

# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

INSIDE

## EASTER FUN for all the family

DON'T MISS OUR FUN PACKED ACTIVITIES FEATURE

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### Kerrera road link fund search

A PLAN to link the north and south ends of the Isle of Kerrera has taken another step forward with funding bids due to be submitted by the end of this month.

The development, expected to cost between £600,000 and £1m, has been described as a 'lifeline' by islanders who have fought for years to be connected. A progress report on the road plan was presented to councillors at Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee last week. Councillor Duncan MacIntyre said: 'The community has been looking for this for some considerable time.'

Argyll and Bute Council will now look at ways of funding the project, including an application to the Coastal Communities Fund. The council could also help fund the project through savings made on island services and £300,000 of borrowing over 30 years. Kerrera's ferryman Duncan MacEachan said: 'People are pleased the council is taking positive steps.'

### Commemorations switched to Oban

ARGYLL'S commemorations to mark the centenary of World War One have been moved from Inveraray to Oban - but Argyll and Bute Council would not say why.

The council confirmed that the service and parade planned for September 20 would now be held in Oban but did not explain the reasons for the change.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'The detail is yet to be finalised and we are working with the Royal British Legion Scotland at a national level as well as with local branches.'

### Big boost for Argyll family charity

AN ARGYLL charity has received a £190,000 cash boost to support local families.

Family Mediation Argyll and Bute will use the grant from the Big Lottery Fund to employ extra staff, focusing on early intervention support to lessen the trauma suffered during a family breakdown.

Oban-based service manager Tanya MacDougall said: 'We are delighted to have received this funding which will make a huge difference to families, especially those living in rural and island areas.'



Rotarians Graham MacQueen and Iain MacIntyre with representatives of some of the groups that have benefited from Am-Am proceeds, including Oban and Lorn District Seniors Club, Glencruitten Golf Club's Junior Golf Development, Oban High School and St Columba's, Rockfield and Dunbeg primary schools. 16\_116rotary01

## Rotary Club of Oban drives forward with high fundraising Am-Am hopes

AN EVENT that has collected more than £135,000 for causes in the Oban and Lorn area over the past 29 years is aiming to raise more money than ever, with strong community support.

Rotary Club of Oban is driving forward its annual Am-Am golf tournament to be held at Glencruitten Golf Club on Sunday June 1 and hopes to raise

thousands of pounds for charities and groups.

Some of those who have benefited from Rotary grants, through funds raised from the Am-Am, were at Glencruitten Golf Club on Tuesday to help launch this year's event.

Rotary Am-Am convenor Iain MacIntyre said: 'This event is of course a great day out for all the

golfers but there is so much good work done by the distribution of funds raised by our sponsors and participants.

'There is also enormous preparation and organisation that goes into putting this on and virtually all Rotary members lend a hand in one way or another.

The raffle, for example is

run by a team of six to eight people, led by a 94-year-old. The commitment is incredible.'

Scottish golf prodigy Robert MacIntyre is planning to compete in the tournament on his home course.

A number of sponsors have already signed up, including principal sponsor Bank of Scotland.

## Organisers' delight as Dougie MacLean takes first step onto Tiree festival stage

TIREE Music Festival organisers have revealed the latest act to perform this year exclusively to *The Oban Times*.

Dougie MacLean will take to the stage at the sold-out event for the first time in July.

The 'Caledonia' singer is looking forward to his first visit to the isle. He said: 'It seems crazy that with the amount of time I've spent in the Hebrides, Inner and Outer, I've never visited the Isle of Tiree. I'm really looking forward to performing at this year's Tiree Music Festival.'

'The land and people of Scotland have inspired so many of my songs, from the mountains and forests, rivers and lochs of Perthshire where I grew up to the stunning, windswept coastline and stark beauty of the islands.'

Organiser Daniel Gillespie is 'delighted' with the newest addition to the line up.

He said: 'Dougie has crafted an international reputation as a songwriter, composer and performer.'

'He has played world renowned venues

such as Carnegie Hall in New York and the Sydney Opera House. It is a real honour to have him at Tiree and we await his performance with much excitement.'

The festival has added a third day to the event, running from July 18-20, and reported tickets selling out in a record five weeks.

Mr MacLean was the final major act to be revealed, with Eddi Reader, Julie Fowlis, Sharon Shannon Big Band, Peatbog Faeries and Roddy Woomble and Band also confirmed.

## Police step in as ambulance fails to show

Police take woman to hospital in car

CALLS are being made for an investigation into ambulance response times and staffing issues in Oban after a woman had to be taken to hospital in a police car.

Emergency services were called to McCaig Road when a woman collapsed last Tuesday evening.

And while two police cars and a fire engine arrived on the scene shortly after 7pm there was no sign of the ambulance as traffic built up and concern for the woman grew.

Oban Police decided to transport the woman to Lorn and Islands Hospital, as both ambulances were on call and would not be available for at least 50 minutes.

Inspector Julie McLeish of Oban Police said: 'At 7.21pm officers asked for the ambulance to be re-contacted, they were worried about the woman as she was suffering from chest pains.

Police and a member of the fire service then made the decision to take her because it was obvious the ambulance wasn't coming. It was a common sense decision.'

The incident has caused outrage among those who were waiting in traffic as the incident

unfolded. Oban Community Council member George Berry was on his way home when he ran into the traffic at McCaig Road.

He said: 'As a community council member everyone was asking me what was going on and why the ambulance wasn't here. Everyone was furious and asking 'what if that had been one of my kids?'. If this is a one-off it doesn't matter, it shouldn't have happened.'

'The ambulance service needs to make sure this never happens again.'

'I can't fault the [ambulance] team, they do a tremendous job but the Scottish Ambulance Service [SAS] needs to hold an inquiry. There should never be a situation when an ambulance takes 50 minutes to get to someone. God forbid if there was a crash on one of the roads coming into town in the height of summer.'

Oban-based councillors Roddy McCuish and Duncan MacIntyre agreed the SAS had to look at protocol in light of the incident.

Councillor McCuish said: 'Should these reports prove to be correct it gives me great concern. I'll be looking into this to get a

detailed explanation from the SAS. I'm looking for assurances that this will not happen again.'

Councillor MacIntyre added: 'The ambulance service has had a good name here for a long time and is well respected but that doesn't mean it shouldn't have some kind of back-up service. There should be some sort of protocol in place. We've been hearing for years that the hospitals are under staffed and now that seems to be feeding into the emergency services.'

Mr Berry plans to bring up the issue at the next community council meeting and is writing a letter of complaint to the ambulance service.

A SAS spokesman said arrangements were being made for a doctor to attend last week's incident when police cancelled the request.

He added: 'Ambulance cover is informed by analysis of demand and this is monitored on an ongoing basis. It is unfortunate that in this instance both local ambulances were with other patients but that is an unusual situation.'

'All ambulance responses are clinically triaged to prioritise those with most clinical need.'

## Rest causing chaos for 200 years

A LETTER has been found in Craignish that reveals the Rest and Be Thankful has been causing chaos for travellers for more than 200 years.

Craignish History Society found the letter from Alexander Forsyth, of Edinburgh, in a collection that belongs to Colin Lindsay-MacDougall of Lunga.

It is dated 1809 and reveals he was having difficulties getting to Argyll because the 'Glencro' road was blocked.

The pass, more familiarly known as The Rest and Be Thankful, has been closed on a number of occasions in the last year because of landslides.

The letter reads: 'I promise making an attempt to go to Daill [the former name of Lunga House]. I shall probably leave this tomorrow or Wed'y.'

'How I shall accomplish it from the severity of yr storm. The Glencro Road is I understand blocked up. Of course...it is only

left for one to walk through.' Antonia Baird, from Craignish History Society, said: 'I thought it was a fantastic find and one that locals can relate to. It confirms that the Rest and Be Thankful has been causing travel problems for hundreds of years.'



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## Wardens return to Argyll streets in bid to prevent parking free-for-all

PARKING wardens are making a return to Argyll's town centre streets from Monday May 12 in a bid to halt a parking free-for-all.

After a three-year absence, with intermittent and limited enforcement by police officers, wardens will be patrolling the streets as well as Argyll and Bute Council-owned car parks.

They will ensure people are paying to park and not parking where there are restrictions, including but not limited to yellow lines, loading areas, disabled bays and limited waiting areas.

In June 2011 Strathclyde Police cut its traffic warden service to save money but it has taken until this year for the process of on-street parking enforcement to be decriminalised, so that the local authority could take on the responsibility.

The council will be employing six new amenity

A parking free-for-all has existed in Oban since traffic wardens were removed from duty.

Wardens to work alongside its current wardens to deliver parking enforcement across the council area. The wardens will also be addressing the issues of dog fouling and littering.

Policy lead for roads and amenity services, Councillor Ellen Morton, said: 'I am pleased to see the council now assuming this responsibility. Parking is a big issue in our towns - it is maddening to see the same cars parked on the street for hours on end denying easy access for customers to local businesses. We hope people will work with us to keep our town centres busy and presentable - if you park legally you won't be fined. If you clear up after your dog, you won't be fined. If you bin your litter, you won't be fined.'

For the first two weeks, first-time offenders will be issued with a warning notice rather than a penalty charge notice (PCN).

In line with national guidelines, the PCN is set at £60, to be paid within 28 days. If paid within 14 days, the charge is reduced to £30. If unpaid, the charge increases to £90.

### NEW BUSINESS GATEWAY WORKSHOPS — DON'T MISS OUT BOOK NOW!

Marketing Your Business - Oban, 7th May — A one day workshop aimed at existing small businesses with ambitions for growth. The session will help participants evaluate their current marketing activity and create a realistic marketing plan to meet their business needs.

Becoming an Employer - Oban, 28th May — A half day workshop that covers everything from setting job descriptions and salary to health and safety legislation, employers' liability insurance and managing staff performance.

Getting the Most out of Your People - Oban, 29th May — A half day workshop that will help businesses recruit, induct, manage and develop staff in a way that supports their growth.

All workshops are FREE and places are limited. To reserve a place call or email the Business Gateway team.

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**Section of A83 to close for resurfacing work**

A SECTION of the A83 will be closed on Wednesday and Thursday April 23-24 to allow for overnight resurfacing work to be carried out.

The road will be closed at Red Lodge, near Kilmory, Lochgilhead, between 9pm and 6am to ensure the safety of Bear Scotland staff and members of the public.

A signed diversion will be in place through Oban via the A819, A85 and A816.

The route is scheduled to re-open early on the Friday morning.

Queuing traffic will be escorted through the works in a convoy system at approximately two-hour intervals - estimated to be at 11pm, 1am and 3am.

Traffic will be allowed through at 5am to allow drivers heading to the Islay ferry service that departs from Kennacraig to make the final check-in at 6.30am.

A traffic light system will be operational during the day.

**Concern over decline of Tieve population**

A 15 PER cent fall in the population of Tieve over a 10-year period has been highlighted by Argyll and Bute Council as a cause for concern.

The figure was recorded between 2001 and 2011 at a time when the population of Oban, Lorn and the Isles as a whole rose by 4.3 per cent to nearly 20,000.

The council's Development and Infrastructure Services department said it is producing a detailed breakdown in population statistics, as part of the council's Economic Development Action Plan, in light of such figures.

**Groups boosted by Third Sector Grants**

A TOTAL of £32,100 was given out by Argyll and Bute Council in the first round of Third Sector Grants for the new financial year.

Organisations on Mull were among the main beneficiaries: Aros Hall, Tobermory; the Mendelssohn on Mull Trust and the Mull and Iona Community Trust all received £3,000 each.

Aros Hall requested a grant to allow longer opening hours and the Mendelssohn on Mull Trust sought funds to support its music training on the island and the development of volunteer tutors.

Oban Winter Festival, which was awarded £5,000 and £4,000 in 2012 and 2013, respectively, was granted £3,000 for this year's event.

**Oban lifeboat launched**

OBAN lifeboat launched on Sunday April 13 at 11am to pick up an elderly woman from Criagnure, Isle of Mull, who was suffering from breathing difficulties.

She was transferred to a waiting ambulance in Oban and taken to Lorn and Islands Hospital.

The lifeboat refuelled and was ready for action by 1pm.



West Highland College winners: Left to right, lecturer Paul Kelly, students Dan Timmis, Fiona Williams and Abigail Goldfarb, programme leader Matt Groves and student Ewan McKay.

**West Highland students reap rewards for trail project**

WEST Highland College (WHC) UHI has scooped two awards for a Commonwealth Games-style baton relay to link up its community college centres.

The West Highland Adventure Trail is planned to start on May 14 with a descent of Ben Nevis and will see students and staff walk, climb, kayak, mountain bike, run and sail around all 10 of the college's centres of learning carrying a locally-designed baton. Each centre en route will contribute to a declaration to the baton aimed at bringing people together and encouraging local communities to thrive and flourish. It will travel from Fort William to Kinlochleven and

Ardnamurchan, then northwards to Ullapool, where the final ceillidh will be held on June 9.

The trail is the culmination of several months of planning by third year WHC adventure tourism management students.

And at the Colleges Scotland and Universities Scotland Game Changer awards in Glasgow last Thursday, their efforts were rewarded when their project won silver in the Student Achievement category and gold in the Creative and Cultural category.

WHC adventure tourism management programme leader Matt Groves attended the ceremony with students and staff. He said: 'I am incredibly

proud to receive this award for an innovative and challenging expedition plan from our students. Our college is one of the youngest in Scotland, and is a proud member of the University of the Highlands and Islands - the youngest university in Scotland - so we were determined to create an inspirational game changing event that would live up to the ethos of the college to include all of our diversely spread communities while celebrating the individual strengths of our students.'

Mike Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Lifelong Learning, made the presentations.

**Collector's appeal for silversmith details**

AN AVID collector of Celtic Art Silver wants to know more about a silversmith who lived and worked in Oban and he wonders if any Oban Times readers can help.

John Child, who lives in Dorset, collects items from the Scottish arts and crafts jewellery movement as typified by the work of Alexander and

Euphemia Ritchie of Iona. John was thrilled to find and buy a silver kilt pin, right, which he describes as 'superb'.

'The inscription J COLLIE OBAN is stamped into the reverse; it is made to a very high standard but trying to find any information about this silversmith is proving to be a bit tricky,' he said. 'Collie is

mentioned in the wonderful book Iona Celtic Art, which is all about Alexander Ritchie, but not much about Collie, whose work looks to be of a similar standard.'

John said he became fascinated with the Scottish arts and crafts jewellery movement through the work of the Ritchies because of the designs and superb

craftsmanship. 'I started to keep my eye out for their work but found out that it is rarer than hen's teeth and some pieces command many hundreds of pounds, so I started looking for work by their contemporaries.'

'John McGilvray is one who sold his work from Oban with the Iona stamp on the back, the same as the Ritchies. When I

found the kilt pin, I turned it over expecting it to be Ritchie's work as it was so well made, only to discover J COLLIE OBAN on the reverse. Since then I have tried many avenues to find out more about him or her but have drawn a blank.'

Can any of our readers help? If so, email John Child at johnchild035@btinternet.com.



**Venues gear up for festival**

FROM tiny Creich Church to the Great Hall of Duart Castle, the Mendelssohn on Mull Festival will fill venues across Mull, Iona and Oban with music this July.

Now in its 26th year, the festival, under the artistic directorship of Levon Chilingirian, offers young musicians the unique and incredible opportunity to be mentored by some of chamber music's most experienced players.

Those starting out in their professional careers are able to come into contact with seasoned professional mentors in relaxed surroundings in the superb Argyll countryside. They then perform a series of free concerts.

And this year music tuition for local children is included for the first time. The whole festival would have delighted Felix Mendelssohn who journeyed to Mull and was inspired to write The Hebrides Overture, Fingal's Cave.

The festival has grown slowly but surely to become a major event where the very best chamber musicians of their generation can develop their performance skills and the public can enjoy free concerts by internationally-acclaimed artists.

**Groups**

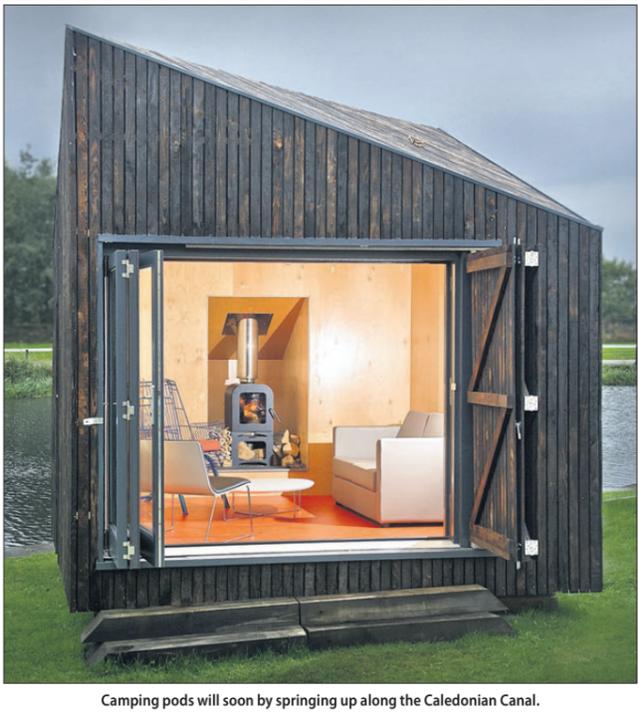
This year the established prizewinning ensembles Zerkova Quartet and Pether String Trio will perform and Boeccherini and Shostakovich are featured in the programme. Levon Chilingirian said to The Oban Times: 'This is the first time in 26 years that the festival has invited groups and I am very excited by Zerkova and Pether.'

'They will have prepared Janacek's 2nd Quartet and Bach's Goldberg Variations so both the audiences and young musicians will have something to look forward to.'

Parents on Mull have established children's workshops to run in conjunction with the festival; nearly 40 per cent of island children aged between five and 10 are taking part in these monthly events, using YouTube as part of a remote teaching method.

The February workshop alone attracted 56 children. They receive specialised intensive tuition once a month, watched by parents and teachers who are shown how to continue the teaching between the monthly classes.

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Camping pods will soon be springing up along the Caledonian Canal.

**Green light for Gairloch and Laggan camping pods**

A BATCH of Alpine-style camping pods along the Caledonian Canal have been granted planning permission by Highland Council.

Scottish Canals will build six wooden bothies at Gairloch, near Spean Bridge, and a further two - a reduction from the original plan of seven - at Laggan Locks after being granted planning permission last week.

Dozens more are earmarked for along the route to provide walkers, canoeists and cyclists with convenient accommodation and reduce problems caused by people wild camping. Permission was granted in February for eight in Fort Augustus and six at Kytra Locks with more planned at other sites between Inverness and Banavie.

The 'snug' buildings are based on box beds used in Highland croft houses and are designed and positioned 'to sit neatly in the landscape'.

The Scottish larch-clad pods each have a small wood-burning stove with fold-down beds to create extra living space.

Similar groups of small structures have been successful at tourist hot-spots in Norway and Austria, Scottish Canals said.

The Gairloch plan has attracted fierce opposition, with Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council previously describing it as 'a virtually unregulated campsite'.

After the application was granted, Community Council chairman John Fotheringham said: 'I'm disappointed but not surprised. We've raised concerns about wild camping and other issues but it hasn't made a blind bit of difference.'

'Gairloch is a rural hamlet that you couldn't spend a ha'penny in so it's not going to benefit the local community in any way.'

Concerns were also raised about the impact on tourist accommodation providers in both areas.

Lochaber area committee leader Councillor Thomas MacLennan welcomed the plan at the south planning applications committee.

He said: 'These pods are becoming very popular, there are people who want to stay in structures rather than tents. This comes under the category of 'glamping'.'

'It's a growth area and a small development so I don't see what direct impact it will have on other facilities. It's an extra facility that we need in Lochaber and I would fully support it.'

Keith Mackie, development surveyor at Scottish Canals said: 'We're delighted that Highland Council has approved our plans to bring bothies back to the Great Glen and we can't wait to welcome visitors to these unique locations.'

'We hope the camping bothies at Gairloch and Laggan will encourage even more people to leave the couch and car behind and set off on an outdoor adventure.'

'They'll provide something different and unique, that isn't already offered by the current market, in order to encourage more people tackling the Great Glen to stay in these areas and provide a boost to the local economies.'

**Transport chief calls it a day after 44 years**

SAM MACNAUGHTON, Highland Council's head of transport and infrastructure, has retired after 44 years' service in local government.

During his service with Inverness County Council, Highland Regional Council and Highland Council, Mr MacNaughton designed roads and bridges and led the design and construction of major marine projects. These included new harbours at Kinlochervie and Lochinver, the ferry terminals for the Small Isles and Inverie, the new ferry terminal at Raasay, and the refurbishment of the Nether Lochaber slipway at the Corran Ferry. He was also involved in the design

and construction of the Saltire award-winning Mallaig road upgrade, the Achnasheen road and Kylesku Bridge, as well as the Southern Distributor and Friars Bridge in Inverness.

Perhaps the one project he will be best remembered for is the Inverness West Link Road.

Stuart Black, director of development and infrastructure, said: 'Sam has been involved in many and varied civil engineering projects. He should be very proud of the legacy he has left for the Highlands.'

Mr MacNaughton, who originally hails from Fort William, is married to Anne and they have three daughters, Mairi, Sarah and Chirsty.



Sam MacNaughton: retired after 44 years' service.

**Inverness to host next year's Celtic Media Festival**

INVERNESS has been chosen as the host city for next year's Celtic Media Festival.

The three-day international celebration showcases the best film, television, radio and digital media to emerge from Cornwall, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, The Republic of Ireland, the Isle of Man and

Brittany.

The event, renowned for attracting some of the biggest names in the broadcasting

and film world, has been held in Inverness twice before in 1987 and 1991 and elsewhere in Scotland seven times. The festival and awards ceremony is expected to attract more than 300 delegates and a host of big name guests and prestigious industry figures.

One of the highlights will be presentation of the prestigious Bronze Torc Awards for Excellence in categories including arts, sport, drama, current affairs, factual series,

best app, innovation, drama, and radio station of the year. Isle of Skye councillor Hamish Fraser, chairperson Highland Council's Gaelic implementation group, said: 'The growth of Gaelic within the media has expanded significantly over the last few years and the festival helps to increase the profile of Gaelic and creates confidence in the use of the language, within all forms of media in new and innovative ways.'

**Sheep racing part of Fort fundraising charities fayre**

IT WILL be 'bleats on the street' in Fort William this summer when sheep racing comes to town as part of celebrations to mark the opening of the revamped Cameron Square.

The novel event, a highlight of a Charities Fayre being organised on June 28 by the Lochaber Rural Education Trust (LRET), will see the woolly runners dash up High Street from the Royal Bank to the new-look

square in a series of races from 12.30pm.

The fayre will kick off at 12 noon with a fancy dress parade from Gordon Square to Cameron Square in a competition open to children and adults with an animal theme.

Organiser, LRET trustee Isabel Campbell, said the free fun day out would cater for people of all ages and hoped it would bring the Lochaber community together on a special day for the town. She said: 'A live concert

will be centred on the new amphitheatre in Cameron Square and it is hoped that many local musicians, dancers, singers and artists of all ages will take part in this.'

'Charities are invited to have a fundraising stall in the area of The Parade.'

All organisations and individuals wishing to be part of the Charities Fayre can contact Mrs Campbell on 01397 703819 or email isabel@bosslochaber.co.uk.

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# Dismay as Shopmobility Oban closes its doors

AS OBAN gears up for the busiest time of the year it will be without a key tourist service as Shopmobility closes its doors.

Volunteers are 'deeply saddened' that the charity, which has provided wheelchairs and electric scooters to visitors for 14 years, no longer has enough help and funding to keep going.

The service was run by Oban Disability Forum and Access Panel and helped around 200 disabled and elderly people every summer. It will be a 'massive loss' to Oban as a visitor town, said volunteer Kate Winton.

She added: 'It's a big blow for tourism as it's mostly used by people who come on holiday or for the day and can't bring their own wheelchairs. People who regularly come to Oban and rely on the service might not be able to come anymore.'

'It's such a shame it has happened because we don't want to let anybody down.'

Volunteer Ed Morton was shocked to hear the facility was closing but was aware of the problems.

He said: 'It's a real pity but the problem we had was we couldn't seem to get enough volunteers. Last year I was there five days a week but I just can't keep that up.'

'Money was an issue too. If you're going to run something like that you have to be able to raise funds whether it's through coffee mornings and things like that but again you need volunteers for that, you can't do one without the other.'

Argyll and Bute Councillor Elaine Robertson has been with the forum since its creation in 1990.

She said: 'It is with deep regret that we had to take the decision to close Shopmobility as without sufficient volunteers and limited funding we can't continue to run it.'

'I would like to thank all of the volunteers, past and present, local and national charities and the council which have all helped us over the years.'

Oban Disability Forum and Access Panel secretary Fiona Morrison said she was 'very sad' to see the service go but added the board had done everything it could to keep it running.

She said: 'We have been down all avenues to try to keep it open. We asked the council if they could run it and looked into going into partnership with other organisations but there was no solution.'

'The problem with Shopmobility is a lot of our volunteers are elderly or disabled themselves, so they often get ill and can't help anymore.'

At the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee meeting last week, the Oban Disability Forum was awarded a £550 third sector grant for other projects and to help wind down Shopmobility.

Ms Morrison said that the Disability Forum and Access Panel would continue and a notice of closure for Shopmobility has been put on its website. Bookings already in place will be honoured.



Councillor Roddy McCuish, a former postman, took a walk down memory lane when he officially opened the refurbished Royal Mail sorting office in Oban. 15\_116royalmail01

## Post Office delivers Oban revamp

AN OBAN councillor and former postman spoke of his delight at seeing his old workplace restored to its former glory.

Councillor Roddy McCuish, a member for Oban South and the Isles, previously worked at the Albany Street post office and sorting office, which has recently undergone refurbishment.

The result is the traditional entrance to the sorting office has been reinstated on Albany Street, where the old post office was.

Members of the public now won't have to gain access through the public car park off the street and the yard that Royal Mail vans move in and out

of. Officially opening the refurbished building, Councillor McCuish said: 'I am delighted with the Royal Mail investment in this iconic building and I am glad they have kept so many of the old features.'

### Safer

'It really has brought the building back to life. It also makes it far safer for the public when they are collecting parcels and mail.'

Sorting office deputy manager Kenny Pearson said: 'We are moving forward with parcels and packages services and need a larger area. The old layout was not fit for purpose.'

## Man breaches order with hotel threat

SEAN Fallon McGowan, aged 23, of Shore Street Flats, Oban, pled guilty at the town's sheriff court on Monday to making a threat when in a hotel in the town on February 1.

This means McGowan has breached a community payback order and Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence until May 27 for reports.

## Lorn Lines

OBAN Pipe Band hosted a soup lunch in the pipe band hall last Saturday in aid of the local branch of Cancer Research UK.

The fundraiser was a joint effort by the pipe band committee and the committee of Cancer Research UK.

Alistair Dewar, one of the organisers, said: 'The event was extremely well attended and raised in excess of £540 for Cancer Research UK. Thanks go to everyone who donated soup and home-baking.'



Twins Asher and Zeph Petit, 10, were delighted with their bronze medals and prize.

OBAN twins cooked up a storm to win bronze medals in a national competition.

Asher and Zeph Petit, P7 pupils at Park Primary School, wowed judges in the Culinary School Games, in conjunction with the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Pupils were tasked with submitting their own Commonwealth themed recipe, so Asher and Zeph cooked up Jamaican-inspired Caribbean chicken with rice, peas and dumplings, which

secured them third place and a £50 iTunes voucher.

Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for education, Councillor Aileen Morton, said: 'It's wonderful to see our pupils embracing the spirit of the Commonwealth Games in lots of different and exciting ways.'

'Asher and Zeph have done really well to win a bronze medal in a national competition and their Caribbean chicken looks absolutely delicious.'

## LochWatch welcomes boat VAT move

MOVES to offset the VAT spent on fuel by charities operating inland water safety boats has been welcomed by Loch Awe's LochWatch and Argyll and Bute's MSP.

The UK Chancellor George Osborne announced during his March Budget that the Government would be setting aside a £1 million grant for inland safety boat charities and £65,000 for air ambulance charities, both over five years, to offset the VAT paid on fuel.

Jain MacKinnon, chairman of LochWatch, said: 'We work very hard not only to improve safety on Loch Awe but throughout

Scotland. We are a voluntary organisation which receives no state funding, therefore, it is vitally important that both our local MSP Michael Russell and now the Westminster government have seen fit to take our concerns on board.'

### Relief

Mr Russell wrote to the UK government in November requesting VAT relief on fuel for the Loch Awe safety boat.

He said: 'I welcome this positive step by the UK government in helping our inland safety boat charities.'

'After writing to the Treasury in November, the UK government

has now thoroughly investigated my request and committed to delivering this new grant.'

'These developments will be especially reassuring for the LochWatch safety group and Loch Awe community whom I commend for all their hard work.'

'As the short consultation exercise gets underway I encourage all local groups and safety boat charities to respond to make their voices heard.'

The consultation will take place to decide on eligible charities and further funding details.

It is not yet known when the grants will become available.

## Argyll and Bute Council confirms by-election date

ARGYLL and Bute Council has confirmed the by-election for one seat in its Oban, South and the Isles ward will be on Thursday May 22.

The by-election was called following the resignation of Councillor Fred Hall.

Polling cards will be issued soon and voters can find a list of polling stations for this by-election online at argyll-bute.gov.uk/elections, by calling the election office on 01546 603264 or phoning the registration office on 0800 980 0470.

People who wish to apply for a postal or proxy vote can write to the Electoral Registration Officer, Kilmorran House, Bolgarm Street, Campbeltown, or call 0800 980 0470.

Postal vote applications must be made by 5pm on Wednesday, May 7, with the deadline for proxy nominations being 5pm on Wednesday May 14.

## Sheriff's jail warning to accused

AFTER a 'fractious' encounter with his ex-partner, a man has been warned he could face a jail sentence.

'You are treading a very thin line now, with your court appearances,' Sheriff Douglas Small told Carl Edward Lutger, aged 32, of Donmore Lodge, Albany Street, Oban, on Tuesday.

Lutger admitted shouting, swearing and threatening two people outside Atlantis Leisure Centre, Oban, on March 1 this year.

Procurator Fiscal Claire Martin said

the incident involved Lutger's former partner and her new partner; it became so heated that the woman asked a passerby to call the police.

'There is a fractious relationship between them and he was trying to maintain a relationship with his daughter,' Lutger's defence agent told Oban Sheriff Court.

Sheriff Small said that in view of Lutger's record he might consider 'a short, sharp sentence'.

The case was adjourned until May 27 for reports to be prepared.

## Power tools stolen from two east Lorn properties

THEFTS of power tools from two properties in east Lorn have been reported as a police campaign to tackle rural thefts got underway.

Between April 12 - 14 power tools worth a combined £1,800 were taken from sheds at homes in Fearnoch and Inverinan.

Oban Police said inquiries into this particular incident were continuing but that as part of Operation Monarda-2 additional patrols, including roadblocks, would be mobilised in the area to help crack down on 'doorstep' crime, rural-based thefts and travelling criminals.

## Man, 29, appears in court on drug charges

A 29-YEAR-old man appeared on petition on Monday at Oban Sheriff Court on drug-related offences.

No plea or declaration was given and he was committed for further examination.

# Sheridan in town to make case for independence

## But Highlands and Islands MSP highlights strength of the union

AN INDEPENDENT Scotland is the only escape from 'shackles', 'tyranny' and 'political space cadets'.

This was the claim by Tommy Sheridan at a public meeting in Oban's Corran Halls, chaired by Ian Hamilton QC of North Connell.

The controversial politician urged the 400-strong audience, which seemed overwhelmingly in support of independence, to vote yes in September's referendum during last Thursday's meeting.

But after the meeting Highlands and Islands Conservative MSP Jamie McGrigor highlighted the strength of the union, describing it as a 'positive family'.

When challenged at the meeting on how an independent Scottish government would make the Highlands and Islands feel more connected to decision making, Mr Sheridan replied: 'There seems to be a feeling of neglect and it's difficult for me to give an honest answer because I don't live here so I've never walked in your shoes.'

'What I would say is do you have a better chance with a government in Westminster or a government in Edinburgh?'

'It will still be a fight but I think you have a better chance of influencing Edinburgh.'

Mr Hamilton agreed and urged people to make themselves heard.

He said: 'We need more people here to get up on their hind legs and tell whatever city is covering them what they want. People may feel neglected in both Edinburgh and Westminster but a shout can go a long way and Edinburgh is a lot nearer to hear it.'

Mr Sheridan spent over an hour making his case, arguing against the 'bedroom' tax, minimum wage and millionaire MPs. He also stressed that despite the current Conservative-led Westminster government, Scotland only had one Tory MP.

He said: 'Tyranny can be in many shapes and forms. You may not have shackles but you are being ruled by a government that you did not vote for.'

'Let us remember that 91 per cent of Scottish politicians voted against the 'bedroom' tax but we still got the 'bedroom' tax. Ministers told those affected to take in a lodger but as most of you will know if they take in a lodger they will lose their housing benefit. That's the kind of political space cadets we're talking about here.'

Nuclear weapons and privatising the NHS were also on the agenda but Mr Sheridan

was quick to point out that he didn't have 'a crystal ball' and couldn't say for certain how an independent Scotland would work.

He added: 'I have a vision of a new Scotland, a vision of how life could be. There will be people here who don't agree with me and have a different vision but I think that's great. The point I'm making is we have a chance to change things and make our visions happen.'

Mr McGrigor told *The Oban Times*: 'There are so many positive reasons for Scotland remaining part of the United Kingdom. Most of the important domestic issues such as health, education, transport, farming and fishing are already dealt with by a government in Edinburgh.'

'One in six Scots live and work in England and nearly half of all Scots have English, Welsh or Northern Irish relatives. Also, 450,000 living in Scotland were born elsewhere in the UK. That's a positive family, why break it up?'

Among the 'positive reasons' he highlighted for Scotland being in the UK included the number of Scots who make up the UK's defence forces, the UK's EU block vote and a stable currency.



Tommy Sheridan made the case for independence in the packed Corran Halls. 7\_116tommy02

# Glenorchy parents re-iterate protest against pupil train transport plan

PARENTS of high school children in Glenorchy left their elected members in no doubt that they opposed plans to transport their children to school by train.

At present, the pupils are bussed to Oban but with the increase in the number of trains coming to Oban in time for the new school year, Argyll and Bute Council plans to use trains to transport pupils from Glenorchy, Taynuilt and Connell.

But at a meeting with councillors and Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell, the Glenorchy parents

made their feelings clear. They pointed to a petition against the proposal which gained 180 signatures in 10 days and a survey that showed only two parents of the 28 families affected were happy to support the trains plan.

At the meeting they also gained the support of Mr Russell, the Scottish Government's Education Minister, who branded as 'non-sensical' a claim by Argyll and Bute Council that part of the reason for change was to 'address changing educational needs'.

Campaigner Susan McLaughlin told elected representatives there had been a lack of consultation on the changes and that the parents had the backing of Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council.

Single parent Karen O'Hare, from Lochawe, explained that under the proposed changes she would have to walk for 20 minutes to the train station with all three of her children in tow; the youngest is two years old.

She added: 'I don't feel safe at all walking this road in the dark, rain,

hail, snow, gale-force winds and no street lights. My children would be wet through, then they would have to walk to school when they arrive in Oban.'

Councillor Louise Glen Lee said she had sympathy with Ms O'Hare's position, adding: 'I put my daughter on the bus at Kilninver and I know she gets off at the school. If she had the opportunity to walk through the town before school, I would worry about how often she would get to school on time.'

Argyll and Bute Council

previously stated the changes had been supported by the full council.

A spokeswoman for the council added: 'The enhanced train service will bring economic benefits to all the communities it will serve. 'For school pupils, as well as providing a safe way of travelling to school, it will allow participation in extra-curricular activities - an important part of the Curriculum for Excellence. The later services will also open up opportunities for after-school and weekend employment.'

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**Girls becoming more active**

GIRLS in Argyll and Bute are becoming more active by attending sporting activities outside school, the council has reported.

More than 2,200 girls took part in extra-curricular clubs throughout the school year and holiday clubs were well attended by both boys and girls, it has announced.

Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for Community and Culture, Robin Currie said: 'We are working to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to be as healthy and active as possible and by giving young people access to sports and other activities we are providing the potential for a healthier Argyll and Bute in the future.'

**New website to showcase croft produce**

A NEW website has been launched, aimed at showcasing produce available from Highland crofts.

The site, run by the Scottish Crofting Federation, is a platform for crofters both on the mainland and the isles to sell their wares, including food, crafts and holidays.

Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor said: 'I warmly welcome this new website and I congratulate the SCF and all those individual crofters who have been involved in its creation.'

'I hope the site will become well known and well used and that many other crofters will be able to join in and showcase their products to a wide audience.'

**Infant Feeding Support Group to charge entry fee**

THE INFANT Feeding Support Group in Oban will no longer be free.

Mothers and peer supporters meet in Go Bananas Soft Play every Monday but because of funding issues an entry fee will now be charged for children.

