

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8242

Thursday 12 March, 2015

www.obantimes.co.uk

80 pence



'Dream come true'

Husband and wife team take over Argyll restaurant

'My children are asthmatic'

Oban mum blames 'damp' home for family illnesses

FULL STORY INSIDE

Back our marina plan or we'll pull the plug - OBM

LOUISE LEE
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A LAST ditch attempt to build a short-stay marina in Oban will be made this week by the community company that has led the project for the past eight years.

The board of directors of Oban Bay Marine issued an ultimatum this week to wind up the company unless Argyll and Bute council supports the project.

In the meantime, an international specialist in marine tourism pleaded with the community saying temporary pontoons were an 'opportunity' and testing the market with a step ashore facility would be the making of a development in Oban.

Oban Bay Marine (OBM) needs to convince Argyll and Bute council of the importance of a marina to the town's economy after its business plan was deemed by the council's economic development boss Fergus Murray as 'not viable'.

Marine tourism expert David Adams McGilp, of Visit Scotland, said: 'I think that the local authority taking responsibility for public spending is absolutely the correct thing to do, and the council seems to have made a



OPPORTUNITY: David Adams McGilp 16_111dag3

fairly detailed assessment of the current situation.

'What we shouldn't lose sight of is that there are aspirations for a marina in Oban Bay from the public, private and voluntary sectors.

'If we are determined to deliver a marina - then it will happen.

'While people will be disappointed, as an I, that the many hours of work people have put in to make this happen cannot be completed under the current governance arrangements - it is very important that we don't get tangled up in a pointless argument.'

Speaking about councillor Roddy McCuish's promise to have six pontoons in Oban Bay by summer, Mr Adams McGilp said: 'This is a clear opportunity for the Oban business community to test the market. Councillor McCuish's plan for temporary pontoons is simply that - temporary.

'It is also inspired thinking from the area committee because it reduces the risk on the public purse.

'Siting temporary pontoons in the bay will provide something that has never been tried before. I don't know of many projects

that are afforded this type of no-risk opportunity.

'Of course, I have no doubt that the addition of the pontoons will prove hugely successful. This way the surrounding marine businesses will be able to assess optimum use. Think of it as a live feasibility study that will be the envy of other developments.

'I am very keen to continue to work with all partners to make sure we get the best for Oban.'

Councillors have confirmed £2 million from CHORD - capital funding for improvements in Argyll's waterfront towns - has been set aside for short-stay pontoons.

Its own plans for pontoons to be in place at the North Pier by summer have run into problems because of licensing conditions and costs.

A statement to *The Oban Times* from OBM said: 'It has always been known that the project could not be viable without the support of the council and substantial CHORD funding to pay for dredging and a floating breakwater.'

A positive meeting had taken place with Oban, Lorn and the Isles councillors, OBM stated.

'The directors of OBM made it clear that after eight years of

effort, unless the situation can be clarified very quickly such that the project can move forward, they are minded to recommend to the members of the company that it be wound up.

'OBM has always contended that the transit facility would not be in competition with any existing marina and indeed would complement the nearest marina at Kerrera.'

'At the meeting on Friday, the representatives of the area committee present confirmed their full commitment to the installation of a transit facility, and expressed their disappointment that their pledge to install a temporary pontoon for cruise ship tenders this summer had run into difficulties, and is now very unlikely to take place.'

Councillor Ian S MacLean said: 'Last week we were told even temporary pontoons might not be possible.

'It is important that everyone remembers that anything is possible with some determination.

'There is no time to delay - Oban needs pontoons, and we need them now.

'Every member of the area committee is determined to get them into place this summer.'

TIMESLINE

Bridge closed for night-time work

FIVE nights of closures to the Connel bridge on the A828 begin next week, as it undergoes essential maintenance.

The work starts on Monday, March 16, between midnight and 6am and is to be completed by 6am on Saturday, March 21.

BEAR Scotland is carrying out both structural repairs as well as electrical work on the busy bridge.

Apprenticeships on offer with council

EIGHT people were chosen for the modern apprenticeships scheme with Argyll and Bute council last year, and the local authority has pledged another 25 in coming weeks.

The news comes after 600 people attended the Corran Halls for a jobs fair last Thursday, meeting with employers in the area. For a full round-up, see page 4.

Top six nomination for the Oban Times

THERE was good news for the *Oban Times* on Monday, after it was shortlisted for Weekly Newspaper of the Year at the Scottish Press Awards, to be held next month.

The nomination is the second in a month for the paper, after also being selected for the same category at the Highlands and Islands Media Awards in February.

Getting to heart of the matter

HISTORIC Scotland is to decide whether the Tinkers' Heart should become a national monument, after 2,000 people signed a petition supporting the idea.

The heart-shaped quartz cairn overlooks Loch Fyne.



Bone cancer event for pupils

PUPILS at Oban high school are being encouraged by local fire-fighters to sign up to a life-saving charity.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), in partnership with bone-marrow transplant charity Anthony Nolan, will be carrying out a recruitment event at the school.

John Sweeney, a watch manager in Oban fire station, said: 'Anthony Nolan has recently lowered the age criteria to include 16 and 17-year-olds.

'This is the first clinic that has

taken place in an Argyll and Bute school, after several very successful events in Glasgow, Lanarkshire and Ayrshire.

He said that since the start of the partnership between SFRS and Anthony Nolan, more than 5,000 people had joined the stem cell register, with 236 potential donors joining in Oban and more than 500 in Argyll and Bute.

He continued: 'Out of the 5,000 who have joined, nine people have gone on to provide potentially life-saving donations to someone suffering from blood

cancers, such as leukaemia. After the fantastic success of the last donor recruitment event in Oban, we are really looking forward to working with the staff and pupils at Oban High School.'

A short presentation on the work of the charity and an explanation of how bone marrow donors are selected, was given to fifth and sixth year pupils at the school on Tuesday.

'Due to medical advancements, it is now a painless procedure which is very similar to a blood donation,' said John Sweeney.

Call to end wait for centre

A GROUP that wants to open a community centre in one of the UK's most densely populated housing schemes, says it is in a race to find the money, a meeting in Oban heard on Monday evening.

Plans for a community centre in Soroba have been on the books for more than 25 years.

After six years of waiting to sign a deal with Argyll and Bute council for a suitable site for the new community centre, Soroba Residents Association (SRA) said it is in a race for funds.

At an emergency meeting on Monday night in the group's current building at Scalpay Terrace, former SRA member Sean MacIntyre told the meeting: 'If this whole matter was sorted out six years ago when it was meant to be, we would have the centre up and running by now.

'It was 15 years before that when we started thinking about the community centre and nothing has been done.

'What has happened now is ridiculous. People in Soroba need a community centre - and

it is very likely we will miss out because we don't have the same resources as other groups in the town.'

SRA chairman Andy Harper said: 'We were told six years ago it would be a couple of weeks until the matter was sorted out.'

Councillor Roddy McCuish told the group: 'You may have to pass some tests before the land is handed over to you.

'This would mean having a business case for the community centre and being able to prove you have enough money.'

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Road crash casualty numbers down

MARIAN MILLER
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THE number of injuries in road crashes in Argyll and Bute fell in April-December 2014 compared to the same period in 2013.

Police Scotland figures published this week for the area show that there were 18 per cent fewer casualties, while speeding offences decreased by 3.8 per cent and drivers caught using mobile phones and not using a seatbelt also fell by 33 per cent and 12 per cent respectively.

Divisional commander chief superintendent Helen Swann said: 'Road safety is a top priority for us and we will continue to focus on reducing the number of road traffic casualties.

'One person killed or injured on our roads is one too many.'

Officers in Argyll and Bute have been working with partners including Transport Scotland, BEAR, Argyll and Bute council roads department, Drive Safe and local businesses, to put together a road safety group which aims to reduce the number of collisions in the area.

Police have been talking to young people through various projects, 'Child Slow' signs have been put outside schools and work to improve roads

Helicopter arrival brings light relief

TIREE and Coll were plunged into darkness during Tuesday night's storm with gusts of 120 mph battering the west coast.

SSE Scottish Hydro engineers reached Colonsay by helicopter restoring power to 14 customers who had been cut off.

More than 180 homes and businesses on Tiree and 276 houses in the rural Oban area were without power, in some cases for up to 24 hours.

There were 47 faults caused by the gales in Scotland leading to the loss of power to 4,100 customers.

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Wheels turn in Mary's Meals' favour



WHEELY GOOD TURN: Oban Inner Wheel president Judith Small (left) presents Marie Rowan, the manager of Mary's Meals charity shop in Oban, with a cheque for £210 for its work with children. Inner Wheel members and shop volunteers were on hand to say 'thank you'.

£3 million plan to ease congestion in Dunbeg

CONSULTATION fees to kick-start a plan to bring relief to Dunbeg roads will cost more than £238,000.

But the first round of money is unlikely to make any improvements for beleaguered residents coping with speeding cars on Kirk Road for at least another year.

Councillors are to meet this September to decide upon the fate of a £3 million plan to improve Kirk Road or build a new route to take traffic out over the bay.

The plan to upgrade Kirk Road will open up access to the two new business park units, allow scope for a third and further expansion of the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS).

Access to houses yet to be built in the so-called Dunbeg corridor, between the village and Ganavan, will also be improved.

Since Kirk Road was built in

the 1960s between Dunstaffnage and Dunbeg, the SAMS has become a major employer in the area.

The growth of a new social housing scheme has also increased the pressure on Dunbeg roads.

Dunbeg community councillor, Marlene MacInnes, a mother and grandmother, said no one had ever considered the pressure on the roads.

It is understood from community safety records that there are almost 1,200 car journeys on the road every day with more in the summer season. Mrs MacInnes said that Kirk Road could no longer cope with the volume and speed of traffic.

Argyll and Bute council has agreed to upgrade or build a new road as part of its £18.9 million worth of borrowing through the Scottish government's Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) scheme.

TIMESLINE

Work on hospital behind schedule

BUILDING work due to start in Oban's Lorn and Islands hospital last week has been delayed until the end of the month.

The work, to improve fire safety standards, will now begin on March 23, and is planned to be completed by the end of June.

One ward at a time will be closed during the work with the temporary loss of patient beds.

An NHS Highland spokesman said: 'The reduction in beds is only for the duration of the building works and the hospital will return to its full bed capacity when the works are completed.'

We're staying put, says council leader

ARGYLL'S leading councillor has said there are 'no plans' for the local authority to leave the umbrella council body, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA).

Labour-leaning authorities such as Glasgow and Renfrewshire have formed the breakaway Scottish Local Government Partnership.

But the leader of Argyll and Bute council, Councillor Dick Walsh, said: 'We very much value our membership of COSLA.'

Inspection visit for wind farm ruling

GOVERNMENT officials will make one last visit to the site of a proposed wind farm before a final decision is made on April 21.

Developers RWE applied to build a wind farm on the 3500-acre Ardchnonnell estate of MSP Jamie McGrigor, but it was rejected by the council. An appeal has been made to The Scottish government through its Directorate for Planning and Environment (DPEA).

Hire depot plan leaves sour taste

NEIGHBOURS of the former Claymore creamery in Mossfield Drive, Oban have objected to a plan to turn the disused building into a vehicle hire depot.

Objection made to A83 50mph limit

KINTYRE and islands councillor Robin Currie has objected to a proposal to reduce the speed limit on the A83 between Ardrishaig and Tarbert from 60mph to 50mph.

'Rather than cut down on accidents, I strongly believe that it will lead to more accidents as traffic will be running slower and drivers will take chances whereas just now, they won't as there is a steady flow of traffic,' he said.

A 2013 A83 trunk road route study report suggested that the high accident rate and low average speed of 42.5 mph warranted the reduction.

Overnight closure

OVERNIGHT resurfacing works are scheduled to take place between Sunday March 22 and Friday April 3 on the A85 east of Lochearnhead at Ardeveich Woods.

Because it is narrow, the road will be closed between 7pm and 7am, Sunday night to Friday morning. A diversion route will be in place via the A822, A823, A9, A820 and A84 via Auchterarder, Stirling and Doune.

Lismore residents make waves over a year's backdated water charges

STEVEN RAE
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ANGRY residents on Lismore have claimed they are being unfairly billed for backdated water charges.

Herbert Walker, 80, has lived in Lorne View, Achnacroish, with wife Jean for 25 years, and had never paid water or sewerage charges.

He told *The Oban Times* this was because he, like his neighbours, were connected to a private water supply.

Then, in October of last year, Lismore residents received letters from Argyll and Bute council, acting on behalf of Scottish Water, saying that residents would be charged £128 quarterly for water and sewerage services, backdated to April 1.

A former taxi driver, Mr Walker is a tenant of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA).

He said: 'Scottish Water came out, but they haven't done a thing to my house or any of my neigh-

bours' houses.'

Both ACHA and the council told Mr Walker the charges were the concern of Scottish Water.

Katy Crossan also lives in Newfield, which is served by the same water supply as Lorne View.

She said: 'Scottish Water hasn't done any work. I didn't want to pay and wasn't going to but the council took the money automatically from the benefits I receive.'

'By paying it, which most people did out of fear, it made us look like we were admitting we were liable for these charges, which I don't think we are.'

Another Newfield resident, Beth Campbell, said she was refunded three years' money in 1996 by the council after she was charged for water and sewerage services. She was on a private supply and the charges had been made in error.

'Now, all of a sudden, we are being told we are on the public sewage supply, and are liable for charges,' she said.

'There's a sewage pipe that



FURIOUS: Herbert Walker

you can follow from Lorne View leading into the sea, where the sewage is dumped. It's always been that way.'

A Scottish Water spokesman said the failure to charge in the past had been an 'oversight'.

He said: 'Scottish Water

Now all of a sudden we are being told ... we are liable for charges

Beth Campbell
Lismore resident

currently has a pipe waste water network on Lismore, which discharges into the sea. We have done some preparatory work ahead of a planned installation of a septic tank, which will improve the system and benefit the natural environment in the area.

“

Scottish newspapers play a vital part in reinforcing our message

”

Martin Gilbert
chief executive, Aberdeen Asset Management

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Martin Gilbert, chief executive of Aberdeen Asset Management, said:

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“Scottish newspapers play a vital part in reinforcing our message about our focus on asset management and helping to drive recognition of our brand. I'm a proud and loyal supporter of the vibrant and buoyant Scottish newspaper industry.”

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MULL LINES with Louise Lee

Nordic summer school heads to Iona

STAFF from the University of the Highlands and Islands' centre for Nordic studies are partnering with the Iona Community to run a summer school in May.

Participants will stay at the island's ancient abbey and learn about the history, folklore and culture of Iona, about St Columba and the early church and about Celtic sculpture and literature.

The week-long programme also features field trips to key sites around the island, a visit to Fingal's Cave on the Isle of Staffa and evening social events including a cèilidh and a beginner's Gaelic class. Professor Donna Heddlie, director of the university's centre for Nordic studies, said: 'It is very exciting to be part of the first collaboration between Iona, Scotland's oldest seat of learning, and the University of the Highlands and Islands, Scotland's newest university.'

'The centre for Nordic studies team is looking forward to offering this unique educational and spiritual experience.'

The 'A Window on Iona' summer school will run from Saturday May 16 to Friday May 22.

Mull GP services in hub-and-spoke plan

A PROPOSAL for Bunessan and Tobermory medical practices on Mull to join together as a single practice, providing GP services for both catchment areas, is to be put before the communities.

The plan would see a hub-and-spoke GP service model entirely in line with the community health partnership's future model of care.

This has seen service hubs formed through the merger of practices yet continuing to provide GP services at the spoke GP surgery, which in this case is likely to be Bunessan.

An NHS Highland spokesman said: 'The amalgamation of the Tobermory and Ross of Mull practices is a step towards this goal of a hub-and-spoke model.'

'There is no plan to remove the GP service from the Bunessan practice; the plan is to improve provision of health care, not diminish it.'

'The community feedback report supports the idea of an out-of-hours doctor, covering all of Mull and Iona, being resident at or near the hospital in Craignure.' The medical practice in Salen would remain unaffected.

Iona pier undergoes £1.2M upgrade

A TOTAL of £1.2 million is to be spent on repairing Iona's ferry slipway.

The project by Argyll and Bute council is expected to begin this month and be completed by the end of May - but that will depend on the weather.

Glasgow-based civil engineering contractor George Leslie Ltd has been awarded the contract to carry out the work.

It is hoped access can be maintained as much as possible, ideally through a vehicle ferry but if this is not practical, then a passenger-only service will run.

Chairman of Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee, councillor Roddy McCuish, said: 'This is a real good news story for people on both Mull and Iona.'

'By ensuring the pier remains serviceable for at least the next 20 years, we're ensuring that these two communities stay linked and that Iona remains accessible to thousands of tourists each year, which obviously has real tangible economic benefits to both islands.'

'The council had identified this as a priority some time ago and, although it has taken time to get the financial package in place, we are now ready to go.'

Iona firefighters all awash at community fund-raiser

ISLAND WASH: A community car wash at the Isle of Iona fire station saw Neil Jardine roll up his sleeves to help raise cash for The Fire Fighters' charity raising £305.29 from the sale of raffle tickets, car washing and selling tea and coffee

Government and enterprise must be broad-minded

CLEARER information is needed on the coverage and range of speeds a Scottish superfast broadband network will deliver, Audit Scotland has said.

The Scottish government wants the network to offer speeds of 40-80 megabits per second to 85-90 per cent of premises in Argyll and Bute by March 2016 and 95 per cent by 2017.

But Audit Scotland said the contracts to create the network do not guarantee the speeds for all the premises.

The Scottish government and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) appointed BT, through two contracts, to develop the superfast broadband network.

Audit Scotland said BT had exceeded its contractual targets by 57,000 premises, but was about 14,000 premises short of where it expected to be at this stage against its original plans.

Caroline Gardner, auditor general for Scotland, said: 'This investment by the public sector is intended to mainly benefit rural areas, where such access is currently either low or non-existent.'

'Given the potential benefits, it's important that the Scottish government and HIE provide clear and regular updates on what coverage and speeds the broadband network will actually deliver, as the installation progresses.'

Rhododendron fest's blooming

ARGYLL and Bute will be 'blooming beautiful' this spring, as it holds its first rhododendron festival as part of a new marketing campaign by VisitScotland.

The Glorious Gardens of Argyll and Bute has been awarded £12,000 from the national tourism organisation's growth fund to help highlight the stunning range of plants in the region.

VisitScotland's director for Argyll, David Adams McGilp, said: 'Argyll and Bute really does boast some of the most beautiful gardens in the country, and I am delighted that this award from the VisitScotland growth fund will help the group to raise its profile.'

For more information, visit: www.gardens-of-argyll.co.uk/

Expert look at the referendum vote

WRITER and political pundit Gerry Hassan visited Oban's Corran Halls last week to discuss the impact of the Scottish independence referendum on the country's institutions. He focused on institutions such as the BBC, Scottish Labour and the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Oban mum blames 'damp' home for family illnesses

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A SOROBA mother has accused an Oban-based housing association of ignoring a long-running dampness problem in her home which she said had affected her children's health.

Beata Kaczmarek said her family now suffers from a permanent chest infection because of the damp conditions in her Oban house.

And while her landlord, Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA), had fitted a new kitchen and heating system, she said it had not dealt with the dampness problem.

Beata, whose two children, aged 16 and eight, have started to use inhalers since they moved into the house, said: 'I have a big problem with my home. I moved to Scalpay Terrace with my partner and two children in 2008.'

'For the past three years, every room in my home has had a serious problem with dampness and mould. When I clean it, it grows back very quickly. I have given up.'

'ACHA has tried to deal with some rooms by cutting chunks out of the ceiling and replacing the wood - but it is not working.'

'Both my children are now asthmatic and I have recently been diagnosed with asthma and my doctor has confirmed this is due to the amount of mould in the house.'



HEALTH MATTERS: Beata Kaczmarek claims the house has led to ill health in her family

Village hall refurbishment eases pain of festive fracas

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KILMELFORD village hall has undergone a £10,000 refurbishment, three months after it was 'trashed' by a group of young people who booked it under a false name.

The drink-fuelled festive rumpus created hundreds of pounds worth of damage, with the community association left counting up a repairs bill headache.

A member of Kilmelford and Kilninver community association, which runs the hall, explained: 'We have received no compensation, although it has been promised. The whole episode quite spoils our Christmas.'

'The booking was taken in good faith by the village shop, which very kindly takes bookings on our behalf.'

'A door was kicked in, a mirror broken, panes of glass smashed in the main hall door, light fittings broken, and the place was left so awash with alcohol it

took a group of village volunteers many hours to clean it.

'The hall was booked under a false name, for a false event, and there was hundreds of pounds worth of damage caused. Unfortunately, too, this is not the first time the hall has been damaged in these circumstances.'

Police Scotland did not comment on the incident, other than confirming that at present, the damage was a 'civil matter'.

Discussing the kitchen upgrade, Antoinette Mitchell, chairwoman of the association, said: 'To be able to usher in the new year on this positive note is really pleasing. We would like to thank Awards for All Scotland for making this possible.'

The Kilmelford and Kilninver Kinder Kitchen, as the project was called, was funded by a grant from Awards for All Scotland, carried out by a team of builders, headed up by Jim Smith from Connel.

Refurbishment included new sinks, a new dishwasher and more cupboard storage space.

A metal fire screen shutter, too heavy for some of the committee to operate, was also replaced.

Mrs Mitchell said: 'It was unsightly and noisy, and now in its place is an electric fire screen, wired into the alarm system.'

'This fire screen can be operated by the turn of a key, so no more pushing and shoving to get it up or down at the hatch to the main hall.'

'In the event of a fire as soon as the alarm goes off, it will shut automatically.'

The kitchen's facilities will have their first 'trial run' on March 20, when the community will be hosting its annual curry quiz night in the hall.

'With a licensed bar, six bottles of wine as the first prize and outstanding curries, this fun event, the seventh, has become part of the hall's ever-growing social calendar,' said Mrs Mitchell.

'We hope the improved kitchen facilities will attract even more people to use the hall for future events.'

ACHA's repairs service received a 97 per cent rating

Alastair MacGregor
ACHA

'I've contacted the housing office many times about the situation and I feel they are not caring about the disgusting, unhealthy environment my partner, children and I have to live in.'

'When I placed a new application for being re-housed, we only got 10 points and yet our home has significant problems.'

'I want help because we can't stay in this home any more.'

A meeting of Soroba Residents Association on Monday night heard these problems 'had gone on for years'.

Chairman Andy Harper said: 'We have talked about this so many times and nothing is ever done. It seems that people have started to accept that having these problems are 'normal' and it shouldn't be the case.'

However, Oban-based coun-

cillor Neil MacIntyre said that ACHA was in a very difficult position because of the number of private owners on the estate, which was currently estimated at 52 per cent of the housing stock in Soroba.

He said: 'If there was one solution it is likely that ACHA and the private landlords as well as homeowners would jump at sorting this out.'

Alastair MacGregor, chief executive of ACHA, said as soon as the housing association was made aware of any problems it did what it could to resolve matters as quickly as possible.

He continued: 'Our priority now and over the next three years is to complete the roof and roughcast works to the buildings.'

'In the first Scottish Social Housing Charter report on landlords, ACHA's repairs service received a 97 per cent rating for repairs completed first time and the same rating for tenant satisfaction with the repairs service.'

'Since 2007, ACHA has modernised properties by renewing the heating systems, rewiring the electrics and replacing the windows and doors.'

'By the very nature of tenements, we may get a water ingress from time to time but when reported we carry out a repair.'

'We believe that the dampness issue in this house is not as a result of water penetration but condensation. A vent is due to be fitted.'

Tourism summit planning exciting route for visitors

MAJOR players in Argyll and the Isles' rapidly expanding tourism sector are preparing to attend the region's annual tourism summit next week.

The event, organised by Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative (AITC) with support from VisitScotland, will be held at the Lochs and Glens Ardgartan Hotel, outside Arrochar.

The summit gives local tourism businesses the opportunity not just to meet and discuss shared issues of interest or concern, but also to hear from key tourism operators regarding their experiences of doing business in Argyll and the Isles, and their plans for expanding that business in the future.

Among the speakers will be a representative of VisitScotland, who will present recently published research into rapidly changing visitor behaviours, designed to help local businesses understand what today's tourists are looking for and how best to tap into the demand.

Ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne will also be represented and will look at the changing pattern of visitor expectations and how Argyll and the Isles might start tapping into a younger visitor market.

Other high profile speakers include Gordon Watson, the newly appointed chief executive officer at Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.

AITC chairman Gavin Dick said: 'We will be exploring how this wonderful region is marketed and promoted not just by individual businesses, local marketing groups and AITC, but also by the many operators who bring visitors to our doorsteps.'

'Delegates will also learn more about AITC's exciting Argyll Ambassadors initiative, the new route-planner software we're developing and the Argyll and the Isles Tourism Barometer, as well as getting an overview of the AITC development agent activity which is taking place across the region.'

Anyone interested in attending the summit who has not yet booked a place should visit: www.eventbrite.co.uk

TIMESLINE

Roadworks ahead for A83 motorists

THREE further sets of roadworks are to be carried out on the A83 by roads maintenance group BEAR Scotland in the next few weeks.

Work starts on March 15 for one week at the bends at Musdale and Glenbarr and at Whitehouse to Clachan Hill, both in Kintyre, with overnight closures from 8.30pm to 6am.

Overnight resurfacing works are scheduled to start on Sunday March 22 for one week on Barmore Road, Tarbert, with the road closed between 7pm and 5am each night.

Traffic will be diverted via the B8024, but there will be access to the village.

A new safety fence is to be installed north of Dunderave Castle, near Inveraray, on the southbound verge. This is due to start on Monday March 23 for one week and will be undertaken in the daytime, under traffic signal control.

Police talk about changes to force

POLICE Scotland is extending its public consultation on proposals to restructure local policing in Argyll and Bute, West Dunbartonshire, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire.

Representatives from Police Scotland are continuing to talk to local communities by meeting community councils, which members of the public are welcome to attend.

Consultations will run until the end of this month.

For more information, visit: www.scotland.police.uk/whats-happening/news

Driver who came off road arrested

A DRIVER has been arrested after his car left the A85 road near the Old Shore Road in Connel on Saturday around 2.40pm.

Emergency services were called to the scene after the car was seen to career off the road.

While no-one was injured in the crash, the 43-year-old male driver was arrested on suspicion of taking the car without the owner's consent, drinking and driving, have no insurance, driving with no licence and attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Pupils cooking up a real tasty treat

LISMORE pupils served up their own celebrity cook book last Friday.

With recipes from chefs Marco Pierre White, Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall and Tom Kitchin, the book has been the island's top seller.

Copies of the book are available for £6 (including post and packing) from Lismore primary school, enquiries@lismore.argyll-bute.sch.uk

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Ship groundings prove west coast 'exposed to serious risks'



TUG OF WAR: Lysblink Seaways was pulled out to sea by two tugs which took 36 hours to reach the ship

TUG BOATS are a 'necessity' on the west coast after two major events in a fortnight requiring emergency help from Emergency Towing Vessels (ETV).

But with the 'official' ETVs based in Orkney and none on the west coast, and government policy minded to phase funded tugboats out of Scotland, the request would require ministerial support from Westminster politicians.

Highland council leader, councillor Drew Hendry, renewed the call for reinstatement of the Minches ETVs following a meeting with the Secretary of State for Scotland and other council leaders, including Argyll and Bute council leader Dick Walsh.

The meeting came in the wake of recent maritime incidents including the grounding of a cargo vessel at Kilchoan off the Ardnamurchan peninsula last month and the grounding of cargo ship Fri Sea on Saturday while docking at Corpach.

Councillor Hendry said: 'We had some positive discussions about the possible use of different types of vessels and we are very willing to be involved in discussions about the future. The issue just now however, is that we are exposed to serious risks, without the presence of an ETV in the west.'

'It is vital to be able to respond to incidents quickly in order to protect lives and minimise the risk of environmental damage. I am insisting that there is an immediate reinstatement in the west.'



HIGH AND DRY: Timber cargo vessel Fri Sea aground at Corpach

Oban's Corran Halls packed out as buoyant West Highland jobs market attracts interest in a variety of careers

A fair day's work is a job well done

STEVEN RAE

srae@obantimes.co.uk

A JOBS fair held in Oban's Corran Halls has been heralded a success, with 36 different organisations engaging with more than 600 people.

Employers including Oban Distillery, Specsavers, Diageo, LIDL, Scottish Sea Farms and the British Army were amongst those with stalls at the fair last Thursday (March 5).

School pupils and people claiming Job Seeker's Allowance (JSA) and Employment Support Allowance (ESA) were the main focus of the event, hosted by the Argyll and Bute employment partnership group.

Brian Fleming, operations manager for Argyll and Bute Job Centres, said the outlook for the

region's unemployed population was good: 'We had just over 500 people at the fair last year so that's a 20 per cent increase.'

'In Argyll and Bute, the numbers of those receiving JSA and ESA are down from 1,500 last year to 1,016 at present - almost a third fewer people claiming those benefits.'

'We will be asking for feedback from the event and I know one key area we would like to concentrate on is engaging more with hotels and restaurants.'

Among those representing the hospitality industry, a huge part of the economy in Argyll, was Freedom Hotels - a group that owns eight hotels, including the Oban Caledonian.

Joyce Walker, HR manager for Freedom, said she hoped more local people would take up career



FAIR GOING: The event was well attended by school pupils, those looking for work, businesses and organisations

opportunities in the hospitality industry, allowing employers to rely less on seasonal workers.

The emergency services were represented at the fair as well, with Scottish Ambulance Service staff and Police Scotland speaking to school leavers and job seekers.

Inspector Julie McLeish, based at Oban police station, said there was a lot of interest in training to

become a police officer, and welcomed applications from people aged 18 and above.

Councillor for Oban, North and Lorn, Iain Stewart MacLean, said: 'It was good to see new, established and expanding businesses engaging with people.'

'With such a diverse range of employers, we can highlight that there are multiple opportunities in Argyll and Bute.'



INTEREST: David MacMillan and Claire Scott from Scottish Sea Farms said they had over 20 applications from job seekers and school leavers



EYE EYE: Oban Specsavers assistant manager, Iona Campbell, gives an application form to Gemma Reid, who has moved from California, and is interested in a career as an optical assistant



PROSPECTS: Arthur Fituch, 36, moved to Oban from Poland two years ago. While currently employed, he spoke to staff from Argyll Voluntary Action about future opportunities

TIMESLINE

Bridge works will lead to long delays

RESURFACING work on the A82 Tulla bridge, north of Bridge of Orchy, was postponed due to bad weather last week.

The maintenance work, which is being carried out by transport agency BEAR Scotland, will now take place overnight tomorrow (Friday, March 13) from 8pm until 6am on March 14.

Due to the narrow width of the bridge, it will be closed for lengthy periods, but vehicles will be allowed to pass through the works at approximately hourly intervals.

Traffic will queue on the A82 at either side of the roadworks before being allowed to cross the bridge.

Care costs higher in Argyll and Bute

THE cost of home care in Argyll and Bute is higher than the national average, a freedom of information request has revealed.

While the national average cost in Scotland for one hour of home care is £13.68, the comparable rate for care provided by Argyll and Bute council is £15.01, according to figures released by UK Homecare Association.

The figures also show that the council's hourly pay for care is above the minimum wage at £7.30, but below the living wage of £7.80.

'Brilliant' scheme to pull in visitors

ISLAY, Gigha, Mull, Lismore, Colonsay, Coll and Tiree are all to feature in a special VisitScotland competition which is giving 8,000 people the chance to enjoy a free return trip to one of 23 Scottish islands.

The ticket giveaway is open to UK residents until March 25 with 4,000 winners receiving one pair of foot passenger return tickets for their chosen ferry route.

Brilliant Island Moments is part of a £1.4 million UK and Ireland campaign to encourage more domestic visitors to take short breaks in Scotland.

Lifeboat answers island emergency

OBAN lifeboat was called into action last Wednesday to rush a patient from a west coast island to hospital.

The crew answered an emergency call from Stornoway Coastguard to collect a patient from Mull. Two medical people were on board as the lifeboat headed to Craignure to pick up the patient.

The patient was then brought back safely to Oban and transferred to an ambulance which took them to Oban and Islands hospital.

'Home birds' stay rooted in the west

WEST of Scotland people are Scotland's biggest 'home birds' with one third never leaving the area.

That was one of the remarkable findings of a survey carried out recently for the Bank of Scotland.

The survey revealed that a fifth of 45 to 54-year-olds and a quarter of 25 to 34-year-olds have remained in the same area in which they grew up, which placed 'Westies' at the top of Scotland's home birds.

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McKelvie Road residents are fighting back floods threatening their homes Stream turns back garden into a 'swimming pool'

LOUISE LEE
llee@obantimes.co.uk

A HILLSIDE that is 'disappearing' in a fast flowing natural stream is starting to cause problems to houses built in Oban less than five years ago.

Residents of the flats at McKelvie Road, backing onto the hillside at Glenshellach, say there was not a problem until more houses were built further up the hillside.

Tenants have now taken matters into their own hands, after gardens were flooded, by redirecting water with sandbags by themselves.

Tracy Black, who lives in an upper flat, said: 'We have complained about the situation because the soakaway is unable to cope with the extra demand on it.'

'West Highland Housing Association has taken the matter seriously but is not giving us any advice.'

She said the housing association had tried to alleviate the problem by digging a trench to divert the water but it had not controlled the flooding.

'It is as bad as it was before, if not worse. It's a waste of tax payers' money, time and a total waste of effort - six men in suits with lazer technology, a dumper truck, a JCB and a hired work



WATER EVERYWHERE: residents have placed sandbags to protect their gardens and homes at McKelvie Road 16_t11glencruitten2

force sweating it out for the past few weeks and nothing at all has changed.

'The problem began when the new houses were erected in what was aptly named McKelvie heights.

'Not only has our back garden been transformed into our very own swimming pool, there are also more serious problems looming, my main concern being subsidence of our home.'

'We have been offered no advice or help in keeping the water from our own doorsteps.

Graeme Bruce at West Highland Housing Association said: 'Tenants should be reassured that we are doing everything we can to ensure we get to the route of the problem and we apologise for any inconvenience caused.'

'These houses were built in 2010 and until last year we had very few problems.'

'Since October we have asked contractors to deal with the situation.'

'They have managed to make some inroads into the problem - but we know it has not been resolved as yet. But we are confident it will be.'

'We want to find out what has changed for the situation to have suddenly started to flood the area.'

'There is no risk to anyone's home. We will get a resolution.'



Volunteers open doors to museum's new season

OBAN War and Peace museum is gearing up for its 21st year on the tourism front line. New recruits are being sought for a range of watch duties - call in to the Oban Times building on the Esplanade to ask for details. Director Alison Palmer said: 'We tell Oban's story of the war and offer a great experience for tourists and locals.' From left, Bill Coates, Alison Palmer and Nan Black.

16_t11warandpeace1

TIMESLINE

House search ends with man's arrest

A MAN has been arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of illegal drugs in the Oban area.

The arrest follows a police search of a property in the Dunollie area of the town at 8pm on March 5.

A 29-year-old man was arrested as a result of the search under warrant and also charged with possession of controlled drugs.

Smashed window appeal on Mull

POLICE on Mull are appealing for information after a window was smashed in a house on Main Street, Tobermory.

The incident happened sometime between 3pm on February 28 and 7.15pm March 2.

Anyone who may have seen anything suspicious or who has any information should contact PC Sharon Carr at Salen police office on 101.

Drugs suspected in vehicle search

A 34-YEAR-old man has been arrested under suspicion of being in charge of a motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs.

The man was stopped by police on the A816 road at Kilmore, south of Oban at 11.15am on Sunday March 8. He was also arrested under suspicion of having class A drugs.

Cyclists sought after car hits lamppost

TWO cyclists are being sought following an accident on Oban's Dunollie Road roundabout.

A car hit a lamppost on the green beside the roundabout on Saturday March 7 around 4.50pm.

As a result Oban police are keen to trace two cyclists who were in the area at the time.

They are both described as male, between 30-50 years old and riding mountain bike-style cycles.

The first man was wearing a red jacket or top; dark, knee-length shorts; a dark, woollen-type hat and possibly a dark rucksack.

The second cyclist was wearing an orange jacket, dark-coloured helmet and dark knee-length shorts.

One of the bicycles is believed to have had two side-saddlebags attached.

The bikes are understood to have gone down Dunollie Road, George Street and to Argyll Square but their direction after that is not known.

Anyone with any information on the cyclists is asked to contact PC Andrew Hogg at Oban police office by phoning 101.

Call to change dental unit to dialysis suite

THE SISTER of a dialysis patient has hit out at 'wasted' resources within NHS Highland.

Reacting to last week's news that tenants for the dental unit at Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban had still not been found, reader Florence Anderson said the sensible thing would be to turn it into a kidney dialysis unit.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'The dental unit in Oban hospital has been lying empty for two years and is obviously obsolete. Now is the time to change it to a dialysis unit which the renal patients and people in Lorn area have been asking for over the past three years.'

She pointed out that three patients each travelled more than 300 miles a week for dialysis.

A spokesman for NHS Highland said: 'We are continuing to investigate a number of options in order to provide a full complement of dental services from the Oban dental access centre and we will keep the public informed of any developments as soon as they happen.' See letters P10.

Theft of fibreglass fish tank on Mull

A DISTINCTIVE, large fibreglass tank has been stolen from the Bunesan area on the Isle of Mull.

The tank is of the type to be used in the fishing industry to store seafood. It disappeared sometime between October 2014 and February 2015.

PC Clare Chalmers, community policing Mull, said: 'This is an unusual occurrence for the island and I urge residents and visitors alike to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to police.'

'We ask if anyone has information about the above incident to contact Police Scotland on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 if they wish to remain anonymous.'

Alternative Pc Chalmers can be emailed at clare.chalmers@scotland.pnn.police.uk

Oban airwaves fall silent for five days

OBAN FM listeners were left with the sound of silence after the station was off air for five days because of a transmission fault.

The popular community station based in the town was unable to broadcast from last Thursday (March 5) until Tuesday afternoon.

A staff member at the studio confirmed that internal diagnostic work had indicated the fault was caused by problems with BT equipment

Normal service was resumed by around 3pm on Tuesday.

Tune in to Oban FM on Friday morning from 8.30am - 9am, when a reporter from *The Oban Times* will be discussing all the major news that made the headlines in the newspaper.

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Tiree

THE PRIMARY department at Tiree last week took part in World Book Day.

Once again, the school invited children to celebrate the joy of bedtime stories by coming to school dressed in onesies or pyjamas, and everyone took part in a variety of activities throughout the day.

The school focused on different aspects of books for each part of the day including illustration, reading, comic book characters and poetry.

In recent months the school received a number of donations of books and decided that World Book Day offered the perfect opportunity to put on a sale of donated books, all at the bargain price of 10 pence.

A fantastic sum of £64.17 was raised and will go towards the primary six and seven school trip fund.

THE FIRST weekly visit to Tiree primary school for pre-five pupils who start next term has been held.

Teachers Judith MacIntosh and Ailidh Campbell were delighted to welcome the children who will be moving up to primary one in August. These transition visits will take place every week between now and the end of June.

The school will gradually increase the amount of time spent in the primary department the closer it gets to the summer holidays.

The regular visits help to ensure that children are familiar with their new surroundings and get to know their teacher and classmates so that they can look forward to their first day with a feeling of security and excitement.

TWO Tiree high school pupils are celebrating after taking top honours in a regional art competition.

Finn MacDonald was first and Calen MacNeil came second in the Argyll and Bute Schools Painting competition, the second time pupils of Tiree high school have scooped the top two places.

Council chief executive Sally Loudoun will visit Tiree in June to present the pupils with their prizes.

FOUR hardy Tiree pupils took part in the school's annual winter mountain challenge trip, battling 80mph winds, deep snow and freezing conditions in Glencoe.

The fifth year pupils - Bobbie Smith, Erin Beese, Connor MacPhail, and Keir MacDonald - climbed on some very challenging terrain, including a grade two section of rock and ice, which required patience and a lot of trust in the rest of the team.

The pupils were well looked after by the guides, and by Kat MacIver, who cooked meals for and organised the days on the mountains.



CHALLENGE: the Tiree pupils battle through tough terrain on the mountain

THERE was a 007 theme at Tiree high school recently, when lower secondary students hosted a James Bond evening to raise money for a foodbank.

It was a fun-filled evening with a four-part quiz and card and 'shoot the villain' games to raise funds for the Trussell Trust, which runs food banks throughout the country.

There was a range of costumes worn, from a pack of cards to James Bond himself. Derek Campbell looked particularly dashing in his tuxedo, but the winner of the best-dressed prize went to Allison Doncaster, who made a convincing Bond girl.

The quiz was a close-run contest with the Fresh Friday team coming third, the 006s second and the MacCallum team winning by two points. The school thanks everyone who supported the event and donated raffle prizes, and extend special thanks to Duncan Urquhart for agreeing to be the master of ceremonies for the night and the students who put together this event.



LICENCE TO THRILL: children from Tiree enjoying the James Bond-themed fundraising event.

Marvellous at making marmalade



LAPHROAIG: Emma Goudie with her award-winning marmalade on Islay

Islay

AN ISLAY bed and breakfast establishment has been given the seal of approval by a very special bear.

Paddington the Bear, made famous by the books of the same name and a block-buster film released this year, has given a big paw up to The Old Excise House's special marmalade. The Laphroaig B&B can boast the bear as a fan after winning a gold award at the prestigious 10th world's Original Marmalade Awards for its Seville Orange and Laphroaig whisky marmalade.

The marvellous marmalade made in the kitchens of The Old Excise House by owner Emma Goudie, scored high marks for its appearance, colour, consistency, aroma and flavour.

Emma said: 'I am delighted to have received a gold award in the hotel/B&B category - especially as this is Scotland's year of food and drink and the award-winning marmalade includes Laphroaig whisky, which is celebrating its 200th anniversary this year, just across the road.'

'The marmalade is on the breakfast table at The Old Excise House already,' she added.

The awards took place at Dalemairn in Cumbria on February 28 and March 1 and kicked off National Marmalade week.

The marmalade awards and festival are backed by some of the most famous names in marmalade - Paddington, Mackays, Fortnum & Mason and Mrs Bridges.



Taynuilt

SCOTTISH Women's Rural Institute (SWRI) president Jessie Servant welcomed 19 members and two visitors to the meeting held in Taynuilt Village Hall on Wednesday February 11.

Donald Harrison was the speaker for the evening imparting his knowledge on keeping and caring for bees.

He brought along one of his empty bee hives to display the differing functions of each section in the hive during each season, and explained the roles of the queen bee and worker bees.

The evening seemed to be thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. A vote of thanks was given by Mary Morse for a wonderful evening. Competitions: Beetroot Chutney: 1 Alice Campbell; 2 Ann Sutherland. Child's Knitted Jumper for 22" - 26" chest: 1 Jessie MacFarlane; 2 Jane Gillies.

The hostesses for the evening were Jessie Servant and Marlene Stanners.



Banavie

PUPILS of Banavie primary school and nursery celebrated world book day by dressing up and making puppets as well as both reading and writing stories last week.

Kyle MacDonald dressed up as a troll from his favourite book, which he helped 'Pirate Maggie', Miss Adam read to his nursery friends

20_f11banavie01

Banavie's primary three and four pupils wrote and illustrated their own stories, to be put in a class story box

20_f11banavie02

Barcaldine

Model school pupils

BARCALDINE primary school pupils have been busy setting up their enterprise project making and selling clay pet models and key rings.

Recently the members of Cutie Pets Enterprise visited Argyll Pottery, Barcaldine where Hugh MacFavish kindly helped in the development of clay modelling techniques.

The aim is to make enough profit to become members of the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals' Pet Protectors Club.

As well as helping pets that need vets, they themselves will benefit greatly. Through the project they will develop skills such as information processing, enquiring, creative thinking and decision making.

They will also learn about how to keep different pets by reading the magazine.



CREATIVE: a young potter at work.

Luss

WITH thousands of visitors set to sweep into a Loch Lomond village this Easter, local residents are rolling their sleeves up for a community clean-up day.

Locals in Luss, which is widely regarded as one of Scotland's most beautiful villages, will get together on Saturday March 7 for the beauty spot's fourth annual Community Clean-Up day.

Last year, more than 40 volunteers helped to sweep roads and pavements, clear overgrown areas and generally spruce up the pretty village filling a jumbo skip with litter and organic waste collected in one day.

The initiative is being organised and co-ordinated by Luss and Arden Community Development Trust.

Arisaig

RAINFALL in Arisaig this year has been the highest this century, according to amateur meteorologist Ranald Coyne.

Although the four inches in February is average for this time of year, a very wet January has brought the total rainfall for the year so far to just over 14 inches.

The daily temperature in February ranged from 1.8°C to 8.2°C, both normal.

The hottest day of the month was 15°C, another century high, whilst the coldest night was a standard -3°C.



Elaine Jackson receives the first Iain Cameron Partnership Award from Louise Cameron for helping pupils complete work for the Duke of Edinburgh award

Volunteers honoured

Arisaig

TWO KIND-HEARTED volunteers were presented with a new award for supporting pupils of Ardnamurchan high school.

Elaine Jackson and Ali Connelly were the first winners of the Iain Cameron Partnership Award for their help during Duke of Edinburgh expedition work.

The pair were presented the award by head teacher Chris Millar-Craig at the school's annual partnership event on February 26.

The prize was created to recognise the work put in by parents and members of the community to help pupils with the curriculum and other achievements and each year pupils will choose an individual or organisation who they feel has impacted them the most.

Louise Cameron, chairwoman of the parent council, congratulated the first recipients and said it was 'well-deserved'.

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MORVERN lines

Failing memory

SOMEONE was complaining to me the other day about not being in their usual good health.

Dementia was discussed and when I mentioned that there were times when my memory seemed to be failing sometimes I was told not to worry.

'There are three good things about getting dementia if it is going to happen,' my friend said cheerfully. 'One, you meet new friends every day, two, you never see repeats on television and three, you meet new friends every day.'

On a similar vein, a group of 40-year-old women had a reunion and agreed to meet at the Ocean View Restaurant because the male waiters were nice and attentive.

Ten years later the 50-year-olds again held their reunion, agreeing to meet at the Ocean View Restaurant because the food was good. Ten years later the 60-year-olds again held their reunion, agreeing to meet at the Ocean View Restaurant because they could eat there in peace and quiet and the restaurant had a lovely view of the ocean.

Ten years later the 70-year-olds again held their reunion, agreeing to meet at the Ocean View Restaurant because it was wheelchair accessible.

Ten years later the 80-year-olds again held their reunion, agreeing to meet at the Ocean View Restaurant because they wanted to see what it was like, as none of them had been there before.

Ancient woodland jobs

IN THE past our woods were used for a greater variety of reasons and provided many more jobs than they do today.

At Salen, Loch Sunart, there was a mill making pirns - a weaver's bobbin. It was in operation in 1848 and using 1,400 tons of wood annually. The price paid to the proprietor of the woods was 7/6d per ton at the mill door. The pirns were machine cut, employing what was described at the time as 'a few men and 26 boys from Glasgow, who are fed and clothed in return for their labour'.

The pirn mill was built by John Clerk, Mile End, of the same family as the well-known thread manufacturer Clark of Paisley. The mill stood on the site of the former post office close to a row of workers' dwelling houses where the police station was.

Most of the Glasgow boys who worked in the mill were physically handicapped.

They were taught at the local school, when not working in the mill, and were fed and supervised by a responsible person.

This scheme was evidently run on similar lines to Dr Guthrie's famous Edinburgh Ragged School.

Clark also took contracts from some of the neighbouring landowners for felling wood. When the mill was destroyed by fire, Clerk shifted his operations to Lanarkshire taking some of the locals with him. He also had a mill at Drumsallie, Kinlochell.

Birch and oak were exported in quantity from Sailean nan Cuileag, a bay on Loch Sunart a little way to the north of Salen.

Many local people were employed in sending huge cargoes of birch by puffers to the Clydeside steel foundries to be used as brooms.

The average wage for adult men was four and a halfpence a dozen bundles and the brooms had to be of a specific girth. This trade was abandoned around 1903.

St Kilda

NOT long ago I was taken to task for suggesting St Kilda should be resettled.

My protagonist seemed to be saying that even if the indigenous crofters, fishermen and local entrepreneurs of Lewis and Harris were afforded the same financial support as the islanders on Eigg, Muck and Rum have received from government bodies over the past two decades, they wouldn't be capable of surviving and making a living on St Kilda.

I accept the difference in remoteness and the harsher environment.

It goes without saying that no one would want to live in the conditions that prevailed on St Kilda during the 1900s. They wouldn't need to. Even in the most sensitive of surroundings, old buildings can be adapted and with modern communication and fast transport facilities so many of the old difficulties would not exist.

It should be remembered St Kilda was, for all intents and purposes, 'abandoned' long before the 1930 evacuation.

By the late 1920s it had become just a pawn in a political point scoring exercise.

Although the islanders themselves signed a petition requesting they be evacuated, the pen was undoubtedly guided by the state through the interfering Nurse Barclay, the church and other intermediaries. It is time surely for the government to give back what it took 85 years ago.

In every age every nation needs an object to demonstrate their greatness. Holyrood needs to work through its agencies to restore a working community on St Kilda.

Iain Thornber
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

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HM Government

OT

Rescue team in radio cash appeal

LOCHABER Mountain Rescue Team (LMRT) is appealing for donations to help fund much-needed new equipment.

The team needs to replace at least 50 radios, which could cost up to £25,000 but an application to the Scottish Mountain Rescue service was rejected last weekend.

Now members of the lifeline volunteer service must seek funding from other sources and have appealed for help.

A spokesman for LMRT said: 'We will need to replace at least 50 radios for all our team members and this could cost us at least £20,000 to £25,000. We had asked for funds being held by Scottish Mountain Rescue for radios to be released but this was turned down so we are having to go it on our own.'

'The radios are a vital link between hill parties, the team base and other agencies. The radios need replacing so we can ensure the safety of team members when on the hill.'

Donations can be made via <http://www.lochabermr.co.uk/support-us/>

Views sought on council buses

RESIDENTS of Uist and Barra are being asked for their views on council-funded buses.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is to host a number of meetings on the islands from March 16 to March 23 to allow people to highlight important issues.

A questionnaire will also be sent to all households.

Councillor John Mackay, chairman of the transport and infrastructure committee, said: 'I am pleased the process of community engagement has started. The comhairle invests a significant amount of resources in public bus transport services and it is extremely important they meet the needs of the communities involved.'

'I would urge everyone in Uist and Barra to take an active role in this process.'

A full list of meetings is available from the comhairle.

Sheep worth thousands drowned as river floods



RESCUE ATTEMPT: shepherd Brian Strachan couldn't save the animals

EMMA CRICHTON
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FIFTEEN sheep were killed when a field in Lochaber flooded at the weekend.

The animals were drowned when the River Spean burst its banks on Saturday afternoon.

Brian Strachan, head shepherd of Galmore Sheep Stock Club, Roy Bridge, said he had to watch as his flock was washed away in the tragic accident, just minutes before a fire engine arrived with a rescue boat.

He said: 'It was terrible. There must have been about three feet of water in the field. I phoned the fire brigade but they didn't bring a boat so we were waiting on another one coming from another station.'

'The sheep were okay at first but just before the second vehicle arrived one bolted and the rest followed. The water came pouring in behind them and they were all carried away and drowned.'

'If anyone had been in the field they would have drowned, the sheep didn't have a chance.'

'A couple of them were found hanging eight feet up a tree. I had moved them up the field but all the bad weather broke down the fencing.'

To add to the tragedy, Mr Strachan said some of the ewes



NO ESCAPE: a Roy Bridge field flooded, killing 15 sheep at the weekend

Bad weather broke the fencing

Brian Strachan

were pregnant and due to lamb in April. It is thought all of the animals lost, combined with the unborn lambs, could be worth thousands of pounds.

Another dozen sheep almost fell victim to the floods the

following day but Mr Strachan managed to rescue them. He said: 'I got up on the Sunday and the flood was even worse, even though there wasn't much rain during the night. Another dozen sheep almost got down but thankfully I managed to save them in time.'

It is thought the flood was worse as nearby dams had their gates open but the stock club was not aware of this, so couldn't take the precaution of moving the sheep.

Mr Strachan said arrangements were now in place for him to receive prior warning when dams were opened to stop future accidents like this.

Glen Gloy repairs fail to impress A82 motorists

MAJOR improvements to Lochaber trunk road the A82 began on Tuesday, but locals are still not impressed.

Transport minister Derek Mackay officially opened the works at Glen Gloy on the Glasgow to Inverness road this week.

But the £1 million project began on the same day as officials from Transport Scotland and

BEAR were due to meet with Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry community council about a number of long-running issues on the A82.

As *The Oban Times* went to press, John Fotheringham, chairman of the group, was preparing to host the meeting and said it was a 'well-timed effort' by Transport Scotland.

He said: 'I'm glad the work is

happening but it's one positive in a long list of negatives. I think this is a well-timed effort to make themselves look good ahead of the meeting tonight but a lot of people are still really angry.'

'Despite the work they started today they'll still have to take a lot of criticism for all of the recent problems on the A82.'

'I've also invited along people from Invergarry because I think

they've been having problems with the A87.'

Transport minister Derek Mackay said the Scottish government was 'fully committed' to improving the A82.

He added: 'A great deal of preparation has been done in advance of today and Transport Scotland and its contractors have been working hard to find a way of carrying out this improvement

project without having to completely close the road. They have achieved that goal and the area will remain open for business during construction, with the A82 back to full running ahead of the summer tourism season.'

The work will involve the realignment of 300 metres of road as well as the removal of two difficult bends.



TORRENT: the barage at the Brander Pass at Loch Awe at the weekend

Widespread floods hit west coast main routes

FLOOD waters on the carriageway over the weekend saw drivers plough through heavy flooding around Loch Awe, a 46-mile diversion at Lochearnhead and a 70cm deep flood on the Kilniver road.

With melting snow and more than eight centimetres of rainfall in 12 hours, in some places, on the west coast last Saturday there was a notable amount of water lying on the main routes.

At Loch Awe and through the Brander pass on the A85 a flood slowed traffic to a standstill beyond Cruachan Power Station. Passers-by at Dalnally saw the golf course flooded, but by Tuesday the water had started to recede.

Reports of severe water on the A83 near the Rest and Be Thankful and the turn off to Dunoon were discussed on national radio last Sunday morning.

At Kilniver a dip in the road saw more than 70cms of water lie on the roadway for more than 48 hours until drier weather on Tuesday.

The safety boat belonging to LochWatch Loch Awe was unable to be in its boathouse due to the rising levels of the loch, by more than one to two metres, by some accounts.

A spokesman for Scottish Hydro SSE said: 'Rising water levels in Loch Awe are nothing to be concerned about although flooding extended over the road, almost over the railway line at points and onto the golf course.'

'Although some very wet recent weather has meant that water levels in Loch Awe had risen, they have now abated. This is not unusual and is what we would expect to see over the winter months.'

Traffic on the A84 between Lochearnhead and Kilmahog had to be rerouted via Crieff after a flooding and debris was almost one metre deep at parts.

Launching a flood-risk consultation, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) said it needed the support of the community to record problems areas throughout Scotland.

Dr David Pirie, SEPA's executive director, said: 'This consultation is an important opportunity for people across the West Highlands to have their say on how flood risk is managed in the future.'

'The main flooding issues and flood impacts across Scotland are set out in the consultation with a vision for how flooding

should be managed. We have been working closely with local authorities to identify the most suitable actions to manage flood risk, and this is targeted towards areas where it will be most effective based on improved knowledge of the sources and impacts of flooding.'

'We would encourage people who are interested in tackling flooding and reducing its impacts on communities across Scotland to get involved and make sure your views are heard by taking part in this consultation.'

The minister for environment, climate change and land reform, Dr Aileen McLeod, said: 'This consultation is another important milestone in the implementation of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.'

'Communities living under the threat of flooding know only too well the devastating effects it can have and that is why flooding remains a priority for this Government.'

'I would urge everyone affected by flooding to take part in this important consultation, which will help to shape how we cope with, and manage, flooding in Scotland in the future.'

TIMESLINE

New climbing centre to open in Fort William

A NEW climbing centre is set to open in Fort William after a campaign to raise £40,000 went over target.

The indoor facility, by Three Wise Monkeys, was dependent on crowd funding to open in the old MacIntosh Memorial Church but smashed the £40,000 mark on Monday night, thanks to donations from more than 600 backers.

This came just two days before yesterday's deadline (Wednesday), after managing director Oliver Millington offered various prizes in exchange for donations.

The centre will see the old grade C listed church converted to include climbing walls, a café and sports massage service and could be open as early as September.

Mr Millington said: 'I'm really pleased, it's great knowing so many people are behind us and the project.'

'In the next couple of weeks we'll start clearing the building ready for the contractors to start work.'

Music festival set to hit the high notes in Lochaber

LOCHABER music festival kicks off tomorrow (Friday), with almost a week of performing arts.

Venues all over the region will host the annual event, with sessions in piping, song, drama, country dancing, woodwind and brass.

The festival will end with a grand finale concert in Caol primary school, featuring performers from each genre.

For tickets or more information contact Lillian MacDonald on 01687 450289.

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SEE US AT THE SHOW THIS WEEKEND

MARINA'S BRIDAL

Wedding Show in Oban this weekend

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A WEDDING fayre gives a great opportunity to be inspired by all the creative ideas on display, to get a flavour of what's on offer from different wedding services and to meet local, Argyll and even Oban wedding suppliers face to face.

People who organise other events also attend the show to get advice from tour operators, events organisers, dress designers, food suppliers, hair and make up and other great ideas for the big celebrations.

Attending a wedding fayre saves loads of time as there are so many wedding suppliers under one roof and it's a quick way to find out what is available in the wedding marketplace. Many wedding suppliers offer a promotional discount for bookings made on the day. Plan carefully who else to take along to the fayre as it can be great fun with either mum, bridesmaid, best friend or in some cases even the groom.

There is so much on show at the fayre prepare for a long day and wear comfortable shoes as most of the day walking around different stands.

To make bookings on the day to take advantage of suppliers' special offers, then remember to take some form of payment with you.

Collect flyers and business cards from all the wedding suppliers as you may decide later on you liked the look of a particular package but no longer have the contact details.

Oban Wedding Show

Corran Halls
15th March 2015
12pm to 4pm
Free Admission

Bridal Show, Cars, Jewellers, Photographers, Beauty and Much More

Skye road speed cut plan scrapped

PLANS to reduce the speed limit on the road connecting Skye to the mainland have been scrapped.

Transport Scotland had considered dropping the limit from 60 miles per hour to 50mph on stretches of the A87 Invergarry to Uig, in areas including Invergarry to Viewpoint and from Cluanie Inn to Kintail Lodge Hotel.

But this week it was announced these areas will remain at 60mph, following feedback from the public.

Scottish government transport minister Derek Mackay said: 'The safety of our roads is of paramount importance and any proposed speed limit reductions are part of a wider programme of measures.'

'Some recent submissions on specific speed limit review recommendations highlighted that the public had strong feelings about the limits being reduced in certain areas.'

'We have taken the opportunity to look again at some of the conclusions and recommendations and as a result of that update, some of the recommended speed limit reductions will no longer be taken forward.'

The decision was welcomed by Dave Thompson, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, who said: 'Some concern had been raised by a number of constituents over any proposed speed limit reductions on sections of the A87.'

'I am delighted to report that the transport minister has listened to the evidence on road safety and concluded that the speed reduction measures will not be required'

Drivers to pay for Sunday parking

DRIVERS will have to pay to park in Fort William on Sundays from next month.

The charges, implemented in line with Highland council's budget savings, will come into force on April 1.

From this date, people parking in Viewforth, Middle Street and Parade Gardens short-stay car parks will be charged 20 pence for the first half hour, through to the maximum stay of four hours, which will cost £2.50.

Long stay car parks (West End, An Aird, the transport centre and Fort William) will be charged a flat rate of £2.50 for up to 24 hours parking.

Consultation in West End Hotel

IN LAST week's *Oban Times* (March 5), a report headed 'Public to get say on plans for old school' stated the consultation would be held in the West Highland Hotel.

This was incorrect, it should have read West End Hotel.

We apologise for any confusion.

LOCHABER GROUP 'COMPLETELY SHOCKED' AT NEWS COUNCIL HAS DELAYED MEETING ON CENTRE FUNDING

Dismay as councillors stall on indoor sports hall talks

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

LOCHABER'S new indoor sports hall could be in jeopardy as Highland councillors have delayed funding talks until the summer.

The proposed £1.47 million multi-use centre is dependent on money pledged in principle from both the local authority and SportScotland but members of Lochaber Sports Association (LSA) said they were 'completely shocked' the issue would not be discussed at the full Highland council meeting scheduled for today (Thursday).

Jane Blanchard, chairwoman of LSA, said she had been

told councillors would discuss the issue at the meeting and hopefully make a decision on whether the £600,000 pledged in principle, plus VAT costs, would be secured.

But now she has been told it will not be decided until 'sometime in the summer', which could see the group lose the £500,000 from SportScotland.

Ms Blanchard said: 'This is so frustrating and worrying. The deadline for SportScotland is the end of March and we've all worked so hard to have everything ready and have now been let down.'

'We believe the deadline could be extended if we can show positive progress is being made;

this is not positive progress. This delay puts the whole thing in jeopardy and funding is interdependent so without one we lose the other.'

When *The Oban Times* went to press LSA was working with local councillors in an attempt to add the issue to today's council agenda.

In a letter to councillors, including Highland council leader Drew Hendry, Ms Blanchard said: 'This project is 'shovel ready' and one in which the people of Lochaber have invested heavily over the last five years, both financially and with their professional expertise.'

'All of our elected members in Lochaber are in support of it.

'I am now appealing to you to publicly commit to this vital project and ensure that it is included on the agenda of Thursday's council meeting with a recommendation of support.'

Dave Thompson, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, also raised concerns about the future of the facility.

He said: 'I have been a long-time supporter of the project to bring an indoor training facility to Lochaber, which the community desperately need and has been a long time in the planning.'

'I cannot stress the importance of the project being timeously discussed by the council as to not do so would have a detrimental

effect on other funding Lochaber Sports Association has set up.'

A Highland Council spokesman said: 'The in principle commitment from the council had never been ratified by any committee.'

'We were anticipating getting a £400,000 developer contribution from Tesco, reducing the council's contribution to £200,000.'

'Now Tesco has fallen through and we are looking at a contribution of up to £850,000 [including VAT]. This sum is too high to be met from our capital discretionary fund so it has to be considered as an addition to the capital plan which is why there is a delay.'

Event honours inspirational Lochaber women

THE FIRST woman to run the Ben Nevis race, community fundraisers and volunteers were all honoured at a Fort William event showcasing inspirational women.

But it is not necessary to look all over the world to find these role models, as the people highlighted at the exhibition last Thursday all live and work in Lochaber.

Organised by Lochaber Women's Aid, the event in Duncansburgh MacIntosh church hall, recognised the achievements of local women and showed a timeline of female rights to mark International Women's Day.

Well-known faces including Kathleen Connochie, who defied organisers of the Ben Nevis race in 1955 after being told women were not allowed. The athlete, then just 16 years old, completed

the feat anyway, in three hours and two minutes and is now an honorary president of the Ben Nevis Race Association.

Tina MacLugash was also featured for fundraising for fitness equipment for disabled people in Lochaber, along with Isabel MacPhee, who recently featured in *The Oban Times* for donating a year's supply of nappies to Fort William triplets.

Much-loved Isabel Campbell's achievements were displayed, outlining her efforts to open the Lochaber Education Centre.

Lorraine Revitt, service manager of Lochaber Women's Aid, said: 'We are amazed by the feedback. I think what made the exhibition so interesting is the fact visitors were able to read about local women who they may recognise in the high street, or who they may have gone to school



with and who are inspirational in their chosen careers or how they spend their leisure time.

'Through promoting International Women's Day and showcasing inspirational local women we are hoping to inspire people to think how they could make it happen, and judging from the comments we received on the displays, we have certainly done that.'

Ms Revitt now hopes the exhibition can be shown at local schools and community centres.

To view the material please contact Lochaber Women's Aid on 01397 703003.

INSPIRATIONAL: Lorraine Revitt, left, hosts Lochaber role models Isabel MacPhee, Kathleen Connochie, Isabel Campbell and Kathleen MacLugash (front)
20_f11women01



SCISSOR HAPPY: Grace MacIntosh, left, and Eily Andrews will donate 20 inches of hair to The Little Princess Trust

Girls cut it in the fundraising stakes

TWO kind-hearted teenagers are to donate 20 inches of hair to a children's charity.

Grace MacIntosh and Eily Andrews plan to have 10 inches each cut off today (Thursday) to be sent to The Little Princess Trust, which makes wigs for children suffering from cancer and other hair-loss illnesses.

The fifth year Lochaber high school pupils have also raised £1,400 in donations for the cause, also to be given to the charity.

Eily, from Spean Bridge, said: 'I'm feeling really good about doing this because it'll be so beneficial for the children.'

'I'm a bit nervous because I've been growing my hair for such a long time but it'll be worth it for such a good cause.'

Grace, from Stronoba, added: 'We're donating about 10 inches each so that will be enough for four wigs.'

'I'm really excited but I'm starting to get a bit nervous now.'

The pair had raised £200 until this weekend, when a fundraising afternoon tea at Lochaber Farm Shop boosted their total to £1,400.

Sea cadets lift awards

THREE Lochaber sea cadets have been recognised for their efforts throughout the last year.

Hannah Calder was awarded both the Petty Officer Beeston shield for community work and the Best Cadet trophy for the individual who gained the most qualifications throughout the year.

Ranald Ross was named cadet of the year for contributing the most to the unit while Kristian Martin was awarded junior cadet of the year.

Commanding officer Derrick Warner said: 'I'm immensely proud of what our cadets do every year. They all deserve a prize given that they often turn up in horrible weather to gain new skills or to help others. There's lots of fun too, of course.'

'None of this would be possible without a team of dedicated adults behind the scenes and I owe them all a huge debt of gratitude. This has been a tremendous turn around on the situation we were in a year ago when we were facing closure through a lack of adult instructors.'

'We still need a couple more to help us run the junior section though and we'd be delighted to hear from anyone who may have a few hours each week to spare.'



RECIPE FOR SUCCESS: a sale of home-baking in Lochaber high school's staff room raised more than £300 for the Leanne Fund

Bake sale boosts charity coffers

A LOCHABER high school staff member was delighted to raise more than £300 for charity by selling home baking.

Pupil support assistant Annette Chambers set up a cake stall in the

school staff room last week, with the help of her daughters Siobhan and Arianne and raised £310.68 for cystic fibrosis charity the Leanne Fund by selling homemade cupcakes, tablet, shortbread and Victoria sponge.

Basket making at WRI

TEN ladies enjoyed this month's meeting of Morar women's rural institute.

The guest speaker was Georgia Gillies from Wicked Willow who provided a demonstration of basket making, making one from scratch during the meeting.

Pauline Elwell won first place in the baking competition for her ginger snaps, while Nicky Parish's arrangement crowned her winner of the 'spring flowers in an egg cup'. The raffle was won by Christine Haynes.

The next meeting will be held on April 2.

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Business Gateway Workshops

Marketing your Business - 24 March - Oban - a full day workshop aimed at existing small businesses with ambitions for growth. The session will help evaluate current marketing activity and create a realistic marketing plan to meet the business' needs.

Maximising Your Tender Score - 31 March - Oban - a half day workshop aimed at helping companies and third sector organisations maximise their scores when submitting a tender. This workshop is for organisations with experience of bidding for work who want to improve their tender performance, quality of their bids and aspire to bidding for larger contracts.

Is the Public Sector Right for You? - 24 April - Inveraray - a half day workshop aimed at providing enough information to companies and third sector organisations to help them decide if this market is right for them and how to get about it. The workshop provides an overview of the tendering landscape and some tips on successful tendering. The workshop is designed for companies and third sector organisations that have had little or no experience of tendering and would like to become 'tender ready'.

To find out more or book a place please email Business Gateway at business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk or call 01546 604555

Argyll & Bute Council, Europe & Scotland, business gateway

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Stornoway in the running to house UK 'spaceport'

THE POSSIBILITY of a Western Isles airport becoming the site for the UK's first 'spaceport' has been welcomed.

Stornoway has been named on a shortlist of potential sites to launch space vehicles by the civil aviation authority and has been called 'an ideal location'.

Angus Campbell, leader of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and chairman of the Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership, said: 'Stornoway Airport is very much in the running as the location for the site of the UK's spaceport.'

'Stornoway has a number of critical features that makes it an ideal location. Amongst these are the vast expanse of the Atlantic ocean around us, we are only one hour away from a host of research and development facilities, we have the University of the Highlands and Islands on our doorstep, our northerly location gives more daylight for more of the year than any other location and we have extremely low air traffic levels.'

Mr Campbell added the comhairle would work with Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the community to explore employment and other opportunities the spaceport could bring to the Western Isles.

Frozen meals service extended to Western Isles

A ROLL OUT of frozen meals for pensioners will continue in the Western Isles from next month.

A pre-prepared lunch or dinner will be delivered to users of the care in the community service by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar in a scheme to free up time for carers who have to make meals under the current system.

The meals are already delivered in the Uists and will be available in Lewis and Harris from April.

Councillor Uisdean Robertson, chairman of the health and social care committee, said: 'The roll out of this meal service will redistribute the time taken to prepare meals to enable other tasks and care time to be provided. We are committed to providing the best possible care for our older people, including providing tasty, nutritious meals.'

'Feedback that I have received directly from those receiving community meals in the Uists has been extremely positive and complimentary of the service and quality of the meals.'

Fresh bid to raise ferry fares

EMMA CRICHTON
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Councillors want to reverse decision to ditch price hike

HIGHLAND councillors are to make a fresh bid to increase fares on the lifeline Corran Ferry.

A proposed increase of four per cent annually for the next four years - bringing the cost of a single trip to almost £9 - was rejected at the local authority's community services committee in February to allow a business plan to be drawn up.

But at the full council meeting to be held today (Thursday), eight councillors are expected to

put forward a motion to reverse the decision and go ahead with the price hike.

The ferry, which connects the remote Morvern and Ardnamurchan peninsulas to central Lochaber, runs at a loss according to owners Highland Council and the authority is also concerned about breaking European Union state aid law

by subsidising it, which local residents dispute.

Tony Boyd, chairman of campaign group Free Crossing for Corran, said he was 'lost for words' when he heard about the latest motion.

He added: 'The whole point of rejecting the fare increases was to look at how we can save money on the ferry and create a

long-term, sustainable business plan. What strikes me about this motion is it has come from a group of councillors, the majority of whom live in affluent areas like Inverness and Dingwall.'

'They have little understanding of remote communities like ours or how much more increases will impact us.'

'It's another added cost for local businesses and it will discourage tourists so restaurants and hotels will suffer. If they keep bringing up the fare it's going to kill the whole area.'

The motion has been signed by

“It's going to kill the whole area.”

Tony Boyd
chairman, Free Crossing for Corran

councillors Graham MacKenzie, Maxine Smith, Richard Laird, Linda Munro, David Alston,

Jimmy Gray, Dave Fallows and Thomas Prag.

Speaking ahead of the meeting, councillor MacKenzie said he hoped a compromise could be reached.

He said: 'We put this motion to the full council meeting because it was rejected at the community services committee.'

'Since the motion was signed there have been discussions with local members and residents on the peninsula and we're hoping to reach an agreement but that will be subject to a vote of all council members.'

Powering ahead with hydro scheme

A PROPOSED community hydro project in Lochaber has raised more than £663,000 through shares and work has begun to prepare the site.

There are now just three days left to invest in the previously untapped power source in Strontian, as the offer is set to close on Sunday March 15.

Work has already started to prepare the site with full construction work due to begin in April.

It is hoped the hydro scheme will be generating electricity by November this year, with all profits used to create revenue for the wider Sunart community.

The whole project is expected to cost £850,000 and commercial lenders have agreed to plug the funding gap.

Richard Laybourne, chairman of Sunart Community Renewables, the group behind



HYRDO: Directors of Sunart Community Renewables at the untapped power source 20_f11sunart01

the scheme, said: 'The huge success of this share offer has exceeded our expectations.'

'We are very grateful to the many people and organisations which have chosen to support us in this way and ensure that Sunart will have a renewable energy scheme which will provide the community with an income for years to come.'

Anyone wishing to invest can do so until this Sunday online via www.microgenius.org.uk, www.sunartcommunityrenewables.co.uk, or by calling project manager Dale Meegan on 07718132680.

In *The Oban Times* on February 19 the report on Sunart Community Renewables, stated the share offer closed on March 25.

It should have said March 15. The paper would like to apologise for any confusion.

Invergarry road work gets under way

WORK will start this weekend to resurface a Lochaber trunk road.

The £200,000 investment on the A87 at Invergarry will begin on Saturday, March 14 and is expected to last six days.

Traffic management will be in place throughout the works and drivers will be subject to a 28-mile diversion via Invermoriston on Sunday night, as the road will close for 12 hours from 7pm.

A 30mph speed limit will be in operation throughout the course of the resurfacing, although traffic management will be removed outwith working hours.

Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's north-west unit representative, said: 'These essential works will lead to a much-improved road surface when they are complete, enhancing the quality of the transport links in the area as well as improving the safety of the travelling public.'

'While the majority of the project will be undertaken overnight to minimise disruption, we've deliberately scheduled the noisy milling activity for during the day on the Saturday to reduce noise for local residents.'

'The location of the works impacts the traffic management options available which means some disruption will be experienced, however, the safety of our workforce as well as the travelling public is paramount.'

'We thank motorists for their patience in advance and would also encourage them to plan ahead before setting out by checking the Traffic Scotland website for up-to-date travel information.'

Police files

POLICE in Lochaber are appealing for information about the following crimes in the area.

At around 1.20pm on March 8 a recovery pick-up van struck a Volvo car on Glen Nevis Road, Caol, causing damage to it.

Between March 1 and 2 a metal sign identifying war graves was stolen from St John's Church cemetery, Ballachulish.

Anyone with information about either of these incidents is asked to contact police by calling 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800555111 or via <http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org>.



Volunteers return from Palestine

A KIND-HEARTED couple have returned to Lochaber after spending a month teaching in Palestine.

Lochaline GP Kirstin McQuillan and her husband Paul, a former teacher, volunteered in the city of Nablus, teaching English and German in the controversy-fraught Middle East.

The doctor, who has lived in Lochaber since 2012 and works at Morvern Medical Practice, said: 'Angered at the deteriorating situation in Palestine and the West's indifference, my husband and I decided to investigate what volunteering opportunities were available in the region.'

'I have been following the conflict between Israel and Palestine with interest for many

years and wanted to get first-hand experience of life there rather than solely rely on the information you get from our media.'

Dr McQuillan wanted to carry out a medical placement but found arranging a short-term position too difficult so took to teaching and volunteering at a poorly-sourced autism centre.

Despite regularly hearing gunfights, Dr McQuillan said she never felt unsafe in Nablus.

She added: 'Accounts of regular gunfights might make Nablus sound a bit frightening but we never once felt threatened or intimidated.'

'On the contrary, we felt safe at all times and were made to feel genuinely welcome.'



TEACHING: Kirstin and Paul McQuillan volunteered in Palestine for a month



Youngsters catch the reading bug on visit

Fort William RC nursery pupils enjoyed a trip to the library on Friday. The English medium class was read stories by librarian Anne Nicholson (pictured) before youngsters took home their own 'bookbug' packs, full of books and other goodies

Grand plans for hotel

THE MORAR Hotel is to be restored to its former glory - 113 years after it was built.

New managers Stuart Sherwood and Christopher Manumbali plan to reinstate the building's original 20th century grandeur, including bell boys to carry luggage and traditional Highland meals served in the restaurant, as well as modern comforts such as wifi.

Mr Sherwood, managing director, said: 'The Morar Hotel

is a beautiful mansion house in a location that really has to be seen to be believed.'

'Both the hotel and the surrounding area have a rich history and that, combined with the spectacular countryside and scenery, make this a truly unique tourist destination. We are looking forward to growing the business and offering a hotel and restaurant that the local community and the travelling public can enjoy.'



GRANDEUR: the Morar Hotel

Have your say on flood risk planning

A NEW consultation on flood risks has been launched, and people in the Highlands and islands have been asked for their views.

The assessment, run by Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and local authorities, is thought to be the most comprehensive ever compiled in Scotland. Any opinions expressed could impact on how flood risk management is carried out in the next six years.

Councillor Thomas Prag, chairman of Highland Council's development and infrastructure committee, encouraged people to get involved.

He said: 'This is part of a really important national strategy to try and mitigate the increasing risk of flood events.'

'Everyone should view these plans and contribute their own thoughts and local knowledge to help influence the future of flood risk management in their area. I would therefore encourage everyone to take an interest in this very important subject.'

The full assessment can be viewed at <https://frm-scotland.org.uk/Paper> copies are also available at the headquarters of Highland, Argyll and Bute and nan Eilean Siar councils.

Haggis recipe poser

YOUNG food fans are being asked to come up with imaginative haggis recipes as part of a festival to be held in honour of the dish.

The Glen Spean and Great Glen Tourism Group is calling on anyone aged 12 years and under to think of new ways to serve the traditional Scottish food, as part of the first haggis festival, to be held in Spean Bridge in April.

A spokesman for the group said: 'We thought it would be a good idea to get youngsters involved in what is increasingly becoming a much-sought-after dish by visitors to the Highlands. The recipe can be as creative as the kids would like and can be a starter, main dish or even dessert - anything they would fancy as long as it includes haggis.'

Winners will receive prizes at the festival, by chef Joe MacSween, who will also lead a cooking demonstration dedicated to haggis.

Entries should be submitted by March 26 to Lesley McIntosh via enquiry@distanthills.com or via post to Distant Hills, Roy Bridge Road, Spean Bridge, PH34 4EU.

Argyll Voluntary Action

Volunteer of the Year 2015

Positive about Communities

Celebrating Argyll and Bute's Volunteers

Volunteer of the Year and Voluntary / Community Group Award
Young Volunteer, Social Enterprise Volunteer
Regional Timebank Heroes and Health Volunteer Categories too!

Nominations are now **OPEN** - an opportunity to put forward members of your community who should be recognized for all the voluntary work they do and the impact they have on our towns and villages.

Council Chambers Kilmory
Wednesday 3rd June
10.30am - 2.30pm

Tickets from **Argyll Voluntary Action on 01586 554744**
(michele@argyllvoluntaryaction.org.uk)
www.argyllcommunities.org argyllvoluntaryaction.org.uk

Nomination forms now available in AVA offices or online!
Deadline: Monday 20th April 2015

Argyll Voluntary Action, 21 High Street Oban PA34 4BG
Charity No: SC029947 Company No: SC277345

Business

Couple's dream move as they take the helm at Creagan Inn

'A DREAM come true' is how a husband and wife team described their move back to the Argyll village where they first met, as they take on a restaurant business.

Duncan and Isobel MacCorquodale are the new owners of Creagan Inn in Appin and plan to officially open tomorrow (Friday) with the help of their son Gavin, 21, a recently qualified chef, and front-of-house Lindsay Muir.

The move is a homecoming for chef Duncan, who hails from the Portnacroish area of Appin, and regularly frequented the Creagan as a customer.

He said: 'Moving home was something I always wanted to do - it has happened a lot quicker than I thought it would - but owning the Creagan Inn, in many ways, is a dream come true.'

The couple ran The Chardonnay, a successful restaurant in Carluke, for 18 years but sold that business in 2008 to follow different career paths; Duncan worked in a garden centre while Isobel became a driving instructor.

But after seeing the Creagan Inn advertised for sale, they made a quick decision to return to the hospitality trade.

Isobel explained: 'At the end of September last year we saw the Creagan Inn advertised on Facebook.'

'Gavin had finished college and needed experience in a kitchen



HOMEcoming: the new team at Creagan Inn, from left: Lindsay Muir and Isobel, Duncan and Gavin MacCorquodale

and our younger son, Kyle, moved to Glasgow to study.

'We knew the Creagan Inn was the next step for us.'

Isobel previously worked at the Airds Hotel as a hotel management student in 1982.

Duncan, meanwhile, was working in Oban's Kelvin Hotel.

After finishing her studies Isobel travelled to Australia and on her return to Scotland six years later paid a visit to her friends at the Airds Hotel, who surprised her by offering her a job. There, she met a young chef, Duncan, who by this time had begun working at the Port Appin hotel. Two years later, the couple moved to take on The Chardonnay but there were regular trips 'home' to Appin.

The Creagan Inn will be using Argyll producers where possible and will have a comfortable, homely atmosphere, Isobel said.

'We are here for the long term, not the short term, so we want to see locals using it as the hub of the community again.'

'Having had a 'soft opening' over the past week and meeting up with a lot of the locals it feels as if we are home. It just feels right.'

Dr Iain McNicol of Appin Community Trust said: 'Over a number of years the Creagan Inn has had various owners but people are excited about welcoming a well-known and well-liked couple back to the area.'



ROMANTIC: Nikki Barnett of Ardtornish Estate won the award for north-west venue of the year



PLANNER: Lorna MacAskill won co-ordinator of the year on behalf of Oxox Designs, Scottish Castle Weddings



BEST: Gaemur McMurphy, partner in Campbeltown Motor Company receives the award from Stéphane Le Guével of Peugeot

Garage wins top award

CAMPBELTOWN Motor Company has been named one of the best Peugeot dealerships in the country.

The garage was presented with a Guild of Gold Lion Award, in recognition of its performance in 2014, at the national Peugeot dealer conference along with 34 other top dealerships in the country.

Stéphane Le Guével, managing director of Peugeot UK said: 'Campbeltown Motor Company is a great example of the strength of the Peugeot Dealer network across the UK and a deserving recipient of the Guild of Gold Lion accolade.'

'The team performs to a consistently high standard, delivering exemplary customer service and has positioned itself as a successful business within the community it serves.'

'I'd like to congratulate the whole team on its hard work and dedication.'

Still going strong after 10 years

WITH 20 years of experience, Kerrie Galbraith insists she still isn't 'tired' of working in the garage industry.

In a typically male-orientated workplace, Kerrie's Tyres, based in Quarry Road in Oban, specialises in tyre fitting, but also offers a range of services including battery and brake repairs, wheel alignments and vehicle servicing.

Having started off working as a receptionist for National Tyres for five years, Kerrie decided she wanted to get her hands dirty, and moved on to working on National Tyres' workshop floor for five years.

This year, she will celebrate a decade as her own boss after setting up her own business in 2005.

'I think sometimes women feel a bit intimidated coming into an all-male garage, as I know I used to before I worked in the industry,' said Kerrie.

'I'd like to thank my team here for all their support, and all my great customers over the years who have remained loyal.'

As well as occasional help from her semi-retired father Jim Hastings, she also has son Logan giving her a hand from time-to-time.

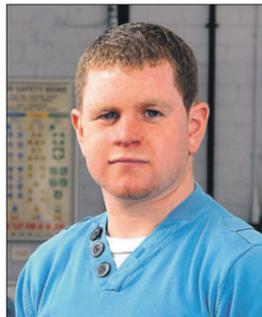
At the age of five, perhaps he is one of the industry's rising stars.



'WHEELY GOOD' SERVICE: Corey Telfer, Kenny Ahmed, Kerrie Galbraith and Neil O'Hara, the team at Kerrie's Garage on Quarry Road, Oban



NEW EXPERIENCE: Adam MacIntyre, the 17-year-old Oban lad who has secured a trainee position with CalMac



OPPORTUNITY: Donald Morrison from Oban, one of 10 new apprentices on CalMac's trainee programme

Young Oban men jump at CalMac training chance

TWO YOUNG men from Oban have joined their first ship as part of a trainee programme run by ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac).

Adam MacIntyre, 17, and Donald Morrison, 22, are part of a group of 10 young people, aged between 17 and 25, taking part in CalMac's apprenticeship scheme.

The group, comprised of deck rating and engine rating trainees, is the second intake of apprentices to undergo the programme.

Beating off nationwide competition for their coveted places, the duo are taking part in the company's Merchant Navy Training Board ratings training scheme.

Adam, a former Oban high school pupil, applied for the programme after spending last summer working on the pier for CalMac.

He said: 'Everyone I've spoken to locally says that CalMac is a great company to work for so when this opportunity came up, it was too good to miss.'

'I'm the first person in my family to ever work at sea so it's going to be a completely new experience for me. We're all getting on really well on the

“ We are all getting on really well on the training course ”

Adam MacIntyre
CalMac trainee

I'm proud to be doing my bit to support that,' he said.

'It's early days in my career but it's my aim to work hard and become an officer.'

The pair, both deck rating trainees, are now spending 60 days of sea time on the CalMac vessel MV Isle of Mull, to gain important practical experience of specialist deck roles.

The initiative, delivered in partnership with the Rail and Maritime Union (RMT), is approved by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and provides the trainees with an internationally recognised qualification.

CalMac's traineeship has been widely praised both within and without the industry, with the initial intake from 2013 having previously been invited to the Scottish Parliament to meet the transport minister.

Stephen Horne, Learning Partner at CalMac, said: 'We are pleased to be welcoming our second intake of deck and engineering trainees to CalMac.'

'It is particularly gratifying that we receive so many applications from the communities which we serve as it means our reputation for developing and supporting our employees is well known.'

Help for businesses tendering for public service contracts

ARGYLL and Bute council's Business Gateway team reminds businesses and third sector organisations based in Argyll and Bute they can access a free range of support to help them tender for public sector contracts.

The supplier development programme helps businesses improve their performance in winning contracts with public sector organisations, by providing information, news and events that explain the procurement process and help them prepare.

The support on offer includes access to a programme of free training workshops and events, targeted at different levels of experience, from those who are considering tendering but have not done so yet, to those who have tendered unsuccessfully, to those who are already supplying the public sector.

There is a range of tailored information and guides available from the SDP website. In addition, quarterly newsletters and regular email alerts provide updates and information.

To access this free support businesses and third sector organisations need to register their details at www.sdpscotland.co.uk.

An 'Is the Public Sector Right for You?' introductory workshop will be held in Inveraray in April. The workshop is designed for businesses and third sector organisations that have had little or no experience of tendering and would like to become 'tender ready'.

The workshop will provide businesses with information to help decide if the public sector market is for them, give an overview of the tendering landscape and share tips on successful tendering. For businesses already successfully tendering and looking to improve, a 'Maximise Your Tender Score' workshop will be held in Oban on March 31. The workshop will help participants improve their scores in every section of the tender driven by clients' requirements.

To book a place at either of these workshops, contact the local Business Gateway team on 01546 604555 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk. Those interested will also need to register with SDP to attend. Local events will continue to be added to the SDP schedule for the year. This could include workshops on tender writing or policy workshops covering health and safety, equality and quality management.

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DEAL DONE: Carol MacKinnon and Alasdair Ferguson of Ferguson Transport and Shipping take over Skye Transport from Ewen MacKinnon and Mairi MacPherson

Ferguson delivers on Skye takeover

LOCHABER-based Ferguson Transport has taken over haulage firm Skye Transport.

The purchase was formally completed by Alasdair Ferguson, managing director of the Spean Bridge company, on March 1, to become part of the Ferguson Transport and Shipping group.

Existing staff of Skye Transport were given the opportunity to join the 180 people currently employed by family-run Fergusons, which has doubled its payroll in the last two years.

Mr Ferguson said: 'We have welcomed the opportunity to merge the Skye Transport family

“This is an exciting chapter going forward**”**

Alasdair Ferguson

business into Ferguson Transport's group of companies. This is an exciting chapter going forward, demonstrating further steady growth within our group in areas

that we see fitting in well with existing business and contracts. We will continue to provide the same high standard and service that the Skye Transport team have delivered over the years and look forward to dealing with customers in the future and working with the existing staff.'

Skye Transport, based in Crossal, is joining one of the biggest independent transport and distributions companies in the Highlands.

Ferguson Transport and Shipping operates more than 70 commercial vehicles, including six boats, operating from Mallaig and the company's own port at Kishorn.

Pilot tourism project targets Argyll and Isles

ARGYLL and the Isles is one of three locations to be used as a pilot for a programme to improve tourism in rural and urban destinations.

The Destination Leaders Programme (DLP) supports industry professionals, helping them to undertake leadership roles within their destinations, the first programme of its kind in Europe.

Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise are currently working with the industry across Scotland to identify future demand for the programme.

It is anticipated that following the completion of the two-year pilot scheme delivered in partnership with Edinburgh Napier University in Argyll and the Isles, Edinburgh and St Andrews, that the programme will be extended to more Scottish destinations.

Scottish Enterprise sector director for tourism, Danny Cusick said: 'Tourism is vital to our economy, supporting more than 200,000 jobs across the country and attracting more than 15 million overnight trips worth more than £4.6bn annually to Scotland.'

New bid to boost economic growth and population

HIGHLANDS and Islands Enterprise (HIE) is increasing its resources in Argyll by recruiting a new head of special projects.

The post will provide new impetus and focus for the organisation's involvement in partnership projects aimed at achieving population and economic growth in the area.

The two-year appointment follows the Argyll and Bute Planning Partnership's economic summit in October 2014, which highlighted that Argyll and Bute was the only local authority area in the Highlands and Islands region that saw a fall in population between 2001 and 2011 and this was forecast to continue.

Douglas Cowan, HIE area manager for Argyll and the Isles, said: 'While population decline is a concern in parts of Argyll, there are signs of growth pressure in some of our towns and rural areas.'

'Turnover among the businesses we work with here continues to grow and exporting is on the increase.'

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West Highlands lead the way at wedding awards

THE WEST Highlands is the best place to get married – and that has been confirmed with the number of Scottish Wedding Awards won by businesses in the area.

More than 500 guests from across the country attended the ceremony in Glasgow recently, with six out of 11 north-west regional awards being taken home to the West Highlands.

Ardtornish Estate in Morvern scooped best venue, while Oxox Designs, since renamed as Scottish Castle Weddings, won wedding co-ordinator of the year, both for the north west region.

Fairytale Productions won videographer of the year, while Oban Chocolate Company was awarded cake designer of the year, Kintyre's Diana Mackenzie won the hair and make-up category and Fort William-founded Captivating Photography won the photographer category, all for the north west region.

'The team at Ardtornish and our wedding couples all know how perfect Ardtornish House is as a wedding venue, but we want everyone to know and this award will help us spread the word.'

Charné Hawkes, owner of Captivating Photography was delighted. She said: 'I am absolutely thrilled to bits. The support from my husband, my friends, family and suppliers, has been tremendous.'

'But ultimately I have to thank my wonderful clients for the appreciation of the work I do and without who this award would not have been possible.'

'It was great to see so many quality Highland based suppliers at the awards, many of whom we have worked with in the past.'

'I feel proud to be part of a great wedding industry we have up here in the Scottish Highlands.'

John Lawton, owner of Fairytale Productions, said: 'Unfortunately I couldn't be there to pick up the award but I'm really happy that we won. We've been nominated every year since the awards started but this is the first time we've won.'

Oban Chocolate Company's Helen McKechnie said she was

surprised to win. 'I found out we were nominated in January, but I didn't expect us to win,' she said.

'It's one part of the business I do myself but we do a variety of things, whereas there are businesses who solely do wedding cakes, so it was pretty unexpected, but I'm obviously thrilled.'

'Because of our location, we get a lot of requests. Last year I made a white chocolate cake with a skull on it and black roses, then the next week it was a classic wedding cake with pretty flowers – so there is a lot of variation in what we do. Thank you very much to all the brides for helping us win this award.'

Make-up and hair artist Diana Mackenzie, Saddell, said: 'It was amazing to win. I was so pleased to make the shortlist, I never considered I would win. I was shocked and delighted.'

Diana was an admin worker until a few years ago before focusing on her passion for make-up and now much of her work involves helping brides to look their best on their big day.

In their third year, the Scottish Wedding Awards are presented as 'a celebration of local businesses'.



SNAPPER: Charné Hawkes celebrated winning photographer of the year with her husband Chris Hawkes



BEAUTY: Diana with her Scottish Weddings Award for hair and make-up

Majestic Line cruise ahead with new ship commission

SCOTTISH ship cruise specialist the Majestic Line has commissioned a new, purpose-built boat for the 2016 season.

The MV Glen Etive will complement the two existing refurbished traditional fishing boats, which offer unique cruises around Scotland's west coasts and islands.

The new vessel is currently being built by Ardmaleish Boatbuilding Co. Ltd on the Clyde, with funding assistance from Highland and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

The new boat will undertake longer cruises and visit new Outer Hebridean destinations, with trips planned as far afield as St Kilda, allowing passengers access to some of the most beautiful areas of the Western Isles.

Small-ship sailing has become increasingly popular with visitors from the UK as far away as Australia, with cruises booking well in advance and a high level of repeat business.

Andy Thoms, managing director of the Majestic Line, said: 'The cruises take guests on a personal tour of Scotland's loveliest hideaway places.'

'The locally built MV Glen Etive, with the look and feel of a 1930s 'gentleman's motor yacht', will bring an additional choice of longer destinations to far flung places such as the St Kilda world heritage site.'

David Smart, senior development manager with HIE, said: 'The Majestic Line has demonstrated an ability to create and develop a unique tourism offering for the west coast of Scotland.'

'Sustainable tourism and the marine environment are both valued by HIE and we are delighted to invest in this new vessel which will lead to increased economic benefits for rural islands and mainland communities.'

Familiar face at Tiree office New business big news for former radio producer

A FAMILIAR face - but in a new role - has returned to the island of Tiree.

Heather MacArthur, right, who has a wealth of legal experience, is behind the new MacPhee and Partners office which recently opened on the island.

After studying and working in Glasgow for a number of years, her ambition was to return to her home island to raise her young family.

That ambition has been realised after MacPhee and Partners decided that it would be appropriate to expand to the vibrant island, which has a rich crofting heritage as well as hosting the Tiree Wave Classic and Tiree Music Festival.

'The Tiree office will work together with our existing Oban and Fort William offices to deliver an "on the door" service for the islanders,' said a spokesman for the company.



'Our large team of legal and property professionals provide expertise on property sales and estate agency, conveyancing, family law, crofting and agriculture, business and commercial law, employment and wills and executry law.'

A SUCCESSFUL American radio producer, who moved to Oban due to her husband's oceanography work, has set up a business as a freelance reporter for US media.

Cori Princell, 35, moved from North Carolina to Scotland a year and a half ago, leaving behind her job as a producer on a national daily radio show.

With support from Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway service, Cori has begun selling stories to American media outlets.

Cori said: 'When I moved to Scotland after my husband got a job our son was only 10 months old so he took up most of my time.'

'I had worked for 10 years as a producer with a team of journalists and although I loved it, I was looking forward to being in an interesting part of the world and working independently.'



NEW BUSINESS: Cori Princell

'I wanted a job that allowed me to be flexible for my family but was also a rewarding challenge.'

'I pitched my first story, about

an interesting figure in Scotland's independence referendum, to an American radio programme last April, shortly after my son

started going to nursery part-time.

'The response I received and the enjoyment I got from it gave me the encouragement to continue reporting.'

As well as coming up with and writing her own stories, Cori has collaborated with a local filmmaker on a documentary which was shown at the Scottish Rural Parliament and is working as a consultant for a nearby textile company.

Cori added: 'Another benefit of my work is that it has helped me to connect with people here in Oban who are doing interesting things.'

'It's been a great way to learn more about my new home. As well as continuing to report for the US media I'm looking forward to working on other projects that will highlight the exciting things going on here.'

'Becoming self-employed in

a new country has been a big transition, and I needed to find someone I could reach out to with my questions.'

'I went along to Business Gateway for advice. In particular, I received help in learning about the UK tax system and the necessary steps to ensure everything was done properly and effectively.'

Angela Vernel, the local Business Adviser for Business Gateway said: 'Cori came to us for advice and through our one-to-one sessions, we gave her support on a number of issues including UK tax and national insurance.'

'This has helped Cori to confidently and knowledgeably start her business.'

To find out more about how Business Gateway can help with setting up and developing a business call 01546 808 363 or visit www.bgateway.com

Start a business. Grow a business. Business Gateway is here to help.

Free, practical advice and support for your business. Call your local office on 01546 605 459 or visit www.bgateway.com/argyllandbute

business gateway
slighe gnothachais

Mix of musicians provide excellent evening in Portree

SKYE Accordion and Fiddle Club's March meeting in the Royal Hotel, Portree, opened with lively music from local musicians John MacGilvary on piano accordion and John Cameron on piano.

Mr Cameron also took on the role of master of ceremonies and invited fiddlers Ellie MacPherson and Caerina Campbell to continue the entertainment accompanied by himself on piano.

Popular visitor Sandy Ross of Lochcarron with his three-row button-key accordion stepped up to play some great selections of marches and also Gaelic waltzes, accompanied on piano by another visitor, Alan Shepherd, from Inverness area.

Back on stage came Ms Campbell for more fiddle selections accompanied by Mr Cameron on piano which included a fabulous waltz and a lively but tricky reel which received much acclaim from the enthusiastic audience.

Rounding off the local players' section Mr Cameron swapped to his piano accordion

while Alan Shepherd took over the piano for some grand sets.

It was a nice reunion for the pair who last played together in a band more than 40 years ago.

For the remainder of the evening the stage was filled by the guest band for the night,

The Raymond Chuchuck Scottish Dance Band led by Raymond, based in the Inverness area, on piano accordion, with Brian Forrest from the Borders on second accordion, Willie James of Elgin on fiddle, Ena Anderson of Forres on piano and her son, Ian Anderson of Dallas on drums.

They produced a fine sound with great arrangements and a very varied programme, much enjoyed by the audience. This was their first appearance at the club and, such was their popularity, the hope was expressed that they would be invited for a return visit in the future. The evening was rounded off with local players joining the band for a rousing stramash.

April guests at the Club will be The Matthew MacLennan Trio.



PORTREE: The Raymond Chuchuck Scottish Dance Band in action

Students join together to make music

MUSIC students at Skye's Gaelic college, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, are set to perform at Plockton high school this weekend.

The BA Gaelic and Traditional Music class will join sixth year

pupils at the school on Saturday night, in a joint performance as part of individual spring tours by both groups.

Tickets are available by calling 01599 544706 or emailing rhona.sharp@highland.gov.uk.

European chamber orchestra set to close Lochaber Music for All season

LOCHABER'S Music For All season is drawing to a close, and is expected to go out in style with an orchestra performance on March 22.

Talented young musicians from 18 countries across Europe make up the Chamber Philharmonic Europe, which

will play live in Kilmallie Hall at the concert.

A cream tea will be available at the interval to boost funds for next year's Music For All programme.

The concert starts at 3pm and tickets are available at the door.



Eye to eye with John Wallace

Young Eyes

Last Friday night my beautiful new grand-daughter Holly arrived rather earlier than planned. When she came home from hospital and as we all took turns in holding and cuddling her she stared into my eyes in bewilderment. Her world has suddenly gone from one full of sounds to a visual world full of strange faces.

It reminded me of the time we took David to Disneyland Paris when he was only five months old. His visual world was in the process of expanding from recognising faces to exploring a more distant world beyond his mother. As we trundled him around in his pram he was able to look up at the attractions which were all brightly lit and moving. His eyes seemed to dart back and forth constantly as he took in all the amazing sights. At that age a child's brain is rapidly developing. New connections are rapidly being formed within the brain which provides us

with the basis of processing our highly visual world in great detail.

If, for some reason, your child's eyesight is impaired those connections cannot be made. This period of rapid development of the visual system is called the 'critical period'. When I started training many years ago we were taught it really did not matter too much if a child had a squint as we had several years to correct the problem. Current research has shown the critical period is now only a matter of a few months although the brain can form new connections throughout life. It is imperative a young child with an obvious squint receives early treatment to maximise their stereopsis (depth perception).

If you have any doubt about your child's eyesight you should seek early advice from your family optometrist. Children's eye examinations are fully funded by NHS Scotland.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

Wallace Optometrists

The West Highland Orthokeratology Clinic, 11/12 Argyll Square, Oban

Tel: 0845 230 3937 (EYES)

www.wallaceoptometrists.co.uk



Meet the artist

Jo MacLean

Jo's work is a celebration of her move to the west coast of Scotland, from her childhood home in Glasgow.

I grew up with a large family of seven in Paisley's outskirts and spent most childhood holidays on Arran or in Mallaig where we were left all day to beach comb, climb hills and explore the natural landscapes only coming in at night for tea covered in sand, midgie bites and a large smile.

I finished school and went on to attend Glasgow Caledonian university where I left with a degree in marketing and communication. I spent most summers in between school and university working summer jobs on Arran.

Anything from waitressing, gardening, cleaning antiques in Brodick Castle and volunteering with the National Trust for Scotland.

I then took a job with Scottish Telecom to save for a world trip in 1997 which gave me the bug to pursue a career outdoors after working for the Byron Bay surf school and teaching surfing to tourists.

I then home studied an HND in Community Arts and took a job with STV working on programmes such as Fun-house, High Road and Wheel of Fortune.

A change three years later to volunteering with the Scottish Wildlife Trust and then seasonal jobs at the Loch Lomond National Park with a full time job in Forestry Commission Scotland starting in Drumchapel woodlands in Glasgow.

I currently work with Forestry Commission Scotland as a Communities, Recreation and Tourism ranger covering most of West Argyll supporting communities and helping to promote recreation to a wide market of forest visitors.

In my spare time I am building Oban artist painting at night and creating my designs out of my home.

I am a mother of two children Breagh aged four and Iona aged two and married to a Connell local Rory MacLean, who I met on a forestry course six years ago and who also works for Forestry Commission's West Argyll Forest district.

Influences and inspirations
Family holidays to Arran, Mallaig and Tiree (where my great grandfather lived) inspired me as a teenager to start painting the landscapes I was missing. I am drawn to the natural world and the west coast's landscapes.

I love the Hebridean colours, skies and wilderness of this area. The wild animals that roam here and the romance of the Highland croft houses are all influences.

My great-grandfather Donald MacDonald was born in Iona before the family moved back to Manal in Tiree.

I always had a calling to the west coast from the city and am now fulfilling the dream, living here.

Painting my local landscapes is the next step in sharing my passion for the bold bright colours and coastline of the west coast.

Who encouraged you to do your work?

A combination of my father and, more recently, Jan Ferguson, a wild life artist I met at the Appin show.

My father always boosted my confidence and took my paintings to get framed, he also encouraged me to start painting on wood as I love the forests trees and woodlands and occasionally find great

pieces of driftwood to paint on as well.

Where I work best

I work best on sea and landscapes with simple features such as croft houses and beaches.

The slate hearts I create are taken from my love of natural materials and cottage roofs. I also love sparkle so glitter and slate was the unlikely combination for my slate heart collections.

What I want to do in the future:

I would like to have my own studio where I can develop my love of painting and create more art.

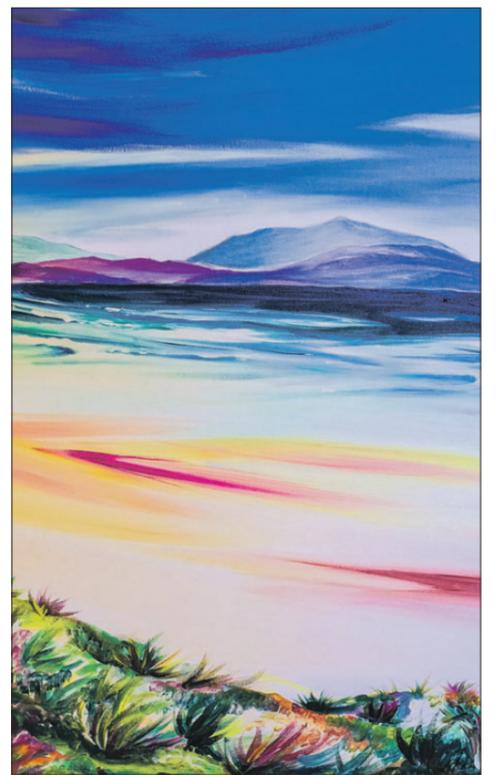
Also, inspire young children to paint as a way of expressing the way they see their world.

People who have inspired my work:

Boyd Tunnock CBE, who bought one of my first paintings and gave me the confidence to keep painting from an early age.

My dad, who has always been telling me to do something with my art.

My great family and friends have inspired my work especially my twin who emigrated to Colorado 14 years ago and I send her paintings to help lessen her homesickness.





Social scene

Charity Dinner, Kilmore Hall

A NIGHT out in Kilmore Hall saw more than £3,000 raised for a holiday for a woman living with multiple sclerosis.

Friends of the woman, Kathy De Sadeleer, were delighted to put on the fundraising event in the village hall, which was spectacularly decorated for the evening.

Everyone gave up their time for nothing, including the band - made up of Rab Woods, John McMahon and Alistair Watson, with Karen Payne and her dedicated team from Silver Laced catering as well as many others who gave up their time to organise and tidy up after the event.

Martin Wilson (left) did a splendid job as MC for the evening where he announced the prizes for the raffle and was also auctioneer.

Such was the generosity from the locals that almost everyone who attended won a prize, with the auctioned items raising even more money for the cause.



Glencoe case in first ever 'pub murder guide'

GLENCOE features in a book called Murder at the Inn that also reveals the worst excesses of The Krays, Lord Lucan and Jack the Ripper.

Cases from Scotland's past feature in the nation's first ever guide to historic crimes in Britain's pubs and hotels.

Murder at The Inn: A History of Crime in Britain's Pubs and Hotels, published by the History Press, reveals where to find more than 250 hostels across the country linked to fascinating cases of murder and mayhem.

As well as featuring well-known criminals like the

Krays, Dick Turpin and Jack the Ripper the book also reveals the details of fascinating cases from Scotland, including a dark tale from the lonely Kings House Hotel at Glencoe where the landlord killed his wife in 1877.

The case was heard in Edinburgh.

Author James Moore said: 'The history of Britain's pubs, inns and hotels has gone hand in hand with the history of crime.'

'Now, for the first time we link pubs that can still be found today with captivating and sometimes horrifying tales from their past.'

Traditional music school jazzes up

THE NATIONAL Youth Orchestra Scotland (NYOS) is performing a last concert of the season this time in jazz.

The National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music's school of music's jazz artistic directors, Malcolm Edmondstone on piano and Andrew Bain on drums, will perform live as a quartet with Gordon McNeil on

saxophone and Malcolm MacFarlane on his guitar.

Music will feature a mixture of folk, soul and traditional jazz with a hint of Scottish traditional music as never heard before.

The show will take place, tomorrow (Friday) in Plockton high school hall, at 7 pm.

Reservations can be made on 01599 544706 or rhona.sharp@highland.gov.uk.

Indep-dance visiting Oban and Mull

A YOUNG ensemble will be bringing a triple treat for dance enthusiasts in Argyll.

Indep-dance 4 consists of four young dancers - Hayley Earlam, Adam Sloan, Kelly McCartney and Neil Price.

They are visiting Oban and

Mull this month with - Some of the Moments We Haven't Forgotten choreographed by

Christine Devaney, Drifting directed by Ramesh Meyyappan and Goldfish choreographed by Lucy Bennett and Chris Pavia of Stopgap Dance Company.

Entertainment Guide

Cinema

Oban Phoenix Cinema

Community owned and run

Tel: 01631 562905 www.obanphoenix.com

LISTINGS FOR 6TH MARCH - 12TH MARCH 2015

BIG HERO 6 (PG)

Sat 14th: 11:00

Sun 15th: 11:00

HOME (U)

Sat 14th: 3D 13:00, 13:25

Sun 15th: 3D 13:00, 13:25

JUPITER ASCENDING (12A)

Fri 13th: 17:45

Sun 15th: 18:25

Tue 17th: 19:55

Thu 19th: 17:45

Sat 14th: 15:40

Mon 16th: 17:45

Wed 18th: 15:00, 20:45

ROH: SWAN LAKE (12A)

Tue 17th: 19:15

SELMA (12A)

Fri 13th: 15:00, 20:30

Sun 15th: 15:40

Tues 17th: 17:15

Thurs 19th: 15:00, 20:30

Sat 14th: 18:25

Mon 16th: 15:00, 20:45

Wed 18th: 17:45

SHAUN THE SHEEP MOVIE (U)

Sat 14th: 11:00

Sun 15th: 11:00

THE SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL (PG)

Fri 13th: 15:30, 18:10, 20:30

Sun 15th: 15:30, 18:10, 20:30

Tue 17th: 14:45, 16:10

Thu 19th: 15:15, 18:10, 20:45

Sat 14th: 15:30, 18:10, 20:30

Mon 16th: 15:00, 18:10, 20:30

Wed 18th: 15:15, 18:10, 20:45

FILM SYNOPSIS

BIG HERO 6 (PG) 114MINS

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

HOME (U) 124MINS

An alien fugitive bonds with an Earth girl in this crazy animated comedy from the creators of 'How to Train Your Dragon'. The Boov are an alien race desperate for a new place to call home. Under their supremely confident leader, Captain Smek (Steve Martin), they decide the Earth will do just fine. So an invasion is launched and all the inconvenient humans relocated. But a feisty girl named Tip (Ribanna) manages to avoid the round-up, along with her adorable pet cat. She then encounters Oh (Jim Parsons) - a lonely, unpopular Boov who's been banished for causing major calamities. An unlikely friendship develops as the odd couple embark on an epic road trip, during which Oh supercharges Tip's car and learns that music does funny things to his body!

JUPITER ASCENDING (12A) 147MINS

Mila Kunis and Channing Tatum star in a spectacular, cosmos-spanning sci-fi adventure from the directors of 'The Matrix'. Jupiter Jones (Mila Kunis) always dreamed that she was destined for great things. But the reality of her life sometime in the far future is that of a downtrodden toilet cleaner. Enter Caine (Channing Tatum) - a genetically engineered former military hunter who has arrived on Earth specifically to track her down. Addressing her as "your majesty", he reveals that she is at the heart of a war between powerful rival galactic dynasties. Currently, the malevolent Baleem (Eddie Redmayne) owns the title to Earth. Jupiter's genetic signature reveals that it is her birthright. The scene is set for a spectacular battle for the planet! More than a decade on from the ground-breaking 'Matrix' trilogy, the Wachowski siblings reclaim their sci-fi crown with this epic space opera thrill ride. Watch out for the cameo by Jerry Gilliam

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: SWAN LAKE (12A) 180MINS

Prince Siegfried chances upon a flock of swans while out hunting. When one of the swans turns into a beautiful woman, Odette, he is instantly captivated and determines to break the spell that holds her captive. The evil spirit Von Rothbart, arbiter of the curse, disguises his daughter as Odette. Foiled, Siegfried declares his love for her, and so dooms Odette to suffer under the curse forever. Siegfried and Odette drown themselves and are united in death.

SELMA (12A) 128MINS

Oscar Winner for Original Song: Glory - David Oyelowo excels as Martin Luther King in this brilliant account of a key moment in the US civil rights struggle. Spring, 1965. The small town of Selma, Alabama, has become the unlikely flashpoint for the struggle for racial equality. Astute strategist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Martin Luther King Jr (David Oyelowo) knows that the most effective use of non-violence is to provoke a violent response. He selects Selma for a protest march because of its racist governor George Wallace (Tim Roth) and the brutality of its police force. Ava DuVernay's insightful, profoundly moving drama captures the political chicanery surrounding this turning point for the civil rights movement. It also works superbly on a smaller, human scale as a portrait of a flawed man.

SHAUN THE SHEEP THE MOVIE (U) 85MINS

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

THE SECOND BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL (PG) 142MINS

Richard Gere checks in with the A-list cast for the continuing adventures of elderly Britons in an Indian retirement hotel. Jaipur's Best Exotic Marigold Hotel for the Elderly and Beautiful has become a huge success for ambitious young Sonny (Dev Patel). Muriel (Maggie Smith) is now installed as his business partner. Douglas (Bill Nighy) and Evelyn (Judi Dench) have also joined the workforce. And with new arrivals Lavinia (Tamsin Greig) and American writer Guy (Richard Gere) vying for the one remaining room, it's clearly time for expansion. But Sonny Sonny is also occupied by his impending marriage to Sunaina (Tena Desae). This love in the air seems to be contagious. Madge (Celia Imrie) swoons over suave, handsome Guy, while Douglas and Evelyn's romance continues to develop. The original director, writer and magnificent main cast of the delightful 2012 sleeper hit reunite for this eagerly anticipated sequel. Deliciously unexpected developments are promised!

Radio

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

THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS

MONDAY:

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

TUESDAY:

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

WEDNESDAY:

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

THURSDAY:

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

FRIDAY:

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

SATURDAY:

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

SUNDAY:

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



POPULAR: Cool tunes from the red hot Skipinnish.

Skipinnish entertains at Inveraray accordion club

IT WAS standing room only to hear the widely renowned and popular Skipinnish ceilidh band with Angus MacPhail on accordion, Andrew Stevenson on Highland bagpipe, small pipes and whistles, Ross Wilson on keyboard and Alastair Murray on drums.

They entertained the audience at Inveraray fiddle and accordion club with a superb west coast sound. Many of the favourite pipe marches and Gaelic waltzes were played with great craic in between.

Supporting players on the night were, Fyne Folk with Sally Hall, Alex John MacLeod and Jake MacKay on fiddles,

Nick MacFarlane on accordion and Agnes Liddell on keyboard. Also on accordion - Alex MacKinnon and Johnny Fisher; on melodeon, James MacArthur; on fiddle, Charlie Soane; on small pipes, Donald Anderson; on drums, Donald MacLachlan and on 'moothie', Jake MacKay and their various contributions from soloists to quintets were much enjoyed.

The audience was reluctant to let Skipinnish go but not before a well-deserved encore and various requests from the floor brought a great night to a close.

The club next welcomes Davie Stewart and his trio from Kiriemuir.

Musical duo in concert

Saxophone and clarsach at St John's Cathedral

KAREN Dufour (saxophone) and Gwen Sinclair (harp) are an innovative duo playing a most unusual mix of instruments and will be at the next meeting of Oban Music Society.

They met while studying at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and recently decided to forge this new musical partnership.

Gwen grew up in St Andrews and moved to Glasgow in 1999 to study with Karen Vaughan (co-principal harp, LSO) and graduated in 2004 with a BA (hons) and PGDipMusic (performance).

Since then, Gwen has been enjoying a busy and varied freelance career playing with

professional orchestras, working in chamber groups and performing at weddings.

Gwen is the clarsach instructor at the Glasgow Gaelic School and the pedal harp teacher in the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's junior department.

As well as classical music on the pedal harp, Gwen does a lot of work with the clarsach and the traditional music of Scotland and Wales as part of the duo, Tornish, as well as being a member of TRAC Cymru's 10 in a Bus project.

Graduating in 2006 with a Masters degree in saxophone performance Karen studied with Josef Pacewicz.

During her studies, she won the Royal Scottish National Orchestra's Apprenticeship

Scheme and the Mary D Adams Prize for Chamber Music.

In 2011 Karen was recipient of the Creative Scotland professional development award allowing her to study with soprano saxophonist Christine Rall, of the Rascher Saxophone Quartet.

She now enjoys a varied freelance career performing around the UK and has performed with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra.

Other engagements include performing for Prince Charles and Lady Camilla Parker Bowles.

The concert on March 15 will begin at 3pm in St John's Cathedral, Oban.

MG Alba community consultations

GAELIC television broadcaster, MG Alba, is holding public meetings to find out what Scottish communities want from the future of Gaelic broadcasting.

The community consultations will take place across Scotland, with meetings

in Skye, today (Thursday), Oban and Fort William on March 16, Tiree on March 18, Lewis on March 19 and South Uist and Barra on March 20.

In addition to the public meetings MG Alba is also welcoming people's views via an online questionnaire

with details available at www.mgalba.com.

Anyone who would like to reserve a place at any of the meetings or for further information should contact Murdo Morrison (MG Alba) on murdo.morrison@mgalba.com or on 01851 705550.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

The Lorn Show CEILIDH DANCE
With Gunna Sound
Saturday 21st March
North Connel Hall, 8pm
Tickets £10
Available from Oban Music
Under 14's free (Must be accompanied by an adult)
Supper, Licenced

A fundraising
Soup Lunch
In aid of
Oban Pipe Band
will be held in
Oban Pipe Band Hall
Shore Street
on **Saturday 14th March**
From 12 noon - 2.00pm
Admission £3.00

The Rockfield Centre
The heart of a creative community
Come along to discuss what's next for the project
News and Views
Monday 16th March, 6:30pm
Caledonian Hotel
Station Square, Oban
www.obancommunitytrust.org.uk
SC483489

MOTHER'S DAY GIFT & CRAFT FAIR
Great Western Hotel, Oban
Saturday, March 14
10am - 4pm

Crianlarich Village Hall Annual Charity Bric-a-brac Auction Sale
Friday 13th March
Viewing from 5pm
Auction starts 6pm
Hot food available
To donate please contact Bryan on 01838300245

Advertise in the Community Noticeboard for just £16.21 (plus VAT)
This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number.
All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page
Please ask for details

Four out of five adults use their local paper to find out what's on
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Market report

A MUCH-increased entry on the year saw almost 200 head of cattle and more than 500 sheep of all classes sold at United Auctions annual early spring sale at Dalmlally auction mart.

Bullock stirks sold to a top £940 per head from M/s MacPherson, Balliemeanach Farm whilst M/s Adam, Gar-

rraron led the prices per kilo in this section at 321pence.

Heifer stirks from M/s MacLeod, Lurgnish sold to £850 and heifers from Mr Kennedy, Ardachearnbeg led the kilo prices at 282pence.

Bullocks sold to average £807 per head and 260.17 pence per kilo against £718.46 and 242.98 at the corresponding sale last

year whilst heifers levelled out at £707.11 per head and 249.08 per kilo against £673.86 and 225.03 last year.

With a very strong ringside of buyers present, more cattle could have been sold to advantage.

All classes of sheep sold at keen rates and in keeping with current trends.

Principal lots and prices:
Top prices per head:
Bullocks: CHAR: £900(4) & £845(3) - Barnakill Farm. GALX: £940 & £860 - Balliemeanach Farm. HERX: £865 - Laggan Farms. LIMX: £935 - Dall Farm. £895 - Achnacone Farm. £885 - Lurgnish Farm. £845(5) - Garraron and Melfort Farms. £820(2) - Achnacone Farm. £810(2) and £805(4) - Garraron and Melfort Farms. £800(2) - Boreland Farms. SALX: £890 - Balliemeanach Farm. SHOX: £845 - Barnakill Farm. SIMX: £895 - Achnacone Farm. £880 - Knockderry Farm. £865(5) - Laggan Farms. £840 and £825(2) - Achnacone Farm. £820 - Laggan Farms(3) and Achnacone Farm. £810 - Stroneskar Farm. £800 - Achnacone Farm.

Heifers: AAX: £700 - Laggan Farms(6) and Glenfeochan Estate. CHARX: £815(3), £790(3) & £765(5) - Barnakill Farm. LIMX: £850 - Lurgnish Farm. £815 - Barnakill Farm. £800 - Ardberg Farm. £790(2) - Lurgnish Farm. £775(2) - Achnacone Farm. £755 - Garraron and

Melfort Farms(3) and Achnacone Farm. SALX: £795(3) - Balliemeanach Farm. SIMX: £780(4) - Laggan Farms. £775 and £740 - Achnacone Farm.

Top prices per kilo:
Bullocks: BSHX: 258p(2) - Knockderry Farm. CHARX: 291p(3), 254p & 251p(5) - Barnakill Farm. GALX: 204p - Balliemeanach Farm. HERX: 252p - Laggan Farms. LIMX: 321p(2) and 312p(5) - Garraron and Melfort Farms. 312p - Ardachearnbeg. 288p(4) - Garraron and Melfort Farms. 284p(2) - Boreland Farms. 283p(2) and 279p - Ardberg Farm. 273p - Boreland Farms. 261p(5) - Achnacone Farm. 260p(2) - Stroneskar Farm. 250p - Glenfeochan Estate. SHOX: 291p - Barnakill Farm. SIMX: 274p & 270p - Stroneskar Farm. 269p(2) - Achnacone Farm. 253p - Knockderry Farm. 252p(5) - Laggan Farms.

Heifers: AAX: 271p & 262p(2) - Glenfeochan Estate. CHARX: 267p(3), 258p(5) & 245p(3) - Barnakill Farm. LIMX: 282p(2) - Ardachearnbeg. 277p(5) - Garraron and Melfort Farms. 271p(2) -

Glenfeochan Estate. 270p(2) - Garraron and Melfort Farms. 268p(5) - Achnacone Farm. 267p - Barnakill Farm. 262p(4) - Glenfeochan Estate. 260p(2) - Achnacone Farm and Ardachearnbeg. 252p - Garraron and Melfort Farms and Achnacone Farm. SIMX: 268p & 260p - Achnacone Farm.

Cow with calf at foot: £1,020 - Invernahyle Farm.

Sheep:
Hoggs: SUFFX: £61.50 - Couston Farm. CHEVX: £59.00 & £52.50 - Maam Farm. CROSS: £71.00 - Lephinkill Farm. £64.00 - Couston Farm. BF: £80.00 - Crunachy. £59.00 - Lephinkill Farm. £51.50 - Maam Farm.

Ewes: BFLX: £69.00 - Barguilean Farm. TEXX: £70.00 and £66.50 - Tullochcan Farm. CHEVX: £60.00 - Barguilean Farm. Cross: £62.00 - Blairmore Farm. BF: £69.00 - Glenkin Farm. £58.00 - Blairmore Farm. £51.00 - Tullochcan Farm.

Rams: TEX: £90.00 - Barguilean. Cross: £90.00 - Lochuisge.

Lantra awards given to Taynuilt aquaculture and agriculture apprentices

Students know oats from smolts

AN AGRICULTURE student and an aquaculture student, both from Taynuilt, have shown they know their oats from their smolts at the annual Lantra Learner of the Year Awards.

From more than 50 nominations Ruairidh MacKinnon, 19, was named Agriculture Learner of the Year, following his Modern Apprenticeship, which he studied for at Oatridge College in Broxburn.

He then went on to double his winnings, receiving a prestigious Council for Awards of Royal Agricultural Societies' (CARAS) award which recognises individuals who demonstrate innovation, skills and determination within the sector and encourage others to reach the full potential.

He was one of four CARAS recipients at the awards ceremony last Thursday in Dunblane.

The Taynuilt teenager is now studying for a Higher National Certificate in Agriculture at the Scottish Rural College's (SRUC) Ayr campus, with the potential to eventually do a degree.

While overall winner and runner-up for Land-based and Aquaculture Learner of the Year Award 2015 was 19-year-old Callum Low, a game and wildlife trainee from Arbroath, 28-year-old aquaculture apprentice from Taynuilt, Andrew Moore, took the runner up spot. Andrew also won the Aquaculture Learner of the Year award.

One of the high points of the evening was a key-note speech by Nick Nairn, who reminded the audience of the importance of fostering young talent and investing in skills to ensure a lasting future for Scotland's food and drink sector.

Nick also presented the awards to the winners and runners up.

He has recently completed a modern apprenticeship SVQ Level 3 in aquaculture whilst employed by Dawnfresh Farming Ltd in Uddingston, Glasgow.

He is involved with all aspects of fish farm management there, from husbandry and fish welfare management to business management and compliance work.

Andrew was delighted to pick up his two awards: 'Winning these awards is fantastic.

'I first became interested in aquaculture because Nidderdale trout farm was close to my home town, and I managed to get my

'Nidderdale was a land-based, raceway site, but I also had the opportunity to spend time working at other farms run by the company, including a site at Loch Etive.

'Whilst at Loch Etive, I really knew this was what I wanted to do for the rest of my career.'

Twenty-two-year-old engineering apprentice Fraser Maclean, from the Isle of Tiree, who studies at the SRUC Barony campus outside Dumfries, won Land-based Engineering Learner of the Year award.

The 12th Lantra awards ceremony was attended by 220 employers, trainees and industry representatives who celebrated the achievements of 29 talented winners and runners up across 15 award categories.

The event and gala dinner, sponsored by The Scottish Salmon Company and hosted by celebrity chef Nick Nairn, took place at the Doubletree by Hilton Dunblane Hydro Hotel near Stirling.



WINNER: Ruairidh MacKinnon, Taynuilt with his Agriculture Learner of the Year award

Spring Farming

Lamb feeding: ewe colostrum v whey-based alternative

SURPLUS lambs fed a colostrum alternative made from whey protein concentrate went on to match the performance of those fed ewe colostrum for the first 24 hours of life, according to trial findings from the University College Dublin.

The trial featured 30 surplus lambs from the university's 350-ewe flock, and split in two groups. Half the lambs were fed ewe colostrum at 50ml/kg birth weight at one, 10 and 18-hour intervals after birth whilst the remainder were each fed at the same intervals, one 50g sachet of Volac Lamb Volostrum (three, 50g sachets over 18 hours).

All the surplus lambs were reared artificially on Lamlac ad libitum via a Ewe-2

feeder from 24 hours, and weaned at just over six weeks of age.

'The two groups of lambs recorded identical pre-weaning growth rates and nil mortality which highlights that when ewe colostrum is in short supply, as is often the case with multiple births, triplet lambs can be successfully artificially reared and achieve high growth rates,' explains University College Dublin's Dr Tommy Boland.

The Irish findings mirror precisely earlier research findings from Harper Adams University, whilst more than 30 farm studies have concluded that farmers were satisfied that Volostrum was very effective as a first feed for lambs.

Volac's Jessica Cooke said: 'These findings reflect the fact that Volostrum, as a colos-

trum alternative, supplies a readily available source of nutrients and energy to get the young lamb up and on to its feet in those critical first few hours.

'The alternative is based on high quality un-denatured whey proteins which have been processed under low temperature conditions that maintain the integrity of the biologically valuable globular proteins essential to the young lamb.

'In fact a 140ml feed of ewe colostrum would provide 28g protein, in comparison to a 50g first feed of Volostrum providing 38g protein.'



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Get your boat back in the water

GET GEARED UP FOR THE BOATING SEASON

WITH THE countdown now on to spring launching, it's time to start work on boats to prepare for the 2015 boating season. Many of the 'to do' jobs over the winter will still be in the planning... so gear up, get the overalls on and get cracking to prepare your boat for launching. If you winter in a boatyard it's advisable to book your launching slot and any work that may be needed by the pro-

fessionals if you have not already done so. This is the busiest time of year so don't delay in liaising with the yard. Prepare a work plan on a priority basis - it's not only satisfying to tick off each job as it is completed but saves time in the long run. Be prepared with the right tools for the work in hand - rags, silicone and normal grease, petroleum jelly, lubricating and penetrating oils, brushes, wet and dry, rollers and tray, degreaser, rolls of tape, engine spares and treatments for your water and fuel tanks. If there's a job that you're unsure about or you need to choose from the wide range of products on the market ask the advice of your local chandler or boatyard - they are the experts in this field and can save you a lot of time

and expense if you purchase the wrong materials for the work in hand.

Hull

Start with the all-important hull, removing as much old anti-fouling as possible to ensure a good surface for re-application. Be guided by your chandler on choice of anti-fouling depending on where your boat is kept and what you use it for. A wide range is available from specialist racing finishes to cruiser and powerboat coatings. Apply according to instructions with a stronger build-up in the high impact areas - the leading edge of the keel, skeg and the keel to hull joint. Remember to anti-foul under the keel and cradle support points before the boat takes to the water.

Keel and Rudder

Before anti-fouling inspect the keel for rusting or pitting and wear at the keel to hull joint. Check keelbolts and rudder, skeg and propeller fitments for athwartships play and any stress fractures which could require more in-depth work. Check for any play in bearings, stock or quadrant. Grease the shaft well and replace anodes as required. Make sure bonding wires from the anode are sound. Grease steering cables and grease the log's paddle wheel.

Topsides

Clean thoroughly, work out any staining and repair any damage. Apply

a protective wax and polish. Not only will work on this be repaid in the boat looking good for the season but the wax will serve to protect the finish. Chat to your local chandler about the best products for the job in hand.

Engines

Regular servicing on both inboards and outboard is essential to keep the powerhouse working properly. An oil change should be done if not already undertaken when wintered. Filters should be changed as well as internal anodes and a check made on gear box oil. Grease stern gear. Check engine belt tension and mounts are secure as well as the underside of the shaft - rebed if any leaks are apparent. With

Bilges

Inspect bilge pump impellers and gaskets, grease and replace if necessary. With automatic bilge pumps, see float switches work and the strumbox is clear. Manual strum boxes should be pumped through to see hose is clear of blockages. Replace any worn hoses or electrical connections. Service the seacocks. Dry the bilge thoroughly, so if water appears after launching you know there's a problem.

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Batteries should have been on trickle charge over lay-up but if not re-charge now and monitor electrolyte levels if unsealed. Ensure the battery tray is dry and tighten securing straps making sure all gas vents are clear. Clean terminals and coat with petroleum jelly.

Fuel Tanks and Gas System

Fuel tanks should be full from laying up. If not, drain water off and treat with a diesel biocide. Inspect the gas system regularly and thoroughly – alarms need to be working and ensure the system conforms to current gas regulations. Replace hoses and fittings according to manufacturer's recommendations.

On deck

Clean the decks of winter dirt with appropriate products. Go round all fittings inspecting for wear and tear as well as any cracking at rigging ter-

electrical connections. Any wood on deck, teak slats etc should be oiled or varnished and paintwork touched up and stainless polished. This is an ideal time for maintenance of spray hoods and other cockpit coverings. Overhaul warps and sheets and replace as required.

Mast and Rigging

Go over all running rigging and replace anything that looks suspect. Check over furling gear to ensure smooth operation. Check masthead lights, instrumentation and VHF radio are working before mast is stepped – this will save someone having to go up if there's a problem. After rigging, tape split pins and bottlescrews and protect any potential snagging areas.

Interior/ Safety equipment

Assuming a good clean out was undertaken on laying up and a de-humidifier installed, the interior should be fresh and dry. Fresh water should be pumped through the water tank which can then be filled for use. Add a purifier. Pump through the heads several times. Add some washing up liquid to lubricate the hoses. Re-install any equipment etc removed for winter storage. Do a thorough check on safety equipment - fire extinguishers, flares, life-rafts, life-jackets, rubber dinghies and repair or replace. Service liferafts as required. An Royal National Lifeboat Institution safety check is available free of charge to see if your safety and other equipment aboard the boat is up to scratch. Invert MOB lights to check they still work and change bulb and batteries if not. Some WD40 on

the copper contact strip inside will ensure good connection. Silicone grease rubber seals. Make an inventory and display prominently in boat so items, particularly safety gear, can be found quickly and easily. Clean berth cushions before replacing - the interior should be fresh and inviting for the start your season.

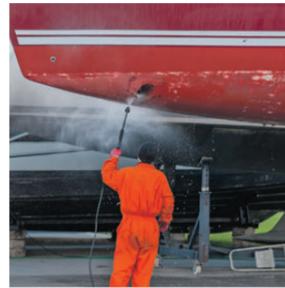
Sails

Sails must be checked for wear - it is always advisable to get a professional sail-maker to attend to this – stitching may need replaced, repair patching carried out.

Expert advice

If you launch the boat yourself get organised with tools and a selection of split pins, tape, extra anti-fouling and a brush. Otherwise liaise with your boatyard over launching and whether you need to be there.

Don't forget professional advice is always available from your boatyard manager, chandler, or sail-maker - these people are experts in their field so if in doubt about anything - ask. Now thoughts can turn to planning your activities on the water – whether it be cruising, fishing, pottering or racing in your boat. Enjoy a safe and successful 2015 season.



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minals and swages for broken strands. Overhaul winches - strip down to check for wear, soak components in degreaser and re-grease. Springs and pawls need a light oil. Pay attention to stanchion bases for play and remove plastic lifeline sheathing to check for corrosion underneath. Inspect anchors, chain and connections for corrosion, replacing anything suspect. Clean manual windlasses, check for wear and grease. Remove the gypsy in powered versions, grease the drum, look at the foot switch for wear, clean and grease



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ADVERTORIAL

2015 Subaru Forester gets upgraded interior and diesel CVT powertrain

SUBARU UK has announced details of the 2015 model-year update to its best-selling Forester SUV, which features a raft of changes to its interior and powertrain and enhances the go-anywhere capabilities of the Forester range.

New powertrain option – Lineartronic with Boxer diesel

The most significant change for the latest Subaru Forester is the addition of a diesel-Lineartronic CVT (continuously-variable transmission) powertrain to the UK model line-up, the first Forester to offer such a powertrain.

By pairing the popular 2.0-litre horizontally-opposed 'Boxer' diesel engine with Lineartronic, Subaru engineers have endowed the car with a more relaxing drive and, at the same time, boosted its off-road capabilities. Paired with the standard all-wheel drive drivetrain, Lineartronic brings with it Subaru's Hill Descent Control (HDC) and the X-Mode system, which intelligently manages the car's power and torque, brakes and drivetrain to maintain traction on even the most slippery surfaces.

The Lineartronic transmission fitted to the Forester's 2.0-litre diesel engine is the same high-capacity CVT found on the powerful 240 ps XT Turbo model, and is engineered to manage the diesel engine's high 350 Nm torque output.

In its latest application in the Forester, the NVH characteristics of the transmission have been improved with additional soundproofing, while a manual mode provides drivers with seven preset 'gears' for greater control of the engine.

The 148 ps Boxer diesel engine itself has also received a range of modifications designed to reduce noise, vibration and harshness and improve fuel economy.

A new common-rail injection system enables more precise combustion control, while new glow plugs speed up engine heating for greater fuel efficiency from a cold start. Other changes include revised turbocharger settings while a new radiator, oil cooler and radiator fans have been adopted for

diesel models, aiding engine cooling.

With the new diesel engine and gearbox combination the 2015 Subaru Forester will return 46.3 mpg and 158 g/km CO2 on the combined cycle, and go from zero to 62 mph in 9.6 seconds. Diesel models equipped with the standard six-speed manual return 49.6 mpg and a now lower 148 g/km CO2 on the combined cycle (-2 g/km). Acceleration is also improved slightly, recording zero to 62 mph in 9.8 seconds (down from 10.2 seconds).

Cabin upgrades improve quality and refinement

Subaru engineers have introduced a number of improvements to the interior of the car, designed to raise the quality and ambience of the cabin. Central to the upgraded interior is a new factory-fit touchscreen infotainment and navigation system which replaces the previous, Pioneer dealer-fit options. The 7.0-inch touchscreen, fitted as standard to all XC, AC Premium and XT models in the UK, allows front seat occupants to control the car's satellite navigation and audio systems using the same touchscreen functionality as a smartphone, with swiping and pinching-in and out to zoom in on map displays.

Drivers can control the infotainment and navigation system – as well as the climate control – with Subaru's latest-generation voice control system, while full Bluetooth functionality

enables users to connect their smartphone to the car via StarLink, for weather and traffic reports, wireless audio and news updates.

The upgraded interior also makes use of higher quality materials, in particular a new piano black central fascia, metallic highlights at key locations around the dashboard and new, more tactile leather controls. The car also now receives an extra USB jack allowing occupants to listen to music from a USB-compatible device while charging another at the same time.

The Multi-Function Display (MFD) at the top of the dashboard continues to display useful information to the driver, such as temperature, the status of the standard

all-wheel drive system and fuel economy data.

Improving the sporty image of the XT Turbo model, meanwhile, the MFD now features a turbo boost gauge for all models fitted with the 241 ps 2.0-litre DIT (direct injection turbo) engine.

NVH throughout the cabin is further improved with the adoption of greater soundproofing material under the bonnet and around the air intake.

The exterior of the car remains largely unchanged, with the exception of a new shark-fin antenna which replaces the pole antenna found on pre-2015 models.

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First-time buyer lending in Scotland up 23 per cent in 2014

New CML data on the characteristics of lending in Scotland in the fourth quarter of 2014 show a decline quarter-on-quarter and year-on-year in house purchase but an increase in first-time buyers compared to the fourth quarter of 2013.

In the fourth quarter of 2014:

There were 7,000 first-time buyer loans in Scotland, worth £750m. This was down compared to the third quarter 5 per cent by value and 4 per cent by volume. Compared to the fourth quarter of 2013, the number of loans increased by 3 per cent and the amount borrowed by 9 per cent.

There were 8,000 loans to home movers, valued at, £1.2bn. This was down 8 per cent in volume and down 9 per cent in value compared to the third quarter.

Compared to the fourth quarter of 2013, there was a decrease of 8 per cent in volume and a decrease of 5 per cent in value.

The total number of remortgage loans declined in the fourth quarter to 5,700 loans (£650m), which was down 3 per cent in volume but unchanged in value on the third quarter. Compared to the fourth quarter of 2013, activity was down 17 per cent in volume and 13 per cent in value.

In 2014 as a whole:

Scotland accounted for 6.6 per cent of UK-wide annual house purchase activity, down from 6.9 per cent in 2013.

Lenders advanced 27,700 loans to first-time buyers in Scotland totalling £2.9bn. This was 16 per cent up in volume compared to 2013, and 23 per cent up in value.

Home movers in Scotland took out 31,800 loans, 5 per cent more than in 2013. The value of these loans was £4.6bn, up 10 per cent.

There were 23,400 loans advanced for remortgage in 2014 totalling £2.6bn. This was 14 per cent down by volume compared to 2013, and 9 per cent down by value.

per cent down by value.

Lending for house purchase

Home-owner house purchase in Scotland decreased in the final quarter of 2014 to 15,000 loans, down 6 per cent on the third quarter and 3 per cent on the fourth quarter of 2013. These loans reflected lending of £1.9bn, down 6 per cent compared to the third quarter but up 1 per cent on the fourth quarter 2013.

Overall in 2014, the total number of loans advanced for home-owner house purchase was 59,300, which was up 9 per cent compared to 2013. These loans aggregated to £7.5bn, an increase of 15 per cent compared to 2013.

Lending to first-time buyers

First-time buyer affordability changed slightly in Scotland quarter-on-quarter with first-time buyers typically borrowing 2.90 times their gross income, less than the 2.94 income

multiple in the third quarter and less than the UK average of 3.38.

The typical loan size for first-time buyers was £97,200 in the fourth quarter, down from £98,600 in the previous quarter. The typical gross income of a first-time buyer household was £33,965 compared to £33,520 in the third quarter.

The relatively low level of interest rates saw first-time buyers' payment burden remaining relatively low in the third quarter at 16.8 per cent of gross income being spent to cover capital and interest payments, higher than the third quarter's 17.3 per cent.

Lending to home movers

Home mover affordability changed fractionally, with home movers typically borrowing 2.64 times their gross income compared 2.62 in the third quarter and to 3.03 for the UK overall.

The typical loan size for home movers was

£128,244 in fourth quarter, down from £130,000 in the previous quarter. The typical gross household income of a home mover was £50,773 in fourth quarter compared to £50,971 in the third quarter.

Home movers' payment burden remained relatively low in Scotland at 16.5 per cent of gross income being spent to cover monthly capital and interest payments, less than the 16.9 per cent in the third quarter and considerably less than the 18.4 per cent UK average.

Lending to home owners for remortgage

The number of remortgage loans declined in the fourth quarter to 5,700 loans (£650m), which was down 3 per cent in volume but unchanged in value on the third quarter. Compared to the fourth quarter of 2013, activity was down 17 per cent in volume and down 13 per cent in value. This is the joint lowest performing quarter for remortgage lending

since our data began in 2005, alongside the second quarter of 2014 and the first quarter of 2013.

Overall for 2014, remortgage lending in Scotland was 23,400 loans reflecting a value of £2.6bn. This was 14 per cent down in volume compared to 2013, and 9 per cent down in value.

This is the lowest performing volume levels for remortgage in a year since our data began in 2005.

Linda Docherty, chair of CML Scotland, said: 'More people bought a home in Scotland last year than in any year since 2008, with a pronounced increase in first-time buyer activity in particular. As in the UK overall, there was a quarter-on-quarter dip in activity in the final quarter of the year. However, with inflation being low, employment increasing and there being signs of growth in household income we believe there are grounds for optimism

for continuing growth, albeit at a likely slower rate.

The introduction in Scotland of Land and Buildings Transaction Tax, replacing stamp duty from April, should help provide a boost to the housing market, which could see half of new borrowers paying no tax when purchasing a home.'

1. The Council of Mortgage Lenders' members are banks, building societies and other lenders who together undertake around 95 per cent of all residential mortgage lending in the UK. There are 11.1 million mortgages in the UK, with loans worth over £1.3 trillion.

2. Source: CML Regulated Mortgage Survey

3. The Council of Mortgage Lenders does not publish statistics for mortgage approvals. The data in our monthly Regulated Mortgage Survey and gross lending press releases relate to mortgage advances only. A mortgage approval is the firm offer to a customer of a specific amount of credit secured against a particular property. A mortgage advance is the total amount of loan actually provided to the buyer, by the lender. Please see the mortgage statistics timeline on our website for further information.

4. Data for the first quarter of 2015 will be released on Wednesday 27 May 2015

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ADVERTORIAL

Letting Matters in Argyll

In four years' letting property across Argyll I have seen my fair share of issues.

From incorrect lease paperwork, to water leaks, to a young Labrador chewing window sills.

Many are avoidable. Here are my five top tips to ensure your tenancies run smoothly:

1: Get References

This seems common sense but many landlords produce leases with incorrect names, addresses and no check on the tenant's income/references. When signing a lease, tenants are making a long term financial

commitment and you should ensure they have the means to do so. In addition, landlord references are invaluable to assess their tenancy history. Get to know your tenants.

2: Serve Notices

Correctly serve notices before signing the lease agreement. Do you ensure your tenants receive and sign a Form AT5 and Grounds Notification before signing the Short Assured Tenancy Agreement? Many a landlord has tripped up here, incurring large legal costs and stress.

3: Property Condition Report

You need a detailed written report of the condition of the property,

location of services and the property contents at the start of the tenancy. Make sure this is signed and agreed by you and the tenant. Even better, make sure you take reference snaps. Trust me, you will struggle to remember if that mark on the carpet was there when they moved in. Another handy tip - note the opening meter readings and meter serial number too. We do.

Do you know where the stop cock is? Do your tenants? When water is pouring through the ceiling you WILL want them to know where it is. Trust me.

4: Regular Inspections

Tenancies can continue for years and they need

maintaining. We stress to all our tenants the importance of contacting us about maintenance issues, but even the most conscientious tenants might miss something now and again.

If you do not check your rental property regularly how can you be sure it's being maintained and your tenants are adhering to the terms of the lease? Slipped slates, poor ventilation, a wild garden, leaking bath seal, broken extractor fan. They can all cost you money if they are left too long. Catch these issues soon, fix them, job done.

5: Jack Russell or Alsatian?

Make sure you detail any permitted pets in

your lease agreement. Remember to specify the number, which species you would permit, even the pet's name.

I heard a great story from a fellow letting agent about a tenancy where the landlord had permitted 'one pet dog', as the tenants had a 14-year-old Jack Russell. Sadly Fido passed away a few months into the tenancy and the tenants decided to get an Alsatian. Much to the landlord's surprise next time he visited the compact two-bedroom flat.

The Devil's in the Detail

There are many more regulations and considerations when renting your property but I hope these five tips are useful

and help you avoid some of the many pitfalls of property letting.

Have questions? Want to discuss your property or tenancy? - Call our experienced Lettings Team on 01631 569466 today for a chat.
By Nicola MacPhail, managing director, West Property Sales & Lettings



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 ☎ 01546 604334

Closing date: 27 March 2015.
 To apply visit our website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

Carers Direct Limited
 are an independent provider specialising in care at home.

We are looking for Carers to work in the Oban Area.
 Rate of pay from £8.50/hour - variable hours.

Alternate weekends essential. Car driver essential SVQ 2 preferred, training provided.
 Application forms from 01631 569 550.

Registered with Scottish Care Commission. Applications subject to PVG Scheme vetting.

ACHA
 argyll community housing association

Community Support Assistant
 Elder Crescent, Bowmore
 12.5 hours per week Monday to Friday
 09.00 am to 11.30 am
 Salary - £6,045 to £6,679 per annum
 Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 20th March 2015

This post will be subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Scotland PVG check.
 To apply visit our website at www.acha.co.uk/recruitment

If you cannot access the website please contact the recruitment team: Tel 01546 605917 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

Interviews for this post will be held at the end of March 2015.

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Part time Clerical Assistant required for Lochgilhead Legal Practice.

Previous office experience preferred.
 C.V. and applications in writing to Ian Smith Watson, Rubens, 77Argyll street, Lochgilhead.

Caledonian MacBrayne
 Crewing (Guernsey) Limited

CalMac Ferries Limited has a requirement for:

Seasonal Port Assistants - 2 positions available (1st May - 30th Sept 2015)
 Ref 687-SB

£9.24 per hour
 20 hours per week
 Fionnphort Ferry Terminal

Applications are invited for the position of Seasonal Port Assistants based at Fionnphort.

Reporting to the Port Manager, you will need a flexible approach to your day-to-day responsibilities. Your duties will include all duties connected with ship movements, gangways and securing of vessels, Customer enquiries, Sales/collection of passenger/vehicle tickets, Cash handling, Use of VHF and PA Systems, Control of passengers and vehicles embarking and disembarking from vessels.

If you are interested in this position, please respond by sending your CV quoting reference number 687-SB no later than 23 March 2015 to: vacancies@davidmacbraynehr.co.uk, or **David MacBrayne HR (UK) Limited Ferry Terminal, Gourock, PA19 1QP t: 01475 650144**

Caledonian MacBrayne Crewing (Guernsey) Limited is an equal opportunities employer.

THE MELFORT CLUB
SATURDAY CLEANERS & HOUSEKEEPING ASSISTANTS

Melfort Village is a 4 star holiday village in Kilmelford, with 32 holiday cottages.

We are looking for hardworking, dedicated people, who take a pride in their work.

We are offering a minimum of 6 hours (Saturdays only) or up to 40 hours per week for Housekeeping assistants, which could include weekends, and the opportunity to work at a friendly resort within a wonderful environment.

For a full job description, or to apply for either position please contact Linda Brown, Manager on 01852 200257 or email a CV to linda.brown@melfortvillage.co.uk

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

51% of people turn to their local newspaper first when looking for a new job.

Source: Recruitment Choice, The Newspaper Society 2005

Regional Press

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

marineharvest

Casual Farm Technician
 Bagh Dail Nan Ceann (BDNC)
 £8.64 per hour

We currently have a vacancy for a Casual Farm Technician to work at our Seawater site at Bagh Dail Nan Ceann (BDNC).

The successful applicant will be required to carry out a variety of duties and general farm tasks and be willing to work flexibly to meet the demands of the job. Applications are invited from individuals who have a positive approach to this type of work and who are competent swimmers. Experience is certainly an advantage although training will be provided.

A current driving licence is essential.

If you are interested in applying for this vacancy please submit an application in writing, by the closing date of Friday 27th March 2015 to: Gillian Dempster, Human Resources Assistant, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.

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To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

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

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
15/00334/PP	Erection of a bunkhouse and increase bellmouth access from 4 metres to 6 metres	Baleveolan Croft Isle Of Lismore Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5UG	Sub Post Office Lismore
15/00418/PP	Erection of 9 dwellings	Phase 8 Glenshellach Catalina Avenue Oban Argyll	Oban Area Office
15/00423/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Land South Of Ardornish Crannaig-a-Mhinister Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4LU	Oban Area Office
15/00429/PP	Erection of 10 dwellings, comprising 6 terraced and 4 semi-detached	Land To Rear Of Dunavon Connel Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1PJ	Sub Post Office Connel
15/00471/PP	Formation of vehicular accesses	Land East Of Tigh An Allt Dervaig Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Dervaig
15/00472/PP	Improvements to existing vehicular access	The Old Inn Portnacraigh Appin Argyll And Bute PA38 4BL	Sub Post Office Ledaig
15/00482/PP	Permanent planning permission for retention of existing facility	Cardingmill Bay Landing Stage Gallanach Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4LS	Oban Area Office
15/00501/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 13 Aldersyde Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1AG	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
15/00614/PPP	Renewal of planning permission reference 11/02535/PPP - Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse	Land South Of Achnacarran Farm Kilchrean Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt

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
15/00554/PP	Demolition of existing building and erection of new Maritime Visitor Facility (amendment to existing planning permission reference 14/01602/PP)	White Building North Pier Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5GD	Oban Area Office

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. 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.

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.

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 application listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with it, may be examined between the hours of 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
15/00736/FUL	Site 40m West of Cala Darach, Glenmore, Acharacle	New dwelling house

Time period for comments is 14 days
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

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WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003
WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011
APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AUTHORISATION
MEALL MHOR MARINE CAGE FISH FARM, LOCH FYNE

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by the Scottish Salmon Company Limited to vary water use licence number CAR/L/1015860 authorising the carrying on of a controlled activity at, near or in connection with Meall Mhor Marine Cage Fish Farm, Loch Fyne, as follows:

Description of change to controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Changes to the location and layout of the site	Loch Fyne	NR 8652 7431
Maximum biomass increase with corresponding increase to medicines		

SEPA considers that the above change(s) to a controlled activity may have an impact on the water environment.

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays). Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: www.sepa.org.uk/water/water_regulation/advertised_applications.aspx

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1015860:

Registry Department, SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV51 9XB

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant this application.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- Assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- Assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- Consider any likely social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- Consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- Assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- Assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- Apply and have regard to relevant legislation

SEPA will then either grant or refuse the application.

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003
WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011
APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AUTHORISATION
STRONDOIR BAY MARINE CAGE FISH FARM, LOCH FYNE

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by the Scottish Salmon Company Limited to vary water use licence number CAR/L/1003721 authorising the carrying on of a controlled activity at, near or in connection with Strondoir Bay Marine Cage Fish Farm, Loch Fyne, as follows:

Description of change to controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Changes to the location and layout of the site	Loch Fyne	NR 8559 7961
Maximum biomass increase with corresponding increase to in-feed medicines		

SEPA considers that the above change(s) to a controlled activity may have an impact on the water environment.

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays). Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: www.sepa.org.uk/water/water_regulation/advertised_applications.aspx

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1003721:

Registry Department, SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV51 9XB

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant this application.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- Assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- Assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- Consider any likely social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- Consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- Assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- Assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- Apply and have regard to relevant legislation

SEPA will then either grant or refuse the application.

Transport Scotland **sustrans** **HITRANS**

NCN 78 Cycle Route development: Corran Ferry to Ballachulish

Transport Scotland, Sustrans and HITRANS are holding an open session and evening meeting in the Nether Lochaber Village Hall on Monday 16th March 2015 to discuss the development of the National Cycle Way (NCN) 78 through Onich. The open session will take place from 3-5.30pm, which will have proposed design drawings and an opportunity to comment on the scheme. The evening meeting will take place from 7-8.30pm with a presentation on the scheme development and a facilitated discussion. The meeting is open to everyone with an interest in the development of the cycle route through the area.

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
PONTOON INSTALLATION, MALLAIG MARINA BUILDING, MALLAIG HARBOUR

Notice is hereby given that Nevis Estates has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of Pontoon Installation, Mallaig Marina Building, Mallaig Harbour:

Location	Cost £75,000	
	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Mallaig Harbour	57° 00.284'N	005° 49.661'W
	57° 00.300'N	005° 49.664'W
	57° 00.303'N	005° 49.643'W
	57° 00.315'N	005° 49.627'W
	57° 00.292'N	005° 49.617'W
	57° 00.292'N	005° 49.649'W
	57° 00.293'N	005° 49.653'W
	57° 00.306'N	005° 49.663'W
	57° 00.316'N	005° 49.628'W
	57° 00.302'N	005° 49.639'W
	57° 00.286'N	005° 49.624'W
	57° 00.283'N	005° 49.658'W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Mallaig Post Office, Davies Brae, Mallaig, PH41 4PU

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: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference: **05476**

Nevis Estates

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
SLIPWAY EXTENSION & BREAKWATER DREDGING WORKS, KERRERA

Notice is hereby given that The Isle of Kerrera Development Trust has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of Slipway Extension & Breakwater Dredging Works, Kerrera.

Location	Cost £650,000	
	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Kerrera	56° 23.60'N	005° 31.03'W
	56° 24.00'N	005° 31.02'W
	56° 23.59'N	005° 31.01'W
	56° 23.59'N	005° 31.02'W
	56° 23.58'N	005° 31.01'W
	56° 23.58'N	005° 31.01'W
	56° 23.56'N	005° 31.02'W
	56° 23.58'N	005° 31.03'W
	56° 23.58'N	005° 31.04'W
	56° 23.60'N	005° 31.04'W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Oban Library, 77 Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AL.

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: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference: **05473**

The Isle of Kerrera Development Trust

First Registration of a Croft

Colin N Kennedy has registered their croft 2 Arinagour, Isle of Coll and 47 (10) Shares in Arinagour Common Grazing, Isle of Coll 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 27th November 2015. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is A0408 and A1695

Proposed Sublet of a croft

Mrs Andrea Docherty is applying to the crofting commission for consent to sublet the whole croft 367 south Boisdale, South Uist to Martin Matheson of 379a Garrynamonie, south Uist for 10 years.

If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the crofting commission, great glen house, Leachkin road, Inverness IV3 8NW (email: info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a freedom of information enquiry.

First Registration of a Croft

Ms Eileen Mackenzie has registered her croft 2 Lorgbaw, Kilchoman, Isle of Islay 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 9th September 2015. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is A0536.

Oban Times

JUNE HELEN WALFORD FORREST (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Inverewe House Taynuilt Argyll PA35 1HU formerly of 24 Dukes Meadow Cockfield Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 0HR, who died on 25/01/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 22/02/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

GREENE & GREENE
80 Guildhall Street Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 1QB 7435439

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
Mooring Application, South Ballachulish

Notice is hereby given that iPowerboat Limited has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of Moorings application, South Ballachulish.

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
	56° 41.29' N	005° 11.03' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at **The Post Office, Ballachulish**.

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: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference: **05453**

iPowerboat Limited

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
SLIPWAY EXTENSION & NEW BREAKWATER, KERRERA
SLIPWAY EXTENSION, GALLANACH

Notice is hereby given that The Isle of Kerrera Development Trust has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of Slipway Extension & New Breakwater, Kerrera and Slipway Extension, Gallanach:

Location	Cost £650,000	
	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Kerrera	56° 24.00'N	005° 31.08'W
	56° 23.82'N	005° 30.66'W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Oban Library, 77 Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AL.

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: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference: **05472**

The Isle of Kerrera Development Trust

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CAR SEAT Maxi Cosi, £20 Telephone 01855 811322.
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PERSONAL NOTICES
65th Wedding Anniversary
Johnny and Dorothy Blair, Kinlochleven, were married in Kinlochleven Church on March 10, 1950. Love and congratulations from all the family

BIRTHS

CAIN - Alasdair and Michelle (née Hershman), are delighted to announce the arrival of their first child, Alexander MacDougall Cain, born on March 4, 2015, in Washington D.C.

McLUCKIE - Lorn and Emma are overjoyed to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful son and daughter at R.A.H. Paisley on March 7, 2015. Hamish Stephen and Molly May are two more precious grandchildren for Mhairi and Jimmy Ross, Benderloch, Brown McLuckie and Stephen and Marilyn Crawford, Ballyclare, Northern Ireland.

LIVINGSTONE - The family of the late Mary Livingstone (Burns), would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for support, cards, flowers and telephone calls. Thanks to Salen surgery, Mull and Iona Community Hospital, The Beatson, Glasgow and Macmillan Nurses. Thank you to the Rev. John Paton for a lovely service and Billy McClymont for an excellent service. A generous collection for Macmillan Cancer support.

MACGILLIVRAY - The family of the late Violet MacGillivray would like to thank the following - doctors and nurses and Connel and Port Appin surgeries for their care and compassion to mum, Duncan Gunn for his efficient funeral arrangements, Rev. Jeff MacCormick for his excellent service, Falls of Lora Hotel for its wonderful buffet after the service, Catherine MacLean and Tina Scorgie for all the help and care they gave to mum. A big thank you to all family, friends and neighbours for their support, cards, flowers and home baking which was greatly appreciated and to all those who attended the funeral. The sum of £580 was collected for Chest Heart and Stroke Association.

MARTIN - Alex and family would like to thank all the relations, friends and neighbours of the late Milda for their kindness, support and expressions of sympathy. We are sincerely grateful for all your support, letters, messages, cards and flowers and to all who attended the memorial service at Killermont Parish Church and the service at Kilmeny Parish Church. Our thanks also goes to Rev Dr Alan Hamilton and Rev Thomas Bryson who presided over the services at Killermont and Kilmeny respectively and Jean and Craig MacAffer for the caring funeral arrangements. We would also like to thank the West Highland Gate and the Bridgend Hotel for their warm and friendly welcome and purveys.

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of Donald, who died March 13, 2014. The sinn g' a ionndrainn. - MacIntyre families, Strontian and Ratagan.

MACPHAIL - In memory of Allan, March 11, 2004. Forever in my thoughts. - Maureen.

MACPHAIL - In loving memory of my beloved nephew Allan, who passed away March 11, 2004. Loved and remembered always. - Auntie Ann.

MACPHAIL - In loving memory of Allan. Lovingly remembered. - Jennifer x

MACPHAIL - 20th Anniversary. Remembering so fondly, my son John, taken from us on March 15, 1995. Always loved. - Dad and Mary.

NICHOLSON - In loving memory of Jessie, died March 11, 2000. Wife of the late Malcolm and loving mum. Always in our thoughts. - The Nicholson family.

NICOLSON - Precious memories of John, who passed away March 6, 1999 and Margaret, who passed away March 13, 2012. Silent thoughts of times together. Hold memories that will last forever. - Joan, Derick, Lynda and Sarah.

OMAND - Treasured memories of a loving mother, mother-in-law and precious nana Cathie, Isle of Tiree, who sadly passed away on March 14, 2008. Every day in some small way Memories of you come our way. Though absent you are always near. Still missed, loved and always dear. - Rosemary, Ina, John, Murray, Norma and families, Tiree, Lewis and Renfrew.

RENNIE - In loving memory of dearest mum, Mary Elizabeth Rennie (née Robertson), one time of Oban. Always in our hearts. - Inserted by her daughter and son-in-law, Angela and David.

SCOTT - 10th anniversary of my dear husband Jimmy, dad and papa, who died March 14, 2005. Forever in our thoughts. - Jessie and family.

Obituary - Angus Kennedy QPM November 26, 1943 - February 1, 2015

THE DEATH of Angus Kennedy last month has attracted many tributes, not only from his beloved home on the Isle of Coll but also as far afield as the United States of America.

Known by journalists throughout Scotland as the head of the former Strathclyde police press office, Angus was the main spokesman for the force for many years.

Joining the City of Glasgow Police in 1964 he was initially posted to 'G' division, Govan police office before progressing through the ranks to reach Superintendent in charge of the very demanding environment of police and media relations.

He was undoubtedly a visionary recognising the police service required a fundamental change in direction on how it dealt with the media.

Despite some opposition he dragged the force into the 20th century in terms of media relations at a time in the late 1970s and early '80s when it was the policy to reveal as little as possible to journalists let alone proactively volunteering information or allowing TV crews to accompany officers at live operational incidents.

Angus was a familiar face on STV's crime desk presented by the late Bill Knox and played a significant part as an advisor and facilitator

in the early days of the hugely success 'Taggart' series.

The trust and mutual respect he developed with journalists was unparalleled with any police force in Scotland and that relationship would often place incredible demands on his personal life as he was, in effect, never off duty.

His distinguished police career was defined by the catastrophic event on December 21 1988 when Pan Am flight 103 exploded over Lockerbie killing 270 people, sparking the largest murder enquiry in British history.

Although it had occurred in Dumfries and Galloway, it was agreed by both police forces that Angus would co-ordinate the media, which, as it turned out, was on an unprecedented scale as within 24 hours there were more journalists than police officers in the small Scottish town.

He did a remarkable job, not only keeping the world's media informed but importantly he dealt sensitively and compassionately with the relatives who had made the journey to Lockerbie in the days that followed.

Many had come from the United States, grief stricken but understandably anxious to find out what had occurred.

Angus took it upon

himself to keep them fully informed and guided them carefully into the media spotlight when appropriate.

Out of this tragedy he formed many life-long friendships with relatives from home and abroad, all of who remained ever grateful for his guidance, strength and comfort at a time of such personal grief.

In 1989 in recognition of his services to policing, in particular his outstanding handling of the exceptional pressures in the aftermath of Lockerbie, he was awarded the Queen's police medal.

He was married to Katie and had one daughter, but within a year of Lockerbie he suffered his own personal tragedy when Katie died very suddenly after a short illness.

Although clearly bereft, his professionalism never faltered as he set about developing new work practices and introducing new technology that would enable the police to embrace the emerging 24-hour news demands.

Away from work, Angus was never happier than in the peaceful surroundings of the beautiful Isle of Coll where he had a family home.

He married Fiona in 1993 and following his retirement a year later they moved to Coll permanently.

He was honorary president

of the Coll Association and through his creativity, tireless dedication and organisational ability he established the solid foundations that remain in place today and as a result the association continues to flourish.

It would come as no surprise to those who knew him that he immersed himself in island life, working at the small airport and in general doing all that he could to improve the quality of life for the people, his people.

He was a familiar sight on the island in his yellow oilskins tending to his creels in his small fishing boat or on the hillside looking after his treasured Hebridean sheep.

Angus fought his illness with great courage and dignity.

Despite being gravely ill he was determined to return from hospital in Glasgow to his home at Cloiche on Coll where he passed away peacefully in the presence of his loving wife, Fiona, in the place that was so close to his heart.

He was a colleague, a dear friend, and a gentleman, who will be sadly missed by so many but will never be forgotten.

Angus Kennedy OPM - November 26 1943 - February 1 2015

Kindly submitted by Iain T. Gordon

The Oban Times

& West Highland Times THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsagents every week

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RUBY WEDDING

MACNEILAGE HUTCHISON - In Tobermory Parish Church on March 14, 1975 by the late Rev. Gordon Holroyd, Douglas to Margaret. Present address: 2 Craigsuir Terrace, Tobermory, Isle of Mull.

DEATHS

CAMPBELL - Suddenly at home on March 8, 2015, in his 87th year, Colin Campbell, beloved son of the late Colin and Annie Campbell, a dear brother to Charles and the late Duncan and Peggy and uncle to Colin.

GALBRAITH - Jill. Peacefully at Craignure Hospital on March 2, 2015, Theodora Gillian Kingsbury Galbraith (née Hobbs), aged 89 years with family by her side, beloved wife of the late Neil Galbraith, much loved mum of Chris Galbraith and grandmother to Katrina, Alistair and Eilidh. Funeral service at Dervaig Church, Thursday, March 12, at 11.30am, thereafter to Calgary Cemetery. Family flowers only please but donations, if desired, to Cancer Research. Many thanks to wonderful hospital and home help staff for loving care given.

MACLEOD - Peacefully at home with her family, Dunolliebeg Farm, on March 10 2015, Diane, beloved wife of Alistair, cherished mother of Justine, James, Lorna and Fiona, mother-in-law to Hiltrud, Graeme and Jimmy, much loved nanny to Calum, Reece, Hannah, Max and Euan and treasured daughter of Irene and sister to Lesley.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BURGESS - The family of the late Donald Burgess, Tayvallich, would like to express their thanks to relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness and support in their recent sad loss. Grateful thanks to the doctors and staff of the Mid Argyll Community Hospital. Thanks also to social work, health professionals and carers for their care and attention. Appreciation to Rev Cliff Acklam for the comforting service at the church and graveside; to Hans Unkles for his eulogy to Donald; to Douglas Rowland for piping and to Donald MacDonald, Funeral Directors for caring and professional arrangements. Our thanks to the Tayvallich Inn for their catering and to all who attended at service to pay their respects and generously donated towards the retail collection, for the Mid Argyll Hospital and the Seaman's Mission, which raised £600.

DAWSON - Betty Dawson and family thank every one for the many kind expressions of condolence, tributes, cards, letters and support received following their recent sad loss of Alan, our much loved husband and dad. Sincere thanks to all at The Surgery, Bunessan, Isle of Mull, especially Dr. Murray for his dedication, care and time spent with Alan and Betty, our grateful thanks also to everyone at Ward B and also support services at Lorn and Islands Hospital for their tender care and support shown to Alan and family. Profound thanks to the Rev. Graham McWilliams for his uplifting words of praise and pastoral care, our appreciation to Gaults Funeral Directors for their professional and caring assistance. Heartfelt thanks to all those who paid their last respects to Alan at Perth Crematorium and generously donated £500 in aid of Oban Life Boat Station (R.N.L.I.).

MEMORIAMS

CLARK - In precious memory of our much loved daughter, sister, mum and aunt, Margaret Macdonald, who was taken from us on March 9, 1997. Your presence we miss Your memory we treasure Loving you always Forgetting you never. - Love Mum, Dad, Aileen, Marilyn, Matthew, Natalie, Carrie-Anne, Caroline, Robert, Craig, Sharree and Darren.

FORSYTH - In loving memory of my dear wife Mary (Calac), who passed away March 17, 2012. Precious memories. R.I.P. - Your loving husband Jimmy xx

In loving memory of a dear sister and aunt Mary (Calac), who passed away March 17, 2012. Loved and remembered every day. R.I.P. - Margaret, Kirsteen, Stephen and Zander.

FORSYTH - In loving memory of a dear sister Calac, auntie and great auntie May, who died March 17, 2012. Loved and remembered everyday. - Ronnie, Kathleen and family, Ballachulish, East Kilbride and Bridge of Earn.

KENNEDY - In loving memory of my dear husband Donald, died March 15, 2014. Loved and missed every day. Always in our thoughts. - Ann and family.

KENNEDY - Treasured memories of our dear brother Donald, who passed away March 15, 2014. You are not just a memory or part of the past You are ours to remember as long as life lasts - Morag, Fiona, Donna, brother-in-laws and nephews.

Sometimes when we're wishing that you would show a little sign A butterfly or rainbow, lets us know you are fine. - Great-nephews and niece

MACDONALD - In loving memory of my dear brother and our uncle Dian, who died on March 7, 1977 and loved ones who have passed away before and since. Remembered always. - Freena and family.

MACGILVRAY - Cathie, No matter where we go No matter what we do We'll cherish the memories of yesterday and the laughs we shared with you. - Inserted by the family of the late Catherine Anne MacGillivray (Cathie) of Cullipool, Luining, who died on March 4, 2014. "Gus an Coinnich Sinn a Rithist"

Thought for the Week

AT THIS time of the year, especially with the bad weather, can we spare a thought for the fishermen who labour in all kinds of weather to bring the country its favourite fish. Oban plays such an important part in the seafood chain, and those of us who are older have fond memories of the Fishermen's Mission situated on the railway pier. I had a great surprise lately (actually two) when Peter Tosh of Calvey Fisheries

showed me the old plaque that was displayed in the beloved Mission. And John Macallister, who owns a fleet of scallop vessels, had retrieved the lovely marble inscribed stone which needs attention but I am assured that the restoration of both artifacts are being undertaken by both Peter and John, lovely biblical names. Pray that this project will honour all our fishermen and Mission folk and watch this space. Every time I

visit Oban I am reminded of the warmth that people had for the 'old' Mission where food/fellowship and, of course, the Sunday 'nightcap' where people of all denominations came to worship and stayed on for a cup of tea. Fond memories indeed, but unfortunately we cannot turn back the clock, the fishing industry has changed beyond recognition and, dare I say, it not for the better. Pray for our brave fishermen out in all weathers, so much leg-

islation and a lot of language barriers due to foreign fishermen now employed in the industry who only return home 'maybe' once per year. Pray that those workers find friendship in our communities and, thinking about it, wouldn't it be great if the Mission was still active in Oban - but it would be impossible to fund hence the reason it has closed.

Matthew M Ramsay, Mission Port Officer Kintyre and Oban

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MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch Donations always gratefully accepted Please contact Mrs Lillian Kermode Tynwald, Glenburn, Soroba Road, Oban 01631 571009 Oban Hospice CARING FOR THE FUTURE Donations always gratefully accepted Please contact Jack Tollan Birch Hill Achnacreebeag North Connel, PA37 1RE

GRADUATION

Nicola Pierce graduated from the West of Scotland University with BSc Mental Health Nursing with Distinction. Nicola is the daughter of Rowena Wilkes, Strontian and Tony Pierce, Stranraer and the grandchild of Pat and Vernon Wilkes, Strontian. Nicola is a former pupil of Strontian Primary and Ardnamurchan High School and is employed as a Staff Nurse in Glasgow.

Taynuilt practice hands over Shed-load of cash to charity

SHIRALENE Cave and Denise Whyatt, receptionists from Taynuilt Medical practice, presented a cheque for £229 recently to Oban charity The Shed.

The funds were raised over the Christmas period by selling raffle tickets for hampers, made up of items donated by the partners, GPs and staff from Connel, Taynuilt and Dalmally medical surgeries.

The Shed is run in partnership with the Salvation Army and Argyll Voluntary Action, providing facilities for people to do woodwork, crafts and repairs, either on their own or with other volunteers.



Salvation Army volunteer Andy Finlayson and Maggie Douggall of Argyll Voluntary Action are pictured receiving the cheque on February 28, outside The Shed on Stevenson Street with Shiralene and Denise. t11shed01no

WEDDING

Jonathan Welch of Ardrishaig and Christina Ferguson of Castleton married in Edinburgh on 19th September 2014.

Saints keep title hopes alive with vital home win

'When we turned round only 3-2 down at half time I fancied our chances of picking up all three points'

Oban Saints	5
Haldane United	3
SAFL Premier Division	

SAINTS came back from a 3-1 deficit against high flying Haldane United last Saturday to reignite their chances of a successful defence of their Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division title.

With Glencruitten 2 failing an early morning pitch inspection the match was played on the 3G at Oban High School in, frankly, horrendous weather conditions.

Full credit must go to both sets of players for producing a very entertaining game of football in extremely challenging conditions.

This was a game Saints really had to win to keep in touch with early pace setters Haldane United and Finnart and they opened strongly taking the game to the visitors from the first whistle.

This early endeavour quickly paid dividends when Donnie Campbell collected the ball on the right wing and forced his way into the box before firing a low shot across the goalkeeper and into the bottom corner. This was just the start Saints wanted.

However, Haldane United are a good side and they soon began to harness the advantage of the strong wind blowing from the Games Park end. They won a corner on the right in the seventh minute from which set-piece danger man Daniel McIlmun

was inexplicably allowed to rise unchallenged at the back post to bullet a header past Daniel Casells in the Saints goal and bring the visitors level.

As the half progressed Haldane were gaining the territorial advantage and were unlucky when what looked like a goal bound shot took a wicked deflection off Jamie Graham's back before flying wide for a corner.

In the 31st minute Saints again left Haldane Captain Daniel McIlmun unmarked in the box, fortunately the big central defender's near post left foot shot from a long throw-in knock down sailed over the crossbar.

In the 33rd minute Daniel Casells pulled off an excellent save from Haldane striker Lee Hall who had made space for himself in the inside right channel. This was obviously a good sighter for the striker as two minutes later his wind-assisted 25-yard piledriver into the roof of the net gave the Saints keeper no chance.

At this point in the proceedings one spectator had his glasses whipped off his face and through the perimeter fence thanks to the combined forces of a strong gust of wind and a collapsing umbrella.

Massive thanks were given to Alastair Bonar, Alex Craik and in particular Alex's contact lenses for finding said spectacles safe and sound on the grass bank behind the fence.

Football

Meanwhile, and in not so glorious blurry vision due to the missing specs, Haldane were stretching their advantage through a Daniel McIlmun (at least it looked like him) left foot shot from the edge of the box.

Normal viewing now restored, Saints set about reducing the deficit and were unlucky to see a Craig MacEwan header from a 42nd minute Lewis Cameron corner go narrowly wide of target.

However, in first half stoppage time Saints got the goal which would bring them right back into the game. More good link-up play from Donnie Campbell and Ally McKerracher set up Allan MacKay for a strike on goal. Allan's fierce right foot shot brought out a good save from Haldane keeper Pat McCune at the expense of a corner kick to Saints.

Lewis Cameron whipped in the corner kick which Craig MacEwan met with a perfectly timed header high into the net giving Saints a massive boost ahead of a second half in which they would enjoy the advantage of the strong wind and driving rain.

Saints started the second half as they had the first by going straight on the attack from the re-start. In the 47th minute Craig MacEwan had his progress up the left wing brought to a halt by a robust Haldane challenge.



IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY: Paul Kerr impressed for Saints in his defensive midfield role

From the free kick Lewis Cameron flighted in a tantalising cross which the Haldane defence headed behind for a corner. Ally McKerracher's low trajectory corner kick from the right caused a stramash in the Haldane penalty box with Saints having three attempts blocked before the ball was eventually gathered by the grateful goalkeeper.

Under incessant pressure from Saints, Haldane continued to concede free kicks in dangerous areas which, given the weather conditions, was just about anywhere in their own half.

In the 54th minute Dougal Graham fired in a free kick from fully 35 yards which the keeper did well to hold. Two minutes later Saints had another dead ball opportunity after Allan MacKay had been brought down 25 yards from goal.

With the Haldane defence steeling themselves for another long range effort Allan slipped the ball to Donnie Campbell in the inside left channel. Donnie strode into the box and curled a right foot shot Thierry Henry style low into the bottom left hand corner to level the score at 3-3.

In the 78th minute another piece of inspired thinking, this

time from manager Iain Jackson, gave Saints the lead. Saints won a corner on the left and manager Jackson urged Lewis Cameron to try a shot on target from the corner flag. The shot from Lewis was low and hard and, to prove that fortune does indeed favour the brave, an attempted clearance at the near post was sliced wickedly into his own net by a Haldane defender.

Two minutes later Saints rounded off the scoring again from a Lewis Cameron left wing corner.

This time Lewis took the more conventional route and flighted the ball in for Craig MacEwan to bullet a trade mark near post header into the net.

With the clock ticking down Donnie Campbell launched an 89th minute counter-attack with a terrific pass to Dean Smith who looked certain to score had he not been hauled down on the edge of the D by Haldane defender Ryan Neill. Referee John McQuilter, who had a good game, awarded Saints a free kick and had no option but to give the Haldane man his marching orders.

Donnie Campbell took the free kick firing in a low shot from which the Haldane keeper produced the save of the match diving full length to his right to

turn the ball round the post for a corner.

Scott Maitland's flag kick was cleared but only as far as Jamie Graham lurking 30 yards out. Jamie's thunderous volley crashed off the crossbar with the keeper rooted to the spot. A few inches lower and Jamie would have bagged the goal of the match, in fact given Jamie's strike rate, the goal of the century.

Mr McQuilter decided he had seen it all now and promptly blew for full time. Special mention should also be made of Saints loyal band of supporters who turned out in good numbers to cheer on the team despite the atrocious weather conditions.

Manager Iain Jackson was delighted with result. He said: 'The conditions were bad, and credit to both teams for trying to get the ball down and pass it about. Our two first half goals against the elements proved vital and when we turned round only 3-2 down at half time I fancied our chances of picking up all three points.'

Saints have no fixture this Saturday with Jamestown visiting Oban on March 21 in the second round of the Jimmy Marshall Cup. The winners of this game have been drawn at home to Haldane United.

Stewart stars for Stirling Albion

Football

STEWART McAllister, 14, who lives in North Connel and attends Oban High School played a decisive part in a notable win for Stirling Albion's Under 15 professional youth side against premier league Dundee at the weekend.

Playing on the right wing, his pace and strong running constantly caused the Dundee defence problems. He capped a fine display with two goals, the second a stunning volley from the edge of the box that ultimately sealed a 4-3 victory for the Binos.

Stewart has been a regular starter this season for the young Albion side, featuring in a recent match against a Scotland Under 15 XI and on several occasions against premier league opposition.

Darren leads darts singles league

Darts

DARREN Sutherland has taken an early lead in the first week of the Tradewinds singles darts league in Lochaber.

In the closely-fought final Sutherland defeated John Matheson by three legs to two on Friday night after beating Martyn Cameron 3-2 in his semi-final. Matheson gained his place in the final by winning 3-0 against Robbie McFadyen in his semi. Cameron achieved the highest check out of the night with 116 and three 180s were scored, two by Matheson and one by Sutherland. Sutherland also achieved the quickest leg of the night with 15 darts.

The league continues tomorrow (Friday) in Tradewinds bar, Corpach.

Steven voted players' player of the year

Shinty



STEVEN Cameron was named Glengarry Shinty Club's players' player of the year.

The award for last season's efforts was presented by club chairman John MacDonald at the Bothy Bar, Fort Augustus.



UNDER PRESSURE: Saints put Haldane under sustained pressure in the second half Match report: Derek Black

Gordon lifts his first tour winner's trophy



CHAMPION: Gordon McKenzie lifted his first Region 5 pool tour title after his third attempt beating Geo Adam in the final

THE 2015 Region 5 pool tour event season got off to a start on Saturday when the West Coast of Scotland players donned their cues for their campaign to win a Scotland Squad place for the 2016 season.

There are a couple of changes to the format this year, the first being that there will be no seeded draw which meant goodbye to a few contenders in the early rounds.

This, however, did not take away from the standard of play in the latter stages and although there were a couple of new faces in the semi-final, it was to be a third final between Gordon McKenzie and Geo Adam, who both represent the same league team. Although Geo won the first two encounters Gordon was not going to let his team mate have a hat-trick. McKenzie stormed ahead as Adam seemed unable to take advantage of the chances he had and at 5-2 down all seemed to be lost. With only one frame to bag the title it was then Gordon

Pool

who seemed to lose his way and he allowed Geo to pull it back to a final frame decider. It looked like Geo had it but with a missed black, Gordon saw off the last of his reds to leave himself an easy black into the middle and lift himself his first tour winner's trophy.

With only four ranking events compared to the usual six, it now means that each tour carries a lot of pressure for the players. These events will also determine which players will participate in the newly formed premier and first division league.

The premier league will host the top 16 players from the previous year's tour stats and the first division will be made up of the next 16.

This will be a singles league and will run during the Oban Pool League's off season.



ACTION: Gordon McKenzie in action during the Region 5 pool tour final

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

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Knipoch Place
Oban

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £1950

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.

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Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

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Weather wins as the new shinty season is all but washed out

Only five games in all survived the monsoon weather conditions last Saturday

THE SHINTY season's first league games were almost all washed out at the weekend, with just one fixture in the Marine Harvest Premiership played.

Lochaber vs Lovat went ahead, and despite the heavy, wet conditions, both sides managed to come away with a point after a 3-3 draw.

With the game at 2-2 following a Jamie Mathieson brace for Lovat, and goals from Kevin Ferguson from the penalty spot and Shaun Nicholson for Lochaber, Sandy Corrigan's goal in the 80th minute looked to have sealed the win for the northern side.

However, a last gasp equaliser from Kevin Bartlett gave Lovat a share of the points.

Lochaber manager John McRitchie said: 'In the end, I think it was a fair result and a good game. We were 2-1 up at one point and perhaps should have closed the game out. Then they came back and scored two, before we equalised near the end, so all-in-all a good game and an entertaining one for the spectators.'

Discussing the conditions, McRitchie said: 'Obviously it was very wet, but we were glad that the game went ahead as the team were all geared-up for it.'

'We tend to be better on a dry, fast park as we're a fast, attacking team, but I think we adjusted as best we could.'

Lochaber manager Ally Ferguson shared McRitchie's view that in the end, a draw was a fair result.

'We were very unfortunate not to win the game,' he said.

'However, Lovat played well and put us under a lot of pressure in the last 10 minutes with a strong wind and it could have gone either way. With the fire-power that Lovat have and strength in their squad and track record, we have to be pleased with a point away from home.'

'On reflection, both teams made mistakes at times and also had chances to win the game, so a draw was a fair result.'

Shinty

'The park was in reasonable condition considering the weather, as the game went on and in the last 20 minutes it certainly got chewed up, but both sets of players adapted well.'

This Saturday, Lochaber travel to face reigning Marine Harvest Premiership champions Newtonmore at home.

'They will be clear favourites in most people's eyes and for good reason,' said Ferguson.

'I'll leave it to others to judge how they think the game will go. However, we look forward to the match, and our players, I am sure, will relish the challenge of the league champions for the last five years in a row visiting Spean Bridge.'

'There's no pressure on Lochaber and given our league standing last year, an upset is not expected. We will look to give a good account of ourselves as we will in every game we play and we know to do well against the likes of Newtonmore we will have to work hard.'

Meanwhile, Lovat are due to play Kinlochshiel away, but McRitchie questioned whether the fixture might be played at their home pitch of Balglate.

'The last I heard, their pitch was half underwater, so we'll see how things go - the fixture may get flipped to here, then in our fixture at home to them we will travel to face them instead.'

'Kinlochshiel are always tough opponents, but it was good to get a competitive game under our belts. One or two of the guys were a bit rusty, but we looked good overall.'

Lovat's match away to Kinlochshiel will throw up at 2.30pm, as will Lochaber's home tie against Newtonmore. For a full list of fixtures, see the right hand side of this page.

All teams will be hoping the weather improves and a full fixture card can take place on Saturday



CUP DRAW: (Left) Iain Morrison, SSE acting operations manager and Jim Barr, Camanachd Association president. Iain is also a member of Beaulie Shinty Club. The photo shows the draw of Beaulie v Kilmallie in the preliminary round. Photo: Neil Paterson

SSE Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup preliminary and first round draw

THE draw for the preliminary and first round of the 2015 SSE Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup competition was made on Monday by Camanachd Association president, Jim Barr, and SSE's acting operations manager, programmes group north, Iain Morrison.

The SSE Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup is shinty's greatest prize and one of Scotland's oldest and most iconic sporting trophies.

The draw is as follows:
Preliminary Round Saturday April 18:
 Caberfeidh v Glenorchy
 Taynuilt v Skye
 Beaulie v Kilmallie

First Round Saturday May 9
 Oban Celtic v Taynuilt or Skye
 Aberdour v Caberfeidh or Glenorchy
 Ballachulish v Glasgow MA
 Inverness v Kilmory
 Strachur v Bute
 Beaulie or Kilmallie v Strathglass

The draw for the second round, which includes the teams from the Marine Harvest Premiership, will be made following the completion of the first round.

The 2015 cup final will be played in Argyll on Saturday September 19. The venue for the final will be confirmed shortly.



SURVIVED: One of the few shinty matches to beat the weather last weekend was the Marine Harvest Premiership match between Lovat and Lochaber. The game was scheduled to be a home fixture for Lochaber but the pitch at Spean Bridge was declared unplayable so the game was transferred to Balglate Park, Kiltarlity. (Left) Lochaber's Zander Ferguson clears the danger posed by Lovat's Greg Matheson Photo: Neil Paterson



TUSSLE: Boleskine's Craig Hazel in a tussle for the ball with Skye's Shaun Hedley during last Saturday's match at Inverarnie. Skye won the game 5-1 Photo: Donald Cameron



CLICK: Lovat's Jamie Matheson tries to 'click' the caman of Lochaber's Neil Macdonald Photo: Neil Paterson



Successful day for Oban Otters

SUCCESS: A small group of Oban Otters squad attended Milngavie and Bearsden Winter Graded Meet at Drumchapel Pool Glasgow recently. It was another successful day for the Oban Otters team as Sam Coates took gold in 50m breaststroke, 12-13 years age group, with a time of 37.44. There were lots of personal bests for Freya Mackechnie, Calum Bichener, Cara McCrindle, Sam Coates and Eilidh Barron and a special well done to Angus Scott for his first gala.

Fixtures

Saturday March 14

Marine Harvest Premiership
 Inveraray v Glenurquhart
 Billy Wotherspoon
 Kingussie v Fort William
 David Mitchell
 Kinlochshiel v Lovat
 John Angus Gillies
 Lochaber v Newtonmore
 Evan MacRae
 Oban Camanachd v Kyles Ath
 Deek Cameron

Marine Harvest National Division

Beaulie v Caberfeidh
 Innes Wood
 Inverness v Glasgow Mid Argyll
 Ron Kennedy
 Kilmallie v Ballachulish
 David Stafford

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Fort William v Kingussie
 Ronnie Campbell
 Lochcarron v Glenurquhart
 Graham Cameron
 Lovat v Kinlochshiel
 Archie Ritchie
 Newtonmore v Strathglass
 Calum Girvan

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Aberdour v Oban Celtic
 Ewen MacDonald - 1pm
 Kyles Athletic v Inveraray
 John MacGregor
 Strachur v Bute
 Lachie Wood
 Taynuilt v Lochside Rovers
 Robert Baxter

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Aberdeen University v Lewis
 John Matheson
 Caberfeidh v Inverness
 Martin MacLean
 Glengarry v Kilmallie
 Andy MacLean
 Strathspey v Boleskine
 Callum Duff - 1.30pm
 Skye v Lochaber
 Donald MacRae

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Ballachulish v Col Glen
 Duncan Kelly
 Bute v Aberdour
 Graeme MacDiarmid
 Glasgow Mid Argyll v Glenorchy
 Alan Harrison
 Oban Lorn v Tayforth
 Jon Gallagher

Women's Camanachd Association

Sunday March 15

Marine Harvest National Division 1
 Aberdour v Badenoch and Strathspey
 Glengarry v Lochaber
 Lorn Ladies v Skye

Results

Saturday March 7

Marine Harvest Premiership
 Fort William v Kinlochshiel
 Postponed - unplayable field
 Glenurquhart v Kingussie
 Postponed - unplayable field
 Lovat 3 v 3 Lochaber
 Match transferred to Lovat
 Newtonmore v Kyles Athletic
 Postponed - unplayable field
 Oban Camanachd v Inveraray
 Postponed - unplayable field

Marine Harvest National Division

Ballachulish v Inverness
 Postponed - unplayable field
 Caberfeidh v Kilmallie
 Postponed - unplayable field
 Skye v Beaulie
 Postponed - unplayable field

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Beaulie v Newtonmore
 Postponed - unplayable field
 Kinlochshiel v Fort William
 Postponed - unplayable field
 Kingussie v Glenurquhart
 Postponed - unplayable field
 Strathglass v Lovat
 Postponed - unplayable field

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Bute v Lochside Rovers
 Postponed - unplayable field
 Inveraray v Glenorchy
 Postponed - unplayable field
 Kyles Athletic v Taynuilt
 Postponed - unplayable field
 Oban Celtic v Kilmory
 Postponed - unplayable field
 Strachur vAberdour
 Postponed - unplayable field

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Aberdeen Uni 4 v 1 Strathspey
 Boleskine 1 v 5 Skye
 Glengarry v Caberfeidh
 Postponed - unplayable field
 Inverness v Lewis
 Postponed - unplayable field
 Kilmallie v Lochaber
 Postponed - unplayable field

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Aberdour 0 v 3 Glasgow MA
 Col Glen v Oban Lorn
 Postponed - unplayable field
 Glenorchy v Ballachulish
 Postponed - unplayable field
 Tayforth 4 v 5 Bute

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Bonus point win for Oban Lorne keeps pressure on Cambuslang

Green Machine need to win three of the remaining four fixtures to seal the West Division 2 championship

Uddingston	17
Oban Lorne	49
BT West Division Two	

OBAN Lorne travelled to Uddingston on Saturday to take on the bottom-placed side in West Division 2.

Despite missing a few key players, the Green Machine was in confident mood and coach Corrie Louw still had a strong squad to choose from.

Oban knew a bonus point win would keep the pressure up on Cambuslang at the top of the table. Max Noordenbos made his first start for the club in the second row alongside Travis Smith who returned from injury.

The game kicked off in good conditions despite going ahead on Uddingston's 2nd XV pitch. Oban took the lead after ten minutes with a try from Colin Thwaites who sliced the home backline open after some good breaks from the Oban forwards. Uddingston hit back shortly after to tie the game at 7-7, some poor tackling from Oban allowing the hosts to score a soft try.

Oban extended the lead with a Craig Wright penalty shortly before fullback Richard MacKay

scored his first of the day to give Oban a 17-7 lead. As the Green Machine searched for another score to put the game beyond doubt, Uddingston came storming back into the Oban 22 and scored a well-worked try out on the right touchline to narrow the gap to 17-12.

Oban were dealt a further blow before half-time when winger Plato Moisiadis was yellow carded for retaliating after being tackled into touch by an Uddingston player. The home side capitalised on this and again narrowed the score to 17-15 just before half-time with a well-taken penalty.

Tough afternoon
The visitors knew they were in for a tough afternoon if they kept up their poor first half opening but were confident of improving into the second half.

Oban reacted well to their half time team talk as they scored 32 unanswered points in a one-sided second half.

Tries came from Tommy Sutherland, Richard MacKay and a double from Andrew Johnston to give a final score of 49-15. Oban's second half performance was aided by an impressive scrum, some good individual runs

Rugby

from the pack and some great decision making from Graham MacEachan at scrum half and Colin Thwaites at 10. Despite Uddingston failing to score, they kept battling and had a couple of chances to cross the Oban line.

In the end the physicality of the Green Machine proved to be the difference against a confident and, at times, dangerous home side which has been unlucky not to have had a better return this season based on Saturday's game.

Saturday's result, combined with Cambuslang's 17-7 win at McLaren, means Oban Lorne narrow the gap at the top of the league to eight points with three games in hand on their promotion rivals. Cambuslang now has one game left this season at Cumbernauld while Oban Lorne has Waysiders (H), Strathendrick (A), Uddingston (H) and Paisley (A). Oban need to win three of the remaining four fixtures to seal the West Division 2 championship.

The Green Machine's next game is at home to Waysiders on Saturday March 28, kick off 3pm.



GOLDEN BOY: Harry Mobey, left, with his doubles partner Aidan Delaney after winning the badminton doubles title at the Scottish secondary schools championships in Linwood

Feathers fly as Harry lifts Scottish schools title

TAYNUILT'S Harry Mobey attended the Scottish secondary schools badminton championships in Linwood last Saturday.

Although his age group is U15, Harry entered the higher age group of U16.

Determined

He fought well in the singles, only missing out in the final, and determined to come away with gold, built a strong defence in the boys doubles, working well with his partner, Aidan Delaney

Badminton

from Glasgow, to take the number one spot in this event.

Harry also came away with five medals at both the Glasgow and West of Scotland championships recently.

Harry's next tournament is in Belgium at the end of March where he is hoping for a European medal in the boys singles.



Gregor and John keep it in the family

Bowls

NORTH Connel carpet bowling club held its open pairs competition recently, inviting players from across Argyll to compete.

Father and son team of Gregor and John MacCormick were victorious in the final of the cup, beating Lachie and Mary Strathern.

The MacCormicks also won the A Billmore memorial quich, awarded to the best team from North Connel.

A club spokesman said: 'A great night was had by all the bowlers. We would like to thank the Bank of Scotland for its generous, ongoing sponsorship.'

ON FORM: overall winners Gregor and John, who also won the A Billmore memorial quich.

Narrow defeat for Lorne Ladies

Oban Lorne Ladies	0
Garioch	5
National League 2	

OBAN Ladies experienced their first league defeat of the season last weekend in a home match against Garioch, narrowly losing 0-5.

Blustery wet weather meant the match had to be played in North Connel. It was a furiously fought match. Oban started the kick off and kept the pressure on throughout the first half, never letting Garioch over the half way mark. Unfortunately Oban's efforts were not rewarded with a try and they entered the second half with no score on the board.

With Garioch kicking to start the second half of the match they managed to put the pressure on

Oban and secured points by grounding the first and only try of the day. Garioch drove the ball over the try line however they were unable to convert the try. Oban continued to fight back throughout and kept Garioch pinned to their own try line for the majority of the rest of the match, again barely letting Garioch out of their own half.

Despite Oban ladies tremendous efforts and being so close they were unable to get over the try line.

Julie Campbell, the Oban prop, managed to force her way through the defensive line and over the tryline, however it was declared lost forward and the try was disallowed.

Player of the match was awarded to Laura McCormick who,

Ladies rugby

despite almost needing to leave the pitch early on because of injury, battled through putting in awesome effort and performance in both attack and defence. She made some big dents in the defensive line as she barged her way through. With a clean break through the defensive line and a long sprint she was frustratingly brought down just short of the try line.

Oban ladies have now been demoted to second in the league but, with a game in hand and determined to fight their way back up the league table, they look forward to meeting Garioch in an away match this Sunday, March 15.

Under 16s

THE U16s lost 20-10 to Birkmyre in the first round of the West Regional Shield on Sunday. The team put in a good performance despite travelling with only 13 players. As the competitive season is now over, the team will be

looking for friendly fixtures for the remainder of the season.

S1/2

SATURDAYS S1/2 trip to play Borroughmuir was called off due to the weather. The S1/2 teams have no scheduled games this weekend.

Youth rugby

Minis

MINI rugby teams from Argyll and Bute will be competing in the Dalriada mini festival in Lochgilphead on Sunday.

Oban Saints youths results and fixtures

Youth football

LAST weekend's results: Milngavie 4, Under 13s 3. Scoring for Saints were Jamie Forgrieve (2) and Aidan MacPhee. Broomhill 2, Under 15s 1. Saints goalscorer was Lewis Buchanan. Blairardie v Under 16s postponed; Baljaffray 0 v Under 19s 2. On target for Saints were Matty Kelly and Connor Howe.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s no game; Under 14s v Helensburgh; Under 15s v Whitecraigs; Under 16s no game; EDFC v Under 19s.

Athletic game called off

Football

LAST Saturday's West of Scotland AFL Challenge Shield match between Corkerhill and Oban Athletic was called off after a pitch inspection found Nethercraigs to be unplayable.

This Saturday, Athletic hope to get back in action with a home league game against Cardross

The match will take place at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off.

Golf results from Tobermory

Golf

MEN'S section: March nine-hole medal - 1 Alasdair MacLeod 43-10-33; 2 Ewan MacCrone 38-04-34; 3 Gordon Chalmers 42-08-34.

Winter medal final - 1 Graham Davidson 40-03-37; 2 John Wilshire 48-11-37; 3 Richard Inglis 44-06-38.

Ladies nine-hole stableford - 1 Doris Haregreaves 12 points; 2 Olive Brown 11 points; 3 Rosalind Read 6 points.

Trialists the team to beat

Over 35s football

LATEST scores from the Atlantis Leisure over 35s league - Clements 2, Trialists 5; Taynuilt 1, D & K Lafferty 5.

Trialists	P	Pts
Taynuilt	7	21
D & k Lafferty	8	15
Clements	10	12
Teachers	9	9
Emergency	9	3

Oban Pool League results and fixtures

Pool

RESULTS: Markie Dans B 1, Lancaster A 9; Lochavullin 1, Markie Dans A 9; Gluepot 0, Lochavullins Cellar 10; Lancaster B 5, Lochnell 5.

This week's fixtures: Lancaster A v Lochavullin; Markie Dans A v Gluepot; Lochavullins Cellar v Lancaster B; Outreach v Lochnell.

Islay Golf Club

Golf

ISLAY Golf Club result, March Medal played Sunday March 8 - 1 I MacCuaig 82-7=75; 2 K MacDonald 84-7=77; 3 D Johnston 93-6=87. Css 74.

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WEATHER

Thursday Light rain
Winds strong south westerly
Temperatures 4°C to 9°C.

Friday Sunny intervals
Winds light south south westerly
Temperatures 2°C to 9°C.

Weekend Outlook Cloudy on Saturday
Cloudy on Sunday
Winds moderate south south westerly
Temperatures 4°C to 8°C.

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, March 12, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm			
Thur	03.09	1.4	09.00	3.4	15.29	1.6	21.34	3.2
Fri	03.59	1.6	09.46	3.1	16.31	1.8	22.31	3.0
Sat	05.13	1.7	10.54	2.9	18.04	1.8	**	**
Sun	00.07	2.9	06.44	1.7	13.20	2.8	19.31	1.7
Mon	02.26	3.1	08.11	1.5	15.05	3.1	20.48	1.4
Tues	03.27	3.4	09.26	1.2	15.55	3.4	21.50	1.0
Wed	04.14	3.8	10.22	0.8	16.34	3.6	22.41	0.6

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig -5.35 **Mallaig** +0.25

Campbeltown -5.30 **Portree** +0.55

Crinan -0.47 **Tobermory** +0.16

Islay Port Ellen 2.00 **Dover** +5.30

Lochboisdale +0.30

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate

Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate

Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



Social scene
Charity Dinner, Kilmore Hall

'Dream come true'
Husband and wife team take over Argyll restaurant

'Completely shocked'
Dismay as councillors stall on Lochaber sports hall talks **FULL STORY INSIDE**

Rescue team in radio cash appeal

LOCHABER Mountain Rescue Team (LMRT) is appealing for donations to help fund much-needed new equipment. The team needs to replace at least 50 radios, which could cost up to £25,000 but an application to the Scottish Mountain Rescue service was rejected last weekend. Now members of the lifeline volunteer service must seek funding from other sources and have appealed for help. A spokesman for LMRT said: 'We will need to replace at least 50 radios for all our team members and this could cost us at least £20,000 to £25,000. We had asked for funds being held by Scottish Mountain Rescue for radios to be released but this was turned down so we are having to go it on our own. 'The radios are a vital link between hill parties, the team base and other agencies. The radios need replacing so we can ensure the safety of team members when on the hill.' Donations can be made via <http://www.lochabermrt.co.uk/support-us/>

Views sought on council buses

RESIDENTS of Uist and Barra are being asked for their views on council-funded buses. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is to host a number of meetings on the islands from March 16 to March 23 to allow people to highlight important issues. A questionnaire will also be sent to all households. Councillor John Mackay, chairman of the transport and infrastructure committee, said: 'I am pleased the process of community engagement has started. The comhairle invests a significant amount of resources in public bus transport services and it is extremely important they meet the needs of the communities involved. 'I would urge everyone in Uist and Barra to take an active role in this process.' A full list of meetings is available from the comhairle.

Sheep worth thousands drown as river floods



RESCUE ATTEMPT: shepherd Brian Strachan couldn't save the animals

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

FIFTEEN sheep were killed when a field in Lochaber flooded at the weekend. The animals were drowned when the River Spean burst its banks on Saturday afternoon. Brian Strachan, head shepherd of Galmore Sheep Stock Club, Roy Bridge, said he had to watch as his flock was washed away in the tragic accident, just minutes before a fire engine arrived with a rescue boat. He said: 'It was terrible. There must have been about three feet of water in the field. I phoned the fire brigade but they didn't bring a boat so we were waiting on another one coming from another station. 'The sheep were okay at first but just before the second vehicle arrived one bolted and the rest followed. The water came pouring in behind them and they were all carried away and drowned. 'If anyone had been in the field they would have drowned, the sheep didn't have a chance. 'A couple of them were found hanging eight feet up a tree. I had moved them up the field but all the bad weather broke down the fencing.' To add to the tragedy, Mr Strachan said some of the ewes



NO ESCAPE: a Roy Bridge field flooded, killing 15 sheep at the weekend

Bad weather broke the fencing

Brian Strachan

were pregnant and due to lamb in April. It is thought all of the animals lost, combined with the unborn lambs, could be worth thousands of pounds. Another dozen sheep almost fell victim to the floods the

following day but Mr Strachan managed to rescue them. He said: 'I got up on the Sunday and the flood was even worse, even though there wasn't much rain during the night. Another dozen sheep almost got down but thankfully I managed to save them in time.' It is thought the flood was worse as nearby dams had their gates open but the stock club was not aware of this, so couldn't take the precaution of moving the sheep. Mr Strachan said arrangements were now in place for him to receive prior warning when dams were opened to stop future accidents like this.

Glen Gloy repairs fail to impress A82 motorists

MAJOR improvements to Lochaber trunk road the A82 began on Tuesday, but locals are still not impressed. Transport minister Derek Mackay officially opened the works at Glen Gloy on the Glasgow to Inverness road this week. But the £1 million project began on the same day as officials from Transport Scotland and

BEAR were due to meet with Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry community council about a number of long-running issues on the A82. As *The Oban Times* went to press, John Fotheringham, chairman of the group, was preparing to host the meeting and said it was a 'well-timed effort' by Transport Scotland. He said: 'I'm glad the work is

happening but it's one positive in a long list of negatives. I think this is a well-timed effort to make themselves look good ahead of the meeting tonight but a lot of people are still really angry. 'Despite the work they started today they'll still have to take a lot of criticism for all of the recent problems on the A82. 'I've also invited along people from Invergarry because I think

they've been having problems with the A87.' Transport minister Derek Mackay said the Scottish government was 'fully committed' to improving the A82. He added: 'A great deal of preparation has been done in advance of today and Transport Scotland and its contractors have been working hard to find a way of carrying out this improvement

project without having to completely close the road. They have achieved that goal and the area will remain open for business during construction, with the A82 back to full running ahead of the summer tourism season.' The work will involve the realignment of 300 metres of road as well as the removal of two difficult bends.

TIMESLINE

New climbing centre to open in Fort William

A NEW climbing centre is set to open in Fort William after a campaign to raise £40,000 went over target. The indoor facility, by Three Wise Monkeys, was dependent on crowd funding to open in the old MacIntosh Memorial Church but smashed the £40,000 mark on Monday night, thanks to donations from more than 600 backers. This came just two days before yesterday's deadline (Wednesday), after managing director Oliver Millington offered various prizes in exchange for donations. The centre will see the old grade C listed church converted to include climbing walls, a café and sports massage service and could be open as early as September. Mr Millington said: 'I'm really pleased, it's great knowing so many people are behind us and the project. 'In the next couple of weeks we'll start clearing the building ready for the contractors to start work.'

Music festival set to hit the high notes in Lochaber

LOCHABER music festival kicks off tomorrow (Friday), with almost a week of performing arts. Venues all over the region will host the annual event, with sessions in piping, song, drama, country dancing, woodwind and brass. The festival will end with a grand finale concert in Caol primary school, featuring performers from each genre. For tickets or more information contact Lilian MacDonald on 01687 450289.



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Budding chef springs into final

A BUDDING chef from rural Lochaber will visit the bright lights of London after being picked for the final of a national cooking contest. Hannah Hunter, from Kilchoan, beat off the competition at local and regional levels to be picked as one of two Scottish finalists in the top 12 of the Springboard Future Chef competition at Westminster College. The fourth year Ardnamurchan high school pupil was helped along the way by Gary Phillips of Kilcamb Lodge Hotel and he will travel to London with her for the event on March 23. School mentor Patricia Kennedy said the whole school was proud of the young chef. Miss Hunter added: 'I have always enjoyed cooking and find it very rewarding. I like how adventurous you can be with it and how with time and patience you can improve and make some really delicious meals. 'I was encouraged by my school to take up the opportunity of competing in Springboard and was excited about taking my skills further. I'm so happy to have the opportunity of going to London, and I know I couldn't have got there without the help of Gary, my mentor chef, Mrs Kennedy and my school. I hope this competition will improve my confidence and teach me more skills, and make my little school proud.' Miss Hunter has already received a celebratory plate and a set of chef's knives for reaching this stage.

HOT PLATE: Hannah Hunter has reached the final of a national cooking competition

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Skye road speed cut plan scrapped

PLANS to reduce the speed limit on the road connecting Skye to the mainland have been scrapped.

Transport Scotland had considered dropping the limit from 60 miles per hour to 50mph on stretches of the A87 Invergarry to Uig, in areas including Invergarry to Viewpoint and from Cluanie Inn to Kintail Lodge Hotel.

But this week it was announced these areas will remain at 60mph, following feedback from the public.

Scottish government transport minister Derek Mackay said: 'The safety of our roads is of paramount importance and any proposed speed limit reductions are part of a wider programme of measures.'

'Some recent submissions on specific speed limit review recommendations highlighted that the public had strong feelings about the limits being reduced in certain areas.'

'We have taken the opportunity to look again at some of the conclusions and recommendations and as a result of that update, some of the recommended speed limit reductions will no longer be taken forward.'

The decision was welcomed by Dave Thompson, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, who said: 'Some concern had been raised by a number of constituents over my proposed speed limit reductions on sections of the A87.'

'I am delighted to report that the transport minister has listened to the evidence on road safety and concluded that the speed reduction measures will not be required'

Drivers to pay for Sunday parking

DRIVERS will have to pay to park in Fort William on Sundays from next month.

The charges, implemented in line with Highland council's budget savings, will come into force on April 1.

From this date, people parking in Viewforth, Middle Street and Parade Gardens short-stay car parks will be charged 20 pence for the first half hour, through to the maximum stay of four hours, which will cost £2.50.

Long stay car parks (West End, An Aird, the transport centre and Fort William) will be charged a flat rate of £2.50 for up to 24 hours parking.

Consultation in West End Hotel

IN LAST week's *Oban Times* (March 5), a report headed 'Public to get say on plans for old school' stated the consultation would be held in the West Highland Hotel.

This was incorrect, it should have read West End Hotel.

We apologise for any confusion.

LOCHABER GROUP 'COMPLETELY SHOCKED' AT NEWS COUNCIL HAS DELAYED MEETING ON CENTRE FUNDING

Dismay as councillors stall on indoor sports hall talks

EMMA CRICHTON
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LOCHABER'S new indoor sports hall could be in jeopardy as Highland councillors have delayed funding talks until the summer.

The proposed £1.47 million multi-use centre is dependent on money pledged in principle from both the local authority and SportScotland but members of Lochaber Sports Association (LSA) said they were 'completely shocked' the issue would not be discussed at the full Highland council meeting scheduled for today (Thursday).

Jane Blanchard, chairwoman of LSA, said she had been

told councillors would discuss the issue at the meeting and hopefully make a decision on whether the £600,000 pledged in principle, plus VAT costs, would be secured.

But now she has been told it will not be decided until 'sometime in the summer', which could see the group lose the £500,000 from SportScotland.

Ms Blanchard said: 'This is so frustrating and worrying. The deadline for SportScotland is the end of March and we've all worked so hard to have everything ready and have now been let down.'

'We believe the deadline could be extended if we can show positive progress is being made;

this is not positive progress. This delay puts the whole thing in jeopardy and funding is interdependent so without one we lose the other.'

When *The Oban Times* went to press LSA was working with local councillors in an attempt to add the issue to today's council agenda.

In a letter to councillors, including Highland council leader Drew Hendry, Ms Blanchard said: 'This project is 'shovel ready' and one in which the people of Lochaber have invested heavily over the last five years, both financially and with their professional expertise.'

'All of our elected members in Lochaber are in support of it.

'I am now appealing to you to publicly commit to this vital project and ensure that it is included on the agenda of Thursday's council meeting with a recommendation of support.'

Dave Thompson, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, also raised concerns about the future of the facility.

He said: 'I have been a long-time supporter of the project to bring an indoor training facility to Lochaber, which the community desperately need and has been a long time in the planning.'

'I cannot stress the importance of the project being timeously discussed by the council as to not do so would have a detrimental

effect on other funding Lochaber Sports Association has set up.'

A Highland Council spokesman said: 'The in principle commitment from the council had never been ratified by any committee.'

'We were anticipating getting a £400,000 developer contribution from Tesco, reducing the council's contribution to £200,000.'

'Now Tesco has fallen through and we are looking at a contribution of up to £850,000 [including VAT]. This sum is too high to be met from our capital discretionary fund so it has to be considered as an addition to the capital plan which is why there is a delay.'

Event honours inspirational Lochaber women

THE FIRST woman to run the Ben Nevis race, community fundraisers and volunteers were all honoured at a Fort William event showcasing inspirational women.

But it is not necessary to look all over the world to find these role models, as the people highlighted at the exhibition last Thursday all live and work in Lochaber.

Organised by Lochaber Women's Aid, the event in Duncansburgh MacIntosh church hall, recognised the achievements of local women and showed a timeline of female rights to mark International Women's Day.

Well-known faces including Kathleen Connochie, who defied organisers of the Ben Nevis race in 1955 after being told women were not allowed. The athlete, then just 16 years old, completed

the feat anyway, in three hours and two minutes and is now an honorary president of the Ben Nevis Race Association.

Tina MacLugash was also featured for fundraising for fitness equipment for disabled people in Lochaber, along with Isabel MacPhee, who recently featured in *The Oban Times* for donating a year's supply of nappies to Fort William triplets.

Much-loved Isabel Campbell's achievements were displayed, outlining her efforts to open the Lochaber Education Centre.

Lorraine Revitt, service manager of Lochaber Women's Aid, said: 'We are amazed by the feedback. I think what made the exhibition so interesting is the fact visitors were able to read about local women who they may recognise in the high street, or who they may have gone to school



with and who are inspirational in their chosen careers or how they spend their leisure time.

'Through promoting International Women's Day and showcasing inspirational local women we are hoping to inspire people to think how they could make it happen, and judging from the comments we received on the displays, we have certainly done that.'

Ms Revitt now hopes the exhibition can be shown at local schools and community centres.

To view the material please contact Lochaber Women's Aid on 01397 703003.

INSPIRATIONAL: Lorraine Revitt, left, hosts Lochaber role models Isabel MacPhee, Kathleen Connochie, Isabel Campbell and Kathleen MacLugash (front)



SCISSOR HAPPY: Grace MacIntosh, left, and Eily Andrews will donate 20 inches of hair to The Little Princess Trust

Girls cut it in the fundraising stakes

TWO kind-hearted teenagers are to donate 20 inches of hair to a children's charity.

Grace MacIntosh and Eily Andrews plan to have 10 inches each cut off today (Thursday) to be sent to The Little Princess Trust, which makes wigs for children suffering from cancer and other hair-loss illnesses.

The fifth year Lochaber high school pupils have also raised £1,400 in donations for the cause, also to be given to the charity.

Eily, from Spean Bridge, said: 'I'm feeling really good about doing this because it'll be so beneficial for the children.'

'I'm a bit nervous because I've been growing my hair for such a long time but it'll be worth it for such a good cause.'

Grace, from Stronoba, added: 'We're donating about 10 inches each so that will be enough for four wigs.'

'I'm really excited but I'm starting to get a bit nervous now.'

The pair had raised £200 until this weekend, when a fundraising afternoon tea at Lochaber Farm Shop boosted their total to £1,400.

Sea cadets lift awards

THREE Lochaber sea cadets have been recognised for their efforts throughout the last year.

Hannah Calder was awarded both the Petty Officer Beeston shield for community work and the Best Cadet trophy for the individual who gained the most qualifications throughout the year.

Ranald Ross was named cadet of the year for contributing the most to the unit while Kristian Martin was awarded junior cadet of the year.

Commanding officer Derrick Warner said: 'I'm immensely proud of what our cadets do every year. They all deserve a prize given that they often turn up in horrible weather to gain new skills or to help others. There's lots of fun too, of course.'

'None of this would be possible without a team of dedicated adults behind the scenes and I owe them all a huge debt of gratitude. This has been a tremendous turn around on the situation we were in a year ago when we were facing closure through a lack of adult instructors.'

'We still need a couple more to help us run the junior section though and we'd be delighted to hear from anyone who may have a few hours each week to spare.'



RECIPE FOR SUCCESS: a sale of home-baking in Lochaber high school's staff room raised more than £300 for the Leanne Fund

Bake sale boosts charity coffers

A LOCHABER high school staff member was delighted to raise more than £300 for charity by selling home baking.

Pupil support assistant Annette Chambers set up a cake stall in the

school staff room last week, with the help of her daughters Siobhan and Arianne and raised £310.68 for cystic fibrosis charity the Leanne Fund by selling homemade cupcakes, tablet, shortbread and Victoria sponge.

Basket making at WRI

TEN ladies enjoyed this month's meeting of Morar women's rural institute.

The guest speaker was Georgia Gillies from Wicked Willow who provided a demonstration of basket making, making one from scratch during the meeting.

Pauline Elwell won first place in the baking competition for her ginger snaps, while Nicky Parish's arrangement crowned her winner of the 'spring flowers in an egg cup'. The raffle was won by Christine Haynes.

The next meeting will be held on April 2.

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FW

Back our marina plan or we'll pull the plug - OBM

LOUISE LEE
llee@obantimes.co.uk

A LAST ditch attempt to build a short-stay marina in Oban will be made this week by the community company that has led the project for the past eight years.

The board of directors of Oban Bay Marine issued an ultimatum this week to wind up the company unless Argyll and Bute council supports the project.

In the meantime, an international specialist in marine tourism pleaded with the community saying temporary pontoons were an 'opportunity' and testing the market with a step ashore facility would be the making of a development in Oban.

Oban Bay Marine (OBM) needs to convince Argyll and Bute council of the importance of a marina to the town's economy after its business plan was deemed by the council's economic development boss Fergus Murray as 'not viable'.

Marine tourism expert David Adams McGilp, of Visit Scotland, said: 'I think that the local authority taking responsibility for public spending is absolutely the correct thing to do, and the



OPPORTUNITY: David Adams McGilp 16_t11dag3

council seems to have made a fairly detailed assessment of the current situation.

'What we shouldn't lose sight of is that there are aspirations for a marina in Oban Bay from the public, private and voluntary sectors.'

'If we are determined to deliver a marina - then it will happen.'

'While people will be disappointed, as am I, that the many hours of work people have put in to make this happen cannot be completed under the current governance arrangements - it is very important that we don't get tangled up in a pointless argument.'

Speaking about councillor Roddy McCuish's promise to have six pontoons in Oban Bay by summer, Mr Adams McGilp said: 'This is a clear opportunity for the Oban business community to test the market. Councillor McCuish's plan for temporary pontoons is simply that - temporary.'

'It is also inspired thinking from the area committee because it reduces the risk on the public purse.'

'Siting temporary pontoons in the bay will provide something that has never been tried before. I don't know of many projects

that are afforded this type of no-risk opportunity.'

'Of course, I have no doubt that the addition of the pontoons will prove hugely successful. This way the surrounding marine businesses will be able to assess optimum use. Think of it as a live feasibility study that will be the envy of other developments.'

'I am very keen to continue to work with all partners to make sure we get the best for Oban.'

Councillors have confirmed £2 million from CHORD - capital funding for improvements in Argyll's waterfront towns - has been set aside for short-stay pontoons. Its own plans for pontoons to be in place at the North Pier by summer have run into problems because of licensing conditions and costs.

A statement to *The Oban Times* from OBM said: 'It has always been known that the project could not be viable without the support of the council and substantial CHORD funding to pay for dredging and a floating breakwater.'

A positive meeting had taken place with Oban, Lorn and the Isles councillors, OBM stated.

'The directors of OBM made it clear that after eight years of

effort, unless the situation can be clarified very quickly such that the project can move forward, they are minded to recommend to the members of the company that it be wound up.

'OBM has always contended that the transit facility would not be in competition with any existing marina and indeed would complement the nearest marina at Kerrera.'

'At the meeting on Friday, the representatives of the area committee present confirmed their full commitment to the installation of a transit facility, and expressed their disappointment that their pledge to install a temporary pontoon for cruise ship tenders this summer had run into difficulties, and is now very unlikely to take place.'

Councillor Ian S MacLean said: 'Last week we were told even temporary pontoons might not be possible.'

'It is important that everyone remembers that anything is possible with some determination.'

'There is no time to delay - Oban needs pontoons, and we need them now.'

'Every member of the area committee is determined to get them into place this summer.'

TIMESLINE

Bridge closed for night-time work

FIVE nights of closures to the Connel bridge on the A828 begin next week, as it undergoes essential maintenance.

The work starts on Monday, March 16, between midnight and 6am and is to be completed by 6am on Saturday, March 21.

BEAR Scotland is carrying out both structural repairs as well as electrical work on the busy bridge.

Apprenticeships on offer with council

EIGHT people were chosen for the modern apprenticeships scheme with Argyll and Bute council last year, and the local authority has pledged another 25 in coming weeks.

The news comes after 600 people attended the Corran Halls for a jobs fair last Thursday, meeting with employers in the area. For a full round-up, see page 4.

Top six nomination for the Oban Times

THERE was good news for the *Oban Times* on Monday, after it was shortlisted for Weekly Newspaper of the Year at the Scottish Press Awards, to be held next month.

The nomination is the second in a month for the paper, after also being selected for the same category at the Highlands and Islands Media Awards in February.

Getting to heart of the matter

HISTORIC Scotland is to decide whether the Tinkers' Heart should become a national monument, after 2,000 people signed a petition supporting the idea.

The heart-shaped quartz cairn overlooks Loch Fyne.

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Bone cancer event for pupils

PUPILS at Oban high school are being encouraged by local fire-fighters to sign up to a life-saving charity.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), in partnership with bone-marrow transplant charity Anthony Nolan, will be carrying out a recruitment event at the school.

John Sweeney, a watch manager in Oban fire station, said: 'Anthony Nolan has recently lowered the age criteria to include 16 and 17-year-olds.'

'This is the first clinic that has

taken place in an Argyll and Bute school, after several very successful events in Glasgow, Lanarkshire and Ayrshire.

He said that since the start of the partnership between SFRS and Anthony Nolan, more than 5,000 people had joined the stem cell register, with 236 potential donors joining in Oban and more than 500 in Argyll and Bute.

He continued: 'Out of the 5,000 who have joined, nine people have gone on to provide potentially life-saving donations to someone suffering from blood

cancers, such as leukaemia. After the fantastic success of the last donor recruitment event in Oban, we are really looking forward to working with the staff and pupils at Oban High School.'

A short presentation on the work of the charity and an explanation of how bone marrow donors are selected, was given to fifth and sixth year pupils at the school on Tuesday.

'Due to medical advancements, it is now a painless procedure which is very similar to a blood donation,' said John Sweeney.

Call to end wait for centre

A GROUP that wants to open a community centre in one of the UK's most densely populated housing schemes, says it is in a race to find the money, a meeting in Oban heard on Monday evening.

Plans for a community centre in Soroba have been on the books for more than 25 years.

After six years of waiting to sign a deal with Argyll and Bute council for a suitable site for the new community centre, Soroba Residents Association (SRA) said it is in a race for funds.

At an emergency meeting on Monday night in the group's current building at Scalpay Terrace, former SRA member Sean MacIntyre told the meeting: 'If this whole matter was sorted out six years ago when it was meant to be, we would have the centre up and running by now.'

'It was 15 years before that when we started thinking about the community centre and nothing has been done.'

'What has happened now is ridiculous. People in Soroba need a community centre - and

it is very likely we will miss out because we don't have the same resources as other groups in the town.'

SRA chairman Andy Harper said: 'We were told six years ago it would be a couple of weeks until the matter was sorted out.'

Councillor Roddy McCuish told the group: 'You may have to pass some tests before the land is handed over to you.'

'This would mean having a business case for the community centre and being able to prove you have enough money.'



TORRENT: the barage at the Brander Pass at Loch Awe at the weekend

Widespread floods hit west coast main routes

FLOOD waters on the carriageway over the weekend saw drivers plough through heavy flooding around Loch Awe, a 46-mile diversion at Lochearnhead and a 70cm deep flood on the Kilninner road.

With melting snow and more than eight centimetres of rainfall in 12 hours, in some places, on the west coast last Saturday there was a notable amount of water lying on the main routes.

At Loch Awe and through the Brander pass on the A85 a flood slowed traffic to a standstill beyond Cruachan Power Station.

Passers-by at Dalnally saw the golf course flooded, but by Tuesday the water had started to recede.

Reports of severe water on the A83 near the Rest and Be Thankful and the turn off to Dunoon were discussed on national radio last Sunday morning.

At Kilninner a dip in the road saw more than 70cms of water lie on the roadway for more than 48 hours until drier weather on Tuesday.

The safety boat belonging to LochWatch Loch Awe was unable to be in its boathouse due to the rising levels of the loch, by more than one to two metres, by some accounts.

A spokesman for Scottish Hydro SSE said: 'Rising water levels in Loch Awe are nothing to be concerned about although flooding extended over the road, almost over the railway line at points and onto the golf course.'

'Although some very wet recent weather has meant that water levels in Loch Awe had risen, they have now abated. This is not unusual and is what we would expect to see over the winter months.'

Traffic on the A84 between Lochearnhead and Kilmahog had to be rerouted via Crieff after a flooding and debris was almost one metre deep at parts.

Launching a flood-risk consultation, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) said it needed the support of the community to record problems areas throughout Scotland.

Dr David Pirie, SEPA's executive director, said: 'This consultation is an important opportunity for people across the West Highlands to have their say on how flood risk is managed in the future.'

'The main flooding issues and flood impacts across Scotland are set out in the consultation with a vision for how flooding

should be managed. We have been working closely with local authorities to identify the most suitable actions to manage flood risk, and this is targeted towards areas where it will be most effective based on improved knowledge of the sources and impacts of flooding.'

'We would encourage people who are interested in tackling flooding and reducing its impacts on communities across Scotland to get involved and make sure your views are heard by taking part in this consultation.'

The minister for environment, climate change and land reform, Dr Aileen McLeod, said: 'This consultation is another important milestone in the implementation of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.'

'Communities living under the threat of flooding know only too well the devastating effects it can have and that is why flooding remains a priority for this Government.'

'I would urge everyone affected by flooding to take part in this important consultation, which will help to shape how we cope with, and manage, flooding in Scotland in the future.'

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People who organise other events also attend the show to get advice from tour operators, events organisers, dress designers, food suppliers, hair and make up and other great ideas for the big celebrations.

Attending a wedding fayre saves loads of time as there are so many wedding suppliers under one roof and it's a quick way to find out what is available in the wedding marketplace. Many wedding suppliers offer a promotional discount for bookings made on the day. Plan carefully who else to take along to the fayre as it can be great fun with either mum, bridesmaid, best friend or in some cases even the groom.

There is so much on show at the fayre prepare for a long day and wear comfortable shoes as most of the day walking around different stands.

To make bookings on the day to take advantage of suppliers' special offers, then remember to take some form of payment with you.

Collect flyers and business cards from all the wedding suppliers as you may decide later on you liked the look of a particular package but no longer have the contact details.

Government and enterprise must be broad-minded

CLEARER information is needed on the coverage and range of speeds a Scottish superfast broadband network will deliver, Audit Scotland has said.

The Scottish government wants the network to offer speeds of 40-80 megabits per second to 85-90 per cent of premises in Argyll and Bute by March 2016 and 95 per cent by 2017.

But Audit Scotland said the contracts to create the network do not guarantee the speeds for all the premises.

The Scottish government and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) appointed BT, through two contracts, to develop the superfast broadband network.

Audit Scotland said BT had exceeded its contractual targets by 57,000 premises, but was about 14,000 premises short of where it expected to be at this stage against its original plans.

Caroline Gardner, auditor general for Scotland, said: 'This investment by the public sector is intended to mainly benefit rural areas, where such access is currently either low or non-existent.'

'Given the potential benefits, it's important that the Scottish government and HIE provide clear and regular updates on what coverage and speeds the broadband network will actually deliver, as the installation progresses.'

Rhododendron fest's blooming

ARGYLL and Bute will be 'blooming beautiful' this spring, as it holds its first rhododendron festival as part of a new marketing campaign by VisitScotland.

The Glorious Gardens of Argyll and Bute has been awarded £12,000 from the national tourism organisation's growth fund to help highlight the stunning range of plants in the region.

VisitScotland's director for Argyll, David Adams McGilp, said: 'Argyll and Bute really does boast some of the most beautiful gardens in the country, and I am delighted that this award from the VisitScotland growth fund will help the group to raise its profile.'

For more information, visit: www.gardens-of-argyll.co.uk/

Expert look at the referendum vote

WRITER and political pundit Gerry Hassan visited Oban's Corran Halls last week to discuss the impact of the Scottish independence referendum on the country's institutions. He focused on institutions such as the BBC, Scottish Labour and the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Oban mum blames 'damp' home for family illnesses

LOUISE LEE
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A SOROBIA mother has accused an Oban-based housing association of ignoring a long-running dampness problem in her home which she said had affected her children's health.

Beata Kaczmarek said her family now suffers from a permanent chest infection because of the damp conditions in her Oban house.

And while her landlord, Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA), had fitted a new kitchen and heating system, she said it had not dealt with the dampness problem.

Beata, whose two children, aged 16 and eight, have started to use inhalers since they moved into the house, said: 'I have a big problem with my home. I moved to Scalpay Terrace with my partner and two children in 2008.'

'For the past three years, every room in my home has had a serious problem with dampness and mould. When I clean it, it grows back very quickly. I have given up.'

'ACHA has tried to deal with some rooms by cutting chunks out of the ceiling and replacing the wood - but it is not working.'

'Both my children are now asthmatic and I have recently been diagnosed with asthma and my doctor has confirmed this is due to the amount of mould in the house.'



HEALTH MATTERS: Beata Kaczmarek claims the house has led to ill health in her family

ACHA's repairs service received a 97 per cent rating

Alastair MacGregor
ACHA

'I've contacted the housing office many times about the situation and I feel they are not caring about the disgusting, unhealthy environment my partner, children and I have to live in.'

'When I placed a new application for being re-housed, we only got 10 points and yet our home has significant problems.'

'I want help because we can't stay in this home any more.'

A meeting of Soroba Residents Association on Monday night heard these problems 'had gone on for years'.

Chairman Andy Harper said: 'We have talked about this so many times and nothing is ever done. It seems that people have started to accept that having these problems are 'normal' and it shouldn't be the case.'

However, Oban-based coun-

cillor Neil MacIntyre said that ACHA was in a very difficult position because of the number of private owners on the estate, which was currently estimated at 52 per cent of the housing stock in Soroba.

He said: 'If there was one solution it is likely that ACHA and the private landlords as well as homeowners would jump at sorting this out.'

Alastair MacGregor, chief executive of ACHA, said as soon as the housing association was made aware of any problems it did what it could to resolve matters as quickly as possible.

He continued: 'Our priority now and over the next three years is to complete the roof and roughcast works to the buildings.'

'In the first Scottish Social Housing Charter report on landlords, ACHA's repairs service received a 97 per cent rating for repairs completed first time and the same rating for tenant satisfaction with the repairs service.'

'Since 2007, ACHA has modernised properties by renewing the heating systems, rewiring the electrics and replacing the windows and doors.'

'By the very nature of tenements, we may get a water ingress from time to time but when reported we carry out a repair.'

'We believe that the dampness issue in this house is not as a result of water penetration but condensation. A vent is due to be fitted.'

Village hall refurbishment eases pain of festive fracas

STEVEN RAE
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KILMELFORD village hall has undergone a £10,000 refurbishment, three months after it was 'trashed' by a group of young people who booked it under a false name.

The drink-fuelled festive rumpus created hundreds of pounds worth of damage, with the community association left counting up a repairs bill headache.

A member of Kilmelford and Kilniver community association, which runs the hall, explained: 'We have received no compensation, although it has been promised. The whole episode quite spoils our Christmas.'

'The booking was taken in good faith by the village shop, which very kindly takes bookings on our behalf.'

'A door was kicked in, a mirror broken, panes of glass smashed in the main hall door, light fittings broken, and the place was left so awash with alcohol it

took a group of village volunteers many hours to clean it.'

'The hall was booked under a false name, for a false event, and there was hundreds of pounds worth of damage caused. Unfortunately, too, this is not the first time the hall has been damaged in these circumstances.'

Police Scotland did not comment on the incident, other than confirming that at present, the damage was a 'civil matter'.

Discussing the kitchen upgrade, Antoinette Mitchell, chairwoman of the association, said: 'To be able to usher in the new year on this positive note is really pleasing. We would like to thank Awards for All Scotland for making this possible.'

The Kilmelford and Kilniver Kinder Kitchen, as the project was called, was funded by a grant from Awards for All Scotland, carried out by a team of builders, headed up by Jim Smith from Connel.

Refurbishment included new sinks, a new dishwasher and more cupboard storage space.

A metal fire screen shutter, too heavy for some of the committee to operate, was also replaced.

Mrs Mitchell said: 'It was unsightly and noisy, and now in its place is an electric fire screen, wired into the alarm system.'

'This fire screen can be operated by the turn of a key, so no more pushing and shoving to get it up or down at the hatch to the main hall.'

'In the event of a fire as soon as the alarm goes off, it will shut automatically.'

The kitchen's facilities will have their first 'trial run' on March 20, when the community will be hosting its annual curry quiz night in the hall.

'With a licensed bar, six bottles of wine as the first prize and outstanding curries, this fun event, the seventh, has become part of the hall's ever-growing social calendar,' said Mrs Mitchell.

'We hope the improved kitchen facilities will attract even more people to use the hall for future events.'

Tourism summit planning exciting route for visitors

MAJOR players in Argyll and the Isles' rapidly expanding tourism sector are preparing to attend the region's annual tourism summit next week.

The event, organised by Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative (AITC) with support from VisitScotland, will be held at the Lochs and Glens Ardgartan Hotel, outside Arrochar.

The summit gives local tourism businesses the opportunity not just to meet and discuss shared issues of interest or concern, but also to hear from key tourism operators regarding their experiences of doing business in Argyll and the Isles, and their plans for expanding that business in the future.

Among the speakers will be a representative of VisitScotland, who will present recently published research into rapidly changing visitor behaviours, designed to help local businesses understand what today's tourists are looking for and how best to tap into the demand.

Ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne will also be represented and will look at the changing pattern of visitor expectations and how Argyll and the Isles might start tapping into a younger visitor market.

Other high profile speakers include Gordon Watson, the newly appointed chief executive officer at Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.

AITC chairman Gavin Dick said: 'We will be exploring how this wonderful region is marketed and promoted not just by individual businesses, local marketing groups and AITC, but also by the many operators who bring visitors to our doorsteps.'

'Delegates will also learn more about AITC's exciting Argyll Ambassadors initiative, the new route-planner software we're developing and the Argyll and the Isles Tourism Barometer, as well as getting an overview of the AITC development agent activity which is taking place across the region.'

Anyone interested in attending the summit who has not yet booked a place should visit: www.eventbrite.co.uk

TIMESLINE

Roadworks ahead for A83 motorists

THREE further sets of roadworks are to be carried out on the A83 by roads maintenance group BEAR Scotland in the next few weeks.

Work starts on March 15 for one week at the bends at Musdale and Glenbarr and at Whiteside to Clachan Hill, both in Kintyre, with overnight closures from 8.30pm to 6am.

Overnight resurfacing works are scheduled to start on Sunday March 22 for one week on Barmore Road, Tarbert, with the road closed between 7pm and 5am each night.

Traffic will be diverted via the B8024, but there will be access to the village.

A new safety fence is to be installed north of Dunderave Castle, near Inveraray, on the southbound verge. This is due to start on Monday March 23 for one week and will be undertaken in the daytime, under traffic signal control.

Police talk about changes to force

POLICE Scotland is extending its public consultation on proposals to restructure local policing in Argyll and Bute, West Dunbartonshire, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire.

Representatives from Police Scotland are continuing to talk to local communities by meeting community councils, which members of the public are welcome to attend.

Consultations will run until the end of this month. For more information, visit: www.scotland.police.uk/whats-happening/news

Driver who came off road arrested

A DRIVER has been arrested after his car left the A85 road near the Old Shore Road in Connel on Saturday around 2.40pm.

Emergency services were called to the scene after the car was seen to career off the road.

While no-one was injured in the crash, the 43-year-old male driver was arrested on suspicion of taking the car without the owner's consent, drinking and driving, have no insurance, driving with no licence and attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Pupils cooking up a real tasty treat

LISMORE pupils served up their own celebrity cook book last Friday.

With recipes from chefs Marco Pierre White, Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall and Tom Kitchin, the book has been the island's top seller.

Copies of the book are available for £6 (including post and packing) from Lismore primary school, enquiries@lismore.argyll-bute.sch.uk

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Business Gateway Workshops

Marketing your Business - 24 March - Oban - a full day workshop aimed at existing small businesses with ambitions for growth. The session will help evaluate current marketing activity and create a realistic marketing plan to meet the business' needs.

Maximising Your Tender Score - 31 March - Oban - a half day workshop aimed at helping companies and third sector organisations maximise their scores when submitting a tender. This workshop is for organisations with experience of bidding for work who want to improve their tender performance, quality of their bids and aspire to bidding for larger contracts.

Is the Public Sector Right for You? - 24 April - Inveraray - a half day workshop aimed at providing enough information to companies and third sector organisations to help them decide if this market is right for them and how to go about it. The workshop provides an overview of the tendering landscape and some tips on successful tendering. The workshop is designed for companies and third sector organisations that have had little or no experience of tendering and would like to become 'tender ready'.

To find out more or book a place please email Business Gateway at business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk or call 01546 604555

Business Gateway - Argyll and Bute

INTERESTED IN LOCAL BUSINESS ?
Check out our BUSINESS NEWS section on page 12

Jeremy is Scotland's strongest man again

Powerlifting

LOCHABER powerlifter Jeremy Vickers has won the Scotland's strongest man title for the fourth year in a row.

The Fort William man beat 12 other competitors at the national under 90kg event on Sunday and will now go on to represent the country at British, European and world levels.

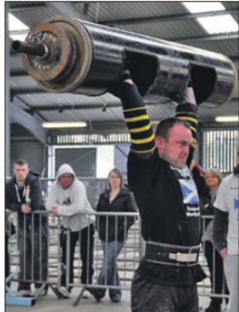
The 27-year-old will be joined at the Brits in Ireland by Gary Robertson and Robert Hunter, both from Fort William, who came second and third place on Sunday.

Vickers muscled the competition to win four out of the six events at the weekend and did so while suffering from a hernia.

The 89.8kg lifter suffered the same affliction last year but the operation didn't solve the problem so Vickers is set to go under the knife again, but hopes to have recovered in time to compete in the international contests.

His mother, Joan Vickers, said: 'It's such a great achievement for Jeremy to win for the fourth year but it's even more special because the three local boys all did really well.'

'Jeremy refused to have his operation if it meant he couldn't compete on Sunday so he's hoping to have it soon so he's fit for the rest of the competitions.'



FOUR IN A ROW: Jeremy Vickers won the under 90kg Scotland's strongest man for the fourth year in a row

A proud double for Fort stalwart Willie

FORT William Football club player Willie Gemmill is now the proud father of twins.

The centre half's partner, Diane Black, gave birth to a boy and a girl over the weekend.

Gemmill, 28, named the twins Euan Alasdair William and Mara Claire.

David MacDonald, vice chairman of Fort William, congratulated the pair on behalf of the club.

He said: 'All of us at Fort William Football Club would like to pass on our congratulations and best wishes to Willie Gemmill and his partner Diane. We are delighted for both of you.'

Gemmill, a fireman from Oban, has played for Fort William for two years after transferring from Oban Saints Football Club.

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Caol primary school pick up the honours at cross country event

CAOL primary school took home the winners' shield at the annual Lochaber inter-school cross country for the seventh time in the last eight years.

The team narrowly beat Inverlochy for the title at Leanachan Forest last

week and Upper Achintore came in third. In the individual results, Duncan O'Rourke from Arisaig was first of the 100 competing children, finishing the route in 10 minutes and eight seconds. Innes Orr and Evan

Atkinson, both Inverlochy, were neck and neck for second and third, with Innes less than a second ahead in 10 minutes and nine seconds.

Ami Robertson of Upper Achintore sailed to the finish line in 12 minutes

and nine seconds, ahead of Ailsa Janzen of Glencoe, who took second place in 12 minutes and 38 seconds. Third place went to Lyra Swabey, Spean Bridge, for her time of 12 minutes and 44 seconds. Bridget Thomas,

Cross country

Lochaber active schools co-ordinator, thanked all teachers, marshalls and helpers for their ongoing support.



WINNERS: The top three boys and girls finishers 20_111crosscountry01



SHIELD: Caol primary school took home the team shield for the seventh time in eight years 20_111crosscountry02

State of Claggan Park pitch a major cause for concern

Club's sportsman's dinner seems to be the only thing not rained off

WITH the end of the Scottish Highland Football League drawing closer, Fort William is no closer to finishing its fixture backlog with 13 games still to play.

When The Oban Times went to print, the Fort boys were hoping to welcome Forres Mechanics to Claggan on Wednesday night but with the pitch still flooded it wasn't looking hopeful.

On Saturday, Fort William are scheduled to play third-place Wick Academy but this could also be called off because of a poor forecast.

The club's annual sportsman's dinner, also on Saturday, seems to be the only thing not to be rained off, with former old firm players Gordon Smith and Tosh McKinlay as guests for

Football

the evening. David MacDonald, Fort William vice chairman, said on Monday: 'The pitch was completely flooded on Friday then this morning it wasn't nearly as bad. If we could just get two dry days in a row it would make a world of difference.'

'I'm not holding out much hope for Wednesday's game and we'll know on Friday whether we're playing on Saturday. It would be nice to have another six points to celebrate at the dinner but we'll be lucky to play.'

The good news is the teams below us in the league haven't been winning recently so no-one has gone ahead of us.'

Fergus triumphs in Enduro contest

THE WEST Highland Wheelers Enduro was a closely fought affair as Fergus Lamb crossed the finish line in 12 minutes and 11 seconds, just eight seconds ahead of second-place Liam Moynihan.

Lachlan Blair finished the Nevis Range route third in 12 minutes and 51 seconds with fourth Alistair MacLennan in 12 minutes and 59 seconds.

Kirsten Moynihan went one better than her brother, taking first place in the ladies competition in 16:12. Emma Holgate and Yuka Gallagher were second and third ladies respectively. In the juniors, Alasdair Poll finished first in 6:52, followed by Evan MacDonald in 7:23 and Cory Muir in 7:28.



MAKING A SPLASH: Ruaridh Cant takes on the West Highland Wheelers Enduro



First for Lochaber cheerleaders

Cheerleading

SIX SOUTH Lochaber dancers won first place at a cheerleading festival in Inverness.

After just five practice sessions, the Kinlochleven high and St Brides primary pupils wowed the crowd in Eden Court to win the junior jazz category.

Kinlochleven high school head teacher Rebecca Machin said the girls are already practising with tutor Vicky Horn for the next festival, to be held in May.

FIRST PLACE: dancers from south Lochaber picked up first place at a cheerleading festival



FINALISTS: Spean Bridge primary school pupils qualified for the final of a national ski-ing competition

Spean Bridge pupils qualify for national final

SPEAN Bridge primary school pupils will take part in a national ski-ing final next week after taking first place in the qualifiers.

The Spean Bridge A team had the combined best three times to

put them in the top spot of the Scottish Schools Snowsports Association championships, held at Nevis Range last week, and will now compete in the final, also at Nevis Range, on

Wednesday March 18. Josh Balcombe of the team also came second place in the individual competition, losing out on first place to Matthew Goodman from Lochcarron.

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WEATHER

Thursday Light rain
Winds strong south westerly
Temperatures 4°C to 9°C.

Friday Sunny intervals
Winds light south south westerly
Temperatures 2°C to 9°C.

Weekend Outlook Cloudy on Saturday
Cloudy on Sunday
Winds moderate south south westerly
Temperatures 4°C to 8°C.

FRIDAY

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, March 12, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am			pm				
Thur	03.09	1.4	09.00	3.4	15.29	1.6	21.34	3.2
Fri	03.59	1.6	09.46	3.1	16.31	1.8	22.31	3.0
Sat	05.13	1.7	10.54	2.9	18.04	1.8	**.**	.*
Sun	00.07	2.9	06.44	1.7	13.20	2.8	19.31	1.7
Mon	02.26	3.1	08.11	1.5	15.05	3.1	20.48	1.4
Tues	03.27	3.4	09.26	1.2	15.55	3.4	21.50	1.0
Wed	04.14	3.8	10.22	0.8	16.34	3.6	22.41	0.6

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate