleased to welcome back John MacGilvary, a stalwart member, who had been indisposed for a lengthy period and unable to attend recent meetings. After an interval it was time for the eagerly-awaited guest band to take to the stage and provide the music for the rest of the evening. The Marian Anderson Trio, more than lived up to expectations and provided a varied programme played to the highest standard which has earned the trio such popularity with Scottish country

dancers at home and abroad. The trio was led on piano accordion by Marian, with Max Ketching on drums. Both are from California - the California near Falkirk, not the one across 'the pond'. Completing the trio was Jim Nichol from Pathhead with superb piano backing. There were selections to suit all tastes, including several compositions by the late great Gordon Duncan of Pitlochry. The evening was brought to a close by all the local players joining the guest band in a truly rousing stramash. The March meeting of the club on the first Thursday of the month will feature The Raymond Chuchuk Band.

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Gaelic power cut to be transmitted throughout Scotland

A SPECIALLY commissioned Gaelic drama will be performed in Glasgow for the first time this month. As an Dorachadas, created by Catriona Lexy Campbell, comes as part of Glasgow Life's commitment to developing world class Gaelic Drama. As an Dorachadas recreates a night spent during a power cut on an island which often leads to magical nights of comedy, dramatic story telling and song created amongst the people in a house forced to provide their own entertainment after all lights and appliances go off. The audience at each performance will also become involved in what will become unique and magical experiences. The premiere of the show will be at a location in the south side of Glasgow on February 25 2015 before heading off on tour to four other locations in Scotland in March, April and May. The audience for each night will arrive at Tramway before being taken to the location which is believed to be a first for Gaelic drama in Glasgow. As an Dorachadas is a GlaschuBeo Commission and co-production with Fèisean nan Gàidheal with funding from Maoin Lionradh Dràma Ghàidhlig, the Gaelic Books Council and Glasgow City Council. Councillor Archie Graham, of Glasgow Life, said: 'Nights spent creating your own entertainment when the power goes off will be a familiar part of life for many people from the Highlands and islands. 'As an Dorachadas will celebrate the creative ways people pass those hours and the very special collaborations that can result.' Catriona Lexy said: 'As an Dorachadas came about after spending several weeks back home on Lewis. The weather was characteristically stormy and there were several power cuts. Taking this as the basis for a piece of theatre, the cast, collaborators and I will explore the limitations and possibilities of an electricity-free play, staged in a unique venue in the city. 'Our hope is to recreate some of the magic of a power-cut for our audience as we take them in and out of the darkness.'

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

**APPIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
The Yeoman Bontrup Fire - A Major Glensanda disaster averted: Ian Henry  
Saturday 21 February  
Port Appin Hall 2.30pm  
All welcome!  
www.appinhistoricalsociety.co.uk

**Soup and Pudding Lunch**  
In aid of Oban Free Church will be held in Oban Free Church Hall Rockfield Road on Saturday 28th February 2015  
From 12 noon - 2.00pm  
Admission £5.00

**COFFEE MORNING**  
Saturday  
February 21  
10.30am - 12.30pm  
18 Stevenson Street, Oban  
Raising funds for local Salvation Army

**OBAN ART SOCIETY**  
Talk/Demonstration by Louise Oppenheimer on watercolour and ink  
**CANCELLED**  
The 20th February 2015 in The Lorn Resource Centre Soroba Road, Oban 7.30pm to 9.30pm  
Visitors very welcome

**Sale of Books and Stuff**  
Pets at Home Oban  
Saturday February 21st  
10am to 4pm  
In aid of Small Paws Rescue  
Charity number SC044301

An Comunn Gaidhealach MEUR CHRUACHAIN (Cruachan Branch)  
**CEILIDH**  
Fiona MacKenzie, Joan Morrison, James Graham, Ann Barlow, John MacKinnon, Liam Scott, Ian Hurst, The Adele Askew Dancers  
Fear an Taigh: Donald MacKenzie  
TAYNUILT VILLAGE HALL, SATURDAY, 21st February, 7.30pm  
Admission £4.00, Members £3.00, Children £2.00  
Meur Chruachain (Cruachan Branch) An Comunn Gaidhealach contacts:-  
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# SS American steaming its way to Oban's Corran Halls



SPOTLIGHT: on the SS American, for this year's fabulous production of Anything Goes by Spotlight Musical Theatre Group

ANYTHING GOES, the fast-paced comedy musical, is steaming into Oban's Corran Halls next week thanks to Spotlight Musical Theatre Group.

Taking its audience back to the golden age of dapper society on the high seas, a 40-strong cast will tap, sing and delight with songs such as I Get A Kick Out of You, It's De-Lovely, You're The Top and Anything Goes.

Set aboard the luxury liner SS American, where nightclub singer Reno Sweeney (Ellie Cooper), the world's most sensuous sermonizer, is en-route from New York to England.

Unbeknown to Reno, her friend Billy Crocker (David Johnston) has stowed aboard the cruise liner to be close to his true love, debutante Hope Harcourt (Aimie MacDonald).

Unfortunately Hope is engaged to wealthy English aristocrat Lord Evelyn Oakleigh (Michael Wall). Aided by Reno and public enemy number 13 Moonface Martin (Stephen Day), Billy sets out to win Hope's heart through a variety of high-jinks, cunning disguises and even blackmail.

With a wonderful score by Cole Porter, alongside a collection of dance numbers, this will be

a show not to be missed. Kevin Baker brings his many years of experience in the theatre as the show's director while Louisa Hyde returns as producer and choreographer.

The show is on between Wednesday 25 and Saturday February 28 at 7.30 pm in the Corran Halls.

Tickets are available now from the Corran Halls Box Office on 01631 567333.

## Seven clan-related events to benefit from £26,000 fund

UP to seven clan events across the country are to receive £26,000 in funding support from the Scottish Government.

The government is offering organisers the chance of receiving grant support to stage events this year.

In 2014 people from across the world attended clan events in Scotland that were supported through the clan event fund.

Attendance at these events was estimated at 7,700 with almost 4,000 international visitors.

Enterprise and tourism minister Fergus Ewing said: 'I am delighted to announce this second allocation of funding through the clan event fund, which will support seven

clan events taking place across Scotland in the year ahead.

'This includes a number of international Clan gatherings that are expected to bring thousands of visitors to Scotland, generating income and providing a colourful spectacle in those communities where they take place.'



Fergus Ewing MSP

## Tarbert organises George Campbell Hay centenary celebration

ORGANISERS of the Tarbert Viking Festival and Traditional Boat Festival will be organising another big event in the village this year: the George Campbell Hay Centenary Celebration.

Creative music, art and language workshops throughout the year and a final concert exhibition on December 5 will be organised to celebrate the works of this prolific and compassionate Tarbert poet.

George Campbell Hay spent much of his life in Tarbert.

As well as writing Gaelic, Scots and English poetry, Hay also wrote poems in French, Italian and Norwegian and translated poetry into Gaelic.

Organisers are running this cen-

tenary celebration to encourage more people to appreciate Hay's works in his centenary year.

Workshop weekends will be organised from April to December and are set to include Gaelic, Scots, art, photography, music, song and choral workshops.

More information about the event and all the workshops will follow but in the meantime anyone interested in joining the celebration of Hay's work in 2015, or anyone with information they'd like to share about George Campbell Hay, is encouraged to contact the organisers on Facebook at the George Campbell Hay Centenary Celebration page or by email: gchcc@outlook.com.

# Entertainment Guide

## Cinema

Oban Phoenix Cinema  
Community owned and run  
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### LISTINGS FOR 20 FEBRUARY - 26 FEBRUARY 2015

#### AMERICAN SNIPER (15)

Daily Except Tue, Thurs: 17:50, 20:30 Tue, Thur: 17:40

#### BACKSTREET BOYS: SHOW 'EM WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF (15)

Thurs: 19:00

#### BIG HERO 6 (PG)

Fri, Mon, Wed: 15:45 Sat: 10:45, 15:45 Sun: 10:45, 13:00, 15:45

#### ROH: DER FLIEGENDE HOLLANDER (12A)

Tue: 19:15

#### SHAUN THE SHEEP MOVIE (U)

Fri, Mon, Wed: 16:00 Sat, Sun: 11:30, 13:30, 16:00 Tue, Thu: 15:45

#### TESTAMENT OF YOUTH (12A)

Daily Except Tue, Thu: 18:00 Tue, Thu: 16:00

#### WHIPLASH (15)

Daily Except Tue, Thu: 20:40 Tue, Thu: 20:20

### FILM SYNOPSIS

#### AMERICAN SNIPER (15) 132MINS

Clint Eastwood directs Bradley Cooper in the visceral true story of the US military's most lethal sniper. Having been raised by a religious father who impressed upon him the importance of fighting evil, Chris Kyle (Bradley Cooper) signs up for brutal Navy SEAL training. He's quickly shipped off to Fallujah, where his role as a marksman is to protect his brothers-in-arms. It's a nerve-shredding task, requiring him to make split-second distinctions between civilians and enemy combatants. Such is Chris's skill and pinpoint accuracy that he saves countless lives and earns the nickname 'Legend'. But this also means that insurgents soon put a price on his head. Legendary director Clint Eastwood's tense and harrowing film doesn't shy away from exploring the terrible psychological aftermath of war.

#### BACKSTREET BOYS: SHOW 'EM WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF (15) 145MINS

An honest and revealing 20th anniversary portrait of the multi-platinum boy band, plus a live performance. They are the biggest boy band in history, with 130 million album sales to their credit. But what happened when the Grammy-nominated Backstreet Boys became men? In 2012, the original line-up reunited for the first time in six years. Cameras were on hand to follow them to a London recording studio to start work on their new album and plan their 20th anniversary relaunch. This premiere screening will be followed by an exclusive live satellite performance by the Backstreet Boys, who will be playing some of their favourite tracks.

#### BIG HERO 6 (PG) 114MINS

A young robotics genius turns crime-fighter in Disney's fun-packed animated action comedy. Troubled 14-year-old technology prodigy Hiro Hamada (Ryan Potter) lives in the futuristic hybrid city of San Fransokyo. Helping him through his difficult teenage years is huggable, lovable, giant inflatable healthcare robot Baymax (Scott Adsit). When a mysterious villain emerges to threaten the city, Hiro rises to the challenge. He joins forces with can-do chemistry genius Honey Lemon (Genesis Rodriguez), comicbook fanboy Fred (T.J. Miller), burly beatnik Wasabi (Damon Wayans Jr) and taciturn adrenaline junkie GoGo Tomago (Jamie Chung). Together, these nerds must overcome their fears and transform themselves into superheroes.

#### ROH LIVE: DER FLIEGENDE HOLLANDER (12A) 180MINS

Bryn Terfel returns to the lead role in Tim Albery's acclaimed modern-dress staging of Wagner's first masterpiece. As sea captain Daland (Peter Rose) sails home in a powerful storm, he encounters a ghostly ship. On board is the Flying Dutchman (Bryn Terfel), who despairs of his fate. Having inadvertently made a pact with Satan, the Dutchman now finds himself cursed to sail the seas for eternity. His only chance of salvation is through the faithful love of a good woman. On learning that Daland has a young daughter, Senta (Adrienne Pieczonka), he offers great riches for her hand in marriage. Wagner's first significant opera, this romantic masterpiece explores the themes of damnation and redemption that would continue to preoccupy the composer.

#### SHAUN THE SHEEP THE MOVIE (U) 85MINS

Loveable Shaun goes on a crazy adventure in this brilliant animation from the people behind Wallace and Gromit. Daily life on Mossy Bottom Farm is getting just a little bit too routine for Shaun the sheep. So he decides it's time to have a nice day off. Unfortunately, his cunning ruse leads to a series of mishaps that result in the Farmer making an unplanned exit. Now it's up to Shaun and the rest of the flock - plus Biter the sheepdog - to make their way to the Big City and recover him. But to avoid the attentions of nasty animal containment officer Trumper, the sheep have to disguise themselves as humans! Luckily, they get a little help from a lovable orphan dog named Slip.

#### TESTAMENT OF YOUTH (12A) 130MINS

Rising star Alicia Vikander leads an outstanding cast in Vera Brittain's much-loved memoir of love and war. Bright, spirited young feminist Vera Brittain (Alicia Vikander) has her whole life ahead of her in the spring of 1914. She defies the wishes of her conservative parents (Dominic West, Emily Watson) to seek a place at Oxford. But her dreams are shattered by the outbreak of WWI. Her brother Edward (Taron Egerton) and their friends Victor (Colin Morgan) and Roland (Kit Harington) all enlist. So Vera sacrifices her education to become a nurse, falling urgently in love with Roland as war engulfs their generation.

#### WHIPLASH (15) 107MINS

BAFTA Winner for Supporting Actor J.K. Simmons, Editing and Sound - An ambitious jazz drummer is pushed to greatness by a monstrous mentor in this dazzling drama. Nineteen-year-old drummer Andrew Neyman (Miles Teller) is determined not to settle for mediocrity. He wants to become one of the jazz greats, like his idol Buddy Rich. He wins a place at America's top music academy, where Terence Fletcher (J.K. Simmons) is in charge of the leading jazz ensemble. Andrew's talents soon catch this star's instructor's attention. But Fletcher is a hard, cruel, bullying taskmaster who drives his competitive students ruthlessly towards perfection.

## Radio

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### THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS

#### MONDAY:

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

#### TUESDAY:

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

#### WEDNESDAY:

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

#### THURSDAY:

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

#### FRIDAY:

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

#### SATURDAY:

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

#### SUNDAY:

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

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# focus on mid argyll

**MID ARGYLL** is a collection of beautiful towns and villages that offer superb delights for passers-by and day-trippers.

Dunadd, the birthplace of Scotland, lies at the area's heart with magic and mystery surrounding its past with fantastic people and commerce occupying its future.

The area is described as 'unbelievably rich in natural and historic wonders, offering tranquility, adventure and gastronomy' by visitors.

Tempting people to come to the area, local destination management organisation Heart of Argyll says: 'Come and explore Mid Argyll with our outstanding national nature reserves, abundant wildlife and stunning coastal landscapes.'

'Stretching from the picturesque fishing village of Tarbert, Loch Fyne, in the south to Loch Craignish in the north, over to Knapdale and Crinan in the west, across to Inveraray and Loch Awe in the east, and with Kilmartin Glen in its midst the heart of Argyll boasts some of the most beautiful scenery in Europe.'

'Whether it's a relaxing short break, an active family holiday or a romantic weekend that appeals, the Heart of Argyll has great accommodation and restaurants, unique shops and galleries, historic castles and museums, plus a wealth of outdoor pursuits and nature-based activities from kayaking and sailing to walking that will keep you entertained and longing to visit again.'

The area attracts walkers, cyclists, musicians and holiday makers who want to see Scotland without all the razzmatazz of the big cities.

It is also a painter's paradise. Not least of John Lowrie Morrison - better known to the people of the area as a church elder and a

former art teacher, but to the rest of the world he is known as Jolomo, an international artist.

His bright vibrant colours depict the landscapes and buildings of the west coast. He manages to capture the light unlike anyone before him. It is likely that he has allowed many people to imagine and explore the area without ever having set foot on any good Argyll soil.

Among the hillsides, it often seems like the rural idyll and with hotels such as the Crinan Hotel serving up delicious local food and comfortable beds at the end of the day, it becomes the rural idyll.

The Crinan hotel sits on the edge of a fantastic waterway, the Crinan Canal, that delights day visitors or those who simply fancy a bit of recreation on the canal that links the Atlantic ocean to Ardrishaig and the Clyde far beyond.

Lochgilphead itself has some great places to chill out and stop - for example a visit to Willie and Pat's is like a visit to the best value mainstream shopping mall with factory seconds from various high street stores.

Perhaps Argyll Book Centre will tempt visitors with anything from historical books about the area sitting alongside some wonderful children's books and adults' best sellers. The bookshop also sells a fine range of stationery and cards for visitors and friends.

Kilmartin Auto Repairs and Riverside Filling Station in Lochgilphead offer everything that is required to keep people's cars on the road.

For a great time relaxing try Brambles in Inveraray where the locals and tourists alike go to enjoy great food and treats - with space for all the family.

Mid Argyll is magical and anyone would be delighted with the people and businesses that offer great service to the community and the tourists who come to share in it.



The nine-mile long Crinan Canal runs between Ardrishaig and Crinan, connecting Loch Fyne to the Atlantic ocean.

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**Grandmother strikes it lucky**

A LUCKY grandmother scooped an iPad in the first draw of a new fundraising lottery.

Rosemary Cameron, from Onich, won the one-off prize in the Loch Leven Lotto and said her granddaughter will help her set up her new tablet.

Ian Brodie, from Ballachulish, won what will be the usual top monthly prize of £100 and Donnie MacLeod of north Ballachulish took home £50.

All proceeds will be donated to St Muns Chapel, Ballachulish, and The Good Shepherd Catholic Church, Kinlochleven.

To enter the monthly draw, pick up a form from one of the churches or call 01855 811 203.

# Another twist in homes saga as commission drops appeal

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

AN APPEAL against a controversial decision to allow a couple to develop croft land has been withdrawn.

The Crofting Commission challenged the verdict with the Court of Session last month after The Scottish Land Court

overturned a legal barrier preventing Donnie and Lizzie MacGillivray decrofting part of the land they occupy in North Ballachulish to build houses.

But on Monday, the commission released a statement confirming the appeal had been withdrawn, following a discussion at a board meeting last week.

The long-running battle began when the MacGillivrays'

application was rejected for being 'incompetent' because the area was owned by more than one tenant and not all tenants had applied.

This was because of a rule introduced by the commission in 2012 which prevents multi-occupant crofters making applications without the permission of their co-owners.

But Scottish ministers

overturned the decision in a dramatic hearing in Edinburgh on December 18, agreeing that this legislation did not adhere to overall crofting law.

Appeals had to be submitted by January 15, less than a month after the ruling was made, so a spokesman from the Crofting Commission said a 'skeleton' appeal was lodged until all members of the commission

could meet to discuss the issue.

When they met last week, it was decided they would accept the Land Court ruling which establishes that a single owner, as the landlord of their part of the croft, is entitled to submit a regulatory decrofting application to the commission.

The MacGillivrays' decrofting application will now be reviewed in light of the changes.

Crofting Commission

Convener Susan Walker said: 'The ruling has implications on part croft owners in relation to the requirement to register the croft prior to submitting certain regulatory applications.'

'The commission is working to align our policy to the ruling and will begin to process applications relating to part crofts from single owners.'



**CASHING IN WITH CAKES:** girls from Lochside RC, in Fort William, enjoyed home baking as part of their fundraising day



**FUN AND GAMES:** pupils and staff at Elgol primary school, Skye, raised £68 by dressing up as fairytale characters and donating loose change

## Primary pupils cash in for UNICEF

PRIMARY school pupils across the west Highlands spent a day fundraising for a worldwide children's charity.

Children enjoyed a non-uniform day and brought in home baking to sell in aid of UNICEF's day for change.

## Doors opens on new constituency office

IF CHARLES Kennedy is re-elected as MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, he will use his position in UK parliament to campaign for a new hospital and road improvements.

This is the pledge he made when joined by Willie Rennie, leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, at the opening of the new constituency office in Fort William last week, when the pair unveiled the party's Scottish manifesto.

The former party leader believes securing a replacement for the Belford Hospital in Fort William and work on the A82 trunk road are the biggest issues currently facing Lochaber, saying he would continue to campaign for these if he was re-elected.

Although the NHS and infrastructure are devolved issues, Mr Kennedy said he would use his position as an MP to put pressure on the Scottish government to fund and implement upgrades in Lochaber.

After officially opening his new High Street office last Thursday,

he said: 'I want to focus on the road situation in Lochaber. The Scottish government has made countless promises about upgrading the A82 over the years, none of which have been delivered.'

'Also, the Belford Hospital, wonderful though it is, needs to be replaced. We are in dire need of a new, modern, hospital and I'll be campaigning for that.'

Mr Rennie said he hoped people in the Highlands could benefit from policies in the Liberal Democrat manifesto, including tax cuts and funding for education.

Mr Kennedy, who has been an MP in the Highlands for more than 30 years, acknowledged he faces tough competition following the independence referendum, but says he has never been relaxed about his position.

He added: 'I've never considered this a safe seat, I have always campaigned and treated it [the constituency] as if it's a marginal seat and my position is the same as before.'

## Something for everyone at new Appin fèis

THE HILLS around Appin will soon be alive with the sights and sounds of a traditional Gaelic festival.

The countdown is on to the newly formed Appin Fèis which begins on Saturday, February 28.

And it is a wonderful opportunity for both children and adults to try a wide range of musical instruments including accordion, chanter, clarsach, fiddle, guitar and penny whistle.

Music tech, Gaelic drama, games and song as well as both step and Highland dance will also be available.

But don't worry if you can't decide which one to choose, as there will be five half-hour sessions on the day, from 10am until 1pm, giving both complete beginners and intermediates the chance to have a go at different activities.

Led by experienced tutors, the fèis will be held at Strath

of Appin primary and is open to all ages in Appin and the wider community from Duror to Barcaldine - including Lismore and the Achaleven and Kilchrenan school areas.

After the first session, Appin fèis will run on a monthly basis and instruments will be provided for all the classes.

It is hoped that some may also be available to hire between meetings.

The cost is £3 per child or £5 per family of children and £5 for adults.

Children under the age of eight must be accompanied by an adult.

A warm welcome awaits at the fèis, so come along and learn something new or have fun improving your existing skills.

For more information and enrolment forms contact Fiona on 07881 525754 or Vicky on 01397 703132.



**ON SONG:** (from left) Jacqui MacPherson, secretary; Anne White, co-chairman; Claire MacPherson, participant; Vicky MacLean, fèis development officer; Fiona Hutchison, treasurer; Jocelyn Miller, committee member and some of the children who will be coming along on the day



**ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL:** (from left) Willie Rennie, Charles Kennedy and Kate Stephen, Lib Dem MSP candidate for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, gather outside the new constituency office in Fort William

## Portree hospital group vows to fight on

A GROUP fighting to save services at a Skye Hospital is continuing its campaign, despite the Scottish government approving plans to reduce facilities.

Members of Save Portree Hospital have arranged a public meeting for next month to decide what action to take after Shona Robison, cabinet secretary for health, gave the green light to NHS Highland plans to build

a new hospital in Broadford, south Skye, last week.

The approval means the current Dr MacKinnon Memorial Hospital will be replaced but services currently provided at Portree Community Hospital, further north on the island, will be removed. This will include in-patient beds and out-of-hours care.

The campaign group has lobbied for a rethink since the consultation stage

last year and have asked as many people as possible to attend the meeting at Skye Gathering Hall on March 12.

A spokeswoman for the group said: 'This is a scandal of enormous proportions. It is one of the biggest issues for rural Scotland in over a century. On Skye 7,000 residents, plus numerous visitors, will be isolated from any emergency care. There is a huge body of evidence to show that lack of access

to services is one of the main factors in rural depopulation and also affects whether tourists, especially elderly ones, visit an area.'

An NHS Highland spokesman said Broadford was picked as the preferred location for the main hospital with 'overwhelming support' during the consultation process and that services including minor injury care will continue at Portree hospital.

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**DARWIN'S REST:** members of Lochaber Geopark Association enjoy the new cafe in Roy Bridge

### Shop evolves into new cafe

A DISUSED shop has been given a new lease of life as a cafe and information hub.

Lochaber Geopark has taken over the old Roy Bridge Stores and reopened it as a coffee shop, named Darwin's Rest after Charles Darwin, who researched the Parallel Roads of Glen Roy in 1838. The cafe is soon to expand to include a gift and craft shop, as well as a visitor centre.

Keith Hoole, Lochaber Geopark director, said: 'The cafe and display will provide a great centre for visitors to learn about the geology and Charles Darwin.'

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# Farming

## Strong demand at 50th annual premier Luining sale

THE FIFTIETH annual premier sale of Luining cattle took place at Walleys Marts in Castle Douglas with strong demand from the beginning and all the way through.

Several new breeders made their presence felt at the ringside of the Luining Cattle Society organised event, which was packed to capacity.

At the pre-sale show on February 6 the judging was in the experienced and capable hands of breed stalwart Finlay McGowan from Incheoch Farms, Alyth.

His pair of champion in-calf heifers came from Messrs McNee, Benhar, which went on to sell for 2,700 guineas each to Messrs Davies, Corwen, Wales.

Reserve champion heifers came from Steven Murray, Rockcliffe and sold for 2,600 guineas each to Messrs Jones, Llangollen.

Champion pair of bulling heifers were from breed founders Cadzow Bros, Luining and they sold for 1,900 guineas to Mr Gill, Stonethwaite, Keswick.

Reserve champion bulling heifers were from Professor Penny, Harehead and made 1,800

guineas to Lanton Estates.

Top price in the bulling heifer section was 2,100 guineas paid to Upper Chatto and bought by Messrs Burke, Peebles.

Bulls met a very useful trade and had a 93 per cent clearance rate – far higher than any other breed to date.

Topping the bulls at 11,500 guineas was Dirnanean Riley from Messrs Finlay McGowan, Dirnanean.

It was purchased by Aberdeenshire breeders Phillip and Simon Simmers from Keith.

Next top at 8,500 guineas was Finlary Robroy from Robert and Hazel McNee.

Robroy is off to a new home at Nowsley Park with Dave and Annabel Stanners.

Another two bulls sold for 7500 guineas firstly from Dirnanean selling to Alistair McArthur, Nunnerie and then again from Finlary selling to Thomsons Walls Limited.

Overall averages were: 32 in calf heifers average £2382.19 + £597.19; 107 bulling heifers average £1633.56 + £371.56; 25 bulls average £4826.90 + £1023.90.

## Tougher rules welcomed on supermarket dairy deals

TOUGHER rules for supermarkets' dealings with dairy farmers have been welcomed by Argyll and Bute's MP after the issue was raised last week in the House of Commons.

Alan Reid asked the government to extend the groceries code to indirect suppliers, like dairy farmers and conduct a review sooner than next year.

Jo Swinson MP, parliamentary under-secretary of state for business, innovation and skills, said: 'The groceries code adjudicator [Christine Tacon] is already proving to be a great success in her work with supermarket companies, by encouraging them to change their behaviour.'

'We have ensured that she has, and will have, the power to fine as well as to launch investigations - the first, of course, was launched recently.'

'The question whether the remit should be extended needs to be looked at, and I commit the Government to doing that.'

Mr Reid said: 'The situation

for dairy farmers right now is dire; the feedback I am getting from Kintyre and Bute is not good.

'The adjudicator must have at her disposal the power to impose tough fines on supermarkets and to dig deep and investigate where needed.'

'I'm pleased that Jo Swinson has committed the Government to looking at extending the adjudicator's remit.'

The groceries code adjudicator is an independent adjudicator who oversees the relationship between supermarkets and their suppliers.

The aim is to ensure that large supermarkets treat their direct suppliers lawfully and fairly.

Complaints can be investigated and disputes arbitrated.

The groceries code adjudicator announced at the beginning of February that it would be investigating some of the practices associated with the profit over-statement announced by Tesco plc in September 2014.

# Argyll stock tops cattle sale price list



THE 2015 Highland Cattle Society spring show will be one to remember for Argyll breeders after stock from the area were among the top prices.

The show and sale on Sunday and Monday attracted a lot of interest from all over the UK and Europe, with European buyers parting with the largest sums of money.

In a generally buoyant trade at the 124th annual show and sale 27 animals headed to three buyers in Italy, nine animals headed to Germany and Austria.

Top priced animal was Callum 9th of Goldenberry from Mr Alan Kennedy and sold to G & A Rockenschau, Austria for 6,800 guineas.

The two-year-old bull class champion is sired by Callum of Cir Mhor and out of Cannach 16th of Achnacloch.

But two Argyll-based bulls drew bids of 6,000 guineas each: Hugh MacPhail, Callachay, Isle of Mull parted with his senior bull Ewan Ruadh 3rd of Callachally and The Stricklands at Cladich, near Dalmauld sold the five-year-old bull Seonaidh Mor of Arduara.

Cladich farm manager Stuart Campbell said he was delighted with the price. He said: 'We had high hopes for him but to sell him for 6,000 guineas, we are just over the moon.'

'We had high hopes for him after buying him as a two-year-old in Oban from the Arduara

Estate on Mull.

'We had the champion heifer calf in 2013 off him and she went on to sell for 2,400 guineas.'

Although they were among the top prices, Argyll stock missed out on the top show prizes.

The male championship was won by the Killochries Fold with Sean 2nd of Killochries.

The senior bull, which sold to Giovanni Reggiani, Italy for 5,800 guineas, was sired by Sean Ghart of Ormsary.

Champion female, from Ronald and Frances Fergie, Dalry, was Hazel 10th of Knockendon and led out by Argyll stockman Angus MacGillivray. She was sold to the show judge, Jochen

Born, Wingshausen, Germany for 3,400 guineas.

German Highland cattle breeder Christopher Bange, 27, was in Oban at the weekend to observe the show and sale.

Christopher, whose Sunderland fold near Dortmund has 25 Highland cattle, said: 'We come every spring and autumn to Oban out of interest and have been coming for five years.'

'If we need a new stock bull, this is the place to come. We always have a good time too when we are in Oban.'

It was also a successful show for Argyll's young handlers.

Dougie MacDonald jnr, Tyree, Benderloch, was awarded the young handler's prize. Runner-up was nine-year-old

Emily Armstrong from Balemartine, Tiree, who had earlier led out the champion yearling heifer, Proiseag Ruadh 1st of Balemartine.

The young heifer, bred by Emily's father, Mark, sold to S Brown, Wiltshire for 1,000 guineas. Mark described his show result as 'the best day' since he started his fold in 2008.

Emily, who was showing cattle for the first time, was delighted with her trophy and said she would be taking it in to Tiree primary school to show her classmates.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'I like Highland cattle because you can halter train them they are really calm.'

### Results

Aged Bull: 1st Eoin Mhor 2nd of Muingairigh from Glengorm sold to S Janz, Germany for 3,000 gns; 2nd Seonaidh Mor of Arduara from Mrs Jon H Strickland sold to Braesgill Ltd, Sutherland; 3rd Stiubhart Buidheof Gartchozie from the Keys Family.

Senior Bull: Class 2: 1st and reserve senior champion Ewan Ruadh 3rd of Callachally sold to The Applecross Trust, Invercarroon; 2nd Logan of Muingairigh from AJ MacColl sold to Blairloggan Highlanders, Clackmannan for 2,600 gns; 3rd Alexander 4th of Mottistone from Mr Michael Poland sold to Alan Kennedy, West Kilbride for 2,000 gns; 4th Philip 7th of Drimmin from Derek C Lewis.

Class 3: 1st overall and senior champion and winner of Craig Sellar Trophy; Sean 2nd of Killochries from Killochries Fold sold to Giovanni Reggiani, Italy for 5,800 gns; 2nd Adhamh 1st of Achnacroish from Sydney and Maureen O'Hara; 3rd Nero of Earn from Mrs H Corrigall sold to A Gordon, Ayrshire for 1,600 gns.

4th Mairral Monica Rhumach of Ardbhan from Mr and Mrs A A MacDonald.

Two Year Old Bull: Class 4: 1st and Reserve Champion: Donnchadh Mor of Arduara from Arduara Estate sold to Mr E Halford, Gateshead; 2nd Tearlach of Benmore from Mrs Emma Paterson sold to JC Whitehouse for 2,000 gns; 3rd Hector of Cnoc Na Sith from Mr Iain Mackay sold to Mr P Jessat, Germany for 2,500

gns; 4th Callum 8th of Goldenberry from Mr A Kennedy sold to CP and MP Bruce for 1,800 gns.

Class 5: 1st Callum 9th of Goldenberry from Mr Alan Kennedy sold to G and A Rockenschau, Austria for 6,800 gns; 2nd Alexander 6th of Mottistone from Mr M Poland sold to Hendrik Hoof for 1,200 gns; 3rd Leumdaire of Glengorm from Glengorm; 4th Fergus Ruadh 4th of Knockendon from Ronald and Frances Fergie sold to Mr H MacPhail, Isle of Mull for 2,000 gns.

Class 6: 1st Reserve Overall and two-year-old champion, winner of the Caledonian Marts (Stirling) Trophy and W.Pearson Brown Memorial Trophy for best two-year-old bull: Samvais of West Edmondsley - L & L Braines (Farmers) sold to Agrigest, Italy for 5,000 gns; 2nd Logan 2nd of Muingairigh from Mr A J MacColl sold to M Coghill for 1,600 gns; 3rd Archie of Barna from Morag Middleton sold to G Hutchings, Tregaron for 2,000 gns; 4th Reich of Rannoch from Mr Donald MacNaughton.

Yearling Bulls: Class 7: 1st Bratach Ruadh of Kilpatrick from Mr John M Mackay to S and E Haley, Co Durham for 700 gns; 2nd Ceannard 16th of Cnoc from Sydney and Maureen O'Hara sold to M MacGregor Photography, Argyll for 700 gns; 3rd Geasan Dubh of Shenavalle from Mr D Buchanan.

Senior Heifers: Class 8: 1st Reserve Overall and senior heifer champion Grugach 44th of Ormsary from Sir William Lithgow, Bt and Son (Ormsary) and sold to Agrigest, Italy for 2,800 gns; 2nd and

Reserve Senior Champion Maighden Mor 13th of Glengorm from Glengorm sold to C Finnie, Peterhead for 3,000 gns; 3rd Rhibin Og of Killian from Mr Donald MacNaughton sold to J and J Singer, Laurencekirk for 1,800 gns; 4th Susan 15th of Ormsary from Sir William Lithgow, Bt and Son (Ormsary) sold to Agrigest, Italy for 1,600 gns.

Class 9: 1st Shirley of Pennygown from D J MacGillivray sold to C Drumgoole, Northern Ireland for 1,800 gns; 2nd Morag 5th of Pennygown from D J MacGillivray sold to Glenavon Estate, Ballindaloch for 1,700 gns; 3rd Sonasag 10th of Pennygown from Mr D J MacGillivray sold to C Drumgoole, Northern Ireland for 1,600 gns; 4th An Ribhin Dubh of Inver from Mr J Lithgow from Agrigest, Italy for 1,800 gns.

Three Year Old Heifers: Class 10: 1st Overall Champion, three year old champion and winner of D M Stewart Memorial Trophy; Hazel 10th of Knockendon from Ronald and Frances Fergie sold to Jochen Born, Germany for 3,400 gns; 2nd and Reserve Champion from Arduara Estate sold to W Siebke, Germany for 2,700 gns; 3rd Rhodda Dubh of West Edmondsley from L and L Braines, Farmers sold to D Acella, Italy for 1,600 gns; 4th Lucy 9th of Benmeanach from Mr D Buchanan sold to Agrigest, Italy for 1,000 gns.

Class 11: 1st Ban Righ 4th of Mottistone from Mr M Poland sold to V Thomson, Aberdeenshire for 1,600 gns; 2nd Jillean 5th of Earn from Mrs H Corrigall sold to Ellary Farms Ltd, Lochgilphead for 900 gns; 3rd Chorrach 11th of Caillich from R and

S Strachan sold to D Acella, Italy for 1,600 gns; 4th Mhairi 13th of Earn from Mrs H Corrigall sold to Ellary Farms Ltd, Lochgilphead for 900 gns.

Two year old heifers: Class 12: 1st Erin Dubh of Ceannacroic from Dunlossit (Farming) Ltd sold to D Acella, Italy for 1,600 gns; 2nd Cannach 6th of Goldenberry from Mr Alan Kennedy; 3rd Hannah Dubh of Ceannacroic from Dunlossit (Farming) Ltd sold to W Roddie, Stirling 1,000 gns; 4th Eala Bhan of Dunach from Lord Denham sold to Giovanni Reggiani, Italy for 1,400 gns.

Class 13: 1st and two-year-old champion Ebony of Allanfean from Maureen MacArthur and John Ashton sold to M Alford, Devon for 3,000 gns; 2nd Fern of Balemartine from Mark Armstrong sold to S Brown, Wiltshire for 3,200 gns; 3rd Fraoch 19th of Ashmore from Ashmore and Strone Estate sold to G Easton, Forfar; 4th Iona of Balemartine from Mark Armstrong sold to D Acella, Italy for 1,600 gns.

Class 14: 1st and reserve champion Seonag 3rd of Bien Esk from Patricia Smith and Paul Burns sold to Arthur and Suzanne Hill, Shropshire for 1,900 gns; 2nd Annag 1st of Edgerston from Edgerston Trading (2006) Ltd sold to Arthur and Suzanne Hill, Shropshire for 725 gns; 3rd Amayil of Allanfean from Maureen MacArthur and John Ashton sold to Staplegrave for 750 gns; 4th Lady Julie of Tordarroch from Tordarroch Estates.

Yearling Heifers: Class 15: 1st and champion yearling heifer Proiseag Ruadh 1st of Balemartine from Mark Armstrong sold to S

Brown, Wiltshire for 1,000 gns; 2nd Carol 2nd of Gray Brae from Douglas and Hilary Crane sold to S Brown, Wiltshire; 3rd Fiochag of Achnacraig from Achnacraig Estate sold to S Brown, Wiltshire for 500 gns; 4th Sonasag 8th of Arduara from Angus E MacGillivray sold to Braesgill Ltd, Sutherland for 700 gns.

Class 16: 1st and reserve yearling Lily Ann of Mosscastle from Mr and Mrs A A MacDonald sold to KWW Brown, Kinross for 1,800 gns; 2nd Eilidh Harris of Ardbhan from Mr and Mrs A A MacDonald sold to Mr D Cameron, Doune for 1,000 gns; 3rd Princess 2nd of West Edmondsley from L and L Braines, Farmers sold to G Lintellmann for 700 gns; 4th Lady White 5th of Gray Brae sold to S Brown, Wiltshire for 750 gns.

Class 17: 1st Jipsy Gheal of Ardbhan from Mr and Mrs A A MacDonald sold to S and E Haley, Co. Durham for 1,000 gns; 2nd Dilias 4th of Glenkinglass from Mr R D Schuster sold to Braesgill, Sutherland for 1,000 gns; 3rd Heather 3rd of Edgerston from Edgerston Trading (2006) Ltd sold to S Brown, Wiltshire for 1,100 gns; 4th Andrea 4th of Kynedon from C P and M P Bruce sold to A Letten, Yorkshire for 500 gns.

Sales Averages: Senior Bulls - five sold £3,780; Two year old bulls - 13 sold £2,913; Yearling Bull - three sold £630; Senior Females - 10 sold £2,121; Three year old females - 11 sold £1,743; Two year old heifers - 16 sold £1,482; Yearling heifers - 24 sold £795.



CONDUCT: Alan Reid MP has asked for the groceries code to be extended

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### MARKET REPORT

## Tiree spring cattle sale sees mainland buyers out in force

UNITED Auctions held its annual early spring sale of all classes of cattle at Tiree Auction Mart on February 14 when 330 head were on offer.

A good show of cattle in varying ages was presented to a strong force of mainland buyers and a buoyant trade throughout the day's proceedings was experienced.

Bullocks sold to average £972.84 per head and 255.41 pence per kilo against £897.40 and 239 pence last year whilst heifers levelled out at £760.52 per head or 234.59 pence per kilo against £775.70 and 221.3 pence last year.

Bullocks sold to a top of £1,305 for

pair of 496-kilo Charolais crosses from Heylipol Farm whilst the same home led the heifer prices with a pen of four Charolais crosses weighing 376 kilos at £1,205.

The top price bullocks per kilo came from Heylipol Farm at 315 pence for a pen of three Charolais whilst again the same home led the prices per kilo for a pen four heifers at 312 pence.

A feature of the sale was Heylipol's annual consignment of 88 predominantly Charolais cross bullocks and heifers, also some Limousin and Angus crosses which averaged 416 kilos at £1,143.00 against 426 kilos and £1,083 for 86 last year.

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## NFU Scotland presents new look team following AGM

A NEW presidential team and refreshed board of directors are at the helm of the National Farmers Union Scotland.

Following last week's annual general meeting, Fife farmer Allan Bowie was elected president, replacing Nigel Miller, and is joined by Borders farmer Rob Livesey and Andrew McCormick from Dumfries as vice-presidents.

Following his election he said, on the union's blog page: 'I am very pleased to be elected into the post of president.

'It will be a huge task to follow Nigel, but also a huge privilege.

'I appreciate all the support from the council and members in electing me, and, going forward it is certainly going to remain challenging.'

As president, Mr Bowie can serve for two years before being up for re-election.

Under constitutional changes agreed at the AGM newly appointed vice presidents can initially serve a two-year term before reverting back to being re-elected annually.

Mr McCormick, as a new vice president, will be due for re-election at the union's AGM in 2017.

Mr Livesey, who has already served two years as vice president, will be due for re-election at the 2016 AGM.

Mr McCormick was previously chairman of Dumfries and Galloway region, where the role has now been taken up by Gary Mitchell from Stranraer.

Mr Mitchell, who held the chairmanship of the union's milk committee, has been replaced by Graeme Kilpatrick from Craigmains, Kilmarnock.

The new regional board

chairman for East Central is Roddy Kennedy from Aberfeldy, replacing James Adam from Dunfermline.

He is joined on the board by his cousin, Martin Kennedy, also from Aberfeldy, who steps up to chair the union's Less Favoured Areas (LFA) committee, replacing Lachlan Maclean from Mull.

The new chairman for Orkney and Shetland region is Paul Ross from Sandwick, who follows on from Brian Moss from Holm.

There were two further changes to the union's committee leadership. Linlithgow farmer Jamie Smart, who also operates the union's vehicles helpline, returns for his second stint as chairman of the union's legal and technical committee, following on from John Smith of Campbeltown.

The new combinable crops committee chairman is Ian Sands from Balbeggie near Perth with Andrew Moir from Laurencekirk stepping down having served his five-year term.



CHALLENGE: NFUS new president Allan Bowie

## Rural development programme roadshow rolls into Oban

THE SCOTTISH Rural Development Programme (SRDP) roadshow will be in Oban tomorrow afternoon (Friday).

Farmers, crofters, woodland owners, land managers and representatives from rural communities are invited to attend one of 12 presentations around the country to find out more about the new SRDP.

Richard Lochhead, cabinet secretary for rural affairs, food and the environment, said: 'Scotland's rural development programme provides crucial support for Scottish farming, food production, rural communities and the environment and is worth more than £1.35 billion over the next six years.'

'Although the SRDP is still subject to final European approval, we have already begun accepting applications for various schemes so that the Scottish government is ready to pay out at the earliest opportunity once the

programme is approved.'

He added that Scottish government officials would be on hand to answer any questions about the schemes and initiatives following the presentation.

The SRDP will cover 15 schemes or initiatives and concentrate on six land-based and capital schemes.

A new online Rural Payments and Services system has been launched to help make it easier to apply for funding.

It has been introduced in response to changes to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and replaces Rural Payments Online.

As well as the Oban meeting at the Corran Halls from 2pm-3.30pm, the roadshow will also be at Skye amanaichd, Portree on February 24, 7.30pm-9pm; National Park Headquarters, Loch Lomond, March 5, 7.30pm-9pm; and Dark Island Hotel, Benbecula, March 12 7.30pm-9pm.

## Tayinloan shepherd clinches title in Kintyre sheepdog nursery trials

THE LAST trial of the Kintyre sheepdog nursery trials saw John Casey of Tayinloan's winning team clinch a spot at the Scottish nursery finals in Ayrshire next month.

Held at Clochiel Farm, Campbeltown, on February 7 the overall winner and team captain was John Casey (pictured left) with Ben.

Second was Mike McNally (centre) from Invergarry with Jock, third was John Casey, this time with Kyle and Sandra MacCorquodale Colthart (right) from Appin, with June, was fourth.

These three will make up the team to compete on March 7 at the South Ayrshire Nursery Trials.



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



Hugh MacPhail, Callachally, Isle of Mull with his senior bull Ewan Ruadh 3rd of Callachally, which sold for 6,000 guineas Photo: Kevin McGlynn



Stockman and Highland Cattle Society fieldsman Angus MacGillivray, left, does the rounds 16\_t08highland01



Emily Armstrong and her father, Mark, from Balemartine, Tiree, who had the champion yearling heifer 16\_t08highland02



Female champion was Hazel 10th of Knockendon, which sold to the show judge, Jochen Born, Wingshausen, Germany for 3,400 guineas 16\_t08highland06



Male champion was Sean 2nd of Killochries Photo: Kevin McGlynn



Isle of Mull fold Glengorm was delighted when senior heifer Maighdean Mor 13th of Glengorm, brought out by stockman Angus MacColl, sold for 3,000 guineas Photo: Kevin McGlynn



Cladich's five-year-old bull, Seonaidh Mor of Ardura, was led out by Stuart Campbell and sold for 6,000 guineas Photo: Kevin McGlynn

## North Argyll Blackface stockjudging competition

THE PRIZES at the annual stock judging competition run by the North Argyll Blackface Sheep Breeders Association were well spread around this year, with Messrs MacArthur

taking the overall sheep prize.

The competition attracted 160 exhibitors and was held last Friday at Dalmally auction mart.

### Results

Individual and North Eastern Trophy: 1 Jock Jackson; 2= Iain MacArthur; 2= Archie MacGregor.

Team: 1 Jim Fairlie, Stephan Z, David Murray; 2 Grant MacPherson, Alec MacPherson, John MacPherson; 3 Archie MacGregor, Jimmy MacGregor, John Murray.

Young Farmer's Class and Suie Lodge Cup: 1 Laura Campbell; 2 Angus Campbell; 3 Robert Hamilton.

Ladies and Youngs Animal Health Shield: 1 Laura Campbell;

2 Bron Alt; 3 Heather MacFall. Under-14s: 1 Duncan McLaughlin; 2 Ruairidh Cameron; 3 Lewis MacKenzie.

Tup hog homebred class and Bill Black Shield: 1 Messrs MacArthur, Arnie; 2 Messrs Campbell, Drymsynie; 3 Messrs Jackson, Pole.

Open tup hog class: 1 Castles Estate (Dan McLaughlin); 2 Messrs McVicar, Lephinchaple; 3 Messrs MacArthur, Arnie. Winner of the draw was D. Nicol.

### Principle lots and prices: Top prices per head:

Bullocks: AAX: £1,055(4) & £945(2) - Heylipol Farm: £945(2) & £885 - Hillcrest. BSHX: £825 - Middleton Farm. BELT GAL: £785 - 8 Kilkenneth. BRBx: £970(2), £920 & £910(2) - Ruaig. CHARx: £1,305(2), £1,275(14), £1,245(4), £1,235(6), £1,225(6), £1,185, £1,175, £1,165(4) and £1,085(3) - Heylipol Farm: £1,040 and £1,010 - 1 Hough House. HERx: £1,135(2), £1,095(3) and £1,035 - Clachan. LIMx: £1,265(2) and £1,215(3) - Heylipol Farm: £1,200 - Ruaig: £1,135 - 3 Kenovay: £1,105(3), £1,095 and £1,035(4) - Heylipol Farm: £1,030 - Ruaig: £985 - Hillcrest and 3 Kenovay: £970(5) - Ruaig: £955 and £945 - 3 Kenovay: £930 - 1 Hough House: £925(2) - 3 Kenovay: £910 - Ruaig: £905 - Heylipol Farm: £900 - Parkhouse. LUING: £900 - 1 Hough House. SALx: £1,105 - 6 Crossapol: £990 - 13 Moss: £965(2) and £895 - Drumaglea. SIMx: £1,070 and £930(2) - Lochphuil: £900 - 1 Hough House.

Heifers: AAX: £815 - Hillcrest. BRBx: £900 - Ruaig. CHARx: £1,205(4), £1,055(9), £1,045(5), £1,015(7) and £845(2) - Heylipol Farm. LIMx: £905(2) - Druimasaidh: £880 - Ruaig. SALx: £1,105, £1,065 and £905 - Drumaglea. SIMx: £870 and £860 - Lochphuil. In-calf cows: £915 - Heylipol Farm: £885 - Drumaglea. Farrow Cows: £995 - Benview: £985, £975 and £965 - Drumaglea: £955 and £915 - Croish. Top prices per kilo: Bullocks: AAX: 257p - Hillcrest(2) and Heylipol Farm(4): 251p(2) - Heylipol Farm. BRBx: 306p - 15 Crossapol: 294p, 287p and 277p and 276p(2) - Ruaig. BSHX: 236p(6) - Middleton Farm. CHARx: 315p(3), 299p(6), 297p(4), 290p(7), 285p, 284p, 283p(5), 275p(4), 267p(3), 266p(4), 263p(2) - Heylipol Farm. HERx: 214p(3) - Clachan. LIMx: 294p - 6 Barrapol and Ruaig: 287p - Hillcrest and Ruaig: 281p(4) - Heylipol Farm: 280p - 1 Kilkenneth: 279p(4), 276p and 275p - Ruaig: 274p

- Heylipol Farm: 267p(2) - Vault: 263p - Parkhouse: 260p - Hillcrest: 256p(5) - Heylipol Farm: 256p - 6 Balevullin: 255p - 6 Barrapol: 254p - Mainroad: 253p - 5 Balevullin(2) and Heylipol Farm: 252p(3) - Heylipol Farm: 251p - 3 Kenovay: 249p and 247p - Ruaig: 243p - 6 Balevullin: 242p - Ruaig. LUING: 237p - 1 Hough House. SALx: 261p - Ruaig: 255p, 244p & 240p(2) - 6 Crossapol. SIMx: 272p - Mainroad: 266p(2), 264p(3) and 257p - Lochphuil. Heifers: AAX: 232p(5) - Hillcrest. BRBx: 252p - 15 Crossapol: 244p & 243p - Ruaig. CHARx: 312p(3), 275p(9), 273p(4), 266p(7) & 257p(2) - Heylipol Farm. LIMx: 266p - Ruaig: 257p(2) - Hillcrest: 252p - Vault: 252p(3) - Hillcrest: 247p - Mainroad: 246p - Ruaig: 245p - Mainroad: 244p - Ruaig. SALx: 268p(5) - Drumaglea: 244p - Ruaig. SIMx: 249p, 246p, 244p(3) & 243p(2) - Lochphuil. Cows: 160p, 158p and 150p - Drumaglea: 138p - Benview: 129p and 127p - Drumaglea: 125p and 124p - Croish: 124p - Drumaglea.

# Staffin remembers fallen US airmen



REMEMBERED: Nine airmen killed in a crash could be commemorated on Staffin war memorial

A NORTH Skye community is preparing to mark the 70th anniversary of a plane crash which killed nine American airmen, just months before the end of the second world war.

The fatal accident on March 3 1945 saw a B-17 Flying Fortress crash during fog at Beinn Edra, Staffin, on its way to a RAF base in Wales, after departing from America.

To commemorate the tragedy, when many local people tried to rescue the stricken crew, Staffin community council will hold a memorial event on Saturday March 7.

It is hoped the names of the American servicemen will be added to the Staffin War Memorial, provided funding can be secured.

The plane crew were part of the Allied Forces, like the Staffin men listed on the memorial, and the move is a mark of respect and a tribute to their wartime efforts.

Kim Marti, an American relative of one of the men killed in the crash, has welcomed the plans.

She said: 'I felt compelled to learn all I could about my great uncle Harold D Blue, who was the flight engineer on that ill-fated plane.'

'I have read articles published at the time of the accident and what resonated with me was how quickly the people of Staffin rallied to try to assist in any rescue effort they could.'

'Now, 70 years later, the Staffin community again is showing compassion and respect for our US military men by remembering our fallen men.'

Dr Terence Christian, a Glasgow University archaeologist who has investigated the crash site, has also agreed to deliver a talk after the ceremony and will present new findings on the tragedy.

Commemorations will take place from 2pm at the Staffin war memorial.

Donations to the cost of engraving are welcomed and anyone with items related to the crash which could be borrowed for inclusion in an exhibit is asked to contact Hugh Ross of Staffin Community Trust on 01470 562 464 or staffin.ido@gmail.com.

# Diving trainer recognised for outstanding contribution to industry



PRESTIGIOUS: Alf Leadbitter has been recognised for his outstanding contribution to diver training

ONE OF the world's most experienced divers has been recognised with a prestigious award.

Alf Leadbitter, diver training authority at Fort William's Underwater Centre, won the prize for outstanding contribution at the annual Subsea UK awards last week in Aberdeen's exhibition and conference centre.

Mr Leadbitter's successful career in the diving industry, spanning

50 years as a supervisor, instructor and assessor, has seen him travel the globe to share his expertise.

Now based in Lochaber, the Perth man has worked at the Underwater Centre for more than 30 years, where he has led diver training for the last 10 years.

He said: 'I feel absolutely honoured and privileged to have won this award, to be

acknowledged in such a way for doing a job that I enjoy so much is very special indeed.'

Steve Ham, general manager of the Underwater Centre, said: 'Everyone at the centre is absolutely delighted that Alf has received this industry recognition, it is very much deserved.'

'Alf has made a significant contribution to commercial diving across the entire subsea industry.'



# Historic heart scheduling to be re-assessed

HISTORIC Scotland has decided to set aside its earlier decision not to make Mid Argyll's Tinker's Heart a scheduled monument.

Instead it has decided to look a fresh at the arrangement of quartz stones set in a heart shape where, since the 1700s, travellers married, christened babies and honoured their dead.

This time Historic Scotland will take into account an equalities impact assessment.

But scheduling the stones at the crossroads of the old Hell's Glen and Strachur roads overlooking Loch Fyne, would not change ownership, give rights of access or lead to restoration and protection, warned Fiona Hyslop, cabinet secretary for culture, Europe and external affairs, who was speaking at the public petitions committee on Tuesday.

'Historic Scotland can do much but it cannot compel local co-operation,' she said.

Historic Scotland's Barbara Cummins, director of heritage management, said there were around 300,000 recorded monuments in Scotland and only three per cent were scheduled. 'Many monuments do not meet the criteria for scheduling but few have challenged us as much as this has,' she said.

Scheduling reassessment will take around three to six months.



The entrance to the Tinker's Heart monument.

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### Scotland and Northern Ireland outperform UK housing market

Supply and demand varied across UK in January and 49 per cent more London surveyors saw prices fall in January 2015 according to the latest RICS UK Residential Market Survey.

Scotland and Northern Ireland's housing market outperformed the rest of the UK in January, with more buyer enquiries, stronger price growth and higher confidence in the outlook.

While nationally, the number of potential new buyer enquiries fell for the seventh consecutive month, Scotland saw the greatest buyer interest with several respondents suggesting the new land and buildings transaction tax (LBTT) will prompt more first time buyers to get on the property ladder.

Meanwhile, Northern Ireland's housing market witnessed the strongest price momentum for the fifth consecutive month, with 47 per cent more respondents reporting increases in prices.

However, the national results, which are based on England and Wales only, continue to signal a cooling market and price growth has all but levelled off with just 2 per cent more surveyors expecting prices to increase over the next three months (its slowest pace since May 2013).

Within England, London market conditions continue to deteriorate with prices, buyer enquiries and sales falling. The latest data shows 49 per cent more respondents saw prices in the capital decline and the short-term confidence outlook is negative, despite the longer terms sales outlook being more upbeat.

In the lettings market 19 per cent more respondents reported a further rise in tenant demand during the three months to January and while supply appears to be dipping once again, there is anecdotal evidence to suggest that some new build rental properties are coming to market and surveyors' rental growth expectations now stand at 4.6 per cent per annum over the course of the next five years.

Despite a month in which mortgage approvals fall to their one of their lowest levels, the number of agreed sales showed a slight increase in January (up from 19.1 to 19.7) and the 12 month member forecast is more optimistic around activity levels with 48 per cent of surveyors still expecting sales to rise.

Our analysis The changes to stamp duty and pending introduction of LBTT in Scotland are, to varying degrees, providing an in-



Scotland and Northern Ireland's housing market on the up

centive to first time buyers, but there remain a number of challenges to market, such as ongoing affordability constraints, lack of stock and an air of caution in the run-up to the general election.

Overall, while the RICS lead indicators suggest the level of housebuilding looks set to increase over the course of 2015, the volume of home starts will still fall considerably short of the number of new households being formed, let alone making a dent in the historic shortfall of housing across all tenures.

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## 'Robo-cars' turning science fiction into science fact

WHEN first announced, driverless car technology was seen by many as science fiction.

But now, with trials started on the so-called 'robo-cars' the technology appears to have split opinion in the UK amongst industry experts and the public.

The new technology for these vehicles boasts that it is able to give complete control to an on-board computer with the car guided by radar, laser sensors, cameras and sat nav.

Several major car manufacturers are already developing self-driving vehicles, including Volvo, Nissan, Mercedes-Benz, Ford, Vauxhall, Volkswagen and Honda, and they have been joined by internet giant Google in advancing the technology.

All models are expected to have a manual over-ride, allowing the driver to take control if necessary.

Brake, the road safety charity, hailed the launch, on February 11, of three driverless vehicle trials as an exciting step towards a safer, more sustainable future for UK road travel, and a long-term goal of ending needless road deaths.

They will last from 18 to 36 months, and will assess how driverless vehicles function in everyday life on public roads and their scope for making road travel safer and more sustainable.

The trials will look at how the technology can be used to improve public and private transport in busy and complex road environments.



Volvo V60 self-driving car at the 2014 New York International Auto Show

### Predicted benefits of the technology include:

- cutting the 94 per cent of road deaths and injuries that involve human error;
- saving the six working weeks the average driver in England would otherwise spend driving
- providing better access to sustainable and low-cost transport for

everyone, including the 14 per cent of men, 31 per cent of women and 46 per cent of 17-30-year-olds who don't hold a full driving licence.

Julie Townsend, deputy chief executive of Brake, said: 'We believe driverless technology could hold the key to ending the needless suffering caused every day by road deaths and serious injuries.'

'We witness the aftermath of road casualties, and the terrible and lasting impact on families and communities, through our support services for crash victims.'

'Also there were concerns raised about liability and whether these vehicles could be insured because computer error could easily be called into question on any incident involving a driverless car.'

According to the survey, nearly 80 per cent of motorists felt there would be added complications to resolving insurance disputes involving robo-cars, and that computer error would always be suspected as the cause of the crash, which would make premiums considerably higher than regular vehicles.

The driverless vehicle trials were launched in Greenwich by transport minister Claire Perry and business secretary Vince Cable, following the publication of a department for trans-

port report setting out the pathway for the widespread introduction of the technology.

The trials, being led by three consortia and supported by government funding, are taking place in Greenwich, Bristol, and a combined project split between Milton Keynes and Coventry.

UK Transport minister Claire Perry said: 'Driverless cars are the future. I want Britain to be at the forefront of this exciting new development, to embrace a technology that could transform our roads and open up a brand new route for global investment.'

'These are still early days but today is an important step. The trials present a fantastic opportunity for this country

to take a lead internationally in the development of this new technology.'

Business secretary Vince Cable added: 'The UK is at the cutting edge of automotive technology - from the all-electric cars built in Sunderland, to the Formula 1 expertise in the Midlands. It's important for jobs, growth and society that we keep at the forefront of innovation, that's why I launched a competition to research and develop driverless cars.'

'The projects will help to ensure we are world-leaders in this field and able to benefit from what is expected to be a £900 billion industry by 2025.'

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DEATHS

**DEAN** - William Read passed away peacefully on Thursday, February 12, 2015, treasured husband of Judith, beloved father of Susan and Jonathan, he will be so much missed by family and friends.

**ELLERINGTON** - Peacefully but suddenly at Southern General Hospital, Glasgow on February 14, 2015 in his 87th year, Ron Ellerington beloved husband of Joan, dear father of Margaret, Duncan and Jonathan and a much loved grandfather. Sadly missed.

**MACCOLL** - (River Lochy). Peacefully at home on February 10, 2015, Hugh aged 85, dear husband of Florence, father of Alison and Ewan and grandad to Victoria and Alexander. Funeral service will be held at 11am on Monday, February 23 in Kilmunivag Church, Spean Bridge and interment at Blairour Cemetery.

**MACGILLIVRAY** - Violet Muir (née Cameron) of Barcaldine Home Farm, died peacefully at Stalker Croft on February 17, 2015 in her 95th year. Dearly loved wife of the late Donald MacGillivray. Much loved mother of Ewen and Mary. Treasured mother-in-law, granny and great-grandmother and loved sister of Nancy and the late Donald and Isobel. Funeral to take place on Monday February 23, 2015 at Achnaba Church, Archatan at 1.00pm. Family flowers only please.

**MACLELLAN** - Muriel. Passed away peacefully at home on Monday February 16, 2015. Sadly missed by daughters Catherine, Margaret & family. Funeral being held at St Mary's RC Church on Saturday February 21, 2015 at 11am.

**ROBERTSON** - Peacefully at home on February 11, 2015 in his 83rd year, Robert Robertson (Sugar), beloved husband of Margaret, much loved dad to Anne, loving papa to Robert and a dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle. Sorely missed.

**WOOD** - Sheila. Peacefully on February 15, 2015 at Canniesburn Nursing Home, Bearsden, but formerly of Kentallen, Argyll. Sheila (née Andrews), aged 81 years, beloved wife of the late William Wood. Funeral service at Clydebank Crematorium, North Dalmotrar on Monday, February 23, at 11.30am.

**WHITEOAK** - David - South Gosforth. After a long battle with cancer on Saturday, February 7, 2015 aged 59 years. Son of Ailsa and the late Geoff, beloved husband of Diane, father of James and stepfather of John, Chris and Peter, grandfather of Phoebe, Kent, Daniel, John and Oliver and brother of John. Would family and friends please meet for funeral service at Jesmond United Reformed Church, Newcastle Upon Tyne on Saturday February 21 at 11.00am prior to interment at Jesmond Old Cemetery, Newcastle Upon Tyne at 12.15pm. Any flowers to Co-operative Funeralcare Benwell, Newcastle Upon Tyne (0191 2731311). A celebration of David's life will be held at the Gosforth Park Marriott Hotel. All welcome.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**BUCHANAN** - Michael and family would like to thank all relatives and friends for all the kindness and support shown to us by way of flowers, cards, calls and visits following the sad and sudden loss of Anne. Special thanks to Rev. Dugald Cameron for a lovely service and Ian MacInnes of D & A Munn for his personal service. Thanks also all to ambulance and staff at Lorn & Islands Hospital and the Rowantree Hotel.

**CHILDS** - Bernard George, much loved husband, father and grandad, passed away peacefully at home on February 7, 2015. The family would like to convey their heartfelt thanks for all the kind expressions of sympathy and messages of condolence since the loss of Bernard. The kindness, compassion and generosity of those who were involved in Bernard's care will never be forgotten. Special thanks to Hilary, Gaynor, the district nurses, Marie Curie, Bridget and the Oban Hospice, the Oban Carers' Centre, Oban Dementia Centre and Hamish Hoey and Sons. Sincere thanks to Carol and Elizabeth for making the funeral service so personal and special. It was lovely to see so many of Bernard's friends there. Grateful thanks to all those who have made donations to Macmillan Cancer Support.

**Oban Times** BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS  
**Oban Times** BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

**KENNEDY** - Fiona would like to thank all friends following the sad and tragic loss of Angus after his short illness. Many thanks for all bouquets and cards, gratefully received. Special thanks to Catherine, Barnini (France), Esther and John Allan MacRae and Corinne and Doug Galletly for all their help and support. To Coll Medical Practice, Dr Felicity Brand. Special thanks to Gillian Bradford for my floral tribute. To John Fraser for assistance with arrangements. Project Trust and Ross Evans for Order of Service. Rev James Beaton for spiritual support and comfort. To the many who travelled from all parts of the UK and lastly the Scottish Air Ambulance Service for helping Angus to spend his last days at his beloved home Cloiche, Isle of Coll. A retiral collection raised over £1500 for the Scottish Air Ambulance Service.

**LOWE** - The family of the late Mr Robert Lowe, Kentallen, would like to thank all those who attended his funeral service and those who kindly gave donations in his memory. They would also like to say thank you for all the comfort and support they have received from everyone.

**MACCONNACHER** - Alexander, Jill and Sander Jr. would like to thank sincerely all our relatives, friends and acquaintances for their great kindness and support following the sad loss of our dearly loved wife and mum on Tuesday, January 27. We would like to thank all who sent flowers, cards, Mass cards and other tokens of sympathy and affection and for the very large attendance at May's Requiem Mass at St. Mun's, Ballachulish on Tuesday, February 3, which was celebrated by Fr Andrew Barrett (St. Mun's) and Canon Iain MacMaster and for church music by Jimmy Forsyth (organ) and Michelle MacPhee (flute) and to Piper John MacCallum. Special thanks to Fr Andrew for his many and frequent comforting home visits. We also express our gratitude to Dr. Calder, her colleagues, nurses and carers for their constant care and attention to May while she was confined at home and to Scott of John McLellan (Funeral Directors) and to The Holly Tree Hotel for hospitality.

**MACPHAIL** - The family of the late Bunty MacPhail would like to thank everyone who cared for her and made it possible for her to end her days peacefully in her beloved Mull. To all at Salen Surgery, Mull and Iona Community Hospital and her caring team who supported her at home and in Bowman Court we are extremely grateful. Thanks to the Rev. Johnny Paton for an excellent service, to Billy McClymont for his efficient funeral arrangements and to Salen Hotel for providing the funeral tea. Our appreciation goes to all who attended the funeral from near and far, sent expressions of sympathy and gave so generously to the retiral offering. Iomadh taing.

**SCOTT** - The family of the late Martin Scott would like to thank all medical staff in Taynuilt and Connel and all members of Carers Direct whose compassion and care helped Martin during his last weeks. Thanks also to all neighbours and friends who sent condolences, flowers and food. Lastly thank you to everyone who joined us in our fond family remembrances of Martin in Taynuilt Sports Pavilion on Sunday, February 8. Special thanks to those who provided and served refreshments and for the kind donations to Practical Action in Martin's memory.

**CAMERON** - Ian D. Remembering our friend (Hoots), who passed away February 23, 2014. Gone but not forgotten. - Vookie and Irene.

**CAMPBELL** - Remembering our devoted Dad, John, who passed away February 20, 1986. Memories most precious. - Love Avril and John.

**CLARK** - In memory of Gary, died February 24, 2012. Loved and missed everyday.

**FERGUSON** - Loving memories of a much loved wife, mum, granny, sister and aunty Georgina (Ina) who died on February 18, 2012. We have you in our hearts. Love always. - DJ and family x

**LAMONT** - In loving memory of my dear sister Joanne, who passed away February 17, 2009. Sadly missed along life's way. Quietly remembered every day. - Ann.

**LOCKHART** - In loving memory of my dear mother Violet, who passed away February 18, 2013. Miss you and love you always. - Barbara and family, Dundee.

**MACAULAY** - Precious memories of Ian, a loving and caring husband, dad and grampa, who passed away February 20, 2013. You always had a smile to share. A laugh, a joke and time to care. A wonderful nature, warm and true. Are the many memories we have of you. - Mary, Neil, John and Ginah, Oban, Bulgaria and Portsmouth.

We love and miss you Grampa - Emma, Callum and Jay.

**MACARTHUR** - In fond memory of John, who died February 21, 2010 and his son John, who died March 25, 2010. - From all the family at Middleton, Tiree.

**MACDONALD** - Treasured memories of our beloved mother, gran and great-gran, Margaret MacDonald, who passed away on February 21, 2005. Sorely missed. Also remembering loved ones gone before. Carson ma ta bhios sibh ri bron. Mar d'heum gun dochas mor. Am bheil sa 'bhas ach teachdair sith. Gan gairm gu rioghachd na glòir.

Dear mam give our love to da - Inserted by her loving daughters Maryflora, Sandra, May, Margaret and families.

**MACDOUGALL** - Ewen. Ga Chuimhneachadh gach latha. - Eleanor.

**MACFARLANE** - In loving memory of a much loved sister and aunt, Cathie, who was killed so tragically on February 19, 1991 in Oban. Always in our thoughts, and forever in our hearts.

- Corinne and Alan, Aberdeenshire and Flora MacGillivray, Keith, Moray.

**MACGILL** - In loving memory of Donald MacGill, who passed away February 23, 1991. Always in our thoughts. Beloved husband of the late Nancy and father of Anne and Neil.

**MACKINNON** - In loving memory of Mary, a much loved wife, mum, mother-in-law and granny, who passed away on February 20, 2007. Forever in our hearts. - Willie, Fiona, Robert, Janet and families.

**MACLEAN** - In loving memory of our dear mum, gran and great gran, Annag MacLean, Kinlochleven, passed away February 10, 2011 also remembering our dad and grampa Calum MacLean, who passed away May 19, 1984. Loved and remembered always. - Ian, Elizabeth and family and Roddy, Fiona and family.

**MCLENNAN** - In loving memory of a dear brother Willie, who died on February 24, 2008. Loved and remembered always. - Margaret, Elsie and families.

**MCLOUNNAN** - Precious memories of my dear husband and our father David, who died February 17, 2006. Remembering you is easy. We do it every day. Missing you is a headache. That never goes away. - Loving wife Nan, Christine and family, Kenny and family.

**MORTON** - In loving memory of a dear wife and mother Cath, passed away on February 24, 1995. Forever in our thoughts. - John, John and David.

In loving memory of a dearest daughter-in-law, passed away on February 24, 1995. Always in my thoughts. - Mum.

In loving memory of a dear mum and nana, Cath, who passed away on February 24, 1995. Not a day goes by without thinking of you. - Love always, Norman, Karen, Christopher, Lewis and Arran xxx

**POULTON** - In loving memory of my grandson and our nephew, Danny, who died on February 15, 1992, aged 3 days old. Always in our hearts. - Freena and family.

**ROBERTSON** - In memory of my husband Tom, who passed away February 18, 2011. Always remembered. - Jean.

**WALKER** - Remembered with love, Willie, husband, dad and grandad, who died February 25 2014. Always in our thoughts. A light is from our household gone, a voice we loved is stilled. A place is vacant in our home that never can be filled. - Anne and family.

**Oban Times** BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

**Oban Times** BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

**Oban Times** BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

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**MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE** Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch. Donations always gratefully accepted. Please contact Mrs Lillian Kermode, Tynwald, Glenburn, Soroba Road, Oban. 01631 571009.

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GRADUATION



Kathrine MacNeil graduated on November 26, 2014, in a B.N Adult Nursing. Daughter of Dougie and Julie MacNeil, granddaughter of Moira and late Dougie MacNeil. Former pupil of St Columba's primary school and Oban High school.

Hannah's takes on Nevis Bakery products



PIE-EYED: Hannah's newsagent owner Shona Anderson with shop assistant Charlene Gillies. 16\_108bakery01

AN OBAN newsagent on Stevenson Street has taken on both the food and a staff member after a bakery across the road closed down. Shona Anderson, who owns Hannah's newsagent, said she was delighted to be able to take on the

baked goods as well as staff member Sandra Mason, who she said 'came in with the pies' when the shop took over from Nevis Bakery in November. 'Nevis closed down on the Wednesday and we were selling their pies and sau-

sage rolls on the Thursday,' explained Shona, who has owned the shop for five years. 'It was great to open on the Thursday too, because it's always our busiest day, as that's when The Oban Times comes out.'



Marie MacDougall, right, who cares for her daughter Emma, next to her artwork, which expressed the emotions involved in being a carer. She is pictured with Mairi Fleck of the North Argyll Carer's centre, who guided the project. 16\_108library01

Carer's expressive artwork on display

ARTWORK allowing carers in Oban a chance to express their feelings has been put on exhibition in the town's library. Professional photogra-

pher Cameron Harris assisted the adult carers from the North Argyll Carer's centre in putting together images and words, expressing the emotions they feel

towards their challenging work as carers.

For young carers, assisted by Mull photographer Sarah Darling, the project involved making mock-up CD covers from their own images.

Marie MacDougall from Kilmelford, who is a registered carer for her daughter Emma, who has Down's Syndrome, explained how the project had helped her. 'Caring is such a challenging thing to do, and sometimes you can feel very frustrated, so any chance to get those feelings out in the open and share them with others is great,' she said.

Mairi Fleck, training and activity co-ordinating manager with the carer's centre, added: 'Hopefully people can see the range of emotions carers feel and the artwork can be appreciated and enjoyed.'

The exhibition ends tomorrow (Friday).

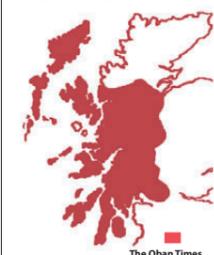


Some of the work produced by the young carers, who made mock-up CD covers using their own photographs. 16\_108library02

The Oban Times

& West Highland Times

THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



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# Lochaber back to winning ways

**Lochaber** 19  
**Shetland** 18  
**Caledonia North Division Two**

LOCHABER got back to winning ways last Saturday with a narrow victory against visiting Shetland in the Caledonia league, north division two.

With the sun shining on Banavie on Saturday, the home side anticipated a tough game as bottom of the league Shetland has a style of play which has troubled them for a few seasons.

Lochaber started well and put in a series of attacking plays that allowed them to camp inside the Shetland 22 for more than 10 minutes but an aggressive defence, a feature of the day, from Shetland kept the scores at 0-0.

After a break out Lochaber gave away a penalty and Shetland duly punished Lochaber to go 0-3 up.

That again galvanised the Lochaber attack and after several waves of attack, a fine flowing move saw Mike McLeish going over for a well-worked and deserved try.

Just three minutes later Jack Baxter scored Lochaber's second try which was converted giving a halftime score of 12-3 to the home side. After the restart

Lochaber wanted to put some distance between the sides but it was Shetland who, after some very aggressive work at the breakdown, managed to score a penalty and then a try in short order which brought the score to 12-13 to the visitors.

This seemed to sting the Lochaber side who responded through another fine try for Euan Larter, which was also converted to make it 19-13.

Lochaber had an opportunity to go further ahead but unfortunately missed the penalty attempt, but this game still had a twist left and with two minutes to go Lochaber again camped inside the Shetland 22.

Shetland somehow managed to win the ball and break out to score a try meaning if they could score the conversion they would win.

But the attempt was missed, giving Lochaber the victory in what coach Stewart Sandison called 'a well-deserved victory in a very tough game'.

This Saturday Lochaber will travel east to take on Aberdeen University in the Caledonia league.

The next home game will be against Garioch on Saturday March 7.



VICTORY: Lochaber's Calum MacDonald making the break

## Tradewinds title goes to Darren

### Darts

DARREN Sutherland was the winner of this season's Tradewinds singles darts league.

The victor beat Martyn Cameron in the semi-final before achieving a 4-2 defeat over Duncan Carmichael, who got his place in the final after beating John Matheson in their semi-final clash.

The top eight players from the previous 10 weeks of the competition gathered in Corpach for the event on Friday and the consolation final was won by Stevie Clydesdale who beat John Woods 3-2.

Quick legs of the night were 11 darts by Martyn Cameron, 14 darts by Darren Sutherland and a 15-dart leg by James Whyte, and the highest finish of the night was 101 by Michael Slesser.

Continuing the high standard of darts, 11 180s were scored, three by James Whyte, three by Ian Robertson, all in one game, two by Duncan Carmichael and Martyn Cameron respectively and one by Darren Sutherland.

Organiser Duncan Carmichael called the league a 'big success' and welcomed all new players to Tradewinds bar, Corpach, at 8pm on a Friday to take part.

## Starter's orders for new running event

### Athletics

A NEW Fort William running event is to make its debut this weekend.

Runduro, by No Fuss Events, will take in 20km through the town and Glen Nevis, with a mix of timed and non-timed stages, to allow the many visiting competitors to take in the stunning scenery on Saturday (February 21).

Eight racing stages will make up 11km of the route, while the rest will give participants an opportunity to relax, catch their breath and take in the views.

As a fringe event of the Fort William Mountain Festival, the race will start and finish from Cameron Square, with registration from 7.30am.

Runners can enter the race at [www.nofussevents.co.uk](http://www.nofussevents.co.uk)

## Rugby club dinner tickets up for grabs

### Rugby

TICKETS are still available for Lochaber Rugby Club's dinner dance next month.

The Moorings Hotel event on March 21 will also include the club's annual prizegiving.

Tickets or tables of eight can be booked by calling 07979338286.

## Fort William cuffed at County

FORT William Football Club went down 4-0 to Nairn County for the second time in a fortnight at the weekend.

The Claggan side travelled to Station Park for the Highland League fixture on Saturday and the scoreline matched that of the Breedon Aggregates cup preliminary round played on January 31.

But Fort manager Calum McLean said he was disappointed

### Football

in the referee's decision to award a penalty to Nairn at the start of the second half, which saw Conor Gethings bring the score to 2-0.

He said: 'It was never a penalty, the referee must have been the only person in the whole ground who thought it should have been a penalty. Even the Nairn team seemed embarrassed that it had

been awarded. We had been playing well in the first half and that just totally knocked the stuffing out of us.

'That decision may have cost us the game'.

As *The Oban Times* went to print, the Fort boys were preparing for a clash against Rothes last night (Wednesday), in the first game at Claggan Park since November. Speaking ahead of the game, MacLean said: 'This is

a really big one for us and we've got Rothes away on Saturday too.

'I'm feeling confident, we're playing at home and we are above them [Rothes] in the league, so there's no reason not to be confident.

'If we get the six points from these games it will pull us up from the pack below us.'

The next game at Claggan Park will be against Inverurie Locos on Saturday February 28.

## Home club runners fill top three places

CLEAR, crisp and cool weather made for perfect conditions for this year's Lochaber Athletic Club (LAC) Blackwater Dam race.

It was a clear win for the LAC field, as the top three runners were local. Michael Bossard was first of the 53 runners in Kinlochleven on Sunday, finishing the route in one hour, 17 minutes and three seconds, 52 seconds ahead of second place Tom Smith, with Stephen Burns finishing third in one hour, 20 minutes and seven seconds.

Continuing the Lochaber victory, Diane Baum was first lady home and 11th overall, crossing the finish line in one hour, 28 minutes and seven seconds.

Race marshal and LAC chairman Ian Adams wasn't so lucky, as he suffered a puncture at the turn point on the dam wall and ended up taking his bike for a long walk all the way home.

Aileen Duncan of Lochaber was the only competitor not to complete the race, as she twisted

### Athletics

her ankle during the final stretch.

The next race will be the Vittrified Fort on March 1, from Glen Nevis restaurant. Registration from 10am.

Top 20 finishers, LAC unless otherwise stated: 1 Michael Boss 1:17:03; 2 Tom Smith 1:17:55; 3 Stephen Burns 1:20:07; 4 Luke Taylor, Highland Hill Runners, 1:20:07; 5 Tim Brand 1:23:06; 6 Stephen Burns (junior) 1:24:11; 7 Bruce MacLean 1:25:17; 8 Hughie MacKintosh 1:25:55; 9 Aidan Donnelly 1:26:16; 10 Mark Willets, Melbourne Midday Milers, 1:26:42; 11 Diane Baum 1:28:07; 12 Ali Kennedy 1:29:00; 13 Allan Lamont 1:29:10; 14 Neil Waslidge, unattached, 1:29:20; 15 Ian Mackellaig 1:30:07; 16 Andy Craig 1:30:34; 17 Gordie Taylor, Highland Hill Runners, 1:32:49; 18 William Taylor, unattached, 1:34:04; 19 Owen Bass, Deeside Runners, 1:34:20; 20 Ronnie Turner 1:36:56.

## YOUNG PHOENIX FIGHTER IS BIG HIT

# Teenage boxer impresses as he takes on former British champion

### Boxing

AT ONLY 18 years old, Lochaber Phoenix boxer Igor Sliwinski showed his talent this weekend when he took on three-time British champion Lewis Benson.

Although the verdict went to Benson, the Edinburgh boxer who has also been Scottish champion four times, there was applause for Sliwinski in a tough bout which marked only his second senior contest.

The opening round of the Scottish Championship preliminaries on Saturday saw Benson try to goad Sliwinski into making a mistake but the teen feinted regularly as he came forward to try and counter the counterpuncher.

Benson edged this round but both boxers worked well at a strong pace.

The second round was where

Sliwinski made his mark as he started to change the pace of his feet during attacks, launching forward in two and three phases and landing the last punch in each exchange.

Incredibly Sliwinski was one-all in rounds with an experienced, accomplished, internationally renowned boxer in only the teenager's first senior championships going into the last round.

This is when Benson used his vast experience to great effect.

He made sure to win the first couple of exchanges of the stanza and the relatively inexperienced Sliwinski panicked and started to lose his shape as he lunged forward, abandoning his earlier tactics.

This gave Benson a chance to land a few counters and make sure he kept ahead until the end of the session.



TALENT: Igor Sliwinski

## Alleycats in pole position

NOW 16 weeks into the Lochaber Building Supplies ten pin bowling league, things remain tight at the top in both competitions.

Alleycats stay in the lead of the scratch division with 67 points, with The Creeps in second place with 66 points and Artoe/Nevis Radio in third with 64.

In the handicap division Alleycats have regained the top spot with 59 points. Last week's winners, Rotavators, move to second place, also on 59 points with Ardtoe/Nevis Radio in third with 57.

The top individual scratch game this week came from Rossamy Wareing of Ardtoe/Nevis Radio, with a score of 207. Other good games came from Steven Burns, The Creeps, with 188 and Tony

### Ten-pin bowling

Whitelocke, Alleycats, with 183.

Wareing also had the top handicap game of 259, the top two game scratch series with 329 and the top two game handicap series of 433.

Ardtoe/Nevis Radio rolled the top scratch team game of the week of 585, the top handicap game of 807 and the top two handicap team series of 1528.

Alleycats had the top two game scratch team series with 1104.

The highest scratch average is currently held by Pam Weller, Alleycats, on 154, followed by Tony Whitelocke, also of Alleycats, on 153 and Stewart Duncan, The Creeps, on 147.



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# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

S Cameron, Lochy Road, Fort William

T Emslie, Rhuvaal Road, Oban

## THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £1800

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

### Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

### Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter. Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB



Please tape your £1 coin here

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Tel No. ....

# Easthall are star struck as Saints march on in Marshall Trophy

'The narrow pitch and bumpy conditions made it very difficult for the players but we stuck to our game plan and it worked out well in the end'

**Easthall Star** 1  
**Oban Saints** 4  
**Jimmy Marshall Trophy - 1st round**

IT WAS the romance of the cup for Oban Saints on Valentine's Day as they took the first step towards a successful defence of the Scottish Amateur Football League Jimmy Marshall Trophy with a hard-fought win over Easthall Star at Stepford Football Centre last Saturday.

Ross Maitland, Myles McAuley and Ally McKerracher were unavailable so Alex Craik, Scott Maitland and Dean Smith all came into the starting line-up.

The narrow, bumpy pitch at Stepford was not exactly to Saints liking and with the hosts giving them no time on the ball it took a while for them to get going.

The visitors looked to have a good chance to open the scoring in the fifth minute when Lewis Cameron ran onto a defence splitting pass from Donald Campbell. Unfortunately the referee ruled Lewis to be offside which can charitably be described as a very close call from Mr Auld.

One minute later Saints fell behind when Dean Smith lost possession in the centre circle.

The ball was quickly played out wide to John MacDonald who cut in from the right wing and fired a low right foot shot into the bottom corner of the net past Daniel Cassells' outstretched left hand.

The tight park was making it

difficult for Saints to use the flanks to good effect. However, they almost found some joy when Scott Maitland made a good run up the right wing and sent in a tantalising low cross which Dean Smith narrowly failed to connect with at the near post.

Saints were relatively untroubled at the back and kept probing for an opening but were finding the resolute Star defence difficult to penetrate.

The Oban side threatened on a couple of occasions from corner kicks but Star goalkeeper Andy McCunnie kept them at bay with some unorthodox but nonetheless effective saves.

### Level terms

Saints were back on level terms in the 35th minute thanks to a tactical switch from manager Iain Jackson.

Lewis Cameron was ordered to drop deeper into midfield to get on the ball a bit more, a move which paid instant dividends. Lewis picked the ball up on the half way line and sent Dean Smith off on a run up the right wing.

Dean's low cross picked out Allan MacKay in the box who controlled under pressure from the Star defence before calmly rolling the ball past the keeper and into the net.

The visitors survived a scare in the 44th minute when, after a succession of long throws and corner kicks which the Saints

### Football

rearguard of Marc MacCallum, Alex Craik and Dougal Graham repelled, the referee awarded Star a hotly disputed free kick on the edge of the Saints box.

In a move straight from the training ground the ball was played to the right hand side for dangerman John MacDonald to fire in a shot which crashed off the underside of the crossbar and, fortunately for Saints, back into play where it was scrambled to safety.

Saints capitalised on this slice of good fortune by proceeding to totally dominate the second half.

The Saints central midfield partnership of Paul Kerr and Donald Campbell were now well in control and continued to create chances for the strikers.

In the 56th minute a flowing move involving Lewis Cameron, Dean Smith and Allan MacKay was rounded off by Allan stroking the ball home from just inside the box.

However, the referee once again gave the benefit of a very tight offside decision to the home side.

Saints were becoming increasingly frustrated as it seemed the breakthrough wasn't going to come. Jackson elected to make some changes withdrawing Scott Maitland, Alex Craik and Dean Smith and replacing them with



SHIELD: Lewis Cameron shields the ball from Easthall defender Mark Young during last Saturday's Jimmy Marshall Cup tie at Stepford Football Centre. Lewis scored Saints' third goal

Match report and photos Derek Black

Martin Bonar, Jamie Graham and David McArthur. David made a quick impact on proceedings winning a 79th-minute free kick a yard outside the Star box and slightly left of centre.

Allan MacKay stepped up to drill a low shot past the five-man Star wall and just inside the keeper's right hand post to make the score 2-1.

Four minutes later Lewis Cameron was finally rewarded for his afternoon of tireless running.

He made a great run from deep through the inside right channel, easily outpacing the tiring Star

defence to bury a shot in the bottom corner of the net.

Saints completed the scoring in the 90th minute when David McArthur's shot from the edge of the box proved too hot to handle for the Star keeper who could only parry the ball into the path of the onrushing Martin Bonar.

Martin, who clearly has a keen eye for the goal, eagerly gobbled up the chance to make the final score 4-1. Saints now play Jamestown at home in the second round.

Saints' Jackson was relieved to get through a tough tie. He said:

'The narrow pitch and bumpy conditions made it very difficult for the players but we stuck to our game plan and we played some excellent football in the second half.'

'Credit to Easthall, they made things difficult for us but our superior fitness told in the end and we could, and probably should have scored another two or three goals.'

Saints are away this weekend to Busby on Saturday. The game will be played at Overlee Park with a 2pm kick-off. Referee is Jim Rose.



ON TARGET: Allan MacKay lines up the free kick which led to Saints' second goal.

## Spean men win Lochaber pre-season derby



### Shinty

A DERBY between Lochaber and Fort William saw Lochaber win 3-1 at their own pitch in a pre-season friendly.

It was the first match back at the helm for Lochaber boss Ally Ferguson on Saturday and his side fell behind during the first half at Spean Bridge after a goal by Fort's Graham Campbell.

But Scottish international Shaun Nicolson levelled just before referee Innes Wood's half time whistle and went on to score another two in the second half, a hat-trick that secured Lochaber's victory.

The second teams also enjoyed a friendly at Spean Bridge and goals from Findlay MacDonald and Danny Delaney of Lochaber and two from Fort's Ewan Campbell made a 2-2 draw in the morning game. At Canal Parks,

BATTLE: Niall MacPhee (Fort William) and Zandz Ferguson (Lochaber) battle for possession in midfield.

Caol, Kilmallie lifted the BSW cup thanks to a 2-1 win against Lovat in new manager Mark MacPherson's first game.

Lovat went in front on five minutes when Greg Matheson reacted first after home keeper Shane Gillies had knocked the ball down and Matheson made no mistake.

Kilmallie came close to levelling on 15 minutes but Lovat goalie Stuart MacDonald made a fine save with his foot to keep out a fierce drive from Kilmallie full forward Seb MacMillan.

Lovat's Kevin Bartlett hit the crossbar on 18 minutes as the game swung from end to end before Kilmallie equalised on 34 minutes when Michael Rodger sent a shot from distance into the back of the net.

Shane Gillies blocked a Jamie Matheson effort on 38 minutes but it was Kilmallie who would go in front as Kilmallie's MacMillan netted from close-range following a corner. The Kilmallie second team also won 1-0 at home against Inverness, thanks to Craig MacIsaac.



## Balla' win by one at Taynuilt

AIR TIME: Taynuilt's Fraser MacMillan jumps in to block John MacDonald of Ballachulish during their pre-season encounter at Taynuilt sportsfield. The away side won by a single goal from Lorne Brown. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



## Comfortable home win for Glenorchy

MY BALL: Scott Livingstone (white helmet) gets to the ball first to knock in Glenorchy's opening goal in their 2-0 win over Strachur at the Mart Park. Andrew Smith scored the Dalmally side's second goal

Photo: Stephen Lawson



## Celtic comeback too little, too late

GIVEN THE SLIP: Kenny Wotherspoon of Oban Celtic evades his marker during his team's 4-3 defeat to Glangarry at Mossfield on Saturday. A Wotherspoon goal looked to have given Celtic hope after conceding early goals but a Daniel Madej double in the second half was not enough to change the result. 07\_108celtic02

### Pre-season friendly fixtures

#### Shinty

##### Saturday February 14

Ballachulish v Lochside Rovers  
The Jubilee, Ballachulish, throw up tbc.  
Fort William v Lovat  
An Aird, Fort William, 1pm throw up.  
GMA v Kyles Athletic  
Peterson Park, Yoker.  
Glenorchy v Bute  
Mart Park, Dalmally, 2pm throw up.  
Glenorchy 2nds v Bute 2nds  
Mart Park, Dalmally, 12 noon throw up.  
Inverness v Caithness  
Bught Park, Inverness, 1pm throw up.  
Lochaber v Beuly  
Spean Bridge.  
Oban Lorn v Aberdour  
Mossfield, Oban, 1pm throw up.  
Ewan Morrison Memorial Cup - North Skye v South Skye  
Pairc nan Laoch, Skye, throw up tbc.

### Oban Lorn play in first ever match

#### Shinty

THE NEW Oban Lorn shinty club played their first match away to Tayforth on Saturday, losing 6-1.

Manager Jocky Martin said he was happy with his young side's performance and said five more experienced players were due to come into the team.

### Tobermory golf

#### Golf

TOBERMORY Golf Club men's section held a nine-hole Stableford competition on February 9: 1 Alasdair MacLeod, 19 points; 2 Ewan MacCrone 18 points; 3 John Wilshire 18 points.

Nine-hole medal result: 1 John Wilshire 37-11-26, 2 Alasdair MacLeod 41-10-31, 3 Graham Davidson 36-03-33.

### Islay golf

#### Golf

ISLAY Golf Club's Winter League was contested on February 15: 1 I MacCuaig, 35 Pts; 2 A Livingstone, 31 Pts; 3 A MacLean, 30 Pts. CSS 74

## National champion jumper has set her sights on raising the bar

A TALENTED young island athlete is once again scaling the height of Scottish athletics after claiming her second national title within a year.

Molly Reade, from Tobermory, Isle of Mull, took gold in the under-15 high jump at Scottish National Age Group Indoor Championships at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow on Sunday.

The 14-year-old had won silver at the under-16 Scottish Schools Indoor Championships two weeks previously and won gold at the under-14s high jump.

In winning the Scottish title at the weekend, the 5-foot-10-inch Tobermory high school pupil had clear jumps all the way to 1.60 metres, where she narrowly failed

### Athletics

that height. But the winning jump of 1.55 metres matched her personal best - and she is confident that the elusive 1.60 metres is not far off.

Molly said: 'The national competitions are always nerve-racking and exciting but you don't really know what's going to happen, so it was great to win.'

The Mull youngster said she felt 'proud' after she received messages of congratulations from across the island.

The absence of track and field facilities in Argyll and the added journey time of living on an island puts Molly at an immediate disadvantage. But she has adapted a training regime while

at home, using a trampoline in her garden and a wall at the end of her parents' driveway for her strength and conditioning work.

She devotes one night a week to high jump training at Mull Athletics Club with Bill MacCallum and Richard Henderson in the high school.

Molly's mother, Shona, said: 'The belief that Bill and Richard have shown in her is amazing and has contributed greatly to her success.'

'She trains on a wall outside our house, Lephain, and lots of people will see her in her high visibility vest.'

Having only started competing in the high jump aged 11, Molly has come a long way in the past three years and has received two sessions from high jump coach Ken Allen.

After a short break, the outdoor season, including the Highland games circuit, beckons for Molly, who aims to surpass 1.60 metres this year.

Shaun Doy, from Mid Argyll Athletic Club, won bronze in the under 15s pole vault at the indoor national championships on Sunday, clearing a new personal best of 2.40 metres.

This was a remarkable performance considering Shaun does not have access to pole vault facilities locally and achieved this using a training vaulting pole.

Another Mid Argyll athlete, Alfie Smith from Tayvallich, just



TITLE: Molly Reade matched her personal best in winning the national under-15 high jump championship



WINNING: Molly Reade, centre, with her gold medal Photos: Bobby Gavin

missed a medal in the under-13s high jump, finishing fourth. He also placed sixth in the shot putt.

Other Argyll athletes just missing out on medals were Emma Thompson from Oban who was fourth in the under-17s high jump, clearing 1.55 metres and Murdo Masterton from Dunbeg, who was fourth in the under-17s

shot putt. Murdo threw 13.12 metres in a competition where boys from England and Northern Ireland filled the top two places.

Finbar Dunne, from Oban, made a promising debut in the under-15 age group, throwing 9.15 metres in the shot putt to finish seventh.

On Saturday Ben Coates from Kilmore was unfortunate to get

injured while contesting both the 60m sprint and 60m hurdles in the under-17s. Ben won his 60 metres heat in 7.49 and qualified for the final in the 60m hurdles but then had to withdraw from both events. Ben recently won bronze at the Scottish Schools Championships in the over-16s 60 metres hurdles, recording a new personal best of 8.59 seconds.

## MMA men make their mark in Submission Quest fights

### Mixed martial arts

A FLEDGLING martial arts club in Oban is now a big hit on the national scene after its 10 team members took home five medals from a competition in Glasgow.

Oban Mix Martial Arts (MMA), which formed four years ago, competed last Saturday at Submission Quest, a nogi Brazilian-style ju-jitsu tournament at Bellahouston sports centre.

The ground submission fighting tournament was the first that Oban MMA has attended with a 10-man team and attracted clubs from all over Scotland.

Coach Iain 'Coogie' Potter said: 'The standard was as high as I've seen and everyone had at least five fights.'

'It is the first time we have taken a proper team to a tournament like this and it has been a big step up for us because we used to struggle to get anyone to these competitions.'

'This style of fighting is getting really big in Scotland and the standard has gone up in recent years. A few clubs even have Brazilian coaches - so to come away with five medals is a great achievement.'

Oban MMA's medals came across five different weight categories: Chris Rowan won bronze in the under-73kg weight category; Mateusz Grabiec won silver in the under-79kg category;



The Oban MMA team won five medals at Submission Quest.

Dawid Loukil won silver in the under-85kg category; Scott McKeith won silver in the under-97 kg category and Brendan McMillan won bronze in the 97kg category.

Coogie added: 'I think that a few years ago we were under-es-

timated and we had the element of surprise.'

'But now the other clubs know about us and realise we will be competing for medals, so it is harder for us to win things.'

'We try to learn as much as we can from seminars and I teach

myself from books but the sport is constantly evolving, so we need to try and keep up with the changes.'

Oban MMA meets at 7.30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays in the Oban martial arts centre above Stoddarts of Oban.

## Lancaster maintain title challenge with comeback

### Pool

THE LANCASTER 'A' made the daunting journey over the Connel bridge last Thursday to play the on-form Lochnell.

Due to unforeseen circumstances The Lancaster had not hit a ball in frustration for three weeks, in contrast to the home side, who in their opponents' absence had been picking up weekly plaudits.

A defeat for the Lancaster 'A' would take the championship out of their hands mathematically, meaning they would need an unlikely slip up from defending champions the Lochavullin's Cellar.

If the visitors did not realise the magnitude of the task facing them before the opening leg, two hours into play the cold reality of their precarious situation hit them so hard it could have registered on the Richter scale.

Staring down the barrel of defeat, on the wrong end of a 4-1 scoreline, the Lancaster 'A' started to climb off the canvas

and fight back. As the games were pulled back one by one, and the balance of power shifting, it was evident the hosts' self-doubt was running in tandem.

Each shot was now played with trepidation as both sets of players waited on the other to falter and eventually one did, allowing the Lancaster to secure what looked an unlikely two points.

The current title holders, the Lochavullin's Cellar still lead the way this season after another comfortable victory.

Markie Dan's 'B' were next to falter against the champions and, despite having home advantage, were helpless to stop the onslaught as the result was decided before the doubles section.

The third and final match of the week saw The Gluepot ease to victory over a despondent Lochavullin outfit.

Results: Lochnell 4-6 Lancaster A; Markie Dans B 3-7 Lochavullin's Cellar; Lochavullin 2-8 Gluepot.

Fixtures today (Thursday): Markie Dans A v Lochavullin's Cellar.

## Volleyball tournament debut

THE FIRST ever Argyll secondary school volleyball festival was held recently in Atlantis Leisure centre in Oban.

Hosted by Lorn volleyball club, the event on February 3 was part of the MacVolley Festival, an annual Scottish school tournament run by the Scottish Volleyball Association (SVA) with teams of both primary and secondary school pupils.

There were six teams competing in the primary 6 and 7 group. Two teams of S1 and S2 pupils from both Kinlochleven and Ballachulish high schools played Oban high, which was represented with three squads.

Altogether, 38 children took part in an action-packed day of volleyball, with Taynuilt victorious in the primary school tournament and Oban high school's second team taking the spoils amongst the secondary pupils.

## Scottish Amateur League results and fixtures

### Football

LAST Saturday's results: Jimmy Marshall Cup first round - Dunoon 1, Jameson 2, Easthall Star 1, Oban Saints 4; Coronation Cup - Rossvale 1, Tarbert 3; SAFL Premier Division - Alba Thistle 2 v Campbeltown Pupils 2; Premier Division Two - Dunoon Athletic 1 v Port Glasgow 3; Paisley 2, Lochgilhead Red Star 2.

This weekend's fixtures: Jimmy Marshall Cup second round - Haldane United v Campbeltown Pupils; Premier Division - Busby v Oban Saints; Premier Division One - Dunoon v Shawlands; Premier Division Two - Lochgilhead Red Star v South Camlachie; Easthall Star v Dunoon Athletic. Tarbert no game.

## Saints Youths results and fixtures

### Youth football

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s 9, Dumbarton United Blacks 0; Saints goalscorers were Euan Finlay (3), Aaron MacKay (2), Cammy Clark (2), Gavin Forgive and Daniel Sloss. Under 14s no game; Under 15s 5 v Renton Craigandro 1; Scoring for Saints were Lewis Buchanan (3), Ruairidh Horne and Martin Rennie. Under 16s 2, Lochgilhead Red Star 2. Scorers for Oban were Ross MacMillan and Arik MacKechnie; Ardencale 0, Under 19s 2. On target for Saints were Connor Howe and Douglas MacLeod.

This weekend's fixtures: Ardencale v Under 13s; Under 14s v Ardencale; Under 15s v Renton Craigandro; Lochgilhead Red Star v Under 16s; Under 19s v Ardencale.

## Athletic match fails to take place

### Football

OBAN Athletic were left kicking their heels last Saturday when opponents Glasgow West failed to travel to Oban to fulfill the fixture.

Athletic have been awarded the three points by the West of Scotland AFL executive committee.

This Saturday the Oban side are scheduled to be at home to Antonine. The match will be played at Gleneruith with a 2pm kick-off

## Taynuilt teenager wins bronze medal

### Swimming

A TAYNUILT teenager has won bronze at the National Schools Swimming Finals in Aberdeen.

Connor MacNeil was third in the final of the 200 metres butterfly with a time of 2:13.22.

Connor also swam in the 100 metres butterfly on the same day and came fourth in a time of 1:00.62.

The Strathallan school pupil was swimming in the boys' 17 to 19 year age group.

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**WEATHER**

**Thursday** Cloudy with showers  
Winds south westerly  
Temperatures 4°C to 7°C.

**Friday** Cloudy with showers  
Winds westerly  
Temperatures 2°C to 6°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Cloudy on Saturday  
Heavy rain on Sunday  
Winds strong north westerly  
Temperatures 2°C to 6°C.

**FRIDAY**

**TIDAL INFORMATION**

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, February 19, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am			pm		
Thur	05.55	4.3	12.12	0.4	18.07	4.1
Fri	00.28	0.2	06.34	4.4	12.55	0.3
Sat	01.11	0.1	07.13	4.3	13.37	0.3
Sun	01.55	0.2	07.53	4.1	14.19	0.5
Mon	02.40	0.4	08.34	3.9	15.02	0.7
Tues	03.27	0.7	09.16	3.5	15.49	1.0
Wed	04.18	1.1	10.06	3.2	16.41	1.3

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

**FREE INSIDE THIS WEEK**

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### Estate in running for wedding prize

A MORVERN estate has been shortlisted for an award celebrating the best in the Scottish wedding industry. Ardtornish House, near Lochaline, is in the venue category for the north west region of the Scottish Wedding Awards. Kathryn McLaughlin, visitor services manager, said: 'We are delighted to be nominated for this award. Ardtornish House is such a unique, romantic venue in a beautiful picturesque setting.' Voting is open to the public and the winner will be announced at a ceremony in Glasgow's Crowne Plaza on Tuesday February 24.

### Keys stolen from Lochaline quarry

POLICE are appealing for help to find keys stolen from a business in the Morvern peninsula. Between 4.30pm on Friday February 6 and Monday February 9 four keys were removed from a board at Lochaline Quartz and Sand Quarry. Anyone with information about this crime is asked to come forward by contacting local police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously via 0800 555111 or www.crimestoppers-uk.org/.

### Road repair trials on Highland roads

NEW TECHNOLOGY which could transform road repairs is being trialled by Highland council. The equipment uses high-powered air streams to clear debris and fill potholes. The use of a small hot box is also under trial, which could allow council workers to carry out permanent repairs all year, instead of the current temporary service in winter. Councillor Graham MacKenzie, chairman of the community services committee, welcomed a report into the trial's progress. He said: 'I am extremely pleased with the findings so far.'

## RURAL COMMUNITIES FIGHT TO SAVE SERVICE BRANCHES FACED WITH CLOSURE IN COUNCIL COST-CUTTING EXERCISE

# Villagers make their point

### Aidan's fundraiser boosts Diabetes UK by £445



A young diabetes sufferer has raised more than £4,000 with the help of his schoolmates. Aidan Young, primary four, front, organised a fundraising day at Banavie primary school and raised £445.67 for Diabetes UK. Pupils at the school wore onesies and paid to have their nails painted last Thursday, with all proceeds being donated to the charity. 20. f08banavie01

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

RURAL communities are fighting to save their 'vital' Highland council service points as the majority of branches face the axe. People in remote villages from Lochaber to south Skye have hit back at cost-cutting proposals from the local authority, which will see 22 of 35 service points, including Mallaig, Kinlochleven, Acharacle and Broadford, close their doors. Fort William, Kyle and Portree are among the few that will remain open under the plans.

Highland council's customer services review board has cited lack of use as the reason for reducing the facility, which is used to pay bills and get face-to-face advice from council staff. They believe £355,220 could be saved by closing the facilities, although half of this will be invested to improve telephone and online services.

Some of the branches will be replaced with 'access points' in libraries under the proposals, thought to be computers to be used for general advice and information.

But this has raised concerns about how elderly people, or those who are not computer-literate, will receive help as they could soon face up to 80-mile round trips to service points.

Maureen McColl, of Arisaig community council, said people in west Lochaber were 'very concerned'.

She added: 'We have an older population and public transport to Fort William isn't regular.'

'Pensioners will be forced to travel 35 miles just to speak to someone face-to-face then be waiting hours for a bus or a train back. It's very worrying.'

Concerns have also been raised about the loss of jobs if service points are closed.

Catrina Spence, of Kinlochleven community council, said she doesn't feel the council has been clear about what will change.

She said: 'Our service point in Kinlochleven is already in the library and there's three girls working there. I've asked if the staff will be removed and told no, so if we're already in a library and we won't be losing the girls I don't understand how they can be saving money? It doesn't add up.'

The issue is open for public comments until mid-March, before it is reconsidered by the council's customer services board.

Audrey Sinclair, chairwoman of the customer services board, said: 'Before any decision can be made, it is important to hear the views of the people that live in these areas so that we can understand how any changes may impact on communities. We also want to hear any alternative options local people may want to suggest for the way services are delivered.'

On Skye, community councils in the south of the isle were meeting last night (Wednesday) to discuss how best to protect the Broadford service point.

Roddy Murray, chairman of Sleat community council, was active in campaigning against the closures when they were first mooted by Highland council last year.

He said: 'Broadford service point serves a wide area, much of it without public transport and the additional travel will cause hardship for those requiring services and unable to use modern technology.'

'Loss of employment will also adversely affect the local area where alternative employment is difficult to find. Community councils in south Skye are concerned at the continuing loss of public services from their communities and the centralisation and expansion of these in the urban parts of the area and elsewhere in Scotland.'

### Exhibition puts spotlight on inspirational women

THE ACHIEVEMENTS of women in Lochaber will be celebrated at an exhibition in Fort William. The event, to mark International Women's Day, will promote inspirational women in the area and worldwide to encourage others to reach their full potential. Duncansburgh Hall will host the exhibition, organised by Lochaber Women's Aid, on Thursday March 5. Lorraine Revitt, service manager of Lochaber Women's Aid, said: 'Our exhibition will feature information about a range of pioneering women from the worlds of politics, business, sport, art, music and community action. 'We hope to inspire the next generation of local women by highlighting the achievements of women living and working in the Lochaber area. 'We want to show that regardless of where you are living, working or learning, you too can make it happen.' The exhibition will run in two sessions, 12noon to 2pm and 5pm to 8pm and will also feature a timeline of the development of women's rights.

### Celebrations short-lived as transport funds dry up

ARISAIG primary school pupils should be celebrating after reaching the national finals of an anti-racism competition. But the guitar-playing children face disappointment as there aren't enough school funds left to pay for a bus to make the day trip to Glasgow for the awards ceremony next month. The youngsters penned a song for the 'show racism the red card' competition with the help of local musician Jim Hunter but were devastated to hear they may not make the final at Hampden. Now pupils and teachers are appealing for anyone who can help to provide transport. Chai Jones, head teacher at Arisaig primary school, said: 'We just need a one-day hire for the round trip but at this time of year we've spent every penny we have. 'Jim has reorganised his feis classes and guitar exams so he can accompany the children. 'I just wonder if someone out there could give us a hand with the transport?' For more information contact Arisaig school on 01687 450282.

## Patients turned away as virus strikes Belford hospital wards

PATIENTS are being turned away from the Belford Hospital in Fort William as an outbreak of norovirus has closed both inpatient wards. Twelve people at the infirmary are suffering from sickness and diarrhoea, eight in the combined assessment unit and four in ward one, and samples have shown norovirus is present in both wards. On Monday, one patient was found to have the extremely infectious winter vomiting bug in ward one and an update from NHS Highland on Tuesday night confirmed it had spread to both inpatient facilities. 'Our renal and chemotherapy services are running as normal but we would

ask that if you have an appointment but you, or someone you live with, have been ill with symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting you contact the hospital before coming in.' Visitors have been asked to stay away to reduce outbreak risks, but an NHS spokeswoman said hospital staff were happy to give updates over the phone and asked anyone who felt visiting was essential to call the ward beforehand. Symptoms of norovirus only last a couple of days but can last longer in elderly people or people who are already ill.

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**Bus stop confusion irks passengers**

BUS DRIVERS are refusing to use a stop months after it was erected by Highland council as they say it has not been registered.

Angry public transport users in Spean Bridge were shocked to be told the new bus stop at Nursery Park in the village could not be used, despite the months the community spent campaigning for it.

The bus stop was erected in December to serve the Fort William - Inverness route run by CityLink but John Fotheringham, chairman of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry community council, said when he was waited for a bus there he has been told it is not an official stop and he must use the one at the other end of the village.

He said the organisations involved should be communicating better and said they have 'a complete disregard for the community'. He added: 'I complained to CityLink and was told it has not been registered as an official bus stop but it was erected by Highland council four months ago.'

'I don't know which one is at fault but it seems to me like a complete lack of common sense and communication between the two. We fought continuously to have this much-needed bus stop put in. Now it's here, we're told we can't use it. It's completely ridiculous.'

A CityLink spokeswoman said the bus stop was not currently registered but they were 'working through the necessary processes' to resolve this.

A Highland council spokeswoman said the problem was caused by a 'misunderstanding'.

She added: 'One of our transport officials met with Stagecoach, which operates the route under contract to Citylink, on Friday and they agreed bus drivers would stop there as of Monday (February 16).'

**Goose heads back onto the menu**

ATRIAL of goose shooting in the Western Isles could boost the local economy by putting the bird back on the menu.

The pilot of a planned three-year cull on Lewis and Harris, launched on Monday, will allow licenced landowners and farm owners to kill geese in an attempt to reduce agricultural damage caused by the bird while maintaining a steady population.

But the project, by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the National Goose Management Review Group, will also trial the sale of the poultry under licence, allowing some hunters, hotel and restaurant owners to provide a locally-sourced high protein dish.

Similar trials are underway on Uist, Coll, Tiree and Orkney, which have growing populations of greylag geese which damage crops.

Lewis-based Roddy MacMinn of SNH said: 'It is clear that the greylag goose population on Lewis and Harris has increased significantly in recent years.'

'Since we began an annual count in 2010 numbers have increased by more than 45 per cent.'

'We are responding to a request from the local goose management group to help them manage the population to a more sustainable level.'

'Our initial target is for an additional 2,200 geese to be shot this year as we aim to deliver a significant population reduction by 2017.'

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES AS BIG LOTTERY CASH GOES INTO CREATING NEW SPORTS AND RECREATION AREA

**Delight in Plantation as work starts on old course revamp**

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

WORK has started to transform an abandoned golf course in Fort William into a new sports and recreation area.

Construction started on Monday in Plantation, which is recognised as one of the most deprived areas in the Highlands, following a grant of more than £247,000 from the Big Lottery.

A playpark, mini mountain bike track, high wire, scramble net and adult fitness area will all feature at Pine Grove as well as picnic tables and benches at viewpoints.

The plans are a result of five years of work by Plantation Community Association (PCA) and hinged on a bid for funding from the Big Lottery Community Spaces Scotland fund, which granted £247,436 in March last year.

Helen MacKenzie, chairwoman of PCA, said: 'It's just fantastic that work has finally started after



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: members of Plantation Community Association and local children gather to watch the progress of their new recreation area 20\_f08plantation01

**“We've been chomping at the bit to get started.”**

**Helen MacKenzie**  
PCA chairwoman

five years of hard work. It was a bit of a struggle at the start but we've been chomping at the bit to get started ever since we got the funding through.

'We're so glad we can do something that will benefit the community because it was just muck, mire and overgrown and it's a good size of land.'

Lesley-Ann Boath, secretary of PCA, added: 'We're delighted that we can finally put something back into this community because Plantation had nothing

for a long time and this will be great for all ages. We're really excited.'

The pair also thanked everyone who has helped make their dream a reality, with a special mention to the three builders who have worked through wind and rain this week.

The hard work of the PCA committee was also recognised in November last year when they were named Tenant and Resident Group of the Year by Tenant Participation Advice Services Scotland. As well as planning the recreation area, the group regularly volunteers in the community and runs a kids club every Wednesday.

Thomas MacLennan, councillor for Fort William and Ardnamurchan and leader of the Lochaber Area Committee, welcomed the work. He said: 'It's great to see the community doing something positive with this area and bringing all of these new facilities into the community.'

**Schools celebrate much-loved Nana**



WINNERS: John MacInnes presents the Nana MacInnes Memorial Cup to Ballachulish primary school pupils 20\_f08nana01

A MUCH-LOVED south Lochaber lady's life was celebrated when her son presented memorial cups to primary schools where she served as a dinner lady.

Nana MacInnes worked in both Ballachulish and Duror primary schools for almost 15 years until the age of 73.

When she passed away after a short illness in October last year her family decided to commemorate the great-grandmother with trophies which will be presented annually to a child from each school for endeavour or citizenship.

Erin MacCallum-Millar, six, is the first to receive the Nana MacInnes Memorial Cup for Duror primary school after she cut off seven inches of her hair to be made into a wig for a child cancer charity the Little Princess Trust, raising almost £500 in the process.

Marilyn MacDonald, head teacher at Duror, said: 'Duror primary school is delighted to receive the Nana MacInnes Memorial cup. It was a unanimous decision that in this first year, the cup is being presented to Erin.'

'The whole school and community is so proud of Erin and feel she is a worthy first winner of Nana's cup for showing outstanding citizenship.'

A pupil from Ballachulish primary school will be picked to receive the cup in June, the end of the academic year.

Sam Clark, head teacher, said: 'Nana would approve of this award as she was always encouraging the pupils to do their best in every aspect of school life.'

'She enjoyed watching the pupils receiving certificates, medals and trophies.'

John MacInnes, the oldest child of the late Ms MacInnes, presented the trophies at Ballachulish primary school on Friday.

He said: 'Mum adored children, and despite the family trying to talk her into retirement on more than one occasion, it really was a pointless exercise. Eventually, after turning 73, we persuaded her the time was right.'

'We feel as a family, this is one of the last things we can do for our mum, ensuring that her memory and attachment to the schools will live on, and that in the years to come when some pupil asks who was Nana MacInnes, the story of the wee cheery dinner lady will re-emerge.'

The memorial trophies will be handed down to the new winner each year but the winning children will receive a smaller version to keep forever.



HELPING YOUNG PATIENTS: Erin MacCallum-Millar is the first Duror primary school pupil to win the Nana MacInnes Memorial Cup for donating her hair to the Little Princess Trust

**Descendants gather to mark massacre**

DESCENDANTS of those killed in the massacre of Glencoe gathered on Friday to mark the anniversary of the treacherous attack.

This was the 323rd memorial service to commemorate the events of February 13 1692, when 38 members of the MacDonald clan were killed in their beds and many more died of exposure on the mountains when trying to escape government soldiers.

Pupils of Glencoe and St Bride's primary schools and members

of the public also turned out to pay their respects at the moving commemorations, organised by Clan Donald Highlands and Islands, The Glencoe Heritage Trust, and St Mary's Church Glencoe.

The day began with a requiem service in St Mary's, followed by the traditional march from the Bridge of Coe to the Glencoe memorial where wreaths were laid and another service was held.

Reverend Adrian Fallows officiated at both ceremonies.



GATHERING: The traditional march from Bridge of Coe to the Glencoe Memorial 20\_f08glencoe01

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# Oban pontoons on crest of a wave for summer season

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

PLANS to install pontoons in Oban Bay as early as this May have been warmly welcomed by the business community, following years of wrangling over the proposal.

Oban-based councillor Roddy McCuish revealed the news at a meeting of Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee last week, in response to a question by Neil Mackay, a former councillor who now works for business community company BID4Oban.

Mr Mackay said plans due to be in place in 2011 'had never materialised', adding that a lack

of progress on the pontoon development was limiting the town's offering to visiting sailors.

Councillor McCuish said he was 'pleased to be able to reveal' that six floating pontoons were being sought by Argyll and Bute council in time for the summer tourist season.

Admitting the plans were 'long

overdue', councillor McCuish continued: 'Council officers are currently looking for pontoons and we hope to get them in the water for May this year.'

'I am aware that cruise ships such as The World (the world's biggest cruise ship) and the Queen Mary 2 are coming to the town this year and it is important we look as though we are making progress.'

'It is great that we are moving forward at last.'

Councillor McCuish has met Oban Bay Marine, which initially proposed the project, but asked those at the meeting to help inform the business community.

Graeme Bass, chairman of BID4Oban, said: 'We've worked hard to make cruise ship visitors feel welcome in Oban, providing welcome packs tailored to specific vessels to businesses around town when a ship is due in port.'

'We are delighted to learn that it will soon become very much easier for passengers to come ashore. 'And we very much look forward to welcoming these visitors as the season progresses.'

'The new facility will be yet another reason for people to love Oban.'

A spokesman for Oban Bay Marine (OBM), which has been granted planning permission for a transit marina berthing in the bay, said on Tuesday: 'We met councillors Roddy McCuish, Elaine Robertson and Iain MacLean on Friday and they explained their idea for the pontoons.'

'OBM is still in discussion with the council vis-à-vis longer-term proposals for a marina in Oban Bay.'

'But until such time as it has details of the temporary proposal that can be shared with OBM, we can't make any comment.'

BID4Oban's business plan states developments in the bay are vital for attracting visitors to Oban, which will generate considerable revenue for the town.



WAVE OF ENTHUSIASM: BID4Oban's Neil Mackay and Graeme Bass welcome the news about the imminent arrival of the Oban Bay pontoons 16\_t08pont7

## Customers dish the dirt over landlines

A FAULTY cable underneath a dirty duct on the main road from Oban is hampering telephones in the Connel area.

Residents in Lora View, North Connel have complained of faulty landlines since the middle of January but BT said it will be next week before the problem can be fixed.

Carol Turnbull of Lorn View said: 'I've been without my BT

landline for a week. My neighbour two doors down has been without a telephone connection since January 18.'

Louise Steel, who lives in the same street, has made a complaint about a constant 'crackling' on the line.

A spokesman for BT Scotland apologised for the delay and said it was working hard to fix the fault.

He continued: 'Openreach engineers traced the problem to a faulty cable underneath the A85. Engineers attempted to fix the fault at the beginning of the month but a number of underground ducts were identified which require unblocking.'

'The earliest date provided by BEAR Scotland to close the road is next Monday (February 23).'

## A CHAMPION LASS



COWGIRL: It was more than beginner's luck at play when smiley nine-year-old Emily Armstrong helped her father, Mark, win a trophy at last weekend's Highland Cattle Society show in Oban livestock centre.

The Three primary school pupil had never shown cattle before but helped her family's

Balemartine fold win the yearling heifer championship.

Emily was also runner-up in the young handlers' competition and is desperate to enter the show ring again, even asking her father if she could take her trophy into school.

For more on this year's spring show and sale, turn to pages 16 and 17. 16\_t08highland02

## TIMESLINE

### Postal van thefts and Corsa stolen

A ROYAL MAIL van had parcels and letters stolen from it when it was left overnight in a residential area of Tobermory on Mull.

On the same night a Vauxhall Corsa car was taken from Main Street in the village.

Both thefts happened sometime between 8pm on Wednesday, February 11 and 9am Thursday, February 12. Witnesses are being sought.

### Coastguard helps pupils to safety

THE COASTGUARD on Benbecula led 59 pupils to safety on Monday after fears the tide might cut them off while the Balivanich primary children were on an after-school cross-country activity session at the beach.

A Western Isles spokesman said: 'No pupils were at risk at any time but we appreciate the vigilance of the coastguard.'

### Shadow to fall on West Highlands

A TOTAL eclipse of the sun will be visible in the West Highlands and islands for the first time in a decade in the Northern hemisphere on Friday, March 20.

People will witness up to 97 per cent of the sun being obscured by the moon at about 9.45am, which will cast a shadow for less than three minutes.

### Argyll council tax to stay the same

COUNCIL tax will be the same in 2015-16 as it has been for the last eight years in Argyll and Bute.

Band D will remain at £1,178 per year with payments to Scottish Water in the same band of £410.85.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2004

## Sound of music heard over the sea to Skye

TRAVELLERS on a Highland ferry service were surprised with an impromptu musical performance.

Trombonist Simon Johnson and trumpet player Hedley Benson, two members of the BBC's Scottish Symphony Orchestra, joined passengers of the Skye-Raasay boat last week before unveiling their instruments and playing for the bemused onlookers.

The surprise concert is part of a UK-wide classical music education project and Portree-based ATLAS Arts joined the BBC to implement workshops on Skye last week.

Pupils of all of the isle's primary schools, Portree high school and Sabhal



Bemused passengers of the Skye to Raasay ferry enjoyed an impromptu performance by Hedley Benson, left, and Simon Johnson

Mor Ostaig enjoyed visits during the residency and the primary children also had exclusive access to the orchestra's rehearsal for a concert on Friday night.

Norma Bolton, music development officer for Highland council, said: 'A long time has been spent discussing and planning this residency

and it will be very exciting for so many pupils on Skye to experience the unique thrill of seeing and hearing a full symphony orchestra and getting involved in a much closer way with the musicians at the workshop sessions.'

'I'm sure this unique experience will be talked about for many years.'

## People power helps to clean up Longsdale



Pictured is councillor Elaine Robertson with Longsdale Crescent residents, and representatives from ISS, ACHA, along with Kevin Lock, the Community Payback scheme supervisor. 16\_t08gardening01

A MULTI-partnership effort to clear up an area of Oban has been heralded a success by an Oban-based councillor.

Elaine Robertson, who serves the Oban, North and Lorn ward, had her gardening gloves on and rolled her sleeves up to help clear up an area of ground on Longdale Terrace, next to Hazeldene Crescent, on Monday.

She was joined by those on Community Payback orders, formerly known as community service, staff from ISS - the main ground maintenance contractor for Argyll and Bute council, ACHA, ISS, the community payback workers and residents coming together for the work has been a great success.'

was a multi-partnership effort, to get an area tidied up that has been sorely needing it for a long time. There is a bit of confusion as to who actually owns some of the land, so Argyll and Bute council, ACHA, ISS, the community payback workers and residents coming together for the work has been a great success.'

## Feet kept tapping at Oban music club

A FEW well-kent local faces headlined the February club night of Oban accordion and fiddle club.

Hector MacFadyen on lead accordion, Matthew MacLennan on piano, Maurice Duncan on fiddle and Kevin McGlynn on drums brought out a fantastic turnout to the town's

Royal Hotel. Hector, who has been playing at the club since 1978, kept the night going with non-stop music, a few jokes and even a song.

Oban and Lorn Strathspey and Reel Society also came along to play a few sets, kindly giving up their practise night to support the club.

Other supporting players were chairman Michael Garvin, Caitlin Curran, Liam MacLean, Janet Graham, Daniel Hobbs and Seumas McArthur.

Next month's guest band is the Andy Kain Trio, which will play on March 5 in the Royal Hotel. Everyone is welcome to attend.



The Hector MacFadyen band. t08accordion1no

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### Anniversary gig is big ticket item as demand from fans is overwhelming

THE OBAN Times can exclusively reveal that a further 3,000 tickets will go on sale this Sunday for the Skerryvore Decade concert at Mossfield Stadium, Oban.

Organisers admit they 'underestimated' the interest in the gig to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the trad rock band, which traces its roots to the Isle of Tiree.

But after 1,500 early bird tickets sold out in 55 minutes and a further 1,500 sold in less than 30 minutes last week, organisers have agreed to double the capacity at the May 30 event.

The potential audience of 6,000 is far and away the biggest for a concert headlined by Skerryvore and founding band member and accordion player Daniel Gillespie, who hails from Tiree, said the ticket rush took him by surprise.

Daniel, who had initially expected to sell around 2,000 tickets, added: 'Our decision to release a further 3,000 tickets is based on letting as many people as possible come along.'

'Through the ticket provider Eventbrite, we monitored the second batch of tickets and they were allocated in minutes with purchases being made as far away as Norway, Denmark, Germany and a huge number from England. There were as many as 4,000 people in the ticket shop.'

'This event is a great opportunity, not just for the band, but for Oban too.'

Skerryvore Decade is being organised in conjunction with BID4Oban and features guests including Manran, the Red Hot Chilli Pipers and Sharon Shannon.

After agreeing to increase capacity, organisers have invested in an artificial grass carpet to cover and protect the Mossfield pitch.

Neil Mackay, events manager for BID4Oban, said: 'We are delighted to be working with Skerryvore to produce a high profile and quality event such as this, one that the community can be proud of.'

Tickets will go on sale at 4pm on Sunday from the website skerryvoredecade.com

### No grey areas as cinema is packed

FIFTY Shades of Grey, the risqué movie blockbuster about a relationship between a multi-millionaire and a student, has sold out at Oban Phoenix cinema.

The excitement shown in the film has led to extra shows being added to the cinema's programme schedule.



### Town's pipe band in the soup over Valentine's event

OBAN pipe band hall was a popular venue on Saturday when a good number of locals turned out to support the band's Valentine's Day soup lunch.

A selection of homemade soups was enjoyed and the St. Valentine's theme was very evident in the excellent display of home baking.

The committee and band members expressed their gratitude to all the supporters who took the time to bake, to help with the serving and to the many people who came along and supported the event.

The soup lunch raised the sum of £478, which will be used towards the band's travel costs during the 2015 competition season.

**TASTY TREAT:** Rachael Steward, 7, from North Connel, sampled some of the Valentine's-themed baking at the soup lunch

## Island partnership over missing link

LOUISE LEE  
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AN ISLAND road that has been compared to a cart track by councillors will be replaced with a modern link road - but only if residents can help raise the cash.

Argyll and Bute council had previously agreed to help find money for a community-led initiative on Kerrera to link the north and south of the island by road.

Historically, the island has supported two communities: one at the north of the island linked to the mainland by Oban's North Pier and another at the south with a ferry at Gallanach.

A topographical survey, funded by the council, will assess the viability of the project and, importantly, lay down the extent of the work required.

But the council has warned it cannot fully fund the

project, the cost of which last year was estimated somewhere between £600,000 and £1 million.

Island landowner Dunollie Estates has advised that it would be prepared to allow the ground for the road to be 'acquired' by the community, to enable it to apply for grant funding.

At a meeting of the council's Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee last week, chairman councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'I find it quite incredible that Kerrera doesn't have a road linking one end of the island to the other.'

'This is an opportunity to see what we could do for the island by working in partnership with them.'

'This will be a community-led bid but it is good that Dunollie Estate is doing something that is vital for the community. Kerrera needs to have this infrastructure in place.'

# Rockfield to go back to the community, but at a cost

LOUISE LEE  
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THE FORMER Rockfield primary school in Oban will be sold to the community for £1,000 - but it won't receive the cash it needs to get rid of dry rot.

The Oban Times understands that the cash offer from Oban Community Trust (OCT) is expected to be recommended to Argyll and Bute council at its meeting in April - but a 'bag of cash' to rid the building of dry rot would not be on offer.

The decision on the future of the B-listed Victorian building was made in private at last week's Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee.

The Oban Times led objections to the secrecy around the decision-making process.

Committee chairwoman Elaine Robertson, deputising for councillor Roddy McCuish who had declared an interest in the matter, said allowing the press to stay in the meeting was 'not in its gift' due to the commercial sensitivity of bidders.

Before press and public were excluded, councillors heard an impassioned plea from the OCT chairman, solicitor Gordon MacNab, who said the group was prepared to take on the building



**STRONG TIES:** Fiona Campbell Smith ties a ribbon to the fence around Rockfield last summer to symbolise its enduring bonds with the people of Oban

'after the dry rot treatment was completed'.

Mr MacNab said: 'All we would ask the council to tackle is the problem of dry rot. We have shown that the building can be saved and will not be demolished.'

'Don't come back and tell us there is no money. We are offering £1,000 and you [the council] treat the dry rot at a

cost of £50,000 - £60,000. The reinstatement [of the building] will be much, much more.'

'You are being asked to support this project,' he said.

'It represents hope - this is special. A massive amount of work has been done by only a few of us. The potential of this is project is huge.'

A council spokeswoman

confirmed the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee had made recommendations to be considered by the full council, but added: 'It is not possible to provide any more details at this stage because this is an exempt item, but council officers continue to work with the community group as it makes progress with its business case.'

As *The Oban Times* went to press Alison Chadwick, a board member of OBM, said the group had still not heard anything about the outcome of the meeting.

Ms Chadwick said: 'We submitted our business case by the end of November. We have the overwhelming backing of the community and the unanimous backing of the community council.'

'It is disappointing that to date we have not heard anything from the council.'

OCT has previously highlighted the need for urgency by the council in reaching a decision, having estimated the cost of dry rot would rise by around £1,200 a day.

A council insider, who asked not to be named, told *The Oban Times* the debate between councillors lasted 40 minutes.

They continued: 'But in light of the council's huge deficit it was deemed necessary to draw the line at passing on £50,000 - £60,000 to the group.'

'It would have been very difficult to pass the decision with a balloon payment and get a positive decision from the full council.'

'This way, the group has a fighting chance to secure the building in May.'

## Russell supports union's case to keep island lifeline ferry services in public ownership

STEVEN RAE  
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A LEADING trades unionist has raised concerns that workers' conditions could be put in jeopardy, as the Clyde and Hebridean Ferries Services (CHFS) tender process begins.

Stephen Boyd, who is assistant secretary of the Scottish Trades Union Congress, told MSPs in Holyrood about his fears over privatisation of the service at a meeting earlier

this month. The contract is currently held by operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac), but goes out to full tender in October.

'There has been renewed interest from other operators in the Scottish government-subsidised contract.'

Mr Boyd said: 'We want safeguards put in place to protect pensions, wages and worker conditions. There are seamen who are paid below minimum wage. We need to ensure that never happens.'

'It's a concern to find out who is going to bid for the contract. Despite the criticism they get, CalMac does a good job on what is a fundamental lifeline service for people on these island routes.'

'Nobody wants to see the service become privatised and suffer in quality as a consequence.'

Part of the briefing presented by Mr Boyd highlighted fears that if the CHFS contract was privatised, the Scottish government could be

exposing Scottish seafarers to the low-cost crewing practices common in other areas of the UK shipping industry.

According to Mr Boyd, some non-UK seafarers working on vessels around the Scottish and UK coastline are paid below minimum wage, with one Lithuanian firm paying £1.64 an hour.

MSP for Argyll and Bute, Michael Russell, who attended the meeting, said there was cross-party support for the ferry tender remaining a

public service. 'There were elected members present at the meeting from Labour, some independent and others from the SNP, including John Swinney,' he said.

'There was very strong support for the trade union position that CalMac needs to remain a public service. In fact, not one person in attendance felt CalMac should be privatised. The SNP strongly supports the belief of the trade unions that CalMac remains a public body.'

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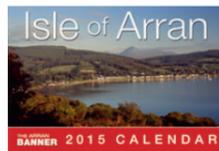
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# National champion jumper has set her sights on raising the bar

A TALENTED young island athlete is once again scaling the height of Scottish athletics after claiming her second national title within a year.

Molly Reade, from Tobermory, Isle of Mull, took gold in the under-15 high jump at Scottish National Age Group Indoor Championships at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow on Sunday.

The 14-year-old had won silver at the under-16 Scottish Schools Indoor Championships two weeks previously and won gold at the outdoor schools championships in June 2014 in the under-14s high jump.

In winning the Scottish title at the weekend, the 5-foot-10-inch Tobermory high school pupil had clear jumps all the way to 1.60 metres, where she narrowly failed

## Athletics

that height. But the winning jump of 1.55 metres matched her personal best - and she is confident that the elusive 1.60 metres is not far off.

Molly said: 'The national competitions are always nerve-wracking and exciting but you don't really know what's going to happen, so it was great to win.'

The Mull youngster said she felt 'proud' after she received messages of congratulations from across the island.

The absence of track and field facilities in Argyll and the added journey time of living on an island puts Molly at an immediate disadvantage. But she has adapted a training regime while at home, using a trampoline in

her garden and a wall at the end of her parents' driveway for her strength and conditioning work.

She devotes one night a week to high jump training at Mull Athletics Club with Bill MacCallum and Richard Henderson in the high school.

Molly's mother, Shona, said: 'The belief that Bill and Richard have shown in her is amazing and has contributed greatly to her success.'

'She trains on a wall outside our house, Lephain, and lots of people will see her in her high visibility vest.'

Having only started competing in the high jump aged 11, Molly has come a long way in the past three years and has received two sessions from high jump coach Ken Allen.

After a short break, the outdoor season, including the Highland games circuit, beckons for Molly, who aims to surpass 1.60 metres this year.

Shaun Doy, from Mid Argyll Athletic Club, won bronze in the under 15s pole vault at the indoor national championships on Sunday, clearing a new personal best of 2.40 metres.

This was a remarkable performance considering Shaun does not have access to pole vault facilities locally and achieved this using a training vaulting pole.

Another Mid Argyll athlete, Alfie Smith from Tayvallich, just missed a medal in the under-13s



TITLE: Molly Reade matched her personal best in winning the national under-15 high jump championship



WINNING: Molly Reade, centre, with her gold medal Photos: Bobby Gavin

high jump, finishing fourth. He also placed sixth in the shot putt.

Other Argyll athletes just missing out on medals were Emma Thompson from Oban who was fourth in the under-17s high jump, clearing 1.55 metres and Murdo Masterton from Dunbeg, who was fourth in the under-17s shot putt. Murdo threw 13.12me-

tres in a competition where boys from England and Northern Ireland filled the top two places.

Finbar Dunne, from Oban, made a promising debut in the under-15 age group, throwing 9.15 metres in the shot putt to finish seventh.

On Saturday Ben Coates from Kilmore was unfortunate to get

injured while contesting both the 60m sprint and 60m hurdles in the under-17s. Ben won his 60 metres heat in 7.49 and qualified for the final in the 60m hurdles but then had to withdraw from both events. Ben recently won bronze at the Scottish Schools Championships in the over-16s 60 metres hurdles, recording a new personal best of 8.59 seconds.

# MMA men make their mark in Submission Quest fights

## Mixed martial arts

A FLEDGLING martial arts club in Oban is now a big hit on the national scene after its 10 team members took home five medals from a competition in Glasgow.

Oban Mix Martial Arts (MMA), which formed four years ago, competed last Saturday at Submission Quest, a nogi Brazilian-style ju-jitsu tournament at Bellahouston sports centre.

The ground submission fighting tournament was the first that Oban MMA has attended with a 10-man team and attracted clubs from all over Scotland.

Coach Iain 'Coogie' Potter said: 'The standard was as high as I've seen and everyone had at least five fights.'

'It is the first time we have taken a proper team to a tournament like this and it has been a big step up for us because we used to struggle to get anyone to these competitions.'

'This style of fighting is getting really big in Scotland and the standard has gone up in recent years. A few clubs even have Brazilian coaches - so to come away with five medals is a great achievement.'

Oban MMA's medals came across five different weight categories: Chris Rowan won bronze in the under-73kg weight category; Mateusz Grabice won silver in the under-79kg category;



The Oban MMA team won five medals at Submission Quest.

Dawid Loukil won silver in the under-85kg category; Scott McKeith won silver in the under-97 kg category and Brendan McMillan won bronze in the 97kg category.

Coogie added: 'I think that a few years ago we were under-es-

timated and we had the element of surprise.

'But now the other clubs know about us and realise we will be competing for medals, so it is harder for us to win things.'

'We try to learn as much as we can from seminars and I teach

myself from books but the sport is constantly evolving, so we need to try and keep up with the changes.'

Oban MMA meets at 7.30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays in the Oban martial arts centre above Stoddarts of Oban.

# Lancaster maintain title challenge with comeback

## Pool

THE LANCASTER 'A' made the daunting journey over the Connel bridge last Thursday to play the on-form Lochnell.

Due to unforeseen circumstances The Lancaster had not hit a ball in frustration for three weeks, in contrast to the home side, who in their opponents' absence had been picking up weekly plaudits.

A defeat for the Lancaster 'A' would take the championship out of their hands mathematically, meaning they would need an unlikely slip up from defending champions the Lochavullin's Cellar.

If the visitors did not realise the magnitude of the task facing them before the opening leg, two hours into play the cold reality of their precarious situation hit them so hard it could have registered on the Richter scale.

Staring down the barrel of defeat, on the wrong end of a 4-1 scoreline, the Lancaster 'A' started to climb off the canvas

and fight back. As the games were pulled back one by one, and the balance of power shifting, it was evident the hosts' self-doubt was running in tandem.

Each shot was now played with trepidation as both sets of players waited on the other to falter and eventually one did, allowing the Lancaster to secure what looked an unlikely two points.

The current title holders, the Lochavullin's Cellar still lead the way this season after another comfortable victory.

Markie Dan's 'B' were next to falter against the champions and, despite having home advantage, were helpless to stop the onslaught as the result was decided before the doubles section.

The third and final match of the week saw The Gluepot ease to victory over a despondent Lochavullin outfit.

Results: Lochnell 4-6 Lancaster A; Markie Dans B 3-7 Lochavullin's Cellar ; Lochavullin 2-8 Gluepot.

Fixtures today (Thursday): Markie Dans A v Lochavullin's Cellar.

# Volleyball tournament debut

THE FIRST ever Argyll secondary school volleyball festival was held recently in Atlantis Leisure centre in Oban.

Hosted by Lorn volleyball club, the event on February 3 was part of the MacVolley Festival, an annual Scottish school tournament run by the Scottish Volleyball Association (SVA) with teams of both primary and secondary school pupils.

There were six teams competing in the primary 6 and 7 group. Two teams of S1 and S2 pupils from both Kinlochleven and Ballachulish high schools played Oban high, which was represented with three squads.

Altogether, 38 children took part in an action-packed day of volleyball, with Taynuilt victorious in the primary school tournament and Oban high school's second team taking the spoils amongst the secondary pupils.

# Scottish Amateur League results and fixtures

## Football

LAST Saturday's results: Jimmy Marshall Cup first round - Dunoon 1, Jamesown 2, Easthall Star 1, Oban Saints 4; Coronation Cup - Rossvale 1, Tarbert 3; SAFL Premier Division - Alba Thistle 2 v Campbeltown Pupils 2; Premier Division Two - Dunoon Athletic 1 v Port Glasgow 3; Paisley 2, Lochgilhead Red Star 2.

This weekend's fixtures: Jimmy Marshall Cup second round - Haldane United v Campbeltown Pupils; Premier Division - Busby v Oban Saints; Premier Division One - Dunoon v Shawlands; Premier Division Two - Lochgilhead Red Star v South Camlachie; Easthall Star v Dunoon Athletic. Tarbert no game.

# Saints Youths results and fixtures

## Youth football

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s 9, Dumbarton United Blacks 0; Saints goalscorers were Euan Finlay (3), Aaron MacKay (2), Cammy Clark (2), Gavin Forgive and Daniel Sloss.

Under 14s no game; Under 15s 5 v Renton Craigandro 1; Scoring for Saints were Lewis Buchanan (3), Ruairidh Horne and Martin Rennie. Under 16s 2, Lochgilhead Red Star 2. Scorers for Oban were Ross MacMillan and Arik MacKechnie; Ardencale 0, Under 19s 2. On target for Saints were Connor Howe and Douglas MacLeod.

This weekend's fixtures: Ardencale v Under 13s; Under 14s v Ardencale; Under 15s v Renton Craigandro; Lochgilhead red Star v Under 16s; Under 19s v Ardencale.

# Athletic match fails to take place

## Football

OBAN Athletic were left kicking their heels last Saturday when opponents Glasgow West failed to travel to Oban to fulfill the fixture.

Athletic have been awarded the three points by the West of Scotland AFL executive committee.

This Saturday the Oban side are scheduled to be at home to Antonine. The match will be played at Glencruiten with a 2pm kick-off

# Taynuilt teenager wins bronze medal

## Swimming

A TAYNUILT teenager has won bronze at the National Schools Swimming Finals in Aberdeen.

Connor MacNeil was third in the final of the 200 metres butterfly with a time of 2:13.22.

Connor also swam in the 100 metres butterfly on the same day and came fourth in a time of 1:00.62.

The Strathallan school pupil was swimming in the boys' 17 to 19 year age group.

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# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

## THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £1800

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

S Cameron, Lochy Road, Fort William

T Emslie, Rhuvaal Road, Oban

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

### Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

### Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter. Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company. In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



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## Lochaber back to winning ways

**Lochaber** 19  
**Shetland** 18  
**Caledonia North Division Two**

LOCHABER got back to winning ways last Saturday with a narrow victory against visiting Shetland in the Caledonia league, north division two.

With the sun shining on Banavie on Saturday, the home side anticipated a tough game as bottom of the league Shetland has a style of play which has troubled them for a few seasons.

Lochaber started well and put in a series of attacking plays that allowed them to camp inside the Shetland 22 for more than 10 minutes but an aggressive defence, a feature of the day, from Shetland kept the scores at 0-0.

After a break out Lochaber gave away a penalty and Shetland duly punished Lochaber to go 0-3 up.

That again galvanised the Lochaber attack and after several waves of attack, a fine flowing move saw Mike McLeish going over for a well-worked and deserved try.

Just three minutes later Jack Baxter scored Lochaber's second try which was converted giving a halftime score of 12-3 to the home side. After the restart

Lochaber wanted to put some distance between the sides but it was Shetland who, after some very aggressive work at the breakdown, managed to score a penalty and then a try in short order which brought the score to 12-13 to the visitors.

This seemed to sting the Lochaber side who responded through another fine try for Euan Larter, which was also converted to make it 19-13.

Lochaber had an opportunity to go further ahead but unfortunately missed the penalty attempt, but this game still had a twist left and with two minutes to go Lochaber again camped inside the Shetland 22.

Shetland somehow managed to win the ball and break out to score a try meaning if they could score the conversion they would win.

But the attempt was missed, giving Lochaber the victory in what coach Stewart Sandison called 'a well-deserved victory in a very tough game'.

This Saturday Lochaber will travel east to take on Aberdeen University in the Caledonia league.

The next home game will be against Garioch on Saturday March 7.



VICTORY: Lochaber's Calum MacDonald making the break

### Tradewinds title goes to Darren

#### Darts

DARREN Sutherland was the winner of this season's Tradewinds singles darts league.

The victor beat Martyn Cameron in the semi-final before achieving a 4-2 defeat over Duncan Carmichael, who got his place in the final after beating John Matheson in their semi-final clash.

The top eight players from the previous 10 weeks of the competition gathered in Corpach for the event on Friday and the consolation final was won by Stevie Clydesdale who beat John Woods 3-2.

Quick legs of the night were 11 darts by Martyn Cameron, 14 darts by Darren Sutherland and a 15-dart leg by James Whyte, and the highest finish of the night was 101 by Michael Slesser.

Continuing the high standard of darts, 11 180s were scored, three by James Whyte, three by Ian Robertson, all in one game, two by Duncan Carmichael and Martyn Cameron respectively and one by Darren Sutherland.

Organiser Duncan Carmichael called the league a 'big success' and welcomed all new players to Tradewinds bar, Corpach, at 8pm on a Friday to take part.

## Fort William cuffed at County

FORT William Football Club went down 4-0 to Nairn County for the second time in a fortnight at the weekend.

The Claggan side travelled to Station Park for the Highland League fixture on Saturday and the scoreline matched that of the Bredon Aggregates cup preliminary round played on January 31.

But Fort manager Calum McLean said he was disappointed

#### Football

in the referee's decision to award a penalty to Nairn at the start of the second half, which saw Conor Gethings bring the score to 2-0.

He said: 'It was never a penalty, the referee must have been the only person in the whole ground who thought it should have been a penalty. Even the Nairn team seemed embarrassed that it had

been awarded. We had been playing well in the first half and that just totally knocked the stuffing out of us.

'That decision may have cost us the game'.

As *The Oban Times* went to print, the Fort boys were preparing for a clash against Rothes last night (Wednesday), in the first game at Claggan Park since November. Speaking ahead of the game, McLean said: 'This is

a really big one for us and we've got Rothes away on Saturday too.

'I'm feeling confident, we're playing at home and we are above them [Rothes] in the league, so there's no reason not to be confident.

'If we get the six points from these games it will put us up from the pack below us.'

The next game at Claggan park will be against Inverurie Locos on Saturday February 28.

## Home club runners fill top three places

CLEAR, crisp and cool weather made for perfect conditions for this year's Lochaber Athletic Club (LAC) Blackwater Dam race.

It was a clear win for the LAC field, as the top three runners were local. Michael Bossard was first of the 53 runners in Kinlochleven on Sunday, finishing the route in one hour, 17 minutes and three seconds, 52 seconds ahead of second place Tom Smith, with Stephen Burns finishing third in one hour, 20 minutes and seven seconds.

Continuing the Lochaber victory, Diane Baum was first lady home and 11th overall, crossing the finish line in one hour, 28 minutes and seven seconds.

Race marshal and LAC chairman Ian Adams wasn't so lucky, as he suffered a puncture at the turn point on the dam wall and ended up taking his bike for a long walk all the way home.

Aileen Duncan of Lochaber was the only competitor not to complete the race, as she twisted

#### Athletics

her ankle during the final stretch. The next race will be the Vitri-fied Fort on March 1, from Glen Nevis restaurant. Registration from 10am.

Top 20 finishers, LAC unless otherwise stated: 1 Michael Boss 1:17:03; 2 Tom Smith 1:17:55; 3 Stephen Burns 1:20:07; 4 Luke Taylor, Highland Hill Runners, 1:20:07; 5 Tim Brand 1:23:06; 6 Stephen Burns (junior) 1:24:11; 7 Bruce McLean 1:25:17; 8 Hughie MacKintosh 1:25:55; 9 Aidan Donnelly 1:26:16; 10 Mark Willets, Melbourne Midday Milers, 1:26:42; 11 Diane Baum 1:28:07; 12 Ali Kennedy 1:29:00; 13 Allan Lamont 1:29:10; 14 Neil Waslidge, unattached, 1:29:20; 15 Ian Mackellaig 1:30:07; 16 Andy Craig 1:30:34; 17 Gordie Taylor, Highland Hill Runners, 1:32:49; 18 William Taylor, unattached, 1:34:04; 19 Owen Bass, Deeside Runners, 1:34:20; 20 Ronnie Turner 1:36:56.

### YOUNG PHOENIX FIGHTER IS BIG HIT

## Teenage boxer impresses as he takes on former British champion

#### Boxing

AT ONLY 18 years old, Lochaber Phoenix boxer Igor Sliwinski showed his talent this weekend when he took on three-time British champion Lewis Benson.

Although the verdict went to Benson, the Edinburgh boxer who has also been Scottish champion four times, there was applause for Sliwinski in a tough bout which marked only his second senior contest.

The opening round of the Scottish Championship preliminaries on Saturday saw Benson try to goad Sliwinski into making a mistake but the teen feinted regularly as he came forward to try and counter the counterpuncher.

Benson edged this round but both boxers worked well at a strong pace.

The second round was where Sliwinski made his mark as he started to change the pace of his feet during attacks, launching forward in two and three phases and landing the last punch in each exchange.

Incredibly Sliwinski was one-all in rounds with an experienced, accomplished, internationally renowned boxer in only the teenager's first senior championships going into the last round.

This is when Benson used his vast experience to great effect.

He made sure to win the first couple of exchanges of the stanza and the relatively inexperienced Sliwinski panicked and started to lose his shape as he lunged forward, abandoning his earlier tactics.

This gave Benson a chance to land a few counters and make sure he kept ahead until the end of the session.



TALENT: Igor Sliwinski

## Alleycats in pole position

NOW 16 weeks into the Lochaber Building Supplies ten pin bowling league, things remain tight at the top in both competitions.

Alleycats stay in the lead of the scratch division with 67 points, with The Creeps in second place with 66 points and Artoe/Nevis Radio in third with 64.

In the handicap division Alleycats have regained the top spot with 59 points. Last week's winners, Rotavators, move to second place, also on 59 points with Ardtoe/Nevis Radio in third with 57.

The top individual scratch game this week came from Rossamy Wareing of Ardtoe/Nevis Radio, with a score of 207. Other good games came from Steven Burns, The Creeps, with 188 and Tony

#### Ten-pin bowling

Whitlocke, Alleycats, with 183. Wareing also had the top handicap game of 259, the top two game scratch series with 329 and the top two game handicap series of 433.

Ardtoe/Nevis Radio rolled the top scratch team game of the week of 585, the top handicap game of 807 and the top two handicap team series of 1528.

Alleycats had the top two game scratch team series with 1104.

The highest scratch average is currently held by Pam Weller, Alleycats, on 154, followed by Tony Whitlocke, also of Alleycats, on 153 and Stewart Duncan, The Creeps, on 147.

### Starter's orders for new running event

#### Athletics

A NEW Fort William running event is to make its debut this weekend.

Runduro, by No Fuss Events, will take in 20km through the town and Glen Nevis, with a mix of timed and non-timed stages, to allow the many visiting competitors to take in the stunning scenery on Saturday (February 21).

Eight racing stages will make up 11km of the route, while the rest will give participants an opportunity to relax, catch their breath and take in the views.

As a fringe event of the Fort William Mountain Festival, the race will start and finish from Cameron Square, with registration from 7.30am.

Runners can enter the race at [www.nofussevents.co.uk](http://www.nofussevents.co.uk)

### Rugby club dinner tickets up for grabs

#### Rugby

TICKETS are still available for Lochaber Rugby Club's dinner dance next month.

The Moorings Hotel event on March 21 will also include the club's annual prizegiving.

Tickets or tables of eight can be booked by calling 07979338286.

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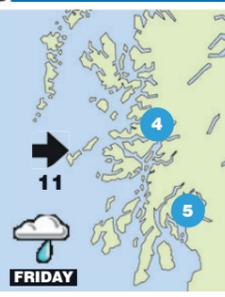
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**WEATHER**

**Thursday** Cloudy with showers  
Winds south westerly  
Temperatures 4°C to 7°C.

**Friday** Cloudy with showers  
Winds westerly  
Temperatures 2°C to 6°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Cloudy on Saturday  
Heavy rain on Sunday  
Winds strong north westerly  
Temperatures 2°C to 6°C.



**TIDAL INFORMATION**

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, February 19, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date		am		pm			
Thur	05.55	4.3	12.12	0.4	18.07	4.1	** ** *
Fri	00.28	0.2	06.34	4.4	12.55	0.3	18.45 4.1
Sat	01.11	0.1	07.13	4.3	13.37	0.3	19.23 4.0
Sun	01.55	0.2	07.53	4.1	14.19	0.5	20.02 3.8
Mon	02.40	0.4	08.34	3.9	15.02	0.7	20.41 3.6
Tues	03.27	0.7	09.16	3.5	15.49	1.0	21.24 3.3
Wed	04.18	1.1	10.06	3.2	16.41	1.3	22.15 3.1

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

# Driving **Force**

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## Welcome to Driving Force

SPRING is just around the corner and there are very few things that can bring people out of their self-imposed winter hibernation than the prospect of buying a new motor car.

As March beckons, the possibility of purchasing a new '15' registration plate model is more than just appealing - it's compulsive. And we hope our 12-page 'Driving Force' supplement makes compelling reading.

Owing a car is an essential component for those of us who live in the beautiful but distant and vast west Highlands.

Without it our lives would come to a standstill: how would we ever get things done? How would we get to work, take the children to school, do the weekly shop or visit friends?

It can be no surprise then that buying a motor car is, for most people, the second most important purchase they will ever make, next to purchasing their house.

People devote serious time and consideration to the acquisition of a car and are prepared to clock up the miles in pursuit of the perfect purchase. That is especially true of the west Highlands where potential buyers will not only trawl Argyll and Bute, but think nothing of travelling to Perth, Stirling, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Ayr and many other places to find the ideal vehicle.

And this is where our motoring supplement comes in: it is a route map to the many dealerships, both locally and beyond, who will help you find the car that suits your family requirements and your wallet; and the many garages and services, who will keep you on the straight and narrow with first rate maintenance.

And to make that journey more memorable, we have compiled a tour-de-force of Scotland's five most scenic drives - all of which are to be found in the west Highlands.

Happy hunting and happy motoring; after all, the 15-plate of your dreams may just be around the corner.

A Wyvex Media publication

Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB

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## Helensburgh Toyota to showcase range in Oban ahead of new '15' plate

HELENSBURGH Toyota likes to get out and about in the community meeting people.

Next week, Monday and Tuesday February 23-24, it will visit Tesco Oban and will be showcasing the models in the Toyota range ahead of the new '15' number plate change. The team, Kirsteen McGuire and Leona Barclay, will also be offering visitors the chance to test drive these vehicles from Tesco, so please bring along your driving licence. To make an appointment please call 01436 672779.

Sales controller Kirsteen McGuire said: 'There has never been a more important time for small businesses and people in our surrounding area to support each other. Being out and about is giving us the chance to do this and we hope to let the local people see the commitment we have to Argyll and Bute and the islands. We will have a new car display on show with some terrific offers so come along and see us.'

Helensburgh Toyota is honoured to have more than 37 years' delivering

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The new Yaris Hybrid will be showcased in Oban

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Model shown is New AYGO x-cite 5 door 1.0 VVT-I 5-speed Manual. \*4.9% APR Representative available on new retail orders of AYGO when ordered between 16th December 2014 and 31st March 2015 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services by 30th June 2015 on a 42 month AccessToyota (PCP) plan with 0-35% deposit and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. 1 year's free comprehensive insurance offer is subject to purchase being made via Toyota Financial Services on a Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) only and is available on MY15 New AYGO models (excluding x). All drivers must be aged 21 years and over. Offer is limited to the insured plus up to four additional drivers. The insured and all drivers must have held a full UK driving licence for a minimum of 2 years and had no more than 1 fault claim in the last 3 years. Offer only available to customers with no more than 1 minor motoring conviction in the last 3 years. Standard Toyota Motor Insurance Terms & Conditions apply (available on request) - these will be confirmed in the policy document.

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New AYGO x-cite 5 door 1.0 VVT-I 5-speed Manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 56.5 (5.0), Extra Urban 78.5 (3.6), Combined 68.9 (4.1). CO2 Emissions 95g/km. The mpg & CO2 figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results. These are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

MY15 Yaris Hybrid Icon 5 door 1.5 VVT-I Auto (CVT). Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 91.1 (3.1), Extra Urban 85.6 (3.3), Combined 85.6 (3.3). CO2 Emissions 75g/km. The mpg & CO2 figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results. These are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

# Peugeot 308 GT – with performance and style

THE showroom success enjoyed by the award-winning Peugeot 308 looks set to reach even greater heights with the arrival of a new dynamic flagship – the stunning 308 GT.

Available in hatchback and SW body styles, both models offer assertive new styling, outstanding performance-oriented engines and bespoke chassis modifications to create a lower ride height. The result is an exceptional on-the-road experience that will delight the most enthusiastic drivers. The enhancements clearly embody Peugeot's continued move up-market, highlighted by the 308's recognition as the 2014 European Car of the Year.

The new Peugeot 308 GT retains all the elements which have made the 308 range such a huge commercial hit throughout Europe.

This includes the striking exterior design, innovative Peugeot i-Cockpit cabin, versatile interior and high perceived quality. Remarkable engine efficiency, with

high fuel economy and ultra-low emissions, is also part of the 308 GT package.

## Assertive sporty styling

The 308 GT's unique design quality is immediately obvious. The iconic Peugeot Lion emblem has moved from the bonnet's leading edge to the front grille, with three horizontal blades on either side. For optimum vision in all circumstances, the 308 GT has been fitted with top-of-the-range headlights made up of 62 LEDs.

The 308 GT presents a great aerodynamic and stylistic purity, most notable where the black lacquered door mirrors merge with the tinted windows. Visibly widened by its side sill finishers, the 308 GT sits on 18-inch 'Diamant' wheels, shod with Michelin Pilot Sport 3 tyres. Their fluted spokes and engraved motif are also available on 308 GT-Line models.

At the rear, the 308 GT offers a striking and distinctive posture, due in part to the lacquered black diffuser and stylish twin exhaust pipes. The GT signature is integrated into the tailgate,

as well as the front grille and front wings.

The range of colours for the 308 GT includes the new and exclusive 'Magnetic Blue'. Evocative of the blue historically reserved for French competition vehicles, this bold shade suits the car's fluid and dynamic lines, while emphasising its lowered ride height.

An exclusive new ambience is also achieved in the car's cabin, with both the roof lining and upper window pillars finished in anthracite. Red stitching adds a performance air to the upholstery trim and is also found on the dashboard, door panels, gear lever gaiter and floor mats. Aluminium detailing on the pedals, coupled with stainless steel sill finishers in the door apertures, add the finishing touch.

Vital in any sports-oriented car is the correct driving position. It's already ideal in this new model because of the ergonomics of the Peugeot i-Cockpit, as seen in every 308. The driver can adjust the height and reach of the compact steering

wheel, which is unique to this car due to its perforated leather trim and GT badge.

The instrument panel bears a new chequered flag motif background and switching on the ignition produces a GT welcome message. To complement this, the large touchscreen displays a new colour scheme dominated by red and black, titled 'Redline'.

## Remarkable dynamic performance

To deliver maximum enjoyment, the 308 GT features enhanced new chassis settings. Ride height has been lowered by 7mm at the front and 10mm at the rear for a more dynamic drive. The revised suspension is mated to a choice of high-performance engines, one petrol and one diesel, that both meet stringent Euro 6 emissions standards.

The four-cylinder 1.6-litre THP 205 stop and start petrol engine is specified with a six-speed manual gearbox to make the most of its 285Nm of torque, available between 1,750 and 4,500rpm. This high level of

performance is combined with well controlled CO2 emissions and fuel consumption, from just 130g/km and 50.4mpg. Engineers used all of the brand's expertise to achieve a remarkable power-to-weight ratio of just 5.85kg/hp (171hp per tonne) on this model.

The four-cylinder 2.0-litre BlueHDi 180 diesel engine also offers a high level of performance. It delivers its maximum power of 180hp at 3,750rpm and its maximum torque of 400Nm at 2,000rpm.

## A heightened driving experience

At one with the Peugeot i-Cockpit, the 308 GT driver is at the heart of the driving experience due to the 308 range's standard-fit compact steering wheel and head-up instrumenta-

tion. Pleasure is further enhanced by the driver sport pack, standard on every 308 GT. This includes:

- amplified and more sporty engine noise
- instruments illuminated with red display
- instrument panel that displays the power and torque delivered, turbo pressure, longitudinal and transverse acceleration
- firmer and more responsive power steering
- more responsive accelerator pedal mapping
- more responsive operation of the EAT6 gearbox, with steering wheel-mounted control paddles



Peugeot 308 GT

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# Renault romance season

Renault announces the launch of the Renault Romance Season with seductive offers across its range of cars and vans available now and through the new 15-registration plate this March.

Starting with the launch of the 'Restart Your Heart' television campaign with the chic Clio supermini, filmed in Paris, the city of love, the Renault Romance Season extends the celebration of Valentine's Day for registration through to March 31.

The Renault Romance Season also celebrates Renault's continued success with two consecutive years of market-leading share gain and a car sales volume growth of 44 per cent in 2014. The Renault Romance Season is supported by a fully-integrated multi-million pound advertising campaign including television, press, outdoor, radio and digital.

The Renault Romance Season of seductive offers starts from just £139 per month with four years' warranty and four years' Renault assistance included on retail offers. Retail customers will enjoy special savings styling packs and leather interiors and also on service plans that start from just £199 for three years/30,000 miles.

All-New Twingo – 'Top Gear' magazine's City Car of the Year is available from just £139 deposit and £139 per month.

Clio – the chic supermini with standard air conditioning and 16-inch alloy wheels starts from £139 per month on Expression+ with a £1,500 deposit contribution.

Captur – the adventurous crossover with customisable colour collections from £169 per month with £1,250 deposit contribution.

Mégane – the range of hatchback, sport tourer and coupe models with energy efficient engines with four years' interest-free hire purchase and nil deposit.

Scenic – spacious and flexible MPV with four years' interest-free hire purchase and nil deposit.

Renault Romance Season also extends to the van range:

Kangoo, All-New Trafic and Master – Europe's best-selling van range - is available from £149.95 per month excluding VAT on three-year/10,000 miles per annum contract hire for your business customers.

Customers can find out more information at [www.renault.co.uk](http://www.renault.co.uk)



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13 Dacia Duster Ambiance, 1.5 Dci, Grey, 3600 Miles.....	£11,950
13 Skoda Octavia SE TSI, Blue 16,600 miles, .....	£11,500
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57 Citroen Berlingo Desire 1.6 Deisel Grey, 90,000 .....	£3,500
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1. L200 price shown is for a L200 Challenger 2.5 diesel 4WD manual (VAT inclusive price is £19,798.80). Price shown is a vehicle offer price and excludes VAT, VED and First Registration Fee. Metallic paint extra. Offer is only applicable in the UK (excludes Channel Islands). Offer is correct at time of going to print and is subject to availability, whilst stocks last and may be amended or withdrawn at any time. Offer available at participating dealers between 1st January and 31st March 2015. 2. 5 year/125,000 mile warranty (whichever comes first) is applicable to new Mitsubishi L200 retail and small business sales and selected Contract Hire agreements. 5 year/125,000 mile warranty excludes Northern Ireland & CI, Terms and Conditions apply. Please see [www.mitsubishi-cars.co.uk/l200/warranty](http://www.mitsubishi-cars.co.uk/l200/warranty) for more details. Model shown is an L200 Challenger 2.5 diesel 4WD manual. Other offers are available – ask for details.

# Top 5 scenic drives

## No.1 Tyndrum to Glencoe



THE DRIVE from Tyndrum to Glencoe, part of the A82, offers drivers an almost unspoilt landscape, with very few buildings, but miles of some of the West Highlands' most breathtaking scenery.

Tyndrum itself is a fantastic starting point for a journey, with the famous Green Welly Stop and restaurant, cafe and range of gifts.

Once on the open road, the various streams and burns passed weave under

each other, eventually find their way to Loch Lubhair.

The road then reaches the bleak Moorland at the western fringes of Rannoch Moor. This part of the road has extensive history, having originally been built in the 18th century by Major William Caulifield, inspector of roads for Scotland, who oversaw the construction of almost 900 miles of roads in the 18th century in Scotland, with the section then re-routed in the 1930s.

After passing Bridge of Orchy, which runs parallel with the river of the same name to the west and the West Highland Sleeper railway line to the east, the road continues north, with stunning views of Loch Tulla to the east signalling the midway point of the journey and stunning forestry to the west.

As the woodlands finish, the driver is treated running along the edge of Lochan na h-Achlaise to the west,

followed by Loch Ba, with the viewpoint at Loch Ba a common stop-off point for visitors.

The journey turns into a less-picturesque-but-clear run as the road arches up past Lochnan Beinn Chaorach, on an almost straight route.

A sharp left-hand turn off the A82 signals the home straight to Glencoe, passing the Black Rock Cottage, arriving in the famous mountain range.

## No.2 Kintyre Peninsula



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AS a peninsula, Kintyre offers not one but two fascinating drives between Tarbert and Campbeltown.

Many people comment on the wonderful 35-mile drive down the A83 with its stunning views across to the islands of Jura, Islay and Gigha as the road skirts the coast.

When the westerly winds blow in off the Atlantic, massive waves create a foaming frenzy just yards away. Not surprising it attracts surfers, particularly along miles of unspoilt beach at Westport.

There are plenty of spots en

route where drivers can pull over to soak in the views.

On the return journey, if the weather is good, leave time to go up the east side of the peninsula on the B842.

It is not a route to be taken in a hurry or in bad weather, when there will be a lack of views to offset a road that can seem to be an endless succession of twists and turns and rolling hills.

In those circumstances it can be a fairly miserable experience, but when the sky is clear it is a completely different story.

On the left, there is farmland rising to substantial, largely-forest covered hills and on the right a succession of outstanding views of deserted beaches across to the magnificent hills of Arran.

On a sunny day, the twists and turns, taken slowly over numerous little bridges and beautiful streams, are transformed into a delightful experience. Just what are you going to see around the next corner? Is that little cottage for sale not tempting?

There is Saddell, with abbey remains dating back to the 12th century, Torridale Castle estate, Dippen Bay, and then the village of Carradale. With its pubs, golf course, caravan park, harbour, forest walks and lovely beach, it has long been popular with those seeking a leisurely holiday in quiet, unspoilt surroundings.

## No.3 Skye: Portree to Uig



THE JOURNEY from Skye's capital of Portree to Uig is 35 miles and can be done in less than an hour and a half.

But with Skye having such breathtaking scenery, visitors often spend one or two days exploring the route.

Setting off north-east from Portree, with its Balamory-esque coloured houses looking onto the bay, first is the Trotternish peninsula of Skye famous as a location for Hollywood blockbusters, including Stardust, Prometheus and the upcoming Star Wars movies.

Drivers really are spoilt for choice when it comes to the scenery in the area, enjoying a mixture of swooping double-track and single-track sections of road, on the route, which takes in the rocky hill known as the Old Man of Storr.

Moving further north, drivers will witness the dramatic Lealt waterfall at Kilt Rock and Trotternish Ridge on the rugged landscape, before reaching Staffin Bay and its views of Staffin Island.

The double track-section

along Stenscholl is a popular stopping point for motorists who take their foot off the pedal to take the often-pictured Brogaig, Glaspein and Digg townships in the classic crofting scene which has featured in dozens of broadcasts and pictures over the decades.

Motoring north onto the single track stretch, the villages of Flodigarry, Kilmlauag and Duntulm will be passed, with fine views across the Minch to the Western Isles - particularly on a clear day - from Kilmuir, as well as the remains of Duntulm Castle.

Uig itself is situated partly on the raised beach around the head of the bay and partly on the steep slopes behind it, with the River Rha from the north and River Conon from the east and both have stunning waterfalls.

At this point there are two choices; turn left to go back to Staffin and take the Bealaich road to see the Quiraing in all its glory, or head into Uig and up to the Faerie Glens, with its 'magical and mystical' quality.

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# in Scotland

## No.4 Fort William to Mallaig



THE FORT William-Mallaig 'road to the isles' is a journey not to be forgotten, skirting some of Scotland's most beautiful scenery.

Though it may lack the glamour of the lauded West Highland railway line, which it rubs shoulders with along the way, the A830 at least provides something different.

While trains burrow their way between the mountains and trees for much of the journey, the road sticks more to the coastline, offering jaw-dropping views across the sound of Arisaig towards the Atlantic ocean.

Drivers can follow a trail of Scottish history and popular culture, starting in Glenfinnan, where Bonnie Prince Charlie raised the standard of the Jacobite army in 1745.

The village here, along with neighbouring areas at Loch Eilt and Morar, also featured heavily in well-known films, including the Harry Potter franchise.

From a driving perspective, the A830 is a motorist's dream at times.

In contrast to the Glasgow-Inverness A82, traffic is usually light, even during the summer months, and it offers a gentle and

smooth ride for the most part.

Significant investment in recent years has seen widening and resurfacing work, while it was gradually upgraded from a single to a double track carriageway from the 1980s.

Shortly after crossing the Caledonian Canal at Banavie, motorists can enjoy a brisk cruise through the hills up to where they pass the famous Glenfinnan viaduct on the railway line and the adjacent Glenfinnan monument erected alongside Loch Shiel as a lasting tribute to the Jacobites.

Also worth looking out for is the disused whitewashed church Our Lady of the Braes standing on the middle of a bare moor near Lochailort, and the Prince's Cairn alongside Loch nan Uamh; marking the spot where Bonnie Prince Charlie was exiled to France in 1746.

The fishing village of Mallaig is a ferry port for Skye and the Small Isles of Eigg, Muck, Rum and Canna, offering the chance for visitors to go further afield and explore more dramatic west coast scenery if they choose.



## No.5 Crianlarich to Oban

MANY an Obanite will know that the Crianlarich to Oban journey is the 'home straight' if they have travelled from either Strathclyde to the south or somewhere on the east coast, signalling around an hour of travelling to go.

However, rather than 'zoning out' and concentrating on getting to the final destination, the awe-inspiring hillsides, forestry and lochs make it one of the best drives in the West Highlands.

The first five miles give the driver the chance to see Ben Lui, the highest and most famous of a group of four Munros that lie south of Glen Lochy, and considered by many hill-walkers to be the finest mountain in the south Highlands.

The site of Loch Awe and Kilchurn Castle paints an almost definitive image of historic, picturesque Scotland as travellers continue along the A85.

Driving right along the banks of the loch, Saint Conan's Kirk, built by the great-grandfather of the Duke of Argyll, sits

beautifully on a crag high above the water amid roses, honeysuckle, ivy, and large trees.

Mr Campbell also built another landmark a few miles further along the way, a house on the small island of Innis Chonain, accessible by road bridge.

The Pass of Brander, a stretch of the A85 further along the way has consistently been voted one of the best stretches of roads in the West Highlands, and is particularly popular with motorcyclists.

From Taynuilt the road twists inland with glimpses of Loch Etive until the glorious sight of Connel Bridge emerges from beside the village of the same name.

On the final stretch to Oban look out for Dunstaffnage Castle to the right over Dunstaffnage Bay, above the masts of the marina.

The descent into Oban, with views of the beautiful bay and the isle of Kerrera and Mull, is a famous sight that many a local and tourist have enjoyed.



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Mallaig is one of the most picturesque villages on the rugged North West coastline of Scotland. The area is a haven for sailors of all types due to the sheltered waters, stunning Highland scenery and facilities.



# Family-run garage goes extra mile

AS A family-run business, trading for more than 25 years, Eaglesham Garage puts its customers first.

Situated in the south side of Glasgow, the Subaru and Isuzu specialist has full dealer facilities in its Gilmour Street garage.

With a range of used vehicles on offer as well, managing director Andrew McGlone explained how the dealership, the closest Isuzu and Subaru specialist to Argyll and Bute, caters for customers here.

Andrew, whose father Bob started the business in 1989, said: 'Here at Eaglesham Garage, the customer comes first. I think that's

why we've been a successful business for so long.

'As two of the leading car brands in the world, customers in some of the more rural areas are always keen to buy Isuzu and Subaru vehicles, and obviously test-drive them first.

'That why Eaglesham Garage is happy to deliver cars to our customers for a full test-drive, giving them the chance to experience what these vehicles have to offer on some of the west coast's unparalleled driving routes.'

Among the vehicles on offer is Subaru's venerable and versatile Forester SUV,

which has received many accolades including 'Mid-size SUV of the Year' by 4 x 4 Magazine, making it perfect for some of Argyll's more rugged terrain.

Compared to its predecessor, the new Forester offers more efficient performance, even better safety features and a more spacious and better-appointed cabin.

For 2015 the Forester also gets a mild makeover with further improvements to the appointments in the cabin and a new range of factory-fit sat-nav and infotainment systems. The Forester will also be available for the first time with Subaru's

advanced CVT Lineartronic transmission coupled with the Boxer diesel engine.

Unusual in the segment but keeping true to its heritage, Subaru offers a petrol turbo Forester in the form of the XT Turbo and which has proved popular with Subaru buyers – equipped as it is with a 240ps 2.0-litre turbocharged direct-injection engine delivering super smooth pulling power both on and off-road. The Forester range is also available with Subaru's hallmark 2.0-litre petrol and diesel Boxer engines, and all versions of the car feature Subaru's advanced All-Wheel Drive



Eaglesham Garage in the south side of Glasgow

system as standard.

Also available at Eaglesham, the versatility of the Isuzu D-Max Blade is perfect for both rural and urban environments, tackling the best and worst roads drivers face.

Tough, reliable and refined, the D-Max Blade is

perfect for everyday heroes that need a dependable sidekick for work and leisure, whether it's running a few errands or hauling 3.5 tonnes on a trailer.

The special edition Isuzu D-Max Blade double cab pick-up boasts a long list of stylish and technological enhancements to stand out from the crowd. Bold 18-inch, six-spoke 'Shadow' alloy wheels, contrasting black load-bed bars and privacy glass ensure it looks the real deal.

Inside, automatic climate control and premium black leather seats cosset occupants, and there is also a 6.1-inch touchscreen navigation system – complete with integrated rear safety camera – and enhanced surround-sound audio.

Fitted with an efficient 2.5-litre twin-turbo diesel engine, which can be mated to a six-speed manual or five-speed automatic transmission, the D-Max Blade produces 163 PS and 400 Nm of torque and is certified to tow a class-leading 3.5-tonnes (braked).

Launched in the summer of 2012, the D-Max continues to impress, winning numerous prestigious accolades in recent months.

Last year was the best ever for the brand in the UK with sales of over 5,500 pick-ups.

Every new D-Max comes as standard with the company's pioneering five-year / 125,000-mile warranty.

For more information on the firm's fantastic range of quality, new and used cars, contact Eaglesham Garage, 77 Gilmour Street Glasgow, on 01355 302 685 or email [sales@eagleshamgarage.co.uk](mailto:sales@eagleshamgarage.co.uk)

**Tough, reliable and refined, the D-Max Blade is perfect for everyday heroes that need a dependable sidekick for work and leisure, whether it's running a few errands or hauling 3.5 tonnes on a trailer.**



Isuzu D-Max Blade



Subaru Forester

**Among the vehicles on offer is Subaru's venerable and versatile Forester SUV, which has received many accolades including 'Mid-size SUV of the Year' by 4 x 4 Magazine, making it perfect for some of Argyll's more rugged terrain.**

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**Representative example**

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Subaru Deposit Contribution	£1,000.00	Total Amount Payable	£28,810.00
Total Amount of Credit	£18,941.00	Duration of Agreement	49 Months
Purchase Fee (included in payments)	£169.00	Interest Rate (fixed)	6.1%
Acceptance Fee (included in payments)	£179.00	Representative APR	6.9% APR

Representative example relates to a Subaru Forester 2.0D X. Vehicle shown is a Subaru Forester 2.0D X with optional extra of metallic paint at an on the road price of £25,495.



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MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. \*Official fuel figures for the Isuzu Eiger Manual in mpg (l/100km): Urban 31.7 (8.9), Extra Urban 44.1 (6.4), Combined 38.7 (7.3). CO2 emissions 192g/km. For model specific figures please contact us directly or visit www.isuzu.co.uk

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\*\*5 year/125,000 mile (whichever comes first) warranty applies to all new Isuzu D-Max models. †Price shown is an Isuzu Eiger Double Cab CVT with manual transmission, automatic transmission also available. Commercial vehicle on the road price includes delivery, number plates, 12 months road fund licence and first registration fee, excludes VAT. \*3.5 tonne towing capacity applies to all 4x4 models. Special paint finishes extra at £400 excluding VAT. Terms and conditions apply. www.isuzu.co.uk

# Strathmore gears up for exciting year with Volvo

STRATHMORE is the longest established Volvo retailer in the UK, partnering in early 1958, and has since enjoyed a close relationship with the unique Swedish brand.

The dealership features the full range of new and used Volvo models, which is soon to include the highly anticipated all-new XC90 in spring, plus an onsite workshop for servicing and parts, as well as customer and business sales specialists.

The new XC90 marks the beginning of a new chapter in Volvo's history, capturing its future design direction, incorporating its own range of new technologies and utilising its new Scalable Product Architecture (SPA) technology.

The model offers a range of two-litre, four-cylinder Drive-E powertrains, all of which provide an outstanding combination of performance and fuel-efficiency.

Normal driving is

conducted in the default hybrid mode. But at the push of a button the driver can switch to quiet and emission-free city driving on pure electric power where the range will be around 40 kilometres, and then, when needed, immediately revert back to the combined capacity of the petrol engine and electric motor.

The XC90 will be in good company at Strathmore as the dealership offers the latest range of Volvos including the V40, Volvo's popular sporty hatchback and luxury crossover, the XC60. Volvo Car UK recorded a 26 per cent year-on-year sales increase in 2014, with the Volvo V40/V40 Cross Country taking top honour with 18,086 sold followed by the XC60 with 9,959 sales.

Volvo's V40 premium hatchback offers the ultimate in luxury, safety technology, driving dynamics and specification. The V40 is low and sleek, making it one of the most eye-catching

**The new XC90 marks the beginning of a new chapter in Volvo's history, capturing its future design direction, incorporating its own range of new technologies**

Volvos ever. The five-door, five-seat hatchback has a low-roof and bonnet lines, but offers the functionality and practicality as any other Volvo.

Safety, as with all Volvos, has not been overlooked. The V40 comes as standard with City Safety and the world's first pedestrian airbag.

Along with a host of other safety features, it ensures Volvo's reputation for safety leadership continues.

These safety features have resulted in the V40 having the highest overall score in Euro NCAP's tests and the fitment of City Safety as



Volvo XC90

standard has resulted in the car benefitting from lower insurance ratings after being tested by Thatcham on behalf of the Association of British Insurers.

Offering a world-class blend of drivability and low CO2 emissions, Volvo's Drive-E powertrains are also now available on the Volvo V40 and V40 Cross Country models.

The CO2 emissions of the manual 190hp Volvo V40 D4 are down to a sector leading 85 g/km – an offer no competitor is even close to matching – and the D4 engine offers a massive 80hp

more driving pleasure than other cars in the segment with CO2 emissions at that level.

Drivers can select from a choice of two engines from the four-cylinder Drive-E engine family for their V40: the 245hp petrol turbo T5 and the turbo diesel D4 with 190hp where an eight-speed automatic gearbox contributes to the refined drive.

While it may occupy the same kerb space as any medium-sized 4x4, the Volvo XC60's dynamic looks allow it to stand out from the crowd. From the

side it resembles a sporty estate car but still boasts the commanding driving position and functionality of its class rivals.

As well as its bold and assertive looks, motorists can be reassured that they will be getting behind the wheel of a car with the maximum five star Euro NCAP safety rating.

A number of design cues distinguish the R-Design derivative which has taken the XC60 model and added a more sports-inspired look and a re-tuned chassis. The XC60 R-Design chassis is stiffer than the standard



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UP TO 53.3 MPG  
(COMBINED FIGURE)  
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Personal Contract Purchase Representative  
Example: V40 T2 R-Design

48 Monthly payments	£285.00
Customer deposit	£285.00
Finance deposit contribution	£750.00
Representative APR	6.9% APR
On the road price*	£19,652.20
Total amount of credit	£18,617.20
Interest charges	£3,787.80
Total amount payable	£23,440.00
Optional final payment	£8,725.00
Duration of agreement (months)	49
Fixed rate of interest p.a.	3.55%
Mileage per annum	8,000
Excess mileage charge	14.9p per mile

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Official fuel consumption for the Volvo V40 T2 R-Design (manual) in MPG (l/100km): Urban 41.5 (6.8), Extra Urban 62.8 (4.5), Combined 53.3 (5.3). CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 124g/km. MPG figures are obtained from laboratory testing intended for comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect real driving results. Finance subject to status. Retail sales only. \*Subject to availability at participating dealers only on vehicles registered by 31st March 2015. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle. (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition or mileage of the vehicle. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Volvo Car Credit RH1 1SR. You will not own the vehicle until all payments are made. Ian H. Cameron Ltd trading as Strathmore are a credit broker not a lender, can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers and may receive a commission from them for the introduction. The service offer is only applicable when purchasing on Volvo Advantage Personal Contract Purchase on vehicles ordered between 1st January 2015 and 31st March 2015. Services must be carried out at a Volvo Authorised Repairer. Retail offer only. Excludes fleet operators and business users. See [volvocars.co.uk](http://volvocars.co.uk) for full terms and conditions.



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Official fuel consumption for the Volvo XC60 D4 SE (manual) in MPG (l/100km): Urban 57.6 (4.9), Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3), Combined 62.8 (4.5). CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 117g/km. MPG figures are obtained from laboratory testing intended for comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect real driving results. Finance subject to status. Retail sales only. \*Subject to availability at participating dealers only on vehicles registered by 31st March 2015. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle. (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition or mileage of the vehicle. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Volvo Car Credit RH1 1SR. You will not own the vehicle until all payments are made. Ian H. Cameron Ltd trading as Strathmore are a credit broker not a lender, can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers and may receive a commission from them for the introduction. The service offer is only applicable when purchasing on Volvo Advantage Personal Contract Purchase on vehicles ordered between 1st January 2015 and 31st March 2015. Services must be carried out at a Volvo Authorised Repairer. Retail offer only. Excludes fleet operators and business users. See [volvocars.co.uk](http://volvocars.co.uk) for full terms and conditions.

car and has more dynamic driving properties - without compromising ride comfort. The shock absorber springs and anti-roll bars are adjusted and tuned to be firmer and more balanced. The result is improved control and a sportier, road-hugging drive.

Fitted as standard to the XC60 range is Volvo's autonomous braking City Safety system which is designed to help a driver avoid a low-speed crash or to reduce its severity.

Strathmore guarantees its customers an unbeatable combination of quality, reassurance and expertise when it comes to vehicle aftersales and servicing through the Volvo service promise. After making sure customers get to where they need to go, Strathmore's expert technicians will give each car a full health check, including a free software upgrade to ensure that it's performing at its best, followed by a car wash. Customers will also drive away from the dealership with 12 months' complimentary Volvo

roadside assistance.

Strathmore's dealership director Norman Leishman comments: 'Volvo is a fantastic brand that enjoys great loyalty from its customers - it's a great fit with us and the way we do business. The most important thing we can do as a dealership is to ensure that every customer that pays us a visit drives away knowing that they've experienced the very highest standards of service,' he said. 'That's our promise to our customers as we're proud to be the longest serving Volvo retailer in the UK.'

Part of a family company, Strathmore has enjoyed continuous investment from owner and chairman, Douglas Cameron, to establish one of the most experienced Volvo teams in the network.

For more information on the services available at Strathmore, the full Volvo car range or to arrange a test drive, telephone the dealership, located on Arran Road, on 01738 622156 or visit [www.volvocarsperth.co.uk](http://www.volvocarsperth.co.uk).

## STRATHMORE PERTH - VOLVO DEALERS FOR THE OBAN AREA

STRATHMORE Volvo, Britain's longest serving Volvo dealership, is the official Volvo dealers for Oban and area.

Part of the Cameron Group, based in Dunkeld Road's famous 'Motor Mile' in Perth, Strathmore Volvo has won many accolades over the years for the quality of their service and its award-winning customer care.

The company is rightly proud of its enviable reputation, both within the motor trade and with its customers, but is never complacent. An ongoing campaign of staff training and improvement ensures the company stays one step ahead of its many rivals.

For customers from the Oban area, once they purchase their new or pre-owned Volvo, the service does not stop there. Strathmore Volvo will actually arrange

to collect your vehicle when a service is due and leave you with a courtesy car until your pride and joy is returned to you, so you don't have to journey to Perth.

The full range of new Volvo vehicles is always available for test drive.

Looking for a top quality used Volvo? Then the company has a vast

selection of quality Volvo Selekt Used models always available with the selection changing daily. With prices starting from around £9,000 up to £34,000 and finance tailored to suit your requirements you'll find the Volvo to reflect your lifestyle.

If you're looking for a breath of fresh air and

unbeatable customer care for your next car then try Strathmore Volvo in Perth.

You'll be pleasantly surprised.

Telephone 01738 622156 or check the website [www.volvocarsperth.co.uk](http://www.volvocarsperth.co.uk) for comprehensive details and photographs of the extensive stock.



Strathmore Volvo dealership in Perth

Volvo Selekt Cars

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12/12 Volvo V40 D2 SE Lux Nav (114hp) Black Sapphire, 13,689 miles **£15,995**



12/12 Volvo V60 D3 SE Lux Stop/Start (163hp) Caspian Blue, 39,326 miles **£16,000**



13/13 Volvo XC60 D5 Geartronic R-Design Nav (215hp) Black, 29,301 miles **£26,000**



14/14 Volvo XC70 D5 (215hp) Caspian Blue, 5,542 miles **£28,000**



14/14 Volvo XC90 D5 SE Lux (200hp) Savile Grey, 14,034 miles **£34,000**

**VOLVO C30**

- 10/10 Volvo C30 1.6D DRIVE (109hp) Black Sapphire, 40,195 miles **£8,275**
- 12/12 Volvo C30 2.0 R-Design (145hp) Ice White, 19,015 miles **£11,000**

**VOLVO S40**

- 12/12 Volvo D2 DRIVE SE Lux Start/Stop (114hp) Electric Silver, 26,256 miles **£11,600**
- S40 2.0 SE Lux (145hp) Caspian Blue, 30,034 miles **£11,500**
- 12/61 Volvo S40 2.0 SE Lux (145hp) Titanium Grey, 16,495 miles **£11,400**
- 11/11 Volvo S40

**VOLVO V40**

- 12/12 Volvo V40 D2 SE Lux Nav (114hp) Black Sapphire, 13,689 miles **£15,995**
- 14/14 Volvo V40 D2 SE (115hp) Caspian Blue, 7,836 miles **£18,750**
- 13/13 Volvo V40 Cross Country SE (150hp) Biarritz Blue, 5,881 miles **£18,995**
- 13/63 Volvo V40 D3 SE Lux (150hp) Caspian Blue, 14,044 miles **£18,995**
- 14/14 Volvo V40 Cross Country D2 SE (114hp) Bright Silver, 5,521 miles **£18,795**
- 14/14 Volvo V40 Cross Country D2 SE Lux (115hp) Raw Copper, 7,887 miles **£19,500**
- 14/14 Volvo V40 D2 SE Lux (115hp) Bright Silver, 9,811 miles **£19,995**

**VOLVO V40**

- 14/14 Volvo V40 Cross Country D2 SE Lux (115hp) Caspian Blue, 12,673 miles **£19,995**
- 13/63 Volvo V40 D3 R-Design Nav (150hp) Black Sapphire, 4,475 miles **£21,500**
- 14/14 Volvo V40 Cross Country D2 SE Lux (115hp) Raw Copper, 3,993 miles **£20,000**
- 14/64 Volvo V40 D2 SE Lux (115hp) Black Sapphire, 3,989 miles **£20,000**
- 14/64 Volvo V40 D3 SE Lux (150hp) Biarritz Blue, 4,992 miles **£22,000**
- 14/64 Volvo V40 Cross Country D3 SE Lux (150hp) Black Sapphire, 6,598 miles **£23,000**

**VOLVO V50**

- 11/11 Volvo V50 D3 R-Design (150hp) Black Sapphire, 50,483 miles **£11,995**
- 12/62 Volvo V50 D2 DRIVE SE Lux Stop/Start (114hp) Silver, 43,801 miles **£14,995**

**VOLVO V60**

- 12/12 Volvo V60 DRIVE R-Design (114hp) Black Sapphire, 32,516 miles **£14,995**
- 12/12 Volvo V60 DRIVE R-Design (114hp) Passion Red, 33,281 miles **£14,995**
- 11/61 Volvo V60 D3 SE Lux (163hp) Silver, 13,673 miles **£15,700**
- 12/12 Volvo V60 D3 SE Lux Stop/Start (163hp) Caspian Blue, 39,326 miles **£16,000**

**VOLVO V60**

- 14/14 Volvo V60 D2 SE (115hp) Passion Red, 9,975 miles **£22,500**
- 13/13 Volvo V60 D5 SE Lux (215hp) Power Blue, 13,032 miles **£22,900**

**VOLVO S60**

- 13/13 Volvo S60 D3 R-Design Lux Nav (136hp) Ice White, 8,028 miles **£17,995**
- 14/14 Volvo S60 D2 SE (115hp) Power Blue, 9,200 miles **£20,000**
- 14/14 Volvo S60 D2 SE (115hp) Power Blue, 6,154 miles **£21,000**

**VOLVO S80**

- 12/62 Volvo S80 D3 SE Lux (163hp) Bronze, 15,424 miles **£17,995**

**VOLVO XC60**

- 13/13 Volvo XC60 D5 Geartronic R-Design Nav (215hp) Black Sapphire, 29,301 miles **£26,000**
- 13/13 Volvo XC60 D5 Geartronic SE Lux Nav (215hp) Caspian Blue, 6,829 miles **£28,500**
- 13/63 Volvo XC60 D5 Geartronic SE Lux Nav (215hp) Black Sapphire, 15,328 miles **£29,500**
- 13/63 Volvo XC60 D5 Geartronic R-Design Nav (215hp) Savile Grey, 16,694 miles **£29,500**
- 13/63 Volvo XC60 D4 R-Design Lux Nav (163hp) Savile Grey, 10,839 miles **£29,995**

**VOLVO XC60**

- 14/14 Volvo XC60 D4 SE Lux (181hp) Ice White, 6,437 miles **£29,995**
- 13/63 Volvo XC60 D5 Se Lux Nav (215hp) Bright Silver, 16,993 miles **£30,000**
- 14/63 Volvo XC60 D5 Geartronic R-Design Lux Nav (215hp) Black Sapphire, 12,641 mls **£30,000**

**VOLVO V70**

- 11/61 Volvo V70 D5 Geartronic SE Lux (215hp) Biarritz Blue, 29,742 miles **£18,995**
- 14/14 Volvo V70 D5 (215hp) Seashell, 17,146 miles **£25,000**
- 14/64 Volvo V70 D3 SE Lux (136hp) Caspian Blue, 1,914 miles **£25,000**

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- 06/56 Suzuki Jimny 1.3 JLX 4WD air conditioning, alloy wheels, leather upholstery, 45,000 miles **£5,500**
- 12/12 Citroen DS3 1.6e HDI Dstyle + Black, cruise control, leather, alloy wheels, 23,230 miles **£9,000**
- 13/13 Skoda Fabia 1.6 5 door diesel hatchback Silver, 10,949 miles **£9,500**



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