Women can also meet volunteers at their 16-week antenatal appointment and infant feeding workshops are held in Lorn and Islands Hospital in the town. Peer supporters can be contacted on 07798 724932 or 07798 588786.

# Pine martens a danger to Mull birds, claims SNH

MULL'S birds could be in danger from invading pine martens, a report has revealed.

Scottish Natural Heritage has been researching the small mammal and believes it is not native to the island but accidentally arrived on timber boats as recently as 10 years ago.

But its appearance may endanger common birds and game through competition for food or by eating eggs and young birds. Species of conservation concern, such as wood warblers and hen harriers, could also be at risk.

It is still unclear how severe the impact could be, or what the next steps are. As the pine marten is



Pine martens on Mull could be a threat to the island's native birds.

a legally protected species the Mull population, thought to be between 20 and 30, can only be removed under licence. Andrew Campbell, SNH operations manager, said:

'People on Mull value the island's rich biodiversity and some will have an interest in poultry or game birds, so understandably there will be concerns about the arrival of the pine marten. For

these reasons we commissioned this report and are now sharing its findings. Although a useful first step, the report confirms the limitations of our knowledge of this species' distribution on Mull and so, with the help of the local community, we'll actively monitor pine marten to get a better understanding.'

Paul Wilson, Royal Society Protection of Bird's lead on non-native species agreed that it would be difficult to determine the effect on Mull's birds at this stage, but reinforced the potential dangers.

He said: 'It's a bad idea to allow animals, particularly mammals, to move onto new land, especially islands. It's

hard to tell at this stage how bad the damage could be but people should be really careful about how they move animals to make sure this stops happening'

Mike Shilson, chairman of Mull Community Council, said: 'Some islanders have raised concerns with the community council about the impact pine marten could have upon Mull's wildlife is unique, particularly its bird species. We believe localised control should be permitted where appropriate and we will work with SNH to agree a way forward on this matter.'

The full report is available on the SNH website at www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned\_reports/560.pdf.



Marcin Czaja, Fran McGarry, Emma Van der Meer, Rob Holland, Chris Douglas celebrate a job well done.

## Clachaig Inn staff blitz road litter

A PAIR of knickers, a mobile phone and a 'no entry' sign were among the more unusual items collected by staff from the Clachaig Inn at Glencoe during their annual litter pick last Wednesday.

A lump hammer, a rake and a saw were also uncovered along the three-mile back road from

Glencoe village to the A82 junction. He added: 'Thanks to Highland Council for providing signs for the roads and litter-pickers. Many thanks also to Dan and Ann Parry from Strath Lodge and Keith and Davina Melton and crew from the Glencoe Independent Bunkhouse for their help.'

A total of 20 black bin bags were filled with rubbish, mostly empty bottles and cans discarded by folk making their way back from the village to campsites. Clachaig general manager Gordon Keppie told *The Oban Times* the clean-up was 'fun' - despite the damp conditions.

## ACHA promise on housing repairs

CAPITAL improvements, repairs and maintenance have been promised in Argyll Community Housing Association's (ACHA) latest budget.

The board earmarked £12.7 million of the 2014-15 funds for capital works in the association's existing 5,100 homes, with a further £10 million pledged to new builds.

Christine Johnston, ACHA's director of housing and neighbourhood Services, confirmed part of the £12.7 million sum had been set aside for much-needed roughcasting and roofing work on homes in Soroba, Oban.

The repairs had previously been blocked because of private owners, who have a common responsibility for the cost, refusing to pay their share but

work will now be carried out over this year and next. Some £4 million will go to day-to-day repairs and maintenance of existing homes.

ACHA expects to net £18.2 million from rental income this year, to be combined with around £15 million in grants from the Scottish Government and Argyll and Bute Council.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's chief executive, said: 'The association's 2014-2015 budget is about investment. It will continue the organisation's drive to improve all of our homes to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard by November 2015.'

'In addition it will also allow us to provide new homes to meet Argyll and Bute's pressing housing needs.'

## Morvern Lines

THERE HAS been much in the national press lately about the intelligence of wild birds. I have written in these columns about ravens and how they often lead deer stalkers to their quarry because they associate them with fresh food.

There is, however, another bird of the glens and straths credited with equal cunning and intellect and that is the hooded-crow, more commonly known in Morvern and elsewhere in the Highlands and Islands as a 'hoodie'.

The hoodie is a thief and a constant scavenger, especially during the lambing and bird-nesting season, and for this it has been persecuted down through the ages.

Edward Ellice, in his book 'Placenames of Glengarry and Glen Quoich', gives a list of 'vermin' killed in Glengarry in the years 1837 to 1840 showing that 1,431 hoodies were accounted for during that period.

The hooded crow plays a prominent part in Celtic folk-lore in which it is often referred to as a 'sly, familiar knowing bird' - a description well illustrated in the following translation of an old Gaelic tale about a crow teaching her chick:

'If you see a man coming, and a thin stick 'neath his arm, and a broad end on it, fly, it will be a gun - he will be going to kill you.'

'If you see one coming and lifting a stone, 'tis for the purpose of killing you he lifts it, fly. If you see a man coming without anything, and walking upright, and nothing 'neath his arm, and not bending, you need not move - that man will not touch you.'

'What,' said the chick, 'if the stone be in his pocket?' 'Oh,' said the crow, 'I need not teach you anymore.'

I READ a report in last month's 'Farmers Guardian' that French farmers are becoming worried about the threat of wolves to livestock. Wolves, it seems, were not found in the Paris region until recently, but have started attacking sheep near the capital and elsewhere in the country.

Stories of the killing of the alleged last wolf in Scotland vary. Some historians say that the last Scottish wolf was killed by Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel in 1680 at Killiecrankie in Perthshire.

Others maintain that wolves lived up until the 18th century and a story exists of one being seen as late as 1888. A stone, erected in 1924 by the Duke of Portland close to the A9 near Brora, records that the last wolf in Sutherland was killed there by a hunter called Polson on or about 1700.

But as Facebook and Twitter had not been invented and communication was poor in general in these days, who would know that theirs was the last?

There must have been many wolves in Morvern at one time especially in the days when much of the peninsula was covered with thick forests.

The late Donald Graham, whose family came to Laudale in the second half of the 18th century to work for the Duke of Argyll, used to tell a tale of how the last wolf in that part of the parish was killed.

The story, which was passed down through his family for several generations, relates that a wolf, weakened by hunger and old age, was attracted to the door of a turf hut near the foot of Glen Laudale by the smell of cooking.

The occupant, an elderly woman who lived alone, having no other weapon to hand to defend herself with, lifted the iron griddle on which she had been making scones and struck it on the head killing it instantly.

OF ALL the animals recorded in Morvern there is surely none stranger than that which appears on the lower part of the shaft of a 14th-15th century free-standing cross to be found among the unique collection of medieval stones in the Old Session house at Kiel.

On one side there is a small effigy of a bishop in Eucharistic vestments carrying a crozier and on the other a four-legged animal with a crowned human head.

The Latin inscription records that the cross, which has lost its upper half probably because it contained a representation of the crucifixion, was erected for Thomas MacEachan and his son Donald who were Macleans of Kingairloch.



The strange animal carved on to the stone cross at Kiel.

THE CUCKOO should arrive in Morvern in the next week or two.

No spring would be complete without its familiar call regardless of how irritating it can be after the first few days.

We should be grateful and cherish it - there are many parts of the UK where it is no longer heard.

In bygone times an older, more superstitious, generation on retiring for the night, would put a bit of bread, called the 'cuckoo piece', under their pillows to eat as soon as they woke up because they said if you heard a cuckoo calling before you had your breakfast it would bring bad luck.

Iain Thornber iain.thornber@btinternet.com.

## Castle tops with visitors again

VISITORS to Inveraray Castle have rated it as one of the best tourist attractions in the UK for the second consecutive year as it picks up another industry award.

The castle, the seat of Clan Campbell, received a merit award in the UK Awards of Excellence, run last week by Irish bus tour operator CIE Tours International.

The company, which transports thousands of visitors around Scottish tourist destinations every year, gives merit awards to attractions that achieve a customer satisfaction rating of 90 per cent or more, based on customer feedback.

Torquhil Campbell, the 13th Duke of Argyll, said: 'This award is recognition of all the hard work our team at Inveraray Castle put into creating a memorable visitor experience. Argyll and the Isles has a great deal to offer our international visitors and working with a partner like CIE Tours makes it all the more rewarding for everyone.'

The news comes one week after Inveraray Castle confirmed visitor numbers increased by more than 20 per cent in 2013; 82,638 entered the castle gates last year.

The hike has been partly attributed to the 'Downton Abbey affect' after the ITV drama filmed its Christmas special at the castle in 2012. Watched by more than 120 million people worldwide, Downton Abbey fans are visiting UK locations used in the series in large numbers.

## Marine Harvest keeps it green

SALMON farmer Marine Harvest has underlined its commitment to minimising environmental impacts by installing a viewing platform made from recycled plastic at its Ardnish feed trials unit at Lochailort.

The material used in manufacturing the decking comes from a variety of fish farm waste sources including old feed bags, feeder pipes and redundant fish pens. The platform will enable visitors to the site to get panoramic views across Lochailort to the pens. Site manager Davie Corrigan said: 'We were looking to enhance the visitor experience at the site and we are delighted with how the recycled plastic decking has turned out. It will last much longer than wood, requiring virtually no maintenance.'



## Rockfield wins school quiz

Rockfield Primary School won the annual Rotary Primary Schools Quiz in The Royal Hotel, Oban. Four schools attended and the winners were Rockfield with 44 points. In second place was Lochnell Primary School, and in third place, St Columba's Primary and in fourth place, Dunbeg Primary School. Rockfield will now go forward to compete in the Rotary District finals in Glasgow.

# Nominate an unsung hero today to win two tickets to a Commonwealth Games event



The Oban Times is asking readers to nominate someone in their local community who deserves to experience the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games first hand.

The Scottish Government's Legacy Ticket scheme recognises the achievement and contribution of people across Scotland who are helping to create this legacy by offering them tickets to watch one of the 17 sports at the games.

The Commonwealth Games in Glasgow this summer is set to be the biggest sporting event in Scotland's history - and they promise to be a fantastic spectacle to enjoy. These games are a once-in-a-generation opportunity to secure a legacy for communities across Scotland.

Readers of The Oban Times will know the unsung heroes who are already making a difference - whether it's a young person involved in sport, someone helping to make sport happen by volunteering or someone simply making your community a better place.

### HOW TO NOMINATE

If you know someone who deserves this once in a lifetime opportunity then fill in the nomination form provided below or online at [www.obantimes.co.uk/legacy](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/legacy) and let us know. Please see the nomination criteria in the right hand box. All nominations must be received by midnight, Tuesday 29th April, 2014. Nominations will be shortlisted by a Wyvex Media judging panel, including a Wyvex Media Director, and the winner chosen by an external panel of judges who will be announced in a future issue.

Nominee's name .....

Nominee's telephone number .....

Nominee's address & postcode .....

My nominee should win a Legacy Ticket because .....

(please submit up to 500 words on a separate sheet and attach this form. Please provide as much information as possible. The more details we have about your nominee the more the panel has to help aid their decision. The judges involved will not be able to research or get in touch for further information).

Your name .....

Your address .....

Daytime telephone number .....

Mobile number .....

Email address .....

Send to: The Oban Times, Legacy Ticket Nomination, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.



### Nominate today! Do you know an unsung hero who fulfils one or more of the following criteria?

1. Young person, including Team Scotland supporters, and those involved in sport at school, community or club level
2. Those who make sport happen, including volunteers
3. Those who make a contribution to their communities, through volunteering or other means
4. People without the opportunity to experience the games, and those from disadvantaged groups or those with a disability.



Terms and conditions: Nominees must live in Argyll or the West Highlands. The identified beneficiary of the Commonwealth Games ticket will be gifted a pair of tickets so that they may be accompanied by a loved one, friend or carer. Travel, accommodation and other associated expenses are not included in the prize package. Staff employed by Wyvex Media and relatives of staff are ineligible to be a recipient of a ticket. The names and addresses of the ticket recipient and their companion will be supplied to the Scottish Government and the Glasgow 2014 Organising Committee. Legacy Tickets are a gift and not for resale. It is illegal for tickets to the Commonwealth Games to be sold on. A Legacy Ticket needs to be used by the named ticket beneficiary and their companion. The following Glasgow 2014 terms & conditions set out the rights and obligations in relation to the use of tickets. Please familiarise yourself with these in advance of attending the sporting session/ceremony: <http://www.glasgow2014packages.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Glasgow-2014-Ticketing-Terms-and-Conditions.pdf>. Nominations must be received by midnight, Tuesday 29th April. Nominations will be shortlisted by a Wyvex Media judging panel, including a Wyvex Media Director, and the winner chosen by an external panel.

## Woman dies in canal plunge

A LOCHABER woman died after her car plunged into the Caledonian Canal at Banavie last Wednesday afternoon.

Sheila Cameron was pulled from lock four at Neptune's Staircase by local coastguards and taken to the Belford Hospital in Fort William by ambulance but her life could not be saved.

A member of the public had alerted police that a woman was in the water shortly before 2pm. The Police Dive and Marine Unit later recovered Mrs Cameron's car from the canal.

A police spokesperson said: 'Enquiries are ongoing to establish the circumstances surrounding the woman's death but there do not appear to be any suspicious circumstances.'

'A report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.'

Mrs Cameron, 65, ran self-catering cottages with her husband Ronald at their home at Whin Knowe, Banavie, less than a mile from the accident scene.

Mr Cameron recently took over as chairman of the local Mod committee to help plan arrangements for the 2017 Royal National Mod in Fort William. Mrs Cameron, formerly Sheila MacKenzie, had retired from teaching and along with her husband was a keen hillwalker.

### Kilmore 100 Club

THE LUCKY winners of the Kilmore 100 Club were R Craig for March and M Griffin for April.

# Work to start on town centre transformation

WORK to create a terraced, pedestrianised Stafford Street and the demolition of the White Building will both be underway by January next year as the Oban CHORD programme finally begins to take effect.

The projects are part of the Oban Bay public realm enhancement scheme, which includes improvement of an area between Stafford Street and Station Square, and were given the go-ahead by Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee last Wednesday - six-and-a-half years after the CHORD funding was made available.

The Stafford Street work can now go to the detailed design stage with a view to beginning work in October, subject to the approval of a business case.

The improvements include a terraced space from which to sit and view the bay; an area with power and Wi-Fi for small scale events and shelter with inlaid artwork and ornamental colour changing LED lighting, in keeping with the scheme at McCaig's Tower.

The demolition of the White Building will not take place until January 2015 at the earliest but will pave the way for a new building which will enclose a circular gathering space and be covered by a timber and glass canopy.



An artist's impression of part of the Oban Bay public realm enhancement scheme.

This proposed new building will include a harbour office; additional public toilets and showers; secure locker facilities; storage and laundry; a waiting area for coach parties and cruise ship passengers and a covered event space.

Following the area committee decision, CHORD project manager Linda Houston told councillors: 'It is imperative for the town that we make progress as soon as possible.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson spoke for the area committee, saying: 'We are delighted to have got to this stage.'

The remainder of the project includes work at Station Square, George Street and Queens Park Place being developed between May 2015 and February 2016.

The design for Station Square provides an area for events; a widened seaside footway; a shelter for both bus passengers and spectators at events; seating;

ornamental planting; LED lighting similar to Stafford Street; like-for-like provision for taxis and a new home for the clock tower.

George Street and Queens Park Place would see new seating areas, including planting and decorative lighting; an improved footway on the seafront; refurbished railings and sea wall; an interactive information point and replacement lighting along the sea wall.

The council's policy lead for special projects, Councillor Ellen Morton, said: 'I'm pleased to see the Oban regeneration project moving forward. These design concepts are very exciting and should deliver long lasting benefits for the people of Oban and the surrounding area.'

'The public realm work will give us a tailored waterfront which reflects the character of Oban and is attractive both to visitors and residents.'

## Cycle race road closure anger

ROAD campaigner The A82 Partnership has hit out at a lack of consultation over plans to close the lifeline route for a cycle race.

The Etape Loch Ness event on May 4 will see more than 1,250 competitors pedal 67 miles along the A82 from Inverness to Fort Augustus and back to the city via Foyers and Dorn.

The A82 will be fully closed from 4.50am to 9.50am while the southern Loch Ness diversion route, the B862/B852, will also be shut between 7.15am and 12.30pm.

The closures mean there will be no through route between Inverness and Fort William for around three hours, except via the A9 and A86 to Spean Bridge.

The event, being staged in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, co-incides with the opening of the Scottish Six Days Trial in Fort William.

A82 Partnership spokesperson Stewart MacLean said: 'Once again neither Transport Scotland, Bear Scotland nor the event organiser have had the courtesy to consult The A82 Partnership on this closure.'

'Based on a statement from Transport Scotland they have

been aware of this closure for two months.'

'In the light of the negative impact of the numerous and lengthy A82 road closures which we have all experienced over the winter months, it is somewhat surprising that no one within Transport Scotland or Bear Scotland has consulted the A82 Partnership over a closure required by a private organisation.'

'Maybe they don't yet understand the significance of the A82 to our economy and our life.'

A Transport Scotland spokesperson said: 'I'm afraid this is one for the organisers to answer.'

Organisers said the influx of competitors and fans would boost local tourism and raise thousands of pounds for the charity.

Event director Malcolm Sutherland told *The Oban Times*: 'We have carried out extensive consultation with Police Scotland, Transport Scotland, Highland Council and the emergency services, and we have met with communities along the route.'

'We plan to meet with communities and other key organisations following the inaugural Etape Loch Ness in order to review the event.'

### Thieves strike in Duror and Ballachulish

TRIALS bikes, bicycles and tools were stolen when thieves broke into a shed in the grounds of a house in Duror between 6pm on April 6 and 6pm the following evening.

In a possibly related incident,

a green quad bike was stolen from a garden in Ballachulish between 9pm on April 6 and 1pm on April 8. Anyone with information should contact local police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



The Evopod, the aim of which is to generate electricity from tidal streams, can be seen on the New Quay at Campbeltown Harbour. ob\_0150da01

## Tidal wave test pod powers into action in Sanda Sound

IS THIS the future for Kintyre?

The fascinating structure, presently sitting on the New Quay of Campbeltown Harbour, is an Evopod and could be the key to a large part of Scotland's future energy production. It is set to be located soon in Sanda Sound between Sanda Island and Southend.

It is a test model, built to a quarter scale (35kw) approximately 13 metres long, for Oceanflow Energy with the aim of generating electricity from tidal streams. If viable, such structures could be located individually or in large clusters around Scotland's coastline.

Kintyre councillor Rory Colville hopes the Sanda Sound test will grow into something massive for the area, creating jobs and boosting the local economy.

'There is huge potential for renewable energy in the North Channel between Kintyre and North Ireland,' he said. 'Campbeltown is well placed for support and maintenance work and because of its proximity to the central belt.'

Graeme Mackie, managing director of Oceanflow,

based in North Shields, said: 'Scotland with its strong tidal stream resource was the obvious place to test our semi-submerged Evopod turbine. We are looking forward to hooking up the world's first grid-connected semi-submerged turbine in Scottish waters later this year.'

Oceanflow's work is backed by a Scottish Enterprise grant.

The Evopod, built in Renfrew, is expected to be placed in Sanda Sound, within the next few months, once a small power sub station is established on nearby Pennyseorach Farm. It will be towed from Campbeltown Harbour to its offshore location.

Part of its buoyant structure, attached to sea anchors, will be visible above the water and warning lights will help flag up its location.

Argyll and Bute Council is considering an application for another demonstrator which would be placed off the Mull of Kintyre.

The Crown Estate is giving its backing to such offshore enterprises, with the prospect of earning substantial income from leases.

## Argyll's hi-tech link to archaeology month

ARGYLL and Bute is linking into the national festival, Scottish Archaeology Month, with a hi-tech innovation.

For the first time an Archaeology Scotland exhibition will be presented in both English and Gaelic, when Homeland Argyll and Bute is unveiled on Saturday April 19 at Dunollie House Oban.

The multi-media touring exhibition looks at rural and deserted communities in the area; it includes hand-held film projectors and surround sound which can be projected onto any surface.

The link to Scottish Archaeology Month will support and train local groups to share their experiences and become involved with the science of archaeology using new media.

Between now and November the exhibition will visit Tarbert, Dunoon, Islay, Arrochar, Cairndow, Campbeltown and Kilmartin.

Councillor Robin Currie said the council was happy to support the exhibition which gives anyone with an interest in deserted communities the opportunity to learn in a new and engaging way.

'What is interesting to discover is that our deserted settlements are not all to do with the Highland Clearances by any means.

'Our population has always been very dynamic and well-connected to the central belt, with a rich industrial past; all of which has resulted in a fluctuation and moving population,' he said.

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MULL

A COLLECTION of poetry from Mull writer Yvonne Marjot has been launched in An Tobar, Tobermory.

The Knitted Curiosity Cabinet boasts an array of emotive poetry, touching both on personal and topical events in Yvonne's life.

The gathered crowd at An Tobar on Saturday, April 5 were treated to a few readings from Yvonne's publication, along with fellow island poets sharing some of their poetry.

Yvonne achieved the Adult Poetry Prize at the Britwriters Awards in 2012, an enormous accomplishment, which unfortunately overlapped with her mother's death. Following on from the award, Yvonne had to produce 50 pages of poetry.

'I had virtually no poetry, so these are all new poems with some old ideas,' she said.

Yvonne revealed how challenging the production was. 'I was coming to terms with the fact my mum had died and I had to write these poems so inevitably that's the thread that runs right through the book.'

Notable events in 2012 feature largely throughout Yvonne's poetry; drawing on moments such as Neil Armstrong's death and the rebels invading Timbuktu, threatening to destroy its libraries.

There is also an inspiring sequence entitled How to Write Poetry in which Yvonne encourages everybody to give writing poetry a try.

Yvonne has self-published four novels as e-books over recent years and has just begun work with an editor on her trilogy of novels set both on Mull and New Zealand, where she grew up. The Calgary Chessman, the first book, is set to be released later this year.



Yvonne Marjot signs some of her poetry books.



Youngsters make tracks for station

Banavie Primary School nursery children enjoyed a trip to Fort William Station last week for a guided tour of the Caledonian Sleeper train. Above, driver Allan Fraser shows Liam Morrison and Magnus MacGregor Matheson round his cab. 20\_116rain01

A NEW skiff, recently launched in Tobermory will be used to encourage coastal rowing for locals on the island.

The skiff, named *Eala Bhan* - White Swan, was launched following a celebratory afternoon at The Gallery where local boys, Fraser Mitchell and Alexander Anderson, piped *Eala Bhan* along the Main Street, cheered on by a hearty procession.

Mull ladies choir, Natural Voices, sang a collection of sea-shanties, marking the occasion beautifully.

Friends from the Isle of Seil Rowing Club were in attendance with their skiff, *Selkie*, raising their oars in salute as the Tobermory skiff hit the water.

Following her maiden voyage around the bay, the public were invited to hop on board and experience rowing *Eala Bhan* themselves.

The skiff was built over the winter months in John Addy's workshop in Dervaig with help from the Western Isles Yacht Club and members of the community.

With neighbouring skiffs in Kilmelford and Ardrishaig, and construction under way for new skiffs in Oban, Port Appin and Luing, coastal rowing is set to be a flourishing activity in the coming year. Thanks are extended to Mull Eagle Watch for its recent donation.



The skiff is launched in Tobermory Bay.

TIREE

TIREE Resource Centre has received a grant of £3,000 from Argyll and Bute Council's Third Sector Grant scheme towards staffing costs.

The centre had requested £4,000 as minority match funding towards keeping its single staff post.

The group said it needed a total of £25,572 from various funding streams.

LUING

ARGYLL and Bute Council has contributed £170 towards Luing Social Committee's annual social event for elderly residents.

The social event and fireworks display, which costs £915 to run, is held during the winter and is an opportunity for the whole community to get together.

RUM

A NEW bunkhouse designed to boost holiday accommodation on the Isle of Rum is rapidly taking shape.

When completed, the venture, being led by the Isle of Rum Community Trust will be purpose-built accommodation sleeping up to 20 people.

The building will house three four-bed dorms, one six-bed dorm, one twin room and a fully-equipped kitchen and living/dining area. The roof sheeting was installed last week and this week the windows and doors should arrive on the ferry from Mallaig. The bunkhouse is scheduled for completion in the summer.

KYLE OF LOCHALSH

THE KYLE of Lochalsh community turned out to celebrate the regeneration of a neglected area of the village.

A saltire was raised over the Plock of Kyle to mark the launch of a project to develop the neglected recreational area



The Applecross boat-pull present the cheques to their selected charities at Portree harbour: Back from left, Nivin McRobb, Ewan Gillies, Peter MacDonald (Portree RNLI), Calum Mackillop, Linda MacDonald (Highland Hospice), Anne Beaton (Portree RNLI), Audrey Ellis (Portree RNLI), Alfie Edwards, Tony Padgett. Front from left, Angus Morrison (Leverburgh RNLI), Norman Finlayson (Kyle RNLI), David Seel, Steven Hart (CHAS), Mark Horsley.

THE APPLECROSS boat-pull team was across in Skye recently to present the proceeds of the Stornoway to Leverburgh boat-pull 2013.

Last year the team raised the magnificent sum of £24,000 which was divided between the Highland Hospice, CHAS,

The once well-used land has become overgrown with gorse and vegetation despite its fine viewpoint and secluded coastal coves but thanks to funding from the Big Lottery Fund and Highland Council the Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust has arranged work to restore the Plock.

Members of the trust were at the event to explain details of the plan which involves construction of new paths and an access road from the old Skye Bridge toll booth.

Brian Easter, chairman of Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust, said: 'I can't wait to see the finished Plock, especially to see it put to good use by the community again.'

Isabel 'Bibs' MacKerlich was picked to hoist the flag in a raffle draw, with free tickets being handed out on the day.

Skipper flies the flag for Scotland in New York

A MULL-based man has been representing Scotland in New York this week for VisitScotland's Meet the Scots campaign.

Scallop-skipper, Guy Grieve, has been representing the tourism organisation to help promote 2015 - the Year of Scotland's Food and Drink.

Guy and his wife, Juliet, have been running The Ethical Shellfish Company on the Isle of Mull since 2010 and are dedicated to preserving Scotland's seabeds by using only sustainable fishing methods that will safeguard Scotland's marine environment.

Last Saturday, Guy attended the Scotland Run in New York's Central Park with VisitScotland Chairman, Mike Cantlay, who

ran in his kilt. Scotland Week runs until April 11 and other events in New York this week included a Tartan Day Parade which featured a Homecoming Scotland 2014 branded bus and banner, a Scottish festival and a cook-off competition.

Mike Cantlay, chairman of VisitScotland, said he was 'delighted' to have Guy representing Scotland in New York this week.

Fresh He said: 'Our country is world-renowned for its deliciously fresh seafood and with Guy there flying the flag at the Tartan Parade, Scotland Run and the Iron Chef event, we'll be drumming up support for 2015 - the year of Scotland's Food and Drink.'



Generous Bel and Ronald asked for donations to charity in lieu of gifts when they celebrated their 70th birthdays.

INVERGARRY twins raised £1,410 for charity at their 70th birthday party in the village.

Ronald Stewart and Bel Henderson celebrated with family and friends in Invergarry Community Hall but in lieu of presents asked for donations to the Lochaber branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society and to research into Crohn's Disease. More than 100 people

INVERGARRY

contributed and enjoyed a meal and Scottish country dancing at the party.

A spokesman for the MS Society thanked Ronald, Bel, family and guests for their large donation which will be used to assist the quality of life for people locally.



AFTER winning the Skye and Lochalsh heat of the Rotary Quiz, the Portree Primary School team took part in the recent North West Area Final against teams from Dingwall, Golspie, Tain and Dornoch - and for second year in a row came out on top.

Above, left to right, Daniel MacDonald, Iain Cormack, Elsa Galbraith, Cameron MacPherson celebrate their win. The school team will now compete in the final heat of the quiz in Aberdeen on Saturday June 14.

PORTREE

MacDonald, Iain Cormack, Elsa Galbraith, Cameron MacPherson celebrate their win. The school team will now compete in the final heat of the quiz in Aberdeen on Saturday June 14.

APPLECROSS

Portree RNLI, Kyle RNLI and Leverburgh RNLI.

The boat-pull from Applecross under the leadership of Alfie Edwards has been raising money for charity since 2002

LOCHYSIDE

LOCHYSIDE RC Primary School Easter egg and bonnet competition produced a stunning array of entries from the children last Thursday.

Head teacher Violet Smith congratulated pupils for putting so much work into their creations before announcing the winners.

Effort

'We are all amazed by the fantastic effort made by everybody in school,' she said at the prize-giving ceremony.

Judges were Emily Young and Lauren Yates, who are across from North Carolina, USA, for five weeks of art activities with Room 13 at Lochside RC and Caol primary schools.



Creative for Easter: Lochside RC winners, back row, Sophia MacDonald, Nikki Wilson, Johnny Soe-Paing, Orla Soe-Paing, Michael Kyle, Grace Wegner. Front, Alan MacLachlan, Sophie Lopez, Benjamin O'Sullivan, Darcy Bradley, Fraser Anderson. 20\_116lochside01

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IONA

A MUSIC festival for Iona this summer has been given a funding boost by Argyll and Bute Council.

Iona Village Hall Committee has successfully applied to the council's Third Sector Grants scheme for £2,600, a figure just £310 short of the amount requested.

The committee says the total cost of its festival, to be held as a pilot project in July, will be £13,560.

The group said it was organising a small scale event to establish demand and impact on the island.

EIGG

HOLIDAYMAKERS and locals on the Isle of Eigg can look forward to a craft and produce fair on Easter Monday, April 21.

Island craft-workers, artists, gardeners and bakers will be selling their wares from stalls in the community hall from noon to 4pm.

The fair follows an Easter ceilidh with music from the Broch Inspectors in the same venue this Saturday. The event starts at 9pm.

BALLACHULISH

VISITORS to Ballachulish are delighted with a new gadget in the information centre.

Tourists can now use an interactive computer to look up activities in the area as well as check availability and find accommodation. The iSign technology has gone down a storm so far, said Ballachulish Visitor Centre manager Clare Kennedy.

She added: 'It's been really successful, we had lots of great feedback in just the first couple of days. It makes it easier for visitors to find out what's going on and it gives local businesses another way to advertise to tourists.'

CANNA

THE CANNA Community visitor moorings have opened again for the season. The moorings are owned and operated by the community and revenue from them is reinvested back into community projects.

Last week the first yacht, the *Lotus*, arrived with four crew - one of whom had a great-grandmother born on Canna.



Ulva school pupils, staff and parents blitz beaches

Beaches from Killiechroan towards Ulva are now clean and tidy thanks to the efforts of pupils, parents and staff at Ulva Primary School. The team worked hard to clear up plastic and rope strewn across the sand after this winter's storms and collected 50 bags of rubbish in one day.

BARCALDINE

CHILDREN from Barcaldine Primary School were invited to Sutherland's Grove on April 1 to plant coastal red wood trees which will help to sustain the forest.

The pupils, along with craftsmen from the Forestry Commission Scotland, planted the trees which will eventually replace the ones that are falling down in bad weather.

ON ANOTHER outing, pupils attended Tesco's Farm to Food workshop on April 31 when they were given the chance to touch, smell and make a variety of food in store.

The pupils were given a tour of the Oban shop and learned how fresh food gets onto the shelves. They were given a task to find a variety of brightly coloured fruits and vegetables and were amazed by how many different exotic fruits they had. Finally, the children watched the bakery manager run through the process of making bread and each pupil was treated to a unique freshly baked loaf to take home.



Children enjoy chance to show off shinty skills

South Lochaber children didn't let a wet morning dampen their spirits as they descended on Kinlochleven's astro turf pitch for a shinty tournament. P4-7 pupils from Ballachulish, Duror, Glencoe, Kinlochleven and St Bride's showed off the skills they have been learning during coaching sessions from David Campbell of Ballachulish Shinty Club.

## Fort indoor sports centre a step closer

A MULTI-SPORTS indoor training centre in Fort William is a step closer after developers Lochaber Sports Association (LSA) secured a £600,000 funding pledge from Highland Council.

The association has already won £10,000 in principle from the Landfill Communities Fund for the £1.47 million facility at Lochaber High School.

Meanwhile, a £500,000 bid to sportsScotland has cleared its first hurdle by moving from outline to full application status, bringing the total potential funding package to £1.11 million.

The shortfall could be considerably reduced if moves to reduce VAT costs are successful. The centre, comprising a 60m by 40m covered artificial 3G pitch, will allow clubs, schools and community groups to participate in sport all year round, whatever the weather.

LSA chairwoman Jane Blanchard said: 'The indoor surface will be suitable for football, rugby and shinty, golf and cricket nets practice, junior indoor athletics and a host of other healthy activities.'

'It is also expected to attract national coaching and training programmes and will be a great facility for national sporting events.' She added: 'LSA would like to thank Highland Council, sportsScotland, Dave Thompson MSP, and our councillors for their valuable support in getting us to this exciting stage. Every small donation will add up to make a big difference.'

## Ferry expected to return

NORMAL service will be restored on the Mallaig to Armadale ferry route this weekend if, as expected, the *MV Coruisk* returns following repairs.

It had been hoped the vessel would have been back operating on Tuesday but CalMac said sea trials on Monday identified 'an issue' with the repair to her bow, which was damaged while she was operating on the Gourcock-Dunoon route. The *MV Hallaig* is currently in service on the crossing.



## Youngsters steal the show at fèis concert

Fèis beag kids were a bit hit on stage at the Fèis Lochabar final concert at Banavie Primary School on Friday. It was standing room only in the hall as an appreciative audience enjoyed a varied programme of Gaelic songs, plays and traditional tunes from more than 100 children in a varied programme. See more on the fèis, page 12. 20.116f6e505

# Urgent call for A82 action

ROAD campaign group the A82 Partnership is demanding urgent action after a further spate of accidents on the same corner four miles south of Fort William.

Wester Ross man Douglas Moyes, 64, died when his car hit a tree after plunging off the road on the notorious bend on April 1.

The fatal accident was followed by another crash at the same spot at 6.16pm on Saturday evening which police said left three women in their teens as 'walking wounded'.

Eye witnesses reported that the car ended up next to the tree with which Mr Moyes' vehicle collided. A police spokesperson said: 'One casualty was taken to the Belford Hospital and was kept in overnight for observation.'

On Sunday evening at 11.12pm a man in his 30s escaped injury when his car went down to the embankment at the corner, which exits Corrychurachan

to the north. The accidents happened just where the road surface changes from non-skid to ordinary tarmac.

The incidents mirror a similar series of crashes on the bend in January, reported by *The Oban Times*, which prompted Transport Scotland to investigate whether an upgrade of the road was needed. A82 Partnership chairman, Councillor Brian Murphy told *The Oban Times* on Tuesday: 'I spoke to Transport Scotland A82 route manager Bob Mitchell today and he told me investigations are still continuing. Given that accidents seem to be continuing at the same location I think the road needs to be treated with non-slip surfacing. This is something that really needs to be looked at - preferably before the tourist season gets underway.'

Headed: 'The A82 Partnership is looking for some action to be taken on that stretch of road to ensure that it is made safe. A

lot of times it is driver error but when you get so many incidents at pretty much the same location then you have to say there has to be something else going on other than driver error.'

Transport Scotland told *The Oban Times*: 'Following discussions between Police Scotland and our operating company, Transport Scotland instructed Bear Scotland to undertake a comprehensive assessment to investigate the causation of accidents on the A82 between Corran Ferry and Fort William.'

'The assessment has considered various factors including the road alignment, surface condition, signing and lining and drainage to determine whether any engineering remedial measures could improve road safety on the A82 in this area. The report is due to be finalised this month and recommended measures will be considered and programmed for delivery this financial year.'

# Hero's welcome for Ally 'K' at end of 125-mile run

ALMOST 1,000 people gave Ally 'K' MacPherson a hero's welcome in Portree on Saturday night at the finish of his punishing 125-mile run round Skye for Cancer Research UK.

The CalMac ferry steward broke the tape in Somerled Square just before 9pm, two minutes inside his target time of 35 hours.

The remarkable effort captured the imagination of the Skye public and raised £25,000 - more than three times his £8,000 target. A bucket collection in the square took in around £3,500 alone.

Ally left Armadale in Sleat at 10am on Friday and without sleep ran to Sligachan, up to Dunvegan, across to Portree, up to Staffin and Uig then back to Portree.

The gruelling challenge left Ally five kilos lighter, with swollen feet and a walking stick - but he was so inspired by the support he received that he would



Well done dad! Ally's delighted children Eilidh and Lewis welcome him home to Portree after his 125-mile run round Skye. Also pictured, right, is Thomas Wilson from Portree, who helped Ally through the last stages of the run.

do it all again. Ally told *The Oban Times*: 'I was gobsmacked by the welcome I got.'

'There must have been 1,000 people in Somerled Square at the finish and they reckoned that was the biggest crowd since Skye

'People were coming out of houses with food and money, banners up in the villages and cars stopping to wish me good luck.'

'Folk even came out to run with us in the middle of the night when they could have been home in their nice cosy beds.'

Ally's friend and fellow Segitheanach Gavin Bruce, a bus driver and piper who plays with the Queen's Own Highlanders, finished his shift at 1am on Saturday and drove straight to Skye to join the run at Skeabost at 3am.

Isle of Skye Running Club ran with Ally along the way and the Be Your Best Boot Camp ladies joined him for the last six or seven miles into Portree to show their support.

Meanwhile, Dr Stephen Moran opened his surgery at Dunvegan, the half-way point, to take Ally's weight and blood pressure and strap up his blistered feet.

Ally said: 'Everything went to plan except the weather, which was horrendous. From 1pm on Friday to 8.30am on Saturday it was 17 hours of driving rain then there were strong winds all round the north end of Skye.'

'My feet are swollen right up and I have a walking stick right now for hobbling about the house. I don't go back to work until next Thursday so I'll be okay by then.'

He added: 'Hugh Campbell was a diamond the whole way through. He co-ordinated the support team and must have run 40-plus miles with me as well.'

'There was a lovely feeling about the whole thing. One person told me: 'It's not just that you ran round Skye and raised money for cancer research, it is that you brought a whole island together. When you get community support like that it just opens your eyes.'

'I would do it again in a minute, no two ways about it.'

## Mentor hails effort 'a remarkable feat of human endurance'

ALLY'S training mentor, Portree athlete and three-time Portree half-marathon winner Hugh Campbell, said conditions were 'some of the worst' he had experienced on any run.

Hugh told *The Oban Times*: 'It was cold as well and it was just a case of keeping Ally going.'

He picked up a knee injury at Sligachan and it gradually deteriorated from then on. By the time he got to the last 10 miles it was causing him serious pain.

'Then it was a matter of mind over body - he just had to put one foot in front of the other and go through the pain barrier.'

'Ally had a low point in Portree when he ran past his house knowing he still had 50 miles to go - but the character he showed to keep going was absolutely incredible. For the last 10 miles his body was just shot.'

He added: 'It was a remarkable feat of human endurance and a quite spectacular performance.'

## NEWSDESKS

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Tobermory lifeboat helped cargo ship off Tiree.

# Fresh calls for west coast emergency tug after cargo ship drifts off Tiree

FRESH calls have begun for an emergency towing vessel on the west coast after a cargo ship off Tiree had to be assisted by two volunteer lifeboats and a tug from the east coast.

The 88-metre *MV Wilson Gdynia* had eight crew on board when it lost its steering in rough weather on Saturday morning.

RNLI lifeboats from Barra and Tobermory assisted the ship in a 17-hour rescue operation as it drifted 30 miles south west of Tiree.

A tug was dispatched from Aberdeen to tow the ship to shore, despite an emergency vessel patrolling seas in the north-west. This tug patrols between Barra and Shetland and was provided as a compromise after the UK Government made the controversial decision to

remove Stornoway's rescue vessel earlier in 2012.

The Aberdeen tug left the east coast at midnight on Saturday to sail across the top of the country and did not arrive until 2am on Monday.

At this time the *Gdynia* was not in immediate danger so the rescue team waited until daylight to attach the tow. The ship, carrying wood pellets, was towed to Belfast and arrived safely at 1pm on Tuesday.

Councillor Angus Campbell, leader of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, acknowledged the work of the lifeboat crew involved in the rescue but re-iterated calls for a tug permanently based in the west.

He said: 'The time delay in the boat arriving from that distance away, in addition to the severe

weather, once again highlights how vulnerable the west coast is to such incidents.'

'We would call on the UK government to reconsider the provision of a second tug based in the western waters of Scotland to reduce the risk for mariners and the environment in what is a major shipping area.'

The three-day operation raised questions about why the vessel patrolling Barra to Shetland wasn't used.

A coastguard source said the tug was available but wasn't tasked in the rescue.

A spokesman for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency said: 'The emergency towing vessel was on standby and ready to react had this become a serious emergency. The *MV Wilson Gdynia* was still under her own

power and able to navigate away from any danger despite her steering difficulties. There was therefore little risk of the vessel's foundering or grounding, and minimal risk to life or of pollution.'

'The MCA arranged for a commercial tug to undertake a routine tow of the *Wilson Gdynia* into harbour, leaving the agency's emergency towing vessel available to deal with any more serious incident arising within its operational area.'

The spokesman thanked the RNLI lifeboat teams who helped with the rescue, adding: 'The Tobermory and Barra all-weather lifeboats responded magnificently as always and we were most grateful for their highly professional support throughout this incident.'



Michael Middleton, Campbeltown, places a cross at the memorial.

# Army cadets make moving tributes to fallen WW1 heroes

ARGYLL army cadets have been moved by a recent trip to France for a World War One battlefield tour.

Teens from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Battalion Army Cadet Force were specially chosen to represent each of the unit's detachments during the visit.

The group's first stop was the former battlefield area, now farmland, to view the graves depicting only the words 'Soldier of the Great War - Known unto God'.

The reality of the Great War was then brought home by a visit to Vimy Ridge where the trenches, just 30 metres apart, were separated only by a huge bomb crater.

At Essex Farm, the cadets contemplated the fate of the wounded soldiers

who were treated in the advance dressing station where surgeon John McCrae wrote the lines of 'In Flanders Fields'. A moment of contemplation was spent in the adjacent cemetery where the youngest soldier killed in the war, who at only 15 was the same age or younger than many of the cadets, is buried.

RSM Alex Chlopuk of Lochgilphead said: 'The best part of the trip was undoubtedly marching the cadets on to parade at the Menin Gate.'

'It was a real once in a lifetime opportunity.'

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# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Ambulance incident is wake up call

THE INCIDENT reported on this week involving a woman who collapsed in Oban and was taken to hospital by police after a delay to the ambulance response time prompts the question, 'What if...?'

What if the ambulance had taken even longer than the anticipated 50 minutes? What if the other emergency services had not decided to take her to hospital? What if that was me, a family member or a friend who was waiting for medical help?

The last of these questions is one that hits home hardest. For reasons of patient confidentiality the woman taken to hospital was not identified but it is likely she is someone's partner, daughter or mother, maybe all three.

Oban's ambulance service, as pointed out by Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, has always been held in high regard and there has been no criticism aimed at the staff following this incident.

But the emergency has highlighted a clear gap in service. The remote nature of Argyll's population means the nearest ambulance cover to Oban is Lochgilphead.

An emergency medical response is one of the most important of all public services available. Unfortunately, it often takes incidents like this for us to realise that.

### GLASGOW LETTER

#### Erskine charity concert

THERE was an excellent attendance at the annual concert organised by Clydebank and District Highlander's Association to raise funds for Erskine Hospital.

And the audience was treated to one of the best concerts for years.

Rev Fred Booth, from Helensburgh, in the chair, made a first class job of ensuring the evening ran smoothly and he was well supported by all the artists.

The Gaelic singers were Paul MacCallum, Mary MacMillan and Robert Robertson with Beth Street being the Scots singer with instrumental items provided by accordionist Billy MacPhee and pipers Iain MacPhee and Robert Wood, with assistance from Iain's young son Lewis on his accordion.

A huge raffle helped to boost the considerable donation which would be forwarded to Erskine and it was pleasing representatives from the Erskine site and the Dorchester Avenue site in Glasgow were able to be present to enjoy the entertainment.

#### Piping Live 2014

THE EXCITEMENT generated by the Commonwealth Games in the city will hardly have had time to subside when, on August 11, Piping Live 2014 will start.

Tonight (Thursday) the official launch will take place in the National Piping Centre at 7.30pm.

The event is free but tickets, via the website, must be booked to guarantee a seat.

BBC Radio Scotland will be recording proceedings for its Pipeline programme. Festival Director Roddy MacLeod will be outlining the events and performers for the week which, of course, takes place prior to the World Pipe Band Championships. Please note the 'Worlds' will take place on the Friday and Saturday this year and that the Grade 1 Qualifying will be on the Friday.

Entertainment at the launch will be provided by a mini band from the Greater Glasgow Police Scotland Pipe Band, Chris Armstrong and Darren MacLean.

I would like to congratulate Roddy MacLeod, this year's overall winner of the Donald MacLeod competition recently held in Stornoway.

#### Ceol's Craic

IT IS time once again for the students and staff from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig to appear at Ceol's Craic and this will take place on Saturday April 26 at the CCA.

This will be an all-day event starting at 2.30pm with an evening of drama and music at 7.30pm with special guests

Kathleen MacInnes and Ross Martin.

Early booking of tickets is recommended, telephone 0141 352 4900. Full details of the programme next week.

#### Stirling Gaelic Choir Concert

THE ANNUAL concert of both the junior and senior choirs will take place in Victoria Hall, Dunblane, on Friday April 25 at 7.30pm.

As well as performances from both choirs, guest for the evening Robert Robertson, Mod Gold Medallist 2013, will entertain and there will be piping selections from choir member Sandy Campbell.

#### St Columba Gaelic Church Guild

A SOUP and sandwich lunch in aid of the Lusobilo Orphan Project, Karonga, Malawi, will be held in Gorbals Parish Church, 1 Errol Gardens, Glasgow, G5 0RA, on Saturday April 26 from 10.30am until 2.30pm.

A good support is requested at this event for such a worthy cause.

#### Reminder

THE AGM of the Glasgow branch of An Comunn will take place in An Leanag, Mansfield Street, Partick, on Wednesday April 23 at 7pm.

An important item on the agenda will be the forthcoming local mod in June and everyone interested in helping with this event is encouraged to attend.

#### Diary dates

**Thursday April 17:** Launch of Piping Live - see above.

**Saturday April 19:** Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm to 11pm - Donnie and Diane's Band.

**Tuesday April 22:** Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72a, Waterloo Street, 8pm - Steve Tilston.

**Wednesday April 23:** An Comunn, Glasgow Branch AGM - see above.

**Friday April 25:** Glasgow Uist and Barra Association Ceilidh Dance, Crawford Hall, Partick, 9pm-1am. Scott Wood Trio and guests, National Piping Centre, 7.30pm

**Saturday April 26:** Glasgow Skye Association Closing Ceilidh (The Wee Skye), Crawford Hall, 7.30pm. St Columba Gaelic Church Guild - see above.

#### Pub scene

MUSIC in the Park Bar this weekend will be provided by Deoch 'n Dorus on Friday, Monach Isles on Saturday and Trail West on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Penny Dogs on Friday and the Old Skool on Saturday.

Neil Murray. Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.



## Kilchoan Show - July 23 1971

This week's flashback photograph comes from the files of *The Oban Times*. It features Alec McKinnon of Achnaba shearing a sheep at Kilchoan Show on July 23 1971, watched by judge A McGillivray. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

## Letters to the editor

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

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000  
Fax: 01631 568001

### Incredulous at ferry fare complaints

Sir,  
There must be considerable incredulity amongst commuters nationwide that west Lochaber residents are up-in-arms at being charged a ferry fare of £2.30 to transport themselves and a car across the Corran Narrows, (*The Oban Times*, April 3), given that their annual rail season tickets might each cost several thousands of pounds.

And this cost increases inexorably year on year.

So Mr Davidson, before you are sent to pastures new, get yourself and your fellow officers off their seats - car and office - and do some real policing on the beat or make it a level playing field.

For every bike you pull over, pull over the boy racer in his Clio/Corsa/Saxo/Suburu cars with big illegal exhausts, illegal tinted windows and check if their insurance company knows about the modifications.

That will keep you busy until the end of the summer.

To the hoteliers, cafe and bar owners, I'll pass onto as many bikers I know, as well as going through the forums, Mr Davidson's thoughts and suggest a run up the east coast would be a better option.

**Mark Moffat, Greenock.**

### End of life care on the cheap

Sir,  
I read J Watson's letter about the excellent care he received in Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital.

My mother received the same in her local hospital in Dunoon. But when NHS Highland took over, they closed down the excellent hospice and got rid of all palliative care expertise, despite a local outcry. They insisted there was still hospice care. My mother, frail and aged 94, ended up there after a fall in 2011. We, too, heard our mum

### Discrimination against bikers

Sir,  
Here we go again, bikers being discriminated against - *The Oban Times*, April 3.

Oban's outgoing police chief said 'motorcyclists are going to be a focus of our road policing from now until the end of the summer'.

Should drug dealers, pervers, fraudsters and general bam pots

ill health for some time. He won his gold medal at the National Mod in Oban in 1962 and shared the premier solo singing honours with local vocalist Anne Lorne Gillies. He went on to appear often at Highland gatherings, concerts and ceilidhs where his pleasing singing voice brought enjoyment to many.

George is also one of the voices featured in the first volume of the recently released CD compilation 'Gold Medallists All'.

His formative years were spent in the Caolila and Port Charlotte districts and he was a fairly regular visitor to his native isle and the haunts of his youth.

He leaves a widow Margaret, a native of Harris, medical secretary daughter Catriona, and son Archie, captain of the Fishery Protection Vessel *Hirta*.

Sincere sympathies are extended to them in their loss.

### Lifeboat shop

WORK on the new Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) lifeboat station at Port Askaig is near completion and plans are afoot for the official opening of the new centre early next month.

The new station also contains shop premises and these will be open to catch the Easter tourist trade on April 18 and 19, from 1pm to 4pm.

The retail outlet, featuring RNLI products, will be manned by volunteers from the local lifeboat fundraisers' committee.

not be your main focus? Going by what I read in *The Oban Times* every week, Oban has more than its fair share and rising.

Is this why he's the outgoing chief - targets not being met on real crime so let's hit the easy target, 95 per cent of whom all ride above board.

The majority of bikers don't speed, the majority of bike accidents are caused by vehicle drivers pulling out of junctions into a bike's path without looking.

Some other accidents are caused by diesel spills - at most roundabouts - horse muck on country roads or trying to avoid potholes on every other road.

So Mr Davidson, before you are sent to pastures new, get yourself and your fellow officers off their seats - car and office - and do some real policing on the beat or make it a level playing field.

For every bike you pull over, pull over the boy racer in his Clio/Corsa/Saxo/Suburu cars with big illegal exhausts, illegal tinted windows and check if their insurance company knows about the modifications.

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**Mark Moffat, Greenock.**

### Gaelic would need to be centre stage

Sir,  
I would like to offer some observations on the proposal to set up a national park for Mull and surrounding islands.

The first aim of the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000 is 'to

conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area'. On this objective I think both park authorities have failed and caused damage to cultural heritage.

Let me explain; a simple look at any map of the Trossachs, Loch Lomond and Cairngorms shows that by a huge margin, Gaelic is the most important language of the landscape. The same is true for Mull. However, both the national park authorities have damaged the Gaelic language through a culture of resistance and ignorance of what 'culture' and 'heritage' are. They are not something you learn at university. Both these public authorities do less, for Gaelic, than local authorities where there is no national park.

For example, Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) actively prevents Gaelic appearing on core path signs despite the fact Highland Council, in which part of the park lies, uses bilingual signs. So despite the additional aims of the park authority, they are actually doing less.

They still, after five years, have not published their Gaelic Language Plan in final form. There simply isn't the understanding at officer level as to how important Gaelic is, its underpinning status in the landscape and what it tells us.

A pro-active approach, based on a working knowledge and understanding, is required. Not chunks of rock with large English text and tiny Gaelic so small a magnifying glass is required.

Gaelic is at the heart, the core, of heritage and culture in Mull and any national park authority will fail unless it recognises this fact, not in glossy plans and papers, but in action on the ground. Indeed, it is through a combination of institutional ignorance and inaction over many years that Gaelic is at such a low ebb in Mull.

Unless Gaelic is at the heart of the actions of any national park in Mull, I would say it will actively damage cultural heritage. Lets gach deagh dhruachd,

**Donald Morris, Inverness.**

More volunteers would be welcomed and you can offer your services by contacting the fundraisers' leader Margaret Hastie on 01496 302035.

### Students' visit

IONAD Chalum Chille Ìle recently played host to a 19-strong group of Gaelic speaking students from the Celtic Society of Edinburgh University.

The students' visit gave them the opportunity of hearing the local Gaelic dialect at first hand and thereby expand their use and knowledge of the language.

They also participated in a Gaelic song workshop, led by Gaelic language stalwart Morag MacDougall, and enjoyed fishing in the sea at Port Ellen's 'man of the sea' Jim MacFarlane.

Bronwen Currie spoke of her forthcoming participation in the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Israel and Palestine where the emphasis will be on providing support to vulnerable communities in occupied territories.

Extramural activities saw a visit to the Museum of Islay Life, led by Gaelic and local history activist Anne MacGill, and a tour of Bruichladdich Distillery, directed by Gaelic-speaking manager Duncan MacGillivray.

This was a successful innovation the organisers hope to repeat.

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

## Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

SAOIL cò a' chiad duine a thuir gur e amaideas a th' anns an lagh?

Chan eil e gu diofar tha mi cinnteach, agus cha mhotha na sin a bu chòir annas a bhith againn gum bheil ceistean a' nochdadh bho àm gu àm mu ghloicas an lagha, oir 's e daoine fhèin a chruthaich e agus chan eil sinn uile-fhiosrach. Saoilidh mi nach bi mòran ann nach aontaich gum bheil feum aig mac an duine air riaghailtean laghail gus òrdugh agus dòigh a chumail air beatha làitheil choimhearsnachdan nàiseanta.

Agus gu h-eadar-nàiseanta tha feum againn air modhan-obrach a cheadaicheas conaltradh eadar dhùthchannan is chinidhean agus gu sònraichte nuair a tha eas-aonta neo aithreig ag òirigh eatarra. Gu dearbh 's ann aig amannan den t-seòrsa sin a tha seasmhachd agus ghloicas lagh eadar-nàiseanta air fheuchainn chun na h-ìre as dorra, agus mar a tha fios againn chan eil e daonnan a' soirbheachadh ged nach e an lagh fhèin is coireach dhan sin anns a' mhòr-chuid.

Tha suidheachadh na Ucràine na adhbhar iomagain fhathast le cultaran eadar-dhealaichte sear is siar a' suirghe, agus a' sgaradh, bheachdan agus rùintean an t-sluaigh.

Nach bu mhad gum biodh an seanfhacal ceart a tha ag ràdh, mar as lugha an naidheachd gur ann as motha an t-sith! Bheil beagan adhbhar dòchais ann leis nach eil na meadhanan a' dèanamh buileach umhir mun Ucràin a-nise?

Ach a' dol air ais chun an lagha, tha mi den bheachd gum robh mòran a' ghabh annas anns a' chùis-lagha aig Michael Adebolajo agus Michael Adebowale, an dithis a' mhurt an saighdear Lee Rigby dìreach air sgàth 's gun robh e a' caitheamh geansaidh 'Help for Heroes'.

Nochd e an dèidh làimhe gun robh iad an dòchas gu marbhadh am poileas iad agus gum biodh cliù mar tarachd Muslamach aca. Chan aithne dhomh gu do thachair cùis-lagha riamh anns an robh dealbhan telebhisean den chron mar a bha san t-suidheachadh uabhasach seo, ach a dh'aindeoin sin fhuair an dithis seo èisteachd cùrtach. A rèir an lagha bha còir aca air lethidh sin, ach cha b' annas e gum deach binn làn-beatha air Adebolajo a' ciallachadh gum bàsaich e sa phrìosan. Chaidh 45 bliadhna prìosain air Adebowale leis gun deach co-dhùmadh gun robh esan a' leantainn Adebolajo.

Thuirteaghlach Lee Rigby gun d' fhuair iadsan ceartas a co-dhùmaidhean na cùrtach. An e amaideas lagha a th' ann gum bheil Michael Adebolajo a-nise air cead fhoatainn tagradh a dhèanamh an aghaidh na binn làn-beatha?

LEGISLATORS are not omniscient and legal systems can occasionally prove inadequate.

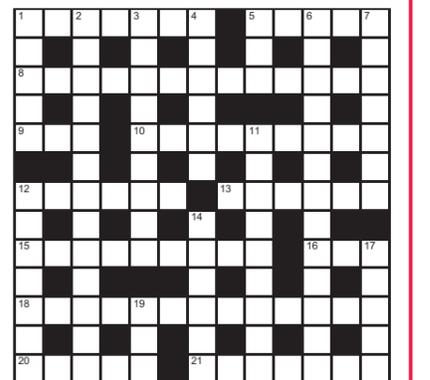
But the basis of equality underpinning good law is a critical principle which entitles everyone to a fair hearing, as was demonstrated in the recent trial of Michael Adebolajo and Michael Adebowale for the murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby.

Adebowale's minimum 45 years in prison, and the whole-life sentence for Adebolajo, was just according to Lee Rigby's family. So is the law now wrong in allowing Adebolajo to appeal that whole-life sentence?

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

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- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Across</b>  | <b>Down</b>                               |
| 1 Division (7)                                       | 1 Japanese dishes (5)                     |
| 5 Fine thread (5)                                    | 2 One of twelve (8,5)                     |
| 8 Beset with elements which will cause failure (4-9) | 3 Forever (9)                             |
| 9 Public house (3)                                   | 4 More tasteless (6)                      |
| 10 Found in honey and fruits (9)                     | 5 Grassland (3)                           |
| 12 Untidy (6)  | 6 Large square-rigged war liner (4,2,3,4) |
| 13 Pock-marked (6)                                   | 7 Brainbox (7)                            |
| 15 Submachine arms (5,4)                             | 11 Remove from computer (9)               |
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The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification.

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

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The views expressed in The Oban Times are not necessarily those of this newspaper.

**Design award deadline looms**

THE CLOCK is ticking for architects and designers of inspirational buildings in Lochaber looking to get involved in the Highlands and Islands Design Awards. Entries to the competition, which is organised by the Inverness Architectural Association (IAA), must be in by Friday 25 April. As well as new buildings, the judges are also looking for examples of restored buildings, external spaces and innovation within the industry. The awards feature a range of categories and include prizes for best new building, best restoration project and the best or most innovative use of timber. Projects must have been completed within the period January 2012 to January 2014. Past winners include Acharacle Primary School.

**Benbecula to host formal council meetings**

FORMAL meetings of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar are taking place in Benbecula next week for the first time since 2002. Meetings of the audit and scrutiny committee, the policy and resources committee and the full comhairle are due to take place in Lionacleit School on Wednesday, April 23. Meeting times are 9.30am, 2pm and 7.30pm, respectively. Comhairle leader Angus Campbell said: 'Similar to the Scottish Cabinet meeting in Stornoway this week, this gives the comhairle a chance to take the decision making process to the public and provides them with an opportunity to see the democratic process at first hand. In addition, it provides an opportunity for us to meet with people and hear their concerns. I am very much looking forward to the Uist meetings next week. The meetings are open to the public.'

**Hillwalkers warned to take care on high mountains**

HILLWALKERS have been warned to take care over the Easter weekend with huge amounts of snow and ice still lingering in the high mountains. The holiday traditionally sees thousands of visitors arrive in the west Highlands to scale the peaks with many on their first outing of the year. Heather Morning of the Mountaineering Council of Scotland said: 'At this time of year it is really difficult to know what to expect. One day on the hill could be warm, dry and calm with good visibility, the next you could be in a blizzard. The important thing is to be prepared and check out the weather forecast in advance to enable you to make a decision about what kit to take.'



FC Corran campaigners have won huge support online. 20\_f16ferry04

# Ferry fare group wins big on-line support

Furious protesters want free passage across Loch Linhhe

A CAMPAIGN to abolish fares on the Corran Ferry across Loch Linhhe has become an on-line hit after receiving more than 2,000 'likes' on its Facebook page. Protest group Free Crossing for Corran (FC Corran) launched its crusade for 'a long term sustainable free crossing' on April 1 with a mock ribbon-cutting on the ferry's Ardgor and Nether Lochaber slipways. The event attracted huge media interest - and since then messages of support have poured in as the group steps up efforts to force a re-think from ferry owners Highland Council. FC Corran claims remote communities west of the ferry are being unfairly treated compared with others in Scotland and want the crossing to be treated the same way as the toll-free Skye bridge. They are furious that the cost of a book of 30 tickets has risen 25 per cent in a year - equivalent to over £200 extra annually for people travelling to work in Fort William five days a week. The group is also concerned that more haulage companies are shunning the ferry and are

By STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

will probably say no and then we would go to the Scottish Government. 'We have to take it one step at a time and go through the proper procedures. Under public service obligation rules, there is scope for Europe to subsidise transport services to protect rural communities.' Highland Council maintains a way must be found to plug an annual £173,000 shortfall between income from fares and the £1.3 million cost of running the ferry. Concessionary fares, £2.30 single for a car and passengers - still offers good value for money, it says. The council also points out that a single fare for a car has gone up by 90 pence, 12.8 per cent, to £7.90 in two years - far less than the concessionary tickets. A consultants' socio-economic study of fare levels, which outlines the impacts of increasing fares by either 10 or 25 per cent, is currently out to community consultation. Highland Council's community services committee is due to consider a new fares regime on May 15.

## West Lochaber mourns death of Mallaig coastguard officer

MOURNERS from across west Lochaber and further afield turned out in force to pay their respects to Mallaig coastguard officer Ian Macnaughton last weekend. The former Mallaig lifeboatman died suddenly last Monday aged 60 after becoming unwell, leaving local people and his family devastated. His funeral on Saturday morning saw St. Mary's in Arisaig packed to overflowing, with many more people standing outside. The Rev. Edgar Ogston of the Church of Scotland led the service. From Arisaig, mourners travelled the five miles to Beoraid cemetery in Morar and on to the funeral tea in the West Highland Hotel in Mallaig. Ann Martin, editor of community newspaper Westword said it was fitting that the three communities each had a part in proceedings. She told *The Oban Times*: 'It was a huge funeral - I have never seen the church so full and there

were people standing outside. There were ex-pats from all over the place - people I had not seen for a long time had travelled from all over. That says an awful lot about how highly Ian was regarded. It was not just a matter of paying respect, everyone was so upset and there were quite a lot of red eyes. The shock for his family must have been awful. I don't think it has sunk in yet.' She added: 'Everybody called Ian a gentle giant. He was involved in everything, especially Mallaig and Morar Games. He had his own tractor company and was always doing jobs for people that needed doing.' Lochailort-born Mr Macnaughton and his wife Jean celebrated their ruby wedding anniversary last year along with their children Ian and Rachel, their grandchildren, and extended family. His family in tribute said: 'Big Ian as he was widely known was big in every sense - big in stature, big in heart and a huge



Sadly missed: Ian Macnaughton, right, was presented with his long service medal and certificate in Mallaig coastguard station in September 2009. 10\_f16mallaig01

Mallaig coastguard station officer until his death, received the RNLI Thanks on vellum for his bravery in saving a fisherman from drowning after a fishing boat sank off Rum in 1986. He received his 20 years long service medal from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in September 2009.

## Charity group sinks skiff ready for row

THE WOODEN boat to be rowed 100 miles from St Kilda to Skye for charity next month has been sunk in Portree harbour - to make her watertight for the voyage. The sinking of the *Aurora* was part of the Row St Kilda team's preparations for two teams of four inexperienced rowers to row from St Kilda back to Skye to raise money for the local RNLI and Skye and Lochalsh Young Carers. The 120-year-old Skye skiff, fully restored by Broadford boatbuilder Iain MacLean, was

launched at Portree on April 5 amid great fanfare. Mr MacLean had managed to save almost all of the boat's original larch cladding but years of being kept in a shed meant the boards had shrunk. Several leaks were the result but a few days underwater weighed down with eight sandbags will see the *Aurora's* timbers swell and become totally watertight again. Then it will be training most evenings and weekends for the eight rowers and three coxswains, before they row the gruelling

100-miles in May - weather permitting. Crew member Donnie Nicolson, who originally came up with the idea, said: 'I don't know what date or time we will be leaving yet, it's all weather dependent. But whether 3pm or 3am, once all our training and preparations are in place and the weather if fine, our mini armada will set sail from Portree, next stop Leverburgh, and then onto Village Bay St Kilda. And that's before the 100 mile row back to Skye.' Once the green light is given,

22 people, including the back-up team, will sail to St Kilda on support vessels, the Broadford-registered fishing boat *Dunan Star II* and Portree cabin cruiser the *Aimee-Louise*. The skiff will be lashed to the fishing boat's foredeck on the way out before being lowered into the water off St Kilda for the voyage home. Meanwhile, a tracker fixed to the *Aurora* and shared on the Row St Kilda website, means everyone can see exactly how many miles of practice the crew is putting in.



The Aurora will be fully watertight after a few days immersion in Portree harbour.



## Pupils' day trip cheer thanks to new ferry link

Pupils from Sgoil an Iochdair in South Uist have been to make a full day trip to the mainland for the first time - thanks to the new Mallaig-Lochboisdale ferry service being trialled from November to April. Highlight of the children's day was a trip to Fort William and a ride up Aonach Mòr on the mountain gondola at the Nevis Range ski resort. Pupils and staff would like to thank Shiel buses, Nevis Range, the Nevis Centre, CalMac and DA Travel for making the day such a memorable success.

## Second Portree supermarket planning application lodged

A SECOND planning application for a supermarket in Portree has been lodged with Highland Council. The council is already received a bid from developers Oatridge Ltd for a 38,000 sq ft at Home Farm off the Staffin road. Now Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association (LSHA) and Rubicon Land Ltd have lodged a separate application for a 36,000 sq ft supermarket and petrol filling station on the Dunvegan Road side of the Home Farm site on the town's northern outskirts. The land is

owned by LSHA, who say proceeds from the sale would be used to fund house building. Chief executive Lachie MacDonald said: 'We are delighted to be part of this project to improve shopping facilities for residents of Portree and the whole of Skye and Lochalsh. This development involves an area of land that we would have difficulty developing for housing in the foreseeable future, and we envisage the receipt from the sale of this land being recycled into other affordable housing projects.' Rubicon Land have in recent years

carried out numerous supermarket transactions with Tesco, Asda, Lidl, Aldi and the Co-op. Director Colin Taylor said: 'This is a very exciting project for Skye. Our initial plans were well received by local residents when we carried out a public consultation exercise in Portree 18 months ago, and since then we have been speaking to potential operators and working up our plans. It is fair to say that the supermarket industry has been in turmoil over the past few years, with all the major operators suffering from

falling sales which is hitting their store development programme. We are however in regular contact with all the main operators through our other ongoing development projects, and are aware that they are now starting to look for new sites. We also know Portree is on their radar, and strongly believe that if we secure planning consent we can finally bring one of the major supermarket operators to Portree.' Asked whether Oatridge and Rubicon could be in competition for the same operator, Mr MacDonald said: 'Correct.'

## CalMac celebrates 50th anniversary

CALMAC celebrated the 50th anniversary of one of the most important events in the history of west coast ferries services on Tuesday. David MacBrayne Ltd began the first car ferry to the Western Isles with the *MV Hebrides* on the Uig-Lochmaddy-Tarbert triangle on April 15, 1964. It was followed a few months later by two others, the *MV Clansman* and *MV Columba*, which operated to Mull and Skye. They were the first ro-ro (drive-on drive-off) ships to serve the west coast islands. Speaking before sailing on the *MV Hebrides* from Uig to Tarbert en route to the Cabinet meeting in Stornoway, Finance Secretary John Swinney said: 'I am delighted that CalMac is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its first car ferry sailing to the Western Isles. The company provides vital lifeline services to Scotland's island communities. In this, the Year of Homecoming, CalMac will transport thousands of visitors from home and abroad coming to enjoy the Scotland's spectacular scenery.' David MacBrayne Ltd and the Caledonian Steam Packet Company merged in 1973 to become Caledonian MacBrayne, now CalMac Ferries Ltd. CalMac managing director Martin Dorchester said: 'The introduction of these ships revolutionised ferry services at the time and this anniversary shows just how far the company has come and how services have improved in 50 years.'

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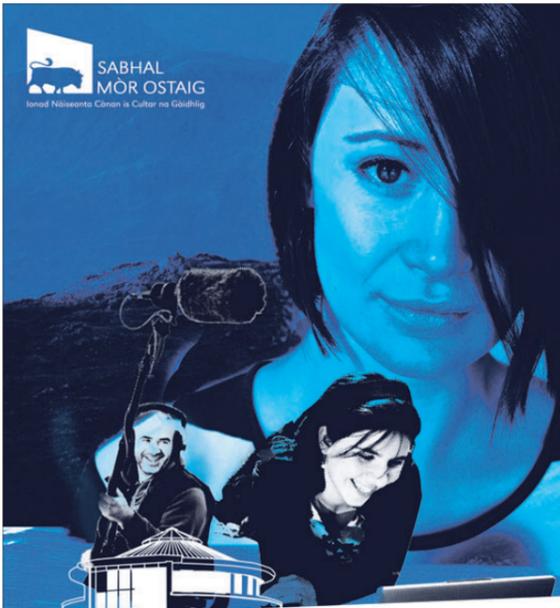
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**First class music and celebration beckons for festival weekend**

THE INSTRUMENTS are tuned, Oban's guesthouses are filling up and the sun has appeared - it must be time for the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival.

There is a big party planned for the 31st annual festival, with more than 1,100 competitors expected to fill 125 classes throughout the first weekend in May.

Under festival chairman Donald MacLean, this year's event also plans to introduce a taster fringe programme through some 'pilot events', with a view to making this a more permanent part of the festival experience.

Obanites should look out for fringe events taking place in pubs and coffee shops throughout the town over the weekend of the festival.

The festival's contribution to Oban and the surrounding area should not be underestimated: it brings an estimated £2m to the local economy and organisers argue that it also brings much needed sunny weather!

But its main draw is the strong cultural element of traditional music, dancing, singing and drama, which attracts people from all over the UK and beyond.

Friday, May 2 will see musicians in the Highlands and Islands Accordion and Fiddle Masters take centre stage, along with dancers competing in the unique Scottish Highland Dancing Area Finals. Other musicians and performers get in on the act the following day, including Highland dancing and the prestigious Scottish Choreography Challenge.

The Saturday is rounded off with a Concert of Champions, followed by the Festival Fling at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls. Sunday sees the conclusion of the Scottish Choreography Challenge.

For further information and ticket sales please phone 07510841198 or visit obanfestival.org



**Photos from 2013**

This year, like previous years, *The Oban Times* will be on hand to provide excellent coverage of the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival. Here is a small selection of photographs taken at last year's event.



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# FESTIVAL DIARY

Make sure you buy your copy of The Oban Times following the Festival for coverage of this spectacular event, which brings so much talent and enjoyment to the town.

<b>Friday 2 May</b> Action Songs, Choirs, Groups, Ensembles, Recorder, Singing <b>Corran Halls</b>	<b>Saturday 3 May (cont)</b> Scottish Choreography Challenge <b>Corran Halls</b>
Accordion & Fiddle Masters <b>St. John's Cathedral</b>	Singing <b>Glencruitten Church Centre and Glencruitten Church</b>
Scottish Area Finals Followed by Solo/Duet Choreography <b>Atlantis Leisure</b>	Woodwind & Brass <b>Oban Congregational Church</b>
<b>Saturday 3 May</b> Accordion <b>St. Columba's Cathedral Hall</b>	<b>CONCERT OF CHAMPIONS</b> Corran Halls <b>FESTIVAL FAMILY DANCE</b> 'Festival Fling' Argyllshire Gathering Hall
Clarsach <b>Argyllshire Gathering Halls</b>	<b>Sunday 4 May</b> Scottish Choreography Challenge <b>Corran Halls</b>
Fiddle <b>Regent Hotel</b>	<b>PARADE OF PIPES &amp; DRUMS</b> Station Square 5.30pm to Corran Halls
Highland Dancing <b>Atlantis Leisure</b>	Programmes available from Oban Music & Corran Halls Tickets for Concert, Festival Fling & Accordion & Fiddle masters available from Oban Music All other tickets and enquiries Telephone 07510 841198 www.obanfestival.org
Piano <b>St. John's Cathedral</b>	
Piping <b>Oban High School</b>	

Oban Phoenix Cinema	<b>Escape From Planet Earth</b>	Thurs 17th	13.00 3D, 15.30 2D
	<b>The Legend of Hercules</b>	Thurs 17th	18.00
	<b>A Long Way Down</b>	Thurs 17th	20.30
	<b>RIO 2</b>	Fri 18th	13.00 2D, 15.45 3D
		Sat 19th	13.00 2D, 15.30 3D
		Sun 20th	13.00 3D, 15.30 2D
		Mon 21st	15.45 3D
		Tues 22nd	15.45 3D
		Wed 23rd	15.45 3D
		Thurs 24th	15.45 2D
	<b>Divergent</b>	Fri 18th	18.00
	Sat 19th	18.00	
	Sun 20th	21.00	
	Mon 21st	18.00	
	Tues 22nd	21.00	
	Wed 23rd	18.00	
	Thurs 24th	21.00	
	<b>Noah</b>	Fri 18th	21.00 3D
	Sat 19th	21.00 2D	
	Sun 20th	18.00 3D	
	Mon 21st	21.00 2D	
	Tues 22nd	18.00 3D	
	Wed 23rd	21.00 2D	
	Thurs 24th	18.00 3D	

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**Escape From Planet Earth (U)**  
The story takes place on planet Baab, where admired astronaut Scarb Supernova (Brendan Fraser) is a national hero to the blue alien population. A master of daring rescues, Scarb pulls off astonishing feats with the quiet aid of his nerdy brother, Gary (Rob Corradini), head of mission control at BASA.

**The Legend of Hercules (12A)**  
In this epic origin story The Legend of Hercules, Kellan Lutz (immortal) stars as the mythical Greek hero - the son of Zeus, a half-god, half-man blessed with extraordinary strength. Betrayed by his stepfather, a tyrant king, and exiled and sold into slavery because of a forbidden love, Hercules must use his formidable powers to fight his way back to his rightful kingdom. Through harrowing battles and gladiatorial death matches, Hercules embarks on a legendary odyssey to overthrow the King and restore peace to the land.

**A Long Way Down (15)**  
Four lost souls - a disgraced TV presenter, a foul-mouthed teen, an isolated single mother and a solipsistic muso - decide to end their lives on the same night, New Year's Eve. When the disillusioned quartet of strangers meet unintentionally at the same suicide hotspot, a London high-rise with the well-earned nickname Tapper's Tower, they mutually agree to call off their plans for six weeks, forming an unconventional, dysfunctional family, becoming media sensations as the Tapper House Four and searching together for the reasons to keep on living.

**RIO 2 (U)**  
In RIO 2 we find Blu, Jewel and their three kids living the perfect domesticated life in that magical city.

## Fèis Lochabair closes with celebration concert



It was standing room only in Banavie Primary School hall. 20\_116feis04

FÈIS LOCHABAIR celebrated a hugely successful week with a closing concert in Banavie Primary School on Friday.

Children performed songs, tunes and plays learned with tutors in fun-filled sessions over a five-day programme designed to boost traditional music skills and the use of Gaelic through the arts.

Fèis beag (wee fèis) children were a big hit on stage, performing a song composed specially for the show with the help of tutors Frances O'Connell, Kathleen Clelland and Marie Oliver.

But 'Tha an t-side anns an Ghearasdan' (the weather in Fort William) may have been a little tongue-in-cheek.

Frances, originally from Castlebay in Barra, said: 'It is amazing how quickly the children picked it up in the four days - they are like wee sponges.'

Kids aged five and over recorded a song written by Skye musician Blair Douglas - and it is hoped Cairdeas (Friendship) will be used at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow this summer.

Tutors over the week included fèis veteran Angus

Grant, the left-handed fiddler, Rachel Walker (song), Iain MacDonald (keyboard), newbie Sianne Moodie (clarsach), Eilidh Shaw and Archie Clark (both fiddle), Alec MacLean (button box) and Andrew MacDonald (accordion).

Peggy MacDonald taught art classes, Angus MacLeod drama and Jane MacNeill step dance classes.

A total of 141 children took part - a substantial increase on last year and further evidence that Gaelic-based activities are enjoying a resurgence amongst the young.



The drama group performed a play in Gaelic to an appreciative audience. 20\_116feis02



Tutor Eilidh Shaw from Arisaig keeps an eye on her fiddle group. 20\_116feis03



Alec MacLean's accordion group take a lead from their tutor at Friday's concert. 20\_116feis01

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Spring Edition

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## Oban High hosts dance festival

OBAN High School played host to the Argyll and Bute Dance Festival on March 25 which saw 21 dance groups from Oban High, Hermitage Academy, Campbeltown Grammar and Lochgilphead High School, amongst others, taking part.

The standard from all the groups was high and the judging panel had a difficult job.

This year the guest judges were Jonathon Barton, vice principal from Ballet West, Taynuilt, and principal dancer Sara-Maria Smith, along with PE teacher Moira Barbour.

Before the senior competition results were announced two of Ballet West's full-time students

performed two inspiring pieces, which was a fitting end to a fantastic day of dance.

The trophies for the event were donated by Active Schools and this year the most outstanding junior dancer honour was won by Dalia Charlton of Hermitage Academy and the senior outstanding award was won by Rachel Cross Hopkins of Oban High School.

**Results**  
Junior competition  
1 overall: Emily Edwards and Sammy Parkinson, Oban High School. 2 overall: Hermitage 7, Zoe Stewart, Erin Stewart, Olivia Blenkinsop, Hermitage Academy. 3 overall: Hermitage 5, Courtney Sutherland, Shannon Potter, Hermitage Academy.

Best presentation: Wonderwoman, Hannah Black, Louise Dott, Imogen Houston, Nicola McKerral, Susan Shaw, Chloe Twynham, Campbeltown Grammar School.  
Most entertaining: Hermitage 5.  
Senior competition  
1 overall: Caitlin Taylor and Maeve Hannigan, Oban High School. 2 overall: Hermitage 4, Abbie Ferguson, Katie Ward, Hermitage Academy. 3 overall: Hermitage 1, Laura Doogan, Anna Turnbull, Morgan Baller, Libby Calvery Cooper, Jake Sutherland, Louise Davis, Hermitage Academy.  
Best presentation: Hermitage 4.  
Most entertaining: icandy, Shannon Binnie, Linsey Cairns, Chloe Gillies, Morgan Irwin, Kathryn MacBrayne, Iona McDougal, Hannah Young.

## Fèis Latharna has its 20th birthday party



Fèis Latharna tutor Joy Dunlop cut the cake to mark the 20th anniversary of the event with help from two of the younger participants, Donnie MacCorquodale and Sophie Houston. The cake was made by Oban Chocolate Company. 16\_116ceillidh01

## Donna is a shadow of her former self

A FORT William supermarket worker is a shadow of her former self after shedding more than four stone and four dress sizes in a get-fit drive.

Donna Hughes was a more-than-curry 13stone 6lbs last August but now weighs in at 9stone 3lbs - and has had to buy a new wardrobe of clothes to match her new size eight shape.

The 33-year-old single mum-of-two was a size 16 last summer, and came back from holiday in England 'miserable' after struggling with the heat.

She said: 'My favourite jeans were cutting in to me and I felt I couldn't keep up with my two young daughters.'

'Talia, my eldest, who is eight, went back to school last August and I joined my local Scottish Slimmers class that day.'

'My sister works in the hotel where the classes are held so I had heard about the class and when I walked through the door I knew I had done the right thing.'

Despite being mum to Talia and two-year-old

Maddison and working full time, Donna stuck to the group's positive eating plan and soon reaped the benefits.

She said: 'I'm a fussy vegetarian but the choice was amazing and I enjoyed making all my own food.'

'As a single mum you are always short of time, so at the start of each week I would do a big batch of

cooking that kept me going for the week. Sometimes it was one or two in the morning when I was cooking - but I was determined and it's certainly worth it now.'

Donna added: 'I've kept the jeans that were my final trigger to do something about my expanding waistline - and I've also kept my old work trousers that are now massive.'



New woman: Donna has slimmed down from a size 16 to a size eight in just eight months.

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Pupils of Rockfield Primary School won the shield at Oban and Lorn's annual gymnastics festival. 15\_t14gymnastics01

## Pupils from across Oban and Lorn compete in gymnastics festival

CHILDREN from Oban and Lorn enjoyed the annual gymnastics festival at Oban High School.

Pupils from St Columba's, Easdale and Rockfield primary schools were prize winners with Park and Luig primaries also taking part. As well as the 64 competitors, eight high school gymnasts performed during breaks.

St Columba's group five won the 'stand out prize' for unusual balances and positions whilst Easdale group one were awarded best small school. Rockfield group B won the shield for best big school.

Karen MacCorquodale, active schools coordinator for Oban, Lorn and the Isles, said: 'The competition was fantastic and a big thank you has to go to the staff and volunteers who worked so hard in preparing the groups and also taking them along to the event. It was great to see the smaller rural schools represented as well.'

'It is very encouraging to see so many gymnasts taking part - Mrs Clunie will be pleased to have such talented performers in her gymnastics club when they get to high school.'



Andrew Robinson, a classical and flamenco guitar player, will perform in Ardrishaig at the end of the month for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

## Former Kilmartin school pupil is Scotland's leading flamenco guitarist

A FORD man who has become Scotland's leading flamenco guitar player will perform in Ardrishaig Public Hall to help raise funds for charity.

Organised by the Mid Argyll Marie Curie Cancer Care fundraising group, Andrew Robinson's concert will entertain the audience on April 26.

Formerly a pupil at Kilmartin Primary School,

Andrew studied classical guitar aged 11 at the Music School of Douglas Academy.

At the school he was given the chance to perform as a soloist and as a chamber musician.

**Performed**  
As a soloist Andrew has performed at many of the UK's leading guitar festivals, including the Dundee Guitar Festival and the Lewes Guitar Festival.

In demand as both a classical and flamenco guitarist he has worked with various artists and ensembles such as Hebrides Ensemble, Carlos Bonnel and Yvonne Paterson.

He has gained international recognition from flamenco guitarists Emilio Maya and Gerardo Nunez, who invited Andrew to Spain to study on his flamenco course. Now, he works at the

prestigious Live Music Now! scheme where he has been involved with recitals, community performances and educational workshops. Much of his work has been with primary and secondary schools and particularly with schools that cater for children with special needs and learning difficulties. The concert will start at 7.30pm.

# Curtain up on the 66th Argyll Drama Festival

SPINE chilling drama, thrillers and comedy performances will be in store for the audience at this year's Argyll Drama Festival.

Now in its 66th year, eight talented teams will take to the stage in Ardrishaig Public Hall next week to present their one-act plays.

Benderloch and North Connel, Team G, will open the festival on Wednesday night with its hilarious comedy 22 Hardcastle Court.

It will be followed by the spine-chilling drama Blood Ties from Campbeltown's Accent Players.

The team was placed second at the Lorn Festival and the Kintyre Festival with the play.

Lochgilhead Drama Club, Team B, will perform its laugh a minute production - A Little Box of Oblivion.

Mid Argyll Drama Club open Thursday evening with The Tea Dance, based in the 1930s - a gentle comedy, which will keep the audience guessing.

The winners of the Lorn Drama Festival, Benderloch and North Connel, Team M, will perform an engrossing drama That's Mine, This Is Yours.

Lochgilhead Drama Club Team M, placed third at the Kintyre and Lorn Festival, will perform Who is Millybank?

The final evening opens with Tarbert Academy Drama Club and its play,

Grimm Tales. To close the event Peninver Players, from Campbeltown, will tell the tale of The Black Ring, a highway robbery set in an 18th century coaching inn.

Prizes will be awarded after the final play has been performed on Friday evening.

Jim Morrison, secretary of Argyll Drama Festival, said: 'Enthusiasm, dedication and lots of talent are the hallmarks of these eight productions reaching the highest quality of drama and entertainment.'

Tickets are now available for the Argyll Drama Festival from The Bookshop, Lochgilhead, or at the door on the night. The curtain will go up at 7.15pm.



The Accent Players will be performing on Wednesday night. 15\_t14drama02



Benderloch and North Connel Team M, who won the overall prize at Oban's Lorn Drama Festival, will be playing out their engrossing drama in Ardrishaig next week. 15\_t14drama05

## West Highland waters feature in new cook book

WEST Highland waters are amongst the ingredients in a new cook book especially written for hungry sailors.

The Boat Cookbook, by Fiona Sims, is a collection of recipes and sailing lore for yachters and landlubbers alike.

In amongst food that is

easy to prepare in a small galley are lists of 'bests' compiled by Fiona.

Kyles of Bute features in the best locations to drop anchor; 'achingly pretty' Tobermory is in the greatest harbours and West Highland Yachting Week is top of the list of

the five top sailing events in the UK, described as 'set against jaw-dropping scenery'.

'Bad cooking is responsible for more trouble at sea than all other things put together,' quotes Fiona, as she sets about solving the problem.

## Oban library staying open as part of World Book Night

OBAN Library is opening two hours longer than usual, until 9pm, on Wednesday April 23 to reach people who don't usually read for pleasure, as part of World Book Night.

Dozens of best-selling novels will be given away to new readers. Keen readers are also

being encouraged to bring a book they would like to share and give it to a new reader.

Although the event is free of charge, booking is highly advisable as places are limited. The event will start at 7.30pm and last until about 9.00pm when the book giving will begin and the buffet will open.

## Matisse exhibition coming to Fort William

AN EXHIBITION featuring prints of works by celebrated French painter, sculptor and designer Henri Matisse is coming to Fort William next month.

'Matisse: Drawing with Scissors,' comprises 35 posthumous prints of the famous cut-outs the artist produced in the last four years of his life, when confined to his bed.

The collection, a Hayward Touring exhibition from the Southbank Centre in London, will be on display at the Lime Tree An Ealdhain Gallery from May 3 to June 1.

David Wilson, artist owner of the Lime Tree Gallery, said: 'This is a major coup for the gallery to get historic, significant fine art here on show in Fort William particularly when Matisse is getting such high profile coverage at Tate Modern in London at the same time as our show.'

Highland Council, The Moidart Trust and Lochaber Chamber of Commerce are supporting the exhibition.

Lochaber is a much neglected area when it comes to fine visual art therefore to get great art here is just magic.

'Matisse is such a premier league artist - a sporting comparison would be Barcelona turning up to play Fort William FC - now that would be something too!'

The exhibition will be accompanied by the work of contemporary Scottish artist, Jacqueline Watt.

Ms Watt has been awarded the Charles Renie Mackintosh artist residency in Collioure, France - where Matisse spent time cultivating his craft.

She will hold lectures and a painting demonstration for local school groups with one open for public attendance in the evening of May 3. Booking is essential.

Highland Council, The Moidart Trust and Lochaber Chamber of Commerce are supporting the exhibition.

# what's on

THE OBAN TIMES  
FREE EVENT LISTING

<b>THURSDAY - APRIL 17</b>
Paintings on display until Tuesday 22nd, at Poppies, Dunbeg. 6.30pm, Maundy Thursday Service, Oban Congregational Church.
<b>FRIDAY - APRIL 18</b>
2.30pm - 3.30pm, Good Friday, open for prayer, Oban Congregational Church.
<b>SATURDAY - APRIL 19</b>
10am, Home baking stall in aid of Small Paws Rescue, Pets at Home, Oban. 12 noon, Soup Lunch, Connel Church Hall. 12.30pm, Easter egg hunt and duck race, Sutherland's Grove, Barcaldine. 3pm, National Collective Cafe Session, Rowantree Hotel, Oban. 4pm and 7.30pm, Pirates and Mermaids, Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern.
<b>SUNDAY - APRIL 20</b>
8am, Easter Day Sunrise service, Pulpit Hill, followed by breakfast in church hall. 11am, Easter Morning worship, Oban Congregational Church.
<b>MONDAY - APRIL 21</b>
10.30am, Easter Coffee Morning, Oban Congregational Church.

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Simply email details of your event to [whatson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:whatson@obantimes.co.uk).

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**OBAN AND LORNE STRATHSPEY AND REEL SOCIETY**  
**70th Annual Fiddlers' Jubilee Concert**  
Saturday 26th April 2014  
Corran Halls, Oban  
7.00pm  
**GUEST ARTISTES**  
Mary Ann Kennedy Mod Gold Medallist, Television and Radio Presenter  
Finlay Wells & his Guitar Students  
Maurice Duncan Champion Fiddler  
Lorne Junior Fiddlers  
Conductor: Helen Jordan  
Chairman: Dugald Cameron  
Tickets: £8 Concessions £6.50  
From Corran Halls 01631 567333

## Classical bassoonist joins orchestra to celebrate 10th anniversary

THE SKYE and Lochalsh Orchestra celebrated its 10th anniversary at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig with a performance of its first full symphony under the baton of their new conductor, Iain Roden.

Mr Roden has done a fantastic job with the orchestra and brought to life Beethoven's 6th (Pastoral) Symphony, an extraordinary and moving depiction of nature in sound.

It was an ambitious undertaking, and the orchestra rose to it well, and with great enthusiasm, responding to Mr Roden's professional conducting which was true to the composer's intentions.

In the first half of the concert, bassoon virtuoso Laurence Perkins from the Manchester Camerata, supported by the orchestra, played Weber, Gounod and then a piece arranged by Laurence himself of three Hebridean Melodies, including tunes from Marjory Kennedy Fraser and Capercaillie.

He rounded off with a highly entertaining encore, Ashlyn's 'The Bassoon,' hugely enjoyed by audience and orchestra alike.

The Schools Orchestra also entertained with 'My Grandfather's Clock' and Pachelbel's Canon, which demanded prolonged concentration from the children.

Jenny and Petro Wychirj have done a wonderful job supporting and encouraging these young musicians, who are hopefully the future for the orchestra, and they were great.

The first part of the programme ended with a solo performance by the orchestra's leader, Wendy Riva.

She played a medley of favourite encores, including a Kalinkam the Can-Can by Offenbach and Paganini's 24th caprice, at such speed you could not follow her fingers, or even the bow at one point. She finished to much applause from the audience.

Something for everybody was there, from classical purist through to those who prefer the sound of a fiddle to the violin, with folk music and even hints of jazz, and an introduction to the bassoon that was both intriguing and amusing. Well done to all of them, and we look forward to their next event.



Laurence Perkins with the SLO in full flow under conductor Iain Roden. Photo: Dr Alexander Crighton.

# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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Please ask for details

Oban Congregational Church  
**EASTER COFFEE MORNING**  
Monday 21st April  
10.30am-12.30pm  
Tea or Coffee & Cakes £2.50  
Sales Stalls  
All proceeds to church funds

Oban and District Provincial Mod 2014  
Fri 20 June, Sat 21 June  
For details of competitions contact: Oban Provincial Mod, Furan, No 54 The Esplanade, Oban PA34 5AB  
Tel: 01631 567886 or E-mail: dochiemacd@gmail.com  
Closing date for entries - 12 May 2014

Small Paws Rescue Reg. charity SC044301  
**Home Baking Stall Pets at Home (Oban)**  
10am - 4pm  
Sat. 19th April  
All proceeds to help our animals!

**NATIONAL COLLECTIVE ARGYLL**  
Café Session featuring:  
Singer/Musicians The Lush Puppies  
Writer Mhairi Ross  
We are a creative group who want to inspire and engage the people of Oban in a discussion about Independence, through music, song and the spoken word.  
Rowantree Hotel, Oban  
3 - 4.30pm Saturday 19th April  
All are welcome - FREE

**EASTER EGG HUNT and DUCK RACE**  
Sutherland's Grove, BARCADDINE  
SATURDAY 19th APRIL  
12.30 start  
Hot food and drinks see Barcaldine Community Association on facebook or tel 01631 720512

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Two paintings donated to the Church for Church Funds will be displayed in 'Poppies'  
from Thursday 17th April - 22nd April  
for anyone interested to place a bid.

Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern  
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2nd show 7.30pm  
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# EASTER

## for all the

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Easter seems to mark the start of the holiday season no matter when it falls. You will generally find, this is the weekend that holiday attractions and places of interest that have been closed all winter, open up once again to the public.

What this means in essence is, after long months when there was comparatively little to see or do, there is suddenly a very great deal. Because Easter weekend is also an official holiday weekend, it's an ideal opportunity to get out and about, shake off the doldrums of winter and prepare to welcome spring and summer with widely open arms.

And the best way to do this is to head out to some of the events taking place, or newly opened attractions, and really get into an early holiday mood.

The first step is to peruse your local paper to see just what is on in your locality - there is probably a great deal. Car boot sales are sure to abound and there may also be the odd antiques fair. There might be an Easter parade or a charity spring fair or two.

If the weather is cooperating, why not head for a family barbecue in perfect countryside, there will be many parks and gardens just waiting to display their flowers and blossoms and museums and art exhibitions often hold special spring displays and events at Easter.

If you have something more practical in mind, your local garden centres will be packed full of wonderful ideas for improving your slowly awakening garden. And if your home is in need of a face lift, DIY stores will certainly be open for business with all the tools, materials and inspiration necessary for turning your humble home into a 'stately palace'. And these are not the only shops and stores that will be open this weekend, so if your idea of heaven is a day at the shops, you can probably satisfy your every wish in this respect.

Of course, this is a big weekend for sport, sports enthusiasts will be in their seventh heaven. The whole spectrum of activities will be available to watch somewhere, both on the professional and amateur sports scene.

Whatever it is you want to do over the Easter weekend, make sure it is a weekend to remember.

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For more information visit [www.islayfestival.com](http://www.islayfestival.com)

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Oban Times

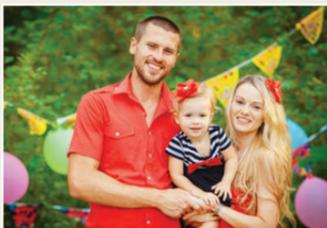


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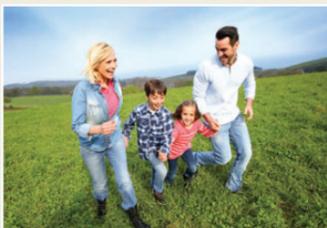
Near here, trails are taking place at:



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For dates, times and info on the trails at all 45 places visit  
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If you have recently received a renewal reminder, please use the details above to renew

# Caravanners urged to make pre-Easter tyre safety checks

With the first Bank Holiday of the year approaching, TyreSafe is reminding the UK's 650,000 caravan and motorhome owners about the importance of ensuring their tyres are in a safe, roadworthy condition before heading off. By doing so, owners will minimise the risk of being involved in a tyre related incident while on their travels and any roadside misery and potential injury this could bring.

"For many, Easter is the first time of the year that they will be heading away in their caravan or motorhome," comments Stuart Jackson, chairman, TyreSafe. "After the winter when they've often had little or no use, it's essential that the vehicle's tyres are checked thoroughly before use otherwise a number of potential safety hazards could bring an abrupt end a relaxing holiday."

A visual inspection of the condition of the tyres is the first area that owners should address. As well as looking for obvious signs of damage such as lumps, bulges or cuts in the tyre, they should also pay particular attention to signs of ageing. This can be seen by the presence of cracks in the sidewall rubber.

After being unused for a number of months, owners should also look for signs of the tyre becoming misshapen and it should be examined by a qualified professional prior to use.

When inspecting the condition of the tyre, owners should check its tread depth to ensure that it complies with the UK minimum tread depth regulations of 1.6mm across the central three quarters of the tread, around its entire circumference.

Anyone unsure of their tread depth is advised to take the quick and easy 20p test which gives a good indication of whether the tyre has sufficient tread depth. Simply place a 20p coin into the main grooves of the tyre and if the outer band of the coin is visible, then they tyres may need replacing and should be inspected by qualified professional.

The final main check that owners need to make is to their tyre pressures. This is vitally important as tyres that are under-inflated or overloaded are much more likely to suffer from a rapid failure which can lead to a potentially catastrophic incident. Pressure should be checked before every journey

when the tyre is cold using an accurate, calibrated pressure gauge. Details of recommended tyre loads and pressures can be found by visiting the TyreSafe website

(www.tyresafe.org).

Owners should also remember that the pressures on any towing vehicle may need to be adjusted to accommodate the additional load being carried. Details of this can be found in the vehicle handbook.

"It's important that caravan and motorhome tyres are checked regularly throughout the entire season, but this is even more critical at the start of the year after any periods of lay-off," adds Mr Jackson. "If you are in any doubt about tyre safety issues, don't take any risks, seek professional advice to ensure your break isn't brought to a premature end."

For more information about caravan and motorhome tyre safety, including a free downloadable advice leaflet, visit www.tyresafe.org.



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A guide to the West Highlands' best-known businesses

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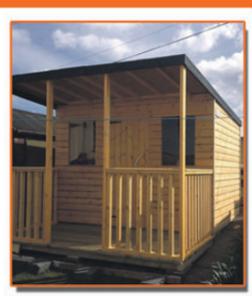
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Carole Inglis, proprietor of Isle of Skye Fudge, chose West Coast energree to install a turbine for her home and business in Skye and has only praise for her dealings with them.

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# Business

**Business reporter:**

**Steven Flanagan**  
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## Learner award for Andrew

A YOUNG Lochgilphead man has been named runner up in the aquaculture award at the national 2013 LANTRA Learner of the Year Awards. Andrew Cunningham, 20, was shortlisted for the awards, which recognise apprentices in land and aquaculture based industries, after being nominated by colleagues at Scottish Salmon Company.

Andrew, a marine operative, recently completed his Level II Modern Apprenticeship in Aquaculture - Fin Fish.

Andrew said: 'I'm really pleased to have been considered for this award especially as I was up against so many other really talented people.'

'It was quite a challenge balancing studying with my job at the same time but it's certainly been worth it and I'm happy my hard work's been noticed in this way.'

The LANTRA Awards judges took note of both the standard of Andrew's work and the short time frame in which he completed the course.



Andrew Cunningham has had his hard work recognised.



Will Currie and Ann Rowan of Renewables Now have information available on the new Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive, a Government scheme that will allow them to expand their business. 16\_116renewables01

## Chairlift opens for first time in months

THE Nevis Range ski resort has managed to open its final lift - the Braveheart chair to the top of Aonach Mor - for the first time in months.

Braveheart had been unable to operate until now as the chairs were buried under metres of snow.

The lift had also been damaged early in the season during a lightning storm which caused multiple electrical faults.

The chairlift is located in a corrie away from the main runs and provides access to the extensive Back Corrie area with

itineraries suitable for off-piste users. With a huge amount of snow on the upper slopes, the resort plans to remain open during the Easter holidays.

Data collected by the Scottish Avalanche Information Service shows that this winter Nevis Range has had almost double the average amount of snow recorded over the last 25 years at the resort.

Resort managing director Marian Austin said: 'It's been a season of mixed emotions.'

'On one hand we've had incredible

amounts of snowfall, but this has not come without its challenges. The whole team at Nevis Range, in particular the team on the hill, has worked extremely hard in difficult conditions to prepare the hill each day for our customers.'

'They would dig out the ski tows and huts and then the next day find themselves having to repeat the process all over again.'

Because of a large avalanche release in the Chancers area of the Back Corries, Braveheart chair was not running on Monday.

# Argyll firm's green light for expansion

AN ARGYLL renewable heating company has been given the green light for further expansion following the announcement of a new UK Government scheme.

Renewables Now, based at Barcaldine's Marine Resource Centre, has been running since November 2010 but the launch of the Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) last Wednesday has come as a watershed moment for the fledgling company, which currently employs five people and is quickly gaining an impressive reputation for service and quality.

Co-directors Will Currie and Ann Rowan say the introduction of RHI, which sees the government pay householders to use low carbon renewable heating systems, should bring about strong growth in their business.

Imminent plans include employing an office manager for a sales and technology design suite, currently being developed at its Barcaldine base and recruiting more heating engineers. There is also an intention to begin an apprenticeship scheme towards the end of 2014.

Ann said: 'As a business

starting up during the recession we have achieved a lot before RHI came in. Now we feel like this is the business starting out, except we have already been given three years' experience, a strong reputation and staff to begin with.'

Will added: 'All our business plans have been underpinned by RHI. We have been waiting for this for a long time but that three-year period has given us an opportunity to build a reputation and we have still managed to meet targets.'

**Buoyant**

Already working in the Argyll area, Will and Ann found it an obvious base for Renewables Now but as Will pointed out, the market here was buoyant from the beginning of the renewables boom.

'Argyll is a good base for us because the market is quite strong,' he said. 'The west coast of Scotland, in general, seemed to be ahead of the rest in terms of awareness and the adoption of new technology.'

'During our expansion, Barcaldine will stay as the business centre and core installation base but if we install further away from here, which

we have already done, we need other venues across Scotland to help maintain our high standards of customer service. That's really important to us.'

RHI will pay householders across the UK who install solar thermal, biomass boilers, ground source heat pumps and air source heat pumps to generate renewable heat. It is available to households both on and off the grid.

The domestic RHI will be available to anyone who has, or is planning to install, a renewable heat technology and meets the RHI eligibility criteria. This includes qualifying installations from July 15, 2009 onwards.

Successful applicants will receive quarterly payments for seven years but any public grants previously received, including the Renewable Heat Premium Payment (RHPP), will be deducted to avoid a double subsidy.

Renewables Now and the equipment it installs is certified by the Micro Generation Certification Scheme (MCS). Those looking to benefit from RHI must have certified equipment and installation in order to benefit.



Oban band and thriving business Ceol an Aire.

## Band tunes into business development

WHEN Ewan Macdonald and his friends decided to set up a band, they had the foresight to approach Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway.

While they wanted to focus on the music, they realised the importance of developing their business skills after meeting on the Argyll Ceilidh Trail, which gave them tuition on touring and managing a band, as well as musicianship.

Following the conclusion of the Argyll Ceilidh Trail, a tour of the region that involved musicians performing 15 gigs in 14 days, Ewan, 21, and Malcolm Clark, 19, formed Ceol an Aire. Since then, the line-up has been finalised with the addition of Ruairidh Morrison, 18 and, most recently, piper Angus-John MacColl, 19.

Ceol an Aire is now in demand to perform at concerts, weddings, ceilidhs and fundraisers, with their fanbase growing considerably over the last few months.

Ewan said: 'The Ceilidh Trail was such a success that people wanted the same style of group to be available throughout the year and that's when we realised we could fill that gap.'

'Malcolm, Ruairidh and I formalised our line up with Angus-John last year and since then we have grown as a business. Our album last year was fantastic

and this year we have many exciting opportunities.'

'Although we are a band and we also have other jobs, we wanted Ceol an Aire to be run properly, with a business plan and investment, such as purchasing our own van which we have done this month. We met with a Business Gateway adviser who went over the basics of starting up a business and although, surprisingly, we had most of the bases covered, it was great to have that reassurance we were doing things right.'

'We also accessed advice on accounting and web design and we plan to attend Business Gateway's free courses on areas we would like to be more skilled at.'

Angela Vernel, the Business Gateway adviser who supported the band, added: 'Ewan and his fellow band members have done fantastically well in spotting a gap in the market and filling it with their modern, fresh and energetic music.'

'They were conscious that it would be beneficial to ensure they ran the band as a business and we have helped and advised them on issues such as bookkeeping and accounts.'

To find out more about how Business Gateway can help you set up and develop your own business call 01546 605 459 or visit bgateway.com.

## Firm honoured with Guild of Master Craftsmen membership

HE STARTED out as an archaeologist, but Eland Stuart's love of old buildings led him down a slightly different path.

And now he has been awarded membership of the prestigious Guild of Master Craftsmen for his business Eland Stuart Dyking and Masonry in recognition of the company's commitment to work with skill and integrity.

The guild's Council of Management awards this honour, which now allows him to display the guild logo on his premises, company vehicles and stationery.

Eland undertook an informal apprenticeship after studying at

the University of Glasgow.

As well as traditional drystone dyking and masonry he repairs old buildings in a traditional and sympathetic manner, using materials such as lime mortar.

Eland was one of the team which helped to renovate The Piggery at Taynish Estate for Scottish Natural Heritage, which is now in public use for events such as exhibitions at the Taynish National Nature Reserve. Eland is married to Mhairi-Claire Semple and they live near Dunoon, with their two sons; their 11-year-old has just spent the Easter holidays helping his dad, so this could be the start of a family business.



Eland Stuart has been awarded membership of the Guild of Master Craftsmen.

## Fuze hits streets to promote fundraiser

ARISAIG-based company Fuze Ceremonies is hosting a street parade in Fort William on Saturday to publicise its second local charity fundraiser.

Highlights on the day will include performances by Lochaber High Schools Pipe Band, a horse and carriage wedding procession, a traditional 'blackening' and a scramble for the kids.

The procession will start from the west end of High Street at 12 noon and move to The Parade for a display of traditional Scottish wedding activities and music.

Fuze's 'Fun Frocks and Fundraising' event in the Nevis Centre the following Saturday will see all profits donated to Lochaber Hope. The Fort William-based charity provides support services to people coping

with a wide range of sensitive and personal issues. Guests will be welcomed with a glass of champagne and canapés before enjoying a fashion show, dress sale, music and local exhibitors' stalls. Highlight of the day will be an auction of the top 10 new designer dresses at knockdown prices.

An Emma Roy wedding dress worth £1,000 is among the items for sale along with hundreds of casual dresses, prom dresses, bridesmaids' dresses and wedding gowns. The first 'Fun Frocks' fundraiser was promoted by local businesswomen snowboarding down the piste at Nevis Range in wedding dresses. To book online visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/fun-frocks-fundraising-tickets-10579047215>.

## Business Gateway launches new workshops in response to feedback

ARGYLL and Bute Council's Business Gateway is launching three new workshops next month in response to feedback from local businesses.

To complement the range of workshops currently available, the new workshops will help businesses already trading to review and improve their marketing activity, and to recruit and manage staff effectively.

**Marketing**

The local Business Gateway advisers are frequently asked how a business can make their marketing more effective, and attendees at many of the other workshops have expressed an interest in a workshop devoted specifically to helping businesses review and improve their marketing to reach more customers.

This has led to the development of the new workshop 'Marketing Your Business' which will take place in Oban on May 7.

The one-day workshop is aimed at existing small and micro businesses with ambitions for growth.

The session will help participants evaluate their current marketing activity and create a realistic marketing plan to meet their business needs.

This workshop will provide a practical approach, using real examples and shared best practice, to cover understanding markets and

competitors, identifying customer needs and wants, setting marketing objectives and budgets, deciding on the marketing mix, developing a plan and measurement of activity.

This marketing workshop will be delivered for Business Gateway by Alastair Kennedy, a qualified marketer and business adviser who also runs his own business and fully understands the challenges faced by small businesses in this area.

**Employer**

Other areas that businesses commonly ask Business Gateway for guidance on are becoming an employer and managing staff effectively.

The new half day 'Becoming an Employer' workshop will run in Oban on May 28 to help businesses understand the process of employing people.

It will cover legal obligations and recruitment and is aimed at those taking on staff for the first time, or as a refresher for those who have not taken on people for a while.

It will also cover setting job descriptions and salary, how to confirm a job offer, registering as an employer with HMRC, obligations when an employee starts work, health and safety legislation and employers' liability insurance and managing staff performance.

The 'Getting the Most out of Your People' workshop taking place in

Oban on May 29 is another new half-day workshop, helping businesses to recruit, induct, manage and develop staff in a way that supports their growth.

It will cover the skills and processes required to get the best out of staff, rather than the legal aspects and include recruiting and retaining the right staff, induction and training, managing performance and how a business can grow through developing its people.

These two workshops will be delivered for Business Gateway by Christopher Cox who runs a local company offering business advice.

Christopher has been based in Argyll for the last 10 years and is also an Investors in People specialist.

The workshops will run first in Oban; Marketing your Business on May 7, Becoming an Employer on May 28 and Getting the Most out of Your People on May 29.

Places are expected to fill up fast so anyone wanting to reserve a space should call 01546 605 459 or email [business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk).

All three of these workshops can be delivered in other parts of Argyll if there is sufficient demand.

These workshops are part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund under the 2007-2013 Structural Funds Programmes.

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**House prices increase as supply fails to meet demand**

RICS UK Residential Market Survey - Scotland, March 2014

Demand for properties last month remained steady, with a net balance of 15% more chartered surveyors reporting an increase in new buyer enquiries, says the RICS UK Residential Market Survey for March.

Activity in the housing market is now showing encouraging signs of life in many areas that have been fairly stagnant, however, in general the market continues to be hampered by the continued lack of available housing stock. Despite growth in new buyer enquiries, new instructions from vendors in Scotland continued to fall in March as the predicted 'spring bounce' failed to materialise, a situation that was reflected in most parts of the UK.

Significantly, the steady interest from potential buyers continues to be accompanied by rising house prices. During March, a net balance of 32% more surveyors saw prices rise rather than fall across Scotland, with this anticipated to continue for the coming months. Price rises are not expected to deter buyers, with 46% of respondents predicting an increase in sales during the next three months.

Sarah Speirs, Director RICS Scotland, said: 'Now that the housing market recovery is underway and mortgage finance is more readily available, buyers seem to be looking to test the market across Scotland. That said, it is a major concern that we are not seeing a sufficient number of houses coming onto the market to meet this demand. For the market to operate effectively, we desperately need more homes in areas where people want

to buy and want to live. Until this happens we're likely to see prices to continue to increase and it is going to be ever harder for many first time buyers to enter the market.'

Looking ahead, with no indication that the imbalance between buyer demand and homes on the market is going to change any time soon, surveyors expect prices to continue to increase as we enter the summer months.

Andrew Hitchen, J & E Shepherd, Stirling, said: 'We have continued to see an increase in price levels in smaller properties and new instructions remain encouraging, although the market now needs a greater increase in supply to meet the continued growth in demand.'

**public notices**

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010**  
Notice is hereby given that Port Ellen Harbour Association has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of pontoon installation at Port Ellen Harbour.

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Port Ellen Harbour	55° 37.674'N 55° 37.694'N 55° 37.702'N 55° 37.672'N	006° 11.222'W 006° 11.271'W 006° 11.259'W 006° 11.239'W

(WGS84)  
Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Post Office, Frederick Crescent, Port Ellen, Isle of Islay, Argyll, PA42 7BD.  
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 FKB/A1465  
Port Ellen Harbour Authority

**WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003**  
**WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011**  
**APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AUTHORISATION**  
**ETIVE 4 MCFE (AIRDS POINT), LOCH ETIVE**

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Dawnfresh Farming Ltd to vary water use licence number CAR/L1018068 authorising the carrying on of a controlled activity at, near or in connection with Etive 4 MCFE (Airds Point), Loch Etive, as follows:

Description of change to controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
An increase in licensed maximum biomass from 966.7 tonnes to 1545.3 tonnes, the addition of Alphasan and an increase in other chemical volumes to treat the proposed higher biomass, as outlined below: Slice to 929.6g Excis to 147.72g Alphasan - 55.39g Salmosan to 611.1g	Loch Etive	NM 9922 3396

SEPA considers that the above change(s) to a controlled activity may have an impact on the water environment and on the interests of other users of the water environment.  
A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays. Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: [www.sepa.org.uk/water/water\\_regulation/advertised\\_applications.aspx](http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/water_regulation/advertised_applications.aspx)  
Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L1018068: Registry Department, SEPA Dingwall office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB,  
Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the application.  
Before determining the application, SEPA will:  
• assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;  
• assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;  
• consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;  
• consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;  
• assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;  
• assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and  
• apply and have regard to relevant legislation.  
SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

**PLANNING**  
These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/00150/PP	Installation of PCP cabinet (1416mm x 1225mm x 373mm)	Land Opposite Loch Eive House Connel Oban Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Connel
14/00601/PP	Alteration and change of use of ground floor garage to dwellinghouse	Dunuaran House Dunuaran Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4NE	Oban Area Office
14/00852/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Land East Of Achara Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office

**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
14/00693/PP	Alterations and erection of single storey rear extension	38 Back Street Ellenabeich Isle Of Seil Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4RQ	Sub Post Office Balvicar
14/00694/LIB	Erection of single storey rear extension to enlarge kitchen and form new bathroom, alterations to internal layout, installation of new stair, enlarge window on first floor south elevation and installation of 3 rooflights	38 Back Street Ellenabeich Isle Of Seil Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4RQ	Sub Post Office Balvicar
14/00766/PP	Demolition of existing fire station and boat shed. Erection of replacement shelter and waiting room	Fire Garage Isle Of Iona Argyll And Bute PA76 6SJ	Sub Post Office Isle of Iona
14/00914/PP	Change of use of land for the siting of timber shed, installation of petrol storage tank and erection of associated fencing	Land Adjacent To Public Car Park Ellenabeich Isle Of Seil Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Balvicar

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Lochgilhead Brae PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/00653/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and formation of new vehicular access (amended design relative to planning permission reference 11/00399/PP)	146 Frederick Crescent Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7BD	Sub Post Office Port Ellen

**CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATIONS**  
Applicant, Croft, Extent/Purpose, Case number  
\*Mr J A McFadzean 6&7 Kinlochell, Kilmallie 0.12ha - Amenity ground 4.86.48413  
Mr J Henderson Tobermory, Tobermory, Kilninan & Kilmore 0.096ha - Site for a dwelling house 4.86.48198  
Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper.  
Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk  
Applications marked with an asterisk - interest can be expressed in obtaining the tenancy of the area subject to the application.

**FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT**  
Mrs Gillian Wilson Barton has registered her croft 2 Ichrachan, Glenorchy & Innishail 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 the 27th December 2014.  
Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is A 1536.

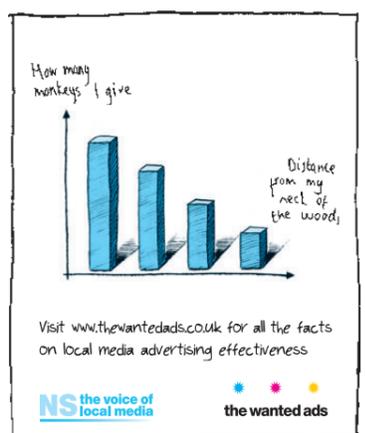
**Proposed Let of a Croft**  
Mr James Coats is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft at Riverside Croft, Southend, Campbeltown to Mrs Frances Coats of 69 Longrow, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6EK  
If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township, or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail [info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk)) within 28 days of the date of publication of the advert.  
Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**  
The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://www.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
14/01259/PIP	Arkaig Cottage Achintore Road Fort William	Erection of house
14/01261/PIP	Arkaig Cottage Achintore Road Fort William	Erection of a holiday unit for letting purposes
14/01289/FUL	Invernahyle Duro Appin	Part demolition of former hotel, alterations, extension and change of use to form dwelling house. Erection of 3 no. holiday homes
14/01293/FUL	Island Park Leven Road Kinlochleven	Change of use of ground (vacant car park) to form building contractor's yard
14/01349/FUL	Site 120m South of Whingrove Ardnastang Strontian	Erection of house
14/01353/FUL	The Sheiling 4 Upper Inverroy Roy Bridge	Demolition & erection of new house

Time period for comments is 14 days.  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)



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**THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011**  
**NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 18**  
**PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE NUMBER: 11/02553/PP**  
**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT LAND SOUTH OF GLEN LONAN BETWEEN LOCH NELL AND BENN GHLAS, EAST OF KILMORE BY OBAN ARGYLL AND BUTE**

Notice is hereby given that additional information in relation to an environmental statement has been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council by Wind Prospect Developments Ltd relating to the planning application in respect of Windfarm comprising 11 turbines (121metres high to blade tip) erection of meteorological mast, switchgear building, construction compound, access works and ancillary development.  
A copy of the additional information together with the environmental statement and the associated planning application may be inspected during office hours in the register of planning applications kept by the Planning Authority at 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilhead, PA31 8RD; and by logging on to the Council's Website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and going through the 'Online planning and Building Standards Application Information' system during the period of 28 days beginning with the date of this notice.  
Copies of the additional information and the environmental statement may be purchased from Wind Prospect Developments Ltd (13 Rutland Street, Edinburgh, EH1 2AE) free of charge for CD and E5 for paper copy, excluding postage and packing.  
Any person who wishes to make representations to Argyll and Bute Council about the environmental statement should make them in writing within the period to Mr R. Kerr, Principal Planning Officer, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilhead, PA31 8RD.  
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, Lochgilhead 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.

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES**  
**VARIATION OF CHARGES AT OFF STREET PARKING PLACES IN OBAN AND MULL**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Argyll and Bute Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 35C of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 hereby varies the charges payable in respect of vehicles using the car parks listed below with effect from 16th May 2014.  
Car Parks - North Pier, Albany Street, Tweeddale Street, Market Street, Corran Halls No. 1 and No. 2, Eglanade and Rockfield School, Craignure Toilets Car Park, Craignure, Iona Ferry No 1 and Iona Ferry No 2 Car Parks in Frionnport.

Existing Charges (until 15th May 2014)	Revised Charges (from 16th May 2014)	
Excess Charge	30.75	60.00
paid within 7 days	12.30	30.00
No Ticket Charge	41.00	60.00
		30.00
Irregular Parking Charge	41.00	60.00
		30.00

Jim Smith, Head of Roads & Amenity Services, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilhead, PA31 8RD

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# E. Thornton & Co.

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*E Thornton & Co Solicitors and Estate Agents have reached the milestone of celebrating 20 years in business.*

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**Flat One, Royal Buildings, Main Street, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6NU**  
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**Land West of Oskamull Cottage, Ulva Ferry, Isle of Mull, PA73 6LY**  
**OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £150,000**

- Rare opportunity to purchase 3.8 acres of land
- Planning permission granted in principle for one dwelling
- Private water supply
- Situated within the Loch na Keal National Scenic Area
- Panoramic views over the Sound of Ulva and beyond



**Fern Cottage, Longsdale Road, Oban, PA34 5JU**  
**COMING SOON**

- Large garden
- 2 bedrooms
- Living room
- Dining room
- Shower room
- Within walking distance to local amenities and town centre



**1st Floor Flat, 18D Shuna Terrace, Soroba, Oban, PA34 4YE**  
**FIXED PRICE OF £82,000**

- Living room
- Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Views over Oban Bay
- Within easy access of town centre
- EPC D62



**Building plot, Achnacroish Croft, Balvicar, Isle of Seil, PA34 4TE**  
**FIXED PRICE OF £75,000**

- Planning permission granted in principle for one dwelling
- Widespread views over rolling hills
- Elevated position
- Close to the local village amenities



**Flat One, Texa Building, 43 Main Street, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6NT**  
**FIXED PRICE OF £150,000**

- 3 bedrooms
- Shower room
- Central location
- Living room
- Views over Tobermory Bay
- EPC F25



**17 Balvicar, Isle of Seil, By Oban, PA34 4TF**  
**COMING SOON**

- 3 bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Driveway
- Garden
- Rural location



**Cala Sona, Fionnphort, Isle of Mull, PA66 6BL**  
**OFFERS OVER £175,000**

- 2 Bedrooms/one ensuite
- Garage/workshop with WC
- Large Garden
- Utility Room
- Large hallway
- Situated in a peaceful rural location
- EPC D67



**8 Kilkenneth Cottage, Kilkenneth, Isle of Tiree, PA77 6XF**  
**OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £190,000**

- 3 bedrooms
- Living room
- Curved staircase
- Large garage
- Rural location



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Home Sale Online is pleased to present this refurbished three bedroom traditional 1800s stone built highland cottage situated in the village of Taynuilt.



The property is set over two floors and comprises: Spacious lounge, family room, fitted kitchen, three double bedrooms, one with en suite facilities, utility room, office, bathroom and WC.

Externally the property enjoys a spacious well stocked garden with three large raised beds for growing vegetables, garden shed and two large log sheds.

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TO LET

**HOUSE TO LET**  
 Oakbank, Kinlochell  
 Fort William  
 (approx 12 miles)

3 Bedrooms, unfurnished, electric heating with open fire, Landlord Reg 336904/270107471 EPC Rating G8  
 Further details Tel 01397 722402 or 07979684316

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 Fully furnished 2 bedroom semi-detached house to let in Tarbert, full central heating, small front and back garden, own driveway and close to town centre, £475 per month plus council tax, no pets or dss. Landlord reg no 396367-130-04471. EPC pending. Telephone 01631 710756 or 0771392886.

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motivation, confidence and the ability get the best from a team. A senior position with a reputable and established local company. Travel throughout Argyll required.

Please apply with full CV and covering letter to Alison Arden, Wyvex Media Ltd, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB or email: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

## ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVE BASED IN OBAN

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Based in our Oban office the successful applicant will be part of a small 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. The successful applicant 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.

Please apply by email with full C.V. and covering letter to: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

## FULL TIME/PART TIME ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

Salary + group personal pension plan + life and medical insurance

A vacancy currently exists in our Oban office for a full time/part time Administrative Assistant.

The successful applicant will be required to assist our very busy sales department and also work closely with our Sales Director.

Excellent communication skills, computer literacy, enthusiasm, proficiency in spelling and grammar are all essential

attributes for this position. In addition to salary, we offer group personal pension plan, life and medical insurance

please email your CV and a letter of application to Alison Arden, Wyvex Media Ltd, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB or email: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

## SALES EXECUTIVE CAMPBELTOWN

We are offering an exciting opportunity to build a career in local newspapers to develop, expand and strengthen the potential of our advertising sales teams. We are seeking to appoint an experienced and/or trainee sales person who is lively,

enthusiastic, a good communicator and committed to customer satisfaction. The successful candidate will join our Campbeltown Courier sales team and work across a variety of publications and products. On-going in-house training will be given as

required. A full driving licence is essential as you may not necessarily be office based but could have the opportunity to travel throughout Argyll and surrounding area in one of our company vehicles. We offer an excellent rate of pay, generous

annual holiday entitlement, company pension scheme, life assurance and private medical insurance. If you are looking for a career with a well established company and have the above attributes - we want to hear from you.

Please apply by email with a full C.V. including contact details to: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

## QUALIFIED REPORTER

> The appropriate experience and qualification in journalism  
> Shorthand  
> Ambition and enthusiasm

> Talent, self motivation and commitment  
> A full current driving licence  
> Knowledge of the West Coast an advantage

Financial assistance for accommodation where relevant may be available for the first three months. Competitive salary + private health care + enhanced pension + life assurance + excellent benefits and great working conditions.

Please apply by email with full C.V. and contact details to: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

## QUALIFIED REPORTER LOCHGILPHEAD

We want to hear from you if you have:  
> The appropriate experience and qualification in journalism  
> Shorthand  
> Ambition and enthusiasm

> Talent, self motivation and commitment  
> A full current driving licence  
> Knowledge of the West Coast an advantage

Financial assistance for accommodation where relevant may be available for the first three months. We offer a good, competitive salary + private health care + enhanced pension + life assurance + excellent benefits and great working conditions.

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## ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVE

BASED IN OBAN

£ Excellent Basic + £ Bonus + Private Health Care + Pension + Good Holidays

Based in our Oban office the successful applicant will be part of a small 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. The successful applicant 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.

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Hours of work will be 35 per week between 9.00am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday (there could be some flexibility with this) 25 days annual leave plus Public Holidays. Salary is £22,000 p.a. Your place of work will be based in Campbeltown.

For further information and full job criteria please contact Susan Paterson on shopper-aide@btconnect.com

Applications should be in by 5.00pm Monday 5th May  
shopper-aide@btconnect.com  
and interviews will be held on Friday 16th May.



## QUALIFIED REPORTER LOCHGILPHEAD

We want to hear from you if you have:

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- > Shorthand
- > Ambition and enthusiasm
- > Talent, self motivation and commitment
- > A full current driving licence
- > Knowledge of the West Coast an advantage

Financial assistance for accommodation where relevant may be available for the first three months.

We offer a good, competitive salary + private health care + enhanced pension + life assurance + excellent benefits and great working conditions.

Please apply by email with full C.V. and contact details to: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

## FULL TIME/PART TIME ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT



A vacancy currently exists in our Oban office for a full time/part time Administrative Assistant.

The successful applicant will be required to assist our very busy sales department and also work closely with our Sales Director.

Excellent communication skills, computer literacy, enthusiasm, proficiency in spelling and grammar are all essential attributes for this position.

In addition to salary, we offer group personal pension plan, life and medical insurance

If you feel the above is you, please email your CV and a letter of application to Alison Arden, Wyvex Media Ltd, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB or email: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk



### Customer Services Assistant

Lochgilphead

Salary £16,927 to £18,701 per annum

35 hours per week

Temporary Post to 31st January 2015

To apply visit our website at www.acha.co.uk/recruitment

If you cannot access the website please contact the recruitment team:

Tel 01546 605917 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 2nd May 2014

Interviews for these posts will be held during May 2014.



### CASUAL WORKERS

OBAN AREA

£6.64 - £7.23 per hour (depending on post being covered) + holiday pay

At Bield we are committed to enabling older people to make their own choices and lead independent lives. We are looking for casual workers to provide cover in the absence of permanent members of staff at our developments within the Oban area. There are a variety of posts to be covered including, Cook, Scheme Assistant and Retirement Housing Assistant.

Shifts will be offered on a casual basis and the ability to accept shifts at short notice would be desirable, however not essential.

For more information about the roles and an application pack, please visit our website www.bield.co.uk

Closing date for returned applications is Friday 2 May 2014.

Bield Housing & Care Scottish Charity No. SC006878



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\*Source: GR TG 2009 Q3 (April 2008 - March 2009)  
\*\*Source: The Wanted Ads STAGE 1, GFK NOP Base all adults

## Sales Manager OBAN

£30k-£35k Basic plus £10k bonus potential Audi A3/Golf Full benefits package

We are seeking an individual to manage a small sales team. This position is ideal for someone seeking to develop their management career. Training will be given as we believe the right person with the right attitude and skill set is as important as industry sector knowledge.

All applications treated in strictest confidence. Submit to BOX No 94, The Oban Times Ltd, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB

## SALES PERSON REQUIRED



For Hire and Supplies selling to the trade, Hire and Consumables. Hire and Supplies are looking for a new sales team member for their Trade counter. A positive attitude and enjoy dealing with a varied range of sales and Hire bookings. Experience within the Hire and Tool sales would be of an advantage. A knowledge of local trade and selling to this sector. Driving licence required

Applications should be handed in at the office at Mill Lane or telephone Mary Ann Murray on 01631 566306 1 Mill Lane, Lochavullin, Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HA



## Link Club Co-ordinator

We are seeking a co-ordinator to support the establishment of a Link Club in Oban. The post holder will support people with mental ill health and facilitate drop-in and activities as well as working closely with professionals to encourage people to access support.

Initially, the post is funded for one year and part of the remit will include seeking funding to continue the service. We are looking for an energetic and enthusiastic person who can understand the issues facing those affected by mental health conditions.

20 hours per week: Salary: £10,920.00

Applications from: kathleen@argyllvoluntaryaction.org.uk Tel 01631 564839.

Closing date: Friday 2nd May 2014



### SALES EXECUTIVE



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We are seeking to appoint an experienced and/or trainee sales person who is lively, enthusiastic, a good communicator and committed to customer satisfaction. The successful candidate will join our Campbeltown Courier sales team and work across a variety of publications and products. On-going in-house training will be given as required. A full driving licence is essential as you may not necessarily be office based but could have the opportunity to travel throughout Argyll and surrounding area in one of our company vehicles.

We offer an excellent rate of pay, generous annual holiday entitlement, company pension scheme, life assurance and private medical insurance.

If you are looking for a career with a well established company and have the above attributes - we want to hear from you.

Please apply by email with a full C.V. including contact details to: [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)

### Keyline Builder Merchants

Lochgilthead Depot

Job Vacancy Multi Skilled Job Role  
**Trade Counter Assistant / Yard Sales Assistant**  
Salary - Competitive. Start Date - Immediate.

**Main Duties and Responsibilities.**  
Health & Safety - Have an excellent attitude and adhere to company policy and procedures and lead by example.  
To provide high quality customer service both in person and by telephone.  
Operation of EPOS system.  
To load / unload and move stock manually & by safe operation of Mechanical handling Equipment.  
Ensuring all stock is correctly recorded for materials received and dispatched and that cash and credit sales and documentation completed in line with company policy and procedures.  
Ensure the highest level of 'good house keeping' across the branch.

**Knowledge / Skills**  
Good Communication Skills, written and verbal with excellent interpersonal skills.  
Ability to work on own using own initiative with minimum supervision.  
Ability to work as a team member.  
Be driven and highly motivated.  
Good administrative skills.  
Ability to meet physical demands of the role.  
Ability to operate Mechanical Handling Equipment ( training will be given ).  
Good organisational skills with ability to plan and organise workloads.

**Desirable**  
Previous I.T. / EPOS experience.  
Sound knowledge of building materials.  
Desire to progress.  
A clean, current driving licence and forklift truck licence would also be desirable.

Applications in writing to  
John Vallis, Branch Manager, Keyline Builders Merchants,  
Kilmory Industrial Estate, Lochgilthead, Argyll. PA318RR.

## Scottish Sea Farms

### Marine Husbandry Vacancies Oban Area

Scottish Sea Farms have the following opportunities for enthusiastic and self motivated individuals with a passion for aquaculture. We operate a unique training and personal development programme designed to enable rapid career progression. Candidates should be strongly committed to community engagement.

**Husbandry Staff:**  
Ideally, you will have at least 2 years fish farming experience and be able to bring relevant skills e.g. boat handling, fish health, moorings, appetite assessment etc. You may be already working with other marine species or within a freshwater environment. Above all you'll be keen to improve your career by taking greater responsibility and being rewarded accordingly. Exceptional inexperienced candidates may also be considered for fast-track progression

In return Scottish Sea Farms offer an on-going competitive pay and benefits package including entry into the company's occupational health programme, gym membership and cycle to work scheme.

Interested applicants should contact [claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com) or call 01786 445521 for a job description and application form.

Closing date for applications is Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014. A full, clean driving licence is essential.

Scottish Sea Farms makes it happen



### TEMPORARY DISTRIBUTORS REQUIRED

Distributors required to deliver the BT Phone Book in and around:

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Working on the latest ATVs and Utility Vehicles a background in either motorcycle mechanics or agricultural machinery would be advantageous with sound diagnostic skills and a high first fix rate a must.

The correct candidate must be able to put across the correct image for the business and have a sound history of customer service.

This post will involve working both in depots and customers sites so a drivers license and flexibility is crucial.

To apply email [janis.yuille@atvservices.com](mailto:janis.yuille@atvservices.com) or call 01292 560239



### Is seeking Seasonal staff to work in our busy coffee shop in Craignure, Isle of Mull

We require a full time (5 days) and a part time (2 days to include a Saturday)

Our coffee shop is known for our high quality home baking and light lunches and our friendly service.

Please get in touch via email [arlene Robbie@msn.com](mailto:arlene Robbie@msn.com)

## SENIOR ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

# The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

**Excellent Basic (OTE) + Car + BUPA + Enhanced pension**

Based in Oban and reporting to the Sales Director, you will be responsible for day-to-day management of the sales team. Ideally you will have relevant experience, flexibility, motivation, confidence and the ability get the best from a team. A senior position with a reputable and established local company. Travel throughout Argyll required.

Please apply with full CV and covering letter to Alison Arden, Wyvex Media Ltd, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB or email: [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)



### Senior Care Vacancy

Suitable candidates require to have Nursing Qualification or SVQ Level 3 in Health and Social Care. Full time position for one year to cover maternity leave. Salary £21,920 P.A. Applicants please contact Manager Morag Telfer, North Argyll House, Bealach An Righ, Oban PA34 5TG. Telephone 01631 562168.

### Nursery Practitioner required for a well established Oban Nursery

This is an excellent opportunity for a highly motivated and experienced childcare professional to develop their role in an established and exciting nursery.

We offer a competitive salary and holiday allowance, welcome applications from all sectors of the community and are an equal opportunity employer.

Contact Ann or Fiona on 01631 567491 or [manager.firststeps@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:manager.firststeps@yahoo.co.uk) and we look forward to welcoming you as part of our happy team.

All applicants subject to a Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 check




### Temporary Community Support Assistant

Caledonia Court, Ardrishaig  
11 hours per week (Saturday and Sunday)  
Salary - £5,320 - £5,880 per annum  
Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014

For further details and to apply visit our website at [www.acha.co.uk/recruitment](http://www.acha.co.uk/recruitment)

If you are unable to access the website contact the Recruitment Team:  
Tel 01546 605917 or email [recruitment@acha.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@acha.co.uk)

This post will be subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Scotland PVG check  
Interviews for this post will be held during May 2014



### Development Manager

Full time  
Salary from £25,000.00pa

Due to the recent retirement of our Development Manager we are looking for an exceptional person to manage and develop our exciting range of community woodland projects. These include a Micro Hydro Project, Affordable Housing, a Woodland Burial Ground, and increasing the Access and Amenity value of the woodlands. There is an extensive harvesting and replanting programme underway, requiring regular contact with our harvesting partners and other agencies. The successful applicant will also be responsible for the day to day management and development of our woodfuel company including the recently acquired woodchip supply business.

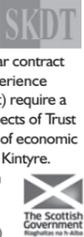
As well as having excellent management skills applicants should have recent experience of successfully securing funding packages for projects similar to our existing areas of activity. Good IT and basic accounting skills will also be very useful.

For a full job description and any other enquiries about the post, please contact [admin@nwmulwoodland.co.uk](mailto:admin@nwmulwoodland.co.uk) or ring 01688 400600.

Application is by CV with covering letter and the closing date is Wednesday 14th May 2014. Applications may be electronic to the above email address or posted to:  
NWMWCW, Penmore Mill, Dervaig, Isle of Mull PA75 6QS  
NWMWCW Ltd is a company with charitable status limited by guarantee. Charity No. SCO37336, Co.No. 287343

### TRUST MANAGER

Full time post (35 hours per week), 2 year contract  
Salary up to £28k depending on experience  
SKDT (South Kintyre Development Trust) require a Trust Manager to effectively manage all aspects of Trust business ensuring the Trust is at the centre of economic and community development in South Kintyre.  
Email [info@skdt.org](mailto:info@skdt.org) for an application form or for more information.  
Closing date: Friday 9th May 2014  
SKDT is a registered Scottish charity (SC 042018)



### Hodge Fencing are looking to recruit Delivery driver / yard man

Trailer licence an advantage, driving licence essential  
This will be a permanent position.  
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### Argyll HomeCare

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### Mid Argyll: Home Care Workers

Full, part time & weekend - (£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. A full driving licence and access to a vehicle 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)

Grammar Lodge Guest House  
A vacancy has arisen for help with ironing and general housekeeping.  
Hours negotiable.  
Please apply in writing to:-  
St. John Street  
Campbeltown  
PA28 6AU.

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[www.krispprint.co.uk](http://www.krispprint.co.uk)

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## The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

### QUALIFIED REPORTER

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- > Shorthand
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- > Talent, self motivation and commitment
- > A full current driving licence
- > Knowledge of the West Coast an advantage

Financial assistance for accommodation where relevant may be available for the first three months.  
Competitive salary + private health care + enhanced pension + life assurance + excellent benefits and great working conditions.  
Please apply by email with full C.V. and contact details to: [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)

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### Athletics petition launched

A SECOND petition has been launched to boost sporting facilities in Lochgilphead just weeks after Argyll and Bute Council gave in to demands to install a 3G pitch in the town.

Launched by Mid Argyll Athletics Club, the petition calls on the local authority, Scottish Athletics and sportsScotland to back the club's bid to create all-weather jump facilities at Lochgilphead Joint Campus.

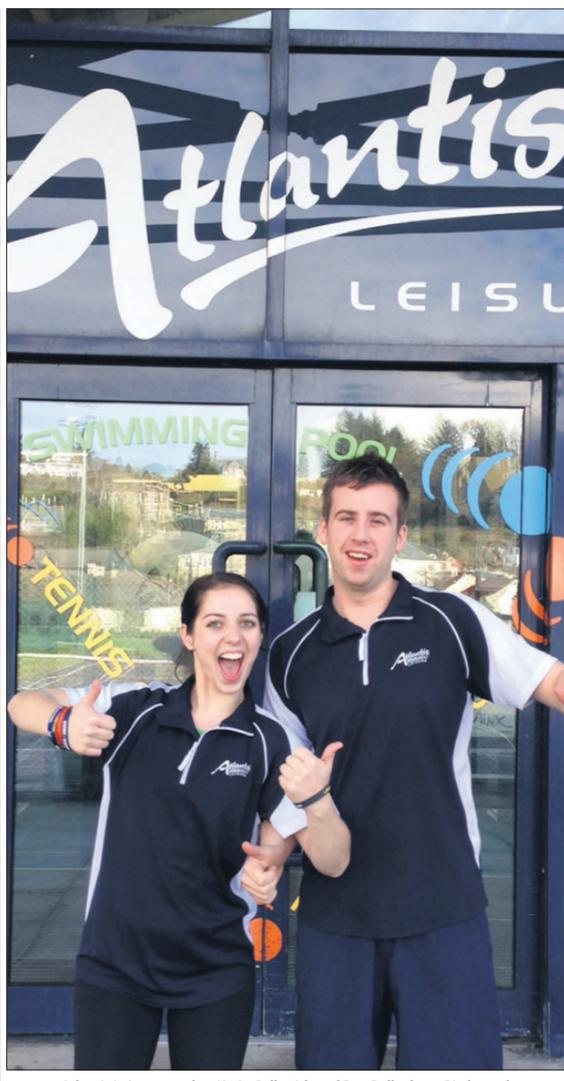
The athletics club wants an all-weather track installed on the land in between the two grass pitches at the campus. It would allow athletes to compete in the long jump, triple jump, high jump and throwing events outdoors. If created it would be the first and only such facility in all of Argyll and Bute. It is hoped sportsScotland will provide 50 per cent of the project's estimated £50,000 cost, while the athletics club has applied to four Argyll groups for match funding.

Bill MacCallum from the club, which has 150 members, said: 'Through this petition we hope to convince both Argyll and Bute Council and sportsScotland that providing adequate outdoor facilities for athletics is vitally important for the development of our young athletes and indeed for the future of the sport in Argyll.'

'There is a consultation being carried out by Scottish Athletics and sportsScotland on facilities. With this consultation and the Commonwealth Games there is not going to be a better opportunity to get some improvement.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'While there is no funding identified within our capital programme for this project, we have been providing support in other ways - for example liaising with other agencies and giving advice about applying for grant funding - in regular meetings with the club and sportsScotland.'

To sign the petition log on to [www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/athletics-facilities-for-argyll](http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/athletics-facilities-for-argyll).



Atlantis Leisure coaches Katie Galbraith and Ben Pollock are Rio bound.

# Sports coaches to sail round Rio

Atlantis' Ben to run half marathon on homecoming

IT WILL be the epicentre of summer sporting events when the city hosts the Olympics in 2016 and the FIFA World Cup this summer.

But Rio de Janeiro is hosting another event this year - and two Oban sports coaches are invited.

Ben Pollock and Katie Galbraith, who are both based at Atlantis Leisure, will join the crew on the Jubilee Sailing Trust's *STS Lord Nelson* next month and sail around Rio on a two week voyage. There, they will help to support young people of all abilities on board the vessel.

For Ben, who only got his passport last year, this will be his second trip

abroad and his challenge won't end when he returns to Scottish soil on May 24, as he intends to run in the Edinburgh Half Marathon the following day.

The trip has been arranged through Atlantis Leisure's youth worker Donna Smith, whose role is jointly funded by the Rank Foundation and the Robertson Trust.

Ben said: 'Donna has some resources to help others, which include outward bound trips. These trips are to help people try new things, meet new people, build confidence and push you out of your comfort zone.'

'We have had a few of our young work experience people go on these trips but

I always thought they were for other people and never thought I could go on one, plus I thought I was too old!

'These trips vary from hiking, rock climbing, gorge walking, canoeing, sailing and can range from one day up to two weeks.'

'One day Donna approached me and asked if I knew anyone that wanted to go on a tall ship and sail around Rio De Janeiro for two weeks and as a joke I said, 'Yeah, me'.'

'But when Donna said it could be a possibility I looked into it a bit more.'

Through their youth coaching, Ben and Katie are used to working with young people and are both nervous

and excited about the trip. 'We don't have many details explaining what we will be doing on our voyage or who we will be working with,' said Ben.

'The ship is modified so able bodied and disabled people can work alongside each other.'

Katie and I are both really looking forward to this trip and can't believe we've been given this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

'I wish I could stay for the world cup but I think that might be pushing it!'

Ben and Katie thanked Atlantis colleagues for their support, particularly Donna Smith and Nick Wesley, and both the Rank Foundation and Robertson Trust.

### College students to get Co-op discount

OBAN and Lochaber college students can now receive a discount in Co-operative food stores.

Anyone attending Oban's Scottish Association for Marine Science and the University of Highlands and Islands, qualifies for 10 per cent off groceries as part of an eight week trial.

There are 37 participating stores across the Highlands and Islands including branches in Caol, Corpach and Oban.

A 'Taster' card can be downloaded from the UHI Student Association website which, when presented with student ID, will activate the discount.

Andrew Mann, customer director of Co-operative Food, said: 'As the major community retailer in the Highlands and Islands, we understand the pressure students are under to make ends meet. By working together with National Union of Students, who we already have a very successful partnership with, we can help the thousands of students who study at UHI.'

### Lochwatch 'spotters' called into action

THE LOCHWATCH spotters around Loch Awe were called into action on Monday following a report of flares being seen in the direction of Loch Awe and Kilchrenan.

Oban Police initiated the Lochwatch emergency response, tasking those on the spotters list to report any sightings of note. Police officers also attended and carried out inquiries.

Inspector Julie McLeish of Oban Police said inquiries were concluded and the incident treated as a false alarm but she added: 'It shows the Lochwatch response system works well.'

## Islay flights remain popular as west Highland numbers fall

THE NUMBER of passengers flying into and out of Islay has gone up by two per cent in the last year - the only airport in the West Highlands to see an increase.

The 2013-14 figures for Highlands and Islands Airports Limited (HIAL) show that passenger numbers at Campbeltown, Barra, Benbecula, Stornoway and Tiree all fell.

The Scottish regional airport operator has, however, recorded its busiest year ever overall, thanks to growth in the energy sector boosting passenger numbers to Sumburgh and Wick John O'Groats.

Inglis Lyon, managing director of HIAL, said: 'Last year was our best ever in passenger terms, with the group exceeding the 1.3 million mark for the first time.'

'The picture is less encour-

aging at some of our smaller airports, such as Barra and Benbecula, where changes to the inter-island schedule have had a significant impact on passenger numbers.'

'These airports nevertheless play a vital social and economic role in the communities they serve and we will continue to seek new opportunities to enhance connectivity to the islands.'

Islay saw its passenger numbers rise by 531 to 27,297 in 2013-14 but the biggest fall in the West Highlands was at Barra, where passenger numbers dropped by 20.2 per cent to 31,781.

Tiree's figures fell from 9,464 to 9,045, a drop of 4.4 per cent, while Campbeltown's fell from 10,085 to 9,973, a fall of 1.1 per cent.

Benbecula saw a reduction of 4,658 in passenger numbers to 31,781, while

Stornoway's dropped by just under one per cent to 127,074.

HIAL said the drop in numbers at the smaller airports was 'as a result of schedule changes and reduced capacity on key routes'.

A reduction in inter-island services resulted in the drop in passenger numbers in Barra, Benbecula and Stornoway airports.

At Sumburgh, Scotland's fastest growing airport, passenger numbers grew by 32.2 per cent as a result of increased oil and gas traffic.

A major terminal development is planned in the coming months to allow for future growth as the airport seeks to expand its energy sector operations.

Wick John O'Groats recorded growth of 21.7 per cent following an increase in

energy-related fixed-wing and helicopter operations, and additional scheduled flights between the capital and the far north.

The Highland capital also enjoyed a passenger bounce, with Inverness airport attracting an extra 8,000 passengers during the financial year, an increase of 13 per cent.

Growing demand for key domestic and international hubs, including Manchester, Birmingham and Amsterdam, fuelled the increase.

With passenger numbers in excess of 619,000, Inverness enjoyed its busiest year for five years.

HIAL operates 11 airports across Scotland: Barra, Benbecula, Campbeltown, Dundee, Inverness, Islay, Kirkwall, Stornoway, Sumburgh, Tiree and Wick John O'Groats.

### Hospital patient hands over cheque

A TARBERT man who receives treatment at the Macmillan Day Suite at Mid Argyll Community Hospital has presented staff at the facility with a cheque for £800.

Hector Thomson was at the unit to present the cheque on behalf of the Lodge Tarbert, Tarbert Lochfyne 1306, which had raised the cash at its annual ladies night.

The facility is one that is close to Mr Thomson's heart as he receives haematology treatment every fortnight at the unit, which

was opened last December.

At the presentation last week Mr Thomson said: 'The biggest thing for me is that the unit cuts down travel times.'

'I used to receive treatment at the Vale of Leven Hospital, which meant a four-hour trip, but now I don't have to worry about getting up at 6.30am and having my breakfast.'

'The staff here do a tremendous job. They are all well trained and very professional.'

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CAMPBELTOWN : The Campbeltown Courier, Courier Centre, Main & Longrow South, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6AE  
LOCHGILPHEAD : Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8NB

#### ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

HOUSE CLEARANCE Nao Girl in white night dress yawning, lovely piece, £25 Telephone 07748 574770.

HOUSE CLEARANCE Leonardo piece Clown sitting in car perfect condition, £20 Telephone 07748 574770.

HOUSE CLEARANCE Nao Girl with doll lovely piece, £20 Telephone 07748 574770.

HOUSE CLEARANCE Lladro White Angel (one wing has small repair), £25 Telephone 07748 574770.

HOUSE CLEARANCE Nao Girl with fan. Perfect condition, £20 Telephone 07748 574770.

HOUSE CLEARANCE Lladro no:035, Beautiful piece, Lady with boy presenting flowers on round base, £49.99 +p+p if req. Telephone 07748 574770.

HOUSE CLEARANCE Nao Lady with pink dress, lovely piece perfect condition, £25+ pp if req Telephone 07748 574770.

HOUSE CLEARANCE Nao Girl with pink dress, lovely piece perfect condition, £25+ pp if req Telephone 07748 574770.

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CYCLING PANNIER BAGS set of 4, 3 rear and 1 for handlebars, never used, £25 Telephone 01631 770652.

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ARGYLL VOL 1 KINTYRE Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland, £120 Telephone 01880 740250.

DONALD MCFARLANE OF GIGHA and Cara, Sydney Smith, 1925, £20 Telephone 01880 740250.

KIPPER HOUSE TALES Forsyth Hamilton, signed by author, good condition, £99 Telephone 01880 740250.

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Farming

Climate change brings a flood of new issues

THE frequency and severity of flooding on agricultural land has seen NFU Scotland discuss with the Scottish Government its list of new recommendations to bolster the nation's resilience. Exceptional rainfall and extreme tidal surges have been responsible for significant flooding of farmland and catastrophic breaches of flood defences in several parts of Scotland this year.



Killin teenagers are now fish experts thanks to an educational evening in the Real Food Café.

Teenagers brush up on Scottish fish

Tyndrum cafe hosts budding chefs

A TYNDRUM cafe hosted 19 teenagers as they learned about Scottish fish species. The event was fantastic, the atmosphere was really upbeat and our whole team did a great job, especially Colin, who explained the differences between the fish, where they live, what they eat, how they are fished, and why sustainability is important.

Highlands and Islands MSP Mike Mackenzie welcomed the plan. He said: 'The geese are such a big problem to farmers and crofters because they actually rip crops out at the root, which is hugely damaging. Scaring the birds just displaces the problem to another field or farm, so scaring is no solution at all. That Orkney and the Uists now have licences to sell the meat of geese shot on their islands is a big step forwards. This has not only helped to reduce the numbers of geese but boosted the economy by allowing the sale of geese meat.'

Pleas for action on growing geese numbers answered

ISLAND crofters have had their pleas for action on growing geese numbers answered as the Scottish Government has promised to hear evidence from experts. The Scottish Crofting Federation recently filed a petition about the damage the birds are wreaking on crops on islands and lowland farming areas, reporting that the quantity of geese is 'out of control'.

Overall, a total of 2,047 store cattle has been sold at Islay Market this spring, recording an overall average increase on the year by £58.38 per head.

Market reports

United Auctions

UNITED Auctions held its annual April sale at Islay Auction Mart when it sold 1,064 cattle. All classes sold at similar rates to the earlier sale and were slightly lighter on average. All classes sold to average 228 pence per kilo or £93.61 per head, which recorded a rise of £43 per head on the corresponding sale last year.

United Auctions Stirling

United Auctions Stirling sold 2195 store cattle and cast cows and also had forward 398 store sheep at its sale on Wednesday April 9.

Store Hogs: Belstruther (Tex) £88; Upper Auchanlay (Btex) £87; Mains of Struie (Suff) £85; Belstruther (Mule) £80; Westwood (Chev) £70; Chesthill (BF) £70.

Strathkinness, Cont - £146.50 Newton, Cross - £131.50 Haugh, BFL - £130.50 Newton, BF - £105.50 Bailanstruth, BF - £102.50 Letter.

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Limited had on offer 2,629 prime hoggets and 904 cast ewes and rams at its sale on Tuesday April 8.

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ENGAGEMENTS

PATERSON - KENEALY - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Innes, younger son of David and Audrey Paterson, Taynuilt, Argyll and Edele, youngest daughter of John and Dymna Kenealy, Craigavon, Co. Antrim.

MARRIAGES

MAIN - McMASTER - The wedding took place between Stephen and Gemma on Saturday, April 12, 2014 at The Parish Church, Oban by Rev Kenny Boyd. A great day was had by all.

DEATHS

DUNCAN - Anne F Duncan passed away on Saturday, April 12 at 6.55am. She is sorely missed by her beloved husband D MacNab Duncan, and by Peter and Bonnie, David and Michelle, and her grandchildren Jennie, Emile and Daniel. Funeral service at Glasgow Crematorium, Maryhill on Wednesday, April 23 at 1.30pm to which all family & friends are respectfully invited.

JONES - Bertha Cameron, peacefully on Monday April 7 in the Belford Hospital, Fort William. Funeral Service on April 22 at 11am in St Margaret's Church, Roy Bridge followed by cremation at 2.30 pm in Inverness Crematorium.

MACDONALD - Neil. Peacefully at the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice, Glasgow on April 13, 2014. Neil, late of Port Weymss, Ilay and Glasgow, dear husband of Ellen, beloved father of Neil and Kate and loving grandfather of Rhona and Mairi. Funeral service at Craighton Crematorium, Berryknowes Road on Tuesday, April 22 at 12.30 to which all family and friends at respectfully invited. Family flowers only.

MACLEOD - Suddenly, but peacefully, at the Mid Argyll Hospital, on Thursday, April 10, 2014, Janet (Janette) Forsyth MacLeod, nee MacCallum, aged 73 years, of 8 Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, much loved mother of Jacqueline and John, mother-in-law of Geir and Jeanette, adored grandmother of Cameron and Fergus and a dear sister, beloved aunt and cousin to all the family. Funeral service was held in Lochgilphead Parish Church, on Wednesday, April 16, 2014, followed by interment at Achnabreac Cemetery. Sadly missed.

MACNEIL - Peacefully in the loving care of Inverness House on Tuesday, April 15, 2014, George MacNeil, formerly of The Cottage, Glenfinnan, beloved husband of the late Dorothy, much loved dad of Craig and Gregor, precious father-in-law to Shona and Linda. Devoted grandpa to Catriona, Kirsty, Ewan, Alexander and Lindsey. Funeral service will be held on Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at 2pm in the Church of St Mary and St Finnan, Glenfinnan. Enquiries to John McLellan Funeral Directors Tel 01397 702128.

SHAW - Peacefully on April 12, 2014 in the Western Infirmary, Robert (Rohan) aged 89 years, beloved husband of Mamie, dearly loved father of Colina and late Bobby and much loved father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral service in St Johns Church on Friday, 18 at 11.30am.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - Louise and the whole family would like to sincerely thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their thoughtful kindness, flowers and cards following our deeply sad loss of Iain. Special thanks to the medical teams for their care. Heartfelt thanks to Rev Donald McCorkindale and Rev Mairi Perkins and all those who contributed to the special personal service. McLellan undertakers provided a dignified, solemnly respectful, professional service and to Ben View Hotel for splendid hospitality. Thanks to Chris Ogilvie who piped Iain to his final resting place and all who attended Stronitach church and graveside to pay their respects. Donations totalled £900 for local charities.

FORGRIEVE - Dugie and family of the late Larry Forgivee wish to thank friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy and support. Our thanks to the Rev Dugald Cameron for a true reflection of Larry's life. The two Ian's of D & A Munn for professional guidance and friendship. Our warm thanks to the staff of Ward I, Lorn and Islands Hospital and Larry's girls from Carers Direct, for their tremendous care. Our gratitude to all

who attended the service and contributed so generously to the retreat collection. The sum of £683.56 has been shared between Dementia UK (local branch) and the MS Therapy Centre, Oban.

GALBRAITH - Sonny, Colin, Cameron and family of Maimie would like to thank all relatives and friends for their support and many expressions of sympathy shown to them at this sad time. Special thanks to all staff at wards B and I for all their kindness and support. Grateful thanks to Rev. Dugald Cameron for visits and comforting service. We would like to thank Ian and D & A Munn for all their support and guidance throughout the funeral arrangements. Thanks to The Golf Club for buffet and refreshments. The retiring collection taken for Oban Hospice amounted to £511.15

HAGGART - Ian and Norma would like to thank everyone for their cards, kindness and support after the passing of our dad, George. The generous donations amounted to £1,100 and has been split between the Renal Units, Belford and Raigmore Hospitals.

MACMASTER - Alasdair, Jane and their families would like to thank everybody who attended Dad's funeral, sent cards, flowers, telephoned or emailed their thoughts and remembrances. We can never thank you enough for the kindnesses you have shown us. We would like to especially thank Flora MacKenzie for her support and friendship to Dad over the years, Belford Hospital staff for their compassionate care, Scott and staff at John McLellan for the handling of arrangements, Richard Corbett for his service of thanksgiving, Miss MacIntyre for her musical accompaniment, Maggie Petrie for the wonderful photos of Dad and Mum on the order of service, the Corpach Hotel who put together a fine spread of soup and sandwiches, Connal MacBride who honoured our father by playing the pipes and all of you, our deepest thanks for being there for us and remembering Dad.

PENROSE - Tommy and Linda and their families would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their comfort and support at the sudden loss of their son Colin. Also to Rev Dugald Cameron for a lovely service and special thanks to D & A Munn for their most efficient and professional handling of the funeral. Thanks also to the Kings Knoll for the buffet. A retiring collection of £330.02 was collected for Oban & Lorn Riding for the Disabled.

MEMORIAMS

BUCHANAN - In loving memory of my precious husband, Willie, a great pal to me and loving father to Mary, Katy and Hugh. Willie died on April 23, 2011 but is still with us all every day including baby Jack and Ali. May he rest in peace. - Alan and family in both Connell and Morar.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of Linda, a dear wife and wonderful mum, who died April 14, 2007. In our thoughts every day. - William and William.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of our mum Linda, who sadly passed away April 14, 2007. Always in our thoughts Miss you mum. - Mairi, Elaine, Jennifer, Aran and James.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of my dear father and Grandpa, Neil Cowan Campbell, formerly of Tiraghoil, who died on April 21, 2012. Forever in our thoughts. - Inserted by his loving daughter Ann, Angus, Lorne, Gordon, Gillian, Ardness, Tiraghoil, Buensan, Mull.

CURRIE - In memory of Caroline, died April 17, 1992. A leaf in the book of memories Is gently turned today Loved and missed always. - Mum, Dad and all the family.

MACKENZIE - In memory of Ian who died April 17, 1999, a much loved husband, father and grandfather. A smile you had for everyone A heart so full of cheer We remember with pride the man you were - Margaret and family.

PHILLIPS - Treasured memories of Mary Kate, who died suddenly in Australia on April 19, 2011. R.I.P. Deeply loved and sorely missed. - Your loving family in Australia, Skipton, Fort William, Benbecula and South Uist.

PURDEN - Precious memories of our son Angus who left us April 22, 1998 aged 25.

We do not need a special day To bring you to our minds The days we do not think of you Are really hard to find In life we loved you dearly And beyond we love you still In our hearts forever son. - Love Mum and Dad xxx

PURDEN - In love memory of our dear brother and Uncle Angus Time may pass and fade away But precious thoughts and memories stay. - Frances and Andrew and Katie and William.xx

RAE - In loving memory of Bill, who died April 19, 2012. Loved and missed. - Chrissie, Angus and Lindsay.

STEELE - Precious memories of our sister Morven, who died April 20, 1984. - Morag and Alan.

SWAINSON - My dearest wife, Rachel, who died April 18, 1997. If love could have saved you You would not have died If tears could bring you back You'd be here by my side I will always love and miss you. - Tony.

SWAINSON - Mum. She was a mother so very rare Content in her home and always there On earth she toiled in heaven she rests God bless you mother You were the best. You will always be our hero Thank God you are wind beneath our wings We miss you so much. - Marie and Jacqueline.

TIMMS - Remembering a dear dad and loving grandad Arthur who passed away April 17, 1984. Also remembering all other loved ones. Time may pass and fade away But loving memories stay forever. - Love Catherine, Lachie and family.

CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Thursday 17 April 2014 Maundy Thursday St John's Cathedral, Oban Sung Eucharist, Washing of Feet and Watch..... 19:00 St Columba, Gruline, Mull Holy Eucharist..... 19:00 St Columba, Mull Bishop's House, Iona Morning Prayer..... 08:00 Holy Eucharist..... 18:00

Friday 18 April 2014 Good Friday St John's Cathedral, Oban Godly Play Children's Service..... 10:00 3 Hour Vigil with reflections and Liturgy of the Good Friday Sacrament. 12:00 St Columba, Gruline, Mull 'An Hour by the Cross'..... 14:00 St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona Morning Prayer..... 08:00 Quiet Hour. Jesus' Words from the Cross 14:00-15:00 Compline..... 20:15 followed by a recording of Stainer's 'The Crucifixion'

Saturday 19 April 2014 Holy Saturday St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona Morning Prayer..... 08:00 Service 'Into the Light' - including renewal of baptismal vows..... 20:15 Sunday 20 April 2014 Easter Day St John's Cathedral, Oban Dawn Service at McCaig's Tower..... 05:30 Holy Communion..... 08:00 Sung Eucharist..... 10:15 Children's Corner Loop System Large Print Hymn Books All Welcome Nicki McNelly, Provost. (01631) 562323 St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich Holy Eucharist..... 15:00 St Columba, Gruline, Mull Holy Eucharist..... 11:00 St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona Holy Eucharist..... 08:00 followed by buffet breakfast for all at the service Evensong..... 20:15

Monday 21 April 2014 Easter Monday St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona Holy Eucharist..... 08:00 Compline..... 20:15 Holy Eucharist..... Wed 23 April 14:30 (01631) 562323

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Oban's Visitor Information Centre becomes exclusive seller of rare Dunollie tartan

OBAN'S visitor centre is the first place to stock products made from a recently discovered historic tartan. The find was made when a tartan expert was touring Dunollie House in 2010 and noticed the print on curtains.

'He saw the tartan and straight

away knew it was something special. He said it must be the most significant find in the history of tartan,' said Breege Smyth, sales manager at Dunollie House.

'It means so much to have the products stocked here and I would like to thank Visit

Scotland for their support.' The Dal Riata regional tartan dates back to 1730 has been made into earrings, brooches and scarves which are only available at Oban Visitor Information Centre and Dunollie House. Lorraine McMunnigal, area

manager for VisitScotland, said: 'It is extremely exciting to be stocking this prestigious range from Dunollie Projects. Visitors certainly appreciate Argyll's rich culture and heritage and they now have the opportunity to take some of that home with them.'



Breege Smyth of Dunollie House (left) presented the historic tartan products to Iain Close, VisitScotland's head of visitor services, Lorraine McMunnigal, VisitScotland's area manager (second from right) and visitor centre staff. 15.16tartan01

Thought for the week

'How do you like your eggs in the morning?'

Large, small, free range, chocolate, crème filled, toffee filled, white, dark, or in between. Admired, bounced, devoured, discovered, hard boiled, hunted, nibbled, painted, rolled, scooped, scrambled, sentimental, studied.

Between 80 and 90 million Easter eggs are sold in the United Kingdom every year. Most of which I expect are eaten, and eaten pretty quickly. We are not alone. Easter is big business around the world for egg producers as folks celebrate the season with eggs, prepared to their liking. Easter itself is a highlight

of the year for the world's Christians as millions gather to celebrate Easter Sunday, many greeting each other with the words 'The Lord is risen, alleluia.' How do you like your eggs on Easter morning? Children love to hunt for theirs, with noise and anticipation. As they run about they recreate

the sounds and emotions of the first Easter Sunday. The running excitement of Jesus' Disciples as they made their way to the Easter Garden, breathing hard, wondering deeply, on their way to discovering the wonder of the risen Christ. Enjoy your eggs, enjoy God's gift to us in Jesus Christ.

Muckairn Church Guild hold last meeting of the session

THE LAST meeting of the session of Muckairn Church Guild was held in the church on Monday, April 6.

Members and friends met and sang Great is thy faithfulness. After prayer and a bible reading members did a play reading of three short dramas with a

moral message, tea and the annual meeting concluded the meeting.

A coffee morning is to be held in the Tainuill Hall on May 3, proceeds to The Julius Project for homeless in Scotland.

The guild sale will be in the hall in the afternoon of July 16.

Loch Shiel use First World War centenary as theme for Spring Festival

THE CENTENARY of the First World War will provide the theme for the Loch Shiel Spring Festival on May 2-4.

The annual event, staged at venues round the Lochaber loch where Bonnie Prince Charlie raised his standard in 1945, will open with '1914: a Masked Ball' in Shielbridge Hall, Acharacle, on Friday, May 2 with a concert featuring music written in the decade of the Great War.

A violin, cello and piano quartet will play pieces by Elgar, Grainger, Stravinsky and Debussy, who died eight months before the Armistice.

Saturday sees the launch of 'My Heart is in the Highlands' poetry competition at Glenfinnan Station on the theme of parting and homecoming. Railway characters will

recount songs and stories from the First World War ahead of a guided minibus tour, 'Wartime experiences on the Road to the Isles, 1745 - 1945', to Mallaig and back.

On Saturday evening, 'The Song of the Earth' concert in Glenfinnan Church will feature Mahler's masterpiece 'Das Lied von der Erde', a breathtaking cycle of songs of life and parting.

The piece, delivered by two singers and eight virtuoso players, will be repeated on Sunday at 3pm to bring the festival to a close.

The concert will be a fitting farewell to festival director Charles Mutter, the associate leader of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, who is moving on after eight years at the helm.

Argyll and Bute to introduce new café pavement licence

ARGYLL'S café culture is to be given a boost by Argyll and Bute Council with the introduction of a new pavement café licence policy.

And the fee for applying for the pavement licence is to be waived in the first year of the new process.

At the moment, the policy has gone out to consultation on the council's website with a view to bringing it into play by the end of August.

The aim is to make it easier for businesses to apply for the £165 licence - although planning permission is needed on top of the licence, at a cost of £382 and a separate £160 licence is required to serve alcohol.

Policy lead for roads and amenity services Councillor Ellen Morton said: 'It is our aim to make it as easy as possible for people to apply for pavement licences - we are

eager to develop a café culture throughout Argyll and Bute.

'Unfortunately there are some statutory processes that people have to go through; that's out-with our control. 'What we are trying to do is make the council's side of the process as user-friendly as possible. That's why we'll be waiving the normal fee of £165 for a licence in the first year.'

The Scottish Government is currently considering alterations to permitted development policy where some pavement cafés will not require planning permission. This is estimated to be in place by the end of the summer.

The members of Argyll and Bute's new Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee agreed to take the proposed new pavement café licence policy to the May meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

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# Saints turn on the style to beat league leaders

'The football on show was a credit to the Scottish Amateur League'

Scottish Amateur league Premier Division  
**St Joseph's 1**  
**Oban Saints 2**

THE SAINTS from Oban visited Clydebank to take on the other Saints in the SAFL Premier Division - St Joseph's, and it was a delighted Oban squad that travelled back up the A85 with three very valuable points in the bag.

Alex Craik was penalised for a hand ball at the edge of the box and this time Kieran Burns made no mistake curling the ball round the Saints wall and into the bottom corner of the net to make the score 1-1.

**FOOTBALL**

each other hammer and tongs and Saints have Daniel Cassells to thank for a brilliant save low down to his left hand post at the start of the half.



Paul Kerr opened the scoring for Saints.

Both teams were undefeated in the league this season so something had to give and thankfully it was the visitors who came out on top over the league leaders by the odd goal in three.

The game was played on an excellent 3G pitch at Clydebank High School, the only problem for the players was a strong blustery wind that made things difficult at times.

Manager Iain Jackson was unavailable as he was at a wedding so the team on the day was run by club secretary David Buchanan and coach Peter MacCallum.

Saints got off to the perfect start when they took the lead in the 3rd minute after a well-worked move in midfield by Donnie Campbell and Myles McAuley led to the ball being played to Lewis Cameron who fed a great ball inside Kevin Seagrave for Ross Maitland to run on to. Ross fired a tantalising ball across the face of the goals for Paul Kerr to fire the ball home at the second attempt after his first shot had been blocked on the line.

St Joe's should have drawn level in the 18th minute when they were awarded a penalty after Dene Cassells was short with a headed pass back to his brother Daniel who clashed with home team striker Blair Mulgrew who went down in a heap. Kieran Burns was entrusted with spot kick, but he blasted the ball high over the bar.

This let-off was short-lived however, as three minutes later the home side did equalise when

ing to get the ball down and play it about on the deck.

Just before the half time whistle Saints had a great chance when St Joe's keeper Derek Keogh failed to hold a Donnie Campbell free kick and the ball came back out to Myles McAuley but he couldn't keep his shot down and the ball sailed 'miles' over the bar.

The second half of a sporting encounter was much like the first with both teams going at

The Oban side took the lead in the 56th minute when Donnie Campbell danced past a couple of defenders before being up-ended in the box leaving referee Mark Kane no option but to point to the spot. Allan MacKay made no mistake thumping the ball home past goalkeeper Derek Keogh.

St Joe's were pushing men forward to try and get back into the game, but this suited the Oban side as they always looked dangerous on the break with Donnie Campbell and Myles McAuley sending probing balls behind the St Joe's defence.

The home side carved out a few corners as the game drew to a close, but again the Saints defence were up to the task and cleared their lines without St Joe's causing too many problems.

With three minutes remaining Allan MacKay had a great chance to kill the game off when he was clean through with only the goalkeeper to beat, but he pulled his shot past the post and a gilt-edged opportunity was missed.

Referee Mark Kane, who had a good game, played three minutes of added on time, and it was a jubilant Saints' contingent who celebrated when he blew for the end of the match.

David Buchanan said: 'It was a good game, played by two good teams who like to get the ball down and pass it about. I thought the football on show was a credit to the Scottish AFL.'

'We were delighted to get the three points in a very close match. Our second half performance probably just about shaded it in our favour.'

The big games are coming thick and fast for Saints now as this Saturday they travel to take on old rivals Thorn Athletic in the league.

The teams have met three times already this season with Thorn gaining a 1-1 draw in the league and a 1-1 draw in the Scottish Cup in Oban but Saints won the cup replay 4-2 in Johnstone so a close encounter is in prospect again this weekend.

The game will be played at Johnstone Sports Hub 3G with a 1pm kick-off.

Scottish Amateur Football League - Premier Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 St Joseph's	13	8	4	1	43	21	28
2 Finnart	11	7	3	1	38	20	24
3 Oban Saints	10	6	4	0	29	13	22
4 Busby	15	7	1	7	33	40	22
5 Haldane United	11	6	3	2	28	20	21
6 Castlemilk	16	3	7	6	37	44	16
7 Inverclyde	14	4	2	6	27	27	14
8 Alba Thistle	15	4	0	11	26	47	12
9 Thorn Athletic	9	3	2	4	14	16	11
10 Kilbowie Union	15	1	2	12	27	54	5



Connel's John McPhee in action during the Grand Prix of the Americas held in Austin, Texas. Photo: Bonnie Lane

## Top 10 finish for young Connel rider

YOUNG road racer John McPhee says he is feeling stronger with each race after claiming his first top 10 finish of the Moto3 season.

The 19 year old looked set to challenge the top riders in Austin, Texas at the weekend after a strong practise session but the SaxoPrint RTG rider started the Grand Prix of the Americas from 15th position following a minor crash in qualifying.

After slowly making his way up the field in a thrilling race, McPhee rode from 12th and made it up to 9th position in the final two laps.

Nearer the front of the field Alex Marquez, leading the following group, managed to catch the front runners in lap six. The three then constantly changed places. In the final laps, Romano Fenati joined to the trio and also the fight for victory.

Through the last two laps, Efrén Vazquez tried several times to take the lead and for a short time he succeeded in that too. In the last turn Alex Marquez fell from fourth position. Vazquez was unable to pass Fenati who had just taken second place and Jack Miller who had regained first, so he finished the race third, as he

**MOTORCYCLING**

had in Qatar. McPhee, who is backed by the Racing Steps Foundation, said: 'I had a really good battle in the race today, and it felt good finishing in ninth position from that. I'm really happy to get my first top 10 finish of the season and feeling stronger race by race.'

John returned to his Connel home this week for a brief respite period before flying out for the Argentinian Grand Prix, which takes place on April 27.

## Cellar lift Oban Filling Station Cup

THE lounge in the Lancaster Hotel provided the setting for The Oban Filling Station (OFS) Cup final contested between current league champions the Cellar and the Lancaster 'A'.

Both sides had comprehensively taken care of their semi-finals opponents with the latter dispatching of defending champions Markie Dans 'A' to set-up the box office tie.

The Cellar have a successful league title defence within their grasp with only two games remaining, so arguably commenced the match as slight favourites although they had failed in two previous attempts to defeat their opponents.

On each of these occasions The Lancaster 'A' dominated the Singles section, however the Cellar weren't going to allow that to happen again and immediately seized the advantage which they refused to relinquish throughout the course of the evening.

What threatened to be a classic final, in truth turned out to be a bit of a damp squib for many onlookers who attended, as the Cellar without being at their clinical best picked up the first piece of silverware this season.

Although the match did reach the penultimate doubles game, the role reversal from previous games didn't sit comfortably with many of the Lancaster players who seemed to flounder under the pressure.

A perplexed crowd witnessed far too many dubious shots elected which were merely penalised by a far more conventional and efficient Cellar who ran out deserved winners.

A jubilant Cellar partyed long into the early hours toasting their victory. They will be hoping for no cup hangover as now their attention turns to a league championship defence.

The result of tonight's (Thursday) match with Markie Dans 'A' will be a determining factor of the league crown's destination with a win for either side putting them firmly in the driving seat.

**POOL**

Elsewhere last week the Gluepot played host to the Claredon in a bottom six battle rescheduled after a request from the visiting team. The Gluepot were only too happy to accommodate knowing a win would lift them up two places and right behind their opponents. The Claredon were on a four-game undefeated streak albeit with three draws in their last three, however the hosts comfortably put that run

to an end to further increase the interest in the race for seventh.

Results 10/4/14 - OFS Cup Final - Cellar 6-3 Lancaster A. League - Gluepot 7-3 Claredon.

Fixtures 17/4/14 - Markie Dans 'A' v Cellar; Outreach v Foleys Bar; Lancaster 'B' v Lancaster 'A'; Claredon v Lochnell; Lochavullin v Gluepot.

**POOL**

Oban Pool League - Sponsored by The Creagan Inn

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
1 Markie Dans A	19	18	0	1	140	50	36
2 The Cellar	19	17	1	1	146	44	35
3 Lancaster A	18	15	2	1	138	42	32
4 Lancaster B	19	11	2	6	107	83	24
5 Markie Dans B	20	8	5	7	102	98	21
6 Lochnell	19	8	3	8	93	97	19
7 Claredon	19	4	5	10	80	110	13
8 Gluepot	19	6	0	13	82	108	12
9 Foleys Bar	19	5	1	13	79	111	11
10 Lochavullin	19	5	1	13	66	124	11
11 Creagan Inn	11	2	1	8	24	86	5
12 Outreach	19	0	1	18	43	147	1



**TAYNUILT**

LADIES: Coronation Four-somes played Tuesday 8 April 1 A MacCalman / Grace Petrie 29 pts (25); 2 C MacLarty / F McGlynn 28 pts (19); 3 S Elliott / S Thomson 26 pts (28).

Gents: Captain's Prize 2nd Round played Sunday 13 April 1 Calum Munro 59 (09); 2 Jack Tollan 66 (17); 3 David Howie 67 (03).

Captain's Prize 2014: 1 Calum Munro 124 (65 59); 2 Andrew Diggory 129 (61 68); Allan Stewart 129 (58 71).

**GLENCRUITTEN**

GLENCRUITTEN Ladies held their first monthly medal of the season last Thursday. Wilma Frew (86-13=73) won the silver and Christine Cameron (97-23=74) won the bronze.

The winner of the Winter Eclectic Competition was Angela McLaughlan and Bunty Menassa came a very close second by a point.

This Saturday is the Stokes Qualifier and the Lifeboat Competition.

**TOBERMORY**

MARIE CURIE Shield: Men's Section - 1 Paul Brown 33 points; 2 Ewan MacCrone 32 points; 3 William MacCrone 30 points.

Ladies' Section - 1 Kathy McAdam 28 points; 2 Olive Brown 11 points.

**ISLAY**

RESULTS of the Higginbotham Trophy played on Sunday 13 April: 1 A Gillespie 35 pts; 2 C Stroud 34 pts; 3 D Livingstone 33 pts.

**Duathlon win for young Daniel**

**DUATHLON**



Daniel Teape

TALENTED young sportsman Daniel Teape has gone on to prove he is just as strong on the bike as he is on track and field after winning two titles in a week.

The Taynuilt lad won the under-11 boys' section at the Argyll Sportshall Athletics and followed it up with victory in the 9-10 age group at the Stirling Triathlon club's annual duathlon.

The nine-year-old won the duathlon after running 600m cycling 900m, then running another 600m and did so in a time of six minutes, six

## Refereeing decisions go against Athletic as they lose out in Challenge Shield

Challenge Shield Quarter Final  
**Possil YM 4**  
**Oban Athletic 3**

OBAN Athletic crashed out of the Challenge Shield, going down 4-3 away to Possil YM. Athletic started brightly playing against a very strong wind and got a penalty. However, the referee deemed Kris Gillies had dived and no spot kick was awarded.

David Smith had a great left footed shot parried by the keeper, and Kris Gillies slotted home the rebound, but

the referee intervened in favour of the hosts and disallow the goal.

Despite a spirited opening period from Athletic, the remainder of the half belonged to Possil as the wind stopped the Oban side crossing the half way line and Possil took advantage scoring three goals.

The major talking point of the first half was right on the half time whistle as a Possil corner was swung in, the home striker pushed goalkeeper Ben Pollock and the ball went straight into the net, another massive decision

favouring the home side.

The second half started poorly for the Oban side as Possil came straight through the defence to score and seemingly put the game to bed.

However, Athletic were not out of it and immediately replied with a Dean Smith strike into the bottom corner.

The wind was in Athletic's favour now and they found it much easier to pass the ball. Tactical changes saw Iain MacInnes go to left midfield and Scott Maitland moved up front which created plenty of chances.

The second Athletic goal came from a Sean Ford corner with David MacPhee scoring with a well-placed header down into the bottom corner.

This was very much game on and Possil were stunned when Scott Maitland made it 4-3.

David MacPhee almost equalised when he fired a left footed shot goalwards only for the keeper to make a fantastic save.

Then came more controversy as Athletic were bearing down on goal, Scott Maitland squared the ball to

Dean Smith who only had the keeper to beat, but the referee again stole the headlines as he made a poor offside call.

The man in black was not finished yet. A last minute throw from Iain MacInnes was flicked on by captain Craig Campbell to Sean Ford who was eight yards out and about to equalise, only for the referee to blow for full time, to the outrage of the visitors.

Manager Calum Fox was angry after the game but proud of his players.

**FOOTBALL**

He said: 'The lads were excellent and although we shouldn't have conceded four goals, the referee played a big part in the defeat.'

'We still have a chance of silverware this season as we are in the quarter finals of the Thomson Trophy against Minorities Youth Foundation, so still plenty to play for.'

Athletic travel to play Antonine on Saturday hoping to cement fourth spot in the league.

# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

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**ALL YOU HAVE TO DO**

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

**Easy to enter**

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition rules**

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the 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 Wyvet Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

**This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:**

**S McArthur, Gartness Cottages, Islay**

**I Heap, Jura Road, Oban**

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Address .....

.....

.....

Tel No. ....

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# MacTavish and Celtic Cup quarter finals this weekend

## RBS MacTavish Cup

NEWTONMORE lost a game for the first time this season when Lovat beat them 2-0 on their home turf.

Coach PJ MacIntosh said: 'Disappointed is an understatement, we played very well but we just didn't score the goals. We had them under severe pressure for most of the game but it wasn't enough.'

This weekend Newtonmore will take on Beaulieu at home in the quarter finals of the RBS MacTavish Cup but will be without five players following injuries.

MacIntosh added: 'We're carrying a lot of injuries but it might be an opportunity to play some of the younger guys but the second team are the same so that's not helping.'

GLENRQUHART are taking steps in the right direction with a 4-1 victory against Inveraray in the Orion Group Premiership.

The team have struggled recently with a number of injured players but will be hoping for another win when they take on Caberfeidh at home in the quarter finals of the RBS MacTavish Cup on Saturday.

KILMALLIE will test themselves against the top team in Scottish shinty when they take on Lovat in the RBS MacTavish Cup second round at Canal Parks.

Coach Duncan Kelly will have a full squad at his disposal with defender Robbie MacFadyen available for selection.

Kelly said: 'Lovat are flying just now but you want to be playing against the top teams because it will allow us to gauge where we are.'

'We won't be doing anything different to what we have been doing - our defence had a really good game against Oban but we will have to be at the top of our game.'

'Lovat are so clever the way they move the ball and their off the ball running is brilliant - so our defence will need to be on their toes. They are the best team in Scotland and we are looking forward to it.'

Orion Group Premiership leaders LOVAT will look to build on their morale-boosting 2-0 defeat of Newtonmore at The Eilan by dumping Kilmallie out of the RBS MacTavish Cup.

Manager Allan MacRae is

delighted with how his team has been playing - but is all too aware that Kilmallie could be a potential banana skin given previous close encounters.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It is always a hard game going down to Caol Parks. We went down there in the MacTavish Cup last year and it was a difficult game and we ended up only winning 2-1.'

'They are pushing for promotion from the national first, they are at home and they are a good team so it will not be easy.'

'We will try to play our normal game and concentrate on ourselves but we will be aware of what Michael Rodger can do and we have to look at that. Then again, Kilmallie have a few boys who are well capable of scoring.'

'But we are the reigning champions having won the MacTavish last season for the first time in 60 years and we will be looking to go as far in the competition as we can.'

Kevin Bartlett bagged both goals against More to provide further evidence that he is thriving as part of Lovat's potent forward line.

MacRae said: 'He is well settled in now and is having a good season. He has great players around him and he is enjoying playing with the guys.'

KINLOCHSHIEL will look to make amends for their sluggish start in the premiership by knocking Kingussie out of the RBS MacTavish Cup at Kirkton.

The Lochalsh men won't want a repeat of Saturday's performance at Kyles which saw them concede three times in the first 15 minutes to leave themselves with a mountain to climb.

Truth be told, 'Shiel's league position is scant reward for performances which have seen them match most opponents so far - except in front of goal.'

Coach Colin Fraser told *The Oban Times*: 'I have been pleased with the way we have been playing but disappointed that we have not been scoring the way we should so hopefully we can turn that around on Saturday.'

'It gives us a bit of respite from the league and takes a wee bit of pressure off because anything can happen in the cup. We have home advantage and a home support so that will help us but it will be a hard game.'

KINGUSSIE were delighted with a 5-2 victory against Lochaber in the Orion Group Championship but coach Russell Jones said it was by no means an easy game.

He said: 'Lochaber got off to a good start and scored two quick goals and had a penalty which we managed to save. In the second half when we had the wind on our side we managed to bring it back but it definitely wasn't easy.'

Kingussie will travel to Kinlochshiel on Saturday for the quarter finals of the RBS MacTavish Cup.

Jones added: 'It'll be a tough game, we've had some really difficult games against them over the years. They've beaten us a few times but hopefully we can do it.'

The team will be without Lee Brian as he was suspended during last week's game.

'This is a massive loss. He's our main man up front and he's been playing really well this year,' said Jones.

## RBS MacTavish Plate

North Division 1 table topers SKYE CAMANACHD welcome Lochaber to Paic nan Laoch in the RBS MacTavish Plate with high hopes of pulling off a shock win.

The islanders were desperately unlucky not to beat Glenurquhart in the MacTavish Cup and are keen to claim a premiership scalp at the second time of asking.

Coach John MacLeod said: 'We'll be taking nothing for granted - they are a premiership team and just as against Glenurquhart we will put a plan in place, get stuck into them and try to disrupt them.'

'We have nothing to lose and all the pressure is back on them. We will have a real go at it and on our day we are more than capable of winning games like this.'

Skye will be missing Shockie MacLennan, who is still waiting for damage to his ankle ligaments to heal.

MacLeod said: 'We won't rush him back - we will let him decide when he is ready.'

LOCHABER are disappointed after a 5-2 defeat on home turf by Kingussie in the Orion Group Premiership.

Coach Robert Johnstone said: 'It's disappointing in the fact that we made too many mistakes and gave away the game. Kingussie took all their chances whilst we made a few mistakes. It was a fair result.'

Lochaber will travel to Skye at the weekend for the first round of the RBS MacTavish Plate after being knocked out of the cup earlier in the month.

Johnstone added: 'It will be difficult, Skye are very hard to beat at home. We'll need to be on form and stop making silly mistakes.'

The team will be without Martin Johnston who was suspended after a scuffle during Saturday's game. Johnstone said: 'It seemed to be just handbags but players from both teams were given an automatic red card. We didn't get any kind of explanation. Losing any player is a big loss when you're trying to keep consistency but we have players to cover it.'

FORT WILLIAM make the trip to Cannich to play Strathglass in the RBS MacTavish Plate as favourites - but co-manager Adi Robertson is anything but complacent.

He said: 'It is always a difficult place to go to get a result and I'm sure this will be no different.'

'It will be similar to going to Beaulieu and places like that and

## SHINTY

we will be taking nothing for granted. We have only played two games in I don't know how many weeks and that's more frustrating than anything else.'

'But the boys have been training hard and they are desperate to get some playing time in the field.'

Fort William should have a full squad available for the game, Robertson said.

## AJG Celtic Society Cup

KILMORY was unable to build on an early lead and went crashing out of the first round of the Balliemore Cup with a 5-2 thrashing against Inverness.

Alister MacArthur opened the scoring with a goal on seven minutes, but the lead was short lived as the North Division One side came back to score 10 minutes later.

The goal was followed by another two before the Mid Argyll side was able to claw one back on 72 minutes.

But, the side who had made an eight-hour round trip for the match in Inverness, conceded another goal just moments later and the last in the final minutes.

Kilmory will face a tough test this weekend when they welcome Premiership giants Inveraray to MacRae Park for the AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup. Throw up is at 2.30pm.

INVERARAY will look to this weekend's Argyll derby with Kilmory to boost confidence after their stuttering league campaign continued last Saturday.

The AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup match is scheduled to take place in Lochgilphead but Inveraray, as heavy favourites, will see the match as an opportunity to boost their forwards' confidence in front of goal.

The club will also be buoyed by the chance to once again compete for the Celtic Cup, a trophy they have held 10 times since 2001.

Scoring goals has been an issue for the Royal Burgh this season and they lost 4-1 at Glenurquhart last Saturday, their fourth league defeat of the season.

Despite Euan McMurdo pulling a goal back to make it 2-1 just after half time, the Drumadrochit side proved more clinical throughout the 90 minutes.

GLENRCHY will be better prepared for their second trip to Glasgow this season.

The Dalmlally men lost 4-2 to Glasgow Mid Argyll (GMA) in a league encounter earlier this season but ahead of their Celtic Society Cup meeting in Glasgow this Saturday, manager John Smith says his approach will be more tactical.

'If we can field our best team, we can get a result. The games with GMA are always close. We will make certain their danger men are more closely marked and the boys will be paying more attention to tactics on the day. We've done our homework.'

Glenorchy will be keen to bounce back from a 5-0 drubbing at Beaulieu last weekend, when no fewer than seven first team regulars were missing.

Smith said: 'We were short of a few players but Beaulieu were the better team. We really needed our full team in order to make any inroads.'

OBAN CAMANACHD manager Gussie Campbell will give some of his fringe players a run out this weekend in the Oban derby but he insists he is not taking Oban Celtic lightly.



The National Division match between Glenorchy and Beaulieu was switched to Braeview Park, Beaulieu after the Mart Park in Dalmlally was found to be unplayable. Our photograph shows Beaulieu's Marc MacLachlan shielding the ball from Glenorchy's Scott MacKillop. Photo: Donald Cameron

The rival clubs match up in the AJG Celtic Society Cup this Saturday at Mossfield, with Camanachd overwhelming favourites.

However, Campbell says his players will be well prepared for the encounter.

'Some of the guys who have been substitutes in recent weeks will get a good run out on Saturday but Oban Celtic will get respect from me and the lads.'

'In a local derby everyone gets a bit extra in their running and tackling and players tend to raise their performance level. It will be a good game.'

Oban Camanachd's game against Fort William was postponed last week following the death of Lochside Rovers youngster Scott Goldie.

Campbell said of the 17-year-old: 'He was a talented player; I had him away with the first team one week last season. He was very brave and fast and I'm sure he could have made the grade.'

## National Division

BUTE'S first team have no game scheduled this week, giving them time to recover from an 8-1 defeat at Caberfeidh.

A Graham Fisher goal on 25 minutes had pulled a goal back for the islanders at 1-1 but a rampant Caberfeidh went on to dismantle the Bute rearguard in what was a difficult afternoon for the visitors.

Bute's second team are scheduled to play Ballachulish in Marine Harvest South Division Two this Saturday, looking to make up for a 3-0 home defeat to Inveraray last time out.

## South Division One

STRACHUR will hope to be back in league action tomorrow (Saturday) when they play Kyles Athletic junior team in South Division One.

The Cowal side was forced to postpone last week's match against Ballachulish because of an unplayable field. Earlier in the month Strachur pulled out of the Balliemore Cup because they

Taynuilt, which play two divisions below have been testing out a number of young players following the retirement of more experienced club members.

Taynuilt manager David Thomson said: 'This game should test the boys out. They have to go out and enjoy playing a premier league team and not expect too much.'

'All I ask is that they do their best and compete as best they can.'

'Being at home gives us a wee bit of an advantage and we are going out with nothing to lose.' Asked if he expected a big crowd at the Taynuilt Sports-

field this Saturday, Thomson quipped: 'It is a great chance for folk to see one of the top teams in Scotland, against Kyles!'

KYLES ATHLETIC looked to have found their footing in this season's Orion Group Premiership after a convincing 3-1 win over Kinlochshiel in Tighnabruich.

A Roddy MacDonald brace and a Roberto Zaveroni strike early on looked to have set the home side on their way to a comfortable victory.

But a reply from 'Shiel on 23 minutes, one minute after Kyles' third goal, made things interesting.

Kyles trainer James Perlich said: 'We got off to a great start and the forward line played some fantastic shinty, which was very encouraging to see.'

Kyles should record a routine win in Taynuilt this weekend as they travel to take on the Lorn side in the AJG Celtic Society Cup.

## North Division Two

With two games now under their belts, GLENGARRY are feeling more confident in their ability.

A 2-1 victory against Boleskin in the Marine Harvest North Division Two added another two points but the team are still playing catch up from previous games being rained off.

Coach Ewen Cameron said: 'It was very good, we played well and we won, that's all you want. If you keep playing it does help but it's when we miss weeks and start and stop that it becomes difficult. Hopefully we'll get a good run of games now.'

Glenarry will be without Stuart Gregory and Ken Henderson at Saturday's away game against Kinlochshiel.

Cameron added: 'This is a hard team for us, we never beat them at all last year and we played them three times, hopefully we can do it though.'



Glenarry women's shinty team has received a boost after local builder and joiner Alastair Fraser sponsored the team for another season. Mr Fraser has supported the Garry girls every year since they were first formed in 1997.

## Fixtures

**Saturday 19 April**  
**The RBS MacTavish Cup - Quarter Finals**  
 Newtonmore v Beaulieu  
 Evan MacRae  
 Glenurquhart v Caberfeidh  
 Graham Cameron  
 Kilmallie v Lovat  
 Innes Wood - 4pm  
 Kinlochshiel v Kingussie  
 John Angus Gillies

**AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup - Quarter Finals**  
 Kilmory v Inveraray  
 Graham Cameron  
 Glasgow MA v Glenorchy  
 Ted MacDonald - 3pm  
 Oban Caman v Oban Celtic  
 Deek Cameron  
 Taynuilt v Kyles Athletic  
 Colin MacDonald

**Balliemore Cup**  
 Lochcarron v Aberdeen Uni  
 Daniel MacRae

**RBS MacTavish Plate - Quarter Finals**  
 Strathglass v Fort William  
 Ron Kennedy  
 Skye v Lochaber  
 David Stafford

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
 Glenurquhart v Inverness  
 Archie Ritchie

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
 Fort William v Boleskine  
 Lachie Wood  
 Glengarry v Kinlochshiel  
 John Matheson  
 Lochaber v Skye  
 Martin MacLean

**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
 Kilmallie v Lewis  
 Andy MacLean - 1.30pm  
 Strathspye v Lochbroom  
 Iain Kennedy - 1.30pm  
 Caberfeidh v Inverness  
 Robert Morrison

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
 Strachur v Kyles Athletic  
 David Mitchell  
 Lochside Rovers v Ballachulish  
 Ewen MacDonald

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
 Bute v Ballachulish  
 Euan Pearson  
 Glasgow Mid Argyll v Col Glen  
 John MacGregor - 12pm  
 Glenorchy v Inveraray  
 Robert Baxter  
 (Throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated)

## Results

**Saturday 12 April**  
**Orion Group Premiership**  
 Glenurquhart 4 - 1 Inveraray  
 Match transferred to Drumadrochit  
 Lochaber 2 - 5 Kingussie  
 Newtonmore 0 - 2 Lovat  
 Kyles Ath 3 - 1 Kinlochshiel  
 Match transferred to Ormadale

**Marine Harvest National Division**  
 Fort William v Oban Caman  
 Postponed - due to bereavement  
 Kilmallie v Glasgow MA  
 Postponed - field unplayable  
 Caberfeidh 8 - 1 Bute  
 Beaulieu 5 - 0 Glenorchy  
 Match transferred to Beaulieu

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
 Beaulieu 2 - 1 Kingussie  
 Lovat 3 - 4 Glenurquhart  
 Skye 2 - 0 Newtonmore

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
 Lochcarron v Lochaber  
 Postponed - field unplayable  
 Kinlochshiel v Skye  
 Postponed - field unplayable  
 Boleskin 1 - 2 Glenarry  
 Match transferred to Farr

**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
 Inverness 3 - 4 Lewis  
 Lochbroom 3 - 3 Caberfeidh  
 Strathspye 2 - 2 Kilmallie

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
 Strachur v Ballachulish  
 Postponed - field unplayable  
 Taynuilt v Oban Celtic  
 Postponed - field unplayable  
 Aberdour 2 - 0 Kyles Athletic  
 Match transferred to Aberdour

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
 Ballachulish v Tayforth  
 Postponed - field unplayable  
 Bute 0 - 3 Inveraray  
 Col Glen 3 - 0 Glenorchy  
 Glasgow MA 15 - 0 Aberdour

**Balliemore Cup**  
 Inverness 5 - 2 Kilmory



Kilmory had to give up home advantage in the Balliemore Cup and travelled to the Bught Park in Inverness last Saturday. The Mid Argyll side found themselves on the wrong end of a 5-2 scoreline. Our photograph shows Kilmory's Mark Robertson getting the ball under control watched by Adam MacMaster of Inverness. Photo: Donald Cameron

The Orion Group Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lovat	6	6	0	0	18	4	12
Newtonmore	5	4	0	1	14	5	8
Kingussie	5	3	1	1	10	7	7
Glenurquhart	5	2	1	2	9	5	3
Kyles Athletic	5	1	2	2	6	10	4
Kinlochshiel	6	1	0	5	8	15	2
Lochaber	3	0	1	2	5	12	1
Inveraray	4	0	1	4	3	14	1

Marine Harvest National Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oban Camanachd	4	3	0	1	6	4	6
Caberfeidh	3	2	0	1	15	5	4
Kilmallie	2	2	0	0	6	1	4
Beaulieu	5	2	0	3	10	11	4
Fort William	1	1	0	0	4	1	2
Glasgow MA	4	1	0	3	9	11	2
Glenorchy	3	1	0	2	4	9	2
Bute	2	0	0	2	1	10	-2

Marine Harvest North Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skye	3	3	0	0	11	0	6
Newtonmore	5	3	0	2	18	7	6
Kingussie	5	2	1	2	14	16	5
Strathglass	2	2	0	0	10	2	4
Glenurquhart	4	2	0	2	10	10	4
Beaulieu	5	2	0	3	6	16	4
Inverness	4	1	1	2	12	14	3
Lovat	4	0	0	4	6	22	0

Marine Harvest South Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aberdour	2	1	1	0	4	2	3
Kilmory	2	1	1	0	3	1	3
Ballachulish	1	1	0	0	3	0	2
Strachur	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Kyles Athletic	3	0	2	1	2	4	2
Oban Celtic	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Lochside Rovers	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Taynuilt	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

Marine Harvest North Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glengarry	2	2	0	0	3	1	4
Boleskine	4	2	0	2	10	13	4
Skye	2	1	0	1	7	1	2
Fort William	2	1	0	1	7	6	2
Kinlochshiel	2	1	1	0	7	2	1
Aberdeen Uni	2	0	1	1	1	8	1
Lochcarron	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lochaber	2	0					

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## Record breaking win for the Green Machine

'We have tightened up on all the small things and everybody knows their role'

RBS West Division 2  
Oban Lorne 120  
Strathaven 0

### RUGBY

OBAN LORNE prepared for their most important game in a year by registering a record victory over lowly Strathaven.

The Green Machine rolls into Garnock for a potential league decider this Saturday, almost a year to the day that it lifted the RBS National Bowl at Murrayfield.

And Oban player-coach Corrie Louw says the tie at Garnock this weekend is just as important as that famous day in Edinburgh.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'This game is equally as important to the club because this is the one that could decide whether we win the league or finish second or third. Our season is all to do with this weekend.'

While Garnock have won every home game this season, Oban Lorne have maintained a 100 per cent record on the road.

The Ayrshire side drew first blood back in October last year becoming one of only two teams to beat Oban Lorne in the league this season in a 10-15 win.

But Louw, who admits there is little else on his mind this week, says his squad is stronger and better prepared for Garnock this time round.

He said: 'We have tightened up on all the small things and everybody knows their role.'

'We saw that last week against Strathaven when we scored 120 points, everything just came together.'

'Previously, we have had a steady squad of 15 players and we bring in different guys every week to fill in gaps. Now, we have 22 to 25 guys looking for a starting place in the team, so when someone comes off there is another player to fill in and do a job no problem.'

From the off last Saturday, it was clear that Strathaven would be in for a difficult day.

The scoring was opened early on with a score from Cameron Smith, the first of his five tries. This was swiftly followed by tries from Jamie MacMillan, Struan Smith, Connor Ferris, Corrie Louw, Andy MacDougall, Calum MacLachlan, David MacLennan, David McCabe, Alex Lawson, and Finlay Carmichael.

The boot of Finlay Carmichael added considerably to the points tally, 15 out of 18 conversions sailing through the uprights.

Despite the final scoreline, Strathaven continued to battle



Cameron Smith scored five tries against the luckless Strathaven last weekend. Photos: Stewart Kennedy

for the full 80 minutes, at times nearing the home try line, however they were never likely to break through the strong Oban defence.

A five-star performance from Cameron Smith saw him man of the match.

Oban Lorne RFC is looking to provide a supporters' bus for the must-win game in Garnock.

Anyone wishing to travel to Glangarnock should contact Alan Wright or Tommy Sutherland for details. Alternatively, supporters can book a seat through the club's Facebook page.

RBS West Division (top three)						
	P	W	D	L	PD	Pts
1 Oban Lorne	20	18	0	2	470	87
2 Carrick	20	17	0	3	668	85
3 Garnock	19	18	0	1	460	85

## Young Robert 'gutted' at losing in Scottish Boys semi-final

THE HIGH standard Oban golf prospect Robert MacIntyre has set for himself was evident after he was 'gutted' with a semi-final defeat in the Scottish Boys Championship.

Robert lost out 2&1 to the runner up and good friend Ben Kinsley last Friday after a

week-long tournament, despite not carding worse than par in his final 55 holes at West Kilbride Golf Club.

The 17 year old's exit from the competition at the penultimate stage allowed him to enter the Argyll and Bute Men's Matchplay at Machrihanish last

### GOLF

weekend and he made up for his earlier disappointment by taking the title.

After playing 16 rounds of golf in nine days he travelled to Birmingham this week with the Scotland Boys Squad to compete in the McEvoy Trophy.

Robert's father, Dougie, the head greenkeeper at Robert's home course of Glencruitten, said: 'He was gutted to lose out in the semi-final of the boys championship.'

'He played well enough, he didn't card one bogey in the final 55 holes and finished on 13 under par, but he missed a few putts for birdies and that is the standard you are up against.'

**Tough cruise**  
Sunday didn't improve but a smaller band of kayakers set off for a tough cruise down the



Robert MacIntyre - lost in the semi-finals.



Jamie MacMillan and Crawford Brown bulldoze their way through the Strathaven defence.

## Oban Canoe Club holds water sports weekend

OBAN Sailing Club's clubhouse was the base for a water sports weekend with the Oban Canoe Club running its annual workshop last weekend.

Despite the usual wet and wild weekend conditions 15 sea kayakers took part in a number of coaching workshops both on the water in the Sound of Kerrera and off the water in the clubhouse on Saturday.

**Tough cruise**  
Sunday didn't improve but a smaller band of kayakers set off for a tough cruise down the

Sound of Kerrera into the wind and waves.

By this time the Oban Sailing Club dinghy sailors were on the scene at Dungallan Park too, contemplating whether venturing out in the Force 6 gusting Force 8 was really going to be fun.

**Cancelled**  
Conditions didn't improve and the dinghy racing was cancelled - despite that Steven Forth and Patrick Shellcock went for a blast in the RS400 - the spectators were hoping for some

spectacular capsize but were disappointed.

The Oban Canoe Club kayakers had a fun ride back up the Sound, surfing on the white capped waves.

With the weather set to improve both Oban Canoe Club and the Oban Sailing Club are looking forward to a few calmer adventures.

Check out both clubs' websites for information on how to get involved.

### SAILING

## Scottish Amateur Football League results and fixtures

### FOOTBALL

LAST Saturday's results: Premier Division - St Joseph's 1, Oban Saints 2. Premier Division One - Rutherglen 2, Campbeltown Pupils 1. Premier Division Two - Lochgilphead Red Star v Glencastle Sparta postponed; Port Glasgow United 1, Dunoon Athletic 4. Division 1A Millerston Thistle 0, Tarbert 11.

This Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division - Thorn Athletic v Oban Saints; Premier Division 1 - Shawlands v Dunoon; Premier Division Two - Lochgilphead Red Star v Goldenhill; Division 1A - Tarbert v Ferguslie Star.

## Shinty matches on television

### SHINTY

THE CAMANACHD Association has reached agreement with MG ALBA for six matches to be televised on BBC ALBA during the current season.

These are: RBS MacTavish Cup Final, June 21, Bught Park, Inverness; AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup Final, June 28, Old Anniesland, Glasgow; Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Semi-final, August 9 (venue tbc); Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Semi-final, August 16 (venue tbc); Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final, August 30 (venue tbc); Hurling/Shinty International (second test), October 25, Pairc Esler, Newry.

BBC Scotland has also agreed to broadcast a further three matches during the 2014 season: Artemis Macaulay Cup Final, August 23, Mossfield Stadium, Oban; Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final, September 13, Bught Park, Inverness; Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling International (first test), October 18, Bught Park, Inverness.

## South of Scotland primary six-a-side championships

### SCHOOL SHINTY

THE South of Scotland Primary Schools 6-a-side Shinty Championship will be held on Sunday 11 May 2014 at Taynuilt Playing Field starting at 11am.

For further details contact Euan McMurdo, Argyll and Bute shinty development officer on 07824 367996

## Saints players in Scottish squad

### FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints players Donnie Campbell, Myles McAuley and Lewis Cameron are in the Scottish Amateur League squad which will take on Edinburgh and Lothian AFL at Northholm Park, Giffnock on Sunday. The game kicks off at 2pm

## Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

### YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s v Antonine postponed; Under 14s no game; Under 15s v Milngavie postponed; Under 17s no game.

This weekend's fixtures: Broomhill v Under 13s; Under 14s no game; Under 15s no game; Under 17s no game.



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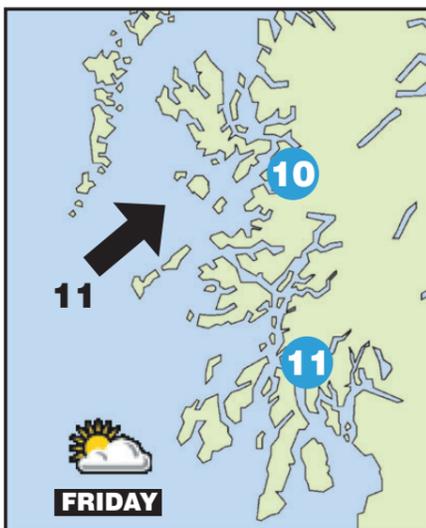
## Weather

**Thursday** Sunshine and showers  
Winds moderate west north westerly  
Temperatures 4°C to 9°C

**Friday** Sunny intervals  
Winds light south south westerly  
Temperatures 7°C to 10°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Cloudy with some light rain  
Winds light southerly  
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate  
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, April 17, 2014** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	00.41 0.6 06.39 3.9 13.05 0.7 18.58 3.9	
Fri	01.19 0.6 07.12 3.8 13.39 0.8 19.35 3.8	
Sat	02.00 0.7 07.51 3.6 14.20 0.9 20.17 3.6	
Sun	02.48 0.9 08.35 3.4 15.08 1.1 21.08 3.2	
Mon	03.45 1.1 09.28 3.1 16.09 1.2 22.08 3.2	
Tues	04.55 1.3 10.39 2.9 17.24 1.4 23.35 3.1	
Wed	06.14 1.4 12.38 2.8 18.45 1.4 *** **	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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**INSIDE**

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### Fort indoor sports centre a step closer

A MULTI-SPORTS indoor training centre in Fort William is a step closer after developers Lochaber Sports Association (LSA) secured a £600,000 funding pledge from Highland Council.

The association has already won £10,000 in principle from the Landfill Communities Fund for the £1.47 million facility at Lochaber High School.

Meanwhile, a £500,000 bid to sportsScotland has cleared its first hurdle by moving from outline to full application status, bringing the total potential funding package to £1.11 million.

The shortfall could be considerably reduced if moves to reduce VAT costs are successful. The centre, comprising a 60m by 40m covered artificial 3G pitch, will allow clubs, schools and community groups to participate in sport all year round, whatever the weather.

LSA chairwoman Jane Blanchard said: 'The indoor surface will be suitable for football, rugby and shinty, golf and cricket nets practice, junior indoor athletics and a host of other healthy activities.'

'It is also expected to attract national coaching and training programmes and will be a great facility for national sporting events.' She added: 'LSA would like to thank Highland Council, sportsScotland, Dave Thompson MSP, and our councillors for their valuable support in getting us to this exciting stage. Every small donation will add up to make a big difference.'

### Ferry expected to return

NORMAL service will be restored on the Mallaig to Armadale ferry route this weekend if, as expected, the *MV Coruisk* returns following repairs.

It had been hoped the vessel would have been back operating on Tuesday but CalMac said sea trials on Monday identified 'an issue' with the repair to her bow, which was damaged while she was operating on the Gourrock-Dunoon route. The *MV Hallaig* is currently in service on the crossing.



### Youngsters steal the show at fèis concert

Fèis beag kids were a bit hit on stage at the Fèis Lochabar final concert at Banavie Primary School on Friday. It was standing room only in the hall as an appreciative audience enjoyed a varied programme of Gaelic songs, plays and traditional tunes from more than 100 children in a varied programme. See more on the fèis, page 12. 20.1661605

## Urgent call for A82 action

ROAD campaign group the A82 Partnership is demanding urgent action after a further spate of accidents on the same corner four miles south of Fort William.

Wester Ross man Douglas Moyes, 64, died when his car hit a tree after plunging off the road on the notorious bend on April 1.

The fatal accident was followed by another crash at the same spot at 6.16pm on Saturday evening which police said left three women in their teens as 'walking wounded'.

Eye witnesses reported that the car ended up next to the tree with which Mr Moyes' vehicle collided. A police spokesperson said: 'One casualty was taken to the Belford Hospital and was kept in overnight for observation.'

On Sunday evening at 11.12pm a man in his 30s escaped injury when his car went down the embankment at the corner, which exits Corrychurachan

to the north. The accidents happened just where the road surface changes from non-skid to ordinary tarmac.

The incidents mirror a similar series of crashes on the bend in January, reported by *The Oban Times*, which prompted Transport Scotland to investigate whether an upgrade of the road was needed. A82 Partnership chairman, Councillor Brian Murphy told *The Oban Times* on Tuesday: 'I spoke to Transport Scotland A82 route manager Bob Mitchell today and he told me investigations are still continuing. Given that accidents seem to be continuing at the same location I think the road needs to be treated with non-slip surfacing. This is something that really needs to be looked at - preferably before the tourist season gets underway.'

Headed: 'The A82 Partnership is looking for some action to be taken on that stretch of road to ensure that it is made safe. A

lot of times it is driver error but when you get so many incidents at pretty much the same location then you have to say there has to be something else going on other than driver error.'

Transport Scotland told *The Oban Times*: 'Following discussions between Police Scotland and our operating company, Transport Scotland instructed Bear Scotland to undertake a comprehensive assessment to investigate the causation of accidents on the A82 between Corran Ferry and Fort William.'

'The assessment has considered various factors including the road alignment, surface condition, signing and lining and drainage to determine whether any engineering remedial measures could improve road safety on the A82 in this area. The report is due to be finalised this month and recommended measures will be considered and programmed for delivery this financial year.'

## Hero's welcome for Ally 'K' at end of 125-mile run

ALMOST 1,000 people gave Ally 'K' MacPherson a hero's welcome in Portree on Saturday night at the finish of his punishing 125-mile run round Skye for Cancer Research UK.

The CalMac ferry steward broke the tape in Somerled Square just before 9pm, two minutes inside his target time of 35 hours.

The remarkable effort captured the imagination of the Skye public and raised £25,000 - more than three times his £8,000 target. A bucket collection in the square took in around £3,500 alone.

Ally left Armadale in Sleaf at 10am on Friday and without sleep ran to Sligachan, up to Dunvegan, across to Portree, up to Staffin and Uig then back to Portree.

The gruelling challenge left Ally five kilos lighter, with swollen feet and a walking stick - but he was so inspired by the support he received that he would



Well done dad! Ally's delighted children Eilidh and Lewis welcome him home to Portree after his 125-mile run round Skye. Also pictured, right, is Thomas Wilson from Portree, who helped Ally through the last stages of the run.

do it all again. Ally told *The Oban Times*: 'I was gobsmacked by the welcome I got. 'There must have been 1,000 people in Somerled Square at the finish and they reckoned that was the biggest crowd since Skye

'People were coming out of houses with food and money, banners in the villages and cars stopping to wish me good luck.'

'Folk even came out to run with us in the middle of the night when they could have been home in their nice cosy beds.'

Ally's friend and fellow Sgitheanach Gavin Bruce, a bus driver and piper who plays with the Queen's Own Highlanders, finished his shift at lam on Saturday and drove straight to Skye to join the run at Skeabost at 3am.

Isle of Skye Running Club ran with Ally along the way and the Be Your Best Boot Camp ladies joined him for the last six or seven miles into Portree to show their support.

Meanwhile, Dr Stephen Moran opened his surgery at Dunvegan, the half-way point, to take Ally's weight and blood pressure and strap up his blistered feet.

Ally said: 'Everything went to

plan except the weather, which was horrendous. From 1pm on Friday to 8.30am on Saturday it was 17 hours of driving rain then there were strong winds all round the north end of Skye.'

'My feet are swollen right up and I have a walking stick right now for hobbling about the house. I don't go back to work until next Thursday so I'll be okay by then.'

He added: 'Hugh Campbell was a diamond the whole way through.'

'He co-ordinated the support team and must have run 40-plus miles with me as well.'

'There was a lovely feeling about the whole thing. One person told me: 'It is not just that you ran round Skye and raised money for cancer research, it is that you brought a whole island together. When you get community support like that it just opens your eyes.'

'I would do it again in a minute, no two ways about it.'

### Mentor hails effort 'a remarkable feat of human endurance'

ALLY'S training mentor, Portree athlete and three-time Portree half-marathon winner Hugh Campbell, said conditions were 'some of the worst' he had experienced on any run.

Hugh told *The Oban Times*: 'It was cold as well and it was just a case of keeping Ally going.'

He picked up a knee injury at Sligachan and it gradually deteriorated from then on. By the time he got to the last 10 miles it was causing him serious pain.

'Then it was a matter of mind over body - he just had to put one foot in front of the other and go through the pain barrier.'

'Ally had a low point in Portree when he ran past his house knowing he still had 50 miles to go - but the character he showed to keep going was absolutely incredible. For the last 10 miles his body was just shot.'

He added: 'It was a remarkable feat of human endurance and a quite spectacular performance.'

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## Crisis talks on pitch maintenance

CRISIS talks on ensuring Highland Council-owned grass pitches in Lochaber are properly maintained are to take place next month.

The move follows damning criticism of an 'Alice in Wonderland' council report claiming that sports fields were 'in good condition for this time of year' and maintenance had 'improved'.

Furious Lochaber area committee councillors said public money had been 'wasted' on costly pitch upgrades through inadequate maintenance.

They also claimed rugby, shinty and football clubs were telling them - contrary to the council report - that parks were deteriorating and rain-enforced postponements were wrecking their season.

They demanded a meeting with top officials - and last week director of education Hugh Fraser and community services director William Gilfillan agreed to hold talks with club representatives and councillors to thrash out a solution.

The Fort William summit is likely to examine

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT** by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

whether clubs can take over looking after their own parks with council cash and equipment.

Caol and Mallaig councillor Bill Clark told *The Oban Times*: 'They will be meeting with the clubs to discuss a way forward.'

'They want to find out how to deliver a better maintenance programme for the parks.'

**Standard** 'They are public parks and maintained as such but most clubs are affiliated to national bodies who require a higher standard of maintenance.'

'It will be a case of saying to the clubs if we bring the pitches up to a certain standard they can maintain the pitches themselves, with money

from Highland Council at the level provided just now.'

Councillor Clark pointed out that two all weather pitches will be built at the new Inverness Royal Academy, while Lochaber High School was given two grass pitches - despite Fort William's notorious weather.

He said: 'Should it not have been the other way around?'

'In Lochaber we get 75 inches of rain a year compared with just 29 in Inverness and 33 at Wick.'

'Even if you divide the maintenance monies up on an equal basis you are always going to struggle to look after pitches here because of the rain situation - and they have to take that into account.'

Fort William and Kilmallie shinty clubs have each played just once at home this season while Fort William FC have a huge fixture backlog to fulfill at flood-prone Claggan Park.

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**Design award deadline looms**

THE CLOCK is ticking for architects and designers of inspirational buildings in Lochaber looking to get involved in the Highlands and Islands Design Awards. Entries to the competition, which is organised by the Inverness Architectural Association (IAA), must be in by Friday 25 April. As well as new buildings, the judges are also looking for examples of restored buildings, external spaces and innovation within the industry. The awards feature a range of categories and include prizes for best new building, best restoration project and the best or most innovative use of timber. Projects must have been completed within the period January 2012 to January 2014. Past winners include Acharacle Primary School.

**Benbecula to host formal council meetings**

FORMAL meetings of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar are taking place in Benbecula next week for the first time since 2002. Meetings of the audit and scrutiny committee, the policy and resources committee and the full comhairle are due to take place in Lionacleit School on Wednesday, April 23. Meeting times are 9.30am, 2pm and 7.30pm, respectively. Comhairle leader Angus Campbell said: 'Similar to the Scottish Cabinet meeting in Stornoway this week, this gives the comhairle a chance to take the decision making process to the public and provides them with an opportunity to see the democratic process at first hand. In addition, it provides an opportunity for us to meet with people and hear their concerns. I am very much looking forward to the Uist meetings next week. The meetings are open to the public.'

**Hillwalkers warned to take care on high mountains**

HILLWALKERS have been warned to take care over the Easter weekend with huge amounts of snow and ice still lingering in the high mountains. The holiday traditionally sees thousands of visitors arrive in the west Highlands to scale the peaks with many on their first outing of the year. Heather Morning of the Mountaineering Council of Scotland said: 'At this time of year it is really difficult to know what to expect. One day on the hill could be warm, dry and calm with good visibility, the next you could be in a blizzard. The important thing is to be prepared and check out the weather forecast in advance to enable you to make a decision about what kit to take.'



FC Corran campaigners have won huge support online. 20\_f16ferry04

**West Lochaber mourns death of Mallaig coastguard officer**

MOURNERS from across west Lochaber and further afield turned out in force to pay their respects to Mallaig coastguard officer Ian Macnaughton last weekend. The former Mallaig lifeboatman died suddenly last Monday aged 60 after becoming unwell, leaving local people and his family devastated. His funeral on Saturday morning saw St. Mary's in Arisaig packed to overflowing, with many more people standing outside. The Rev. Edgar Ogston of the Church of Scotland led the service. From Arisaig, mourners travelled the five miles to Beoraic cemetery in Morar and on to the funeral tea in the West Highland Hotel in Mallaig. Ann Martin, editor of community newspaper Westword said it was fitting that the three communities each had a part in proceedings. She told *The Oban Times*: 'It was a huge funeral - I have never seen the church so full and there

were people standing outside. There were ex-pats from all over the place - people I had not seen for a long time had travelled from all over. That says an awful lot about how highly Ian was regarded. It was not just a matter of paying respect, everyone was so upset and there were quite a lot of red eyes. The shock for his family must have been awful. I don't think it has sunk in yet.' She added: 'Everybody called Ian a gentle giant. He was involved in everything, especially Mallaig and Morar Games. He had his own tractor company and was always doing jobs for people that needed doing.' Lochalsh-born Mr Macnaughton and his wife Jean celebrated their ruby wedding anniversary last year along with their children Ian and Rachel, their grandchildren, and extended family. His family in tribute said: 'Big Ian as he was widely known was big in every sense - big in stature, big in heart and a huge



Sadly missed: Ian Macnaughton, right, was presented with his long service medal and certificate in Mallaig coastguard station in September 2009. 10\_f16mallaig01

Mallaig coastguard station officer until his death, received the RNLI Thanks on vellum for his bravery in saving a fisherman from drowning after a fishing boat sank off Rum in 1986. He received his 20 years long service medal from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency in September 2009. Mr Macnaughton, who was

**Ferry fare group wins big on-line support**

**Furious protesters want free passage across Loch Linhhe**

A CAMPAIGN to abolish fares on the Corran Ferry across Loch Linhhe has become an on-line hit after receiving more than 2,000 'likes' on its Facebook page. Protest group Free Crossing for Corran (FC Corran) launched its crusade for 'a long term sustainable free crossing' on April 1 with a mock ribbon-cutting on the ferry's Ardgor and Nether Lochaber slipways. The event attracted huge media interest - and since then messages of support have poured in as the group steps up efforts to force a re-think from ferry owners Highland Council. FC Corran claims remote communities west of the ferry are being unfairly treated compared with others in Scotland and want the crossing to be treated the same way as the toll-free Skye bridge. They are furious that the cost of a book of 30 tickets has risen 25 per cent in a year - equivalent to over £200 extra annually for people travelling to work in Fort William five days a week. The group is also concerned that more haulage companies are shunning the ferry and are

instead sending HGVs round the loch via the single-track A861, which is ill-suited to heavy traffic. FC Corran chairman Tony Boyd welcomed the growing support for the campaign. He told *The Oban Times*: 'We are absolutely delighted to have had so many positive messages of support from people. What matters to us is that we are accessible to visitors and businesses that come over here to work because that's what makes our communities viable. Our shopkeepers tell us 50 to 60 per cent of their income is from tourists. The shop in Ardgor is very marginal as it is and they have put a notice up saying 'use us or lose us'. At its campaign strategy meeting last Thursday, the FC Corran steering committee agreed to seek a meeting with community services chair Graham Phillips. Mr Boyd said: 'We will put our case for a free ferry and how we go about that. Highland Council

will probably say no and then we would go to the Scottish Government. We have to take it one step at a time and go through the proper procedures. Under public service obligation rules, there is scope for Europe to subsidise transport services to protect rural communities.' Highland Council maintains a way must be found to plug an annual £173,000 shortfall between income from fares and the £1.3 million cost of running the ferry. Concessionary fares, £2.30 single for a car and passengers - still offers good value for money, it says. The council also points out that a single fare for a car has gone up by 90 pence, 12.8 per cent, to £7.90 in two years - far less than the concessionary tickets. A consultants' socio-economic study of fare levels, which outlines the impacts of increasing fares by either 10 or 25 per cent, is currently out to community consultation. Highland Council's community services committee is due to consider a new fares regime on May 15.



The Aurora will be fully watertight after a few days immersion in Portree harbour.

**Charity group sinks skiff ready for row**

THE WOODEN boat to be rowed 100 miles from St Kilda to Skye for charity next month has been sunk in Portree harbour - to make her watertight for the voyage. The sinking of the *Aurora* was part of the Row St Kilda team's preparations for two teams of four inexperienced rowers to row from St Kilda back to Skye to raise money for the local RNLI and Skye and Lochalsh Young Carers. The 120-year-old Skye skiff, fully restored by Broadford boatbuilder Iain MacLean, was

launched at Portree on April 5 amid great fanfare. Mr MacLean had managed to save almost all of the boat's original larch cladding but years of being kept in a shed meant the boards had shrunk. Several leaks were the result but a few days underwater weighed down with eight sandbags will see the *Aurora's* timbers swell and become totally watertight again. Then it will be training most evenings and weekends for the eight rowers and three coxswains, before they row the gruelling

100-miles in May - weather permitting. Crew member Donnie Nicolson, who originally came up with the idea, said: 'I don't know what date or time we will be leaving yet, it's all weather dependent. But whether 3pm or 3am, once all our training and preparations are in place and the weather if fine, our mini armada will set sail from Portree, next stop Leverburgh, and then onto Village Bay St Kilda. And that's before the 100 mile row back to Skye.' Once the green light is given,

22 people, including the back-up team, will sail to St Kilda on support vessels, the Broadford-registered fishing boat *Dunan Star II* and Portree cabin cruiser the *Aimee-Louise*. The skiff will be lashed to the fishing boat's foredeck on the way out before being lowered into the water off St Kilda for the voyage home. Meanwhile, a tracker fixed to the *Aurora* and shared on the Row St Kilda website, means everyone can see exactly how many miles of practice the crew is putting in.



**Pupils' day trip cheer thanks to new ferry link**

Pupils from Sgoil an Iochdair in South Uist have been to make a full day trip to the mainland for the first time - thanks to the new Mallaig-Lochboisdale ferry service being trialled from November to April. Highlight of the children's day was a trip to Fort William and a ride up Aonach Mòr on the mountain gondola at the Nevis Range ski resort. Pupils and staff would like to thank Shiel buses, Nevis Range, the Nevis Centre, CalMac and DA Travel for making the day such a memorable success.

**Second Portree supermarket planning application lodged**

A SECOND planning application for a supermarket in Portree has been lodged with Highland Council. The council is has already received a bid from developers Oatridge Ltd for a 38,000 sq ft at Home Farm off the Staffin road. Now Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association (LSHA) and Rubicon Land Ltd have lodged a separate application for a 36,000 sq ft supermarket and petrol filling station on the Dunvegan Road side of the Home Farm site on the town's northern outskirts. The land is

owned by LSHA, who say proceeds from the sale would be used to fund house building. Chief executive Lachie MacDonald said: 'We are delighted to be part of this project to improve shopping facilities for residents of Portree and the whole of Skye and Lochalsh. This development involves an area of land that we would have difficulty developing for housing in the foreseeable future, and we envisage the receipt from the sale of this land being recycled into other affordable housing projects.' Rubicon Land have in recent years

carried out numerous supermarket transactions with Tesco, Asda, Lidl, Aldi and the Co-op. Director Colin Taylor said: 'This is a very exciting project for Skye. Our initial plans were well received by local residents when we carried out a public consultation exercise in Portree 18 months ago, and since then we have been speaking to potential operators and working up our plans. It is fair to say that the supermarket industry has been in turmoil over the past few years, with all the major operators suffering from

falling sales which is hitting their store development programme. We are however in regular contact with all the main operators through our other ongoing development projects, and are aware that they are now starting to look for new sites. We also know Portree is on their radar, and strongly believe that if we secure planning consent we can finally bring one of the major supermarket operators to Portree.' Asked whether Oatridge and Rubicon could be in competition for the same operator, Mr MacDonald said: 'Correct.'

**CalMac celebrates 50th anniversary**

CALMAC celebrated the 50th anniversary of one of the most important events in the history of west coast ferries services on Tuesday. David MacBrayne Ltd began the first car ferry to the Western Isles with the *MV Hebrides* on the Uig-Lochmaddy-Tarbert triangle on April 15, 1964. It was followed a few months later by two others, the *MV Clansman* and *MV Columba*, which operated to Mull and Skye. They were the first ro-ro (drive-on drive-off) ships to serve the west coast islands. Speaking before sailing on the *MV Hebrides* from Uig to Tarbert en route to the Cabinet meeting in Stornoway, Finance Secretary John Swinney said: 'I am delighted that CalMac is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its first car ferry sailing to the Western Isles. The company provides vital lifeline services to Scotland's island communities. In this, the Year of Homecoming, CalMac will transport thousands of visitors from home and abroad coming to enjoy the Scotland's spectacular scenery.' David MacBrayne Ltd and the Caledonian Steam Packet Company merged in 1973 to become Caledonian MacBrayne, now CalMac Ferries Ltd. CalMac managing director Martin Dorchester said: 'The introduction of these ships revolutionised ferry services at the time and this anniversary shows just how far the company has come and how services have improved in 50 years.'

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**Kerrera road link fund search**

A PLAN to link the north and south ends of the Isle of Kerrera has taken another step forward with funding bids due to be submitted by the end of this month.

The development, expected to cost between £600,000 and £1m, has been described as a 'lifeline' by islanders who have fought for years to be connected. A progress report on the road plan was presented to councillors at Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee last week. Councillor Duncan MacIntyre said: 'The community has been looking for this for some considerable time.'

Argyll and Bute Council will now look at ways of funding the project, including an application to the Coastal Communities Fund. The council could also help fund the project through savings made on island services and £300,000 of borrowing over 30 years. Kerrera's ferryman Duncan MacEachan said: 'People are pleased the council is taking positive steps.'

**Commemorations switched to Oban**

ARGYLL'S commemorations to mark the centenary of World War One have been moved from Inveraray to Oban - but Argyll and Bute Council would not say why.

The council confirmed that the service and parade planned for September 20 would now be held in Oban but did not explain the reasons for the change.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'The detail is yet to be finalised and we are working with the Royal British Legion Scotland at a national level as well as with local branches.'

**Big boost for Argyll family charity**

AN ARGYLL charity has received a £190,000 cash boost to support local families.

Family Mediation Argyll and Bute will use the grant from the Big Lottery Fund to employ extra staff, focusing on early intervention support to lessen the trauma suffered during a family breakdown.

Oban-based service manager Tanya MacDougall said: 'We are delighted to have received this funding which will make a huge difference to families, especially those living in rural and island areas.'



Rotarians Graham MacQueen and Iain MacIntyre with representatives of some of the groups that have benefited from Am-Am proceeds, including Oban and Lorn District Seniors Club, Glencruitten Golf Club's Junior Golf Development, Oban High School and St Columba's, Rockfield and Dunbeg primary schools. 16\_116rotary01

**Rotary Club of Oban drives forward with high fundraising Am-Am hopes**

AN EVENT that has collected more than £135,000 for causes in the Oban and Lorn area over the past 29 years is aiming to raise more money than ever, with strong community support.

Rotary Club of Oban is driving forward its annual Am-Am golf tournament to be held at Glencruitten Golf Club on Sunday June 1 and hopes to raise

thousands of pounds for charities and groups.

Some of those who have benefited from Rotary grants, through funds raised from the Am-Am, were at Glencruitten Golf Club on Tuesday to help launch this year's event.

Rotary Am-Am convenor Iain MacIntyre said: 'This event is of course a great day out for all the

golfers but there is so much good work done by the distribution of funds raised by our sponsors and participants.

'There is also enormous preparation and organisation that goes into putting this on and virtually all Rotary members lend a hand in one way or another.

The raffle, for example is

run by a team of six to eight people, led by a 94-year-old. The commitment is incredible.'

Scottish golf prodigy Robert MacIntyre is planning to compete in the tournament on his home course.

A number of sponsors have already signed up, including principal sponsor Bank of Scotland.

**Organisers' delight as Dougie MacLean takes first step onto Tiree festival stage**

TIREE Music Festival organisers have revealed the latest act to perform this year exclusively to *The Oban Times*.

Dougie MacLean will take to the stage at the sold-out event for the first time in July.

The 'Caledonia' singer is looking forward to his first visit to the isle. He said: 'It seems crazy that with the amount of time I've spent in the Hebrides, Inner and Outer, I've never visited the Isle of Tiree. I'm really looking forward to performing at this year's Tiree Music Festival.'

'The land and people of Scotland have inspired so many of my songs, from the mountains and forests, rivers and lochs of Perthshire where I grew up to the stunning, windswept coastline and stark beauty of the islands.'

Organiser Daniel Gillespie is 'delighted' with the newest addition to the line up.

He said: 'Dougie has crafted an international reputation as a songwriter, composer and performer.'

'He has played world renowned venues

such as Carnegie Hall in New York and the Sydney Opera House. It is a real honour to have him at Tiree and we await his performance with much excitement.'

The festival has added a third day to the event, running from July 18-20, and reported tickets selling out in a record five weeks.

Mr MacLean was the final major act to be revealed, with Eddi Reader, Julie Fowlis, Sharon Shannon Big Band, Peatbog Faeries and Roddy Woombie and Band also confirmed.

**Police step in as ambulance fails to show**

Police take woman to hospital in car

CALLS are being made for an investigation into ambulance response times and staffing issues in Oban after a woman had to be taken to hospital in a police car.

Emergency services were called to McCaig Road when a woman collapsed last Tuesday evening.

And while two police cars and a fire engine arrived on the scene shortly after 7pm there was no sign of the ambulance as traffic built up and concern for the woman grew.

Oban Police decided to transport the woman to Lorn and Islands Hospital, as both ambulances were on call and would not be available for at least 50 minutes.

Inspector Julie McLeish of Oban Police said: 'At 7.21pm officers asked for the ambulance to be re-contacted, they were worried about the woman as she was suffering from chest pains.

Police and a member of the fire service then made the decision to take her because it was obvious the ambulance wasn't coming. It was a common sense decision.'

The incident has caused outrage among those who were waiting in traffic as the incident

unfolded. Oban Community Council member George Berry was on his way home when he ran into the traffic at McCaig Road.

He said: 'As a community council member everyone was asking me what was going on and why the ambulance wasn't here. Everyone was furious and asking 'what if that had been one of my kids?'. If this is a one-off it doesn't matter, it shouldn't have happened.'

'The ambulance service needs to make sure this never happens again. I can't fault the [ambulance] team, they do a tremendous job but the Scottish Ambulance Service [SAS] needs to hold an inquiry. There should never be a situation when an ambulance takes 50 minutes to get to someone. God forbid if there was a crash on one of the roads coming into town in the height of summer.'

Oban-based councillors Roddy McCuish and Duncan MacIntyre agreed the SAS had to look at protocol in light of the incident. Councillor McCuish said: 'Should these reports prove to be correct it gives me great concern. I'll be looking into this to get a

detailed explanation from the SAS. I'm looking for assurances that this will not happen again.'

Councillor MacIntyre added: 'The ambulance service has had a good name here for a long time and is well respected but that doesn't mean it shouldn't have some kind of back-up service. There should be some sort of protocol in place. We've been hearing for years that the hospitals are under staffed and now that seems to be feeding into the emergency services.'

Mr Berry plans to bring up the issue at the next community council meeting and is writing a letter of complaint to the ambulance service.

A SAS spokesman said arrangements were being made for a doctor to attend last week's incident when police cancelled the request.

He added: 'Ambulance cover is informed by analysis of demand and this is monitored on an ongoing basis. It is unfortunate that in this instance both local ambulances were with other patients but that is an unusual situation.'

'All ambulance responses are clinically triaged to prioritise those with most clinical need.'

**Rest causing chaos for 200 years**

A LETTER has been found in Craignish that reveals the Rest and Be Thankful has been causing chaos for travellers for more than 200 years.

Craignish History Society found the letter from Alexander Forsyth, of Edinburgh, in a collection that belongs to Colin Lindsay-MacDougall of Lunga.

It is dated 1809 and reveals he was having difficulties getting to Argyll because the 'Glencro' road was blocked.

The pass, more familiarly known as The Rest and Be Thankful, has been closed on a number of occasions in the last year because of landslides.

The letter reads: 'I promise making an attempt to go to Dail [the former name of Lunga House]. I shall probably leave this tomorrow or Wed'y.'

'How I shall accomplish it from the severity of yr storm. The Glencro Road is I understand blocked up. Of course...it is only

left for one to walk through.' Antonia Baird, from Craignish History Society, said: 'I thought it was a fantastic find and one that locals can relate to. It confirms that the Rest and Be Thankful has been causing travel problems for hundreds of years.'

**NEWSDESK**  
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Tobermory lifeboat helped cargo ship off Tiree.

**Fresh calls for west coast emergency tug after cargo ship drifts off Tiree**

FRESH calls have begun for an emergency towing vessel on the west coast after a cargo ship off Tiree had to be assisted by two volunteer lifeboats and a tug from the east coast.

The 88-metre *MY Wilson Gdynia* had eight crew on board when it lost its steering in rough weather on Saturday morning.

RNLI lifeboats from Barra and Tobermory assisted the ship in a 17-hour rescue operation as it drifted 30 miles south west of Tiree.

A tug was dispatched from Aberdeen to tow the ship to shore, despite an emergency vessel patrolling seas in the north-west. This tug patrols between Barra and Shetland and was provided as a compromise after the UK Government made the controversial decision to

remove Stornoway's rescue vessel earlier in 2012.

The Aberdeen tug left the east coast at midnight on Saturday to sail across the top of the country and did not arrive until 2am on Monday.

At this time the *Gdynia* was not in immediate danger so the rescue team waited until daylight to attach the tow.

The ship, carrying wood pellets, was towed to Belfast and arrived safely at 1pm on Tuesday.

Councillor Angus Campbell, leader of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, acknowledged the work of the lifeboat crew involved in the rescue but re-iterated calls for a tug permanently based in the west.

He said: 'The time delay in the boat arriving from that distance away, in addition to the severe

weather, once again highlights how vulnerable the west coast is to such incidents.

'We would call on the UK government to reconsider the provision of a second tug based in the western waters of Scotland to reduce the risk for mariners and the environment in what is a major shipping area.'

The three-day operation raised questions about why the vessel patrolling Barra to Shetland wasn't used.

A coastguard source said the tug was available but wasn't tasked in the rescue.

A spokesman for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency said: 'The emergency towing vessel was on standby and ready to react had this become a serious emergency. The *MY Wilson Gdynia* was still under her own

power and able to navigate away from any danger despite her steering difficulties. There was therefore little risk of the vessel's foundering or grounding, and minimal risk to life or of pollution.'

'The MCA arranged for a commercial tug to undertake a routine tow of the *Wilson Gdynia* into harbour, leaving the agency's emergency towing vessel available to deal with any more serious incident arising within its operational area.'

The spokesman thanked the RNLI lifeboat teams who helped with the rescue, adding: 'The Tobermory and Barra all-weather lifeboats responded magnificently as always and we were most grateful for their highly professional support throughout this incident.'



Michael Middleton, Campbeltown, places a cross at the memorial.

**Army cadets make moving tributes to fallen WW1 heroes**

ARGYLL army cadets have been moved by a recent trip to France for a World War One battlefield tour.

Teens from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Battalion Army Cadet Force were specially chosen to represent each of the unit's detachments during the visit.

The group's first stop was the former battlefield area, now farmland, to view the graves depicting only the words 'Soldier of the Great War - Known unto God'.

The reality of the Great War was then brought home by a visit to Vimy Ridge where the trenches, just 30 metres apart, were separated only by a huge bomb crater.

At Essex Farm, the cadets contemplated the fate of the wounded soldiers

who were treated in the advance dressing station where surgeon John McCrae wrote the lines of 'In Flanders Fields'. A moment of contemplation was spent in the adjacent cemetery where the youngest soldier killed in the war, who at only 15 was the same age or younger than many of the cadets, is buried.

RSM Alex Chlopuk of Lochgilphead said: 'The best part of the trip was undoubtedly marching the cadets on to parade at the Menin Gate.'

'It was a real once in a lifetime opportunity.'

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# Dismay as Shopmobility Oban closes its doors

AS OBAN gears up for the busiest time of the year it will be without a key tourist service as Shopmobility closes its doors.

Volunteers are 'deeply saddened' that the charity, which has provided wheelchairs and electric scooters to visitors for 14 years, no longer has enough help and funding to keep going.

The service was run by Oban Disability Forum and Access Panel and helped around 200 disabled and elderly people every summer. It will be a 'massive loss' to Oban as a visitor town, said volunteer Kate Winton.

She added: 'It's a big blow for tourism as it's mostly used by people who come on holiday for the day and can't bring their own wheelchairs. People who regularly come to Oban and rely on the service might not be able to come anymore.'

'It's such a shame it has happened because we don't want to let anybody down.'

Volunteer Ed Morton was shocked to hear the facility was closing but was aware of the problems.

He said: 'It's a real pity but the problem we had was we couldn't seem to get enough volunteers. Last year I was there five days a week but I just can't keep that up.'

'Money was an issue too. If you're going to run something like that you have to be able to raise funds whether it's through coffee mornings and things like that but again you need volunteers for that, you can't do one without the other.'

Argyll and Bute Councillor Elaine Robertson has been with the forum since its creation in 1990.

She said: 'It is with deep regret that we had to take the decision to close Shopmobility as without sufficient volunteers and limited funding we can't continue to run it.'

'I would like to thank all of the volunteers, past and present, local and national charities and the council which have all helped us over the years.'

Oban Disability Forum and Access Panel secretary Fiona Morrison said she was 'very sad' to see the service go but added the board had done everything it could to keep it running.

She said: 'We have been down all avenues to try to keep it open. We asked the council if they could run it and looked into going into partnership with other organisations but there was no solution.'

'The problem with Shopmobility is a lot of our volunteers are elderly or disabled themselves, so they often get ill and can't help anymore.'

At the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee meeting last week, the Oban Disability Forum was awarded a £550 third sector grant for other projects and to help wind down Shopmobility.

Ms Morrison said that the Disability Forum and Access Panel would continue and a notice of closure for Shopmobility has been put on its website. Bookings already in place will be honoured.



Councillor Roddy McCuish, a former postman, took a walk down memory lane when he officially opened the refurbished Royal Mail sorting office in Oban. 15\_116royalmail01

## Post Office delivers Oban revamp

AN OBAN councillor and former postman spoke of his delight at seeing his old workplace restored to its former glory.

Councillor Roddy McCuish, a member for Oban South and the Isles, previously worked at the Albany Street post office and sorting office, which has recently undergone refurbishment.

The result is the traditional entrance to the sorting office has been reinstated on Albany Street, where the old post office was.

Members of the public now won't have to gain access through the public car park off the street and the yard that Royal Mail vans move in and out of.

Officially opening the refurbished building, Councillor McCuish said: 'I am delighted with the Royal Mail investment in this iconic building and I am glad they have kept so many of the old features.'

### Safer

'It really has brought the building back to life. It also makes it far safer for the public when they are collecting parcels and mail.'

Sorting office deputy manager Kenny Pearson said: 'We are moving forward with parcels and packages services and need a larger area. The old layout was not fit for purpose.'

## Man breaches order with hotel threat

SEAN Fallon McGowan, aged 23, of Shore Street Flats, Oban, pled guilty at the town's sheriff court on Monday to making a threat when in a hotel in the town on February 1.

This means McGowan has breached a community payback order and Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence until May 27 for reports.

## Lorn Lines

OBAN Pipe Band hosted a soup lunch in the pipe band hall last Saturday in aid of the local branch of Cancer Research UK.

The fundraiser was a joint effort by the pipe band committee and the committee of Cancer Research UK.

Alistair Dewar, one of the organisers, said: 'The event was extremely well attended and raised in excess of £540 for Cancer Research UK. Thanks go to everyone who donated soup and home-baking.'



Twins Asher and Zeph Petit, 10, were delighted with their bronze medals and prize.

OBAN twins cooked up a storm to win bronze medals in a national competition.

Asher and Zeph Petit, P7 pupils at Park Primary School, wowed judges in the Culinary School Games, in conjunction with the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Pupils were tasked with submitting their own Commonwealth themed recipe, so Asher and Zeph cooked up Jamaican-inspired Caribbean chicken with rice, peas and dumplings, which

secured them third place and a £50 iTunes voucher.

Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for education, Councillor Aileen Morton, said: 'It's wonderful to see our pupils embracing the spirit of the Commonwealth Games in lots of different and exciting ways.'

'Asher and Zeph have done really well to win a bronze medal in a national competition and their Caribbean chicken looks absolutely delicious.'

## LochWatch welcomes boat VAT move

MOVES to offset the VAT spent on fuel by charities operating inland water safety boats has been welcomed by Loch Awe's LochWatch and Argyll and Bute's MSP.

The UK Chancellor George Osborne announced during his March Budget that the Government would be setting aside a £1 million grant for inland safety boat charities and £65,000 for air ambulance charities, both over five years, to offset the VAT paid on fuel.

Jain MacKinnon, chairman of LochWatch, said: 'We work very hard not only to improve safety on Loch Awe but throughout

Scotland. We are a voluntary organisation which receives no state funding, therefore, it is vitally important that both our local MSP Michael Russell and now the Westminster government have seen fit to take our concerns on board.'

### Relief

Mr Russell wrote to the UK government in November requesting VAT relief on fuel for the Loch Awe safety boat.

He said: 'I welcome this positive step by the UK government in helping our inland safety boat charities.'

'After writing to the Treasury in November, the UK government

has now thoroughly investigated my request and committed to delivering this new grant.'

'These developments will be especially reassuring for the LochWatch safety group and Loch Awe community whom I commend for all their hard work.'

'As the short consultation exercise gets underway I encourage all local groups and safety boat charities to respond to make their voices heard.'

The consultation will take place to decide on eligible charities and further funding details.

It is not yet known when the grants will become available.

## Argyll and Bute Council confirms by-election date

ARGYLL and Bute Council has confirmed the by-election for one seat in its Oban, South and the Isles ward will be on Thursday May 22.

The by-election was called following the resignation of Councillor Fred Hall.

Polling cards will be issued soon and voters can find a list of polling stations for this by-election online at argyll-bute.gov.uk/elections, by calling the election office on 01546 603264 or phoning the registration office on 0800 980 0470.

People who wish to apply for a postal or proxy vote can write to the Electoral Registration Officer, Kibbrannan House, Bolgarn Street, Campbeltown, or call 0800 980 0470.

Postal vote applications must be made by 5pm on Wednesday, May 7, with the deadline for proxy nominations being 5pm on Wednesday May 14.

## Sheriff's jail warning to accused

AFTER a 'fractious' encounter with his ex-partner, a man has been warned he could face a jail sentence.

'You are treading a very thin line now, with your court appearances,' Sheriff Douglas Small told Carl Edward Lutgert, aged 32, of Donmore Lodge, Albany Street, Oban, on Tuesday.

Lutgert admitted shouting, swearing and threatening two people outside Atlantis Leisure Centre, Oban, on March 1 this year.

Procurator Fiscal Claire Martin said

the incident involved Lutgert's former partner and her new partner; it became so heated that the woman asked a passerby to call the police.

'There is a fractious relationship between them and he was trying to maintain a relationship with his daughter,' Lutgert's defence agent told Oban Sheriff Court.

Sheriff Small said that in view of Lutgert's record he might consider 'a short, sharp sentence'.

The case was adjourned until May 27 for reports to be prepared.

## Power tools stolen from two east Lorn properties

THEFTS of power tools from two properties in east Lorn have been reported as a police campaign to tackle rural thefts got underway.

Between April 12 - 14 power tools worth a combined £1,800 were taken from sheds at homes in Fearnoch and Inverinan.

Oban Police said inquiries into this particular incident were continuing but that as part of Operation Monarda-2 additional patrols, including roadblocks, would be mobilised in the area to help crack down on 'doorstep' crime, rural-based thefts and travelling criminals.

## Man, 29, appears in court on drug charges

A 29-YEAR-old man appeared on petition on Monday at Oban Sheriff Court on drug-related offences.

No plea or declaration was given and he was committed for further examination.

# Sheridan in town to make case for independence

## But Highlands and Islands MSP highlights strength of the union

AN INDEPENDENT Scotland is the only escape from 'shackles', 'tyranny' and 'political space cadets'.

This was the claim by Tommy Sheridan at a public meeting in Oban's Corran Halls, chaired by Ian Hamilton QC of North Connell.

The controversial politician urged the 400-strong audience, which seemed overwhelmingly in support of independence, to vote yes in September's referendum during last Thursday's meeting.

But after the meeting Highlands and Islands Conservative MSP Jamie McGrigor highlighted the strength of the union, describing it as a 'positive family'.

When challenged at the meeting on how an independent Scottish government would make the Highlands and Islands feel more connected to decision making, Mr Sheridan replied: 'There seems to be a feeling of neglect and it's difficult for me to give an honest answer because I don't live here so I've never walked in your shoes.'

'What I would say is do you have a better chance with a government in Westminster or a government in Edinburgh? It will still be a fight but I think you have a better chance of influencing Edinburgh.'

Mr Hamilton agreed and urged people to make themselves heard.

He said: 'We need more people here to get up on their hind legs and tell whatever city is covering them what they want. People may feel neglected in both Edinburgh and Westminster but a shout can go a long way and Edinburgh is a lot nearer to hear it.'

Mr Sheridan spent over an hour making his case, arguing against the 'bedroom' tax, minimum wage and millionaire MPs. He also stressed that despite the current Conservative-led Westminster government, Scotland only had one Tory MP.

He said: 'Tyranny can be in many shapes and forms. You may not have shackles but you are being ruled by a government that you did not vote for.'

'Let us remember that 91 per cent of Scottish politicians voted against the 'bedroom' tax but we still got the 'bedroom' tax. Ministers told those affected to take in a lodger but as most of you will know if they take in a lodger they will lose their housing benefit. That's the kind of political space cadets we're talking about here.'

Nuclear weapons and privatising the NHS were also on the agenda but Mr Sheridan

was quick to point out that he didn't have 'a crystal ball' and couldn't say for certain how an independent Scotland would work.

He added: 'I have a vision of a new Scotland, a vision of how life could be. There will be people here who don't agree with me and have a different vision but I think that's great. The point I'm making is we have a chance to change things and make our visions happen.'

Mr McGrigor told *The Oban Times*: 'There are so many positive reasons for Scotland remaining part of the United Kingdom. Most of the important domestic issues such as health, education, transport, farming and fishing are already dealt with by a government in Edinburgh.'

'One in six Scots live and work in England and nearly half of all Scots have English, Welsh or Northern Irish relatives. Also, 450,000 living in Scotland were born elsewhere in the UK. That's a positive family, why break it up?'

Among the 'positive reasons' he highlighted for Scotland being in the UK included the number of Scots who make up the UK's defence forces, the UK's EU block vote and a stable currency.



Tommy Sheridan made the case for independence in the packed Corran Halls. 7\_116tommy02

# Glenorchy parents re-iterate protest against pupil train transport plan

PARENTS of high school children in Glenorchy left their elected members in no doubt that they opposed plans to transport their children to school by train.

At present, the pupils are bussed to Oban but with the increase in the number of trains coming to Oban in time for the new school year, Argyll and Bute Council plans to use trains to transport pupils from Glenorchy, Taynuilt and Connell.

But at a meeting with councillors and Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell, the Glenorchy parents

made their feelings clear. They pointed to a petition against the proposal which gained 180 signatures in 10 days and a survey that showed only two parents of the 28 families affected were happy to support the trains plan.

At the meeting they also gained the support of Mr Russell, the Scottish Government's Education Minister, who branded as 'nonsensical' a claim by Argyll and Bute Council that part of the reason for change was to 'address changing educational needs'.

Campaigner Susan McLaughlin told elected representatives there had been a lack of consultation on the changes and that the parents had the backing of Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council.

Single parent Karen O'Hare, from Lochawe, explained that under the proposed changes she would have to walk for 20 minutes to the train station with all three of her children in tow; the youngest is two years old.

She added: 'I don't feel safe at all walking this road in the dark, rain,

hail, snow, gale-force winds and no street lights. My children would be wet through, then they would have to walk to school when they arrive in Oban.'

Councillor Louise Glen Lee said she had sympathy with Ms O'Hare's position, adding: 'I put my daughter on the bus at Kilninver and I know she gets off at the school. If she had the opportunity to walk through the town before school, I would worry about how often she would get to school on time.'

Argyll and Bute Council

previously stated the changes had been supported by the full council.

A spokeswoman for the council added: 'The enhanced train service will bring economic benefits to all the communities it will serve. For school pupils, as well as providing a safe way of travelling to school, it will allow participation in extra-curricular activities - an important part of the Curriculum for Excellence. The later services will also open up opportunities for after-school and weekend employment.'

**REMEMBER**  
x  
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**New manager encouraged by performance against 'Vale'**

**FOOTBALL**

FORT WILLIAM can impress on caretaker manager Calum MacLean that they are capable of escaping bottom spot in the league by beating Cove Rangers at Claggan Park on Saturday.

The Fort posted a highly creditable performance in their 2-0 away defeat to Deveronvale last weekend - MacLean's first game in charge following Danny Conlon's resignation - giving the new boss hope that the season could yet have a positive ending.

MacLean told The Oban Times: 'I am still aiming to get off the bottom of the league and we will be going all out for that. 'Cove have had a funny sort of season but it does not matter what team they put out they are still a good side.'

'If we get all our players here on Saturday we will have a real go at them - we like to play attacking football and that's what we'll be doing.'

He added: 'I was very encouraged by the performance against Deveronvale. We had three great chances before they scored - we hit the bar, hit the post and Mackie was through one-on-one with the keeper.'

'We were 2-0 down at half-time and even although we did not look like scoring in the second half I was more than delighted to keep a clean sheet.'

The Fort were due to play Clachnacuddin at Claggan last night (Wednesday).

**Goon Squad are almost there**

**INDOOR FOOTBALL**

GOON SQUAD are all but assured of the Ali Young indoor football league title with just one round of games left after notching a narrow 6-4 win over HWEnergy at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.

Lochaber Leisure remain three points behind after beating The Janis B Team 7-3 but their goal difference is far inferior and would need a miracle to overhaul the leaders. AFC Distillery ensured they will finish third after beating rivals Portocwy 7-4 while Caol United beat Ballachulish 3-0.

Kentallen defeated Caol Cosmos by the same score while With Ourselves had a 3-0 walkover win.

**New cross country trails to open at Nevis Range**

**MOUNTAIN BIKING**

A SPEAN Bridge primary school pupil will lead a mass 'ride-out' of mountain bikers to officially open two new cross country trails at the Nevis Range trail centre today.

Ronnie Fulford, aged 9, a member of his local club Spean Speedy Bikers, will open the Cat's Eyes (green-graded) and Blue Adder (blue-graded) routes before leading families, children and adults of all ages and skills on a ride of the trails.

## Lochaber coach threatens to quit over refereeing decisions

'There will be an official complaint going in - I hope he never referees a Lochaber game again'

REPORT BY  
**STEPHEN NORRIS**  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

A DEBUT hat-trick from 17 year-old Savio Genini helped Kingussie to a 5-2 win over Lochaber Camanachd in an incident-packed match at Spean Bridge.

Home fans and Lochaber coach Robert Johnstone may have felt aggrieved by some refereeing decisions but controversy apart Kings were good value for their victory.

With a squally west wind at their backs Lochaber looked the likelier side in the first 10 minutes with Ben Delaney twice going close.

But their ascendancy was short-lived as Kings found their stride and Genini's smart finish on 12 minutes put the visitors ahead.

Seconds later some slack defending allowed Lee Bain to slot home past MacDonald to make it 2-0 and a hard day at

the office looked on the cards for Lochaber.

Delaney had a great chance to cut the deficit on 17 minutes but his penalty was poorly struck and keeper Dawson made the save.

Undeterred, Delaney found space on 25 minutes to set up Ryan Johnstone whose angled drive gave Dawson no chance.

Suddenly Lochaber were in the game and almost immediately levelled when Delaney brilliantly hammered home an Iain Love corner to make it 2-2.

Lochaber coach Johnstone earned a lecture for his histrionics on the touchline from ref Graham Cameron and was even more irate when Bain restored Kings' lead on 57 minutes amid claims for offside.

Genini, slight in frame but quick of pace, was proving a real handful and deservedly made it 4-2 on the hour mark to effectively seal the game.

Tempers boiled over with five minutes left and both Bain and Lochaber's Martin Johnstone

**SHINTY**

were red-carded after a melee involving several players.

Genini still had time to claim his hat-trick, knocking the ball home on the rebound after MacDonald blocked his first effort.

Speaking to The Oban Times after full-time, furious Lochaber coach Johnstone threatened to quit the sport over what he saw as harsh officiating by ref Graham Cameron.

He said: 'I'm giving up shinty because of the referee. There will be an official complaint going in - I hope he never referees a Lochaber game again.'

Kingussie coach Russell Jones saw no problem and praised his players.

He said: 'I'm delighted with the performance and to score five goals against a good Lochaber side at Spean Bridge is tremendous. It was Savio's first hat-trick in the premiership at just 17 and I'm very pleased for him.'



Jack Dignan hooks the ball away brilliantly to prevent Lee Bain breaking clean through on goal.

**Martyn nails a 12-dart finish**

**DARTS**

AT THE open darts competition at Tradewinds in Corpach on Friday, Martyn Cameron won the singles by defeating John Matheson 3-0 in the final.

Martyn got the better of John Woods in the semi-final and John beat Duncan Carmichael in his semi.

Best leg of the night was a 12-darter by Martyn, which saw him nail a 161 out shot.

Duncan Carmichael had a 117 finish and Martyn hit a 180. Paul Shearer and Curly Cameron won the doubles.

Meanwhile, a Monday night darts league involving pubs and clubs in the Lochaber area is in the process of being set up. Anyone who is interested can contact Martyn Cameron on Facebook or at Tradewinds.

This week's darts is the annual Neil Kerr singles held in the Railway Club at 8pm.

**Yacht club hold training course**

**SAILING**

LOCHABER Yacht Club in Fort William will be running an RYA Level 2 training course for adults over the weekend of May 31 to June 1 and the following two weekends.

No previous sailing experience is required and the course will equally suit people who perhaps sailed years ago and would like to refresh their skills.

Meanwhile, the Junior Stage 2 course is open to anyone still at school in June from Primary 7 and older.

The course will run from July 4-8 between 9.30am and 4pm each day at the sailing club on Achintore Road by Loch Linnhe.

Also, for people with powerboat experience the club is running an RYA safety boat course during on May 17-18.

More details and application forms at www.lochaber-yacht-club.co.uk or from Martin on 01397 707274.

**Winter season ends this month**

**TABLE TENNIS**

FORT WILLIAM Table Tennis Club's winter season officially ends at the end of this month - but until then is welcoming anyone who wants a game to come along to the Nevis Centre on Monday nights at 6.30pm.

Meanwhile, the club will hold its presentation and social evening at the Nevis Centre in 'The Studio' on May 3 at 7pm.

Councillor Thomas MacLennan has been invited to present the trophies and a special trophy is being presented by Joe Robson.

**Weather wins**

**GOLF**

FORT WILLIAM Golf Club had their competitions wiped out by the weather last weekend and will play the April men's medal off the white boxes on Saturday.

The senior men's medal, for golfers aged over 50, will be played off the yellow boxes on Sunday.



Lochaber RFC are muddled but unbowed after their defeat to Shetland.

### Lochaber draw a blank in Shetland

RBS Caldeonia  
North Division Two  
Shetland 38  
Lochaber RFC 0

**RUGBY**

LOCHABER RFC ended their season in the RBS Caledonia North Division 2 with a long voyage away to Shetland last weekend and came away empty-handed.

The game started fairly evenly with Lochaber managing to use the strong wind to keep Shetland penned in their own half for lengthy periods.

The visitors had a chance for three points from a penalty in the middle but the gale was too much for kicker Kenny Turnbull who could not convert.

The long trip from Fort William seemed to have taken its toll and Shetland gained the ascendancy, eventually scoring in the corner following a series of missed tackles.

After the break Shetland picked up the pace and were more aggressive with more direct running.

They scored several more tries before Lochaber's Niall Turnbull was stretchered off the park with a neck injury as he tackled one of the home team's more cumbersome players. Best wishes to Niall for a speedy recovery.

Unfortunately there were no scores for Lochaber but praise goes to the lads who travelled the great distance to play - with special thanks going to the coach Stewart Sandison who drove the minibus there and back.

Lochaber will be out training for their seven tournaments which start away to Highland on the 26th April.

Lochaber host their own sevens competition at Black Parks on May 3 and invite everyone to come along to enjoy a day of rugby, a barbecue and craic.

### Three new names on the podium

THE PENULTIMATE round of the West Highland Wheelers Winter League saw a new name appear at the top of the podium.

After 23 years of effort and a hard winter of training, Ed Daynes reigned supreme on a damp, soggy day in Leanachan forest.

With Gavin Linfield in second and Steve Bradley third, the presentation ceremony was lit up by the smiling faces of a whole new crew in the top three places.

Roz Newman was the first lady home with Brych Hens-

man-Martin once again the first junior back.

Special mention must go to Marek Polowianuk - not satisfied with the succession of water splashes under the wheels, Marek took a short cut and ended up wading through a river just to prove that he's made of sterner stuff than your average rider.

Thanks to Roddy Wells for a great course and to Colleen, Lorna and Fiona for registration, timing and the excellent post race cakes. Next and final event is at Nevis Range on April 27 and forms part of the Bike

**CYCLING**

Festival Week.

Results: 1 Ed Daynes 47:35; 2 Gavin Linfield 48:13; 3 Steve Bradley 51:12; 4 John Shirley 53:48; 5 Davy Gunn 55:02; 6 Brychan Hensman-Martin 55:49 1st junior; 7 Peter Martin 56:49; 8 Ros Newman 58:27 1st lady; 9 Andy Rogers 59:06; 10 Gordon Watson 68:45; 11 Marian Austin 76:26; 12 Fiona Gunn 82:55; 13 Evelyn MacLennan 91:25; 14 Lindsay Barr 91:25; 15 Marek Polowianuk DNF



The top three in West Highland Wheelers' Leanachan race: from left, Gavin Linfield, Ed Daynes and Steve Bradley.

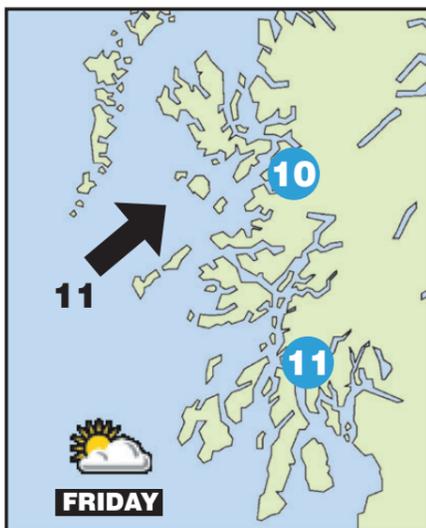
## Weather

**Thursday** Sunshine and showers  
Winds moderate west north westerly  
Temperatures 4°C to 9°C

**Friday** Sunny intervals  
Winds light south south westerly  
Temperatures 7°C to 10°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Cloudy with some light rain  
Winds light southerly  
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate  
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, April 17, 2014** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	00.41 0.6 06.39 3.9 13.05 0.7 18.58 3.9	
Fri	01.19 0.6 07.12 3.8 13.39 0.8 19.35 3.8	
Sat	02.00 0.7 07.51 3.6 14.20 0.9 20.17 3.6	
Sun	02.48 0.9 08.35 3.4 15.08 1.1 21.08 3.2	
Mon	03.45 1.1 09.28 3.1 16.09 1.2 22.08 3.2	
Tues	04.55 1.3 10.39 2.9 17.24 1.4 23.35 3.1	
Wed	06.14 1.4 12.38 2.8 18.45 1.4 *** **	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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**NORTH WEST MARINE**  
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS

website: www.northwestmarine.co.uk  
Address: 7E Glengallan Rd., Oban, Argyll. PA34 4HG  
Ph: 01631 565740 Fax: 01631 565780  
email: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk