

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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**THE BRIDE GUIDE**  
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## Council targets parking to help pay for services

LOUISE GLEN  
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FREE day-long parking will become a thing of the past come April if a statutory consultation to ratify Argyll and Bute Council parking plans is given the green light.

Parking at Lochavullin Road, Longsdale (Atlantis) and Ganavan beach will be charged at £1 per hour, after a two-hour period of free parking, while drivers will be charged for on-street parking seven days a week.

A fee of 25 pence for a 15-minute parking period will also be set, removing all free on-street, short-term parking for 10 minutes.

The fee for parking in Argyll and Bute was raised by 20 per cent in last week's budget meeting.

Recommending the plans at last week's Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee, area chairman councillor Roddy McCuish said this would be the final stage of consultation in the long-running battle about parking charges in Oban town centre.

He said: 'There is another stage for people to have their say. We have had an informal consultation and people have come up with some good ideas.'

'Parking is an income stream [for the council]. We should start the statutory process as soon as possible.'

'If people object, which they are entitled to do, then we will need to deal with that and that might take time.'

'The statutory consultation is 28 days. If we get the clock started today we can deal with

any objections as soon as we can. Jim Smith, head of roads at Argyll and Bute Council explained: 'The proposals that we have worked up have cognisance of public meetings and the online process.'

'Everything so far has been informal consultation. We believe the set of proposals going forward to consultation will meet with broad acceptance.'

'Statutory consultation will last for 28 days and objections will need to be heard. The shortest possible time would be April, but it may take much longer.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson asked that a delayed starting time could be introduced.

She said: 'I would like a later start to be considered in respect of visitors staying in bed and breakfasts. These businesses find their visitors go out at 9am or 9.30am and find that they already have tickets on their cars.'

The community council, road users and members of the public will now be asked whether charges should be introduced to the Lochavullin Road, Longsdale (Atlantis) and Ganavan beach car parks.

On-street parking charges will be introduced on Sundays after 1pm. The late start to charging on a Sunday is being introduced

to allow revellers the opportunity to pick up their cars the next day following a night out in the town.

Residents living in areas around the town say they are outraged the parking charge has been increased.

Ian S MacLean, councillor for Oban North and Lorn, said he has had complaints from residents living on Gallanach Road as there is congestion parking from 'CalMac workers'.

He said people will struggle to find any space along Gallanach Road or in other outlying areas of the town.

He added: 'Two ferries and cheaper prices on ferries will see more and more people parking in town for long periods of time as ships' crews double and people visit the islands.'

### Discussions ongoing over car parking charges for people visiting Iona

TALKS to resolve ongoing difficulties to introduce parking charges at the ferry-stop for Iona will take place between councillors and the public before any change is made.

The meeting came about because rejected proposals meant visitors would have only had two hours on the island before their parking ticket ran out.

An informal consultation suggested that parking charges in Fionnphort, on Mull, would offer the first two hours of parking for free.

But at a meeting last week, this suggestion was laughed at by members of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee as it can take longer to get onto the island and come back.

### Eva and Seamus steal the show



Six-year-old Eva Armstrong from Balemartine on Tiree made her debut in the ring at the Highland Cattle Society Show in Oban this week, accompanied by her father, Mark. Her sister Emily, 10, was also in the ring - both competed in the young handler section, with each of the girls showing a calf. Eva's calf is called Seamus Beusach of Balemartine. While Eva didn't manage to secure any prizes, sister Emily won the young handler competition, winning the Woodneuk Trophy. She was delighted with her win and even more delighted with the grooming box of goodies from sponsors Allflex. Turn to page 14.

### TIMESLINE

#### Shock as cuts hit school librarians

CAMPAIGN group Save Scotland's School Libraries has expressed 'utter astonishment' at Argyll and Bute Council's decision to remove all 10 school librarians across the county.

A spokesman said: 'It is undoubtedly pupils who will suffer most from this outrageous decision. It is completely unfair. Pupils will now become educationally disadvantaged from their peers elsewhere in Scotland.'

#### Bail hearing delay for Billy

A BAIL hearing for a Connel man imprisoned in India has been adjourned after his lawyer ran out of court time.

Billy Irving and five of his colleagues were sentenced to five years in jail in January on piracy charges. It was hoped that a bail hearing on Tuesday February 16 would have seen the men released until an appeal hearing later in the year.

But lawyers discussions over and the men were taken back to prison until February 24 when the legal arguments will continue.

#### Oban Live tickets

READER offer tickets for the Oban Live event sold out in 60 seconds when they went on sale last Saturday lunchtime.

The Oban Times teamed up with organisers to give 10 per cent discount to the first 300 readers to go online.

Organisers are delighted with the response. Full price tickets remain on sale.

#### Ordination

THE EPISCOPAL ordination of Monsignor Brian McGee as the new Bishop of Argyll and the Isles will take place at St Columba's Cathedral, Oban, tonight (Thursday) at 7pm.

### Yachtsman arrested after dramatic rescue off Tiree

A LONE yachtsman who was airlifted to safety on Tuesday lunchtime was later arrested under an international arrest warrant and was due to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court on Wednesday February 17.

The Russian national made a mayday call shortly after midnight on Tuesday when his 40ft boat got into difficulty near Skerryvore lighthouse, off the south west of Tiree.

A Police Scotland spokesman said: 'I can confirm that a 35-year-old man has been arrested and is detained in police custody in connection with an international arrest warrant.'

Two RNLI lifeboats were involved in the rescue. The Islay



boat attempted to secure a line to the yacht and a lifeboat from Barra was also sent to assist.

The rescue effort was carried out in very rough seas and severe gale force winds, according to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

## Council set to scrap performance space plans for White Building

AMBITIOUS plans for a performance space on the North Pier of Oban Bay could be scrapped in April, *The Oban Times* understands.

The re-modelling of the White Building was to include a covered space for people waiting for cruise ships. But a council source has said the plans may be dropped following a consultation, where the building was described as a 'glorified bus shelter'.

It is believed new plans will keep the footprint of the current building while extending the space inside to meet Customs and Excise requirements for cruise ship passengers, facilities for visiting yachtsmen and office space for pier staff.

The White Building is currently being used as a charity shop.

Following the tip-off *The Oban Times* went into Oban town centre to ask people

for their views on the White Building plans.

Angela Rose, of Kilchrenan, said: 'If it's a valuable resource, it's good. But how do they justify six months of work? What I'm unhappy about are all these cuts, particularly the cuts to secondary school librarians. School librarians are important.'

David Leaver, of Skye said: 'It's an ugly-looking building. It'll be good to get rid of it.'

But some of these modern buildings can be ugly as well. As long as it's in keeping, it's a good idea.'

And Peggy and Mary, who have volunteered at the charity shop for a number of years, said: 'Oban needs a seafaring centre because it's a seafaring town. It's an excellent site for whatever the council decides, but it's very sad [that the shop is moving]. We'll miss being here very much.'

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**Checks and tips for older drivers**

A WEBSITE aimed at helping older people recognise if their driving ability is deteriorating has been launched by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

The website provides a checklist and tips to help people recognise if their driving ability has changed, for example through worsening eyesight, and how they can adapt to any changes. Visit [www.olderdrivers.org.uk](http://www.olderdrivers.org.uk).

**PETA calls for ban on animal treks**

AN INTERNATIONAL animal welfare charity has written to the Association of British Travel Agents following the death of an Islay tourist.

PETA is calling on the association to add elephant trekking to its list of 'unacceptable and discouraged practices' in its Global Welfare Guidance for Animals in Tourism following the death of Gareth Crowe, 36, who was gored to death earlier this month during an elephant trek in Thailand.

# £45K shortfall sees Ulva project hang in balance

**LOUISE GLEN**  
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A MULL councillor has made a call to arms in support of a community-led housing project that is now facing the threat of failure.

The Ulva School Community Association (USCA), with support from Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT), is building two affordable rental properties on the remote west coast of Mull to directly tackle the long-term population decline in the area, which threatened the viability of the local school in 2010.

The houses are now ready to be built, however, £45,000 is still outstanding, which leaves the project at risk of failure.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon is hoping enough cash can be raised from public support to



Ulva Ferry pupils at the community bus.

meet the shortfall. She said: 'It would be a crying shame if the five years' tireless work by the Ulva Ferry community to get to this stage was all for nothing.'

'This is about so much more than two houses – it is about

ensuring the future sustainability of Ulva Ferry, keeping the school open and paving the way for new businesses and economic activity.

'I am deeply impressed with the way the Ulva Ferry community galvanised themselves to

fight a difficult but ultimately successful campaign to keep their school open.

'Their determination to address the housing issue in their area is a shining example of what a community can achieve with a lot of hard work and the support of a sympathetic landowner.'

The Ulva Ferry houses are being built to passive house standards, which will result in annual heating bills of less than £300 per house.

This is a direct response to the community's brief to combat the high level of fuel poverty in the area, and in-keeping with the Scottish Government's current priority to tackle the issue, as the number of households in fuel poverty nationally continues to rise year on year.

The houses will show off the possibilities for high quality,

low energy design and build in remote areas of rural Scotland.

Ms Devon continued: 'I would urge you to consider making a donation, however small, to the project which could see new families living at Ulva Ferry by the end of this year.'

The housing project has received financial support from Argyll and Bute Council, the Scottish Land Fund, the Quaker Housing Trust and the Trusthouse Charitable Foundation, along with many individual donations from locals, visitors and those sympathetic to community-led development.

Donations can be made to the Ulva Ferry Housing Project online at: [www.justgiving.com/ulvaferryhousing](http://www.justgiving.com/ulvaferryhousing), or by post to Mull and Iona Community Trust, An Roth, Craignure, Isle of Mull, PA65 6AY.

## MULL lines

### Young marine explorers' class

ISLE of Mull-based Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust is offering primary schools in Oban and Lorn free Hebridean Marine Explorer classroom workshops, led by expert marine biologists, during British Science Week between March 14-18 2016.

The one-hour workshop consists of an interactive presentation on Hebridean whales and dolphins, their biology and behaviour, followed by an object handling session. The handling kit contains real whale bones, teeth, baleen and skulls for the students to explore.

There are a few dates still available; contact Alison Lomax for bookings and enquiries at [alison.lomax@hwtd.org](mailto:alison.lomax@hwtd.org) or 01688 302620.



### Whale and dolphin week

VOLUNTEERS spent 1,150 hours recording the largest number of sightings of whales and dolphins during Whale and Dolphins Watchers Week in late July and early August, 2015.

There were 4,480 individual animals seen, with 13 different species reported all along the British coastline.

Some of the memorable sightings included a humpback whale spotted in the Inner Hebrides, fin whales off the Yorkshire coast, Risso's dolphins all along the western shores, and an Arctic beluga whale off the north coast of Northern Ireland.

## A good read Down Under



RODERICK WYNESS, the New Zealand explorer who works at the country's largest glacier, the Tasman glacier in the Mount Cook national park, said he was delighted that his picture of the iceberg Ben More

was used in *The Oban Times*.

Roderick, who is originally from Mull, said: 'I received lots of nice comments online. During my trips it often sparks a bit of interest as there is usually at least one person who has been

to the west coast and gives me a great opportunity to tell my customers a bit about where I come from and why they should visit.'

'Here is a picture of me enjoying the copy of *The Oban Times* my mother sent me.'

## £1M for Fusion Marine

OBAN'S Fusion Marine has reported £1million sales of fish farm pens in the last eight months.

The supplier of fish farm equipment, based at Barcaldine, will supply four new Triton 400 pens and refurbish three Oceanflex pens for the Canadian-owned firm Cooke Aquaculture Scotland and its salmon farms on Unst and Yell in Shetland. It follows an order last summer for 12 new Triton 450 pens and an upgrade to four Oceanflex pens.

Fusion Marine director Iain Forbes said: 'We have forged an excellent relationship with Cooke Aquaculture Scotland, which has benefited businesses in our home area in Argyll, as well as the Northern Isles.'

Fusion Marine, which em-

ploys 16 people, fought hard to win the order, he said.

'In terms of turnover it's substantial. It's obviously jobs for our guys, and it has a knock-on effect: our last order needed 54 articulated lorries. We're hoping to keep employing people and hauliers in the area.'

Last month Scotland's largest salmon-farming firm, Marine Harvest, announced it was axing 100 jobs – 15 per cent of the Scottish workforce – at its salmon farms, hatcheries and processing plants in the Highlands, Islands and Argyll.

The company blamed rising sea temperatures for rising costs, including the loss of £7.75 million at Scottish salmon farms. Cooke Aquaculture Scotland's managing director Colin Blair said he was pleased

to place the orders with a Scottish manufacturing company, adding it 'underlines the importance of salmon farming to our country's economy and in supporting jobs in fragile rural communities'.

Cooke Aquaculture is a family-owned and managed company with operations in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Maine, Chile, Spain and Scotland as well as sales people in major centres in the US and Canada.

Through its wholly-owned subsidiaries, the group processes and sells 115,000 tonnes – whole fish equivalent – of Atlantic salmon and 20,000 tonnes of sea bass and sea bream each year. Annual sales are valued at nearly £500million.

## Marine planning group for Clyde

A MARINE planning organisation has been established for the Clyde Marine Region. The Clyde Marine Planning Partnership will build on the work of the Firth of Clyde Forum.

Isabel Glasgow, chairwoman of the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership (CMPP), said: 'So much work has gone into getting to this point. More than 20 years ago we began work on integrated coastal zone management.'

'Then the Scottish Sustainable Marine Environment Initiative

saw the development of the first non-statutory plan for the Clyde.

'I would like to thank all those key organisations that have supported the Clyde forum to this point and that continue to be integral to the CMPP as it goes forward.'

The planned role of the CMPP, through the creation of a regional marine plan, will include assessing the condition of the region, setting economic, social, marine ecosystem and climate change policies and keeping un-

der review the impacts of those policies.

On February 10, the core group of the Firth of Clyde Forum met to close the forum and sign the constitution of the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership, marking the establishment of the organisation.

Speaking at the event, Arthur Keller from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), a signatory to the constitution, said: 'This is an important occasion and SNH is delighted to continue our

support by hosting the CMPP team and contributing to the CMPP as it progresses towards the production of the marine plan for the Clyde.'

Marine Scotland plans to nominate the CMPP as the delegate for pursuing regional marine planning in the Clyde.

It published a public notice and a draft direction in the Herald. Comments and responses on this until the March 10. Send these to [RegionalMarinePlanning@gov.scot](mailto:RegionalMarinePlanning@gov.scot)

## Hugh Smith's letter from ISLAY

### Sadness and celebration

LAST year's damp and dreary summer weather affected the number of visitors to Finlaggan, the ancient seat of the Lords of The Isles and one of the island's main tourist attractions.

This was one of the topics under discussion at the Finlaggan Trust's recent annual general meeting where tributes were paid to Gina MacAuslan, a former secretary, chairperson, and a long-serving member of the management committee, whose unexpected death in August of last year saddened everyone.

One very special visitor to the site in June was the Prince of Wales, who must have felt



Finlaggan – seat of the Lords of the Isles.

very much at home at the historic settlement, as among his various titles is that of Lord of The Isles. It was raining heavily when the Prince visited distilleries at the other end of the island earlier in the day, but

the sun shone on Finlaggan as it welcomed its chief to what was once the headquarters of Clan Donald.

Donald Bell, who also hosted the Royal visit, continues as the trust chairman, Helen

McSkimming holds the purse strings and the new secretary is Garry MacLean, the recently appointed administrator and secretary of the South Islay Development.

### Making waves

AMONG the many scientists and engineers involved in the detection and discovery of the gravitational waves announced to the world's media last week were three who have close family connections with Islay and mainland Argyll. Playing a crucial role in the LIGO project, described as the biggest scientific break-through of the century, was Dr Angus Bell, a Senior Research Fellow at Glasgow University's School of Physics and Astronomy. He hails from the Kilmeny district and his parents are Catriona

and Donald Bell, now resident at Bridgend.

Also heavily involved in the research was Dr Calum I Torrie, formerly of Glasgow University and now attached to the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. His parents Margaret and Calum Torrie live in Portnahaven.

The lead scientist on the LIGO development was Professor Norna Robertson, also formerly of Glasgow University, where she still holds a part-time professorship in Experimental Physics. She joined the California Institute of Technology in 2007 after spending four years at Stanford University.

She has strong family connections with Argyll and with Tarbert Loch Fyne in particular where her grandfather the late Peter Leitch lived.

### Tattoo-tastic!

A LOCAL schoolteacher is among the 1,200 performers taking part in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo which played to vast Australian audiences last weekend and opens tonight in Wellington, New Zealand, where it will play until Sunday.

Islay High School PE teacher Rebecca Gibson is one of the 20 Highland dancers chosen to represent Scotland at the 'down under' performances.

Although now retired from competitive dancing, she has enjoyed a long and successful career in kilt and pumps. She had competed at dance competitions throughout the country and collected many awards in the process.

Last year saw her perform at

the Basel Tattoo in Switzerland and at the Edinburgh Tattoo.

Since taking up her island post in 2014, she happily assists at the Ella Edgar dancing school classes which are held on a weekly basis at Bowmore.

The Antipodean performances will mark the fourth time the Edinburgh Tattoo has ventured abroad in its 65-year history.

The Wellington performances will also include a tribute to the ANZAC's spirit as part of the First World War's centenary commemorations.

The touring tattoo features a life-size replica of the Edinburgh Castle façade, the background to the internationally-known and revered celebration of culture and heritage.

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

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- Where?** 12-page supplement in the Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier and Argyllshire Advertiser.

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- When?** Sunday 20th March, 10am-5pm
- Where?** The Corran Halls

If you wish to feature your business in both the supplement and wedding show, please get in touch with Nicky on 01631 568000. And to all brides and grooms to be...we look forward to seeing you on Sunday 20th March! **FREE ADMISSION.**

## Man fined £10,000 for damage to car and home

A 22-YEAR-OLD fisherman must pay £5,000 compensation to his mother for smashing up her home and another £5,000 to a friend for wrecking his car, and if he doesn't pay up in time he will be sent to jail.

The car belonged to the owner of a local seafood business and was painted in a distinctive tartan design.

Neil MacGregor, of Room 11 Shore Street Flats, Oban, had previously admitted stealing the car on November 2 last year from the Railway Pier, Oban, driving without insurance and a licence, driving without due care and attention, failing to co-operate with a breath test or giving information about the driver of a vehicle.

He had also admitted that on July 17 last year he had destroyed or damaged property and contents at his mother's home in Benderloch.

When in court on Monday, MacGregor disagreed with the amount of money the car was worth.

'I am prepared to fine you £5,000 instead,' said Sheriff Mungo Bovey QC.

Sentencing had been deferred for reports to be prepared on MacGregor, who had admitted he had a drink problem and was undergoing counselling.

Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty said that in the case of MacGregor's mother, she had returned home from a day's work to be greeted by her son saying, 'I smashed your \*\*\*\*ing windows'.

The damage included windows, window frames, doors, plaster board; toilets and kitchen tiles pulled off, and furniture damaged. Initial damage was estimated at £8,000 and later revised to more than £4,000.

On the night MacGregor took his friend's car, police saw him on foot, wearing a distinctive yellow hoodie and covered in mud. The officers stopped to speak to him.

'He we \*\*\*\*ing go,' he replied.

'He was less than co-operative with the police,' said the fiscal.

Police found the car on Glencruitten Road, the back road between Connel and Oban, off the road and badly damaged.

'The car was written off,' said the fiscal, who added that CCTV footage at a local petrol station showed MacGregor and the car, and he had a receipt for petrol in his possession.

MacGregor's defence agent Laura McManus said that her client suffered from addiction issues with alcohol, from depression and often acted impulsively, but he was now addressing his problem.

'He doesn't accept the comments he is said to have made to his mother,' she said.

Sheriff Bovey made MacGregor the subject of a community payback order with supervision for three years, including counselling for his alcohol problems, as well as the total of £10,000 compensation.

This money must be paid at £2,500 every six months or he will face six months in jail.

For the driving offences he was disqualified for two years and his licence endorsed.

'The loss of your friend's distinctive vehicle was more than a financial disadvantage,' said the sheriff.

# Councillors' fury over manager's no show

LOUISE GLEN  
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COUNCILLORS described themselves as 'pretty angry' after a member of the new health and social care shared services initiative failed to turn up to talk to them.

At the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee last week, a 30-minute discussion had to be put off for the 'third time' when the officer failed to appear.

Furious area chairman Councillor Roddy McCuish said he was not going to talk about the item in the officer's absence.

He continued: 'This is one of the biggest changes that will ever be seen in local government

social work services and it is a disgrace that no-one could be bothered to come out and speak to us today.

'I will not be taking this item in their absence.

'Their absence puts us in a very difficult position because we are elected by the public to scrutinise the spending of money and yet no-one has come along today to let us know about their plans.

'Timescales for these changes are hard enough and it is not acceptable that the member of staff has not turned up.'

Councillors Elaine Robertson and Mary-Jean Devon agreed with Mr McCuish and said they were very annoyed that no-one had turned up to speak.

Mrs Robertson said: 'Every other area committee in Argyll and Bute will have had discussions on the integration of health and social care. But not this area committee.'

'It really is the time when the plans need to be moved forward, but I don't think they can until we have had a conversation.'

Mrs Devon said: 'Elaine and I will email the chief officer to tell them of our disappointment that no-one has turned out to the meeting today. Everyone has questions – so why are they not being answered.'

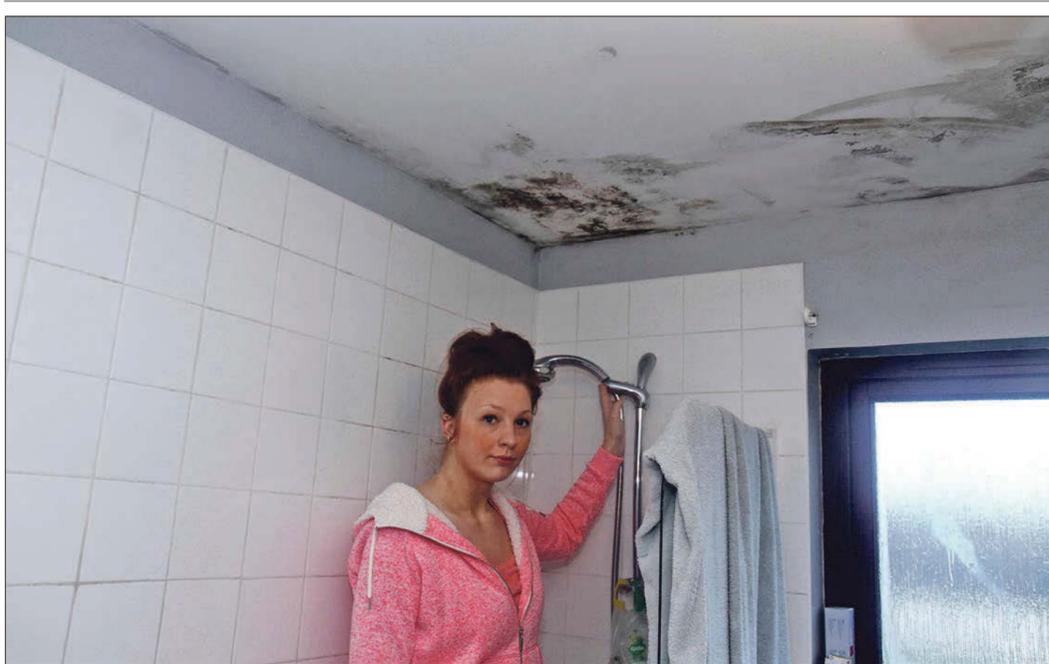
Councillor Iain Angus MacDonald said: 'I am pretty angry. Even if this is down to staff sickness we cannot rely on a single

person to come and speak to us about a paper like this.'

'What we have here is a case of public service indifference.'

NHS Highland spokesman said: 'We have contacted the chairman of the area committee to apologise for the fact that an adequate explanation wasn't made regarding the availability of a senior manager to attend the committee to provide a progress report on the action taken to establish the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership.'

'If any member of the committee has any concerns or queries, we would be more than happy to discuss these with them in more detail.'



Vicky Cuncliffe in her bathroom where damp is spreading.

## Couple forced out of home by damp

A COUPLE who live in a house that has been plagued with damp problems have decided to look for alternative accommodation, writes Louise Glen.

Vicky Cuncliffe and partner Mark Reid are living in a property at Aldersyde in Taynuilt and the couple had raised the problem with *The Oban Times* three weeks ago.

This week Vicky says she has had enough: 'Personally I feel ashamed. If I was paying the

mortgage here I would do whatever it took within my power to get this problem fixed.'

'But so far West Highland Housing Association (WHHA) has sent out someone to wipe off the damp and replace bits of the ceiling tiles.'

'We need something more fundamental to happen to take the problem away.'

'It just does not feel like home.' Mother-in-law Lynn Murdoch carried out a survey amongst her

neighbours last month to find out if they had similar dampness problems in their WHHA-rented homes – 14 of them said they had similar problems.

Mrs Murdoch says she is also now looking for a new home due to damp issues.

Lesley McInnes, chief executive of WHHA, said previously that she was aware of the problem.

She said: 'We have been considering the problems that

tenants in Aldersyde have been having.'

'We are concerned about the level of damp in some of the homes.'

'We have had staff out to look at the problems in individual homes and we are working with a surveyor and other professionals to consider the best way forward.'

'We also understand the concerns about the heating costs and will be speaking to residents about the problem.'

## Nine months for man caught with heroin in pub

SHERIFF Mungo Bovey QC handed down a sentence of nine months on Monday to a man who took heroin into an Oban bar.

'Your record of offences shows a combination of weapons and dealing in drugs; a significant sentence is called for,' he said.

Sean Michael Reilly, 22, of no fixed abode, had been released from prison on licence on July 15 last year and he admitted that he had heroin with intent to supply.

Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty said Reilly had gone into the Lorne Bar, Stevenson Street, but his behaviour had alerted staff who called the police. He had a carrier bag containing a Chinese takeaway meal with him and had taken this with him into the toilets.

After 20 minutes staff went to check on him. He went back into the bar where there

was a noticeable change in his demeanour. Police found the carrier bag in the toilets and nearby a small plastic container containing a black wrap with brown powder inside. Tests showed this to be heroin.

'He was taken to Oban Police Station where it was discovered he possessed two mobile phones; one of these was ringing constantly with the name of a local drug user who is well-known to local police,' said the fiscal.

Police found seven grams of heroin. A gram is equivalent to six £10 bags of the drug.

Reilly's defence agent Laura McManus said Reilly felt he had been released on licence without support; he had also made the decision to stop taking prescribed anti-psychotic medicine.

She asked for a non-custodial sentence so that Reilly could address the root of his problems.

## Teenager fined £300 over threatening behaviour

WHEN arrested for causing a disturbance on Soroba Road, Oban, a 19-year-old man admitted to police: 'I'm a \*\*\*\*ing idiot.'

Dylan John Restrick of Room 3, Greenacre, Connel, admitted using threatening and abusive words and behaviour on August 22 last year when he appeared before the town's sheriff court on Monday.

'I think his response when charged sums things up,' said Restrick's defence agent, Edward Thornton. 'He was upfront about the fact that he had far too much to drink.'

Mr Thornton added that Restrick was now hopeful of getting full-time employment.

Sheriff Mungo Bovey QC fined Restrick £300, 'having regard to your limited record and the circumstances.'

## Snagging holding up pedestrian area sign-off

SNAGGING at Stafford Street has still not been completed in spite of councillors demanding the outdoor recreation area was finished by the end of 2015.

Planting, seating and faulty lighting are holding up the completion of the pedestrianised area in the centre of Oban.

The project was officially launched in October, but the contract has never been fully signed off by council officers.

Councillor Roddy McCuish, chairman of Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee, told fellow members: 'We need it finished, and we need it finished as quickly as possible. I am presuming we are not paying them until it is done?'

CHORD manager Andrew Collins, speaking at the area committee last Wednesday, said: 'I hoped to get this closed off as soon as possible.'

'There is a problem with the lighting as so many of the LEDs have blown. We are trying to get the electricians back into the area – but we have not got a date yet.'

'The planting was not fit for purpose, so they have been taken out and new planting should happen soon.'

'Some temporary seating has been placed on the top section of the pedestrianised area and we are currently waiting for a quote from [the same] contractors to provide more seating in this area.'

Oban Times newsdesk 01631 568000

## Shortlist of Rockfield design teams to visit centre this week

THE TRANSFORMATION of the former Rockfield school into a culture hub for Oban and the surrounding area moved a step closer this week.

Architects from across Scotland responded to a call from the Oban Communities Trust (OCT) for a design team to support the next stages of the Rockfield Centre project.

The trust received more than 70 responses, with 22 practices submitting plans for the building. These have been assessed and a shortlist of five teams were due to visit Rockfield this week.

The winning team will undertake a variety of studies to explore the options for the development of the buildings and site, resulting in a development

masterplan and a phased programme of improvements. Conservation measures for the main B-listed building will also form part of the work.

Andrew Pinkerton, project manager for the Rockfield Centre, said: 'We are delighted to have received such a high level of quality submissions and have found it challenging to prepare a shortlist for interview.'

'The fact that so many high calibre names within the architecture profession across Scotland want to be involved in developing Rockfield highlights the importance of the project and strengthens the trust's resolve to give new life to this Oban landmark.'

The aim of the project is to establish

the Rockfield Centre as a creative cultural hub which will operate as a social enterprise celebrating arts, culture, history, heritage, enterprise and community well-being.

The building was constructed in 1877 as a primary school at a cost of £3,890.

The current stage of the project is being supported with funding from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and the Architectural Heritage Fund.

Ailsa Raeburn, head of community assets at HIE, said: 'It is great to see the community's vision for the centre making progress. We are delighted to be providing support for this stage of the project and look forward to seeing the plans by the appointed design team.'

## Public meeting to discuss ferries' future and tendering

A PUBLIC meeting has been organised to discuss how ferries serving the islands could be better operated.

The contract to run services to the Hebrides and Clyde expires in September and the current operator Caledonian MacBrayne is facing competition from Serco Caledonian Limited after the Scottish Government invited bidders to submit tenders last year.

Scottish ministers will evaluate the two bids before awarding the contract in May.

On hand to answer questions about the current tendering process at the Oban meeting will be Gordon Martin, regional organiser of the RMT, the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers.

However, organiser Breege Smyth

said the meeting would also look to future alternatives: 'Due to EU law, our ferries have got caught up in a tendering process and this is a costly exercise,' she explained. 'I would like to see continuity and that money spent on improving services.'

'The difficulty Scotland has is, because they [the ferries] are government funded, you have to have transparency.'

'But it's a lifeline service, so does that give us an exclusion clause? What are the options?'

Michael Russell, SNP MSP for Argyll and Bute, will also be at the meeting to answer any questions. Anyone is welcome to the meeting, which begins at 8pm on Friday February 26 in the McCaig Suite at Oban's Corran Halls.



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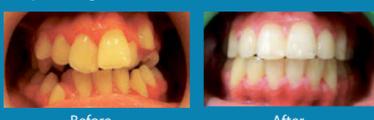
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## Sky's the limit for brave Guy

A YOUNG Oban man who suffers from MS is preparing to jump 12,000 feet out of a plane for charity.

Guy Forteith, 22, will make the daring leap on March 11.

When Guy was diagnosed with Relapsing Remitting MS at the age of 16, he allowed it to stop him from taking part in activities he would have done otherwise.

Now, he has challenged himself and others who suffer from disabilities not to let their illness get in the way of their goals.

Guy said: 'I want those who suffer from disabilities to realise that they are capable of making goals and achieving them...if I can do it, you can do it.'

'I kept putting things off because I have MS and I began to get fed up with myself because of it. I'm doing the skydive to prove to myself and to others who suffer from disabilities that the only thing stopping you is yourself.'

'I'm really nervous about it, but this is one of the things I've always wanted to do. And it's also for a good cause.'

Guy will head to Durham, near Newcastle, to make the jump. So far, he has raised just over £300 for the MS Society but is hoping to raise more through his Just Giving website page.

Anyone can donate to Guy's skydive for MS Society on www.justgiving.com/Guy-Forteith.

Oban Times  
newsdesk  
01631 568000

# Calls for emergency BID4Oban meeting

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

THE RESIGNATION of three board members and a staff redundancy have led to two business owners calling for an emergency meeting about the future of BID4Oban.

But current BID4Oban board members say the AGM will take place in the next few months and at that point any concerns about the community company can be raised.

Two business owners, who did not want to be named, contacted *The Oban Times* and said questions needed to be answered on why 'a high number of board members had left the company'.

'It seems strange that there are so many changes and the board are not addressing them to their members,' one business owner said.

While the other said: 'While I accept that BID4Oban was likely to go through changes over its first few years, there are concerns that long-standing board members have resigned without explanation and one member of staff was made redundant after he seemed to be doing a great job for the town.'

When contacted by *The Oban Times*, current BID4Oban board members said the company was continuing to progress the business plan approved by the levy payers, which, they said, was to ensure best value for those who paid the levy.

Chairman Andrew Spence and vice-chairman David MacGregor agreed that making a member of staff redundant was 'not something anyone desired', but said the business did not require two members of staff to administer a relatively 'small events budget'.

They also confirmed that three board members had resigned, but said the confidential reasons given to the board were not in connection with any particular problems in the company.

Mr Spence said: 'While board members have resigned there is still the appropriate number of members on the board.'

'There was a unanimous board decision to reduce the number of staff members in order to put more money into the running of events.'

'When we look back over the last three years of the company it is an incredible list of events and opportunities that we have enabled the community to achieve.'

'The number of events in town has increased and we have been encouraging people to play the largest part in taking them forward.'

'We have had input into the

majority of events taking place [in the town] and we have supported as many as we can. By freeing up more financial support we can do even more.'

'We have also helped to advertise and promote these events through our leaflets, social media and ambassador programme.'

Mr Spence said the group had also been working on various committees within the town, including the cruise ship group that meets and greets every cruise ship that comes into the town, and encourages vessels to the port.

He said: 'For levy payers, very little will change in terms of the delivery of the business plan. If anything, we can invest more money in the town.'

Mr MacGregor said a shop-front improvement scheme had seen more than 30 business in the town benefit.



The MacInnes family, right, were delighted to present a cheque for £12,000 to local cancer charities from the DMI Cancer Trust concert in 2014. 15\_1231nonny1

## Stage is set as Nonnie launches third charity concert at Coasters

THREE traditional Scottish bands are set to headline a charity concert this April, which is raising money to help beat cancer, writes David McPhee.

Mánran, Skipinnish and Trail West will be performing on April 9 from 7.30pm until late at the third annual *We'll Walk This Road Together* concert, organised by DMI Cancer Trust.

The last two events have helped raise £28,000 for the fight against the disease, but Neil 'Nonnie' MacInnes, a founder of DMI Cancer Trust, wants to increase that figure to help as many people as possible suffering from the disease.

Nonnie said: 'My father died of cancer and he was cared for over in Barra by a retired Marie Curie nurse. After he passed away and because she had done something like that off her own back, we thought about organising a concert.'

'Gary Innes had given us a Mánran CD and there was a song on there that made me think, "we're going to do this".'

One of the songs on the CD contained the lyrics 'we'll walk this road together', which is where the name for the concert came from.

Nonnie continued: 'We give 50 per cent of the money raised to Marie Curie and 50 per cent to Cancer Research UK.'

'The Marie Curie money stays in the Highlands, so that money makes an impact on this area because it's used to help nurses in the area look after cancer patients. Where the money is

going is really precious to us.

'There were no Marie Curie nurses over there [Barra] when that happened to my father.'

'The care that the retired nurse showed is really something and for us to give something back is a small token.'

Tickets for the event can be bought at the Corran Halls, either in person or over the phone. There are also a limited number of VIP tickets, which can be secured by visiting Nonnie in Coasters.

A raffle will also take place on the night with fantastic prizes, including a week's holiday, two long weekend breaks, and a digital prize such as a flat screen television.

Nonnie said: 'We've done our bit – it's all set up and ready to go – now it's up to people to show their support.'

'How much money we're going to raise depends on how many people are going to buy the tickets.'

'What makes us so unique is that we pay for the whole thing through sponsorship so that every ticket sale is split between the charities.'

He added: 'The vibe at the concert is brilliant; once the concert is over, Oban is buzzing for weeks afterwards. The bands want to play because they know it's a really good night.'

'The crowd that comes to it is such a wide range. There's young and old people, and it runs for four hours, but there's not one person yet that has said to us that it's too long because they get caught up in it.'

## Oban Express fears

OBAN Express owners Menzies Distribution said it wouldn't comment on fears that it is planning a major overhaul of operations in the Oban depot.

Staff have expressed concerns that there will be redundancies and a relocation of staff to Fort William and Lochgilphead in the coming months.

A spokesman for Menzies Distribution said: 'I've been able to reach our HR team and they have confirmed that while we are reviewing our operations in Oban, no conclusion has yet been reached and shared with our employees.'

'In the event that any changes do emerge, our employees will be the first to know.'

## Chief job to be advertised

THE CHIEF Executive post at Argyll and Bute Council will be advertised over the coming weeks, a meeting of councillors agreed last week.

The post carries a salary in excess of £100,000.

An appointments committee of both administration and opposition elected members will oversee the search for the top council position.

The current post holder, Sally Loudon, right, has resigned and will take up the chief executive job at the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA).



## POLICE FILES with Sergeant Alan Moore

### Vandalism

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a car roof was damaged in Cruachan Crescent, Dunollie, overnight between February 9 and 10, and a car was vandalised on McKelvie Road, Oban, overnight between February 11 and 12.

### Diving tragedy

A DIVER who got into difficulties in the Sound of Kerrera was pronounced dead at the scene on Friday afternoon.

Emergency services were called when the 50-year-old man, who lived locally, failed to return to the surface. A search led to the discovery of the man's body. A joint

investigation between the Health and Safety Executive and Police Scotland is currently taking place to determine what caused the incident. Police have not released the man's name.

### Theft

TWO generators were stolen after a break-in at a storage container at Strone Hill near Dalnally.

The theft occurred between February 11 and Monday February 15. Police are appealing for witnesses to contact them on 101 or via Oban police station.

### Detained

A MAN was detained by police

after he was suspected of gaining access on to a CalMac ferry in the early hours of Friday February 12. The 47-year-old was held under the Merchant Shipping Act after he was found on the vessel without permission. A report has been made to the procurator fiscal.

### Youth arrested

A 16-YEAR-OLD boy was arrested after he was suspected of carrying a large amount of cocaine, a class A drug.

The teen was charged with intent to supply after he was stopped in Connel on the afternoon of February 11. He was due to appear at Oban Sheriff Court yesterday (Wednesday).

## MSP's talk raises awareness of Argyll's rare woodland plants

GLEN Nant Woods is under threat from invasive rhododendron, according to MSP Michael Russell.

Mr Russell was speaking at an event in Taynuilt village hall last Saturday (February 13) which saw the opening of a new guided walk at the woods.

The wood is situated within the west coast's Atlantic Woodlands and is an internationally important habitat as one of Scotland's rare natural gems. Otherwise known as the Celtic Rainforest, these mild temperate woodlands are rarer around the world than some tropical rainforests.

One woodland in Knapdale, Argyll, supports 25 per cent of Britain's entire mosses and liverworts.

On Saturday, the Taynuilt community was offered glimpses into the mysterious and magical woodland world and its inhabitants thanks to storyteller Claire Hewitt, who also played tunes on her clarsach.

Mr Russell said: 'I admit to being increasingly aware of

the rich variety of the lichens that are our heritage in Scotland, particularly in the Celtic rainforests, and I am increasingly concerned at the very real threats to them.'

'This is the primary reason why I sought this debate – to draw attention to those threats, to inspire action from parliamentarians and Government, and to celebrate the work that is already being done to protect and conserve the lichens.'

Mr Russell has become a species champion for tree lungwort – a beautiful lichen that lives in the woodlands in and around Argyll.

These woodlands are home to a wide range of rare plant species that grow nowhere else, including lichens such as Octopus suckers, Smokey Joe and Black-eyed Susan.

A typical ravine in Argyll can have as many as 200 species of mosses and liverworts. These species have been growing for millennia in some of the Celtic rainforest's most remote ravines.

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Piper, Michael MacKinnon, 17, Hazel-Jane Hughes of ScotRail, Councillor Elaine Roberston, Andrew Spence, chairman of Bid4Oban and Councillor Roddy McCuish with the Caledonian Sleeper's staff and driver. 15\_1081sleeper01

## All smiles as sleeper pulls into Oban

FOR the first time in 51 years, the Caledonian Sleeper travelled from London to Oban, arriving in the town on Saturday morning (February 13).

The service will run for the next two weekends and will

serve as a trial to gauge interest for the route.

Councillors, the chairman of Bid4Oban and a piper greeted passengers as they came off the train.

Andrew Spence, chairman of Bid4Oban, said: 'It's

absolutely fantastic. This is a test. It would be 2018 before anything can start on a permanent basis.'

Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'This is a historic landmark for Oban. It's the first sleeper to come here since the

early Sixties. It's great to see the Caledonian Sleeper here over the next three weekends.'

'I also believe it's fully booked and we will be doing our utmost to try and bring the train here on a regular basis.'



# An 'unprecedented' challenge to balance the council budget

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

## Where the axe will fall to achieve £10m savings

- Voluntary groups and events**
  - 10 per cent cut year-on-year to third sector grant funding
  - Cut funding for events and festivals
- Art and culture**
  - Cut funding for arts development
  - Provide reduced level of creative arts programmes in schools
  - Increase fees for non-statutory music tuition, reduced to 44 per cent to accommodate inflation
  - Instrumental instructor provision reduced by 20 per cent
  - Phased recovery of costs for services to Cowal Games, including temporary toilets, event support, litter collection, staffing etc
  - Recover costs for event banners and other non-core council activities
  - Offer Campbeltown Museum for community ownership
- Libraries**
  - Reduce library management costs
  - Save £50,000 on mobile library service
- Support services**
  - Cut funding for domestic abuse outreach support
  - Review advice services across Argyll and Bute while maintaining a 25 per cent reduction
- Education**
  - Lollipop men and women: remove school crossing patrollers only in relation to lunchtime patrols and where there is already an electronic crossing in place
  - Special educational needs: cuts to staff cover for support assistants
  - Match resources to greatest assessed need
  - Pupil support assistants to be matched to greatest assessed need – part reduction only. Equates to 111 fewer hours per year across 30 primary schools
  - Remove attendance officer posts and use current processes and systems in place to manage attendance
  - Nurseries: provide statutory duties only for children under five
  - Budget levels reduced for pre-five resources
  - Reduction in Early Years third sector grants and services
  - Only one per cent rise in payments to providers
  - Physical education: provide reduced level of funding for PE facilities matched to priorities
  - Janitorial services: janitorial cover availability reduced
  - Repairs: school repairs and maintenance budgets reduced
- Psychological services**
  - Educational psychology budget reduced by seven per cent
- Communications**
  - Increase email and electronic transactions to save more on postage, printing and stationery
  - More economical replacements for broadband circuits in offices and schools to match capacity and usage
- Customer service**
  - Change in opening hours for customer service points and promote alternatives to over the counter payments
  - Three Service Point service provided through voluntary sector contract in line with Jura and Colonsay
  - Develop in-house services for council tax e-billing/landlords portals in place of external contract
  - Apply landlord penalties where applicable to help council tax collection
  - Retrieve cost of administering double charge council tax from income raised
- Catering re-design**
  - Long-term redesign of catering service
  - Build up and develop catering service for events and functions
- Cleaning redesign**
  - Long-term redesign of cleaning service
- Health and safety**
  - Redesign health and safety service including increased online support and prioritising high-risk service areas
- Piers and harbours**
  - Increase pier and harbour berthing charges
  - Remove subsidies to Tobermory Harbour Association on phased basis
- Planning**
  - Introduce charges for pre-application advice for major and locally significant planning applications, in line with other local authorities
  - Reduce planning development management team with increase in time to register planning applications
  - Remodel planning enforcement team with increase in response time to planning breach complaints
  - Provide in-house solution for aerial photography currently sourced externally
  - Introduce charges for developers/property owners for statutory street numbering in line with other local authorities
- Burial charges**
  - Increase burial charges by 20 per cent while costs still remain below average in nine comparative council areas
  - Cremation charges increase, limited to 14 per cent
- Gardens and verges**
  - Rose and shrub beds to be returned to grass
  - Hedges maintained in winter only with one cut per year
  - Grass cutting carried out once in October/November with other areas returned to meadow/natural growth
- Street sweeping**
  - Reduce the frequency of street sweeping
- Roads**
  - Prioritise dangerous maintenance of roads and amenity property to manage 25 per cent reduced resource
  - Prioritise dangerous/urgent maintenance within depots to manage 25 per cent reduced resource
- Car parking**
  - Increase car parking charges from 80p to £1
  - Introduce charging to Mull car parks
  - Introduce year-round charging at other car parks
- Lighting**
  - Increase planned repairs to street lighting on an area basis, and reduce reactive repairs
  - Use new lighting units which would reduce maintenance and energy costs
- Rubbish collections**
  - Move to three-weekly general waste collection with new shift pattern to make better use of fewer vehicles
  - Fortnightly recycling collections retained using double shift patterns
  - Islay move to three-weekly general waste, bi-weekly co-mingled uplift by internal resource in line with other local areas

- Departments not affected by cuts**
- ARGYLL and Bute Council chose not to cut: subsidy payments to community swimming pools; school classroom assistants' hours; school janitors' hours and budgets; lunchtime school supervision staff; school technicians' hours; adult learning availability; non-domestic rates relief for charities; out-of-hours property emergency line cover; community transport grant funding; debt counselling service support; hanging baskets; public toilet provision across Argyll and Bute and Christmas lights funding.

**Have your say on the budget.**  
Call 01631 568000 or email [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)

**Headline savings**

- staff overtime across all council services cut by 10 per cent
- staff travel budgets cut by 20 per cent across all council services
- five per cent cut to clerical assistants in schools
- school librarians no longer provided
- reduced support to elected member

IN A speech delivered to applause last Thursday (February 11), Argyll and Bute Council leader Dick Walsh delivered his council's budget, saying this was 'a time of challenge and a time of change'.

He admitted many elected members in the chamber would have heard those words before.

This time, though, he claimed to be 'rising above the challenge and delivering change'.

Speaking for almost 30 minutes, Mr Walsh said he and his colleagues had been faced with 'unprecedented challenges' in delivering a balanced budget.

He said: 'The past few weeks have seen the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and all Scottish councils striving together for clarity on a very challenging national local government settlement. This has been a time of uncertainty for councils who need to know the full facts about their funding to set budgets, make decisions and, most importantly, avoid sanctions. It has been a rapidly changing situation which has required swift reaction and response at every turn.'

Mr Walsh confirmed Argyll and Bute Council would deliver its biggest annual saving of £10 million but he said this would be done with minimal job losses and delivery of front-line services.

Aiming to 'secure the best possible outcome for the people of Argyll and Bute', he said the council had rejected savings proposals to retain 102 full-time jobs.

'We will make as few savings as possible to achieve this, reducing the impact on jobs to around 80 – much less than the 184 it could have been.'

Mr Walsh said: 'We have had no choice but to make savings.

'These have been very carefully considered and underpinned by a set of key priorities – protecting core services as far as possible and safeguarding jobs to the greatest possible extent – saving more than 100 jobs and reducing the impact from 171 down to around 80 this year.'

He said every single budget line had been explored for savings: 'Wherever it is possible we have taken a lesser percentage of savings to ensure we can continue to deliver those core services which are so important to our communities.'

'We have made choices which allow us to maintain certain levels of services rather than stopping altogether, because people have told us this matters to them and to life in Argyll and Bute.'

'This one-year budget is an important step forward in delivering change.'

'The past two years have been used to plan for today; the coming year will see this council working together on empowering local communities.'

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**Outer Hebrides**

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar chiefs have met with Loganair representatives to put forward concerns of the community and discuss challenges facing the airline. A council spokesman said: 'We very much welcomed the opportunity to meet with senior representatives from the airline in what was an open and frank discussion of the challenges facing them. 'We were given a very clear and honest explanation as to why they think their performance in terms of reliability and punctuality has dropped in the last several months and, perhaps more importantly, what the airline is doing as part of a structured programme of improvements to recover from this.' Councillor John Mackay, chairman of the comhairle's transportation and infrastructure committee, said: 'We do now have greater assurances after our meeting that the airline has a better appreciation of the concerns of the community and that it is taking the need for significant improvement as a key priority going forward. 'In addition to addressing issues associated with reliability and punctuality, we raised our concerns associated with the high cost of airfares and with the need for improving communications with customers when disruption occurs.' He added: 'We are encouraged that the airline is seeking to re-establish what was previously a generally very positive and productive working relationship with the comhairle and look forward to similar meetings on a more regular basis with the airline in the future.'

**Dunbeg**

DUNBEG Primary School pupils will take part in Pyjama Day on Thursday (today) in support of a school trip. Children will be asked to pay £1 and in return they will be able to go to school in their pyjamas. All proceeds will go towards the primary seven's outdoor week, where they will spend five days taking part in a series of activities at the National Activity Centre in Lochgoilhead, Argyll. The pupils will be at the centre from Monday March 14 to Friday March 18.

**Morar**

FIVE members of the SWI went along to Arisaig Land Sea and Island Centre where Henrik Chart gave a talk on artefacts and houses in the area associated with the training of soldiers for SAS and SOE. Afterwards, members enjoyed a quiz, followed by tea made by Nicki Parish. The raffle was won by Eleanor Read. The next meeting is on March 3. Everyone is welcome.

**Harris**



Dr Joseph Morrow QC and Norman Macdonald with the patent.

THE Harris Tweed Authority received a business Grant of Arms last Wednesday at a presentation ceremony in Edinburgh. They were presented with the official Letters Patent by Lord Lyon King of Arms, Dr Joseph Morrow QC. This honour gives the cloth complete protection against any unauthorised use. This means that Harris Tweed, which is defined as cloth, hand woven only by the islanders of Lewis, Harris, Uist and Barra at their own homes, using pure virgin wool that has been dyed and spun in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland, is the only material in the world that can be presented as Harris Tweed and use the Orb Certification Mark. Norman Macdonald, chairman of the Harris Tweed Authority, said: 'Being awarded a Grant of Arms is a historic milestone for Harris Tweed which has fought for decades to protect the sanctuary of the Harris Tweed cloth. 'It's the ultimate protection for our products which are known throughout the world for consistently high standards of quality and authenticity. 'It's an honour to receive the Grant of Arms from Lord Lyon himself and we are grateful to be able to ensure the security of our cloth and its heritage for generations to come.'



**Ballachulish primary pupils keep on the move**

Ballachulish Primary School pupils enjoyed their new health initiative Fit 'n' Fruity Friday. Lorna MacAskill from Highland Hustle also went in to get the whole school dancing and exercising.

**Isle of Lewis**

A CADET sergeant with the Royal Air Force (RAF) Air Cadets at the Isle of Lewis squadron was one of two people asked to represent the Highland Wing at a special anniversary in London. Robert Morrison joined cadet warrant officer Daniel Davidson, from Elgin squadron, and squadron leader Liz McLachlan RAFVR(T) to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Air Training Corps (ATC). Cadets and staff from throughout the UK attended the service at St Clement Danes Church. Marking the event with her first official engagement as honorary air commandant of the air cadets was HRH Catherine the Duchess of Cambridge, who took over the role of royal patron from HRH The Duke of Edinburgh in December last year. Also present along with many other dignitaries was honorary group captain



Squadron leader Liz McLachlan, group captain Jim Laggat, regional commandant Scotland and Northern Ireland, cadet sergeant Robert Morrison and cadet warrant officer Daniel Davidson.

Carol Vorderman, who is an air cadet ambassador to the organisation and during the day's celebrations chatted with cadet sergeant Morrison and cadet warrant officer Davidson. Squadron leader McLachlan said: 'Robert and Daniel were selected to

travel to London and represent all the cadets from across Highland Wing for this prestigious occasion. 'Seeing the duchess and chatting to group captain Vorderman was fantastic experience which they will never forget.' There are many activities

organised throughout 2016 to celebrate the milestone in the history of the air cadet organisation, including many that will impact on the Highland Wing as an area. There will be a squadron sports challenge and the start of the ATC 75 Baton Relay.

**Fort firm helps school fix storm-damaged roof**



A GENEROUS business came to the rescue of Ardgour primary after its shed roof was damaged during the recent storm Henry. Pupils and staff would like to thank Travis Perkins in Fort William for donating a roll of felt to repair the surviving shed roof. Unfortunately, the other shed was demolished. The school also thanked Dugie MacDonald (pictured with the children), who collected the felt and is repairing the roof.



**MORVERN lines**

THE CENTENARY anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War has initiated a wave of commemorative activities in Argyll bringing with them many stories of friendships, camaraderie and coincidences. Elizabeth Wotherspoon, Lochaline, has an interesting story about her father, John Munro, a gamekeeper from Nairn, who enlisted as a piper with The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders shortly after the outbreak of war. Soon after landing in France he was ordered to the Front. On the way he met a kilted piper from the Black Watch coming back down the line en route home for some well-deserved leave. Not knowing if he would survive the carnage, John asked him if he would post a letter to his wife when he reached Scotland. 'Of course, what is your name?' John Munro and yours? 'John Scouler' was the reply. The letter duly arrived and eventually both returned home unscathed. When John Munro left his regiment at the end of the war he returned to game-keeping, this time at Corriev- arkie, a lonely spot on the south shore of Loch Erricht. From there he went to Rochemurchus with his wife and family before going to Morvern in 1937, to take up the position of head keeper with Mr and Mrs Owen Hugh Smith, who had bought Ardtornish Estate seven years earlier. Not long after he arrived in Morvern, John happened to hear there was someone living in nearby Lochaline called John Scouler. Wondering if this was the man whom he had met quite by chance in France, John went in search of him and was delighted to find that it was and to be able to thank him in person for delivering his precious letter. The pair, amazed at the coincidence, struck up a friendship which carries on to this day between John Munro's daughter Elizabeth and John Scouler's son Alistair who, for many years, was the highly esteemed Oban Times correspondent for Morvern.



Piper John Munro of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.

REPORTS of many whales stranded on beaches around Scotland have appeared in the media recently. Marine scientists believe their deaths may have been caused by high levels of mercury and other toxins in their brains leading to a loss of orientation. Others blame high pitched sonic signalling between submarines. Whales have held a fascination for years, perhaps on account of their size, their Biblical connection or simply because they are hardly ever seen completely out of the water. The Sound of Mull used to be a favourite haunt. In 1903 when the steamer Fingal - number two of four of that name - was travelling between the island of Coll and Kilchoan, near the entrance to Loch Sunart, it encountered what was said to be one of the bottlenose variety.

According to an eye witness account, the helmsman saw it coming straight towards the vessel at high speed but as it never occurred to him that it would come near the boat he neither slowed down or took evasive action. To his surprise it struck midships with such force that it caused the steamer to shiver from bow to stern to such an extent that the passengers rushed on deck to see what had happened. The whale was not seen after the collision and was thought to have been killed by the shock. In June 1935, a Mr Nelson, attendant keeper of the Eilean Musdile Lighthouse off the southern end of Lismore, reported seeing an unusually large creature, unlike a shark or a whale, about 40 feet in length, passing near the lighthouse in the direction of the Sound of Mull.

Mr Nelson and the other attendants and their families watched this strange creature moving on the surface for some distance until it submerged. On a Saturday in April three years later, passengers and crews of a number of ships passing through the Sound of Mull reported seeing a large school of whales which, according to one spectator aboard the Lochinvar, amounted to about 100. A similar number, perhaps the same pod, was still in the neighbourhood in late August when Captain Allan MacDonald of the Lochinvar, reported the area between the Grey Rocks and Duart Point as being alive with whales, herring and birds. That year whales were also seen in the Firth of Lorne.

A FEW weeks ago I said in these columns that there was no longer a settlement in Scotland called New York. I was mistaken. Argyll historian and author, Mary, Lady McGrigor of Sonachan, Loch Awe side, tells me that there is a place called New York - sometimes shown as Newyork - on the north side of Loch Awe just west of Dalavich and opposite Portinnissherich. It obviously takes its name from the 18th century York Buildings Company which was at Strontian. It must have bought the loch side lands forfeited after the 1715 Jacobite Rising but what its interest was I have no idea. An important ferry, which formed a vital link in the drove road system for centuries, used to connect the two places and it is supposedly where Alastair MacCola crossed the loch in 1645 on his way to attack Montrose at Inveraray. It stopped running regularly in 1909. Iain Thornber iain.thornber@btinternet.com

**The deadline for nominations is March 2 2016**

**Angel OF THE YEAR**

If you know someone who really makes a difference in their community or to someone's life then let us know. You can nominate by post using the form below or online at [www.obantimes.co.uk/angel](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/angel)

All nominations will be assessed by a panel of judges including a Wyvex Media director

**Lochgilthead**

A SUPPORT group in Lochgilthead, which helps parents who have lost a child, is set to open this month. The SIMBA group will have its first meeting on Thursday February 25 from 7.30pm until 9.30pm at the Argyll Inn. It is open to all those who are suffering from bereavement due to the loss of a baby at any stage of pregnancy or close to the time of birth. This group is facilitated by Tracey France and Kirsty Taylor, who are inviting those affected to come along for a chat and a coffee or tea in a relaxed setting and welcome them to bring along any photos or memory items they may have. The full address for the location of the meeting is The Argyll Inn, 69 Lochneil Street, Lochgilthead. For more information, contact Tracy on 07920032398 or email the Highland ambassador simbahighland@gmail.com.

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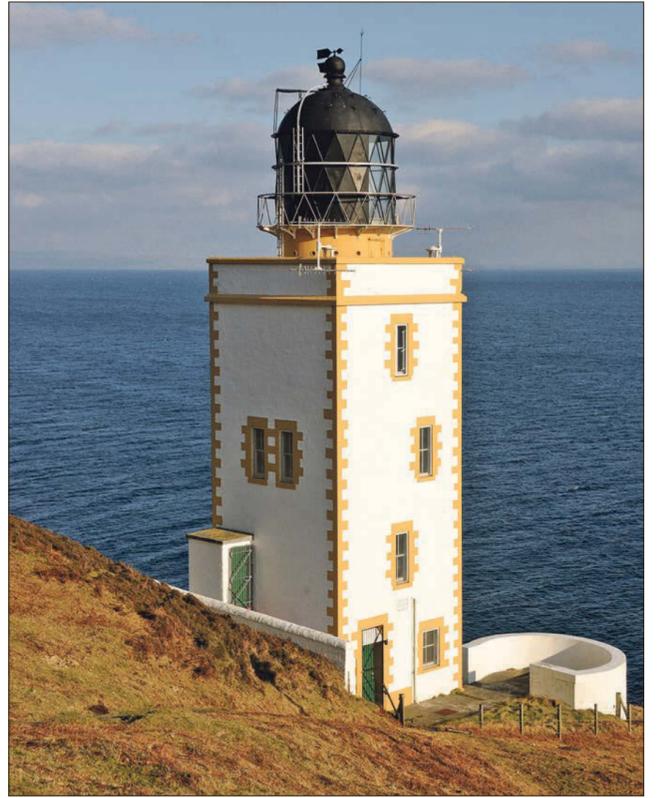

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Cloch lighthouse, above left, is situated on the coast of the Firth of Clyde; Holy Island outer lighthouse, above right. All photographs: Ian Cowe

# Celebrating our lighthouse heritage in glorious colour

WHEN someone cares passionately it always shows and Ian Cowe's passion for lighthouses shines out of the pages of his book, *Scottish and Manx Lighthouses. A photographic journey in the footsteps of the Stevensons.*

But then his photographs and writing are celebrating the passion that drove the Stevensons, at the cutting-edge of technology a century-and-a-half-ago, as they created masterpieces of engineering in some of the most remote and inhospitable places in the land.

And the book is published by another passionate bunch of people, The Northern Lighthouse Heritage Trust, dedicated to preserving and promoting awareness of Scotland's lighthouse heritage; proceeds from the sale go to help fund the trust's work.

The result is a book which lives up to its publicity hype of an 'unmatched compilation of Scotland's marvellous lighthouse heritage'. People cannot help but smile when they see a lighthouse; there is nothing bad about them.

Their sole purpose is to save lives and help prosperity, by definition they are most often found in difficult and inhospitable locations so their very existence celebrates the use of all human ingenuity and power for good.

The late Kurt Vonnegut said the best symbol of man's human-



Hyskeir lighthouse marks the southern end of the Minch.

ity to man was a fire engine; he could have added lighthouses.

Perhaps that explains why there are so many books, prints, posters, paintings and any kind of nick-nack on sale. The very design of a lighthouse, tall, elegant, strong and their magnificent locations makes it difficult to take a bad photograph of a lighthouse but it also means that the market is flooded with things that routinely, averagely good; worthy but dull.

That is why Ian Cowe's book is so welcome; because it is very,

very good and what makes it so good is all that passion.

The son and grandson of trawlermen, Ian grew up with lighthouses and has, he writes, happy memories of pestering his parents to take him to see them. He began with the idea of photographing the more famous lighthouses, but this blossomed into a mission to photograph all the Stevenson lights.

So began a seven-year labour of love, by foot, car, boat, plane and helicopter from his Aberdeenshire home as Ian visited

them all, helped by the Northern Lighthouse Board to reach remote lights usually only visited by its staff or contractors.

Where this book triumphs over many other photographic studies of lighthouses is that Ian is himself an engineer and now senior lecturer, at Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, leading petroleum production courses. This informs his work and his photography goes to the heart of the matter, not just pretty pictures of lighthouses.

He is a photographer who can

show what is needed to appreciate how a lighthouse works, the skill involved in its creation and then bathe it all in the glorious light found off the Scottish coast and the often over-looked Manx lighthouses.

It is also a perfectly balanced, generous, book which acknowledges that other authors have gone before and gives thorough information about the lighthouses, the Stevenson family and the Northern Lighthouse Board, with a look at its work today. It also shares a reading list and places to visit and websites to browse. Ian Cowe wants his readers to become as passionate about lighthouses as he is.

Scotland has Munro baggers and birdwatching twitchers. Now is the time for lighthouse bagging to be given the national recognition it deserves.

The forward to the book is written by one such 'light bagger', HRH Princess Royal, Patron of the board since 1993, who congratulates Ian: 'Ian Cowe's journey around our coast, capturing the great lights built by the Stevenson engineers shows a real dedication.'

Scottish and Manx Lighthouses, A photographic journey in the footsteps of the Stevensons, Ian Cowe, Whittles Publishing, in association with the Northern Lighthouse Heritage Trust. ISBN 978-09567029-1-7. Softback £20.



Author Ian Cowe's interest in lighthouses began as a young boy. He is now a senior lecturer at Robert Gordon University.

## Shedding some light on the man behind the book

THE START of 2016 has been memorable for Ian Cowe; the launch of his book on the Stevenson lighthouses and the arrival of a second baby.

In the seven years that Ian worked on the book, he married, became a father and this month a second baby arrived.

This week, from his home at Balmedie, he told *The Oban Times*: 'I tell my wife we're going to start on the lighthouses of England and Wales, but right now, I don't think so.'

'I started before I was married; I probably had more spare time. I'd looked at the weather, and go away for a couple of days. A lot of my work is flexible. I'd work it in like that.'

The logistics of photographing all the Stevenson lights involved lengthy car travel, sometimes follow by a walk; with ferries added in for the island ones.

For quite a few there are regular boat trips in the summer – for locations such as the Isle of May and Ailsa Craig.

'A friend with a boat in the Firth of Forth also proved a

great help. Though I had to charter a boat to a couple of them,' said Ian.

When it came to the more remote 'rock' lighthouses the Northern Lighthouse Board helped with passages on NLV Pharos and hitching a ride on a helicopter along with engineers.

'In the helicopter, it is interesting to get a different vantage point of the sea and the sky – you can see why there were shipwrecks.'

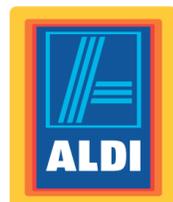
'The Northern Lighthouse Board was a big help,' said Ian.

Ian's work can also be seen in the Northern Lighthouse Board's calendar, and his photographs were featured in *Shining Lights*, an exhibition at National Museum of Scotland.

And Ian will be giving an informal series of talks in venues such as the Bell Rock Signal Tower, Arbroath, another at the Mull of Galloway and at Isle of May, with more dates to come.

To see more of Ian's work go online and visit [www.flickr.com/photos/iancowe/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/iancowe/)

## Great Scottish poultry at your local Aldi store.



Ross Harris and Megan Judon are through to the national final. 15\_108taynuilchefs01

## Young Taynuilt duo in hotel award finals

A COUPLE from Taynuilt are both through to a national final for catering after being crowned regional winners in separate categories.

Megan Judson, 18, and Ross Harris 20, who both work at Taynuilt Hotel, have been crowned winners of the regional Scottish Hotel Awards and are through to the national finals, which will take place in Edinburgh on April 26.

Miss Judson was awarded food and beverage individual of the year for Argyll and Lomond and Ross was crowned sous chef of the year for the same region.

Mr Harris said: 'We have six members of staff, but we're a close-knit team. We all work together and we've worked really hard to get the awards. It's good fun, but hard work. When I found out I had won, I could not believe it. I was so happy and then I found out Megan had also won, so I was even happier – we're a couple. We're trying to promote good food, good service and good drink. We're all passionate about it. That's what drives us all.'

Miss Judson said: 'It [finding out she had won] was weird, just because I am so young, when you think of the amount of people that went for it. It's excellent though.'

The award ceremony will take place at the Sheraton Grand Hotel & Spa, hosted by Arlene Stuart from Forth One's Breakfast Show.

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# BE YOUR OWN BOSS

HAVING your own business is not a job but a way of life. Being your own boss is—more often than not—a difficult task. Often you have to invest a great deal of time, energy and money, especially in the beginning. Plans need to be drawn. Sometimes a business loan is necessary.

For many people, being self-employed is their ultimate professional goal because not only are they in charge of their own destiny, but they are part of a company they truly believe in. So even though there are a number of initial hurdles to get over, there are also several advantages of being self-employed that make all the trials and tribulations worth it. For example, you can make your own schedule. Under the right circumstances, you are privy to certain tax deductions. And you have control over everything that goes on at your company.

If you dream of being your own boss, peruse our guide and learn how you can make your passion your pay cheque!

## NETWORK MARKETING BUSINESSES

Are you a born leader? Are you a self-starter looking for flexible part-time income? Network marketing, some say, is becoming the wave of the future. Companies such as Arbonne and Stella & Dot give budding entrepreneurs the chance to be their own bosses and earn extra income at their own pace.

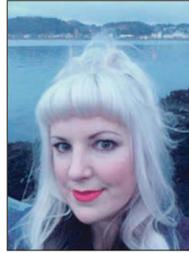
Network marketing is a bit like running a franchise. It works by distributors sponsoring others (their team members) and providing support in any way they can. Companies pay their distributors for work done by other team members, so your income can increase even if your hours don't. There is usually an upfront investment

for the purchase of a sample kit, and then you can sell directly to friends, family and personal contacts. Because you need to be an active recruiter and provide support to your network members, it definitely helps to be a people person! However, you don't necessarily need a business background, because you will receive training. There are several advantages to network marketing:

- **Flexibility** Network marketing gives you the freedom that no traditional job can. You can work from virtually anywhere you have a computer and a phone. (This makes it particularly attractive for mums with young children, so they can avoid the expense of day care.)
- **Support** When you partner with a network marketing company, you don't have to worry about manufacturing your own products, creating your own marketing materials or finding training—this is all included.
- **Job security** In addition to controlling when, where and how much you work, the good news is, you can never be laid off!
- **Variety** There are an increasingly large selection of opportunities from which to choose, so everyone can find a network marketing company that suits their interests and skills.
- **Self-improvement** Network marketing allows you develop self-confidence and other skills as you develop professionally.
- **Meeting new people** Because network marketing is based upon the success of others in your network, you will develop lasting friendships and relationships that you might not otherwise.

months was promoted to District Manager. This mother of three owns a beauty salon, so joining a cosmetics company was only natural. Just as Kirsty was thinking about developing her own cosmetics line, she met an Arbonne representative and the rest, as they say, is history. According to Kirsty, Arbonne and the ladies in her network provide all the backing that she needs to make her business successful. 'It's a lot of fun and I've met loads of people. A lot of the girls in my network look to me because I run a business, but you don't need a business or beauty background. Everyone at Arbonne wants you to do well, so you get a lot of support. We are continually training, and they are sending me to Las Vegas in April.'

'A lot of people think they don't have time,' Kirsty said. 'I gave up EastEnders and found I was able to find the time. But, it's important to not let business interfere with your family time. Just be in the moment. Visit Kirsty's Facebook page at [facebook.com/KirstyLauder5](http://facebook.com/KirstyLauder5).



Niki Currie  
Arbonne Independent Consultant



Kirsty Lauder  
Arbonne Independent Consultant

**Niki Currie, Arbonne Independent Consultant** Niki Currie, 32, from Oban, has been an Independent Consultant with Arbonne for three years, following in the footsteps of her former boss, Jan Ferguson, who used to run a successful business in Oban before selling it to run her network marketing business, which now supports her lifestyle with much more flexibility. Niki is a Make-up Artist and Stylist and runs workshops and demonstrations to educate and advise on beauty and skincare. 'The biggest thing that attracted me was the safety of the products—they don't contain parabens and other chemicals. But they also give you a really good finish,' Niki said.

For Niki, the freedom from a 9 to 5 job is just one advantage to her Arbonne business. 'I don't have to go to the same place every day. And I've been able to travel, meet new people and get lots of great training. Each day is new and exciting. I am looking forward to going to my first global conference in Las Vegas where I will be connecting

with all the other consultants from USA, Canada, Australia and Poland. 'It's a great company to work with, flexible and fun and I look forward to many more years.' Visit Niki's website at [niki-currie.arbonne.com](http://niki-currie.arbonne.com).

## STELLA & DOT

Named one of Inc. 500's 'Fastest Growing Companies,' Stella & Dot is a social selling company based in San Francisco that creates flexible entrepreneurial opportunities for women with boutique-style jewellery and accessories available through in-home Trunk Shows by Independent Stylists. Jo Markwick, 40, of Dunoon, is an Independent Stylist with Stella & Dot. This mother of one has a background in retail, design and jewellery, and first found out about the company three years ago when she read a magazine article. 'It was the flexibility that it offered that attracted me, the fact that I could choose my own hours. My husband is in the military, and even though we have

to move because of his job, I have been able to take my business with me.' Working with Stella & Dot has given Jo opportunities to do what she loves and work with people who have become her friends. 'It opens up the chance to meet new people. When you are growing a team, you become quite close. Everyone is very supportive, and I love to see the members of the team grow in confidence and earnings. My customers love the personal service, and the social aspect of the trunk shows is lovely, a real sensory experience.' Jo points out that stylists don't need a background in sales or jewellery, and while this is her only source of income, she added that about 75% of the company's stylists have another job. 'You can do it as a hobby—there are no targets other than the ones you set for yourself. It allows me, as a mom, to have the best of both worlds, where I can take time for my son when I need to. For me, this is it.' Visit Jo's website at [stelladot.co.uk/jomarkwick](http://stelladot.co.uk/jomarkwick).

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## Business Gateway workshops in Oban

**Business Start-up**  
A one and a half day workshop incorporating: business planning, finance, marketing and market research.  
24 February - Oban (1 day workshop)

**Practical Basic Book-keeping**  
A half day workshop shows how book-keeping is used to generate the financial information needed for Income Tax, VAT, Corporation Tax, PAYE and National Insurance contributions.  
25 February - Mull

**Reaching More Customers (craft business development)**  
This one day workshop will help small craft businesses develop and reach more customers profitably. It will help you to increase the scale of your business and widen your markets. It covers understanding your market and competitors, pricing, choosing where to sell, using social media, making an impact at craft fairs, building networks and collaborating with other craft businesses.  
3 March, Oban

**Get Your Business Noticed (PR on a Budget)**  
This workshop will help get your business noticed without spending money. It's about getting your business featured in newspapers and on radio and television, understanding how the media works, finding the stories in your business that journalists will want to tell and understanding how to make contact with them so that you enjoy the benefits of free publicity. By the end of the workshop, you will understand how to plan and deliver your own PR campaigns to meet your business objectives.  
9 March, Oban

**Selling with Confidence**  
Give business owners have a better understanding of why people buy, improve persuasion skills and be more confident in using successful selling techniques.  
15 March, Oban

**Recruiting and Managing Staff**  
This workshop will help you to recruit, induct, manage and develop your staff in a way that helps your business to grow. It focuses on the skills and processes needed to get the best out of your staff, rather than the legal aspects. By the end of the workshop, you will be to create a plan for managing and developing the staff within your business.  
24 March, Oban

To find out more or to book a place please contact  
Business Gateway on 01546 604555 or email  
[business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

## TAKING YOU STEP BY STEP INTO BUSINESS

Coming up with an idea for a business is one thing; turning it into a viable way to make a living is quite another. Hundreds of people have walked through Business Gateway's doors worried their idea might not work but with the right support and knowledge they leave ready to become their own boss. Whatever your business idea the team of advisers at Business Gateway Argyll and Bute have the experience to help you get it off the ground. At your first meeting you'll be teamed with an adviser whose knowledge and networks will match your needs. They'll be with you throughout the whole journey asking the challenging questions and helping you find the answers. They'll work with you to mould your idea into a viable business and give you all the information you need to succeed. Once your adviser has identified exactly what help you need, they'll give you one-to-one advice and highlight which of the fully funded workshop you should attend. From general awareness sessions to more in-depth seminars on social media, marketing and finance, these free courses give you an intensive burst of information that can be implemented right away. Business Gateway can't give you funding, but they can direct you to the most relevant private and public schemes that you would benefit from. A business plan plays a big part

when seeking financial assistance – it also provides you with a road map to establish and grow your enterprise, so alongside the business plan workshop, your adviser will give you a document that showcases your potential and keeps you on track. Once you're up and running the help doesn't stop. Whether you go back to Business Gateway in six-months or a year, they are still there for you. Sam Ford, Business Gateway Argyll and Bute said: "Business Gateway Argyll and Bute is a huge free resource that is available to businesses no matter what stage of development they are in." To find out how Business Gateway can help you call 01546 604555 or visit [www.bgateway.com/argyll-and-bute](http://www.bgateway.com/argyll-and-bute)

## Technology Matters with John Orr

### Clever CCTV for smarter business.

We are all familiar with traditional CCTV cameras, frequently used to monitor shops, un-manned yards or perhaps behind the till in a busy bar. Grainy images on flickering screens recorded onto video tape. When it comes to looking at the recorded image it is either viewed in real time or fast forwarded and paused which is a slow and error prone process. Computers and the internet have changed all that. Rather than recording images an IP (Internet Protocol) Camera collects and stores data. And when it comes to looking at data computers can take over the role of viewer very effectively. With the appropriate software your data can be analysed and searched very quickly and efficiently in ways just not possible with videotape. For instance you could point an IP camera at the entrance to your shop and search the recorded data to find out the most popular colour of coat being worn. Or perhaps you want to check on whether customers are stopping at a newly installed merchandising stand. Your software can analyse movement (or the lack of it) without you having to resort to watching a tape. With face recognition software it is quite possible to set up a camera and computer which checks faces against a database. And if the database contains information about the likes and dislikes of the owner of the face then it is perfectly possible to instantly send an advertising image to a digital screen in view of that customer, or to alert the shop manager that a big spender is at the door! There are big brother overtones here but the technology exists and just as with social media the desire for targeted advertising is overwhelming. IP Cameras are linked to a computer server for storage and the same wire that sends the data back provides the power for the camera (referred to as Power Over Ethernet) making for a very cost effective installation. The camera units themselves have no moving parts and are relatively robust and low cost. These units are typically smaller and more discreet than traditional cameras, look out for little black domes on ceilings and walls next time you visit an airport, or even a pub. At the viewing end the IP images from as many as 16 cameras can be accommodated in panes on a single computer screen. A mouse click brings any image to full screen size making for a very efficient installation.

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# Huge increase in number of drivers caught speeding

CAREN MCPATE  
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POLICE caught 2,125 drivers speeding on roads in Lochaber and the wider Highland area in just nine months.

Almost 800 more people were detected from April to December 2015 compared to the same period the previous year. According to a report before Lochaber Committee of Highland Council, there was a 59 per cent rise in incidents from 1,333 in 2014/15 to 2,125 in 2015/16. Police say that the huge increase in the number of motorists being caught is down to more patrols in the Highlands and Islands division.

There are now 45 dedicated officers covering the area.

Last year there was one fatal collision in Lochaber when a driver was killed on the A803 Mallaig to Fort William road.

Brian Mackay, chief inspector of South Highland Command, Highland and Islands Division, Police Scotland, told the committee: 'Be reassured that there has been an increase in road policing and we are being proactive. It's not because the behaviour of road users is different.'

Road safety is the top priority in the Fort William, Caol, Ardnamurchan and Mallaig council wards.

The number of people caught driving while under the influence of drink or drugs rose to 31 in 2015/16, up from 28 in the previous year.

Meanwhile, 195 drivers were found not to be wearing seatbelts, rising from 123, and 96 were caught using a mobile phone.

A report by Chief Inspector Mackay said: 'It is disappointing to see the numbers increasing, however, we know that if we can reduce

speed and ensure that people use their seatbelts and avoid the use of mobile phones whilst driving then they are less likely to be involved in a collision.'

'The impact of death and injury on our roads is significant, not only from the impact on victims and their families but to communities and the wider economy. It consistently features as a concern for the communities in Highland and road policing remains a priority for every officer.'

'We continue to work in partnership to improve road user behaviour through education, enforcement and engineering solutions. This informs our actions, using intelligence and analysis to identify priority routes and road users who may be vulnerable. Evidence has shown that a highly visible presence on our roads has a significant impact on driver behaviour.'



Alison Macrae with Cat Cubie, presenter and columnist, and Jimmy Stephen Cran.

## Alison bags enterprise award

A CREATIVE young designer has come up with a stunning gown made out of 1,000 crisp packets – but there is nothing rubbish about it. Alison Macrae won the enterprise award in the Junk Kouture competition after a successful campaign for public votes.

The Plockton high school pupil sailed into the final after achieving the most votes online.

Alison was one of 82 talented designers from across Scotland who strutted their stuff on the catwalk at Glasgow's Royal Concert Hall, showcasing their incredible couture designs made only from rubbish.

The rainbow-coloured dress amazed judges with its elegant style and bright colours. Alison said: 'I was so thrilled with how it turned out.'

Alison's teacher, Lynn McLaughlin, was delighted with the response from both the public and the judges, and hopes this will inspire future generations of students.

Crisp packets were the main focus of the dress which featured a variety of snack brands and was adorned with broken jewellery and old CDs.

Now in its second year, Junk Kouture was created to give budding designers the opportunity to hone their skills and showcase their talents on a national platform.

The winners of six categories were selected by a panel of industry experts including Jimmy Stephen Cran from Glasgow School of Art and talent judge Louis Walsh.

## TIMESLINE



Ros MacDonald was among those paying their respects. Photograph: Johnpaul Peebles, Abrightside Photography

## Poignant service marks massacre

IT WAS a poignant occasion when people came together for the 324th Glencoe Massacre ceremony on Saturday.

A church service was followed by a march from Bridge of Coe for the ceremony.

The Reverend Simon McKenzie, from Lochgilpead, officiated, with wreaths being laid by various organisations.

Ros MacDonald of the Glencoe Heritage Trust laid a wreath in memory of the late Robert Chessman of California, member of the Clan Donald Association. The event is organised by The Glencoe Heritage Trust, Clan Donald Highlands and Islands and St Mary's Church.

## Weather hampers mountain search

MOUNTAIN rescuers were hoping to resume a search for two climbers who went missing on Ben Nevis as The Oban Times went to print yesterday morning (Wednesday).

The search for Rachel Slater, 24, and Tim Newton, 27, from Bradford, was called off on Tuesday because of dangerous weather conditions and was still on hold the next morning.

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## Pool group's appeal to council

THE GROUP which runs Mallaig and District Swimming Pool has urged council chiefs not to cut its funding when it meets next week to try and make £37.9 million of budget savings.

The board of trustees is worried that history could repeat itself and the pool could face being closed. In 2014 the grant it received was under threat but, thanks to a successful

campaign, it continued to receive funding.

Mallaig and District Swimming Pool (MDSP) has written to The Highland Council stating its case.

A letter to politicians said: 'The board of directors needs to develop strategies, five-year plans (and beyond), and budgeted programmes for the future.'

'They cannot do that if

MDSP is merely subsisting from year to year. If funding cannot be safeguarded, the future of the pool is once again thrown into relief.'

Crunch talks are continuing in the lead up to the council's budget meeting next Thursday (February 25).

The council's funding package from the Scottish Government is £18.3 million less than the previous year.



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# Viewpoint

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB  
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## The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8216

It's not difficult to see why Argyll and Bute councillors are looking at raising parking charges in Oban and widening the net to do away with current free parking as a way of raising vital cash for services. The fact that this is going to be fairly unpopular with local people living and working in the town won't come as a surprise either.

Most local authorities are probably doing something similar, particularly in areas where visitor

numbers are high. Why wouldn't you? The only problem with this is that locals will end up paying the highest price. To live and work in the area most need their car and who can afford around £6 a day to park in town to do your job?

Perhaps the council should consider a week-day discount scheme tied to your postcode that can alleviate the burden such a move will have on business and workers in the town?



## Days gone by – Oban High School pupils

This week's flashback photograph was submitted by Molly Campbell, nee Colthart, and features Oban High School pupils from 1947/48. Back row, left to right: C MacDonald; P MacLeod; I MacDonald; M Barr; Mr Dobbins, French teacher; C Gray; C Hoey; J Gray; M MacIntyre; K Giles; J MacCallum; G Scott and unknown. Middle: B MacRae; M Kidd; M MacIntyre; A McLarty; M Colthart; I MacGill; J MacLellan; M Colthart; J Balfour and J MacCallum. Front: K MacRae; D J Campbell; A Boyd; I Clarke; D Carmichael; I Phillips and A Campbell. Digital versions of flashback photos for *The Oban Times* can be sent to 'editor@obantimes.co.uk' or prints sent to the editor, *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Anyone who wishes a print returned should include a stamped-addressed envelope.

### Glasgow Letter

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

### 150th Mull and Iona Gathering

THE 150TH anniversary of the Mull and Iona Association was celebrated in style on Friday February 12.

I arrived about 10 minutes before the concert was due to start and the hall was so full I couldn't get a seat at any of the tables.

I have always liked the way Mull and Iona structures its gatherings, with the second half taking the form of a laid-back ceilidh dance with singers performing in between dances.

The performers were all marvellous. I am a huge fan of Duncan Macdonald's velvety bass voice - which brought him the Gold Medal in Oban in 1970 - and he was on top form for songs in both English and Gaelic, from the *Loch Tay Boat Song* to *Tuireadh nan Treun*. Kirsty Renton captivated the audience with a selection of Scots songs, including stunning renditions of Burns classics *Ca' the Ewes* and *Green Grow the Rashes O*. Mull Gaelic Choir was in fine voice and Mull and Iona pipers created a wonderful, stirring sound.

A highlight for me was Mull and Iona Ceilidh Band - Anda Campbell, Duncan Mackenzie, Ross Wilson, John Graham and Charlie Kirkpatrick - whose sets of tunes and Gaelic songs had the whole hall tapping their feet and singing.

Chairman for the evening, Sir Lachlan MacLean of Duart, kept everyone entertained between the acts before handing over to Iain Campbell for a hilarious vote of thanks, which contained a cracking story about a Texan tourist who mistook Duart Castle for Dunvegan Castle, and eventually to the Gunna Sound boys who had everyone on

their feet until the end of the night. Congratulations to president Charlie Kirkpatrick and the rest of the committee who must be extremely pleased at the success of their association's birthday party.

### Clydebank Highlanders

CLYDEBANK Highlanders held a successful ceilidh in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, on the evening of Friday February 12.

Iain MacLean, Kirsteen Grant and Alison Wood were the Gaelic singers. A young group of singers called *Graceful* sang a varied selection of songs. John MacMillan was the fiddler, accompanied on piano by Kirsteen, while Robert Wood gave some tunes on the pipes and Grace Jamieson was in the chair.

The next big event in the Clydebank Highlanders' diary is a supper dance in Napier Hall on Saturday March 5 to the music of Charlie Kirkpatrick's Band. Tickets, £15, are available from committee members or by phoning 01389 879749.

### Film G Awards

THIS coming Friday, February 19, the Old Fruitmarket will play host to the annual Film G awards - MG Alba's Gaelic short film competition, run by Cànán Ltd.

It has become a massive event in the calendar and the Gaelic community never fails to take the opportunity to don their posh frocks for the ceremony. There are some excellent films entered into the competition this year and, as always, some serious prizes up for grabs, along with a host of celebrity presenters. Public

voting is closed, with the results to be announced at the ceremony.

Among the most talked about entries this year are *Mach as mo rathad*, a comedy film in which Mòd Gold Medallist Darren Maclean tries to start a Gaelic boy-band, and *Seachdain gun Seòladh*, the hilarious entry from Electronica band The League of Highland Gentlemen about residents of Mallaig Road in Glasgow trying to get a fictional ferry to Uist Street. I would struggle to predict a winner - but I'm happy to predict a lot of good craic before, during and after the awards.

### What's on

**Saturday February 20:** Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Marag Supper, Partick Burgh Hall.

**Friday February 26:** Glasgow Uist and Barra Association Ceilidh Dance, Crawford Hall.

**Friday February 26:** Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir Annual Concert, Western Hall, Bearsden, 7.30pm.

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

**Friday March 4:** Glasgow Islay Association Annual Gathering concert, 7.30pm, and dance, 10.30pm, Glasgow University Union.

**Saturday March 5:** Clydebank Highlanders' Supper Dance, details above.

### Pub scene

**Islay Inn:** Friday 19: Parting Glass. Saturday February 20: Twist of Fate. Wednesday 24: Quiz Night. **Park Bar:** Friday February 19: Deoch 'n' Dorus. Saturday February 20: Gunna Sound. Sunday February 21: Martainn Skene.

### Ferry group awaits reply from CalMac

Sir, Mull and Iona Ferry Committee wrote to Martin Dorchester, managing director of Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac), more than three weeks ago.

We asked 10 questions regarding the increasing cancellation rate on the Oban to Craignure ferry service. We have not yet had a reply.

Our first key question asked for the data to back up his earlier assertion that the only cause of the increased rate of cancellation was that 'weather patterns are scientifically proven to be changing for the worse' and that 'the wind direction is also changing'.

In the absence of any answers to our questions, we have undertaken an analysis of historical wind data, as supplied by the Met Office.

We have presented our findings in a letter to Mr Dorchester, which can be read in full on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/mullandionaferrycommittee](http://www.facebook.com/mullandionaferrycommittee)

We can see no evidence from the data of a deteriorating trend over the past 11 years. We can see no evidence that the prevailing wind direction has significantly altered either. What we can see is that the ferry service has become much more sensitive to strong winds than it used to be in the past.

The most striking thing is that 10 years ago, an equally windy winter to what we experienced in 2014/15, resulted in just 10 cancellations. In 2014/15, there were 108. We are still seeking answers as to why the service is more than 10 times more vulnerable to high winds than it was in the past.

The committee awaits Mr Dorchester's detailed response to our questions and hopes the company can engage positively to address the causes of the problem.

Neal Goldsmith, chairman, Mull and Iona Ferry Committee.

### Don't replace Corran Ferry with a bridge

Sir, With all due respect to my friend and colleague Councillor Brian Murphy and some of my fellow residents on this side of the Corran Narrows, I don't agree a bridge should be built to replace the Corran Ferry.

There are advantages and disadvantages and I think the latter outweigh the former, *The Oban Times* February 11.

Where is the money going to come from to build a toll-free bridge in this financial climate? No matter what we think we should have and what

we would like, bridging the Corran Narrows is not a priority while global markets are in decline.

It is dangerous for our elected representatives to give council officials the notion that all they need do is to keep the present vessel running for a few years yet. A new ferry should be ordered now or the slips altered to accommodate the many vessels beginning to pile up like stranded whales alongside Aberdeen's quaysides from the declining oil industry.

Of course we would all like to drive across the Corran Narrows at any time of the day or night but what of the poor state of the roads in Ardnarmurchan, Sunart and Morvern?

There are nearly 60 miles of single-track roads leading to Lochaline, Drimnin, Salen, Kilchoan and Kinlochmoidart owned by the Highland Council, which is unable to maintain them now without the huge volume of extra traffic a bridge would bring.

I do not believe all residents want a bridge and to live on a peninsula looking like a gigantic industrial yard or suburbia.

There are very few tourist-related hotels and businesses in West Lochaber which do not extol the virtues of the open and unspoilt countryside.

The ferry is a great regulator of traffic and judging by the amount of development which has happened on the peninsula during the past decade, it is no hindrance to sensible and measured expansion.

Lastly, and most importantly, the Corran ferry provides 15 local jobs which would be lost if a bridge was built.

The men and women who have manned our ferries in all weathers deserve our thanks. The Highland Council should not indulge in stalling tactics.

If it believes the public cannot weather an annual two per cent increase in fares then it should do the obvious.

Iain Thornber, Morvern.

### Childhood memories of ghost stories

Sir, I can add to the eerie account of the events surrounding the death of the 10th Duke of Argyll in Inveraray Castle in August 1949, as related in Iain Thornber's always interesting *Morvern Lines* in last week's *Oban Times*.

My grand-uncle Eric Maclean was with Angus Campbell, the Captain of Dunstaffnage, who was sitting with his dying kinsman Duke Niall.

Eric was about to settle for the night in the room he had been allocated in the castle when he saw a small figure wrapped in a plaid literally coming through the wall.

### Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
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THA DÀ THAOBH air a h-uile sgeulachd agus gu deimhinne tha caochladh fiaradh air sealladh Chomhairlean Alba air an aonta ionmhais aca le Riaghaltas na h-Alba seach mar a tha Iain Swinney is buill eile a' Chaibineat a' faicinn chùisean.

Ged a bha cuid a' Chomhairlean deònach an aonta gus cisean comhairle a ghleidheadh aig an aon ìre a bhrieadh, bha leithid de chàin dol a thighinn orra bhon Riaghaltas is gum feumadh iad suas ris a' cheathramh cuid de dh'ardachadh a chur air cisean aon buannachd a bhith aca. Cha ghabhadh luchd-bhòtaidh ri leithid de thogail ann an cosgaisean is cha b' urrainn dha na Comhairlean dad a dhèanamh ach gèilleadh! Cha b' ann gun gheairn!

Thuir cuid de Chomhairlichean gun robh na thachair an seo a' cur deamocrasaidh ionadail ann an suarachas, bha feadhainn eile ag ràdh gun robh an Riaghaltas a' gearradh chumhachdan Chomhairlean a thaobh mar is còir maoin a chosg nan cuid sgìrean.

Ach tha an Riaghaltas ag ràdh gum bheil iadsan daingeann nan amas co-obrachadh le Comhairlean gum

aonta chothromach a ruigheachd. Tha iad ag aontachadh gum bheil an cuidheadh doirbh ach tha iad a' cumail a-mach gum bheil an tairgse maoin a thug iad dha Comhairlean Alba reusanta.

Biodh sin mar a bhitheas e, tha na th' air tachairt gu bhith a' ciallachadh gum bheil ceudan feadh na dùthcha dol a chall an cuid cosnaidhean agus tha Comhairlean gu bhith a' pàigheadh mhilleanan ann an airgead pàighidh dheth.

Air an dàrna làimh tha luchd-bhòtaidh air an dìon bho àrdachadh Chisean Comhairle agus air an làimh eile tha àireamh na bheil gun chosnadh a' dol am meud gu mòr.

A bharrachd air sin tha sinne uile a tha a' pàigheadh Chisean Comhairle dol a chall sheirbheisean de gach seòrsa, is cùisean a' dol air ais gu ìrean nach fhacas bho chionn iomadh bliadhna. Agus ged a thogadh an Riaghaltas am bacadh air àrdachadh chisean comhairle an-ath-bhliadhna, tha droch sheansa gun tilleadh na sochair sin a chailleadh a' chaid gheir, oir cha bhi airgead ann air an son.

Ged a tha sinn uile a' tuigsinn gum

The spectre laid an ice-cold hand on Eric's forehead before disappearing through the opposite wall. Eric was so terrified that he had no rest that night.

Next morning he told Angus Dunstaffnage about what had happened to him, vowing that he would never again set foot in Inveraray Castle.

Angus said that Eric should consider himself privileged to have been visited by the Irish harper, hanged by Montrose's ferocious lieutenant Alasdair MacCholla when he descended on Inveraray from the winter hills in 1644. Since then the harper had been present when a Campbell chief was dying and his playing had been heard by Angus and other watchers on attendance on Mac Caillein Mor that same night of extraordinary phenomena.

This is not the only 'haunting' story we were told when my brothers and I had magical childhoods growing up beside Angus Dunstaffnage, a man of outstanding intellect steeped in Celtic lore.

Just before the Great War, his mother had sold her estate of Inverawe at Taynuilt. Angus was assembling a fishing rod in the hall for a last cast on their beat on the River Awe when he heard a woman's screams ringing throughout the empty mansion house.

He believed that it was the ghost he had been seeing since childhood and that, with the house stripped of its contents, she no longer recognised her surroundings.

Dr Lorn Macintyre, St Andrews.

### Suggestion ignores basic rock problem

Sir, Douglas Tott's suggestion that erosion above Rest and Be Thankful could be solved by grassing the slopes - Could grass solve problem at Rest?, 11 February 2016 - ignores a fundamental problem.

The local rock - a phyllite - is fissile and the cracks that result dip downslope.

Because phyllite is relatively impermeable, rainwater does not easily penetrate and what does is directed downslope by the cracks.

This flow liquifies fine-grained soil material which moves into the chutes and gullies, carrying with it any unstable cobbles and boulders.

The newly-installed netting will hold back some of the material that has been mobilised, but it is not a long-term solution, neither is it coping in the short-term.

The only solution with a reasonable price-tag is undoubtedly an avalanche shed, such as are commonplace in the Alps and Scandinavia.

Ian Reid.

Ailean Caimbeul

feumar tighinn beò air a' mhaoin a th' ann, saoilidh mi nach eil am fàsghadh gun sgar seo air ionmhas Chomhairlean idir buannachdail.

Tha feum air dòigh eile air seirbheisean Chomhairlean a mhaoineachadh agus theagamh na robh daoine a' faicinn adhartas a dh'ionnsaigh sin gum biodh iad na bu riaraichte.

WHETHER an 'attack on local democracy' or a 'challenging but fair settlement', it seems that Scotland's local government leaders had no alternative but to accept the Scottish Government funding offer.

Moving to a ninth year of council tax freeze, councils across Scotland are apparently facing massive redundancies and erosion in their services, and even if the freeze were to be removed in a year's time these services would probably remain lost for some time.

Most voters would welcome progress towards an alternative and more equitable system for funding local government.

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## Pupils crowned business winners

YOUNG entrepreneurs from Kinlochleven high school have been crowned Scottish national champions at this year's Coca-Cola Enterprises (CCE) Real Business Challenge.

The S3 pupils impressed a panel of judges, including former Scottish rugby union player Kenny Logan and Derek Robertson, chief executive of Keep Scotland Beautiful, with their litter awareness campaign.

The challenge for pupils during the event, at Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh, was to come up with an anti-litter campaign for their local area.

The group chose to target the West Highland Way. They designed an app, a litter mascot, a social media campaign, a launch event and a bus stop poster, all within four hours.

The Kinlochleven team will now go to the Real Business Challenge grand final in London on March 16. During the two-day final stage, the pupils will present their campaigns to MPs at the House of Commons.

From there they will go on to compete against 10 other regional champions at the challenge's grand final for the chance to win a 3D printer for their school.

The winning team: Jiero Viray, Connor MacKenzie, Ethan Hornby, David Murphy, Freyja Ward and Rhiona McLauchlan, with teachers Graeme Martin and Jillian Clark.



# Long-term development of Lochaber in spotlight

CAREN MCPATE  
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MAJOR plans are being developed to transform housing, town and village centres, transport and boost leisure and tourism across Lochaber.

Highland Council will soon start consulting with the public on the Main Issues Report (MIR) of the new West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan.

It sets out the priorities for things such as employment, housing, town centres and the environment for years to come.

Residents are being urged to get involved and have their say.

New housing features in the plan for all areas. In the next 20 years, 1,738 new homes are needed for Lochaber.

The most significant new sites and policies being proposed for Lochaber include:

- Replacing the A82 bypass plans in Fort William with improving the junction at Belford Hospital.

- A new economic development area at Inverloch Castle Estate

- A housing site and village park at West Laroach, south Ballachulish

- Re-introducing tourism-led development sites at



Mallaig harbour could be expanded as one of the many proposals to be considered. 21\_08plans01

Glenachulish and north of the A82 at south Ballachulish.

- A larger expansion area for Mallaig harbour.

There's also plans for a waterfront development in

Fort William with additional pontoons/moorings and recreational sailing facilities as well as a Caol link road.

Big developments have also been put forward for Skye, in-

cluding re-opening the debate on where Portree's long term expansion should be located and the potential for an airport on the island.

Fort William and Ardn-

murchan councillor Thomas MacLennan said: 'Put simply, it's really important as many people as possible in Lochaber should try and familiarise themselves with the West Highlands and Islands Development Plan.'

'This will be a powerful document that provides the foundation and basic outline of how Lochaber moves forward over the next 10 years.'

'The more people who engage, participate and contribute at this stage during this consultation period the better it will be for Lochaber in the longer term.'

Caol and Mallaig councillor Bill Clark welcomed the plans and also encouraged residents to have their say. He said: 'Expanding the harbour and new housing is very much needed to help locals, visitors and businesses.'

'If people want to know more about it they can get in touch and if they want to make their views known they need to take part in the consultation.'

A 10-week consultation on the MIR will get underway with the representations reported towards the end of the year. The council will then decide what goes in the plan before going to another consultation.

## Date set for first Commando Games

THE FIRST Commando Games are to be held in Achnacarry and Spean Bridge later this year.

Commando Spirit, which raises funds to support Commandos and their families, is to rebuild the world's first commando assault and endurance courses.

The games, taking place on September 10 and 11, will give civilians a chance to experience first-hand the arduous training of the original commandos. Participants will be supported all the way by serving and former commandos.

The Spean Bridge area has a long connection with the commandos and has a monument dedicated to the original British Commando Forces, who fought in the Second World War, and was unveiled by the Queen Mother in 1952.

Authentically replicating the original innovative training, individuals and teams will be able to take on Commando Spirit's legendary 30-mile trek, Survive The Yomp, and more.

With a preview of the assault course and endurance course on June 18, the Commando Games will take place in Achnacarry over September 10 and 11.

For more information visit <http://www.commandospirit.eventbrite.co.uk>

## TIMESLINE

### Devolved powers for committee

MORE powers have been devolved from the Highland Council to the Lochaber committee.

Ensuring productive working relationships with community councils and purchasing and disposing of common good trust assets up to 10 per cent of the value of the common good fund are among them.

Further powers are expected to be devolved, including roads and winter maintenance, environmental services such as grounds maintenance, community works, street cleansing and public toilets.

However, councillors on the Lochaber committee raised concern about the move, saying the powers don't go far enough.

### New hydro power scheme planned

A £13.6 MILLION hydro scheme is to be developed in the hills above Kinlochleven.

Perth-based firm Green Highland Renewables is to start work on the project, which lies on the Rio Tinto estate.

The company has constructed and commissioned 25 schemes in the Highlands in the last four years, investing £62m, with the majority of the work going to local construction firms and contractors.

### Raising awareness of adult harm

PEOPLE in the Western Isles are being urged to act on their instinct if they think an adult is being harmed, neglected or taken advantage of.

The Western Isles adult protection committee is supporting the Scottish Government's 'Seen Something? Say Something' campaign, aimed at raising awareness of adult harm.

The committee draws its membership from social work, housing services, NHS Western Isles, Police Scotland and the third sector.

### Film awards to be broadcast online

THE AWARDS ceremony for Scotland's national Gaelic film competition is to be streamed live on the internet for the first time this year.

The FilmG awards, which take place at the Old Fruitmarket in Glasgow tomorrow (Friday) will be broadcast via the competition's website, [www.filmg.co.uk](http://www.filmg.co.uk). Youngsters from the Highlands and islands have been shortlisted in the awards.

## More than 2,000 north Skye homes to benefit from broadband initiative

MORE than 2,000 homes and businesses in north Skye are set to receive reliable, super-fast broadband in an initiative described as 'the most important infrastructure project for the island since the bridge was built'.

Community-led organisation North Skye Broadband says that for many years broadband has been at best adequate, but for many is practically non-existent.

The project, launched last week, aims to have broadband in place on the island by spring 2017. Concerns were raised as far back as 2011 that without significant investment in reliable infrastructure, rural areas would be facing a rapidly-widening digital divide.

The Ross, Skye and Lochaber constituency was recently identified in a report as ranking among the areas to have the worst broadband service in the UK. It was placed 647th out of 650. The Western Isles was said to have the worst service.

Highlands and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant raised the issue during a debate on broadband connection in the parliament last week.

Chairman of North Skye Broadband (2015) Ltd Geoff Semler said: 'In our view, this is the most important infrastructure project for Skye since the bridge was built. Our network will not just connect north Skye to the mainland, it will connect us properly to the rest of the world -

benefiting everyone and everything, from healthcare to small business development, long into the future.'

North Skye Broadband will deliver one of the largest community-led, super-fast, broadband projects in Scotland.

The locally operated, staffed and managed service aims to deliver a minimum of 30Mbps to 100 per cent of properties across Skye that will not benefit from the current BT superfast roll out.

Over recent months a large number of committed volunteers representing Camustianavaig, Bernisdale, Glendale, Kilmuir, Duntulm, Minginish, Skeabost, Staffin, Struan and Watnish have led the project.

## Leading the way on insulin pumps

NHS Highland is leading the way in Scotland in the use of insulin pumps for young people with diabetics.

In 2012, the Scottish Government decided that 25 per cent of all young people with Type 1 diabetes should have access to insulin pump therapy.

At the time, NHS Highland didn't even have an insulin pump service. Now, though, the board has exceeded the government target and currently pump patients are ranked number one in blood sugar control in Scotland.

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## Zara put through her prize paces

Lochaber woman Zara Al-Rekabi got the new year off to a running start after winning personal training sessions at Lochaber leisure centre. High Life Highland, which runs the centre, ran a competition during the 12 days of Christmas with photos of people taking part in their events put on Facebook and the person with the most 'likes' received the prize. Zara is pictured with Stevie Martin, supervisor at the leisure centre. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

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# Arena

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

## Anticipation mounting for Lorn Drama Festival

TWO great nights of live theatre will be brought to the Corran Halls by the enthusiastic members of drama societies from the North and South of Argyll.

This year, Lorn Drama Festival will stage plays by groups from Campbeltown, Lochgilhead and Appin, including a junior team from Benderloch Drama Club, who impressed the audience and adjudicator last year with *Detective Mimms and the Snaffler*.

This year the junior actors are taking on another Geoff Bamber comedy, *The Chair*, which should prove to be just as enjoyable.

Two comedies from the Benderloch club senior dramatists invite audiences to listen in on a helpline for jilted lovers and a parentcraft class, with some darkly comic revelations.

The actors are drawn from some well-known faces in the Oban drama scene, as

well as some new talent. Accent players from Campbeltown, who performed the outstanding *That Old Black Magic* in last year's festival are returning with *Romance* by John Reason, a skilfully-written play that weaves together three ages of the same woman.

Lochgilhead Drama Club are presenting an intriguing drama, *Mrs Meadowsweet* by David Campton.

The performances will be adjudicated by Michael Emans. Michael is no stranger to the Lorn Drama Festival, last adjudicating in 2013.

He is the artistic director of Rapture Theatre in Glasgow who visited Oban with their sell-out production of *Gagarin Way*. Michael is an experienced adjudicator of amateur drama and always gives teams a great deal of constructive comment and encouragement.

So, come along to the Corran

Halls at the end of March, enjoy a great evening's entertainment, and give your support to all the teams, young and older, who have worked so hard on their plays.



Last year, actors from Accent drama group staged quite a party at Lorn Drama Festival.

## K9 Kev brings the house down in sell-out fundraising gig

OBAN rapper Kevin 'K9 Kev' Irvine brought the house down with a sold-out show at Cuan Mor on Saturday, funding a trip for disabled children in the process, writes *Jonathan Rimmer*.

The hip hop emcee celebrated the launch of his new EP *Dear Diary* by reaching the set target needed to take a group of children to France with Hosanna House and Children's Pilgrimage Trust (HCPT).

Irvine, who works as a youth worker, smashed the £400 target needed to volunteer for the project, and now intends to help take a group of disabled and disadvantaged children on a pilgrimage to Lourdes this Easter.

Selling out the George Street venue before 10pm, Irvine admitted that he was, for once, 'quite speechless'.

He said: 'The atmosphere was amazing. In the 10 years that I've been putting on shows, this is the first one I've ever sold out. The local community has been amazing, especially the businesses who supported our raffle at the end of the show.'

Irvine has been rapping since his mid-teens and revealed that his new EP was written with today's youth in mind.

'Growing up in this small West

Waost town can be difficult,' he said. 'Working with young people has opened my eyes to the reality of what it's like to be a teenager in Oban.'

'My new EP reflects back on my own time as a teenager in school, back when I started rapping. Hip hop wasn't popular here at all then, so it's amazing to see younger artists trying it.'

Several tracks on the new release feature local solo performers, giving the EP a more folksy quality than many hip hop records. Songwriters such as Dave Ayling, Chas McKenzie and Kevin Smith contributed their vocal and instrumental talents.

Saturday's bill also featured an eclectic mix of local acts, including fellow hip hop performer Rory O'B, DJ/producer KUTBIRD and rock five-piece Citizen9. Irvine praised his fellow performers, as well as the growing Oban scene, saying: 'In my opinion, O'B is one of the best upcoming rappers in Scotland. I'm incredibly proud to rap alongside him. I loved the diversity of the night in general.'

'When it came to this project, I always wanted to use resources that were close by. This is something I've wanted to do for a long time. Now it's finished, I'm just going to keep on going.'



Macamatical



K9 Kev with O'B

K9 Kev and Andy

## malt OF THE month

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I HAVE a huge guilty pleasure. I like to listen to the stories of bodach [Gaelic for old man] when they talk about the old days.

These days are now careering towards the 1970s which are frighteningly close to my own old days.

I recently met one such man who said: 'I'm going to share a Springbank with you later.'

I asked him which one. 'Well,' said he, 'the drinking one.'

I had thought he might have meant the Campbeltown Loch, which is a fine, fine blend – but he confirmed: 'It is the Springbank 10-year-old.'

Later on, in a wooden-fitted bar in a secret location on the west coast, the bodach bought me a few Springbanks and talked to me in Gaelic for an hour, before he launched into his favourite song. Its name escapes me now, but was sung so beautifully it transported me to his youth.

I am sure there are anti-aging properties in whisky that even the biggest beauty houses of London, Paris and New York have not yet discovered. Uisage Beatha.

*Louise Glen*

## Preparing for retirement

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PEOPLE today are retiring earlier and fitter than any generation before has been able to do. Research tells us that women who live until 60 can expect to be here for another 28 years and men who are still here at 60 can look forward to another 25 years. Either way, it's a long time to be miserable, so plan to lead an active lifestyle. With some careful planning, this next phase in your life can be a time of opportunity and choice.

For probably the first time in your life there will be no-one demanding your time – you can choose how to spend it. Think about all the time that most of us spend planning our annual holiday. We get the brochures, talk to travel agents

and other people, trawl through the internet and compare different options. Why do we do this?

We do so to make sure that we make the most of our holiday and really enjoy it. Holiday's last about two weeks – retirement could last many years, so it's worth planning carefully!

Imagine spending more time with friends and family, exploring your local area, travelling, gardening, learning new skills – it's all out there for you. You may have to consider caring for, or arranging care for elderly relatives – there are a plethora of local support agencies and wonderful retirement homes that can help you with your situation now and in the future.

### Argyll Financial Services Limited

There are tricky questions you might need help with such as can you afford to retire? Should you bring all your pension pots together? How much will your State Pension be?

New rules introduced in April 2015 mean that once you're aged 55 or over, you can use your pension pot in any way you wish. With more freedom comes more choice and many people may want professional advice to help them decide what to do with their pot.

Even if you've never taken financial advice before, this is probably the time to do it. Unless you're very sure about what you want to do, taking advice could be the soundest financial decision you'll ever make.

The State Pension is paid based on National Insurance contributions having been paid during one's working lifetime.

For many years, the UK state pension age for men was 65 and the state pension age for women was 60.

But from 2020, both men and women's retirement age will be 66, increasing to 67 between 2026 and 2028, and then linked to life expectancy after that.

The government will then review the state pension age every five years.



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Our aim is to support older people to live their lives to the full, helping them get out and about, collecting prescriptions to taking them to doctors' appointments or just chatting over a cup of tea. We are here to help. If you are feeling isolated, lonely or vulnerable or you know someone who is – please contact us by emailing isla.smith@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk

**CELEBRATING 75 YEARS**  
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Together for older people



## Youngsters' delight as Oban Community Playpark opens

THE new Oban Community Playpark was officially opened last week much to the delight of youngsters and those who campaigned for the facility for four years, writes *Caren McPate*.

Excited children couldn't wait to get in to the new facility next to Atlantis Leisure centre, which has a range of fun equipment, from a flying fox and climbing frames to a boat and swings.

Organisers have worked hard to create the new park, which has been a huge community fundraising effort as well as receiving support from several partners.

The next project for the group is the multi-sensory garden area upgrade, as well as a play area for the under fives.

Mum Lyndsay Elliot, one of the key fundraisers for the project, said: 'It's very exciting to have the park open. We have been waiting so long for it. We should have been in at the end of November, but the place was like a swamp due

to the weather. That's all we have heard from the kids – them asking when it will be open.'

'We have to compliment the kids of Oban for not going in to the park before it was open.'

Lyndsay added: 'We hope that families with children in the age group, who might not be aware of the need for a playpark, will engage with us.'

Oban Community Playpark group has reached the finals for

a grant from Tesco's 5p carrier bag funds. This will go towards the multi-sensory garden area upgrade, which will include all abilities pathways, replacement fencing and some play equipment, including a storytelling chair and insect towers.

Voting will take place at the Oban store from February 27 to March 6, with those who receive the most votes bagging £8,000, £10,000 or £12,000.



Children had a great time trying out the new playpark equipment. 21\_f08park\_Oban playpark official opening



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19 February - 25 February

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip (U)

112mins

Fri, Mon, Tue, Wed: 16:15, Sat: 12:00, 14:30, Sun: 12:15, Thu: 16:30

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

Carol (15) 128mins

Fri, Mon, Wed: 21:30, Tue: 18:45

Parent & Baby Screening Tue: 11:30

Set in 1950s New York, a department-store clerk who dreams of a better life falls for an older, married woman. Parent & Baby Screening! Lights will be left on at a dimmed level and baby changing available. Silver Screening - Concessions (age 60+) entry just £2.50! Includes complimentary tea and cake.

Dad's Army (PG) 119mins

Fri, Mon, Tue, Wed: 16:30, Sun: 12:00, Thu: 16:15

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

Deadpool (15) 126mins

Fri, Mon, Tue, Wed: 18:30, 21:00, Sat: 16:00, 19:30, Sun: 17:00, 20:00, Thu: 18:30

Based upon Marvel Comics most unconventional anti-hero, DEADPOOL tells the origin story of former Special Forces operative turned mercenary Wade Wilson, who after being subjected to a rogue experiment that leaves him with accelerated healing powers, adopts the alter ego Deadpool.

Joy (12A) 144mins

Sun: 14:15

Joy is the story of a family across four generations and the woman who rises to become founder and matriarch of a powerful family business dynasty.

Kids Club: The Incredibles (U) 111mins

Sat: 11:00

Children's Classic. A family of undercover superheroes, while trying to live the quiet suburban life, are forced into action to save the world.

Adults & Children £2 entry.

NT Live: As You Like It (12A) 180mins

Thu: 19:00

Shakespeare's glorious comedy of love and change comes to the National Theatre for the first time in over 30 years, with Rosalie Craig (London Road, Macbeth at MIF) as Rosalind.

The Lady in the Van (12A) 124mins

Sun: 14:30

Silver Screening - Concessions (age 60+) entry just £2.50! Includes complimentary tea and

cake. A man forms an unexpected bond with a transient woman living in her car that's parked in his driveway.

Spotlight (15) 149mins

Fri, Mon, Wed: 18:45, Sat: 18:00, Sun: 17:15, Tue: 21:15, Thu: 21:00

SPOTLIGHT tells the riveting true story of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Boston Globe investigation that would rock the city and cause a crisis in one of the world's oldest and most trusted institutions.

The Revenant (15) 176mins

Sat: 20:45, Sun: 20:30

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

Coming Soon

Hangmen 03/03/2016

Following a sell-out run at London's Royal Court Theatre, Olivier and Academy Award\* winner Martin McDonagh (The Pillowman, The Cripple of Inishmaan, In Bruges) returns to the West End with Matthew Dunster's award-winning production of his deeply funny new play Hangmen, broadcast live to cinemas by National Theatre Live.

Kids Club: MinionsMovie (U) 27/02/2016

Children's Classic. Minions Stuart, Kevin and Bob are recruited by Scarlet Overkill, a super-villain who, alongside her inventor husband Herb, hatches a plot to take over the world.

Adults & Children £2 entry.



## Runrig: We will never see their likes again

I make no apologies for writing two consecutive articles about Runrig. Without the impact they have had on Gaelic music it is unlikely *The Oban Times* would have a music column, and unlikely that I would have a music career.

They have also just performed the best concert I have ever attended.

Last Thursday (February 10), Runrig played to a sell-out crowd in the main auditorium of the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. The audience were of a type that only exists for a band who have been heroes to a population and have fans across generations and continents.

Leading up to it, I and my colleague Robert Robertson were like two excited children waiting for Santa on Christmas morning. Santa did not disappoint.

With a perfectly balanced combination of their ageless classics and a good representation from their fantastic new album, Runrig delivered a concert that is now etched in my memory. I admit openly to being a

fairly emotional man, but very few things move me to tears in public. Four songs that night had this effect. *Every River*, *In Search of Angels*, *The Story* and an a cappella verse and chorus of *Hearts of Olden Glory* all had tears rolling down my cheeks.

All songs mean different things to different people, and these songs have very personal associations for me. Their lyrics so accurately tune into my emotions that their effect when performed live is powerful.

From tears, to the feeling of bursting with pride and joy, and singing at the top of my voice – that was a common transition throughout the night. Runrig's upbeat songs, *Skye*, *The pride of the Summer* and *Alba* all took a few years of my vocal chords and probably damaged a few sets of ears in my immediate vicinity.

These songs also probably took a few years off the flooring in the Concert Hall judging by the way the entire crowd were jumping and going wild! Malcolm Jones's famous guitar riffs that lead into

the first two of these songs are some of the most recognisable notes in Celtic music and their effect on listeners is instant.

The experience could only have been improved if Rory had sung, *Faileas air an Airigh*. Bruce had sung *Book of Golden Stories* and Donnie Munro had made a guest appearance to sing *The Cutter*.

Having such great craic with the band backstage afterwards was another highlight. In their customary modest style, they might have just come in from digging the garden.

To conclude, I will repeat more clearly what I stated in my last piece. Runrig is my favourite band. Following last week's performance that position has been elevated even further. Incredible as their music is, their appeal goes deeper and wider than that alone. It is also encompassed by their character, their passion, their wisdom, their integrity, their decency, their generosity and their contribution to our cultural and artistic identity. We will never see their likes again.



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**Crossword**

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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

**Across**

- Decline (6)
- Buy in a hurry (4,2)
- Moan (7)
- Lazy sounding speech (5)
- Rummage (5)
- Floating hazard (7)
- Overcome difficulties with ease (11)
- Old term for one affected by the moon (7)
- Microscopic hairs (5)
- Where mail arrives (2-3)
- Dense bushes (7)
- Draw (6)
- State in Eastern Africa, capital Kampala (6)

**Down**

- Aspect (6)
- Shake cushion (5)
- Very cold (7)
- Elbow (5)
- Level out (7)
- Soft animal hair (6)
- Give back equally (11)
- Dignify (7)
- Engraved drawing (7)
- Combines three strands (6)
- A repeated slogan (6)
- Poisonous (5)
- Compare (5)

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**

S	M	T	H	Y	S	L	U	C	E		
P	M	O	P	O	D	S					
A	N	A	E	M	I	A	G	R	O	U	T
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**MONDAY:** 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1700 Drivetime With Marcus, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McLuckie's Show, 2100 David Cullen

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# Farming

## A right royal champion

WINNING the title of overall male champion on Sunday was a two-year-old Highland bull from Her Majesty the Queen's 130-strong fold on the Balmoral Estate.

Coirneal of Balmoral came out on top in a tight contest, with second placed reserve champion Campbell of Tilbouries, from Aberdeenshire breeders J and L Fraser. However, it was the reserve champion that secured the day's top price at Monday's sale, as Queenie Strickland shelled out 9,000 guineas to add this strapping lad to her Cladich fold.

Cameron Ormiston, farm manager at Balmoral, was delighted to take home the laurels for the best male Highlander in Oban – though the bull was shown by Cameron's brother, Fearghus.

Coirneal of Balmoral was male champion at the Stars of the Future competition at Stirling last year, and was shown at Oban.

Cameron, also known as 'Dochie', said: 'I've been at Balmoral for nine years and this is the first time we've produced a bull of our own and taken it here to Oban, so I'm very pleased.'

'We have done very well this year. We've been to nine shows and had Highland cattle champions at them all, including breed and inter-breed winners.'

At the sale, Coirneal of Balmoral sold for 7,000 guineas, purchased by Mr Tom Nelson, of Glengorm Estate, Mull.



Male champion Coirneal of Balmoral with, from left, Fearghus Ormiston, Kath McMahon from sponsors MacPhee and Co, judge Donald MacNaughton and Cameron Ormiston.

## Latest in a long line of winners

MID ARGYLL was represented at the show and sale, and Ormsary Estate general manager Archie McArthur had a fine selection of cattle in Oban.

Ormsary had a successful couple of days, with in-calf heifer, Susan 19th of Ormsary, scooping the champion female rosette before going on to make 5,000 guineas through the sale ring on Monday.

Speaking on Sunday, Archie, who looks after the estate for the Lithgow family, said: 'We have four in-calf heifers here today – three from Ormsary and one, a black heifer, from the Lithgow fold of Inver on the Isle of Jura.'

'The winning heifer is one of the Susan family, and is off a champion bull we bought here in Oban five years ago for 5,800 guineas, Callum 2nd of Goldenberry.'

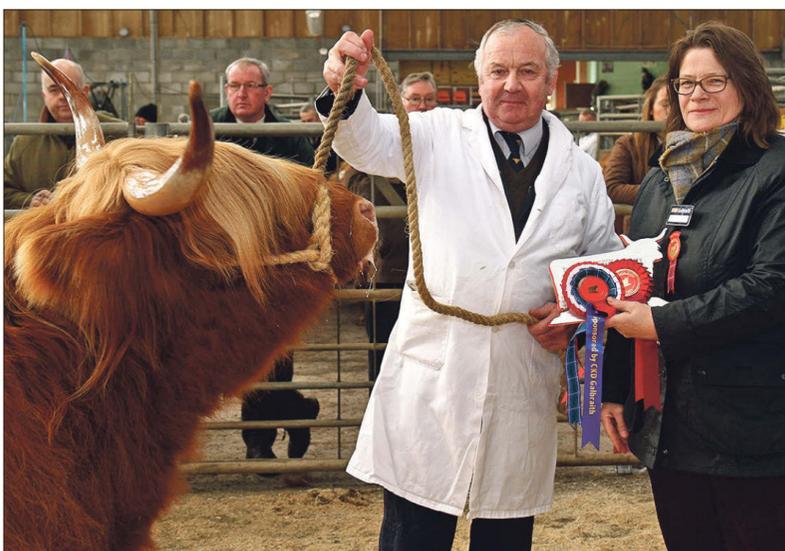
Explaining that the heifer's bloodline stretches back to the herd's establishment in 1947, Archie continued: 'There are about 20 breeding females on Ormsary and about 18 on Jura. The Highlanders on Ormsary are kept very naturally, out on the high ground. We never need to touch their feet and they are bred to survive.'

Archie was keen to give credit to the Ormsary stockman for the past 18 years, Alan Bosomworth.

'Alan was responsible for bringing out the heifers for the show,' said Archie, 'and he's done a great job.'



Overall female champion heifer, Susan 19th of Ormsary, owned by Sir William J Lithgow Baronet and son, with stockman Alan Bosomworth. The heifer was sold on Monday for 5,000 guineas.



Archie McArthur with Susan 19th of Ormsary, receiving his prize from Nicky Archibald of sponsors, CKD Galbraith.

# Ups and downs sale with intern

IT WAS a day of highs and lows at Oban's annual spring Highland Cattle auction, when one animal reached 9,000 guineas, but almost a quarter failed to sell.

On Monday, at Caledonian Mart, cattle breeders who have worked months or years for this one moment guided their hair-brushed beasts around the selling ring. Above them rapid-fire auctioneer Alastair Logan's sharp eye picked out buyers' bids of imperceptible nods and flashes of numbered card.

Behind them, in the vast warren of pens, breeders of bulls, cows, heifers and steers, such as Donald Dempster of Taynuilt's Ichrachan Farm and his daughter Mhairi, carried out final grooming before leading their beasts into the arena.

'A thousand each would be nice,' Donald hoped, 'but it's not a flying trade. Prices are down, and there's a lot of unsold cattle.'

'There's just not a lot of money around. A lot of farmers in Scotland haven't had their single farm payment yet.'

While a German buyer bought one of their yearling heifers, Fraoch, for 800 guineas, the other, Banarach, was sold to a Dane for 2,000gns.

A surprised Mhairi was trying not to smile in the ring: 'I was so nervous. I'm chuffed. Dad's happy as well.'

After selling their two-year-old heifers, Highland Show prize-winning breeder Alec Smith of Balnabroich near Strathardle wasn't as delighted.

He said: 'We sold everything, but prices aren't great. Beef prices are bad. We got what we needed; we're breaking even, but not getting the icing on the cake.'

Overall 76 animals were sold

out of 99. Twenty per cent of the cattle sold are heading to Germany; a further four animals to Denmark; three to Estonia; and two animals are off to Italy.

Following the sale auctioneer Mr Logan explained: 'The good quality sold above expectation, and the not-so-good struggled to sell and had to go home. But we're definitely doing better than last year.'

Highland Cattle Society vice president Tom Thomson added: 'It's been a very successful year for the breed, but we're never pleased. The glass is half-full, and we could do with a top up.'

'The trade has been affected by people not having their single farm payment: only 40 per cent of farmers in Scotland have had 75 per cent of the payment. Overall there's been a lot of interest from foreigners, in Germany, Denmark, Estonia, Austria and Italy, because Highland Cattle thrive in areas where others won't – many are going to the Alps.'

But it was a local breeder who paid the highest price for the Reserve Champion from Sunday's show, when the two-year-old bull Campbell of Tilbouries, bred by John Ashton of Allanfeearn, Strathpeffer and sold by Mr JS Fraser, went to Cladich Farm near Dalmailly for 9,000 guineas.

Cladich farm manager Stuart Campbell said: 'He's the most correct bull in the market. He's very good on his legs, which he needs to go on the hills at Cladich. It's important to buy in Oban market because we sell here.'

The bull's delighted new owner, Mrs Queenie Strickland, added: 'Highland Cattle have always been my passion, and I hope he will give us good progeny.'



Local highland enthusiast Mhairi Dempster Taynuilt helping out with Barnarach of Shellachan owned by Lt Col Colin Stewart Winter.



The MacMillans from Bute with Jock the 2nd, of the Isle of Bute, in the young handlers section.

## Shop window for Highland Cattle

OBAN played host to the 125th anniversary show and sale of Highland cattle, and the two-day event attracted a significant audience from both the UK and Europe.

Proceedings got under way on a bright, cold Sunday February 14 as exhibitors, enthusiasts and more than a few potential buyers lined the ringside to watch a show of fine quality Highland cattle.

The spring show and sale at Caledonian Marts' Oban Livestock Centre is a highlight of the year for the breed; the show providing an ideal shop window for breeders hoping to sell their cattle for good prices at the following day's sale.

Judge Donald MacNaughton of the Rannoch fold cast his steady eye over the beasts in front of around 25 German buyers, augmented by others from Italy, Denmark and many other European countries.

Catherine McKechnie of France Farm, Gartocharn, made a great job of judging the young handlers' competition.

The trophies and prizes were presented at a ceilidh in the Royal Hotel on Sunday night, then it was on to the main event – Monday's sale.

Photographs:  
Kevin McGlynn



Angus MacKay, Inveraray, former president of the society keeps the classes on track.



Judge Donald MacNaughton Kelty and breed secretary Sian Sharp.



Stockman Fergie Ormiston with two-year-old bull Coirneal of Balmoral. The bull won the overall male champion prize, much to Fergie's delight.

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# for Highland ational flavour



Leumadair of Glengormsenior bull, owned by Mr Tom Nelson of Glengorm Estate, with stockman Angus MacColl, sold for 2,500gns.



Donald Dubh of Cailaich with his delighted owner Shirley Strachan of Calgary, Isle of Mull. The two-year-old bull sold for 2,500gns and is off to Germany.



This bull's breath hits the cold air during competition. While sales were good this year, trade has been affected by the fact that many breeders have not received their single farm payment yet.

## Results

of the 125th spring show and sale of Highland cattle on Sunday February 14 and Monday February 15

### Averages

- 3 - Aged bulls - £1,925
- 4 - Senior bulls - £2,048 (5 - £3,780 last year)
- 18 - Two-year-old bulls - £2,561 (13 - £2,913 last year)
- 11 - Yearling bulls - £726 (3 - £630 last year)
- 4 - Senior females - £2,573 (10 - £2,121 last year)
- 7 - Three-year-old heifers - £1,118 (11 - £1,743 last year)
- 10 - Two-year-old heifers - £1,145 (16 - £1,482 last year)
- 21 - Yearling heifers - £750 (24 - £795 last year)
- 1 - Unaltered female - £200

### Male Championship

Overall male champion, two-year-old male champion and winner of the Craig Sellar Trophy and W Pearson Brown Memorial Trophy for best two-year-old bull: Coirneal of Balmoral, from HM The Queen, Balmoral Estates. Sired by Prionna Dubh of Craighowmill and out of Phioibaidh 93rd Of Balmoral 56976, this bull achieved the second highest bid of the day, with Tom Nelson, the recently retired Highland Cattle Society president, securing the bull for his Glengorm fold for 7,000 guineas.

The Roy Cruickshank Goblet, awarded to the stockman bringing out the champion animal: Fearghus Ormiston.

Reserve overall male champion and reserve two-year-old male champion, winner of the Caledonian Marts (Stirling) Trophy: Campbell of Tilbouries from J and L Fraser and Son. Sired by Campbell 1st of Tordarroch 9684 and out of Ciara Dubh of Lismore 62269, this young bull has been successfully shown during 2015. He was male champion at the Sutherland, Nairn and Grantown shows. Campbell is the first exhibit in Oban from the Fraser family, and Mrs Jon H Strickland paid the top price of the day of 9,000 guineas to secure this bull for the Cladich Fold.

### Female Championship

Overall champion, senior heifer champion and winner of DM Stewart Memorial Trophy: Susan 19th of Ormsary, from Sir William J Lithgow, Bt and Son (Ormsary). Sired by Callum 2nd of Goldenberry 10038 and out of Susan 11th of Ormsary 61275, Susan was sold in-calf to Padruaig of Gildenvale and topped the female trade at 5,000 guineas to Mr David Smith of Frasersburgh.

Angus W MacGillivray Memorial Quaich for the stockman bringing out the champion female: Alan Bosomworth.

Reserve overall female champion and three-year-old heifer champion: Hazel 15th of Knockendon, from Ronald and Frances Fergie. Sired by James Beusach of An Sidhean 9767 and out of Hazel 5th of Knockendon 63978, Hazel went to the same buyer as the overall champion, Mr David Smith, for 1,500 guineas.

### Aged bulls – sponsored by The Farmers Guardian

#### Section one, class one

- First prize, and best aged bull: Eoin Mhor 11th Of Mottistone, from Mr Michael Poland who sold to newly elected breed council member Sir James Paice
- Second, and reserve aged bull: Angus Mor of Glengoyne, bred by Ewan MacKay and owned by Angus MacKay, he went to Mr Parkinson for 1,500 guineas.
- Third: Ceannard 5th of Glengorm, from Sydney and Maureen O'Hara – unsold
- Fourth - Adhamh 1st of Achnacroish, from Sydney and Maureen O'Hara and sold to Manfred Ruser of Germany.

### Senior bulls – sponsored by The Farmers Guardian

#### Section two, class two

- First, and best senior bull: Jock of Rhudie, bred by John Warmerdam and owned by Duncan Buchanan, sold to Rossal Estate for 1,500 guineas.
- Second, and reserve senior bull: Iain Dubh of Gleann Daidh, from Grace Noble – unsold.
- Third: Iain of Mottistone, from Michael Poland – unsold
- Fourth: Hamish of Knockendon, from Ronald and Frances Fergie and sold to John Cooper from Tordarroch Estate for 1,800 guineas.

### Two-year-old bulls – sponsored by MacPhee & Partners

#### Section three, class three

- First, two-year-old champion and overall male champion: Coirneal of Balmoral from HM The Queen, Balmoral Estates and sold to Glengorm for 7,000 guineas.
- Second: Callum 10th of Goldenberry, from Alan Kennedy – unsold.
- Third: Coinneach 2nd of Corrtown, from Ron MacLean and sold to Mr Grant from Aviemore for 1,000 guineas.
- Fourth: Eoin Mhor 14th Of Mottistone, from Alan Kennedy, bred by Michael Poland and sold for 2,000 guineas to Lorne Nelson at Achnacloch.

#### Section three, class four

- First, reserve overall male champion and reserve two-year-old champion: Campbell of Tilbouries, from J and L Fraser and Son, sold for 9,000 guineas to Mrs Jon H Strickland of Cladich.
- Second: Cathag Dubh of Craighowmill, from Messrs Brown, sold for 5,000 guineas to Leys Estate, Inverness.
- Third: Fergus Ruadh 5th of Knockendon, from Ronald and Frances Fergie who sold for 1,800 guineas to D Fountain, Lockerbie.
- Fourth: Struan Of Glenkinglass, from Mr R D Schuster – withdrawn from sale.

#### Section three, class five

- First: Jamie of Craigluscar, from Hamish E T Irvine and sold for 2,200 guineas to Martin Kock of Germany.
- Second: Jock 2nd of Isle Of Bute, from R and E McMillan – unsold.
- Third: Calum of Craigluscar from Hamish E T Irvine, sold for 2,200 guineas
- Fourth: Torridon of Gleann Daidh, from Grace Noble, sold to society president, Tom Thomson from Woodneuk for 1,000 guineas.

### Yearling bulls – sponsored by MacPhee and Partners

#### Section four, class six

- First, best yearling bull and winner of the Dounside Challenge Bowl - Ceilidh of Mortimers, from Mortimers Farm Ltd, sold for 1,800 guineas to Willi Bange and Sons and H Hoof, Germany.
- Second and reserve yearling bull: Bond of Mottistone, from Michael Poland, sold to Mr Kairo Pilstve from Estonia for 1,000 guineas.
- Third: Challenger 4th of Mottistone, from Michael Poland – unsold.
- Fourth: Macsaoul of Achnacroish, from S and I McKay – unsold.

### Senior heifers – sponsored by CKD Galbraith

#### Section five, class seven

- First, best senior heifer and overall female champion: Susan 19th of Ormsary, from Sir William J Lithgow Bt and Son (Ormsary), sold to David Smith of Frasersburgh for 5,000 guineas.
- Second, and reserve senior heifer - Peigi Dubh 8th of Inver, from Mr John A Lithgow, sold to Mr Graham for 1,600 guineas.
- Third: Gruagach 48th of Ormsary, from Sir William J Lithgow Bt and Son (Ormsary), sold to Mrs J C Whitehouse, Sussex for 2,000 guineas.
- Fourth: Susan 18th of Ormsary, from Sir William J Lithgow Bt and Son (Ormsary) – unsold.

### Three year old heifers - sponsored by CKD Galbraith

#### Section six, class eight

- First and reserve three year old heifer: Una Ruadh 48th of Pollok, from Glasgow City Council, sold to David Smith of Frasersburgh for 1,200 guineas.

- Second: Richenda 18th of Ashmore, from Ashmore and Strone Estate Ltd – unsold.
- Third: Barabal 9th of Pollok, from Glasgow City Council, sold to Woodneuk Farms Ltd for 850 guineas.
- Fourth: Jenny 4th of Mottistone, from Michael Poland, sold to Mr Grant for 1,000 guineas.

#### Section six, class nine

First, overall three year old heifer champion and reserve overall female champion: Hazel 15th of Knockendon, from Ronald and Frances Fergie, sold for 1,500 guineas to David Smith of Frasersburgh.

Second: Primrose 11th of Knockendon, from Ronald and Frances Fergie, sold to Mr David Smith of Frasersburgh for 1,600 guineas.

### Two year old heifers - sponsored by CKD Galbraith

#### Section seven, class 10

First and reserve two year old heifer: Phioibaidh 109th of Balmoral, from HM The Queen, Balmoral Estates – withdrawn from sale.

Second: Lorraine of Balnabroich from Michael and Sally Nairn, sold to Christoph Klinger of Norfolk for 700 guineas.

Third: Samantha Teresa 2nd of Borland from K Howman – unsold.

Fourth: Saskia Of Allanfean from Maureen MacArthur and John Ashton – unsold.

#### Section seven, class 11

First, and best two-year-old heifer: Alis 3rd of Borland, from K Howman, sold for 2,500 guineas to David Smith of Frasersburgh.

Second: Amy Belle of Allanfean, from Maureen MacArthur and John Ashton, sold to North of Scotland Highland Cattle Club secretary Veronica Thomson for 1,200 guineas.

Third: Claire 2nd of Balnabroich, from Michael and Sally Nairn, sold to Manfred Ruser, Germany for 700 guineas.

Fourth: Bean Ruadh 2nd of Dams, from Mr and Mrs C W Wilson, sold to Manfred Ruser, Germany for 600 guineas.

### Yearling heifers - sponsored by CKD Galbraith

#### Section eight, class 12

First, overall yearling champion and winner of the Y W Mok Trophy: Milis 1st of Seam, from Mr and Mrs Simon Haley – withdrawn from sale.

Second: Lizzie 3rd Of Seam, from Mr and Mrs Simon Haley – unsold

Third: Iona Ruadh of Ceannacroich, from Dunlossit (Farming) Ltd, sold to Manfred Ruser, Germany for 500 guineas.

Fourth: Fraoch Of Shellachan, bred by Lt Col Colin Stewart Winter, Vendor, D Dempster, sold to Manfred Ruser of Germany for 800 guineas.

#### Section eight, class 13

First, reserve overall yearling heifer: Eve 6th of Borland, from K Howman, sold to Manfred Ruser, Germany for 900 guineas.

Second: Banarach of Shellachan, from Lt Col Colin Stewart Winter, sold to J Uhre from Denmark for 2,000 guineas.

Third: Fraochan of Torrie from Mrs H Barker, sold to Mr Christoph Klinger, Norfolk for 800 guineas.

Fourth: Tee Pee Harris 2nd of Ardbhan, from Mr and Mrs AA MacDonald, sold to Mr J Uhre, Denmark for 1,200 guineas.

#### Section eight, class 14

First: Brooke Ruadh of Ceannacroich, from Dunlossit (Farming) Ltd, sold to A Hyslop and Son for 500 guineas.

Second: Annie 7th of Kynedor, from CP and MP Bruce, sold to A Hyslop and Son for 600 guineas.

Third: Penny Dubh of Mosscairn, from Archie and Kay Aitchison, sold to Mr and Mrs D Cran, West Linton for 650 guineas.

Fourth: Raonaid Riabhag 1st of Ardbhan from Mr and Mrs AA MacDonald, sold to Manfred Ruser, Germany for 800 guineas.

### Cows - sponsored by CKD Galbraith

#### Section nine, class 15

First, and best cow: Alice Seonag 5th of Glengorm from Mr and Mrs Simon Haley, bred by Glengorm – unsold.

### Unaltered females - sponsored by CKD Galbraith

First: Cruinneag 2nd of Ardoran from Ardoran Marine, sold to TA Groves for 200 guineas.

### Best pair of females, any age

First: Maureen MacArthur and John Ashton (Allanfean)

Second: Sir William J Lithgow, Bt and Son (Ormsary)

Third: Michael and Sally Nairn (Balnabroich)

Fourth: Mr Donald Dempster (Teaghlach)

### Young handlers class – sponsored by Allflex and Fearing

First: Emily Armstrong, aged 10

Second: Jayden McLachlan, aged 8

Third: Donald MacLean, aged 16

Fourth: Beth Noble, aged 13

### Other leading prices

• Lot 11 - Leumadair of Glengorm from Glengorm, sold to Mr J Uhre from Denmark for 2,500 guineas.

• Lot 13 - Mclatchie Ruadh of Ardbhan from Mr and Mrs A A MacDonald, sold to Mr K Hilborn for 2,000 guineas.

• Lot 20 - Donald Dubh of Cailaich from R and S Strachan, sold to Mr H Hoof, Germany for 2,500 guineas.

• Lot 28 - Tomintoul 1st of Glengorm from Glengorm, sold to Mr H MacPhail, Isle of Mull for 2,200 guineas.

• Lot 30 - Lachlan of Eilean Mor from Karen and Michael Macgregor, sold to T A Groves, Dunoon for 2,400 guineas.

• Lot 41 - Braveheart of Mortimers from Mortimers Farm Ltd, sold for 1200 guineas to Blairlogan Highlanders.

• Lot 53 - Mairina Ealasaid 9th of Glengorm from Glengorm, sold for 1200 guineas to Mr David Smith of Frasersburgh.

• Lot 69 - Sguillin 3rd of Mottistone from Mr Michael Poland, sold for 1200 guineas to Mr David Smith of Frasersburgh.

• Lot 73 - Eileen Sean of Killochries, from Killochries Fold, sold for 1100 guineas to Mr B Wainwright.

• Lot 77 - Bess Sean 2nd of Killochries from Killochries Fold, sold for 1400 guineas to Mr B Wainwright.

• Lot 102 - Seonaid Sineag Gheal 1st of Ardbhan from Mr and Mrs A A MacDonald, sold to Mrs D Acella, Italy.

## The future's bright – the future's Highland

THE YOUNG handlers' competition was won by 10-year-old Emily Armstrong from the Isle of Tiree.

Judge Catherine MacKechnie said of her winner: 'She was in here first thing this morning washing and grooming her cattle, and I was impressed by the way she handled her animal. Everyone, though, has done very, very well.'

Emily did a very capable job of handling yearling bull Seamus Dubh of Balemartine round the ring.

In just her third outing as a handler, this was Emily's first win, adding to her second and third places in previous competitions.

Proudly showing off her prize of a grooming kit, Emily told *The Oban Times*: 'I feel happy. I've been doing it for about three years now and I really enjoy it.'

Joining Emily in the ring was her six-year-old sister, Eva. Leading a calf taller than herself, this budding handler made it look easy, and is sure to be vying with her sister for the silverware before too much longer.

Above: Stars of the future – Eva Armstrong, left, with her sister Emily and their obedient cattle.

Right: Young handler winner Emily Armstrong with Bron Campbell of judges Allflex, centre, and judge Catherine MacKechnie.



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**Closing date is 5pm Monday 21 March 2016.**

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Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba  
**To Let - Two Short Limited Duration Tenancies (5 years each) available from 1st April 2016**  
1. Grazing by sheep (no cattle) at Lochnameal on the Isle of Mull (27 hectares).  
2. Grazing for sheep and/or cattle at Ardentenny, Argyllshire (two fields totalling 9.31 hectares). Preference for one tenant but applications for one field or the other will be accepted and considered.\*  
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Details & applications from: raymond.mundie@forestry.gsi.gov.uk or call 03000 676673 specifying which lot interests you. **Closing date is 5pm Mon 21 March 2016.**

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14 Renault Scenic Dyn, Energy DCI, 1.5, T/tom, Black, 15,250 miles.....£12,950	
64 Renault Twingo DYN TCE SS, 3Dr, White, 10,000 Miles.....£8,995	
64 Renault Clio EXP+, 1.2, 5Dr, Grey, 10,000 Miles.....£8,950	
14 Ford Ka, Plain Red, 6600 miles.....£5,950	
63 Skoda Octavia S, TDI Estate Silver 14,000 miles.....£12,995	
62/13 Renault Megane dyn, 1.6, coupe, silver, 13,000 miles.....£9,450	

62 Renault scenic XMode DYN, T/T, DCI, Red, 41,000 Miles.....£8,500  
12 Renault Clio Exp +, 1.2, 3dr White, 18,250 miles.....£5,750  
61 Renault Wind roadster, GT line 1.6 convertible, black, 58,000 miles.....£5,250  
11 Renault Clio DYN, T/tom DCI Est 1.5, Blue, 52,500 miles.....£6,250  
11 Peugeot 308 Access SW HDI Est, 1.5, Black, 46000 Miles.....£6,250  
56 Citroen Picasso 1.6DCI, silver, 44,000 miles.....£2,250

11 Vauxhall Combo 1700 cdti, white, 61,000 miles.....£4,250+VAT  
60 Vauxhall Vivara DCI Van.....£7,000 plus VAT  
08 Renault Master SWB, White.....£6,000+VAT  
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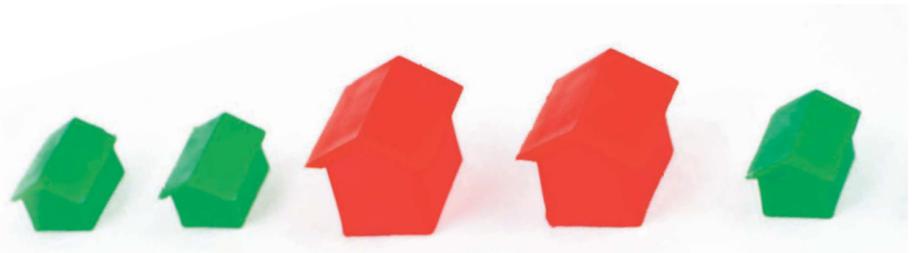
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# West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

LETTINGS COMMERCIAL PROPERTY SALE PROPERTY REVIEWS PROPERTY NEWS LOCAL ESTATE AGENTS

## Surge of buy-to-let investors pushes up home prices



THE latest UK Residential Market Survey has seen a rise in new instructions in January, which, although modest, is very welcome. However, with buy-to-let investors rushing to get into the market ahead of the stamp duty hike, the near-term pressure on prices is intensifying despite a higher level of supply.

expect there to be an increase in buy-to-let purchase. Supply picks up across UK — most notably in London where the increase has been significant.

Housing market activity on the increase in January as demand and number of sales rise.

House prices continue to rise across the UK.

### Demand still strong

New buyer enquiries rose for the tenth successive month in January, with the pace of growth in enquiries accelerating for a second consecutive report. Feedback to the survey continues to suggest that the recent increase in demand is due to a rush of buy-to-let investors looking to buy before the three percent stamp duty surcharge comes into effect in April. Critically, 74 percent of respondents expect there to be an increase of purchases by buy-to-let investors prior to the changes.

### Summary

74 percent of respondents

As activity in the housing market gathers pace overall, agreed sales have risen over the month at the fastest pace since April 2014. The picture across the UK is mixed but most areas have seen a rise in sales since the start of the year and further increases are expected.

### Housing stock on the up

Supply has also gathered pace in the past two months but stock remains low with 46 properties per branch from 44.5, which is still 21 percent down compared to a year ago. Interestingly, the increase was largely concentrated in London where a significant lift in properties coming to the market was recorded in January (a net balance of +58 percent more respondents noted an increase). Elsewhere, sales instructions across the UK were much flatter.

Even with an improvement in supply, the rush to acquire buy-to-let property is pushing

prices up, with 49 percent more surveyors reporting prices to have risen in January (typically the indicator has a six-month lead over ONS house price inflation).

Looking ahead, house prices are projected to rise further over the next 12 months, with 72 percent more contributors expecting prices to increase rather than fall.

### Rental supply still weak

In the lettings market, tenant demand increased once more, with all areas of the UK seeing a rise in interest from prospective tenants during the three months to January; at the same time, landlord instructions were broadly flat. This extends an uninterrupted run in which supply has failed to keep pace with demand stretching back to 2009. As a result, expectations point to continued rental growth in all parts of the UK both at 12-month and five-year time horizons.



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**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

**FOR LEASE**  
SNACK BAR SITE  
FIONNPHORT CAR PARK, ISLE OF MULL

Offers over £2,500 per annum are invited for the summer lease of the above mobile snack bar site.

Argyll and Bute Council are prepared to offer the successful bidder an annually renewable lease of the site for a maximum of 5 years which will allow trading from Easter to the 31st October each year.

**Closing date for offers: Friday 4th March 2016.**

For further information contact:  
The Estates Office, Argyll and Bute Council, Customer Services, Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre, 38 East Clyde Street, Helensburgh G84 7PG.  
Telephone 01436 658957.

Oban Times PROPERTY GUIDE

**Cottage to Let - Kilchrenan**  
2 Bed roomed, Part furnished bungalow, Oil fired central heating.  
**£500 per month plus bills.**  
Landlord Reg 279993/130/20151  
**Phone 01866 833352**

**ELLENABEICH, ISLE OF SEIL PRETTY 2 BEDROOM COTTAGE TO LET**

Furnished, gas C/H. Initial 1 year lease.

Deposit and references.  
No pets or smokers.  
**£500 pcm plus c/tax and utilities**

Landlord Registration No: 237338/130/28011  
**TEL: 07548741522**

## Supply of available housing halves in 10 years

The supply of available housing has almost halved in 10 years, according to the latest National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA) December Housing Market report.

The average number of properties available per member branch in December 2015 fell to 37 properties; the joint lowest figure for 2015 (joint with September), and almost half the number available in December 2005 when there were an average 72 houses per branch. There were 45 houses available in December 2014.

While the number of house hunters registered per branch fell to 374 in December from 403 last month, an expected seasonal trend, the number of house hunters per branch has

gradually increased year on year. In December 2014, there were 360 potential buyers registered at each branch, up from 302 in December 2005.

Low supply affected the number of sales in December, as NAEA members reported an average of seven sales per member branch — an expected seasonal dip, and the lowest recorded in 2015.

Mark Hayward, managing director of National Association of Estate Agents, said: 'Whilst we expect figures for supply and demand to be seasonally low in December, 2015 overall does not paint a positive picture for the housing market.'

'Supply of housing is half of what it was 10 years ago, yet the number of home buyers on

the books has been gradually increasing. When there is such a huge and widening gap between supply and demand, a level playing field seems further out of reach for many would-be house buyers.'

### First time buyers continue to struggle

The Government's recent efforts to help first time buyers (FTBs) enter the property market such as Help to Buy and plans to build new starter homes are yet to take effect.

The number of sales to FTBs stands at a quarter (24 per cent), a two per cent drop from December 2014.

### Flux in activity ahead of stamp duty reforms

The recent buy-to-let reform of a three per cent increase to

stamp duty on buyers' second properties has created movement in the market. Forty-four percent of NAEA agents have seen an increase in house buyers trying to beat these reforms, and snap up their properties before they come into force in April.

Mr Hayward added: 'The issue of lack of supply needs to be solved, but it isn't going to be done anytime soon. We are still waiting to see new homes being built; and whilst we wait, house prices continue to rise. There is some potential light for first time buyers, however, once the new tax rate increase in April is in place we may see less investment from buy-to-let or second home investors, which may mean less competition for first time buyers.'

37 properties available in December 2015, compared to 72 in December 2005

Gradual decline of available housing vs increase in demand

44 per cent of estate agents report an increase in interest from landlords trying to beat the BTL stamp duty reforms

NAEA releases December Housing Market Report

See our new **West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE** website at [www.westcoastpropertyguide.co.uk](http://www.westcoastpropertyguide.co.uk)

**Help to Buy Scheme extended**

The Scottish Government has announced a three-year, £195 million Help to Buy scheme, which will help thousands of lower income households buy a new-build home, with applications for the scheme opening March 1.

More than £160 million of new funding will be targeted in 2016/17 on home ownership schemes to support 5,000 households to buy their own home. More than £80 million will go to our established Open Market Shared Equity Scheme (OMSE) helping up to 2,000 eligible first-time buyers on low to moderate incomes. The Help to Buy (Scotland): Affordable Home Ownership scheme will help up to 3,000 households next year, backed by £80 million equity support towards the purchase price.

Social Justice Secretary Alex Neil said: 'I am delighted that we can help 5,000 home buyers into affordable home ownership in the coming financial year, underpinned by £160 million, which is £35 million more than originally planned for this year. Importantly, this new funding is specifically targeted to support thousands of low income individuals and families across Scotland get on or up the housing ladder.'

'The funding is also good news in particular for the SME sector of the housing industry. Hundreds of small developers will benefit from people buying new affordable homes across urban and rural Scotland.'

Managing partner at West Property Sales and Lettings, Nicola MacPhail, welcomed the further support for the enormously successful scheme which has helped protect vital jobs and boosted the economy. Hopefully this will give developers confidence to build more affordable homes which is becoming an increasingly rare commodity, especially in Argyll. If this scheme works along with other incentives it should help local people realise their dreams of owning their own home.

**West** West Property Sales & Lettings  
w: [www.west-property.co.uk](http://www.west-property.co.uk) e: [info@west-property.co.uk](mailto:info@west-property.co.uk) t: 01631 569 466

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See all our properties at [OnTheMarket.com](http://OnTheMarket.com)  
The Property Ombudsman

**Properties for sale**

**Straven, Tobermory**

- Detached
- 5 bedroom property/3 bathrooms
- Stunning views over the bay
- Double garage
- Oil fired central heating
- EPC Rating - D (65)

**OIRO £365,000**

A most attractive 5 bedroom, detached, modern property in an elevated position above Tobermory, enjoying stunning views across the bay to Calve Island and beyond. The property which was built 15 years ago, has a pretty garden and further large area of land which borders the popular Breadalbane Street.

**Keld House, Salen**

- Detached architect designed home
- 4 Bedrooms / 3 bathrooms
- Well serviced, popular village location
- Good sized garden with ample off street parking
- Light & spacious with quality fixtures and fittings
- EPC - D (67)

**OIRO £270,000**

Keld House is a bright and spacious detached house situated in the village of Salen on the Isle of Mull. Built approx. 8 years ago by a renowned local builder the property boasts a range of quality fixtures and fittings throughout.

**The Cairns, North Connel**

- ONLY 2 APARTMENTS REMAINING!
- New development of 2 & 3 Bedroom Apartments
- Sought after location
- Loch views towards Connel Bridge
- Communal garden & allocated parking
- AVAILABLE TO VIEW TODAY

**OIRO £225,000**

The Cairns, North Connel - ONLY 2 FLATS REMAINING - An exciting new development of 2 & 3 bedroom apartments in the desirable location of North Connel a hamlet on the north side of Loch Elive in Argyll, Scotland. The development comprises 2 & 3 bedroom apartments, allocated parking and communal gardens.

**Cove, Victoria Street, Tobermory**

- Detached 6 bedroom property currently sub divided
- 6 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- Elevated situation close to centre of Tobermory
- Driveway parking and easily maintained garden
- EPC Rating - D (63)

**OIRO £270,000**

A spacious 6 bedroom house currently sub divided into two 3 bedroom flats. Cove offers a fantastic opportunity of purchase a large family home or spacious flat with the potential to generate additional rental income as a holiday let or long term rental.

**Plot At Sandbank, Isle Of Iona**

- Approx. 0.14 acres
- Stunning island location
- Rarely available plot
- Detailed planning permission
- Contemporary house design
- Close to shoreline with view across the Sound of Iona

**OIRO £120,000**

Plot at Sandbank, Isle of Iona A rare opportunity to purchase a plot with detailed planning permission on the beautiful island of Iona.

**Shrublands, Erray Road, Tobermory**

- Detached bungalow
- 3 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom
- Quiet location close to centre of Tobermory
- Large mature garden with shed
- Excellent family home
- EPC Rating G (09)

**OIRO £200,000**

Shrublands is an attractive, well-proportioned 3 bedroom detached bungalow situated in a mature garden in Upper Tobermory on the Isle of Mull.

**Scarinish, Raeric Road, Tobermory**

**UNDER OFFER**

- Modern detached house
- 3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- Large garden
- Open plan lounge/kitchen
- Communal room with conversion potential
- EPC Rating - C (78)

**OIRO £250,000**

Scarinish is a modern architect designed 3 bedroom detached house on the Isle of Mull. Scarinish provides spacious family sized accommodation with conversion possibilities to increase the number of bedrooms, create a self contained flat or to have a large living area.

**Plot at Lochdon, Isle Of Mull**

- Plot with previous planning permission
- 0.25 acre plot
- Shore frontage
- Services close by
- Sea views

**OIRO £55,000**

A rare occasion to purchase a sizable plot with enviable views over Loch don on the Isle of Mull. The plot, approx. 0.25 acre, has previously been granted planning permission in principle for a single storey 3 bedroom dwelling house.

To advertise in the West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE please call our sales team on 01631 568000

# West coast recruitment

Grieg Seafood is recruiting for the following position:

## Assistant Area Manager – Dunvegan, Skye



### The Company

Grieg Seafood is a leading producer of quality farmed salmon, with a proven track record of achievement. The company is the one of Scotland's largest producers of Scottish salmon with an annual production of 20,000 tonne. Environmental awareness and sustainability are at the heart of our business. The Role

The Assistant Area Manager will be based in Skye. Reporting to the Area Manager, the position would initially entail:

- Assisting in the prioritising and planning all day to day work on 3 salmon farms in Loch Dunvegan
- Looking after the health and welfare of all fish farm staff and contractors employed within the area
- Monitoring and maintaining the security and effectiveness of all equipment
- Oversee the prompt and accurate reporting of production figures for all sites within the area
- Identifying and rectifying any problems which might affect fish health or security

### Requirements

The successful candidate will have previous experience within a sea based aquaculture environment. While formal qualifications in relevant subject areas are advantageous they are not a requirement. The successful candidate will be self-motivated, hardworking and a good personnel manager with a strong focus on health and safety.

A salary of £30,790 per annum plus overtime is available for this position. Performance and loyalty based bonuses are also available for this post. For an informal discussion regarding the post, please contact Grant Cumming on 01595741804 or e-mail grant.cumming@griegseafood.com. To apply, please contact Suzan Roberts by e-mail or telephone at the address below.

**Suzan Roberts, Grieg Seafood, Gremista, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0PX Scotland (UK)**  
**Tel: 0044 (0) 1595 741800 Fax: 0044 (0) 1595 741806**  
**E-mail: suzan.roberts@griegseafood.com**  
**http://www.griegseafood.no**  
**Closing date will be Monday the 29th of February 2016.**

Grieg Seafood is recruiting for the following position:

## Area Manager – Dunvegan, Skye



### The Company

Grieg Seafood is a leading producer of quality farmed salmon, with a proven track record of achievement. The company is the one of Scotland's largest producers of Scottish salmon with an annual production of 20,000 tonne. The Role

The Area Manager will be based in Skye. Reporting to the Production Manager, the position would initially entail:

- Prioritising and planning all day to day work on 3 salmon farms in Loch Dunvegan
  - Looking after the health and welfare of all fish farm staff and contractors employed within the area
  - Monitoring financial and biological performance of the area against budget and identifying and reporting deviations
  - Oversee the prompt and accurate reporting of production figures for all sites within the area
  - Preparing and submitting operational and capital budgets for the coming year
- While the successful candidate will have intra-company support in their position, due to the distance between the Dunvegan area and the head office based in Shetland, they will need to be organised and self-reliant.

### Requirements

The successful candidate will have several years of experience within a sea based aquaculture environment. They will also have previous experience in a management role. While formal qualifications in relevant subject areas are advantageous, they are not a requirement. The successful candidate will be self-motivated, hardworking and a good personnel manager with a strong focus on health and safety.

A salary of £50,000 per annum is available for this position. Performance and loyalty based bonuses and a company vehicle are also available for the successful candidate. For an informal discussion regarding the post, please contact Grant Cumming on 01595741804 or e-mail grant.cumming@griegseafood.com. To apply, please contact Suzan Roberts by e-mail or telephone at the address below.

**Suzan Roberts, Grieg Seafood, Gremista, Lerwick, Shetland ZE1 0PX Scotland (UK)**  
**Tel: 0044 (0) 1595 741800 Fax: 0044 (0) 1595 741806**  
**E-mail: suzan.roberts@griegseafood.com**  
**http://www.griegseafood.no**  
**Closing date will be Monday the 29th of February 2016.**



## 2 SUPPORT MANAGER VACANCIES IN OBAN

Starting Salary £25,427 per annum

Affinity Trust is a registered UK and Scottish charity that supports individuals with a variety of needs to lead independent, dynamic and fulfilling lives. Within Argyll & Bute we currently support a range of people with learning disabilities and/or mental health support needs as well as many other individuals with additional support needs.

Due to continued growth and development we are currently seeking to recruit 2 highly motivated Support Managers to be based in Oban. There will be travelling required for this role and applicants must hold a full UK driving licence.

Affinity Trust is dedicated to offering support for individuals in their own homes, providing a safe secure environment whilst maximising opportunities within the community.

You will be responsible in providing a strong Leadership approach that motivating team members to deliver quality and values driven services in accordance with legislation, regulatory standards and contractual requirements. You will also be responsible for ensuring that the needs and aspirations of the people we support are being met and that this can be evidenced.

The successful applicants will be registered with SSSC or be willing to meet the requirements for SSSC registration as a manager. Some management experience in supported living services or experience in managing support for individuals with support needs is desirable.

For all enquiries please contact the Oban Office –

**Affinity Trust, Queens Building, George Street, Oban, PA34 5RZ**  
**Telephone – 01631 571 511 Email – adminoban@affinitytrust.org**

We will be having an open day at the office in Oban on Wednesday 2nd March between 4pm & 6pm, if you are interested in this please contact us on the number above.

**Closing date – Thursday 10th March 2016**



Refusing to go with the flow

## Vacancy: 1 x Full Time Freshwater Operative

Location: Ardtaraig Hatchery, Loch Striven, Dunoon

Cooke Aquaculture Scotland is a leading company in the Scottish Salmon Industry producing exceptionally high quality products for an increasingly demanding market. We have operations throughout Scotland, Cumbria and the Northern Isles of Orkney and Shetland, together; we pledge a strong dedication to achieving a sustainable aquaculture industry.

We are currently seeking candidates to take on the position of Freshwater Operative at our Ardtaraig Hatchery, Argyll. As part of a small team, they will assist their colleagues in building strong key relationships and ensuring a safe working environment for all.

### The Role:

The successful candidate will find themselves reportable to the Freshwater Manager for Ardtaraig.

Qualifications/Skills required but not essential as full training can be given:

- 2 years' experience working in a Freshwater Hatchery environment
- Ability to participate in an 'Alarm Duty' rota system
- Good understanding of the aquaculture industry
- Candidate must be flexible with regard to hours worked, weekend working will be required
- Be a good team player but have the ability to work alone when required
- Inter-personal and excellent communication skills
- Clean UK driving licence

The ideal candidate will be committed to achieving the best results in a challenging environment and delivering the highest standards of performance possible. In return, we offer a highly competitive salary, employer pension contribution, company bonus scheme and salary sacrifice programmes.

**If you feel you have the necessary attributes to successfully fulfil this position and contribute to a progressive, results orientated company, then please send your covering letter and CV to vicci.laird@cookeaqua.com by 24 February 2016.**

## Director's Personal Assistant



Kilmarin Museum is seeking to appoint a Personal Assistant to assist the Director/Curator with administrative tasks during the development phase of the Museum's Redevelopment Project. This is a part time (18.5 hours per week) contract until June 2017 with the possibility of further extension, subject to successful funding applications. The salary is £16,031 per annum pro rata.

For more information and an application pack please email sue@kilmarin.org or phone Sue Creech on 01546 510 278. Closing date 11th March 2016, interviews will be held on 21st March 2016.

## Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre



is looking for an enthusiastic and highly motivated person/persons to manage its modern and excellently equipped café for the coming season. The café is a well established hub which links locals and visitors alike.

Please email your CV and request an application pack to lismoremuseum@btconnect.com or telephone 01631 760030. Closing date for completed applications 29th February 2016.

## Caledonian MacBrayne

Crewing (Guernsey) Limited

Caledonian MacBrayne Crewing (Guernsey) Limited has a requirement for:

### Skipper

£41,994 Permanent Small Ferry Division

Ref 501-SG

Applications are invited for the position of Skipper to sail within the CalMac Ferries Limited Small Ferry Fleet on the Tayinloan/Gigha route although you may be required to sail on any of the vessels within the Small Ferry Division.

You should possess, as a minimum, Boatmaster Tier 1 Level 2 with passenger ship endorsement (and RoRo endorsement if BML obtained or revalidated since April 2015) or equivalent and a valid ENG 1 Medical. STCW Master less than 500gt near-coastal or OOW unlimited is desirable but not essential.

Responsible for the safety of passengers, implementation and compliance with the Company Management System onboard, operation of the vessel in accordance with all relevant statutory requirements, ensuring that the vessel is fully manned according to MCA Requirements, co-ordinating all emergency procedures and conducting onboard drills, assisting in the preparation of work list for annual overhaul.

You must be customer focused, have a clear understanding of the customer interface and have a proactive approach to customer care.

A shift pattern will apply and this will normally consist one week on, one week off.

Ideally you will live within daily commuting distance of Gigha but a relocation package may be available to the successful candidate.

Closing date: 4 March 2016.

Interviews for this position will be held in the Gourack area during the week commencing 14th March 2016.

Please apply online at [www.calmac.co.uk/careers](http://www.calmac.co.uk/careers)

Caledonian MacBrayne Crewing (Guernsey) Limited is an equal opportunities employer.



## The Gem Box We are looking for a talented Assistant Store manager

Reporting to the store manager, responsible for maximising our sales potential by delivering excellent customer service. The candidate will also be responsible for assisting in driving local promotions and marketing initiatives to create additional footfall and sales while maintaining our reputation for quality unique jewellery.

Experience in Retail Management in the jewellery or related fashion industry is preferred.

We Offer a competitive salary, generous staff discount & 28 days holiday per year.

**To apply please email your CV along with a cover letter to [oban@shiptonia.co.uk](mailto:oban@shiptonia.co.uk)**

Due to the anticipated high volume of applications it may not be possible to respond to all applicants.



Freedom Food Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of the RSPCA, set up to administer the Society's farm assurance welfare labelling scheme and is looking for an assessor to undertake salmon and trout assessment work in the Scotland, with an occasional requirement to travel to other parts of the UK and overseas.

The main responsibilities of the post include arranging and carrying out on-site assessment of compliance with the RSPCA standards for animal welfare of salmon and trout hatcheries, freshwater and seawater farms, hauliers and abattoirs for both new applicants and existing members of the Freedom Food scheme.

Successful applicants should have GCSE English and Maths or equivalent qualification together with NVQ level 3 or relevant equivalent qualification in aquaculture. 5 years proven practical experience of commercial fish production together with a knowledge of the food production industry (livestock) and legislative requirement are considered essential attributes for the post. Direct experience of farm assurance schemes and auditing skills is desirable.

Applicants require excellent verbal communication skills at all levels, the ability to plan and organise their own workload, and to work both independently or part of a team as necessary. A full, valid driving licence will be essential.

An application form and job description can be requested from: Anna-Louise Sales, Freedom Food Ltd, Wilberforce Way, Southwater, West Sussex, RH13 9RS or [anna-louise.sales@freedomfood.co.uk](mailto:anna-louise.sales@freedomfood.co.uk). We do not accept CVs.

Please send your completed application form to the above address/email by the closing date of Friday 4th March 2016.

The RSPCA offers excellent benefits, including private healthcare, defined contribution pension scheme, childcare vouchers and employee assistance programme

We value diversity and encourage applications from all sections of the community.

Ending cruelty, promoting kindness and alleviating suffering to animals



### BASED IN OBAN

£ Excellent Basic

+ £ Bonus

+ Private Health Care

+ Pension

+ Good Holidays

Please apply by email with full C.V and covering letter to: [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)

If you've got the energy, drive, determination and ambition, we can offer you an exciting and rewarding career with one of Scotland's foremost independent newspaper publishers.

You will be responsible for representing our range of award winning publications, offering high quality advertising packages to local businesses.

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## Care Assistants

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Applicants should be able to communicate effectively at all levels and be comfortable working in a Team. Satisfactory Police Check and DBS/CRB check applies to this role.

Lynn of Lorne CARE HOME

To apply, contact [lynnoflornemckenziecare.com](mailto:lynnoflornemckenziecare.com) or call Home Manager Louise Glasgow on 01631 720278. Benderloch, By Oban PA37 1QW • [www.mckenziecare.com](http://www.mckenziecare.com)

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**Extraordinary Meeting**  
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 Glencruitten Golf Club, Oban

**CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD FIRST REGISTRATION OF COMMON GRAZINGS**

The Crofting Commission have registered the following Common Grazings on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Blarmafalach Common Grazings, Kilmallie Registration Number: CG246

Treslaig Common Grazings, Ardour Registration Number: CG251

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may appeal to the Scottish Land Court. The appeal must be brought within 9 months from the date of this advert and should be made directly to the Land Court.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home)

**First Registration of a Croft**

Michael Ross MacEachen, has registered their croft 1 Toigal, Arisaig and Moidart on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by October 28, 2016.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C2241.

**First Registration of a Croft**

Donald James Galbraith has registered their croft Bracarina, Glenelg, on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by November 8, 2016.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C2309.

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Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

**Argyll Bute COUNCIL**

**PLANNING**

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/03009/PP	Erection of two dwellinghouses, installation of two septic tanks and formation of vehicular accesses (amended design relative to planning permission reference: 14/03016/PP)	Land East Of Kirkapoll House (Plot 1) And North East Of 3 Kirkapoll (Plot2) Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute	Tiree Area Office
15/03483/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference: 12/02793/PPP (Site for the erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank)	Land South East Of Ardmaddy House Ardmaddy Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
16/00290/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land West Of Crannich Farm (Plot 1) Aros Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA72 6JP	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
16/00291/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land West Of Crannich Farm (Plot 2) Aros Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA72 6JP	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
16/00292/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land West Of Crannich Farm (Plot 3) Aros Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA72 6JP	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
16/00319/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of sewage treatment plant	Land North West Of Sealladh An Eilein Achnacraig Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA65 6AY	Sub Post Office Craignure

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Lochgilphead Brae PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
16/00421/LIB	Listed building consent for re-pointing works, new led cap to staircase tower, installation of led trays to crowsers, coping stones and lightning rods	Duart Castle Lochdon Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA64 6AP	Sub Post Office Craignure

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website.

Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

**CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATIONS**

R Campbell Strachur, Strachur 0.1 ha - Amenitey ground 4.86.62337

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper.

Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or [info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

**DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED**

J Carson 26 Auchinahard, Kilfinichen & Kilvickeen 0.136 ha - Croft house site and garden ground 4.85.61669 Conditions: 3a, 4, 8

D Wright 7 Clovulin, Ardour 0.222 ha - Existing house site 4.86.60810 Conditions: 3b, 4

I Kennedy and Mrs D Kennedy 17 & 18 Kilmoluag, Tiree 0.212 ha - Site of an existing cottar house and a proposed garage/boat shed 4.86.36612 Conditions: 3b, 4

Mrs W Kennedy and Mrs D Kennedy 17 & 18 Kilmoluag, Tiree 0.038 ha - the site of an existing cottar house 4.86.36613 Conditions: 3b, 4

Mrs H MacAllister Creag Mhor, Colonsay 0.12 ha - Site for a cafe 4.86.61984 Conditions: 1, 3b, 4

**Conditions**

(1) Acquisition of area within 5 years of the date of direction and notification made to Commission within 3 months of acquisition.

(3) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of:

(a) the date of the direction

(b) the proposed development completion

(4) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

(8) The Direction will expire 3 months from the date of the Direction unless an application for registration of the making of the Direction is submitted before the expiry of that period.

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)

The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
16/00391/FUL	Land 70m SW of Garden House, Invergarry		Conversion & extension of boathouse to create dwelling
16/00397/FUL	Steam Inn, Mallaig		Alterations and extension to pub/restaurant
16/00406/LBC	National Trust for Scotland Visitor Centre, Glenfinnan		Installation of a handrail to internal stone spine of internal public access staircase
16/00429/FUL	Ardour Memorial Hall, Clovulin, Ardour		Replacement of entrance & toilet extension, accessibility improvements & landscaping of car park
16/00465/FUL	Adjacent to Glencoe Mountain Rescue Centre, Glencoe, Ballachulish		Installation of 1 x DSLAM cabinet measuring 1600mm x 450mm x 1200mm
16/00501/FUL	Kingshouse Hotel, Glencoe, Ballachulish		4 dwellings to serve the Kingshouse Hotel
16/00552/FUL	Loch Shiel Garage Ltd, Acharacle		Alterations and extension to vehicle repair garage

Time period for comments 14 days.  
**For applications 16/00406/LBC & 16/00501/FUL 21 days.**  
 ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
 Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

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**First Registration of a Croft**

Thomas Lorne Nelson has registered their croft Achaleven Croft in the Parish of Ardchattan and Muckairn on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 1st November 2016.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C2255.

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010**  
**INSTALLATION OF PONTOON WITH TWO FINGERS, LANDING STAGE, ACCESS GANGWAY AND BRIDGE, ULVA FERRY, ISLE OF MULL**

Notice is hereby given that Mull and Iona Community Trust has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of the installation of pontoon with two fingers, landing stage, access gangway and bridge at:

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Ulva Ferry,	56° 28.89' N	006° 09.11' W
Loch na Keal,	56° 28.92' N	006° 09.02' W
Isle of Mull	56° 28.91' N	006° 09.00' W
	56° 28.88' N	006° 09.09' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Dervaig Post Office and Stores, Dervaig, Isle of Mull PA75 6QJ . Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to: Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email to: [MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot), quoting reference: **MCMS/05854 Mull and Iona Community Trust**

**First Registration of a Croft**

Joan McBeath has registered their croft 3 Fannore, Kilninian & Kilmore on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 31st October 2016. Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C2294.

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**ENGAGEMENTS**

**MACLEOD - MACLEAN** - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Jodi, eldest daughter of Ivor & Anne MacLeod, Bunessan to Jamie, son of Nancy and the late Lachlan MacLean, Knock Farm, Isle of Mull.

**GOLDEN WEDDING**

**PROSSER - CLARKE** - Frank to Margaret on February 19, 1966 at St John's Cathedral, Oban, by Provost Copeland. Present address: Solihull.

**DEATHS**

**MACDONALD** - Peacefully, in the care of the Belford Hospital, on Sunday February 14, 2016, Donald MacDonald aged 85 years. Loving brother of Ishbel and brother-in-law of Joe, also a much loved uncle and friend. Requiem Mass will be held tomorrow (Friday) February 19, 2016 at 12 noon in St. Margaret's R.C. Church, Roy Bridge; thereafter to Cille Choirill Cemetery. Family flowers only please. R.I.P.

**MACFADYEN** - Suddenly at home in Carn Farm, Port Charlotte, Donald, aged 85 years beloved husband of Isabel and much loved father of Duncan, Janice, Donald and late Neil and greatly missed grandfather. Interred in Kilchoman, Islay on February 15, 2016. (Sadly missed by all who knew him).

**McGREGOR** - Peacefully at Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy on Friday February 5, 2016. Elizabeth (Beth) Henderson McGregor (née Smith), aged 87 years, beloved wife of the late A. Murray McGregor. Much loved aunt and great-aunt, who will be sadly missed. Private family service upon Beth's wishes.

**McKINNEY** - Suddenly on February 13, 2016 in Morriston Hospital, Swansea, Farquhar (Farry), husband of the late Hazel, dear father of Ian and Lorne and the late Fiona and Stewart. Sadly missed. RIP.

**ROSS** - Lorraine Ruth Ross, sadly departed February 12, 2016, peacefully at Lynn of Lorne nursing home. Thank you for the superb care and attentiveness from the staff there and from Carr Gomm, and to Lorn Medical Centre for helping mum fight with dignity till the bitter end. Beloved wife and mother, you were the strongest, bravest women I have ever known and our love for you is eternal. You will always be with us in our hearts and minds, the breeze in our hair on a windy day, and the whispering through the trees. Rest now, we shall meet again. Love always and forever your loving husband and daughter xxx

**SCOBIE** - Peacefully, at Oban Hospital on February 12, 2016, Kenneth (Ken) Chalmers Scobie, of Caledonia, Tarbert Road, Ardrishaig, in his 80th year, dearly loved husband of Jane, a dear brother to Ruth, a much loved uncle of Lorna and Duncan and great uncle, and a very good friend and neighbour. Funeral service will be held at Cardross Crematorium, today Thursday, February 18 at 1.15pm.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**MACNAB** - Tinga, Kirsty, Janet, Sandra and families would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for the enormous support and kindness received during Ali's illness and since his death. Sincere thanks to the staff at the Beatson Hospital in Glasgow who cared for Ali with such kindness and dignity and to the staff on ward I in the Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban for their care and compassion both to Ali and ourselves. To Ali's many friends who took time to visit, send cards and gifts - your kindness and generosity was much appreciated. Thank you to the Rev. Tommy MacKinnon for a comforting and uplifting service. To everyone who travelled from far and wide for the funeral, your presence was a comfort. To Duncan and Ina at M & D MacLeod for the sympathetic and efficient service. £820 has been donated to Oban Coastguard (which was such an important part of Ali's life) and Oban hospice. A very special brother, uncle and friend who was loved and is mourned by many. Will never be forgotten.

**SINCLAIR** - The family of the late Nancy Sinclair would like to thank all relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and flowers following the sad loss of their treasured mother and gran. The kindness shown with calls, visits and gifts of food and baking. Thanks to carers, Drs MacTaggart and Jackson and the support and care received in her final few weeks from all staff at Gortanvogie Care Home. Thanks to Jean and Craig MacAffer Funeral Directors for their caring and efficient funeral arrangements. To Rev Angus Morrison and Rev Jim McNulty for their touching service. To Alastair McPherson for his reading, Jean Campbell, the organist and to James Carmichael for his beautiful piping. Thanks also to The Islay Hotel for an excellent purvey and thanks to all who attended the service and graveside and to all who travelled from the mainland. The sum of £420 was collected and will be donated to St Johns Church and Gortanvogie Care Home.

**MEMORIAMS**

**CAMPBELL** - Remembering our devoted dad John, who passed away February 20, 1986. Memories most precious. - Avril and John.

**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 on February 17, 2009. Always loved and remembered by her sister Ann

**LOCKHART** - Violet, February 18, 2013. In loving memory of our dear mother and grandmother. So sorely missed. Also Louis, who died September 27, 1984. Forever in our thoughts. - Family in Dundee.

**MACARTHUR** - In loving memory of my dear husband John, died February 21, 2010 and our son John, died March 25, 2010. - From all the family at Middleton, Tiree.

**MACAULAY** - Precious memories and Ian a loving husband, dad and grampa who passed away on February 20, 2013. You left us precious memories Your love is still our guide And though we cannot see you You are always at our side - Mary, Neil, John and Ginah, Oban, Bulgaria and Nigeria We will always love you grampa - Emma, Callum and Jay, Glasgow and Dundee

**MACDONALD** - Treasured memories of our beloved mother, gran & great gran, Margaret MacDonald who passed away on February 21, 2005. So sorely missed, also remembering loved ones gone before. Carson ma ta bhios sibh ri bron mar dhream gun dochas mor am bheil sa 'bhas ach teachdair sith gan gairm gu Rioghachd na glair Dear Mam give our love to Da. - Inserted by her loving daughters, Maryflora, Sandra, May Margaret and families.

**MACFARLANE** - In loving memory of a dear sister and aunt, Cathy, who was killed so tragically on the road on February 19, 1991. Forever in our thoughts and always in our hearts. - Inserted by Flora MacGillivray (sister) and Corinne Barrie (née MacGillivray).

**MACKIE** - In loving memory of my dear wife Lily (May) who passed away on February 19, 2015. Forever in my heart. - Bill

**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.

**McCALLUM** - In loving memory of our dear parents Donald who passed away January 11, 2005 and Joan, passed away February 18, 2015. Also remembering our Aunts, Katie Mactaggart, passed away February 25, 2005 and Bella Garner passed away March 13, 2006. Cherished memories also of our dear sister, Phemia Gillies, passed away March 17, 1979. Always in our thoughts. - Florrie and Cathie and families

**POULTON** - Remembering my baby son Danny, who died on February 15, 1992, aged three days. Forever in my heart. - Mum

**ROBERTSON** - In memory of my husband Tom, who passed away February 18, 2011. Always remembered. - Jean.

**SUTHERLAND** - Precious memories of our dearly loved son Innes, taken from us on February 14, 1999, aged 21 years. There is a place in our hearts that is yours alone A part of our lives no one can own Deep in our memories you are with us yet To love, cherish and never forget Loved and remembered everyday. - Mum and Dad xx.

# Historic address at the General Synod of The Church of England



The Right Rev Dr Angus Morrison, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

THE Right Rev Dr Angus Morrison, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, will make history Tuesday, by addressing the General Synod of the Church of England. It is believed to be the first time a serving Moderator has been invited to speak at the Synod, and is certainly the first time in living memory. The Synod itself is set to create history as it considers the proposed Columba Declaration, which would be the first formal agreement between the Church of Scotland and the Church of England. Dr Morrison spoke to the General Synod on Tuesday afternoon. During their visit to London, Dr Morrison and Mrs Marion Morrison will be staying at Lambeth Palace with the Archbishop of Can-

terbury Justin Welby and Mrs Caroline Welby. Dr Morrison said: 'I feel it a real honour to be invited as Moderator to address the General Synod. Through the historic Columba Declaration we are proposing to commit ourselves to growing further in communion and to strengthening our partnership in mission. 'By formally recognising the long ecumenical partnership between our churches, I believe we will advance our shared mission of spreading the Christian message of the Gospels. 'It will be a great pleasure to stay at Lambeth Palace and both Marion and I are looking forward to renewing our relationship with Archbishop Justin and Mrs Welby. I hold Archbishop Justin in the highest esteem both as a person and for his

leadership at the Church of England during these very challenging times.' Six years in the making, the Columba Declaration builds on ecumenical work underway for more than a decade. The proposed agreement lays out a path forward for closer cooperation between the two national churches. The 15-page Declaration focuses on shared Christian beliefs and emphasises the importance of continuing to nurture relationships with other Christian denominations, especially the Scottish Episcopal Church and the United Reformed Church. The Bishop of Chester will propose that the Synod accepts the Columba Declaration. The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland will discuss the proposed agreement in May.

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## LIFE lines Europe

I WAS six years old when the United Kingdom joined the European Union, so I did not care. As a teenager I took greater interest in the changing face of Europe, in particular the struggles and triumphs of the Polish trade union Solidarity and what appeared to be a softening of Eastern Bloc military protectionism and single-party state politics. In 1989 the Berlin Wall was pulled down, reuniting East and West Germany for the first time in

three decades, and this symbolic occurrence heralded the beginning of the end of the cold war - a horrifying stalemate that had threatened world peace since the end of the Second World War. In the 1990s communism collapsed in Central and Eastern Europe creating a closer neighbourhood of states, culminating in the completion of the Single Market to protect the free movement of people, goods, services and currency - operating trade conditions in

force to this day. The Treaties of Amsterdam and Maastricht defined union-wide defence and environmental policies, and the Schengen Agreement encouraged thousands of people to work and study in other countries, improving communications and cultural understanding. The UK government will this week try to negotiate different terms of membership of the European Union, and has committed to a referendum on future membership if its demands are

not met. Like any other partnership, the European Union's success depends on members exerting equal effort, or their best effort according to their capabilities. Steadfastly outside the Eurozone and reluctant to share responsibility for refugees, the UK government may not be in the strongest bargaining position. There are generation-changing implications for every resident of these islands if they get it wrong. JA

## Thought for the week

DO BIG BOYS CRY? "Definitely not," was the answer when I was growing up. "Keep the stiff upper lip at all costs." That has changed. Andy Murray's tears when he lost that Wimbledon final gained him respect, not derision. We have learned that there is a time for tears, especially when you are concerned with the things that matter most. No surprise then that As Jesus put it, "Her sins, which are many, are forgiven - for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little" (Luke 7:47).

there were tears when Jesus was around. One time he was having dinner, reclining at a low table as they did, when there was a bit of a commotion. A woman had arrived, approached Jesus and burst into tears. In fact, her tears were falling on his feet. To Jesus' stiff-upper-lip hosts this was highly embarrassing. But not to Jesus himself. Being in the forgiveness business he could see what was going on. Here was a woman who had been forgiven much and whose heart was bursting with gratitude and love. No wonder there were tears. It is not a time for cool detachment when you have been forgiven for all your failures and you are embarking on a new life brimming with hope and promise.

**Kenneth Ross**  
Parish Minister,  
Netherlorn

**GRADUATION**

**Eilidh M MacFadyen**  
Daughter of Lachie and Wilma MacFadyen, Isle of Tiree, granddaughter of the late John and Mairi MacFadyen of Kerrera and Tiree and of the late John and Helen Buchan of Crianlarich. Eilidh graduated from Sabhal Mor Ostaig with a BA in Gaelic and Traditional Music. She is about to take a post at Sabhal Mor Ostaig.

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# Athletic pay the penalty in top-of-the-table clash with Helensburgh

Oban Athletic	1
Helensburgh	2
West of Scotland AFL	

OBAN ATHLETIC missed an opportunity to go top of the league last Saturday when they welcomed Argyll rivals Helensburgh.

The Oban side were defeated 2-1 by fellow title contenders on the all-weather pitch at Oban High School.

The game kicked off at 3.15pm and both teams had their fair share of early chances and 10 minutes into the game Helensburgh were gifted an opportunity when Athletic struggled to clear their lines and the ball fell nicely for the away side's striker, but he was unable to connect cleanly and his effort trickled passed the post.

burgh were gifted an opportunity when Athletic struggled to clear their lines and the ball fell nicely for the away side's striker, but he was unable to connect cleanly and his effort trickled passed the post.

**Over the bar**  
The home side wasted no time and in the very next attack Paul Carmichael had his chance to break the deadlock when the ball was played through to him and, with only the keeper to beat, the Oban striker put his foot through the ball but his shot sailed over the bar.



Paul Carmichael races down the wing in the second half. 15\_108athletic01.

Athletic continued to put pressure on the opposition's defence and it almost paid off after a cross came into the box.

The ball fell to Carmichael, but his goal-bound shot was tipped over for a corner by Brendan Campbell.

Helensburgh tried to put the Athletic back four under pressure, but Craig Campbell cleared a dangerous situation. Carmichael had a great opportunity to get his name on the scoresheet, but again he was unable to keep his shot down and the ball flew over the bar.

Helensburgh broke the deadlock when Brooks Tadlock headed home after his teammate David Sinclair crossed the ball into danger area.

Athletic almost equalised straight away.

Craig Campbell played the ball through to Stephen Kelly, who picked out Carmichael with a fine pass but Carmichael was unable to beat the 'Burgh keeper and his shot, which was floating towards the top corner of the net, was tipped over the bar.

**Off the line**

From the resultant corner Craig Campbell beat his man in the air, but a defender was on hand to clear the ball off the line.

The home side started the second half well and forced the Helensburgh keeper to come off his line to clear, but because of the wind the ball hung in the air and a mix up in defence allowed Carmichael to round the goal-keeper and slot the ball home to make the score 1-1.

He then almost made it two after an awkward bounce caught out the visiting defence and he drove into the box but again his shot was too high and went over



Mark Robertson shields the ball during last Saturday's match against Helensburgh. 15\_108athletic02.

the bar.

The game was stretched now and it was end-to-end stuff.

Helensburgh were awarded a free kick taken by Douglas Black whose cross was headed back across goal and Scott Pedro was on hand to head the ball into the back of the net to claim the away side's second goal of the game and made the score 2-1.

Athletic had a great opportunity to draw level when Carmichael was brought down in the box

leaving referee John Stobbo no option but to award a penalty kick and it was end-to-end stuff.

The striker was entrusted with the spot kick but his shot hit the post and went out for a goal kick. The last chance of the game fell to Athletic's Ryan Campbell whose half-volley hit the underside of the bar before being gathered by 'Burgh keeper Brendan Campbell.

There was no further scoring with the visitors coming out on top by the odd goal in three.

**Football**

Athletic find themselves in third place in the league, four points behind Helensburgh with a game in hand and level on points with Duntocher but Duntocher have three games in hand.

Athletic are back in action on Saturday when they travel to Greenock to take on Bellaire in the quarter final of the League Cup.

## Scotland's ski centres delighted at start to the new season

**Skiing**

SCOTLAND'S ski areas are delighted with how this season is shaping up.

Chairwoman of Ski-Scotland Heather Negus said: 'We are absolutely delighted that so many skiers and snowboarders are coming out to celebrate the great snow at our ski areas with all five mountain resorts operating.'

'World Snow Day on January 17 brought new people to the venues, particularly children.'

'Nevis Range, Glencoe Mountain and CairnGorm Mountain all participated and reported a great turn out for all the fun events that were organised.'

'The Lecht also hosted a successful Rail Jam and the eastern access to Glenshee was restored earlier than expected. So each of the five snowsports areas are able to make the best of their great snow cover.'

Over recent weeks, the five areas reported 'skier days' well in excess of 18,000. This is much higher than would be expected and gives an excellent start to what promises to be a good season.

Scotland's five mountain ski areas are:

- CairnGorm Mountain, near Aviemore
- Glencoe Mountain Resort between Tyndrum and Ballachulish
- Glenshee Ski Centre between Blairgowrie and Braemar
- Nevis Range, near Fort William
- The Lecht Ski Centre, between Strathdon and Tomintoul

## Coach, volunteer and club development

THE CAMANACHD Association is to support a coaching opportunity provided by Highlife Highland.

'Great People, Great Clubs' is taking place at Dingwall Academy on Saturday February 27 and Sunday February 28.

**Interested**

The weekend has been organised with the needs of the Dingwall Community Sport Hub Clubs to the fore, however, it is open to any coach interested in attending.

The Saturday is for all club members; offering a

**Coaching weekend**

mixture of generic workshops and information sessions. This day is free of charge (including lunch).

The Sunday has sports specific sessions from badminton, cricket, and cycling to dance.

Also running throughout the day is a first aid course.

Priority bookings are for the Dingwall Community Sport Hub clubs but after that it is first come first served. For further information contact Elissa Steven on 07788 387603.

# Super Six Series clash postponed

THE GORDON and Strathern Limited-sponsored Oban Pool League returned to domestic duties last Thursday evening minus the showpiece fixture of the week.

Unfortunately various work commitments forced the postponement of leg three of the Super Six Series between the Lochavullin's Cellar and Lancaster A, however the remaining four matches proceeded undeterred. Lochnell had no problem grabbing the limelight in their foes' absence as they made the short journey over the bridge to face Connel rivals the Gluepot.

Derby fixtures can be potential banana skins especially when considered one-sided affairs, with complacency seeing many challengers slip-up in previous campaigns.

Lochnell weren't about to succumb were others have faltered and, despite yielding the opening doubles, they mercilessly reeled off six matches without reply.

The two points were bagged by claiming four of the next five matches to join Lancaster A at the summit with only game dif-

ference now separating the sides, although the latter has a game in hand. The focus of the week was very much on the battle for a top five spot, with the Gluepot's defeat allowing Markie Dans A the opportunity to put some breathing space between some of the outfits in contention. A relatively comfortable victory was secured away to Outreach to remain in fourth position and hopefully put an end to their kamikaze performances which has been hindering them of late.

Hot on their heels and occupying fifth are Lancaster B, who dispatched the Lochavullin with the minimum of fuss for their third consecutive league win.

This has been the best run of form Lancaster B have shown for nearly two years and with Markie Dans A next on the horizon tonight (Thursday), will give them a chance to jump up into the lofty fourth spot overthrowing their opponents in the process.

The cup giant killers Markie Dans B welcomed the Wide Mouthed Frog in the concluding tie of the week with the firm intention of holding on to the

coat-tails of those above them.

Seizing all three of the opening doubles to re-iterate their ambitions and despite six exceptionally close single battles, Markie Dans B showed maturity to edge five of them and continue some impressive form.

Tonight's fixtures will once again be diluted because, for the fourth year in a row, Oban Pool League has representation at the European Championships in France. Financial restraints curtailed several of Oban's household names attending, but Geo Adam and Chris Anton, both from Lochavullin's Cellar,

**Pool**

will put on the tartan waistcoat with the best of wishes from the Oban pool fraternity.

Results: February 11 - Lochavullin's Cellar P-P Lancaster A; Outreach 2-10 Markie Dans A; Gluepot 2-10 Lochnell; Markie Dans B 10-2 Wide Mouthed Frog; Lancaster B 10-2 Lochavullin.

Fixtures: February 18 - Gluepot P-P Lochavullin's Cellar; Markie Dans B v Lancaster A; Lancaster B v Markie Dans A; Wide Mouthed Frog v Lochnell; Lochavullin v Outreach.

**OBAN POOL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE**

	P	W	D	L	Ff	Fa	Fd	Pts
1 Lancaster A	8	8	0	0	77	19	58	16
2 Lochnell	9	8	0	1	79	29	50	16
3 Lochavullin's Cellar	8	7	0	1	67	29	38	14
4 Markie Dans A	9	5	1	3	68	40	28	11
5 Lancaster B	9	5	0	4	61	47	14	10
6 Gluepot	9	4	0	5	50	58	-8	8
7 Markie Dans B	9	3	1	5	50	58	-8	7
8 Lochavullin	8	2	0	7	40	68	-28	4
9 Wide Mouthed Frog	8	0	0	8	14	82	-68	0
10 Outreach	8	0	0	8	10	86	-76	0

# WIN!

## a place on a tall ships sailing experience

**Inverness to Oban, April 22 - 24, 2016.**

### Worth £250

The Oban Times has teamed up with Maybe Sailing to offer one lucky reader a sailing experience of a lifetime.

Can you picture yourself sailing through the Great Glens on the Caledonian Canal, hunting for Nessie on Loch Ness and exploring Loch Linnhe on board a classic tall ship? This could be your chance to take your turn on the helm, help hoist the sails or sit back, relax and soak up the Scottish sunshine. All meals and refreshments are included on this amazing voyage. To find out more about Maybe

Sailing and their range of sailing experiences visit [www.maybe-sailing.com](http://www.maybe-sailing.com)

For your chance to win a place on this fantastic sailing experience from Inverness to Oban, April 22 to 24 2016, simply answer this easy question, complete the form below and post to Sailing Comp, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. This hands on experience involves climbing steep stairs and sleeping in a shared bunk room. Entrants must be physically fit. Entries must be received by Tuesday February 23, 2016.

**Question: Which device would you most commonly use to secure a boat to the sea bed?**  
a) Anchor b) Paddle c) Buoy

Answer.....  
Name.....  
Address.....  
Postcode.....  
Telephone..... Email.....

Winners will be selected at random after the closing date. The prize is not transferable or redeemable for cash equivalent. Tickets do not include travel or parking. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Winners may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. The competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. Digital subscribers can enter by printing this page and submitting their entry accompanied by a letter explaining that you are a digital subscriber. The closing date for entries is midnight, Tuesday February 23, 2016.



Craig Samborek's shooters find shelter during their charity shoot on February 6.

## Hardy shooters raise cash for air ambulance service

IT WAS a busy - and a wet - weekend recently for Tarbert Gun Club.

Saturday February 6 saw Craig Samborek, along with his friends and family, enjoying a day of shooting at Barmore, all in aid of the Scottish Air Ambulance Service.

With some cash still to come in, the shooters raised in excess of £400 for the charity.

The rain that drenched Saturday's crackshots continued into the following day, Sunday, for the February winter league team shoot. So wet was it that club president, Brian

Baird, harboured thoughts about cancelling the day's shooting. But the sight of competitors arriving, after having travelled from places such as Glasgow and Dumbarton, convinced him otherwise.

In all, a very healthy total of 50 shooters, or 10 lines, took their places for the event.

Ally McDonnell came out as top shot for the day and, with one shoot to go this season, Brian Baird's team remain top of the league.

Special mention, however, goes to 13-year-old Matthew Peden, who beat many more

**Shooting**

experienced competitors to win his class.

Class A: 1 Ally McDonnell, 2 Bob McColl, 3 John Paton. Class B: 1 Niall Wilson, 2 Roy Laird. Class C: 1 Archie MacGill, 2 Lynn MacDonald, 3 Jonathan Gargan. Class D: 1 Bill Bidmead, 2 Jack Campbell, 3 Lorne Harvey. Class E: 1 Matthew Peden, 2 John Winnard, 3 Archie Currie. Top team: Brian Baird, Niall Wilson, Archie MacGill, Stephen MacSparran and John Winnard.



James Miller heads home the opening goal for Colville Park at Glencruitten last Saturday. Photos and match report Derek Black.

# Saints out but certainly not down

'I thought we ran them very close'

Oban Saints	1
Colville Park	2
West of Scotland Cup - 5th Round	

OBAN Saints 14-game unbeaten run finally came to an end at Glencruitten last Saturday afternoon against the seemingly invincible Colville Park.

The Motherwell side, who had six Scottish Amateur international players in their ranks, have won every one of their matches this season and their class coupled with a fantastic work ethic was too tough a nut for Saints to crack.

However, as the scoreline would suggest, Saints were far from disgraced and ran their strongly fancied opponents very close in a tight, keenly contested match.

The match was widely considered to be the tie of the round and as such was selected by online television station Affinity TV as their featured match.

Manager Alex Craik made one change to the 11 that had started the previous week's Scottish Amateur Cup win against Stirling City bringing in Willie Gemmell with Allan Mackay dropping to the bench.

There was also a place on the bench for Ross Maitland, who missed the previous match due to family commitments.

Colville Park's colours are all

navy so Saints' secretary had to dig to the back of the cupboard to find the white D&K Lafferty Contractors-sponsored kit last used in season 2013-14.

Saints started brightly, attacking the Mossfield end and immediately put the visitors under pressure with Thomas Airlie halting a threatening Dean Smith run with a heavy challenge from behind.

Gemmell played the resulting free kick to Smith on edge of the box with his back to goal.

Smith shielded the ball well and rolled it back for Scott Maitland to clip in a high ball looking for the head of Craig MacEwan, who was narrowly beaten to it by a powerful clearing header from Garry Tierney.

### Free kick

The home side's good early work was undone from Colville's first foray into attack.

Jamie Graham gave away a free kick for a foul on the lively James Miller, wide on the Saints right and level with the penalty spot.

Former Dumbarton and Cowdenbeath striker Liam Cusack and Thomas Airlie worked a short free kick with Airlie sending in a terrific cross which Miller nicked in between David McArthur and Dougal Graham to head into the net past a helpless Thomas McCulloch.

The Oban side dusted themselves down and went in search of an equaliser which almost came their way in the sixth minute. McArthur sent in a dangerous dipping cross from the right which MacEwan made a terrific run to meet.

Unfortunately MacEwan seemed caught in two minds whether to attack the ball with his head or his left leg and in the end connected with neither and the ball bounced behind for a goal kick.

The large home crowd had only two more minutes to wait for a goal from their favourites which came from the penalty spot courtesy of leading goal scorer Donald Campbell.

Campbell won the penalty kick himself driving into the box and having his heels clipped by Colville skipper Stephen McDevitt.

Campbell's last attempt from 12 yards against New Farm Loch in the fourth round of the West of Scotland Cup was saved but this time he made no mistake, confidently dispatching his kick past the despairing dive of Colville keeper Donald Scott.

In the 14th minute Paul Kerr, who worked tirelessly all afternoon in the centre of the park, lost possession in the centre circle allowing Alex Clearie to run at the Saints defence and unleash a right-foot shot from the edge of box which flashed wide of McCulloch's right hand post.

After surviving a couple of scares, Saints regained their composure and had a decent spell of possession before conceding what proved to be the winning goal from a breakaway on the Colville left.

Former Queens Park striker Kevin Fotheringham turned Jamie Graham and dispatched a low shot which McCulloch blocked at his near post with Marc Maccallum clearing the loose ball out for a throw in.

From a short throw Liam Cusack flighted a cross towards the back post where Robbie Peebles out-jumped Dougal Graham to head past McCulloch, who had little chance from just six yards range.

Saints best opportunity of the first half came in the 41st minute from a Campbell free kick.

Maitland found space in the box to turn Campbell's lofted ball into the path of MacEwan, who lashed a left foot volley towards the top corner only to see Colville keeper Scott claw the ball away with a fine save diving high to his right.

At the half-time interval Saints manager Craik decided to withdraw Dougal Graham who had been struggling all week with a



Referee Kevin Nolan looks in pain after a collision with Ross Maitland and Thomas Airlie. It was later discovered that Mr Nolan had two cracked ribs.

heavy cold and replace him with Ross Maitland.

For the second week in succession MacEwan lasted little more than five minutes of the second half before his persistent calf injury made it too painful for him to continue.

Dene Cassells came on and took up position on the right of the front three with Ross Maitland switching to the left.

In a bizarre 66th minute incident, referee Kevin Nolan was caught in a sandwich between Ross Maitland and Colville central defender Airlie which left the whistler in a crumpled heap.

After the initial amusement had subsided it became apparent that Mr Nolan was in some genuine discomfort with what was later diagnosed as two cracked ribs.

The referee bravely decided to soldier on but his lack of full mobility cost Saints dear just two minutes later.

Scott Maitland played a delightful ball through the inside left channel to Ross Maitland, sending the wee man through one-on-one with the Colville keeper.

However, much to the frustration of the Saints players and bench, Mr Nolan failed to notice Garry Tierney on the left of the Colville back three standing several yards behind team mates Airlie and Stephen McDevitt and blew for offside denying Saints a great chance to bag an equaliser.

Saints manager Craik then made his third change replacing Dean Smith with Allan Mackay.

Colville continued to soak up everything Saints could throw at them and looked to hit on the break.

With Saints pushing forward, they were again caught on the counter attack in the 82nd minute with only a determined tracking run and perfectly timed sliding challenge by skipper Marc Maccallum preventing substitute Paul McAulay from testing McCulloch.

Saints made their final change with Keith Millar replacing Gemmell.

Tempers threatened to boil over in the closing minutes with Maccallum joining first half booking victim Scott Maitland in the referee's notebook for dissent.

Colville's Jamie Bradley quickly followed suit for a heavy late challenge on Maccallum on the half way line.

In time added on for stoppages, Cassells became the last entry in Mr Nolan's notebook for a late lunge on Liam Cusack, which was worthy of a yellow card but the scuffle that ensued convinced the referee to issue him with a red card.

The resulting free kick came to nothing and Mr Nolan, who handled the match well, particularly considering he was carrying a serious injury for the last 25 minutes, brought proceedings and Saints involvement in the West of Scotland Amateur Cup to an end.

Despite going out of this particular cup Saints are still going strong in the league and the Scottish Amateur Cup and therefore have plenty to look forward to in the remaining months of the season.

The Oban side can also take encouragement from a good showing against an excellent Colville Park side, who are undoubtedly

## Football

the team to beat this season. Manager Craik said: Obviously I'm disappointed at the result but proud of the players who worked their socks off all afternoon. Colville are a very experienced outfit, but I thought we ran them close and gave a good account of ourselves against arguably the best amateur team in the country just now.'

Saints have no game this Saturday as they applied to the SAFL for a free Saturday as a number of the players are away on Daniel Cameron's stag weekend in Hamburg.

The Oban side have been drawn at home to top Caledonian League outfit Doune Castle in the last 16 of the Scottish Amateur Cup.

The game is scheduled to be played in Oban on Saturday March 5.



Affinity TV's Graeme Alexander sets up his gear before the game.



## This weekend's friendly fixtures

### Shinty

#### Saturday February 20

- Aberdour v Bute 1sts & 2nds at Silversands, Aberdour
- Boleskine v Kilmallie 2nds at Smith Park, Farr
- Fort William v Kyles Athletic at An Aird, Fort William
- Glasgow Mid Argyll v Kingussie at Peterson Park, Yoker
- Glenorchy v Oban Lorn at the Mart Park, Dalmally
- Glenurquhart v Kilmallie at Blairbeg, Drumnadrochit
- Inverness v Kinlochshiel at the Bught Park, Inverness
- Kingussie v Strathspey at The Dell, Kingussie
- Lochside Rovers v Newtonmore at Ganavan
- Lovat 2nds v Glenurquhart 2nds at Balgate, Kiltarlity 1pm start
- Newtonmore v Lochaber at The Eilan, Newtonmore
- Oban Celtic v Inveraray at Mossfield Park
- Skye v Beaully at Paice Nan Laoch, Portree
- Strathglass v Caberfeidh at Cannich
- Taynuilt v Glengarry at Taynuilt

### Results

#### Saturday February 13

- Lochaber 6 - 2 Fort William
- Oban Celtic 1 - 2 Fort William
- Newtonmore 8 - 0 Inveraray
- Kilmallie 1 - 1 Oban Camanachd
- Inverness 0 - 4 Kilmallie
- Boleskine 3 - 4 Lochcarron
- Tayforth 5 - 0 Oban Lorn

## Opening day of the season's fixtures

#### Saturday March 5

- Marine Harvest Premiership**
- Glenurquhart v Oban Camanachd
- Kingussie v Lochaber
- Kinlochshiel v Newtonmore
- Kyles Athletic v Fort William
- Skye v Lovat

#### Marine Harvest National Division

- Glasgow Mid Argyll v Ballachulish
- Inveraray v Bute
- Inverness v Beaully
- Kilmallie v Caberfeidh

#### Marine Harvest North Division 1

- Fort William v Beaully
- Lovat v Skye
- Newtonmore v Kinlochshiel
- Strathglass v Kingussie

#### Marine Harvest South Division 1

- Aberdour v Kyles Athletic
- Lochside Rovers v Inveraray
- Oban Celtic v Col Glen
- Taynuilt v Strachur

#### Marine Harvest North Division 2

- Aberdeen University v Inverness
- Boleskine v Kilmallie
- Caberfeidh v Lewis
- Lochaber v Lochcarron
- Strathspey v Glengarry 1.30pm

#### Marine Harvest South Division 2

- Bute v Oban Lorn
- Dunoon v Glasgow Mid Argyll
- Tayforth v Aberdour

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# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

## THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2050

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .



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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. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

### 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



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## Green Machine gets back in the groove

### Win lifts Oban into fifth in league table

Oban Lorne	26
Garnock	17

BT West Division 1

OBAN Lorne played host to Garnock on Saturday - the first home game for the Green Machine in 2016 and the first league game at Glencruitten since Hallowe'en.

Oban managed to field a strong 1st XV with an equally strong bench to support the squad. The game kicked off at 3pm and started with a bang. Oban managed to secure good possession and control phase play to march up the field into Garnock territory.

Quick ball provided scrum half Dom Ma the opportunity to control the pace of play and the experienced Oban pack provided clean ball for the back line.

After a number of phases, the ball was pushed wide through the back line with Cammy Smith and Craig Wright combining well to make the line break. It was Wright who eventually found space and opened the scoring for Oban. The kick was converted by Carmichael giving Oban a 7-0 lead.

This form looked to continue as Oban stepped up the pace. Garnock were on the back foot and finding it hard to settle into their game plan. Strong running from Airidas Savickas broke the line time and time again gaining valuable field position and keeping Garnock in their own half.

Oban were attacking in the 22 when another line break resulted in a score for Irish under the posts, converted by Carmichael. The barn-storming runs continued in the opening half for Oban despite the best efforts of the Garnock defence. Creative kicking from McCabe at full back reduced the visitors' chances to escape from their half. The set piece was strong from Oban and provided a good attacking platform. From this the third try of the game was produced, the forwards this time taking control and driving over the line after a

series of rucks. Tommy Sutherland held the ball for the try and it was converted by Carmichael.

The end of the first half saw Garnock step up the contact and they were matching Oban in the line-out. Good possession saw them gain good field position to set up a line out on Oban's five-metre line, which resulted in a well-worked move and a try for Garnock to close the half with the hosts leading 21-5.

The second half opened as frantic as the first but with both teams cancelling each other out. Little ground was given by either team and Garnock started to look the more dominant side at the break down. Oban were camped inside their own 22 and found it hard to build an escape route. The men in green were able to hold out and not concede a try but it was clear that the tide was turning and Garnock were stepping up.

It was stalemate in the second half until Garnock broke the Oban defensive line and were able to finish a nice combination move in the corner which brought the score to 21-12.

The home side had to dig deep at this point and not let Garnock build momentum. Scrappy play from both sides increased the pace of the game down. Oban went back to basics and were able to dominate in a five-metre scrum which resulted in a try, the conversion was missed and left the score at 26-12.

With time running out, Garnock stepped up a gear as Oban sat back, once again the home side found themselves camped in their own 22 and absorbing pressure. With the ball held up over the line and the defence fraying it looked like Oban were going to manage to hold on to the score winning a turn over in the last minute.

A hurried pass to Carmichael at the dead ball line resulted in a hurried kick under immense pressure, the kick found the



Oban Lorne flanker Lorne Maclachlan powers his way through the Garnock defence.

Garnock winger who had an easy touch down over the line for the final try of the game.

The final score of 26-17 is probably a fair reflection of the game where Oban dominated the first half and Garnock could feel hard done by walking away without a bonus losing point.

The win lifts Oban Lorne back into fifth place in the table and within touching distance of fourth placed Allan Glens who visit Glencruitten this Saturday.

Argyll and Bute	78
Glasgow East	10

BT West Division 4

ARGYLL and Bute RFC recorded a record win on Saturday against bottom of the league Glasgow East.

The game was played in chilly conditions at North Connel with a strong Argyll team of 20 play-

ers being available for the game.

Much credit must be given to the opposition who travelled north with a bare squad of only 13 players. In keeping with the spirit of the game, Argyll and Bute gifted the opposition two players so that a 15 aside game of rugby could take place.

The home side made a good start to the game and were inflicting some early pressure on the Glasgow East defence.

Experienced stand off Dougie Pender was controlling the game well while some good runs from Mathias El Sanchez, Dave Thurman and Jamie MacMillan were giving the hosts all the momentum.

Argyll found themselves three tries ahead after only 15 minutes with Mathias El Sanchez, Allan Wright and Lewis MacFarlane all touching down.

Glasgow East refused to give

up as they responded with a well-worked try to reduce the deficit.

Argyll, however, pulled away before half-time with a further score from Lewis MacFarlane, before Daniel Broderick scored two tries. His first was a 50-metre run from the back of a scrum beating off several defenders. Niall MacFarlane finished off the scoring for the first 40 minutes with his only try for the day.

At half-time Argyll led by several tries to one and were looking hungry to add to the convincing scoreline.

The away side were dealt a blow at the break with two injuries. Argyll again helped the away side out by offering a further two players.

Argyll scored a further four tries in the second half with a second from Allan Wright and Dave Thurman, Sandile Khumalo and a first try for 17-year-old Stephen

### Rugby

Povey on his senior rugby debut wrapped up the try fest for Argyll on the day.

Argyll player Antoine De La Pam crossed the line for Glasgow East with a consolation.

The scoreline could have been more as the game was stopped after 60 minutes with a serious ankle injury to Argyll player Connor Ferris.

In the end Argyll and Bute recorded a record 78-10 win. This lifts the team up to fourth place in Division 4 and closes the gap on the teams above them.

This Saturday, Argyll and Bute have a tough fixture at home to second placed Shawlands. The teams met in early January with Argyll going down 24-18. Kick-off will be at 2pm with the game likely to be played again at North Connel.

### Scottish Amateur Football League results and fixtures

#### Football

LAST Saturday's results: West of Scotland Cup, 5th round - Oban Saints 1, Colville Park 2; Jimmy Marshall Cup, 2nd round - Drumchapel Amateur Colts v Campbeltown Pupils, postponed; Motherwell Thistle 3, Dunoon 0; Coronation Cup, 1st round - Port Glasgow v Dunoon Athletic, postponed; Premier Division One - Busby v Lochgilhead Red Star, postponed.

This Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division - Campbeltown Pupils v Alba Thistle; Oban Saints no game; Premier Division One - Kilbowie Union v Dunoon; Premier Division Two - Tarbert v FC Clydebank. Jimmy Marshall Cup, 2nd round - Lochgilhead Red Star v Finnart; Coronation Cup, 1st round - Dunoon Athletic v East Kilbride YM.

### Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

#### Youth football

LAST weekend's results: Regional Cup, 4th round - Under 13s 1 West Park United 0. Scoring for Saints was Connor Moore. Under 14s 14, Westerton 1. On target for Saints were Jamie Forgive (4), Aidan MacPhee (3), Euan Logan (3), Aaron McKay (2), Daniel Sloss and own goal. Under 15s 4, Ardencaple 3. Saints goalscorers were Keir MacLean, Gary MacCuish and Rory Dowd. Under 16s 5, Port Glasgow 1. Scoring for Saints were Daniel McCuish (2), Stewart McAllister, Lewis Buchanan and Kenneth MacDonald. Under 19s no game.

This weekend's fixtures: Renton Craigmrod v Under 13s; Campbeltown Pupils v Under 14s; Dumbarton United v Under 15s; Busby v Under 16s; Under 19s no game.

### Scottish Cup draw

#### Football

OBAN Saints have been drawn at home in the last 16 of the Scottish Amateur Cup against top Caledonian League side Doune Castle. The winner of this tie will be at home in the quarter finals to Shortlees, St Mungo's FP or Shotts Victoria.

## Oban Camanachd lose out to Kilmallie in penalty shoot-out

Kilmallie	1
Oban Camanachd	1

BSW Cup

(Kilmallie win 2-1 on penalties)

CANAL Park, Caol was the venue for this entertaining friendly as Oban Camanachd and Kilmallie continue their preparation for the 2016 shinty season.

Kilmallie, who have aspirations of playing in the Premiership, proved to be a stern test for the Oban side.

The visitors had the better of the opening exchanges but a combination of missed chances and excellent goal keeping by the Kilmallie keeper kept the scores even while at the other end the contest between Gary Lord and Kilmallie's new signing Duncan Rodgers as well as Gary MacKeracher and Michael Rodgers proved interesting.

Camanachd keeper Gavin Stobart made a good save to make sure that the half-time score remained 0-0 in what was proving to be a competitive encounter.

Just before half-time, Connor Howe had to come off with a hand injury and was replaced with new signing Willie Neilson who, on his first touch, saw a 20-yard drive well saved by the Kilmallie keeper, who was called into action once again this time saving well from Scott MacMillan.

The second half was more of the same with international player Daniel Cameron the driving force in midfield although Kilmallie always looked dangerous on the break through the Rodgers combination.

It was Cameron who broke the deadlock in the 57th minute when his well struck shot put the Oban side into the lead.

### Shinty

However, five minutes later Michael Rodgers equalised with a fine strike from 25 yards.

Camanachd pushed forward in the last quarter looking for the winner with the home keeper pulling off two good saves from Scott MacMillan and Daniel MacVicar. The final score after 90 mins was 1-1.

The penalty shoot-out went in favour of the home side winning 2-1 and retaining the BSW Cup. Oban manager Ian Hay said: "The game was played at a high tempo with all 16 of our players participating at some point in the match."

"With no game next week due to a stag weekend for Daniel Cameron it was good to get a competitive game like this as the start of the season looms."

## Sportshall athletics at Tobermory

NEARLY 70 young athletes competed in the Mull contest of Sportshall athletics held last Saturday in Tobermory High School.

The Mull event was the second of the four local area competitions in Argyll this winter promoted by Mid Argyll Athletic Club.

This was the 17th year this form of indoor athletics had been held in Tobermory and, as in past years, the day was split into two sessions with the under-7s, under-9s and under-11s competing in the morning and the older age groups in the afternoon.

Athletes from Mull Harriers, based in Bunnassan, made up a third of the total entry and their support was much appreciated by the organisers. Bunnassan athletes won four out of the 10 age groups and Bunnassan primary school were second in the schools contest to Salen Primary with

Tobermory in third place. Salen totalled 85.5 points, Bunnassan 73 and Tobermory on 54.5 points.

Salen primary dominated in the younger boys contest with Johny Duffy the under-7 champion and Ewan MacPhail the under-9 overall winner. Johny won four out of five events but was only one point ahead of another Salen boy, Liam Munro, who won the javelin and placed highly in the other four events.

Ewan MacPhail was a clear winner in the under-9s winning five out of the six events including an impressive high jump clearing 1.11 metres, only 1cm below the Argyll age record and attempted a new record height of 1.14m and came close on his last attempt.

Iain MacCallum, from Bunnassan, was the under-11 champion winning three events and the under-13 winner was Jude Gallagher from Tobermory, who won four of the six events including a

fast time of 24.3 seconds in the four-lap race. Iain Ralston from Salen was the under-15 winner dominating in all six events.

It was first and second for Salen in the under-7 girls contest with Robin Stanley-Wright the champion ahead of Sienna Munro. In the under-9s Sophie Rutherford, a visitor from Glasgow, dominated winning three events including a standing long jump of 1.74m only 2cm off the Argyll age record.

In the same age group Gemma Cameron from Bunnassan won the speed bounce and two other Bunnassan girls, Molly Dougal and Claudia MacDougal, won the triple jump and javelin respectively.

Elena Cameron, from Bunnassan, was an impressive winner in the under-11 category with wins in the high, long and triple jumps as well as the javelin. Sarah Westland, from Tobermory, won the four-lap race and Talia Carmi-

### Athletics

chael, from Salen, won the speed bounce. Bunnassan girls dominated in the older age groups with Abbie Cato excelling in winning the under-13s and Chloe Gibson the under-15 champion. Abbie recorded good marks in all six events and especially so in the standing triple jump stretching out to 6.22 metres.

The date for the Kintyre area competition will be Saturday March 5, to be held in Campbeltown Grammar School, followed by the Oban area event at Atlantis Leisure on Sunday, March 13. Successful athletes from the area competitions will be invited to compete in the Argyll Final to be held at Atlantis Leisure in Oban on Sunday March 20.

Qualifiers will be advised by letters through their schools in early March.

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**WEATHER**

<b>Thursday</b>	Hail showers Winds light west south westerly Temperatures 2°C to 6°C.
<b>Friday</b>	Heavy rain Winds strong south south westerly Temperatures 5°C to 8°C.
<b>Weekend Outlook</b>	Ligh rain on Saturday Heavy rain showers on Sunday Winds strong westerly Temperatures 3°C to 8°C.



**Stop Press:** New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

**TIDAL INFORMATION**  
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday February 18, 2016** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am			pm		
Thur	02.15	3.0	08.46	1.5	15.27	3.1
Fri	03.32	3.2	10.02	1.4	16.20	3.3
Sat	04.15	3.4	10.52	1.2	16.54	3.5
Sun	04.51	3.7	11.33	1.1	17.24	3.7
Mon	05.26	3.8	12.09	1.0	17.55	3.8
Tues	00.03	0.8	06.00	4.0	12.43	0.9
Wed	00.40	0.7	06.33	4.0	13.16	1.0

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardriashaig	-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



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**Annual pass reader offer**

also next week don't miss our brand new supplement  
**THE BRIDEGUIDE**  
for full details on this and the Oban Times Highland Wedding Show see page 2

# Huge increase in number of drivers caught speeding

**CAREN MCPATE**  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

POLICE caught 2,125 drivers speeding on roads in Lochaber and the wider Highland area in just nine months.

Almost 800 more people were detected from April to December 2015 compared to the same period the previous year. According to a report before Lochaber Committee of Highland Council, there was a 59 per cent rise in incidents from 1,333 in 2014/15 to 2,125 in 2015/16. Police say that the huge increase in the number of motorists being caught is down to more patrols in the Highlands and Islands division.

There are now 45 dedicated officers covering the area. Last year there was one fatal collision in Lochaber when a driver was killed on the A803 Mallaig to Fort William road. Brian Mackay, chief inspector

of South Highland Command, Highland and Islands Division, Police Scotland, told the committee: 'Be reassured that there has been an increase in road policing and we are being proactive. It's not because the behaviour of road users is different.'

Road safety is the top priority in the Fort William, Caol, Ardnamurchan and Mallaig council wards.

The number of people caught driving while under the influence of drink or drugs rose to 31 in 2015/16, up from 28 on the previous year.

Meanwhile, 195 drivers were found not to be wearing seatbelts, rising from 123, and 96 were caught using a mobile phone.

A report by Chief Inspector Mackay said: 'It is disappointing to see the numbers increasing, however, we know that if we can reduce speed and ensure that people

use their seatbelts and avoid the use of mobile phones whilst driving then they are less likely to be involved in a collision.

'The impact of death and injury on our roads is significant, not only from the impact on victims and their families but to communities and the wider economy. It consistently features as a concern for the communities in Highland and road policing remains a priority for every officer.'

'We continue to work in partnership to improve road user behaviour through education, enforcement and engineering solutions. This informs our actions, using intelligence and analysis to identify priority routes and road users who may be vulnerable. Evidence has shown that a highly visible presence on our roads has a significant impact on driver behaviour.'

## Pool group's appeal to council

THE GROUP which runs Mallaig and District Swimming Pool has urged council chiefs not to cut its funding when it meets next week to try and make £37.9 million of budget savings.

The board of trustees is worried that history could repeat itself and the pool could face being closed. In 2014 the grant it received was under threat but, thanks to a successful

campaign, it continued to receive funding.

Mallaig and District Swimming Pool (MDSP) has written to The Highland Council stating its case.

A letter to politicians said: 'The board of directors needs to develop strategies, five-year plans (and beyond), and budgeted programmes for the future.'

'They cannot do that if

MDSP is merely subsisting from year to year. If funding cannot be safeguarded, the future of the pool is once again thrown into relief.'

Crunch talks are continuing in the lead up to the council's budget meeting next Thursday (February 25).

The council's funding package from the Scottish Government is £18.3 million less than the previous year.



Alison Macrae with Cat Cubie, presenter and columnist, and Jimmy Stephen Cran.

## Alison bags enterprise award

A CREATIVE young designer has come up with a stunning gown made out of 1,000 crisp packets – but there is nothing rubbish about it. Alison Macrae won the enterprise award in the Junk Kouture competition after a successful campaign for public votes.

The Plockton high school pupil sailed into the final after achieving the most votes online.

Alison was one of 82 talented designers from across Scotland who strutted their stuff on the catwalk at Glasgow's Royal Concert Hall, showcasing their incredible couture designs made only from rubbish.

The rainbow-coloured dress amazed judges with its elegant style and bright colours. Alison said: 'I was so thrilled with how it turned out.'

Alison's teacher, Lynn McLaughlin, was delighted with the response from both the public and the judges, and hopes this will inspire future generations of students.

Crisp packets were the main focus of the dress which featured a variety of snack brands and was adorned with broken jewellery and old CDs.

Now in its second year, Junk Kouture was created to give budding designers the opportunity to hone their skills and showcase their talents on a national platform.

The winners of six categories were selected by a panel of industry experts including Jimmy Stephen Cran from Glasgow School of Art and talent judge Louis Walsh.

## TIMESLINE



Ros MacDonald was among those paying their respects. Photograph: Johnpaul Peebles, Abrightside Photography

### Poignant service marks massacre

IT WAS a poignant occasion when people came together for the 324th Glencoe Massacre ceremony on Saturday.

A church service was followed by a march from Bridge of Coe for the ceremony.

The Reverend Simon McKenzie, from Lochgilphead, officiated, with wreaths being laid by various organisations.

Ros MacDonald of the Glencoe Heritage Trust laid a wreath in memory of the late Robert Chessman of California, member of the Clan Donald Association. The event is organised by The Glencoe Heritage Trust, Clan Donald Highlands and Islands and St Mary's Church.

### Weather hampers mountain search

MOUNTAIN rescuers were hoping to resume a search for two climbers who went missing on Ben Nevis as The Oban Times went to print yesterday morning (Wednesday).

The search for Rachel Slater, 24, and Tim Newton, 27, from Bradford, was called off on Tuesday because of dangerous weather conditions and was still on hold the next morning.



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## Urgent action call as potholes reappear along church road

A CRUMBLING road that leads to a cemetery and church, and is filled with potholes has been branded an 'absolute disgrace'.

Despite work being carried out on the road to Kilmonivaig Church in Spean Bridge last year, concerned residents say it has once again fallen into a bad condition.

John Fotheringham, chairman of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council, raised the problem during last week's meeting.

He said: 'The potholes have reappeared. People come to funerals and weddings at the church and see this road.'

'They must wonder what planet we

are on because the road is in such a state.

'It needs to be addressed now. The council was hoping to buy a machine that can lift tarmac and relay it again, but it hasn't been able to buy it.'

'I have sympathy with the council, it has a massive amount of roads in poor condition.'

The Highland Council will have to make huge budget savings when it meets next week.

A council spokesperson said: 'We have asked our local community services team to carry out an inspection and this will enable us to see what further work to the road may be required and what the cost will be.'



John Fotheringham is calling for the road to be resurfaced.

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## Pupils crowned business winners

YOUNG entrepreneurs from Kinlochleven high school have been crowned Scottish national champions at this year's Coca-Cola Enterprises (CCE) Real Business Challenge.

The S3 pupils impressed a panel of judges, including former Scottish rugby union player Kenny Logan and Derek Robertson, chief executive of Keep Scotland Beautiful, with their litter awareness campaign.

The challenge for pupils during the event, at Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh, was to come up with an anti-litter campaign for their local area.

The group chose to target the West Highland Way. They designed an app, a litter mascot, a social media campaign, a launch event and a bus stop poster, all within four hours.

The Kinlochleven team will now go to the Real Business Challenge grand final in London on March 16. During the two-day final stage, the pupils will present their campaigns to MPs at the House of Commons.

From there they will go on to compete against 10 other regional champions at the challenge's grand final for the chance to win a 3D printer for their school.



The winning team: Jiero Viray, Connor MacKenzie, Ethan Hornby, David Murphy, Freyja Ward and Rhiona McLauchlan, with teachers Graeme Martin and Jillian Clark.

## TIMESLINE

### Devolved powers for committee

MORE powers have been devolved from the Highland Council to the Lochaber committee.

Ensuring productive working relationships with community councils and purchasing and disposing of common good trust assets up to 10 per cent of the value of the common good fund are among them.

Further powers are expected to be devolved, including roads and winter maintenance, environmental services such as grounds maintenance, community works, street cleansing and public toilets.

However, councillors on the Lochaber committee raised concern about the move, saying the powers don't go far enough.

### New hydro power scheme planned

A £13.6 MILLION hydro scheme is to be developed in the hills above Kinlochleven.

Perth-based firm Green Highland Renewables is to start work on the project, which lies on the Rio Tinto estate.

The company has constructed and commissioned 25 schemes in the Highlands in the last four years, investing £62m, with the majority of the work going to local construction firms and contractors.

### Raising awareness of adult harm

PEOPLE in the Western Isles are being urged to act on their instinct if they think an adult is being harmed, neglected or taken advantage of.

The Western Isles adult protection committee is supporting the Scottish Government's 'Seen Something? Say Something' campaign, aimed at raising awareness of adult harm.

The committee draws its membership from social work, housing services, NHS Western Isles, Police Scotland and the third sector.

### Film awards to be broadcast online

THE AWARDS ceremony for Scotland's national Gaelic film competition is to be streamed live on the internet for the first time this year.

The FilmG awards, which take place at the Old Fruitmarket in Glasgow tomorrow (Friday) will be broadcast via the competition's website, www.filmg.co.uk. Youngsters from the Highlands and islands have been shortlisted in the awards.

# Long-term development of Lochaber in spotlight

CAREN MCPATE  
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MAJOR plans are being developed to transform housing, town and village centres, transport and boost leisure and tourism across Lochaber.

Highland Council will soon start consulting with the public on the Main Issues Report (MIR) of the new West Highland and Islands Local Development Plan.

It sets out the priorities for things such as employment, housing, town centres and the environment for years to come.

Residents are being urged to get involved and have their say.

New housing features in the plan for all areas. In the next 20 years, 1,738 new homes are needed for Lochaber.

The most significant new sites and policies being proposed for Lochaber include:

- Replacing the A82 bypass plans in Fort William with improving the junction at Belford Hospital.

- A new economic development area at Inverloch Castle Estate

- A housing site and village park at West Laroach, south Ballachulish

- Re-introducing tourism-led development sites at



Mallaig harbour could be expanded as one of the many proposals to be considered. 21\_108plans01

Glenachulish and north of the A82 at south Ballachulish.

- A larger expansion area for Mallaig harbour.

There's also plans for a waterfront development in

Fort William with additional pontoons/moorings and recreational sailing facilities as well as a Caol link road.

Big developments have also been put forward for Skye, in-

cluding re-opening the debate on where Portree's long term expansion should be located and the potential for an airport on the island.

Fort William and Ardn-

murchan councillor Thomas MacLennan said: 'Put simply, it's really important as many people as possible in Lochaber should try and familiarise themselves with the West Highlands and Islands Development Plan.'

'This will be a powerful document that provides the foundation and basic outline of how Lochaber moves forward over the next 10 years.'

'The more people who engage, participate and contribute at this stage during this consultation period the better it will be for Lochaber in the longer term.'

Caol and Mallaig councillor Bill Clark welcomed the plans and also encouraged residents to have their say. He said: 'Expanding the harbour and new housing is very much needed to help locals, visitors and businesses.'

'If people want to know more about it they can get in touch and if they want to make their views known they need to take part in the consultation.'

A 10-week consultation on the MIR will get underway with the representations reported towards the end of the year. The council will then decide what goes in the plan before going to another consultation.

## Date set for first Commando Games

THE FIRST Commando Games are to be held in Achnacarry and Spean Bridge later this year.

Commando Spirit, which raises funds to support Commandos and their families, is to rebuild the world's first commando assault and endurance courses.

The games, taking place on September 10 and 11, will give civilians a chance to experience first-hand the arduous training of the original commandos. Participants will be supported all the way by serving and former commandos.

The Spean Bridge area has a long connection with the commandos and has a monument dedicated to the original British Commando Forces, who fought in the Second World War, and was unveiled by the Queen Mother in 1952.

Authentically replicating the original innovative training, individuals and teams will be able to take on Commando Spirit's legendary 30-mile trek, Survive The Yomp, and more.

With a preview of the assault course and endurance course on June 18, the Commando Games will take place in Achnacarry over September 10 and 11.

For more information visit <http://www.commandospirit.eventbrite.co.uk>

## More than 2,000 north Skye homes to benefit from broadband initiative

MORE than 2,000 homes and businesses in north Skye are set to receive reliable, super-fast broadband in an initiative described as 'the most important infrastructure project for the island since the bridge was built'.

Community-led organisation North Skye Broadband says that for many years broadband has been at best adequate, but for many is practically non-existent.

The project, launched last week, aims to have broadband in place on the island by spring 2017. Concerns were raised as far back as 2011 that without significant investment in reliable infrastructure, rural areas would be facing a rapidly-widening digital divide.

The Ross, Skye and Lochaber constituency was recently identified in a report as ranking among the areas to have the worst broadband service in the UK. It was placed 647th out of 650. The Western Isles was said to have the worst service.

Highlands and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant raised the issue during a debate on broadband connection in the parliament last week.

Chairman of North Skye Broadband (2015) Ltd Geoff Semler said: 'In our view, this is the most important infrastructure project for Skye since the bridge was built. Our network will not just connect north Skye to the mainland, it will connect us properly to the rest of the world -

benefiting everyone and everything, from healthcare to small business development, long into the future.'

North Skye Broadband will deliver one of the largest community-led, super-fast, broadband projects in Scotland.

The locally operated, staffed and managed service aims to deliver a minimum of 30Mbps to 100 per cent of properties across Skye that will not benefit from the current BT superfast roll out.

Over recent months a large number of committed volunteers representing Camustianavaig, Bernisdale, Glendale, Kilmuir, Duntulm, Minginish, Skeabost, Staffin, Struan and Watnish have led the project.

## Leading the way on insulin pumps

NHS Highland is leading the way in Scotland in the use of insulin pumps for young people with diabetes.

In 2012, the Scottish Government decided that 25 per cent of all young people with Type 1 diabetes should have access to insulin pump therapy.

At the time, NHS Highland didn't even have an insulin pump service. Now, though, the board has exceeded the government target and currently pump patients are ranked number one in blood sugar control in Scotland.

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## Zara put through her prize paces

Lochaber woman Zara Al-Rekabi got the new year off to a running start after winning personal training sessions at Lochaber leisure centre. High Life Highland, which runs the centre, ran a competition during the 12 days of Christmas with photos of people taking part in their events put on Facebook and the person with the most 'likes' received the prize. Zara is pictured with Stevie Martin, supervisor at the leisure centre. Photograph: Anthony MacMillan Photography.

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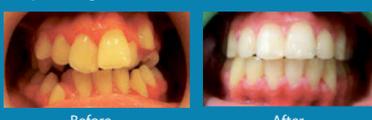
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# Council targets parking to help pay for services

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

FREE day-long parking will become a thing of the past come April if a statutory consultation to ratify Argyll and Bute Council parking plans is given the green light.

Parking at Lochavullin Road, Longsdale (Atlantis) and Ganavan beach will be charged at £1 per hour, after a two-hour period of free parking, while drivers will be charged for on-street parking seven days a week.

A fee of 25 pence for a 15-minute parking period will also be set, removing all free on-street, short-term parking for '10 minutes'.

The fee for parking in Argyll and Bute was raised by 20 per cent in last week's budget meeting.

Recommending the plans at last week's Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee, area chairman councillor Roddy McCuish said this would be the final stage of consultation in the long-running battle about parking charges in Oban town centre.

He said: 'There is another stage for people to have their say. We have had an informal consultation and people have come up with some good ideas.'

'Parking is an income stream [for the council]. We should start the statutory process as soon as possible.'

'If people object, which they are entitled to do, then we will need to deal with that and that might take time.'

'The statutory consultation is 28 days. If we get the clock started today we can deal with any objections as soon as we



can. Jim Smith, head of roads at Argyll and Bute Council explained: 'The proposals that we have worked up have cognisance of public meetings and the online process.'

'Everything so far has been informal consultation. We believe the set of proposals going forward to consultation will meet with broad acceptance.'

'Statutory consultation will last for 28 days and objections will need to be heard. The shortest possible time would be April, but it may take much longer.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson asked that a delayed starting time could be introduced.

She said: 'I would like a later start to be considered in respect of visitors staying in bed and breakfasts. These businesses find their visitors go out at 9am or 9.30am and find that they already have tickets on their cars.'

The community council, road users and members of the public will now be asked whether charges should be introduced to the Lochavullin Road, Longsdale (Atlantis) and Ganavan beach car parks.

On-street parking charges will be introduced on Sundays after 1pm. The late start to charging on a Sunday is being introduced to allow revellers the oppor-

tunity to pick up their cars the next day following a night out in the town.

Residents living in areas around the town say they are outraged the parking charge has been increased.

Ian S MacLean, councillor for Oban North and Lorn, said he has had complaints from residents living on Gallanach Road as there is congestion parking from 'CalMac workers'.

He said people will struggle to find any space along Gallanach Road or in other outlying areas of the town.

He added: 'Two ferries and cheaper prices on ferries will see more and more people parking in town for long periods of time as ships' crews double and people visit the islands.'

## Discussions ongoing over car parking charges for people visiting Iona

TALKS to resolve ongoing difficulties to introduce parking charges at the ferry-stop for Iona will take place between councillors and the public before any change is made.

The meeting came about because rejected proposals meant visitors would have only had two hours on the island before their parking ticket ran out.

An informal consultation suggested that parking charges in Fionnphort, on Mull, would offer the first two hours of parking for free.

But at a meeting last week, this suggestion was laughed at by members of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee as it can take longer to get onto the island and come back.

## Eva and Seamus steal the show



Six-year-old Eva Armstrong from Balemartine on Tiree made her debut in the ring at the Highland Cattle Society Show in Oban this week, accompanied by her father, Mark. Her sister Emily, 10, was also in the ring – both competed in the young handler section, with each of the girls showing a calf. Eva's calf is called Seamus Beusach of Balemartine. While Eva didn't manage to secure any prizes, sister Emily won the young handler competition, winning the Woodneuk Trophy. She was delighted with her win and even more delighted with the grooming box of goodies from sponsors Allflex. Turn to page 14.

## Yachtsman arrested after dramatic rescue off Tiree

A LONE yachtsman who was airlifted to safety on Tuesday lunchtime was later arrested under an international arrest warrant and was due to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court on Wednesday February 17.

The Russian national made a mayday call shortly after midnight on Tuesday when his 40ft boat got into difficulty near Skerryvore lighthouse, off the south west of Tiree.

A Police Scotland spokesman said: 'I can confirm that a 35-year-old man has been arrested and is detained in police custody in connection with an international arrest warrant.'

Two RNLI lifeboats were involved in the rescue. The Islay



boat attempted to secure a line to the yacht and a lifeboat from Barra was also sent to assist.

The rescue effort was carried out in very rough seas and severe gale force winds, according to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

## TIMESLINE

### Shock as cuts hit school librarians

CAMPAIGN group Save Scotland's School Libraries has expressed 'utter astonishment' at Argyll and Bute Council's decision to remove all 10 school librarians across the county.

A spokesman said: 'It is undoubtedly pupils who will suffer most from this outrageous decision. It is completely unfair. Pupils will now become educationally disadvantaged from their peers elsewhere in Scotland.'

### Bail hearing delay for Billy

A BAIL hearing for a Connel man imprisoned in India has been adjourned after his lawyer ran out of court time.

Billy Irving and five of his colleagues were sentenced to five years in jail in January on piracy charges. It was hoped that a bail hearing on Tuesday February 16 would have seen the men released until an appeal hearing later in the year.

But lawyers discussions overran and the men were taken back to prison until February 24 when the legal arguments will continue.

### Oban Live tickets

READER offer tickets for the Oban Live event sold out in 60 seconds when they went on sale last Saturday lunchtime.

The Oban Times teamed up with organisers to give 10 per cent discount to the first 300 readers to go online.

Organisers are delighted with the response. Full price tickets remain on sale.

### Ordination

THE EPISCOPAL ordination of Monsignor Brian McGee as the new Bishop of Argyll and the Isles will take place at St Columba's Cathedral, Oban, tonight (Thursday) at 7pm.

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## Man fined £10,000 for damage to car and home

A 22-YEAR-OLD fisherman must pay £5,000 compensation to his mother for smashing up her home and another £5,000 to a friend for wrecking his car, and if he doesn't pay up in time he will be sent to jail.

The car belonged to the owner of a local seafood business and was painted in a distinctive tartan design.

Neil MacGregor, of Room 11 Shore Street Flats, Oban, had previously admitted stealing the car on November 2 last year from the Railway Pier, Oban, driving without insurance and a licence, driving without due care and attention, failing to co-operate with a breath test or giving information about the driver of a vehicle.

He had also admitted that on July 17 last year he had destroyed or damaged property and contents at his mother's home in Benderloch.

When in court on Monday, MacGregor disagreed with the amount of money the car was worth.

'I am prepared to fine you £5,000 instead,' said Sheriff Mungo Bovey QC.

Sentencing had been deferred for reports to be prepared on MacGregor, who had admitted he had a drink problem and was undergoing counselling.

Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty said that in the case of MacGregor's mother, she had returned home from a day's work to be greeted by her son saying, 'I smashed your \*\*\*\*ing windows'.

The damage included windows, window frames, doors, plaster board; toilets and kitchen tiles pulled off, and furniture damaged. Initial damage was estimated at £8,000 and later revised to more than £4,000.

On the night MacGregor took his friend's car, police saw him on foot, wearing a distinctive yellow hoodie and covered in mud. The officers stopped to speak to him.

'He we \*\*\*\*ing go,' he replied.

'He was less than co-operative with the police,' said the fiscal.

Police found the car on Glencruitten Road, the back road between Connel and Oban, off the road and badly damaged.

'The car was written off,' said the fiscal, who added that CCTV footage at a local petrol station showed MacGregor and the car, and he had a receipt for petrol in his possession.

MacGregor's defence agent Laura McManus said that her client suffered from addiction issues with alcohol, from depression and often acted impulsively, but he was now addressing his problem.

'He doesn't accept the comments he is said to have made to his mother,' she said.

Sheriff Bovey made MacGregor the subject of a community payback order with supervision for three years, including counselling for his alcohol problems, as well as the total of £10,000 compensation.

This money must be paid at £2,500 every six months or he will face six months in jail.

For the driving offences he was disqualified for two years and his licence endorsed.

'The loss of your friend's distinctive vehicle was more than a financial disadvantage,' said the sheriff.

# Councillors' fury over manager's no show

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

COUNCILLORS described themselves as 'pretty angry' after a member of the new health and social care shared services initiative failed to turn up to talk to them.

At the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee last week, a 30-minute discussion had to be put off for the 'third time' when the officer failed to appear.

Furious area chairman Councillor Roddy McCuish said he was not going to talk about the item in the officer's absence.

He continued: 'This is one of the biggest changes that will ever be seen in local government

social work services and it is a disgrace that no-one could be bothered to come out and speak to us today.

'I will not be taking this item in their absence.

'Their absence puts us in a very difficult position because we are elected by the public to scrutinise the spending of money and yet no-one has come along today to let us know about their plans.

'Timescales for these changes are hard enough and it is not acceptable that the member of staff has not turned up.'

Councillors Elaine Robertson and Mary-Jean Devon agreed with Mr McCuish and said they were very annoyed that no-one had turned up to speak.

Mrs Robertson said: 'Every other area committee in Argyll and Bute will have had discussions on the integration of health and social care. But not this area committee.'

'It really is the time when the plans need to be moved forward, but I don't think they can until we have had a conversation.'

Mrs Devon said: 'Elaine and I will email the chief officer to tell them of our disappointment that no-one has turned out to the meeting today. Everyone has questions – so why are they not being answered.'

Councillor Iain Angus MacDonald said: 'I am pretty angry. Even if this is down to staff sickness we cannot rely on a single

person to come and speak to us about a paper like this.'

'What we have here is a case of public service indifference.'

NHS Highland spokesman said: 'We have contacted the chairman of the area committee to apologise for the fact that an adequate explanation wasn't made regarding the availability of a senior manager to attend the committee to provide a progress report on the action taken to establish the Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership.'

'If any member of the committee has any concerns or queries, we would be more than happy to discuss these with them in more detail.'



Vicky Cuncliffe in her bathroom where damp is spreading.

## Couple forced out of home by damp

A COUPLE who live in a house that has been plagued with damp problems have decided to look for alternative accommodation, writes Louise Glen.

Vicky Cuncliffe and partner Mark Reid are living in a property at Aldersyde in Taynuilt and the couple had raised the problem with *The Oban Times* three weeks ago.

This week Vicky says she has had enough: 'Personally I feel ashamed. If I was paying the

mortgage here I would do what-ever it took within my power to get this problem fixed.'

'But so far West Highland Housing Association (WHHA) has sent out someone to wipe off the damp and replace bits of the ceiling tiles.'

'We need something more fundamental to happen to take the problem away.'

'It just does not feel like home.' Mother-in-law Lynn Murdoch carried out a survey amongst her

neighbours last month to find out if they had similar dampness problems in their WHHA-rented homes – 14 of them said they had similar problems.

Mrs Murdoch says she is also now looking for a new home due to damp issues.

Lesley McInnes, chief executive of WHHA, said previously that she was aware of the problem.

She said: 'We have been considering the problems that

tenants in Aldersyde have been having.

'We are concerned about the level of damp in some of the homes.'

'We have had staff out to look at the problems in individual homes and we are working with a surveyor and other professionals to consider the best way forward.'

'We also understand the concerns about the heating costs and will be speaking to residents about the problem.'

## Nine months for man caught with heroin in pub

SHERIFF Mungo Bovey QC handed down a sentence of nine months on Monday to a man who took heroin into an Oban bar.

'Your record of offences shows a combination of weapons and dealing in drugs; a significant sentence is called for,' he said.

Sean Michael Reilly, 22, of no fixed abode, had been released from prison on licence on July 15 last year and he admitted that he had heroin with intent to supply.

Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty said Reilly had gone into the Lorne Bar, Stevenson Street, but his behaviour had alerted staff who called the police. He had a carrier bag containing a Chinese takeaway meal with him and had taken this with him into the toilets.

After 20 minutes staff went to check on him. He went back into the bar where there

was a noticeable change in his demeanour. Police found the carrier bag in the toilets and nearby a small plastic container containing a black wrap with brown powder inside. Tests showed this to be heroin.

'He was taken to Oban Police Station where it was discovered he possessed two mobile phones; one of these was ringing constantly with the name of a local drug user who is well-known to local police,' said the fiscal.

Police found seven grams of heroin. A gram is equivalent to six £10 bags of the drug.

Reilly's defence agent Laura McManus said Reilly felt he had been released on licence without support; he had also made the decision to stop taking prescribed anti-psychotic medicine.

She asked for a non-custodial sentence so that Reilly could address the root of his problems.

## Teenager fined £300 over threatening behaviour

WHEN arrested for causing a disturbance on Soroba Road, Oban, a 19-year-old man admitted to police: 'I'm a \*\*\*\*ing idiot.'

Dylan John Restrick of Room 3, Greenacre, Connel, admitted using threatening and abusive words and behaviour on August 22 last year when he appeared before the town's sheriff court on Monday.

'I think his response when charged sums things up,' said Restrick's defence agent, Edward Thornton. 'He was upfront about the fact that he had far too much to drink.'

Mr Thornton added that Restrick was now hopeful of getting full-time employment.

Sheriff Mungo Bovey QC fined Restrick £300, 'having regard to your limited record and the circumstances'.

## Snagging holding up pedestrian area sign-off

SNAGGING at Stafford Street has still not been completed in spite of councillors demanding the outdoor recreation area was finished by the end of 2015.

Planting, seating and faulty lighting are holding up the completion of the pedestrianised area in the centre of Oban.

The project was officially launched in October, but the contract has never been fully signed off by council officers.

Councillor Roddy McCuish, chairman of Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee, told fellow members: 'We need it finished, and we need it finished as quickly as possible. I am presuming we are not paying them until it is done?'

CHORD manager Andrew Collins, speaking at the area committee last Wednesday, said: 'I hoped to get this closed off as soon as possible.'

'There is a problem with the lighting as so many of the LEDs have blown. We are trying to get the electricians back into the area – but we have not got a date yet.'

'The planting was not fit for purpose, so they have been taken out and new planting should happen soon.'

'Some temporary seating has been placed on the top section of the pedestrianised area and we are currently waiting for a quote from [the same] contractors to provide more seating in this area.'

Oban Times newsdesk 01631 568000

## Shortlist of Rockfield design teams to visit centre this week

THE TRANSFORMATION of the former Rockfield school into a culture hub for Oban and the surrounding area moved a step closer this week.

Architects from across Scotland responded to a call from the Oban Communities Trust (OCT) for a design team to support the next stages of the Rockfield Centre project.

The trust received more than 70 responses, with 22 practices submitting plans for the building. These have been assessed and a shortlist of five teams were due to visit Rockfield this week.

The winning team will undertake a variety of studies to explore the options for the development of the buildings and site, resulting in a development

masterplan and a phased programme of improvements. Conservation measures for the main B-listed building will also form part of the work.

Andrew Pinkerton, project manager for the Rockfield Centre, said: 'We are delighted to have received such a high level of quality submissions and have found it challenging to prepare a shortlist for interview.'

'The fact that so many high calibre names within the architecture profession across Scotland want to be involved in developing Rockfield highlights the importance of the project and strengthens the trust's resolve to give new life to this Oban landmark.'

The aim of the project is to establish

the Rockfield Centre as a creative cultural hub which will operate as a social enterprise celebrating arts, culture, history, heritage, enterprise and community well-being.

The building was constructed in 1877 as a primary school at a cost of £3,890. The current stage of the project is being supported with funding from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and the Architectural Heritage Fund.

Ailsa Raeburn, head of community assets at HIE, said: 'It is great to see the community's vision for the centre making progress. We are delighted to be providing support for this stage of the project and look forward to seeing the plans by the appointed design team.'

## Public meeting to discuss ferries' future and tendering

A PUBLIC meeting has been organised to discuss how ferries serving the islands could be better operated.

The contract to run services to the Hebrides and Clyde expires in September and the current operator Caledonian MacBrayne is facing competition from Serco Caledonian Limited after the Scottish Government invited bidders to submit tenders last year.

Scottish ministers will evaluate the two bids before awarding the contract in May.

On hand to answer questions about the current tendering process at the Oban meeting will be Gordon Martin, regional organiser of the RMT, the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers.

However, organiser Breege Smyth

said the meeting would also look to future alternatives: 'Due to EU law, our ferries have got caught up in a tendering process and this is a costly exercise,' she explained. 'I would like to see continuity and that money spent on improving services.'

'The difficulty Scotland has, because they [the ferries] are government funded, you have to have transparency.'

'But it's a lifeline service, so does that give us an exclusion clause? What are the options?'

Michael Russell, SNP MSP for Argyll and Bute, will also be at the meeting to answer any questions.

Anyone is welcome to the meeting, which begins at 8pm on Friday February 26 in the McCaig Suite at Oban's Corran Halls.

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## Triple gold for Phoenix boxers

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club had their best return from a championship last weekend when all three boxers who entered into the north of Scotland championships returned from the venue in Aberdeen with gold medals.

Eleven-year-old Tyler Whyte produced a dominant performance against the very capable Lee James of the famed Byron boxing club, in his 2004 novice final.

Both boxers employed a sharp jab in the opening exchanges but Whyte's greater work rate gave him the first round.

James started the next round in determined fashion but Whyte was in no mood to give ground and James found the strength of the Lochaber boxer forced him onto the back foot. This was a decisive round for Whyte.

The final round was a dominant one for Whyte as his strength and work rate was beginning to wear down his young adversary.

Cleverly cutting the ring off instead of following his opponent, Whyte gave James no respite and the unanimous decision in Whyte's favour will hopefully be the first of many titles in the future for this talented lad.

Whyte's older brother, 13-year-old Cameron, has vast experience for one so young. He's a multi-titled international boxer, but his 2002 open final opposition was another international boxer in

the shape of HBA's Darryl Russell of Inverness.

These boys are perhaps the two best boxers in their division in Scotland let alone the north and this contest was highly anticipated by the crowd.

The bout started at a frenetic pace and never let up from first to last bell. The boxers stood at ring centre and tried to pick holes in each other's defences in the opener; Whyte's faster hands when throwing combinations tipping the round in his favour.

The second round saw Whyte employ changes of angle to open up gaps to exploit as the ferocious pace continued. Whyte always seemed ahead but Russell was always in the contest.

### Feints

The last round saw each enjoy success but Whyte held the edge again as he walked Russell on to shots and used feints to create openings.

Not only did Whyte win the title by unanimous decision but at the end of the night was awarded the best young boxer in the northern district award.

Kevin Aitchison, 16, clinched his first title when he defeated Peterhead's Brandon Innes in their youth intermediate title contest.

The taller Aitchison attempted to keep Innes at the end of his straight punches in the first but his work rate wasn't as great



Tyler White, his brother Cameron and Kevin Aitchison with their gold medals. Cameron also won the award as the best young boxer in the northern district.

as Innes, although both boxers landed roughly the same amount of clean shots. This was a tight round and hard to score.

The next stanza started in the same vein but halfway through the session Aitchison began to

pick things up using his legs to ensure he had enough room to fire his jab and straight right cross.

Aitchison had completely taken charge by the bell and the round was his without doubt.

The final round was a procession for Aitchison as he dominated behind what was now a lightning jab and powerful backhand. The fact that he has trained solidly all season since July without a recognisable

### Boxing

break has made a noticeable difference in his boxing and is a major factor in his win and maiden championship victory.

## Fort's cup game at Forres falls foul of a frozen pitch

### Football

A FROZEN pitch resulted in Fort William's Highland League Cup away to Forres Mechanics being postponed on Saturday for a second week running.

The match at Mosset Park was re-scheduled for yesterday (Wednesday).

However, the Fort did get some practise on the field last week, firstly with a friendly against a Badenoch and Strathspey select side on Wednesday.

It was their first match since January 3.

Goals from Scottie Davidson, Glenn Fell, Liam Taylor and a double from John Cameron, saw Fort William run out 5-2 winners.

There were some impressive performances, most notably ICT new boys Stephen Rennie and Kane Hull, and also young Sean Lieder.

Also impressing on the night was Fort 'veteran' Iain Foggo.

Manager Ally Ewen told the players: 'We actually scored seven times, but we had two perfectly good goals disallowed. We are starting to look a decent side.'

With Saturday's game postponed, the Fort took on Inverness amateur league side, Curry Hoose, in a friendly.

Goals from Taylor, Cameron and a Davidson hat-trick saw the Fort run out comfortable 5-0 winners. The side said it could and probably should have been a lot more, if it wasn't for an outstanding performance from Curry Hoose goalkeeper Steven Murray.

Fort William is hoping to be back to league action this Saturday with an away match against Formartine United at North Lodge Park, kick-off 3pm.

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## Lochaber come out on top in local derby

LOCHABER Camanachd picked up their first silverware of 2016 when they beat Fort William 6-2 in a pre-season friendly at Spean Bridge, taking the Glenhorr Cup.

The cup, which dates to the early 1900s, was originally presented to the winners of a one-day summer tournament between four Lochaber clubs.

The tournament fell away with

### Shinty

the advent of summer shinty and was brought out of storage in Spean Bridge for Saturday's match.



Lochaber Camanachd players were delighted to be presented with the Glenhorr Cup.



Youngsters at Caol primary were excited to see the Scottish Cup during a visit from Inverness Caley Thistle's youth coaches. The team is the current holder of the cup and coaches have been doing fitness work and healthy eating talks with the pupils. The P6 class is pictured with the cup.



Oban Camanachd's Daniel MacVicar falls in the Kilmallie goalmouth with Robbie MacFadyen during Saturday's pre-season match.

Photograph: John Paul Peebles, Abrightside Photography.

## Kilmallie lift BSW Cup after penalty shoot-out win over Oban Camanachd

Kilmallie	1
Oban Camanachd	1
BSW Cup	

(Kilmallie win 2-1 on penalties)

CANAL Park, Caol was the venue for this entertaining friendly as Kilmallie and Oban Camanachd continue their preparation for the 2016 shinty season.

Kilmallie, who have aspirations of playing in the Marine Harvest Premiership, proved to be a stern test for the Oban side.

The visitors had the better of the opening exchanges but a combination of missed chances and excellent goal keeping by young Shane Gillies kept the scores even while at the other end the contest between Gary Lord and Kilmallie's new signing Duncan Rodgers as well as Gary MacK-

erracher and Michael Rodgers proved interesting.

Camanachd keeper Gavin Stobart made a good save to make sure that the half time score remained 0-0 in what was proving to be a competitive encounter.

Just before half-time Camanachd youngster Connor Howe had to come off with a hand injury and was replaced with new signing Willie Neilson who on his first touch saw a 20-yard drive well saved by the Kilmallie keeper who was called into action once again this time saving well from Scott MacMillan.

The second half was more of the same with international player Daniel Cameron the driving force in midfield for the visitors although Kilmallie always looked dangerous on the break through the Rodgers combination.

### Shinty

It was Cameron who broke the deadlock in the 57th minute when his well struck shot put the Oban side into the lead.

However, five minutes later Michael Rodgers equalised with a fine strike from 25 yards. Camanachd pushed forward in the last quarter looking for the winner but Shane Gillies pulled off two good saves from Scott MacMillan and Daniel MacVicar. The final score after 90 minutes was 1-1.

The penalty shoot-out went in favour of the home side, who won 2-1, retaining the BSW Cup.

Meanwhile Kilmallie's second team recorded an impressive 4-0 win over Inverness at the Bught Park.



Kilmallie 2nds travelled to take on Inverness 2nds at the Bught Park last Saturday. Above, Hannah Johnson and Lee Dunning tussle for the ball. Photo: Donald Cameron

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### WEATHER

**Thursday** Hail showers  
Winds light west south westerly  
Temperatures 2°C to 6°C.

**Friday** Heavy rain  
Winds strong south south westerly  
Temperatures 5°C to 8°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Light rain on Saturday  
Heavy rain showers on Sunday  
Winds strong westerly  
Temperatures 3°C to 8°C.



**Stop Press:** New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

### TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday February 18, 2016** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am				pm			
Thur	02.15	3.0	08.46	1.5	15.27	3.1	20.53	1.5
Fri	03.32	3.2	10.02	1.4	16.20	3.3	21.56	1.3
Sat	04.15	3.4	10.52	1.2	16.54	3.5	22.44	1.1
Sun	04.51	3.7	11.33	1.1	17.24	3.7	23.25	0.9
Mon	05.26	3.8	12.09	1.0	17.55	3.8	**	**
Tues	00.03	0.8	06.00	4.0	12.43	0.9	18.26	3.9
Wed	00.40	0.7	06.33	4.0	13.16	1.0	18.56	4.0

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardershaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate