

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8295

Thursday 24 March, 2016

www.obantimes.co.uk

85 pence

### Easter property review

Including details of the Lifetime ISA from this year's budget announcement

### Whisky AND FOOD TRAILS

### Councillor urged to go public about resignation

A FORMER council leader and SNP councillor has urged councillor Iain S MacLean to tell the public his reasons for standing down from the SNP.

James Robb, from Helensburgh, has suggested Mr MacLean should be putting himself to the electorate if he wants to stay on in his current role.

Councillor Robb said: '... were Councillor MacLean to do the right thing and resign as a councillor now, there would be no additional cost to the taxpayer from by-elections.'

'As a by-election has to be called for the current vacancy in Oban North [and Lorn] the saving from electing two councillors in the same ward at the same time would be almost the full £30,000 as there would be one print run, one mail shot and one hire of the counting machine.'

Councillor Robb continued: 'SNP candidates who are elected knowingly and freely agree to abide by the rules of the party and accept and agree it is their duty to resign as a councillor if resigning from the party. That seems fair and reasonable to both the SNP and the electorate.'

'So there is now the opportunity for all those who are affected to do the honourable thing and resign and hold by-elections for all of them at the least cost to taxpayers.'

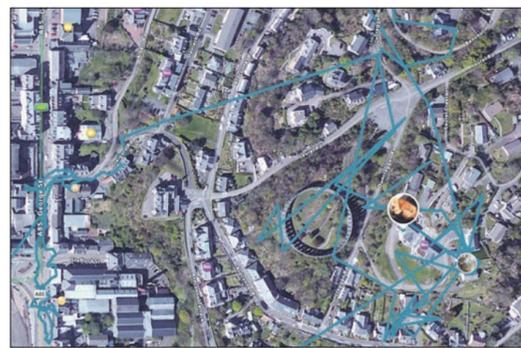
Mr MacLean told party leader Sandy Taylor, last week, he was standing down from the party, but would not confirm why. He had not replied to *The Oban Times* requests for information about his resignation at the time of going to press.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesman confirmed Councillor MacLean had informed them he was no longer a member of the SNP council group.

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Clockwise from top left: Parsley entertaining a visitor to McCaig's Tower; Parsley pops into *The Oban Times* office after owner Fiona Campbell Smith finally tracks him down in town; staff at the Rowantree Hotel often gets a wee visit – and a cuddle – from Parsley; tracking Parsley is a full-time job!; students in Oban town centre were shown back to school by the cat. To see more, visit Parsley's Facebook page.



## Who needs an ambassador – Oban has purrfect tour guide

VISITSCOTLAND'S search for an ambassador dog has left an Oban cat feline very annoyed.

Parsley, who is one-and-a-half and lives by McCaig's Tower, believes he is 'purrfect' for the job – but the national organisation is only looking for a dog, a move Parsley thinks is discriminatory.

The red Maine Coon already takes time to welcome and direct tourists all over the town, and he can often be found in a local pub or hotel, liking nothing better than a wee cuddle from a tourist or two.

So outraged was Parsley by the search for a dog that on Monday he wrote to VisitScotland to raise his hackles about the Ambassador dog scheme.

He wrote: 'It came to my attention that you are looking for

a dog ambassador for Scotland. I must admit I was at first bewildered, and then rather angry.

'Let me explain. I have been welcoming tourists and showing them around Oban for the last year.

'It's a full-time job and nobody could beat me at it. Admittedly, I am only covering Oban, but I am doing an excellent job.'

'I know I can't win this contest because (spit) I am not a dog.'

'However, I want it to be noted that the VisitScotland contest is discriminating against me. If you take a look at my Facebook page, you'll see why I'm so frustrated.'

'Here I am, doing the job out of the goodness of my heart for no recognition and you're going to give the award to a dog who a) can only do what it's told and

b) leaves a trail of plastic bags in its wake.

'Just look at all the bad press those dirty dogs bring to the town. Surely that's enough to disqualify anyone as an ambassador?'

'I am so discreet – like the Queen. I know I can't win, but I want you to regard this as a formal discrimination complaint.'

'Feline the better for getting it off my chest.'

Since Parsley was born, he has had to fight for his rights. Initially his breeder was not going to sell him due to a number of poor pedigree traits – such as his small size at birth and numerous medical problems – but his owner fell in love with him and persuaded the breeder to sell.

Fiona Campbell Smith said: 'Parsley is from a flawless pedigree, but wasn't actually for sale

because of his eye problem. But I had set my heart on him and the breeder agreed to let me buy him.'

'The average lifespan [of the red Maine Coon] is higher than 12, but Parsley will not live that long unfortunately – he has already used 900 lives.'

Ms Campbell Smith said she was disappointed that her cat could not be considered for the VisitScotland prize.

She said: 'I have had to fit Parsley with a GPS tracker so that I know where he is. He is very keen to meet people and show them around the town. It is an opportunity missed for VisitScotland.'

'His favourite pubs in town are the Balmoral, the Rowantree and I once found him curled up in a ball on the seats in the Tartan Tavern.'

David Adams McGilp, regional director of VisitScotland, said: 'It's fantastic to hear that Parsley is embodying the spirit of Scotland and doing such a great job greeting tourists in Oban.'

'VisitScotland is looking for an Ambassador dog as we need a canine consul to go on walks around the country with his/her human companion, but we hope that many other animal friends in Scotland may feel encouraged to become honorary hosts for their hometowns or local areas and will follow in Parsley's pawsteps to make sure visitors receive as warm a welcome as possible.'

Anyone wanting to enter their dog (if you dare!) into the campaign should contact [www.denholfmassociates.com](http://www.denholfmassociates.com) before the end of April.

### TIMESLINE

#### High school pupils do a runner

OBAN pupils on the run today (Thursday) are not 'jinking' school, but are raising cash for a national cancer charity.

Oban High School is raising money for Cancer Research UK's Race for Life, with more than 300 youngsters, aged 11-17 years old, walking, jogging or running in aid of Cancer Research UK's life-saving work.

#### If music is the food of love...

A FORMER chocolate maker is returning to his old haunt to serve up another type of smoothness on March 31.

Mike Nisbet, a former chocolate maker, will appear alongside Rosie Bans and Anna MacDonald at the Oban Chocolate Company to kick off their European tour.

Stuart MacKechnie of Oban Chocolate Company said: 'Mike is a really talented musician and we are delighted to have him play in Oban.'

The event is free.

#### Skipinnish duo set to go it alone

CELTIC band Skipinnish announced this week that singer Robert Robertson and keyboard player Ross Wilson are leaving to start new musical projects.

Mr Robertson, from Fort William, will be replaced by former Manran front man Norrie MacIver and Mr Wilson, from Bunessan, will be replaced by keyboard player Jonathon Gillespie, from Ireland.

Founder member Angus MacPhail praised both men saying: 'They have been amazing to work with and very conscientious in helping the new members learn all our songs.'

'We have remained close friends throughout. We wish them all the very best.'



### LORN DRAMA FESTIVAL

CORRAN HALLS, OBAN  
30th - 31st Mar 2016  
7.30 Tickets £6 (conc. £5)  
Six one-act plays performed over 2 nights

### Concern over substation plans

SCOTTISH and Southern Energy's (SSE) planned new substation by Loch Awe is causing 'grave community concerns', Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council heard last week in Portsochnochan.

SSE plans to build a new North Argyll substation adjacent to the A819, above Ardbrecknish and Upper Sonochan, 'to enable renewable energy projects to connect to the electricity network', converting voltage from 132kV to 275kV.

It also plans to upgrade its overhead line between the proposed North Argyll and

existing Taynuilt substations, and create a new 275kV overhead line connecting the North Argyll substation to the existing one in Dalmailly.

It is now seeking residents' views in a consultation, published at [www.ssepd.co.uk](http://www.ssepd.co.uk), which closes for comments on April 30, 2016.

SSE's project timeline aims to complete a feasibility design this year, before submitting a planning application in 2017.

If consent is granted, construction is due to start in 2019 and finish in 2020/21.

However, at last Tuesday's

community council meeting, secretary John Kerr's revelation that the '200m by 150m substation will be the size of five swimming pools' were met with gasps.

He continued in the minutes: 'As the plans have not been formulated, the community council cannot make an objection per se, but it certainly will express grave community concerns to SSE about current scoping in an environmentally-sensitive area and would encourage everyone to get involved.'

*The Oban Times* asked SSE about the substation's pro-

posed site, size, design and potential noise and disruption, and links to any existing or planned renewable energy project.

A spokesperson said SSE's 'very high-level scoping exercise' is still 'looking at a number of sites', and at 'blending [it] into the existing landscape to have the least environmental and scenic impact'.

It promised to 'continue working closely with local communities and keep them updated to ensure our work has as little impact on the lives of those living and working in the area'.

### Oban's BIGGEST CHOCOLATE EASTER EGG HUNT!

SUNDAY 27TH MARCH  
The Scottish SEA LIFE Sanctuary, Oban  
[VISITSEALIFE.CO.UK/OBAN](http://VISITSEALIFE.CO.UK/OBAN)

### It's Bed month

A good night's sleep doesn't have to be a pipe dream

Wide range of beds and mattresses in stock

MATHESONS FURNISHINGS  
Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban.  
Tel: 01631 565195  
[www.mathesons.co.uk](http://www.mathesons.co.uk)

## £10M in pot to help fund buyouts

A £10 MILLION package to help communities buy land from April 1 has been announced by the Scottish Government.

The announcement comes as the government's Land Reform Bill reaches the final stage of the parliamentary process.

The Scottish Land Fund will continue until 2020.

The previous Land Fund awarded £9 million over three years to 52 communities throughout Scotland.

Of the 500,000 acres of land already in community ownership, more than 90,000 acres was purchased with help from the Land Fund.

Ailsa Raeburn, head of community assets at Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), welcomed the news.

She said: 'The launch of the new Scottish Land Fund will help more local groups across Scotland own and develop land and buildings that are important to them.'

'Over the last 50 years, HIE has been a leader in community development across the Highlands and Islands and beyond.'

'We have helped hundreds of groups develop thriving and sustainable projects that have helped contribute to building healthy, flourishing communities.'

'We are very much looking forward to working with the Scottish Government and the Big Lottery Fund in this next round which will see the fund extended to urban areas for the first time.'

'It will be exciting to see all of these new ideas come to life.'

## Date set for Oban Mòd

DÌREACH airson a chuir na' r cuimhne gu bheil Mòd Sgìre an Obain 2016 a' tachairt air Dihaoine 3mh agus Disathairne 4mh den Ògmhios. Feumaidh na foirmean inntreigeadh a bhith againn ro Dhihaoine 1 den Ghiblean 2016. Faodaidh sibh na foirmean a' phostadh no an toirt gu Furan, Ionad Gàidhlig an Obain, Tallaichean Chorrain, An t-Oban, PA34 5AB.

OBAN and District Provincial Mod 2016 will take place on Friday June 3 and Saturday June 4.

Entry forms must be with in by Friday April 1, 2016. Forms can be posted or handed in to Furan Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls, Oban, PA34 5AB.

All engraved trophies, shields and cups should be returned to Furan Gaelic Centre by Friday April 29, 2016.

Contact Moira Dunlop on moiradunlop@btinternet.com or Duncan.MacNeil@argyll-bute.gov.uk for more information.

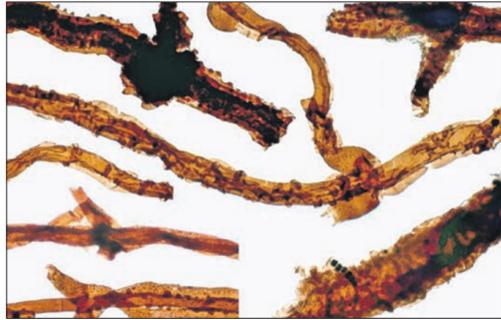
# Oldest land-based fossil discovered on Kerrera

**SANDY NEIL**  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

A FOSSILISED 440-million-year-old fungus which kick-started the human race has been discovered on Kerrera, near Oban, by Cambridge University scientists.

According to a new paper published in the Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society, *Tortotubus protuberans* is the oldest fossilised land-dwelling organism ever found in the world – only sea creatures have been found which are older.

While the micro-fossil, no wider than a human hair, cannot be said to be the first organism to live on land, it was among the first to colonise it and, vitally for human beings



The fossil found on Kerrera is the oldest fossilised land-dwelling organism in the world. Photograph: Dr Martin Smith

to come, to create nutrients for plants to grow and tempt sea creatures onto dry land.

Palaeontologists discovered the pioneer *tortotubus* had a main structure and cord-like

arms similar to modern fungi, which spread out to colonise and decompose surfaces.

Decomposition kick-started the process of soil formation, which allowed plants with root systems to flourish and nourish animals up the food chain.

The paper's author Dr Martin Smith, who conducted the study at Cambridge's Department of Earth Sciences but is now based at Durham University, said *tortotubus* fills an important gap in the evolution of life on land.

'During the period when this organism existed, life was almost entirely restricted to the oceans: nothing more complex than simple mossy and lichen-like plants had yet evolved on the land. But be-

fore there could be flowering plants or trees, or the animals that depend on them, the processes of rot and soil formation needed to be established.'

It is generally agreed that life first started migrating from the seas to land in the early Palaeozoic era, between 500 and 450 million years ago. *Tortotubus* was unearthed from Silurian Old Red Sandstone exposed on the island, dating to a time when Scotland lay below the Equator, and joined the continent carrying England and Europe.

In 2004 a fossilised millipede was discovered in Stonehaven, north-east Scotland, which is believed to be the oldest land animal ever found, dating from 420 million years ago.

## Call for Western Isles to pilot scheme in devolution of Crown Estate assets

THE Western Isles, Shetland and Orkney should be the pilot areas for the devolution of Crown Estate assets following their transfer to the Scottish Parliament, says the leader of Western Isles Council.

Leader of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Angus Campbell was speaking last week in the wake of responses to the Scottish Government's consultation on an islands' bill, which was made available last week.

Mr Campbell said: 'The transfer

of the Crown Estate revenues and management to the Scottish Parliament and their subsequent further devolution to the Shetland Isles, Orkney and the Western Isles was one of the recommendations of the Smith Commission and we look forward to that being implemented in full.'

'The islands are well placed to pilot the first scheme of that further devolution and lead the way for coastal communities in Scotland.'

'We have the capacity to deliver immediately on transfer to Scotland and hope that the Scottish Government will continue to work with us to achieve this.'

'The response to the consultation on the islands bill is very encouraging and the work that has been undertaken by the islands areas ministerial working group has achieved a great deal to date.'

'I particularly welcome the proposal to introduce 'island proofing' for new legislation.'

## Have your say in rural consultation

SCOTTISH Rural Action is aiming to hold the country's biggest ever conversation on rural issues this year, with a campaign launched this week to write a manifesto for rural Scotland.

Events are being held across Scotland and an online consultation is already taking place.

The campaign will culminate with debates on the manifesto at the Scottish Rural Parliament in October 2016, before participants vote to adopt the document.

Scottish Rural Action will use the final manifesto to promote the view of rural communities throughout Scotland to decision-makers at all levels of government.

For more details see [www.scottishruralparliament.org.uk](http://www.scottishruralparliament.org.uk)

# Deer cull increase needed to protect environment, says trust

THE Scottish Wildlife Trust has called for deer culling to be increased to protect Scotland's biodiversity and ecosystems, ahead of a Scottish Parliament debate on the new Land Reform (Scotland) Bill this week, writes Sandy Neil.

Due to the loss of wild deer's native predators and a lack of effective control, the environmental charity argues that their numbers are much higher in Scotland than they should be, and they continue to rise.

Through overgrazing, bark stripping and trampling, it adds, deer can cause widespread damage to habitats such as peatlands

and woodlands, which further impacts local biodiversity, flood risk and the ability of Scotland's bogs to store carbon.

The trust says culling must keep pace with population expansion to control wild deer populations, but argues that current culling levels are falling far short of this, citing a tripling of red deer numbers over the last 50 years as proof that the current voluntary approach to deer management is not working.

Dr Maggie Keegan, head of policy at the Scottish Wildlife Trust, explained: 'For too long, many areas of Scotland have been overrun by high deer

numbers – in excess of what a healthy, natural environment can support.'

'This has led to environmental degradation such as the suppression of native woodland expansion, peatlands becoming eroded and emitting rather than storing carbon, a lack of a natural treeline, denuded hillsides, trees clinging on in the most inaccessible places, a lack of montane scrub such as juniper, increased run-off rate, decreased water quality and increased downstream flooding risk. There has been a reluctance to move away from the voluntary approach to deer management

when all the evidence points to its failure.'

A spokesperson for the trust added: 'The trust feels strongly the amendments in the bill regarding deer are a step in the right direction towards ensuring landowners and managers take more responsibility for deer that inhabit their land, in order to strike the right balance between the public and private interest of deer stalking and shooting.'

The trust is also calling for the Scottish Government to accept an amendment from Claudia Beamish MSP, regarding Scottish Natural Heritage's (SNH) role and the Deer Code of

Practice, which would mean that SNH would be obliged to assess and report on whether or not the voluntary code is effective in protecting the public interest.

Dr Keegan continued: 'The clock is ticking on Scotland's biodiversity; report after report has shown the impacts of too many deer have dire consequences for Scotland's natural capital. This bill presents the Scottish Government with the chance to start taking the steps necessary to deliver sustainable deer management, which means stabilising deer numbers at ecologically acceptable and maintainable levels.'

## TIMESLINE

### Weather raises risk of wildfire

THE SCOTTISH Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) has warned of the dangers of wildfire as weather forecasters predict dry and windy conditions in the coming days.

A high pressure system is dominating the UK's weather and this has historically been linked to an increased risk of wildfires at this time of year.

Whilst no specific wildfire warnings are in place, further advice is available on the Your Safety section of [www.firescotland.gov.uk](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk)

Anyone who sees someone acting suspiciously, recklessly or irresponsibly in the countryside should call Police Scotland on 101 or pass information anonymously to Scotland Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### Lifeboat launched after false alarm

OBAN RNLI lifeboat launched last Tuesday to reports of a paraglider in difficulty in Loch Creran.

The *Mora Edith Macdonald* launched at the request of Stornoway Coastguard shortly after 7pm when the reports came in.

The volunteer crew were joined by the Coastguard Rescue helicopter 999.

Once on scene a search pattern was established, while the helicopter searched the shoreline.

A local fish farm vessel also offered its assistance.

Soon after, it was established that the obstacle was a group of helium balloons floating on the surface, and the report was a false alarm with good intent.

Oban lifeboat crew thanked Coastguard Rescue 999 and the local fish farm boat for their assistance in the search on the loch.

### Extra flights for Tìree Music Fest

FLYBE franchise partner Loganair has almost doubled its scheduled flights to meet demand for passengers travelling to this year's Tìree Music Festival.

The airline has added three extra flights from Glasgow – a total of 43 per cent more seats – on the Friday, Saturday and Monday of the festival, which runs this year from July 15-17.

Last year more than 1,700 people attended the event, more than three times the island's population.

Tìree Music Festival has previously won Best Cultural Event or Festival at the prestigious annual Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards.

**SABHAL MÒR OSTAIG**

**CÙRSAICHEAN GOIRID**  
SUMMER SHORT COURSES

**2016**

[www.smo.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk)

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**CINN-LA & CÙRSAICHEAN DATES & COURSES**

<p><b>20 - 24/06/16</b></p> <p>Learning through Living Culture (Gaelic in Flodigarry)</p> <p><b>04 - 08/07/16</b></p> <p>Piping &amp; Drumming for under 18s Family Learning Week</p> <p><b>18 - 22/07/16</b></p> <p>Gaelic Levels 1, 2, 3, 4 Òrain Ghàidhlig with Christine Primrose Accordion and Button Box with Addie Harper Jr, Robert Nairn &amp; Fergie MacDonald Gaelic for Irish Speakers (Beginners)</p> <p><b>25 - 29/07/16</b></p> <p>Exploring Skye with Gaelic hosted by Muriel Fisher (Beginners)</p>	<p><b>01 - 05/08/16</b></p> <p>Gaelic Levels 1, 3, 5, 7 Gaelic Conversation with Muriel Fisher (Intermediate Learners) Gaelic Conversation with John Urquhart (Advanced Learners) Gaelic for Irish Speakers (Advanced Learners)</p> <p><b>08 - 12/08/16</b></p> <p>Gaelic Levels 2, 4, 6, 8 The Music in the Fiddle with Charlie Mckerron Step-dance with Sophie Stephenson Beartas Cainnt with John Urquhart</p> <p><b>15 - 19/08/16</b></p> <p>Gaelic Levels 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 Gaelic Song with Christine Primrose Gaelic in the Landscape with Roddy Maclean</p> <p><b>22 - 26/08/16</b></p> <p>Gaelic Levels 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 Digital Photography with Cailean Maclean Introduction to Irish Gaelic Learning through Living Culture (Gaelic in Flodigarry)</p>
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**CG.SMO@UHI.AC.UK | 01471 888240/246**

**MULL lines**

**MILAG on the offensive**

ISLANDERS are continuing their campaign to ensure a suitable library service is provided on Mull and Iona

Sarah Darling, chairwoman of Mull and Iona Library Action Group (MILAG), said: 'MILAG is analysing information obtained from Argyll and Bute Council on the closure of the mobile library and the removal of the school librarian. The group is also taking legal advice with a view to launching a judicial review.'

'MILAG is working with the support of the people of Mull and Iona, both community councils, Mull and Iona Community Trust, Tobermory High School parent council and other school parent councils on Mull and Iona. It has been both heartened and empowered by the support and interest from island residents, Facebook and Twitter readers from near and far, politicians and the media.'

A spokesperson from Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We would like to do all that our communities want us to but drastically reduced funding means that just isn't possible.'

'For the communities affected by the decision, public library services will be delivered out-of-hours from the schools.'

'These additional arrangements were not part of the original proposal which would have removed services entirely and the council agreed to reinvest funding to develop a community-based service in both Mull and Tìree.'

**Community pitch in to buy new sports facility**

A MULL community is raising its game to help renew the sports pitch in Dervaig, which is more than 10 years old.

The primary school, parents and wider community are helping to raise the cash for a synthetic grass finish which will be more user friendly and suitable for a wide range of sports. The new pitch will provide a year-round outdoor sports facility, which will be of great benefit to the children on the island.

It is hoped the pitch will be used more frequently and by more sports clubs. The group needs to raise £23,000 to cover the costs.

Planned fundraisers include the Tobermory Yacht Club rowing around the coast of Mull, while local resident Roz Matthews will run around Mull.

The children from Dervaig Primary School kickstarted the fundraising with a sponsored walk from Tobermory to Dervaig last Saturday.

Twenty-two delighted youngsters, from P1-P7, completed the walk, along with 22 adults, including three grandparents, and three dogs. The group also picked up litter on route and filled seven bin bags.

Sponsor money is still being collected but the group expect to have raised more than £1,000.

The cash will be split between Dervaig community pitch and Sports Relief.

To donate to the group, visit its fundraising page online at [justgiving.com/dervaig-pitch](http://justgiving.com/dervaig-pitch).

**CalMac wins tourism accolade**

Ferry operator CalMac picked up an award at the UK National Coach Tourism Awards when it was crowned Cross Sea Carrier Of The Year at a ceremony in Birmingham last Wednesday (March 16). The category was for organisations that provide cross-sea services between the UK and the continent, as well as short-sea UK crossings, and who could demonstrate a commitment to welcoming coaches, coach groups and coach drivers. Anthea Turner is pictured presenting the award to CalMac's senior coach and haulage account manager Ian Fox, right, and business development manager Paul Freeman.

# Kerrera businessman to aid fight against rare disease

Tea garden's owner suffered from Guillaine Barre Syndrome, which is now linked to Zika virus

**LOUISE GLEN**  
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THE OWNERS of a tea garden on the island of Kerrera are raising money for a rare condition that almost killed one of the couple 10 years ago.

Martin Shields, who runs the successful Kererra Tea Garden and Bunkhouse, was struck down with Guillain Barre Syndrome (GBS) in 2006. The condition is now linked to the Zika virus, which has rapidly moved from being a relatively obscure tropical disease to a global health emergency.

Mr Shields told *The Oban Times* that he wants to give people with the condition the same support he had when he contracted the disease while working in Prague.

He has set himself the challenge of raising £5,000 to aid hospitals in Brazil and Columbia.

Mr Shields, who co-manages the tea garden with his wife Aideen Gallacher, said: 'I suffered a severe bout of GBS 10 years ago. I was lucky enough to have some of the most amazing people helping, supporting and fundraising for me and my family. I was living in Prague when it happened and spent four months in a Czech hospital.

'GBS is triggered by minor infections and affects 100,000 people of all ages, sexes,



Aideen Gallacher and Martin Shields will donate 100 per cent of profits from their tea garden on June 23 to fight GBS.

religions and races, every year worldwide.'

After their wedding last year, Mr Shields and his wife went to Brazil for their honeymoon in order to share first hand the Brazilian music that had brought them together in the first place.

Mr Shields continued: 'I expected the trip to be full of

excitement and adventure, but I did not expect to see increasing headlines and warnings about Zika and its link to my rare illness.

'It seemed like a crazy coincidence and I shrugged it off until my Facebook thread was filled with videos of my former consultant on BBC and SKY News

religions and races, every year worldwide.'

After sending him a small message to say what a great job he was doing, I found out he was to land in Recife, Brazil, the epicentre of the epidemic, the day we were leaving. The omens were building.

'It's been 10 years since I

discovered GBS by accident and 100 years since Georges Guillain and Jean-Alexandre Barré, the two scientists/doctors, made the important initial discovery during the Battle of the Somme.

'For many reasons, this year seems like a good year to try to help those who need it the most.

'There are clinics in Brazil and Columbia that are desperate for financial help.

'I promise that all monies raised will go to those who can make a difference and it will not get soaked up by the sometime corrupt nature of the governments that so far have been unable to help their own people.

'The worldwide Centenary Symposium on GBS is being held in Glasgow on Friday June 24, 100 miles south-east from our tea garden on Kerrera.

'As a finale to our fundraising drive, we promise to donate 100 per cent of the profits from the cafe on the previous day and I will announce the total amount raised via Skype, live, to the meeting in Glasgow.

'This broadcast will be streamed around the world.

'In the meantime, we hope that those with a little to spare can make a small donation that will help those most in need.'

To donate visit [fnd.us/c/716nC7/sh/35Y0sa](http://fnd.us/c/716nC7/sh/35Y0sa) or contact the couple via the tea garden.



## Pupils learn of Holocaust from survivor's family

OBAN High School pupils were moved last week by Holocaust testimonies and an exhibition called Gathering Voices.

Claire and Howard Singerman, son of Auschwitz survivor Susan Singerman who died in 2011, told 20 classes about her story and those of 30 other men and women who sought refuge in Scotland to escape the racism of Nazi-dominated Europe in the Second World War.

Howard's Hungarian mother Susan was the only member of her 40-strong Jewish family to survive the Nazi concentration camps when Dr Joseph Mengele, nicknamed 'the Angel of

Death', deemed her fit to work.

Susan's mother, aunt, cousins and younger sister Marta, 12, were not so lucky, perishing in the gas chambers within an hour of their arrival at the camps.

After Germany's defeat, Susan made a new life for herself as a teacher in Scotland, and told her story to Scottish schoolchildren – work carried on by Howard and Claire Singerman, above left, who also presented a commemorative plaque to head teacher Peter Bain and principal teacher of history and modern studies, Christine Rae.

## McCaig's Tower lights the way to benefit charities

ARGYLL and Bute Council will be helping to raise awareness of Down syndrome, autism and epilepsy this month when McCaig's Tower in Oban will be illuminated in three significant colours.

On Monday March 21 the landmark joined other famous buildings and statues across the world when it was

lit up blue and yellow to mark World Down Syndrome Day.

On Saturday March 26, the tower will be illuminated purple to coincide with the Epilepsy Society's Purple Day.

The following weekend, on Saturday April 2, the structure will be glowing blue to highlight World Autism Awareness Week.

## Cash to tackle loneliness

VOLUNTARY Action Fund, (VAF) Scotland's biggest independent grant-maker, is urging small to medium-sized charities and community groups to apply for social isolation and loneliness funding.

This follows the Scottish Government's announcement of a £500,000 fund to tackle the

issue among Scotland's most vulnerable people.

The deadline for applications is Friday May 20.

To find out more visit VAF's website at [www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support](http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support), or contact VAF on 01383 620780 or [SIALFenquiries@vaf.org.uk](mailto:SIALFenquiries@vaf.org.uk)

## POLICE FILES with Sergeant Alan Moore

### Appeal for witnesses to motorbike crash

ROAD Policing Officers based at Dumbarton are continuing enquiries and appealing for witnesses after a road crash in Glen Fruin, near Loch Lomond, on Sunday March 20.

Around 3.10pm, a 66-year-old man was riding his Honda motorcycle on the A817 Haul Road when the vehicle appeared to lose control and left the road.

No other vehicles were involved in the

crash and no-one else was injured. The motorbike rider was taken by ambulance to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow where he is being treated for his injuries. His condition was described as serious but stable.

Constable Grant MacIver is appealing to anyone who witnessed the crash and who has not yet spoken to police, or anyone with information that may assist the investigation, to contact the Divisional Road Policing Unit at Dumbarton through the non-emergency number 101.

### Campaign against hare coursing launched

POLICE Scotland is calling on the public to be vigilant and report any incidents of hare coursing they may see as part of a month-long campaign.

Hare coursing occurs in rural communities across Scotland and is especially prevalent in the spring. Greyhounds or lurchers are set on hares, chasing them to ground across fields.

It is illegal to hunt hares using dogs

and tackling coursing is a wildlife crime priority.

Coursing has a wider impact, as dogs trained for hare coursing have been known to attack and worry sheep.

Worrying can include anything from a dog being loose in a field with sheep in it, even if it's some distance from the sheep, to a dog chasing the sheep or attacking them.

Earlier this month three men were charged for hare coursing crimes which took place in East Lothian and the Borders.



Guy Forteith prepares to make the leap with his parachute securely attached.



Guy Forteith prepares to touch down on land after jumping out of a plane at 14,000 feet.

## Guy takes leap of faith for charity

AN OBAN man who suffers from multiple sclerosis, has raised more than £1,000 for charity by jumping out of a plane at 14,000 feet, writes David McPhee.

Guy Forteith, 22, was diagnosed with the disease aged 16. At first he allowed it to determine what activities

he could take part in, but this year he has decided to challenge himself and others, while raising money for MS Society in the process.

On Friday March 11 Guy travelled to Durham to make the leap and in total he has raised £1,021.

He said: 'It was unbelievable

and a great moment. When I got to 14,000 feet I was a little nervous, but you just have to jump.

'Having an illness or disability doesn't effect what you can do – you can do anything that you want to do. They [others with an illness or disability] can do anything; they just

have to put their mind to it.'

Guy doesn't have anything else planned yet, but is contemplating another challenge – either climbing a mountain or paragliding.

To donate to MS Society through Guy's fundraising page, visit [www.justgiving.com/Guy-Forteith](http://www.justgiving.com/Guy-Forteith)

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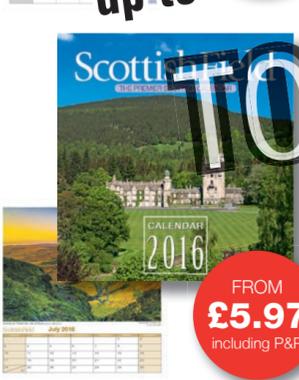


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## Anger at salary for council boss

THE £118,000 starting salary on offer to applicants for the position of chief executive at Argyll and Bute Council has come under fire from members of the public.

The top post was advertised in national newspapers last week but advertising company Havas told *The Oban Times* this week that the post would not be advertised in Argyll and Bute newspapers, due to a 'lack of candidates that would likely apply from the area'.

Former councillor candidate Alastair Redman from Islay said: 'A salary of £118,000 for 35 hours a week is far too much for anyone at a local council level to be paid. Keep in mind that the prime minister's salary is £142,500.'

A 77-year-old Oban resident, who did not want to be named, said: 'They get paid too much and there's too many of them and they're not very good at it.'

Henry Woodman, of Connel, said: 'It depends whether they have expenses included and what level they are in the country.'

'But I agree they shouldn't be paid that much. They should be rewarded for their work; those like [councillor] Elaine Robertson. She's very good.'

Ronald MacInnes, 62, from Oban said: 'Invest in the public. It's common sense, really.'

## £750 boost for pupils

LOCHNELL and Dunbeg primary schools received a cash boost of £750 from Scottish Sea Farms' Heart of the Community Trust to fund places for primary pupils on their week-long residential trip to Lochgoilhead Outdoor Centre earlier this month.

Sine MacVicar, head teacher at Dunbeg primary, said: 'We are extremely grateful for the support by Scottish Sea Farms. Without this some families would find it difficult financially to attend. The children derive huge benefits from the experience before they move on to high school.'

# Island funding boost for sustainable energy plans

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

THE SCOTTISH Islands Federation (SIF) has been awarded funding by the Scottish Government to recruit staff to fulfil its ambitious targets for climate challenge.

The voluntary group, established in 2007, recently completed a three-year partnership project with 12 other European countries looking at the barriers in developing islands' sustainable energy action plans, which was funded by Intelligent Energy Europe.

SIF has been awarded

£18,000. Its chairwoman Camille Dressler, Eigg, said: 'We warmly thank the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and Environment Richard Lochhead MSP for his recognition of the part that the Scottish Islands Federation has played in helping to raise islands' needs and issues at all levels of governance.'

'We are now looking forward to promoting a greater engagement of island grassroots organisations in all the issues that are important to them, and help islands become leaders in low carbon, sustainable communities.'

Michael Russell, MSP for

“ This grant opens the door to new possibilities ”

Michael Russell  
MSP Argyll and Bute

Argyll and Bute, said: 'I am delighted that the Scottish Government has recognised the importance of the Scottish Islands Federation and the work that is done to bring together those who live and work on the islands in order to share experiences and find ways of moving forward.'

'The links that exist with islands in other parts of Europe are also important and the collaborations on energy, employment, tourism and other issues that are already arising are pointing interesting ways forward.'

'The Scottish Government knows that islands need

special support and this grant not only proves that point, but also opens the door to new possibilities.'

Sandy Brunton, from Mull, a Scottish Islands Federation director, who is also a director of the Scottish Rural Parliament, said: 'This resolution has to be supported by all EU member states that have islands in their territory, and this has to include the UK.'

'As we are developing an island strategy for the Scottish Rural Parliament, the work done by the Scottish Islands Federation to promote some of the issues recognised by the resolution will be very helpful.'

## Citylink changes mean long delay for passengers

BUS company Stagecoach is expected to reintroduce the 8.45am service from Inverness to Fort William this summer, after a new timetable left passengers facing a seven-hour journey to Oban on winter mornings, writes Sandy Neil.

Before Scottish Citylink changed its timetable last November, freelance journalist and musician Erik Spence took just over three-and-a-half hours to travel weekly by bus from Inverness to his home town of Oban.

A Scottish Citylink service left Inverness at 8.45am to arrive in Fort William at 10.45am, giving a 15-minute stopover until the West Coast Motors service departed for Oban, arriving at 12.27pm.

But now the bus journey takes Mr Spence double that time.

Citylink's winter timetable has seen the company's 8.45am bus service leave three-and-a-half hours earlier, at 5.20am.

It now arrives in Fort William at 7.20am, meaning passengers must wait almost four hours until the Oban bus leaves at 11am. In comparison, the journey by car from Inverness to Oban takes two hours, 40 minutes.

'It's very inconvenient and frankly ridiculous,' Mr Spence said. 'The bus provides a valuable service. If people are wanting to go from the capital of the Highlands to the capital of the West Coast, that's what they're facing. It makes a mockery of Transport Scotland claims to have an integrated transport policy. There's no integration whatsoever. It's shambolic and needs a rethink.'

A spokesperson from Scottish Citylink, which is operated by the Stagecoach group, explained: 'We made some changes to our services between Inverness and Fort William last year to better reflect passenger demand on the route. We run a network of services across Scotland and have to consider how we can use our resources to benefit as many people as possible.'

'We withdrew four services between Fort William and Inverness. However two of these were replaced by Stagecoach North Scotland.'

'We continue to offer six services per day between Fort William and Inverness.'

'In addition, we understand that Stagecoach North Scotland is to introduce a service at 8.45am from Inverness to Fort William in its summer timetable in May.'

Mr Spence welcomed the return of the 8.45am bus this summer, but urged the bus companies to continue the service into next winter too.

Oban Times  
newsdesk  
01631 568000

## RNLI called to cruise ship

OBAN RNLI lifeboat launched on Monday evening to a medical emergency on board cruise ship *Hebridean Princess*, which was at anchor in Oban Bay.

The *Mora Edith Macdonald* attended the scene at 10.09pm with the lifeboat's own doctor on board, along with two paramedics.

Once stabilised, the casualty was transferred to the lifeboat and then into a waiting ambulance at the lifeboat's berth.

Oban lifeboat returned to her station where she was refuelled and made ready for service again by 11.20pm.

## Young pipers' farewell concert is start of bright future

Oban High School Pipe Band said farewell to two rising stars in the piping world last week.

A concert held in the Corran Halls was a sad moment for Aaron Hossain, centre and Alistair MacLean, right, who played with Pipe Major Angus MacColl, left, in their last concert. The youngsters are leaving school this summer. The young men were some of the first group to be tutored through the Argyllshire Gathering piping fund.



## Officer appeals for nominations for Oban High Hall of Fame

OBAN High School is looking for nominations for a Hall of Fame to recognise the importance of former pupils in national and international life.

The idea came from former police constable-turned-school support officer, David Paterson, from Taynuilt, who is keen to see those folk who have been educated at the school recognised for their achievements.

Mr Paterson said: 'What I plan to do is seek nominations

from members of the public, sports clubs and teachers for pupils and ex-pupils of Oban High School worthy of inclusion in a Hall of Fame.'

'After all the nominations are gathered, a decision will be made on which people to include – although I may not be involved in that part.'

'I'm looking for pupils and ex-pupils who have excelled in any particular field to a national or international level, for example sport, music and the arts, voluntary work,

their field of employment or any other area.'

'People should contact me nominations, which will include details such as the area that individual excelled in and details of what he or she achieved and approximate dates.'

'With Oban High School having been on the go since 1890, I'm expecting a lot of nominations.'

To nominate someone contact David.Paterson@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

## Coastguard celebrates managers' long service at training weekend

COASTGUARD team leaders from Argyll and the islands took part in a series of search-and-rescue exercises in Oban, Dunstaffnage and Ganavan Sands last weekend. Scenarios included scuba diver emergencies, managing multiple casualties in water-based situations and managing large-scale coastal zone searches for missing people. On Sunday there were training sessions on the vessel *MCA Hunter* based at Dunstaffnage marina.

Welcoming 30 volunteers and staff of Her Majesty's Coastguard, Oban station officer Iain Mackinnon thanked two long-serving members who were presented with valedictory certificates.

He said: 'The weekend was made even more special by the coastguard recognising the 46 years of service provided by our local sector manager Kenny Devine and the 20 years of service by Andy Mair, sector manager for Kintyre.'

Head of coastal operations Charles Ball, visiting from Southampton, added: 'With the introduction of the new helicopter fleet, updated capability of the Oban and Kintyre coastal operations via the employment of new senior coastal operations officers in both Oban and Tarbert, I look forward to providing our valued volunteers an improved level of support as we move into the delivery of the future coastguard programme.'



## Cadbury Easter Egg Hunts

Bunny's been up to his old tricks again! He's left clues at lots of National Trust for Scotland places across the country. Join us from Good Friday to Easter Monday for lots of family fun!

Let your kids follow the clues, solve the puzzle and claim a chocolatey reward! Each Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt is completely different - the perfect excuse to try your hand at more than one!



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[www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)

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## LORN lines

### Trust donation aids school's new scheme

MACQUEEN Brothers Charitable Trust has generously given additional funding to the new Duke of Edinburgh Award Unit at Oban High School.

The donation has allowed the school to buy some specialist equipment to allow individuals to go on expedition, many of whom would be unable to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh without these items.

Graham MacQueen, second left, is pictured with Man Bista, left, Lucy Girling (Duke of Edinburgh co-ordinator), Kenny Black and Katie MacFarlane.

### BID4Oban tackle business resilience with top level talk from business experts on cybercrime

A SPECIAL talk on business resilience will be given by the Scottish Business Resilience Centre as part of BID4Oban's specialist talks.

On Thursday March 31 at 6.30 pm in the Community Fire Station, Oban attendees will hear a presentation from the industry experts specifically concentrate on cybercrime.

The presentation will be made by Graham Clarke, a former police officer with 32 years' experience.

Mr Clarke will cover a number of topics

from cyber security assessment, online footprint assessment to testing for insecure WiFi followed by a question and answer session.

With his experience at the centre and his career in the police this should be informative and entertaining. In addition Grahame has made himself available on the April 1 at the BID4Oban hustings event for additional questions and advice.

Should you wish to attend please contact the office either admin@bid4oban.co.uk or 01631 569915.

## Disbelief as operator set to cut spaces for bicycles on trains

A 'DISAPPOINTING' reduction in bicycle spaces on West Highland trains has to be reversed immediately, says bicycle campaign group Spokes, writes Sandy Neil.

Currently rail passengers can book six bicycles per two carriages running between Glasgow, Oban and Fort William, and on trains between Edinburgh and Glasgow.

But public transport operator Abellio's replacement Class 158 trains will reduce these six-bike spaces to two, plus two non-reservable spaces if the wheelchair area is free.

Scottish bicycle campaign group Spokes claimed Transport Scotland had not consulted on this 'tragic' reduction.

A spokesperson for the campaign group said: 'Even a small family of two adults and one child could not book space, let alone a group of friends.'

'It is not too late for Transport Scotland to rethink these disastrous decisions.'

'Cycle tourism is an important contributor to the economy of the West Highlands and islands, and the slashing of this provision will have an adverse effect on the income of many small local businesses.'

According to a 2013 report by Transform Scotland, *The Values of Cycle Tourism*, leisure and holiday cyclists spend up to £228million in Scotland each year.

Colin Howden, director of Transform Scotland, said: 'Limited bike carriage is already a key constraint to expanding bike tourism.'

'As such, it would be especially foolish to cut bike carriage on routes where there is significant opportunities for improving tourist economies by the promotion of bike tourism.'



Work has been going on for weeks to lay new pavements in Oban. The project is not expected to be finished until July.

# Splashing the cash on Oban seafront revamp

The Oban Times goes out in the town to ask readers what they think of the work so far...

**SANDY NEIL**  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

NEW pavements currently being laid on George Street became the talk of the town this week when members of the public shared their views on the multi-million pound CHORD sea-front development programme with *The Oban Times*.

Argyll and Bute Council's £6.5 million scheme is designed to bring a café atmosphere into the town centre.

The newspaper asked members of the public

to rate the work so far. Margaret Menessa from Oban, on Facebook, said: 'They look pretty but am sure the money could be spent on something better.'

Maria Leikert, 28, of Breadalbane Street, said: 'I think it looks lovely and you don't stumble.'

Ada Daley of Oban said: 'I think it's very nice indeed. I think it's a very good investment. As long as it's finished by the summer, it'll be fine.'

John Clare, 61, from Mull said: 'It looks nice but it's tak-

ing a long time. I hope it doesn't continue on until the summer, during the tourist season, but it is looking nice.'

In contrast Jo Markland of Pulpit Hill, said: 'Nothing much is happening. We haven't seen any plans. It'll be fine once it's finished. We really need to see what they're doing. I'll miss the trees as well.'

Mary Sullivan, from Mull said: 'I think it's fine. I hope it's done in time, though. It seems to be taking a long time. Just get it done.'

A reader who wanted to

remain anonymous because they are losing their job in the current council cuts said: 'It is all very well to be ploughing money into the pavements, but it won't attract anyone else into the town.'

'I am near enough retirement that it will be difficult to get another job - perhaps I could take up tap dancing and perform for all the tourists we are expecting to come because we have built a new pavement.'

'The money would have been better spent on major roads coming to the town.'

Concerns were also raised about the lack of dropped kerbs near the refuge islands to allow local people and visitors with disabilities to cross the road safely - but construction workers told *The Oban Times* the work was in hand.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesman said the work was 'on track and progressing well'.

The town centre works are due to last 26 weeks, until July. Construction is currently in week 11 - a weekly update appears on *The Oban Times* website.

## Patient safety project to expand

NHS HIGHLAND is to expand the scope of its patient safety programme to include community hospitals in Argyll and Bute.

Since clinical teams at the health board's four larger district and rural general hospitals began using acute care packages under the umbrella of the Scottish Patient Safety Programme (SPSP) many lives have been saved.

Now NHS Highland managers want to roll out the approach to community clinical teams at 24 smaller community hospitals and integrated care hubs.

The hospitals involved in Argyll and Bute include: Argyll and Bute Hospital and the Mid Argyll Community Hospital and integrated care centre, both at Lochgilphead; Campbeltown Hospital; Islay Hospital and Mull and Iona Hospital.

## Argyll trio win tourism awards

THREE was the magic number for Argyll last Friday night (March 18) after the region bagged a trio of tourism awards.

Forest Holidays in Ardgartan, Ardtorna B&B in Barcaldine and Ninth Wave Restaurant on the Isle of Mull were amongst the winners at the national final of the Scottish Thistle Awards.

Three Music Festival also received a special commendation.

The awards, which are led by a panel of industry experts, celebrate tourism businesses or suppliers across the country who have gone the extra mile.

## Voters urged to register

VOTERS are being urged to make sure they are registered ahead of the upcoming elections. Particular emphasis is being put on 16 and 17-year-olds who will be eligible to vote in the Scottish Parliament elections for the first time.

The deadline for registration is Monday April 18.

Registering now will also mean voters can take part in the referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union on June 23.

## French tribute for veteran billeted at Argyll base

ONE of the last surviving Second World War veterans who swept the French coast for mines before the D-Day landings, came to speak at Oban's War and Peace Museum recently, after receiving the Legion d'Honneur, writes Sandy Neil.

Former Royal Navy signalman Reg Menzies, now 91, was awarded France's highest military honour a fortnight ago for helping Allied troop carriers safely approach the Normandy shore in the second stage of the D-Day landings on August 15, 1944.

'The French have decided after 75 years I deserve the Legion d'Honneur, for services in the liberation of France,' the grandfather of two said. 'It was a bolt out of the blue, but better late than never. I don't think I'll ever wear it. I'll put it into a frame.'

The Order can now hang beside Mr Menzies' four other medals: the Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-1945, General Service Medal and Italy Star.

Mr Menzies, a native of Holwich near Bolton, served in the Home Guard from 1941, before enrolling in the Royal Navy in January 1943, and training for three months on HMS Christopher in Fort William, where he was billeted in the Highland Hotel.

'The entertainments were nil,' he recalled, 'apart from the ladies who organised house parties. The weather was bitterly cold. I did my first middle watch, between midnight and 4am, aged 18, in November, and I was petrified. I was on deck with a revolver, on my own - if the Germans came you had to defend the ship.'

Minesweeping the North of France and, after the war, in the Mediterranean, brought no less terror. Mr Menzies continued: 'If you were on the first vessel, which I was, then you were sweeping an unswept area. It was a wooden ship, 120ft long. It carried depth charges, guns on the bow, on the midships, and either side of the bridge. The engines were petrol, and we were in a minefield. It only needed a bullet for the whole thing to go up. But when you're that age you don't realise.'

Leaving the Navy aged 24, Mr Menzies carved out a career in the timber industry before his first retail at 65 - when he started a brokerage and learnt to fly - and retired finally aged 80. His wife Betty sadly died four years ago, and now he lives with their son Simon in Halton.

Mr Menzies is also one of only two still alive from his 16-man team aboard the minesweeper, ML121. 'They've all slowly, one by one, dropped off their perch. There's one left: Ivor Ellis,' he told us.

Every week, Mr Menzies emails Ivor, a 92-year-old race walker in New Zealand, who is still waiting for his French decoration.

'I'm one of the lucky ones,' Mr Menzies reflected. 'Many didn't come back from the Med - they got nothing. In those days they didn't bring you back. There was a telegram home and that was it. I'm just grateful I'm here. The medal, he said, 'is a closure. That's the end of it. It's a long time since, but now I've got something to show for it.'

Bill Leech, a curator at the Oban museum, said: 'There are fewer and fewer folk alive who were involved in the war, and it's important to learn from them.'

## Park pupils champion Fairtrade

PUPILS at Park Primary School 'enthusiastically' promoted Fairtrade products for this year's Fairtrade Fortnight, writes David McPhee.

Following a school assembly, hosted by the eco and fairtrade group (EFG) - made up of class representatives from primary two to primary seven - explaining the benefits of buying ethically last week, the school adopted the motto 'sit down for breakfast, stand up for farmers'.

Brendan O'Hara, MP for Argyll and Bute, visited the school to meet the eco-conscious pupils last week as part of Fairtrade Fortnight, spending time chatting to the school's eco and fairtrade group.

The group, which has been promoting the benefits of buying ethical, Fairtrade products, were given the opportunity to question Mr O'Hara, and the youngsters brought up the fact that it has become difficult to buy Fairtrade products in Oban since the closure of the Co-op.

Mr O'Hara said: 'It is so good to see their

enthusiasm; if you could bottle it and give it to the rest of the country it would be great. They are a credit to their school.'

When speaking about the lack of diversity in Fairtrade products available to purchase in town, Mr O'Hara said: 'I thought Oban was a Fairtrade town.'

'It's disappointing when we are teaching the children the importance of Fairtrade and we cannot find it in Oban.'

'If Oban is still a Fairtrade town, it has to be doing a lot more and if it is not, it still has to do more.'

Since meeting the children, Mr O'Hara has tabled an early day motion, asking parliament to recognise the work being done by the pupils and staff at Park Primary School in support of Fairtrade.

**Brendan O'Hara MP with Park Primary's eco and fairtrade group, deputy head teacher Mrs Bissett and councillor Julie Mackenzie.** 15\_113brendanpark01



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## Kilmelford

ARDAINE Garden, near Kilmelford, has launched its own website with the help and support of Arduaine Friends.

The website showcases its broad range of diverse and exciting plant collections including varieties from Asia, the Americas, Australasia and Africa.

Arduaine Garden is owned by the National Trust for Scotland, but was originally conceived by James Arthur Campbell in 1895 when he 'turned the first sod of the garden', according to his journal.

In 2010 the garden was nearly closed due to lack of funds so the Arduaine Garden Support Group was formed to secure its future.

Visitor numbers are essential to keep the garden running and this year at its AGM in March, the support group re-launched itself as Arduaine Friends with the aim to inject a new lease of life into the garden.

'We are very excited about what 2016 has to offer, not only for the garden but for locals and visitors alike,' said Calum Ross, of Arduaine Friends.

'We have launched this beautiful and informative new website and are planning a calendar of events from car boot sales to drama productions so that the garden can be filled with people enjoying themselves and their surroundings, just as was intended all along.'

The garden is open from 9.30am to sunset every day of the year. For more information, contact Rachel at friends@arduaingarden.org



Arduaine Garden in full bloom. Copyright Maurice Wilkins.

## Western Isles

TRADING standards at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is warning residents after receiving complaints of scammers cold-calling tenants claiming to work for Hebridean Housing Partnership.

The scammers are offering refunds on rent, should the tenant provide their bank details.

A spokesman for trading standards said: 'Consumers are reminded that Hebridean Housing Partnership will never contact you for private details in this manner.'

The police have been made aware of the situation. Report any similar activity to Police Scotland on 101 or Trading Standards at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar on 01851 822 694.

## Stornoway

THE DOG welfare charity Dogs Trust is holding free microchipping events at the Bayhead Bridge Centre in Lamont Lane in Stornoway.

They will take place on Monday April 4 between 3-7pm, and Tuesday April 5 between 9am and 1pm.

Both events will offer free microchips to dogs while representatives from Dogs Trust will also be on hand to promote responsible dog ownership and inform owners about the benefits of compulsory microchipping.

Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan has been invited along. He said: 'I am very happy to be supporting this event and I would like to express my thanks to Dogs Trust for coming up and offering this service completely free of charge.'

'Microchipping is a simple procedure that enables dogs to be swiftly reunited with their owners in the event they get lost. It is important that dog owners get their pets chipped as compulsory microchipping comes into force in April.'

He added: 'I would like to encourage all responsible dog owners in the constituency who have not yet had their dogs chipped to come along.'

## Kilbrandon

A JEWELLERY maker was the centre of attention at Kilbrandon SWI's March meeting, which was held in Seil Island hall.

Kilbrandon SWI president Julie Ferris welcomed Oriana Lopez, who makes jewellery with swarovski crystals, to the meeting.

Oriana showed members a selection of crystals and demonstrated how she made her jewellery.

Kilbrandon SWI meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at Seil Island hall.



Portree High School pupils at the competition.

## School pipe bands hit all the right notes

PIPERS were in fine tune as they took home prizes from the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships.

Portree High School were awarded the debut prize and Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band, made up of pupils from Plockton

High School and surrounding primaries, won for the second year running, this time coming first in the novice juvenile B section. Tobermory High School came third in the debut section and Lochgilhead high were second in the quartets. Around

700 young people from 118 schools across Scotland went head to head in the competition at Broughton High School in Edinburgh on March 13. The bands competed in categories including debut, novice, juvenile, junior and quartets.

## Science day fun for young pupils

THREE Argyll primary schools joined forces last Tuesday in Connel to create structures that could withstand the power of gravity and protect their precious eggs.

Kilchrenan, Barcaldine and Achaleven pupils worked together in groups to figure out how to protect eggs from damage whilst being dropped from great heights.

Marshmallows and spaghetti were some of the materials used to bring their creations to life.

In the afternoon, Generation Science hosted a sound workshop titled 'Ella's Wobble' and pupils had the chance to create a variety of different sounds with unusual materials to mimic the sounds of nature.

The day was made possible thanks to a grant from the British Science Association.



Some of the pupils use marshmallows and spaghetti to create their structure.



The Friends of Nevis volunteer of the year award was presented to Charlotte and Peter Hatto by chairman Joy Biggin.

## Couple win volunteer of the year award

FRIENDS of Nevis members and friends enjoyed their annual celebration in the Pinemarten Café at Nevis Range.

The volunteer of the year award was presented to Charlotte and Peter Hatto, who spend a lot of time maintaining footpaths and helping with various other projects.

After dinner there was an interesting talk by Charlie Ramsay, from Edinburgh, who spoke about Ramsay's Round - 24 Munros around Glen Nevis in under 24 hours - completed by Charlie in 1978 and repeated many times since. The following day Dr Chris Robinson led a talk, views of Cow Hill past and present, which was enjoyed by everyone.

## Photographers snap up Frank Walton Trophy

SNAPPERS from Cowal just pipped current photography club holders Helensburgh to win the Argyll Inter-Club Trophy.

During the image battle recently at Campbelltown's Seaford hotel, Cowal scored 169 from a possible 200 points in a competition where 16 points separated the county's eight clubs. Helensburgh missed the top spot by just two points.

Mid Argyll Camera Club, based in Lochgilhead, finished third on 166.

Campbeltown Camera Club had to settle for joint fourth with Kintyre rivals Carradale collecting 160 points.

Oban and Three Villages were joint sixth on 155 with Peninsula eighth on 153.

The highest scoring photograph, with a maximum 20 points, was Antillian Crested Hummingbird taken by Gordon Holm of Cowal Camera Club.

Wildlife photographer Philip Price of Loch Visions, based in Kilchrenan, judged the entries and seemed most keen on images including animals.

Campbeltown Camera Club meets on the second Monday of the month at the lifeboat station.

For more information call: 01586 550237 or see the website at: <http://campbeltowncameraclub.wix.com/ctowncameraclub>

THE WORLD Day of Prayer service, written by women of Cuba, took place in Muckairn Church, Taynuilt, on Friday evening, March 4.

Members of different denominations took part and it was followed by refreshments and fellowship.

Muckairn Church Guild met in the church on Monday March 7. Prayer was led by Stella Huntingford and Marlene Stanners read from St Mark on faith and healing and peace. The Rev George Cringles then spoke on this session's theme 'Go in Peace'. The Jewish word 'shalom' means more

## Muckairn

than quiet and calm, but wholeness and well being which can only be accessed through faith in Christ, he said. 'Human sin separates us from God, but the blood of Christ brings reconciliation and peace is the gift of God.'

Members did a word search and Rev Cringles played the organ accompaniment to the hymns 'Beauty for Brokenness' and 'Peace Perfect Peace'. The annual general meeting will be held on Monday April 4.

## Lochgilhead

ARGYLL and Bute pupils have been shortlisted for a Royal British Legion Scotland's Schools Award. Lochgilhead Primary School's Kristen Blair and Alice Adair, both P6, and Rhu Primary School's Charlotte Johnson, P7, were chosen from hundreds of competitors to make the final 12.

The pupils had to research what life was like at sea for crew in the First World War and write a 500-word newspaper article on their findings.

Grace Jeffrey, primary six teacher at Lochgilhead Primary School, said: 'I found it rewarding to see the commitment the children took in the project.'

To vote in the competition, visit [www.legionscotland.org.uk/news/archive/primary-schools-competition-15-16-vote](http://www.legionscotland.org.uk/news/archive/primary-schools-competition-15-16-vote).

## Helping crofters create and manage woodland

CROFTERS in the Western Isles will be offered free help and support for creating and managing woodlands through a new project.

The Croft Woodlands project aims to help create 100 hectares of new woodland on croft land by 2020 by overcoming the barriers identified in a 2014 review of crofter forestry, including difficulties with funding and cash flow and limited woodland know-how.

It is being sponsored by the Point and Sandwick Trust, working in partnership with Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS), the Woodland Trust and the Scottish Crofting Federation.

Croft woodlands project officer Viv Halcrow said: 'Trees and woodlands give multiple benefits for individual crofters and for villages when the right trees are planted in the right place.'

'This includes shelter for livestock, crops and buildings, sustainable sources of firewood, increased variety in the landscape, shelter and food for wild birds, local amenity and opportunities to involve school children in a range of educational projects.'

'The Western Isles had one of the highest take-ups of crofter forestry in the Highlands and islands under previous schemes run by the Forestry Commission in the 1990s and so I am looking forward to a lot of interest in the new scheme.'

'There are many examples where

carefully selected and planted trees are making a positive difference to the landscape, and provide much-needed shelter for livestock, for people and for villages.'

She added: 'We can assist the establishment of woodland on both common grazings and in-by-land.'

'I am happy to visit interested crofters and grazing committees to discuss options and to provide information including a site report, a map and an outline of budget and cash-flow.'

'I can also help with the funding and grant applications to make the whole process as simple as possible for crofters. The difference between success and failure often lies in thoughtful design of the planting and choosing appropriate species for the location, then good ground preparation, careful planting, and follow-up management.'

'To help ensure success, we are working with the Scottish Crofting Federation and others to offer training days and workshops for anyone interested in practical aspects of woodland establishment, including ground preparation, planting, fertilising, fencing, and long-term woodland management.'

For more information about creating or managing woodland on a croft, email [crofting@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:crofting@woodlandtrust.org.uk) or call 0343 770 5847 (Highlands and Northern Isles) or 0343 770 5856 (Western Isles).

## MORVERN lines

## 'Ode to the Sunart Fox Drive' - step back in time to when bards had their say

I OFTEN think how unfortunate, or perhaps I really mean fortunate, for some of our local estate owners, factors, politicians and councillors that there are no bards around today to write about them.

Long ago they were fair game. Almost anything went and if a composer was less than tactful, all that was necessary was to have himself officially 'cried' as a bard at the market cross at Inveraray and he was in the clear.

The following 'Ode to the Sunart Fox Drive', is a fine example. It was written in 1947 by Mr Donald Macpherson, Scotstown, Strontian, chastising the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, owners of the Sunart Estate, for failing to provide the traditional refreshment on such an occasion.

'At the ford below the Black-wood when young Rankin at the dawn,

Cleared the boulders in his pathway like an athlete on the lawn. With his posse of mountain rangers bringing vengeance to the rouge

Whose debased destructive tactics spread distraction through his fold.

By old Thomas' walled enclosure stood MacLeod the sailor bold,

Keeping watch in case the reiver made a dash across the ford, To and from behind the ramparts like a soldier on parade Keeping up the circulation in the fresh November gale.

Said the bold MacRaing from Garven as he strode along the lea,

I would rather see the pheasants going great in Fiunary, When the lads so tired and weary on the lea-ing stood around Till the dew from Ben-a-Claonlaid in the evening did come down.

Hugh MacDougall Kinloch-Sunart, I can see him through the haze,

With his Greener (1) on his shoulder in the mood to let her blaze.

For it's only yester' morning at the dawning of the day That he found his little Mailag lying dead upon the clay.

By the tree at Bruach-an-Fhasaidh stood MacLean upon his guard

You can trust an old observer (2) not to miss at fifty yards He was waiting at the ready with a Kynoch (3) in each groove In the shelter of the birches keeping watch for every move.

Farther up the dashing Fraser lay so easy on a knoll Filling up his good Stonehaven (4) with old Mitchell's bogie-roll (5)

With a laugh we heard him saying, 'Such a day has never been, If he comes into my area I'll let daylight through his skin.'

The Cameron band on Tom-an-t-Sithean they are waiting for the call,

Guarding all the ben's approaches to the woods of Horsley Hall (6).

Left the thief in desperation made a firm get away, Left behind his native mountain, took a chance upon the wave.

Then came Ross the Perthshire marksmen, striding smartly down the scaur,

Just the way he stalked the rascal in the past on Rannoch Moor, When along the high Schiehallion he came down at close of day With a trophy from each cairn by Loch Erich and Loch Treig.

When our comrade Dugald Stewart found the hoggie on the moor,

Lying dead beside the peat bog which contained the villain's spoor,

Then the cries of execration woke the fairies in Glen Gour, At the deed of crafty Reynard on his evil midnight tour.

Sandy Post from Ath-na-heilde and young Donald from Rook-knowe,

There was Millin, Ariundle and MacPherson from Broom-Knowe,

All as one they breast the mountain gone a-searching for the foe,

While the hills resound the barking from the plantings down below.

In the passing I might mention there was one we missed sore, Neil Munro from Aodann Aluinn with his famous sixteen bore. If he had not gone that morning for a horse to Oban Sale There might be another story interwoven in my tale.

Jock McNeil from Upper Scotstown, also absent from the fray, He could wave a lion rampant if a marten came his way. But when next we go a-hunting we'll invite him to the show, And he'll come and chase the vermin over Creach Bhein to Glencoe.

Said MacInnes (7) when he thanked us at the parting of the way, By my beard I say I'll catch him and I'll track him to his lair. I will trail him to Loch Arkaig through the corries and the moor, And his skin before Feill-Martain (8) will be stretching on my door.

Said the fox as he did watch us from the rocks at Coire-na-Criche,

'You're a sober crowd of hunters I don't smell the barley-bree (9).

In the little London Hostel (10) you can toast me as before, Although Cripps (11) and Mr Dalton (12) they have taxed it to the core.'

Notes: 1 A make of shotgun; 2 Member of the Royal Observer Corps; 3 A brand of shotgun cartridge; 4 A smooth briar tobacco pipe; 5 A thick black, evil-smelling, pipe tobacco; 6 Former local laird's house. Destroyed by fire on Hogmanay 1998; 7 Mr Lachlan MacInnes, Ariundle, DAFS's estate gamekeeper who organised the drive; 8 The Feast of St Martin, commemorated on November 11; 9 Whisky; 10 Now the Strontian Hotel; 11 Sir Stafford Cripps. Labour MP for Bristol East. Chancellor of the Exchequer 1947-1950; 12 Hugh Dalton. Labour MP for Bishop Auckland. Chancellor of the Exchequer 1945-47.

Iain Thornber  
[iain.thornber@btinternet.com](mailto:iain.thornber@btinternet.com)



The Little London Hostel, now the Strontian Hotel.

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## St Bride's bags cash for school grounds revamp

PUPILS and staff at St Bride's primary and nursery, Onich, have bagged £12,000 to cultivate and improve their school grounds.

The money has been awarded from the Tesco Bags of Help initiative, which saw grants of £12,000, £10,000 and £8,000 all raised from the five pence bag levy, being awarded to environmental and green-space projects.

Shoppers voted in stores for the project they wanted to win.

St Bride's will use the funding for an outdoor learning trail providing a variety of opportunities for pupils outdoors and also the wider

school community to enjoy.

Raised beds and a small fruit orchard to enable pupils to grow their own fruit and vegetables will also be created.

Susan Kemp, head teacher at St Bride's, said: 'I can't stop smiling. This is such an exciting development for our community. I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who voted for our project.'

'Next we will convene a meeting to explain more fully how we plan to go about achieving our goal and to plot each step on our journey forward to bring it to a reality, working together and with partner agencies in our community.'



St Bride's primary and nursery youngsters and staff celebrate the funding news.

## Action plan results to be revealed

THE RESULTS of a survey to take forward a five-year action plan in Ballachulish and Glenachulish will be revealed at an event later this month.

Of the 340 houses surveyed, 170 forms have been returned to the steering group leading the project.

A community event will be held on Saturday April 16 where the results of the survey and other consultation will be presented.

Jo Watt, of Ballachulish Community Association, said: 'We are absolutely delighted that the residents have responded so well. It is vitally important that the five-year community action plan is built on community views, and with this great response we certainly have got good feedback.'

'There have also been interviews and meetings with many local groups and businesses to get their input.'

Anyone can drop in to the event between noon-3.30pm to vote for the projects to be prioritised in the action plan. There will be refreshments, community displays, a prize raffle and entertainment.

# Group steps up efforts to bring cinema back to life

CAREN MCPATE  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

EXCITING plans are moving forward to reopen a cinema in Fort William's town centre.

The Lochaber Cinema Group wants to bring back the former studio cinema at Cameron Square, which closed 10 years ago.

The premises still has two screens in place, but needs a big refurbishment.

The group is now fully constituted and registered with Voluntary Action Lochaber.

The next step is to register as a charity and carry out a survey on the premises.

It is estimated the revamp could cost around £200,000. The building would also be used as a venue for the community.

Volunteers leading the project also hope to meet with the team at Oban Phoenix Cinema, which was bought by the community in 2011 and



Marie Macpherson and Carol-ann Davies, back, with Gwyn Mosses, Eddie Morgan, vice chairman, and Ann Moffat, secretary, at the old cinema.

reopened in 2012. It offers a first-class auditorium with digital projection in 2D and 3D and is also used as an events venue.

Marie Macpherson, chairperson of Lochaber Cinema Group, came up with the idea.

She said: 'I was in the Oban cinema just before Christmas and I started thinking why can't a group of us get together to bring the cinema back.'

'The only tenant that has been in the building since is a carpet shop. The screens are

still there. It needs a lot of plumbing and electrical work and the roof needs fixed.'

'We carried out a survey of 1,000 residents and 97 per cent said they would like a cinema back.'

'It was a shame when the last

one closed. There has been attempts to reopen it, but they have always been from a business point of view. Our group is not-for-profit.'

'The Screen Machine is in Fort William once a month and it's good, but it would be nice to have something here all the time.'

'We want to be interactive with the community and ask them what films they would like to see.'

Ms Macpherson explained that the cinema would also be a venue for community events and to hold children's activities.

She added: 'One of the screens would double as a community hall in which activities that benefit the community can be held.'

'We want to help promote arts and drama and science in the community.'

For the latest on the plans, visit the Lochaber Cinema Group on Facebook.

## TIMESLINE

### Work starts on mini roundabout

WORK will start on Monday to replace traffic lights with a mini roundabout on a busy Fort William road.

New traffic islands will also be introduced at the A82 North Road to Earl of Inverness Road junction as well as changing the existing pedestrian crossing to operate exclusively as a puffin crossing.

The work will be carried out from Sunday night to Friday morning each week, between 7pm and 6am until April 29.

There will be three-way temporary traffic lights in place. During the final phase the Earl of Inverness Road will be closed. Diversions will be in place.

### Vandalism and theft from bike

FENCE panels were damaged at a house in Plantation, Fort William, in the early hours of Sunday March 13.

A cycle accessory was stolen from a bike near the lounge bar door of the Ballachulish Hotel around 5pm on Monday March 14.

Anyone with information on the incidents should contact police on 101.

### Helping young people into work

A NEW £480,000 initiative to provide young people with skills needed for work has been launched.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce won its proposal to create a Developing the Young Workforce project with funding from the Scottish Government.

It will connect young people with business through a partnership between education and local companies, ensuring they are being provided with the skill sets most appropriate to their future employment.

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A big thank you to all that participated in, and all that visited, The Oban Times Highland Wedding Show!

The Oban Times  
A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES  
Highland Wedding Show



David gets a spruce up from Carron Macphee of Spruce!



The hall looks great as we get ready to open



Oban High School Pipe Band Pipers Aaron and Stuart with a Double Six Limousine, welcoming visitors



Lisa, Katie and Kerry pose for the camera!



David McPhee - the centre of attention!



Models Melissa Wormald and Alayna Smith from Fort William



Picture perfect - Lauren Jane Fair from LJJ Photography



Gemma and Samantha - Argyll & Bute Council's lovely registrars



Delicious cakes from the Little Bespoke Bakery on Mull



Katy MacGowan, one of our stunning models, styled by Rutherford's



Alayna Smith being styled and pampered by Linda at Trinity Hairdressing



Georgia Hogg and Ella McKechnie looking great on the catwalk!



David showing a bit of leg...



Alice Bennett and Ella our pretty flowergirls



Linda and Kate from Cromlech Events have got it covered



Allan from Rutherford's styling our model Megan from Fort William



Helen from Oban Chocolate Company with Ella and Ruairidh

## Planning a better future for Morvern

A COMPANY run by a community to improve its area has submitted plans to Highland Council for a hub and affordable homes.

Morvern Community Development Company (MCDC) wants to create a building containing a tourist information and heritage area and a shop for local crafts.

The proposals for the centre of the village of Lochaline, on the Morvern peninsula, also includes three new houses.

It will bring much-needed affordable homes to the area, which has had no new social housing provided for around 30 years. A community consultation event was held last October.

A design statement by John Renshaw Architects said that there was very good support for a community building and, following consultation, MCDC considered that the upper floor should house flexible workspaces.

There was backing for the homes and it was thought they should be increased in size.

The design statement concluded: 'The community building will deliver a much-needed focus for the village, retaining tourists for a longer stop, allowing the village to promote itself and educate about the area. The affordable community houses have been designed in response to an identified need within the village, allowing people to stay in the area, who might otherwise have to move away.'

A separate planning application has been submitted for six, two and three-bedroom houses and two new house plots.

MCDC was set up in 1999 and has completed several initiatives such as pontoons, a petrol pump, allotments and shore services for visiting boats.



## Family's fundraising total tops £15,000

A GENEROUS family has helped to raise around £15,000 over the past 15 years for the Scottish Huntington's Association.

Hector Henderson, known as Hecky, decided to start the fundraising campaign after attending his uncle's funeral.

He had Huntington's disease and his daughter Elizabeth also has the hereditary illness.

Huntington's disease is a neurological condition and is part of a group of diseases which affect the brain and central nervous system. Specific brain cells stop working properly and then die.

Each year Hecky, his wife Belle and family have organised a meal and dance in Fort William's West End Hotel.

Hecky said: 'There was about 40 people at the meal and 30 came at night. It used to be over the hundred for the meal alone. Folk have been very generous. We've raised an average of £1,000 each year.'

'Folk come from Fife every year where my cousin lives, although she couldn't make it this year. They are very much at the heart of it all.'

Hecky has decided to step down from running the fundraiser and is hoping someone else will take it over. The event has been provisionally booked for March next year.



Hecky, with his accordion, alongside family and friends.

# Massive historical housing debt moves to top of council agenda

HIGHLAND Council's massive £205 million housing debt is 'nothing out of the ordinary', according to the Scottish Government.

The local authority recently agreed to invite UK and Scottish government ministers as well as MPs and MSPs to a summit on the issue.

The council hopes the debt can be written-off.

However, a spokesperson for the Scottish Government said: 'While the cancelling of UK debt is a reserved matter, the Scottish Government has had

no indication that the situation in Highland Council requires special treatment.

'All local authorities hold housing debt as part of their on-going programmes of improving their housing stock and building new social housing. Highland Council has had a vibrant build programme over the last few years, and there is nothing out of the ordinary in the rents set by them or the level of debt they hold.'

The spokesperson explained that the government had committed to an ambitious house

building programme. She added: 'The subsidy rate per unit has been increased and money to Highland Council to build affordable housing has been increased from £18.6m to an allocation of £27.3m for 2016-17.'

A significant part of the £205m is historic debt inherited from former district councils during local government reorganisation in the 1990s. It also relates to loans taken out by the council to build and improve its housing.

In 2016/17 the council's annu-

al loan charges are expected to be around £20m.

Council leader Councillor Margaret Davidson was supported by fellow councillors in her proposal to invite ministers, MPs and MSPs to a summit. She said: 'Nearly 40 pence in every £1 of rent income received by the council is needed to service housing debt. It is vital that we promote the economic benefits of debt write-off which is why we are pressing for this housing summit.'

'We believe that the only way

to progress the relief of the debt is to get people round the table. We have already seen cooperation between the governments resulting in debt write-off for Shetland Islands. We think that many of the economic drivers for that deal could equally apply to Highland.'

From 2007 to the end of 2014/15 there have been 2,927 homes completed in the Highland Council area programme.

More than 800 council houses will be completed by the end of the current financial year.

## Ice Factor Kinlochleven re-opens eight months after destructive fire

THE WORLD'S largest indoor ice climbing centre, in Lochaber, has re-opened after a fire closed it for eight months.

Climbers, mountain rescue teams and supporters of the Ice Factor Kinlochleven eagerly gathered at the centre for an open day on Thursday.

The top attraction, which draws an average of 130,000 visitors each year, was closed at

the end of July due to extensive smoke damage caused by a fire in the sauna area of the 120-year-old building.

It's thought the closure has cost the business almost £1 million.

Climbers and adventure seekers of all ages and ability come from throughout the UK and abroad to scale Ice Factor's 14-metre high ice-walls,

designed to replicate winter climbing conditions on the likes of Ben Nevis.

Designated as the national centre for ice climbing, the Ice Factor is also used for training by members of the GB Ice Climbing team and by Scottish mountain rescue. There's also extensive rock climbing space.

Jamie Smith, a mountaineer and entrepreneur, opened the

£3.4m Ice Factor with his wife Tracey in 2003 after it was converted from its former use as a Victorian-era aluminium smelter.

Mrs Smith said: 'We were absolutely devastated when we had to close.'

'There was extensive smoke damage. It's been a huge amount of work and the staff were determined to get the

centre back to what it was. We managed to retain the staff and they have been working away and have very much been part of the restructure. It's fantastic to have the local support and the building is full of life again.'

To celebrate its re-opening, Ice Factor offered 12 months' free membership to the first 100 people to visit the facility.

## Staffin trust in land upgrade bid

STAFFIN Community Trust in Skye wants to improve the area near the Old Man of Storr visitor attraction.

The group has declared its interest in buying the Highland Council-owned land. It has been in talks with the council about the visitor experience, which attracts thousands of people each year. But the area suffers from severe parking congestion and a lack of amenities, including toilets.

## Ben Nevis rises to new heights

THE UK's highest mountain is officially one metre taller than originally thought.

Ben Nevis in Fort William is 1,345m and the new height will be seen on Ordnance Survey (OS) maps.

The increase was discovered following the restoration of the trig pillar on the mountain when OS took the opportunity to re-measure it. A geodetic survey grade GPS receiver was used to survey and measure Ben Nevis, giving greater accuracy than when it was last surveyed in 1949.

## Society spotlight on Glen Nevis fort

LOCHABER Local History Society will welcome archaeologist Martin Cook and his team to present their findings of the excavation of the Vitrified Fort in Glen Nevis.

Everyone is welcome to the talk at the Ben Nevis Hotel on Thursday April 7 at 8pm. There will also be a chance to book a place on the annual field trip to Morvern on May 14.

## Forest clearing to continue till June

FOREST Enterprise Scotland is to extend its clearing operations at Loch Lochy until late June following bad weather and worse than expected site conditions.

Traffic management measures will be removed on public and bank holidays and during any major events.

Catch fence installation above the A82 at Primrose Bay near Alt Sigh is expected to be completed by April.

## Pupils swap classroom for catwalk in aid of charity

Children swapped the classroom for the catwalk during a school fashion show. Lundavra primary held a get-ready-for-summer fashion show. Pupils from P1/2G and P4/5 wore outfits provided by M&Co. The event included a raffle and raised £437 for Action for Children. Phoenix Discos provided the lights and music for the show.



The Buzz Project is looking forward to its Big Night Out event this Saturday.

## Successful youth project creating a buzz in and around Lochaber

A PROJECT helping young people turn their lives around is creating a real buzz in Lochaber.

The Buzz Project, based in Fort William, has been running for four years and was started to address issues surrounding high suicide rates among young people in the area. Its aim is to enable people aged 14-25 years to identify and fulfil their potential. To reach the outlying communities, the project has a bus which travels to various areas, including Ballachulish and Mallaig, and provides a mobile music

studio and teaching area. Senior youth worker Simon Nicholls explained: 'The aim of the project is to address some of the issues in terms of loneliness.'

'The bus goes out to all the areas across Lochaber for youth provision, like a drop-in centre. We work on issues around personal development, confidence and self-esteem.'

The Buzz Project is set to launch another bus and tie in with the Fort William Men's Shed initiative.

The group is also moving from its office

in Torlundy to the Bar Mhor estate in Fort William and will be opening a youth cafe and music shop in the high street.

This Saturday, March 26, the project is holding a Big Night Out show at the Moorings Hotel in Fort William with a line-up including Joe Lycett, comedian and writer, and Megan Reece, contestant on BBC's The Voice. Bella and the Bear, Autumn Sun and Cileas MacMaster of the Buzz Project, will also be performing.

For more information visit [www.thebuzzproject.org](http://www.thebuzzproject.org)

## Did you stay in a school hostel as a child?

**The National Confidential Forum** wants to hear from you. It is for any adult who spent any time as a child in institutional care in Scotland. Sharing your experience of care can make a positive difference - to you and to children now and in the future.

To find out more, call free on **0800 121 4773** or go to [www.nationalconfidentialforum.org.uk](http://www.nationalconfidentialforum.org.uk)

**NCF National Confidential Forum**  
A chance to be heard

## Viewpoint

The Oban Times  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8216

There is no doubt that Oban has many delights to offer the visitor. But wouldn't it be great if the town had its own ambassador to welcome tourists when they arrive and personally show them round the many attractions on offer...

Step up, Parsley, Oban's very own feline ambassador. This is one cool cat. Well known for his regular walkabouts in the town, it's not unknown for Parsley

to welcome tourists to McCaig's Tower, or to drop in to the local hostellers for some quiet contemplation. In fact, it's become so difficult for his owner to keep tabs on him that she's fitted a tracking device to his collar.

So with all this effort on his part, it's hardly surprising Parsley is up in paws about VisitScotland's search for an ambassadog. But VisitScotland's loss is our gain. We think you're just purrfect, Parsley!



## Days gone by - Oban's Inner Wheel Club raises £1,271 for guide dogs

Members of Oban's Inner Wheel Club had good news for the Scottish organiser of the Guide Dogs Association when he came to speak to them in 1976 - they raised £1,271 for the purchase of guide dogs. The intention was to raise sufficient funds to buy one dog at a cost of £500 but the money raised exceeded all expectations. Today the charity says it costs £50,000 to support and train a dog from birth to retirement. Digital versions of flashback photos for *The Oban Times* can be sent to 'editor@obantimes.co.uk' or prints sent to the editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Anyone who wishes a print returned should include a stamped-addressed envelope.

## Never mind the trees - repair the potholes

Sir,  
Argyll and Bute Council's planning committee wants to put a tree protection order (TPO) on trees on land at Kinlochlaich which they say are cedars.

Two independent arboricultural surveys have identified them as firs.

The planners still propose to put a TPO on the identified trees as cedars. A report to the planners states that the trees are 'generally dead/part-dead, decayed or damaged or struck by lightning'.

How many potholes could have been filled in with the money wasted?  
Valerie Cox, Kilmartin.

## Song laments the loss of hero's loved one

Sir,  
Further to Iain Thornber's musings on the *Maiden of Morven* song, I understand it to be a lament by a Fingalian hero for the loss by drowning of his loved one in the Sound of Mull in days of yore.

The song was part of the repertoire of the famous Scottish tenor Canon Sydney MacEwan and was recorded by him. The final poignant words read:

Blunt my spear and slack my bow  
Like an empty boat I go  
Death the only hope I know  
Maiden of Morven

John Milliken, Pulpit Rock, Oban.  
Visitor's afternoon to remember in Oban

Sir,  
Grassroots, you are amazing. What a delightful surprise.

I spent more than three hours on a grey, Sunday afternoon at Grassroots

Community Cafe, Oban, listening to five talented local musicians, free of charge. Guitar, accordions, flute, drum and two vocalists all featured historical local music - use it or lose it. Everyone wants to experience and promote local cultures, including locals and tourists.

This visitor from Australia had an afternoon to remember.

I met an American in Copenhagen who sought out the local culture and said he might as well have been back in the USA, with Starbucks, McDonalds, Subway and KFC everywhere.

Grassroots welcomes everyone and has great soup, cakes, tea and coffee. Pay whatever you want to.

Robert Gordon, Melbourne, Australia.

## Decades too late to save Gaelic language

Sir,  
I wish to comment on a couple of issues that are generally being floated around,

Regards both, I wonder on what basis or on what kind of mathematics has brought them about.

Firstly, autonomy. Well there's a joke if ever there was one.

How on earth can anyone have autonomy if you have to go to the government for money and the government is itself like a cat with kittens but squealing for milk/funds?

Autonomy is only practical if you have internal capital and industry within. And even then you need plenty of it.

So that's one issue without any maths behind it.

Secondly, there is the sad epic of trying to resurrect Gaelic and the propaganda that goes with it.

Money or propaganda is not going to cut it - and here's why:

We are already 40 years too late and 2,000 children short.

So instead of pipe dreams and

propaganda, do the maths guys

You can pump as much money as you want into the efforts, but if you don't have children, of indigenous stock, living in your communities, it will never happen.

You may well have a play thing, of a mongrel quality, but not a living quality language as I have known and been brought up in.

So there's another matter where maths does not come into the equation.

As a parting comment, how do you think Donald J Trump has made so much progress?

It's because he has his own money. Therefore he was not a mouthpiece for the funders where he would be told what to say and how to say it.

Thank God for liberty. Having been fed lies for well over half a century, folk now get annoyed when they hear the truth. We need the same here in the UK.

Aonghas Eoghainn Mhoir, Uibhist a Deas.

## Rural economy at risk over payment delay

Sir,  
No wonder farmers are demonstrating outside Holyrood.

The long delay in the SNP government making the payments they owe farmers has left many farmers with severe cash flow problems. This puts the whole rural economy at risk.

The promise of a cash advance to farmers is welcome, but should have been paid months ago. The SNP has wasted nearly £200 million of Scottish taxpayers' money on a computer system that doesn't work.

Instead of spending all their time plotting how to get a second independence referendum, the SNP government should concentrate on running Scotland properly.

Alan Reid, Liberal Democrat MSP candidate for Argyll and Bute.

## Glasgow Letter

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

## Sink Ships make a splash in Broadcast

I ATTENDED an excellent gig on Saturday night in Broadcast - a cool venue on Sauchiehall Street.

Sink Ships, formerly Donald Macdonald and the Islands, attracted just the right size of audience to make this intimate venue pretty full, which created a great atmosphere.

Sink Ships are a top quality, independent-rock band, and what a live show they put on.

Donald Macdonald is a cracking front man, with some amount of energy in his stage performance - something he perhaps inherited from his father, Calum Macdonald of Runrig fame.

The other boys in the band, Allan Nairn on guitar and backing vocals, and Zander Macgregor on drums and backing vocals, both from Ardnamurchan, help create a unique sound.

I would recommend you listen to some of their recordings were it not for the fact they have not produced a hard recording under their current title.

Under their former title, however, Donald Macdonald and the Islands, they have, among other things, a lovely EP which I listen to often, and a great video on Youtube, shot on a fishing boat on Islay: both entitled *A Heart Ryan Can't Fix*.

They have many brilliant original songs - from the pen of Donald himself - which all have interesting lyrics and beautiful melodies.

It's great to see a group of boys from the Highlands pleasing a Glasgow crowd and also great to see a lot of their fellow young Highlanders going along to support them. It really was a great night.

## Clydebank Highlanders

CLYDEBANK Highlanders are preparing for their annual 'Erskine Ceilidh' - a fundraiser for Erskine

Hospital which has been caring for Scotland's war veterans since 1916.

This will take place in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, on Friday April 8, and not April 15, as stated in the association's syllabus.

This year, the evening will be chaired by John Morrison from Lewis, of Morrison Media Strategies, and the Gaelic singers will be Paul MacCallum, Sheena Walker and Ainslie Hamill.

Angus MacKay will provide a few Scots songs, Billy MacPhee will play the accordion and Robert Wood and Iain MacPhee will pipe.

Kirsteen Grant will be the accompanist for the evening.

Admission at the door is £8 which includes tea and goodies and, of course, goes to a great cause.

It's been a busy fortnight for the Clydebank Highlanders as members enjoyed a great ceilidh on Friday March 11.

It was a disappointing turnout, but those who attended enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

Chairman for the evening was Iain Campbell from Mull. Iain's wife, Janet, and daughter, Jennifer, sang, as did Rena Gertz.

Both Jennifer and Rena were appearing at Clydebank for the first time.

Kate Kerr and her Gaelic group from Dumbarton were also new-comers to the Clydebank ceilidh.

Accordianist for the evening was Susan MacFadyen and Kirsteen Grant accompanied the performers in the first half while Gordon Kiniburgh did so after the interval. Robert Wood was the piper.

## Glasgow Skye youth concert

AN ARRAY of excellent young talent performed at the Glasgow Skye 'Cothrom na h-Oigridh' on Friday March 18 at the Crawford Hall, Beith Street.

Pipers, accordionists, a folk group, a choir, soloists and dancers all performed beautifully to an audience of

friends and family and the evening was kept running smoothly by chairman Darren MacLean.

## Final Stirling ceilidh of the session

THE STIRLING branch of An Comunn Gàidhealach's final ceilidh of the session on Saturday March 19 saw a good turnout of members and visitors enjoying wonderful entertainment.

Gold medallists Domhnall-Iain Brown and Eilidh Cormack were in good voice, while Kathleen Graham was on song with her clarsach and Colin Douglas played a fiddle which once belonged to Neil Gow.

Blyth Walker showed off his piping talent, the Clauran Highland Dancers gave their usual elegant display and the evening was chaired by branch president Seumas Campbell.

The branch now goes into summer recess until Saturday September 17.

## What's on

**Friday April 1:** Glasgow Uist and Barra Association ceilidh dance, Crawford Hall, Beith Street.

**Friday April 8:** Clydebank Highlanders' Erskine Ceilidh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick.

**Tuesday April 12:** Club Film @ Ceòl's Craic, Centre for Contemporary Arts, (CCA) Sauchiehall Street.

**Saturday April 16:** Ceòl Mòr Ostaig with Ceòl is Craic, CCA, Sauchiehall Street.

**Friday April 29:** Glasgow Uist and Barra Association ceilidh dance, Crawford Hall, Beith Street.

**Saturday April 30:** Glasgow Skye Association annual Spring Concert (Wee Skye), Crawford Hall.

## Pub scene

**Islay Inn** - Friday March 25: Parting Glass. Saturday March 26: Deep River. Wednesday March 30: quiz night.

**Park Bar** - Friday March 25: Scott Harvey. Saturday March 26: Dùn Mòr. Sunday March 27: Dùn Mòr.

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

FHAD 'S A THA MI a' sgrìobhadh seo tha naidheachdan air rèidio agus telebhisean mu thimcheall mar a tha an Rìaghaltais 'ag èisteachd' ri gearainean chùil-bheingearan Tòraidh mu ghearraidhean thaisean dha ciorra-maich a dh'ainneach an Seansailear anns a' Bhuidheas.

The Ministearan ag èisteachd, agus 's dòcha gun atharraich an Rìaghaltais beachd a thaobh nan sochairean seo a lùghdachadh. Bidh mòran a' faighneachd carson nach deachaidh conaltradh agus èisteachd a dhèanamh na bu tràithe, rud a bha air iomagain agus argamaid a sheachnadh.

Ach gun teagamh tha e math a bhith ag èisteachd, agus a' còmhradh, agus sin gu ìre an t-amas a bh' aig co-labhairt air craoladh na Gàidhlig a chuir Roinn Ceiltis Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann air adhart air an t-seachdain seo chaidh. Chuir iad romhpa cothrom a thoirt gus ceistean, dùbhlain, agus slighe air adhart a dheasbad.

Thachair sin gu h-inntinneach, agus gu cinnteach cha d' rinn an conaltradh cron sam bith ged is dòcha nach tàinig an dearbhadh, fhathast co-dhiù, air na leasachaid-

hean a tha luchd-iomairt cànan ag iarraidh. Mar a bhios fios agaibh tha mòran deasbaid air a bhith a' gabhail àite thar ùine a-nise mun phoileasaidh a th' aig BBC Alba a bhith a' losgadh fo-thotalan Beurla air cuid de na prògraman aca.

Tha luchd-iomairt air tighinn còmhla fon ainm Gàidhlig tv gus feuchainn ri toirt air BBC Alba an dòigh-obrach seo atharrachadh, agus cuideachd gus nach lughda Bheurla a cheadachadh air an t-seanail Ghàidhlig.

Bha cathraiche agus ceannardan BBC Alba glè dheònach èisteachd ris na beachdan a nochd aig a' cho-labhairt ach cha robh e na annas gun robh cuid de na h-argamaidean ris nach robh iad deònach gèilleadh, ann an seasamh nam bonn co-dhiù.

Bha e feumail dha na bha an làthair mothachadh às ùr fhaotainn air na h-uallaichean a bharrachd a thahas a' sùileachadh air craoladair mion-chànan a thaobh leasachadh cànan, foghlam, cruthachadh chosnaidhean 's mar sin air adhart.

Chan eil leithid sin de dhleastanasan air na seanalan mòra, agus tha impidh cuideachd air BBC Alba a bhith a' ruigheachd air daoine feadh

Alba aig nach eil eòlas neo tuigse sam bith air Gàidhlig. Ach thug an t-eòlaiche cànan an t-Ollamh Eithne O'Connell bho Oilthigh Cathair Bhaile Àtha Cliath aire a' cho-labhairt gu fianais rannsachaidh a tha a' dearbhadh gum bheil buaidh nas motha aig cànan fo-thotalan na th' aig na tha fuaimniche ann am prògram. Cùis smaointinn dha leithid BBC Alba leis an uallach a th' air a thaobh mion-chànan.

DISCUSSING the issues, challenges and the way forward for Gaelic broadcasting at a conference at Edinburgh University last week, some delegates might have been surprised to learn that television and film sub-titles have a greater impact on viewers than the sound track.

Dublin City University linguist Dr Eithne O'Connell described how research has established that the sub-title language gains more lasting promotion than the original programme language.

Pressure group Gaelic TV believes BBC Alba should urgently review its sub-titling and language policies.

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell) ailean@obantimes.co.uk

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Write to The Oban Times letters page at PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk

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Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

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

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We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

## Your letters

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

The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and

postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a

contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

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**OBAN'S most exciting and motivational fitness centre, Feel Good Fitness, will celebrate its grand opening on April 16 at Lochside Street in Oban, bringing fat loss and fitness together under one roof- especially for people who are intimidated by gyms**

### WHY FEEL GOOD FAT LOSS CLUB?

When it comes to getting in shape many people instinctively reach for an off the shelf, quick fix weight loss diet. However, the majority of these don't work in the long term as they promote rapid weight loss, without looking at the whole picture. At Feel Good Fat Loss Club, rather than looking at weight loss as a purely cosmetic option, we look at your overall health and focus on results from the inside out!

### WHY ARE WE DIFFERENT?

We don't focus on reducing calories, we focus on reducing fat, increasing strength and overall fitness and improving how you feel about you! We don't just hand out meal plans, it's about the whole package! Along with teaching about quality nutrition and the principles of strength training and fitness, our program includes group training sessions, two 1:1 sessions each week with a personal trainer, cardio, HIIT training AND positive mindset coaching classes.

### WHY STRENGTH TRAINING?

- We are passionate about strength training and there are so many benefits, including:
- Firmer, better defined muscles
  - Better posture
  - Improved flexibility
  - Reducing stress and anxiety
  - Reduces symptoms of PMS (Premenstrual Syndrome)
  - Decreased or minimized risk of osteoporosis - by building bone mass
  - Reduced/eliminated back pain
  - Reduced risk of diabetes and insulin needs
  - Lowered risk of cardiovascular disease
  - Lowered high blood pressure
  - Decreased colds and illness
  - Boosts metabolism - the more lean muscle you have the more calories you will burn when at rest
- And many, many more!

### WHY MINDSET COACHING?

- Helps build confidence and self belief
- Helps develop a positive attitude
- Gives you a vision of who you could become
- Helps eliminate limiting thoughts about yourself
- Helps you make other positive changes in your life
- Helps you to deal with negative thoughts
- Keeps you motivated
- Helps you understand yourself better
- Increases assertiveness
- You learn to love you!



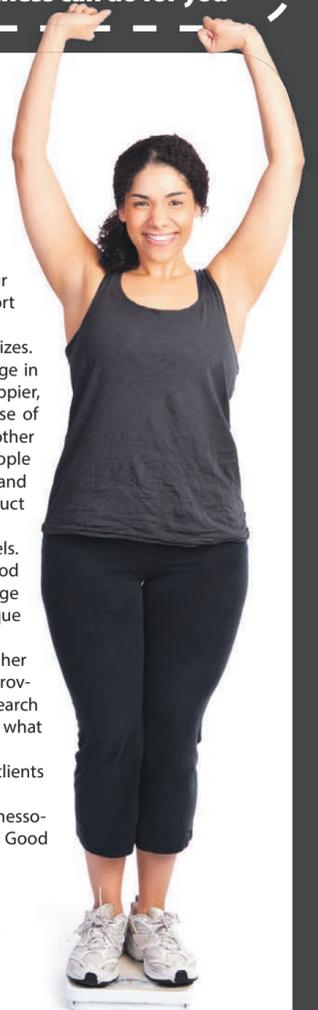
“ We thought how amazing it would be to have a system where people could come together in a group to achieve the confidence they were looking for ”

### Owner - Laura Carmichael

In 2013 I was given the opportunity to open a gym franchise, which at the time was something I wanted to do. Within a few months, I realised that selling gym memberships was not making me happy. I wanted to do something different. I had a vision about inspiring people, helping people feel good and filling a niche in the market. So I made a decision to branch out on my own and open my own gym with my vision for bringing together group fat loss, exercise, nutrition and mind coaching. Within the franchise, we would hear the same story over and over again. People would come in, not know what to do, not know what to eat and not know where to start with changing their bodies- or just be too scared to do anything! We thought how amazing it would be to have a system where people could come together in a group to achieve the confidence they were looking for and get the results they have always wanted. So, in September 2015 we launched our Feel Good fat loss club. We meet every Monday night at 7pm for weekly weigh in, group fitness class and education presentation. Our presentations teach you all aspects of nutrition, fitness and mind-set coaching. At the new facility, members will receive amazing service in a friendly, supportive environment. In addition to the fat loss club, there

will be a supplement shop and personal training- gym memberships include classes and a six week personalised programme. The friendly staff will educate and support every step of the way, from exercise to weight training to nutrition and fitness education. During the week we take our clients through weight training sessions - which are all one to one. Monitoring progress is key, so we take starting photos and measurements, and then photos and measurements every four weeks thereafter. We are always available to help, support and guide you through. We have people in the club all different ages, abilities and sizes. What has been so amazing about this is seeing the change in who they have become - so much more confident, happier, breaking through their own limiting beliefs - and because of this, they are now making additional positive changes in other aspects of their lives. The best part for me is helping people to build confidence, believe in themselves, get over fears, and overcome negative beliefs - with fat loss being the by-product of making all these positive changes! Feel Good Fitness will offer new branded classes for all levels. We know how intimidating classes can seem. At Feel Good Fitness, you will be made to feel so welcome. We encourage all newbies, and we will be running beginner and technique classes for to help you build your confidence. Every trainer at Feel Good Fitness has been through his or her own transformation and has a passion for the industry, a proven track record of results and the drive to study and research the profession relentlessly. Most importantly, they practice what they preach! Our mission is to inspire others and help each of their clients become an amazing version of themselves. For more information, drop by the gym or visit [feelgoodfitnessoban.com](http://feelgoodfitnessoban.com) and see how you can transform your life with Feel Good Fitness.

A huge thank you to all my dedicated staff for all their help. Laura x



## Feel Nutritious

### By Ashley Bichard

In 2014, I graduated from Queen Margaret University with a BSc in Nutrition and went on to set up my own nutrition consultancy business in June 2015. I was living and working in Edinburgh at the time, but my love of food soon got the better of me and I decided to head home to Oban to branch out with Feel Nutritious, my very own juicing brand. Since I have had such fantastic results with juicing, I felt it was something that could benefit everyone. Benefits are not just limited to weight loss- clients have reported improvements to sleep patterns, higher energy levels, feeling less bloated, better skin, and the list goes on. After months of research and trialling both juices and juice cleanse packages, I decided on six cold pressed juices to sell individually and as one, three and five day juice cleanses. The success of the juice cleanses has led to the development of new products. Last month, I launched a new cleanse programme which offers a combination of juices and clean, healthy meals. The results have been fantastic, with clients losing between three and five pounds on a three day juice cleanse and up to seven pounds on a five day cleanse. The best part is, they're keeping the weight off! Check out my Facebook page for testimonials. I am excited to say that from April, Laura and I will be working together in Feel Good Fitness where I will take over the nutritional side of the Feel Good Fat Loss Club. For more information on Feel Nutritious check out my website [www.feelnutritious.com](http://www.feelnutritious.com) and Facebook page.



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### OPENING TIMES

Monday - Friday  
0600-2130

Saturday and Sunday  
0800-1800

## Don't just take our word for it

### Roanna - lost three stone and still losing

'I joined the programme back in September 2016. I was interested to see if it would help, as I was going to the gym and eating well most of the time, but didn't seem to be getting any real results. I also wanted to see if changing my eating and training habits would help me feel better and not so tired all the time. The programme has helped focus me, and with proper training, learning to eat well, I have seen amazing results! I have lost over three stone, but more importantly, I am maintaining the weight loss, something that has not happened to me in the past. I also have lots more energy. I never thought I would say this, but I now love going to the gym. I love the weight training especially because it is one on one training. Having someone with you is fantastic because they push you and monitor the progress you are making. It was all daunting at first, but there is lots of support and information to help you all the way. This is now a lifestyle for me. If you want to feel better, lose weight and have tried and failed in the past, then give the programme a go!

### Claire- lost two and half stone

I had no self-confidence and was terrified of the gym and what other people would think. My self-esteem was very low. I started the programme in September 2015 and began to feel better within a few weeks. I love the weight training! I also really enjoy the social aspect, met loads of new friends and enjoy having time for me. It has changed my whole life - I have learnt how to love myself, and believe in me. I am much happier than I have been in years. I'm also much happier about the way I look and am no longer embarrassed. If you are thinking about joining but are too scared to start - do it! Best thing I've done in years- if I can do it, anyone can!

### Cathy- lost over a stone

I've tried them all- Atkins, the Cambridge and any more you can name, and more recently the 5:2. I joined the Feel Good fat loss club approximately nine weeks ago and so far have lost seven kilograms. The programme includes nutritional advice as well as exercise. It involves high intense interval training, weight training and cardio. A very similar programme was recommended by Matt Roberts in last week's Sunday Times. I feel the programme is a total winner! I feel everyone over 50 should do weight training!

allroundsigns lamontdesign.



GREGOR MORAWSKI  
RENOVATIONS CONSTRUCTION MAINTANANCE



# Easter Guide

The west coast is ready to spring into the Easter season with fun family events, from traditional egg hunts to a fèis to sunrise services.

### THE CADBURY EASTER EGG HUNT

Will be held at Glencoe and Dalness and Arduaine Gardens March 25-28. Bunny's been up to his old tricks again. Kids can follow the clues, solve the puzzle and claim a chocolate reward. Each Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt is completely different - the perfect excuse to try a hand at more than one.

### DUNOLLIE WOODLAND EGG-STRAVAGANZA FUN

Takes place March 27 from 1 pm - 4 pm. The public is invited to come along to one of Oban's biggest Chocolate Easter Egg Hunts and see how many chocolate eggs they can find. The hunt begins at 12.30pm and there will also be a fun assortment of Easter crafts and activities for the whole family to enjoy.

### THE ANNUAL 'SPRING INTO EASTER'

Event organised by Forestry Commission Scotland, Kilmartin House Museum and Scottish Wildlife Trust, is a family fun event full of exciting activities. There will be an Easter fun trail, face painting, craft making and an appearance by the forest bunny and beaver. The event takes place at Achnabreac Forest car park on the A816 road out of Lochgilphead. Held on Easter Monday from 2pm-4pm, it's suitable for all ages, especially young children. It's free, but booking is essential through the West Argyll Forest office on 01546 602518 or email westargyll@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

### THE SCOTTISH SEA LIFE SANCTUARY

Is hosting one of Oban's biggest Chocolate Easter Egg Hunts starting at 12.30pm on Sunday. There will also be a fun assortment of Easter crafts and activities for the whole family to enjoy, as well as talks and feeding displays with the sea creatures.

### EGG HUNT AND DUCK RACE

Easter Sunday from 12.30-2.30 pm will see the annual egg hunt and duck race at Sutherland's Grove, Barcaldine. As well as the main event there will be an Easter bonnet parade - it's free to enter and there is prize for the best bonnet - as well as children's activities and games and hot food and drinks.

### EASTER FÈIS

The week long annual Fèis Latharna Easter fèis will be held April 4-8 at Oban Primary Campus. This is an annual teaching festival of traditional music, dance, Gaelic song and drama for young people, aged 8 to 18. Both local children and any visitors to the area are welcome. There will be daytime classes followed by a range of evening events including a cinema night, a tutor's showcase and a family ceilidh. Everything from taster sessions to advanced tuition is offered in a range of musical instruments, voice and craft. A fèis participants' concert on the afternoon of the final day is a showcase of many of the activities folk have been learning. This wonderful culmination of the fèis is open to parents, family and friends.

### SALVATION ARMY

On Good Friday from noon to 2pm Oban members will serve tea, coffee and hot cross buns and will hold a Resurrection Celebration at 11am on Easter Sunday, again with refreshments. All are welcome.



from all the staff  
at the Oban Times

The Oban Times  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Happy Easter to you all.

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The Crinan Coffee Shop is just a few yards away from the hotel on the edge of the canal basin.

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**DUNOLLIE WOODLAND**

**egg-stravaganza**  
**EASTER**  
**FAMILY FUN DAY**

**Sunday, 27th March**  
**1.00pm - 4.00pm**

Easter Egg Hunt  
Easter Bonnet Making & Parade  
Drop-In Woodland Crafts

Prizes will be awarded to the best bonnet!

Refreshments available at the Kettle Cafe Kiosk. Limited Parking  
Adult: £5 Child (5-15): £2.50 Under 5: FREE Conc: £4

# EASTER TRADITIONS

Since its origins, Easter has been a time of celebration and feasting and many traditional Easter games and customs developed, such as egg rolling, egg tapping, pace egging and egg decorating.

## GREAT BRITAIN

Marshmallow bunnies and chocolate eggs in an Easter basket. In some cultures rabbits, which represent fertility, are a symbol of Easter.

Throughout the English-speaking world, many Easter traditions are similar with only minor differences.

For example, Saturday is traditionally spent decorating Easter eggs and hunting for them with children on Sunday morning, by which time they have been mysteriously hidden all over the house and garden. Other traditions involve parents telling their children that eggs and other treats such as chocolate eggs or rabbits, and marshmallow chicks (Peeps), have been delivered by the Easter Bunny in an Easter basket, which children find waiting for them when they wake up.

Families observe the religious aspects of Easter by attending Sunday Mass or services in the morning and then participating in a feast or party in the afternoon. Some families have a traditional Sunday roast, often of either roast lamb or ham.

Easter breads such as Simnel cake, a fruit cake with eleven marzipan balls representing the eleven faithful apostles, or nut breads such as potica are traditionally served. Hot cross buns, spiced buns with a cross on top, are traditionally associated with Good Friday, but today are often eaten well before and after.

In Scotland, the north of England, and Northern Ireland, the traditions of rolling decorated eggs down steep hills and pace egging can still be seen. Pace comes from the Latin Pacha which means Easter.

## NORTH AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

In Louisiana, USA, egg tapping is known as egg knocking. Marksville, Louisiana claims to host the oldest egg-knocking competition in the US, dating back to the 1950s. Competitors pair up on the steps of the courthouse on Easter Sunday and knock the tips of two eggs together.

If the shell of your egg cracks you have to forfeit it, a process that continues

until just one egg remains.

In the British Overseas Territory of Bermuda, historically famous for growing and exporting the Easter lily, the most notable feature of the Easter celebration is the flying of kites to symbolize Christ's ascent.

Traditional Bermuda kites are constructed by Bermudians of all ages as Easter approaches, and are normally only flown at Easter. In addition to hot cross buns and Easter eggs, fish cakes are traditionally eaten in Bermuda at this time.

In Jamaica, eating bun and cheese is a highly anticipated custom by Jamaican nationals all over the world.

The Jamaica Easter Buns are spiced and have raisins, and baked in a loaf tin. The buns are sliced and eaten with a slice of cheese. It is a common practice for employers to make gifts of bun and cheese or a single loaf of bun to staff members.

## EASTERN EUROPE

In Bulgaria widespread tradition is to fight with eggs by pair and if one's egg becomes the last surviving it is called borak. The tradition is to display the decorated eggs on the Easter table together with the Easter dinner consisting of roasted lamb, a salad called Easter salad (lettuce with cucumbers) and a sweet bread called kozunak.

In the Czech Republic and Slovakia, a tradition of spanking or whipping is carried out on Easter Monday. In the morning, men spank women with a special handmade whip called a pomlázka (in Czech) or korbáč (in Slovak), in eastern regions of former Czechoslovakia Moravia and Slovakia they also throw cold water on them.

The pomlázka/korbáč consists of eight, 12 or even 24 withies (willow rods) and is usually from half a metre to two metres long and decorated with coloured ribbons at the end.

The spanking may be painful, but it's not intended to cause suffering. A legend says that women should be spanked with a whip in order to keep their health and beauty during the whole next year.

An additional purpose can be for men to exhibit their attraction to women; unvisited women can even feel offended.

Traditionally, the spanked woman gives a coloured egg (kraslica) prepared by themselves, and invites the man to eat and drink as a sign of her thanks. If the visitor is a small boy, he is usually provided with sweets, and a small amount of money.

In some regions, the women can get revenge in the afternoon or the following day when they can pour a bucket of cold water on any man. The habit slightly varies across Slovakia and the Czech Republic. A similar tradition existed in Poland (where it is called Dyngus Day), but it is now little more than an all-day water fight.

In Germany, decorated eggs are hung on branches of bushes and trees to make them Easter egg trees. Eggs also used to dress wells for Easter.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia, a basket of food is prepared and covered with a handmade cloth, and brought to the church to be blessed. A typical Easter basket includes bread, coloured eggs, ham, horseradish, and a type of nut cake called potica.

The butter lamb (Baranek wielkanocny) is a traditional addition to the Easter meal for many Polish Catholics. Butter is shaped into a lamb either by hand or in a lamb-shaped mould.

## ITALY

Italian traditional Easter cake is called the Colomba Pasquale.

In Florence, Italy, the unique custom of the Scoppio del carro is observed in which a holy fire lit from stone shards from the Holy Sepulchre are used to light a fire during the singing of the Gloria of the Easter Sunday mass, which is used to ignite a rocket in the form of a dove, representing peace and the holy spirit, which following a wire in turn lights a cart containing pyrotechnics in the small square before the Cathedral.

EASTER means so many things to many people.

For many it is the greatest celebration of the religious calendar – early Easter Sunday service will see dawn break open with joyful singing on hillsides.

It is a time of year when people from every denomination come together to marvel in the death and resurrection of Christ.

As children many of us will remember rolling our decorated boiled eggs down a hillside – representing, of course, the stone being rolled away from the tomb where Jesus was buried when he was taken from the cross at Calvary.

Easter is also a time of family celebration. Winter is over, hopefully, and for many living on the west coast it is time to begin the spring season again.

In every area there will be loads to do whether the weather is good or bad.

With that in mind, this Easter there's lots to do for all the family.

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The Artisan Cafe  
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We have something for everyone this Easter weekend. Kids Craft table and beautiful hand made crafts, Silk Painting and Felt workshops available, advanced booking required.  
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## Church services

### VISITATION AT TAYNUILT

Taynuilt  
Good Friday Service 3pm  
Saturday Easter Vigil 9.30am  
Sunday Mass 11am

Dalmally  
Sunday Mass 9am

### St Columba's Cathedral

Corran Esplanade  
Oban, OBAN PA34 5AB  
Tel: 01631 562123

Holy Thursday 7pm  
Good Friday 3pm  
Easter Saturday Vigil 8pm  
Easter Sunday Mass 10.30am

### Oban Congregational Church

#### A Celebration Of Easter

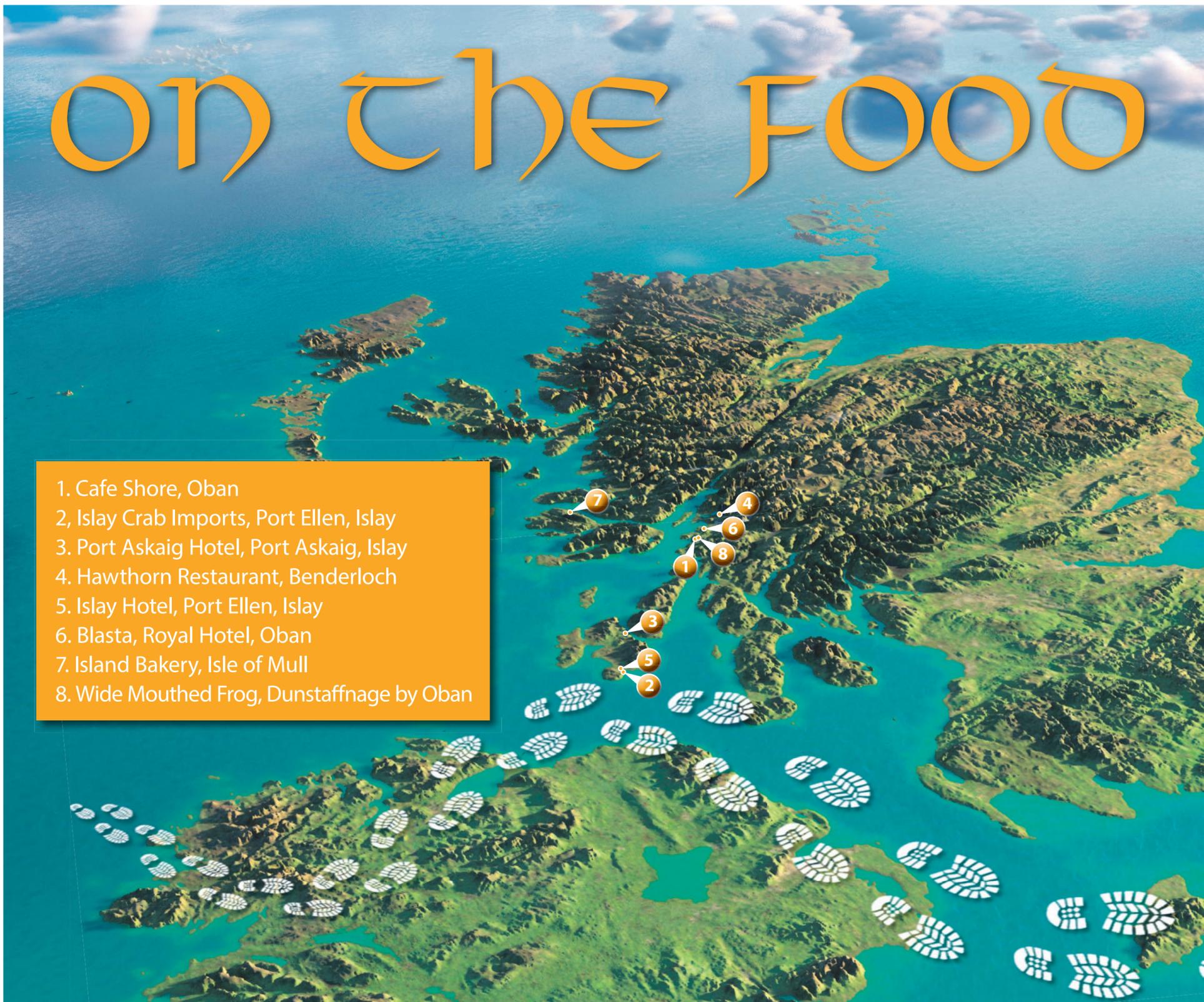
Maunder Thursday Communion 6:30pm  
Good Friday Church Open for Prayer and Meditation from 2-4pm  
Easter Sunrise Rise Service At Pulpit Hill 8am followed by Breakfast in the Church Hall  
All Age Morning Service 11am  
Easter Monday Coffee Morning Between 10.30 and 12.30

### Kilmore and Oban Holy Week and Easter Services

Wednesday 23rd March 7.00pm  
Holy Week Worship (at Kilmore)  
Thursday 24th March 7.00pm  
Maunder Thursday Communion (Church Centre)  
Sunday 27th March 9.45am  
Easter Breakfast and Egg Rolling  
10.30am Easter All-Age Celebration Service  
12.00pm Easter Worship (at Kilmore)  
More info at: obancofs@btinternet.com  
www.obanchurch.com  
01631 562405

# on the FOOD

1. Cafe Shore, Oban
2. Islay Crab Imports, Port Ellen, Islay
3. Port Askaig Hotel, Port Askaig, Islay
4. Hawthorn Restaurant, Benderloch
5. Islay Hotel, Port Ellen, Islay
6. Blasta, Royal Hotel, Oban
7. Island Bakery, Isle of Mull
8. Wide Mouthed Frog, Dunstaffnage by Oban



**Café Shore**  
Argyll Square, Oban

Come and visit Café Shore and taste our delicious ice creams, hearty soups and fresh sandwiches. We serve fresh coffee as well as a range of tea and cakes all within our relaxing and newly refurbished coffee shop.

Our outside seating area is the perfect place to take the weight off your feet and watch the world go by in Oban's beautiful Argyll Square.

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THE HAWTHORN RESTAURANT, BENDERLOCH

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W: www.hawthorn-restaurant.co.uk  
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DINNER: Daily from 5.30pm-9pm LUNCH: Fri,Sat,Sun 12-2pm

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Blasta is open 7 nights a week from 5.30pm till 8.30pm, available for functions, weddings and private hires.

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We offer an early bird special from 5.30pm till 6.30pm - £14.95 for 2 Course or £17.50 for 3 Courses.

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[www.blastaroyal.com](http://www.blastaroyal.com)  
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FOOD trails celebrate the best of the west coast's bounty, and while some trails showcase food and drink that Scotland is well known for, such as whisky and seafood (featuring Oban area producers prominently, of course), others may not be so obvious.

The west coast and islands boast several stars of Scotland's most popular food trails. From cheese to seafood, from chocolate to ice cream, one can eat one's way through one of the world's great natural larders while meeting meet the interesting folks that dedicate their lives to the mantra 'fresh is best.'

Some of the finest seafood in the world comes from the west coast of Scotland. The secret is the cold, pristine waters, which offer up a huge variety of top quality fish and shellfish, including oysters, mussels, langoustines, scallops, crab, mackerel, haddock,

herring and more. They export hundreds of tonnes of each year, but the best way to enjoy this bounty is at the source, fresh from the local pier to plate and prepared simply, to let nature's taste shine through.

It's not just seafood- the west coast is a great destination for food and drink lovers. The beef, lamb and venison are second to none. Local ales, scones, shortbread, jams-and, of course, haggis- are world famous. Even the local eggs are award winning!

A gastronomic journey through some of the world's most breath taking scenery, from coastline to mountain range, from mainland to island, all with rich history and culture- it's the best way to experience the real Scotland. For those looking for an incredible, edible excursion of a lifetime, Scotland's food trails have it all.

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ISLE OF MULL

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THE WIDE MOUTHED FROG

We have a substantial evening menu with seafood specials served in our restaurant. Bookings for evening meals is highly recommended. The Wide mouthed Frogs licensed bar is well stocked with spirits, malts, champagne, wines, beers and real ales and

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Tel: 01631 567005 email: [widemouthedfrog@btconnect.com](mailto:widemouthedfrog@btconnect.com)

Like [www.facebook.com/obantimes](https://www.facebook.com/obantimes)

### Launch of 'Brakes Scotland' keeps it local

Recognising its robust sales growth and ever strengthening ties with local suppliers and SMEs Brakes has given its business north of the border its own identity with the creation of 'Brakes Scotland'.

'Brakes Scotland', which employs over 600 staff and has partnerships with more than 60 Scottish suppliers, will serve in excess of 11,000 customers across the nation via multi temperature distribution from

Inverness, Oban, Dundee and its new facility in Newhouse.

"We already supply over 340 Scottish lines and our focus will be on continuing to grow this number, providing our customers with fantastic local produce – such as Scottish Meat, Poultry, Fish and Dairy - and helping them to bring these products to life on their menus in pubs, restaurants, hotels, schools and foodservice businesses across Scotland," said Brakes Scotland's

Operations Director, John McLintock.

Since January 2016, Brakes Scotland has added £2.5million annualised sales directly to the Scottish economy by procuring local peas, a fantastic dairy range from Graham's the Family Dairy and bringing on board new suppliers such as Mackie's at Taypack crisps.

"One of Scotland's greatest assets is its fantastic produce and

at Brakes Scotland we realise there is increasing focus on the quality of what's on customers' plates and an interest in the history and provenance behind the meal. Over the coming months we will be identifying new Scottish suppliers and focusing on creating a brilliant Scottish range that will provide our customers with the traceability and provenance that they want and allow them to add value to their menus."

As the leading foodservice supplier, Brakes Scotland is proud to serve and support local businesses in Oban & Argyll



BRAKE.CO.UK

[@BRAKES\\_FOOD](https://twitter.com/BRAKES_FOOD)

0844 800 4900

# on the whisky TRAIL

WHISKY connoisseurs and the whisky curious make the pilgrimage to Scotland for the aqua vitae. The word whisky comes from the Gaelic uisge beatha, meaning 'water of life'. Whisky can only be called Scotch if it is distilled and matured in Scotland. That made in other countries may be whisky (or whiskey) but it's not Scotch. What is the secret to this world famous beverage? It's the pure spring water, the bounty of aromatic barley, the peat, and of course, a little bit of Scottish magic!

Two of Scotland's famous whisky trails run right through the area- the Islay and West Coast Whisky Trail, and the Whisky Coast Trail. Either way, blending incredible scenery and fine hotels, restaurants and visitor attractions with the best single malt whisky

is the recipe for an unforgettable holiday.

On a whisky trail odyssey, visitors get to watch the entire distilling process at each facility, from the mash turners to the copper stills to the dunnage warehouse. Some offer personal tours, where guests experience a tasting and hand fill their own bottle, afterwards relaxing in the visitor centres, learning about the history of the distilleries and shop for souvenirs.

Before beginning a whisky trail, the aspiring expert might want to learn a few terms to get started. And remember, ordering whisky with a mixer is a no-no, as it's meant to be enjoyed purely on its own- locals don't even add ice. Perhaps just a splash of water is all that is needed for that perfect taste.

1. Glen Scotia Distillery, Campbeltown
2. Ardnamurchan Distillery, Glenbeg, Ardnamurchan
3. Oban Distillery, Oban
4. Ben Nevis Distillery, Fort William

## Glen Scotia Distillery

Glen Scotia Distillery was founded in 1832, and is one of just three working distilleries in Campbeltown. Once regarded as the "Victorian Whisky Capital of the World" our malt distillery is one of the smallest in Scotland, where each

cask is hand selected by our master blender, John Peterson, before being bottled into one of our three new award winning single malt expressions, Double Cask, 15 year old and Victoriana, each offering something special but all delivering

the history and flavour characteristics of a Campbeltown single malt. Glen Scotia has recently undergone a refurbishment and expansion of its distillery and is now pleased to welcome visitors to its new Glen Scotia shop and tasting room.

Tours are available twice a day, with a managers tour by appointment offering you the chance to visit and taste some distillery only expressions with our master distiller. Tour by appointment - call 01586 552 288 to arrange

## Ardnamurchan Distillery

The Ardnamurchan Distillery was officially opened in July 2014. The site occupies an elevated position overlooking the stunningly beautiful Loch Sunart, with the Sound of Mull and Tobermory just visible in the distance.

Emphasis has been placed on blending nature and production, with the distillery being the first in Scotland to be 100% fuelled by renewable sources: locally sourced wood chip is delivered by tractor to supply the biomass boiler, and electricity is supplied via the nearby hydro-electric scheme. Cooling water flows from this same river, and process water rises from springs deep in the peat-clad hillside.

The distillery's barley is grown on the fields surrounding its offices in Fife, and

the draff and pot ale are used as animal feed and fertiliser in the Ardnamurchan area.

The distillery is producing an un-peated and lightly peated spirit, both of which have already received international acclaim for their quality. The warehouse is now filling up with freshly-filled oak casks carefully selected from bodegas and cooperages in Spain and the US, and the Ardnamurchan angels have begun to enjoy their share of the maturation.

A fully-staffed visitor centre with tours, shop and tasting room is already welcoming guests from the UK and beyond, many of whom have travelled to fill their own cask of the delicious new make spirit, and become part of the Ardnamurchan Distillery's exciting future.

## Oban Distillery

Nestling beneath the cliff that overlooks Oban, Oban Distillery is one of Scotland's oldest sources of single malt scotch whisky and is a stone's throw from the sea. Take a tour of the senses and explore each part of the whisky making process. Your tour will finish with a dram of Oban 14-year-old malt accompanied by some crystallised ginger - a truly memorable taste sensation!

The Distillery Visitor Centre is open all year round and houses an exhibition area, a well-stocked gift shop and a tasting bar (seasonal opening hours apply). The guided tours are in high demand so booking ahead is always advisable and can be done through the distillery website [www.discovering-distilleries.com/oban](http://www.discovering-distilleries.com/oban). Why not pay us a visit and learn what makes Oban Single malt whisky unique?

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[www.adelphidistillery.com](http://www.adelphidistillery.com)

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**Win a bottle of Oban Little Bay!**

To enter, simply answer this easy question, complete the entry form below and post it to The Oban Times, Caravan Comp, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be received by midnight, Tuesday April 5, 2016.

**Question: Oban Distillery has launched which new malt whisky?**

Answer.....  
Name.....  
Address.....  
Postcode.....  
Telephone.....  
Email.....

Winners will be selected at random after the closing date and will receive a 70cl bottle of Oban Little Bay whisky. The prize is not transferable or redeemable for cash equivalent. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. Winners may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. The competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. Digital subscribers can enter by printing this page and submitting their entry accompanied by a letter explaining that you are a digital subscriber. The closing date for entries is midnight, Tuesday April 5, 2016.

**Dram, fine, splendid**  
...need we say more!!!

**Ben Nevis Distillery**  
[www.bennevisdistillery.com](http://www.bennevisdistillery.com)

**BEN NEVIS DISTILLERY** has been building on its success since its establishment in 1825. It is one of the **oldest licensed distilleries in Scotland** and continues to go from strength to strength.

The distillery is nestled at the foot of Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis, which has a summit elevation of 4,406 feet above sea level. Incorporated within Ben Nevis Distillery is **The Legend of the Dew of Ben Nevis Visitor Centre**, built into an old warehouse dating from 1862 and former bottling hall, which still retains some of its original features.

There is a conducted tour of the production areas by a trained guide which concludes with a complementary 'tasting'. After your tour around the distillery relax with a refreshment or if you are hungry, try some of their delicious home cooking in the coffee shop and restaurant. The whisky shop is stocked with a large range of select whiskies, Scottish books and interesting gifts.

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# Arena

## Kilmartin Museum: hidden gem is jewel in Argyll's crown



Kilmartin Museum can no longer be Argyll's hidden gem. It is a world-class museum which is deserving of international recognition.

**Brendan O'Hara**  
Argyll and Bute MP, during a reception last week in the Palace of Westminster.

AN EVENT held in London to raise awareness of Kilmartin Museum and its current multi-million redevelopment project was a huge success.

An impressive array of business people mingled with MPs and Peers from across Scotland while Dr Sharon Webb MBE, curator of the Mid Argyll museum, outlined the ambitious plans to make Kilmartin Museum a centre of archaeological learning as well as a must-see visitor

attraction for both domestic and international tourists.

The museum, located in the heart of Kilmartin Glen and home to an array of artefacts dating back to the Neolithic and Bronze Age, was fortunate to secure funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, but with £1.5million still to raise, they sought the help of Argyll and Bute Member of Parliament Brendan O'Hara to raise awareness of the museum.

Mr O'Hara described being bowled over during his first visit to the museum. He said: 'As you wander through the beautiful Argyll landscape it is littered with prehistoric standing stones, Bronze Age burial chambers and is among the most important archaeological sites of its type anywhere in the world.'

He added: 'Tourism is an essential part of the Argyll and Bute economy and I am delighted to support Kilmartin

in any way I can to help make its exciting vision a reality.'

After the event, Dr Webb said: 'We know Kilmartin and its archaeological treasures are amazing, and we want more people to know about them, so it was very kind of Mr O'Hara to help us arrange this event and to host it. We opened 19 years ago in converted buildings that we have now outgrown.'

'The redevelopment project will transform the museum so

that we can take proper care of the important artefacts in our collections and help people understand and enjoy them.'

'The new museum will mean we can provide better facilities for visitors, and expand our education service.'

'It's a really exciting time for us and we were delighted to share what we want to do at Kilmartin with so many interested people.'

Similar events are planned for Edinburgh and Glasgow this year.



## Funding boost for Gaelic media service

GAELIC broadcaster MG ALBA will receive an additional £1million investment this year.

Minister for Scotland's languages Alasdair Allan MSP announced the media service will receive the funding following the UK Government's plan to withdraw all funding to Gaelic broadcasting in Scotland.

MG ALBA is a public body that works in partnership with BBC Scotland to produce BBC Alba.

Since moving to Freeview in 2011, the channel viewing figures have increased significantly.

The £1m funding for 2016/17 follows a previous investment from the Scottish Government of £1m for 2014-16. The £1m for this year will be in addition to core funding for MG ALBA of £11.8m in 2016/17.

Dr Allan said: 'I'm delighted to announce this further funding

for MG ALBA. I have no doubt that Gaelic broadcasting adds significant value to important areas of Gaelic development, whether that's in education, in the community or at home.'

'The impact and benefits of MG ALBA are felt across Scotland, and it has an impressive economic impact - this is unique and this funding will enable these areas to increase employment, skills and training. This is in addition to continuing to be a champion for documentaries, music, and sports that this investment will support.'

'We are committed to creating a sustainable future in the Gaelic language, and to developing broadcasting and media industries in Scotland. MG ALBA plays a key role in both those ambitions.'

Maggie Cunningham, chair-

woman of MG ALBA, said: 'The Scottish Government has been an enthusiastic supporter of both our creative industries and the Gaelic language over many years and we are grateful to the government and Dr Allan for their continued support of MG ALBA.'

'MG ALBA is ambitious for the future of Scotland's broadcasting sector, and as witnessed through nominations at the Celtic Media Festival 2016, is in a unique position to facilitate the next generation of talent - especially amongst independent producers.'

'With the Scottish Government's backing, we believe we can deliver for both BBC ALBA viewers and also ensure Scotland's creative productions can make their economic mark by leading growth for the sector.'

## Music with Jonathan Rimmer



ELECTRONIC dance music might be more associated with bustling clubs in cities, but producer Dale 'Soul Spear' Files is hoping to put Oban on the map with his new album 'Built With Girders'.

The album, which was released two weeks ago on local independent label Omnibeat Music Group, is one of the first electronic music projects to be produced in Oban.

OBAN Communities Trust hosted a gathering on Friday, March 18, at the Rockfield Centre to discuss building Oban's arts and music scene.

The local community organisation, who intend to turn the Rockfield Centre into a community arts space, invited members of the public to get involved in round-table discussions on music, art, theatre and craft.

Organiser Rhona Dougall

Using only a computer to produce his beats and loops, as well as with the post-production skills of Omnibeat's Duncan Keary, the album explores a variety of sounds including house, trance and techno.

'I've always been a big fan of all styles of electronic dance music,' says Dale, who also goes under the pseudonym Garrick. 'My most played artists include Deadmau5, Armin Van

buuren and Stepcat. I'm still experimenting with my sound but I'm trying to incorporate sounds from electro house music.'

Though his music is geared towards ravers and club-goers, Oban's only club nights are currently held at the Skipinnish Ceilidh House. Opportunities for local DJs are slim, something Dale hopes is beginning to change.

'There seems to be an appe-

creative and talented as people anywhere else, but the lack of a dedicated arts venue has meant there's been nowhere for creative people to congregate.'

The event was held in The Rockfield Centre's new community arts space, the small hut by the Stevenson Street tree. Rhona, a former gig promoter, says the trust intend to use the hut to host meetings, gatherings and workshops.

'People in Oban are just as

'I'd love the chance to play live sets both inside Oban and beyond,' says Dale. 'The electronic dance music scene is probably the most neglected of all. There are no contemporary music retailers and few gig nights.'

'I think people like Duncan are hugely influential. In essence, without him and Omnibeat, Soul Spear would not be a thing.'

There was talk about hosting gatherings outside pubs so that younger people can get involved, as well as finding the right venues to host bands and finding a long term solution to address that.'



## Gala Dinner & AWARDS

31 March 2016  
Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh



Hosted by **FRED MACAULAY**

- Fizz reception
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- Network with inspirational businesses from across Scotland



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# Arena

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



**DANCE:** The 'Dancing Divas' and the 'Dancing Monkeys' come together for a Zumba class taught by instructor Madalena Sadlik. 15\_rockfield04.

**PENALTY:** Pupils try and beat the goalkeeper, with each goal gaining them five clan points. 15\_rockfield07.

**MILE RUN:** The Pre 5 nursery class do their bit for Sport Relief and take part in the mile run. 15\_rockfield08.

**SUCCESS:** One of the children successfully throws the hoop around the chair. 15\_rockfield09.



## Fun fundraising: sporty kids raise cash by dancing, running and Zumba

PUPILS at Rockfield primary school in Oban raised more than £400 for Sport Relief last Friday, as children took time out of the day to

take part in a series of activities. The day kicked off with an early morning assembly, which ended with the whole school taking part in

a dance. Then throughout the day, classes took turns in taking part in various activities such as running a mile, Zumba, beat-the-goalie

and more. Kerry MacLure, acting principal teacher, said that it was a fantastic day and the children had lots of fun.

## Wish and wisdom from art collaboration in West Highlands

AN EXHIBITION that brings together the work of two Lochaber artists has been launched at the West Highland Museum in Fort William.

[WISH] [MIANN] Stories from the Glen is a series of 10 images and accompanying text from Jen Deschenes and Ali Berardelli in response to time spent in Glen Nevis at an artist studio treehouse called Outlandia.

Exploring local folklore and examining historical objects synonymous with the area, Jen and Ali have created a pictorial epitaph representing people and their stories alongside charms and votives used in the past as methods of protection.

Jen and Ali are both graduates from Glasgow School of Art and for the two friends this is their first formal collaboration.

Jen was born and brought up in the Shetland Isles and now lives in Spean Bridge. She creates sculptural work based on her origins as a textile artist using screen printing, embroidery, and drawing.

Storytelling has been at the core of Jen's work and she has a love of exploring new materials and resolving her designs with a variety of mediums. Ali has always lived in Fort William and she is greatly influenced by the community around her and nature and the stories embedded within it.

She has been co-ordinating art projects for many years within Lochaber and alongside this has continued her practice in drawing, collage, photography and typography.

The exhibition runs until the end of May.



Ali Berardelli and Jen Deschenes at the opening of their exhibition in West Highland Museum. Photo: John Paul Peebles, Abrightside Photography.

## Gaelic Choir 'spectacular' in concert with Irish friends

A CHOIR from Ireland entertained music enthusiasts in Oban last Saturday night, when they performed alongside Oban Gaelic Choir at Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

The Oban choir opened the concert at 8pm in front of a captivated audience, before the Irish choir, Cór Chois Fharráige, took to the stage with a four-piece band by their side. The show, which was broken into two halves, also featured music from a trio of musicians from Oban Gaelic Choir.



Cór Chois Fharráige choir, who came all the way from Connemara, Ireland, were the night's special guests. 15\_t13choir04.



Three members of Oban Gaelic Choir perform as a trio for the audience. 15\_t13choir02.

Oban Gaelic Choir performing last Saturday at Argyllshire Gathering Halls. 15\_t13choir01.



A four-piece band from Connemara, Ireland, which performed alongside Cór Chois Fharráige. 15\_t13choir03.

**What's on at The Nevis Centre**

**Superbowl** open everyday from 12 noon until 10pm

**SPECTRUM**

**Spectrum soft play area**  
Suitable for children of all ages. Baby area 0-2 years, toddler area 2-5 years and older children can be let loose in all the other areas.

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For more details, and to register for a place, contact:  
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## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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with Ceol An Aire  
**Saturday 26th March**  
North Connel Hall. Doors open 8pm  
Under 14s FREE but must be accompanied by an adult  
Tickets available from Committee members or at the door £10 per ticket  
Also available from Oban Music, Argyll Square

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21				22	

**Across**

- Barely make (3,3)
- Period of greatest success (6)
- Where livestock are sold (4)
- Orchestral piece (8)
- Geometric figure whose parts are equal to the whole (7)
- Check for fit (3-2)
- Coldly (5)
- Arriving after due (7)
- Flood (8)
- A little lower (4)
- Even though (6)
- One who is skilled in travel on a glacier (6)

**Down**

- Creole vegetable (4)
- Placed in for sight (7,6)
- Where Turks may have put their feet up (7)
- Cast (5)
- Water bird (13)
- Equestrian upward leap (8)
- A short time ago (8)
- Plain (7)
- Stick (5)
- A year such as this (4)

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**

S	E	S	S	I	L	E	R	E	C	A	P
A	T	M	D	A	R	A					
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D	O	D	G	E		R	E	D	H	E	A



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25 March - 1 April

**ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE ROAD CHIP** | U | 112 MIN  
Sun 14:30

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

**BATMAN V SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE** | 12A | 170 MIN

Fri 12:00, 14:45, Sat 15:00 19:40, Sun 11:30 16:30, Mon 12:00 14:45 Tues 19:30, Wed 16:15, Fri 19:30

3D: Fri 17:45, Sat 11:30, Sun 17:00, Mon 18:00, Tues 16:15, Wed 19:30, Thur 16:15

Parent & Baby: Tues 11:30

Fearing the actions of Superman are left unchecked, Batman takes on Superman, while the world wrestles with what kind of a hero it really needs. With Batman and Superman fighting each other, a new threat, Doomsday, is created by Lex Luthor. It's up to Superman and Batman to set aside their differences along with Wonder Woman to stop Lex Luthor and Doomsday from destroying Metropolis.

**COMMUNITY SCREEN - HAIL, CAESAR!** | 12A | 126 MIN  
Sun 14:30

Community Screen - Concessions (age 60+) entry just £2.50! Includes complimentary tea.

HAIL, CAESAR! is a US comedy about a Hollywood fixer who must investigate the kidnapping of a movie star. Directed by Joel and Ethan Coen

**DEADPOOL** | 15 | 128 MIN  
Sat 20:30

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

**EDDIE THE EAGLE** | PG | 125 MIN

Mon 21:15, Tues 16:30, Wed 16:30, Thur 16:30

The film details the inspiring exploits of Michael Edwards, better known as "Eddie the Eagle," the most famous ski jumper in British history. The film's portrayal of Edwards' never-say-die approach to the sport, celebrates the human spirit and resilience in the face of extraordinary odds and challenges.

**HAIL, CAESAR!** | 12A | 126 MIN

Fri, 15:15, Sat 14:45, Mon 17:45, Tues 18:45, Wed 18:45, Thur 18:45

HAIL, CAESAR! is a US comedy about a Hollywood fixer who must investigate the kidnapping of a movie star. Directed by Joel and Ethan Coen.

**HOW TO BE SINGLE** | 15 | 130 MIN  
Sun 20:00

There's a right way to be single, a wrong way to be single, and then...there's Alice. And Robin. Lucy. Meg. Tom. David. New York City is full of lonely hearts seeking the right match, be it a love connection, a hook-up, or something in the middle. And somewhere between the teasing texts and one-night stands, what these unfortunates all have in common is the need to learn how to be single in a world filled with ever-evolving definitions of love. Sleeping around in the city that never sleeps was never so much fun.

**IONA** | 15 | 130 MIN

Fri 20:00, 21:00, Sat, 17:15, Sun 20:15, Mon 20:00, Tues 21:00, Wed, 21:00, Thur 21:00

Iona takes her teenage son to the holy island where she was born so they can hide from a violent crime. As her son seeks forgiveness for what he has done Iona comes to terms with her loss of faith.

**KIDS CLUB: MALEFICENT** | U | 93 MIN  
Sat 11:00

Children's Classic. A vengeful fairy is driven to curse an infant princess, only to discover that the child may be the one person who can restore peace to their troubled land.

Adults & Children £2 entry.

**KUNG FU PANDA 3** | PG | 115 MIN

Fri 12:30, 17:45, Sat 12:45, 18:15, Sun 12:30, Mon 12:30

When Po's long-lost panda father suddenly reappears, the reunited duo travels to a secret panda paradise to meet scores of hilarious new panda characters. But when the supernatural villain Kai begins to sweep across China defeating all the kung fu masters, Po must do the impossible - learn to train a village full of his fun-loving, clumsy brethren to become the ultimate band of Kung Fu Pandas.

**THE RAILWAY CHILDREN** | 125 MIN  
Mon 15:30

E. Nesbit's The Railway Children follows the story of Roberta (Bobbie), Phyllis and Peter, three sheltered siblings who suffer a huge upheaval when their father, who works for the Foreign Office, is taken away from their London home and falsely imprisoned.



The winners after the festival concert in Lochaber High School.



F13festival06\_Anthony Hook Rotary senior



Ivan Davies Rotary winner.



Mairi Bell came top in the violin Scots intermediate section.

## More than 350 entries make festival top of the pops for traditional music - next year even more entries wanted

THE 42nd Lochaber Music Festival closed with an excellent concert at Lochaber High School featuring a selection of performers and winners from the various classes held during the week-long event.

Just under 350 entries were submitted for the competition, with categories including chanter, piping, fiddle, clarsach, vocal and

verse speaking. Lilian Macdonald, chairperson of the festival committee, said: 'Some of the performances at the concert were of a very high standard and the audience were clearly delighted.

'There was an opportunity to listen again to some of the wonderful music from the entrants to the premier award and Rotary young

musician of the year competitions. 'Although entries were slightly down this year, the standard of many of the performances was very good and the young people, together with the adult entrants, were well presented and committed.

'The festival will continue to run in Lochaber and we would like to

encourage entries from the more outlying areas.'

The 2017 festival begins on Friday March 17 and runs until Thursday March 23.

Photos: John Paul Peebles, Abrightside Photography; Anthony MacMillan Photography.



Finlay Cameron won a fantastic six awards including, premier Scots traditional award.



Award winning Clarsach soloists Syeda Chowdhury and Lorna Linfield.

## Third tourist summit outstanding success for Argyll

ARGYLL and the islands' tourism sector is ready to hit the ground running for the 2016 season after a 'highly successful' tourism summit.

Some of the biggest names in the region's tourism sector were in Helensburgh's Tower Digital Arts Centre last week for the event, organised annually by Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative (AITC).

It provided an opportunity for the main players in the area's tourism industry to gather together and pool their expertise to work out how best - both individually and collectively - to encourage more visitors to come to

the region, spend more time once they're there and take part in more activities.

This year's event, held during Scottish Tourism week, was a key element of the Scottish Tourism Alliance's 'Connecting 2020' road show and the Helensburgh venue reflected the importance of the town's contribution both past and present, celebrated in VisitScotland's Year of Architecture, Innovation and Design.

A key element of the summit was looking to the immediate future and the digital strategy being rolled out by AITC and partners.

As part of this, AITC

was delighted to launch the #ArgyllBeBack campaign which is set to engage visitors to share images and content about their Argyll and the islands experiences.

AITC chairman Gavin Dick said the feedback from those attending - both as delegates and as speakers - was extremely positive.

'This sort of event brings people together from all geographical corners and business sectors of Argyll and the isles' tourism industry, so it's a fantastic chance to tap into delegates' various areas of expertise and leave with a renewed common purpose - to develop and grow a corner-

stone of the local economy which we believe has almost limitless potential', he added.

'The information shared at today's summit has given all of us - whatever our particular area of interest within the tourism sector - a thorough, wide-ranging and up-to-date snapshot of where we are now and where we are aiming to be in the future.'

Attendees represented a broad cross section of the area's tourism-related businesses, from transport operators and hoteliers to retailers and activity providers.

They benefited from the expertise of a top class panel of speakers and presenters,

from Sky chair Nick Ferguson to Glasgow City Marketing Bureau's Tom Rice to Scotiaair commercial director Cathy Craig with Joost Van der Made, Abellio's Strategic Marketing and Innovation Director.

'The over-riding aim of each individual business is to ensure it offers exactly what today's visitor market is looking for, so it was fitting that the theme of this year's summit was 'collaboration and the day tripper economy', Gavin said.

'One of the strongest messages from the summit was that however strong each individual business is, the greatest rewards are likely to

come through Argyll and the isles' tourism sector working together as a group.

'Joint working and the pooling of ideas and expertise will ensure the region will continue to lead the way as a top tourism destination - not just in the UK but across the world.

'The AITC board would like to thank all those who took the trouble to come along and contribute to what was an extremely valuable event. The feedback we've had has been very positive, and we all look forward to progressing - both individually and together - some of the suggestions made over the next few weeks and months.'

58000

**Netherlorn Piping Society**  
Recital by  
**Silver medal winner**  
**Alasdair Henderson**  
on Wednesday 30th March 2016  
Argyllshire Gathering Halls at 7.30pm  
Entry: Adults £3; Children Free

**Eilean eisdeal**  
**THE FISHERMAN AND THE SEAL**  
Yugen Puppet Co  
3.00pm (doors 2.30)  
**Easter Monday 28 March**

**NETTING** Saturday 2 April 8.15pm (doors 7.30)  
**Easdale Island Community Hall**  
tickets & info: www.easdaleislandhall.org

**Oban Congregational Church**  
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Monday March 28th 10.30am - 12.30pm  
Tea, Coffee and Home Baking  
£3.00 Donation  
In aid of church funds

**A fundraising Soup Lunch**  
in aid of Oban Pipe Band will be held in Oban Pipe Band Hall Shore Street on Saturday 26th March 2016 From 12 noon - 2.00pm Admission: £3.00 Scottish Charities No SC004610

**A night with Dolly**  
**Dolly Parton Tribute Night**  
Relive all her hits with a tribute to THE original icon  
**Royal Hotel**  
Saturday 9th of April 8.30pm  
Tickets £12.00

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Easter property review



Dawsons Estate Agents has been providing property marketing and letting management services throughout Argyll & Lochaber since the firm was founded in 1974 and has a long established reputation for exceptional customer care and service.



The owner of Dawsons, Mandy Carmichael, is joined by Neil Fraser who both lead the way in being Oban's most experienced estate agents and with their excellent negotiation skills you can be sure the optimum price will be successfully achieved for your property.

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## First time buyers: make the most of Help to Buy and Lifetime ISAs

LAST year Chancellor George Osborne announced the Help to Buy ISA, to top-up the savings of first-time buyers who were regularly saving cash to buy a home. Help to Buy ISAs became available in late 2015. And now in the 2016 Budget Osborne has announced the Lifetime ISA, which can be used to help get on the property ladder.

Starting in April 2017, savers aged between 18 and 40 who open the new lifetime ISA and put in up to £4,000 a year will get a 25 per cent top-up from the government until they reach 50. That means a maximum of £128,000 in personal savings that will be topped up to £160,000 if one starts at 18 and continues for the 32 years the ISA is

available. After the first 12 months of saving, investors can use the Lifetime ISA balance to buy a house, provided it is a first-time purchase that costs no more than £450,000. And balances from the current Help-to-Buy ISA can be transferred across. After the age of 60, savers can withdraw funds 'for retirement' free of tax.

The interesting bit is that savers can use the money in their Lifetime ISA in two different ways to buy a home. Their savings and interest and the government bonus – all compounded together over the years – can be put towards a deposit on a first home. This can be worth up to £450,000, bought anywhere in the country (unlike the Help to Buy ISA, which has different limits inside and outside London).

For couples, both can receive the bonuses before buying together, as ISAs and top-ups are limited per person rather than per home. If they have a Help to Buy ISA they can transfer those savings into a Lifetime ISA in 2017, or else continue saving into both. However, they will only be able to use the bonus from one of these two kinds of special ISAs to buy a house.



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**Mactalla, Connell**  
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**Kintail, Taynuilt**  
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**Offer in the region of £345,000**



**Ulva House, Tobermory, Isle of Mull**  
EPC Rating F27

**Guide Price £750,000**

# Stamp Duty increases will hike 'buy-to-let' costs significantly

THE CHANCELLOR has announced an extra three per cent of Stamp Duty Land Tax on purchases of buy-to-let properties and second homes, from April 1, 2016. Caravans, mobile homes and houseboats will all be excluded; similarly the intention is to exclude commercial investments in residential property from the additional charge.

John Cullinane, tax policy director of the Chartered Institute of Taxation, said: 'It looks as if the additional three per cent will be added to each band, so buying a buy-to-let property or second home for £275,000 would add an extra £8,250 to the SDLT bill.

'Combined with the recent phased

restriction on tax relief for financing costs for buy-to-let property, the tax costs of buy-to-let are set to rise very significantly.

'The Government's promise to consult on the detail is welcome; but one of the difficulties is defining the target of the Government's policy - what is a buy-to-let property or indeed a second home? A definition that looks at intended use throws up difficulties and could operate harshly where use changes shortly after acquisition. The challenge will be arriving at a definition that meets the policy intent. The time available for consultation is unfortunately short given the start date of the new measure of April 2016.'



**ANDERSON BANKS**  
Solicitors : Notaries : Estate Agents

**Soroba Lodge, Oban, PA34 4SB**  
Substantial detached stone built two storey property situated in an elevated and peaceful location approximately 1 1/2 miles south of Oban town centre. Soroba Lodge, which was originally a Shooting Lodge is situated high in the Glenshellach hills enjoying commanding views over Oban and the surrounding countryside. Its position offering privacy and seclusion yet only a short distance from town, makes this sale a rare opportunity to acquire a unique family home. The accommodation comprises:- entrance vestibule, spacious hall, four large public rooms, five bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom, cloak room, external boiler room, large attached garage, extensive fenced garden grounds extending to 1.20 acres or thereby.

**GUIDE PRICE £425,000**

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**DAWSONS**

**South Ballachulish**  
Levenside is an appealing detached home situated close to the shores of Loch Leven and is sufficiently elevated to command lovely views towards Bishop's Bay and the Pap of Glencoe. Locally, the villages of Ballachulish and Glencoe provide excellent amenities, whilst the towns of Fort William and Oban offer a full range of commercial/retail facilities, including rail links to the south.

This is a thoughtfully designed and extremely well maintained house with versatile, generously proportioned accommodation arranged over three floors. Particular features are the conservatory with attractive stone flooring and patio doors to the garden, the modern fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, the spacious dining area and the excellent walk-in storage facilities. The property also benefits from double glazing and LPG gas central heating and the amenity is further enhanced by the established garden which extends to about one third of an acre. EPC Rating E43.

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DM MacKinnon has a wealth of experience in all aspects of residential conveyancing, which in Argyll encompasses acting for clients in the buying and selling of a broad range of properties from unserviced plots to castles, flats to farms.

We are accustomed to dealing with and advising on all aspects of rural conveyancing e.g. servitude rights for services and access, title conditions and planning requirements.

The firm acts for a number of commercial property clients providing legal advice relating to a number of residential development projects in Argyll.

Tel: 01631 563014 Appointments can be made 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday. (Office closed between 1pm and 2pm.)  
E: info@dmmk.co.uk

**Better safe than sorry**

Landlords are often cautious about what they can, and can't have in their rental property.

This week, in Oban Times Property, property agent Nicola MacPhail tells readers what they need to know about PAT Testing

Firstly, PAT testing is one of the many things to consider as a landlord in the UK.

Along with issues relating to houses of multiple occupation, electrical installations, fire alarms and emergency lighting, it is an essential aspect of being an organised and responsible landlord.

**What is PAT testing?**  
PAT stands for Portable Appliance Testing and it refers to the practice of testing electrical appliances that can be moved to make sure they are safe to use. It involves a visual inspection of the appliance itself as well as any cables, plugs and checking for grounding and insulation. Even though such appliances (microwaves, kettles, toasters, vacuum cleaners, lamps, fridges, dishwashers and washing machines, for example) can be moved, in most cases they are almost always tested in their original location.

**Types of testing**  
The Health and Safety Executive confirms that 90 per cent of faults can be detected by visual inspection alone. This means that simply checking the appliances regularly by looking for clear signs of wear and tear or damage to the cable and plug or that there are no screws loose and no signs of burning can catch most potential hazards.

However, as a landlord, it may be wise to hire someone with PAT training to check all appliances for any potential problems, including inside the plug, before the start of a new tenancy and at regular intervals during the tenancy.

**Best practice**  
Firstly, check all appliances before the start of a new tenancy, and then every two years for smaller appliances such as kettles, microwaves, toasters, lamps and fans, and every four years for larger pieces of electrical equipment such as fridges, ovens, dishwashers and washing machines.

**W** **CLA** **Zoopa** **LAS** **irpm**  
COUNCIL OF LETTING AGENTS MEMBER AGENT Smarter property search LANDLORD ACCREDITATION SCOTLAND Promoting best practice in Scotland's private rented sector setting standards

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**Properties for sale**

**Shrublands, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull**  
• Detached bungalow  
• 3 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom  
• Quite location close to centre of Tobermory  
• Large mature garden with shed  
• Excellent family home  
• EPC Rating - G (09)  
**UNDER OFFER OIRO £200,000**  
Shrublands is an attractive, well-proportioned 3 bedroom detached bungalow situated in a mature garden in Upper Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. The property comprises large lounge complete with Euroheat multifuel stove set within an attractive fireplace. The bright dining area within the bay window to the front of the property enjoys views over the garden towards Tobermory Bay.

**The Cairns, North Connel**  
• ALL APARTMENTS - UNDER OFFER  
• New development of 2 & 3 Bedroom Apartments  
• Loch views towards Connel Bridge  
• Communal garden & allocated parking  
**UNDER OFFER OIRO £225,000**  
The Cairns, North Connel - UNDER OFFER - An exciting new development of 2 & 3 bedroom apartments in the desirable location of North Connel a hamlet on the north side of Loch Etive in Argyll, Scotland. The development comprises 2 & 3 bedroom apartments, allocated parking and communal gardens. Within easy commuting distance of the lively coastal town of Oban.

**Brackenfield, Lochdon, Isle Of Mull**  
• Modern Detached House  
• 3 Bed / 3 Bath + WC  
• Mature garden  
• Excellent B&B potential  
• Located close to Craignure ferry terminal  
• EPC Rating - D(57)  
**UNDER OFFER OIRO £295,000**  
Brackenfield is a spacious 3 bedroom detached house in the popular village of Lochdon on the Isle of Mull. Built in 2000 by the current owners this modern 1 storey house comprises a porch, hall, downstairs WC, large kitchen/diner, dining room and generous lounge.

**13 St Conan's Road, Loch Awe**  
• Semi detached  
• 2 Bed / 1 Bath  
• Views of Loch Awe  
• Private garden and separate garage  
• Multi fuel stove  
• EPC Rating - D (53)  
**UNDER OFFER OIEO £100,000**  
13 St Conan's Road is a two bedroom, semi detached property enjoys views over Loch Awe and would make an attractive and practical home in a popular hamlet. The house has been well maintained and enhanced with a number of improvements, including Velux windows and the creation of a larger bedroom on the first floor.

**8 Java Houses, Craignure, Isle Of Mull**  
• Terraced House  
• 3 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom  
• Excellent location close to Craignure ferry termin  
• Large rear garden  
• Excellent family home  
• EPC Rating D (59)  
**UNDER OFFER OIEO £115,000**  
8 Java Houses - A well maintained, 3 bedroom terraced house located in Craignure on the Isle of Mull. This reasonably sized property benefits from a generous garden and would make an excellent family home. 8 Java Houses is only a short drive from the Craignure Ferry terminal, shop and Craignure Inn.

**Tigh Shee, Bunnassan, Isle Of Mull**  
• Detached Bungalow  
• 2 Bedrooms/1 Bathroom  
• Stunning Views  
• No Chain & Vacant Possession  
• 0.25 acre Garden & Detached Garage  
• EPC Rating - C (70)  
**UNDER OFFER OIEO £165,000**  
Tigh Shee is a spacious two bedroom detached bungalow only a short drive from the village of Bunnassan on the Isle of Mull. The property comprises a spacious hall, kitchen/diner, lounge, family bathroom and two double bedrooms.

**CKD Galbraith** **OnTheMarket.com** **f** **t**

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nicky.archibald@ckdgalbraith.co.uk

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Tel: 01631 562521  
E: property@macphee.co.uk

Fort William Office - Airds House, An Aird, Fort William PH33 6BL  
Tel: 01397 702200  
E: property@macphee.co.uk

**ATHOLL BANK, FASSIFERN ROAD, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6LJ**



Quietly situated in an elevated position and enjoying stunning views sweeping over Loch Linnhe and the surrounding countryside, Atholl Bank forms an imposing semi-detached villa with annex. The striking granite and sandstone frontage is complemented by an interior which displays much of its original features, with moulded corning, deep patterned skirtings, surrounds, panelled doors and a split-level staircase. The property has been thoughtfully extended to create a superb annex, providing essentially a further dwelling. Atholl Bank benefits from mainly double glazing and LPG fired central heating.

Centrally situated on Fassifern Road and enjoying a location close to the centre of Fort William, the property is well placed to take advantage of all the amenities and the many leisure and pleasure activities which the area has to offer. With Fort William now famous for being 'The Outdoor Capital of the UK', fishing, sailing, skiing, hill walking, biking etc are all to hand - not forgetting schools, shops etc.

- **\*\*NEW REDUCED PRICE\*\***
- IMPOSING SEMI-DETACHED VILLA
- STUNNING ELEVATED VIEWS
- DESIRABLE LOCATION
- PERIOD FEATURES
- LOUNGE
- DINING ROOM
- LIVING AREA
- KITCHEN
- UTILITY
- BATHROOM & CLOAKROOM
- STUDY
- 3 BEDROOMS
- APARTMENT:
- KITCHEN
- LOUNGE/DINER
- CONSERVATORY
- 3 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- LPG FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- PARTLY DOUBLE GLAZED
- GARDEN
- TIMBER SHEDS & LEAN-TO
- EPC RATING: F 28

**Price Guide: £320,000**  
For further information please call  
Fort William office: 01397 702200

**TOROSAY, ALTOUR ROAD, SPEAN BRIDGE, PH34 4EZ**



Torosay forms a desirable detached villa which is positioned on the edge of Spean Bridge village. Enjoying a beautiful landscaped garden, the property has been recently modernised and boasts a newly fitted kitchen, utility and solid oak doors throughout. In excellent order, the property offers a superb and spacious family home, whilst benefiting from oil fired central heating and double glazing.

Located in the attractive village of Spean Bridge, which is approximately 10 miles from the main town of Fort William. Torosay is situated a short walk from a range of amenities including shops, hotels, railway station, restaurants, primary school etc. The location, within the heart of spectacular Highland scenery, means that it is well placed to take advantage of all the leisure and pleasure activities which the area has to offer, including golfing, mountain biking and skiing.

- ATTRACTIVE DETACHED VILLA
- IN EXCELLENT ORDER
- DESIRABLE VILLAGE LOCATION
- LOUNGE
- MODERN KITCHEN
- UTILITY
- DINING ROOM
- 4 BEDROOMS (MASTER EN-SUITE)
- BATHROOM & CLOAKROOM
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARDEN
- GARAGE
- EPC RATING: E 50

**Price Guide £228,000**  
For further information please call  
Fort William office: 01397 702200

07872 986 164  
info@fiuran.co.uk  
www.fiuran.co.uk



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**7 Aros Close, Oban**

- Appealing 2 Bedroom cottage flat
- Porch, Lounge, Kitchen
- 2 double Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Modern features throughout
- Fully double glazed
- Electric storage heating
- Ample storage, including built-in wardrobes
- Shared garden surrounding property
- Free parking to front
- Convenient to town centre and amenities
- Regular bus service
- Some items of furniture included

**Offers Over £125,000**

**39 Cruachan Cott, Taynuilt**

- **\*\*£10,500 below Home Report valuation\*\***
- 2 Bedroom mid-terraced house
- Hall, Kitchen/Diner, Lounge
- 2 double Bedrooms, Shower Room
- Good storage including substantial Loft
- Electric storage heating, stair-lift
- Double glazing throughout
- Garden with shed & countryside views
- Free residents parking
- Improvement potential

**Guide Price £119,500**

**The Whins, Oban**

- Appealing 4 Bedroom detached villa
- Central location close to Oban town centre
- Porch, Hall, Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room
- Lounge, Sitting Room, Family Room, Shower Rm
- 4 double Bedrooms, 1 En Suite, Bathroom
- Gas central heating, double glazing throughout
- High ceilings with original ornate coving
- Elevated position with sunny outlook
- Modern features throughout, including Kitchen
- All flooring & blinds included in sale
- Sizeable garden surrounding property
- Detached garage at bottom of garden
- Large mono-blocked private parking area

**Guide Price £290,000**

**Gean Trees, Benderloch**

- Well presented 4/5 Bedroom detached villa
- Popular village location, 7 miles from Oban
- Vestibule, Dining Area, Kitchen, Utility Room
- Lounge, 4/5 Bedrooms, En Suite, Shower Room
- Conservatory, Double glazing throughout
- Multi-fuel stove in Lounge, electric storage heating
- Ample storage including partially floored Loft
- Range of appliances included in sale
- Large corner plot with several outbuildings & pond
- Detached double garage & private parking
- Local services & amenities nearby
- Detached double garage & integral single garage
- Private parking, local services & amenities nearby

**Guide Price £250,000**

**The Old Bothy, Connel**

- 14m x 6.8m (approx.) Barn in South Ledaig
- 3 Bedroom Static Caravan on site
- Service connections nearby
- Good sized garden with countryside views
- Access/parking for 2 vehicles plus work vehicle(s)
- Development potential (subject to the relevant consents)
- Viewing strictly by appointment

**Guide Price £65,000**

**Cruailinn B&B, Taynuilt**

- Impressive detached 7 Bedroom house
- Excellent business opportunity
- Established B&B trade with fully-appointed en-suite letting bedrooms on upper floor
- Idyllic views of Ben Cruachan/surrounding countryside
- Biomass Boiler, partial underfloor heating
- Double glazing throughout, glazed doors to the garden
- Modern fitted Kitchen with attractive country-style units
- Range of appliances included in sale
- 7 double Bedrooms (5 with En Suites)
- Large family Bathroom plus separate Shower Room
- Attractive timber-clad extension with decking
- Large garden grounds with lawn and patio area
- Double integral garage, 2 timber stores
- Private parking for several vehicles

**Guide Price £395,000**

**1 Central Buildings, Oban**

- Spacious first floor flat, walk-in condition
- Hallway, Kitchen/Lounge/Diner
- Bathroom, 3 double Bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing throughout
- Range of appliances included
- All blinds & flooring included
- On-street permit parking
- Convenient to town centre and amenities

**Guide Price £110,000**

**Beechgrove, Oban**

Beechgrove is a detached Victorian villa in a quiet area of town, close to leisure centre, tennis and bowling green. Featuring original corniced rooms with high ceilings, it makes a spacious family home with the option of being run as a 4 bedroom seasonal B&B. With separate owners accommodation of 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, family room and conservatory. Would suit a lifestyle change in the busy tourist town of Oban.

- Detached granite and sandstone house
- 5 bedrooms/3 ensuite
- Partial sea views
- Large mature garden
- Close to town and leisure areas
- Large carpark

**OIRO £370,000**

✓ Lowest fees in the area - from just £595 or 0.95%  
 ✓ Excellent local knowledge of market and area  
 ✓ Friendly, professional and efficient service

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**MacPhee & Partners**  
**Solicitors & Estate Agents**



**19 PERTH PLACE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6UL**

**PRICE GUIDE £275,000**

- IMPRESSIVE DETACHED PROPERTY COMPRISING SPACIOUS BUNGALOW & MODERN HOLIDAY APARTMENT
- ELEVATED POSITION
- SUPERB VIEWS ACROSS LOCH LINNHE
- IN EXCELLENT ORDER
- LOUNGE WITH MULTI-FUEL STOVE
- SPACIOUS KITCHEN/DINER
- 4 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- CLOAKROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GAS FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- GARDEN & PARKING AREA
- EPC RATING: E 39
- HOLIDAY APARTMENT
- OPEN-PLAN LOUNGE/KITCHEN/DINER
- DOUBLE BEDROOM
- BATHROOM



**5 GANAVAN SANDS, OBAN, PA34 5TB**

**GUIDE PRICE: £650,000**

- SUPERIOR ARCHITECT-DESIGNED, DETACHED FAMILY HOME
- IN IMMACULATE ORDER THROUGHOUT
- HIGHLY SOUGHT AFTER SEASIDE LOCATION
- 4 BEDROOMS (MASTER EN-SUITE)
- LARGE RECEPTION HALLWAY
- LOUNGE, DESIGNER KITCHEN & DINING ROOM
- SUN ROOM & STUDY
- UTILITY ROOM
- BATHROOM & SHOWER ROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING & UNDERFLOOR HEATING THROUGHOUT
- SPACIOUS GARDEN WITH DIRECT ACCESS TO BEACH
- DETACHED GARAGE & BLOCK-PAVED DRIVEWAY WITH PRIVATE PARKING
- EPC RATING: D 63



**THE OBAN SANDWICH COMPANY, 8-9 MILL LANE, OBAN, PA34 4HA**  
**ESTABLISHED 18 YEARS**  
**GUIDE PRICE: £85,000**

- FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE THRIVING SANDWICH & CATERING BUSINESS
- DETACHED, FULLY AIR CONDITIONED, SINGLE STOREY BUILDING
- INTERNAL PREPARATION AREA, UTILITY/STORAGE AREA, STAFF KITCHEN, STAFF OFFICE & WC, EXTENDING TO 79.93M(860FT<sup>2</sup>)
- CONTRACTS & GOODWILL ATTACHED TO BUSINESS
- EASILY ACCESSIBLE PREMISES CLOSE TO TOWN CENTRE
- EXTERNAL AREA PROVIDING PRIVATE PARKING
- EPC RATING: G 136



**RYCROFT, CUAN ROAD, BALVICAR, ISLE OF SEIL, PA34 4TE**

**GUIDE PRICE £220,000**

- UNIQUE, SEMI-DETACHED BARN CONVERSION
- ABUNDANT IN CHARACTER
- UPGRADED & EXTENDED
- DESIRABLE LOCATION, ON A BUS ROUTE TO OBAN
- FEATURE LOUNGE/ DINING AREA
- COUNTRY COTTAGE-STYLE KITCHEN
- STUDY
- THREE GOOD-SIZED BEDROOMS
- SHOWER ROOM
- MULTI-FUEL STOVE (HOT WATER & RADIATORS)
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- ELECTRIC HEATING
- FOURTEEN SOLAR ROOF PANELS PROVIDING A REGULAR TAX FREE INCOME & CHEAPER ELECTRIC BILLS
- LAYERED ROCK GARDEN & LAWN AREA
- SECLUDED PATIO WITH WATER FEATURE
- GARDEN SHED
- AMPLE PRIVATE PARKING TO REAR
- EPC RATING: E 52



**4 LORN COTTAGES, BALLACHULISH, PH49 4JL**

**PRICE GUIDE £105,000**

- ATTRACTIVE GROUND FLOOR COTTAGE FLAT
- SUPERB MOUNTAIN VIEWS
- DESIRABLE VILLAGE LOCATION
- IN EXCELLENT ORDER
- LOUNGE/DINER
- KITCHEN
- 2 DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARDEN
- SHARED PARKING
- EPC RATING: D 56



**6 CALEDONIAN APARTMENTS, CORPACH, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 7JN**

**FIXED PRICE £150,000**

- \*\*\* NEWLY REDUCED PRICE - £25,000 BELOW HOME REPORT VALUE \*\*\*
- MODERN TOP FLOOR APARTMENT
- IN VERY GOOD CONDITION
- MOUNTAIN & LOCH VIEWS
- DESIRABLE VILLAGE LOCATION
- LOUNGE/DINER
- KITCHEN
- 3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS (MASTER EN-SUITE)
- SHOWER ROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- ELECTRIC HEATING
- PRIVATE PARKING
- SECURITY ALARM SYSTEM
- EPC RATING: C 79



**5 CAMERON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6AJ**

**£9,500 PER ANNUM**

- COMMERCIAL PREMISES
- EXCELLENT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY IN HIGH STREET LOCATION
- PREMISES SPREAD OVER TWO LEVELS
- AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE RENTAL
- UNFURNISHED
- SUITABLE FOR A VARIETY OF USES
- EPC RATING: F 98



**RAVENSDALE, CORPACH, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 7JJ**

**OFFERS OVER: £295,000**

- SUBSTANTIAL VICTORIAN PROPERTY
- STUNNING LOCH VIEWS
- PERIOD FEATURES
- ENTRANCE PORCH
- DINING HALLWAY
- LIVING ROOM
- KITCHEN/DINING
- UTILITY
- 4 BEDROOMS - MASTER BEDROOM WITH EN-SUITE, BATHROOM
- OUTBUILDING
- GARDEN
- EPC RATING: D 60

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**NEVIS HOUSE, NEVIS BRIDGE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6PF**

**PRICE GUIDE £235,000**

- DESIRABLE DETACHED MODERN VILLA
- IN EXCELLENT ORDER
- DESIRABLE LOCATION
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/DINER
- UTILITY
- 4 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- SHOWER ROOM
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GARDEN
- EPC RATING: D 64



**PENLARACH, LAGNAKEIL, OBAN, ARGYLL, PA34 4SE**

**PRICE GUIDE: £365,000 (COTTAGE - £285,000 & PLOT - £80,000)**

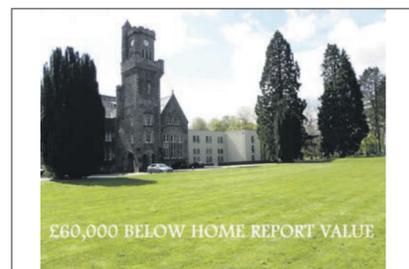
- CHARMING DETACHED COTTAGE WITH ADJACENT BUILDING PLOT (DET'D PLANNING PERMISSION)
- SUPERB PANORAMIC VIEWS DOWN LERAGS GLEN
- RECENTLY MODERNISED AND UPGRADED, (INCLUDING ADDITION OF A BRICK OUTER "SKIN")
- LOUNGE & SUN ROOM
- CONSERVATORY
- KITCHEN
- 3 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- SHOWER ROOM
- DOUBLE GARAGE, MUSIC STUDIO/OFFICE, GARDEN SHED & LOG STORE
- SPACIOUS GARDEN
- PRIVATE PARKING
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- EPC: E 51



**ARD-A-BHAIGH, ROCKFIELD ROAD, OBAN, PA34 5DQ**

**GUIDE PRICE £205,000**

- CHARMING SEMI-DETACHED VICTORIAN TOWNHOUSE WITH SELF-CONTAINED STUDIO APARTMENT
- MUST-SEE PROPERTY
- UPGRADED & MODERNISED
- TOWN CENTRE LOCATION WITH SUPERB VIEWS
- HOME REPORT VALUATION: £275,000
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN
- DINING ROOM/5TH BEDROOM
- 4 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- SHOWER ROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- EXTERNAL DRYING AREA
- ON-STREET PARKING
- EPC RATING: E 51



**13 THE RAVEN WING, ST BENEDICT'S ABBEY, FORT AUGUSTUS, PH32 4BJ**

**PRICE GUIDE: £110,000**

- \*\*\*\*PRICE REDUCTION\*\*\*\*
- LUXURY TOP FLOOR APARTMENT
- IN EXCELLENT ORDER
- IDEAL HOLIDAY RETREAT & HOLIDAY RENTAL
- UNIQUE LOCHSIDE LOCATION
- OPEN-PLAN LIVING AREA
- DOUBLE BEDROOM
- BATHROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- LPG CENTRAL HEATING
- FULL USE OF THE HIGHLAND CLUB FACILITIES & GROUNDS
- EPC RATING: C 78



**ANASMARA, MINGARRY, ACHARACLE, ARDNAMURCHAN PENINSULA, PH36 4JX**

**PRICE GUIDE £290,000**

- SUPERIOR SEMI-DETACHED PROPERTY
- A MODERN, LUXURIOUS & SUSTAINABLE HOME
- OPEN-PLAN LOUNGE, KITCHEN & DINING AREA
- 3 BEDROOMS (MASTER EN-SUITE)
- 4TH BEDROOM/STUDY
- UTILITY
- BATHROOM & SHOWER ROOM
- OIL FIRED HEATING - UNDER FLOOR HEATING TO GROUND LEVEL & RADIATORS TO FIRST FLOOR
- SOLAR PANELS FOR HOT WATER
- TRIPLE & DOUBLE GLAZING
- LARGE GARDEN
- GARAGE
- EPC RATING: C 77



**MOORFIELD HOUSE, SHIELBRIDGE, ACHARACLE, PH36 4JZ**

**PRICE GUIDE £295,000**

- IMMACULATE DETACHED VILLA
- ARCHITECT DESIGNED
- BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN/DINER
- 3 BEDROOMS (2 EN-SUITE)
- CLOAKROOM
- UTILITY AREA
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- UNDER FLOOR ELECTRIC WET SYSTEM HEATING
- GARDEN
- GARAGE
- GREENHOUSE, POLYTUNNEL & SHEDS
- EPC RATING: D 67



**1 BEASDALE COTTAGES, ARISAIG, PH39 4NR**

**PRICE GUIDE £125,000**

- END TERRACED COTTAGE
- IN VERY GOOD CONDITION
- DESIRABLE LOCATION
- LOUNGE/DINER
- KITCHEN
- 2 DOUBLE BEDROOM
- BATHROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- PARTIAL ELECTRIC HEATING
- SPACIOUS GARDEN GROUNDS
- GARDEN SHED
- PRIVATE PARKING
- EPC RATING: F 35



**TANERA, UNION ROAD, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6RB**

**PRICE GUIDE £189,000**

- \*\*\*\* £21,000 BELOW HOME REPORT VALUE \*\*\*
- ATTRACTIVE DETACHED TOWN HOUSE
- IN GOOD ORDER
- LOUNGE
- DINING ROOM
- KITCHEN
- UTILITY
- 4 BEDROOMS
- BATHROOM
- SHOWER ROOM
- STUDY
- ATTIC ROOM
- OIL FIRED CENTRAL HEATING
- MOSTLY DOUBLE GLAZED
- GARDEN
- EPC RATING: G 20

# west coast recruitment

## Area Sales Manager



**Due to continued growth within Oban & Argyll, Brakes Scotland is recruiting an Area Sales Manager**

**The Role**  
To maintain and grow profitable Independent sales within a given geographic area with the UK's largest foodservice supplier

**Key Accountabilities & Responsibilities:**

- To achieve and increase Sales turnover and Gross profit
- To devise and deliver area business plan to maximise growth
- To devise and deliver a telesales partnership plan, to maximise business growth
- To gain and develop new accounts
- To proactively manage customer retention
- Accurate completion of area sales administration
- Maintenance of effective call cycle, via Call Smart
- To maintain competitor awareness
- To contribute to Regional Plan
- To maintain and develop knowledge of product offering
- Ensure best commercial fit to customer and business
- Maximise selling opportunities by analysis of customer need

**Rewards**

- **Excellent salary, attractive bonus scheme, company car, laptop and mobile phone**

**Applications to Donald Owens Regional Sales Manager**  
Email: [donald.owens@brake.co.uk](mailto:donald.owens@brake.co.uk)

## JOB VACANCY: Support Assistant

Argyll College is introducing a new full time course for students with learning difficulties and requires a Support Assistant to join the team based in Oban.

The ideal candidate will be experienced in supporting students with additional support needs and be available to start after the school Easter Holidays for one to two days per week over an eight week period. This will extend to three days per week from September.

The role will initially involve supporting students with varying needs including autism, during their transition phase from school to college.

The successful candidate will work alongside the school support assistants to become familiar with the students' needs before the beginning of the college term. From September they will be the sole support assistant for the students for the full academic year.

Payment will be at the support assistant rate of £9.80 per hour plus a payment of £1.83 per hour in lieu of annual leave, giving a total hourly rate of £11.63.

The successful applicant will be subject to an application to join Disclosure Scotland Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme.

An application pack can be downloaded from the vacancies section of our website at [www.argyllcollege.ac.uk](http://www.argyllcollege.ac.uk)

Please send/email completed applications to [lorna.mcdonald@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:lorna.mcdonald@uhi.ac.uk)

Closing date for applications is **Monday 4th April 2016**



## Nurses

Full and Part Time Positions Available

We are looking to recruit experienced Staff Nurses to join our experienced team at Lynn of Lorne Care Home.

Successful candidates will have good communication skills, be motivated to offer the highest standards of care, and be able to undertake all appropriate aspects of nursing care required. Responsibilities will include assessing, planning, implementing and evaluating care for specified residents to ensure continuity of care. There are excellent opportunities for career progression for successful candidates, in addition to ongoing training and competitive rates of pay.

Applicants will be qualified RGN / RMN and will have a genuine interest in working with the elderly. Communication skills are essential and applicants must be able to communicate effectively at all levels. Current NMC Registration is necessary and a PVG check also applies to this role.

£14.50 - £16.00 per hour

Lynn of Lorne CARE HOME

To apply, contact [lynnoflorne@mckenziecare.com](mailto:lynnoflorne@mckenziecare.com) or call Home Manager Louise Glasgow on 01631 720278. Benderloch, By Oban PA37 1QW [www.mckenziecare.com](http://www.mckenziecare.com)

**Clerical Assistant (Scanning) (Temporary)**  
£13,285 - £14,526 **Campbeltown Ref: CTC00238**

**Home Carer (Permanent Variable)**  
£17,305 - £18,887 pro rata **Lochgilhead Ref: CMA00474**

There are 4 posts available.  
Hours as and when required.

☎ 01546 604334

Closing date for both posts: 8 April 2016.  
To apply visit our website



[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs)



Act Argyll Ltd are a company owned by the environmental charity Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust. We are currently looking to recruit two new members of staff to join our small and dedicated team.

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (Lochgilhead)**  
Salary £25,000 (pro rata)  
14 hours per week

We are seeking to appoint an experienced Administrative Officer to join our team based in Lochgilhead. This position has the potential for an increase in hours over time.

**CHARGE HAND (Oban)**  
Salary £18,000  
35 hours per week

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic person to supervise and mentor our team of trainees that are based in Oban. The work will involve the supervision of our Oban team and assist them in carrying out a number of environmental improvement works in the Oban area.

Applicants for this post must hold a full clean driver's license

**For further information on any of these positions please contact: Douglas Grierson on 01546 602755; douglas@act-now.org.uk; Closing date: 11 April 2016**



**Project Manager**  
Full-Time: 35 hours per week.  
Salary Scale: £29,070 - £30,492 (award pending).

This is an exciting and challenging opportunity for an individual with the drive and ability to manage our projects for homeless service users in Oban and Campbeltown.

**Housing Officer**  
Part-Time: 8 hours per week, increasing to 25 hours per week for approximately 8 weeks throughout the year.  
Salary scale: £21,924 - £24,054, pro rata (award pending).

This is an opportunity for an experienced individual who is looking for part-time work or to add to existing work commitments to provide housing management and administrative assistance in our projects for homeless service users in Oban.

To apply, please visit <http://www.btha.org.uk/items/BTHA-Jobs> and submit an application form to [slark@btha.org.uk](mailto:slark@btha.org.uk), or by post to Shelley Clark, Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association, 3RD Floor, 100 Berkeley Street, Glasgow, G3 7H.

Closing date for applications: Tuesday 5th April 2016 at 5pm with a proposed interview date of Friday 15th or Saturday 16th April 2016. Registered Charity No SC010858

## Bus driver required

Duart Castle on the Isle of Mull are looking for a full or part time bus driver for the 2016 season beginning 1st April.

Must hold full Category D licence and CPC qualifications.

Please apply to [manager@duartcastle.com](mailto:manager@duartcastle.com) or phone Stuart on: 07468262943 for further info.

## Oban Times RECRUITMENT



**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 - evenings and weekends.

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.



We are proud of our status as the UK's largest sawmilling company, employing over 1100 people across 10 operating sites and generating annual revenues in excess of £300m. We are BSW.

## Apprenticeship - Electrical (Multi Skilled)

An exciting opportunity has arisen to work as an **Electrical (Multi Skilled) Apprentice** within BSW Timber at **Fort William**.

The company is looking for individuals with a strong passion to learn and gain a career within the timber industry. We will help you learn and develop on the job and through study - gaining a recognised industry qualification at the end of your training.

The key attributes to success for this position are:

- Good communication skills
- Technical aptitude and ability to use tools and equipment
- Attention to detail
- Confidence
- Good time keeping
- Team player
- Responsible attitude to health, safety and the environment
- Positive, enthusiastic and self-motivated approach

**No experience is necessary as full training is given.**

Applicants **MUST** hold a National level 5 or equivalent in English, Maths and another 'STEM' subject such as Science, Technology or Engineering.

If you are looking for a challenging career within a highly motivated team, then please download and complete the apprentice application form on our website: [www.bsw.co.uk/vacancies/](http://www.bsw.co.uk/vacancies/) and send it to Zaneta Korzeniecka, Group HR Administrator, BSW Timber Ltd, Carlisle Sawmill, Cargo, Carlisle, CA6 4BA.

Closing date for applications: Monday 25th April 2016.

**We are BSW.**  
Five generations of investment, ensuring the future is safe for the sixth.



## Opportunity on exceptional Lochaber coastal estate

Mixed highland estate seeks couple for housekeeping, property maintenance and other estate work in an area of exceptional beauty. Other experience and qualifications in areas such as building, machinery operation and maintenance, and chainsaw use an advantage. Hours flexible - around 1½ full-time-equivalent jobs.

Choice of attractive three- or four-bedroom houses with sea views and B&B opportunity.

Email [estatejobs.advert@gmail.com](mailto:estatejobs.advert@gmail.com) with CV and contact number.



**Enable Scotland**  
We are now looking to recruit

- Full and part time support workers £7.80 ph

For further information  
Please contact **Isabella on 07889 456173 between 10am - 2pm**

Application forms can be found on Enable Scotland's website or collected from our local office at Unit 3, Macleod Buildings, Lochavullin Road, Oban.

## Oban Times RECRUITMENT

**Experienced chainsaw operator** required for work in North Argyll, must have all the certificates. Good rates. Telephone 07747016900 evenings and weekends.



**Repairs Officer Lochgilhead**  
Salary £27,146 - £31,427 per annum  
35 hours per week

For more information, please contact Iain McLeod on 01546 605807  
Interviews will be held in Lochgilhead on Monday 11th April 2016

**Graduate Quantity Surveyor Lochgilhead**  
Salary £23,074 - £27,146 per annum  
35 hours per week

For more information, please contact Matthew MacAulay on 01546 605839  
Interviews will be held in Lochgilhead on Tuesday 19th April 2016

For further details and to apply visit our website at [www.acha.co.uk/recruitment](http://www.acha.co.uk/recruitment)  
If you are unable to access the website contact the Recruitment Team:  
Tel 01546 605917 or email [recruitment@acha.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@acha.co.uk)  
Closing Date for both posts: 12 noon on Friday 1st April 2016

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**51% of people turn to their local newspaper first when looking for a new job.**

Source: Recruitment Choice, The Newspaper Society 2005




SCOTTISH RURAL AWARDS 2016

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**Clan MacGillivray**

Formal notice is hereby given that a Family Convention of the Clan MacGillivray will be held in the Robertson Room, Culloeden Battlefield, Inverness, Scotland on Friday 15th April 2016 at 4pm for the purpose of nominating a Clan Commander. That nomination will then require to be approved by the Lord Lyon King of Arms of Scotland. Those wishing to be considered for the position or wishing to attend the Convention should contact Elizabeth N McGillivray, Secretary of the Clan MacGillivray International Association, Bowmans, Solicitors, 27 Bank Street, Dundee DD1 1RP or email her at enm@bowmansolicitors.co.uk for further information by Friday April 8th.

**Proposed Short Lease of a Part of a Croft**

Fiona Mary Morrice Hutchison is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to let part of the croft at Blarchasgaig on a short term lease to Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Limited of The Exchange Building 1330 Arlington Business Park, Theale, Berkshire RG7 4SA 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 29 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.

**Proposed Assignment of a Grazings Share(s)**

James Cameron is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the grazings share(s) pertaining to the croft at 17&18 Anahelit, Ardnarmurchan and Sunart to Stephen McDonach of Laurel Bank, Achintore Road, Fort William. 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 (e-mail 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.

**CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECFROFTING APPLICATION**

C Rozga (Snr) Knockrome, Jura 0.223 ha - Ruinous building & ground 4.86.63261

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

**First registration of a Croft**

Mr Anthony Brian Smith has registered the croft 198 Fulnafern, Ardnarmurchan and Sunart, on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The Croft registration number is C1996.

**First Registration of a Croft**

Mrs Fiona MacPherson Kennedy has registered the croft 1 Arinagour, 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 22 October, 2016. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C2195.

**Amended Registration of a Croft**

Mr Kenneth Stewart has amended the registered boundaries of the croft 133 Kilmory, Ardnarmurchan & Sunart on the Crofting Register held by Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 2 December 2016. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C1097.

**Appointment of Grazings Committee**

Corpach, Banavie, Camaghael and Lochyside Common Grazings A meeting of shareholders for the above common grazings will be held for the purpose of electing a new Grazings Committee on Monday, April 4, 2016 at 8.30pm in Corpach Hotel, Corpach. M. Dennison (Grazings Clerk) 21.3.16

**First Registration of a Croft**

Mr John Cameron MacIachlan has registered the croft 2 Unachan, Kilmonivaig 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 21 October, 2016. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C2157.

**First Registration of a Croft**

Moira Fisher has registered her croft 47 Ormsaigbeg, Ardnarmurchan and Sunart 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 24th November 2016. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C2365.

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**  
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www.highland.gov.uk



**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30 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
16/00607/MSC	Plot 1, Rear of The Former Filling Station, Onich	Erection of house
16/00612/MSC	Plot 2, Rear of The Former Filling Station, Onich	Erection of house
16/00614/MSC	Plot 3, Rear of The Former Filling Station, Onich	Erection of house
16/00912/FUL	Land 120M SW of Fair-Na-Scuir, Arisaig	Erection of house
16/01039/FUL	Cruipe Cottage, Camaghael, Fort William	Erection of holiday letting unit
16/01138/FUL	1 Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Lochyside, Fort William	Alterations and extension to form new chilled stock area
16/01178/FUL	Everest Restaurant, 141B High Street, Fort William	Change of use from restaurant to night club
16/01193/FUL	Land North West of 27 Anahelit, Strontian	Erect dwelling (Renewal of 09/00250/FULL0)

**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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Terms and Conditions Apply

Further details and an application form may be obtained online at

[www.charlesandbarbaratyretrust.org.uk](http://www.charlesandbarbaratyretrust.org.uk)

Completed applications must be received no later than **31 May 2016**, and applications received after the closing date will **NOT** be considered except in exceptional circumstances. Please note application forms will be accepted before examination results are received.

Clerk to the Governors, Charles and Barbara Tyre Trust,  
Loch Awe House, Barmore Road, Tarbert, PA29 6TW Tel: 01880 820 277  
Charles And Barbara Tyre Trust, SC031378

To advertise in the Oban Times Public Notice page please call 01631 568000

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)  
Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

**PLANNING**

These applications listed below may be inspected at Oban Lorn and Isles area office Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, between 09:00-12:30 and 13:30-17:00hrs Monday to Friday and 10:00-12:30 and 13:30-17:00hrs on Wednesday or at the Mid Argyll Kintyre and Isles area office 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday and 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

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Refval	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
16/00676/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse with attached garage, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of vehicular access	Land Adjacent to Na Ceann Bownmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA43 7JF	Bownmore Area Office Isle of Islay
16/00660/PP	Alterations to dwellinghouse	Trale Breaddalbane Street Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6PE	Tobermory Area Office
16/00478/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land North West of Calvine Connel Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Connel
16/00279/PP	Change of use of land and engineering operations to facilitate new substation	Bownmore Power Station Bownmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA43 7LL	Bownmore Area Office Isle of Islay

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. 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. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**(DISABLED STREET PARKING - OBAN, LORN AND THE ISLES)(VARIATION) (NO.2)ORDER 2016**

On Monday 21st March 2016, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order in accordance with the Disabled Persons' Parking Places (Scotland) Act 2009 and the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

The restrictions, which come into operation on 9th May 2016, makes it an offence for anyone to park in a marked disabled persons' bay as described within the Order, unless they are a holder of a valid blue badge and are using it in accordance with the national blue badge legislation.

This order affects the following streets in OBAN - Lismore Crescent, Longdale Crescent, Longdale Terrace, Miller Road and Jura Road.

A copy of the Order and plans relative thereto are available for inspection during normal working hours Monday to Friday at the following offices:

- (i) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban;
- (ii) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

Any person, who wishes to question the validity of the Order or any provision contained in it on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or on the grounds that any requirement of that Act or any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order may, within six weeks from 25th March 2016, apply to the Court of Session for this purpose.

**(ROUTE A816 LOCHGILPHEAD TO OBAN ROAD)(TEMPORARY SPEED RESTRICTION) ORDER 2016**

On Monday 21st March 2016, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, which will make it unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle at a speed exceeding 30mph on the length of road specified in the schedule below.

The restrictions imposed by this order are required due to an increase in vehicle activity whilst upgrading works are ongoing at Tullich Treatment Plant. The reduced speed limit will be in operation when indicated by signs, from 0001 hours on the 11th April until 2359 hours on 8th September 2016 or until the works are complete, whichever is the earliest.

**SCHEDULE - TEMPORARY 30 MPH SPEED RESTRICTION**

That length of the A816 Lochgilphead to Oban Road, extending from a point 30 metres or thereby south of the centreline of McCaig Road (at the termination of the existing 30mph speed limit) in a generally southerly direction to a point 173 metres or thereby north-west of the centreline of the Auction Mart Access Road (UC130), a total length of 880 metres or thereby.

Jim Smith, Head of Roads & Amenity Services, 1A Manse Brae, LOCHGILPHEAD PA31 8RD

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

**THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (PART OF CORE PATH C433(A) SOUTH OF OBAN HIGH SCHOOL, OBAN) STOPPING UP AND DIVERSION ORDER 2016**

Argyll and Bute Council hereby gives notice that it has made an Order under Section 208 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to be known as "The Argyll and Bute Council (Part of Core Path C433(a) South of Oban High School, Oban) Stopping Up and Diversion Order 2016 (hereinafter referred to as "the Order") authorising the stopping up of part of Core Path reference C433(a) South of and next to Oban High School, Oban, and its diversion along the closely adjacent alternative routes as shown by the Plans forming Schedule Part 1 annexed and subscribed as relative to the Order. The Order is about to be submitted to the Scottish Ministers for confirmation or to be confirmed as an unopposed Order. The footpath will be stopped up and diverted along the said alternative routes as all more particularly referred to in the Schedule Part 2 annexed and subscribed as relative to the Order. The stopping up and diversion of the footpath is necessary to enable the development comprising generally the construction of the new school permitted under Planning Permission reference 15/00832/PP granted under Part III of the said Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to be carried out in accordance with the said planning permission.

A copy of the Order and relevant Plans contained in the Schedule Part 1 showing the footpath to be stopped up and the alternative routes along which it will be diverted and other information contained in the Schedule Part 2 may be inspected at the offices of Argyll and Bute Council, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AW, by any person, free of charge, within normal office hours during a period of Twenty eight days following the appearance of this advertisement.

Within that period, any person, by written notice to the undernoted (quoting reference CGR/DK/02), may make representations or objections with respect to the Order. Any such representation or objection should state the name and address of the person making the representation or objection, the matter to which it relates and the grounds upon which it is made.

Charles Reppeke, Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RT  
22 March 2016

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**Scanning success as farms prepare for lambs**

By Ewen Campbell, SRUC Kirkton and Auchtertyre research farms manager

THE sun is shining at SRUC's Kirkton and Auchtertyre farms as I write, and for a wee while at least it makes us feel like spring is on the way.

Lambing is the next phase in the farming calendar and in preparation for this we have been ultrasound scanning our ewes to see how many lambs they are expecting. We do this so that those expecting twins can be fed and managed differently to those expecting singles. We also had eight ewes expecting triplets and we will ensure that they are given extra special attention.

A total of 600 ewes from the Kirkton flock and 420 from our high flock at Auchtertyre were scanned, and the results were not too bad considering the severe weather conditions we have seen since Christmas. The Kirkton flock scanned at 130 per cent, whilst the Auchtertyre flock scanned at 103 per cent. This means that we expect a maximum of 130 lambs from every 100 ewes in our Kirkton flock and 103 from every 100 ewes in our Auchtertyre flock. All being well, we should see around 1,200 lambs on the farms from the end of April beginning of June.

The scanning was conducted under the watchful eye of Seonaidh McKenzie, a roving reporter from BBC Alba, who was on site filming the proceedings. The footage he took was used for both a TV and radio news piece discussing the benefits to farmers and crofters - and their sheep, of course - of scanning their ewes before lambing.

One of our new research projects is

focusing on grazing management and assessing how best to make use of our inbye and hill grassland throughout the year. So, since scanning we have spent a lot of time deciding what ewes will graze where, both in the build up to lambing and afterwards. Those carrying twins and any thinner ewes carrying singles are being kept down on the better inbye fields and fed concentrates and hay. The fitter ewes carrying one lamb have already been put back to the hill, where feed blocks are being used to supplement the hill grasses they are feeding on.

With the weather being so much milder over the last week, it is very noticeable how the ewes have almost stopped eating hay and are spending all their time nibbling away at the small shoots of grass that are starting to appear in the fields.

On the cattle front, calving is going fairly well and we have nine calves at the moment. We have, however, had one stillborn calf which we have sent away for post mortem, and another cow which was scanned in calf does not look like she is going to calf. So it is not likely to be a vintage year for calf production on the farm; yet another knock-on effect from last year's late and brutal spring.

Changes at SRUC's Elmwood farm in Fife has meant a bit of a windfall on the machinery front for us at Kirkton and Auchtertyre. Surplus tillage equipment and silage-making kit have now arrived, meaning that we can now carry out almost all our arable operations without having to rely on contractors. The mild,

dry weather at the moment means that conditions are ideal for spreading manure and so we are taking full advantage and giving the young grass an extra boost to get it growing in time for lambing.

Finally, there has been a lot of coverage in the Scottish press and on the radio this month about upland issues and hill farming. A lot has been stimulated by the research and demonstration work that we are doing here on the farms. So it is great

to see all our hard work being picked up by the media and that others are taking notice. It's high time that the challenges facing hill farming were brought to the attention of the wider public and we are very happy to be playing a role in helping stimulate that discussion and debate.

Next month, we will be well into lambing, the busiest time for us. In the meantime we are hoping that the rest of the calves will be born safe and healthy.



Scanning day at Kirkton and Auchtertyre farms with contract scanner Donald McLaren.

**Morris Leslie** Monthly Commercial & Plant Auctions  
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**MACKECHNIE** - Suddenly at home on March 13, 2016, Iain Charles MacKechnie (Ketch), Tobermory, Isle of Mull. Much loved son of the late John and Flora. Sadly missed by family, friends and the truckers of Argyll.

**MACKINNON** - Suddenly at home, 11 Glencruitten Drive, Oban, Dugald John (Dugie) aged 59 years. Beloved son of the late Peter and Annie, brother of Angus and Peter, brother-in-law of Elaine and Mamie, much loved uncle of Stephen, Graeme, Catriona and Euan. A gentle man who will be sadly missed. Funeral date to be arranged.

**MACLEAN** - Suddenly at his home, 'Glenalma', Soroba Road, Oban on Saturday, March 19, 2016, Alistair (Monumental Sculptor) aged 84 years. Beloved husband of the late Mary. Much loved dad of Dugald and Arlene, and a devoted paps (papa) to Maria, Karma, Ali, Esme and Finn. A dear father-in-law to Susan and Martin, and brother of Elizabeth. A dear uncle and friend to many. Funeral will take place on Friday, March 25, 2016, at 10.30am at Oban Parish Church and thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery.

**McKINLAY** - On March 16, 2016, peacefully at Kintyre Care Centre, Campbeltown, Catherine (Cathy) Louisa McKinlay, née MacDougall, in her 81st year, beloved wife of the late Robert, much loved mother of Elizabeth and Alistair, dear mother-in-law of Hugh and Kate, treasured granny of Andrew, Iain, Kenneth, Jamie, Craig and Jack and a proud great granny of our sleeping angel, Ellie. Funeral service at Clachan Church on Friday, March 25 at 10.00am, thereafter to Cardross Crematorium at 2.15pm, to which all friends are respectfully invited. No flowers please, donations if desired to Diabetes and MS Kintyre.

**SIMMONDS** - At his home on March 18, 2016, in his 70th year, Brian Alexander Simmonds, beloved husband to Bridie, dear dad to Brian, much loved grandpa to Nyree & David, a dear brother and uncle. May he rest in peace. Funeral took place on Tuesday March 22, 2016 at St Columba's Cathedral, Oban.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**  
**BARRIE** - Matthias, Deborah, Nicholas and extended family would like to thank everyone for their sympathy, kindness and support on the sad loss of our Dad, Matthew, who died March 7, aged 79. Grateful thanks to Fr. Roddy McAuley for a warm and uplifting service, to all the staff at Mike McFall Funeral Directors for their superb handling of all arrangements, to Paramedics, Home Care Staff, Tweeddale Surgery and the Belford Hospital for all their care and attention, to McDonald Brothers for

the beautiful flowers and Onich Hotel for the catering. Finally, thanks to all who paid their last respects at the church and the graveside. RIP  
**GRANT** - Elizabeth, Julie and Steven would like to thank everyone for their many kind expressions of sympathy following the recent sad loss of Angus, a dear father and grandpa. Grateful thanks to Ward B staff, Lorn and Islands Hospital for their care, kindness and compassion, to D & A Munn for efficient handling of funeral arrangements, Rev Ian Miller for conducting service, Petals for floral tribute and staff at Coach House Inn for refreshments. Finally thank you to all who attended Cardross Crematorium, your support was very much appreciated. The retiring collection of £326.50 has been passed to Oban Hospice.

**MEMORIAMS**  
**ARMSTRONG** - In loving memory of my dearest mother who passed away on March 23, 1975. Also remembering dear friends Tootsie and Marie Campbell, Mrs Madge McIsaac, Rev John MacLeod, his dear wife Dolina and Donny Ferguson a very kind and caring Vet. Also John Allan MacNeil of Barra and dear friend Nancy Duffy. Always in my thoughts. - Mrs Mary Lamont.  
**DEMPSTER** - In loving memory of a dear mother, mother-in-law and nana Morag Scouler, who died March 24, 1986. Also her husband Kenny who died December 1, 1989. - Fondly remembered by Hugh, Annabel and grandchildren.  
**LAFFERTY** - In memory of Isobel, died March 23, 2006.

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day unseen, unheard always near,  
 - Much Love Kathleen.

**LAFFERTY** - In memory of Isobel, died March 23, 2006. It doesn't make a special day to bring you to mind, for days without a thought of you are very hard to find.  
 - Much love David.

**LAFFERTY** - In memory of Isobel, died March 23, 2006. Words are few, thoughts are deep, Memories of you, I will always keep.  
 - Much love John.

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of Ian who passed away March 24, 2012. Forever in our thoughts. - Gilbert and Ethel, Christine and Donald, John, Cath and family, Carol, Hugh and family.

**MACGREGOR** - In loving memory of Annie Mac, who died March 23, 2000, a dear friend and godmother. Sadly missed Always in my thoughts. - Archie.

**McKNIGHT-DEMPSTER** - In loving memory of our dad, William, who died March 23, 1991 and our sister, Margaret, who died April 13, 1991. Memories are like threads of gold, Never tarnish or grow old, Much loved and missed - From all the family.

**McNICOL** - In loving memory of dear parents and grandparents, Janet, died March 24, 1986 and Duncan, died November 29, 1987. Sadly missed. - Nellie, Tommy and family.

**PROSSER** - In loving memory of Mary our dear mum, gran and great-grandma who died on March 26, 1997. We treasure the memories we have of you. Forever missed and loved. - Betty and all the family xx

**WALKER** - In loving memory of my dear father Archie who died on March 29, 1996. Sadly missed. - Inserted by his loving son Archie.

**WALKER** - In memory of our father Archibald, who died March 29, 1996. Forever in our thoughts. - Inserted by Donald and Morag, Islay Airport Cottage.

**WALKER** - In loving memory of our father and grandfather Archie, who passed away March 29, 1996. Always in our thoughts. - Allan and family, Islay, Gartmore and Blanehead.

**WHITEHEAD** - In loving memory of our beloved mum, Patricia Whitehead, died March 23, 2013. Your smile has gone forever and your hand we cannot touch, but we have so many memories of a mum we love so much. Loved and missed always. - Christine, Alistair, Elizabeth, Michael, Fiona and family.

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Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, Bishop Brian McGee.

**Two senior appointments in the Diocese**

NEWLY inducted Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, Bishop Brian McGee, has made two senior appointments in the Diocese. Father Roddy Johnston, Parish Priest at Our Holy Redeemer Church in Stornoway since February 2011, has been appointed as the Vicar General (the second in command or Deputy Bishop), for Argyll and the Isles. Father Roddy Johnston is a regular contributor to BBC Radio Scotland's 'Thought for the day', on the Good Morning Scotland programme. He moved to Stornoway from Caol near Fort William in February 2011 and has previously served as priest in Oban and Taynuilt. Father Michael Hutson, has been appointed as Chancellor of Argyll and the Isles Diocese. Father Hutson served in Lochgilphead in 2003 before moving to Barra. He then moved to become Parish Priest at Rothesay on the Isle of Bute.

**Thought for the week**

'Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look around and see. Is any suffering like my suffering ... that the LORD brought on me in the day of his fierce anger?' (Lamentations 1:12)

FLEEING from war. In spite of our efforts many of them must think, 'Is it nothing to you that I suffer these things?' That expression was coined by the prophet Jeremiah around 585BC. His people had ignored warnings of impending invasion and he wept at their destruction. As Easter arrives, our thoughts turn to someone else who could say the same thing. Jesus burst into tears when he approached Jerusalem for the last time. His people had turned their back on God and he knew what would happen to them. Good Friday marks the day they crucified Jesus. Imagine his thoughts as people walked past - 'Does it mean nothing to you?' Maybe he thinks the same about us. 'Does it mean nothing to you that this is what humanity's wrong-doing deserves? Does it mean nothing that God will judge us all? Does it mean nothing that I love people so much I came to suffer in their place on this cross? Does it mean so little you can ignore the hope I offer?' When we hear about him we are passing by. One day we will meet him. What will he say? 'Did it mean nothing to you?' If you have never thought about Jesus before then think about him this Easter. He died to rescue us from God's judgement; he lives again to forgive whoever comes to him and give them eternal life. 'Is it nothing to you?'

Archie McPhail

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ROSEMARY MacQueen recently received the MBE from Prince Charles at an investiture ceremony at Buckingham Palace. The award was for Services to the Heritage. MacKay of Eilean nan Ron Sutherland. Rosemarie is a regular visitor to the Outer Hebrides and has a home on the island of Barra close to her uncle Canon Angus John MacQueen. Last year Kitty Ann made the trip north at the age of 97 to visit friends and relatives.

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# Narrow win for Oban Lorne

Allan Glens	10
Oban Lorne	13
BT West Division 1	

## Rugby

OBAN Lorne ground out one of their most important wins of the season with an extremely hard-fought 13-10 win away to Allan Glens.

The Green Machine were in confident mood going into the game after two impressive performances against promotion hopefuls Newton Stewart and a narrow win against Lenzie at Glencruitten last weekend.

Oban's pack showed a few changes with Lorne MacLachlan and Struan Smith still unavailable due to injury and Andy MacDougall being absent for the fixture.

Allan Glens have been doing well this season and were narrowly defeated 19-10 at North Connel at the end of February. A win for Oban Lorne would see the team retain fourth place in the league and open up a gap on the teams below them.

Oban were reunited with referee Duncan McClement, who took charge of the 2013 National Bowl Final at Murrayfield where Oban beat Grangemouth 19-14.

Oban couldn't capitalize on early pressure and territory but eventually won a penalty which was duly converted by scrum half Finlay Carmichael.

Allan Glens soon had the opportunity to level with a penalty 30 yards out and just to left of

the pitch but showed their intent by kicking for the corner. Oban rallied well and successfully defended their line - one of the many near misses that Glens would later regret.

Into the second half Oban impressed with some powerful runs from captain Cameron Smith that tested the home defensive line. Craig Wright also contributed with some impressive breaks probing the oppositions 22.

Oban managed to sneak ahead with another Carmichael penalty shortly before player/coach Corrie Louw bulldozed over from close range to bring the scoreline to 13-3 with 20 minutes remaining.

The home side dominated the last 20 minutes and scored a well-worked try almost straight from the kick-off to narrow the score to 13-10.

Luck proved to be on Oban Lorne's side as handling errors from the Allan Glens side cost them the winning try. On one occasion the ball was dropped over the tryline much to the relief of the Oban team.

It was, as the 13-10 score line suggests, a very close affair and a satisfying win away from home.

This Saturday Oban Lorne welcome lowly Cambuslang RFC to Glencruitten, kick-off 3pm. Oban defeated Cambuslang 34-16 in the first game of the season.



Oban Lorne's Bulgarian openside flanker Vladi Mihov secures the ball during last Saturday's 13-10 win over Allan Glens. Photograph: Stephen Lawson

**BT West Division 4 Argyll and Bute v Cowal**  
ARGYLL and Bute RFC return to league duty this Saturday with a home game against struggling Cowal RFC in West Division 4.

Argyll have been performing well in their second season of league rugby by winning more than half their league games, sitting in fourth place in the league. The team could move into third place with a win this Saturday.

After a good start to the season Cowal RFC have been struggling for playing numbers and have slipped down the table having only played one fixture since November. Hopefully the men from Dunoon can make the

journey north for the fixture this weekend. Kick off will be at 3pm with the game being played at North Connel.

**U18 West Regional Plate Glasgow Hawks 45 Oban 12**  
OBAN U18s lost out on the final of the U18 West Plate on Saturday with a 45-12 loss to an impressive Glasgow Hawks side.

Despite the loss Oban played some great rugby against a very strong and experienced team. Coach Murray Hamilton was pleased with the team's efforts, who have played every fixture away from home so far this season. Oban Lorne RFC in partner-

ship with Oban High School will be working hard to get the team a home fixture before the end of the season.

**U16 West Regional Cup OBAN 7-22 GHA**  
OBAN U16s were knocked out of the U16 West Cup on Sunday with a 22-7 defeat to GHA at North Connel.

The home side fielded a strong team on Sunday hoping to build on the impressive win against Whitecraigs in the previous round. Oban were under severe pressure for large parts of the match with GHA dominating possession close to the tryline.

## Young Scot's winning debut in Ireland

### Quad racing



Lorne Sinclair

YOUTH quad racing champion Lorne Sinclair, Connel, is gaining a reputation not just for winning, but for travelling exceptionally long distances to take part. He recently turned up in Ireland and took outright victory in the adult support class at his first attempt.

A week after celebrating his 16th birthday Sinclair, who last year won the ACU 250cc British Championship, was delighted with the result at round one of the Irish Quad Racing Championship at the Birdhill track, Co Limerick.

Reflecting on the day, Sinclair said: 'The weekend was a massive learning curve, riding with the adults and in the 450s, but I really enjoyed it. I loved riding the new machine; it's such a comfortable and powerful bike.'

Lorne began his racing career competing in Quad Racing Scotland's national championship for the first time in 2012 when he won the 250cc standard class.

He is one of several youth riders who have cut their teeth on Scottish soil and have gone on to compete successfully at higher levels in the UK, Eire and further abroad.

adults are 7-8.30pm. For details or more info contact Iain Rodger on 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk

**Shukokai Karate**  
ARGYLL Martial Arts (incorporating Argyll Shukokai) classes continue as normal with coaches Kenny Gray, Flo McBurnie, Andrew Lawson and Andrew Buchanan passing on their knowledge to the students.

For club details contact Kenny Gray on kenni.gray@btinternet.com

**Kickboxing**  
THE SENSHI Do Kickboxing classes continue as normal with the club coaches putting everyone through their paces on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Sharon Dickison's ladies only class is at 2pm on Sundays and anyone thinking of trying this out should contact Sharon on 07508 726334. For Kickboxing club general enquiries contact Wullie Rodger on 07588 513618 or shihanwill@gmail.com

# Twelve new records set at Argyll athletics final

ONE hundred and fourteen young athletes took part in the Argyll final of sports hall athletics held at Atlantis Leisure in Oban last Sunday.

It was the last in a series of five competitions held in Argyll over the winter months promoted by Mid Argyll Athletic Club and kindly sponsored by MacQueen Brothers Charitable Trust.

During almost five hours of intense competition, 12 Argyll age records were broken and one equalled.

Young athletes from the Oban area mainly dominating in the boys' events and Mid Argyll and Kintyre girls won all of the girls' age groups.

The top performance of the day was arguably by Jilly Lefebvre from Kilmichael Glassary, who was the under-13 champion winning three events. She broke the Argyll age record in the two-lap race recording 24.1 seconds and at the end of the afternoon succeeded in improving the four-lap record by almost three seconds with an incredible time of 51.8s. This was a very competitive

age group with Poppy MacKillop from Oban in second place, mainly thanks to a win in the high jump clearing 1.43 metres.

Abbie Cato from Bunessan was third winning the long and triple jumps and shot putt.

The Macdonald twins Gemma and Jorja, from Lochgilhead, tied for first place in the under 7s. Gemma, the taller of the twins, won four events and broke the Argyll age record in the two-lap race in 28.7s.

She later broke the age record in the standing long jump, leaping out to 1.64metres. Jorja won the speed bounce with 70 jumps in 30s, setting a new age record. Jodie Allan from Ardrishaig was third overall and equalled the age record in winning the javelin with a 10-metre throw.

Erin Green, from Dalintober primary in Campbeltown, was the under 9s champion and also a record breaker in the two-lap race finishing in 27.2s.

Erin went on to win the four-lap in 61.2s and also the high jump in which she attempted and failed at 1.11m which would have been

a new age record. Erin's proud mum, Laura, nee Paterson, was the Argyll under 9s champion in 1994, while she was at Carradale primary, the first year the indoor events were held in Argyll.

In the same section runner-up Kirstie Renton from Castlehill primary won the speed bounce and javelin. The long jump winner was Ella Pollock from Craignish and Karis Brown from Salen won the triple jump.

Eilidh Cameron from Inveraray was an impressive winner in a competitive under 11 age category dominated by Mid Argyll girls.

Eilidh won the fur-lap race and speed bounce while runner-up Amy Anderson, from Kilmichael Glassary, won the high and long jumps. Third placed Kirsten Blair, from Crinan, won the two-lap race and other event winners were Elana Cameron from Bunessan in the triple jump and Anna Gemmill from Carradale in the javelin.

Jodie Robertson from Lochgilhead was the under 15 champion winning the two running events in addition to the triple jump

and shot putt. The under 7 boys contest was won by Jack Green, young brother of Erin, girls under 9 champion. Jack won four events and improved the Argyll age record in both the two-lap race recording 29.7s and four-lap race with a time of 65.2s. Connor MacAulay from Rockfield primary was second overall winning the javelin and long jump.

George Pagan, Rockfield, was the under 9 champion ahead of Jacques Coates from Park and Ewan MacPhail from Salen on Mull. George set two new age records clearing 1.14 metres in the high jump and later recorded 5.37 metres in winning the standing triple jump. Jacques Coates won the two-lap and four-lap races in fine style and also won the long jump and speed bounce. In the same age group Connor Morris

from Dalintober won the javelin. Mid Argyll boys dominated the

under 11s contest with Logan Allan from Ardrishaig the winner ahead of Murray MacDonald from Lochgilhead. Logan won the two-lap race and high jump and placed highly in another three events. Murray impressed in winning both the long and triple jumps while third placed Finlay MacLean from Rockfield won the javelin.

Alfie Smith from Tayvallich was a clear winner in the under 13s with success in five events including a 9.54metres shot putt.

Gregor Campbell from Glenbarr was runner-up and Owen MacCorquodale from Dunbeg was third overall winning the two-lap in 24.1s.

Sam Coates from Kilmore and Joseph Harper from Kilmartin had a very close contest in the under 15s with Sam just half a point ahead after seven events. Sam's older brother Ben was

## Athletics

a record breaker in the under 17s improving his own two-lap record by 0.1 second in 20.7s and later in the day ran the four-lap in 44.6s to knock 0.7s off the record set in 2009 by Craig Tomison from Mull. Ben was also close to breaking the record in the standing long jump with 2.77m only 3cm below the mark also set back in 2009 by Chris Thomson from Kintyre. Lochgilhead Primary School won the girls' schools trophy and Oban High School won the boys' trophy.

The organisers thanked all the young athletes and parents for supporting the competition and thanked Graham MacQueen, MBE, representing the sponsors MacQueen Brothers Charitable Trust. As well as spectating, Graham gave out the awards at the end of an exhausting afternoon.



Medallists in each of the six different age groups show off the trophies they received last Sunday at the sports hall athletics final held at Atlantis Leisure in Oban. 15\_113athletics02.

**BJJ**  
OBAN BJJ has a busy few weeks ahead as it hosts head coach Marcos Nardini for the monthly seminar on March 26; then has an inter-club grading in Kilmarnock on April 3; followed by a competition in Edinburgh on April 10.

The club also had students travel to Manchester and London to compete over the last fortnight. Andrew Richie collected a bronze in the London open and Sean and Chris Rowan came back from Manchester with four medals, a silver and bronze each.

This is a great achievement for the club, to collect podium finishes in these larger events.

The training in the club has been concentrating on last month's seminar content. The club overall has now amassed 50 medals over the past four years in competition, a reflection on the hard work and commitment put in by the students and coach.

For those that are unaware of BJJ, here is a brief summary: BJJ is a martial art that goes with the



concept that a smaller, weaker person can successfully defend against a bigger, stronger assailant by using proper technique and leverage and, most notably, taking the fight to the ground and then applying joint-locks and chokeholds to defeat the other person. BJJ training can be used for sport grappling tournaments (gi and no-gi) and mixed martial arts (MMA) competition as well as self-defence.

For more info contact Iain 'Coogie' Potter on 07824 881271 or coogiepots@gmail.com

**Kyokushinkai Karate**  
THE KYOKUSHINKAI classes continue as normal with two Oban youngsters preparing for the Kyokushin Cup, which is a full contact karate tournament

held in Glasgow on April 9.

Darryl McLaughlin and Megan Williamson are putting in some tough training sessions in preparation for the event and while Megan has experience in this type of tournament, this will be Darryl's first time. Preparation is going well with both the 14-year-olds working to their limits in training.

Elsewhere the other students are starting to work towards their next grades with Paul MacKay preparing to test for shodan (first dan black belt) at the end of the year. Beginners are welcome to join the class until the end of March after which time the club has a three-month spell of working towards the next test in June.

Children's classes in Oban are on Thursdays from 6-7pm and

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You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.  
**Competition rules**  
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.  
The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

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.  
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Camanachd Cup  
Macaulay Cup  
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Celtic Society Cup

**SHI**  
Best for all shinty new

# MacTavish and Celtic Society Cups

## Marine Harvest Premiership

**Kingussie 2  
Kinlochshiel 1**  
Kingussie stay top of shinty's top division after they came from a goal down to beat Kinlochshiel 2-1 at the Dell.

Kingussie keeper Craig Dawson was still missing so Rory MacGregor continued in goal. Kinlochshiel had Jordan Fraser free of suspension and he came on as a second half substitute.

This was a classic game of two halves. The first half belonged to Kinlochshiel who played well from middle to front. They created a lot of chances but Rory MacGregor pulled off a number of good saves to keep his side in the game.

All Kinlochshiel had to show for their first half dominance was a Keith MacRae goal on 39 minutes and this would eventually cost them.

The second 45 minutes was a superb half of shinty and Kingussie turned things around as they started to win the 50-50 balls all over the park.

Kingussie levelled on 56 minutes when referee Evan MacRae penalised Shiel keeper Scott Kennedy for a kick after he stretched to stop a goal-bound shot. Thomas Borthwick made no mistake from the spot.

Thomas Borthwick gave Shiel's Conor Cormack a torrid time and he got his second goal to make it 2-1 on 73 minutes.

The Kingussie hit-man could have scored twice more had it not been for a couple of unbelievable 'football-like' flying saves from Scott Kennedy.

Kingussie have now taken five points from three home games.

Their next league match in a fortnight's time is against fellow high-fliers Oban Camanachd at Mossfield.

## Kyles Athletic 2 Newtonmore 2

A disputed last-minute penalty gave Kyles Athletic a 2-2 draw with Newtonmore at Tighnabruach.

Kyles were boosted by Sandy MacVicar's return to the side after injury but Cammy Keith was missing for this one.

Newtonmore travelled without Conor Jones who has a knee injury whilst Jamie Robinson was on holiday.

Thomas Whyte gave Kyles the lead on 22 minutes.

Newtonmore, who had Glen MacKintosh playing with strapping on his right knee, levelled 10 minutes later when Evan Menzies scored from a tight angle.

When Chris Sellar put More in front a minute before the break, the visitors were in the driving seat.

As the second half went on, Kyles piled on the pressure in search of an equaliser but when Roddy MacDonald had to be taken back into defence to mark Evan Menzies, it looked as if the visitors would close the match out.

The game's major flashpoint came in the final minute. More keeper Owen Fraser reacted to a late hit-out from Dunkie Kerr and was sent off by referee David Mitchell. Newtonmore were then incensed when the referee pointed to the penalty spot as they claimed the ball was out of play for a corner at the time of the incident. Paul MacArthur went in goal but Kyles wing centre Robbie MacLeod kept his cool to convert the penalty. There was hardly time to restart the game

before the final whistle sounded.

## Skye Camanachd 2 Oban Camanachd 2

Skye Camanachd and Oban Camanachd shared the points in a 2-2 draw at Pairc nan Laoch, Portree.

Skye Camanachd first team manager John MacLeod was working so Davie Pringle took charge of the side and fielded the same starting 12 that picked up a point against Lochaber a week earlier.

Oban Camanachd boss Iain Hay added Aidan McIntyre to the squad which beat Glenurquhart on the opening day of the shinty season and he started at wing centre. Daniel MacVicar dropped onto the bench where he was joined by Iain MacMillan and Scott MacMillan.

Oban Camanachd shocked the large home support when they went ahead after just 35 seconds as a Willie Neilson shot was deflected low past Skye keeper Jamie Gannon to make it 1-0.

Skye came close to levelling after the break when young forward John Gillies was played through on goal but Oban Camanachd keeper Gavin Stobbart came off his line to block the initial effort before the visiting defence pushed the ball out for a corner. Allan MacKinnon played the resultant corner in from the Skye right. Iain Nicolson took the ball down and shot goalwards but Stobbart saved again, only for Jordan Murchison to slam the rebound into the net to make it 1-1 with 29 minutes played.

Although Oban Camanachd had the better chances, it was Skye who went in front on 73 minutes when Jordan Murchison went on a mazy run before scoring a good individual goal.

This was tough on Oban and boss Iain Hay threw full centre Daniel Cameron into attack in a bid to get back on level terms.

Cameron went close to equalising when he rolled an effort just past Jamie Gannon's left post from the edge of the 'D'. However he went one better a minute from time when he collected the ball following a Scott MacMillan corner on the left. Cameron turned and sent an unstoppable, shoulder-high shot into the net to make it 2-2.

Davie Pringle looked after the Skye side as boss John MacLeod was working. Pringle said: 'We lost a horrible goal after just 35 seconds but the boys fought back and Jordan Murchison took his two goals really well. It was disappointing to lose an equaliser so late in the game but it was a very good finish from Daniel Cameron. That's two points from two games for us. There's work for us to do but we are on the right track.'

Oban Camanachd boss Iain Hay said: 'I don't know whether to be happy with the point or not because although we scored a late equaliser, we had most of the play. We pushed Daniel Cameron into the forward line and he's a big player for us. He did well to get the goal. We have a free Saturday this coming weekend as we don't have a Gregor Cameron Consultancy Glasgow Celtic Society Cup tie. We then play league leaders Kingussie in the Marine Harvest Premiership at Mossfield in a fortnight's time and that should be a great game.'

## Loval 5 Lochaber 1

Loval bounced back from last weekend's 5-2 defeat against Kinlochshiel to overcome Lochaber 5-1 at Balgate.

Loval's Lorne MacKay served the second game of his two-match ban for passing through the disciplinary points threshold. Boss John MacRitchie gave a vote of confidence to the side which lost to Shiel.

Lochaber manager Ally Ferguson was still without Zandz Ferguson whilst Martin Johnstone was also missing so the Spean Bridge side started with the same 12 which drew with Skye a week earlier. Sandy Corrigan was given a place on the substitutes' bench.

Loval went ahead after just two minutes. Loval full forward Greg Matheson and Lochaber full back Lachie Campbell came out deep to meet a clearance out of the Loval defence. Matheson was first to ball and he fed it to Lewis Tawse on the left touchline. Tawse took the ball down the line and crossed back to Matheson who didn't connect cleanly with the ball but it sailed across Lochaber goalie Callum MacDonald into the bottom corner of the net to make it 1-0.

Greg Matheson got his and Loval's second goal on 16 minutes. A long ball from wing centre Martin Mainland was collected wide right by Matheson who pulled it onto his back-hand before firing a fierce drive from a tight angle 25 yards out which flew into the net above the keeper's head.

A couple of minutes later, a miss-hit clearance from Brian MacDonald spun into the path of Kevin Bartlett and he ran

unchallenged before showing great composure to slip the ball past the out-rushing goalkeeper to make it 3-0.

Lochaber withdrew Kevin Ferguson after 19 minutes and Shaun Nicholson went to buckshee forward with Sandy Corrigan coming on at wing centre.

Although they trailed 3-0, the Lochaber forwards still got plenty of the ball but they seemed to lack composure against a shaky Loval defence.

A fierce drive from Ben Delaney on 35 minutes shaved the top of the Loval crossbar.

Lochaber defender Brennan MacDonald was next to be withdrawn with Brian MacDonald moving to buckshee back. Duncan MacKinnon was moved to wing back and Findlay MacDonald was brought into the forward line.

It remained 3-0 at the interval.

A 54th-minute Greg Matheson shot from the left hand side of the 'D' was saved by Callum MacDonald but referee Deek Cameron penalised him for a kick. Greg Matheson stepped up to complete his hat-trick from the penalty spot.

Straight from the throw-up, the ball was played forward to Lewis Tawse at the edge of the box and his first-time shot produced an excellent reflex save with his foot from Callum MacDonald.

Brennan MacDonald returned to replace Sandy Corrigan at wing centre on 55 minutes.

Loval made a double-substitution on the hour with Euan Ferguson and Graeme MacMillan joining the forward line, replacing Greg Matheson and Drew Howie. Daniel Grieve dropped back to full back.

Lochaber pulled a goal back on 64 minutes when Loval keeper Stuart MacDonald was penalised for dragging the ball with his foot inside the 'D'. Stuart Callison scored from the resultant penalty award.

Stuart MacDonald came off his line to help his defence on 73 minutes. The ball spun to Stuart Callison at the edge of the 'D' but he was unable to steer the ball into the unguarded goal.

A powerful shy from Martin Mainland found its way through to Kevin Bartlett with his back to goal. Bartlett spun and crashed a 76 minute shot into the net from near the penalty spot before the Lochaber keeper could react.

Kevin Bartlett could have completed his hat-trick but for a couple of excellent saves from Callum MacDonald.

Bailey MacKay replaced Martin Mainland for Loval on 77 minutes with Lewis Tawse coming back to wing centre.

Lochaber made a late change as John Sweeney came on for Pat Toal with just seven minutes remaining.

The 5-1 scoreline was harsh on Lochaber as the game was closer than the outcome suggests with the lethal striking combination of Greg Matheson and Kevin Bartlett making the difference between the sides.

## Glenurquhart 3 Fort William 1

Glenurquhart had something to smile about after they picked up their first points of the season when they came from behind to beat Fort William 3-1 at Blairbeg.

Both sides went into the game on the back of two defeats. Glenurquhart's Euan Lloyd remained on the injury list whilst Andrew Corrigan was at a wedding. However, James Hurwood returned from injury and he went on to have a great game.

Fort William forward Daniel Stewart picked up an injury in the defeat to Kingussie last weekend but he was passed fit and played. Midfield power-house Niall MacPhee was free to play but he will miss next weekend's RBS MacTavish Cup tie with Kingussie at the Dell. Cal Brown was also included as he was free of suspension.

Neither side was able to break the deadlock in the first half.

However, it only took Fort William three second half minutes to go in front with Bryan Simpson notching his third goal of the season.

Fraser Heath made it 1-1 on 60 minutes when Neale Reid blocked a clearance and the ball



Oban Celtic's Michael MacKinnon and Lochside Rovers' Brian MacCallum in action during a game at Mossfield which the green side won 3-1.

landed in Heath's path and his backhand shot rose high into the net.

Neale Reid put the 'Glen' in front for the first time with just 15 minutes remaining. Reid got the ball in the full forward position and he turned quickly before bulleting the ball past Fort William keeper Paul MacKay into the back of the net.

Cairn Urquhart rounded off the 3-1 win with a goal six minutes from time. Urquhart ran in on a rebound and he lofted the ball over keeper MacKay into the roof of the net.

## Marine Harvest National Division

### Beauy 2 Glasgow Mid Argyll 3

The league's top two teams met at Braeview Park and GMA now sit two points clear at the top of the table as they survived a fight-back to win 3-2.

Beauy pair Barrie MacDonald and Liam Mutch were still sidelined through injury.

GMA were at full strength bar the suspended John McNulty.

GMA produced a whirlwind start to score three early goals against Bute a week earlier and they repeated the feat in this one.

Gary Luke burst through the Beauy defence to score following a GMA shy on five minutes.

The visitors doubled their lead on nine minutes when Beauy keeper Josh Grant saved from Craig Anderson and Euan Forsyth prodded the ball home from inside the 'D' to make it 2-0.

It got worse for Beauy on 11 minutes when defender Andrew Morrison took down Craig Anderson inside the 'D'. Referee Innes Wood pointed to the penalty spot and Scotland U21 forward Anderson dusted himself down before despatching the ball into the back of the net to make it 3-0.

Beauy boss Stephen MacLean shuffled his pack with Ryan MacKay dropping back from midfield to wing back. David MacLean was moved from the forward line to midfield and Sandy Elrick came off the bench to join the attack with Calum Morrison withdrawn.

Beauy came more into the game and they got their reward on 55 minutes when Jack MacDonald, who had scored five times a week earlier, got on the end of a Conor Ross corner and his well-struck shot beat GMA keeper Jonathon Oates to make it 3-1.

Beauy introduced veteran Jamie MacLennan and youngster Sandy Elrick in attack and they continued to trouble the GMA defence.

Jack MacDonald got his and Beauy's second on 70 minutes. MacDonald was set-up by substitute Sandy Elrick and he drove the ball low into the net to make it 3-2.

A brilliant Jonathon Oates save a couple of minutes from time denied both Beauy a point and Jack MacDonald a hat-trick but it was GMA who made a happy trip south with both points.

### Kilmallie 1 Bute 1

Title hopefuls Kilmallie got their league campaign under way at the third time of asking when they drew 1-1 with Bute in their 1pm throw up at Canal Parks.

Kilmallie's Craig MacIsaac started a two-match ban as his booking against Kingussie in the Marine Harvest Premiership play-off at the end of last season took him through the disciplinary points threshold.

Bute's Arran Dunn sat this one out as he served a one-game ban following his red card against Glasgow Mid Argyll last weekend.

Bute must have been a bit apprehensive going into the game following last weekend's 4-0 home defeat to Glasgow Mid Argyll.

The young Bute side shocked their hosts when they took the lead after 16 minutes through Ben Clarke. A through ball came off a home defender's legs and bounced on Clarke's left side and he initially looked to make a pass before sending a back-hand drive into the far left corner of the net for what was a fine finish. The goal seemed to give the young Bute side confidence and they battled hard to frustrate Kilmallie.

The home side restored parity



Glenurquhart's James Hurwood and Fort William's Bryan Simpson in a race for the ball during the Marine Harvest Premiership match at Blairbeg Park, Drumnadrochit, last Saturday which the home side won 3-1.

## Still tight at the top in Oban Pool League

AS THE Gordon & Strathern Limited sponsored Oban Pool League approaches the home stretch, unsurprisingly the title hopefuls all secured the required two points to maintain their ambitions.

Summit settlers Lochnell, marginal favourites for the championship, travelled into town to square off against basement troops the charismatic Outreach.

A 22 points deficit separated the outfits prior to the start and the gulf in class was apparent throughout, despite the plucky nature of the Outreach who refused to submit.

Inevitably by the conclusion that gap had been extended to 24 points and Lochnell's third impressive whitewash of the campaign was secured.

after their mauling at the hands of the Lochavullin's Cellar in the cup semi-final the previous week, which begs the question how will they handle the title run in?

The biggest threat to the North Connel side's silverware dream is the Lancaster 'A', who had their feet up back home early on Thursday evening after receiving a concession.

Unfortunately, not for the first time this season, the Lochavullin were unable to fulfill their compliment of players and their captain reluctantly had to forfeit the points.

Mirroring their rivals third whitewash of the season keeps The Lancaster 'A' in hot pursuit, although losing valuable table time and match practise may prove to be a hindrance with game difference looking like it may play a crucial part in proceedings as the weeks progress.

Defending champions the Lochavullin's Cellar, who have been almost disrespectfully dismissed of late, entertained Markie Dans 'A' as their quest for an unprecedented fourth straight crown also remained on track.

In contrast to their foes, game difference is not an ally of the holders and any retention of the championship will have to be via points.

In what can only be described as a laboured performance, the home side crawled over the winning line much to the disgust of Markie Dans 'A' who knew they'd blown a glorious opportunity.

Mathematically the Lochavullin's Cellar are still very much in the hunt, but one more lethargic Thursday night may be all that is required for their grip to be finally loosened on the coveted crown.

## Pool

The Lancaster 'B's' meteoric rise continues as they edged Markie Dans 'B' in the remaining fixture of the week.

Six wins and a draw now from their last seven league matches represents their best sequence of results arguably in their history, with a top five finish now looking firmly cemented.

Results: 17/3/16 - Lochavullin's Cellar 7-5 Markie Dans A; Lancaster A 12-0 Lochavullin; Outreach 0-12 Lochnell; Gluepot P-P Wide Mouthed Frog; Markie Dans B 5-7 Lancaster B.

Fixtures: 24/3/16 - Lochavullin's Cellar v Outreach; Lancaster A v Gluepot; Markie Dans A v Markie Dans B; Lochnell v Lancaster B; Wide Mouthed Frog v Lochavullin.

# SHINTY

news, results and fixtures

Sutherland Cup  
Balliemore Cup  
Strathdearn Cup  
Bullough Cup



## Shinty takes centre stage this weekend



In a tussle for the ball during last Saturday's South Division One Oban derby and white's won 2-0. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

team the previous week. Fort William got off to a great start as goals from Seamus Gall on three minutes and former Ballachulish player Scott Henderson on 20 minutes had them 2-0 ahead at the break.

James MacPherson pulled a goal back for the Glen five minutes from time but Fort William took the points.

### Strathglass 5 Lovat 1

Strathglass go top of Marine Harvest North Division 1 following their 5-1 win over the Lovat second team at Cannich.

Lovat's James Grieve served the second match of a two-game ban. Scott Douglas was the difference between the sides, scoring four times whilst Barry Phimister netted for the second successive Saturday.

The Lovat goal came when home keeper Adam Todd turned the ball into his own net.

Strathglass lead second place Kingussie colts at the top of the table on goal difference.

### Marine Harvest South Division 1

#### Lochside Rovers 0 Oban Celtic 2

League leaders Oban Celtic are a point ahead of Aberdour and Col Glen following their derby 2-0 win over Lochside Rovers at Mossfield.

Lochside Rovers' Euan MacCorquodale was free of a one-match suspension.

Oban Celtic secured the signing of Daniel MacMillan from Oban Camanachd through the week and new boss Kenny Wotherpoon was delighted with a first derby win for his side.

Lochside made the better start but never really troubled the Oban Celtic goalkeeper.

Oban Celtic went ahead following some good offensive play down the left involving George MacMillan and Fraser MacMillan which led to a melee inside the box.

Referee John Matheson adjudged the Lochside keeper to have kicked the ball and pointed to the penalty spot. Daniel Madej struck the ball home with 40 minutes played.

Oban Celtic took the initiative in the second half and they doubled their advantage when half back Ally McKerracher won the ball and played in Fraser MacMillan who struck a 25 yard shot which deceived the keeper, sneaking through his legs, to make it 2-0 with 63 minutes on the clock.

Lochside Rovers had Jordan Kerr sent off for a swing of the caman which caught Daniel MacMillan's back.

Rovers manager Gareth Evans said: 'It was a game of two halves. We had the upper hand in the first half but Celtic were much better in the second half.'

'I've got no complaints about the result.'

Celtic manager Kenny Wotherpoon was delighted with his first derby victory. He said: 'The boys executed what we have been working on pre-season. I wasn't surprised to see such a good level of shinty from both teams.'

### Aberdour 6 Inveraray 1

Aberdour are in second spot in the league after their 6-1 win over Inveraray's second team at Silver Sands.

Inveraray's Niall Shaw had served a one-match ban. Roddy MacColl gave Aberdour the lead after 15 minutes but Kenny Kirkhope drew the visitors level when he lofted the ball into the net just a minute later.

Aberdour went back in front with 60 first half seconds remaining when Finlay Williamson, who normally plays in defence, scored to make it 2-1.

Angus Thorburn made it 3-1 on 58 minutes when he cut in from the right to bundle the ball over the line.

Aberdour continued to press but the Inveraray keeper and defence stayed strong until the closing stages of the game.

Roddy MacColl is already proving to be a great signing from Kyles Athletic and he completed

his hat-trick with goals on 85 and 86 minutes. A second Finlay Williamson goal a couple of minutes from time rounded off the 6-1 win.

### Glenorchy 1 Col Glen 4

Third place Col Glen returned from Mart Park with both points thanks to a 4-1 win over Glenorchy.

Robbie Brown scored for the home side but Steven MacKellar, two from Connor Kennedy and a Hamish Harrison goal made it 4-1 to the visitors.

### Taynuilt 4 Kyles Athletic 4

Taynuilt and Kyles Athletic's second team shared the points following an exciting 4-4 draw at Taynuilt Sports Field.

All but one of the goals came in the first half.

Connor Giudici put Kyles ahead on 15 minutes but they only stayed in front for a minute as Mark Bergant scored to make it 1-1.

Goals from Colin Carswell on 23 minutes and Liam Higgins on 25 minutes saw Taynuilt 3-1 ahead.

It was Kyles who would lead at the break though following a Rupert Williamson strike on 40 minutes, a James MacLaren own goal and a second from Connor Giudici on the stroke of half time making it 3-4.

Taynuilt earned a point when Ryan Gillies scored just three minutes into the second half.

The only surprise was that there was no further scoring during the next 42 minutes.

### Marine Harvest North Division 2

#### Caberfeidh 6 Strathspey Camanachd 2

League leaders Caberfeidh seconds beat Strathspey Camanachd 6-2 at Castle Leod.

Caberfeidh's Declan Wilson was free of suspension.

Strathspey took the lead on just seven minutes when Jonathon Grey scored.

However, James Rolfe on 12 minutes, Gavin McLauchlan on 16 minutes and James Rolfe again just four minutes later had Cabers 3-1 in front at the break.

Strathspey's Donald Colville made it interesting when he made it 3-2 on the hour mark.

Three goals in the final seven minutes put Cabers out of sight. Colin MacLennan made it 4-2 on 83 minutes and a hat-trick goal from James Rolfe on 87 minutes followed by a Stuart Kryzanowski strike a minute from time completed the 6-2 victory.

The Caberfeidh seconds now lead Aberdeen University by a point but the Students have a game in hand. Top side Caberfeidh play bottom of the table Inverness reserves this coming weekend.

### Lochaber 0 Aberdeen University 7

The Lochaber second team had won both their opening league fixtures but they lost 7-0 to Aberdeen University at Spear Bridge.

Lochaber's James MacIntyre remained sidelined through suspension.

Former Boleskine player Ewan Fraser grabbed a hat-trick for the students, former Fort William player Alex Duncan scored twice whilst Stuart Cameron and Scott Murray, with his first strike since signing from Lewis, were also on target.

### Lochcarron 2 Lewis Camanachd 1

Lochcarron are third after their 2-1 win over Lewis Camanachd in their 1pm throw up at Battery Park.

Lewis were still minus Daniel Gallagher who has a broken hand but keeper Graham Cay returned.

Lochcarron attacked the visitor's goal from the start and Liam Arnott gave them a 12-minute lead. When referee Daniel MacRae pointed to the penalty spot after 21 minutes, Nick Dalgety stepped up to force the ball past Graham Cay.

Lewis came back into the game but it took a couple of good saves from Graham Cay to stop Lochcarron going further in front before the break.

Lewis were better in the second half and they pulled a goal back a couple of minutes from time when a Paddy Sinclair free-hit found Scott Macleod. His shot was saved but Paul Duke followed up to score from the rebound to make it 2-1.

The visitors had a late penalty appeal but referee Daniel MacRae waved away their claims.

### Glengarry 0 Boleskine 0

Glengarry and Boleskine shared the points in a goal-less draw at Craigar.

Glengarry's Scott Bremner started a two-match ban following his red card against the Caberfeidh seconds last weekend.

Both sides tried their best but neither was able to break the deadlock. This was a first point of the season for both sides.

### Inverness 2 Kilmallie 3

The Kilmallie second team survived a comeback to beat

their Inverness counterparts 3-2 at the Bught Park. Kilmallie raced into an early 3-0 lead. Ross MacKenzie scored twice on 15 and 19 minutes, either side of a 16-minute Ewan Mowat goal.

Veteran James Munro gave Inverness hope with a strike a minute before the break. Stuart MacRae made it 3-2 on 54 minutes but Kilmallie held out for the win.

### Marine Harvest South Division 2

#### Glasgow Mid Argyll 2 Tayforth 9

The Glasgow Mid Argyll second team and Tayforth both won their opening two league fixtures ahead of their meeting at Yoker.

And it's Tayforth who stay top of the table after a convincing 9-2 win. A Lewis Miller brace counted for the home side but Ross MacGregor, doubles from Orsten Gardner and Brendan Duggan, a Finlay Stark hat-trick and a Ewan Menzies strike maintained Tayforth's good run.

### Dunoon Camanachd 0 Kilmory 13

High scoring Kilmory proved too strong for Dunoon Camanachd, winning 13-0 in a match which was transferred from the Dunoon Stadium to Strachurmore.

After beating the Aberdour seconds 9-0 last week, also away from home, Kilmory went into the match against shinty's newest team with confidence.

Jonathan Black missed out for Dunoon as he served a one-match ban.

The visitors led 9-0 at the break. Alex Cunningham was the day's top shinty scorer with six goals. Hal Jones was one behind, finding the back of the net five times, following up his hat-trick last weekend in style. Gordon Watt and William Megladdery got the others.

The win lifts Kilmory into second place in the table.

### Oban Lorn 4 Aberdour 0

Oban Lorn beat the Aberdour second team 4-0 at Ganavan.

Oban Lorn's Calum MacLean started a two-game suspension.

In the end, the Oban side scored four well-taken goals, all following good lead-up play.

Daniel MacKinnon on seven minutes and a David Martin hat-trick with goals on 20, 31 and 65 minutes gave them the 4-0 win.

Oban Lorn scorer Daniel MacKinnon was sent off by referee Euan Pearson. He was initially booked for speaking out of turn and later picked up a second caution for retaliation.

### Fixtures

#### Saturday March 26 RBS MacTavish Cup

Inverness v Beaulie  
Archie Ritchie  
Kingussie v Fort William  
Evan MacRae  
Lochaber v Kinlochshiel  
Calum Girvan  
Newtonmore v Lovat  
Graham Cameron  
Skye v Kilmallie  
Innes Wood

#### Gregor Cameron Consultancy Celtic Cup

Ballachulish v Col Glen  
John Wood  
Glenorchy v Oban Celtic  
Deek Cameron  
Taynuilt v Aberdour  
Lachie Wood

#### Marine Harvest Premiership Glenurquhart v Kyles Athletic John Angus Gillies

#### Marine Harvest National Division

Bute v Caberfeidh  
Robert Baxter

#### Marine Harvest North Division 1

Beaulie v Glenurquhart  
Willie MacDonald  
Fort William v Skye  
Andy MacLean  
Lovat v Kingussie  
Scott McNeil  
Strathglass v Newtonmore  
Neil Ferguson

#### Marine Harvest South Division 1

Kyles Athletic v Lochside Rovers  
Iain Kennedy

#### Marine Harvest North Division 2

Aberdeen Uni v Glengarry  
Martin MacLean  
Boleskine v Lewis  
Ronnie Campbell  
Caberfeidh v Inverness  
Callum Duff  
Kilmallie v Lochaber  
John Matheson

#### Marine Harvest South Division 2

Kilmory v Glasgow Mid Argyll  
Jon Gallagher  
Oban Lorn v Dunoon  
Ross Brown  
Tayforth v Bute  
David Mitchell

#### Womens Camanachd Association

#### Fixtures Sunday March 27 Marine Harvest North Div 2

Glengarry v Lovat  
Inverness v Glenurquhart  
Strathglass v Strathspey

#### Marine Harvest South Div 2

Ardnamurchan v Lorn  
Cowal & Bute v Fort William  
Glasgow MA 2nd v Dunadd

### Results

#### Saturday March 19

Marine Harvest Premiership  
Glenurquhart 3-1 Fort William  
Kingussie 2-1 Kinlochshiel  
Kyles Athletic 2-2 Newtonmore  
Lovat 5-1 Lochaber  
Skye 2-2 Oban Camanachd

#### Marine Harvest National Division

Ballachulish 2-2 Caberfeidh  
Beaulie 2-3 Glasgow Mid Argyll  
Inveraray 3-1 Inverness  
Kilmallie 1-1 Bute

#### Marine Harvest North Division 1

Fort William 2-1 Glenurquhart  
Kinlochshiel 1-3 Kingussie  
Newtonmore 5-2 Beaulie  
Strathglass 5-1 Lovat

#### Marine Harvest South Division 1

Aberdour 6-1 Inveraray  
Glenorchy 1-4 Col Glen  
Lochside 0-2 Oban Celtic  
Taynuilt 4-4 Kyles Athletic

#### Marine Harvest North Division 2

Caberfeidh 6-2 Strathspey  
Glengarry 0-0 Boleskine  
Inverness 2-3 Kilmallie  
Lochaber 0-7 Aberdeen University  
Lochcarron 2-1 Lewis

#### Marine Harvest South Division 2

Dunoon 0-13 Kilmory  
Glasgow MA 2-9 Tayforth  
Oban Lorn 4-0 Aberdour



Lovat's Daniel Grieve holds off Lochaber's Stuart Callison during last Saturday's Marine Harvest Premiership match which Lovat won 5-1. Photo: Neil Paterson



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Willie Gemmill, No 10, leaves Shortlees keeper Garry Murdoch rooted to the spot as he curls in a free kick to open the scoring in the Scottish Cup quarter final tie at Glencruitten last Saturday. Match report: Derek Black

## Saints march into Scottish Cup semi-final with last gasp winner

Oban Saints	2
Shortlees	1
<b>Scottish Cup - Quarter Final</b>	

OBAN Saints survived a second half onslaught from a very impressive Shortlees side to book their first ever Scottish Amateur Cup semi-final slot in front of a large crowd at Glencruitten last Saturday afternoon.

With nerves jangling all around it was a typically cool finish from second half substitute Allan Mackay which sealed the victory and put Saints within 90 minutes of a trip to Hampden Park on Sunday May 22.

With the exception of the suspended Dene Cassells, manager Alex Craik selected the same starting 11 to face the Ayrshire Amateur Football Association First Division side that had seen off Caledonian League Premier Division leaders Doune Castle in the seventh round.

Cassells' place in central defence was taken by Jamie Graham, who had recovered from the bout of flu that had restricted him to a substitutes role against Doune.

Taking his place alongside Dougal Graham, Allan Mackay, Keith Millar and Myles McAuley on a strong Saints bench was new signing Brian MacKay.

A very interesting midfield battle developed between Saints play maker Donald Campbell and the vastly experienced Jim Caldwell.

Campbell got the better of his man in the sixth minute to clip a pass to Craig MacEwan cutting in from the left. MacEwan

slipped past Gordon Minor and unleashed a powerful right-foot shot on target from the 18-yard line which was charged down by Shortlees defensive rock, five-time Scottish Junior Cup winner Billy Mason.

Saints dead ball expert Willie Gemmill had his first sight of goal in the eighth minute after Dean Smith had turned Minor and been tugged back by the big centre half 28 yards from goal. Unfortunately Gemmill's sights weren't yet fully focused and he sent his curling effort high over the Shortlees crossbar.

The understandably nervous start from both sides continued and it wasn't until 15 minutes in that the first effort on target was mustered. Gemmill was involved again, this time with another weapon in his armoury the long throw. Gemmill's throw from the right touchline, level with the six-yard line, was flicked on by Smith at the near post to MacEwan who tried to guide his header inside the post but with insufficient power to trouble Shortlees keeper Garry Murdoch, who gathered easily.

Another of the game's interesting personal duels was that of Saints skipper Marc Maccallum and Shortlees principal goal threat Keir Knapp. On the half hour mark Knapp made a dangerous run into the Saints box but his progress was matched all the way by Maccallum, who forced him wide with the Lees man eventually running the ball harmlessly out of play.

Saints upped the pressure on the visiting defence with two

good chances to open the scoring in quick succession through Ross Maitland and Smith.

With 10 minutes of the first half remaining Saints had a strong claim for a penalty kick denied by referee Gallacher.

MacEwan made a good run into the Shortlees box before going down under a sliding challenge from right back Gregg Calder.

Despite loud appeals from the Saints contingent the Dumbar-

legs of Brain MacKay and Myles McAuley.

It didn't take McAuley long to make an impact on proceedings unfortunately it was at the wrong end. Knapp cut in from the right and made a terrific run along the 18-yard line where he was upended just inside the box by MacEwan.

The rash tackle earned Shortlees a penalty kick and the Saints midfielder a yellow card. Knapp took the spot kick himself and although McCulloch guessed correctly, the ball squirmed underneath his body and nestled in the back of the net to bring the visitors level.

Shortlees had their tails up now and, urged on by their substantial travelling support, certainly fancied themselves to kick on and get the winner.

With 15 minutes remaining Allan Mackay entered the fray replacing Smith up front and doing his usual good job of winning headers and holding the ball up.

Shortlees continued to ask questions of the Saints defence but skipper Maccallum marshalled his troops well, restricting the visitors to shots from distance.

As time ebbed away a replay in Kilmarnock was looking the most likely outcome. However, there was time for one last twist in the tale. In the 88th minute Campbell made a sensational driving run at the heart of the Lees defence. With defenders trailing in his wake Campbell burst into the box and laid the ball off to Allan Mackay to calmly slot the ball past the left hand of Murdoch and into the bottom

corner of the net. Cue scenes of delirium both on and off the field as Saints players and supporters celebrated the goal wildly.

Two minutes later Saints had the chance to completely kill the tie when Brian MacKay combined with MacEwan on the right wing sending him to the bye-line.

MacEwan cut the ball back for Myles McAuley at the back post for what should have been a routine tap-in but the ball stuck underneath McAuley's feet allowing Gregg Calder to clear the danger.

Sixty seconds into the five minutes of stoppage time allowed by Mr Gallacher, the Oban side made their final change with Keith Millar coming on to replace MacEwan. Such were the nerves on the touchline that the stoppage time seemed to last forever and the Saints faithful had two final close shaves to endure before the agony was over.

Saints will now face Leven United of the Kingdom Caledonian Amateur Football Association in a semi-final tie at New Douglas Park, home of Saints' good friends Hamilton Academical, on Thursday March 31 and hopefully a cup final place at Hampden on Sunday May 22.

The big games keep coming for the Oban side as this Saturday they return to league business with a home game against last year's champions and current leaders St Joseph's FP. The match will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off. Referee in charge is John Scott.



Dejected Shortlees defenders on the ground as Donald Campbell wheels away after setting up Allan Mackay for the winner.

ton whistler judged the tackle to be fair and waved play on.

The deadlock was broken in the 38th minute from the deadly right foot of Gemmill.

MacEwan won a free kick 22 yards from goal and slightly left of centre when he was brought down by Minor. Gemmill adjusted his sights from his previous off target effort and curled a delightful shot around the wall and into the postage stamp corner past a static Murdoch to make the half time score 1-0.

when Jamie Graham, Maccallum and McCulloch left a long Shortlees punt upfield to one another. Knapp pounced on the moment of indecision between keeper and defender, picking up the loose ball and rounding the keeper before being thwarted by a tremendous last ditch tackle by Maccallum.

On the hour mark Saints manager Craik decided to ring the changes withdrawing Maitland and goal scorer Gemmill, replacing them with the fresh

## Oban Athletic call it a day

### Football

IT WAS a bitter sweet weekend for amateur football in Oban, with Oban Saints making history in reaching the semi-final of the Scottish Cup for the first time and Oban Athletic unfortunately deciding to fold.

Athletic committee members decided to call it a day last Friday night due to a lack of commitment from players which left them unable to field a team for the fixture against Duntocher last weekend.

This isn't the first time this season the club have been unable to fulfill a fixture due to a lack of players.

On the club's social media page the committee said that they were left with no option but to fold.

Oban Athletic, who won the Thompson Trophy in 2014 by beating league winners Niall 4-1 in the final, would like to thank everyone who helped run the club over the years and the 'six or seven' regular players who showed up week in week out.

## Disappointing start for John McPhee Moto3

CONNEL'S John McPhee suffered a disappointing start to the Moto3 World Championship season as chassis and gearbox problems prevented him from making significant progress, resulting in a 27th place finish under the evening lights at the Qatar Grand Prix.

The Racing Steps Foundation-backed Peugeot MC Saxoprint rider lined up 30th on the grid following Saturday's qualifying session, which was hindered with a persistent gear shift problem on his re-badged Mahindra bike.

John's next race will be the Grand Prix of the Republica Argentina on April 3.

## Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

LAST Saturday's results: Under-13s 1, Ardencaple 2. On target for Saints was Connor Moore. Under-14s 3, Drumchapel United 1. Scoring for Saints were Aidan MacPhee, Jamie Forgive and Aaron McKay. Under-15s v Broomhill, postponed; Port Glasgow v Under-16s, postponed; Under-19s v Milngavie, postponed.

Broomhill, Port Glasgow and Milngavie failed to fulfill these fixtures. This weekend's fixtures: Under-13s no game; Kilpatrick v Under-14s; Under-15s no game; Under-16s no game; Under-19s v Westerton.

## Open doubles at Taynuilt

TAYNUILT Bowling Club held its annual open doubles tournament at the end of last month in the village hall, with more than 31 couples taking part.

P Scott and R Wilson battled it out against A Dickie and G Munro in the final, but in the end it was Scott and Wilson, from Portsonachan, who were victorious.

## Active Schools organises basketball tournament at Atlantis Leisure



The Lochgilhead team got on the scoresheet after a well-taken basket. 15\_113basketball04.

SECONDARY school pupils from four different schools in Argyll and Bute battled it out in a basketball tournament last Thursday at Atlantis Leisure.

Junior and senior teams from Oban, Dunoon, Lochgilhead and Helensburgh schools all took part in the event, with Hermitage Academy A from Helensburgh out-dribbling the competition to win the seniors category.

The event was split into two groups - junior pupils from first to third year and senior pupils from fourth to sixth year.

In the end it was an all-Hermitage final, with the winners having to take on fellow pupils Hermitage B, but the A team's ball control and teamwork led them to victory.

Hermitage also won the junior category, with Dunoon coming second and in third place was the only Oban team taking part

### Basketball

in the tournament. The event was organised by Active Schools and Basketball Scotland.

Dave Evans, Basketball Scotland's regional west development officer, said: 'It's great to see the kids in this area taking part in a tournament.'

'They have said that they practice a lot, but they never get the chance to play in a tournament.'

'I'm hopeful this will be the first of many chances they get to play basketball.'

'We have some campaigns in Dunoon and we hope to have a development team in place as well as the senior team.'

'There's nothing just now in Oban but there will be. I am hitting all the areas where there isn't a club so I can put one there.'



Oban's all-girl team, who came third in the junior competition, bag themselves a basket. 15\_113basketball05.

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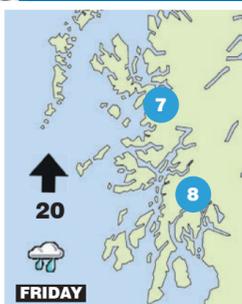
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**WEATHER**

**Thursday** Light rain  
Winds moderate west south westerly  
Temperatures 3°C to 8°C.

**Friday** Light rain  
Winds moderate southerly  
Temperatures 5°C to 7°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Heavy rain showers on Saturday  
Heavy rain showers on Sunday  
Winds moderate south south westerly  
Temperatures 4°C to 7°C.



**Stop Press:** New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

**TIDAL INFORMATION**  
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday March 24, 2016** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	00.15 0.7 06.08 4.0 12.48 0.9 18.31 3.9	
Fri	00.48 0.8 06.39 4.0 13.17 1.0 18.59 3.9	
Sat	01.20 0.9 07.08 3.9 13.46 1.1 19.27 3.8	
Sun	01.50 1.0 07.36 3.8 14.13 1.2 19.56 3.7	
Mon	02.18 1.2 08.02 3.6 14.35 1.4 20.27 3.5	
Tues	02.46 1.4 08.31 3.4 15.02 1.6 21.01 3.3	
Wed	03.22 1.6 09.06 3.2 15.44 1.7 21.44 3.1	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardershaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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### Easter property review

Including details of the Lifetime ISA from this year's budget announcement



### Whisky AND FOOD TRAILS



### St Bride's bags cash for school grounds revamp

PUPILS and staff at St Bride's primary and nursery, Onich, have bagged £12,000 to cultivate and improve their school grounds.

The money has been awarded from the Tesco Bags of Help initiative, which saw grants of £12,000, £10,000 and £8,000 all raised from the five pence bag levy, being awarded to environmental and green-space projects.

Shoppers voted in stores for the project they wanted to win.

St Bride's will use the funding for an outdoor learning trail providing a variety of opportunities for pupils outdoors and also the wider

school community to enjoy. Raised beds and a small fruit orchard to enable pupils to grow their own fruit and vegetables will also be created.

Susan Kemp, head teacher at St Bride's, said: 'I can't stop smiling. This is such an exciting development for our community. I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who voted for our project.'

'Next we will convene a meeting to explain more fully how we plan to go about achieving our goal and to plot each step on our journey forward to bring it to a reality, working together and with partner agencies in our community.'



St Bride's primary and nursery youngsters and staff celebrate the funding news.

### TIMESLINE

#### Work starts on mini roundabout

WORK will start on Monday to replace traffic lights with a mini roundabout on a busy Fort William road.

New traffic islands will also be introduced at the A82 North Road to Earl of Inverness Road junction as well as changing the existing pedestrian crossing to operate exclusively as a puffin crossing.

The work will be carried out from Sunday night to Friday morning each week, between 7pm and 6am until April 29.

There will be three-way temporary traffic lights in place. During the final phase the Earl of Inverness Road will be closed. Diversions will be in place.

#### Vandalism and theft from bike

FENCE panels were damaged at a house in Plantation, Fort William, in the early hours of Sunday March 13.

A cycle accessory was stolen from a bike near the lounge bar door of the Ballachulish Hotel around 5pm on Monday March 14.

Anyone with information on the incidents should contact police on 101.

#### Helping young people into work

A NEW £480,000 initiative to provide young people with skills needed for work has been launched.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce won its proposal to create a Developing the Young Workforce project with funding from the Scottish Government.

It will connect young people with business through a partnership between education and local companies, ensuring they are being provided with the skill sets most appropriate to their future employment.



9 771468 629102

### Action plan results to be revealed

THE RESULTS of a survey to take forward a five-year action plan in Ballachulish and Glenachulish will be revealed at an event later this month.

Of the 340 houses surveyed, 170 forms have been returned to the steering group leading the project.

A community event will be held on Saturday April 16 where the results of the survey and other consultation will be presented.

Jo Watt, of Ballachulish Community Association, said: 'We are absolutely delighted that the residents have responded so well. It is vitally important that the five-year community action plan is built on community views, and with this great response we certainly have got good feedback.'

'There have also been interviews and meetings with many local groups and businesses to get their input.'

Anyone can drop in to the event between noon-3.30pm to vote for the projects to be prioritised in the action plan. There will be refreshments, community displays, a prize raffle and entertainment.

## Group steps up efforts to bring cinema back to life

CAREN MCPATE  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

EXCITING plans are moving forward to reopen a cinema in Fort William's town centre.

The Lochaber Cinema Group wants to bring back the former studio cinema at Cameron Square, which closed 10 years ago.

The premises still has two screens in place, but needs a big refurbishment.

The group is now fully constituted and registered with Voluntary Action Lochaber.

The next step is to register as a charity and carry out a survey on the premises.

It is estimated the revamp could cost around £200,000. The building would also be used as a venue for the community.

Volunteers leading the project also hope to meet with the team at Oban Phoenix Cinema, which was bought by the community in 2011 and



Marie Macpherson and Carol-ann Davies, back, with Gwyn Mosses, Eddie Morgan, vice chairman, and Ann Moffat, secretary, at the old cinema.

reopened in 2012. It offers a first-class auditorium with digital projection in 2D and 3D and is also used as an events venue.

Marie Macpherson, chairperson of Lochaber Cinema Group, came up with the idea.

She said: 'I was in the Oban cinema just before Christmas and I started thinking why can't a group of us get together to bring the cinema back.'

'The only tenant that has been in the building since is a carpet shop. The screens are

still there. It needs a lot of plumbing and electrical work and the roof needs fixed.'

'We carried out a survey of 1,000 residents and 97 per cent said they would like a cinema back.'

'It was a shame when the last

one closed. There has been attempts to reopen it, but they have always been from a business point of view. Our group is not-for-profit.

'The Screen Machine is in Fort William once a month and it's good, but it would be nice to have something here all the time.'

'We want to be interactive with the community and ask them what films they would like to see.'

Ms Macpherson explained that the cinema would also be a venue for community events and to hold children's activities.

She added: 'One of the screens would double as a community hall in which activities that benefit the community can be held.'

'We want to help promote arts and drama and science in the community.'

For the latest on the plans, visit the Lochaber Cinema Group on Facebook.

### Loch Shiel Spring Festival

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www.lochshielfestival.com  
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### Wind band top in festival finals

LOCHABER High School senior wind band was awarded first equal prize at the Scottish Concert Band Festival finals. The group secured gold plus in the achieving school band class.

Also competing at the event, in Perth Concert Hall, was Highland Youth Wind Band which won gold and second place in the advanced youth band class.

Both bands are conducted by Highland Council brass instructor Mark Reynolds, who is based in Lochaber.

### Breathing new life into old school

A £5.7 MILLION development will bring council staff from locations across Fort William together and breathe new life into an empty listed building.

Work will start work at the end of April on the redevelopment of the former Fort William secondary school site.

The new council offices contract has been awarded to Robertson Northern and the building will serve Fort William and the whole of Lochaber. It will provide a year-on-year revenue saving of around £400,000. Space will be created for other public sector partners in a move to help with revenue costs.

Lochaber area leader Councillor Thomas MacLennan said: 'I am delighted that the contract has been awarded and we can look forward to bringing life back to a gateway building on the A82.'

'Not only will the new offices allow us to deliver our services more cost-effectively and efficiently, but this project creates jobs and supports the local economy at a time when other sectors are struggling.'

'Providing a modern, flexible, accessible working environment will benefit staff and customers and also allows us to free up more buildings in the town, creating more future development opportunities.'

'I look forward to work starting on site at the end of next month.'

The new offices are expected to be completed by the end of July 2017.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce is inviting local businesses to add their names to a list of sub-contractors who could provide services during the redevelopment. To register interest, contact info@lochaber-chamber.co.uk or call on 01397 705765.

### Screen Machine Scotland's Mobile Cinema

Strontian	Mon 28 - Tue 29 March
Craignure	Wed 30 March
Tobermory	Thu 31 Mar - Sat 2 April
Lochgilphead	Mon 4 - Wed 6 April

**The Peanuts Movie** (U) 93 mins  
"Sweet, charming, lovingly rendered." Herald 28/03 at 5.30pm, 30/03 at 5.30pm, 02/04 at 2pm, 05/04 at 5pm, 06/04 at 5.30pm

**The Revenant** (15) 156 mins  
"DiCaprio delivers a barnstorming performance." Independent 28/03 at 8.30pm, 01/04 at 8.30pm, 04/04 at 8.30pm

**Star Wars: The Force Awakens** (12A) 135 mins  
"the magic is back" Telegraph 29/03 at 5.30pm

**Dad's Army** (PG) 100 mins  
"This celebration of Dad's Army surpasses the original." Independent 29/03 at 8.30pm, 30/03 at 8.30pm, 31/03 at 5pm, 02/04 at 5.30pm, 06/04 at 8.30pm

**National Theatre: Hangmen** £14/£12 (15) 180 mins inc interval An encore screening of National Theatre's hilarious new play. Stars David Morrissey.  
"Gripping, funny and dramatically tense." Sunday Times 31/03 at 7.30pm, 05/04 at 7.30pm

**The Finest Hours** (12A) 117 mins  
"an old-school adventure" Rolling Stone 01/04 at 5.30pm, 02/04 at 8.30pm, 04/04 at 5.30pm

Book now at: www.screenmachine.co.uk. Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings: Cash only, no cards. £7.50 Adults and £5.50 Concessions, (NT: Hangmen: £14/£12)

### The Sunart Centre

Arainn Shuaineirt  
Strontian 01397 709228 www.sunartcentre.org

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**Saturday 26th March**

**plan B Dance Theatre present...**

'And Now...' brand dance theatre as part of their national tour. A collaboration between plan B's Artistic Director Frank McCannell, composer Jim Sutherland and plan B's new dance ensemble with live sax by Steve Kettley.

Start time 7:30pm Tickets £10/£8/£5

Find us on Facebook

### AND NOW...

plan B presents BRAND NEW DANCE THEATRE

McCannell's company is worth seeing for the joy alone! The Stage

Locating 2016

## Planning a better future for Morvern

A COMPANY run by a community to improve its area has submitted plans to Highland Council for a hub and affordable homes.

Morvern Community Development Company (MCDC) wants to create a building containing a tourist information and heritage area and a shop for local crafts.

The proposals for the centre of the village of Lochaline, on the Morvern peninsula, also includes three new houses.

It will bring much-needed affordable homes to the area, which has had no new social housing provided for around 30 years. A community consultation event was held last October.

A design statement by John Renshaw Architects said that there was very good support for a community building and, following consultation, MCDC considered that the upper floor should house flexible workspaces.

There was backing for the homes and it was thought they should be increased in size.

The design statement concluded: 'The community building will deliver a much-needed focus for the village, retaining tourists for a longer stop, allowing the village to promote itself and educate about the area. The affordable community houses have been designed in response to an identified need within the village, allowing people to stay in the area, who might otherwise have to move away.'

A separate planning application has been submitted for six, two and three-bedroom houses and two new house plots.

MCDC was set up in 1999 and has completed several initiatives such as pontoons, a petrol pump, allotments and shore services for visiting boats.



## Family's fundraising total tops £15,000

A GENEROUS family has helped to raise around £15,000 over the past 15 years for the Scottish Huntington's Association.

Hector Henderson, known as Hecky, decided to start the fundraising campaign after attending his uncle's funeral.

He had Huntington's disease and his daughter Elizabeth also has the hereditary illness.

Huntington's disease is a neurological condition and is part of a group of diseases which affect the brain and central nervous system. Specific brain cells stop working properly and then die.

Each year Hecky, his wife Belle and family have organised a meal and dance in Fort William's West End Hotel.

Hecky said: 'There was about 40 people at the meal and 30 came at night. It used to be over the hundred for the meal alone. Folk have been very generous. We've raised an average of £1,000 each year.'

'Folk come from Fife every year where my cousin lives, although she couldn't make it this year. They are very much at the heart of it all.'

Hecky has decided to step down from running the fundraiser and is hoping someone else will take it over. The event has been provisionally booked for March next year.



Hecky, with his accordion, alongside family and friends.

# Massive historical housing debt moves to top of council agenda

HIGHLAND Council's massive £205 million housing debt is 'nothing out of the ordinary', according to the Scottish Government.

The local authority recently agreed to invite UK and Scottish government ministers as well as MPs and MSPs to a summit on the issue.

The council hopes the debt can be written-off.

However, a spokesperson for the Scottish Government said: 'While the cancelling of UK debt is a reserved matter, the Scottish Government has had

no indication that the situation in Highland Council requires special treatment.

'All local authorities hold housing debt as part of their on-going programmes of improving their housing stock and building new social housing. Highland Council has had a vibrant build programme over the last few years, and there is nothing out of the ordinary in the rents set by them or the level of debt they hold.'

The spokesperson explained that the government had committed to an ambitious house

building programme. She added: 'The subsidy rate per unit has been increased and money to Highland Council to build affordable housing has been increased from £18.6m to an allocation of £27.3m for 2016-17.'

A significant part of the £205m is historic debt inherited from former district councils during local government reorganisation in the 1990s. It also relates to loans taken out by the council to build and improve its housing.

In 2016/17 the council's annu-

al loan charges are expected to be around £20m.

Council leader Councillor Margaret Davidson was supported by fellow councillors in her proposal to invite ministers, MPs and MSPs to a summit. She said: 'Nearly 40 pence in every £1 of rent income received by the council is needed to service housing debt. It is vital that we promote the economic benefits of debt write-off which is why we are pressing for this housing summit.'

'We believe that the only way

to progress the relief of the debt is to get people round the table. We have already seen cooperation between the governments resulting in debt write-off for Shetland Islands. We think that many of the economic drivers for that deal could equally apply to Highland.'

From 2007 to the end of 2014/15 there have been 2,927 homes completed in the Highland Council area programme.

More than 800 council houses will be completed by the end of the current financial year.

## Ice Factor Kinlochleven re-opens eight months after destructive fire

THE WORLD'S largest indoor ice climbing centre, in Lochaber, has re-opened after a fire closed it for eight months.

Climbers, mountain rescue teams and supporters of the Ice Factor Kinlochleven eagerly gathered at the centre for an open day on Thursday.

The top attraction, which draws an average of 130,000 visitors each year, was closed at

the end of July due to extensive smoke damage caused by a fire in the sauna area of the 120-year-old building.

It's thought the closure has cost the business almost £1 million.

Climbers and adventure seekers of all ages and ability come from throughout the UK and abroad to scale Ice Factor's 14-metre high ice-walls,

designed to replicate winter climbing conditions on the likes of Ben Nevis.

Designated as the national centre for ice climbing, the Ice Factor is also used for training by members of the GB Ice Climbing team and by Scottish mountain rescue. There's also extensive rock climbing space.

Jamie Smith, a mountaineer and entrepreneur, opened the

£3.4m Ice Factor with his wife Tracey in 2003 after it was converted from its former use as a Victorian-era aluminium smelter.

Mrs Smith said: 'We were absolutely devastated when we had to close.'

'There was extensive smoke damage. It's been a huge amount of work and the staff were determined to get the

centre back to what it was. We managed to retain the staff and they have been working away and have very much been part of the restructure. It's fantastic to have the local support and the building is full of life again.'

To celebrate its re-opening, Ice Factor offered 12 months' free membership to the first 100 people to visit the facility.

## Staffin trust in land upgrade bid

STAFFIN Community Trust in Skye wants to improve the area near the Old Man of Storr visitor attraction.

The group has declared its interest in buying the Highland Council-owned land. It has been in talks with the council about the visitor experience, which attracts thousands of people each year. But the area suffers from severe parking congestion and a lack of amenities, including toilets.

## Ben Nevis rises to new heights

THE UK's highest mountain is officially one metre taller than originally thought.

Ben Nevis in Fort William is 1,345m and the new height will be seen on Ordnance Survey (OS) maps.

The increase was discovered following the restoration of the trig pillar on the mountain when OS took the opportunity to re-measure it. A geodetic survey grade GPS receiver was used to survey and measure Ben Nevis, giving greater accuracy than when it was last surveyed in 1949.

## Society spotlight on Glen Nevis fort

LOCHABER Local History Society will welcome archaeologist Martin Cook and his team to present their findings of the excavation of the Vitrified Fort in Glen Nevis.

Everyone is welcome to the talk at the Ben Nevis Hotel on Thursday April 7 at 8pm. There will also be a chance to book a place on the annual field trip to Morvern on May 14.

## Forest clearing to continue till June

FOREST Enterprise Scotland is to extend its clearing operations at Loch Lochy until late June following bad weather and worse than expected site conditions.

Traffic management measures will be removed on public and bank holidays and during any major events.

Catch fence installation above the A82 at Primrose Bay near Alt Sigh is expected to be completed by April.

## Pupils swap classroom for catwalk in aid of charity

Children swapped the classroom for the catwalk during a school fashion show. Lundavra primary held a get-ready-for-summer fashion show. Pupils from P1/2G and P4/5 wore outfits provided by M&Co. The event included a raffle and raised £437 for Action for Children. Phoenix Discos provided the lights and music for the show.



The Buzz Project is looking forward to its Big Night Out event this Saturday.

## Successful youth project creating a buzz in and around Lochaber

A PROJECT helping young people turn their lives around is creating a real buzz in Lochaber.

The Buzz Project, based in Fort William, has been running for four years and was started to address issues surrounding high suicide rates among young people in the area. Its aim is to enable people aged 14-25 years to identify and fulfil their potential. To reach the outlying communities, the project has a bus which travels to various areas, including Ballachulish and Mallaig, and provides a mobile music

studio and teaching area. Senior youth worker Simon Nicholls explained: 'The aim of the project is to address some of the issues in terms of loneliness.'

'The bus goes out to all the areas across Lochaber for youth provision, like a drop-in centre. We work on issues around personal development, confidence and self-esteem.'

The Buzz Project is set to launch another bus and tie in with the Fort William Men's Shed initiative.

The group is also moving from its office

in Torlundy to the Bar Mhor estate in Fort William and will be opening a youth cafe and music shop in the high street.

This Saturday, March 26, the project is holding a Big Night Out show at the Moorings Hotel in Fort William with a line-up including Joe Lycett, comedian and writer, and Megan Reece, contestant on BBC's The Voice. Bella and the Bear, Autumn Sun and Cileas MacMaster of the Buzz Project, will also be performing.

For more information visit www.thebuzzproject.org

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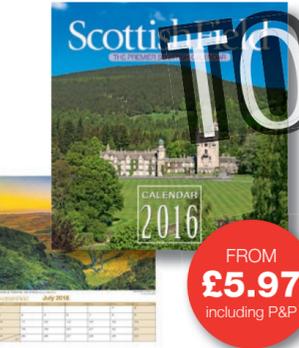


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## Councillor urged to go public about resignation

A FORMER council leader and SNP councillor has urged councillor Iain S MacLean to tell the public his reasons for standing down from the SNP.

James Robb, from Helensburgh, has suggested Mr MacLean should be putting himself to the electorate if he wants to stay on in his current role.

Councillor Robb said: '... were Councillor MacLean to do the right thing and resign as a councillor now, there would be no additional cost to the taxpayer from by-elections.'

'As a by-election has to be called for the current vacancy in Oban North [and Lorn] the saving from electing two councillors in the same ward at the same time would be almost the full £30,000 as there would be one print run, one mail shot and one hire of the counting machine.'

Councillor Robb continued: 'SNP candidates who are elected knowingly and freely agree to abide by the rules of the party and accept and agree it is their duty to resign from the party. That seems fair and reasonable to both the SNP and the electorate.'

'So there is now the opportunity for all those who are affected to do the honourable thing and resign and hold by-elections for all of them at the least cost to taxpayers.'

Mr MacLean told party leader Sandy Taylor, last week, he was standing down from the party, but would not confirm why. He had not replied to *The Oban Times* requests for information about his resignation at the time of going to press.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesman confirmed Councillor MacLean had informed them he was no longer a member of the SNP council group.

Oban Times  
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Clockwise from top left: Parsley entertaining a visitor to McCaig's Tower; Parsley pops into *The Oban Times* office after owner Fiona Campbell Smith finally tracks him down in town; staff at the Rowantree Hotel often gets a wee visit – and a cuddle – from Parsley; tracking Parsley is a full-time job; students in Oban town centre were shown back to school by the cat. To see more, visit Parsley's Facebook page.



# Who needs an ambassadog – Oban has purrfect tour guide

VISITSCOTLAND'S search for an ambassador dog has left an Oban cat feline very annoyed.

Parsley, who is one-and-a-half and lives by McCaig's Tower, believes he is 'purrfect' for the job – but the national organisation is only looking for a dog, a move Parsley thinks is discriminatory.

The red Maine Coon already takes time to welcome and direct tourists all over the town, and he can often be found in a local pub or hotel, liking nothing better than a wee cuddle from a tourist or two.

So outraged was Parsley by the search for a dog that on Monday he wrote to VisitScotland to raise his hackles about the Ambassador dog scheme.

He wrote: 'It came to my attention that you are looking for

a dog ambassador for Scotland. I must admit I was at first bewildered, and then rather angry.

'Let me explain. I have been welcoming tourists and showing them around Oban for the last year.

'It's a full-time job and nobody could beat me at it. Admittedly, I am only covering Oban, but I am doing an excellent job.

'I know I can't win this contest because (spit) I am not a dog.

'However, I want it to be noted that the VisitScotland contest is discriminating against me. If you take a look at my Facebook page, you'll see why I'm so frustrated.

'Here I am, doing the job out of the goodness of my heart for no recognition and you're going to give the award to a dog who

a) can only do what it's told and

b) leaves a trail of plastic bags in its wake.

'Just look at all the bad press those dirty dogs bring to the town. Surely that's enough to disqualify anyone as an ambassador?'

'I am so discreet – like the Queen. I know I can't win, but I want you to regard this as a formal discrimination complaint.

'Feline the better for getting it off my chest.'

Since Parsley was born, he has had to fight for his rights. Initially his breeder was not going to sell him due to a number of poor pedigree traits – such as his small size at birth and numerous medical problems – but his owner fell in love with him and persuaded the breeder to sell.

Fiona Campbell Smith said: 'Parsley is from a flawless pedigree, but wasn't actually for sale

because of his eye problem. But I had set my heart on him and the breeder agreed to let me buy him.'

'The average lifespan [of the red Maine Coon] is higher than 12, but Parsley will not live that long unfortunately – he has already used 900 lives.'

Ms Campbell Smith said she was disappointed that her cat could not be considered for the VisitScotland prize.

She said: 'I have had to fit Parsley with a GPS tracker so that I know where he is. He is very keen to meet people and show them around the town. It is an opportunity missed for VisitScotland.'

'His favourite pubs in town are the Balmoral, the Rowantree and I once found him curled up in a ball on the seats in the Tartan Tavern.'

David Adams McGilp, regional director of VisitScotland, said: 'It's fantastic to hear that Parsley is embodying the spirit of Scotland and doing such a great job greeting tourists in Oban.'

'VisitScotland is looking for an Ambassador dog as we need a canine consul to go on walks around the country with his/her human companion, but we hope that many other animal friends in Scotland may feel encouraged to become honorary hosts for their hometowns or local areas and will follow in Parsley's pawsteps to make sure visitors receive as warm a welcome as possible.'

Anyone wanting to enter their dog (if you dare!) into the campaign should contact [www.denholfmassociates.com](http://www.denholfmassociates.com) before the end of April.

## TIMESLINE

### High school pupils do a runner

OBAN pupils on the run today (Thursday) are not 'jinking' school, but are raising cash for a national cancer charity.

Oban High School is raising money for Cancer Research UK's Race for Life, with more than 300 youngsters, aged 11-17 years old, walking, jogging or running in aid of Cancer Research UK's life-saving work.

### If music is the food of love...

A FORMER chocolate maker is returning to his old haunt to serve up another type of smoothness on March 31.

Mike Nisbet, a former chocolate maker, will appear along side Rosie Bans and Anna MacDonald at the Oban Chocolate Company to kick off their European tour.

Stuart MacKechnie of Oban Chocolate Company said: 'Mike is a really talented musician and we are delighted to have him play in Oban.'

The event is free.

### Skipinnish duo set to go it alone

CELTIC band Skipinnish announced this week that singer Robert Robertson and keyboard player Ross Wilson are leaving to start new musical projects.

Mr Robertson, from Fort William, will be replaced by former Manran front man Norrie MacIver and Mr Wilson, from Bunessan, will be replaced by keyboard player Jonathon Gillespie, from Ireland.

Founder member Angus MacPhail praised both men saying: 'They have been amazing to work with and very conscientious in helping the new members learn all our songs.'

'We have remained close friends throughout. We wish them all the very best.'



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# Kerrera businessman to aid fight against rare disease

Tea garden's owner suffered from Guillaine Barre Syndrome, which is now linked to Zika virus

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

THE OWNERS of a tea garden on the island of Kerrera are raising money for a rare condition that almost killed one of the couple 10 years ago.

Martin Shields, who runs the successful Kererra Tea Garden and Bunkhouse, was struck down with Guillain Barre Syndrome (GBS) in 2006. The condition is now linked to the Zika virus, which has rapidly moved from being a relatively obscure tropical disease to a global health emergency.

Mr Shields told *The Oban Times* that he wants to give people with the condition the same support he had when he contracted the disease while working in Prague.

He has set himself the challenge of raising £5,000 to aid hospitals in Brazil and Columbia.

Mr Shields, who co-manages the tea garden with his wife Aileen Gallacher, said: 'I suffered a severe bout of GBS 10 years ago. I was lucky enough to have some of the most amazing people helping, supporting and fundraising for me and my family. I was living in Prague when it happened and spent four months in a Czech hospital.

'GBS is triggered by minor infections and affects 100,000 people of all ages, sexes,



Aileen Gallacher and Martin Shields will donate 100 per cent of profits from their tea garden on June 23 to fight GBS.

religions and races, every year worldwide.'

After their wedding last year, Mr Shields and his wife went to Brazil for their honeymoon in order to share first hand the Brazilian music that had brought them together in the first place.

Mr Shields continued: 'I expected the trip to be full of

excitement and adventure, but I did not expect to see increasing headlines and warnings about Zika and its link to my rare illness.

'It seemed like a crazy coincidence and I shrugged it off until my Facebook thread was filled with videos of my former consultant on BBC and SKY News

religions and races, every year worldwide.'

After sending him a small message to say what a great job he was doing, I found out he was to land in Recife, Brazil, the epicentre of the epidemic, the day we were leaving. The omens were building.

'It's been 10 years since I

discovered GBS by accident and 100 years since Georges Guillain and Jean-Alexandre Barré, the two scientists/doctors, made the important initial discovery during the Battle of the Somme.

'For many reasons, this year seems like a good year to try to help those who need it the most.

'There are clinics in Brazil and Columbia that are desperate for financial help.

'I promise that all monies raised will go to those who can make a difference and it will not get soaked up by the sometime corrupt nature of the governments that so far have been unable to help their own people.

'The worldwide Centenary Symposium on GBS is being held in Glasgow on Friday June 24, 100 miles south-east from our tea garden on Kerrera.

'As a finale to our fundraising drive, we promise to donate 100 per cent of the profits from the cafe on the previous day and I will announce the total amount raised via Skype, live, to the meeting in Glasgow.

'This broadcast will be streamed around the world.

'In the meantime, we hope that those with a little to spare can make a small donation that will help those most in need.'

To donate visit [fnd.us/c/716nC7/sh/35Y0sa](http://fnd.us/c/716nC7/sh/35Y0sa) or contact the couple via the tea garden.



## Pupils learn of Holocaust from survivor's family

OBAN High School pupils were moved last week by Holocaust testimonies and an exhibition called Gathering Voices.

Claire and Howard Singerman, son of Auschwitz survivor Susan Singerman who died in 2011, told 20 classes about her story and those of 30 other men and women who sought refuge in Scotland to escape the racism of Nazi-dominated Europe in the Second World War.

Howard's Hungarian mother Susan was the only member of her 40-strong Jewish family to survive the Nazi concentration camps when Dr Joseph Mengele, nicknamed 'the Angel of

Death', deemed her fit to work.

Susan's mother, aunt, cousins and younger sister Marta, 12, were not so lucky, perishing in the gas chambers within an hour of their arrival at the camps.

After Germany's defeat, Susan made a new life for herself as a teacher in Scotland, and told her story to Scottish schoolchildren – work carried on by Howard and Claire Singerman, above left, who also presented a commemorative plaque to head teacher Peter Bain and principal teacher of history and modern studies, Christine Rae.

## McCaig's Tower lights the way to benefit charities

ARGYLL and Bute Council will be helping to raise awareness of Down syndrome, autism and epilepsy this month when McCaig's Tower in Oban will be illuminated in three significant colours.

On Monday March 21 the landmark joined other famous buildings and statues across the world when it was

lit up blue and yellow to mark World Down Syndrome Day.

On Saturday March 26, the tower will be illuminated purple to coincide with the Epilepsy Society's Purple Day.

The following weekend, on Saturday April 2, the structure will be glowing blue to highlight World Autism Awareness Week.

## Cash to tackle loneliness

VOLUNTARY Action Fund, (VAF) Scotland's biggest independent grant-maker, is urging small to medium-sized charities and community groups to apply for social isolation and loneliness funding.

This follows the Scottish Government's announcement of a £500,000 fund to tackle the

issue among Scotland's most vulnerable people.

The deadline for applications is Friday May 20.

To find out more visit VAF's website at [www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/](http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/), or contact VAF on 01383 620780 or [SIALFenquiries@vaf.org.uk](mailto:SIALFenquiries@vaf.org.uk)

## POLICE FILES with Sergeant Alan Moore

### Appeal for witnesses to motorbike crash

ROAD Policing Officers based at Dumbarton are continuing enquiries and appealing for witnesses after a road crash in Glen Fruin, near Loch Lomond, on Sunday March 20.

Around 3.10pm, a 66-year-old man was riding his Honda motorcycle on the A817 Haul Road when the vehicle appeared to lose control and left the road.

No other vehicles were involved in the

crash and no-one else was injured. The motorbike rider was taken by ambulance to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow where he is being treated for his injuries. His condition was described as serious but stable.

Constable Grant MacIver is appealing to anyone who witnessed the crash and who has not yet spoken to police, or anyone with information that may assist the investigation, to contact the Divisional Road Policing Unit at Dumbarton through the non-emergency number 101.

### Campaign against hare coursing launched

POLICE Scotland is calling on the public to be vigilant and report any incidents of hare coursing they may see as part of a month-long campaign.

Hare coursing occurs in rural communities across Scotland and is especially prevalent in the spring. Greyhounds or lurchers are set on hares, chasing them to ground across fields.

It is illegal to hunt hares using dogs

and tackling coursing is a wildlife crime priority.

Coursing has a wider impact, as dogs trained for hare coursing have been known to attack and worry sheep.

Worrying can include anything from a dog being loose in a field with sheep in it, even if it's some distance from the sheep, to a dog chasing the sheep or attacking them.

Earlier this month three men were charged for hare coursing crimes which took place in East Lothian and the Borders.



Guy Forteith prepares to make the leap with his parachute securely attached.



Guy Forteith prepares to touch down on land after jumping out of a plane at 14,000 feet.

## Guy takes leap of faith for charity

AN OBAN man who suffers from multiple sclerosis, has raised more than £1,000 for charity by jumping out of a plane at 14,000 feet, writes David McPhee.

Guy Forteith, 22, was diagnosed with the disease aged 16. At first he allowed it to determine what activities

he could take part in, but this year he has decided to challenge himself and others, while raising money for MS Society in the process.

On Friday March 11 Guy travelled to Durham to make the leap and in total he has raised £1,021.

He said: 'It was unbelievable

and a great moment. When I got to 14,000 feet I was a little nervous, but you just have to jump.

'Having an illness or disability doesn't effect what you can do – you can do anything that you want to do. They [others with an illness or disability] can do anything; they just

have to put their mind to it.'

Guy doesn't have anything else planned yet, but is contemplating another challenge – either climbing a mountain or paragliding.

To donate to MS Society through Guy's fundraising page, visit [www.justgiving.com/Guy-Forteith](http://www.justgiving.com/Guy-Forteith)

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## Fort William find it hard going against wee Rangers teams

Brora Rangers	4
Fort William	2
Highland League	

IT WAS a tough week for Fort William as they lost against two of the league's top teams.

A few players were out of action because of injuries and work commitments, which brought extra pressure on the side.

They faced league leaders Brora Rangers on Wednesday of last week. After 17 minutes Fort was 2-0 down and Brora scored another two to make the half-time score 4-0.

The Claggan Park side pulled a goal back in the 70th minutes through captain Darren Quigg, followed by another just before the final whistle.

Despite scoring five goals in two games against Brora this season, Fort don't have a point to show for their efforts.

Saturday's game against Cove Rangers, second in the league table, led to further disappointment. Both teams will face each other again at Claggan Park this Saturday.

It was almost nothing each at half-time, but Cove scored just 60

seconds before the whistle

Another two goals after 65 minutes' play, followed by another 10 minutes later, saw Cove powering ahead, making it 5-0 at the final.

Fort went down to 10 men after defender Adam Porritt was shown the red card.

A Fort spokesperson said: 'The boys put in a decent first half performance and were looking to go in level at the break, only to see championship-chasing Cove strike 60 seconds before the interval.'

'League top scorer Daryl Nicol scored a hat-trick to consolidate

his position at the top of the scoring chart.

'The three points saw Cove close the gap on leaders Brora Rangers, who drew 1-1 with Inverurie Locos, to just one point.'

Meanwhile, Fort has appointed Jimmy Paterson as new goal-keeping coach to replace David Osborne, who has had to step down due to work commitments.

Paterson started his career at Inverness Caley, before moving to Inverness Thistle where he played for them in the North Caledonian League.

The 51-year-old also turned out

for Invergordon, Balintore and Burghead before going on to play welfare and amateur, which he continues to do.

Fort assistant manager Kevin Munro said: 'We are delighted to have Jimmy on board, and we feel he will be a valuable addition to the coaching team.'

'We have three excellent young goalkeepers in Dougie MacLennan, Robin Harvey and Ryan Hunter and this appointment will not only benefit them but also the football club.'

Time is running out if anyone wants to grab one of the few

### Football

remaining tickets for this year's Fort William FC sportsman's dinner. This year's event takes place on Saturday April 2, at The Moorings Hotel, Fort William and guest speakers are ex-Celtic, Arsenal and Wales star John Hartson and Willie Henderson, who starred for Rangers and Scotland.

There will be a raffle and auction and a meal. Tickets are £45 and are available from Marie on 07803 049571 or Gerald on 07833 108093.

### Helen makes her six nations debut Rugby

A FORMER Lochaber rugby player made her Scotland debut against France in the 2016 Women's RBS Six Nations.

Murrayfield Wanderers' Helen Nelson was called off the bench for the recent match at Broadwood Stadium in Cumbernauld, which ended 0-24 to France.

Nelson, 21, first played rugby at the age of six with Lochaber RC. More recently she was part of the successful Murrayfield Wanderers team who won last season's league and cup double.

She is currently studying geophysics at the University of Edinburgh and scored the final of six tries in the university's 36-7 victory over the University of St Andrews at BT Murrayfield last year.

Nelson was also in the Scottish Alpine Ski Team from 2009 to 2012.

### Gary Cowan leads scratch league

#### Tenpin bowling

LEADING the scratch league in the tenpin bowling singles leagues after week five is Gary Cowan with 89 points.

He is followed by Darren Duncan with 86 points and Brian Johnstone with 82. Gary also leads the handicap league with 81 points, followed by Darren on 79, and Brian on 77.

Gary Cowan leads the chase for the Nevis Radio High Pin Trophy with 2,416 pins and second is Ben Weller with 2,369, with Darren Duncan in third on 2,357 pins.

There were a lot of good individual games this week, the best coming from Darren Duncan with 229. Others came from John Weller with 194 and 176, Pam Weller with 182, Ben Weller with 179 and Gary Cowan with 177.

## Lochaber Athletic Club hands out the prizes

MEMBERS of Lochaber Athletics Club came together for their annual awards evening in Fort William's Nevis Centre on Saturday night.

Runners pulled on their trainers for a series of events in the winter league schedule.

Junior female with 35 points was Robyn Blackhall.

The top 10 women with the most points were: Vikki MacKinnon, 173; Kate Jenkins, 160; Kerri Wallace, 135; Rebecca Masson, 155; Emma Britton, 120; Diane Baum, 100; Brenda Paul, 80; Suzy Devey, 73; Helen Gertig, 70 and Angelina Kennedy, 53.

The top females in the vet 40 category were: Lucy Prins, 245; Amanda Blackhall, 210 and Nix Forster, 164. Vet 50 top runners were Emma Pearce, 245; Jane Oliver, 175 and Kathy Tighe, 145. Elma Murdoch notched up 70

### Athletics

points in the vet 60 category.

Junior male with the most points was Craig Alistair, 180.

The top 10 men runners were: Aidan Donnelly, 159; Allan Lamont, 132; Michael Bossard, 130; Gavin MacMillan, 118; Barrie MacKinnon, 168; Steven Monk, 98; Steven Traill, 95; Brian MacDonald, 94; Finlay Wild, 70 and Andrew Barrington, 65.

Leading the board in the male vet 40 category were: Jon Gay, 195; Craig Mattocks, 160, and Andy Craig, 156. Vet 50 top runners were: Ali Kennedy, 173; Alan Smith, 165 and Geoff Simpson, 120.

Michael Connolly led the vet 60 with 245 points and Ernie Orr received 140 points in the vet 70 section.



Runners from Lochaber Athletic Club at the annual prizegiving. Photo: John Paul Peebles, Abrightside Photography.

## Double success for Portree High School

RUNNERS from Portree High School lifted the shield in the recent Leananan Challenge cross country event.

The Skye school also had success with Sandy Laing receiving silverware for being the fastest boy, running the 8km race in 33.56.

The cup for fastest girl went to Rachael MacPherson, from Lochaber High School, who ran the 8km in 41.56.

The Leananan Challenge took place at Torlundy, just outside Fort William. The cross country running race is for secondary pupils from across the region, with 78 pupils taking part.

Organisers were delighted at the turnout this year with runners taking part from Lochaber, Mallaig, Ardnarnach, Glenurquhart and Portree high schools.

S1/2 runners ran 3.5km; S3/4 ran 5.5km and S5/6 ran 8km

### Cross country

along a path complete with mud, tree roots and narrow bridges.

There were medals for all the runners with trophies for the first, second and third boy and girl in each category, a cup for the fastest boy and girl and a shield for the overall winning team.

The winning places in the S1/2 category were: Girls: 1 Rebecca



Lochaber high's Rachael MacPherson was the fastest girl.

Johnstone, Lochaber; 2 Melissa Mac, Glenurquhart; 3 Emily Mathieson, Portree. Boys: 1 Evan Atkinson, Lochaber; 2 Alastair Poll, Lochaber; 3 Louis Montague, Glenurquhart.

S3/4 category: 1 Danielle Ferguson, Lochaber; 2 Aimee Mackay, Lochaber; 3 Mairi Duncan, Lochaber. 1 Ben Johnstone, Lochaber; 2 Neil McCallum, Glenurquhart; 3 Boy Ryan Boyle, Lochaber.

S5/6 category: 1 Rachael MacPherson, Lochaber; 2 Kira MacDonald, Lochaber; 3 Anna Berardelli, Lochaber. 1 Sandy Laing, Portree; 2 Andrew Grieve, Portree; 3 Angus Meenan, Portree.

The event is hosted by the Rural Education Trust, in memory of the late Peter English, with support from High Life Highland active schools team.

## Silver medal for Lochaber boxer

BOXER Ewan Easson clinched silver at the Scottish Open Championships' finals despite only being competitively involved in the sport for 10 months.

It is considered a fantastic achievement for the 14-year-old to reach the level of second best in Scotland in such a short space of time.

Easson's opponent in the final, held in Bridgeton on Saturday afternoon, was Lochee's John Reilly. The huge task in front of Easson was highlighted by the fact that Reilly had taken part in almost three times as many contests as his Fort William counterpart.

When the first bell sounded, however, there was no apparent difference in quality; in fact Easson was the man bossing proceedings as he took control of ring centre and forced his southpaw opponent to move in a direction he wasn't comfortable with. Easson was constantly feinting to get into position and Reilly found it difficult to land enough clean blows. Easson boxed at a good rhythm to launch two and three attacks at a time and take the round. Suddenly, Reilly found himself in a real fight when on paper he was supposed to dominate.

Easson again started the next round strongly, pinning Reilly in a corner under a barrage of blows.

With the boxer from Dundee being a natural counter puncher, the quantity of punches coming

his way stopped his ability to use his favoured form of attack.

This is where Reilly showed his experience and readjusted his tactics to occasionally lead and disrupt the flow of the Fort William youngster. This round went to Reilly and the Scottish title rested on the final round.

Each boxer attempted to outsmart the other in the deciding round as first one, then the other would gain a foothold only for his counterpart to come back and score his own shots. Neither boxer scored a lot of clean punches in this round as both were wary not to over commit and leave an opening. When the bell rang things really were balanced on a knife edge.

Whilst two of the judges voted

### Boxing

for Easson, three went for Reilly and the title went to Dundee.

Club coach Charlie Anderson was delighted with the performance and attitude of Easson.

He said: 'Ewan has come such a long way in such a short time that sometimes it's easy to forget this is only his first full season of boxing.'

'You can only ask a boxer to do his best and box to the best of his abilities and Ewan did just that and should have no regrets.'

'He's a great talent and if he continues to train with the attitude he has so far there will definitely be more ups than downs in his boxing career.'



Ewan Easson takes home silver from open championships.



Portree high with the shield for winning the best average placing. Photographs: John Paul Peebles, Abrightside Photography.

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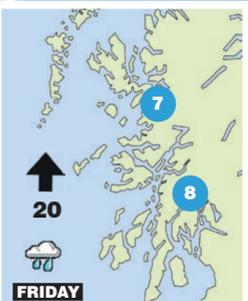
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**WEATHER**

**Thursday** Light rain  
Winds moderate west south westerly  
Temperatures 3°C to 8°C.

**Friday** Light rain  
Winds moderate southerly  
Temperatures 5°C to 7°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Heavy rain showers on Saturday  
Heavy rain showers on Sunday  
Winds moderate south south westerly  
Temperatures 4°C to 7°C.



**Stop Press:** New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

**TIDAL INFORMATION**  
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday March 24, 2016** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am			pm		
Thur	00.15	0.7	06.08	4.0	12.48	0.9
Fri	00.48	0.8	06.39	4.0	13.17	1.0
Sat	01.20	0.9	07.08	3.9	13.46	1.1
Sun	01.50	1.0	07.36	3.8	14.13	1.2
Mon	02.18	1.2	08.02	3.6	14.35	1.4
Tues	02.46	1.4	08.31	3.4	15.02	1.6
Wed	03.22	1.6	09.06	3.2	15.44	1.7

Port	Difference
Ardershaig	-5.35
Campbeltown	-5.30
Crinan	-0.47
Islay Port Ellen	2.00
Lochboisdale	+0.30
Mallaig	+0.25
Portree	+0.55
Tobermory	+0.16
Dover	+5.30

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)