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## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Trying pays off for Lorne

# Tiree in shock over death of 'talented, beautiful' couple

## ISLAND DOCTOR AND HER HUSBAND KILLED IN EASTER PLANE TRAGEDY

**EUAN PATERSON**  
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

AN ISLAND population is in mourning following the tragic death of Tiree woman Dr Margaret Ann Rous and her husband David in a plane crash near Loch Etive.

The 'beautiful and talented' couple, who lived in Newport on Tay and were married less than two years ago, were flying from Dundee last Saturday to be with Margaret Ann's family on Tiree for the Easter weekend.

They were the only passengers on board the Piper Cherokee when it crashed on Beinn nan Lus, near Glen Kinglas, at around 12.30pm.

Islanders said Margaret Ann, a 37-year-old GP, and David, 28, an engineer, visited Tiree whenever they could.

Tiree minister Rev Elspeth Maclean said: 'Following the tragic plane crash on Saturday afternoon, the two families and indeed the whole island of Tiree are in shock as we all mourn the loss of a beautiful, talented and much loved young couple, Margaret Ann and David Rous.'

'We ask at this time that the families in particular, and the island of Tiree as a whole, be allowed to grieve in peace.'

'Your prayers are welcome, but please give everyone the space and peace that is required at such a time.'

Islander Stewart MacLennan, a friend of Margaret Ann since their school days, described her as 'a kind, clever, bright and happy person, who made her family very proud.'

He added: 'She didn't have a bad bone in her body and she had an incredible relationship with her sister. They were very close.'

'She is a tragic loss to the island because she has lots of friends



TRAGIC LOSS: Margaret Ann and David Rous

and a big family network here.

There are a lot of people, particularly in her home township of Kilmaluag, that are hurting but they will be there to support the family.'

Police, coastguard, lifeboat and mountain rescue teams from Oban and Arrochar were called out to join a search for the plane on Saturday afternoon.

Andrew Servant, the stalker on Glen Kinglas estate had notified the emergency services after receiving a report from hillwalkers, who had heard a crash on the hill.

Around 37 people were involved in the hill search, which ended at 8pm when members of Oban mountain rescue team located the wreckage around 500 metres above sea level. Beinn an Lus is 709 metres in height.

Detective Chief Inspector Bob Frew, from Police Scotland's ma-

jeor investigations team, is leading the investigation into the crash and said the bodies of the young couple had been recovered from the wreckage.

'Our family liaison officers are working closely with both families and will continue to support them throughout this difficult time.'

'Police Scotland would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the public who called us on 101 to provide information regarding this incident.'

'We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to the Oban mountain rescue team and all our partner agencies that have assisted in the search and recovery operation so far.'

The recovery of plane parts is currently under way and anyone who has any information relating to the crash is urged to contact police on 101.



DESPERATE SEARCH: A Royal Navy winchman with a map of the search area

### TIMESLINE

#### Fallen headstones a growing concern

A DRAFT policy for dealing with fallen headstones is one of the main items on the agenda for Argyll and Bute councillors when they meet next week.

Councillors were concerned that a growing number of memorials were considered 'a health and safety risk'.

In some cases 'one in 20' stones were considered 'unsafe' and required urgent attention. The full policy will be presented to councillors in early 2016.

#### Early-morning fog disrupts sailings

THICK fog disrupted ferry services yesterday (Wednesday) as both CalMac and Argyll and Bute council vessels remained tied up in the morning.

Early-morning passengers boarded the Isle of Mull ferry without knowing whether the boat would sail, while the Lismore ferry was cancelled until the fog had cleared.

#### Youthful outlook leads to an award

FISH FARM firm Dawnfresh has been named youth employer of the month by Skills Development Scotland for getting young people into work.

The company, which operates three farms in the West Highlands, received the award when youth employment minister, Annabelle Ewing, visited its headquarters last week.

#### Election fever set to grip west coast

THE battle for Britain has been engaged in earnest as the political parties vie for the votes of the West Highlands electorate.

Turn to page four for the first part of our coverage on the general election.



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### Call to turn dental unit into hospice

**STEVEN RAE**  
srae@obantimes.co.uk

NHS HIGHLAND is still no closer to filling the gap for three dentists at the custom-built dental access centre in Oban, more than two-and-a-half years after it opened.

Despite employing three full-time dental staff including two dentists and a dental hygienist, none of them can take standard NHS appointments.

And now it is being questioned whether the building would be better used for another purpose.

The issue was discussed recently at a meeting of Oban community council.

Secretary Duncan Martin said that three of the six surgeries in the centre were being used following the appointment of a dentist on March 1, but only for specialist appointments or referrals.

During the meeting, councillor for Oban South and the Isles, Roddy McCuish, noted that the town 'seemed awash' with dentists, and questioned whether the building could be put to better use, perhaps as a day hospice.

Speaking to the *Oban Times*, councillor McCuish said: 'I'm still of the mindset that what was perhaps a good idea at the time might not be a viable option now.'

'Unless NHS Highland can provide a business case then perhaps other uses for the building should be explored. Sometimes the hardest thing to do is admit, "we got it wrong".'

The community council heard in January that the cost of hiring a dental chair at the centre was £165 an hour.

When asked if it was financially viable for a dentist to rent a chair at the centre, an NHS Highland spokesman said: 'It has been financially viable in other areas of Scotland.'

'The ideal model is to incorporate the current services with the provision of three general dentists leasing the three vacant surgeries.'

### Striking staff set to return to work

SECURITY staff at Highland and Island Airports (HIAL) are due to finish their strike today (Thursday) at midday.

The 48-hour strike over pay and conditions involves staff working for HIAL's security company AMSL.

The workers want a five per cent pay rise.

Their claim for pay parity with staff at Sumburgh Airport on Shetland has the backing of the trade union Prospect.

Flights from Barra, Benbecula, Campbeltown, Islay and Tiree have operated normally.

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**Headteacher says fond goodbye to talented children**

THE HEADTEACHER of Rockfield primary school said a fond farewell to pupils and staff last week, as he embarks on a new career on Orkney. James Wylie, who took over at the school in February 2014, will begin his new post later this month with Orkney Islands council. James, who previously taught at Kirn primary school near Dunoon, said: 'I've really enjoyed working with such talented children and hugely supportive staff. 'The determination and hard work of the children, who are absolutely focused on whatever they do, has made my time here an absolute pleasure. 'Rockfield is a culture, with the Gaelic, the music and the sport, which all fit into the fantastic Oban culture. It'll be sad to leave that.' Caroline Fothergill, who previously taught at Dalmally primary school, has been appointed acting headteacher.



**MOVING ON:** James Wylie

**Entries invited for tourism awards**

ENTRIES are now open for the 2015 Highlands and Islands Tourism awards, with the competition fiercer than ever. The awards are free to enter and businesses or individuals can put themselves forward or be nominated by others in any of the 15 categories. The event will culminate in a ceremony at the Drumossie Hotel, Inverness, on November 13. Previous winners include the Tires Music Festival, which won best culture event in 2013. **Road closes after head-on collision** TWO CARS were involved in a head-on collision in Ardrishaig on Monday afternoon. The incident happened on the A83 Glenburn Road at about 3.55pm. The road was closed initially, but normal traffic flow was restored within two hours. No one was injured in the crash.



**STEPPING UP:** around 70 people made the journey to Pennyfuir cemetery, in memory of Scott Goldie, including mum Tracy, kneeling left

**Mother hopes that thousands raised by walk will help kick-start charity**

**STEVEN RAE**  
srae@obantimes.co.uk

A SPONSORED walk in memory of a tragic Oban teenager has raised more than £3,000 for charity.

Around 70 people took part in the memorial walk from Oban high school to Pennyfuir cemetery, to mark the anniversary of Scott Goldie's death.

Scott was a promising shinty player, having been selected for various Scotland squads as a boy, before dying suddenly of

streptococcus pneumonia (group A) on April 7 last year.

Scott's mother Tracy explained: 'This walk will help to raise awareness of Scott's condition, as well as raising money for research and for people suffering from the illness.'

'Scott was a top shinty player and was greatly loved by his family and friends, and that shows with the turnout that's here today, with so many people who cared about him.'

The group walked to Scott's grave, where they held a minute's

silence, and left a T-shirt which people inscribed with messages.

En-route, the group carried collection buckets for Scott Goldie Brighter Future, a charity created by his family, which will raise money for Great Ormond Street hospital in London.

The charity walk is just the beginning of different fundraising ideas Tracy aims to carry out to register the club in the coming months. Tracy said: 'The police have been so helpful to us, saying they will help with setting up the boxing club, and on Saturday they stopped while we were on

our way to Pennyfuir and donated money in the buckets. 'I'd like to say a big thanks to the Wool and Needlecraft centre in Oban for printing the T-shirts free of charge, to Tesco for donating 50 bottles of water for our walkers, and to Steven Shaw and Mairi Reid for their sponsorship which raised more than £500. And thanks to The Oban Times for all their help too.'

Anyone interested in donating to the Scott Goldie Brighter Future Fund can visit [www.justgiving.com/Eleanor-Lopez](http://www.justgiving.com/Eleanor-Lopez).

Walker airlifted to Glasgow hospital

A WOMAN was airlifted from Ballachuan wood, Seil, after falling last Tuesday while out walking. Oban mountain rescue team helped paramedics and local GP George Hannah move the woman, who suffered a suspected broken ankle, to a clear area where the helicopter could land. She was taken to hospital in Glasgow.

**Right said Fred to join him on stage** BUDDING comedians have the chance to support one of Scotland's best-known stand-ups at a show in Dalmally next weekend. On Saturday April 18, Fred MacAulay is offering two support act places on the night for people who can entertain an audience for 20 minutes. For more information, telephone 01838 200496.

**Coll finally gets connected over mobile calls**

**STEVEN RAE**  
srae@obantimes.co.uk

COLL residents are celebrating after finally getting mobile coverage for the first time as a Vodafone service went live.

The £165,000 project, which was switched on March 25, is funded by a partnership between community-run organisation Development Coll, the Scottish government and mobile giant Vodafone. It is part of the Scottish government's demonstrating digital programme.

The initiative was a joint effort, with local landowner Alex McLean-Bristol providing the land for the mast free of charge and Vodafone also not charging for their mobile equipment.

Development Coll, a community trust established to generate income through local enterprise, is taking ownership of the mobile mast and has assumed responsibility for its maintenance.

George McConnachie, from Development Coll, said: 'I'm very happy the service is up and running. Vodafone were on the island to assess how it is performing.'

'It's unique technology for a rural area. The signal has to come via four different networks from England, to Scotland to Mull and then Coll.'

'We've had an emails from delighted Mull and Tires residents saying their coverage has improved.'

However, while pleased for the



**ACTION CALL:** Michael Russell

island's 200 residents and praising the business model used, MSP for Argyll and Bute Michael Russell said he was 'disgusted' by the lack of investment in other parts of the area by mobile phone operators.

'Of course, I am very pleased for the community on Coll who will benefit greatly from the new service, which has been provided as a pilot and with the support of the Scottish government,' he said.

'However, like most people in Argyll and Bute, I remain disgusted with the lack of investment from the mobile phone companies themselves.'

'This area is officially the worst served in Scotland but only EE has been noticeable in trying to

improve with 3G now available in Oban and a number of other places.

'By contrast, Vodafone, despite having thousands of local subscribers, seems to be doing nothing to improve service and the only 3G it provides in the whole of Argyll is a spill-over service on the Cowal shore.'

'Meanwhile, data access is virtually non-existent and even voice services are unavailable in some parts of the constituency.'

'It is time these massively profitable mobile companies - and especially Vodafone and O2 - took a long hard look at themselves and prioritised their paying customers in Argyll who are getting a very raw deal indeed.'

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**A feast of local foods at health day**

PUPILS from Salen, Lochdonhead and Ulva primary schools treated staff and pupils to a lunch of locally produced food as part of a health day.

Primary six youngsters took over the school kitchen for the morning and, under the guidance of sous chef Michael Shannon from the Western Isles Hotel, assisted by Iona, and Eilidh and Debbie from the school kitchen, prepared and served a feast of wonderful Mull produce which had been donated by local producers.

On the menu was Oni Boa's pork, Glengorm beef, Scottish Sea Farms salmon, Sgrìobradh cheese, Island Bakery biscuits and sorbet from Isle of Mull ice cream.

The pupils learned about food preparation and local food and enjoyed the experience. The schools thank all the local producers for giving the pupils this opportunity.

Many thanks also to volunteers who came to speak to the pupils in a series of health day workshops - Gerry Ralston worked with the children on Heartstart emergency lifesaving skills, Joyce MacIntyre and Fiona Sanderson spoke about the importance of healthy eating, staff from the Glasgow Science Centre told the pupils all about digestion, Duncan Travers, head gardener at Torosay Gardens, taught the children how to sow and grow courgettes and Andrea McKenna and Jane MacLean got everyone moving with their Zumba routines. The children also produced a map showing what a variety of delicious foods are produced on Mull.

BEACHES in the north west of Mull are safer for wildlife thanks to the efforts of Mull Otter Group (MOG) volunteers.

Two storm-lashed areas of coastline on the Treshnish estate were recently cleaned by the island conservation group.

Jane Stevens of MOG said: 'Litter is not only unsightly, but can also be potentially harmful to wildlife. Cleaning the coastline of the Isle of Mull is a never ending task but MOG views it as an opportunity to give something back to the wild places and wildlife of the island.'

Landowners Carlyne and Somerset Charrington, at Treshnish Farm, were delighted at what was achieved and greatly appreciated the efforts made by those who came along to lend a helping hand.

As a reward for their efforts, everyone who helped was treated to a soup and cake lunch, courtesy of Ruth Fleming, David Woodhouse and Brockville Bed and Breakfast, Tobermory.

**Chance to question general election candidates**

A HUSTINGS for general election candidates will be held in Craignure village hall next Friday, April 17 at 7pm.

Questions on the night will be from the floor and Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT) would also like some questions in advance, which can be sent to all the candidates. Moray Finch, of MICT, said: 'If people are unable to attend the hustings, this would be a great way for your questions to be raised. It is hoped the proceedings can be recorded and uploaded for online viewing. These questions will be put to the candidates by chairwoman Mary-Jean Devon.'

Send your questions directly to [mfinch@mict.co.uk](mailto:mfinch@mict.co.uk) marked 'hustings questions' in the subject line.

**TIMESLINE**

**Kayaker rescued from rocks at falls**

A KAYAKER was taken to hospital at the weekend after getting trapped on rocks while on a group excursion near Crianlarich. The incident happened on Sunday morning at the Falls of Falloch, five kilometres south of Crianlarich. The man was taken to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley as a result of his injuries. A spokeswoman for the Scottish Ambulance Service said: 'A kayaker taking part in a group excursion was injured on the rocks and had to be rescued. 'We had our specialist operations team out and the fire service assisted with the rescue.'

**National Trust's call to members**

THE NATIONAL Trust for Scotland is looking for trustees to help maintain its Argyll landmarks. The trust, which owns and cares for Arduaine garden in Oban, is looking for members to join the board when five current trustees' terms of office finish in September. New trustees will be selected by a vote of the trust's 330,000 members to be conducted later this year. The closing date for applications is April 22. Anyone interested should visit [www.nts.org.uk/elections](http://www.nts.org.uk/elections).

**Walker airlifted to Glasgow hospital**

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**Duke opens home to visiting public**

INVERARAY Castle, seat of the Campbells, is now open to the public for the summer season until the end of October.

**Business as usual as livestock mart looks to future**

CALEDONIAN Marts, the operator of Oban Livestock Centre, is in the process of being taken over by the preferred bidders, Stirling farmers John, Brian and Steven Gilvear.

A statement released by Caledonian Marts, which has leased the Oban site for 17 years, says a deal should be concluded by the end of April. It would involve a financial takeover of the firm, a farmers' co-operative with more than 2,500 members, which also owns and operates a mart in Stirling.

James Cullens, managing director of Caledonian Marts, said: 'As far as I'm aware it will be business as usual, both in Stirling and Oban.'

'I'm happy that the Gilvear family look to be taking over as they know the business, they're well known in farming circles in the central belt and will definitely help the cause to keep the market operating.'

Duncan Buchanan, one of the shareholders of the co-operative and a director on the board, said 'all going well' Caledonian Marts would continue at the site.

'We are hopeful Caledonian Marts will continue leasing the livestock centre but nothing is set in stone yet,' he said. 'The Gilvear family know the cattle and sheep business inside out and we're hopeful, if they do take over, they'll leave the set-up as it has been for the past 17 years as we feel we've done a good job in that time.'

**Yacht towed to safety from bay**

A 40-FOOT yacht ran aground on Corran ledge in Oban Bay after losing engine power.

Oban lifeboat was called to help at 8.20pm on Sunday and within minutes had attached a line to tow it to safety.

Once it was established there was no major damage, the yacht was taken under tow to Oban Marina.

**Taynuilt parents 'proud' as their daughter makes church history**

**EUAN PATERSON**  
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

A TAYNUILT couple have spoken of their pride after their daughter became the first female diocesan bishop in the history of the Church of England.

Robert and Marian Montgomery's daughter, the Venerable Rachel Treweek, was last week appointed Bishop of Gloucester by Her Majesty the Queen, becoming the most senior female in the church and in charge of 305 parishes.

It was only in July of last year that the church's General Synod voted to allow women to be ordained as bishops and there are just two other female bishops: Libby Lane and Alison White.

Robert and Marian, both elders at Muckairn parish church in Taynuilt, said they were 'gob-smacked' at the news of their daughter's appointment, which was announced by the Prime Minister's office on March 26.

Currently Archdeacon of Hackney, Rachel's consecration will take place on July 22, before she is formally enthroned at Gloucester Cathedral later this year.

'It is strange to think this remarkable woman was a girl I used to read bedtime stories,' said Robert, a former master mariner. 'We are very proud parents.'

The couple, both 82, moved to Brochroy Croft, Taynuilt eight years ago from Norfolk to be



**PROUD:** parents Robert and Marian Montgomery and their daughter Rachel (pictured top right) who has just been appointed Bishop of Gloucester

**“It is strange to think this remarkable woman was a girl I used to read bedtime stories”**

**Robert Montgomery**

neerer family on Tiree and will celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary in June this year.

But their biggest celebration was their daughter's appointment, which they heard about via Skype when they were in South Africa on holiday. Marian, who was her daughter's Sunday school teacher, said: 'She's making history, really. The church has never had a lady as a diocesan bishop.'

'This is an awesome and challenging appointment for Rachel and she will need the support and prayers of all her family and friends.'

'There are still some within the church that don't want female bishops but she is a strong character and she'll cope.'

Rachel is married to Guy, priest-in-charge of two parishes in London. Her brother, Tim



Montgomery, is a vicar in the Church of England. Rachel said: 'It is an immense joy and privilege to be appointed as the Bishop of Gloucester.'

'I am surprised and, I have to admit, even a little daunted by the prospect, but my overwhelming feeling is one of excitement.'

'I am looking forward to encouraging Christians to speak out with confidence about their faith.'

'It will be my privilege to work with churches as we connect with people, wherever they are and whatever their concerns.'

The news of her appointment has reached far beyond her own diocese. The Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town, the Most Reverend Desmond Tutu, said: 'What fantastic news. I'm thrilled for you dear Rachel and I'm thrilled for the Diocese of Gloucester, for the Church of England, for the Church of God and for all of us. Yippee.'

**Coach crash victim thanks 'incredible' rescuers**

A HOLIDAYING couple have spoken of the 'overwhelming kindness' from people who assisted them when the coach they were travelling in came off the road at the Rest and Be Thankful hill on the A83.

Colin Crowhurst and his wife Carol were on the Lochs and Glens coach when it crashed on March 26 after being caught

in a gust of wind. 'At least 30 motorists stopped to help,' said retired lawyer Colin, who lives in Hertfordshire.

'They really were life-savers. The community hall opened up its doors and provided much-needed hot drinks and biscuits.'

Police were joined at the scene by the Scottish Fire and Rescue

service, the Scottish Ambulance service, Argyll and Bute council, the Royal Navy and a mountain rescue team.

A total of 28 people were hospitalised after the crash, but none of their injuries were life threatening.

Colin continued: 'The very professional emergency services were incredible. I definitely



**GRATEFUL:** Colin Crowhurst

think that without their skills and prompt attendance, things could have been so much worse. Everybody at the scene that day did everything they could for people in the coach.'

'They are a testament to the community spirit of people in the Highlands of Scotland that they will go the extra mile for people in need.'

**TIMESLINE**

**Charity box theft prompts 'sadness'**

A VOLUNTEER who has raised thousands of pounds for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) has spoken of his sadness at the theft of a charity box in Oban.

The RNLI charity box, containing an estimated £200, was stolen from Matrix computer services, Breadalbane Street, on March 25.

Following extensive enquiries by police, a 39-year-old woman has become subject of a report to the procurator fiscal.

Willie Melville, the RNLI's deputy press officer in Oban, has raised more than £3,500 from sales of his book, The Story of Oban Lifeboat.

He said: 'What is in the minds of people that do things like that? They must have been desperate.'

'We have an enormous bank of goodwill in Oban towards the charity. The fact we have a boat here helps but if it was a cancer charity box I would feel the same way.'

'I mainly feel sadness for the person who has done this.'

**Man faces charge on supplying drug**

A 33-year-old man is the subject of a report to the procurator fiscal on a charge of possessing a controlled drug with intent to supply.

The man was stopped and searched by police in Glegallan Road, Oban, last Thursday and found to be in possession of a quantity of diazepam.

He was released to appear at Oban sheriff court on an undertaking.

**Banned motorist failed breath test**

A MAN was stopped by police on Oban's Esplanade and charged with drink driving after midnight last Thursday.

The 62-year-old man was also accused of driving while disqualified and driving without insurance.

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# SNP has the West Highlands in its sights

WITH the general election looming large on the horizon, *The Oban Times* will focus over the next three weeks on the personalities and policies that will shape the battles for three West Highland and islands constituencies. Voters in **Argyll and Bute, Ross, Skye and Lochaber** and the **Western Isles** will mark the card of the political establishment, in more ways than one, when they decide on May 7 who will represent their constituencies at Westminster.

Given the huge groundswell of support for the SNP since last September's independence referendum, pundits have been forecasting a landslide victory in Scotland for the nationalists. The results of these ballot box battles in Scotland could alter drastically the political map of Great Britain.

The prospect of yet another minority government propped up by a smaller party looks a certainty, according to those who make a living reading the political runes.

The well-established and high-profile MP Charles Kennedy, the former leader of the Liberal Democrats, has a fight on his hands to hold on to his Ross, Skye and Lochaber seat. The man occupying the neighbouring constituency of Argyll and Bute, Alan Reid, will have defied the odds if he remains in pole position on May 8.



This week, the candidates vying for Argyll and Bute have subjected their manifestos to the scrutiny of *Oban Times* readers; next week it will be the turn of candidates for Ross, Skye and Lochaber and the Western Isles the week after.

Argyll and Bute is a vast constituency which includes Oban, Mull, Kintyre, Mid Argyll, Cowal and Helensburgh.

A recent poll conducted on behalf of former Conservative party chairman Michael Ashcroft described the constituency as a four-way marginal. In 2010, there was only 13 per cent of a difference between the first and fourth places. At the time, Lib Dem Alan Reid won the seat when he polled 14,292, while the Conservatives recorded 10,861, Labour 10,274 and the SNP 8563.

## Protecting economic progress

ALASTAIR REDMAN - CONSERVATIVE



As a small business owner in Argyll and Bute, I know the challenges faced by both the rural and urban parts of this constituency.

While our local and national economies are starting to grow, we are still facing big challenges. Our population is falling, whilst elsewhere we see growth. Argyll and Bute's infrastructure is creaking. We need more affordable housing and jobs for young people. Our broadband service and roads are among the worst in Scotland.

Our local NHS services like the Oban dental practice and Lorn and Islands Hospital have, like so many hospitals across Argyll and Bute, seen vital services taken away and centralised to Glasgow.

Who knows what the cost of a Labour or Lib-Dem coalition would be? Both of them are halfway down the aisle with the SNP.

Labour has failed to rule out a deal with the SNP and the Lib-Dems' Vince Cable has stated he is open to a rainbow coalition, which

includes the SNP. Don't waste your vote on the Lib-Dems, who are finished in Scotland. They trail all other parties with only four per cent in the polls.

Labour's support is also collapsing and they have never won in Argyll and Bute. It's clear that only the Conservatives have the strength to beat the SNP and only we can safeguard Argyll and Bute's hard-fought economic progress.

Vote Conservative and Unionist at the election and I promise to work tirelessly for Argyll and Bute.

## Representing everyone

MARY GALBRAITH - LABOUR



This election is about choosing who can best represent everyone in Argyll and Bute. As Labour's candidate since 2013, the clear message I hear everywhere is that we deserve better: a better government and better representation in parliament.

A Labour government will increase the minimum wage to £8, end exploitative zero-hours contracts, tackle tax-dodging, lower energy prices, abolish the bedroom tax, introduce a £1,600 future fund for school leavers and protect the NHS.

Most people are £1,600 worse off than they were in 2010. Our plans will help the households hit hardest, not just the privileged few at the top. People I meet support these plans and know only a Labour government can deliver the change we need. Most didn't vote for the coalition and feel betrayed that our Lib-Dem MP endorsed policies few here chose.

Born and reared in Argyll, I grew up on the family farm in Kintyre, was educated in local schools, then

studied economics and German at Glasgow University. I've taught English in Germany, worked as an economist, was employed by Argyll and Clyde NHS Board and now do strategic change work across Europe.

I've been active in community groups and committees campaigning on ferries, local enterprise, elderly care and culture. I led the parents' association that established the Glasgow Gaelic school, which our children attended.

It's the need to transform our prospects here that drives me to represent local people. Because Argyll and Bute deserves better.

## Continuing the recovery

ALAN REID - LIB DEMS



This will clearly be a very close election between myself and the SNP challenger, with the other parties out of the running.

People have a choice between the Liberal Democrat policy of continuing the recovery from the crash of 2008 or voting SNP with their policy of going to London to demand a £7 billion cut in the Scottish parliament's budget.

This is because they want to replace the generous Barnett funding formula with fast disappearing oil revenues.

Liberal Democrats succeeded in putting the needs of the West Highlands and islands at the heart of government policy - a fuel duty freeze and a five pence island fuel duty discount, now extended to some rural mainland filling stations.

The budget announced a £30 cut in Highlands and islands electricity bills. Super-fast broadband and 4G mobile phone coverage are on their way over the next two years thanks to work done in the last parliament. We delivered a £825 tax cut for

workers on middle and low incomes and a state pension increase double the rate of inflation. The NHS will continue to be our top priority. We have published a fully costed plan to increase health spending by £8 billion a year with far greater priority being given to mental health.

I have shown myself to be an independently-minded MP who doesn't just toe the party line. I voted against the bedroom tax and university tuition fees.

I promise to put Argyll and Bute first, as I always have done.

## Time to pull plug on austerity

BRENDAN O'HARA - SNP



This general election is not a re-run of the referendum.

In May, you have the opportunity to keep Scotland top of the UK political agenda and secure extensive new powers for the Scottish parliament.

Together we can end Westminster's unfair and inequitable austerity programme and scrap the plan to spend 100 billion pounds replacing Trident.

As never before, Scottish issues are dominating UK politics, and with no one party likely to win a majority in the UK parliament after May, a large group of SNP MPs may hold the balance of power in Westminster. With that influence, the SNP will ensure that new powers promised to the Scottish parliament in September are delivered in full. We will also be able to bring to an end the Tory/Lib-Dem coalition's austerity programme, which has hit the poorest and most vulnerable in our society hardest, with 60 per cent of Scottish children who are currently living in poverty coming from a house in which at least one

adult is in work. And, at a time when working families are relying on food banks, the SNP will be able to force a UK government to abandon its plans to spend obscene amounts of your money on replacing an immoral nuclear weapons system that makes no economic or military sense.

This is what a vote for the SNP can achieve, not only for you and Argyll and Bute, but also for Scotland and everyone across the UK. Only you have the power to make that happen.

## End cosy Westminster club

CAROLINE SANTOS - UKIP



The eldest of three, brought up and educated in Argyll, I am delighted to have been selected by UKIP for my home constituency of Argyll and Bute.

Educated at rural Rashfield primary and then Dunoon Grammar, I initially spent time working in the tourist industry on the Isle of Tiree and then at a fish farm outside Dunoon.

I then changed direction to spend some of my career working in the care industry while bringing up three children.

I have now returned to the tourist industry. I have always had a keen interest in politics, particularly issues affecting rural areas.

It is my belief the cosy Westminster club of career politicians has gone on for too long.

A passionate believer in freedom and less government, with a libertarian angle and alarmed by the dictatorship of the European Union and the growing cancer of nationalism back home, UKIP was my natural choice.

If elected to represent Argyll and Bute, I will prove a doughty champion for the issues affecting the constituency whilst campaigning to end rule from Brussels and promote Scotland's place at the heart of a united kingdom.

## Cash boost for Argyll groups facing up to climate change

COMMUNITY groups in Argyll taking action against damaging impacts of climate change are among those to benefit from the Scottish government's £1.69 million climate challenge fund.

The fund provides financial support for community groups to run projects to help reduce their community's carbon footprint.

Mull and Iona Sustainable Transport, a project which reduces the number of single occupancy car journeys on the island, will receive £69,833 from the fund. The project, run by Mull and Iona Community Trust, will establish a lift-share system and promote other

lower-carbon travel options such as a community minibus and cycling.

The community venture will also work to increase electric car use on the island by converting a vehicle to demonstrate the practical benefits of this type of transport.

Housing association Fyne Homes will receive £83,306 to help its tenants in Bute, Cowal, Mid Argyll and Kintyre to heat their homes, while reducing energy use, carbon emissions and fuel poverty levels. Based on Bute, Fyne Homes manages more than 1,400 social housing properties.

## Warning after Tommy loses rugby ban appeal

THE SUSPENSION of an Oban coach for nine weeks has led rugby bosses to release a warning to youth clubs about fielding over-age players, writes *Steven Rae*.

Tommy Sutherland (pictured), who also plays for Oban Lorne, was hit with the ban last month for allowing Oban high school pupil Rufus Stones to compete in under-16 matches.

Promising Rufus was 13 days too old to appear for the under-16s, but too young to play at under-18 level, which meant he would have missed out on competitive rugby for a year.

Tommy said he fielded the boy following unofficial advice from Scottish

Rugby, the game's governing body, and with the consent of opposing teams.

The Scottish Rugby statement said: 'The sanction imposed by the independent discipline committee reflected the seriousness with which Scottish Rugby takes player safety and is designed to act as a deterrent to other coaches and officials who may feel pressured into fielding players who are too old or too young for their age band.'

'Scottish Rugby's age banding policy states that children and young people should be playing and training with people of the same age and physical maturity.'

Scottish Rugby's head of youth and



schools Colin Thomson added: 'The safety of our young players has to be a priority for all involved in our schools and youth game.'

'All clubs are reminded of the importance of following the guidelines and procedures that apply to the level of rugby they are delivering. Clubs must be conscious that action will be taken when these policies are breached.'

Tommy, who was voted BT Volunteer of the Month last September for his service to local rugby, met Scottish Rugby bosses two weeks ago to appeal the ban, but his plea was rejected. He is considering his future in coaching after claiming the ban was unfair.

### NOTICE TO LANDOWNERS & OCCUPIERS

New 33kV electricity overhead wood pole line for Cia Aig Hydro Electric Station at Achnacarry, Fort William, Inverness-shire.

Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution (SHEPD) will be operating a helicopter at low level and therefore farmers and land owners are advised to put any livestock that may be distressed by the helicopter in a secure area.

A helicopter will be used on Tuesday 14th & Wednesday 15th April to transport wooden poles from the storage areas at Banavie and Moy to the construction site.

The route of the new line is no more than 100 metres from the public highway between Banavie (Grid Ref: NN11255 77702) and Achnacarry (Grid Ref: NN17500 88850) and will be parallel to this road.

Should the helicopter not fly on this dates due to bad weather a new notice will be advertised.

For more information please contact: Max Bigham 01631 569209.



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## More than a drop in the ocean for an award-winning ferry

STEVEN RAE  
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TRANSPORTING Islay's most famous export has just won a Caledonian MacBayne (CalMac) ferry service an international safety award.

The MV Finlaggan carries more bulk malt whisky than any other ferry in Great Britain and has just been

HANDLE WITH CARE: Crew members, from left: deck trainee Jamie Knox, chief officer and safety officer Lee McDowell and quartermaster Malcolm Miller from MV Finlaggan with a little of Islay's precious malt whisky cargo

awarded the International Safety Award with merit from the British Safety Council.

The rigorous submissions procedure also investigated everything from details of crew welfare through to first aid procedures.

CalMac transports 25 per cent of Scotland's annual malt whisky output from Islay, which has eight distilleries and neighbouring island Jura has one.

Such cargoes are hazardous and must be handled with care because of the potential risk of fire or pollution. As well as transporting its precious liquid cargo, the MV Finlaggan carried 114,000 passengers, 40,000 cars and 6,500 commercial vehicles, while spending the equivalent of more than 130 days at sea.

## Community takes ownership of primary school

A SCHOOL taken over by a trust is to be transformed into a community hub including a bunkhouse, affordable housing, heritage exhibition, bar, restaurant, laundrette, bike shed and a play area.

The Glendale Trust successfully completed the purchase of the former Borrodale school, Skye.

The school was closed in 2010 and it

was agreed in 2013 to buy it on behalf of the community. A successful award of £190,000 from the Scottish Land Fund as well as project development funding from Highlands and Islands Enterprise has helped the community complete the purchase and create an ambitious plan for the redevelopment of the buildings and site.

Speaking on behalf of the Glendale

Trust, Joy Talbot, who had four children at the school, thanked the volunteer board of the trust and the staff employed to work on the project.

She said: 'This project is an ambitious undertaking for the community but it will provide much needed employment, services and benefits to the area of Glendale and north Skye. 'The community felt a great loss

when the school was closed in 2010 but the support for the project, especially from those with links to the school, has been phenomenal.

'We plan to invite all the alumni that we can get in touch with to come and view the future plans and hopefully they can contribute to the new heritage exhibition that will be housed in the hub building.'

# MV DONALD JOHN MACDONALD GOES ON PATROL SIX YEARS AFTER LOCH AWE 'TRAGEDY' CLAIMED FOUR MEN'S LIVES

## Leading light in campaign remembered as loch watch safety boat is launched

LOUISE GLEN  
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SIX YEARS on from a terrible accident that saw four men lose their lives on Loch Awe, a boat was launched this week in recognition of one of the founding members of the safety group set up in the wake of the tragedy.

On Tuesday morning, close to the shore on the north side of the loch near Lochawe village, the MV Donald John Macdonald, the Loch Awe safety boat, was officially named.

The boat is the culmination of six years of hard work from campaigners for a safety boat in the water.

Launching the boat was councillor Donald John Macdonald's widow, Dot, daughter Kirsty and family members from Edinburgh, who were joined by friends and members of the LochWatch Loch Awe group.

Iain MacKinnon, the chairman of the charity Loch Watch Loch Awe, said: 'Launching this boat is very important to the charity.'

'Councillor Donald Macdonald was instrumental in helping found the organisation in order to keep people safe on Loch Awe.'

He said: 'It was actually a tragedy involving local people in 2001 that initially got people thinking about what could be done on the loch to keep people safe.'

'Water safety was a concern of Donald's and mine for some time and we wanted to be able to give people the information they need to keep safe.'

In 2010 fellow founder member Murray Humphries and Iain thought of the idea of LochWatch



LOCH LAUNCH: Councillor Donald Macdonald's widow, Dot, daughter Kirsty, family, friends and members of the LochWatch LochAwe group at the launch. 16\_115Boat1

Loch Awe as a way of informing and educating people on the hazards of the loch.

Iain continued: 'Donald worked on the community safety forum with myself and after the events in March 2009, when four men from Glasgow lost their lives on the loch, we called a meeting of all interested parties.'

'We were overwhelmed with the response from the emergency services who came along and offered support. But as ever, things fell by the wayside - something Donald was determined should not happen.'

'So he called for the voluntary sector organisations and local community to get together and find a way to look at safety on the loch.'

That was when Loch Watch Loch Awe was formed. Donald led the group until he died very suddenly in July 2011.

Over the past five years, the group has had leaflet and poster campaigns around the loch, set up a volunteer-led spotters scheme, an at-cost life jacket campaign and latterly the commissioning of a small second-hand boat.

Donations have come the bereaved families of the four men who drowned on the loch when they fell from a small boat in the early hours of March 21, 2009.

The families of Craig Currie, 30, William Carty, 47, his brother Steven, 42, and Thomas Douglas, 36, have so far given £25,000.

Other 'donations' of time and equipment have enabled the group to lead the way in water safety campaigns throughout Scotland.

A fatal accident inquiry held in Oban sheriff court between June 2010 and January 2011, heard that simple measures put into place at the loch, such as life jackets and leaflets, could save lives.

Launching the boat, Dot Macdonald said: 'I am very touched by the gesture of the boat being named in Donald's name.'

'It was much more than I had expected. 'The boat will be a great resource on the water and will spread the safety message that Donald knew would help to save lives.'

Members will also be briefed next Friday on tackling ebola. NHS Highland's operational units have conducted a 'walk through' exercise to identify where ebola patients would be treated.

An ACE spokeswoman said: 'This is an exciting opportunity to shape the significant contribution the third sector makes to public life.' For details see www.argyllcommunities.org

NHS HIGHLAND'S finance boss says the beleaguered health board is on target to break even at the end of the financial year.

However, Nick Kenton states this depends on delivering forecasted savings. The HNS Highland board meeting will read a report by Mr Kenton that highlights a 'challenging' savings target of £22.4 million, which had been set for the financial year.

At the end of February, the report states, £1.3 million worth of savings were still to be made.

Cinema projected as fair employer

OBAN Phoenix cinema has been praised in the Scottish parliament for being one of the country's first cinemas to introduce the Living Wage. Michael Russell MSP praised the group for meeting the challenge of the living wage with in a community owned social enterprise.

### Sign language is a bridge too far

A ROGUE traffic sign warning of scheduled work taking place on Connel bridge, which carries the A828 trunk road from Connel to Ballachulish, is driving motorists round the bend.

Signs are permanently placed either side of the bridge, however these are usually covered.

But over the Easter weekend the cover on the sign at the bridge's north entrance came down, revealing a notice indicating work would start this June, with overnight closures from 10pm.

However, roads authority BEAR Scotland has confirmed to the *Oban Times* there is no planned work for the bridge.

The error, which has caused confusion for drivers, has been rectified.

### Six of the best in line for the Oscars

SIX FOOD and drink businesses in the Highlands and islands have been shortlisted for the Scottish food and drink 'Oscars'.

A record-breaking 239 entries were received for the Scotland Food and Drink Excellence awards, up from 153 in 2014.

The judging panel tasted 161 product entries during a two-day tasting session and winners will be announced at Edinburgh's National Museum of Scotland on May 27. Nominees include: Bruichladdich Distillery on Islay; Loch Fyne Oysters at Cairndow; Gigha Halibut; The Argyll Smokery at Dunoon; J Lawrie & Sons (Jaffys) of Mallaig; and Isle of Skye Sea Salt Co.

## Urgent plea for more data as infection rate rises

NHS Highland has failed to meet its most recent target to control the spread of the deadly bacteria *Clostridium difficile* (C-diff) infection in hospitals, its board will be told at a meeting next Thursday.

The doctor in charge blamed a lack of information for the high level of cases.

A report to NHS Highland board members will show that while the national target of C-diff cases is 32 per 100,000 of occupied bed days, NHS Highland recorded a rate of 40.6 cases per 100,000 from October to December 2014.

As of March 11, NHS Highland had 87 cases against a target of 78.

Based on previous monthly data, it is estimated that the number of cases by March 31 will be 94.

Jonty Mills, lead infection control doctor, for NHS Highland said: 'Obtaining accurate data from microbiology laboratory systems remains a challenge. 'To target interventions effectively, the Infection Prevention and Control team needs significant amounts of data, which must be retrieved from the laboratory information management system, Medipath.'

'For much of 2014 searches of Medipath have not been permitted at the request of information technology (IT) colleagues, in order to prevent system malfunctions that jeopardise the functioning of the laboratories.'

Members will also be briefed next Friday on tackling ebola. NHS Highland's operational units have conducted a 'walk through' exercise to identify where ebola patients would be treated.

### £37M to be slashed from council costs

ARGYLL and Bute council has taken steps to meet drastic funding targets by planning to slash £25 million from its budget over two years.

Total budget savings will top £37 million, with the bulk of the cost cutting measures being implemented between 2016 and 2018.

After a meeting of Argyll and Bute council's policy and resources committee on Thursday April 2, it agreed to draw up plans to make savings of up to £37.5m over the five-year period from 2016, with a focus on saving up to £25 million over 2016/17 and 2017/18.

A spokesman for the council said: 'Continual budgetary monitoring and careful assessment will be carried out to ensure that the council delivers the best possible outcomes for communities, both now and in the future.'

Ten councillors and two trade union representatives will produce detailed proposals for savings. These proposals will first go to the policy and resources committee in October.

The council will then seek the views of the public through a consultation exercise.

## Memorial stones damaged in graveyard smash



CEMETERY CRASH: A lorry ploughed into Pennyfuir cemetery, damaging gravestones, last week. The lorry left the A85 around 1.45pm last Friday before careering through a cemetery wall. Argyll and Bute council staff assessed the damage before the area was cleared by 3.30pm. A man has been charged with failing to comply with mandatory rest periods. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

## Oban bus service picks up new stop to give Catalina Avenue 'equal' standing

STEVEN RAE  
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A BUS service travelling via Catalina Avenue, Oban is in the process of being agreed between West Coast Motors and Argyll and Bute council.

The service will see an amendment to the 416 route, after West Coast Motors confirmed it was happy with proposed changes and a turning circle constructed by building firm McLeods.

The amended service would go from Oban town centre along Soroba Road and on to Nant Drive. From Nant Drive the bus would then come down to Glengallan Road and proceed

to the end and turn. On its way back along Glengallan Road it would then divert via McKelvie Road and turn at the turning circle at Catalina Avenue then back down McKelvie Road, Glengallan Road and on into the town centre.

This will mean passengers from Nant Drive will go into town via both the far end of Glengallan Road and Catalina Avenue lengthening their present journey.

However, on their return from town they will go straight to Nant Drive instead of via the far end of Glengallan Road. The route will be reversed on the way back into town.

Councillor for Oban South and the Isles, Roddy McCuish, said: 'I'm confident about this coming to fruition.'

'It's vitally important to living in the area that transport services are equal to other areas of the town.'

'As far as I'm aware it will be an hourly service for Catalina Avenue.'

Catalina Avenue, a mixture of one and two-bedroom flats and terraced houses, is situated in the Glenshellach area of the town.

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) built the properties, with the first tenants taking up residence in November last year.

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**Coll**

THE SCOTTISH Society for Northern Studies visits Coll this week to explore relationships between the Scandinavian, Celtic and Scottish cultures, using a variety of historical media and scholarly research.

The first lectures were held yesterday (Wednesday) at An Cridhe, but there is still time to catch the second group on Friday April 10.

The Jacobite cause, Norse place names and the history of witchcraft in Scotland and Norway will be discussed, along with other topics.

The society will finish off its week with a celebratory ceilidh, featuring Coll musicians.

The ceilidh starts at 8.30pm at An Cridhe, with the bar open from 8pm, at a cost of £5 for adults and free for under-16s.

WITH the coming of spring, it's the last chance for people to take part in special stargazing weekends on Coll.

Coll and the Cosmos still has a few spaces available for the weekends of April 11-12 and April 18-19, at a special price of £60 for Coll residents for the full, two-day event. The weekend is for anyone with an interest in the night sky who would like to learn a bit more about stargazing, observing and solar astronomy.

For more information, visit [collbunkhouse.com/dark-skies-coll-cosmos](http://collbunkhouse.com/dark-skies-coll-cosmos)

**Kilbrandon**

KILBRANDON SWRI members had a 'hands-on' evening when they were introduced to reflexology at their March meeting.

Speaker for the evening at Seil island hall was local resident Elaine Bissett, who gave an interesting talk and explained how reflexology worked.

She then demonstrated how to do it and members were given the opportunity to try the technique on themselves.

Elaine donated a reflexology session as a raffle prize. This was won by Elizabeth Reid.

**Taynuilt**

PRESIDENT Jessie Servant opened the March meeting of Taynuilt SWRI in the village hall.

Speaker for the evening on March 11 was Lindsey Elliott from Oban SWRI, talking about the many interesting uses of recycled objects and materials and how, with a little imagination, a wide variety of everyday objects can be transformed into something completely different.

A slideshow illustrating various ideas was accompanied by several items which Lindsey had brought along.

The vote of thanks was given by Celia Keenan. Hostesses for the evening were Marlene Stanners and Tracey Sage.

Competition winners: recycled object - 1 Ann Sutherland; 2 Alice Campbell. Six squares tablet - 1 Jessie MacFarlane; 2 Alice Campbell.

**Barra**

KIND-HEARTED children on Barra took time out of a busy school day to tidy up the islands.

Eoligarry primary school pupils organised and took part in a litter pick and clean up around the school and houses at Cialla.

At the end of the busy day, each child received an award for their hard work from Karen MacKinnon of Barra volunteer centre.



ON SONG: the Appin school pupils performed wartime songs for guests 16\_t15appin02

# A step back in time to VE Day as curtain falls on war project

STRATH of Appin primary school pupils invoked the spirit of victory in wartime when they hosted their own VE Day.

Pupils dressed as soldiers, evacuees, pilots and land girls and performed wartime songs for parents, teachers and guests from the community. They later served up tea and home baking as guests were invited to explore the school's wartime exhibition.

The concert and exhibition marked the climax of a school project on WWII involving all 33 school pupils and nine nursery children.

Head teacher Marissa Melville said: 'The children have been learning about the home front and the effect the war had on their local area. We created a display with wartime artefacts, letters and stories that people from the community passed on.'

'We have had a fantastic response from the children and their families and people from community groups including the church. It has been a great project.'



EVACUEES: Appin primary two boys 16\_t15appin03



BACK IN TIME: primary one pupils Charlie Cameron and Bea Hernden in their wartime attire 16\_t15appin01

**Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry**

ABRIDGED minutes of the Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry community council meeting held on March 31:

BEAR and Transport Scotland - Alan Robinson has been in correspondence with Transport Scotland about various issues on the A82, so far without result. There are some signs of wear on the A82 junction, but nothing yet big enough to cause concern. The community council continues to monitor the surface.

Broadband - Vodafone's engineers met with John, Ian and Brian and took photographs at both Ian Mathieson's and Brian Donald's premises. Roy Bridge hall might be another possible site. Nothing will happen until fibre optic broadband is installed. Three possible sites in Spean Bridge have also been provisionally identified. Matter closed until Vodafone decides whether to proceed or not.

Highland Council - A security fence has been erected on a stretch of the path but the lower section is still unfenced. Highland

council is getting an estimate to complete the job. Riverside Walk fly tipping has been resolved but notices are needed to deter perpetrators. Problems with the travellers site at Brackletter have been referred to housing. William Gilfillan's improved communications in Lochaber have unravelled after three months and we await his next proposal.

Defibrillator - Sandy Edmond has had contact with Lucky2BHere and the community council looks forward to a defibrillator being installed at Bunarkaig. The Scottish government has proposed training communities on CPR and the community council will actively participate in any opportunity.

Local development plan - The secretary reported no-one contacted him prior to the closing date on March 27, but hopefully they made individual contributions. Community councillors now await consultation. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday May 5 at Achnacarry village hall from 7pm.



LEARNING: Glencoe primary pupils and Fiona Lindsay with solar lights and the Malawi flag

## Glencoe pupils reach out to Malawi

GLENCOE primary school pupils have been opening their minds to life in other countries thanks to a talk from education development officer Fiona Lindsay.

Ms Lindsay, from Keep Scotland Beautiful, told the children about

a project to provide solar lights to communities in Malawi instead of the dangerous kerosene lamps currently used.

Head teacher Marilyn MacDonald said the pupils are keen to learn more about the project.



PHOTO TIME: First minister Nicola Sturgeon taking a 'selfie' with Kinlochleven pupils at the Scottish government youth summit

## Kinlochleven youngsters take part in youth summit

**Lochawe**

THE MARCH meeting of the Lochawe branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute took on a playful theme after the arrangement with the guest speaker fell through.

The ladies were to receive a talk from a member of the local constabulary but, unable to organise this in time, the

members brought along beetle cards and dice. Hostesses were P McLeod, V Williams and J Ogden.

Competition results: Photography: joint gold - J Buchanan and V Williams, joint red - P McLeod and J Ogden. Knitted hat: joint silver - A Hay and P McLeod, red - J Wylie.

# MORVERN lines

## Road complaint

IS THERE anything new in this world? The following, written by one of my predecessors, appeared in The Oban Times in October 1909:

'Morvern roads are not very suitable for motor traffic. This summer, however, a motor car belonging to the Glenmorvern shooting tenant, ran a good deal on the roads. The fishing ground of Glenmorvern Lodge is some 16 miles away [The River Barr and Loch Doire nam Mairt] and the motor car was found very serviceable. The roads are narrow and in some bits the formation is very bad and the motor left its traces on the road. Road improvement is very much required in Morvern.'

Nothing much has really changed in 106 years has it? There are more cars around today but the verges and the road surfaces round and about Lochaline are just as bad, if not worse.

## Morvern, Glenborrodale and South Africa

THERE has been much in the news recently about burials, memorial stones and digging up and shifting of bones.

It began on August 25 2012 when a skeleton was uncovered below a municipal car park near Leicester Cathedral. It was exhumed, taken to a laboratory and declared to be all that was mortal of Richard III, the last of the Plantagenet kings of England.

Whether you believe the bones in the coffin, which were buried in the cathedral on March 26 amid great pomp and theatre, were those of King Richard or not, it has to be said the occasion certainly caught the attention of the public and the media.

So too has the body, or rather the statue of another great Englishman, Cecil John Rhodes, a businessman, mining magnate and an ardent believer in British colonialism.

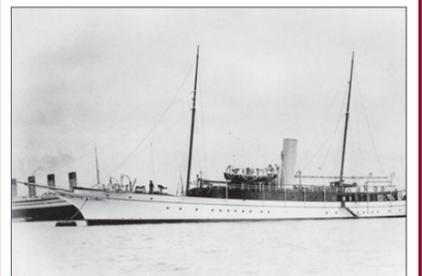
Rhodes was the founder of the southern African territory of Rhodesia, which was named after him in 1895.

South Africa's Rhodes University is also named after him. He set up the provisions of the famous Rhodes Scholarship, which is funded by his estate.

The son of a Bishop's Stortford clergyman, Rhodes went to South Africa because of adolescent ill-health, founded the De Beers diamond empire, became one of the world's wealthiest men and rose to be premier of Cape Colony in 1890. He died in 1902, aged 49, and was buried in the country that bore his name, Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe.

A few weeks ago his statue was pelted with excrement and calls made by protestors at the University of Cape Town for it to be taken down and removed. In what one South African newspaper dubbed 'Rhodes rage' and Twitter users embraced as 'Rhodes must fall', modern Zimbabweans argue the colonialist has no place on campus 21 years after the end of apartheid.

Some politicians have gone so far as to demand his body be taken out of the Matopo National Park 40kms south of Bulawayo because, like the statue, it is now apparently an affront to the country's fundamental beliefs and freedoms.



TRANSPORT: Mingary steam yacht

Why am I mentioning him here? Because if Rhodes didn't set foot on Morvern, he certainly passed through the Sound of Mull in 1901 aboard the ocean-going steam yacht, Mingary, owned by Charles Rudd, his friend and business colleague, en route to Glenborrodale Castle on Rudd's Ardnamurchan Estate. Here he stayed for a short period only as illness forced him to leave earlier than was planned.

Another great public figure associated with Africa was the explorer and pioneer medical missionary Dr David Livingstone (1813-73) whose forebears lived in Morvern.

Livingstone explored the African interior in 1852-56 and was the first European to see the Mosi-oa-Tunya - the smoke that thunders - waterfall, which he renamed Victoria Falls after his monarch, Queen Victoria.

The famous man came to Morvern, Mull and Ulva to see where his family lived and to visit their graves in Kiel cemetery above Lochaline.

One headstone in particular interested him. It is an 18th century table-tomb decorated with a heraldic shield and inscribed: 'Here lies the corpse of John Livingstone who dyed the year 1757 aged 57 years. This tomb is intended also for the remains of Anna MacInnes, his spouse. This stone was erected by Donald Livingstone, their son, 1760.'

Donald Livingstone, or 'Domhnall Molach' as he was known locally, was Dr David Livingstone's grand-uncle who rescued the Stewart of Appin banner at the Battle of Culloden.

The governor and resident minister of Bulawayo Metropolitan Province, Cain Mathema, and others are calling for the immediate removal of David Livingstone's statue at Victoria Falls and the exhumation of Cecil John Rhodes' remains at Matopo Hills. Governor Mathema also urged schools to do away with colonial names and replace them with local ones, as they together with Rhodes' grave and Livingstone's statue are instruments that still impose upon Zimbabwe the will and culture of Britain.

The resident minister said Livingstone's statue should be replaced with those of President Robert Mugabe and the late Dr Joshua Nkomo. 'We need to celebrate our own heroes and heroines. We do not get inspiration from the likes of Rhodes, so why should we visit their graves and their statues?'

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

**Glencruitten**

RESULTS of the whist drive held in Glencruitten golf club on March 31: Ladies: 1 Frances MacMillan, 2 Katie MacLeod, booby: Catherine Pearson, travelling prize: Isobel Grout; Gents: 1 Rebecca McPhee, 2 George MacKenzie, booby: Ewan MacLeod, travelling prize: Rebecca McPhee.

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# Charity comes under cash scrutiny following report

## Business as usual for volunteers despite major investigation into Fort William charity's finances

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

VOLUNTEERS at Shopmobility in Fort William have vowed to carry on despite a major investigation into an alleged financial discrepancy at the MacFarlane Way organisation.

The police, Voluntary Action Lochaber and Office of the Scottish Charity Register (OSCR) are all aware of the investigation into an allegation about a missing four-figure sum from the charity's fundraising account.

A spokesman for the Shopmobility Lochaber said: 'At the moment OSCR and Voluntary Action Lochaber are checking out the many allegations being made about the charity. He said: 'Anything that comes to light will be reported to the police immediately.'

'A member of staff has been suspended while the investigation is carried out on various issues. No stone will be left unturned in this investigation.'

The spokesman continued: 'Because of this situation, we have had people saying that we've been shut down.'

'I can categorically state that while it is difficult for us to move on from this, it is imperative that we stay open.'

'At the moment board members and volunteers are making sure we are open Monday to Friday from 9.30am.'

'We are trying to be open for residents and tourists on a Saturday as well.'

'But we need help - this is our

“But we need help ... this is our hour of need”

**Spokesman**  
Shopmobility  
Lochaber

hour of need - and if anyone has the time to come along and give a hand, please do so now.'

The spokesman confirmed the charity was also made aware of alleged 'illegal' tobacco sales from the building and was investigating the matter.

The allegations came to light after a driver for the organisation, Adam Ramsey, sent a letter to the board on February 19 when his job was under threat due to lack of funding. The *Oban Times* has received a copy of the letter in which Mr Ramsey outlined a number of concerns about the group's finances.

Both OSCR and Voluntary Action Lochaber have confirmed they are investigating the matter.

Both said they were unwilling to comment on the matter while the investigation was under way.

In the meantime, Shopmobility Lochaber has taken advice from both organisations and has already made significant changes to its operational procedures.



## A class act as Fèis Lochaber gets under way

HITTING THE HIGH NOTES: Fèis Lochaber got underway this week with various classes in traditional music and crafts. Photograph taken by Ferguson, The Write Stuff

## 'Cautious welcome' for new sea eagle scheme

THE SCOTTISH Crofting Federation (SCF) gave a cautious welcome to the Scottish government's new sea eagle management scheme, announced this week.

The scheme will run for three years and will investigate all issues involving sea eagle impacts on livestock.

Local stakeholder groups across the range of the species, including SCF representatives, will oversee and monitor the working of the scheme and contractors employed by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) will assist crofters and farmers experiencing predation problems with sea eagles.

SCF chairwoman Fiona Mandeville said: 'The reintroduction of sea eagles has undoubtedly compromised the viability of hill sheep in some areas. We welcome this new scheme as far as it goes. Crofters experiencing losses, which may be caused by sea eagles, should in the first instance contact

their local SNH office, but we are also asking our members to report incidents to SCF.'

'We are assured by SNH that they will respond to all reports, and it is very important that they, and representatives of crofters and farmers, have as much information as possible on the extent of the problem.'

# Common good fund needs to head in a new direction

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

OBAN'S Common Good Fund 'needs to change' to meet the needs of the community it serves.

Criticism has been levelled at the group for funding big projects while other groups miss out. George Berry of Oban community council said the group had 'lost its way' and was becoming a 'middle class fund of first resort'.

But under plans by councillor Neil MacIntyre, gone will be ongoing funding for large groups and in its place smaller grants would be made available to give the 'people of the town' the cash they need for projects.

Speaking after the charitable trust, which is overseen by four of the town's elected councillors, was asked again to fund the same projects as the previous year councillor MacIntyre said enough was enough.

'The common good fund should be for the common good,' he said.

'If we continue to fund huge projects and take money from the reserves rather than simply use the interest, there will be nothing left.'

Last week it was confirmed the fund would give £15,000 to projects including West Highland Yachting Week, Rockfield cultural hub, a fencing club, Oban sailing club, Highlands and Islands music and dance festival, Lorn Ladies shinty club, The Argyllshire Gathering and a trip to Ireland for the town's Gaelic choir.

Other groups, including Soroba Young Families, have previously missed out on cash for a Christmas party because it didn't meet the fund's criteria.

There are also plans, brought forward by the accountant of the group, to allow the common good fund to release money from its capital investment to make larger payments to groups such as Oban Communities Trust (old Rockfield building) and Atlantis Leisure.

'While some people have branded the fund 'middle class', I don't think that is the case,' said councillor MacIntyre.

'It is just what people have come to expect from it.'

'When we receive applications it's a hard one: if you give nothing you are criticised, and the opposite is also true, that is if you give too little. What some groups ask for is unrealistic.'

'It would be much fairer to be able to give smaller grants to more groups that allow

a larger number of people who live in the town to benefit from the fund - maybe £200 or £500 would make all the difference to them.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson, chairwoman of Oban Common Good Fund declined to comment on the round of grants.

Councillor Mary Jean Devon, who is not a trustee of the group, said: 'We need to know whether or not these groups have gone elsewhere and have been unable to get funding.'

'The fund is a fund of last resort. Oban Common Good Fund should be used for the people of the town who need money. It is hugely unfair if it is not used for those purposes.'

Oban Common Good Fund literature states a grant should 'meet a local need or directly benefit the residents of Oban'.

Furthermore, 'regular applications from organisations will only be considered where such applications form part of a defined development plan or growing project.'

'Applications will not normally be accepted in respect of projects on which work has already started or in aid of expenditure towards which applicants have already made a commitment or paid.'

## Banner boost as pupils head to USA

IN SUPPORT of a dream trip to New York for the Tartan Day parade, Bid4Oban has made a donation to Oban High school's musical pupils.

The not-for-profit organisation has made a special banner for the pupils to use during the visit, which will feature a trip to Madison Square Garden.

Neil Mackay, Bid4Oban ebents manager, said: 'We got a letter asking for help with the trip and were happy to make this donation. It will help market the town on such a wonderful occasion, promoting Oban's traditional culture and vibrancy at its best. The part of the banner that displays 'New York 2015' is removable too, so the band can use it for years to come.'

Music teacher Morven McKerrell, who will be accompanying the children on the trip, said: 'This trip has been two years of planning and now, on Friday, we will finally be on our way.'

'I'd like to thank Bid4Oban, Oban and Lorn Lions club, Oban Common Good Fund, Argyll and Bute council, the Rotary club of Oban and all our other sponsors for making this happen.'



TRIP OF A LIFETIME: some of the pupils going on the trip, along with teacher Morven McKerrell, fourth from left, and Neil Mackay, BID4Oban

## TIMESLINE

### Cemetery walkers make their mark

THE FIRST right of access walk at Strontian Cemetery was due to take place on Wednesday evening.

The walk was due to start at the shop car park making its way along the back road and then to the cemetery gate.

It is hoped further walks can be organised on a regular basis in order to define rights of access to the cemetery.

### Appeal as police hunt vandals

POLICE have asked for witness to come forward on two crimes of vandalism in Fort William.

A window was smashed at Mairi MacIntyre's, High Street between 5.30pm on Friday, April 3 and Saturday, April 4.

During hospital visiting hours between 2pm and 4.30pm last Thursday, April 2, a vehicle was damaged whilst it was parked within the car park at the Belford hospital.

### Official opening of new long walk

JOURNALIST, author and broadcaster Cameron MacNeish will later this month officially open the Affric Kintail Way - Scotland's latest long distance route on Friday, April 17.

The route runs from Morvich to Drumnadrochit, where it links up with the Great Glen Way. The 44-mile-long trail passes through some of the last remaining wild lands of the Highlands and takes the traveller through contrasting landscapes steeped in history and rich in heritage.

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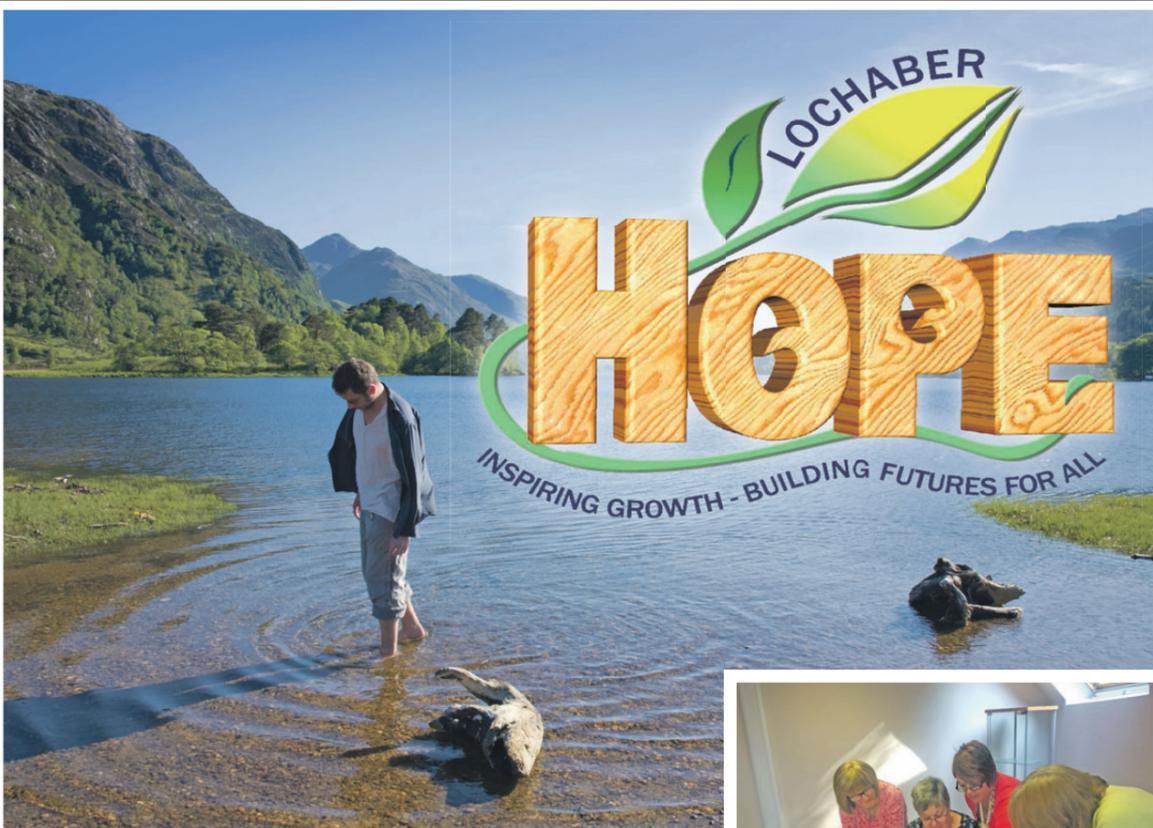
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**Lochaber Hope 2015**

Lochaber Hope (LH) is celebrating ten years in the community this year. LH offers vital emotional support to Lochaber people who are experiencing vulnerable or crisis periods in their lives. Whether through your employer, doctor or individually, you can self-refer and speak to a mentor or counsellor.

With six qualified professional counsellors and 12 qualified mentors, LH provides a unique, one-on-one service which is affordable and easy to access. Mentoring is a free service where donations are welcomed and counselling costs are, depending on income, between £3 and £30 per session. LH has delivered more than 3,000 counselling hours in confidence to more than 700 people in the community.

LH subsidises the full cost of counselling and services by fundraising. In 2014, 'Get your Boss out of Jail', where bosses from all over Lochaber were jailed until they raised the bail set by employees, was a really fun day which raised more than £4,000. Last Saturday, bag packing at Morrison's raised £1,330, Caol Primary School Trade fair team raised £100, and Lochaber High school pupils' philanthropy project awarded LH £3,000. Additional funds are raised by local people who value the service, knowing that every penny they raise is used to support people in their own community.

As well as helping people cope with a wide range of sensitive and personal issues privately, LH provides personal development sessions, confidence building, assertiveness, effective

communication to support people who can work in groups, and will benefit from the companionship and sharing with others. Workshops include employment support to get people back to work, courses on broadening horizons, realising and maximising your potential along with portfolio workshops. LH has supported more than 150 people into work and more than 80 others to sustain and manage employment transitions in the last four years. LH has been welcomed into primary and secondary schools, making counselling easily accessible to young people at Lochaber High school, providing counselling and mediation to local businesses and organisations.

Debt, depression, low self-esteem, fear, isolation, grief, phobias and pain are only some of the reasons people access LH. Staff have an outstanding, person-centred ethos and provide an extraordinary, therapeutic, tangible environment. People build a trust and feel safe through emotionally hard times.

The LH team are all trained to a high standard and receive regular training with internal and external supervision. In 2014 they won four awards of excellence and manager Alyson Smith was awarded local hero by the chamber of commerce. Alyson said: 'We have a fabulous team and work very hard together to be honest, accepting and understanding of ourselves and each other. That way we can truly offer someone else acceptance, honesty and understanding.'

LH is the community helping the community. To find out more, contact LH on: 01397 705 077 or email: alyson.smith@lochaberhope.org.uk.

'Drop In' Mondays are held from 12-3pm above the Hub cafe, Fassifern Road.



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**Fisherman Angus helps track tuna**

AN ISLE of Harris fishing skipper and tourism operator, who recently became the star of a US TV show, is working with Marine Scotland to track and trace tuna on the Outer Hebrides coast.

Captain Angus Campbell, from Kilda Cruises, also runs Atlantic Marine Services which provides specialist support for organisations doing marine surveys.

Mr Campbell, who caught a 515lb Bluefin tuna in the Outer Hebrides waters in 2013, recently starred on the Outdoor Channel's Trev Gowdy's Monsterfish programme.

During the programme the presenter, American fishing expert Fred Lavitman, expresses his doubt about finding tuna in Scotland, before finally hooking a 500lb tuna, which broke his line.

With support from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, and European Fisheries Fund Axis 4 funding, Mr Campbell has carried out a study with Marine Scotland to tag tuna with satellites.

He said: 'After I caught the first rod-line caught tuna in Scotland, I was approached by the American TV producers. The advertising the Outer Hebrides has received is incredible. The programme featured highlights in the islands, such as the Calanais Stones and Harris Tweed, strengthening the area's position to attract more visitors to benefit from the important tourism sector in these islands.'



WHOPPER: Angus Campbell, right, and his crew caught a 515lb tuna

RELATIVES HIT OUT AMID CLAIMS THEY HAVE BEEN LEFT IN THE DARK OVER FUTURE OF MALLAIG CARE HOME

# Staff call time on 100-mile daily journey for training

EMMA CRICHTON  
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

NEW STAFF employed for a Mallaig care home have quit before completing training after being forced to carry out commutes of almost 100 miles for months.

The eight-bed Mackintosh Centre was closed in July last year when some staff members were suspended pending investigations of alleged poor practice but has yet to re-open, despite initial reassurances from NHS Highland that it would only be closed for four to six weeks.

But now, nine months later, new staff are still not in place and relatives of pensioners who were moved from the Mackintosh Centre to Invernevis House in

Fort William say they have been 'left in the dark' about plans to have the pensioners returned to Mallaig.

Mary Purdon's mother, 81-year-old Mary Purdie, has been in the Mackintosh Centre and then Invernevis for the last two years.

She said: 'It has been very difficult. I got a phone call one evening saying my mum was being moved in the morning and to go and pack her things. We were all told it would only be for four to six weeks and were given no information about why it was happening.'

'I was left wondering if horrible things had happened to my mother and it wasn't until months later I was told she hadn't been abused, but even then it was informally. We didn't get a proper letter telling us or anything.'

'We miss her so much because

she's so far away now and she used to be so close by. My father can only go and visit her once a week and he used to go a lot more than that.'

Mrs Purdon said she and her father, Lewis Purdie, have always been happy with the care Mrs Purdie has received in both homes but are angry with how long she has been away and how little they have been told.

Mrs Purdon added: 'We wanted to deal with this without getting the media involved but we've been left in the dark so we feel like we have no other choice.'

'We're hearing now that both original staff and new staff in training have left or are off sick because of the way they have been treated and the fact that they're having to travel for an hour each way to get to work and this has been going on far too long. But

even then, we've only been told that by other people, not from NHS. The general public seem to know more than immediate family and I think that's wrong.'

Mr Purdie, 85, said he travelled to Fort William to visit his wife for their diamond wedding anniversary last year but was left to find his own travel arrangements after the arranged transport never appeared.

He said: 'I was left not knowing what was happening and had to organise a lift with family.'

'The staff at Invernevis had put on a lovely spread but after all the delays with the transport I only got half an hour with my wife.'

'When Mary was in the Mackintosh I used to go to visit every other day and if the weather was nice I would take her outside to sit together but now I only get

to see her once a week and I can't always make it because of my own health problems.'

Margaret Kennedy, whose mother 81-year-old mother Ellen Kennedy was also moved to Fort William, said she has been having the same problems.

She said: 'Anything we've heard it has been from other people, I've only had two letters from NHS Highland since this all happened last July.'

'We were told there would be a drop-in session for relatives every fortnight but when we attended no-one could tell us anything. They didn't seem to know what was going on.'

A spokesman for NHS Highland said: 'It is the case that some new and existing staff members have resigned and that the commute to Invernevis has been one of the factors involved.'

**Call for weekly sonographer visit**

CALLS are being made for a sonographer to travel to Uist one day a week to undertake appointments.

Cuts to inter-island flights continue to cause problems for islanders, particularly for hospital appointments, said MP Angus MacNeil.

In a letter to NHS Western Isles, the Na h-Eileanan Iar politician has asked that arrangements are made for pregnant women who may require regular ultra sound scans.

Mr MacNeil has also written to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, which chose to cut inter-island flights, to again highlight the impact this is having on islanders, particularly people who need to travel for hospital appointments and to ask that inter-island flights are reinstated.

**Group in appeal for more helpers**

VOLUNTEERS are being sought to meet the demand in Lochaber for support for deaf and blind people.

Lochaber Sensory Care provides free services, from retubing hearing aids to giving advice on living with a sensory impairment.

But as a result of the success of the charity, current volunteers are struggling to keep up with demand so organisation manager Esther Briars is appealing for new helpers.

To volunteer or find out more, contact 01397 704889.

**Club backs Young at Art with £250**

A UNIQUE project aimed at developing confidence in older people through art is one step closer to fruition thanks to a start up grant.

Young at Art helps the elderly to improve painting and drawing and will provide art sessions in care homes and social groups all over Lochaber and has now benefited from a £250 donation from the Rotary club of Lochaber.

**Pupils boost Water Aid with challenge**

ON A rare sunny day in Lochaber, pupils of Fort William RC primary school were still thinking about water as they set a whole-school challenge to raise money for charity.

The children spent the last day of term (Thursday) forming long lines and passing buckets of water to each other, trying very hard not to spill any, to raise money for Water Aid, a charity which provides clean and safe drinking water to developing countries.

Through donations and sponsors the challenge, organised by the school's eco committee, raised more than £200.

GREAT EFFORT: Fort William RC's eco committee, front, organised a water challenge at school, raising more than £200 for charity 20\_15water01



## 'EGGCELLENT' EASTER FUN

**Spring sunshine brings out the crowds to Barcaldine Easter eggs-travaganza**

MORE THAN 200 people made a trip to Sutherland's Grove on Sunday to celebrate Easter Sunday.

Activities including splat the rat, arts and crafts, an Easter

bonnet parade, a duck race and an Easter egg hunt were organised by Barcaldine community association.

Andrew Baines, the association's secretary, said: 'The day

has been very well attended, and everyone seems to be having a great time.'

'The fantastic weather has certainly helped.'



Sher the Lion and Columba Hotel raise Cash for Kids on fun packed Sunday

Amongst the activities held at the Columba hotel was the wet sponge throw. 16\_15cashkids02



Four-year-old Eliza Moffat of Lochside with the egg she received after completing the Easter egg hunt in Glen Nevis, run by Highland Council and organised by the Highland Rangers. A large turn out of visitors and locals enjoyed the day. 15\_eliza01no

Columba hotel staff member Sammy Saifi with Sher the Lion on Sunday, raising money for Cash for Kids. 16\_15cashkids01



Pictured are some of the children during the Easter egg hunt. 16\_15egghunt01



Barcaldine community association welcomed more than 200 people for the day's events. 16\_15egghunt02

**Seasonal fun and frolics at Arduaine garden's Easter egg hunt**

EASTER at Arduaine Garden began and ended on a rather grey note, but Sunday saved the weekend with blue skies right from the start.

Rhododendrons, camellias and primulas were flowering in profusion and daffodils sounded the right seasonal note.

Families enjoyed the garden in the sunshine, while children's faces were temporarily unrecognisable as a result of Fiona Potter's face painting skills.

Young visitors to the Argyll gardens hunted down plant names to complete the Cadbury Easter Egg trail and win their chocolate egg.

Ardfern storyteller Patsy Dyer held children spellbound with her Easter tales and parents and their offspring competed

with each other to win a prize in Mairi Fleck's egg-throwing contest by targeting buckets with hard boiled eggs.

The Chartroom ceilidh band entertained visitors throughout the day and organisers thanked volunteers for their hard work.



Youngsters enjoyed an Easter tale at an Easter egg hunt in Arduaine Gardens. 15Arduaine1no

# Viewpoint

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

## The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8216

It is in times of adversity that the true worth of an individual or organisation comes to the fore. Human frailty being what it is, most of us fall short of the mark - no matter how hard or valiantly we try. This, however, is clearly not the case with our emergency services. When we need them they are there, answering our calls for help. To coin the vogue phrase - 'they step up to the plate'.

The recent bus crash at the Rest and Be Thankful and the plane crash last weekend, throws into sharp relief the expertise, energy and tireless dedication of the men and women who staff the emergency services. They rally to our call when we are in extremis, often braving foul weather and dangerous conditions. If any good can ever come from tragedy, it is the recognition of the debt we owe these remarkable people.



## Days gone by - George Street, Oban

This week's flashback photograph was submitted by Colin Armstrong of Coventry and features George Street, Oban, in days gone by. Digital versions of flashback photos for The Oban Times can be sent to editor@obantimes.co.uk or prints sent in to Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Anyone who wishes a print returned should include a stamped, addressed envelope.

### Shinty pitch at risk of damage from concert

Sir, Mossfield stadium, Oban, will host the two major finals in the shinty calendar, the Scottish cup final and the Macaulay cup final, with all the action broadcast live on BBC television.

Mossfield ground staff and the local Macaulay committee will ensure Oban is second to none in terms of the standard of the pitch and organisation. However, somewhat concerning is Argyll and Bute council's decision to allow a music concert to go ahead at Mossfield leaving little or no time for the surface to recover to the high standard enjoyed for these finals in recent years.

There would appear to be a lack of consideration by the organisers of the concert towards shinty given that not only are these major finals taking place at Mossfield stadium we are also halfway through the 2015 summer shinty season with no thought given to the three local shinty clubs and the scheduling of fixtures.

As a follower of shinty, the prospect of three to five thousand people making music at a concert raises serious concerns as to how Mossfield will look on these cup final days.

Nigel Evans, Oban.

### Shame of councillors over ferry fare hike

Sir, I see Corran Ferry fares are being pushed up yet again, to the detriment of local residents and tourists. I first put forward suggestions for cost savings and efficiencies over a year

ago yet these have been resolutely ignored by Highland Council which hides behind rhetoric on 'state aid' and ignores any calls for the service to be run on a business-like basis or benchmarked against similar UK operations which can apparently run equivalent undertakings for less money and still operate from 7am till 11pm daily.

At the meeting of the community services committee of The Highland Council on February 5, 2015, it was proposed, inter alia, that a four per cent rise in fares on the Corran ferry be implemented from April 1, 2015. After discussion, including disappointment that the full business case for the ferry would be made available to members but this 'remained outstanding', Andrew Baxter, an Ardnamurchan councillor, proposed that the decision on any fare increase be deferred to the full council meeting on March 12 to enable officers to prepare the previously promised business plan, bring forward proposals for long-term sustainability and obtain independent legal opinion on the implications of state aid, and this proposal was carried.

At the meeting on March 12 none of the requested information was available but despite this eight councillors, four of them SNP members, including Graham Mackenzie, chairman of the community services committee, plus three Liberal Democrats and one Labour member, none of whom had any constituency connection with the ferry, living as they did between 56 and 200 miles from it, tabled an amendment proposing to reinstate the four per cent increase in defiance of the fact that interim accounts for the nine months to December 31 showed the ferry to have made a profit of £126,438 and the budgets for 2015/16, after adjust-

ment for likely fuel savings and over generous increases in other costs, indicated a further substantial surplus. Highland Council, and these councillors in particular, should be ashamed of themselves.

Andrew Green, Ardtou.

### Concern over growing council 'ineptitude'

Sir, I've just stopped laughing at the recent Argyll and Bute PR department spin story on the OAP 'vigilantes' helping parking wardens in Oban catch would-be parking payment violators to get around to writing this letter.

If ever there was a classic tale of divide and conquer to have us - those wanting to park in Oban - and them - any OAP - thinking the whole problem of parking and fines in Oban was the fault of OAPs, then this was it.

This then helps us forget the growing ineptitude of Argyll and Bute council with its aggressive parking payments in Oban and its aggressive fines policy aided by its aggressive parking wardens who are taking notes of where cars are parked before 9am, deliberately targeting certain streets and events all in the name of meeting a target of their pay masters.

This is added to their ineptitude over the north pier pontoons, the proposed bus shelter on the north pier, all of the CHORD money debacle, Rockfield school, Kilbowie... need I go on?

It is time a real person from Argyll and Bute council came out and gave us all answers on all these matters and not just some nameless and faceless 'spokesperson' that the council is famous for trotting out.

Paul McLeod, High Street, Oban.

### Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

LE LATHA na gogaireachd seachad tha fios gum bheil an t-earrach a' tighinn agus leis an latha a' sineadh chan eil teagamh nach eil sinn uile a' faotainn togail agus a' dèanamh fiughair ri blàths is fàs.

'S fhuair thoil leam fhìn àm earraich is foghair, amannan saothrach cur agus buannachd a' bhuaig, agus bidh mi a' smaointinn air làithean m'òige agus an drip a' bhiodh sa bhaile toiseach an earraich. Saoilidh mi gun robh an aimsir eadar-dhealaichte an uairsin, bha dùil ri tiormachd anns a' Ghearran, crainnteachd an earraich a chanamaid ris, far am biodh gaoth fhuar a' tiormachadh an talaimh agus gheibhte innearadh gun cuibhlichean cartach a' bhith a' dol fodha. Fad na ciad beagan bhliadhnaichean air am bheil cuimhn' agam, bha each aig m'athair gus cuideachadh le obair na croite agus bhithinn mu dheich nuair a fhuair e a' chiad thractar, seann Ferguson Brown. Ach a dh'aindeoin a h-aoise bha i comasach, agus nuair a bha an latha obrach seachad cha robh agad ri biathadh neo dad eile a dhèanamh agus sheasadh i an

sin chun an cuireadh tu feum oirre a-rithist!

Bha caochladh bheachdan aig daoine mun dòigh a' b' fheàrr am buntàta a chur, feadhainn a' sgaoileadh na h-innearach feadh an achaidh agus ga threabhadh fodha mar a bhathas a' cur nan slisean. Ann am beachd chuid eile bha e na b' fheàrr an tothar a chur anns gach dàrna clais is an siol-cura air leth anns an ath sgrìob. Chanadh feadhainn nach robh buntàta ann a' b' fheàrr na 'm fear a chaidh a leasachadh le feamainn, agus bhiodh am brùchd ga chartadh bhon tràigh toiseach a' gheamhraidh is ga sgaoileadh air an làraich san robh am buntàta ri chur an ath earrach. Bha e cudromach ùine a thoirt dhan fheamainn grodadh air an raon agus gun teagamh bha fiù 's talamh làidir a' fàs pronn fo bhuaidh an leasachaidh sin. Nuair a rachadh na bunan feamainn a bh' air fhàgail an ràcadh air falbh agus an losgadh, bha an talamh deiseil gus a chur. Ri tìde fhuairas gun robh an tothar gallda na bu lugha spàirn!

A bharrachd air toiseach earraich tha sinn cuideachd mothachail gum bheil Taghadh Coitcheann air faire agus a dh'aindeoin gach gearain is gealladh, tha a h-uile coltas gum bi cuid de na h-iomairtean an turas seo a cheart cho nimheil, suarach agus mi-mhodhail agus a chunnacas roimhe.

Ach b' fhiach dha tagraichean cuimhneachadh gum faod taghadh a bhith mar a dh'èirich dhan bhuntàta, agus gum buainear mar a chuirear!

SPRING is here, and so too is the Westminster election campaign.

Despite every theory on how to increase voter turnout, and every political vow of commitment to the best interests of the people, it is already apparent that some campaigns will be every bit as nasty and personal as those which have turned voters off in the past.

Candidates should remember that they will reap as they sow.

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

### Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON  
robertson@obantimes.co.uk

### Easter weekend

THE HIGHLAND haunts in Glasgow always seem a lot quieter at Easter time.

Many people travel home for the weekend, while students, who tend to make all the noise, often sacrifice any Easter cheer in favour of keeping their heads in their books with dreaded dissertations, essays and exams on the horizon.

### An Lòchran session

'THE LISMORE' on Dumbarton Road was filled with music once again on Wednesday April 1 for the monthly Gaelic 'session' organised by An Lòchran.

There are tunes and sessions all over the place in Glasgow but this one has the unique selling point that players are encouraged to speak Gaelic all night. The event attracts a great number of learners and fluent speakers.

This week, there was even a Frenchman in attendance playing the mouth-organ. He told us that he didn't speak much English and that he was more comfortable communicating in Gaelic!

How on earth he managed to come over here and pick up Gaelic without picking up any English in the process

I have no idea. But he was a fine contributor to the craic in the Lismore.

The session was hosted, as ever, by Lochaber's Ewen Henderson on the fiddle and Tìree's Ian Smith on the box.

### Erskine cèilidh

ON FRIDAY April 17, Clydebank and District Highland Association will hold its annual cèilidh in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, in aid of Erskine hospital.

Erskine hospital, which has provided care for veterans of the British Armed Forces since 1916, is a very worthy cause and this annual event is usually a tremendous cèilidh.

The evening will be chaired by the brilliantly witty Alasdair MacMillan, and Gaelic songs will be given by Catriona Fair, Eilidh Munro and Paul MacCallum. Beth Street will provide some Scots songs, Ian Smith will give a few tunes on the accordion and Robert Wood and Ian MacPhee will play the pipes.

Accompanist for the evening will be Kirsteen Grant.

### Ceòl Mòr Òstaig

ON SATURDAY April 11, the musicians of Sabhal Mòr Òstaig (SMO), the Gaelic college on Skye, will hit Glasgow for a night of traditional music for a 'Ceòl is Craic' evening in the Centre for Contemporary Arts

(CCA). The spectacular 13-piece band of music students will be performing music arranged especially for them by SMO musician in residence Blair Douglas, founding member of Runrig, Mactalla and Clìar.

Performing after the students will be 'Gaelic supergroup' Dàimh, which has close links to Sabhal Mòr as the band members act as mentors to the students. Tickets are £12, or £10 for concessions, and the music starts at 8pm.

### What's on

**Saturday April 11:** Ceòl Mòr Òstaig.  
**Friday April 17:** Clydebank and District Highland Association Cèilidh in aid of Erskine Hospital, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick.  
**Friday April 24:** Glasgow Uist and Barra Association, cèilidh dance.  
**Saturday April 25:** Glasgow Skye, annual spring concert (Wee Skye), Crawford Hall.

### Pub scene

**Park Bar:** Thursday April 9: Session. Friday April 10: Heron Valley. Saturday April 11: Robert Robertson. Sunday April 12: Robert Robertson.  
**Islay Inn:** Friday April 10: Parting Glass. Saturday April 11: Twist of Fate. Sunday April 12: Open mic.  
**Robert Robertson**  
robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk



ALL THE RIGHT NOTES: From left, Alana MacInnes, Seonaidh MacIntyre, Ewen Henderson, Ian Smith, Shona Masson playing tunes at one of An Lòchran's brilliant Gaelic sessions in the Lismore.

### Press policy

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

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

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

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

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

The editor also reserves the right to shorten, 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

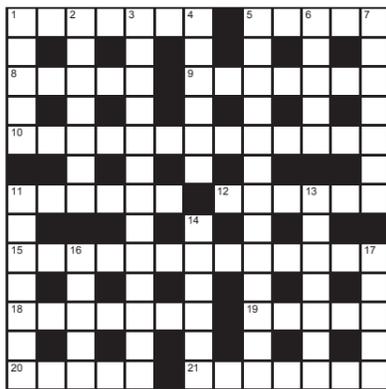
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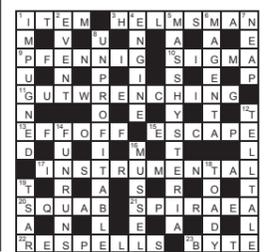
#### Across

- 1 Free (7)
- 5 Bunches (5)
- 8 Sleep on it (5)
- 9 Unloved (3-4)
- 10 Not just in this country (13)
- 11 Used with a mortar (6)
- 12 Behind the times (3-3)
- 15 Fee paying education place (7,6)
- 18 Hangs on (7)
- 19 Lowest deck (5)
- 20 Support of someone (5)
- 21 Shockingly bad (7)

#### Down

- 1 Civilian clothes (5)
- 2 Writes symbols (7)
- 3 Bottled beverages (7,6)
- 4 Warning (6)
- 5 Operation on the throat (13)
- 6 Grumpy look (5)
- 7 Vest (7)
- 11 Small lump (7)
- 13 Thug (7)
- 14 Japanese hostess (6)
- 16 Topping (5)
- 17 Jacket turnovers (5)

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



# hebrides

## part 2: the outer isles

**B**OASTING two of TripAdvisor's 'Best Islands in Europe', the remote Outer Hebridean Isles beckon the intrepid traveller looking for the ultimate tranquil holiday. Each island is a gem that weaves a spell over visitors with ethereal landscapes, rich wildlife and deep history. Escape the hustle and bustle to the far edge of Europe, where Gaelic culture thrives and the ghosts of Vikings wander the moors.

### Lewis and Harris

Called the 'The Heather Isle' by ancient poets, Lewis makes visitors feel as if they have travelled back in time with stone circles, thatched cottages and peat cutting farmers. Archaeological sites dot the island, including the Callanish stone circle and Dun Carloway broch, the best preserved in the Outer Hebrides. South Lewis, along with Harris and North Uist, is designated as a National Scenic Area, where visitors can spot golden eagles, red deer, otters and seals. Foodies find lots to love in Stornoway, home of the famous black pudding, the Hebridean Brewing Company, and traditional smoked kippers and salmon from Stornoway Fish Smoker. Lewis comes alive with the sound of music each July for the Hebridean Celtic Festival, one of Scotland's premier summer events. Adjoining the Isle of Lewis, Harris boasts some of the most varied landscapes in Britain, from sugar sand beaches to the highest peak in the Outer Hebrides - not to mention some of the oldest rocks in the world. The main settlement, Rodal, is home of the St. Clement Kirk, of the finest surviving medieval church in the Hebrides after Iona Abbey.

### Isles of North Uist, Berneray and Grimsay

History and natural beauty define North Uist. Water lovers swim and snorkel at Traigh Lingeigh, while wildlife watchers spot Arctic terns, gannets and cormorants. Golfers can enjoy a round or two overlooking the shimmering Atlantic at Sollas Golf Course. And with half the island covered in fresh and salt-water lochs, it's a fisherman's paradise. Once the home of vast Viking settlements, history comes alive with primeval stone circles, burial cairns and one of the oldest crannog sites in Scotland. Connected to Uist by a causeway, the Isle of Berneray is renowned for its serene setting. Sacred stone circles and remnants of Viking occupation remind visitors of Berneray's ancient history. Beachcombing is a favourite pastime, with miles of unspoiled sand framed by lush green grass and vibrant wildflowers. Also connected to North Uist via a causeway, Grimsay belongs to the sea. With a booming shellfish and traditional boatbuilding industry, this charming island is dotted by small crofts and fishing settlements.

### South Uist

South Uist has more than its fair share of history, scenery and wildlife. It boasts sandy beaches and crystal blue waters that rival the Caribbean and a

dramatic mountain range. Settled since Neolithic times, it is home to the largest the Viking settlement known in Scotland. Archaeology buffs are treated to many sites on the island, including chambered tombs, roundhouses, brochs and castles. Other attractions include the Kildonan Museum, which houses the 16th century Clanranald Stone, and the ruins of the birthplace of Flora McDonald, the Jacobite heroine who helped smuggle Bonnie Prince Charlie after his defeat at Culloden. Golfers looking for a challenge won't want to miss a round at Askernish Golf Course, the oldest in the Western Isles.

### Eriskay

For a small remote island, Eriskay has a lot to brag about, from the famous wild Eriskay ponies to the seamless Eriskay jersey. But perhaps the island's biggest claim to fame is as the real location of Whisky Galore! In 1941, the SS Politician ran aground here, taking more than a quarter of a million bottles of whisky and a large amount of bank notes to the bottom of the bay, inspiring a book and film.

### Barra and Vatersay

Recently winner of a 'Most Beautiful Island' competition, Barra is a superb spot for kayaking, beach combing, nature watching and castle exploring. It is celebrated for its white beaches and abundance of sea lochs brimming with brown and sea trout. Golfers will relish a round at Barra Golf Club, the western-most golf course in the UK. Over the causeway from Barra is Vatersay, renowned for its secluded beaches, where otters, seals and herons frolic. Bonnie Prince Charlie's flower, *Calystegia soldanella*, is found only in Scotland on Vatersay and Eriskay, where legend has it the Prince himself dropped seeds he brought from France.

### Benbecula and St. Kilda

Known as 'The Dark Island' in Gaelic poetry, Benbecula lies between North and South Uist and is home to a legendary mermaid who is said to be buried here. Housing a military base, this tiny island offers one-stop shopping with supermarkets, local shops, eateries and coffee houses. West of Benbecula is the most remote location in the British Isles, the archipelago of St. Kilda. Rugged and isolated, St. Kilda was abandoned in 1930 and the island moved into private hands. Now designated a national nature reserve and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is home to world's largest colonies of gannets, puffins and fulmars in Britain as well as the highest sea stacks.



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# food and drink

As part of The Year of Food & Drink Scotland, The Oban Times has teamed up with local businesses to celebrate the wealth of variety, quality and talent in this booming industry. Over the coming months, we will be promoting a selection of events, restaurants, pubs and producers from the west coast. Each week, one business from the sector will be the focus of this exciting new column, along with a delicious recipe, so keep an eye out and allow us to give you a taste of the fantastic food and drink available in the area.

The Year of Food and Drink is a chance to spotlight, celebrate and promote Scotland's natural larder and quality produce to our people and our visitors.



## This week...

Who is it?  
**Hawthorn Restaurant**

What do they do?  
**Delicious, home-made meals using quality, seasonal ingredients**

Where can I find them?  
**The Hawthorn Restaurant is located on a traditional farming croft at Keil Crofts in Benderloch**



The Hawthorn is a family run restaurant located nine miles north of Oban in the village of Benderloch, just a stone's throw from the scenic Tralee Beach. Chef Kevin Hanlon is passionate about using and showcasing fresh, seasonal and, wherever possible, local produce. With the west coast renowned for its meat, game and an abundance of fish and seafood, the team at Hawthorn believe they couldn't be in a better position to offer you the best from Scotland's amazing natural larder.

Whether in for a light bite for lunch, a hearty supper after a long day of sight-seeing, or a sumptuous dinner for that special occasion, a warm welcome awaits you at the Hawthorn.

Lunches served Friday to Sunday from 12 til 2pm  
Dinner available Tuesday to Sunday from 5.30 til 9pm. Call 01631 720777 to make a reservation or email at [info@hawthorn-restaurant.co.uk](mailto:info@hawthorn-restaurant.co.uk)

## Hawthorn recipe Gigha Halibut with Samphire

A delicious recipe using fine, fresh and local fish



**Ingredients**  
2 fillets of Gigha Halibut  
150g fresh Samphire  
Salt and pepper  
Butter  
Olive oil

Serves 2 as a main course

### Method

Boil the samphire in water for 1 minute, drain and add a pinch of black pepper. Leave to cool. Season the Halibut on both sides with sea-salt and black pepper. Pan fry in olive oil and a knob of butter over a medium heat until browned on each side. Place in the oven for 2 minutes to finish (180 degrees). Meanwhile sauté the samphire in a pan with some butter and a squeeze of lemon juice. Serve with chunky chips and lemon and chive mayonnaise.

Don't miss  
**The Manor House**  
featuring next week

If you would like your business to feature in our new food and drink column please call us on **01631 568000**

# Social scene



Mhairi Cruickshanks, left, was voted best trainer and best newcomer for the ladies' side. She was presented her trophy by Corrie Louw and Camilla Leslie. 16\_t15rugby4

The top table, from left; former player and master of ceremonies for the night Sandy Rokitta, coach Aaron Collins, vice president Murray Hamilton, ladies captain Camilla Leslie and club captain Cameron Smith. 16\_t15rugby1

OBAN Lorne rugby club held its annual dinner on Saturday, giving everyone at the club a chance to reflect on a successful season so far.

Special guests for the night included current Scotland international Abigail Evans, who is currently studying at Northumbria University.

The former Oban high school pupil, who made her debut for the senior ladies' side earlier this year, has now earned four caps after a call-up to the Six Nations squad.

Addressing the packed club, vice president Murray Hamilton discussed some of the good performances the club has had over the season, with Lorne in a position to gain promotion and win the league with three games left.

Murray also commented on the fantastic achievement of three former players - Abigail Evans, Magnus Bradbury and Fergus Bradbury - all selected for international duty in

the past month.

Aaron Collins, who is a coach at the club, spoke of his experiences playing in his native New Zealand, including the time he scored a try in a memorable victory for the Waikato Rugby Union team against the British and Irish Lions in 1993. He said a love for rugby has kept him involved in the game at grass-roots level throughout the years.

Club captains Camilla Leslie and Cameron Smith gave their take on the season so far, with some amusing tales which kept the guests entertained.

After a three-course meal, supplied by Jackson Bros butchers and the Regent Hotel, the awards for the year were presented by coach and player Corrie Louw.

A lively evening was enjoyed by everyone who attended, including men's flanker Andy MacDougall, who also celebrated his 40th birthday on the night.



The Oban Lorne players enjoyed a lively night at the club. 16\_t15rugby3



Most improved player, Robin McQueen, left, with Corrie Louw. 16\_t15rugby9



Members of the ladies' team enjoying the proceedings on Saturday. 16\_t15rugby15



Top scorer for the season so far, captain Cameron Smith. 16\_t15rugby11

# Celeste's Circus rolls in to Mull

ROLL up, roll up and come join the circus on Mull.

In Celeste's Circus, cheeky dogs play ball, a hippo does the high wire and a loveable furry seal performs for paper fish.

Described as an enchanting first trip to the big top, Francisca Morton, aka 'Celeste', integrated her skills as a performer and trained play specialist to create a show perfectly suited for young children aged infant to five years.

Celeste's Circus played to sell-out shows at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and toured to Estonia's Treff Festival. Touted as a hugely enjoyable experience

for parents as well as children, the Primary Times said the play 'makes Mary Poppins look positively pedestrian and has the children wide-eyed from the start...oozes creativity and a quiet Gallic charm'.

The performance will take place on Wednesday April 15 at 11am at the Drummfin Lodge on Mull. Tickets are £4 for adults, £2 for children.

For more information or to book, call 01688 302211 or email [bookings@comar.co.uk](mailto:bookings@comar.co.uk).

Celeste's Circus is



Celeste and this furry seal will be making an appearance at the circus in Mull next week

presented by Faux Theatre, an Edinburgh-based collective specialising in devised visual theatre and puppetry inspired by human connection.



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## Annual Dinner, Oban Lorne Rugby Club



Players' player for the year was Lorne MacLachlan, second left, with Corrie Louw, Camilla Leslie and Cameron Smith. 16\_t15rugby13

Best trainer for the season, Plato Moisiadis, left, with Corrie Louw. 16\_t15rugby10



e Louw and Cameron Smith.



Player of the season Struan Smith, right, with brother Cameron. 16\_t15rugby12



Ladies' player of the season was Camilla Leslie, with Corrie Louw and Cameron Smith. 16\_t15rugby6



Smith, with Corrie Louw.



Ladies' players' player of the year Emma Roxburgh, left, with ladies captain Camilla Leslie. 16\_t15rugby7



Best new player, Steven Parr, right, with Corrie Louw. 16\_t15rugby8



Skye accordion and fiddle club's guest band, the Matthew MacLennan Trio.

### Excellent evening at Skye accordion and fiddle club

DESPITE a shortage of local players, the audience at the April meeting of the Skye accordion and fiddle club in the Royal Hotel, Portree, was treated to a feast of excellent music which started with some fine solo sets on the piano accordion by John MacGilvray. Mr MacGilvray was followed on stage by fiddler Wendy Riva who concluded her usual polished performance with a tricky classical piece. The club's youngest player, 11-year-old Erin Baker, on piano accordion, was accompanied on guitar by her father George who had ably donned the mantle of master of ceremonies for the evening. Fiddler Julia Rudram was next to entertain and was followed by another young player, Emily Matheson, on piano accordion. Club member John Grundy said: "The audience was extremely

impressed with the fine confident playing of both young Erin and Emily which bodes well for the future of traditional Scottish music." The remainder of the evening was devoted to the music of the guest band, The Matthew MacLennan Trio, which wowed the audience with a superb programme. Leader Mr MacLennan, on piano accordion, gave his usual strong performance and was complemented by the fine drumming of Nicky McMichan and great keyboard playing of Duncan Black. The penultimate club meeting of the season will be on May 7 when entertainment will be provided by Sandy Ross and George MacIntosh and on May 21 the club night will herald the start of the annual Skye accordion and fiddle festival in Portree, the main events of which will have admission by ticket only.

### Historic Gaelic music collection issued on two-CD set

THE SCHOOL of Scottish Studies archives at the University of Edinburgh has just released the 26th volume of the Scottish Traditions Series, 'Cruinneachadh Chalum: Field Recordings of Gaelic Music and Song from the Highland and Islands.'

The two-disc set features music recorded in the 1950s by Callum Maclean, a folklorist, collector and ethnog-

rapher from Oskaig, Isle of Raasay. Educated in Edinburgh and Ireland, MacLean was the first person to undertake the full-time systematic collecting of Gaelic songs, stories and traditions in the Highland and Islands. "Everywhere he went he found the best contacts and tradition bearers and gathered in a vast amount of oral material straight

from people's memories," said Ian Green of Greentrax Recordings, who issued the CD. CD 1 comprises a wide range of singers and songs, while CD 2 consists of instrumental music - all recorded in the field. "This is a remarkable and unique Scottish Tradition Series collection, adding even in more depth to the Series," said Ian Green.

### Corpach paper mill reunion

TICKETS are now on sale for the 50-year reunion of former Lochaber pulp and paper mill staff.

Anyone who worked at the Wiggins Teape, latterly Ajro Wiggins branch, is invited with their partners to the buffet and dance to

be held in the Nevis Centre on September 26.

The event will mark 50 years since production started and 10 years since the closure of the Corpach mill, a major employer during its time. Tickets are available

from the Nevis Centre and includes a buffet and entertainment from Ballochmyle band.

For more information contact corpachmillreunion@btinternet.com or search 'Corpach paper mill' on Facebook.



The former Corpach mill powerhouse was demolished in 2009.

### Eye to eye with John Wallace

#### Red Eyes

IN THE past month I have seen three patients with red eyes, who had self-treated, and each of whom had potentially life or vision threatening eye problems! The human eye has a limited response to infection. It can become red and inflamed, have a pussy or watery discharge, become oedematous (swollen due to fluid retention), feel gritty or painful and possibly have reduced vision.

Two patients came in with sore red eyes which had been treated with over the counter antibiotic eye drops. Both patients were actually suffering from orbital cellulitis. The tissues surrounding the eye had become infected and appeared red and inflamed. Orbital cellulitis is a life threatening condition that requires immediate hospitalisation and intensive antibiotic treatment. Thankfully it is relatively uncommon. Both patients were hospitalised that day and made a full recovery.

The third patient had been self-treating with eye baths and antibiotic

eye drops for several weeks before seeing me. There was no discharge and the eye was simply red and uncomfortable. In this case the patient actually had glaucoma. This is a potentially blinding eye disease which needs urgent treatment to stop further loss of vision.

In all three cases their eyes had been red, but there was no pussy discharge.

Antibiotic eye drops are only for bacterial eye infection, which invariably has an associated pussy discharge. Bacterial conjunctivitis will normally resolve in four or five days. If your eye is red for longer than one week, or it is red without a pussy discharge you should seek medical advice.

Your optometrist is ideally placed to provide a diagnosis and offer treatment suggestions. Modern optometric training is not just about the prescribing of glasses. Optometrists are trained to recognise, and in many cases treat, eye disease or refer you to an ophthalmologist for specialist treatment.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP  
**Wallace Optometrists**  
 The West Highland Orthokeratology Clinic, 11/12 Argyle Square, Oban  
**Tel: 0845 230 3937 (EYES)**  
 www.wallaceoptometrists.co.uk

## Entertainment Guide

### Cinema

Oban Phoenix Cinema  
 Community owned and run  
 Tel: 01631 562905 www.obanphoenix.com

#### LISTINGS FOR 10TH APRIL - 16TH APRIL

Please note the timings this week are the same each day EXCEPT for Thursday 16th due to Live Event

#### FRI 10TH - WED 15TH APRIL INCLUSIVE:

- CINDERELLA**  
11.00, 11.15, 13.30
- HOME**  
13.20
- HOME 3D**  
15.35
- STILL ALICE**  
15.45, 17.45, 20.50
- FURIOUS 7**  
18.00, 20.00

#### THURSDAY 16TH APRIL:

- CINDERELLA**  
11.00, 11.15, 13.30
- HOME**  
13.20
- STILL ALICE**  
15.35, 15.45, 20.50
- FURIOUS 7**  
18.00
- NT LIVE: THE HARD PROBLEM**  
19.00

#### FILM SYNOPSIS

##### CINDERELLA - U - 105MINS

A girl named Ella (Cinderella) has the purest heart living in a cruel world filled with evil stepisters and an evil stepmother out to ruin Ella's life. Ella comes one with her pure heart when she meets the prince and dances her way to a better life with glass shoes and a little help from her fairy godmother of course.

##### HOME - U - 94MINS

When Oh, a loveable misfit from another planet, lands on Earth and finds himself on the run from his own people, he forms an unlikely friendship with an adventurous girl named Tip who is on a quest of her own. Through a series of comic adventures with Tip, Oh comes to understand that being different and making mistakes is all part of being human. And while he changes her planet and she changes his world, they discover the true meaning of the word HOME.

##### STILL ALICE - 12A - 101MINS

Alice Howland is a renowned linguistics professor happily married with three grown children. All that begins to change when she strangely starts to forget words and then more. When her doctor diagnoses her with Early-onset Alzheimer's Disease, Alice and her family's lives face a harrowing challenge as this terminal degenerative neurological ailment slowly progresses to an inevitable conclusion they all dread. Along the way, Alice struggles to not only to fight the inner decay, but to make the most of her remaining time to find the love and peace to make simply living worthwhile.

##### FURIOUS 7 - 12A - 137MINS

Dominic Torretto and his crew thought they left the criminal mercenary life behind. They defeated an international terrorist named Owen Shaw and went their separate ways. But now, Shaw's brother, Deckard Shaw is out killing the crew one by one for revenge. Worse, a Somali terrorist called Jakarde, and a shady government official called "Mr. Nobody" are both competing to steal a computer terrorism program called God's Eye, that can turn any technological device into a weapon. Torretto must reconvene with his team to stop Shaw and retrieve the God's Eye program while caught in a power struggle between terrorist and the United States government.

##### NT LIVE: THE HARD PROBLEM - 12A - 120MINS

Hilary, a young psychology researcher at a neuroscience institute, is nursing a private sorrow and a troubling question at work, where psychology and biology meet. If there is nothing but matter, what is consciousness?

## Radio

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 studio@obanfm.org.uk or call us on 01631 570057

#### THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS

##### MONDAY:

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

##### TUESDAY:

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

##### WEDNESDAY:

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

##### THURSDAY:

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

##### FRIDAY:

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

##### SATURDAY:

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

##### SUNDAY:

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

## Heartfelt and handmade Spring felt workshops in Argyll

HEARTFELT by Liz is offering a series of felting classes in April, just in time to get those creative juices flowing for spring.

Owner and teacher Liz Gaffney will share her love of textiles at four one-day courses entitled 'Painting with Wool' in Port Appin and Kilmelford and 'Create a Felt Hat' in Taynuilt and Oban.

Liz's artistic journey has taken her around the world, but Scotland holds her heart. Born in County Tipperary, Ireland, to a florist and a professional musician, her path to a creative career came naturally.

In 1984, after earning diplomas in floristry, she moved to Ayrshire. For 10 years, she worked with the Scottish Qualifications Authority, as well as the Highgrove Florilegium on a commission for HRH Prince Charles, before stumbling upon a new vocation.

'I discovered felt making while watching with my children at a country open day event. I was grabbed by its simplicity and its immediate change of form. So I began by making baby slippers.'

Liz studied millinery at Cardonald College in Glasgow and fashion design at Ayr College. She travelled the world - from Norway to Slovakia to Mongolia - both as teacher and student.

In the process, she opened her first studio, Heartfelt by Liz, in her garden. Then in 2012, she and her partner moved to Argyll and set

about renovating Dalmally railway station to house her studio and shop.

For her partner Graham Whaite, a native, it was a homecoming. For Liz, it was the next best thing.

'Argyll is the home of many sheep breeds. Using natural, sustainable and local material connects me to the land. And, by its geographical nature, Argyll is a resourceful place with many talented people who have traditional skills. It's wonderful to be among like-minded fibre enthusiasts.'

Liz's days are filled with workshops, travel, exhibitions and, currently, work on a felt book cover series for Addison Publications.

Through her work with Local Origins Rural Network and the annual Gaelic wool festival, Fèis Cothlam, she is raising North Argyll's profile as a world-class centre of textile learning. Aspiring felt artists can be a part of this Highland tradition by attending one of her classes.

In the 'Painting with Wool' workshop, students will learn how to work with wool in a very painterly way.

'We'll be looking at landscapes, seascapes or a creation from your imagination, and learning how to recreate a picture in wool that merges colour-blended with both wet and needle felting techniques,' Liz said.

And for those who feel a hat is the difference between being dressed and being dressed up, the 'Create a Felt Hat' workshops offer fun and fashion.

'It's ideal for those who have some knowledge of felt making, but this is a challenging yet achievable target for energetic first time felt makers,' said Liz.

Materials cost £8 and the course fee is £10, over 60s £7.50, with fee waivers for those on benefits. The workshops are sponsored by Argyll Bute council and Carers Trust Scotland.

For more information contact Patricia Slater on 01631 567974 or email patricia.slater@argyll-bute.gov.uk

The 'Painting with Wool' workshops will take place on Wednesday April 22 in Port Appin Hall and Thursday April 23 in Kilmelford Village Hall.

The 'Create a Felt Hat' classes will take place on Wednesday April 29 in Taynuilt village hall and Thursday April 30 in Glenclruite church centre. All classes take place from 10am to 3.30pm and attendees are asked to bring a packed lunch.



GETTING AHEAD: students will learn how to make a fashionable hat from wool



SKILLS: Liz Gaffney teaches how to paint with wool in her latest series of workshops



WORLD PREMIERE: Iain Macrae, centre, MJ Deans and Calum MacDonald star in the new Gaelic version of Whisky Galore.

## Gaelic stage version of Whisky Galore to tour Highlands and Islands

IT'S WORLD War II and the islands of Great Today and Little Today are suffering from a serious drought - a distinct lack of whisky.

It casts a long shadow over the islands and means that Sergeant Odd cannot marry his sweetheart Peggy for, as everyone knows, a riteach (wedding party) cannot happen without a dram.

The only person happy with the situation is the local jobsworth, Captain Waggett, ever on the lookout for any loose talk on the islands.

Things change dramatically for the better when the SS Cabinet Minister runs aground off the island with 50,000 cases of whisky in its hold.

The canny islanders quickly decide to claim this bounty, rather than have it be carried to the bottom of the sea - or even worse, back to the mainland.

Captain Waggett vows to put an end to these shenanigans by calling in customs officials and a hilarious race against time ensues.

Can the islanders hide the whisky in time?

Will Sergeant Odd get to marry his beloved?

Will anyone on Today ever be sober again?

Find out when the world premiere of a new Gaelic version of Whisky Galore/ Uisge-Beatha Gu Leòr opens its tour of

Scotland in the Sunart Centre, Strontian on Friday April 10, with shows around the Highlands and Islands through May.

Compton MacKenzie's Whisky Galore is based on the true story of the SS Politician and its wrecking on the island of Eriskay.

Iain Finlay MacLeod's new adaptation is set on the present-day island of Today.

'The modern re-telling of this charming comedy features a host of colourful characters, heart-warming stories and, naturally, whisky galore,' said publicist Jo Lennie.

'This adaptation marks a key moment in the evolution of Gaelic drama within the National Theatre of Scotland's pro-

gramme, as the company's most fully-realised Gaelic language theatre production to date' said Jo.

'Whisky Galore/ Uisge-Beatha Gu Leòr will be performed almost entirely in Gaelic, with English subtitles for non Gaelic-speaking audiences.'

Macleod, a native of Lewis, is the National Theatre of Scotland's Associate Artist (Gaelic). He is a successful novelist, playwright and writer for film and radio, including four novels published in Gaelic.

The production is directed by Guy Hollands and is sponsored by the National Theatre of Scotland and Robhanis, a new Gaelic language thea-

tre company based on the Isle of Lewis.

The company's aim is to produce new work in the language, develop new writing and create accessible and relevant theatre for audiences in Scotland and beyond.

Adult audience members will be offered a dram of whisky courtesy of Pràban na Linne Gaelic Whiskies based on the Isle of Skye as part of the entertainment.

Roger Hutchinson, author of Polly, the True Story Behind Whisky Galore, will be taking part in post-show discussions at some performances, including Eriskay and Skye. For the full programme see www.nationaltheatrescotland.com.

## Dunollie 'one to watch' for the 2015 season

CALLED 'one to watch for the future' at the Scottish Rural Awards, Dunollie museum, castle and grounds opens for the 2015 season with new blood and a full programme of exciting events and developments.

New to the team this season are Diane Elliot, full-time retail development assistant in the gift shop, and full-time receptionist Catherine McMillan.

'We have a team of 13 paid staff for the season. Support from Highlands and Islands Enterprise has enabled us to grow this quickly,' said Jane Isaacson, sustainability and development manager.

'Also this year we are concentrating on developing activities and interests for families and children.'

The newest exhibition at Dunollie is entitled 'Mirror of History' and features objects from Hope MacDougall's social history collection, which is of national significance.

'The exhibition examines her collecting techniques and displays her wide and varied collection,' explained Jane.

'It was created as part of a training exercise for our volunteer curators who learnt the process of choosing objects, recording and movement of the collection correctly, writing and designing an exhibition.'

Funded by the Association of Independent Museums, the exhibition includes vintage items from local businesses such as a shoe shop, a chemist, a tobacconist as well as a collection

of spoons from around the world.

Other exciting projects ongoing this season are the restoration of the Victorian garden and the development of a faerie garden, assisted by the Forestry Commission, both of which are planned for completion by mid-May.

Led by garden projects co-ordinator Mary Freer, the gardens restoration is a long-term project, starting with the installation of paths and clearing of undergrowth.

'Dunollie gardens have been doing their own thing for many years and are at last being brought under control,' said Mary.

She is also working to restore the pond, currently covered in duckweed.

'We are keen to reinstate this and develop this very damp area into a bog garden,' she said.

'Dunollie garden will be a secluded place for everyone to come to explore, wander and dream.'

The foundations are down for the new kettle outdoor kiosk style café and the opening is also set for mid-May.

'The café will be a modern interpretation of its Victorian garden surroundings,' said Jane Isaacson. 'It has been designed to age with time, to visually integrate itself with the garden.'

Funded by Museums, Galleries Scotland and designed by Tog Studios, the building will be sustainable with green credentials.

'Local timber will be the primary material and local volunteers, keen to learn new skills, will help with

the construction,' said Jane Isaacson said. 'The design will incorporate a recycling strategy encouraging care of the surroundings.'

Another popular annual event already in the planning stages is the Fasanta Festival of Textiles and Fashion.

This year, the Fasanta design award is for a textile piece inspired by the Brooch of Lorn, which is displayed in the museum. The entries will exhibit in November.

A new initiative for 2015 is the Dunollie discovery programme, a full year of arts and cultural events and activities for people of all ages.

Topics include 'The Sea Kings of Dalriada', 'Piping the Castle Story' and 'Walking with Dunollie Ghosts.'

The first programme, the 'Art of Weaving', is being held each Monday from April through October.

'Over the last two winters, volunteers at Dunollie renovated a full size pattern designing loom from the Hope MacDougall Collection to enable people to learn and enjoy its craft and



Volunteers Judy Watt (left) and Jayne Mulqueen work on the 'Mirror of History' exhibition at Dunollie, which features objects from Hope MacDougall's Social History Collection.

to create a dynamic weaving display in the new Weaving Cottage,' said Jane.

'In 2015 the members will provide weekly demonstrations of the loom in use and start to create up-to-date patterns to include in Dunollie's textile collection.'

Dunollie's castle conservation programme, which began last season, will see several improvements to infrastructure.

'Last year we secured the wall head to stop the rock fall from the top of the castle,' said Jane.

'This year we want to get rid of the Heras

fencing and restore access to the castle, initially the beautiful vaulted undercroft. We are currently fund-raising for works to start at the end of September. This phase will concentrate on pinning the outer walls to secure the stone work. We will also have to remove the ivy, which is detrimental to the structure of the building.'

Dunollie museum, castle and grounds are open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 4pm, and Sunday 1pm to 4pm. For more information, call 01631 570550 or visit dunollie.org.



A concept drawing of the sustainably-built Kettle Café at Dunollie Castle, which is set to open in mid-May

**The Oban Times COMPETITION**  
WIN

**1 OF 5 PAIRS OF TICKETS TO THE IDEAL HOME SHOW SCOTLAND**

**The Ideal Home Show Scotland makes a welcome return to Glasgow's SECC from 22nd - 25th May 2015.**

The award-winning home show brings together more than 400 exhibitors and 8 show sectors under one roof, offering visitors a unique one-stop shopping experience across all areas of the home. From interiors to home improvement, gardens to gadgets, the show will be packed with home solutions, show discounts, entertainment, celebrity guest appearances and fantastic shopping opportunities.

The centre piece of this year's Ideal Home Show Scotland, The Super Theatre, represents each of the 8 sections of the show with talks and demonstrations from the nation's most loved home experts. And the Ideal Home Show wouldn't be iconic without one of our stunning full size Show Homes for you to explore!

Join our celebrity ambassadors: TV Interiors guru John Amabile, architect and presenter George Clarke, award-winning gardens expert Diarmuid Gavin, foodie favourite Gregg Wallace, and popular television presenter Amanda Lamb - who will be on hand for useful tips and advice on their area of expertise.

Tickets can be either booked online or by calling the 24 Hour Ticket Box Office on 0844 854 2014 or by visiting www.idealhomeshowscotland.co.uk. For further information about the show, visit the website www.idealhomeshowscotland.co.uk.

The Ideal Home Show Scotland is offering 5 lucky readers of The Oban Times the chance to win a pair of tickets to this year's event in Glasgow's SECC from 22nd - 25th May 2015.

To enter simply answer the following question, complete the coupon and post it to: **Ideal Homes Competition, Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.** Entries must be submitted by Friday 1st May.

**QUESTION: At which venue is this year's Ideal Home Show Scotland taking place?**

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

**Terms and conditions:** The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. The winner will be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. The prize is not transferable or redeemable for cash equivalent. Tickets will be posted to the winners nearer the date of the event.

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# Learning Curve



## EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2015 WITH WEST HIGHLAND COLLEGE UHI

Each year West Highland College UHI extends its portfolio of courses. For 2015 the focus is on offering our students the opportunity to continue their studies without having to leave the area.

- Our music students will now be able to study with us for several years: starting with a National Certificate in Music, followed by a Higher National Certificate and then BA (Hons) Applied Music.
- After two years studying City & Guilds Professional Cookery, students could return for a third year to study HNC Professional Cookery.
- The college centre in Mallaig is building on the huge popularity of its

Maritime Skills course with the introduction of NC Maritime and Shipping Operations.

- Moving ahead to provide options in the ICT sector, we are launching NC Computing with Digital Media.
- Our fast growing School of Adventure Studies has two new Honours degrees (subject to validation): BA (Hons) Adventure Performance and Coaching and BA (Hons) Marine and Coastal Tourism in addition to the well-established BA (Hons) Adventure Tourism Management and postgraduate Masters in Ecotourism.

Stay with us, there's something for everyone.

## THE MESSAGE IN SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

The Message in Schools Association (MISA) is an international organisation supporting instructors and trainers of the Message in Schools Programme (MISP) and providing information to the public about this innovative approach to improving children's quality of life in school and at home. Nurturing touch is a fundamental need and touch and movement are essentials for all aspects of child development, learning and interaction. This peer message programme, for 4-12 year olds, gives children another way to communicate and helps bring school subjects alive, increasing their

concentration, confidence and general wellbeing. It is a fresh approach to learning in a creative and fun way. Message activity promotes a caring approach and underpinning the whole programme is the principle of respect, making it a positive tool to use against bullying.

The MISP Instructor Training Course is a comprehensive balance of practical tuition and theory. Next course: 25 & 26 April, Edinburgh. In-house trainings and taster sessions available. Please contact Isabel Fraser, isfraser@aol.com, 01968 661335, www.misascotland.org.uk

**H**ave you ever wanted to learn a second language, or play a musical instrument? Do you yearn to advance in your current job, or even study an entirely different trade? It's never too late to learn something new!

From traditional university classes to trade courses to dance lessons, now more than ever, adults are taking to the classroom. In fact, almost one in three UK undergraduates is a mature student. As the average retirement age increases, older workers, even those with a degree, need to update their skills, and a great way to do that is by taking a technology course at a local college or university. Employees who continually learn and develop can compete more effectively in the market place.

For those who did not complete higher education, night classes are an option. According to the Office of National Statistics, graduates earn an average of £12,000 a year more than non-graduates, while non-graduates are twice as likely to be unemployed. And with the Government's move to lift the age limit on student loans from 54 to 60, the potential cost of a degree need not be so discouraging.

Short courses are an option for those who don't want or need a degree. From computer science to creative writing, a short course can build your skills, as well as ease you back into an academic environment. Almost anyone can benefit from continuing education. By taking a trade course, students can create a second career for themselves. A business owner can improve her management skills. A keen home cook can turn that hobby into a profession. A history buff can fulfil his dream of being an archaeologist. From photography to mountain climbing the possibilities for your future are almost endless!

Academia isn't the only way to expand your learning horizons. Dance, drama or fitness classes don't just offer great health benefits - by meeting compatible people, you'll perk up your social life while you improve your body and mind.

Taking the first step toward learning something new can be intimidating. But it is true that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Take that first step and soon you will be high on the learning curve!

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## Creamery cash and ferry cost review a double boost for dairy farmers

CAMPBELTOWN Creamery is to receive around £450,000 of investment from the Scottish government – and there has been a promise to review ferry freight fares from islands.

Rural affairs minister Richard Lochhead announced the government's financial backing for the Kintyre creamery, owned by farmers' co-operative First Milk, and the freight fares review during a debate last week in the Scottish Parliament.

The cabinet secretary said: 'Dairy is hugely important

to many of Scotland's rural communities as well as the economy, which is why the Scottish government is firmly committed to working with the sector to secure its future.'

'The Scottish government is also continuing to consider the cost of ferry travel for dairy farmers on the islands.'

'Transport Scotland is conducting a comprehensive review of freight fares across the whole ferry network, with the aim of delivering an overarching freight fares structure for all Scotland's islands that is

fair, transparent and straightforward, as well as delivering best value for taxpayers at a time of severe cuts to the Scottish government budget.'

He added that a key strand of the recently published Scottish dairy plan was to support First Milk transform its business.

'This includes upgrading Campbeltown Creamery, which is a lifeline for producers on the Mull of Kintyre,' he said.

'The Scottish government stands ready to invest in this important facility and my officials continue to work closely

with First Milk on its revised proposals for a new whey plant and various other improvements to the existing site.

'I expect to be able to issue a new offer of financial support shortly - likely to be around £450,000 - which will enable the first instalment of the grant to be paid within weeks and safeguard 25 jobs at the plant.'

The Campbeltown plant produces Mull of Kintyre cheese from milk produced on almost 40 dairy farms in the area and supports around 100 jobs on the peninsula.



LOOKING AHEAD: some of the young crofters who gathered to share ideas

## Young crofters look to future

YOUNG crofters made friends, exchanged ideas and spent time with their crofting elders at a recent gathering organised by the Scottish Crofting Foundation (SCF).

More than 90 young and aspiring crofters attended the Young Crofters 20:20 event at the Assynt foundation community-owned Glencanis Lodge near Lochinver.

Fiona Mandeville, chairwoman of SCF, said: 'The economic and regulatory challenges that have faced crofting recently are no secret so it is brilliant to attend a gathering where the next generation is so enthused by the chance they have to make crofting a part of their life and so fired up to take crofting forward to 2020 and far beyond.'

'We are particularly delighted that a large group of the young

people who attended the gathering have decided they want to take things further by themselves and we look forward to hearing about their next steps and to supporting them in any way we can.'

The event was praised by elder crofters who went along too, with conversations between all age groups sharing ideas, opinions and expertise.

One young crofter, Maddy Norval, wrote on her blog: 'By the end of the first day we had discussed what crofting is, what its problems and challenges are and what we would like to see change in the future.'

'During the second day we had talks from the 'elders' about their situations, industry bodies like Scottish Natural Heritage and the crofting commission giving talks, even a member of the Scottish parliament telling

us to send in our views to the government, because a lot of them can be acted on if there is enough noise made.'

Some of the points the young crofters decided needed to be taken on were: creating a federation for young crofters to get their voices heard more clearly in political circles; lobbying for a 'land bank' of available crofts to be sent to interested crofters; mentoring courses between older and younger crofters; and lobbying the Scottish government on issues such as loans to build croft houses, more crofts being created from government-owned land and better broadband and mobile connectivity in the Highlands and islands.

A new Facebook page was set up - www.facebook.com/young-crofters - which gained a large following within hours.

## Sea eagle management scheme rolled out in West Highlands



FARMERS and crofters in the West Highlands are being encouraged to contact Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) about any issues on their land involving sea eagles and livestock.

SNH staff will then arrange for someone to investigate on behalf of local stakeholder groups which have been tasked with rolling out a new sea eagle management scheme.

Stakeholder groups have already been set up in Argyll and Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh and Wester Ross.

The aim is to investigate all issues of sea eagles impacting on livestock and trial prevention measures where

required and practical. This would be through the loan of equipment, experienced contractors and payments to land managers who use prevention methods as part of their livestock management.

Lachie Maclean, a Mull farmer, NFUS member and chairman of the Argyll and Lochaber stakeholder group, said: 'Funding for the new scheme has been substantially increased compared to the previous scheme and is another action implemented from the National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS)/SNH joint statement agreed last year.'

'The sea eagle scheme panel is keen to record all incidents

of reported sea eagle impacts as the sea eagle population continues to expand into its former range.

'Only by thoroughly understanding the part sea eagles play in livestock losses can we work together with partners to help develop ways to deal with any losses in the longer term.'

Scheme advisors will:

- investigate, as far as possible, what sea eagle activity is occurring in the vicinity of the farm;
- help gather evidence of sea eagle impacts and the recording of any livestock losses due to sea eagles or other causes;
- advise on measures to mitigate against sea eagle impacts;

- arrange to loan equipment, where applicable, to use as deterrents or other mitigation;
- make recommendations to SNH and the local stakeholder group on support for longer term management carried out by the livestock manager.

The national scheme is to run from this year to 2018. The regional stakeholder groups are represented on a national scheme panel with members from SNH, NFUS, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Scotland, Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish government rural payments and inspections directorate and the Scottish Crofting Federation.

## Independent advisor to oversee tenant farming

AN INDEPENDENT advisor on tenant farming is to be appointed by the Scottish government.

The short term role will be created as an interim measure until legislation can be brought forward to establish a tenant farming commissioner with statutory powers.

This was one of the main recommendations of the recent agricultural holdings legislation review.

Giving evidence to the Scottish parliament's rural affairs, climate change and environment committee, rural affairs minister Richard Lochhead said the independent advisor would work with the three main tenant farming industry bodies as sector reforms were introduced.

He said: 'A vibrant and healthy tenant farming sector is crucial for the future of Scottish agriculture and food production.'

'To achieve this, positive and productive tenant and landlord relationships are key.'

'Significant progress building

a constructive approach was made during the agricultural holdings legislation review.

'We must not lose momentum and go back to the way things were and the industry is keen to have a tenant farming commissioner in post as soon as possible.'

'As this will require legislation to be brought forward, I have therefore decided to appoint in the interim an independent advisor on tenant farming, to promote co-operation and find common ground among industry bodies on proposed areas for change in the sector.'

'Work is underway to identify a suitable candidate.'

'The Scottish government is still considering how best to take forward the findings of the review, some of which will require legislation.'

The Scottish Tenant Farmers Association (STFA) welcomed the news of an interim advisor and said it was pleased calls for a commissioner were being heeded.

STFA chairman Christopher Nicholson said: 'There is bound

to be uncertainty over the next couple of years until the new reforms become law and it is important interim measures are put in place to advise and guide the industry as well as keep a watchful eye on what is going on.'

'We believe that a firm hand will be needed to ensure fair play during the transitional period before new tenancy legislation is enacted in a year's time.'

David Johnstone, chairman of Scottish Land and Estates, said: 'This is a positive step and one which we hope will help move the sector forward.'

'As we said in our evidence to the rural affairs, climate change and environment (RACCE) committee, we believe it is in the interests of the industry to have a commissioner appointed as soon as possible. The evidence presented to RACCE by the cabinet secretary and members of the review panel was also encouraging as we collectively work to deliver changes to achieve the vibrant tenanted sector we all seek.'

## Milestone as 1,000th croft registers online

A CROFT at Barvas on the Isle of Lewis has become the 1,000th croft to be registered on the online crofting register.

Introduced in 2012, the crofting register is the first official register to give crofters legal certainty over their crofts.

Crofting minister Aileen McLeod said: 'Registering the 1,000th croft so soon is a considerable achievement,

given the original expectation that it might take up to a generation to fully populate the register. Progress with registrations is important as it increases transparency and provides crofters with certainty as to the extent and interests in croft land.'

Janet Egdell, operations director at Registers of Scotland, said: 'There are

around 18,000 crofts in Scotland, so reaching the 1,000th registration in such a short timeframe is a remarkable achievement.'

'This demonstrates the positive response we've had to the crofting register and the excellent collaboration between ourselves, the Crofting Commission and crofters.'

## Market reports

### Dingwall and Highland Marts

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 1,174 store cattle and 22 OTM cattle on April 1 at its Dingwall mart.

Bullocks (724) averaged 232.4p and sold to 293.3p per kg for a pair of 225kg a Limousin crosses from Westburn, Thurso, and £1,420 gross for the reserve champion, a 610kg Limousin cross from Easter Clune, Lethen.

Heifers (448) averaged 212.2p and sold to 250p per kg for a 425kg Charolais cross from Lyne of Urchany Farm, Nairn, and £1,300 gross for a 540kg British Blue cross from Meikle Geddes Farm, Nairn.

Young bulls (25) averaged 201.5p and sold to 250p per kg and £750 gross for a 300kg Limousin cross from Tullieglens, Dunphail.

OTM cows (22) averaged 126.1p per kg and sold to 176.6p per kg and £1,210 gross for a 685kg Simmental cross from Dunain Mains, Inverness.

A spokesman for the company said: 'For the first time this season, trade reflected the current situation within the prime sector.'

The Robertson's of Tain, Harbro

and Surecalf sponsored the show and sale of store cattle judged by Dean Anderson, Smallburn Farms, Elgin, who awarded his overall champion to a 500kg Limousin cross bullock from Mr J A Pirie, Chapelark Farm, Kingussie, realising £1,300 gross to Messrs D & V Buchan, Savoch, Peterhead.

Reserve champion was a 610kg Limousin cross bullock from Messrs J M Fraser & Son, Easter Clune, Lethen, realising £1,420 gross to Mr W Gracey, Tehillah Farm, Fyvie.

Prize list:  
Single bullock: 1 Chapelark Farm, (LimX) 500kg, £1,300; 2 Easter Clune, (LimX) 610kg, £1,420.  
Single heifer: 1 Messrs J & J Henderson, Udale, (LimX) 610kg, £1,220; 2 Messrs J H & S M Anderson, The Cloy, (Cha) 520kg, £1,200.

Best pair of bullocks: 1 Messrs W J and G A Fraser, Little Croy, (LimX) 506kg, £1,230; 2 Chapelark Farm, (LimX) 383kg, £1,000.  
Best pair of heifers: 1 Mr A J Beattie, Raitcastle Farm, (LimX)

425kg, £1,010; 2 Mr I J Stewart, Lower Whitebog, (LimX) 378kg, £785.

Best pen of four (bullocks or heifers): 1 The Cloy, (CharX) bullocks) 506kg, £1,230; 2 Messrs John P Clark Ltd, Kinnahaird, (SimX) bullocks) 459kg, £1,040.

Other leading prices per head and per kg:  
Bullocks 201-250kg - Westburn, £660, 9 Bualnaluib, Aultbea, 251.2p; 251-300kg - Corslet, Fortrose, £790, 268.7p; 301-350kg - Chapelark Farm, Kingussie, £900, 268.7p; 351-400kg - Forsie, Thurso, £1,070, 267.5p; 401-450kg - Torgorm, £1,145, 262.6p; 451-500kg - Chapelark Farm, £1,300, 260p; 501-550kg - The Cloy, Fortrose, £1,230, 243.1p; 551-600kg - Torgorm, Conon Bridge, £1,270, 213.5p; 601-650kg - Easter Clune, £1,390, 232.8p; Over 651kg - Burnside Croft, Jamestown, £1,370, 191.6p.

Heifers 201-250kg - 30 Big Sand, Gairloch, £480, 228.6p; 251-300kg - Clury Farm, Dunain Bridge, £720, Westburn, 249.1p; 301-350kg - Meikle Geddes, £800, Raitcastle Farm, Nairn, 236.5p; 351-400kg - Kinchyle Farm, Scampport, £920, Bunchrew

Farm, Inverness, 237.8p; 401-450kg - Lyne of Urchany, £1,110, Bunchrew Farm, 241.6p; 451-500kg - Blackford Farm, Croy, £1,140, 4 Glaick, Ardross, 239.3p; 501-550kg - Blackford Farm, £1,230, 243.6p; 551-600kg - Rose Cottage, Spinningdale, £1,230, Westfield, Thurso, 207.9p; 601-650kg - Westfield, £1,240, Rose Cottage, 203.3p.

### United Auctions

UNITED auctions sold 3,725 prime sheep at its Stirling sale on April 2.

This included 3,004 hogs, selling to an average 179p/kg, 713 ewes and rams and eight spring lambs.

Top prices:  
Spring lambs (8) - Hallhill (Suff) £115; Newton of Collesie (Char) £106.

Hogs (3,004) - Harviesmailing (Tex) £117; Luckenburn (Btex) £103.50; Easter Balgillo (Chev) £93; Boghall (Suff) £92; Putechan (Char) £90; Braeside (Mule) £85.50; Holehouse (BF) £84.20.

Ewes (654) - West Carse (Suff) £143; Balmouth (Tex) £125;

Other leading prices per head:  
OTM cows: Ardindrain, Kiltarlity, (LimX), £1,070; 6 Balmabeen, Conon Bridge, (Sim), £1,050; Castlecraig Farms, Nigg, (BRB), £990.

Other leading prices per kg:  
OTM cows: 6 Balmabeen, (Sim), 173.6p; Ardindrain, (LimX), 145.6p; Castlecraig, (BRB), 140.4p.

Fulfordlees (X) £115; Balmouth (HB) £112.50; Oakbank (Mule) £102.50; Gillbank (Btex) £100; Greenlands (Chev) £88.50; Craigen (BF) £87.50; Wester Upper Urquart (Iley) £87.50.

Rams (59) - Remony (BFL) £159.00; Newton of Collesie (suff) £151; Crosslaw (Tex) £140; Whitecross (Btex) £109; Cultiehdoo (BL) £100.50; Balquhandy (Iley) £97; Remony (BF) £95.

Top prices per kilo:  
Hogs (3,004) - Harviesmailing (Tex) £117; Luckenburn (Btex) £103.50; Putechan (Char) £90; Braeside (Mule) £85.50; Holehouse (BF) £84.20.  
Ewes (654) - West Carse (Suff) £143; Balmouth (Tex) £125;

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We are urgently seeking more Volunteer Drivers and Helpers for this service in the Oban area to help older people stay healthy and independent in their own homes. If you have between 2 - 4 hours per month to spare and are looking to make a difference in your own community then you are exactly who we are looking for. Volunteers are given appropriate training and support from a local Service Manager and all mileage expenses are covered. Our Meals on Wheels Volunteers carry out their duty in pairs and one Volunteer usually drives, whilst the other takes the hot meal into the house. There is a little time then for a chat and to check all is well with the Older Person.

In Oban we have an urgent need as older vulnerable people require the Meals on Wheels service to stay healthy and independent in their own homes. Please do contact the local Service Manager Karen Dalgleish on 077368 25342 or Theresa Crossan on 01475 600442 and ask for more details on how to become a Royal Voluntary Service Volunteer.

We are also holding Information Days at the local Oban Tesco Supermarket on May 5th and May 6th so please look out for our desk at the store entrance for more information.

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### Helensburgh Toyota staff raise money for Comic Relief

Local company, Helensburgh Toyota have just finished counting the money and are delighted to announce that they raised a smashing £4590 for Comic Relief. With Toyota GB as a major sponsor with the popular charity, every Toyota dealer across the UK was tasked to do their bit for Red Nose Day. Helensburgh Toyota, who are ranked as Scotland's number one Toyota dealer for customer care and recognised for their extensive work with local communities, took to the task with gusto.

Helensburgh Toyota organised a series of fundraisers including a Quiz Night, sponsored cycle in red morph suits, Red Beard shave, swear boxes, wet sponge throw, along with their super Sunday effort to create a new world record for consecutive penalty

kicks with Ardencaple FC. Commenting on the combined efforts, Director, Ernie Cowan said: "It was busy in the weeks leading up to Red Nose day and none of it would have been possible without the support of our great staff, their friends and families and of course

our wonderful customers, all of whom dug deep to raise over £4500. A special thank you to Leona, Lynelle, Tim and Rhona who were our Red Nose champions."

"Contrary to popular belief, the highlight for me was not, along with Gary, being on the end of a wet sponge, it was the massive community turnout, young and old, for the world record penalty attempt with our partners Ardencaple FC. As a result of what, they, we and the community did together, there will be many people both here in the United Kingdom and in Africa that will have a better life tomorrow."



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Tel: 01688 301256

### Island Plastics 17' open launch



Suitable for 10-40hp engine. Complete with fitted bilge pump, anchor and cable and new oars. £1950 o.v.n.o.

Tel 01880820408

### Orkney strikeliner 16+ with electrics



including fish finder, VHF, lights and trailer. 25hp Johnson fully serviced Dec. 2013, 5hp auxiliary, plus wetline dinghy(2.32m) extras include: Lifejackets, life rings, anchor, fenders, boat hook spare battery's and wave pump. (Located in Tobermory)

£4000 o.n.o.

For further information call Dan on 07786243836

### Mooring wanted

Mooring wanted in Oban area.

Please contact Bryan Livingston 07786157737

### 15' GRP boat



Simulated clinker hull with cuddy, built in buoyancy and launching trailer for sale £850. Shp Yamaha possibly negotiable. £850

Tel 01852300353 evenings

# West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

Find your next property at westcoastpropertyguide.co.uk

### TO LET

#### TO LET

Oban Station Square Modern One Bed Flat Fantastic Views Car Park Space £495 pcm + Council Tax & Bills Landlord Registration 01125/130/10260 No Smoking or Pets Tel. 07799 224869

### Property Classifieds

Woodburning Stoves

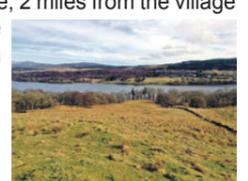
**AFFORDABLE**  
Country Kiln  
Woodburning & Multifuel stoves  
Delivered Nationwide  
**01560 483966**  
www.WoodburningStovesLimited.com

### Building Plot

A rare opportunity to acquire a large building plot of 7 acres on the shores of Loch Awe, 2 miles from the village of Kilchrenan, 1/2 hour drive from Oban. Fishing & Loch Access with moorings possible.

Fixed Price £100,000

Tel: 07831 532824



West Coast property service

Oban Times MOTORING  
Oban Times MOTORING

Oban Times MOTORING  
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WEST COAST  
Property Service



**HERE'S MY CARD**

**Beautiful Boutique HAIR & BEAUTY**  
 Kirsty and Leanne formerly of New Image have moved to Unit 2 Glenloy Street, Caol Shopping Centre, Caol.  
 We are now open Ashleigh mackinnon will be full time doing beauty treatments. Spray tanning is available by leanne mackay tue -sat. Donna macleod will be barbering every friday from 4.30-6.30pm.  
 Call for appointment, early/late appointments available.

**HALFWAY FILLING STATION**  
 OPEN 24 HOURS  
 Tel: 01631 562784 Dunbeg, By Oban

A safe space to experience, share and work through painful feelings and thoughts  
**Psychotherapy in Mid-Argyll**  
 Mary MacCallum Sullivan  
 Psychotherapist, supervisor, teacher  
 BEd (Hons); MA; UKCP Reg; PMCosca  
 07775945193  
 enquiries@macpsych.co.uk  
 www.macpsych.co.uk

**R A Clement Associates**  
 Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors  
 5 Argyll Square, OBAN PA34 4AZ Tel: 01631 562643  
 3 Cameron Square, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6AJ  
 Tel: 01397 700171  
 www.raclement.co.uk

**Autobahn Disco**  
 For all occasions  
 Martin Bell DJ  
 68 High Bank Park Lochgilphead  
 Telephone 01546 602012 Mobile 07880 951009  
 Email: autobahndisco@hotmail.com

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**NEW 50 BERTH MARINA NOW OPEN**  
 Tel: 01687 462154  
 Marina Mobile: 07824331031  
 Email: info@mallaigharbourauthority.com

**SCOTT ROBERTSON ACCIDENT REPAIRS**  
 • CAR & LIGHT VAN BODY REPAIRS  
 • INSURANCE AND PRIVATE WORK  
**QUARRY ROAD, OBAN PA34 4DP**  
**TEL: 01631 569441**

**STAN LUPTON FUNERAL DIRECTORS LTD**  
 Mid Argyll - Kintyre (24HRS)  
 Dignified personal supervision  
 Office & Enquiries: 01880 820 995  
 Mobile: 07899 862 922  
 E-mail: mail@stanlupton.co.uk

**The Bakery**  
 Acharacle  
 Tel: 0987 433484  
 Home Baking — Bread, Cakes, Quiches, Pasties, Sausage Rolls, Soup, Filled Rolls / Sandwiches.  
 A Variety of Teas, Coffee & Soft Drinks  
 To Take Away or Eat at Leisure  
 Enjoying our Private Patio area overlooking Loch Shiel

Every Thursday  
 10.30am & 5.30pm  
 Glencruitten Church Hall  
**Call Gillian 07796 040 803**  
 Slimming World Oban

**bowman stewart**  
 architecture & building surveying  
 Architectural design and chartered building surveying services for domestic, agricultural, industrial and commercial projects.  
 1 Victoria Buildings, 34 Union Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8JS  
 Tel 01546 606067  
 info@bowmanstewart.co.uk  
 www.bowmanstewart.co.uk

**For islanders and holidaymakers**  
 Moira A. OWERS, IMDT  
 Positive Partnerships, Rewarding Results  
 'Skyran', Dervaig, Isle of Mull PA 75 6QR  
 01688 400486  
 puffin05@me.com  
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**SAMBOREK**  
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 Tel: 01546 603158 Fax: 01546 602829  
 Email: alex@samborek.net URL: www.samborek.net  
 Oil, Gas, Underfloor, Heat Pumps, Solar  
 All forms of Heating Installations  
 Full Bathroom installations supplied and fitted  
 Boiler & Cylinder Services

**FION CONSTRUCTION LTD.**  
 Civil Engineering Contractors  
 30A Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, Claggan, Fort William, PH33 6PR  
 Telephone 01397 702 834  
 Email: fionconstruction@tiscali.co.uk  
 Roadworks • Drainage works • Concrete works  
 Block paving • Slabbing • Driveways  
 General civil engineering

# West coast recruitment



**BASED IN OBAN**

£ Excellent Basic

+ £ Bonus

+ Private Health Care

+ Pension

+ Good Holidays

If you've got the energy, drive, determination and ambition, we can offer you an exciting and rewarding career with one of Scotland's foremost independent newspaper publishers. You would be part of a small, highly motivated team selling advertising and features for our well established, award winning publications. You will be responsible for calling new and existing clients to generate and maintain lasting business relationships, and you will benefit from on-going training, first class support, job stability and the opportunity to work for a professional company that believes in rewarding success and effort. A full driving licence is essential.

Please apply by email with full C.V and covering letter to: [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)

## Special publication sales

**OBAN**

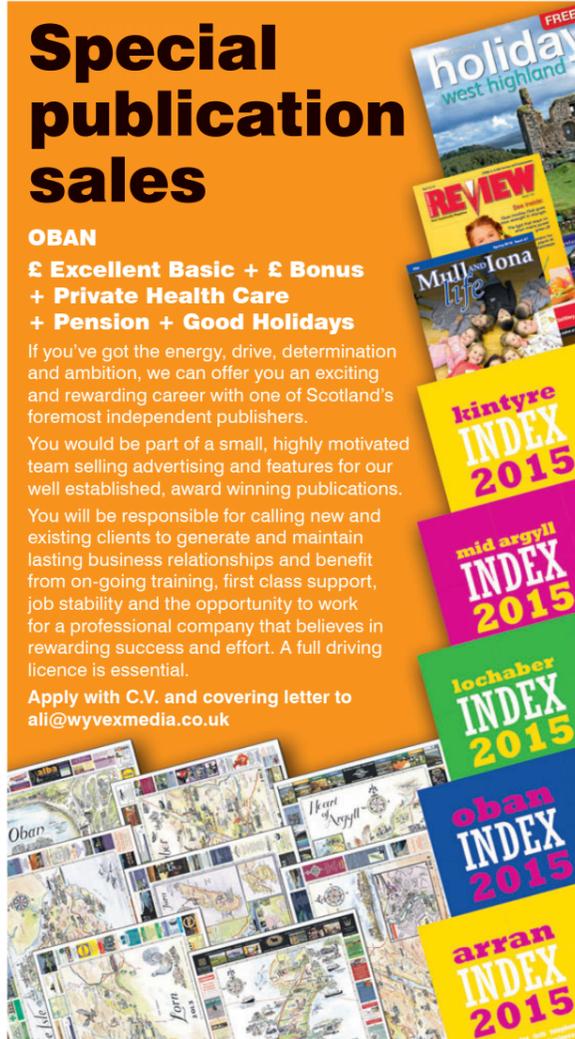
£ Excellent Basic + £ Bonus + Private Health Care + Pension + Good Holidays

If you've got the energy, drive, determination and ambition, we can offer you an exciting and rewarding career with one of Scotland's foremost independent publishers.

You would be part of a small, highly motivated team selling advertising and features for our well established, award winning publications.

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Apply with C.V. and covering letter to [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)



## Move with the Times

### Chief Reporter

#### WYVEX MEDIA

This is a key editorial appointment with Wyvex Media's flagship title, the Oban Times, the newspaper of record for the West Highlands which delivers Scotland's second largest accredited weekly circulation.

BASED IN OBAN  
£ Excellent Basic + £ Bonus + Private Health Care + Pension + Good Holidays

The ideal candidate will be an experienced, qualified journalist who has worked in a busy regional or local newspaper environment at a senior level and who has the ambition, motivation and passion to take the next step in the development of their career.

He or she will be able to handle the pressures of leading a small, dedicated and talented team of reporters, keeping the title at the forefront of breaking news, while at the same time maintaining the strong grassroots connections with the many communities served by the Oban Times.

The challenges of the digital age will be regarded as opportunities and he or she will engage positively in harnessing the immense potential of web and social media platforms.

An appetite for hard work will be matched by a drive to deliver a quality news agenda for a discerning readership.

In return, we offer an attractive salary and conditions with the prospect for advancement with one of Scotland's leading independent newspaper publishers. Add the stunning backdrop of the West Highlands to this offer, and this makes a very appealing package.

Apply with C.V. and covering letter to [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)

### BioMar Technical Advisor

BioMar are seeking to recruit a systematic and analytical individual with a strong interest in Aquaculture. The right profile will be an asset to consolidate BioMar's position as a leading supplier to the UK and Irish aquaculture industries, and as an advisor to optimise fish farm production. BioMar offers a stimulating position with possibility for personal and professional development. You will be part of the sales and marketing team working out of the production site at Grangemouth, delivering a high level technical service to our customers and colleagues, including:

- Providing after sales service and technical support.
- Monitoring of feed performance.
- Plan and implement Flesh Quality sampling programmes as agreed with the customer.
- Assist with a range of customer and internal trials and projects.
- Support the implementation of company marketing plans and strategies.

The job will necessitate extensive travel and require a practical hands on approach

As a person we expect you to be outgoing and trustworthy with solid commercial focus, and able to communicate at ease, no matter who's in front of you. You should furthermore be characterized by being proactive, persistent, structured and detail-oriented. The ideal candidate will probably have 1-3 years' experience within the field and bring an educational background in Aquaculture or Biological sciences.

In return BioMar are offering an excellent remuneration package for the correct candidate, including company car and pension scheme.

Please apply in strict confidence attaching C.V. to **Pauline Donnelly H.R. Administrator** at [pdonnelly@biomar.co.uk](mailto:pdonnelly@biomar.co.uk). Closing date for applications is Friday 17th April

### ACHA

argyll community housing association

#### IT Project Leader

Lochgilthead  
Salary £31,115 - £35,274 per annum  
35 hours per week

For further information about this post or for an informal chat please contact Vivienne Kerr, IT Manager on 01546 605822 or email [vivienne.kerr@acha.co.uk](mailto:vivienne.kerr@acha.co.uk)

To apply visit our website at [www.acha.co.uk/recruitment](http://www.acha.co.uk/recruitment)

If you cannot access the website please contact the recruitment team:

Tel 01546 605917 or email [recruitment@acha.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@acha.co.uk)

ACHA welcomes applications from all sections of the community and is committed to promoting equal opportunities. All posts will be subject to a Disclosure Scotland check.

**Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 17th April 2015**

Interviews will be held in Lochgilthead on Tuesday 12th May 2015

### INVERLOCHY CASTLE

Hotel & Restaurant

#### WE ARE CURRENTLY RECRUITING POSITIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- COMMIS CHEF
- BREAKFAST CHEF
- KITCHEN PORTER

Please send your C.V. to [headchef@inverlochy.co.uk](mailto:headchef@inverlochy.co.uk)

- BREAKFAST WAITING STAFF

Please send your C.V. to [stephanedamezin@inverlochy.co.uk](mailto:stephanedamezin@inverlochy.co.uk)

- HOUSEKEEPING STAFF
- DAY AND NIGHT PORTERS

Please send your C.V. to [janewatson@inverlochy.co.uk](mailto:janewatson@inverlochy.co.uk)

#### Senior/General Horticulturist

Permanent, based at Benmore Botanic Garden

Starting Salary £21,557 (Senior Horticulturist, Band C) or £16,544 (Horticulturist, Band B)

Applications are invited for a Senior Horticulturist to join Benmore Botanic Garden, near Dunoon, Argyll, part of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. However we are willing to consider applications from general horticulturists.

A full job description and person specification which outlines the essential and desirable criteria for this post can be downloaded from our website, [www.rbge.org.uk/about-us/vacancies](http://www.rbge.org.uk/about-us/vacancies)

Applications should state which post you are applying for and be made by way of CV and covering letter which outlines your suitability for this post. A completed equal opportunities questionnaire should also be sent to the HR Department at The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, 20a Inverleith Row, Edinburgh EH3 5LR or [recruitment@rbge.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@rbge.org.uk) by 5pm on Monday, 20 April 2015.

### OBAN CRUISE OPERATIONS – LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE

We are seeking an enthusiastic team player to assist in coordinating shore excursion services for cruise ships visiting Oban. Our ideal candidate must possess excellent local knowledge, organisational skills, interpersonal skills, communicate effectively, and be flexible. Proficiency in MS Office. Previous tourism and/or customer service experience is preferred.

Initially this will be on an occasional basis only and will involve pier side work.

Email CV and cover letter by Friday 17 April 2015 to: [ralexander@europeanruise.no](mailto:ralexander@europeanruise.no)

Job description available upon request.

### Gleaner

Applications are invited for the following posts: -

#### SENIOR CUSTOMER SERVICE ADVISOR & CUSTOMER SERVICE ADVISOR

Connell Office

We are looking for 2 individuals with office experience to join our team to support the expansion of our fuel distribution operation. Experience in processing customer orders through to delivery would be advantageous. These positions will also include providing customer telephone sales support.

A good telephone manner, customer care and communication skills together with competent computer skills and an aptitude to work with figures is required.

In the first instance, applications, in writing only, giving brief details together with a C.V. if available to: -

**HR Department, Gleaner Oils Ltd, Milnfield, Elgin, Moray, IV30 1UU**

Or  
By e-mail to: [hr@gleaner.co.uk](mailto:hr@gleaner.co.uk)

A kind, enthusiastic and insightful individual is sought to join a small team of carers to support an elderly person with dementia in their own home, within 20 minutes of Lochgilthead.

Role involves light domestic duties; food preparation and prompting to eat; care of cat and dog and companionship. Will need to be able to handle a small boat as short boat ride necessary. Experience desirable, but training and guidance available. References essential.

Apply in writing enclosing CV to Box No 6 Oban Times, Lochavullin Estate, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

#### HOUSEKEEPER/CLEANER

required for Saturday changeovers at holiday house near Tayvallich.

Would suit 2 people. £80 per clean.

Please contact Anna 07919 584413 or Bruce 07766 750780

#### HOUSEKEEPER/COOK required for large family home/shooting lodge on the Cowal Peninsula.

This is a permanent position with housekeeping all year round plus seasonal cooking for family and very busy shooting season – flexible working essential. Two bedroom cottage with garden provided. Own transport essential.

Please apply in first instance to Nicola Simpson [nicola@haggarts.com](mailto:nicola@haggarts.com)

## LEITHS

Due to continued expansion Leiths (Scotland) Ltd are looking to recruit for the following position at Highland Lime, Fort William:

### QUARRY FITTER

For further information on this vacancy and to download an application form please visit [www.leiths-group.co.uk](http://www.leiths-group.co.uk)

To apply, please forward your application form, to Nichola Greig, HR Department, Leiths (Scotland) Ltd, Rigifa, Cove, Aberdeen, AB12 3LR or by email to [recruitment@leiths-group.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@leiths-group.co.uk)

The closing date for all applications is Friday 17 April 2015

### Temporary Seasonal Guides - £8.01

Oban Distillery Visitor Centre, a five star Scottish Tourist Board attraction and the home of Oban Single Malt Whisky, are looking to recruit Temporary Seasonal Guides to carry out tours of the Distillery for visitors.

We are looking to recruit confident individuals who possess a high standard of communication and customer service skills with the ability to work within a team.

We are recruiting for temporary full-time and part-time Sat/Sun roles.

Interested candidates should call Andrea Verrall, Brightwork on 0141 272 8104 or email your CV to [andrea.verrall@brightworkltd.com](mailto:andrea.verrall@brightworkltd.com). Interviews will be held locally.

Brightwork Ltd offers the services of an employment agency for permanent work and an employment business for temporary work.

## There are some things you can't do with

### The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Digital Edition

but you can **save 64%** on an annual subscription

[obantimes.co.uk/digital](http://obantimes.co.uk/digital)



\*Calculated against the cost of a printed annual subscription at £58 per year which includes postage and packaging. Please note this product does NOT work on Iphone, Ipad or Tablets. Requires PC or Mac with access to the internet (Broadband recommended) with an internet browser that supports Flash.

# west coast recruitment



## ACE Trustees Needed for Key Charity Development

Argyll Community Empowerment (ACE) is a redefined, strategic charity whose role is to ensure the third sector is robust, resilient and delivers high quality services for the people of Argyll and Bute.

This is an exciting opportunity for you to help lead and shape this key interface between the public, private and third sectors, ensuring the significant contribution the third sector makes to public life is fully realised.

We are seeking people from a broad range of backgrounds to help develop the organisation, which is being formed from the merger of Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network, Argyll Voluntary Action and Islay and Jura Council for Voluntary Service.

### Become a Trustee – Apply Now

For further information and an application form please visit:  
[www.argyllcommunities.org/thirdsectorpartnership](http://www.argyllcommunities.org/thirdsectorpartnership)  
 or e-mail [info@argyllcommunities.org](mailto:info@argyllcommunities.org)

Argyll Community Empowerment is a trading name of Argyll Voluntary Action, Scottish Charity No. SC029947 and Registered Company No. SC277345.

**STAFF REQUIRED**  
 Dalchreggan Guest House  
 Fort William  
 Good shifts, Good Wages.  
 Please call  
**01397 704826/07747 081762**

**Argyll HomeCare**  
 Argyll HomeCare provides a professional, flexible, reliable and high quality service for those individuals requiring additional support or care at home.

**Mid Argyll: Home Care Workers**  
 Full, part time & bank – (£7.56 per hour plus mileage)  
 Care experience is desirable but not essential as comprehensive training is provided. Ability to work occasional evenings and weekends is essential.  
 For further information and an application pack please email: [info@argyllhomecare.co.uk](mailto:info@argyllhomecare.co.uk) or telephone: 01546 600333  
 All staff are subject to PVG checks (enhanced disclosure)

Oban Times RECRUITMENT  
 Oban Times



## Quality Systems Assistant Manager

An opportunity has arisen for the appointment of a Quality Systems Assistant Manager to join Marine Harvest's Quality systems team, based in Fort William. The main responsibility of the post will be to complete farm and processing audits in support of the Company Quality and Environmental standards, and to suggest and agree improvements and corrective actions where appropriate.

Principle responsibilities will include generating essential reports to meet customer requirements, supporting farm and processing managers with external audits and maintaining the Company's document management system. In addition the successful candidate will be required to carry out audits to support the Quality and Environmental Management Systems including ISO 9001, ISO 14001, British Retail Consortium standards, GlobalGAP, Label Rouge and ASC.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate effective communication and interpersonal skills and possess a high degree of computer literacy. Whilst it is not a requirement of the post it would be advantageous if applicants possessed a further education certificate in a related discipline. A driving licence is also essential.

If you would like to be considered for this post please apply in writing to: Gillian Dempster, Human Resources Assistant, Stob Ban House, Glen Nevis Business Park, Fort William, PH33 7PT by Friday 24th April 2015.



**Gaelic Language Childcare and Education Worker** (Permanent Part-time)  
 £21,534 - £23,505 pro rata  
 01546 604334  
 Oban Ref: CME01271

Closing date: 24 April 2015.  
 To apply visit our website



[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs)

## Scottish Sea Farms Ltd

Scottish Sea Farms is the UK's leading producer of premium quality Atlantic salmon specific for UK and International markets. We operate a unique training and personal development programme designed to add to the skills of our staff and enable rapid career progression.

We currently have the following job opportunities available within our marine operations on the *Isle of Mull*:

### Senior Husbandry with Feed Specialisation (Scallastle)

The successful candidate will have at least 2 years practical salmon farming experience and must be able to demonstrate competence across a wide range of farming disciplines including: health and safety awareness, fish health assessment, cage and moorings maintenance, feeding optimisation and skilled seamanship. You will have the drive to succeed, a well-developed sense of pride and the ability to lead and inspire others. Gifted communication skills are essential, as is a proactive ability to guide correct decision-making. Not surprisingly we are looking to invest in you and you'll take on many of the modules designed for a Management Trainee. A commercially endorsed Day Skipper qualification (or equivalent) is essential for this position.

**Salary expectation: £23,250-£26,250 plus £800 for Specialist role, 1:3 duty weekend allowance, bonus, pension scheme and entry into our gym and cycle to work memberships.**

### Marine Husbandry Personnel

You should be able to demonstrate competence across a wide range of skills including fish health monitoring, stock appetite assessment, boat handling skills, feeding system and boat maintenance whilst being proactive in health and safety. Above all you should have the drive and ambition to improve your career through training and development. A formal boat qualification would be desirable.

**Salary expectation: £18,000 - £21,750, 1:3 duty weekend allowance, bonus, pension scheme and entry into our gym and cycle to work memberships.**

### Seasonal Husbandry Trainees

We are looking for candidates who are team players, proactive in health and safety and who have high expectations for themselves and of their employer. These are temporary positions based on various sites throughout our Mull farms. Formal training in essential skills will be provided.

If you have a full UK driving licence and are interested in finding out more, please contact Claire Scott on 01786 445521 or email [claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com) for an application pack.

Closing date: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2015



Scottish Sea Farms Makes it Happen!

Oban Times RECRUITMENT  
 Oban Times RECRUITMENT  
 Oban Times RECRUITMENT  
 Oban Times RECRUITMENT  
 Oban Times RECRUITMENT

## public notices

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

**Argyll Bute COUNCIL**

**A MEETING OF THE OBAN, LORN AND THE ISLES AREA COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD IN THE CORRAN HALLS, OBAN**  
 AT 10:30AM - WEDNESDAY 15TH APRIL 2015  
 Members of the public are welcome to attend and a public question time will take place during the meeting. Questions can be asked on the day or can be submitted in advance to the Area Committee Manager, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT. Telephone: 01631 567945.  
 The Agenda for the meeting will be available to view from Wednesday 8th April at the Service Point, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AW and at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)  
 Douglas Hendry, Executive Director – Customer Services

**CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION**  
 Applicant, Croft, Extent/Purpose, Case number  
 Mr D F Berry  
 4 & 10 Ruaig, Tiree  
 0.06 ha - Amenity ground  
 4.86.55859  
 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, Laachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES  
 Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES  
 Oban Times

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 SINGLE MOORING INSTALLATION, SEABANK, SOUTH SHIAN, LOCH CRERAN**  
 Notice is hereby given that Mr Chris MacPherson has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of Single Mooring Installation, Seabank, South Shian, Loch Creran:  

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Seabank, South Shian, Loch Creran	56° 31.089'N	005° 23.894'W (WGS84)

  
 Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Ledaig Post Office, Benderloch.  
 Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:  
 Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: [MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk), quoting reference: 05494  
 Mr. Chris MacPherson

**CHARLES AND BARBARA TYRE TRUST**  
 Each Year the Trust may Provide Grants that assist applicants

- to obtain additional qualifications at a University or other institute of higher education.
- to train in a trade or profession other than that in which they are at present trained.
- to undertake a course provided by the Open University for which they have registered.
- to undertake training in leadership and initiative.
- to benefit from recreative holidays in cases special needs.

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 2015, 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

**Oban and Lorn Branch of Alzheimer Scotland**  
 Action on Dementia  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
 Tuesday 5th May 2015  
 7.15pm  
 Carers Centre, Albany Street, Oban  
 All welcome

**MacMillan ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
 Thursday 30th April at 7pm  
 at Lorn & Islands District General Hospital  
 Lecture Hall  
 All welcome

**First Registration of a Croft**  
 John Boyd MacEachen has registered their croft 5 Bunacaimb, Arisaig & Moidart, PH39 4NT, 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 December 12, 2015. Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.rps.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.rps.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C845

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES  
 Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)

**The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**  
**PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**  
 The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>  
 Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
15/00771/PIP	Land 120M South West of Downey Birch House Arisaig	Erection of house - Renewal of permission 12/00793/PIP
15/01069/PIP	Land SE of 25 Anahilt Strontian Acharacle	Proposed single storey Dwelling House
15/01097/FUL	Spean Bridge Police Station Spean Crescent Spean Bridge	Alterations, extension and change of use from police station to house
15/01099/FUL	Land 60M South East of Achindarroch Farm Duror Appin	Renewal of planning permission 08/00495/FULLO. Erection of dwelling house

Time period for comments is 14 days. Application 15/01022/LBC is 21 days.  
 ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
 Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)  
 Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

**Argyll Bute COUNCIL**

**PLANNING**  
 These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/00800/LIB	Installation of lead flashings	Parliamentary Church Isle of Iona Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Isle of Iona

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Lochgilphead Brae PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).  
 Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.  
 Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>  
 The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD.  
 A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.  
 Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website.  
 Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

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E: argyllcaravanengineer@hotmail.co.uk



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**ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES**

CARPENTRY AND JOINERY BOOKS by John Ednie, published by Gresham Publishing Company, London 1925/1926. Volumes I, III, IV & V. Good condition, £55 Telephone 07796 104145.

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**BUILDING / DIY**

BEAMS Scots pine beams. Sawn, untreated, 5m x 200mm x 75mm, £20 Telephone 01631 730256

BENCH GRINDER Ferm FSM-150 bench grinder. Lochgililhead, £20 Telephone 07810 026663.

KWIK STAGE SCAFFOLD ideal for self build project. Delivery to site can be arranged. 2 x 40ft x 16ft, 2 x 45ft x 16ft. For a detailed list and price. Telephone 07721 727690.

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RADIATOR CH radiator 600mm x 1800mm, new, unused, £50 Telephone 07934 491712.

RADIATOR CH Radiator 600mm x 1100mm, new, unused, £45 Telephone 07934 491712.

RADIATOR Small radiator, 600h x 400w. Brand new, still wrapped. Telephone 07810 026663.

SINGLE PANEL RADIATOR 2000mm Wide x 300mm High Radiator. White, purchased c 2006. Steel Telephone 01866 822040.

STEEL GARAGE DOOR 2134 x 2134 brown, vertical profile, complete with gear, good condition, £39 Telephone 07811 435269.

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WASHPRO PRESSURE CLEANER 1300 watt motor, up to 300 litres per capacity, built in trolley, adjustable spray, lock off control, solid aluminium pump, high impact wheels, black/white, 18 gears, in good condition, £35 Telephone 07902 820398.

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**DOMESTIC APPLIANCES**

BOSCH FRIDGE FREEZER in good working order. Bargain! £20 Telephone 07902 820398.

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LABRADOR PUPS black labrador pups, pedigree, KC registered, Sire FTW, top quality, field trial breeding, suitable for work or pets. Telephone 07957 415433.

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FALCON SADDLE good leather general purpose 16" saddle, 16" between D rings, medium to narrow, complete with stirrup leathers and girth, reins and snaffle bridle 5' assembled. £70ono Telephone 01852 300209.

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**FIREARMS**

RIFLE 270 Meuser rifle with Pecar scope, FAC required, £680ono Telephone 01499 600219.

**FURNITURE**

BEDSIDE CABINET, £5 Telephone 01583 421291.

BLANKET CHEST, £10 Telephone 01583 421291.

COFFEE TABLE IKEA, wooden with glass top, 70 x 70 x 45 cm, with shelf underneath, buye, collect, £30 Telephone 07596 453886.

DINING TABLE, £5 Telephone 01583 421291.

DINING TABLE AND 4 CHAIRS Ikea, solid birch, 119x75cm, in very good condition, buye, collect, £50 Telephone 07596 453886.

FIRE SIDE CHAIR with wooden arms, £5 Telephone 01583 421291.

KINGSIZE HEADBOARD antique pine, very good condition, £20 Telephone 01631 566896.

OAK TABLE AND CHAIRS heavy drop leaf oak/light wood table and two chairs, £50 Telephone 07551 668781.

PINE 4 DRAWER BEDROOM dressing table, excellent condition, £70 Telephone 01546 870621 or 07799 838958.

SINGLE BED and mattress, £20 Telephone 01583 421291.

SMALL DOUBLE BED HEADBOARD black faux leather, new still in original wrapping, £20 Telephone 01631 566896.

SMALL GLASS DOORED book case, £15 Telephone 01583 421291.

SOLID WOODEN CIRCULAR Dining Table, 45" diameter with integrated extension panel and six chairs. Buyer collects, £150 Telephone 01631 562243 evenings?

STAG WARDROBE, £20 Telephone 01583 421291.

THREE SEATER cintique settee, green velour, good condition, £50 Telephone 01586 552109.

TWO HIGH BACK wooden chairs, £5 each Telephone 01583 421291.

TWO SEATER PARKER KNOLL settee and matching armchair, £99.99. Separate matching chair in plain upholstery, £40. Buyer collects. Telephone 01631 562243 evenings?

WOODEN SHELVING UNIT Ikea, solid birch, 3 shelves + 1 drawer, width 111 cm, depth 38 cm, height 122 cm, can email photos. Buyer collects, £50 Telephone 07596 453886.

**GARDEN**

GARDEN Petrol Strimmer £50, Power Washer £30. Telephone 01583 421291.

HILLS ROTARY 3 ARM clothes airer with ground spike, brand new, still in packaging, £20 Telephone 01586 552109.

MOWER light weight, £10 Telephone 0775 836445.

**GARDEN MACHINERY**

HUSQVARNA 125C STRIMMER almost new, good reason for sale, £65 Telephone 01546 600126.

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BRASS CURTAIN POLE Swish Belgavia 29mm luxury brass curtain pole 2.40m wide brand new in box, £40 Telephone 0771 700664.

HARDWOOD VENETIAN BLIND Rosewood colour 25mm slats 120cm wide x 160cm drop can be cut brand new in box, £30 Telephone 0771 700664.

**KITCHEN AND BATHROOM**

BATHROOM CABINET pine bathroom cabinet with mirror, £15 Telephone 01631 710110.

LARGE STAINLESS STEEL roasting pan, used once Ikea, £5 Telephone 01586 552109.

**LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE**

AIR BEDS single size (2), in as new condition, used once only. Each bed has integral inflater, £30 Telephone 07934 491712.

HILLEBERG STALON GT TENT 2 person, spacious and comfortable four season tunnel tent. Store room with small entrance, bedroom with built in groundsheet, kitchen with storage and main entrance. Three Easton 7075W 8.6mm X 3580mm tent poles. Stuff sack. Weight 4kg. Ring for photos by email, £250 Telephone 01880 730326.

THERMA-REST inflatable mattress: Neo Air All Season, warm, comfortable, rugged, green. Stuffsack. Ring for photos by email, £49.95 Telephone 01880 730326.

THERMA-REST inflatable Trekker Chair. Green. Ring for photos by email, £15 Telephone 01880 730326.

WICKER PICNIC BASKET with crockery and cutlery for 2 persons, new, unwanted gift, £5 Telephone 01586 552109.

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Breed some real maternal heifers! Out-wintered well grown Whitebred Shorthorns bulls for sale. PCHS accredited BVD, IBR, JOHNES and Lepto clear. Tick Acclimatised.  
Telephone 07939 630730

**LOST AND FOUND**

ENGAGEMENT RING Lost between Purdie's of Argyll and Sweet Memories, George St, Oban on Saturday 7th March, platinum as new, £400 Telephone 07786 944848.

**SOITAIRE** engagement ring, small reward waiting. Telephone 0141 5611128.

**MARINE**

FIBREGLASS DINGHY 11ft fibreglass dinghy with oars and rowlocks. Needs attention. Lochgililhead, £50 Telephone 07810 026663.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

HEATED UNDERBLANKET Silent- night, small double (122 x 152 cm), 3 heat settings, machine washable, £15 Telephone 07902 820398.

**MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**

PREMIER DRUM KIT with symbols and additional snare drum, cost new £650, £200 Telephone 01546 606805.

**PET ACCESSORIES**

PET CARRIER as new, suitable for Alsatian or bigger dog, £20 Telephone 07429 490241.

**POWER TOOLS**

CHAIN SAW Sthi MS 390, 65cc, 60cm bar, genuine reason for sale, £60.

**PERSONAL NOTICES**

**Ruby Wedding Anniversary**

Congratulations Mum & Dad on your Ruby Wedding Anniversary with Lots of Love & Best Wishes  
Fiona, Kenny, Craig, Grant, Cristina, Caden, Andrew & Jo-anna xxx



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Congratulations Mum & Dad on your Ruby Wedding Anniversary with Lots of Love & Best Wishes  
Fiona, Kenny, Craig, Grant, Cristina, Caden, Andrew & Jo-anna xxx



**TOYS AND GAMES**

LITTLE TYKES CAR Cozy Coupe red ride on car. Kept inside so very clean, £25 Telephone 01631 710110.

**TRAILERS**

CADDY TRAILER Caddy 5cwt trailer converted to flat-bed. Includes adjustable jockey wheel and new spare wheel, £50 Telephone 01631 720768.

**WANTED**

ALL TYPES OF SCRAP METAL we uplift scrap cars, copper, brass, lead etc. Smaller quantities considered. Telephone 07435 589701.

ELECTRIC SHREDDER wanted for spares. Need not be working but must be complete. Telephone 01866 844305.

SLATES WANTED on or off roof, small or large quantities, cash paid. Telephone 07455 017581.

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**RUBY ANNIVERSARY**

**CRAWFORD - TOWNER** - At the Old Church of the Holy Trinity, Millom, Cumbria by the Rev. John Reay April 12 1975, James to Lesley. Present Address: Ros-Muir, Mossfield Drive, Oban.

**DEATHS**

**GALBRAITH** - Iain (John Ferguson) died peacefully on March 31, 2015 at the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh surrounded by his family. A much loved husband of Patricia and father of Alexander and James. The funeral service will take place today, Thursday, April 9, at 2pm at West Lothian Crematorium, Livingston. Donations to Cancer Research. Blue skies.

**GALBRAITH** - Peacefully at home, 5 St Columba Way, Southend, on April 6, 2015, Mary MacKinnon, in her 94th year, formerly of Langholm Farm, dearly beloved wife of the late Andrew Young Galbraith, much loved mother of Sadie, Margaret and Mary and a loving and much loved granny. Service will take place in Southend Parish Church, on Saturday, April 11, 2015 at 1.00pm, funeral thereafter to Keil Cemetery. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation.

**MACLEAN** - Very peacefully at home surrounded by his family on Friday April 3, 2015, Calum, in his 81st year much loved husband of Jean, loving dad of Carol, Susan and Calum and treasured Papa of Amy, Ian, Aidan and Rowan. Special father-in-law to Vanessa and friend to Paul. Funeral Service was held today, Thursday April 9, 2015 at Tobermory Parish Church. Thereafter to Tobermory Beadoun Cemetery.

**MACSWEEN** - Peacefully on March 2, 2015, Sophia MacSween aged 86 years, widow of the late Rev. Norman MacSween. A treasured mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister-in-law and aunt. Remembered with thankfulness by family and friends.

**MCDERMID** - Alec (Alistair), died at Highview Nursing Home, Inverness on April 1, 2015 aged 90 years. Formally of Bruichladdich, Isle of Islay and Fort William. Much loved husband, dad and granda.

**SWAN** - Ursula. Peacefully at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on April 3, 2015, in her 86th year, beloved wife of William. Funeral will take place at St. Conan's Kirk, Lochawe on Friday April 17 at 12.00 noon, thereafter to Glenorchy Cemetery, Dalmaly.

**TAYLOR** - Peacefully at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on Monday April 6, 2015, in his 102nd year, William Taylor (Willie), beloved husband of the late Miriam. He will be sadly missed by family and friends. Funeral will take place from Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Thursday April 16 at 1.00 pm. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring Collection/ Donations, if desired for Argyll Riding for the Disabled.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**CRAIG** - Jennifer, Ian, Caroline, Colin and John would like to express their sincere thanks to family and friends for the overwhelming love, kindness and support following the loss of William. The family is indebted to all NHS staff in Campbeltown and the Beatson, Glasgow for the dignified and compassionate care given to William throughout his illness. Special thanks to Rev. Catriona Hood for conducting an uplifting service; to Lorne and Lowland Parish Church, organist David McEwan for the beautiful music, the Ardsheel Hotel for excellent catering and Blair Funeral Directors for their sympathetic and dignified services. Many people travelled a considerable distance to be with the family on Friday and pay their last respects to William. To all who came a very grateful and sincere thank you. The retiring collection taken for Palliative Care, Kintyre Locality and Beatson Cancer Charity raised £3,000, thank you to all who made a donation.

**MACEWAN** - Betty and family would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their support and kindness after the sudden death of Alex. Sincere thanks to all medical team at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban,

to Rev. D. Cameron and John MacLean for a very comforting service. Special thanks to the Hoey family for their compassionate funeral arrangements. Sincere thanks also to Royal Hotel and staff for refreshments and excellent buffet. R.I.P Alex.

**MACINNES** - Polly's sisters Mary, Katie and other relatives would like to thank all friends and work colleagues for their support, cards, phone calls and visits. Sincere thanks to Glen Mor Surgery doctors and nurses, care at home and Night Owls for their care of Polly over the years and her good friend Zeta.

Polly died peacefully with her family around her and spiritual support from Fr McAulay. She received great care and attention from Libby and all the staff at Moss Park Nursing Home. Special thanks to Fr Wynne for his kindness and many visits at home to Polly over the years. Thanks to all who celebrated Polly's funeral Mass, her nephew, Bishop Joe, Fr Tom, Fr McAulay and Deacon Tom. Thanks to Sean Cameron, her grand nephew for piping and to all who paid their last respects at Church and graveside. £520 was generously donated to Mary's Meals. Final thanks to Mike McFall and staff, McDonald Brothers and Stronlissit Hotel. R.I.P

**MACKINNON** - The family of the late Hector MacKinnon would like to sincerely thank all family, friends and ex colleagues for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and flowers received on their recent sad loss. Thanks to the Rev Philip Wallace for his support and touching service, to David McEwan for his friendship and inspirational choice of music, to John McGeachy for his appropriate send off on the pipes, to Alasdair and Kenneth Blair, funeral directors, for their professional service and to the Ardsheel Hotel for hospitality. Special thanks to the staff of the Stroke Unit, Southern General Hospital, the district nurses and the wonderful girls of Carr Gomm for their care of Hector in his last few months at home, and to caring neighbours, Alex Gilchrist, Colin Duncan, the Martin family and Jeanette Maloney and family for care shown to Hector at home. Finally, thanks to all who paid their respects at the church and graveside and donated generously to the retiral collection towards the Lorne and Lowland Parish Church and Cancer Research.

**MCARTHUR** - The family of the late Joyce Rosalind McArthur would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their messages of support by way of cards, calls and flowers received during this sad time. Thank you to all the carers, doctors and district nurses who looked after our mum. To the Rev. Adrian Varwell for the beautiful service; to the Moorings Hotel for the funeral tea; and also to Scott and colleagues at John McLellans for the compassionate care throughout the funeral arrangements. Finally thanks to all who paid their last respects and so generously donated £170 to the MS Society.

**MEMORIALS**  
**FORBES - MACLENNAN** - Anniversary memories of my beloved husband Harry on April 4 and my adored brother Norman who was taken from us on April 9, 2003. Sometimes when I'm wishing you would show a sign A butterfly or rainbow Lets me know that you're both fine.  
- From Jean.

Our darling dad and special uncle so greatly missed. No more than a thought away.  
- Janice Anne and Harry Ewan.

**HOWIESON** - Fond memories of my husband Billy, died April 13, 2014. Dearly loved. Sadly missed.  
- Sandra x.

**HOWIESON** - Billy our friend, Always in our thoughts.  
- Margaret and Ian.

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of Alistair, passed away April 1, 1982 and Martha, April 13, 2003. Time may pass and fade away But love and memories forever stay.  
- Alistair and Angus, Cath and family.

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**MACEWAN** - Remembering today and every day my dear husband and our father, Calum, who died suddenly on April 12, 2007.

Never more than a thought away  
Loved and remembered every day  
- Joan and family xx

**MACLEAN** - In loving memory of our dearly missed parents and grandparents, Isabella, died April 15, 2011 and John, died March 11, 2006.

You gave us many things in life  
Gifts both great and small  
But most of all you gave us love

The greatest gift of all.  
Sadly missed and always in our thoughts.  
- Donald John, Janette, Keith, Iain and Allan.

**MACLENNAN** - Remembering our dad John, who died April 3, 1984 and mum Cathie, died April 11, 1989.

We will never forget them.  
- Ewen and Rosemary, Spean Bridge.

**MACLENNAN** - In loving memory of our dear parents and grandparents, John, who died April 3, 1984 and Cathie April 11, 1989.

We treasure the memories of the days that used to be.  
- Catherine, John and family, Craobhag, Spean Bridge.

**MCPIE** - In loving memory of my husband, father, father-in-law and granda, Willie, who died April 8, 2005.

Always in our hearts.  
- His wife Margaret and family at home and away.

**PATERSON** - In loving memory of dear brother, brother-in-law and Uncle Alex (Nab), who died April 7, 2006.

You are not just a memory or part of the past  
You are ours to remember as long as life lasts  
- Love Rhonda and Curly xx

To the world you were one person  
To me you meant the world  
- Love Jacqueline xx

**PROSSER - MAXWELL** - In loving memory of my darling daughter Yvonne Elizabeth called to Jesus on April 6, 1989, aged 3 years.

A flower, petals tightly furled was lifted from her mortal clay and firmly planted in a world where full blooms grow in rich array.  
- Love Mummy.

Also remembering a dear mother Mary Prosser, who passed away on March 26, 1997.

**WILLIAMSON** - James Stewart (Jimmy, Scrap Metal Merchant, Fort William), died April 12, 1997.

Whatever else in life I do I never fail to think of you.  
- Linda, Richard and family, Lochy Bridge.

**Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS**

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# Boys' Brigade stalwart's commitment recognised

A FORT William Boys' Brigade (BB) stalwart was praised for his commitment with the organisation at the prize night and inspection parade.

Former captain Andrew Muirhead was presented with a plaque to mark 60 years of service with the BB at the annual ceremony and inspection parade, held on March 29.

Company [senior] members Jack Matheson and Ally MacLeod also received the prestigious Queen's badge, the highest accolade of the BB.

To qualify for the award the pair had to carry out a rigorous programme of activities, including providing services in the BB or church as well as carrying out volunteering outside of these groups.

Main prizewinners - Anchor boys: Perfect attendance; Arran Stephen, Robert McTaggart, Rory MacKinnon, Billy MacLachlan, Ruairaidh Stephen, Faolan Hunter. Best anchor boy; Arran Stephen. Anchor boy badges; Robert McTaggart, Benjamin O'Sullivan, Ruairaidh Stephen.

Junior section: Perfect attendance; Jay Jay Calder, Struan

Stephen, Ryan Cairns, Cameron Stephen. Best junior boy; Brandon Watson. Junior section gold award; Craig MacTavish, Daniel Turner, Jay Jay Calder, Struan Stephen.

Company section: Perfect attendance; Jack O'Neil, Liam MacDonald. Best drilled recruit; Jack O'Neil; Most improved drill; Jason Jeffries. Christian endeavour out of company meeting times; Daniel MacLeod. Best all-round boy; Max Fox Gillies. Seniors trophy; Jack Matheson. Queen's badge; Ally MacLeod, Jack Matheson.

Promotions: Anchor boy to junior; Rory MacKinnon, Reece Miller, Aaron Stephen, Blair Rigg, Murray MacLachlan, Falion Hunter and Lewis Black. Junior to company; Craig MacTavish, Daniel Turner, Jay Jay Calder and Struan Stephen.



Jack Matheson, left, and Ally MacLeod both received the Queen's badge



Andrew Muirhead received a plaque for 60 years of service



Boys' Brigade prizewinners



**CASH BOOST:** Friends of Oban Community Play Park has received another donation from the local community. Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease made a presentation for £5,000, bringing the total raised to more than £210,000 towards the play park. Pictured are members of the two charitable organisations during the cheque presentation, made at Lorn and Islands District General hospital on March 19. 16\_t13cardio01

## Thought for the week

**The difference a day makes**  
EASTER has passed. We move on. But some things can never be the same. The first Easter left its mark, and we live with its results today. Jesus' death and resurrection had lasting effects.

It lifted a burden. The prospect of death had burdened us always. So has the disabling effect of selfishness and folly. So too has the verdict we all pass on, our own conduct and that of others. Jesus' suffering was God taking those consequences for us; his return to life showed they are put away forever. We can go free if we identify with him.

It sent us a message. For it prompted God's call to us to

return to him and receive his blessing. If our penalty has been taken, then nothing should stop us coming back.

It donated a huge amount of good. When the living Jesus touches a person's spirit that person is gradually transformed. And that has motivated much of our medical research, prison and workplace reform, campaigns against human trafficking, as well as helpfulness in every area of life.

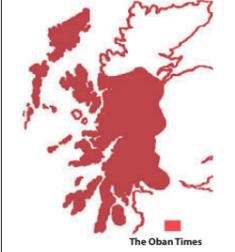
Have you had a spiritual resurrection through the person who died and rose again?

Archie McPhail, Campbell Street Church, Oban



**TEA AND A TUNE:** Musicians Neil and Sheila Sinclair take a break from entertaining guests at a soup lunch in Connel church hall recently, which raised money for the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival. Serving up the tea is festival chairman Donald MacLean and committee member Alistair Dewar who are both looking forward to the event starting on May 1. 16\_t13himdf01

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# Battling away win keeps Saints in with good chance of retaining title



CLOSE ATTENTION: Allan MacKay shields the ball from St Joseph's central defender John Paul Seagrave during last Saturday's SAFL Premier Division match at Duntocher. Match report and photo by Derek Black

St Joseph's FP	1
Oban Saints	2
SAFL Premier Division	

OBAN Saints travelled to Duntocher last Saturday to face much fancied St Joseph's FP in a vital Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division clash.

The Saints from Duntocher were on an impressive run of form which had taken them to the seventh round of the Scottish Amateur Cup so the Oban lads were expecting a difficult afternoon.

The Saints from Oban kicked off playing down the gentle William Street slope and into an unfamiliar yellow object in the sky which was later identified by those with long memories to be the sun.

The Oban side started well and carved out a very presentable chance in the second minute. Ross Maitland, who was making his first appearance since the West of Scotland Cup defeat at Harestanes in January, was fed on the right wing by Myles McAuley. Ross made good progress up the wing and sent over a low cross but failed to pick out either of the front pairing of Allan MacKay and Lewis Cameron.

The visitors survived a scare at the other end when a speculative effort from left back Martin McComish deflected off Alex Craik and struck the base of the post before being cleared to safety by Dougal Graham.

The Oban side opened the scoring in the 18th minute in a move which owed much to the persistence of Donnie Campbell who was only able to make the trip after securing a passage on a specially chartered boat

'It's going to be nip and tuck between four or five teams right till the end of the season'

from a storm-bound Colonsay on Saturday morning after the CalMac ferry was forced to turn back because of bad weather on Friday.

From a throw-in on the left Donnie linked up well on the edge of the St Joes box with Lewis Cameron and Craig MacEwan before forcing his way into the penalty area. Donnie fired off a fierce right foot shot which Kevin Connor did well to stop. The rebound came back to Donnie who again fired goalward only to see his effort stopped once more by the netminder. At the third attempt he kept his composure to slot the ball past the keeper who was unable to repeat his earlier heroics.

St Joes capitalised on a rare lapse in concentration in the Saints defence in the 34th minute. Full back Craig Cameron was allowed to cut in from the right wing and make his way across the front of the Saints box. He then picked out midfielder Gary Redpath who made a good run into the penalty area and beat Daniel Cassells with a tidy finish low down to the keeper's left to make the half time score 1-1.

In the 59th minute Donnie Campbell tried his luck from the edge of the box but saw his effort well saved by Kevin Connor who was having a good game between the posts for the home side.

On the hour mark Lewis Cameron was clattered from behind in the middle of the park.

However, after a quick rub from Davie Buchanan's magic sponge he looked set to continue. From the resulting free kick the ball was forced out of play for a Saints throw-in allowing Lewis to rejoin the action.

Myles McAuley took the throw and found Allan MacKay who sent Ross Maitland off on a run up the right wing. The wee man hit the by-line and sent over a looping cross which evaded the goalkeeper's clutches and was met at the back post by a trademark Craig MacEwan header to give Saints a 2 - 1 lead.

Amid the celebrations it soon became apparent Lewis Cameron was unable to shrug off his calf knock and he was replaced by Dean Smith who had made the trip despite having only just recovered from a bout of tonsillitis.

The visitors continued to restrict the hosts to long range shots and in the 70th minute Daniel Cassells was forced to pull off a good save from one such Colin Gailey effort.

In the 78th minute Saints manager Iain Jackson made his second change, withdrawing Ross Maitland who had enjoyed a productive return to the side on the right wing with Martin Bonar.

St Joes were beginning to turn up the heat now with Saints dropping further back to protect their slender lead. Manager Jackson brought on some fresh legs replacing Allan MacKay and Craig MacEwan with David

McArthur and Scott Maitland. In the closing stages Saints had to withstand a series of St Joes corners but again the defence stood solid.

Referee Andrew Seymour, who had handled proceedings well, brought the action to an end with Saints delighted to have secured another three valuable points in the league title race.

Manager Iain Jackson was delighted after the win.

He said: 'It was a great game played between two evenly matched sides.'

'We have a good record in away

## Football

games against St Joes - played seven, won five and drawn two - so we're delighted to get the win which keeps us in the title race.

'It's going to be nip and tuck between four or five teams right till the end of the season.'

This Saturday Saints play another of the title contenders - Thorn Athletic - in what should be another cracker for supporters.

The match will take place at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off. Referee in charge is John Scott.



CLEARANCE: Saints clear their lines during the first half of Saturday's important away win over St Joseph's FP

## MARTIAL ARTS WITH IAIN RODGER

WELCOME to our new martial arts column which will be a regular feature in The Oban Times.

To submit martial arts information, contact Iain Rodger on iain@ikku.co.uk

### Kickboxing

Senshi Do Kickboxing has a new ladies only kickboxing and self-defence session starting on Sunday April 12 at 2pm at the Oban martial arts centre.

The class will be taken by Sharon Dickison who holds a 1st dan black belt in kickboxing and a 4th kyu grade in kyokushinkai karate. Sharon was also the recipient of the most spirited fighter award at the Scottish open knockdown karate championships in 2013 and can be contacted on 07508 726334.

In addition to kickboxing and self-defence, the club also trains for full contact karate events and has fighters preparing for an international tournament in Edinburgh on May 16.

On Sunday March 29 a kickboxing grading took place. New grades were awarded to the following:

Juniors: 9th Kyu - Ruan Kemp, Liam Reynolds and

Rhian MacPhee. 8th Kyu - Adam Bratton, Jodie Fairbairn, Jacey Douglas, Ryan Cain, Andrew MacKnight, Saul Walton, Hamish Martin, Phoebe Duffy and Savannah Devlin. 6th Kyu - Callum Russell, Matthew Keary, and Aaron Reynolds. 5th Kyu - Logan Galbraith and Connor Beattie. 4th Kyu - Daniel MacInnes. 3rd Kyu - Kieran Johnston. 2nd Kyu - Billie Bratton.

Adults that passed the test were: 5th Kyu - Drew MacKinnon. 4th Kyu - Jamie Killorn. 2nd Kyu - David MacLachlan.

For information on kickboxing classes contact Wullie Rodger on shihanwill@gmail.com

### Kyokushinkai karate

Caledonia Kyokushin has some members from Oban preparing for an international tournament in Edinburgh on May 16. For the juniors, Megan Williamson is entered in the fighting and kata sections - kata being set patterns and adults Mark Welsh and Amy Campbell are both entered in the fighting section. Preparation is going well, although Amy is recovering from a hand injury and hopes to be ready in time. Mark Welsh is also currently training

towards his 2nd Dan test. The Kyokushinkai club in Lochgilphead also has some members preparing for this event.

For information on kyokushinkai karate classes contact Iain Rodger on iain@ikku.co.uk

### Mixed Martial Arts (MMA)

Oban MMA had a guest instructor on Thursday March 26 in the shape of professional MMA fighter and BJJ Brown belt Sean Taylor. Sean's knowledge and competition experience was a great benefit to the club helping to tighten up their jiu jitsu skills for the Scotia Cup competition.

The club has just taken delivery of new rash guards, worn for practice when not wearing a gi. The gryphon design on the back represents the mix of Polish and Scottish members of the club with the Polish eagle and the lion rampant.

For information on MMA classes contact Iain Potter on coogiepots@gmail.com

### Shotokan karate

The Oban shotokan club started in November 2013. Since then it has had Scottish champions, national finalists and a Euro-



GRADING: members of the shukokai karate club after the grading overseen by Kenny Gray. 1st Dan Black Belt Zoe McKillop is in the centre of the back row with her certificate.

pean bronze medallist. At the recent national Scottish karate championships in Dundee, where young Bethan Neil took two titles, instructor Robert Neil signed the constitution on behalf of Oban shotokan karate to become part of the newly formed United World Karate Scotland Association.

Robert said: 'This unification has opened the door for competitors from around the world to attend major recognised international competitions such as the IOC Continental Games, Sport Accord Combat Games and hopefully one day to compete in the Olympic Games.'

'I am pleased to have made another positive step towards reaching my goal of one day

perhaps having a karate Olympic champion from Oban.'

For information on shotokan classes contact Robert Neil on obanshotokan@outlook.com

### Shukokai karate

Argyll Martial Arts recently held an interclub competition and grading test which was overseen by Kenny Gray 4th Dan, Andrew Lawson 2nd Dan and Andrew Buchanan 1st Dan.

The association currently has around 60 members between the Oban, Dalmailly and Inveraray clubs.

The new grades for those tested are as follows: 8th Kyu - Mathew Sloss, Stuart Martin, Mark Hewit, Douglas Cameron and Lola Clarke. 7th Kyu - Callan

May, Liam Keat, Dougie Brown, Lauren Fraser and Mammon Clarke. 6th Kyu - Lewis May. 5th Kyu - Kiva Cryans and Finlay Brown 3rd Kyu - Archie McCall-Smith, Angus MacAskill, Shira MacAskill and Anouk Clarke. 2nd Kyu - Iona McCulloch. 1st Kyu - Sam Barker. 1st Dan Black Belt - Zoe McKillop.

Kenny Gray said: 'Zoe has trained with me for eight years in Inveraray and really is a dedicated student. She carried on through her grading despite injuring her hand quite badly and is a credit to our club.'

The competition was sponsored by Buildbase, Oban.

Results as follows: KUMITE (Fighting) - Age 7 and Under 1 Mathew Sloss, Oban; 2 Dugie

Brown, Oban; 3 Mark Hewit, Oban; 4 Douglas Cameron, Inveraray.

Age 11 and Under - 1 Lewis May, Oban; 2 Kiva Cryans, Dalmailly; 3 Archie McCall-Smith, Inveraray; 4 equal Briana Sloss, Oban, and Angus MacAskill, Inveraray.

Age 15 and Under - 1 Iona McCulloch, Inveraray; 2 Shira MacAskill, Inveraray; 3 Finlay Lawson, Oban; 4 Sam Barker, Inveraray.

KATA (Set patterns) - 1 Finlay Brown, Oban; 2 Iona McCulloch, Inveraray; 3 Sam Barker, Inveraray.

For information on shukokai karate classes contact Kenny Gray on kenni.gray@btinternet.com

## SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

### THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2100

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

**Easy to enter**  
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition rules**  
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mistaid 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 competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company. In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

**Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses.** The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Name .....

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.....

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Please tape your £1 coin here

# Oban Camanachd pay the penalty

## Marine Harvest Premiership

**NEWTONMORE** will play host to Glenurquhart this Saturday in the Marine Harvest Premiership, a game they will look to win to keep their league campaign on track.

Goals from Glen Mackintosh and Fraser Mackintosh were enough to take the points in their home tie with Oban Camanachd on Saturday in a tight game, with Camanachd denied from the penalty spot 15 minutes from the end.

Newtonmore secretary Ian Gibson said: 'We're pleased with the result in what was a really close game. The penalty was well hit, but it was a great foot save from our stand-in keeper Owen Fraser to deny them.'

'I would say Newtonmore dominated to start off with, but then lost Evan Menzies and Chris Sellar within 20 minutes and that really disrupted things quite a bit. Oban came into the game quite strongly after that. It's the first time I've seen them play in a couple of years but they looked impressive and played some fast, attacking shinty, which I think will cause a lot of teams problems.'

Looking to the tie with Glenurquhart, Gibson said it would be a tricky tie, given the injury woes Newtonmore are facing.

It looks like we have our complete forward line out at the moment,' he said.

'Our defence have been playing pretty solidly though and with that good foundation and a bit of continuity in the side, hopefully we can keep the results coming in.'

Saturday's tie throws-up at 2.30pm at the Eilean.

**OBAN CAMANACHD** manager Gussie Campbell was left wondering what might have been after a narrow defeat to Newtonmore last weekend.

But the Oban boss is fully focussed on this weekend's crunch tie against Lochaber, a match Campbell believes could be an even more difficult prospect than playing the champions.

'If I know Ali Ferguson [Lochaber manager] he will have everything organised, the last 't' crossed and final 'i' dotted and his team will be fully equipped to beat us.'

'In some ways this will be a harder match than the Newtonmore game because people say we are two of the teams that could be involved in the mixing pot for league survival, so there is pressure on both teams.'

'If we play to our potential, we can win the game. We played well against Kingussie and Newtonmore but I think there is even more to come from our forward line.'

Camanachd were unlucky to lose at The Eilean, missing a penalty with 15 minutes to play that might have secured a point.

Lorne Dickie scored the only goal for Camanachd, who missed some good chances to get two points from a tough away tie.

Campbell added: 'It's a long time since I've been at Newtonmore and hearing their boys shouting at players to take the ball into the corner to run the clock down. I feel like it was a point lost.'

**FORT WILLIAM** co-manager Victor Smith said his team were 'delighted' to pick up the first point of their premiership efforts in their home game against Inveraray on Saturday.

The visitors went ahead on 17 minutes when Fort defender Sean Cruickshank deflected a shot into his own net but his

## Shinty

team mate Alexander MacMillan scored on the 33rd minute, bringing the An Aird side back on an even footing.

Smith said: 'We were delighted to get a point on the board. Either team could have won it but now we've got a point on the board and have something to work from.'

This weekend Fort will face Kyles away in what Smith said will be a 'very tough game'.

He added: 'All we're looking for is a good, solid performance in this one. Any result at all will be a bonus.'

Steven Stewart is back from suspension but Fort William will be without Niall MacPhee who is on honeymoon.

**INVERARAY** face a tough test this Saturday against Lovat, who made made short work of Kingussie last time out.

'Aray have had a steady start to the season and gained an away point at Fort William last weekend.'

A Sean Cruickshank own goal had given Inveraray the lead but Fort had drawn level by half time and the game ended 1-1.

Lovat, though, will be a more difficult prospect having dispatched Kings 6-1 last Saturday.

**GLENURQUHART** will play Newtonmore this Saturday, with both sides keen to keep their championship challenges alive in a tight premiership battle.

Despite taking the lead in the first minute through Neil Reid, Glenurquhart couldn't take the points against undefeated league leaders Kyles on Saturday, losing the tie 3-2. A goal from Thomas White in the 75th minute was the final nail in the coffin for Billy McLean's side.

Saturday's tie throws-up at 2.30 at the Eilean.

**KYLES ATHLETIC** maintained their perfect start to the league season with a hard-fought win in Drumnadrochit.

Kyles have set a fierce pace for the others to follow and will be expected to continue this form against winless Fort William on Saturday.

Last week's scorers were Thomas Whyte (2) and Matthew MacColl.

**LOVAT** take on Inveraray this Saturday in the Marine Harvest Premiership, in a match that could see the side reach the top of the table.

An emphatic 6-1 home win against Kingussie leaves John MacRitchie's side in second place, one point behind undefeated league-leaders Kyles Athletic.

Goals from Lorne Mackay, Ryan Ferguson, Kevin Bartlett, Lewis Tawse and a Greg Matheson double mean Lovat have two wins, a draw and a defeat from their first four games.

Manager MacRitchie said: 'The boys played really well. All our strikers got on the score sheet, which was great, and to be fair we probably could have scored more because we dominated the game.'

'This Saturday will be a tough one. In the time I've been involved with the club, I can't remember ever taking the points when we've gone down there. They're always really hard to beat at home.'

'If we play like we have in the past couple of games though, I don't think we'll be too far away.'

Saturday's game will throw up at 2.30pm at Winterton Park.

**KINGUSSIE** have no official fixtures until May 2, with their next two league opponents both taking their 'free week' fixtures.

The side lost 6-1 to Lovat at the



**MEMORIAL MATCH:** Oban Celtic retained the Robert Wylie Memorial Cup after a 4-1 win over Kilmory at Mossfield last Saturday. The game doubled as a Celtic Society Cup first round match. Our photo shows, left to right, Neil Carmichael, who won the Robert Wylie senior man of the match award, Robert's mum Catherine, sisters Maree and Lorna along with Celtic captain Daniel Madej holding the cup.

weekend, with injuries and other commitments meaning manager Russell Jones was forced to play seven players under 20 years old.

He said: 'They were just a bit too physically strong for us. They're an intelligent team and knocked the ball about well. A couple of goals were basic errors but all-in-all we were just outplayed.'

Looking to their next match, Jones is hopeful fixtures can be rearranged so they can play a league tie at home with Lovat, who also have a free week on April 18.

'It's not ideal because it means playing back-to-back fixtures against Lovat, but everyone is always keen to get games played.'



**CLASH:** No quarter asked or given as Glenurquhart's Ali MacKintosh and Kyles Athletic's Thomas Whyte clash during last Saturday's Marine Harvest Premiership match. Photo: Donald Cameron

he said. 'After that, our game against Lochaber on May 2 in the Macaulay Cup is a big one for us. We'll want to get a decent run and get one over on Lochaber after they knocked us out of the MacTavish Cup.'

Any rearranged fixtures will be announced in The Oban Times once agreed.

The match with Lochaber on May 2 will throw-up at 2.30pm at the Dell.

**KINLOCHSHIEL** kept up their undefeated league record at the weekend after a goalless draw at home against Lochaber.

The side now sit fourth in the league, with a win and two draws in their opening three games.

With a free week this week, Colin Fraser's men will next be in action against Kilmallie on April 18 in the quarter finals of the RBS MacTavish Cup.

The cup tie will throw-up at 2.30pm at Kirkton.

**LOCHABER** gained a crucial premiership point on Saturday in a closely-fought away game against Kinlochshiel.

Manager Ali Ferguson said: 'The defences on both sides evidently were on top throughout the game and a draw was probably a fair result in the end.'

'Lochaber finished very strongly pushing for the two points, but on reflection are happy to have come away with a further premier league point away from home against a very good 'Sheil team.'

This weekend, Lochaber will welcome Oban Camanachd to Spean Bridge for their premiership clash, but the home side will be without Neil MacDonald and Jack Dignan with doubts over Brennan MacDonald and Martin Johnston through injury.

Ferguson said: 'Oban will come into the game on the back of a defeat against Newtonmore, and will be looking to get back on track so we know it will be a tough game and we will have to be at our best to get a result.'

'We are at home and have been playing well in recent weeks. We

will be looking to convert more of the chances we have been creating and for our defence to play as well as they have been in the last couple of games. In this particular match, the midfield play will be crucial and I suspect the centre line that comes out on top the strongest will have the biggest say in the outcome of the match.'

## National Division

**SKYE** Camanachd recorded their first league win of the season when they beat Inverness at Bught Park on Saturday.

Neil MacVicar and Shockie MacLennan were missing for Skye so Kenny MacLeod got a start and

conceded in the league this season, with four wins out of four for Jocky Martin's side.

Saturday's cup tie throws up at 2.30pm at Ganavan.

## North Division Two

**GLENGARRY** have continued their successful run of the season so far, clocking up their third win against Strathspey on Saturday.

A goal from Daniel MacLennan in the seventh minute put visiting Glengarry in an early lead then a goal from Strathspey's Martin Ross made it all to play for until Steven Cameron took the points for 'Garry in the 68th minute.'

This weekend Glengarry will return to their home pitch to welcome Lochaber.

Manager Ewen Cameron said: 'We were really pleased with the win but it won't be as easy this weekend. Lochaber have been playing well recently.'

Cameron will be without Stuart Gregory who has work commitments and Martin Cameron who is injured.

## MacTavish Cup

**KILMALLIE** have made it through to the quarter finals of the MacTavish cup thanks to a 3-2 victory against Caberfeidh at Canal Park.

Visiting Caberfeidh started the scoring with a goal from Liam Symonds after 10 minutes before John Stewart equalised in the 25th minute. Just four minutes later Liam MacDonald put Kilmallie in the lead before a penalty goal from Craig Morrison made the score to 2-2.

But just 15 minutes before full time, Liam MacDonald's second strike of the afternoon earned Kilmallie a place against Kinlochshiel in the quarter finals.

This weekend Kilmallie will be at home again, this time against Kilmory in the first round of the Balliemore cup.

Manager Mark MacPherson said: 'It was a really hard game but I'm dead chuffed, especially with the performance in the second half.'

'I don't know what to think about Kilmory this weekend because in all my years in shinty I've never seen them play so we've just got to give them all the respect we can. We should win but you can't take anything for granted.'

MacPherson's side will be without Peter Carmichael, Ryan Stewart and Sebbie MacMillan.

## Celtic Society Cup

**STRACHUR** struggled to score or even get into the Ballachulish box as they went down 4-1 last Saturday.

Despite Ballachulish currently being bottom of the National Division, having given away 12 goals this season so far, they are still a step above Strachur and it showed.

Strachur lost 19-year-old Preston Shuttleworth early on with a gash to the head which required a trip to hospital for stitches.

Late on in the second half, Iain Wilson's 80th minute goal gave Strachur some consolation.

After the game Iain Wilson said: 'It was a bit disappointing today. We have a number of young boys in the team and our oldest player is 26.'

Coach Brian Dickie agreed and said: 'We are going through our transitional period. We lost six experienced players last year, some retired and two now play for Inveraray.'

**BALLACHULISH** scored a morale-boosting win in Strachur to progress in the Celtic Society Cup as birthday boy Scott Henderson grabbed a brace.

Currently bottom of the National Division, having given

away 12 goals this season, Balla welcomed the much-needed 4-1 win at Strachur.

Ballachulish's Scott Henderson celebrated his 27th birthday in style with a brace of goals after Lorne Brown had opened the Ballachulish account in the 27th minute. Stuart Robertson scored the third of the four goals.

Ballachulish coach Donald Wilson said: 'We needed a win as we are up in the National Division and every game is a struggle - it was nice to win.'

A repeat fixture is scheduled to be played this weekend, as Strachur host Balla in the Balliemore Cup.

**GLENORCHY** will take on Taynuilt in the Balliemore Cup this Saturday, following a goal-less draw with Bute in the Gregor Cameron Consultancy Celtic Society Cup at the weekend.

The side are still looking for their first win of the season, with a loss to Kyles Athletic their only fixture played in Marine Harvest South Division One.

Taynuilt travel to Mart Park for a 3pm throw-up on Saturday.

**BUTE** will face fellow island outfit Skye this Saturday in the Balliemore Cup.

It's been a steady start to the season so far for Bute, with two 3-0 wins in the league leaving them joint second, one of three teams with a 100 per cent record in Marine Harvest South Division One. On Saturday the side managed a 2-1 win on penalties against Glenorchy in the Gregor Cameron Consultancy Celtic Society Cup, following a 0-0 draw after normal time.

The tie with Skye throws-up at 2.30pm at the Meadows.

**KILMORY** take on undefeated Kilmallie this Saturday, with the Lochgillphead side chasing their first win of the season.

They lost 4-1 to Oban Celtic in the Celtic Society Cup at the weekend, having gone 1-0 up after 12 minutes through a Craig Taylor goal. There was further anguish for Kilmory as Adam Johnston was sent off in the second half.

Saturday's tie throws-up at 2.30pm at Canal Park.

**OBAN CELTIC** progressed to the next round of the Celtic Cup and secured the Robert Wylie Memorial Trophy by beating Kilmory at Mossfield last weekend.

The returning Neil Carmichael scored an 40-yard equaliser after Kilmory took an early lead and he went on to win the inaugural Bob Wylie Trophy for man of the match, a trophy in memory of Robert's father, Bob, who died last year.

Alan McKie, Lee Askew and captain Daniel Madej also scored to give Celtic a 4-1 victory.

This weekend Celtic host Lochcarron in the Balliemore Cup.

Manager Calum Fox said: 'This will be a much tougher test than Kilmory and although our forwards were carrying injuries last week we need them to up their game if we are to progress.'

'In defence, we had two 18-year-olds and a 17-year-old playing last Saturday but they were rock solid and there is a lot of improvement there.'

**TAYNUILT** will make the short journey to Dalnally for a Lorn derby match in the Balliemore Cup.

A largely untested Taynuilt line-up went down 2-0 to Aberdeen in the Celtic Cup last weekend, but manager Davy Thomson will be hoping to have more of his senior players back from injury for this weekend's match at Glenorchy.



## Fixtures

### Saturday 11 April

**Balliemore Cup 1st Round**  
Aberdour v Inverness  
David Mitchell  
Beaulieu v Caberfeidh  
Calum Girvan  
Bute v Skye  
John MacGregor  
Glenorchy v Taynuilt  
Lachie Wood - 3pm  
Kilmallie v Kilmory  
Innes Wood  
Oban Celtic v Lochcarron  
Alex MacVicar  
Strachur v Ballachulish  
Deek Cameron  
Strathglass v Glasgow MA  
Archie Ritchie

### Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup 1st Round

Aberdeen Uni v Lochside  
John Matheson  
Ballachulish v Kilmallie  
TBA  
Glenorchy v Inveraray  
Ewen MacDonald - 12pm  
Glenurquhart v Kyles Athletic  
Ronnie Campbell  
Kingussie v Glasgow Mid Argyll  
John Wood  
Lovat v Boleskine  
Callum Duff  
Oban Lorn v Beaulieu  
Jim Innes  
Skye v Inverness  
Andy MacLean  
Tayforth v Newtonmore  
Alan Harrison

### Marine Harvest Premiership

Inveraray v Lovat  
Robert Baxter  
Kyles Athletic v Fort William  
Billy Wotherspoon  
Lochaber v Oban Camanachd  
Ron Kennedy  
Newtonmore v Glenurquhart  
Evan MacRae

### Marine Harvest North Division 2

Glengarry v Lochaber  
Stuart Carmichael

### Marine Harvest South Division 2

Col Glen v Bute  
Jon Gallagher

(Throw ups 2.30 unless stated)

### Womens Camanachd Association

### Sunday 12 April

### Marine Harvest National Division 1

Glengarry v Glasgow MA  
Aberdour v Lorn Ladies

### Marine Harvest National Division 2

Ardnamurchan v Glasgow MA  
Lovat v Dunadd  
Strathglass v Cowal & Bute

## Results

### Saturday 4 April

**RBS MacTavish Cup 1st Round**  
Kilmallie 3 - 2 Caberfeidh

### Gregor Cameron Consultancy Celtic Society Cup 1st Round

Glenorchy 0 - 0 Bute  
Bute won 2 - 1 on penalties  
Oban Celtic 4 - 1 Kilmory  
Strachur 1 - 4 Ballachulish  
Taynuilt 0 - 2 Aberdour

### Marine Harvest Premiership

Fort William 1 - 1 Inveraray  
Glenurquhart 2 - 3 Kyles Ath  
Kinlochshiel 0 - 0 Lochaber  
Lovat 6 - 1 Kingussie  
Newtonmore 2 - 1 Oban Caman

### Marine Harvest National Division

Glasgow MA 3 - 1 Beaulieu  
Inverness 0 - 3 Skye

### Marine Harvest North Division 1

Beaulieu 1 - 3 Glenurquhart  
Kingussie 4 - 0 Lovat  
Lochcarron 3 - 4 Fort William  
Strathglass 3 - 2 Kinlochshiel

### Marine Harvest South Division 1

Inveraray 1 - 5 Lochside Rovers

### Marine Harvest North Division 2

Boleskine 1 - 3 Aberdeen Uni  
Lochaber 1 - 3 Caberfeidh  
Kilmallie 5 - 2 Lewis  
Skye 6 - 0 Inverness  
Strathspey 1 - 2 Glengarry

### Marine Harvest South Division 2

Bute P - P Ballachulish  
Ballachulish unable to field a team points to Bute  
Col Glen 4 - 1 Glenorchy  
Oban Lorn 5 - 1 Glasgow MA  
Tayforth 3 - 1 Aberdour



**GOAL:** Lovat's Lorne Mackay watches his shot fly past Kingussie keeper Kevin Thain for the first goal in his team's 6-1 win. Photo: Neil Paterson

## Karate kid Bethan in line for world championship call-up

'Most of the other girls are bigger than me but I'm not scared'

AT JUST 3ft 5in tall and tipping the scales at 2st 10lb, Oban karate star Bethan Neil isn't afraid to mix it up with bigger opponents.

The pint-sized youngster, who only took up the martial art a year ago, won two gold medals and a silver at the Scottish Karate Alliance national championships last month, her first major competition.

Now, with her place almost secured in the Scotland team for next year's world championship, coach and dad Robert is hopeful Bethan has a bright future in the sport.

Robert runs the Shotokan karate club in Oban, having initially



**KARATE KID:** Bethan won two gold medals at the Scottish Karate Alliance national championships last month. 16\_t15bethan02

### Karate

set it up to teach a handful of children, but has seen membership grown to 25 members of various ages.

Bethan, five, who attends Rockfield primary school, said: 'I wanted to come along and do karate because my brothers did.'

'Most of the other girls are bigger than me but I'm not scared. I'm used to training with my brothers and they're bigger than me.'

Robert said: 'She was really keen to get in amongst it. I'm hoping to achieve an Olympic champion and, you never know, it could be Bethan.'

'We've already had winners at the Scottish championships as well as national and European medallists.'

Robert said that next year, Bethan is likely to be competing for Scotland in her age group, with her recent performances enough to earn her a place in the team.

Karate kid Bethan added: 'I do swimming, hop-hop and ballet as well, but karate is my favourite.'

Bethan may not be the smallest member of the family at the club for long, however. Younger brother Seoras, three, is already keen to join his older siblings onto the mat.

Bethan will be competing in the Karate Scotland championships on October 11 in Edinburgh.



**PINT SIZED:** Bethan is put through her paces by her coach, dad Robert. 16\_t15bethan01



**TIME TRIAL:** North Argyll cycle club members met at Loch Creran to race the first time trial of the season. 16\_t15cycle01

## Members get on their bikes for Loch Creran time trial

THE CREAGAN bridge on the A828 near Appin has benefited motorists by cutting down the journey time between Oban and Fort William - but it has had some unexpected benefits for cyclists too.

North Argyll cycle club says its membership is steadily increasing after it began running time trials around the old Loch Creran road, which now has virtually no traffic.

**Perfect track**  
The bridge, which was built in 1999, has taken vehicles away from the scenic loch road, making it the perfect track for cyclists. Cycle club member Christina Wood is five-

and-a-half months pregnant and took part in the time trial on a mountain bike, opting for stability over speed.

### Scenic and quiet

She said: 'There can't be many clubs that have a road as scenic and quiet as this one.'

'It is more or less an empty road and there are cyclists from Lochaber, as well as Argyll here because it is becoming so popular. The turnout just seems to be going up each time.'

Christina, who clocked the slowest time of the time trial (49 minutes, 50 seconds), added: 'The bump doesn't get in the way of the bike at all - cycling is better than jogging!'

### Cycling

'It just shows there is nothing to stop people of all ages and fitness getting on a bike and joining in. The time trial is a race against the clock, so you are only racing against yourself.'

Time trial results (top 10): 1 Ewan McGillivray, 26.43; 2 Ewan Thorburn, 27.11; 3 Gary MacDonald, 27.13; 4 David Turnbull, 27.28; 5 Alex Dent, 28.02 (first junior); 6 Nick Charlton, 28.42; 7 Catriona Gunn, 29.25 (first lady); 8 Ed Daynes, 29.49; 9 Sam Wood, 30.15; 10 Mike Bossard, 30.21.

The next North Argyll Cycle Club meet is the Cruachan hill climb on April 12.

## New championship for keelboat sailors

JUNE will see the start of a new championship for Scottish keelboat racing sailors; the West Highland offshore series.

Billed as Scotland's only season-long, passage race sailing championship, the series will collect results from nine keelboat race events and use the five best results for each boat to derive a winning yacht for the season.

### Series

Five west coast sailing clubs have come together to create the series with races starting in Gairloch, Kyle of Lochalsh, Oban, Plockton and Portree.

Participation in any of the qualifying races automatically enters the yacht free of charge.

The top three boats will receive

### Sailing

prizes sponsored by Duisdale House Hotel in Sleat, Isle of Skye.

Series co-ordinator Ian McKay said: 'We are fortunate that the owners of the Duisdale are keen sailors themselves. The hotel even has a yacht and moorings for guests and when they heard about the concept of the West Highland offshore series they instantly jumped onboard to help.'

The first of the series races begins in Oban on June 5, the Oban to Glencoe passage race annual feeder event to the Glencoe Regatta which is held on Saturday June 6.

## Oban Lorne match called off

LAST Saturday's BT West Division Two match between Oban Lorne and bottom-of-the-table Uddingston was called off as the visitors couldn't raise a team for the trip to Oban.

The Green Machine return to action on Saturday when they travel to Fintry to take on Strathendrick who are presently lying fifth in the division.

The Stirlingshire side defeated the Green Machine 19-9 in Oban

### Football

earlier in the season so a tough match is in prospect for the Oban club.

Argyll and Bute RFC won their first game on Saturday when they defeated Hyndland 33-20 in Oban.

They are scheduled to take on Glasgow East on Saturday at Glencruitten with a 3pm kick-off.

## Scottish Amateur League results and fixtures

### Football

LAST Saturday's results: Premier Division - St Joseph's FP 1, Oban Saints 2; Campbeltown Pupils, no game; Premier Division One - Dunoon 6, Jamestown 0; Division 1B - Tarbert 4, Rossvale 1.

This weekend's fixtures: Premier Division - Campbeltown Pupils v Eaglesham; Oban Saints v Thorn Athletic; Premier Division Two - Lochgilphead Red Star v Centre; Ferguslie Star v Dunoon Athletic; Division 1B - Tarbert v Eaglesham.

## Oban Saints youths results and fixtures

### Youth football

TWO OF Oban Saints youth teams hope to get back in action after the Easter break with the following fixtures: Under 13s v Baljaffray; Under 14s v Blair Thistle; Under 15s no game; Under 16s no game; Under 19s no game.

## Tobermory golf club results

### Golf

GENTS Section: April Medal - 1 Ewan MacCrone, 71-06-64; 2 Donald (Dods) MacLean 80-11-69; 3 Alasdair MacLeod 90-20-70.

Junior section: April Medal - 1 Lewis Brown 70-06-64; 2 Aaron Paterson 108-40-68; 3 Ross MacCrone 80-12-68.

## Athletic away to Third Lanark

### Football

OBAN Athletic return to action on Saturday when they travel to take on Third Lanark in a West of Scotland Premier Division league match. The game is scheduled to take place at Toryglen with a 2pm kick-off. Referee in charge is Alan Brown.

The teams were due to play each other in Oban last Saturday but the game was called off on Friday.

## Glencruitten golf season starts

### Golf

FOURTEEN teams took part in the first competition of the season, a three-man Stableford, on Saturday.

The winners were Dugald MacLean, Ian McCuish and Willie McAdam with a score of 82 points. In second place were Cameron Milne, Allan MacPhee and Steven O'Rourke with 80 points (bih). In third place, also with 80 points, were Scott Jordan, Joe MacLean and Donald MacLennan.

The first round of the McKay Cup takes place on Saturday with the second round on Sunday. The captain's prize is also to be played for on Sunday.

## Lewis picked for Scotland squad

### Football

OBAN Saints striker Lewis Cameron has been called up to the SAFA international select team who travel to play the Leinster Senior League in Ireland this weekend.

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**WEATHER**

**Thursday** Sunny  
Winds moderate southerly  
Temperatures 7°C to 12°C.

**Friday** Heavy rain  
Winds moderate south south westerly  
Temperatures 5°C to 10°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Light rain showers on Saturday  
Light rain showers on Sunday  
Winds strong south westerly  
Temperatures 7°C to 9°C.

**TIDAL INFORMATION**

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, April 9, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm			
<b>Thur</b>	02.11	1.1	08.04	3.5	14.28	1.3	20.31	3.5
<b>Fri</b>	02.51	1.3	08.42	3.3	15.11	1.4	21.16	3.3
<b>Sat</b>	03.44	1.4	09.31	3.1	16.11	1.6	22.15	3.1
<b>Sun</b>	04.59	1.6	10.42	2.9	17.36	1.6	23.46	3.0
<b>Mon</b>	06.29	1.6	12.43	2.8	19.02	1.5	***	**
<b>Tues</b>	01.53	3.2	07.53	1.4	14.38	3.0	20.20	1.3
<b>Wed</b>	03.00	3.4	09.04	1.1	15.31	3.3	21.25	1.0

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

# The Oban Times

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Trying pays off for Lorne

# Charity comes under cash scrutiny following report

## Business as usual for volunteers despite major investigation into Fort William charity's finances

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

VOLUNTEERS at Shopmobility in Fort William have vowed to carry on despite a major investigation into an alleged financial discrepancy at the MacFarlane Way organisation.

The police, Voluntary Action Lochaber and Office of the Scottish Charity Register (OSCR) are all aware of the investigation into an allegation about a missing four-figure sum from the charity's fundraising account.

A spokesman for the Shopmobility Lochaber said: 'At the moment OSCR and Voluntary Action Lochaber are checking out the many allegations being made about the charity. He said: 'Anything that comes to light will be reported to the police immediately.'

'A member of staff has been suspended while the investigation is carried out on various issues. No stone will be left unturned in this investigation.'

The spokesman continued: 'Because of this situation, we have had people saying that we've been shut down. I can categorically state that while it is difficult for us to move on from this, it is imperative that we stay open.'

'At the moment board members and volunteers are making sure we are open Monday to Friday from 9.30am.'

'We are trying to be open for residents and tourists on a Saturday as well.'

'But we need help - this is our

But we need help ... this is our hour of need

Spokesman  
Shopmobility  
Lochaber

hour of need - and if anyone has the time to come along and give a hand, please do so now.'

The spokesman confirmed the charity was also made aware of alleged 'illegal' tobacco sales from the building and was investigating the matter.

The allegations came to light after a driver for the organisation, Adam Ramsey, sent a letter to the board on February 19 when his job was under threat due to lack of funding. The *Oban Times* has received a copy of the letter in which Mr Ramsey outlined a number of concerns about the group's finances.

Both OSCR and Voluntary Action Lochaber have confirmed they are investigating the matter.

Both said they were unwilling to comment on the matter while the investigation was under way.

In the meantime, Shopmobility Lochaber has taken advice from both organisations and has already made significant changes to its operational procedures.



## A class act as Fèis Lochaber gets under way

HITTING THE HIGH NOTES: Fèis Lochaber got underway this week with various classes in traditional music and crafts. Photograph taken by Ferguson, The Write Stuff

## 'Cautious welcome' for new sea eagle scheme

THE SCOTTISH Crofting Federation (SCF) gave a cautious welcome to the Scottish government's new sea eagle management scheme, announced this week.

The scheme will run for three years and will investigate all issues involving sea eagle impacts on livestock.

Local stakeholder groups across the range of the species, including SCF representatives, will oversee and monitor the working of the scheme and contractors employed by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) will assist crofters and farmers experiencing predation problems with sea eagles.

SCF chairwoman Fiona Mandeville said: 'The reintroduction of sea eagles has undoubtedly compromised the viability of hill sheep in some areas. We welcome this new scheme as far as it goes. Crofters experiencing losses, which may be caused by sea eagles, should in the first instance contact

their local SNH office, but we are also asking our members to report incidents to SCF.'

'We are assured by SNH that they will respond to all reports, and it is very important that they, and representatives of crofters and farmers, have as much information as possible on the extent of the problem.'

## TIMESLINE

### Cemetery walkers make their mark

THE FIRST right of access walk at Strontian Cemetery was due to take place on Wednesday evening.

The walk was due to start at the shop car park making its way along the back road and then to the cemetery gate.

It is hoped further walks can be organised on a regular basis in order to define rights of access to the cemetery.

### Appeal as police hunt vandals

POLICE have asked for witness to come forward on two crimes of vandalism in Fort William.

A window was smashed at Mairi MacIntyre's, High Street between 5.30pm on Friday, April 3 and Saturday, April 4.

During hospital visiting hours between 2pm and 4.30pm last Thursday, April 2, a vehicle was damaged whilst it was parked within the car park at the Belford hospital.

### Official opening of new long walk

JOURNALIST, author and broadcaster Cameron MacNeish will later this month officially open the Affric Kintail Way - Scotland's latest long distance route on Friday, April 17.

The route runs from Morvich to Drumnadrochit, where it links up with the Great Glen Way. The 44-mile-long trail passes through some of the last remaining wild lands of the Highlands and takes the traveller through contrasting landscapes steeped in history and rich in heritage.



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## On track with prize train tickets



DELIGHTED: Peter Strachan presents winner Dave Anderson with his tickets as chamber director Iain Ferguson looks on

MEMBERS of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce could find themselves waking up in London after a relaxing night on the sleeper train thanks to free prize draw courtesy of new operators Serco.

The company, which took over the franchise on April 1 has donated a set of first class tickets each month until Christmas, with the £400 prize going to a lucky member of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce.

In a series of firsts, the first winner of this first class prize received his tickets on the first day of the new service when Caledonian Sleeper franchise

managing director Peter Strachan presented tickets to Dave Anderson of local outdoor guiding company Lochaber Guides.

Winner Dave said: 'I was thrilled to hear we'd won the prize draw and we're looking forward to a few days down in London.'

Lesley Benfield, of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce, said: 'It was very generous of Serco to provide the chamber with the free tickets, and we're delighted to be able to pass them on to our members.'

The next prize draw will take place in May.

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**Fisherman Angus helps track tuna**

AN ISLE of Harris fishing skipper and tourism operator, who recently became the star of a US TV show, is working with Marine Scotland to track and trace tuna on the Outer Hebrides coast.

Captain Angus Campbell, from Kilda Cruises, also runs Atlantic Marine Services which provides specialist support for organisations doing marine surveys.

Mr Campbell, who caught a 515lb Bluefin tuna in the Outer Hebrides waters in 2013, recently starred on the Outdoor Channel's Trev Gowdy's Monsterfish programme.

During the programme the presenter, American fishing expert Fred Lavitman, expresses his doubt about finding tuna in Scotland, before finally hooking a 500lb tuna, which broke his line.

With support from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, and European Fisheries Fund Axis 4 funding, Mr Campbell has carried out a study with Marine Scotland to tag tuna with satellites.

He said: 'After I caught the first rod-line caught tuna in Scotland, I was approached by the American TV producers. The advertising the Outer Hebrides has received is incredible. The programme featured highlights in the islands, such as the Calanais Stones and Harris Tweed, strengthening the area's position to attract more visitors to benefit from the important tourism sector in these islands.'



WHOPPER: Angus Campbell, right, and his crew caught a 515lb tuna

**RELATIVES HIT OUT AMID CLAIMS THEY HAVE BEEN LEFT IN THE DARK OVER FUTURE OF MALLAIG CARE HOME**

# Staff call time on 100-mile daily journey for training

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

NEW STAFF employed for a Mallaig care home have quit before completing training after being forced to carry out commutes of almost 100 miles for months.

The eight-bed Mackintosh Centre was closed in July last year when some staff members were suspended pending investigations of alleged poor practice but has yet to re-open, despite initial reassurances from NHS Highland that it would only be closed for four to six weeks.

But now, nine months later, new staff are still not in place and relatives of pensioners who were moved from the Mackintosh Centre to Invernevis House in

Fort William say they have been 'left in the dark' about plans to have the pensioners returned to Mallaig.

Mary Purdon's mother, 81-year-old Mary Purdie, has been in the Mackintosh Centre and then Invernevis for the last two years.

She said: 'It has been very difficult. I got a phone call one evening saying my mum was being moved in the morning and to go and pack her things. We were all told it would only be for four to six weeks and were given no information about why it was happening.'

'I was left wondering if horrible things had happened to my mother and it wasn't until months later I was told she hadn't been abused, but even then it was formally. We didn't get a proper letter telling us or anything.'

'We miss her so much because

she's so far away now and she used to be so close by. My father can only go and visit her once a week and he used to go a lot more than that.'

Mrs Purdon said she and her father, Lewis Purdie, have always been happy with the care Mrs Purdie has received in both homes but are angry with how long she has been away and how little they have been told.

Mrs Purdon added: 'We wanted to deal with this without getting the media involved but we've been left in the dark so we feel like we have no other choice.'

'We're hearing now that both original staff and new staff in training have left or are off sick because of the way they have been treated and the fact that they're having to travel for an hour each way to get to work and this has been going on far too long. But

even then, we've only been told that by other people, not from NHS. The general public seem to know more than immediate family and I think that's wrong.'

Mr Purdie, 85, said he travelled to Fort William to visit his wife for their diamond wedding anniversary last year but was left to find his own travel arrangements after the arranged transport never appeared.

He said: 'I was left not knowing what was happening and had to organise a lift with family.'

'The staff at Invernevis had put on a lovely spread but after all the delays with the transport I only got half an hour with my wife.'

'When Mary was in the Mackintosh I used to go to visit every other day and if the weather was nice I would take her outside to sit together but now I only get

to see her once a week and I can't always make it because of my own health problems.'

Margaret Kennedy, whose mother 81-year-old mother Ellen Kennedy was also moved to Fort William, said she has been having the same problems.

She said: 'Anything we've heard it has been from other people, I've only had two letters from NHS Highland since this all happened last July.'

'We were told there would be a drop-in session for relatives every fortnight but when we attended no-one could tell us anything. They didn't seem to know what was going on.'

A spokesman for NHS Highland said: 'It is the case that some new and existing staff members have resigned and that the commute to Invernevis has been one of the factors involved.'

**Pupils boost Water Aid with challenge**

ON A rare sunny day in Lochaber, pupils of Fort William RC primary school were still thinking about water as they set a whole-school challenge to raise money for charity.

The children spent the last day of term (Thursday) forming long lines and passing buckets of water to each other, trying very hard not to spill any, to raise money for Water Aid, a charity which provides clean and safe drinking water to developing countries.

Through donations and sponsors the challenge, organised by the school's eco committee, raised more than £200.

**GREAT EFFORT:** Fort William RC's eco committee, front, organised a water challenge at school, raising more than £200 for charity



**Call for weekly sonographer visit**

CALLS are being made for a sonographer to travel to Uist one day a week to undertake appointments.

Cuts to inter-island flights continue to cause problems for islanders, particularly for hospital appointments, said MP Angus MacNeil.

In a letter to NHS Western Isles, the Na h-Eileanan Iar politician has asked that arrangements are made for pregnant women who may require regular ultra sound scans.

Mr MacNeil has also written to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, which chose to cut inter-island flights, to again highlight the impact this is having on islanders, particularly people who need to travel for hospital appointments and to ask that inter-island flights are reinstated.

**Group in appeal for more helpers**

**VOLUNTEERS are being sought to meet the demand in Lochaber for support for deaf and blind people.**

Lochaber Sensory Care provides free services, from retubing hearing aids to giving advice on living with a sensory impairment.

But as a result of the success of the charity, current volunteers are struggling to keep up with demand so organisation manager Esther Briers is appealing for new helpers.

To volunteer or find out more, contact 01397 704889.

**Club backs Young at Art with £250**

A UNIQUE project aimed at developing confidence in older people through art is one step closer to fruition thanks to a start up grant.

Young at Art helps the elderly to improve painting and drawing and will provide art sessions in care homes and social groups all over Lochaber and has now benefited from a £250 donation from the Rotary club of Lochaber.

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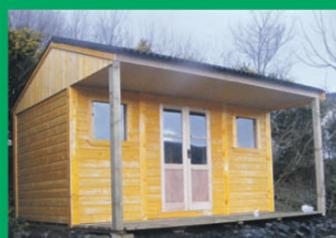
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# Tiree in shock over death of 'talented, beautiful' couple

ISLAND DOCTOR AND HER HUSBAND KILLED IN EASTER PLANE TRAGEDY

**EUAN PATERSON**  
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

AN ISLAND population is in mourning following the tragic death of Tiree woman Dr Margaret Ann Rous and her husband David in a plane crash near Loch Etive.

The 'beautiful and talented' couple, who lived in Newport on Tay and were married less than two years ago, were flying from Dundee last Saturday to be with Margaret Ann's family on Tiree for the Easter weekend.

They were the only passengers on board the Piper Cherokee when it crashed on Beinn nan Lus, near Glen Kinglas, at around 12.30pm.

Islanders said Margaret Ann, a 37-year-old GP, and David, 28, an engineer, visited Tiree whenever they could.

Tiree minister Rev Elspeth Maclean said: 'Following the tragic plane crash on Saturday afternoon, the two families and indeed the whole island of Tiree are in shock as we all mourn the loss of a beautiful, talented and much loved young couple, Margaret Ann and David Rous.'

'We ask at this time that the families in particular, and the island of Tiree as a whole, be allowed to grieve in peace.'

'Your prayers are welcome, but please give everyone the space and peace that is required at such a time.'

Islander Stewart MacLennan, a friend of Margaret Ann since their school days, described her as 'a kind, clever, bright and happy person, who made her family very proud.'

He added: 'She didn't have a bad bone in her body and she had an incredible relationship with her sister. They were very close.'

'She is a tragic loss to the island because she has lots of friends and a big family network here.'



TRAGIC LOSS: Margaret Ann and David Rous

There are a lot of people, particularly in her home township of Kilmaluag, that are hurting but they will be there to support the family.'

Police, coastguard, lifeboat and mountain rescue teams from Oban and Arrochar were called out to join a search for the plane on Saturday afternoon.

Andrew Servant, the stalker on Glen Kinglas estate had notified the emergency services after receiving a report from hillwalkers, who had heard a crash on the hill.

Around 37 people were involved in the hill search, which ended at 8pm when members of Oban mountain rescue team located the wreckage around 500 metres above sea level. Beinn an Lus is 709 metres in height.

Detective Chief Inspector Bob Frew, from Police Scotland's major investigations team, is leading

the investigation into the crash and said the bodies of the young couple had been recovered from the wreckage.

'Our family liaison officers are working closely with both families and will continue to support them throughout this difficult time.'

'Police Scotland would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the public who called us on 101 to provide information regarding this incident.'

'We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to the Oban mountain rescue team and all our partner agencies that have assisted in the search and recovery operation so far.'

The recovery of plane parts is currently under way and anyone who has any information relating to the crash is urged to contact police on 101.



DESPERATE SEARCH: A Royal Navy winchman with a map of the search area

## TIMESLINE

### Fallen headstones a growing concern

A DRAFT policy for dealing with fallen headstones is one of the main items on the agenda for Argyll and Bute councillors when they meet next week.

Councillors were concerned that a growing number of memorials were considered 'a health and safety risk'.

In some cases 'one in 20' stones were considered 'unsafe' and required urgent attention. The full policy will be presented to councillors in early 2016.

### Early-morning fog disrupts sailings

THICK fog disrupted ferry services yesterday (Wednesday) as both CalMac and Argyll and Bute council vessels remained tied up in the morning.

Early-morning passengers boarded the Isle of Mull ferry without knowing whether the boat would sail, while the Lismore ferry was cancelled until the fog had cleared.

### Youthful outlook leads to an award

FISH FARM firm Dawnfresh has been named youth employer of the month by Skills Development Scotland for getting young people into work.

The company, which operates three farms in the West Highlands, received the award when youth employment minister, Annabelle Ewing, visited its headquarters last week.

### Election fever set to grip west coast

THE battle for Britain has been engaged in earnest as the political parties vie for the votes of the West Highlands electorate.

Turn to page four for the first part of our coverage on the general election.



# Common good fund needs to head in a new direction

**LOUISE GLEN**  
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OBAN'S Common Good Fund 'needs to change' to meet the needs of the community it serves.

Criticism has been levelled at the group for funding big projects while other groups miss out. George Berry of Oban community council said the group had 'lost its way' and was becoming a 'middle class fund of first resort'.

But under plans by councillor Neil MacIntyre, gone will be ongoing funding for large groups and in its place smaller grants would be made available to give the 'people of the town' the cash they need for projects.

Speaking after the charitable trust, which is overseen by four of the town's elected councillors, was asked again to fund the same projects as the previous year councillor MacIntyre said enough was enough.

'The common good fund should be for the common good,' he said.

'If we continue to fund huge projects and take money from the reserves rather than simply use the interest, there will be nothing left.'

Last week it was confirmed the fund would give £15,000 to projects including West Highland Yachting Week, Rockfield cultural hub, a fencing club, Oban sailing club, Highlands and Islands music and dance festival, Lorn Ladies shinty club, The Argyllshire Gathering and a trip to Ireland for the town's Gaelic choir.

Other groups, including Soroba Young Families, have previously missed out on cash for a Christmas party because it didn't meet the fund's criteria.

There are also plans, brought forward by the accountant of the group, to allow the common good fund to release money from its capital investment to make larger payments to groups such as Oban Communities Trust (old Rockfield building) and Atlantis Leisure.

'While some people have branded the fund 'middle class', I don't think that is the case,' said councillor MacIntyre.

'It is just what people have come to expect from it.'

'When we receive applications it's a hard one: if you give nothing you are criticised, and the opposite is also true, that is if you give too little. What some groups ask for is unrealistic.'

'It would be much fairer to be able to give smaller grants to more groups that allow

a larger number of people who live in the town to benefit from the fund - maybe £200 or £500 would make all the difference to them.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson, chairwoman of Oban Common Good Fund declined to comment on the round of grants.

Councillor Mary Jean Devon, who is not a trustee of the group, said: 'We need to know whether or not these groups have gone elsewhere and have been unable to get funding.'

'The fund is a fund of last resort. Oban Common Good Fund should be used for the people of the town who need money. It is hugely unfair if it is not used for those purposes.'

Oban Common Good Fund literature states a grant should 'meet a local need or directly benefit the residents of Oban'.

Furthermore, 'regular applications from organisations will only be considered where such applications form part of a defined development plan or growing project.'

'Applications will not normally be accepted in respect of projects on which work has already started or in aid of expenditure towards which applicants have already made a commitment or paid.'

# Banner boost as pupils head to USA

IN SUPPORT of a dream trip to New York for the Tartan Day parade, Bid4Oban has made a donation to Oban High school's musical pupils.

The not-for-profit organisation has made a special banner for the pupils to use during the visit, which will feature a trip to Madison Square Garden.

Neil Mackay, Bid4Oban ebents manager, said: 'We got a letter asking for help with the trip and were happy to make this donation. It will help market the town on such a wonderful occasion, promoting Oban's traditional culture and vibrancy at its best. The part of the banner that displays 'New York 2015' is removable too, so the band can use it for years to come.'

Music teacher Morven McKerrell, who will be accompanying the children on the trip, said: 'This trip has been two years of planning and now, on Friday, we will finally be on our way.'

'I'd like to thank Bid4Oban, Oban and Lorn Lions club, Oban Common Good Fund, Argyll and Bute council, the Rotary club of Oban and all our other sponsors for making this happen.'



TRIP OF A LIFETIME: some of the pupils going on the trip, along with teacher Morven McKerrell, fourth from left, and Neil Mackay, BID4Oban

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**Business as usual as livestock mart looks to future**

CALEDONIAN Marts, the operator of Oban Livestock Centre, is in the process of being taken over by the preferred bidders, Stirling farmers John, Brian and Steven Gilvear.

A statement released by Caledonian Marts, which has leased the Oban site for 17 years, says a deal should be concluded by the end of April. It would involve a financial takeover of the firm, a farmers' co-operative with more than 2,500 members, which also owns and operates a mart in Stirling.

James Cullens, managing director of Caledonian Marts, said: 'As far as I'm aware it will be business as usual, both in Stirling and Oban.'

'I'm happy that the Gilvear family look to be taking over as they know the business, they're well known in farming circles in the central belt and will definitely help the cause to keep the market operating.'

Duncan Buchanan, one of the shareholders of the co-operative and a director on the board, said 'all going well' Caledonian Marts would continue at the site.

'We are hopeful Caledonian Marts will continue leasing the livestock centre but nothing is set in stone yet,' he said.

'The Gilvear family know the cattle and sheep business inside out and we're hopeful, if they do take over, they'll leave the set-up as it has been for the past 17 years as we feel we've done a good job in that time.'

**Yacht towed to safety from bay**

A 40-FOOT yacht ran aground on Corran ledge in Oban Bay after losing engine power.

Oban lifeboat was called to help at 8.20pm on Sunday and within minutes had attached a line to tow it to safety.

Once it was established there was no major damage, the yacht was taken under tow to Oban Marina.

**Taynuilt parents 'proud' as their daughter makes church history**

**EUAN PATERSON**  
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A TAYNUILT couple have spoken of their pride after their daughter became the first female diocesan bishop in the history of the Church of England.

Robert and Marian Montgomery's daughter, the Venerable Rachel Treweek, was last week appointed Bishop of Gloucester by Her Majesty the Queen, becoming the most senior female in the church and in charge of 305 parishes.

It was only in July of last year that the church's General Synod voted to allow women to be ordained as bishops and there are just two other female bishops: Libby Lane and Alison White.

Robert and Marian, both elders at Muckairn parish church in Taynuilt, said they were 'gob-smacked' at the news of their daughter's appointment, which was announced by the Prime Minister's office on March 26.

Currently Archdeacon of Hackney, Rachel's consecration will take place on July 22, before she is formally enthroned at Gloucester Cathedral later this year.

'It is strange to think this remarkable woman was a girl I used to read bedtime stories,' said Robert, a former master mariner. 'We are very proud parents.'

The couple, both 82, moved to Brochroy Croft, Taynuilt eight years ago from Norfolk to be



**PROUD:** parents Robert and Marian Montgomery and their daughter Rachel (pictured top right) who has just been appointed Bishop of Gloucester

**“It is strange to think this remarkable woman was a girl I used to read bedtime stories”**

**Robert Montgomery**

nearer family on Tiree and will celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary in June this year.

But their biggest celebration was their daughter's appointment, which they heard about via Skype when they were in South Africa on holiday. Marian, who was her daughter's Sunday school teacher, said: 'She's making history, really. The church has never had a lady as a diocesan bishop.'

'This is an awesome and challenging appointment for Rachel and she will need the support and prayers of all her family and friends.'

'There are still some within the church that don't want female bishops but she is a strong character and she'll cope.'

Rachel is married to Guy, priest-in-charge of two parishes in London. Her brother, Tim



Montgomery, is a vicar in the Church of England. Rachel said: 'It is an immense joy and privilege to be appointed as the Bishop of Gloucester.'

'I am surprised and, I have to admit, even a little daunted by the prospect, but my overwhelming feeling is one of excitement.'

'I am looking forward to encouraging Christians to speak out with confidence about their faith.'

'It will be my privilege to work with churches as we connect with people, wherever they are and whatever their concerns.'

The news of her appointment has reached far beyond her own diocese. The Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town, the Most Reverend Desmond Tutu, said: 'What fantastic news. I'm thrilled for you dear Rachel and I'm thrilled for the Diocese of Gloucester, for the Church of England, for the Church of God and for all of us. Yippee.'

**Coach crash victim thanks 'incredible' rescuers**

A HOLIDAYING couple have spoken of the 'overwhelming kindness' from people who assisted them when the coach they were travelling in came off the road at the Rest and Be Thankful hill on the A83.

Colin Crowhurst and his wife Carol were on the Lochs and Glens coach when it crashed on March 26 after being caught

in a gust of wind. 'At least 30 motorists stopped to help,' said retired lawyer Colin, who lives in Hertfordshire.

'They really were life-savers. The community hall opened up its doors and provided much-needed hot drinks and biscuits.'

Police were joined at the scene by the Scottish Fire and Rescue

service, the Scottish Ambulance service, Argyll and Bute council, the Royal Navy and a mountain rescue team.

A total of 28 people were hospitalised after the crash, but none of their injuries were life threatening.

Colin continued: 'The very professional emergency services were incredible. I definitely



**GRATEFUL:** Colin Crowhurst

think that without their skills and prompt attendance, things could have been so much worse. Everybody at the scene that day did everything they could for people in the coach.'

'They are a testament to the community spirit of people in the Highlands of Scotland that they will go the extra mile for people in need.'

**'EGGCELLENT' EASTER FUN**

**Sher the Lion and Columba Hotel raise Cash for Kids on fun packed Sunday**

Amongst the activities held at the Columba hotel was the wet sponge throw. 16\_t15cashkids02

Four-year-old Eliza Moffat of Lochside with the egg she received after completing the Easter egg hunt in Glen Nevis, run by Highland Council and organised by the Highland Rangers. A large turn out of visitors and locals enjoyed the day. t15\_eliza01no

Columba hotel staff member Sammy Saifi with Sher the Lion on Sunday, raising money for Cash for Kids. 16\_t15cashkids01

**Spring sunshine brings out the crowds to Barcaldine Easter eggs-travaganza**

MORE THAN 200 people made a trip to Sutherland's Grove on Sunday to celebrate Easter Sunday.

Activities including splat the rat, arts and crafts, an Easter

bonnet parade, a duck race and an Easter egg hunt were organised by Barcaldine community association.

Andrew Baines, the association's secretary, said: 'The day

has been very well attended, and everyone seems to be having a great time.'

'The fantastic weather has certainly helped.'



**Pictured** are some of the children during the Easter egg hunt. 16\_t15egghunt01



Barcaldine community association welcomed more than 200 people for the day's events. 16\_t15egghunt02

**Seasonal fun and frolics at Arduaine garden's Easter egg hunt**

EASTER at Arduaine Garden began and ended on a rather grey note, but Sunday saved the weekend with blue skies right from the start.

Rhododendrons, camellias and primulas were flowering in profusion and daffodils sounded the right seasonal note.

Families enjoyed the garden in the sunshine, while children's faces were temporarily unrecognisable as a result of Fiona Potter's face painting skills.

Young visitors to the Argyll gardens hunted down plant names to complete the Cadbury Easter Egg trail and win their chocolate egg.

Ardfern storyteller Patsy Dyer held children spellbound with her Easter tales and parents and their offspring competed

with each other to win a prize in Mairi Fleck's egg-throwing contest by targeting buckets with hard boiled eggs.

The Chartroom ceilidh band entertained visitors throughout the day and organisers thanked volunteers for their hard work.



Youngsters enjoyed an Easter tale at an Easter egg hunt in Arduaine Gardens. t15arduaine1no

## Fort get back on level terms but lose to Turriff in the end



OUT IN FRONT: West Highland Wheelers member Steve Bradley leads the cross country race at last year's cycling festival Photo Scott Wilkie

### West Highland Wheelers kick off summer schedule with week-long cycling festival

A WEEK-LONG cycling festival is to be held in Lochaber this month to kick off the West Highland Wheelers summer schedule. The first event will be a street race for juniors and adults on Saturday April 25, beginning at Inverloch square.

**Active Schools**  
This will be followed by children's mountain bike training, in conjunction with

Active Schools, on Monday April 27 at Nevis Range. The following days the group will be heading south, with a time travel around Loch Leven on the Tuesday and a mountain bike ride in Glencoe the next day. On Thursday the Wheelers will be joining forces with North Argyll Cycling Club for a road bike race leaving from Loch Creran.

#### Cycling

And the 'big social ride' will mark the finale on Friday May 1, starting from 6.30pm at Nevis Range. All events are free to enter and more information is available from members of West Highland Wheelers.

'We really need to get six points from the two Rothes games'

Turriff United	4
Fort William	2
Highland League	

WITH just over one week left of the Scottish Highland Football League, Fort William still have eight games to play, as both the home and away fixtures against Rothes scheduled for last week were postponed because of waterlogged pitches.

If all of the planned games go ahead, Fort will not finish the season until May 9.

But the Claggan men managed to clear one game from their list when they travelled to the Haughs to take on Turriff United on Saturday.

Despite losing 4-2, club officials were impressed with the Fort's performance against Turriff, who are currently second top in the league.

Fort William were 2-0 down at half time but managed to equalise early in the second half with goals from Willie Gemmell and top scorer Nick Stein. However, two quick goals from Turriff's Jamie Beagrie and Nick Gray put the home side back in front.

David MacDonald, vice chairman of Fort William Football Club, said: 'The Fort did brilliantly to come back from 2-0 down at half-time to draw level, through Willie Gemmell's superb free-kick and top scorer Nick Stein's ninth goal of the season. But Turriff showed why they are going to finish second in the league with a quick fire double to claim the points.'

David MacDonald, vice chairman of Fort William football

club, said: 'We had quite a weakened squad as a result of work commitments and holidays, so we only had three subs and one of them was our coach.'

'When you see the score is two nil after 15 minutes it doesn't bode well but they did brilliantly to get us back up to two each. Then, unfortunately, Turriff really showed their class and got another two goals to claim the points but Calum [MacLean, manager] was really impressed with the performance, especially with the weakened squad we had.'

Last night the Claggan men welcomed Rothes and still have an away fixture to play against the same team.

MacDonald said: 'We really need to get six points from the two Rothes games. If we don't win them it will be a disaster but I'm feeling confident.'

The next game at Claggan Park will be against Cove on April 25.



TOP SCORER: Nick Stein

### Darren makes the arrows fly

#### Darts

AFTER week four of the Tradewinds darts league, Darren Sutherland is storming ahead of the competition.

Although, despite sitting on 28 points, 11 ahead of second-place John Matheson, Sutherland lost to Stevie Clydesdale in this week's final by three legs to two.

Clydesdale made it to the final after beating Duncan Carmichael 3-2 and Sutherland gained his place by beating Michael Slezzer 3-1 in the semi-finals.

Sutherland also scored a 180, along with Duncan Carmichael and Marc Donald.

Quickest leg of the night was 14 darts, also by Sutherland.

The league is played every Friday in Tradewinds Bar, Corpach. Everyone welcome.

#### League table

Name	Pts
1 Darren Sutherland	28
2 John Matheson	17
3 Duncan Carmichael	16
4 Michael Slezzer	10
5= Stevie Clydesdale	9
5= Paul Shearer	9
5= Marc MacDonald	9
8 Robbie McFadyen	8
9 Davy Neil	6
10= Ross MacKenzie	4
10= Martyn Cameron	4
12= John Woods	2
12= Martin Cuthbertson	2
12= Lewis Birrel	2

### Gary Cowan leads scratch league

#### Ten pin bowling

AFTER week three of the Lochaber singles ten pin bowling league, Gary Cowan still leads the scratch league with 61 points, followed by Pam Weller with 60 points and Tim Attack in third place with 59 points.

The handicap league is still led by Attack on 62 points followed by Cowan on 58 points with James Porter in third place on 49 points.

Weller is the new leader in the chase for the Nevis Radio high pin trophy with 1,496 pins, followed by Cowan in second with 1,393 and Attack in third with 1,364 pins.

It was a successful week for Weller who had the top individual scratch game with 221, as well as the top three-game scratch series with 572 and the top three-game handicap series with 677.

### Cancer charity runners wanted

#### Athletics

MEMBERS of fundraising group Lochaber Together are appealing for more people to sign up for charity race Run Together Fort William.

The event, in aid of Cancer Research UK, will include a 5k fun run and 10k option on the same route, both on Sunday April 26.

Both runs leave from An Aird shinty club at 2pm but the fun starts from 11am with stalls, events and a strongman competition. Dorothy Rodger, local fundraising manager for Cancer Research UK, said: 'The Lochaber Together group has been in existence since November 2010 and during that time, thanks to the huge support from the local community, it has raised more than £75,000 for cancer research.'

To register go to www.lochabertogogether.co.uk or pick up a form from the Cancer Research shop on Fort William High Street.

## Lochaber silence the high flyers

Lochaber	12
RAF Lossiemouth	7
BT Caledonia North Division Two	

LOCHABER rugby club players were celebrating victory this weekend after taking on the high flyers of RAF Lossiemouth, the second placed team in the league, on Saturday.

On a great day for rugby the visitors, who have already won promotion to league one for next year, arrived at Banavie with a full squad and having been unbeaten so far in this season's campaign fully expected to continue their winning ways. However, Lochaber had other ideas.

Straight from the kick off, Lochaber went at the visitors and didn't give them any time to settle and after 10 minutes their attacks resulted in winning a penalty which Davie Whyte duly slotted.

The game continued in the same vein with the big RAF pack being frustrated by a stubborn Lochaber defence and Whyte slotted another two penalties before half time to give Lochaber a well-deserved 9-0 lead.

The RAF side put Lochaber under long periods of pressure in

the second half but the Banavie men always looked dangerous and from one of their attacks the RAF team gave away another penalty which captain Rory MacKay put over for a 12-0 lead.

Despite being under increasing pressure, Lochaber were resolute and as the game wore on the RAF frustrations grew until following a dangerous tackle they received a red card. This, however, seemed

to spur the visitors on and from a poor line out they broke out to score the only try of the game to bring the score to 12-7.

#### Awesome display

Lochaber coach Stewart Sandison said after the game: 'This was an awesome display from Lochaber and because of the tightness of the league the win propelled Lochaber up two places. All the players were outstanding but the

#### Rugby

man of the match went to the Calum Sandison, the Lochaber scrum half, who gave both his opposite number and the opposing number eight a torrid time all afternoon.'

Lochaber's next home game is against Garioch this Saturday (April 11) at 3pm.



READY: Johnathan McCook prepares to take on the RAF Lossiemouth defence.



NO WAY THROUGH: Findlay Ireland crunches into a tackle with a Lossiemouth attacker

**SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES**

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**WEATHER**

**Thursday** Sunny  
Winds moderate southerly  
Temperatures 7°C to 12°C.

**Friday** Heavy rain  
Winds moderate south south westerly  
Temperatures 5°C to 10°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Light rain showers on Saturday  
Light rain showers on Sunday  
Winds strong south westerly  
Temperatures 7°C to 9°C.

**TIDAL INFORMATION**

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, April 9, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm			
<b>Thur</b>	02.11	1.1	08.04	3.5	14.28	1.3	20.31	3.5
<b>Fri</b>	02.51	1.3	08.42	3.3	15.11	1.4	21.16	3.3
<b>Sat</b>	03.44	1.4	09.31	3.1	16.11	1.6	22.15	3.1
<b>Sun</b>	04.59	1.6	10.42	2.9	17.36	1.6	23.46	3.0
<b>Mon</b>	06.29	1.6	12.43	2.8	19.02	1.5	***	**
<b>Tues</b>	01.53	3.2	07.53	1.4	14.38	3.0	20.20	1.3
<b>Wed</b>	03.00	3.4	09.04	1.1	15.31	3.3	21.25	1.0

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate