

# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

**WIN ★ WIN ★ WIN**

**a six piece cookware set**  
With Delimano Cookware **delimano**



**PLUS last chance**

**to nominate someone to go to the Commonwealth Games**

Established 1861 No 8196

Thursday 24 April, 2014

www.obantimes.co.uk

80 pence

## Police step in to end traffic chaos

POLICE officers stepped in to end traffic chaos on Good Friday after workers trimming hedges at the roadside were told to 'cut it out'.

KN Network Services caused miles of tailbacks on the A85 outside Oban on Friday, with tailbacks stretching from the Bealach an Rìgh to Poppies Garden Centre as they cut back hedges and grass between Dunbeg and Oban using a tractor-mounted trimmer.

So bad was the congestion that holiday-makers flocking to Oban to take full advantage of the good weather were quick to vent their frustrations to the police, who told the firm, who were under contract from BEAR Scotland, to clear off.

It is understood BEAR Scotland's contract with KN Network Services stipulated work shouldn't be carried out on bank holidays, a request that was ignored by KN.

Oban police's Inspector Julie McLeish said: 'We became aware of significant delays so we contacted BEAR Scotland and spoke with the guys carrying out the work, who packed up and left without objection.'

Andrew Gibson of KN Network Services said: 'Unfortunately, these works were not rescheduled as requested. We apologise to motorists for any inconvenience and have taken steps to ensure the situation does not arise again.'

BEAR Scotland, meanwhile, say they are in discussions with KN to ensure no repeats of the incident throughout the verge trimming programme.



## Sisters' smiles as they step out with Easter Bunny

The MacIntyre sisters from Scammadale met up with the Easter bunny at Barcaldine Community Association's annual Easter fayre in Sutherland's Grove on Saturday. The sisters, from left, Sara, aged nine, Becca, eight, Kirsty, 11, and Emma, four, wore their entries to the Easter bonnet competition. The many visitors to the fayre enjoyed a sunny day out in the forest and took part in an egg hunt, the rat and other competitions. 16\_117easter01

## Pressure grows on NHS over Oban dental hospital delays

PRESSURE is growing on NHS Highland to get Oban's dental hospital up and running after another deadline to agree a contract for its operation passed.

Nearly nine months have gone by since the dental suite at the Lorn and Islands Hospital was completed by the health board, but negotiations with the Argyll Square Dental Practice to run it continue to stall.

Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership (CHP) is due to meet this week, when there will be an update on negotiations, but *The Oban Times* understands the hitch remains the recent reduction in the number of dentists practising at the surgery from three to two.

Oban councillor Elaine Robertson was one of the key figures in campaigning for the new dental hospital and she admits she's saddened by the protracted delays in seeing it open to the public.

She said: 'I'm really disappointed this is taking so long. I know everyone is working on it, but I ask the question at every CHP meeting. 'Until we get everything

signed off, it cannot progress. It is a grave concern and I hope it's a minor point that needs ironed out.'

'It's such a shame because it is a wonderful facility and everything has been catered for. To have the facility there and not used is so sad.'

Disabled patients and those with extra needs are not suffering as a result of the delay, she added, as they are being referred to the specialist consultant already working at the accessible dental hospital.

Oban community councillor and CHP member Duncan Martin described the delay as 'a waste'.

He said: 'It's much better that all the details from both sides - the NHS and the surgery - have been agreed before moving in, rather than taking things on trust and finding they may not be as they should have been later.'

'On the other hand, I don't know what the score is. Clearly we have a facility there that has been open for months with only [consultant] Colin Crawford working in there. For

all the money that has been spent on it, it is a waste if it is not being used.'

'It may be it should be re-advertised for another dentist because I'm sure there may be someone else that has an interest in moving in.'

Speaking yesterday morning (Wednesday), NHS Highland said it expected a contract for the hospital to be signed off 'in the next few weeks'.

Previously, the NHS said agreement would be reached by last October, then by the end of last year and most recently by early this year.

The spokesman for NHS Highland added: 'We can understand the concerns of the local community and we can only apologise for the delay in reaching this point.'

In March, Elizabeth Reilly, NHS Highland's assistant dental director, told the CHP there would be no repeat of the situation that saw patients in Kintyre wait two years for Campbelltown Dental Centre to open its doors.

She said: 'We will not be in that position.'

## Five to stand in town by-election

FIVE candidates have been put forward for election to the vacant Argyll and Bute Council seat in the multi-member ward four, Oban South and the Isles.

Former SNP councillor Fred Hall triggered the by-election by standing down last month as a protest against the SNP Government's stance on the law of corroboration. Mr Hall, who quit the party in May last year, is a notable absentee from the list of candidates, having initially planned to contest the by-election as an independent.

The candidates are: John MacGregor, North Connel, Independent; Neil MacIntyre, Oban, Labour; Iain Stewart MacLean, North Connel, SNP; David Pollard, Aros, Mull, Liberal Democrats; Andrew Vennard, Oban, Conservative.

The election will be on the same day as the European elections on Thursday, May 22.

## Practice to look at staffing issues

KILLIN Medical Practice says it is 'not unaware' of the problems created by a series of hits to staffing levels there in recent months, including staff departures and a referral to the GMC.

Residents of the Killin and Strathfillan areas have expressed concerns about the time it now takes to get an appointment at the surgery, following a series of incidents

that coincided with the opening of a new pharmacy in the village last year.

Some are waiting more than a week to get an appointment, up from a day's wait or so last year. Not only has one of the practice's doctors left, but Dr David Syme, a partner, has been restricted to working one day a week by the General Medical Council (GMC) following a referral in November.

He is also unable to prescribe opiates, sleeping pills or hypnotics until after a hearing, likely to be heard later in the year.

That leaves the practice with one full-time GP, with locums employed to try and cover the shortfall. The practice's district nurse has also left, limiting or ending some outreach services. While a replacement has been brought in, services will be re-

introduced gradually as she is trained to the same standard.

Dr Syme said the series of incidents has no real relation to the opening of the pharmacy, which resulted in the closure of the surgery's dispensary, but said the surgery was working to try and resolve the problems.

'We are not unaware of the problems and we are taking steps to try and sort things out,' he said.

## Hospice annual general meeting

OBAN Hospice supports at least a third of cancer sufferers in Lorn and the islands, board members have reported.

The two beds were filled by patients with long-term or terminal conditions 95 per cent of the time and the relatives' room was used by 50 families in the last year, volunteers heard at the recent AGM.

Lorn and Islands Hospital's day hospice facility treated between three and eight people each week, to provide families with

respite. Members highlighted that the hospice is in a good financial position and thanked the generosity of locals as well as the work and support of The Friends of Oban Hospice.

The board of Oban Hospice Ltd is looking for a volunteer to fill the secretary vacancy.



## Public Meeting

- Yes?  
 No?  
 Don't Know?

Get Informed

## The Independence Referendum

**Guest Speakers:**  
Michael Russell MSP  
John Ainslie CND  
Iain MacCormick

**Chair:**  
Breege Smyth

**Argyllshire Gathering Halls Oban**

**28th April @ 7pm**

Organised by Yes, Lorn and the Isles

## VisitScotland could return to former base if other parties share building

TOURISM body VisitScotland could return to its former home in Oban's Argyle Square as it reveals it is in talks with parties interested in sharing the building.

A leaky roof caused a section of plasterwork to fall from the ceiling of the former St Columba's Church in 2011, causing the organisation to close it to the public and seek alternative premises.

At the time, VisitScotland said it had intended to sell the building as it could not afford the repair bill, understood to be in the region of £500,000. It temporarily relocated to Caledonian MacBrayne's terminal on Railway Pier before moving into its current, smaller, home on the corner of the Columba Hotel on the North Pier.

And while the new centre welcomed an estimated 145,000 tourists in the 2013/14 year - compared to approximately 159,000 at the St

Columba's Church in 2010 - it says the reduction can mainly be put down to industry-wide trends as opposed to the change in address.

However, it says it is 'currently assessing' its options, with many tourists complaining that the existing office is too small.

A spokesperson for the organisation, which still has offices in the former church, said: 'VisitScotland continues to be committed to maintaining the Argyle Square Church - including the roof - as a base for our local office as we seek other potential uses for the remaining space.'

'We have been in active discussions with a number of parties who have shown an interest in sharing the premises and will shortly be advertising such opportunities to ensure the selection of potential co-tenants is fair and transparent.'

'We have also recently met with Argyll and Bute Council to discuss such opportunities accordingly.'

'We are aware that the new VisitScotland Information Centre is smaller than the area within the church, but there were no suitable alternative premises available at the time.'

'The overall footfall space required for the number of visitors to Oban VIC is a matter we are currently assessing as we look at all the potential options available.'

Linda Battison, chairwoman of the Oban and Lorn Tourism Association, said: 'I would hope that if they do move, they remain in a prominent position - and that they don't [share with someone who would] compete with businesses already in the town. They're not retailers, they're a source of information and that's how it should remain.'

## Manor House Hotel & Restaurant

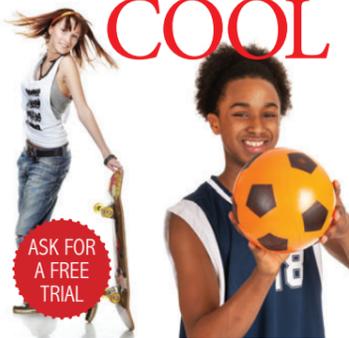
Join us for Dinner  
Either a la Carte or 5 course Prix Fixe

Overlooking the harbour  
Gallanach Road • Oban • 01631 562087  
www.manorhouseoban.com



CONTACT LENSES FOR ACTIVE TEENS

# BACK TO SCHOOL COOL



ASK FOR A FREE TRIAL

WALLACE optometrists

Kodak LENS VISION CENTRE

11-12 Argyle Square, Oban, Argyll PA34 4AZ

01631 563170

Kodak and the Kodak trade dress are trademarks of Kodak used under licence by Sigmet Armorite, Inc.

## No speed limit for 'back road'

THE BACK road between Connel and Oban will not have an enforced speed limit, after Argyll and Bute Council deemed the road's speed restrictions were 'self enforcing'.

The route, between Connel's Ferryfield and Barran, near to the former Rare Breeds Park, is used as a diversion when the A85 trunk road is closed but in recent years more houses have been built alongside the unclassified route and it has been more regularly used by commuters to Oban.

It has also been included as part of the Caledonia Way, a scenic cycle route linking Campbeltown and Inverness.

Following a request by Oban North and Lorn Councillor Louise Glen Lee, Argyll and Bute Council's roads officers carried out a survey on traffic and road conditions before making a judgement on whether a speed limit was appropriate.

The report, which included information from Police Scotland traffic speed surveys concluded the road's geometry and condition meant there was a 'self enforcing' speed limit and that the average speed was slower than the requested speed limit.

The roads department's recommendation was backed by the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee.

The council later said it had considered the road was part of the Caledonia Way when making its recommendation.

## Regatta to mark seafaring past

A SKYE community is considering celebrating its seafaring past by staging a mini-regatta in the summer.

The event in Sleat would see a small flotilla of boats sail around two miles from Sleasay to the beach at Camuscross.

Saturday June 14 is one date being suggested but the regatta would only take place if tide times are right.

Local crofter Graeme MacKenzie from Camuscross owns the *Swift* - an Arran-16 boat with a diesel engine - and is one of those who would definitely take part. He told *The Oban Times*: 'There would be quite a few boats involved if it goes ahead. The idea would be to sail from Sleasay to Camuscross and have a barbecue, but nothing has been finalised yet. Ideally we would want the tide to be fairly high at the right time because it will be a late afternoon to early evening event. Probably we could muster about 12 local boats and craft.'

# Home care staff shortage crisis

A SHORTAGE of home care staff in Oban, Lorn and the Isles (OLI) has seen managers resorting to recruitment appeals through letter drops at homes and setting up recruitment stalls outside supermarkets.

At a meeting of the OLI area committee of Argyll and Bute Council on April 9, council customer service staff reported there were seven vacancies on Mull and several others in the Oban area.

But councillors on the area committee have

expressed a clear opinion on how to retain more staff - pay them more money.

The council's own staff provide care on Mull, Tiree, Coll and Colonsay, with the remainder of the area covered by private companies contracted by the authority: Carr Gorm, Mears Care and the British Red Cross. However, the council's area manager for social services, Shaun Davidson, said there was difficulty in the recruitment of home care staff 'across the board' and that was a problem nationally.

He added that a review of pay levels showed hourly rates offered in Argyll and Bute 'compared favourably' with industry standards.

Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'I have a simple message for the external care providers: perhaps if they paid people more and conditions were better, they would hold on to more staff.'

A report to councillors explained home care providers had used 'innovative ways' of attracting staff, especially in rural areas.

When asked what these were, Margaret Burnip, monitoring officer with social services, told councillors: 'Care managers have been putting postcards through doors on the islands, attended jobs fairs, they are working with Argyll Training and the council's employability team and even sat at a stall outside the Co-op. They've done everything.'

Councillor McCuish added 'My worry is we are going to need more and more home care and, unless we solve this problem now, God

knows what state we are going to be in, in the future. This is something that needs to be addressed very quickly.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'The shortage in staffing should have been expected. This was predicted in 1995 when I was an occupational therapist. I knew we would get to this stage.'

'We need to look at developing our economy pathways to pull more people into this area to service home care provision in future.'

## Entries open for Oban in Bloom

ENTRIES are now being taken for this year's Oban in Bloom garden competition, with an overall winner taking The Oban Times Quach.

Titles up for grabs include best, small, medium and large gardens; best private garden and best garden within an Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) property.

There are further awards for commercial premises, accommodation providers and hanging baskets.

Entry forms can be obtained from Lorn House, Albany Street; ACHA office; Atlantis Leisure and garden centres in the area. Deadline for entries is May 9.

Judging will take place in late May and late July this year.

## Action group wins yard funds

CRANLARICH into Action (CIA) has won a grant of £1,000 from the ScotRail foundation to help upgrade Lower Station Yard.

The group, tasked with making the village a destination in its own right after the construction of the bypass, will use the money to buy benches for the area transformed by the community in recent months.

A volunteer day will be arranged soon to install the benches and give the yard a spring clean.



## Couple's golden wedding charity fundraiser

Plockton couple Charlie G MacRae and his wife Pat turned their golden wedding celebrations in the village on March 28 into a charity fundraiser. The big-hearted couple refused presents and instead asked for donations to Macmillan Cancer Support and the Plockton defibrillators fund. The appeal brought in £760 and the money was split 50-50 between the two charities. Left, Helen Gordon and Marie Finlayson of Macmillan Cancer Support and Jane Mackenzie, right, accepting the cheques from Charlie and Pat, centre.



Tanya MacDougall, manager of Family Mediation Argyll and Bute.

## Cash boost means more vital help for families

AN ARGYLL charity that supports families during a break-up has received extra funding as it sees more than a 10-fold increase in clients in the past 10 years.

Family Mediation Argyll and Bute was granted £190,000 over five years through a Big Lottery Fund grant to support the appointment of a specialist worker to support families where contact has broken down and there are a range of complex issues.

On opening in 2004, the service, which arranges supervised contact and mediation for parents and children, worked with around six to eight families.

Now it supports 89 families in mediation across Argyll and Bute

and also provides a child contact centre for other families.

Service manager Tanya MacDougall said: 'It is becoming more apparent that there are cases of children losing relationships with parents through what is known as parent alienation syndrome.'

'The child who is with one parent uses adult terminology to describe the other parent in a negative way.'

**Separation**  
'Children should not be aware of adult issues when separation and divorce occurs.'

'Sometimes the parents are so far apart that extra help is needed to deal with that.'

'That's why we want to get someone else in to work with

families in highly conflicting situations.'

Family Mediation Argyll and Bute supports families from four contact centres in Oban, Dunoon, Lochgilphead and Helensburgh.

The service also goes out to the islands and more rural parts of the county. Tanya added: 'We are aware of many families who would benefit from intensive work which we have been unable to offer.'

'As the service is the most secure it has been we now feel it is time to develop and make the service more robust.'

'By being able to carry out intensive work with all families we will benefit the community as a whole.'

## Park project to go ahead after lottery cash award

PLANS for a significant upgrade to Breadalbane Park in Killin are set to go ahead this August after the project received more than £200,000 in funding.

The Killin and Ardeonaig Community Trust (KAT) received confirmation from the Big Lottery Fund that it was successful in applying for £227,295 from the Community Spaces Scotland Scheme to redevelop the park blighted with flooding problems in the past.

With the money in place for the redesign, the last remaining hurdle is for the trust to finalise a long term lease for the site from Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.

Trust chairman Willie Angus said that was also nearing completion and work should start soon.

'We must have started this project about four years ago, but we're getting there,' he said.

'The National Park is giving us a lease which covers 10 years and they've been very good. That has to be finalised before we start any work, but the terms are very generous and it won't cost us anything. Stirling Council will also continue the upkeep and insurance of the park. It's really positive.'

'We have a start date in mind; the end of August. The trouble is we need to do it after the Killin games and the show. We're looking forward to it.'

The plans will see a new, large hard-standing for the

heavier vehicles which would be needed at the park for events, a smaller hard-standing near the roundhouse, and the playpark will be extended. A new perimeter path will go round the whole park too.

Some of the equipment for the upgrade has been in the trust's ownership for up to two years already, and has been held free of charge by the council in the interim.

Meanwhile, plans are progressing to revamp the Old Mill in Killin, with the trust outlining ambitious plans for an interior revamp as well as vital work to maintain the exterior.

Willie said: 'The next thing is to raise the funding for the Mill. The first thing to do is repair the lime mortar, which will cost around £50k - £60k, although that estimate was made some time ago.'

'We have had some money from Scottish Heritage and that will go some way to doing it. We have had a Historic Scotland grant as well.'

'We want to redesign the interior and perhaps even install a lift so disabled visitors can get to the first floor.'

'It would be a significant amount of work.'

Work to repair the crumbling lade, meanwhile, has been completed and, pending some finishing touches, water should be flowing through the mill again by the end of next month or early June.

## Four rescued off Kerrera

FOUR people had to be rescued from Kerrera at the weekend after their boat hit rocks and sank.

Oban Lifeboat was launched just before midnight last Saturday to pick up the casualties, who had been flung into the water when their small

boat, a Bayliner, hit a rock off the north end of the island.

They managed to reach the shore from where the lifeboat picked them up and returned them to Oban Lifeboat Station where a waiting ambulance took them to Lorn and Islands Hospital in the town.

## Carloway meeting votes 'yes'

FURTHER evidence of a momentum shift towards the 'yes' side in the referendum debate emerged in Carloway on Lewis on Friday night when a public meeting voted decisively for Scotland to become an independent country.

An audience of around 70 in the local community centre heard speakers for Yes nan Eilean Siar, local MSP Dr Alasdair Allan and Back businessman Gordon 'Diesel' MacLennan, take on 'no' campaigners, former MP Brian Wilson and former Western Isles MSP Alasdair Morrison, in the debate.

And following the question and answer session the 'yes' side carried the day with 56 per cent against 37 per cent for 'no', with seven per cent undecided.

Speaking afterwards, Dr Allan said the positive grassroots campaign from the Butt to Barra was paying off.

He said: 'The reality is, that the more our message - that Scotland's future should be in Scotland's hands - is heard, the more people are heading in the direction of the Yes campaign and that's exactly what happened in Carloway on Friday night.'

'Although last night's result was very positive, we will not rest on our laurels and we'll keep working hard for a Yes vote in September.'

He added: 'We will continue to chap doors, deliver leaflets and hold public meetings all across these islands.'

The Carloway meeting came ahead of a weekend poll by ICM which showed the referendum campaign on a knife edge, with the 'no' camp ahead by just four per cent at 52-48. In a similar ICM poll in September, the 'no' lead was 17 per cent.

## Singer-songwriter's tribute to gannet chick harvest

A SINGER-songwriter is returning to the Hebrides to perform a tribute to the annual harvest of gannet chicks, known as guga, by the men of Ness on Lewis.

Derbyshire musician Robin Beatty first witnessed the centuries old tradition as a five-year-old boy in 1991, when he and his photographer father John sailed with 10 Ness men for the guga hunt on Sula Sgeir, a tiny island 40 miles north of Lewis.

Now Robin and his band Old Dance School will perform the song at concerts in Aros in Portree on May 1 and An Lanntair in Stornoway on May 2.

The song, Sula Sgeir, contrasts the ancient sea bird hunt with the large scale wind farm scheme proposed for the island in 2006.

Robin said: 'For years, I always wanted to write a song retelling



The guga hunt: now immortalised in song. Photo: John Beatty, Sula Sgeir, 1991.

the extraordinary tradition of the guga harvest. But when I started, I realised it was reflected against an even more controversial backdrop.

'I was following the story of the campaigns and legal battles that went on for a decade with the wind farm proposal, which would

have been the biggest in Europe had it gone through, and thinking about how it would affect the small community we had spent time in.'

He added: 'I'm really excited to present it to the islanders, it means a lot to me.'

'I know that for many, it will be a heartfelt issue. And it would be amazing to meet some of the men who took my dad out with them all those years ago.'

Now aged 28, Robin is an acclaimed guitarist and songwriter. Seven-piece folk outfit the Old Dance School's third album *Chasing the Light*, which has Sula Sgeir as the centrepiece, was recorded in Glasgow by celebrated producer Calum Malcolm. It was lauded as folk album of the year by the Scotsman and has been BBC Radio Scotland's Album of the Week.

## Number of UHI teacher training places doubles to 40

TEACHER training places offered by the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) will double to 40 this year, Education Secretary Michael Russell has announced.

During a visit to Lews Castle College, Stornoway, Lewis, Mr Russell also announced that from August UHI will be responsible for college funding in the region, to ensure decisions fully reflect

local demand, and will introduce a partnership to offer teacher training with Argyll and Bute Council from 2015.

Mr Russell was meeting college staff and students as the Scottish Cabinet visited Stornoway.

**Incredible**  
He said: 'The demand to study teaching at UHI has been incredible, with applications outnumbering the

40 places now available by five to one, including seven places to teach through the medium of Gaelic.'

'UHI has been hugely successful in offering quality higher education to many students across 13 campuses from Argyll to Scalloway using a combination of classes, tutorials and online learning.'

'The new agreement with Argyll and Bute Council will build on the

successful partnership between UHI and Shetland Islands Council, Orkney Islands Council, Moray Council, Western Isles Council and Highland Council that encourages talented teachers in our rural and island communities.'

'From September 2015 students will be able to access courses at Argyll College in Oban and Ionad Chalum Chille Ile.'

## Two-year project to commemorate World War One

A WESTERN Isles arts group has embarked on a two-year project to commemorate World War One.

The Gaelic Arts Agency is working on bilingual exhibitions detailing the impact the war had on the people of the Western Isles to be showcased in Lewis, Harris, Benbecula, Barra, Eriskay and the Uists.

These displays will then go on tour across the country over the next year, showcasing in Skye, Oban, Glasgow and Inverness. Afterwards the group hopes to take their exhibitions as far as North America and Canada.

Chief executive of the Gaelic Arts Agency, Erica Morrison, said: 'The war had an

unbelievable impact on families in the Western Isles, 20 per cent of the men went off to fight compared to 13 per cent nationally and we want to commemorate that.'

As well as the exhibitions, the agency is putting together a series of community productions based on the experiences of those who lived and died during the war, including writings and songs from the time.

**Personal**  
Ms Morrison added: 'We take a writer to each community and find out how that particular area was affected by the war and incorporate it into our script. It means that each production is personal to the area it is performed in.'

The project is being funded through grants from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the Big Lottery Fund, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and most recently a £10,000 contribution from the Scottish Government.

After hearing about the government grant Ms Morrison said: 'This welcome funding coupled with other sources of financial support will enable Proiseact an Ealan [Gaelic Arts Agency] to create a series of high quality, multi-media Gaelic exhibitions capturing community perspectives, illuminating social impacts, legacies and lessons for the rising generation based on the significant contribution made by those from the Western Isles to the Great War.'

SUBSCRIBE TO **The Oban Times** today from only **40p** per week\* 

**PLUS** receive a **FREE** box of 24 handmade chocolates 

**OBAN** chocolate co. courtesy of Oban Chocolate Company [www.obanchocolate.co.uk](http://www.obanchocolate.co.uk)

Call 01371 851868  
Print - visit [www.obantimes.co.uk/subscribe](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/subscribe)  
Digital - visit [www.obantimes.co.uk/digital](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/digital)  
**QUOTE OTNS0314**

Terms and conditions apply. Minimum one year subscription. New subscribers only. Cancellation charges apply and no refunds can be given. UK subscribers only. While stocks last. \*40p per week applies to digital edition. £20.80 for a one year digital subscription. £58 for a one year print subscription, includes postage and packaging.



## Artist's striking anti-smoking message

A STRIKING painting of cigarette-packet headstones weighed down by a ball and chain is an Argyll artist's latest weapon in the war against smoking.

Gloria Young has been a staunch campaigner against smoking after her late husband, Derek, developed lung cancer as a result of the addiction, sadly passing away in 2004.

The Benderloch painter has raised money for Cancer Research in recent years by selling calendars featuring her works but hopes her latest image - inspired by the current design of cigarette packets - can be used to deter people from inhaling the potentially deadly drug.

Gloria, who is in her mid 80s, was inspired to create the painting after finding a discarded cigarette packet on Tralee Bay. She said: 'My husband was a chain smoker. As soon as he finished one, he was in the pocket to try and find another. He tried to resist, but it is addictive.'

'I found this packet and I was going to put it in the dustbin, but it made me think.'

Asked if the painting was in part her lashing out at cigarettes for taking her husband's life, she said: 'It is. I wanted to shout about it.' Pausing, she added: 'He knew it was affecting him. He tried to quit, but it is a powerful drug.'

'I was speaking to a young girl recently who was no older than 15, maybe 16. She was smoking a cigarette and it struck me so hard. She's going to struggle. Smoking is a dreadful thing.'

While Gloria doesn't necessarily think her painting will help people stop straight away, she hopes it will contribute to a final decision - and has offered it to anti-smoking campaigners to make use of the painting for free to raise further awareness of the dangers of smoking.

She said: 'It doesn't matter how many people tell you or warn you about the dangers, they have to make the decision to quit themselves.'

'I don't think they sell as many packets as they used to, but all they need is for a younger person to want to smoke and they'll be picking up the cigarettes for life.'

'The idea behind the picture is so the person looking at it feels something. My hope is that somehow, somebody somewhere will see this picture and use it to help people. I don't want any money for it, but if anything can be done with it I'd be very grateful.'



Gloria Young's painting, Smoking Killed. The most prominent 'tombstone' is marked DY in tribute to her late husband, Derek. 15\_117gloria1

# Soroba's rubbish heap shame



Surveying the rubbish behind Colonsay Terrace in Oban are, from left: community PC Paul MacMillan, Soroba community garden volunteer Archie McIntyre, councillor Roddy McCuish, community councillor George Berry and community PC Scott MacPhee. 16\_117soroba01

'SOROBA'S shame' is how one community councillor has described a scatter of rubbish in a corner of the Oban housing estate.

Volunteers building a community garden behind Colonsay Terrace in Soroba came across the sea of litter when clearing some bushes and trees from unused ground at the weekend.

The site, below Gillies' Rock and just 50 metres from Colonsay Terrace flats, is covered in discarded bottles and cans of alcohol. The volunteer group even found a mattress, a drinks cabinet and a bus stop sign among the rubbish.

Now the volunteers are calling on Argyll and Bute Council, Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) and police to help.

Volunteer and Oban community councillor George Berry said: 'We cleared a bit of rubbish while we were working on the site but when we moved through to this section I couldn't believe my eyes.'

'We are not clearing all of that because there is broken glass everywhere. It's not just a council issue, it's an environmental issue and because it is beside the railway it is going to give rail passengers a terrible impression of the town.'

'We are trying to create a nice space for people to come and use but this is completely demoralising.'

Mr Berry said he has seen teenagers drinking alcohol in the area but is met with abuse when he tries to move them on.

'This isn't just Soroba kids,' he said. 'They're coming from all over the place but to the Soroba kids I would say, get a grip. For the others that come here from elsewhere to drink alcohol, I have no words. It's just soul destroying.'

Ward councillor Roddy McCuish and two officers from Oban Police visited the site on Monday.

Councillor McCuish described the scene as 'unbelievable' and said he would work with the council, ACHA and the Community Payback scheme to try and get it cleared.

He added: 'We can do something here but I have never seen anything like it.'

Oban Police Inspector Julie McLeish said incidents of underage drinking in Soroba, including at Gillies' Rock, had been less common since February 2013, when Oban's bylaw that prohibits drinking alcohol in public areas was extended to Soroba.

She added: 'There has been a significant decrease in reports of underage and street drinking in recent years and the bylaw extension has contributed to that.'

'There has been a lot of positive police action in that area to address community concern.'

'However, should these issues flare up again the police will attend, armed with the powers the bylaw gives us.'

Residents of Soroba campaigned for six years to have the bylaw extended to the housing scheme in an attempt to rid the streets of drinkers.



Irene Hannah celebrates her 80th birthday and the end of her 80-mile walking challenge. 16\_117irene01

## Plucky pensioner completes 80-mile walking challenge

A PENSIONER who suffers from a number of medical conditions has completed an 80-mile walking challenge for two charities, despite being admitted to hospital during the trial.

Great-grandmother Irene Hannah, who suffers from neuropathic feet, varicose veins and asthma, among other conditions, intended to walk a total of 80 miles from the beginning of the year until her 80th birthday last Sunday.

She achieved the feat with time to spare and at her birthday party in Glencruitten Golf Club last Saturday she celebrated raising more than £2,000 for the Dementia Resource Centre and North Argyll Carers Centre.

The mother of six's fundraising was for services that became so important when her late husband, Samuel, became terminally ill. He died on January 5, 2012.

Irene, who also has a replacement hip and has postponed a leg operation in order to complete her fundraiser, revealed her progress was interrupted by admission to hospital with a leg injury.

'I would have done it a lot quicker if the weather had been better and I hadn't needed to go into hospital,' said the plucky pensioner.

'I was taken to hospital during one of my walks but that didn't put me off.'

And Irene says she is now considering another sponsored swim, 11 years after she swam 66 lengths of the Atlantis Leisure pool in an hour to raise £1,009 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

'When I get my leg operation and get it sorted I want to do a swim but I'll need to see what the doctor says - and get a few practice swims in first.'

# Oban chip shop owners in new war of words over sign

A NEW war over words has broken out between two chip shops in Oban - thanks to a dispute over a sign for one of the town's busy traders.

Lilian Hutchison, of The Oban Fish and Chip Shop, has lashed out after George Street near-neighbour Nories erected a new sign above its door, headed Nories with the sub-header 'Obans [sic] Fish and Chip Shop'.

But Renato Di Ciacca, who owns Nories, is bemused by the complaint,

saying it is clear their premises is called 'Nories'. Lilian maintains the new sign was designed to chip at her business.

'I don't understand why they would do that,' she said. 'My partner, George, went over and spoke to them about it, but all they said was 'do you want us to put an apostrophe in?''

Mrs Hutchison said the situation echoed that of another trader in town, John Ogden, who took legal action against a competitor after he painted his seafood

shack green - the same colour as Mr Ogden's well known Green Shack.

She said: 'I don't want to have to go down the route John Ogden did, but I will if I have to. Tourists come in to town looking for our shop. If they see that, 'Obans Fish and Chip Shop', they'll go there instead. There is plenty of business for everyone and there's no need to resort to dirty tactics.'

Renato said: 'We don't know what we've done wrong. They have threatened us with

legal action and we are taking advice, but I don't think you can copyright Oban.'

'My shop is called Nories and it is in Oban. That's the end of it really.'

It is the second time the George Street rivals have exchanged words over signs. Lilian's business has previously been praised by chef Rick Stein and critic Tam Cowan - but she claimed she'd been battered after Nories put out sandwich boards, with similar reviews attributed to 'Rick' and 'Tam'.

## Midwives retire together after chance meeting in '90s



Joanne Thorpe, left, and Mairi McGregor, who celebrated their retirement from the NHS this month.

THEY came together in incredible circumstances to help deliver a baby on Oban's lifeboat in the 90s, now two of NHS Highland's most popular employees have retired at the same time.

Midwife Joanne Thorpe and nurse co-ordinator Mairi McGregor decided to hang up their uniforms after carving out successful careers in Argyll and Bute's Community Health Partnership (CHP).

But it was a chance meeting in 1997 that tied the pair's careers together, when Mairi miraculously spotted Joanne's waves for help when passing by the newly launched Oban lifeboat, the Mora Edith MacDonald.

Joanne was called to the vessel after a woman went into labour on Mull, with the baby starting to arrive on the journey back to Oban.

Mairi, meanwhile, was driving back to Oban from the Kerrera ferry when she saw Joanne's through the porthole of the boat, frantically waving for

help. Mairi abandoned her car and dashed to board the vessel, where she found the baby was almost born. Together with the couple and with help from the crew, she and Joanne delivered the baby. So grateful were the parents that Mora was included in their newborn daughter's name.

Joanne came to Argyll in the early 1990s, first as a midwife in Oban braving the elements to provide a service in more remote locations.

**Paddled**  
At one point, she even paddled a canoe with the father of a new baby to their island home to carry out a post-natal visit to the new mother and baby.

Joanne then moved to Mid Argyll for a more senior post, where, through strong leadership, she challenged entrenched views and succeeded in developing services where more women could have their babies born locally and receive care and support at home. As a result, Joanne became the

Lead Midwife for Argyll and Bute in 2008. Mairi worked as a midwife with Joanne in Oban in the 90s, latterly working more with women affected by substance misuse and domestic violence. She then took up a role working to improve access to health services for homeless people and in 2009 her role changed to incorporate a co-ordination of services role for Looked After and Accommodated Children, Gypsy Travellers and Homeless people.

Pat Tyrrell, lead nurse for Argyll and Bute CHP, said: 'We would like to give our most heartfelt thanks to both Joanne and Mairi for all of their years of service. Each of them has contributed hugely to the improvement in health services in Argyll and Bute and they will both be very much missed by all of us.'

'We wish them well in the next phases of their lives, knowing that neither of them will be resting on their laurels for too long.'

## Nominate a local hero for games tickets

RACING driver Susie Wolff will join power lifter Jeremy Vickers and Commonwealth Games athlete Susan Partridge in deciding which local hero will receive two tickets to the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow this year.

The Oban Times is asking readers to nominate someone in their local community who deserves to experience the games first hand as part of The Scottish Government's Legacy Ticket scheme.

Nominations are being sent in for unsung heroes making a difference, whether it is a young person involved in sport,

someone helping to make sport happen by volunteering, or someone simply making their community a better place.

As judges on The Oban Times Legacy Ticket panel, Susie, Jeremy and Susan will take time out of their busy schedules to read through a shortlist of nominations sent in by readers.

Susie, originally from Oban, is a development driver for the Williams Formula One Team. Jeremy, from Fort William, will represent Scotland in the British and European Strongest Man under 90kg this year after recently winning

the Scottish final. Susan, from Benderloch, will compete for Scotland in the marathon at Glasgow's Commonwealth Games this summer, having won the Great Scottish Run last October. To nominate someone for this once in a lifetime opportunity, see the form provided on page six of this issue or online at www.obantimes.co.uk/legacy.

All nominations must be received by midnight, Tuesday April 29, 2014.

Nominees must live in Argyll or the West Highlands. Terms and conditions apply.



Susie Wolff.



Jeremy Vickers.



Susan Partridge.

### Driver reported for careless driving on A85

A THREE-vehicle collision on the A85 outside the Halfway House, Dunbeg, has resulted in one of the drivers being reported for careless driving.

The incident, which happened last

Saturday at around 6.15pm, closed the road for 45 minutes. A man who was in the middle car was removed and taken to hospital with a suspected spinal injury but this was ruled out following an examination.

### NEW LOOK POWER WASH

#### ROUGHCAST STONE CLEANING SPECIALIST

Roughcast cleaning is a process carried out using our own NLP cleaning solution which is not acid based and won't cause any damage. This is lightly sprayed over the roughcast and rinsed off. No water pressure at all involved. This means no stones or shells removed. We can also seal the cleaned area with NLP water barrier clear treatment to protect the roughcast at a low price. Free Quote and Free demo. Nothing to lose

driveways and stonework

SPECIAL OFFER UNTIL THE END OF MONTH

Roughcast Cleaning HALF PRICE

Average Mid-Terrace House - Roughcast Cleaned From £300 - End Terrace £450, Detached £600 - All cills, gutters, facias and windows included

CALL NOW FOR A FREE ESTIMATE!

Tel: 07596 859092  
01631-358027

info@newlookpowerwash.co.uk  
www.newlookpowerwash.co.uk

QUALIFIED STONEMASONS

Not to be missed by those with interest in food & drink production/distribution and service delivery

## OBAN PHOENIX

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Monday 28th May  
Oban Phoenix Cinema  
Launch of Oban Perfect  
Networking lunch  
with Gary Goldie

Discussion time national recognised inspirational speakers

11- 3pm

Booking essential

admin@obanphoenix.com

**Man ordered to be of good conduct for a year**

AN OBAN man must show the town's sheriff court that he can be of good behaviour for a year. When he appeared before the court last week Marc Pert, aged 30, of Solas, Albany Street, Oban, admitted acting in a threatening and abusive manner towards two women, his partner and a friend of hers, by behaving aggressively and also to throwing a cup of cold tea over the friend, seizing hold of her by the body and pushing her. 'It doesn't mean I am letting you off, it means I am putting you in a position of trust with the court and if you breach that trust I will deal with you severely,' said Sheriff Douglas Small. Pert will appear before the court again in 12 months' time for the sheriff to hear a report of his conduct.

**Sheriff calls for reports on brothers**

SHERIFF Douglas Small has called for reports on a pair of brothers and for the cost of the damage they caused before he passes sentence. Cameron Hewitt, aged 19, and his brother Curtis, 17, both of 2 Croft Avenue, Oban, admitted setting fire to a pile of logs on spare ground by the Halfway House Filling Station on June 13 last year, when they appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week. Their case will be heard on May 27.

**Music festival association anniversary concert**

THE LOCHABER Music Festival Association is to hold a concert later this year as part of its 40th anniversary celebrations. Over the past four decades, the festival, held annually in March, has seen some wonderful performances in a whole range of classes. Now the association wants to roll back the years and bring back some of the top competitors to the stage for the concert in the Nevis Centre on September 11. Association chairperson Lillian MacDonald said: 'We would be delighted to hear from past senior award winners who have continued to play or sing and who would like to be considered for the concert programme either individually or as part of a group. 'If anyone wishes to contribute, do please contact secretary@lochabermusicfestival.co.uk or ring 01397 712 371 by May 10. We look forward to hearing from you.'

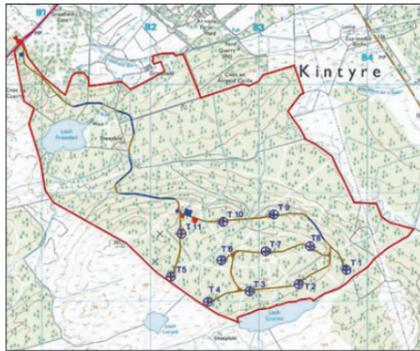
**Museum grant**

LOCHABER councillors have awarded the West Highland Museum in Fort William £1,080 from their discretionary budget. The money will be used for consultancy support.

# Outrage as wind farm decision overturned

## Residents left questioning democratic process

A DECISION by the Scottish Government to pass a controversial Argyll wind farm, which met with unanimous rejection across Argyll and Bute, has left residents questioning the democratic process.



The proposed windfarm plan at Freasdale, in Kintyre.

The government gave the go-ahead to Freasdale Wind Farm, near Whitehouse, south of Tarbert, despite it being rejected by Argyll and Bute Council planners and councillors on the planning committee and vehemently opposed by the local community. But developer Renewable Energy Systems (RES) has been successful in appealing the council's decision and the Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals (DPEA) approved the 11-turbine wind farm last week. Argyll and Bute Council has since confirmed it will report the decision to its planning committee, which will decide

whether to contest the ruling. David Bridge, a Whitehouse resident, has blasted the decision. 'The ruling by an unelected official has overturned the democratically-made local decision to refuse planning permission for Freasdale Wind Farm. 'It did not have one bit of

support. What is the point in going through the whole process of consultation, asking for the views of the community and Argyll and Bute Council if it is simply going to get passed on appeal.'

When the application was in front of councillors planners said they could not approve the application because it was 'fundamentally flawed'.

Angus Gilmore, head of planning, said the wind farm would 'overwhelm and dominate' a highly sensitive landscape. He feared the application would send an inappropriate signal that 'edge of plateau' developments would be acceptable. Community groups, Kintyre Turbine Watch and Tarbert and Skipness Community Council, strongly opposed the application. Bob Chikien, a Tarbert community councillor, said: 'I am really shocked that this application has been passed.

It was a particularly bad proposal as it was close to homes.'

Tarbert councillor John McAlpine said: 'I'm disappointed that the views and concerns of local people have been ignored. It's clear that the Scottish Government has set unachievable targets and as a result the people in Kintyre may suffer in the future if this is the way applications have been determined.'

But, Neil Martin, RES development project manager, defended the wind farm application. 'We have sensitively designed the project and demonstrated that the wind farm would have no significant effects on local people, the local environment or local wildlife,' he said.

Depending on Argyll and Bute's decision, the appeal ruling may be challenged at the Court of Session within six weeks of the date of the decision.

# Workshop puts Fort William town centre regeneration action plan in the spotlight

FORT William residents and business owners can have their say on the town's future at an upcoming workshop.



A busy Fort William High Street on Good Friday: Plans for its regeneration will be discussed next month.

The two-day event next month will allow locals to provide ideas on how to improve the town centre with presentations on development projects in other towns and cities.

Issues on the agenda will include shops and services, transport in and around the town and the design of streets, buildings and public spaces.

Designers and surveyors have been hired to translate ideas from the meetings, to be held on May 15 and 16, into an action plan for Fort William.

Similar workshops will also be held in Nairn and Tain as part of the Highland Council initiative. Fort William Community Council chairman Neil Clark thinks people will be pessimistic until there is meaningful funding in place for development.

He said: 'There has been at least three or four reports into how to regenerate the High Street

in the last 20 years but what's changed? If they have a pot of money available I think people would be more enthusiastic. 'On the other hand if people

don't participate they can't complain if nothing is done. If you participate then nothing happens then you're quite right to complain.'

Councillor Thomas Prag, chairman of the planning development and infrastructure Committee, said: 'Fort William will be interesting because lots

of ideas have been put on paper then not implemented.

'This action plan doesn't mean every idea will be possible but it gives us an opportunity to tell people what can and can't be done in the area then it's up to you to say what you think should happen within that.'

Councillor Prag admitted there was no guarantee that money would be available to implement any action plans drawn up following the workshops.

He said: 'Unfortunately at times people can come up with the most wonderful ideas but can never get funding for them.'

'Where funding will come from depends on what the plan is, some of it may already be available, for example if it is for something related to roads. Once a plan is in place different ways of funding it can be looked at.'

Anyone with an interest can attend the workshops in the Alexandra Hotel between 9am and 5pm on May 15 and 16 with an informal drop-in session from 5.15-7pm on the 15th.

# Chance to train in use of new Glencoe Boat Club defibrillator

GLENCOE Boat Club has bought a semi-automatic heart defibrillator for use by members and the general public.

A training evening will be held at the club's premises at Tigh-phuir on Thursday May 15 at 7pm to instruct people on how to use the machine. Members of the club and the wider

community are welcome to attend the event. The session will be presented by Laura and Paul Macadam-Slater of Emergency Action Training in Fort William.

Glencoe Boat Club Commodore Robert Watt said: 'Although we very much hope that the equipment will never have to be

used, our committee felt a responsibility to make a defibrillator available to our members and - equally importantly - to other members of the community.'

Club treasurer Alec Blanc added: 'We are fortunate that Laura and Paul are prepared to give their time to ensure that everyone is familiar with the equipment.'

# Professor uses his head in fight to keep midges at bay

FRUSTRATED with the constant scourge of Argyll midges, a professor from Connel has put his expertise to good use and come up with a way to keep the pests at bay.

After living in the area for five years, Professor Alistair Stewart dreamed of a midge-free summer and has now invented a revolutionary hat to combat the nuisance. The headgear is solar powered and features a fan at the front to blow midges away from the face. Professor Stewart, originally from Airdrie, explained: 'Every man and his dog hates midges so it's something to give a bit of relief. It's not a complete lock out because come hell or high water you'll never completely get rid of midges in Argyll but it gives a measure of prevention. 'If you have a bit of airflow near your face the midges can't get through that.'



Professor Alistair Stewart has invented a novel way to keep midges at bay.

But keeping flies at bay is not the only job for the 'Bugwisa' hats, the retired electronics engineer and college lecturer insisted. The caps can also be used to keep cool when working in the sun or in warm environments like kitchens and Professor Stewart is working on a similar idea in a hard hat style for construction staff irritated by the blight of midges.

Most of all, the 59-year-old wants his invention to be sold locally.

He said: 'I'd like it if some of the shops in Oban stocked my hats and local people benefited from them. I've been living in Argyll for a while now so I'd like to give something back. We could even have something like 'smile for Argyll' printed on them.'

After receiving great feedback about his hats, Professor Stewart is now considering the next step in battling midges and plans to create fans for canopies and parasols.

He explained: 'If there was air blowing around the top it would create a block to stop midges flying through but it wouldn't be strong enough to be blowing your hair everywhere. You wouldn't even notice it. The thing that makes it even better is the cold air can be changed to warm when it gets cooler in the evening.'

With the help of Professor Stewart, Argyll could one day have a midge-free summer.

## Morvern Lines

THERE can be very few graveyards in the West Highlands that can upstage Kiel in Morvern for history and location. The name comes from Cille Choluimchille - the cell of St Columba of the church - who founded the famous monastery on Iona over 1,400 years ago.

Local tradition says that one day he crossed Loch Linnhe with St Molauc from Lismore and that, landing together, they climbed the Garbh Shlios.

From the summit of Glas Bheinn, with its commanding views of the Morvern coastline, St Columba placed his foot on a flat rock and pointing to a green knoll a little way above the entrance to Loch Aline, said: 'There is the place where we will build our next church.'

Apparently the saint's footprint is said to be seen on a rock on the hill top where he made his announcement.

LAST Thursday was Maundy Thursday and also St Columba's Day (Diardaoin Chaluim-Chille.) Long ago it used to be celebrated in different ways and was looked on as a day of good luck, especially for setting out on a journey.

On the eve of the festival, a loaf of oats or rye was baked containing a silver coin and roasted on a special fire built of oak, yew or rowan.

On Maundy Thursday, the cake was divided among the children of the family and the lucky finder of the silver coin was given the major share of the crop of lambs for the year.

THIS year, despite the unusually wet spring, the daffodils in Kiel graveyard have been so spectacular that they have been described by some of the older generation as the finest within living memory.



Daffodils in Kiel graveyard - the finest display in living memory.

CLOSE to the present place of worship is the Old Session House, formerly a school, built in 1774. It is now a museum containing a highly important collection of medieval gravestones taken from the adjoining cemetery 100 years ago.

These stones show warriors and churchmen, swords, galleys, tools, spears and axes. They also portray strange plants, animals, birds and dragons.

Although it is interesting to speculate what these supernatural things might have meant we really cannot know. We cannot enter into the minds of long dead ancestors in search of their innermost thoughts and intentions when they have not explained them to us.

All we can do is admire and look after these works of art, and read into them whatever is appropriate to our own culture and generation.

KIEL IS full of interesting and fascinating monuments and inscriptions. The list of surnames is long and varied. MacCalman, Robertson, Sinclair, Beattie, Corson, MacLachlan, Dalgleish, MacInnes, Livingstone, MacGill, MacGregor, MacRae, Black, Campbell and Macleod to name only a few. The site is unique in the annals of church history and well worth a visit.

Standing in a corner of Kiel graveyard there is a large memorial, now in a poor state of preservation. It commemorates the most famous family of ministers in the Church of Scotland - the Macleods of Finiary.

There is a story told of John (1801-1882), the last of the family who lived in Morvern. It seems there was a Duncan Cameron at Kiel at the time who performed the job of 'the minister's man', as they were called in these days, who kept the church and grounds tidy and occasionally dug the graves.

Duncan was something of local worthy, a poor time-keeper and often not without refreshment. One day the minister asked him to open a grave for a coffin which was being brought a considerable distance and to be sure that it was ready as soon as the funeral party came out of the church. It wasn't.

Turning to old Duncan, Macleod rebuked him in front of the mourners saying rather sharply: 'Duncan, you should have risen earlier.' Duncan not in the least bothered, gazed across the graveyard and retorted: 'What are you worrying about minister, there are plenty around here who have not risen yet.'

DUNCAN used to sweep the chimneys at Finiary Manse. One afternoon when John was handing him the customary dram after the job was done, jokingly said: 'Well Duncan here's another nail in your coffin!'

Duncan, true to his style and also a bit put out by the smallness of the glass on this occasion, glanced at the bottle still in the minister's hand and said: 'Well minister, seeing you have the hammer in your hand, you'd better just drive in another nail.'

THESE stories are probably apocryphal as they have been told elsewhere in Lochaber, including the following about a man from Kiel who spent most of his income in the nearby inn.

His wife used to give him a hard time but without any effect. One night she covered herself in a grey cloak and hid behind the graveyard wall. Seeing him lurching towards her, she suddenly leapt out wailing: 'Beware, mend your ways, I am the Devil.'

Her husband, not in the least perturbed, stepped boldly forward, put out his hand and said: 'Delighted to meet you, I'm married to your sister.'

Iain Thornber iain.thornber@btinternet.com.

## Scottish Canals appoints new chairman

ANDREW Thin, the former chairman of Scottish Natural Heritage and the Cairngorms National Park Authority, has been announced as the new chairman of Scottish Canals.



Andrew Thin.

Mr Thin replaces Dr Jon Hargreaves, who chaired the organisation through its birth as an independent public body in 2012. His three-year appointment comes as Scottish Canals looks to develop the tourism and commercial potential of its waterways, which include the Caledonian and Crinan canals.

Mr Thin said: 'Continuing to safeguard the rich heritage of these 250-year-old assets

and yet investing in innovative projects which regenerate the canal corridors can only be great news for canal-side communities and Scotland.'

**Question: Complete the name of this famous TV chef - Jamie**

**a) Oliver b) Ramsay c) Blanc**

Answer .....  
 Name .....  
 Address .....  
 Postcode .....  
 Telephone .....  
 Email .....  
 Please post your entries to The Oban Times, Cookware Comp, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by Tuesday May 6, 2014.

Terms and conditions: Entrants must live in the UK. The winner's cookware set will be dispatched within 28 days of the competition closing date. The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entry coupons will not be accepted. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families.

# Quayside value of sea fish and shellfish plummits

THE OVERALL quayside value of sea fish and shellfish landed by Scottish vessels in 2013 plummeted by eight per cent in 2013 compared with 2012, according to provisional figures published last week by Scotland's Chief Statistician.

The fall was not reflected in the volume of seafood landed, which marginally increased, providing further evidence that prices remain suppressed - especially in the key Spanish and French markets. Worryingly for the west coast, shellfish landings by volume decreased by 10 per cent last year while value dropped by 13 per cent. Overall, Scottish vessels landed 366,400 tonnes of fish with a value of £429 million in 2013.

Bertie Armstrong, chief executive of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, said: This alarming drop in the quayside value of seafood landed underlines the tremendous pressures faced by our fishing fleet. Scottish seafood is renowned around the world for its high quality, provenance and sustainability, yet despite signs of global economic recovery, it would seem that the market for our fish and shellfish is showing

little sign of improving. This is causing a double whammy of hardship for our fishermen as the poor market situation is set against the background of ever-increasing operational costs for the fishing fleet.'

Mackerel remains the most valuable stock to the Scottish fleet, accounting for 29 per cent of the total value landings in 2013.

Compared with 2012, landings for mackerel in 2013 by Scottish-based vessels were similar at 134,000 tonnes, but were worth four per cent less at £126 million. In 2012, 54 per cent of mackerel was landed abroad but this figure dropped to 45 per cent last year - even though the price per tonne landed on the continent is greater than the UK.

## Brave hotel worker to donate hair to charity

MOST women are treated to gifts on their birthday, but one on Mull will be giving, rather than receiving, when she marks turning 30 by shaving her head.

Susanne Van Erp is donating her hair to have it made into a wig for a children's cancer charity next month.

The brave hotel worker's shoulder-length locks will be chopped on May 8 and given to The Little Princess Trust. If that isn't enough, Susanne is trying to raise £350 for the charity to cover the cost of making the wig.

Susanne's drastic haircut will also mark her fiancé Allan's 10-year anniversary of remission from colorectal cancer.

She said: 'Really there's a few reasons for my decision. I'm shaving my head in solidarity to my fiancé and I'd like to raise some awareness of women's cancers, like breast and ovarian cancer.'

'A few friends of mine suffered from these and were treated successfully, but they did get very ill so also it is solidarity towards them.'

'I would like to start my 30th year on this earth with a random act of kindness towards kids. I think they deserve every chance to start life with as few troubles as possible.'

'If donating my hair will prevent a child who is already in an awful situation because of their illness from being picked on and feeling awkward for looking different then I will happily do so.'

### Message

'Also, by shaving my head I want to send a message to women all over - You have total freedom over your own body. You can choose what to do with it, it's none of anybody else's business.'

Residents of the Bellachroy Hotel, where Susanne and Allan work, will be in for a shock on the day as Allan plans to shave his bride-to-be's head on her lunch break.

'I plan to start my working day and get back to work bald,' she added.

'I'm honestly glad my hair is going, I'm sick of the ponytail and when it's untied I look like Neil from The Young Ones.'

The couple recently moved to Mull from Tighmabraich and haven't set a date for the wedding so Susanne was found to be bald, but they said they don't care.

She said: 'I'm a bit scared that I might have a square skull or something, so we'll see how ridiculous I look with a shaved head first. Maybe it'll look good, then I might keep it for a while. If not it's only hair, it'll grow back.'

And the future groom told his wife: 'I love you anyway, I don't care if you have short hair on our wedding day.'

Donations to Susanne's cause can be made at <https://www.justgiving.com/SusyQ>.



Kay and John McDonald, centre, were given a warm send-off from The Toy Cupboard. 16\_t17toy01

# Children's charity bids fond farewell to couple

A COUPLE who have supported a children's charity in Oban for the past 10 years have been given a warm send-off as they left their roles.

Kay McDonald, who was play leader and fundraiser at Lorn Toy Library's Toy Cupboard for the past decade, and her husband John, who volunteered every week, were given a presentation on their last day on Easter Friday.

The service, established in

1990, allows parents to meet up at Glencruitten Church Centre throughout the week and let their children play with toys in a safe environment.

The membership has trebled in the 10 years Kay has been play leader with nearly 300 children registered with the service.

And saying goodbye proved difficult for an emotional Kay, who said she hoped to return as a volunteer.

She said: 'I worked for Argyll

and Bute Council as a creche worker and they loaned me here for eight months. That was 10 years ago.'

'I was happy to stay on and I have always loved it here.'

### Busy day

Despite the organised chaos of a busy day in the toy library, Kay says she found the environment 'relaxing'. 'There's a knack to it,' she admitted.

Kay left the role to concentrate on her other responsibilities,

including working as a town ambassador. 'You need to give The Toy Cupboard a lot of time and effort and it is time to hand over to someone younger with more energy and new ideas,' she added.

Husband John first came to The Toy Cupboard three years ago to help move some boxes. For the past three years he has returned to help every Friday before working a night shift at the Falls of Lora Hotel, in Connel.

Sheila MacGregor, a play worker with the charity, said: 'Kay was the face of The Toy Cupboard and she and John were so dedicated.'

'They will be sorely missed by everyone here.'

'I think Kay's personality and warmth were among the reasons it has become so popular. She's an absolute star.'

Kay was presented with a necklace, a painting, a scarf and chocolates as leaving gifts.

## Rugby stars team up to bring lifesaving equipment to Coll

FORMER Scotland rugby captains Rob Wainwright and Gavin Hastings have teamed up to bring lifesaving equipment to the Isle of Coll.

Rob, who lives on the island, this week presented Coll GP Celine O'Neill with a defibrillator on behalf of Gavin, who is a patron of the Sandpiper Trust charity that aims to improve pre-hospital care in rural areas.

The trust has already donated a Sandpiper Bag containing £1,000 of emergency equipment to the island doctor, who is delighted with the support the local practice has received.

Dr O'Neill said: 'The administering of rapid and appropriate medical intervention to a patient during the critical 'Golden Hour' not only contributes to an increase in positive patient outcomes but also raises community confidence and resilience especially in remote parts of Scotland. In view of the limited resources

on the island, with no Scottish Ambulance Service personnel, the emergency medical retrieval team were invited to Coll to instruct the Fire and Rescue team in conjunction with the healthcare practitioners to deal with trauma and emergencies in an attempt to promote community resilience.'

Meanwhile Rob, himself a doctor, will next month be joined by a group of cyclists who either live on Coll or have connections to the island in cycling 811 miles 'North of the Fault' to buy more defibrillators for the island, as well as raising more money for Mary's Meals.

They will cycle and camp their way around the coast over seven days from May 31, taking a day's break before participating in the Mull Sportive. Then, on day nine, they will participate in the event. To support the cyclists, who hope to raise £20,000, log on to [uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/NorthoftheFault](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/NorthoftheFault).



Rob Wainwright presents Coll's doctor, Celine O'Neill, with the defibrillator donated by former Scotland rugby captain Gavin Hastings, a patron of the Sandpiper Trust.

## Family in difficulty during walk

KYLE OF Lochalsh lifeboat launched last Thursday evening after a family requested assistance on the Isle of Skye.

The father and two young children got into difficulty walking on the remote shoreline between Kyleshera and Kinloch.

Kyle and Broadford coastguard teams as well as local police assisted with the search. The family was found unharmed and picked up by local police.

## Lochcarron Golf Club break-in

THE CLUBHOUSE at Lochcarron Golf Club was broken into and items stolen from the premises sometime between 9pm on Saturday and 7am on Sunday.

Anyone who can help local police with their enquiries can phone 101.



Happy gardeners: Alison, Ruairidh, Theresa and Sean hard at work on the allotment. 20\_f17allot01

## Fort mum's joy as family finally dig in at Cow Hill allotment

A FORT William mum has realised her dream of having an allotment after waiting 18 months for the chance to grow vegetables with her children.

Alison MacDonald put her name down for one of Sunny Lochaber United Gardeners' plots on Cow Hill in 2012 in the hope of adding horticulture to the list of family hobbies.

The 42-year-old Lochaber High School catering assistant had been confined to growing a few salad leaves on the window ledge of her Ross Place home and was desperate to try gardening in the great outdoors.

And last week Alison, together with kids Theresa, 10, Sean, 12 and family friend Ruairidh Cant, 13, was finally getting her hands dirty preparing four raised beds for spring planting.

Alison told *The Oban Times*: 'Because we live in a flat we missed having a garden - not just to sit out in but to grow stuff as well.'

'I had my name on the waiting list for a year and a half and we got the plot at the beginning of April.'

It's great for the kids to learn about growing their own vegetables and recycling - there's a compost bin here and all the scraps from the house go into it. They are really loving it - Sean has really taken to it and is really keen.'

Currently the family is preparing the soil for planting onions, leeks, beetroot, peas, carrots and potatoes, with one bed set aside for herbs. Next tasks include painting the shed, chipping the border and putting

up a fence. Alison said: 'It was worth waiting to get the plot although it does involve a lot of hard work, especially at this time of year when you are getting things ready for growing.'

'The rent is £25 a year for half a plot which I think is quite good.'

'It will be interesting to see the cost savings we can make and although it's trial and error the stuff will taste a lot better to what you can buy.'

'It might even get the kids eating veg if they have been involved planting and growing them.'

She added: 'You find when kids get older they have their own interests but this just brings us together to spend a few hours outside.'

'One thing's for sure - it's a long term project.'

## Rural villages delighted as Sustrans steps forward with £835,000 path link cash

COMMUNITY paths in rural areas are to be upgraded thanks to grants totalling £835,000.

Port Ellen, Glassary, Appin and Kilchrenan are among the villages to benefit from the work, due to be completed by next spring.

The funding from Sustrans Community Links has been split across six projects including £250,000 to finish the South Islay distillery pedestrian path, linking Port Ellen and Ardbeg.

Kintyre and the Islands Councilor Robin Currie was thrilled at the announcement.

He said: 'I'm delighted that the council successfully sourced this funding for the Port Ellen to Ardbeg pathway. I was involved right at the start of this project and I'm delighted that I was able to get the council working in partnership with the community groups on Islay to enable this important project to happen. The creation of a pathway from Port Ellen to Ardbeg is of massive importance to locals and visitors.'

A new path linking Bridgend and Kilmichael, Mid Argyll, will be constructed thanks to a £150,000 grant. It is hoped this will provide a safer walking route to Glassary Primary School.

A further £20,000 will go to upgrading the off-road path from Kirkton to Strath of Appin Primary School and another school is to benefit as £25,000 has been granted to Kilchrenan Primary School to build a pathway and bridge leading to the village hall.

In light of the recent plans to increase the Oban-Glasgow train route to six journeys per day, Scotrail received £140,000 to improve links to rail stations on

the West Highland Line. Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for transport Duncan MacIntyre said: 'This is very exciting news for the area. With this funding award we will be able to keep our communities connected and ensure safe traffic-free transport links - a key aspect of our economic development strategy. We will be working closely with our partners to deliver these projects within the given timescale.'

The £250,000 was awarded to Dunoon to improve the esplanade and local walking and cycling infrastructure.



For the chop: Susanne is shaving her head for child cancer patients.

## Donation boosts therapy hopes



Stewart Borland of Highland Titles presents a donation to Sandra Russell for Abbeyfield Care Home.

A BALLACHULISH care home could soon be able to offer weekly massage therapy to residents after receiving a funding boost.

Abbeyfield needs to raise £3,000 to provide weekly hand treatments and has been given a £500 donation from Highland Titles, which sells off souvenir plots of land to fund woodland conservation work in Lochaber and Appin.

Sandra Russell, treasurer of fundraising group Friends for Abbeyfield said: 'We previously managed to fund some holistic massage therapy which was

highly appreciated by the older people. This time spent with touch sensation, and one to one attention, seemed to bring great comfort and benefit to the older people.'

'Also the therapists are local so they can have a chat about what's going on in the area. It brings the outside world into them. We are extremely grateful Highland Titles have felt able to support us once again.'

Friends for Abbeyfield has lodged a grant application with Scottish Government initiative, Reshaping Care for Older People, for the rest of the funding.

## Pledge to support creative industries

MG ALBA has pledged to support Scotland's creative industries following the announcement by the Scottish Government of an additional £2.1million for BBC ALBA.

The First Minister, Alex Salmond announced the extra funding, which will support the production of new programmes, as he officially opened the organisation's new headquarters last week at Seaford Road, Stornoway.

## Cool car tyres damaged

POLICE are appealing for information after tyres on two cars parked in Mackay Crescent, Caol, were damaged sometime between 6pm last Wednesday and 8am last Thursday.

Contact local police on 101.

## Loch Fyne Oysters' royal recognition for international success

A COMPANY started by just two employees is celebrating after being given the UK's highest accolade in business success for a second time.

Loch Fyne Oysters has won the Queen's Award for Enterprise, which recognises its achievements in international trade, after recording exceptional overseas growth

over the past three years. Exports in 2013 reached £3.8million, with shipments going to Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Africa and the Americas.

Founded in 1978, the business was first presented with the award in 1994 when founder Johnny Noble made the trip to Buckingham Palace to collect the honour.

Current sales director, Simon Briggs, will be formally handed this year's award at a special ceremony at Loch Fyne Oysters in May.

He said: 'Winning the Queen's Award is a pinnacle achievement for the company and a personal highlight of the 15 years I have been working at Loch Fyne.'

'I have just returned from Asia's biggest food and hotel trade event in Singapore, where the strength of our brand in the Far East has never been clearer.'

Now, with more than 130 members of staff, Mr Briggs said the achievement recognised their hard work to ensure the best products and service were supplied around the world.

Get The Oban Times for only 40p! Subscribe to our digital edition for one year and save 50%

Delivered straight to your inbox

Subscribe today! Visit [www.obantimes.co.uk/digital](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/digital)

**CONNEL**

THE ANNUAL general meeting of Connel Community Council will be held next month, alongside other business. The meeting will take place on May 13 in Connel Hall from 7.30pm and agenda items include the adoption of new community councillors.

**BRIDGE OF ORCHY**

COUNCILLOR Louise Glen Lee has accepted a position on the Bridge of Orchy Village Hall Trust, becoming the Argyll and Bute Council representative. The appointment is necessary to comply with the original trust deeds of the hall. At the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee on April 9, fellow area councillors nominated Councillor Glen Lee, who was absent from the meeting, for the role. She has since accepted. The Bridge of Orchy Hall Trust was created in March 1963 when the land and the hall were deeded to three trustees: the owner of Blackmount Estate, the councillor for the district and the minister of Strathfillan Church, who are supported by a management committee.

**KILCHOAN**

RESIDENTS of Kilchoan had a busy Easter Sunday as they spent the morning litter picking at the shore. Around 20 locals turned out for the annual clean up starting from the Ferry Stores at 11am and finishing at the Kilchoan hotel at 1pm - just in time for Sunday lunch.

**DUNVEGAN**

DUNVEGAN Community Council has organised a programme of events to commemorate the First World War. The day chosen, August 4, will be 100 years to the day when Great Britain declared war on Germany, presaging a terrible conflict from which so many young men never returned. Events will include a parade by the Navy, Army, RAF, Army cadets and British Legion, a flypast by group 1 RAF Lossiemouth and a remembrance prayer in English and Gaelic.



**Banavie pupils brave rain for fundraising car wash**

Banavie Primary School pupils were soaked even before the rain started as they held a car wash in the playground. The children were fundraising for a joint trip to Edinburgh with Invergarry Primary School at the end of May to visit Parliament, Edinburgh Castle, the zoo and Dynamic Earth. Hot drinks were on hand to warm the kids up as a coffee morning was held inside the school. 20\_f16banavie01



From left, Camas Glas salmon farm assistant manager Calum MacPhail, John MacRae, Joe MacLeod, Jon Crosbie, manager Rosie Curtis, and Steve Canning with one of the salmon grown with the help of wrasse to control sea lice. Photo: A Kilchoan Diary.

**Firm reaps reward of experiment**

MARINE Harvest has produced its first Loch Sunart salmon reared without using toxic chemicals to control sea lice. Around 1,000 tonnes of fish were collected by well-boat from the company's three farms on the sea loch last week to be taken to Mallaig for harvesting.

**LOCH SUNART**

Instead of chemical control, a shoal of ballan wrasse was employed to keep the salmon lice-free as they grew. The tiny fish eat the lice

from the salmon's skin without harming the host, providing a natural biological solution to a natural parasite. The experiment proved successful and the wrasse will be on duty again when the next batch of salmon smolts arrive in Loch Sunart later this year.



**Kilchrenan hosts Passover Seder meal**

A Passover Seder meal was held by the Rev R E Brookes in Kilchrenan on Maundy Thursday. The Seder is based on the Biblical verse commanding Jews to retell the story of the Exodus from Egypt, while partaking in the meal consisting of various symbolic foods which were eaten during the course of the Seder.

**Highland communities sign up to fault recording pilot scheme**

TWO HIGHLAND communities have signed up for a pilot scheme to use new technology to report road defects such as potholes and faulty street lights. Representatives of Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council and Strathglass Community Council are working with Highland Council to trial the system, which uses GPS-enabled mobile devices to report faults and concerns to the council for inclusion in its local repair plan. The initiative means communities will be better advised of when work will be done and reduce duplication and costs by dealing with several issues at one visit. William Gilfillan, director of community services, said the aim was to be more responsive to community concerns about 'everyday' things. He said: 'If the pilots prove to have the value that we anticipate to communities, then we would seek to roll this approach out across the Highlands.' Council leader Drew Hendry said: 'Communities are ready and willing to take a more active role in these types of local issues and we are very keen to help to pursue new ways to respond more quickly and give better value for every pound.' Heather Redmond, secretary of Strathglass Community Council, said: 'This is a great opportunity to make community priorities known to the council and should allow focused responses to defects when funds are under pressure.'



Highland Council community works manager John Taylor, Strathglass Community Council chairwoman Molly Doyle, Highland Council leader Drew Hendry and Strathglass Community Council secretary Heather Redmond test out the new fault recording system.

**LAST CHANCE TO NOMINATE**

**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.**

**RUM**

ISLE of Rum residents will need their rubber gloves and bin bags on Sunday as they embark on a beach clean. Kilmory Bay will be cleared of rubbish before a community barbecue at lunchtime. Organisers have asked that volunteers meet at Kilmory at 10am and bring barbecue food.

**GLENGARRY**

PROSPECTIVE stallholders are being advised to book a place for the home and garden sale in Glengarry Village Hall, Invergarry, on Saturday May 10 by calling 01809 501447.

**NETHER LOCHABER**

ST BRIDE'S Primary School and Nether Lochaber Community Council will do their bit for the environment when they carry out a beach clean at North Ballachulish on Sunday. Volunteers are asked to meet at the Gleaner petrol station at 11am. Safety gear will be supplied.



**Glenelg FC unveils business supporters**

Glenelg FC has unveiled its business supporters for 2014 in the Skye and Lochalsh Football League. Above, sponsors Craig Scobie, Glenelg Shop; Erica MacDonal, Highland Kilt Cushions; Sheila Condie, Glenelg Inn; and Colin Ferguson, Route Monkey Limited, present the cheque to Glenelg FC manager Rab MacAskill.

**Around the Rurals**

**Lochawe**

A BUSINESS meeting of Lochawe Institute was held on April 2, when two ladies from Dalmailly Institute came to count the votes. Results were as follows: president - J Ogdin; vice president - J Rankine; treasurer - P McLeod; secretary - A Hay; magazine secretary - J Wylie; press and competitions secretary - M MacKenzie; committee members - V Williams and C Milne. Tea was provided by Sheila McAleer and Jean Wylie.

**Arisaig**

ARISAIG WRI held its monthly meeting on April 10 and welcomed the speaker for the evening Angela Simpson. Angela gave a talk on cutting garden flowers for the home, which was of great interest. Members all made a table centrepiece with wonderful results. Competitions: Dried Flower Arrangement - 1 Vera MacDonald; 2 June Cairns; 3 Anne Cameron. Favourite Pot Planter - 1 June Cairns; 2 Yvonne MacDonald; 3 Vera MacDonald. The next meeting is the annual meeting on May 15.

**Fort William**

FORT William SWRI, at its April meeting, welcomed Alex Francis of Scottish Canals, who took members on

**Lochawe**

a pictorial trip down the Caledonian Canal. With the assistance of John Stafford, using his own photographs and others he has begged, borrowed or 'stolen' - his own words - Mr Francis entranced his audience with an aerial slideshow of the canal from Muirton Locks to Banavie. Afterwards he spoke of the history and stories of the canal and the people, the Highlanders and Irish navvies who built it and the generations of families who worked on it over the last 200 years. The talk ended with a selection of beautiful seasonal photographs, accompanied by recorded evocative clarsach music. Mr Francis was thanked for his informative and entertaining talk by Isobel McGavin. The competition for a boat ornament was won by Angela Lee and Edyth Knowles was second. The raffle winner was Elspeth MacKenzie. The next meeting is on Monday May 5 in Inverlochly Hall at 7.15 pm.

**Taynuilt**

PRESIDENT Jessie Servant welcomed 18 members to the annual general meeting of Taynuilt SWRI held in Taynuilt Village Hall on Wednesday April 9 at 7.30pm. The members voted for a new committee and these were counted by Stella Huntingford and Alice Campbell who were acting as tellers. The activity for the evening was a

fun session involving games and much hilarity and enjoyment was had by everyone present. Hostesses for the evening were the non-committee members, who put on a lovely spread. Competitions: Three-flower arrangement: 1 Alice Campbell. Decorated Hen's Egg in Egg Cup: 1 Ellie Galbraith; 2 Alice Campbell. The prizewinner for the most points for 2013-2014 was Alice Campbell, who won the shield, and joint second was Doreen Penswick and Jessie MacFarlane, who will share the plate. The trophies were presented by Jessie Servant, who also wished everyone a good summer. **Appin** APPIN SWRI president Linda MacLeod welcomed members to the suitably decorated Port Appin Hall on April 10 for the annual general meeting and race night. It was business first and then off to the races and everyone enjoyed the various games and activities. The prize for best-dressed lady went to Beth Parkin and the best-dressed pair were two fine fillies, Joan Loro and Janet Fairbairn. The prettiest scarf belonged to Agnes Thomson. After a delicious tea, the trophies for the session were awarded as follows: Housewives - 1 Alison MacCorquodale; 2 Myra MacDougall. Handcrafts - 1 Brenda MacLeod; 2 Doreen Evans.

### High school Gaelic singers search for conductor

KEEN Gaelic singers at Lochaber High School are being silenced as they can't find a conductor for their choir.

The teenagers are enthusiastic about setting up the group and teachers are willing to help but they can't begin until they find someone to lead them. They have now appealed to An Comunn Gàidhealach, organisers of the Royal National Mòd, in their bid to find a conductor.

Gaelic singer Joy Dunlop has also joined the search. She said: 'It's great the interest is there and teenagers are enthusiastic about Gaelic singing but they can't find a conductor. Anyone interested in conducting a teenage Gaelic choir can do it, as long as they have the basic skills. They don't need to have conducted before or even speak Gaelic because the school's Gaelic teachers have said they will help with that.'

Lorna McDiarmid, Gaelic teacher at Lochaber High School, said: 'We very much welcome the opportunity to work with An Comunn Gàidhealach in sourcing a conductor for Lochaber High School Gaelic Choir.'

To find out more about conducting the choir contact Ms Dunlop on 07834922667 or info@joydunlop.com.

### B&B shortlisted for national award

A POPULAR bed and breakfast in Lochaber has been shortlisted for a national award.

The Distant Hills Guest House was chosen as one of 25 finalists for the AA's Friendliest Bed and Breakfast Awards. Hotel inspectors nominated the Spean Bridge accommodation out of 2,500 visited.

Distant Hills is known for its service and food, offering pancakes, scones, soda bread, haggis and eggs from their own hens for breakfast.

Owners Peter and Lesley McIntosh were delighted to hear of the nomination. Mrs McIntosh said: 'It has come as a complete surprise and has given us a shot of pride. Whilst we have always been aware of the award it is not something we ever imagined being shortlisted for.'

The winning guest house will be announced at the AA's Bed and Breakfast Awards lunch to be held in London on May 13.



### Youngsters enjoy An Clachan Easter fun

Lochaber children were kept busy during the Easter break with crafts and activities at a local holiday club run by the Lochaber Rural Educational Trust. Around 25 youngsters descended on the trust's base at An Clachan near the Nevis Range ski centre to take part in nature walks, treasure hunts, crafts and baking. At the end of the week volunteers helped the children make their own Easter cards to give to family and friends. 20\_f17club01

### Lochaber meeting hears cabinet minister make impassioned plea for 'yes' vote in referendum

THE REFERENDUM debate in Lochaber stepped up another notch on Tuesday night when Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Environment, made an impassioned plea for a 'yes' vote on September 18.

Addressing an audience of around 40 in the Nevis Centre, Mr Lochhead said Scotland could more than pay her way as a successful, independent nation at the heart of Europe.

He argued being independent would be more democratic as for more than half the time since World War Two Scotland had been ruled by a UK government its people had not voted for.

The UK, Mr Lochhead claimed, with the bedroom tax and welfare cuts, was one of the most unequal societies in the world but an independent Scotland would have 'social justice and solidarity'.

'With independence we will



Richard Lochhead: urging 'yes' vote. 20\_f17loch01

always get the governments we vote for,' he said.

'Charities estimate that 100,000 more children in Scotland will be living in poverty by 2020 because of Westminster benefit cuts, but we would be the 14th

wealthiest nation in the world if we were independent.'

Mr Lochhead said after independence the remainder of the UK 'would be our closest ally and friend'.

Both First Minister Alex Salmond and Prime Minister David Cameron were committed to working together in the interests of both countries after the referendum, whatever the result.

'No-one wants border posts or foreign exchanges between neighbouring countries,' he said. 'Nobody wants to throw Scotland out of the EU - we would be welcomed with open arms.'

That view was challenged by Euro sceptics in the audience and Tom Bryan-Brown of the Mallaig and Northwest Fishermen's Association was concerned that Scotland's already beleaguered fishing industry could lose out amid

uncertainty over membership. Mr Lochhead argued the UK had bargained away fishing rights and now received just 1.1 per cent of EU fishing grants while landing seven per cent of the catch.

Scotland, meanwhile, landed 70 per cent of the UK total but only got 40 per cent of the UK's EU money.

'We will negotiate a fair share from Europe and that bigger share will come straight to Scotland,' he said.

Christine Hutchison asked how the crisis in recruiting specialist medical staff to Lochaber would be resolved in an independent Scotland.

Mr Lochhead replied that creeping privatisation on the NHS in England would mean less money for the NHS in Scotland under UK funding arrangements. See Danny Alexander on independence risk, page 3.

# Passengers' fury over bus time change

## Firm breaks vital public transport link between Mallaig and Fort William

HIGHLAND Council and bus operators Stagecoach have come under fire for breaking a vital public transport link between Mallaig and Fort William without consulting local interest groups.

Previously, the early morning train from Mallaig got into Fort William at 7.25am - allowing passengers time to catch the 7.30am Citylink bus to Inverness.

The connection was popular with shoppers and people attending appointments at Raigmore Hospital because it allowed them to return to Mallaig from Inverness by early evening.

Offshore workers making onward journeys also used the service, for which Stagecoach receives a subsidy to operate on Highland Council's behalf.

But after complaints that pupils attending Glenurquhart High in Drumadrochit were late getting to school, council officials signed off a timetable change for the bus to depart Fort William at 7.20am - five minutes before the Mallaig train arrives.

The move incensed Lochaber Transport Forum, which knew nothing of the arrangement until after it was implemented.

Forum chairman Councillor Brian Murphy said even the next bus at 8.15am was under threat because Stagecoach had applied to change the departure time to 8.45am.

If implemented, that could mean west Lochaber residents going to Inverness for the day waiting on the 10.14pm train from Fort William to get back to Mallaig.

Councillor Murphy told *The Oban Times* on Tuesday: 'Stagecoach say they have

By STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

been having problems with this service for a number of years but they never brought it to the attention of the forum, which they attend regularly.

'An official within the council agreed to this change without any consultation whatsoever with local members of the local committee.'

'I am extremely upset about it. Along with other members I have been trying to get this decision reversed, unsuccessfully, so I want to bring the issue to the attention of the public.'

'I am absolutely furious that this decision has been made and I have written to senior officers, the council convenor and the council leader this morning to demand that we get this sorted out. I have also written to the Traffic Commissioner for Scotland to make her aware of the problems this is causing and asking for her assistance in reversing this change.'

He added: 'There has to be a solution which restores these connections while enabling youngsters to get to school in Glenurquhart. As chairman of the Lochaber Transport Forum I want to try to improve public transport in the area, not make it worse - which this situation is doing. They have taken totally the wrong course of action.'

Mallaig man Arthur Cowie, of Lochaber Disability Access Panel, also heavily criticised the move. Speaking in a personal capacity, he said if the bus time was switched to 8.45am, anyone attending Raigmore for an appointment could not be there before 11.30am - leaving no time to catch the 12.45pm return bus

to Fort William. The next bus, the 2.45pm service, arrives in Fort William at 4.27pm - eight minutes after the 4.19pm train to Mallaig leaves. Mr Cowie told *The Oban Times*: 'The problem that we have is the way this has been done - it is shocking. None of the elected members or community councils in Lochaber knew about this in any shape or form.'

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'The council received vigorous representations from parents of pupils travelling from Invermoriston to Glen Urquhart High School to bring forward the time of the Stagecoach service bus from Fort William from 7.30 to 7.20am to ensure pupils arrived in Drumadrochit in time for the start of the school day. 'There are 13-15 pupils travelling on the service, which is subsidised by the council.'

'The council has a statutory duty to transport these children and it was on this basis the timetable was amended in consultation with Stagecoach. The council has been made aware of misgivings from Lochaber Transport Forum and local councillors about the change.'

'The council is currently and actively looking at a number of options to accommodate both pupils attending Glen Urquhart High School and passengers from the Mallaig rail service.'

A Stagecoach spokesperson said: 'I understand the decision was taken to deliver greater reliability for the pupils who use the service to get to school.'

NEWSDESK  
01631 568000

## History society talk gives insight to seashore project

BIOLOGIST Dr James Merryweather gave Lochaber Natural History Society a fascinating insight into the Highland Seashore Biodiversity Project at their April meeting.

The three-year project, set up by Highland Council, aims to promote recording of marine life, raise public awareness about marine biodiversity and provide training in the identification of seashore life.

The importance of recording in being able to monitor what is going on in our seas was stressed by Dr Merryweather.

Over 60 people attended a seashore day at Traigh, Arisaig, last summer as part of the public outreach programme, where children, in particular, were enthused by the strange and wonderful creatures to be found along the shore.

A number of training days have been held on Skye and at Plockton attended by local recorders, and it is hoped to arrange a recording / training day in Lochaber soon.

Outings have been times to coincide with low spring tides and on the latest outing participants were delighted to find riches such as peacock worms and a flame shell, normally only experienced by divers.

The next big event to be held locally by the project will be a Seashore Arts and Culture Festival to be held at Glenuig on Sunday 18th May, to coincide with

the Wild Lochaber Festival.

Dr Merryweather also gave international examples of the need for monitoring sea life.

On the Great Barrier Reef off Australia, over half the coral cover has been lost in the past 27 years through bleaching, storms, pollution and predation by the crown-of-thorns starfish.

Closer to home we could see similar effects on our own biodiversity hotspots, as continued growth in fish farms leads to dead zones around sea cages and spreading pollution.

Apparently the sewage from one medium sized farm produces the same amount of sewage as 50-60,000 people, and as this is deposited straight into the sea it is not difficult envisage the long-term damage that could be done.

Careful monitoring of our local marine biodiversity will at least inform us of what these effects are.

LNHS will hold a field trip to the River Spean at Bunroy on Wednesday, May 21 during the Wild Lochaber Festival.

This is a guided walk to look at woodland birds and flowers and anyone wanting to come along should meet at the car park in Roy Bridge at 10am.

For further information about training under the Highland Seashore Biodiversity Project, co-ordinator Janet Ullman, can be contacted via www.hIGHLAND-biodiversity.com.



Members of South Islay Development celebrate taking ownership of Port Ellen filling station.

## Islay village given fuel injection after takeover

PORT Ellen's filling station will soon be up and running again as the South Islay Development committee takes full ownership.

Missives have been completed for the group to acquire the mothballed site and SID will be in control of the station from May 1.

An opening date is to be arranged soon

after, said SID local development officer Kirsten Laurie. She added: 'We would like to say a big thank you to the community for all your support and patience working through this process and it is sure to be a challenging and exciting few months as we get our teeth sunk into our very first community run asset.'

'A huge appreciative thank you also to our funders Scottish Land Fund, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and other local loan contributors who have made this purchase possible.'

Residents and visitors to Port Ellen currently have to complete a 20-mile round trip to buy fuel at Bowmore or Bridgend.

## Mid Argyll in shock at pool manager's death

THE MAN credited with bringing new energy and enthusiasm to Lochgilphead's MAC-Pool has died suddenly at the age of 40.

Stuart Owen, MAC-Pool manager, collapsed and died last Saturday at a beach clean in Lochgair where he and his wife Kay had made their home.

Stuart became pool manager two years ago in April 2012.

Sue Hillman, MACPool chairwoman, said: 'Stuart's untimely death leaves a huge gap. He was a pleasure to work with, his energy and commitment was boundless, his personality warm and engaging. His contribution to the pool, its services and performance has been immense.'

'I speak for the board and staff when I say how much he will be missed, not only as a colleague but as a friend.'

'The board and the whole team at the pool send their sincere



Stuart Owen.

condolences to Kay and to his family.'

Stuart set up several new initiatives to enhance the pool's range of services and his business acumen had improved the pool's finances and day to day running costs.

## Isles youth support service is best practice

YOUTH support services in the Western Isles have been used as an example of best practice across Scotland.

There are just two educational psychologists across the islands but their work in providing support for learning has been praised by Scottish ministers during a report to Parliament.

**Prime examples**

Commitment and support to families shown by the professionals were highlighted as prime examples of best practice during a progress report on

implementing the Additional Support for Learning Act.

Councillor Catriona Stewart, chair of Education and Children Services, said: 'It is very pleasing to note that the Annual Parliamentary Report on the ASL Act has recognised the valuable work being done in the Western Isles by our educational psychologists.'

'Their work was recognised by Education Scotland during their recent inspection as being sector leading and contributing to the well-being of our pupils.'

## Navy ships tour west coast

THE UNIVERSITY Royal Naval Unit (URNU) ships *HMS Biter*, *HMS Exploit* and *HMS Express* called in at Dunstaffnage during their Easter deployment.

After all three ships arrived in time for Easter Friday, *HMS Express* left Dunstaffnage on Friday morning to go through the Crinan Canal, while *Exploit* and *Biter* both left on Saturday - *Biter* bound for Port Ellen on Islay and *Exploit* heading for Tobermory.

The ships are not open to the public during their visits to the Argyll but locals will be able to spot them in harbour and the crews always welcome the

chance to chat to people about their experiences in the Senior Service and the continued work of the Royal Navy in protecting the nation's interests around the world.

As well as large off-visited ports like Dublin, Belfast and Holyhead, *HMS Exploit's* 28-day journey has also taken her all around Scotland's west coast, including a recent visit to the Caledonian Canal and navigation training in Loch Etive.

*HMS Biter* deployment is 22 days in total and has already taken her to the likes of Holyhead, Troon and Oban. *HMS Express* has made several west

coast port stop-overs including Oban, Tobermory and Craobh Haven.

Each ship carries a full-time Royal Navy crew of five, which will be joined by up to 12 university students at any one time.

The deployment will allow the students to put into practice what they have learned on shorter deployments and drill nights with their URNU throughout the year.

Skills such as seamanship and navigation will be put to the test throughout, perhaps none more so than on the occasional nights which the ships will spend at sea rather than in port.



HMS Exploit in the locks at Fort Augustus.

## Convicted sex attacker to have appeal heard

A SEX attacker who took pictures of his Oban victim as he abused her will have an appeal into his conviction and sentence heard next month.

Timothy Robson, once of Kilmore, was jailed for four years at Oban Sheriff Court in June 2012 of indecently assaulting a 25-year-old woman when she was asleep.

The jury unanimously found him guilty of plying the woman with drink and drugs before photographing himself sexually assaulting her.

Robson, 52, who had given the girl so much valium and alcohol that she became unconscious, denied the indecent assault charge.

Sheriff Douglas Small imposed an extended sentence, meaning he'd be on licence for three years following his release.

Robson was caught after taking the photographs of the incident into the Oban branch of Tesco to have them put on a CD.

Edinburgh's High Court of Justiciary will hear the appeal on May 1.



By this time of year the resolutions you made on January 1 are usually long forgotten, but you don't have to wait another five months to improve yourself. Now is as good a time as ever to start making changes in your life, whether you want to get fit, learn a new language or take up a new hobby.

There are many new skills that it's never too late to learn. Even if you've never picked up a musical instrument in your life there are many dedicated and professional teachers around that can help you on your way whether you want to strum a guitar, plink a piano or squeeze an accordion. You may

have a hidden talent inside you and could be entertaining friends and family in no time. If you want to do something practical but you're not the musical sort don't worry, there are a range of other activities that you can take up. If you fancy turning your hand to arts and crafts,

which is becoming increasingly popular you might want to take a few classes on the subject depending on what it is you want to do. If you're interested in creating individual furniture pieces a bit of training in carpentry doesn't hurt - and saves you from hurting yourself.

You could also take art classes, pottery classes or workshops in willow weaving. There are a variety of these available both during the day and in the evenings. If you're an avid traveller you might want to consider learning a new language to help you on your journeys.

Or if you would prefer to socialise a bit more while tackling something new why not try out dance, exercise or relaxation classes. There really is something out there for everyone. Of course it could be that your interest in improving yourself runs deeper than simply taking on a new hobby or

learning a new skill. Maybe you're stuck in a job that doesn't have many prospects or where you feel you've achieved everything you can and are ready for a new challenge. Well things don't have to be that way, you could go back to studying and turn your career around,

landing the job of your dreams. Whatever career you would like to head into there will be a course in a college or university that can get you there. If current financial commitments mean studying full time isn't possible there are part time and evening courses avail-

able to help you get where you want to be. You never know, by this time next year you could have a new job, be running your own business created from a hobby or be globe trotting speaking to locals fluently. The sky really is the limit when it comes to what you can do.

**Apply now for full-time courses starting August 2014**

01631 559 500  
Lin.Kengen@uhi.ac.uk

- NC Sport and Fitness
- HNC Fitness, Health and Exercise
- Introduction to Horticulture
- NC Horticulture
- Introduction to Land-Based Skills
- Equido 1 and 2
- SVQ Levels 1, 2 and 3 Hairdressing
- NPA Construction (Lochgilphead)
- NC Administration
- SVQ 2 Performing Engineering Operations (Lochgilphead)
- HNC Computing
- HNC and HND Administration and Information Technology
- HND Computer Science
- NC Digital Media Computing
- Towards a Career in Childcare
- NC and HNC Early Education and Childcare
- SVQ Levels 2 and 3 Social Services and Healthcare
- SVQ Levels 2 and 3 Social Services (Children and Young People)
- SVQ Level 1 Hospitality Services
- SVQ Level 1 Food Preparation and Cookery
- HNC Hospitality
- SVQ Levels 2 and 3 Professional Cookery
- NC Travel and Tourism
- HNC and HND Sound Production

**ARGYLL COLLEGE UHI**

## Believe in your future, realise your potential with West Highland College UHI

It's a time of growth for WHC UHI and September 2014 will see the addition of two new full time courses, bringing the course list to over twenty. The range is wide, so whether you fancy Administration, Cookery, Music or Construction,

we have something for you. NC Fashion and Design will be launched in Fort William and it will introduce a new choice locally for students interested in the creative arts who wish to develop

their skills in this dynamic industry. NC Shipping and Maritime Operations is to run in Mallaig and will be a follow on for students who have successfully completed our popular Maritime Skills course

and give them the opportunity to progress to Nautical College Officer training or a career in the servicing sector of the Maritime industry. **Learning for all** With the use of video conferencing and other forms of virtual learning, there are a range of courses available in all ten college centres from Ullapool in the north to Kilchoan in the south. This provides a unique chance for those who wish to study but who chose not to leave home, to continue their

education. So: Childcare, Events, Administration, Access to HE, HNCs and up to UHI degrees - all are available through this style of learning. The college's business training department (BEST) has been working closely with local businesses to ascertain what they require for staff training. This has led to an increase in industry certificates and other skills based training being delivered through college centres. [www.whc.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.whc.uhi.ac.uk)

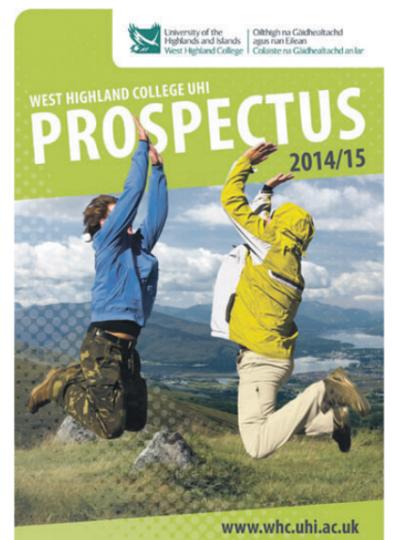


### CÙRSAICHEAN GOIRID 2014

Nach tig sibh còmhla rinn airson seachdain eireachdail a chur seachad san Eilean Sgitheanach as t-Samhradh airson ionnsachadh mu chèòl, mu chultar agus mu chànan na h-Alba. Airson cunntas slàn de na cùrsaichean theid chun an làrach-lìn againn.

Your opportunity to discover Scottish Gaelic. Spend a week on Skye this Summer and find out more about the Gaelic language, culture, music, song and dance of Scotland. We offer a variety of five day courses and welcome adult learners from all over the world year after year. For a full list of available courses please visit our website.

01471 888240  
cg@smo.uhi.ac.uk  
WWW.SMO.UHI.AC.UK



**ALLAN R WRIGHT PIANO TUNER**

All types of work carried out, tuning, maintenance and valuations on pianos, harpsichords and small chamber organs. Harpsichord hire also available. Quality friendly service - distance no object. **Tel: 07970 443 456**

# Kinlochleven gears up for Pre'65 Trial

Anniversary event sees parade through village

KINLOCHLEVEN is gearing up for its biggest spectacle of the year, the Pre'65 Scottish Trial, which rolls into the village next weekend.

The May 2-3 event, organised by the Edinburgh and District Motor Club, will see 181 riders from all over Europe compete for two days on vintage motorcycles - all manufactured before 1965 - over a tough course for the right to be crowned champion in the trial's 30th anniversary year.

To celebrate the special occasion, a parade of the 2014 entrants and their bikes will take place round the streets of Kinlochleven starting at 9.15am on Friday May 2.

Lochaber Schools Pipe Band will open the parade where clerk of the course Willie Robertson will be joined by guest of honour Alex Fender, who is a well-known face at the Scottish Six Days Trial and the Pre'65.

Also joining them at the head of the parade will be the winner of the raffle for the coveted No. 181 plate, Mark Samuel. Immediately after the parade, the riders will make their way to the start area ready for the 10am start to commence two days of fierce competition.

Edinburgh and District Motor Club secretary Ann Gordon

said the event - the traditional curtain-raiser for the Scottish Six Days Trial in and around Fort William from May 5-10 - was 'set to be the best one yet', especially after last year's trial was severely curtailed by torrential rain.

She said: 'The new committee have worked tirelessly to resolve many of the problems that beset the 2013 event and are looking forward to seeing all their hard work come to fruition.'

'There are a few new sections as well as some old favourites with something for all to enjoy. Many of the sections are accessible by foot and I would urge spectators not to take bikes around the course.'

'One major change is that machine examination will take place on Thursday and new machine examiner Willie Stewart is looking forward to meeting all the competitors.'

She added: 'Thank you to all the villagers for embracing this parade and encouraging us to take the parade route further round the village than originally planned.'

'The enthusiasm within the village for this event is immense and we are grateful to them for the welcome and support we receive every year.'



PC Paul Gallagher, left, and John Bryden prepare to leave Fort William. The charity attempt was cut short by injury. 20.1717jhn01

# Dismay as ankle injury cuts charity walk short

A SERVING policeman has failed in his bid to complete the West Highland Way non-stop in aid of a Lochaber charity.

PC Paul Gallagher had hoped to walk the 97 miles from Fort William to Milngavie for Kirsty's Kids.

Lochalort man John Bryden set up the charity in memory of his daughter Kirsty following her death in 2010 in a car accident.

PC Gallagher, accompanied by a kilt-wearing Mr Bryden, left Fort William at 10am on Friday aiming to reach the finish late on Saturday night.

The duo walked the first 30 miles together with Mr Bryden, himself a former policeman, collecting cash from hikers along the way.

At the King's House at Glencoe the pair met up with fellow members of international police motorcycle club The Blue Knights, who were acting as support team.

PC Gallagher, 45, from Anniestland in Glasgow, tramped on - but a damaged ankle meant

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

and decided I wanted to raise money for both Kirsty's Kids and the Police treatment centres at Harrogate in Yorkshire and Castlebrae at Auchterarder.

'I had aimed to walk home and make it in one piece and hoped to finish some time late on Saturday night. I'll be back.'

Mr Bryden and wife Jan have converted their Lochailort home into an accommodation base for Kirsty's Kids, which offers respite breaks to children suffering from short life expectancy and serious life limiting illnesses.

Mr Bryden said: 'For children to break away from their medical procedures and be given the opportunity to come to the Highlands and experience fun and joy is an incredible thing.'

'I do know for a fact that the families who benefit from the fundraising appreciate it so much.'

PC Gallagher, an operational planning officer at Dumbarton, said: 'I came up with the idea of an endurance 'walk home'

# 'No' campaigner claims an independent Scotland would be 'risky and dangerous'

AN INDEPENDENT Scotland is feasible but would be 'risky and dangerous', a leading Highland MP and 'no' campaigner claimed at a Lochaber Chamber of Commerce debate on Friday night.

Danny Alexander, Liberal Democrat member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey, maintained that increased powers for the Scottish Parliament within the union was the country's safest future.

But when challenged to specify what additional powers were being promised by Better Together and if they would be guaranteed in a document similar to the SNP's 'White Paper', Mr Alexander side-stepped the issue.

He said: 'We did discuss a lot

By EMMA CRICHTON ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

of extra powers that will be put in the manifestos of all three parties. I would say that you will be able to see from each of the three parties what they are saying and people have to make their choice between them after the referendum.'

Mr Alexander, who is also Chief Secretary to the Treasury, told the audience of around 30 in the Alexandra Hotel that devolution gave Scotland the 'best of both worlds'.

He said: 'It's important that you don't throw the baby out with the bath water and don't throw away benefits of being part of the UK. The SNP are putting forward a change, they're the ones



MP Danny Alexander made the case for a 'no' vote in Fort William. 20.1717alexander01

responsible for justifying the change they want to make. 'People say Better Together is negative but I don't think it's at

all negative if someone has a bad idea to tell them it's a bad idea.' Mr Alexander said he did not know if he would stand

for election to an independent Scottish Parliament following a 'yes' vote. He said: 'I'm not one of the people who argues it's not possible for Scotland to be independent, of course it is, but I think it would be risky and dangerous.'

Mr Alexander insisted a shared currency between Scotland and the remainder of the UK was a non-starter, despite an un-named UK minister saying otherwise.

He said: 'As part of the UK you have shared benefits of using the pound sterling. We've heard from all parties about why this [shared currency] can't happen but I just don't understand why a country that wants to be independent would argue for a currency union. Why would you give up control of your interest

rates and exchange rates to a branch in a different country? It seems to me to be mad, it's like tying your own hands behind your back.'

Marian Austin of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce asked: 'A lot of people up here [Highlands and Islands] feel out of touch with decision making, wouldn't it be in our interest if all of the decisions were being made in Scotland?' Mr Alexander replied: 'I think the Scottish Government is becoming more and more centralised and any chance of them focusing on outside of Edinburgh is a long way away. I wish the Scottish Government would pay more attention to all the things that are happening in the Highlands and Islands.'



Peter Lees and Cheryl MacPherson were coated in treacle, flour and seaweed in a traditional blackening. 20.1717uzee02

# Onlookers stunned at charity wedding stunt

THOSE enjoying the sun in Fort William at the weekend got more than they bargained for when a pair were covered in treacle, flour and seaweed.

Onlookers were stunned when a mock bride and groom took part in a traditional 'blackening' on the High Street to raise money for Lochaber Hope.

The event, organised by Fuze Ceremonies, included a 'wedding parade' with Scott Graham and Cheryl MacPherson posing as bride and groom, accompanied by Lochaber High

School Pipe Band. Peter Lees then took over as groom for the blackening. The fun didn't end there as money was thrown across the parade in a scramble for the kids.

The event company organised the affair as a warm up to its charity event in the Nevis Centre this weekend, featuring a fashion show, dress auction and music.

'Fun, Frocks and Fundraising' starts at noon on Saturday, with proceeds going to Lochaber Hope.

## Police name death crash biker

POLICE have named the motorcyclist who killed in an accident on the A87 at Drumnacloch, near Luib on the Isle of Skye on Sunday.

Alexander Kenneth Brown (33) from the Shawlands area of Glasgow died at the scene despite efforts by medical personnel to save him.

No other vehicle was involved in the incident.

A police spokesperson said: 'A road traffic collision investigation has been carried out and a report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.'

## Council director to retire

THE DIRECTOR of Highland Council's education, culture and sport service has announced his intention to retire later in the year.

Hugh Fraser, who will be 60 in July, will step down at the end of September after more than 37 years service as a teacher and in education management.

Mr Fraser's retirement comes as his department prepares to merge with health and social care services from 28 April.

Bill Alexander will become director of the new integrated care and learning service and will work with Mr Fraser to achieve a successful transition.

Follow us on facebook www.facebook.com/obantimes

# Thousands enjoy Easter snow

MORE than 4,500 people - including 800 skiers and snowboarders - flocked to Nevis Range to enjoy superb weather and snow conditions over the long Easter weekend.

Although snowsports were quieter than expected tourists and locals alike enjoyed the sun from a height at the winter sports and mountain biking centre.

Marketing manager Heather Negus said: 'It was absolutely

stunning up the hill, it was just incredible.

'Loads of people went up on the gondola just to enjoy being on the mountain because the weather was so lovely.'

'We will be delighted that that is a sign of things to come in the summer.'

Glencoe had also hoped more skiers would take advantage of the almost unprecedented amount of snow on the slopes.

Managing director Andy Meldrum reported just 1,500 visitors from Friday to Monday.

He said: 'It was quieter than we expected but it's getting to that time of the year when people pack away their ski stuff and dig out their golf and sailing gear. We're expecting to still be open over the May holiday weekend and we're expecting similar numbers.'

'We've still got more snow than

we've had for decades but it's at the wrong end of the season.'

Mr Meldrum is now looking forward to the annual free ride competition, the Coe Cup, on Saturday.

More than 60 skiers and snowboarders will descend the Glencoe slopes at the event, now in its third year.

The cup is usually held in March but was postponed due to bad weather.



New man at the helm: Nevis Centre manager Kenny McLaughlin is determined to make the Nevis Centre a successful business. 20.1717centre01

## New man at Nevis Centre helm

THE BOARD of Linnhe Leisure Ltd, the charitable company operating the Nevis Centre, has appointed a new manager to run the Fort William sports and events venue.

Kenny McLaughlin, 43, held a managerial position at Mount Stuart on the Isle of Bute before his relocation to Lochaber. He and his wife Kathryn have moved to near Lochaline, where Kathryn has taken up a management position with Ardornish Estate.

Mr McLaughlin's appointment comes after a turbulent year for the venue, which

last year required a financial bail-out from owners Highland Council to stave off possible closure.

Linnhe Leisure chairperson Sheana Fraser said: 'Kenny's appointment is regarded as a positive step in the move to improve services and increase the range of events on offer.'

Mr McLaughlin, originally from Stirling, said: 'I am looking at building closer ties with community groups while trying to bring in some good established acts. Customers are desperate for this place to be a success.'

## OBAN STOVE CENTRE

Sales stock now available

COMPLETE IN HOUSE FITTING SERVICE HETAS

Old Crofters Yard, Soroba Rd, Oban, Argyll, PA344HU  
Tel: 01631564790 Fax: 01631562919  
info@obanstovecentre.co.uk

## A82 overnight closures

Overnight closures of the A82 at Pulpit Rock, south of Ardlui will begin on **Saturday 10 May**, for up to 14 nights.

The road will close at 2200hrs and re-open each day at 0600hrs. The A82 will remain open either side of the closure.

Diversion routes between these hours will be northbound via the A83 at Tarbet, A819 and A85, and southbound via the A85 at Tyndrum, A819 and A83.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

This is to allow essential work to be carried out safely on the A82 Pulpit Rock improvement project.

For further information please visit:  
[www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/projects/A82-Improvements/A82-Pulpit-Rock](http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/projects/A82-Improvements/A82-Pulpit-Rock)

McLaughlin & Harvey

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND  
COMMUNAL ALBA

# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Dentist delays an unacceptable waste

OFTEN the comparison is made between private industry and public bodies, most commonly in reference to how disgraceful it is that one doesn't do what the other would.

Most of the time this comparison is unfair, failing to take into account the difference between providing an amenity for the community and making profit.

If ever, though, there was a comparison that is relevant, it is continued lack of progress with NHS Highland in getting Oban's new dental hospital up and running.

It is not unreasonable now to anticipate at least a year's gap between the hospital being finished and an operator moving in - even if it is not the long-intended Argyll Square Dental Practice which currently handles NHS patients for the Oban area.

Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership member Duncan Martin described the situation as 'a waste'. He's absolutely correct.

How a situation was allowed to develop whereby a bespoke, costly facility would lie empty for months before a tenant was found - when there was only really one candidate in the town to occupy it - beggars belief.

It is even worse when you consider a very similar situation happened in Campbeltown just a few years ago - even under the same health board.

Clearly, lessons were not learned. This contract for tenancy should have been agreed before a penny was spent building the facility. Now NHS money - our money - is being wasted on not one, but two premises.

Even the most forgiving of observers would agree such situations would never arise if those in charge of delivering facilities such as these treated their budget as if it was their own money.

Sadly, such profligacy in public office rarely goes punished. Perhaps, then, it is time to look for a different way to deliver such facilities?

### GLASGOW LETTER

#### Piping Live 2014

WITH Glasgow no longer able to depend on its industries for economic success, it must look elsewhere and festivals such as Piping Live make a major contribution.

Each year an economic impact study is carried out and for 2013 this festival which, in one week, had 150 events involving 790 performers contributed £2.9m.

Of further significance was the fact that 34 per cent of visitors came from outwith Scotland and they would have travelled to other parts of the country during their stay.

Recently the programme for 2014 was launched and it features some changes from previous years.

Having held the World Pipe Band Championships for the first time last year over two days, Saturday and Sunday, at the end of the Piping Live week a decision has been taken to continue with the two-day format but to use the Friday and Saturday on this occasion. Grade 1 bands will participate in their qualifying round on Friday.

Festival director Roddy MacLeod outlined the main concerts as follows. Monday August 11: World Masters Solo Competition with the winner qualifying to take part in the Glenfiddich Competition in October. Tuesday: Pipe Band Quartet competition with eight bands confirmed to take part. Wednesday: Gaels and Gracelines featuring the Angus Nicholson Trio, Darren MacLean and the Mischa MacPherson Trio. Thursday will be an evening of new music featuring the new Boreraga composition by Calum MacCrimmon and Rakish Paddy with Caoimhin Valley.

Friday will introduce a new venue for evening concerts, the Art School's Student's Union, with Daimh Big Band, Tejedor and Paddy Keenan and on the Saturday *Skippin-ish* will play at the After the Worlds Shindig.

Quite a programme but Piping Live is much more than the evening concerts.

Daytime events will include recitals with Gordon Walker, Angus MacColl and Jack Lee, street cafe sessions outside the National Piping Centre, music of the nations with pipers from many different countries showcasing their traditional pipes, family days and museum tours.

Perhaps the biggest change to the programme will be in the Pipe Idol competition which in previous years had its final on the Friday but will now see a heat early on Thursday with the final on the same day so that there is no clash with the 'Worlds'.

The launch was more than an information evening with entertainment being provided by Chris Armstrong who played some new tunes and also some which had not been heard before and he

was followed by a section of the Greater Glasgow Police Scotland Pipe Band with Pipe Major Duncan Nicholson.

On the evidence of their performance at this occasion they look to be strong contenders for major awards at competitions during the coming season.

Away from piping, Darren MacLean confirmed his reputation as one of Gaeldom's finest Gaelic singers in an evening which was recorded by Radio Scotland and will be broadcast this coming Saturday on Pipeline.

#### Ceol's Craic

THE FULL programme for Ceol's Craic to be held at the CCA this Saturday will feature students and staff from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig throughout the day.

As promised last week the programme is as follows: starting at 2.30pm there will be a presentation by visual artists in residence and this will be followed, at 4pm, by Gaelic drama workshops for teenagers with the opportunity for questions.

The evening session will start at 7.30pm with a performance of the original drama 'An Sgìre', directed by Artair Donald. From 8.15pm to 9pm the students will showcase their traditional music expertise and from 9.30pm to 10.30pm popular Gaelic singer Kathleen MacInnes will be joined by guitarist Ross Martin, a member of Daimh, forming a new partnership. For tickets telephone 0141 352 4900.

#### Diary dates

**Friday April 25:** Glasgow Uist and Barra Association Ceilidh Dance, Crawford Hall, Partick, 9pm to 1am. Scott Wood Trio and guests, National Piping Centre, 7.30pm. Stirling Gaelic Choir Concert, Victoria Hall, Dunblane, 7.30pm.

**Saturday April 26:** Glasgow Sky Association Closing Ceilidh (The Wee Skye), Crawford Hall, 7.30pm. St Columba Gaelic Church Guild, soup and sandwich lunch in aid of the Lusobilo Orphan Project, Malawi, at Gorbals Parish Church, Glasgow, G5 0RA, 10.30am to 2.30pm.

**Tuesday April 29:** Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72a, Waterloo Street, 8pm. Sarah McQuaid.

**Thursday May 1:** Scottish Music Concert, Royal Conservatoire for Scotland, 7.30pm.

#### Pub scene

MUSIC in the Park Bar this weekend will be played by the Ardmore Band on Friday, Eriskay Lilt on Saturday and Nicky McMichan on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Black Velvet on Friday and Dync Beaver on Saturday.

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

### PRESS POLICY

WE AT The Oban Times do our utmost to make sure that all our reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing the biggest local newspaper in the West Highlands.

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB giving your day-time telephone number where possible. This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications.

The Oban Times adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct.

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



## New municipal tennis courts, Oban

This week's flashback photograph was submitted by Colin Armstrong of Coventry and features the municipal tennis courts in Oban in days gone by. Why not send us your old pictures? 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

### Restore old tourist board building

Sir,  
I write to you in relation to the former tourist office in Argyll Square, Oban, owned by VisitScotland.

I fail to understand why after two years it still remains closed even though it seems to be used by tourist board office staff.

The new tourist information centre is terrible. Last August I recall going in for some brochures and the new office was packed. I'd say there were only 15 visitors in at the time, which meant nobody else could get in.

How is the tourist board supposed to promote the area and its attractions if visitors cannot get in for leaflets?

I recall the former church building on Argyll Square having a great floor space with an excellent exhibit.

I then tried on several occasions to call the office after my visit and no-one answered. The calls then started to cut off, another great impression for visitors to the town.

Oban tourist board used to beat Edinburgh tourist information centre in numbers, I would think it still is one of the flagship tourist offices.

Given that the church building is one of the most prominent buildings in the centre of the town, surely VisitScotland as the owner has a responsibility to maintain the building and keep it open for business, instead of adding to the number of crumbling old buildings in the town.

If the building is now too big for them, could they not have a partner to occupy part of the building instead of having two locations.

I hope the Oban community will come together on this issue so this building can be restored. Just a thought to help save one of our buildings.

**Name and address supplied.**

### Any old bus shelter will do

Sir,  
I notice a new bus shelter has been put up by Tesco's car park and was wondering if anyone knows what happened to the old one?

If it's going spare, one is sorely needed at the terminus in Ellenabeich. I catch the bus every day and it is most exposed, the only shelter being the telephone box which is rather cramped if there is more than one person.

I offered to hold an auction of people's collectables to pay for a shelter. The community council paid no interest whatsoever.

As a makeshift measure I put umbrellas in the telephone box for the use of the passengers, but as everyone knows umbrellas and turbines are no good in high

winds. I understand the village is a conservation area as evidenced by the faux Victorian lamps, horse tether posts and no dog fouling notices but as a resident I just want to travel to Oban and arrive reasonably dry.

So if the old bus shelter is going spare we could use it.

**George Doyle, 41 Ellenabeich.**

### Welcome news on sports pitches

Sir,  
Credit where due, I have been known to criticise Highland Council over the state of their pitches in Lochaber.

How nice, therefore to read Councillor Clark's comments on this subject in last week's papers, even better to read that all Lochaber councillors are of one voice on this matter.

It can't have been easy to accept that the recent report from their officials on this subject was, at best, shall we say, 'Alic in Wonderland', but that seems to now be acknowledged and the councillors seem to be accepting what all the clubs and Lochaber Sports Association have been telling them for some time.

From our own club's perspective and from discussions with the other clubs affected, I can assure the councillors this comes as very welcome news. It seems that at last the truth has come out.

One might say it is a great pity that it has taken the three biggest clubs in question to be on their very knees before this has happened, but I am now really looking forward to the forthcoming meeting with the councillors when the reality can be taken as read and we can get down to a realistic discussion about how to give our sports community the pitches they so badly need and so rightly deserve.

Well done again to our elected representatives on your support for the essential proposed indoor training facility at Lochaber High School.

**Duncan MacPhee, Fort William Shinty Club.**

### Safe cycling guidelines

Sir,  
Thank you for the recent coverage of police initiatives regarding road safety over the coming summer.

It is a pity though that whilst there is a quite proper reference on the part of Messrs Davidson and McEwan to speeding and dangerous driving by motorists and motorcycleists, there is no mention of pedal cyclists.

Given that the motto of Police Scotland, clearly displayed on their vehicles, is Keeping Police Safe, then surely at this crucial time of the year, the least they could do would be to issue a cycling policy statement, pending some much-needed changes in the law.

Here are a few relevant points

which might be included: Avoid using major roads whenever possible, especially where there is an alternative route.

Always use Sustrans and other cycle tracks where available.

Be courteous. When unavoidably on roads, ride in single file. Enable others to overtake you safely. Remember that frustration breeds accidents and that the roads are the lifelines of Argyll's economy.

Ride with your head up and always be aware of your surroundings. See and be seen.

When you cannot avoid using roads, always wear a yellow high visibility waistcoat conforming to E471. You can get them for a couple of pounds. They weigh almost nothing and could save your life.

I am a lifelong cyclist myself, a former member of a cycling club and I am convinced that if these guidelines were followed, there would be a big improvement in road accident statistics.

**John Gosling, Barcaldine.**

### Aliens in our own backyard

Sir,  
Between 1914 and 1918 and 1939 to 1945 war meant a huge number of young men - boys in reality - left these islands to be caught up in the anihilation of death and destruction on foreign soil.

All those young men were lost to the various communities they lived in and the Hebrides never fully recovered its initial community base and true spirit.

During the last 100 years only lip service has been given to the islands, and the respective communities, opposed to having them restored, and built up morally and physically, so that those communities were morally and physically supported to get back on their feet and to ensure the indigenous base was still there. But no, it was not done, and each and every successive administration and government agency did nothing for the community base, although lately here, they are making inroads with loads of funding to promote museums, tourism and any other arty craft alien ideas you care to think off.

This is being done through mostly non local administrators telling us what we should, or should not do, on our own soil.

This has resulted in the little known fact that I, and many true locals, feel like aliens in our own backyard.

Now sadly, what has taken root is that the war dead and St Kilda folks are being used as grounds for making capital and small business by some organisations.

Now our indigenous folk have largely been stamped out, our language is also slowly being killed off by academia.

So I put this to whom it may concern, when are you going to acknowledge and address our desperate and most realistic social problem and all the sad/true issues that have not been helped in any small way since 1914? May the Good Lord give those brave young men of all wars and their families the rest and peace they all deserve as secular life and governments will never do it according to what I have witnessed over the years.

**Aonghas Eoghainn Mhoir, Gearraidh na Monaidh, Uibhist a Deas.**

### Historic low duty victory for FairFuel UK

Sir,  
April 14 2014 marked a massive, historic victory for FairFuelUK.

Finally the government has admitted what we've been telling them since 2011 - low fuel duty helps the wider economy.

The Treasury has now said GDP will rise by 0.5 per cent because not enacting all those fuel escalators mean drivers have more to spend on other things.

I should be cross that the government is claiming this economic revelation to be their own idea when Howard Cox, founder of FairFuelUK, and I have stood in front of their fuel duty experts and ministers on many occasions since 2011 saying exactly this and backing it up with expensive reports that we commissioned and paid for.

So to all our fantastic backers and the cross party MPs who gave us their unstinting support, give yourselves a hearty metaphorical slap on the back. Because we pulled this off together.

We've changed government policy, helped economic growth, benefited the haulage industry, reduced transport costs across the economy and given a helping hand to millions of hard-pressed families and business to the tune of many billions of pounds.

**Quantin Willson, FairFuelUK.**

Follow us on **facebook**  
www.facebook.com/obantimes

WE ASKED *Oban Times* facebook followers: As of Monday May 12, there will no longer be a parking free-for-all in Oban and other Argyll towns as 'amenity' wardens start work.

'After nearly three years of intermittent enforcement, is this good news?'

**John Gordon Booth:** 'How long will it be before they cut down the time that you are allowed to park in the supermarket car parks.'

'I know these parking meters can hold thousands of pounds and they need emptying daily so big money is being earned from parking.'

'Why don't the council build a big multi-storey car park? That would end all parking problems. 'Locals should have free parking in the town.'

**Jennifer Louise Leiper:** 'Maybe if people were made to pay to park then there would be places to park.'

'I go in to town same time twice a week to the same place and can never get parked.'

'Plus there isn't anywhere near enough parking in Oban as it is.'

**Charlie Jack:** 'Let's hope the new wardens do something about the stream of selfish drivers that stop endlessly, and all day long, in the bus stops at Station Square, while they use the cash machines at the bank.'

## Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

LEIS gun do leugh mi iomradh ma dheidhinn ann am pàipear-naidheachd, bha fiosam gum biodh an leabhar Where Memories Go intinneach domh, ach dh'fheumainn a ràdh gun do dhrùidh e orm mòran na bu mhòtha na bha dùil agam a dhèanadh e.

Cha b' e a-mhàin an t-alt sgrìobhaidh a th' aig Sally Magnusson a dh'adhbharaich sin ach gun robh i ag innse mar a bhuail an tinneas dementia air a màthair agus mar a shìolaidh a cuimhne is a h-aithne.

Thug an dearbhinneas an dearbh sheòrsa buaidh air mo màthair fhìn agus bha an aithris aig Sally a' dèiligeadh chumhneachain air tachartasan a bha cho dòrainneach domh fhìn 's dha mo pheathraichean cuideachd. 'S tric a bhios mi a' smaoinneachadh air a' chomhairle a thug banaltraic eòlach dhùinn nuair nach robh sinn ach air ùr thuisinn gun robh an tinneas air ar màthair. Thuir i rinn luach a chur air an ùine a bhiodh ag innse rith e oir ann am bliadhna neo dhà nach biodh sgeul air a' bhòireannach air an robh gaol is eòlas againn, ged a dh' fhaodadh i bhith beò fhathast cha bhiodh aithne aice oirnn tuilleadh. Agus sin mar a bha. Fad nan còig bliadhna mu dheireadh e a beatha cha robh fios aice cò sinn, agus mu dheireadh chaill i fìù 's cuimhne air faclan is cha b' urrainn dhi còmhradh ceart a dhèanamh.

Rinn Sally Magnusson mòran rannsachaidh air dementia fhad 's a bha i fhèin 's a peathraichean a' toirt an aire air a màthair agus tha fiosrachadh meidigeach air a shìomh gu h-ealanta an lùib sgeulachd tinneis a màthar, le dealraichean eirmeachd bho àm gu àm a tha ag aotromachadh na h-aithris. Mar a bhiodh dùil, tha mòran san leabhar seo ma dheidhinn cuimhne agus mar a tha neach a' cruthachadh agus a' gleidheadh eòlas, agus bha iomradh air caochladh obair-rannsachaidh a shaoil mi a' dh'fhaodte a cheangal ri neart cànanain cho math ri slàinte neach. 'S e aon de na cuspairean sin an ceangal a' th' againn uile ri coimhearsnachd agus mar a tha sin a' cur ris a' chuumhne agus an eòlas againn, agus mar phàirt den sin an aithne a th' againn air cò sinn anns a' choimhearsnachd. Saoil am biodh ar cànan 's ar dualchas na bu treasa nam biodh càirdeas teaghlach agus cleamhnas ga chumail suas na b' fhèarr? Bunait eile dha fèin-aithne?

SALLY Magnusson's book 'Where Memories Go' is a compelling read.

A warm but candid account of the family's challenge coping with their mother's dementia is skillfully interwoven with information on the illness and extensive references to international research on what is now one of the world's major afflictions.

Whilst at times a distressing reminder for people who have witnessed this illness in their own family, this book is a beacon in the campaign for greater awareness of dementia and the urgent need for substantially increased resources for research towards treatment.

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

# SCOTS

Heritage Magazine

## SPONSORS

### THE OBAN TIMES

### GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

### CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32	33	34	35

**Across**

1 Foolish (6)

4 Skin disease (6)

9 Crisp fabric (7)

10 Addition symbol (5)

11 Strip of equipment (5) (7)

12 A branch from the main (7)

13 Trial sports games? (4,7)

18 Without weapons (7)

20 Harness racer (5)

22 Tubes to play (5)

23 Ritual (7)

24 Knot and colour (3-3)

25 Heavy overcoat (6)

**Down**

1 Made-up (6)

2 Means of sealing a letter (5)

3 Dexterity (7)

5 Bring upon oneself (5)

6 Substance which regulates development (7)

7 Alert to (6)

8 To take someone as they are (5,3,3)

14 An instance (7)

15 Main place (7)

16 Silly person found on Sesame Street (6)

17 Wish given up (6)

19 Amble (5)

21 200 milligrams (5)

## LAST week's SOLUTION

S	E	C	T	I	C	A	N	E	L	E	S	E	L	E
E	L	E	C	T	A	N	E	S	E	L	E	S	E	L
S	E	L	E	C	T	A	N	E	S	E	L	E	S	E
H	E	L	E	C	T	A	N	E	S	E	L	E	S	E
M	I	N	E	L	E	V	E	L	O	S	E			
S	D	I	R	E	N	T	A							
L	C	M	M	V	G	U	N	S	E	L	L			
A	R	L	E	H	E	N								
V	N	N	E	C	E	S	S	A	R	I	L	E		
M	T	A	A	L	E	N	B							
A	S	H	E	R	E	R	E	L	E	V	E			

## SPRING EDITION OUT NOW

www.scotsheritagemagazine.com

### YOUR LETTERS

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

The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification.

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

Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

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



# Care in the Community



**A COMMUNITY that cares is something many people lament as a lost trait in society nowadays.**

But what if the helpful neighbour who used to pop out for the elderly woman next door's shopping has simply been replaced with more professional - but no less caring - services.

A chat over a cup of tea and a few biscuits might solve some people's problems but others may have much more on their plate to deal with. And there are plenty of places in Argyll that you can turn to for care and support in a time of need.

You could be facing problems at home, whether that be coping with a loved one's illness, a recent bereavement or addiction issues.

There are many support and therapy groups that can help you overcome these issues and deal with the emotions you experience during them.

Perhaps you're stuck in a situation you can't see a way out of, if you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse help is at hand - don't be afraid to speak up.

Reaching out to others can pull you back from a point where you may be considering harming yourself. Talking through our problems will help solve them.

But perhaps you just need a helping hand because of age or disability. Staying in their own home is what many people desire as the fragility of life catches up with them.

This can become trickier as mobility becomes a challenge but many organisations can install mechanically assisted devices in homes to ensure getting in and out of beds, chairs and baths is no problem.

Council and NHS Highland policies are also set to assist with care in the home for as long as possible so that people can remain independent. There are even agencies which will help upgrade and decorate elderly people's homes.

Of course staying at home isn't always an option, perhaps the burden of care has become too much for family members and the time has come to look at care homes.

Thankfully these are now far from the daunting sterile image of old. In Argyll care homes provide 24-hour-care services including support with all personal care.

You can also have a visit from hairdressers, physiotherapists, chiropodists, doctors, nurses, dentists and even dieticians. That's on top of getting daily papers and magazines delivered.

If you're a carer for anyone and struggling to cope - or just looking for a bit of breathing space - there is also help available through respite services and support groups.

Annual events also aim to encourage support for others in the community - including participating in foster care.

Anyone considering fostering a child should get in contact with their local authority to find out more and, if appropriate, take steps to do so.

Other services for children are also available - if you are aware of a youngster dealing with issues at home you should not be afraid to point them in the direction of support.



**If you are aware of a youngster dealing with issues at home you should not be afraid to point them in the direction of support.**



**SOROKA YOUNG FAMILY GROUP**  
offers weekly Respite Crèche, Parent & Toddlers and Reception Group for families with children aged birth to 3 years. We have space for children aged 3-4 years in the nursery.  
Tel: 01631 565263  
E: sorobayoungfamilygroup@gmail.com

**Rape and Sexual Abuse Support**  
ARGYLL & BUTE RAPE CRISIS  
Tel: 01631 567190  
Offers free confidential support to Women, Men and Young People (13+) who have been raped, sexually assaulted and/or sexually abused at any time in their lives.  
**Female Helpline 08001 214685**  
**Male Helpline 08000 320399**  
support@ab-rc.org.uk  
E-mail: info@abrc.org.uk  
www.ab-rc.org.uk

**Caring SCOTLAND**  
Crossroads  
• **Respite** - Offering Carers a much needed break and spending quality time with the cared for person.  
• **Homecare Service** - personal care, including support with bathing, showering, shaving, medication, shopping and light domestic duties as required.  
• **Overnight Service** - Sleeping "on call" offering security and support in the case of an emergency. Waking - providing overnight care and support as detailed in Personal Plan.  
• **Palliative Care Service** - Specially trained Care Attendants working closely with GP's Community Nurses provide comforting care and support at home in final days.  
• **Escort and Support** - For people of all ages who may need one to one support  
• **24/7 Care Packages** - provision of round the clock care for individuals with complex needs. From Personal Care to promoting independence and realising outcomes.  
Direct Line: 01397 701020  
Email: helen.martin@crossroads-scotland.co.uk  
Glenlyon Street | Cool Shopping Centre | Cool | Fort William | PH33 7DR  
National Office: 0141 226 3793 | www.crossroads-scotland.co.uk

**Lochaber Action on Disability - Lochaber District Lunch Club**  
Freshly prepared two course home-made cuisine  
**Every day: Monday - Friday**  
**Arrive for 12.30pm**  
**Served at 1.00pm**  
**£4.50 per head**  
Come along and enjoy our open friendly manner at Caol Community Centre  
All ages welcome  
L.A.D.'s fully accessible transport available on request.  
Give us a call on 01397 701171 and ask for Laura or just turn up and give us a try!  
**COMMUNITY CAFE**  
(You can find us opposite Caol Post Office, Glenlyon Street, Caol)  
Monday - Friday 9.30 - 3.00pm - Saturday 9.30 - 12.30pm  
Chef's Special  
Homemade Soup, Toastie and a cup of tea / coffee £3.80  
Afternoon Special  
Homemade scone and a cup of tea / coffee £2.10  
Hot or Cold Roll and Drink of your choice  
(1 filling) £2.70, (2 fillings) £3.00

**Befrienders**  
Because children's lives are never just black and white  
Do you have a few hours to spare to support a vulnerable local child or young person?  
Please contact Cathi Bertin  
**01546 603144**  
or **07918601567**  
www.befriendersforchildren.co.uk  
PO BOX 9576,  
Lochgilphead, PA31 9BB



**RELATIONSHIPS SCOTLAND**  
**Couple Counselling Argyll**  
Do you have a relationship problem?  
**IT HELPS TO TALK**  
We provide confidential professional relationship counselling for both couples and individuals.  
Appointments are available in  
**OBAN, LOCHGILPHEAD, DUNOON, ROTHESAY & HELENSBURGH**  
We also offer telephone counselling for those that may not be able to get to a counselling centre.  
Call **01631 562397**  
www.argyllcouplecounselling.org  
SCO23995

**UNDERSTANDING SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORT**  
community contacts  
a Carr Gomm project  
What does it mean for me, my family & my community?  
**Community Contacts -**  
Your local project is seeking volunteers to help raise awareness of Self-Directed Support across Argyll & Bute, as the new law on social care comes into effect.  
The Social Care (Self-Directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013 came into force on 1 April 2014. The Act requires councils to offer individuals receiving social care a range of options for how their support is arranged and delivered.  
The Community Contacts project is designed to provide impartial advice and support to individuals in Argyll & Bute at every stage in the Self-Directed Support process.  
Developed by leading Scottish social care charity, Carr Gomm, the project is focused on helping individuals understand what these changes may mean for them.  
**Join us! -**  
Our team is made up of volunteers and project workers. Volunteers play a central role in sharing information, building rapport with people and their families to explore possibilities and to become connected with our community.  
We are looking for people from all walks of life to join us as volunteers. You can decide how much time you wish to offer. Full training, expenses reimbursement and ongoing contact is part of the support we offer you in return.  
**Find out more! -**  
Please contact Beccs Barker on 07766925388 or beccsbarker@carrgomm.org

**Lochaber Care & Repair**  
Are you aged over 65 and/or living with a disability?  
Care and Repair offers free advice and assistance to homeowners, and private tenants to enable them to repair or improve their homes.  
For more information Contact: **01397 706444**  
**Lochaber Handyperson Service**  
Our Handyperson service will also assist people aged over 65 and/or living with a disability with small jobs around the home.  
Our service is free - you only pay for the materials.  
For more information Contact: **01397 706333**

**THE SALVATION ARMY**  
Registered charity no: 214779  
Scotland SC009259  
**Oban Salvation Army Community Church Centre**  
Tel: 01631 563652 or 07501 655 954  
Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons drop-in from 12 to 4pm for "Tools and Tea" in The Shed - our free community workshop.  
Friday afternoons 2-4pm we have Stitch'n'Time; an opportunity to learn new craft skills or share your expertise with others. All ages and abilities are welcome.  
Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays from 12-2pm, Oban AA Afternoon Group.  
Tuesdays 7.30 to 8.30pm and Fridays 11am to 1pm - Inside Out; a support group for anyone affected by imprisonment.  
Sundays at 11am, worship and fellowship in the hall.  
We usually keep a supply of sleeping bags and tinned food and welcome donations of tents and tins to help us support those sleeping rough.

**Breathe Easy Oban** is a support group for people affected by lung conditions including their friends, family and carers.  
**Meeting:** Monday 28th April from 2-4pm (Held the last Monday of every month)  
**Location:** Dunmar Court Residents' Lounge, Soroba Road, Oban, PA34 4JA  
**Contact:** Amina Capocci - Treasurer  
Margaret Stronach - Chairperson  
Kay MacDonald - Secretary  
T: 01631 563800 E: aminacapocci@hotmail.com

**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

**Malt of the Month**  
 SPONSORED BY  
**Ben Nevis Distillery**  
 (Fort William) Ltd.

Talisker  
 Ten Years Old  
 45.8 ABV  
 Approximately £35

SUNSHINE is a delight for the whisky drinker, giving the perfect opportunity to delve into some of the lighter and fruitier drams in the cabinet. However, the hint of spring chill is still with us, so the temptation to go overboard into the lighter tasting notes has to be resisted at this stage.

With that in mind, I decided to turn my nose towards Talisker's 10 Year Old Single Malt, which from memory has just enough of a fruity tang to evoke the full flavours of the season. Before you even take a sip of this dram, it is already dripping with hints of its Skye home, with notes of a coastal breeze and seaweed lingering in the air with a subtle hint of pepper and peat. It evokes images of Skye from years gone by, and certainly takes you on a journey before you even think about buying a ferry ticket.

Decant into a glass and it's rich, honey-like colour will draw you in for a sip, with the soft peaty notes followed by that fruity tang of apple, fresh fruits and cucumber. A delightful fruit salad of flavours. Sweet, crumbly brown sugar follows, slowly melting into a nutty, peppery finish.

A fruity, citrus finish follows at the back, with barley and malt dancing over the senses to make Talisker's 10 a delightful way to bring in the lighter evenings.

It is a delight on the palate and a tipple that is as welcome in the garden in the early afternoon as it is watching a lingering sunset as it dribbles over the horizon.

While it is well worth a try any time of year, the drink is the perfect way to welcome in the new, fresh fruits and impending joys of summer.

*JR Fergusson*

# Four trophies for Ruth

SHE HAS only been a member of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI) in Oban for 18 months but Ruth Russell walked away from an area competition with four trophies.

At last Saturday's Argyll Federation Show the best exhibits from every SWRI in Argyll came under one roof in Oban's Corran Halls.

Prizes were given for individual and group efforts in skills such as knitting, baking, handcrafts, photography and flower arranging.

Ruth was among the main winners, tak-

ing home the Mrs A D MacInnes Trophy for the most points for competitors under 35 years of age; the Allerdyce Trophy for photography; the Pottaloch Cup for design; and the Mrs J McCallum Trophy for most points in the housewives section (baking and preserves).

The mother and biomedical scientist said she was shocked at her success and encouraged other young mothers to join a SWRI.

No-one was more pleased for Ruth than her six-year-old daughter, Katie, who joined her on stage to collect her prizes.



Above: Ruth Russell, with one of her winning designs, had daughter Katie to help collect her trophies. 16\_1175wri03

Below: The prizewinners from the SWRI Argyll Federation show. 16\_1175wri02

**Results:**  
 Large Institute Shield: 31 members and over: 1 Southend, 2 Appin, 3 Innellan; Medium Institute Shield: 16 - 30 members: 1 Kilmore & District, 2 Oban, 3 Bellochantuy; Small Institute: 15 members and under: 1 Kilmichael Glassary, 2 Largieside, 3 Clachan; Pottaloch Trophy: knitting: 1 Southend, 2 Lochgilphead; Pottaloch Cup: design: Ruth Russell, Oban; Mrs A D MacInnes Trophy: 35 and under most points: 1 R Russell, 2 Sally Weaser, Oban; Kilmartin Cup: 60 and over knitting: T Gordon, Strachur; Mrs Rita Lindsay Trophy: handcraft guild: Alice Campbell, Taynuilt; Mrs J C McKenzie Trophy: housewives guild: Fiona Coult, Kilbrandon; Banner: fursomes: Strachur; Mrs Oatts Trophy: art: Margaret Whitton, Kilmore; Allerdyce Trophy: photography: Ruth Russell; Federation Trophy: literature: Kah MacDonald, Kilmichael; Houston Trophy: community: Bellochantuy; Flowers Trophy: large arrangement: Catherine Smith, Kilmichael; Kilbride Trophy: small arrangement: Catherine Smith; MacPherson Trophy: Institute with most points per member: Kilmichael Glassary; Badden Trophy: special comp: Sue Moss Kilbrandon; Mrs B MacInnes Rose Bowl: best exhibit in community: Catherine Harrison, Strachur; Mrs M Fergusson Prize: Chairman's choice: Mary Cameron, Southend; Mrs J McCallum Trophy: most points in housewives: Ruth Russell.



The top table at the Argyll Federation prizegiving, including the federation committee, honorary members and group chairwomen. 16\_1175wri01

## what's on

THE OBAN TIMES  
 FREE EVENT LISTING

- THURSDAY - APRIL 24**  
 Clay Pigeon Shooting, Lorn Clay Target Club, North Connell, 7:00 pm  
 Fiddlers' Jubilee Concert, Corran Halls, Oban, 7:00pm  
 Magical Islands, Easdale Island Community Hall, Oban Argyll, 10:30 am
- FRIDAY - APRIL 25**  
 Quiz Night, Masonic Hall, Albany Street  
 Coll Bird Festival 2014, An Cridhe, Isle of Coll
- SATURDAY - APRIL 26**  
 LEGO MOVIE/ SUNSHINE ON LEITH, The Nevis Centre Studio Theatre  
 Fiddlers' Jubilee Concert, Corran Halls, Oban, 7:00pm  
 Coffee morning at The Well (H20), 10am  
 Oban and Lorn Strathspey and Reel Society Concert, Corran Halls, 7pm
- MONDAY - APRIL 28**  
 Oban Phoenix Cinema Film & Food Festival, 11am
- FRIDAY MAY 2**  
**Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival**  
 Action Songs, Choirs, Groups, Ensembles, Recorders, Singing: Corran Halls: All day  
 Accordion & Fiddle Masters: St John's Cathedral: 7:00  
 Scottish Area Finals followed by solo/duet Choreography: Atlantis Leisure: 6.30
- SATURDAY MAY 3**  
**Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival**  
 Accordion: St Columba's Cathedral Hall  
 Clarsach: Argyllshire Gathering Halls  
 Fiddle: Regent Hotel  
 Highland Dancing: Atlantis Leisure  
 Piano: St John's Cathedral  
 Piping: Oban High School  
 Scottish Choreography Challenge: Corran Halls  
 Singing: Glencruitten Church Centre and Glencruitten Church  
 Woodwind and Brass: Oban Congregational Church  
 Parade of Pipes and Drums: 5.30 Station Square to Corran Halls  
 Concert of Champions: 7:00 Corran Halls  
 Festival Family Dance 'Festival Fling': 8.30 Argyllshire Gathering Hall
- SUNDAY MAY 4:**  
 Creagan Inn, Appin, Craft Fayre Every Sunday 12-5pm  
 ABCD, Annual 10k race and Fun Run, 1pm  
**Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival**  
 Scottish Choreography Challenge: 9.30 Corran Halls

## Mike mirrors author's west coast voyage

A SCOTTISH fiddler will perform in West Highland communities to mirror the voyage of a famous author.

Mike Vass will sail around the west coast in May, stopping off in communities to hold concerts inspired by Neil Gunn's travels in 1937, documented in his book 'Off in a Boat'.

Mr Vass and special guests will include local history and stories in their concerts, kicking off the tour in the Red Roof Cafe on Skye on May 2. The Nairn fiddler will then set sail, arriving on the Isle of Eigg a week later.

Arisaig is the next stop, to perform in Astley Hall on May 10 before travelling to Iona for a concert in the village hall on

the 17th. Mr Vass will make a final stop at Duror and Kentallen Community Centre on May 24 before a final concert in his home town on June 1.

Mr Vass said he wants to connect with the coastal communities he read about in Gunn's book to find inspiration for his own writing.

He added: 'The idea for the project came from time spent in hospital last summer. I had suffered a life-threatening brain injury and someone gave me this non-fiction book, 'Off in a Boat', to read while I recovered. I found it utterly inspirational. I was so excited by Neil Gunn's account that I immediately started planning my own version of his trip.'



Fiddler Michael Vass will tour west coast communities next month.

**holiday west highland**

Spring Edition  
**OUT NOW!**

Advertise in our next issues to reach your full visitor potential for the 2014 season!

Call our sales team now on  
**01631 568000 or 01586 554646**

**LOCAL TOURIST MAPS**  
 REGULARLY RESTOCKED  
 THROUGHOUT THE SEASON

IF NOT IN STOCK - ASK!

Available from most retailers and tourist outlets

**FREE**

# Film and food festival at Oban Phoenix Cinema

OBAN Phoenix Cinema is to host a film and food festival, showcasing the area's local produce.

The week-long event starts with a discussion day on Monday, featuring a cookery demonstration with free lunch from Taynult chef Gary Goldie as well as talks from experts in food, tourism and agriculture. Workshops and film clips will also be available and on Tuesday Lorn Market will be held in the cinema.

Organisers Eleanor MacKinnon and Louise Glen-Lee are hoping that producers will be able to meet with potential buyers throughout the festival.

Ms Glen-Lee, the cinema's chairwoman said: 'Tourists are looking for authentic local food and drink when they are on holiday and we want to make sure we are using our marketplace to allow other ventures to grow their business.'

'We are very excited to be hosting the Lorn Market for the first time and being able to use the cinema to potentially benefit a huge number of business and people. The market growth in the tourist who wants to buy local food has risen significantly and this is an opportunity to grow the market with the advice and support of people from all over the UK who are already delivering incredible projects.'

Chaired by David Adams McGilp, Visit Scotland's regional director for Argyll and Bute, Monday's discussion panel will include Michael Russell MSP, tourism businessman Gregor Wood, chair of Community Food Fund David Lamb and co-founder of the Kindling Trust, Helen Woodcock.

The cinema will be showing food-related films for the duration of the festival, including Chocolat and Ratatouille.

Places at Monday's event can be booked by calling 0771 7 526999 or emailing admin@obancinema.com.

<b>Oban Phoenix Cinema</b>	<b>RIO 2</b>	Thurs 24th	13.00, 15.45
	<b>Divergent</b>	Thurs 24th	21.00
	<b>Noah</b>	Thurs 24th	18.00
	<b>The Grand Budapest Hotel</b>	Fri 25th	20.00
		Sat 26th	20.30
		Sun 27th	19.00
		Mon 28th	18.00
		Tues 29th	20.30
		Wed 30th	18.00, 20.30
		Thurs 1st	15.30
	<b>Oban Food &amp; Film Festival</b>		
	<b>Charlie And The Chocolate Factory</b>	Sat 26th	15.30
	<b>Chocolat</b>	Sat 26th	18.00
	<b>Whisky Galore</b>	Sun 27th	16.30
	<b>Ratatouille</b>	Sun 27th	14.00
	<b>Julie &amp; Julia</b>	Mon 28th	20.30
	<b>The Cook, The Thief, His Wife, And Her Lover</b>	Tues 29th	18.00
	<b>Community Play Park (Sing-a-long!!)</b>		
	<b>The Jungle Book</b>	Sun 27th	11.00
	<b>NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE</b>		
	<b>King Lear</b> by William Shakespeare	1st May	19.00

## Sarah's soup lunch success



Sarah Hill's soup lunch fundraiser took in £1,000.

A TEENAGER is well on her way to reaching a huge fundraising target for a trip to Peru this year, thanks to the generosity of the Connell community.

Sarah Hill, who is from the village, organised a soup lunch in Connell Village Hall in the hope of raising a few hundred pounds towards a trip to Peru this September.

The 17 year old will travel to South America with the Coll-based Project Trust and spend a year volunteering at

a care home for orphaned children.

But when Sarah opened the doors last Saturday she found a queue of people waiting outside and, as they poured into the hall, her band of volunteers struggled to find everyone a seat.

After a highly successful afternoon, £1,000 had been raised and 10 pots of soup devoured.

The fundraiser has set Sarah well on her way to reaching her target of £5,350.



A buffet meal, a quiz and a raffle were part of the annual prizegiving evening of Oban Camera Club in the Regent Hotel, Oban on April 14. Members were joined by partners and friends for an enjoyable evening which concluded with the presentation of trophies by Vera Shaw, wife of President Eric Shaw. Photo shows main winners, from left, Nina Robertson, Veronica Speirs, Eric Shaw, Maurice Wilkins, David Williams and George Chalmers.

## Joy to bring Mòd to schools



A GAELIC singer is on a mission to encourage children to take part in the Oban Mòd.

Joy Dunlop is due to start a 'Mòd roadshow', visiting schools across Oban and Lorn to tell pupils about the provincial competition.

This is part of a joint project by An Comunn Gàidhealach and the Association of Gaelic Choirs to increase interest in junior Gaelic choral singing as numbers have fallen in recent years.

Were it not for entries from the Gaelic Medium Unit at Rockfield Primary School in Oban there would not be much of a junior competition to speak of.

Joy said: 'A lot of schools have kids are keen but they don't know enough about it or don't know how to enter so I'm going to explain that any school in the wider Oban and Lorn area can enter a choir and there's

so many different competitions in the Mòd.

'Hopefully that will be the case and the kids are already interested because that's better than feeling like we're having to try to enthruse people.'

Conductor training and workshops will be offered to new choirs under the scheme and songs can be provided.

Kenny Thomson, chairman of the Association of Gaelic Choirs, said: 'The number of junior Gaelic choirs competing at Mòds has gradually declined in recent years. We know that not all schools and areas have the skills, time and resources to be able to start up a choir and through this initiative we hope to be able to support any school or community that wish to do so.'

Groups looking for support can contact Joy on 07834922667 or info@joydunlop.com

## Runrig DVD winners announced

THREE lucky winners of a DVD of Runrig's Party on the Moor have been named. The DVD of the band's 40th anniversary gig at the Black Isle Showground was up for grabs to Oban Times readers as a memento of the gig, which will go down in the band's folklore.

Entrants had to answer the question: In which year did the Run-Rig Dance Band play their first ever gig? The answer is 1973.

The three competition winners are: C. Cupples, Tarbert, Ann Gillies, Dunoon and Gil-mour Jamieson, Newmilns, Ayrshire.

### RIO 2 (U)

In RIO 2 we find Blu, Jewel and their three kids living the perfect domesticated life in that magical city. When Jewel decides the kids need to learn to live like real birds, she insists the family venture into the Amazon.

**Divergent (12A)**  
Divergent is a thrilling action-adventure set in a future world where people are divided into distinct factions based on their personalities.

**Noah (12A)**  
Based on the narrative of Noah's Ark in The Book of Genesis, Noah suffers visions of an apocalyptic deluge and takes measures to protect his family from the coming flood.

**The Grand Budapest Hotel (15)**  
The Grand Budapest Hotel recounts the adventures of Gustave H, a legendary concierge at a famous European hotel between the wars, and Zero Mustata, the lobby boy who becomes his most trusted friend. The story involves the theft and recovery of a priceless Renaissance painting and the battle for an enormous family fortune.

**Charlie And The Chocolate Factory (PG)**  
For the first time in a decade, Willy Wonka, the reclusive and eccentric

chocolate maker, opens his doors to live lucky members of the public who find a Golden ticket in their Wonka bars.

**Chocolat (12A)**  
When a single mother and her six-year-old daughter move to rural France and open a chocolate shop - with Sunday hours - across the street from the local church, they are met with some skepticism.

**Whisky Galore (U)**  
The inhabitants of the isolated Scottish island of Todday in the Outer Hebrides are largely unaffected by wartime rationing, until the supply of whisky runs out in 1943. Then gloom descends on the disconsolate natives. The Scottish islanders try to plunder 50,000 cases of whisky from a stranded ship. The film is based on the real-life 1941 shipwreck of the S.S. Politician near the island of Eriskay. This is a classic that is not to be missed!

**The Jungle Book (U)**  
Based on Rudyard Kipling's children's story about a boy named Mowgli raised by wolves in the wilderness of India.

**Ratatouille (PG)**  
A rat named Remy dreams of becoming a great French chef despite his family's wishes and the obvious problem of being a rat.

### Julie & Julia (12A)

Julia Child and Julie Powell - both of whom wrote memoirs - find their lives intertwined. Though separated by time and space, both women are at loose ends... until they discover that with the right combination of passion, fearlessness and butter, anything is possible.

**The Cook, The Thief, His Wife, And Her Lover (18)**  
The wife of a barbaric crime boss engages in a secretive romance with a gentle bookseller between meals at her husband's restaurant. Food, colour coding, sex, murder, torture and cannibalism are the exotic fare in this beautifully filmed but brutally uncompromising modern fable.

**King Lear**  
Academy Award® winner Sam Mendes (Skyfall, American Beauty) returns to the National Theatre to direct Simon Russell Beale (Timon of Athens, Collaborators) in the title role of Shakespeare's tragedy. An aged king decides to divide his kingdom between his three daughters, according to which of them is most eloquent in praising him. His favourite, Cordelia, says nothing. Lear's world descends into chaos.

Visit us online

click

VISIT US AT  
www.obantimes.co.uk

**BUSINESS AS USUAL**

**THE CREAGAN INN**

**Cafe-Bar • Restaurant**  
**Art Gallery • Craft Centre**

Food Served 10am til 9pm  
Bar meals and Craft Beers  
Fabulous Loch-side Decking  
Freshly-cooked local produce  
Ice-cream Sundaes  
Coffee & Cakes • Artisan Teas  
Craft Fayres every Sunday from May to Oct.  
For details contact Liz - liz@creaganinn.co.uk

01631 730250 Appin PA38 4BQ  
www.creaganinn.co.uk

**Small Paws Rescue**

**Gracie**  
Nice girl, needs a quiet home. Is spayed.

**Tibby**  
2 years old. Is spayed, must go with Sooty.

**Sooty**  
2 years old. Is neutered, must go with Tibby.

Please contact Pat on 01852 300362  
www.smallpaws.co.uk  
Reg. charity SCO13211

Get The Oban Times

for only **40p!**

Subscribe to our digital edition for one year and save **50%**

Delivered straight to your inbox

Terms and conditions apply.

www.obantimes.co.uk/digital

**OUT NOW**

**MAY 2014**

**REVIEW**

FREE to 6,500 homes and businesses

See inside:  
Club OHS • Gymnastics  
A bridge between community and community health  
Celebrations

Delivered free to mainland homes and businesses in and around Oban

Also available from The Oban Times offices in Oban and Fort William

**WIN**  
A bottle of malt whisky courtesy of Oban Distillery

Delivered free to all mainland homes and businesses within a 30 mile radius of Oban

For editorial and advertising opportunities contact mauld@wyvexmedia.co.uk

SUBSCRIBE TO

**The Oban Times**

today from only **40p** per week\*

PLUS receive a **FREE** box of 24 handmade chocolates

**OBAN** chocolate co.

courtesy of Oban Chocolate Company

www.obanchocolate.co.uk

Call 01371 851868

Print - visit www.obantimes.co.uk/subscribe  
Digital - visit www.obantimes.co.uk/digital

**QUOTE OTNS0314**

Terms and conditions apply. Minimum one year subscription. New subscribers only. Cancellation charges apply and no refunds can be given. UK subscribers only. While stocks last. \*40p per week applies to digital edition. £20.80 for a one year digital subscription. £58 for a one year print subscription, includes postage and packaging.

**COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**

Cancer Research Committee  
**Oban Branch Quiz Night**  
In Masonic Hall  
Albany Street  
Friday 25th April 2014  
At 7.00 for 7.30pm  
Maximum 6 per team  
Admission £3.00 per person

Lochaber HS / Social Enterprise Cinema Fundraiser  
**LEGO MOVIE PG 2pm**  
**SUNSHINE ON LEITH 12A 7pm**  
**SATURDAY 26th APRIL**  
The Nevis Centre Studio Theatre  
ADULTS £5 CHILD £3 FAMILY £13 (2+2)  
Tickets - L. High School, Nevis Centre, at the door  
Funds for Cancer Research, Lochaber Hope, Food Bank

**ABCD**  
Argyll Beats  
Cardiovascular Disease  
**Annual 10k race and Fun Run**  
Sunday 4th May  
at 1.00pm starting from the Hospital  
Sat. 26th April  
All ages and abilities welcome. Application forms from the Atlantic Leisure, selected shops in Oban, and on our web site - www.abcd-bike.co.uk Or register on the day from noon till 12.30pm.

**Small Paws Rescue**  
Reg. charity SCO44301  
Bric-a-brac Stall  
Pets at Home (Oban)  
10am - 4pm  
Sat. 26th April  
All proceeds to help our animals!

To advertise in the **WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD**  
Telephone: **01631 568000**



✓ LETTINGS

✓ COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

✓ SALES

## Property to sell or let?

Tel: 01631 568010 to discuss your requirements

## Don't put pet-owning tenants in the dog house

### You'd be barking not to let to pet owners says ARLA

As a nation of animal lovers, pet owners still face challenges when seeking rental properties.

Today, the Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA) has teamed up with Dogs Trust, the UK's largest dog welfare charity, to release advice to tenants on how to secure their dream rental property for them and their pets.

The lack of rental accommodation in the private rented sector<sup>1</sup> means that competition for accommodation is growing. Renters who own pets could find themselves increasingly side-lined in favour of individuals without pets, if they don't market themselves in the right way.

Research from the US shows that tenants who own pets usually stay for longer, by an average of 23 months compared to 15 months for those without pets<sup>2</sup>. However, the association made between pets and property damage is causing concern among landlords. With over a third (36%) of people now renting<sup>3</sup> and pet owners taking up to seven times longer to rent a home compared to non-pet owners<sup>4</sup>, this is an issue pet fans need help to address.

Susan Fitz-Gibbon, President of ARLA, said: "Finding the right rental accommodation can take time, especially if you own a pet. Some landlords believe pets cause damage to their property and furnishings; however often the reality is that pets are no trouble and are in fact, a signal that the tenant is committed to making the property a home. Turning down tenants with pets may mean that landlords are not only forgoing good tenants, but losing out on longer lets. In light of this, ARLA, in association with Dogs Trust, has drawn up some advice for pet-owners looking for homes."

Clare Kivlehan, Outreach Projects Manager at Dogs Trust, said: "With more and more people renting and almost half of UK households owning a pet<sup>5</sup>, it can be frustrating trying to find a landlord who is willing to accept pets. We launched our Lets with Pets scheme to help pet owners and to encourage landlords and lettings agencies to consider pets by providing advice and information. There are simple steps that tenants can take to enhance their chances of securing a tenancy. In the current market, it is essential that pet owners make themselves stand out from the crowd and to show they are responsible pet owners."

- 1. Consider a higher deposit:** one of the main reasons landlords do not rent to pet-owning tenants is because they are concerned about damage to their property. By offering to pay a higher deposit, it can offer the landlord peace of mind that any damage will be covered. It may also be worth offering to pay for professional cleaning on leaving the property. This also illustrates your commitment to maintaining the property – who wants to lose their deposit?
- 2. Pet information:** When trying to secure a tenancy it's important to provide as much information about your pet as possible. It's worth including references from previous landlords and even vets to show that your pet is well behaved.
- 3. Meet and greet:** what better way to show that your pet is friendly, and to alleviate any concerns the landlord might have about their behaviour, than to arrange a meeting with your pet. Even a brief meeting could be enough to change a landlord's mind.
- 4. Written permission:** You should always get any agreement with your landlord to allow your pet in their property in writing. This will provide proof if there are any disputes in the future.
- 5. Be flexible:** not all landlords will be open to renting their property to someone that has a pet, so it's important to remain flexible in both location and type of property.
- 6. Speak to ARLA agent:** if you are still struggling to secure a tenancy because you own a pet, speak to an ARLA agent who will be able to offer the best possible professional advice.
- 7. Visit the Dogs Trust Lets with Pets website** to search for a pet-friendly letting agency in your area – [www.lets-with-pets.org.uk](http://www.lets-with-pets.org.uk)



## Landlords would you like

# TO LET

Landlord Essentials Plus from Scottish Gas take the hassle out of property management?

- Cover for boiler and central heating
- Gas boiler safety certificate included
- Unlimited call-out<sup>‡</sup>, parts and labour<sup>‡</sup>

From only £13.50 per month<sup>‡</sup>

Our Landlord Essentials Plus cover, with a 24 hour helpline gives you and your tenants access to our nationwide network of 6,000 engineers from just £13.50 per month, per property, with £99 excess for each completed repair.

Whilst we look after many of the things you'd reasonably expect, there are a few exceptions. For example, existing faults, damage caused by others, repair of cosmetic damage or removing sludge or scale. You can see the full details of our cover at [scottishgas.co.uk/homecare-terms](http://scottishgas.co.uk/homecare-terms)

How our HomeCare<sup>®</sup> customers rate us on value for money, ease of booking online and engineer satisfaction

Overall ★★★★★ 4.5/5  
Based on 1,075 HomeCare<sup>®</sup> customer reviews collected from 1st October 2013 to 10th February 2014

### Helping landlords get on with their lives

To let Scottish Gas help you, call  
**0800 197 5165<sup>†</sup>** quoting LL28  
[scottishgas.co.uk/landlords](http://scottishgas.co.uk/landlords)



<sup>‡</sup> Price available to new customers for the first year (paying by Direct Debit). Prices for households within the M25 vary. Only one gas boiler safety certificate (CP12) per HomeCare<sup>®</sup> package per property. <sup>†</sup> Your breakdown history will be taken into account in determining next year's pricing. <sup>‡</sup> Limits and exclusions apply, see HomeCare<sup>®</sup> Terms and Conditions for details. <sup>†</sup> Phone lines are open weekdays 8am-8pm and Saturdays 8am-6pm. Calls may be monitored and/or recorded for quality assurance and compliance purposes.

COMMERCIAL

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

**TO LET**

SHOP PREMISES, 43 STEVENSON STREET, OBAN

Offers in excess of £7,500 per annum are sought.

Closing date Friday 11 July 2014

For further information contact:  
The Estates Office, Argyll and Bute Council, Customer Services, Blairvadach, Helensburgh G84 8ND. Tel: 01436 658957

TO LET

**SELF CONTAINED FURNISHED SINGLE BEDSIT CENTRAL OBAN,**

£100 per week inclusive of gas, electricity, council tax, wi-fi and offstreet parking. Sorry no dss.

Telephone 07748343945

**HOUSE TO LET**

Port Appin, Argyll

Furnished 4 bedroom house, 2 bathrooms, central heating, garden, local shop in village, available from end April. EPC pending.

For further details 07918088479.

**HOUSE TO LET**

**Oakbank, Kinlochell**

Fort William (approx 12 miles)

3 Bedrooms, unfurnished, electric heating with open fire, Landlord Reg 336904/270/07471 EPC Rating G8

Further details Tel 01397 722402 or 07979 684316

Property Advertisements

Are you looking to move house?

43% of those planning on buying a house in the next year have been exposed to advertising in the regional press, which is double the number in any other medium.

CALL 01586 554975

HOME INSURANCE

Car, Bike and Home Insurance

40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Cheaper Insurance for your Car, Bike and Home

Adrian Flux Insurance Services offer a range of policies which reflect the low risk nature of highland life. We can offer you great insurance deals on your car, bike and home. Call us today for a free no obligation quote.

0800 081 8989

adrianflux.co.uk

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

THINK POSTCARDS

THINK krisp print

BESPOKE PRINTING OUR SPECIALITY

01586 554975

Main Street/Longrow South, Campbeltown  
email: [staff@krispprint.co.uk](mailto:staff@krispprint.co.uk) [www.krispprint.co.uk](http://www.krispprint.co.uk)

✓ PROPERTY REVIEWS

✓ PROPERTY NEWS

✓ LOCAL ESTATE AGENTS

# Property Classifieds

## Dry Stone Dyking

**Kenny Reibe**  
**DRY STONE DYKING**  
 www.thedrystonecompany.co.uk



Specialising in dry stone work  
 Garden walls, retaining walls, features,  
 Agricultural walls, boundary walls etc  
 Professional member of Dry Stone Walling Association  
 Over 25 years experience • Distance no Object

Telephone 01546 886353 Mobile: 07900 362524  
 Email: enquiry@thedrystonecompany.co.uk

## Roofing Services

**J.M.B. CLADDING**  
 www.jmbcladding.co.uk  
 www.homepro.com



**All Roofing Work Undertaken:**  
 Slatting • Tiling • Flat Roofs  
 • Roof and Wall Coatings • All PVC Work

Local references available

For free quotation & advice  
 FREEPHONE: 0800 7834371  
 or MOBILE: 07979 384383

COVERS ISLANDS

## Woodburning Stoves

**AFFORDABLE**  
**Country Kiln**

**Woodburning & Multifuel stoves**  
 Delivered Nationwide  
**01560 483966**  
 www.WoodburningStovesLimited.com

## Window Blinds

**Chris Craft**  
 window blinds

- FREE MEASURING
- FREE ESTIMATES
- FREE FITTING
- MADE IN SCOTLAND
- MADE TO MEASURE

0800 371250 01852 300174

**50% SALE** ON SELECTED ROLLER / VERTICAL FABRICS

Customer Reviews - www.chriscraft.co.uk

## Gardening and Maintenance

**Would you like help with your Garden and Maintenance of your property?**

I have had 40 years experience in Agriculture, Horticulture and Construction and I am willing to take on any job large or small ie:

- Clean and repair guttering
- Repair and replace fencing
- Clean, replace slabs and new paths and patios
- Decking replace and build
- External painting
- Tile and slate work
- Rod, clean out drains, replace with new if required
- Cut hedges, prune trees and shrubs also fall small trees
- Grass cutting, strimming, maintain borders
- Plant shrubs, plants etc
- Set up and plant your vegetable garden

If you are interested in any of these services please contact me for a quote.

Mick Cope Kilchrenan  
 Tel: **01866 833243** Mob: **07976 553272**  
 Email **sheila.mick90@yahoo.co.uk**

## Architectural & Building Consultant

**Architectural & Building Consultant**

Feasibility studies • Surveys • Building design  
 Plans drawn • Planning / building warrant applications  
 Costings • Material scheduling

Free initial consultation and estimates  
 Competitive rates or fixed quotations  
 A complete and professional service

**John Rodgers ACIOB**  
 Office: 01681 704 059  
 Torbhan, Pennyghael, Isle of Mull, PA70 6HE  
 Tel - 01681 704 054 and 07900 668 466  
 Email - john.j.rodgers@btinternet.com

Check out my new website at [www.johnjrodgers.co.uk](http://www.johnjrodgers.co.uk)

## Garden Services

**PARADISE GARDEN SERVICES**

- Garden Maintenance
- Drystone Dyking
- Tree Felling
- Fencing



Tel **01631 562606 07810445898**

## Home Insurance Specialists

**Specialist Home Insurance**

Call us today for a free, no obligation quote.

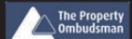
**0808 077 2266**  
**adrianflux.co.uk**

ADRIAN FLUX

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

Would you like to advertise your business in our Property Classifieds section?  
**Tel: 01631 568010**

# "The smart new way to buy and sell property in and around Oban"



**Orasaig, Oban**



- Stunning open sea views
- Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen
- Living/TV Room, Bathroom
- 4 Bedrooms, one En Suite
- Gas central heating
- French door onto balcony
- Large mature garden
- Off-road private parking

Guide Price **£375,000**

**Fair Haven, Oban**



- Centrally located family home
- Lounge/Conservatory, Kitchen
- Family/Dining Room, Bathroom
- 4 Bedrooms, one En Suite
- Gas central heating
- Good storage including Loft
- Off road shared parking
- Garden surrounding property

Guide Price **£280,000**

**4 Drimvargie Terrace, Oban**



- Luxury 1 Bedroom apartment
- Newly renovated to high standard
- Entrance Porch, Lounge/Kitchen
- Shower Room with u/floor heating
- Double Bedroom w/ fitted wardrobe
- Modern gloss white Kitchen
- Excellent town centre location
- \*\*£5,000 below valuation\*\***

Guide Price **£85,000**

**Lochaber, Benderloch**



- Character cottage, 160 yrs old
- Family Area/Diner, Kitchen
- Lounge, Bathroom, 2 Bedrooms
- Private driveway & parking
- Large garden approx. 0.4 acres
- Magnificent countryside views
- Near to beach & walks
- Development potential

Offers Over **£90,000**

**Eas a 'Mhuilinn, Kilmelford**



- Immaculate modern house
- Lounge, Family Room, WC
- Kitchen, Utility Room
- 4 double Bedrooms, 1 En Suite
- Underfloor heating throughout
- Substantial fully floored Loft
- Large garden with shed
- Surrounded by countryside views

Guide Price **£287,500**

**Corry Lynn, Oban**



- Very well presented detached home
- Near to McCaigs Tower
- 2 Reception Rooms, Bathroom
- Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room
- 3 Bedrooms, one En Suite
- Delightful Conservatory with views
- Gas central heating, parking
- Well maintained garden, shed

Guide Price **£245,000**

**Linicro, Oban**



- Close to Oban town centre
- Lounge, Dining room, Kitchen
- Utility Room, Family Room
- 4 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Modern Kitchen & Bathroom
- Off road parking & Garage
- Large Garden, decking, Shed
- Improvement potential

Guide Price **£190,000**

**58 Lochnell Road, Dunbeg**



- Well laid out family home
- Popular residential village
- Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen
- Bathroom, 3 double Bedrooms
- Ample storage & sizeable Loft
- Easily maintained garden
- Wood burning stove
- \*\*£5,000 below valuation\*\***

Offers Over **£125,000**

**Ashcroft, Dalmally**



- Substantial detached house
- Magnificent countryside views
- Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, 6 Bedrooms
- 2 Bathrooms, 2 En Suites
- Good storage throughout
- Oil central heating
- Private parking, large garden
- Potential for B&B business

Guide Price **£280,000**

**7 Park Road, Oban**



- Appealing semi-detached home
- Ideal buy-to-let investment
- Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room, WC
- 3 Bedrooms, En Suite, Bathroom
- Electric storage heating
- Easily maintained garden
- Private off-road parking
- \*\*£5,000 below valuation\*\***

Guide Price **£165,000**

**18 Creag Bhan Village, Oban**



**OPEN VIEWING EVENT THIS SATURDAY**  
 26th APRIL, 12pm - 2pm, just drop in!  
 Viewing essential to appreciate the value that this property represents!

- Delightful, immaculately presented semi-detached home in walk-in condition
- Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining room, Family Room, Conservatory
- 4 double Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Good storage including Loft
- Electric storage heating
- Easily maintained garden
- \*\*over £10,000 below valuation\*\***

Guide Price **£199,500**

Please visit our website [www.fiuran.co.uk](http://www.fiuran.co.uk) for further details and images of all of our properties

# Fiuran

PROPERTY

info@fiuran.co.uk 07872 329 379 www.fiuran.co.uk

# west coast recruitment

## SENIOR ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER OBAN

Excellent Basic (OTE) + Car + BUPA + Enhanced pension etc

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

## 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.

Please apply by email with full C.V and covering letter to: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

## FULL TIME/PART TIME ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT OBAN

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 OBAN

> 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.

Please apply by email with full C.V. and contact details to: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk



## 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.

Please apply by email with full C.V and covering letter to: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

## The Scottish Salmon Company



The Scottish Salmon Company is a leading independent producer of high quality Scottish Salmon. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy.

### Fixed Term Technical Administrative Support Cairndow Office (Salary dependant on experience)

Due to maternity leave we are currently recruiting for a fixed-term Technical Administrative Support. The position would report to the GM North/South and is based in our Cairndow office. The contract will run for twelve months but could be extended. The role is to best support the administrative needs of the Technical Department and to maintain accurate and indexed records associated with all quality and environmental management systems in operation within the business. The ideal candidate would have experience with Technical matters and intermediate excel, word and Microsoft outlook skills are essential. Some experience of Microsoft Navision desirable but not essential. The role requires the successful candidate to be well organised, detail oriented and to be able to communicate daily with other departments. A full driving licence is essential for the role.

Working on a guaranteed paid 30 hour per week contract.

For an application form and job description for the above post, please contact: Veronica Anderson, HR Coordinator, The Scottish Salmon Company, Ardkinglas Estate, Cairndow, PA26 8BH Tel. No. 01499 600 415 Email: veronica.anderson@scottishsalmon.com Closing date for applications: Friday, the 25th April 2014 Visit our website: www.scottishsalmon.com



## 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.

Please apply by email with full C.V. and contact details to: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

**Vacancy: Site Manager**  
Location: Rousay Sea Sites, Orkney  
Details: Full Time permanent



Meridian Salmon Farms Ltd is a leading company in the Scottish Salmon Industry producing exceptionally high quality products for an increasingly demanding market. We have operations throughout Scotland, Cumbria and the Northern Isles of Orkney/Shetland, together we pledge a dedication to achieving a strong and sustainable aquaculture industry.

We are currently seeking a candidate to take on the position of Site Manager for our three Rousay Sea Sites, Orkney.

### The Candidate:

- Should have experience in all aspects of Seawater Production.
- Two years' relevant experience of seawater production is mandatory.
- Powerboat Level 2 Certificate or Boatmasters Certificate
- Be a good team player but have the ability to work alone when required
- A strong background delivering results
- Excellent Inter-personal and communication skills

A relocation package may be available for the right candidate.

Please send your covering letter and CV by 08 May 2014 to:

Vicci Laird, HR Manager, Meridian Salmon Farms Ltd, Crowness Point, Hatston Industrial Estate, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1RG  
Or via email to vicci.laird@meridiansalmon.com

**Management Accountant**  
Fort William

Marine Harvest (Scotland) is the largest Aquaculture Company operating in Scotland. Our marine and freshwater sites are located throughout the West Coast and Outer Isles.

We are seeking to appoint a fully qualified Management Accountant, based in Fort William, who will work closely with our senior line managers.

The main tasks will involve supporting the line management structure through the analysis of financial information and agreeing focused actions to enhance financial controls typically, this would include budget preparation, variance analysis, capex review and forecasting. Applicants should have a recognised accountancy qualification and have experience in a similar type of role in a fast moving environment where business critical decision making is a key function. The role will report to the Finance Director, who is based in Edinburgh and accordingly, the successful candidate must be able to operate with minimum supervision. Excellent communication skills and a high level of IT literacy are essential, along with a flexible approach to work which will include regular travel.

Salary and benefits are commensurate with a leading organisation. If you would like to be considered for this post, please apply in writing, no later than Friday 2nd May to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.



## Farm Manager Loch Leven

We are currently looking to identify a suitably qualified and highly motivated individual to undertake the role of Farm Manager at the Company's Seawater site at Loch Leven.

The successful candidate will be expected to help drive and implement best practice and operational excellence to satisfy the high quality product and environmental standards demanded by our customers. Principle responsibilities will include feed & stock management, harvest & grading planning, asset management, people resource and performance & HSEQ management.

Potential candidates should have experience of three full production cycles in fish farming and have held a supervisory position for at least three years. Initiative, the ability to motivate others, good organisation skills, computer literacy, a strong desire and proven ability to achieve results without close supervision are some of the necessary skills required for this post.

Loch Leven has a consent of 1450 tonnes and has twelve steel pens.

If you feel you have the necessary skills to rise to this challenge, please apply in writing no later than 2nd May to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William PH33 7PT.



**R A Clement Associates**  
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors  
We are looking for an office assistant to join our Oban office

R A Clement Associates have a vacancy in our very busy office for an office assistant. The position will entail carrying files between the 2 Oban offices, running errands and various administrative duties.

Please reply by mail, including your C.V. to: Mrs Helen Clark, Office Manager, R A Clement Associates, 5 Argyll Square, Oban, Argyll PA34 4AZ

**Technician SEAWEED FOR FOOD**  
Technician Needed For Onshore Seaweed Farm/Lochlyne.

Must be adaptable, strong, good at data management with a probably good science degree. Up to £20k PA, free accommodation. Contact: maraman@maraseweed.com Mobile: 07800 869626

**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 for an application form or for more information.  
Closing date: Friday 9th May 2014  
SKDT is a registered Scottish charity (SC 042018)

**Plant Operator To work with civils squad**  
Tickets and driving licence required immediate start  
Shaun  
07881554168

# west coast recruitment

**NOTICE FOR JOBSEEKERS!!!**

## Argyll's brand new recruitment agency has now launched!

We already have some job openings throughout the Oban area and are looking for the following:

- HEAD CHEF
- CHEF DE PARTIE
- COMMIS CHEF
- KITCHEN PORTERS
- WAITING STAFF
- RECEPTIONISTS
- HOUSE KEEPING
- GENERAL MAINTENANCE PERSON(S)
- BAR STAFF
- NIGHT PORTERS
- CONSTRUCTION- ALL TRADES
- GENERAL LABOUR WORKERS

If interested, contact us today at [argyll-recruitment.co.uk](http://argyll-recruitment.co.uk) or send your CV to [calum@argyll-recruitment.co.uk](mailto:calum@argyll-recruitment.co.uk) [sean@argyll-recruitment.co.uk](mailto:sean@argyll-recruitment.co.uk)  
**Calum: 07826 926060**  
**Sean: 07826 911104**



If you are looking for staff, we can help! Call us today to find out how we will take away your staffing issues and leave you to do what you are good at, running your business!



**Keyline Builders Merchants**  
 Lochgilphead 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 ad here 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, Lochgilphead, Argyll. PA318RR.

**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)**

The Oban Times campbeltown argyllshire **Courier** **advertiser** **THE ARRAN BANNER**

**SALES PERSON REQUIRED** **HIRE and SUPPLIES**

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**  
**Email: [maryannm@tools-and-equipment.com](mailto:maryannm@tools-and-equipment.com)**  
**1 Mill Lane, Lochavullin, Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HA**

**Health Manager**  
 Health Department

We currently have a vacancy for a Fish Health Manager to provide health cover for Marine Harvest Scotland's Freshwater and Seawater sites in Argyll and southern Highlands. Depending on the interest in this role and the suitability of applicants it is possible that two separate positions will be offered to cover Seawater sites and Freshwater sites. The successful applicant will be required to become an integral part of the Health Team, to monitor the health of the fish on these sites through regular visits and as part of the team to take appropriate corrective action in the face of disease with the objective of maximizing survival and performance. The position allows scope for personal development and independent working, within the framework of support and joint responsibility provided by the existing team of experienced fish health managers and two veterinarians. There is a freshwater bias within this portfolio of sites and this role will require a focus on and enthusiasm for freshwater health issues. However the health of seawater sites that fall within this geography are of equal importance and will give the role an integrated overview of salmon health throughout the life cycle.

The main duties will include the following:-

- To provide a diagnostic service to the sites for rapid detection of disease through implementing appropriate sampling protocols.
- To provide advice, support and training to farm staff on best practice with regard to the health and welfare of the fish.
- To supervise the use of medicines (including vaccines) and support the development of new medicines and treatment methods.
- To collate data on fish health
- To produce regular reports for the rest of the Health and Production Teams.

Candidates should be computer literate and ideally have previous experience of working in a similar role.  
 Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications.

If you are interested in applying for this post, please submit a CV with a supporting letter to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT by Friday 2nd May.



**ACHA**  
 argyll community housing association

**Customer Services Assistant**  
 Lochgilphead  
 Salary £16,927 to £18,701 per annum  
 35 hours per week  
 Temporary Post to 31st January 2015

**Community Support Assistant**  
 Caledonia Court, Ardrishaig  
 Salary - £5,320 - £5,880 per annum  
 11 hours per week (Sat and Sun)  
 Temporary Post to 31st March 2015  
 This post will be subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Scotland PVG check

To apply visit our website at [www.acha.co.uk/recruitment](http://www.acha.co.uk/recruitment)  
 If you cannot access the website please contact the recruitment team:  
**Tel 01546 605917**  
**or email [recruitment@acha.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@acha.co.uk)**  
 Closing Date for both posts:  
**12 noon on Friday 2nd May 2014**  
**Interviews for these posts will be held during May 2014**

**SEASONAL CHEF/COOK** (Ref: OBAN03114)

**Contract: Fixed Term, immediate start until 12/Oct/14**  
**Salary: £14,000 per annum**

SYHA Hostelling Scotland is Scotland's largest network of tourist hostels, with over 65 locations across the country. We are currently seeking to appoint a Seasonal Chef/Cook at our Oban Youth Hostel.

The main duty will be to produce fresh 'homemade' and healthy meals within a designated budget for both groups and individual guests. Suitable candidates will have good catering experience with confidence, working with management team in stock rotation and ordering, maintaining high standards of hygiene and record keeping, liaising with group leaders in special diets and allergies as well as promoting and upselling catering in the Hostel. The post holder will have good knowledge and experience of food and hygiene practices including food hygiene certificate such as EFH, SVQ/NVQ in catering or food production with an understanding of the importance of health and safety at work.

Further information on this position and to obtain job description and application form please visit: [www.syha.org.uk](http://www.syha.org.uk) and forward your application form with covering letter to Argyll Group Manager, Oban Youth Hostel, Corran Esplanade, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5AF or [argyllgroupmanager@syha.org.uk](mailto:argyllgroupmanager@syha.org.uk).

Scottish Youth Hostels Association (also known as SYHA Hostelling Scotland) is a registered Scottish charity, No. SC013138

**TSL Contractors Limited**

**LGV 1 MECHANICS**

**Due to an increase in business, we require skilled LGV1 Mechanics to join our maintenance team on the Isle of Mull.**

Working as part of a team, the successful candidate should ideally have experience in a similar role to carry out servicing, routine maintenance and repairs on our modern fleet of vehicles, as well as our plant and machinery. You should have a full, current driving licence and an LGV Class 1 licence would be advantageous.  
 An excellent remuneration and benefits package is on offer for this position.

Please email your CV to: [d.feeney@tslcontractors.co.uk](mailto:d.feeney@tslcontractors.co.uk), or post to: Deborah Feeney, Operations and HR Director, TSL Contractors Limited, Unit 6 McLeod Buildings, Lochavullin Road, Oban, PA34 4PL

**TSL Contractors Limited**

**Due to expansion, the following roles are required:**

**Experienced Civil Engineer**  
 required for various civils projects throughout Argyll and the Islands.

**Experienced Plant Operators**  
 required for 360 excavators and dumpers; up to date CPCs necessary.

**Experienced civils groundworkers and pipe layers**  
 required, with up to date CSCS Card.  
 A clean driving licence is essential for each of the above roles, as is the willingness to travel and lodge when required.

Please send your CV, stating which position you are interested in, to:  
 Deborah Feeney, Operations and HR Director, TSL Contractors Limited, Unit 6 McLeod Buildings, Lochavullin Road, Oban, PA34 4PL, or, by email to: [d.feeney@tslcontractors.co.uk](mailto:d.feeney@tslcontractors.co.uk)

**BONNAR SAND & GRAVEL CO LTD**

Require **HGV CLASS 2 TIPPER/MIXER DRIVER**

Minimum 5 years Experience  
 Apply in writing to:  
**David Bonnar**  
**Bonnar Sand & Gravel Co Ltd**  
**Clachan Quarry**  
**Cairndow, PA26 8BH**

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

**the toy cupboard**

Enjoy being with children?  
 Like to develop a brilliant local charity?  
**Manager / Playworker**  
 Required for 11 hours per week + extra for Gaelic speaker  
 Gaelic language desirable but not essential.  
**Email: [joanneisabella@hotmail.com](mailto:joanneisabella@hotmail.com)**  
**or Phone: 07765143986**  
 Closing date 9th May 2014  
Scottish Charity SC019837

**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 letter of application and C.V. to BOX No 94, The Oban Times Ltd, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB or email [recruit2049@outlook.com](mailto:recruit2049@outlook.com)**

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

**STYLIST OPPORTUNITIES**

Rutherford's are looking for talented stylists to join their busy and professional salon. Rutherford's provide opportunities to take part in photographic work, competition entries as well as on going training through Wella professional and our exclusive Label M/Toni and Guy product range.

Experience and clientele preferred.  
 All applications treated in strictest confidence.  
 Email your interest to [hairbyrutherford@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hairbyrutherford@hotmail.co.uk)

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

**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.

**Mechanical Engineer** **ATV SERVICES**  
 ATV Services Lochgilphead Depot

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**



**NOW £30\***  
**FOR 2 WEEKS WITH**  
**OUR ALL NEW DRIVETIMES**

\* See page 20 for more details.

# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Motors & Drivetimes

Call now to advertise in our new look Motors and Drivetimes section.  
**Tel: 01631 568020**



G

**Gunns Garage**  
 Tyneribbie, Appin PA38 4DB  
 For all your servicing and mechanical needs.  
 Contact us on 01631 730279

**THE GARAGE**  
 BURNBANK STREET,  
 CAMPBELTOWN,  
 ARGYLL, PA28 6JD  
 TEL: 01586 552772  
 Car & Motorcycle MOT'S, Repairs,  
 Services, Batteries, Tyres,  
 Vehicle Diagnostics

M

**MacDougall's Garage**  
 • Battery & anti freeze checks  
 • Certified to BSPA43 for recovery work  
 • Fuel • Repairs

For more than just an accident

Corrie Glen, Fionnphort Tel: 01681 700294

Call now to advertise your business in the Motoring Classifieds section  
**Tel: 01631 568020**



CAN'T COME TO US, WE WILL COME TO YOU



Tuesday 13th - Wednesday 14th May 2014

Don't miss out! Available now while stocks last  
 Introducing Spring Offers at Helensburgh Toyota

**0% APR**  
 Representative!



AYGO Mode £89 per month\*

Yaris Icon plus £119 per month\*

Auris Icon £169 per month\*



Helensburgh Toyota  
 5-7 John Street Helensburgh G84 8BA  
 Tel: 01436 672 779 helensburgh.toyota.co.uk

Like our Facebook page for more information, free prize draws and competitions

We will be out and about on Tuesday 13th & Wednesday 14th at Tesco Oban. Why don't you come and see us or make an appointment.  
 Test Drives available at Tesco please bring your licence

Model shown are Aygo Mode 1.0VVT-1.3 manual £9,800, Yaris Icon 1.0VVT-1.3 dr at £12,945 & Auris Icon 1.33 VVT-1.5 dr manual at £17,595. Price excludes metallic paint on MY13AYGO at £450, white paint on Yaris at £250 & Auris at £495. \*0% APR Representative when ordered between 1st April and 30th June 2014 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services by 30th September on a 42 month Access Toyota (PCP) plan for AYGO Mode with 0-23% deposit, Yaris with 0-23% deposit & Auris 3 year plan with 0-24% deposit. \*Payment shown is based on AYGO Mode £2,501 customer deposit, £500 Finance Deposit Allowance and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. Yaris £3,376.50 customer deposit, £750 Finance Deposit Allowance. Auris £4,876.64 customer deposit, £1,000 Finance Deposit Allowance, Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC, registered office Greatburgh, Spynie, Strath, KY18 5UZ. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to over 21s. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Excess miles over 35,000 charged at 8p per mile on AYGO, Yaris & 30,000 miles charged at 8p per mile on Auris. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Terms & conditions apply.

Helensburgh Toyota like to get out and about in the community meeting people.

We will be visiting Tesco Oban soon and will be showcasing the models in the Toyota Range. The team, David Smeeton and Tim Roome, will also be offering visitors the chance to test drive these vehicles from Tesco, so please bring along your driving licence.

Sales Consultant, David Smeeton said:

'There has never been a more important time for small businesses and people in our surrounding area to support each other. Being out and about is giving us the chance to do this and we hope to let the local people see the commitment we have to Argyll and Bute and the islands. We will have a new car display on show with some terrific spring offers so come along and see us.'

Helensburgh Toyota are honoured to have over 37 years delivering to their customers and community. A big thank you to all customers for being completely satisfied with their experience and keeping them Scotland's No1 for Toyota Customer Care and most recently winning Motor Codes Regional Garage of the Year. They are dedicated to supporting all your motoring needs. From purchasing a new Toyota car to servicing and MOT for any make and model. An uplift and delivery service is also available with a free courtesy car. They have an exceptional team of specially trained staff to help you.

### DRIVETIMES

#### WANTED

All types of Diggers, Mini Diggers, JCB's, 3CXs, also MF and CASE, telehandler forklift, any condition, any age.

Tel: 01250 884306 or 07885203020  
 gbplantsales@hotmail.co.uk

#### Jaguar 2.0 Diesel Saloon



05 reg, MOT July, 71,500 miles, heated leather seats, cruise control, automatic headlight and wiper sensors, 6 CD changer.

£1,995

Tel: 01586 830106

#### WANTED

Caravans and motorhomes Any make, Model or condition. Instant decision and payment.

Please telephone 07783 638067

#### East Neuk Fifer Touring Motorhome, 2006.



Fiat Ducato 2.0TD, 48,888 miles, MOT Mar 15, Tax Aug 14. Double bed/2 singles, Thetford flush toilet, Sink, hob, grill, microwave, 3 way fridge, Under floor storage, Webasto & electric heating, 1000W inverter, Awning, FSH & cans. 1 owner. No smokers or pets.

£17,950

Tel: 01631 564787 (Oban)

#### WANTED

Wanted all 4 x 4s, old or new Toyota Hilux, land cruiser, all pickups single or double cabs, any condition, runner or not, high miles no problem.

Telephone: 07703490572 ask for Robert

#### VW Passat



X Reg. 1.9 TDi Tax & MOT, Good condition, alloys, dependable, good on fuel.

£650 o.n.o.

Tel: 07788 505224

For Sailing Times please turn to page 20.

#### 2008 Vauxhall Astra 1.9 CDTI



150hp, 43,000 miles, FSH, good condition, 12 months MOT.

£5,000 o.n.o.

Tel: 07551 020307

#### WANTED

All types of motor homes & caravanettes. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards.

Telephone: 01250 884306 or mobile 07885 203020

#### Ford Mondeo LX TDCi



2004 1 years Mot and Tax July 123k miles Runs & drives perfect 130 BHP six speed.

£1,350 o.n.o.

Tel: 07584 865058

#### WANTED

Any 4 x 4 vehicle, Landrover, Toyota, Mitsubishi etc, high mileage, any condition. Non runners/MOT failures accepted.

Telephone 07423736722

#### Campervan - Ford Transit LWB 2002



118000miles MOT Sept 2014, Tax Aug. Full conversion Oven, cooker, fridge, toilet, fully insulated and electric hookup.

£4,500 o.n.o.

Tel: 07801 590235

#### Vauxhall Vivaro

White, 08 plate, Short Wheel Base, High Roof, Ply Lined, MOT till Nov 2014, 57K miles.

£6000+VAT o.n.o.

Tel: 07768 576544 / 01496 810382

#### Mazda Diesel Pick-up



54,000 miles, 12 months tax and MOT, offers welcome.

Contact 01852 314166

#### Abbey Freestyle 470 SE 2 Berth Touring Caravan



END WASHROOM with ELECTRIC REICH MOVER. 12 volt power, mixer taps, TV aerial, mains electric, heater, Oven, grill and hob, Refrigerator, Cassette Toilet, Alarm System, Awning (new) 2.16 m. width. Lots of extras included in sale This Caravan is in very good condition, smoke free, all clean and ready to go.

£5,200 o.n.o.

Tel: 07765820857 (Oban)

#### Peugeot Partner 03



2.0HDI DIESEL 5drs/VGC. 50k Miles S/H. 12 MTHS MOT 2MTHS TAX NEW TYRES ALLOYS.

£2,450 o.n.o.

Tel: 01852 314021

#### Renault Clio Van



First Registered 24/10/07. Taxed July 2014, MOT 8/11/2014, Mileage 90,000. Good condition.

£2000 + VAT

Tel: 01631 564022 (Day). Mob. 07710060021

#### Nissan Micra S



1.2 Petrol. Dark Blue, MOT March 2015, Tax August 2014, Towbar, 65,000 miles, Clean car.

£1000 o.n.o.

Tel: 01631 563643, 01631 562370 or 07843 193066

#### VW Polo, 1.2 Match



Petrol, 66,000 miles, 2008, MOT due Sept, Excellent condition.

£3,500 o.n.o.

Tel: 01586 552773

# The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Motors & Drivetimes

### SAILING TIMES

**Drascombe Lugger Honnor Marine**



Drascombe Lugger Honnor Marine No. 1277 GRP 1987 Aquamarine Gel coat. Rollercoaster trailer 2002 with light board. Mercury 4 HP engine, Cockpit cover and overall covers and extras. £5000

**Tel. 01499 302709**

**Orkney Longliner 16 ft.**



Very good condition. On trailer with new wheels. Powered by 6 horsepower Mercury 4 stroke outboard engine which has done less than 10 hours running. Also included is a cockpit cover. £3500 o.n.o.

**For further details phone 01436 810079 or Mob.07799292163.**

**12' Dinghy**



With cuddy, cover, oars, rowlocks and 4hp 2 stroke Johnson outboard on road trailer, all in good condition. £850 o.n.o.

**Tel: 01631 720414 or 07775501658**

**Pandora Sailing Boat**



3 Berth, 4 wheel road trailer, 6.3 metres long. £1200 o.n.o.

**Tel: 01369 702990/07788 855764**

**69%**  
of the business community read the regional press



Regional Press  
CLOSER TO HOME

**Offshore Cruiser 1998**



Maxum 2400 SCR 5.7 Litre Mercruiser, sleeps 5/6, Fridge, cooker, toilet and trailer. £17,500

**Tel: 07801590235**

# DRIVE TIMES HAS CHANGED...



Sell your vehicle or boat **FOR LESS** with our all new Drive Times and Sailing Times.

**Subaru WRX 3.0ltr TURBO**

**YOUR VEHICLE HERE**

1998, FSH, Immaculate condition, 6 month MOT, 6 months Tax, 6-disc CD changer, Manual gearbox, 4WD, 4 good tyres, call for more details. £14,000 o.n.o.

**Tel: 07777 000000 or 01631 568000 (after 5pm)**

**Sailing Yacht**

**YOUR BOAT HERE**

Stainless Steel Rails, Bow Roller and Anchor Locker, Pilot House with triple opening doors. Twin Berths and convertible saloon, Glass and aluminium windows, Toilet, Reversible pilot seat, Self Draining Cockpit. £14,000 o.n.o.

**Tel: 07777 000000 or 01631 568000 (after 5pm)**

CALL US NOW TO BOOK YOUR SPACE **01631 568010**

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

\* 5cm x 2 column advertisement - 2 weeks for £30.

NOW ONLY

**£30**

inclusive of VAT

**FOR**

**2**

**WEEKS**

IF YOU DON'T SELL IN THE FIRST WEEK, YOUR SECOND WEEK IS FREE. JUST CALL TO RE-BOOK!

ANNUAL & SUMMER BERTHS AVAILABLE. VISIT OUR WELL STOCKED CHANDLERY.

CRAOBH MARINA  
Craobh Haven by Lochgilphead

Tel 01852 500222 craobhmarina@talk21.com



## WEST COAST CLASSIFIEDS

www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

## FREE LISTINGS FOR

Advertise your unwanted items in The Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier or Argyllshire Advertiser and your ad will also

West Coast Classifieds has changed!

**FREE LISTINGS FOR ITEMS UNDER £100**

We've increased the minimum value for free listings to apply to items worth £100 or less. Plus, draw attention to your item with our new photo and description box for just £15 for two weeks.

**NEW CLASSIFIED PRICES:**

- Items under £100 - **FREE**
- Items over £100 - **£10 for 2 weeks**
- Boxed ads - **£12.50 for 2 weeks**
- Add a photo - **£15 for 2 weeks**

All inclusive of VAT. Maximum 25 words. 20 words for photo ads. Terms & conditions apply. Book online.

For photo ads:

visit [www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk/photo](http://www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk/photo)

For text only ads:

visit [www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk](http://www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk)

Or telephone 01631 568000

**PLEASE NOTE: DEADLINE MONDAY 4.00pm**  
NO MORE THAN 25 WORDS PLEASE

ITEM.....  
DESCRIPTION.....  
PRICE..... TELEPHONE.....

**ONLY ONE ITEM PER COUPON**

FOR MULTIPLE ITEMS INPUT YOUR DETAILS ONLINE AT [www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk](http://www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk)

**YOUR LOCAL WEST HIGHLAND OFFICES:**  
OBAN: The Oban Times, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB  
FORT WILLIAM: The Oban Times, Mamore House, The Parade, Fort William PH33 6BA  
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 Lladro. Lady with boy presenting flowers sitting on base perfect condition, £49 99 + p p if req Telephone 07748 574770.

HOUSE CLEARANCE Lladro Angel (has small repair to one wing), £25 Telephone 07748 574770.

HOUSE CLEARANCE Leonardo piece, Clown sitting in car, perfect condition, £25 Telephone 07748 574770.

HOUSE CLEARANCE Nao Yawning girl in white night dress, perfect condition, £25 Telephone 07748 574770.

HOUSE CLEARANCE Nao Elegant Lady in pink evening dress lovely piece, £25 Telephone 07748 574770.

HOUSE CLEARANCE Nao Small girl holding doll, perfect condition, £20 Telephone 07748 574770.

HOUSE CLEARANCE Nao Small girl holding doll, perfect condition, £20 Telephone 07748 574770.

HOUSE CLEARANCE Leonardo piece, Clown on tricycle, £20 Telephone 07748 574770.

HOUSE CLEARANCE Nao Small girl with fan, lovely piece, £20 Telephone 07748 574770.

**BABY EQUIPMENT**  
WOODEN BABY COT with mattress, used once, £40 Telephone 07934 099795.

**BICYCLES**  
BOYS MOUNTAIN BIKE Muddy Fox full suspension Mountain Bike. 20" wheels, suit 7+ yrs. VGC. Six gears. Available in Oban, £50 Telephone 01631 358473.

**TOP RACE BIKE**



Giant TRC carbon, medium, Mavic Ksyrium SSC wheels, new Vitorio tubulars, Campag Record/Chorus, Deda bars/ext, summer miles only. Or Mavic/Campag wired-ons with Bontragers.

**Bargain, £950**  
TEL 01855 811916

**BOOKS**  
IPAD FOR THE OVER 50'S computer book instructions, new, never used, £12.99 sell for, £6 Telephone 01631 565404.

**BUILDING / DIY**  
DOUBLE GLAZED WOOD Framed Windows, 7 x w 120 h 90, 2 x w 135 h 120, 1 x bathroom frosted w 92 h 90, offers. Telephone 01631 562746.

FLOOR/WALL TILES 30 Mink Marble effect glazed ceramic floor /wall tiles measuring 30cm x 60cm. As new, still in packaging, £25 Telephone 01631 710031.

GALVANISED BATH size 30 X 23. Offers. Telephone 01546 850287.

**CARAVAN EQUIPMENT**  
FOLDING STEP folding steel single step, very stable, £15 Telephone 01631 720425.

**DOMESTIC APPLIANCES**  
AEG GAS HOB. Perfect working order. £25, Tel. 01631 720452.

RAYBURN NOUVELLE natural gas, central heating and hot water, good condition, £150 Telephone 07833 462186.

**DOMESTIC PETS**

ADORABLE SMALL MALTESE TERRIER Bichon Frize pups, boys only, fluffy white balls of fun, vet checked and wormed, both parents can be seen, £500 Telephone 07771 930975.

**EQUESTRIAN**  
PRINCE CHARLIE SECTION D WELSH Colt 10 months old liver chestnut good temperament and blood lines. Telephone 01681 700541 (Mull)?

**FURNITURE**  
2 CHEST OF DRAWERS modern light birch veneer colour, chest of drawers. White melamine inside drawers, silver knobs, 3drawers. Good condition, £15 Telephone 01631 720369.

CHEST OF DRAWERS modern light birch colour veneer, 5 drawers, silver knobs. White melamine inside drawers, good condition, £15 Telephone 01631 720369.

CHILDS BED Ikea Kritter bedframe with slatted base and foam mattress. 165 x 75cm. Used only occasionally by grandchild, £35 Telephone 01631 730320.

NEST OF TABLES teal, set of three tables, good condition 50x50x50cm 42cm wide x46cm deep x48cm high 36cm wide x42cm deep x45cm high. £30 Telephone 01631 563096.

SINGLE DIVAN BED with padded headboard, buyer collects, £20 Telephone 01546 600045.

TV CORNER UNIT. Glass doors. £20, Tel. 01631 720452

**GARDEN**  
LAWN SCARIFIER manual, wheeled lawn scarifier, adjustable handle. Very good condition, £10 Telephone 01631 720425.

LEYLANDI CONIFERS 10 healthy plants in small pots approx 1 1/2 ft tall ready for planting, £30 Telephone 01631 720369.

**HEATING, FIRES AND FIREPLACES**  
4 DOOR RAYBURN STOVE (Aga) with 2 ovens, 2 hotplates, multifuel with back boiler. Cream and black in excellent condition only used for 2 years, £2900 ono Telephone 01369 702990 or 07788 855764?

Telephone 01631 720425. Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

**GARDEN MACHINERY**  
SEWING MACHINE Singer portable sewing machine, working order, £45ono Telephone 01586 552660.

**GARDEN TRACTOR MOWER MTD RS 115/96B**



38" cut, good condition, delivery possible.

**£650**  
TEL 07887 885559

**HEALTH AND FITNESS**  
MASSAGE TABLE XL top of the range, Portalite, made in Italy, excellent condition, hardly used, cream with accessories and matching therapist stool. Size 77"/195cm x 27"/68cm, cost over £350 but will accept, £150 Telephone 01546 606585?

**KITCHEN AND BATHROOM**  
MICROWAVE OVEN San-yo 700 Watt with turntable, clean & tidy, £15 Telephone 01631 710031.

**LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE**  
CAMPING GEAR pots, pans cutlery and lighting good condition, £20 Telephone 07561 341825 (Oban)?

**HOBBIES AND CRAFTS**  
PEARLISED PAPER & CARD White, Baby Blue & Baby Pink colours in stock available in A3/A4/A5 sizes, from 13p per sheet. Contact

**HOME ENTERTAINMENT**  
COLOUR TV Sony Digital colour TV, rarely used, 1 1/2 years old, £80ono Telephone 01586 552660.

PORTABLE TELEVISION Toshiba 14" colour TV with remote control. Works fine but you will need digibox to receive signals, £15 Telephone 01631 710031.

**MAIL ORDER**  
SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Places include: Stirling, Fort William, Glencoe, Aberdeen, Isle of Skye, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Loch Lomond, Kelso, Aviemore, Forfar, Rum and Eigg, Shetland, Glentworth and Dryburgh. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at [www.scottishcalendars.co.uk](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk)

SEWING MACHINE Singer portable sewing machine, working order, £45ono Telephone 01586 552660.

**HOME ENTERTAINMENT**  
COLOUR TV Sony Digital colour TV, rarely used, 1 1/2 years old, £80ono Telephone 01586 552660.

PORTABLE TELEVISION Toshiba 14" colour TV with remote control. Works fine but you will need digibox to receive signals, £15 Telephone 01631 710031.

**HOME FURNISHINGS**  
CEILING FAN brass 42" four light ceiling fan for conservatory, new, still in box, buyer collects, £99 Telephone 01546 600045.

LAYZEE BED MATTRESS dual spring excellent clean condition app King Size 78"x 60"x 9". Buyer collects Barcaldine, £20 Telephone 01631 720180.

WOODEN VENTIAN BLINDS light oak wooden venetian blinds width 90cm(36ins) drop 172cm(63ins), ex condition. 3 blinds cost £55 each will sell for, £15 each Telephone 01586 551314.

**MARINE**  
USED FIBREGlass KAYAK along with paddle, would suit young learner or slim adult, £150 Telephone 07747 399627.

**MARINE UNDER £250**  
3-FLEETGUARD FF4008 Fuel Filters for £7.50. Many commercial and marine ap-

plied. Order on-line at [www.scottishcalendars.co.uk](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk)

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Places include: Inveraray, Appin, Oban, Seil, Isle of Mull, Campbeltown, Tarbert, Machrihanish, Fort William. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at [www.scottishcalendars.co.uk](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk)

**MARINE**  
USED FIBREGlass KAYAK along with paddle, would suit young learner or slim adult, £150 Telephone 07747 399627.

**MARINE UNDER £250**  
3-FLEETGUARD FF4008 Fuel Filters for £7.50. Many commercial and marine ap-

plied. Order on-line at [www.scottishcalendars.co.uk](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk)

TO ADVERTISE IN OUR LOCAL SERVICES SECTION CONTACT 01631 568000 OR ADVERTS@OBANTIMES.CO.UK

LOCAL SERVICES

WOODCHIPS

**WOODCHIPS FOR SALE**  
Ideal for weed control in gardens  
**FREE DELIVERY**  
Oban, North and Mid Argyll areas  
Delivered in a 1.5ton lorry  
**£55 per load**  
Telephone 01838 200373

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

**CRUACHAN HOME IMPROVEMENTS**  
Exceeding expectations  
CONTACT t. 0800 0467323 m. 07789 48805 e. info@cruachanhome.co.uk www.cruachanhome.co.uk  
**- ROOFLINE**  
**- SEAMLESS FLAT ROOFS**  
**- TILED CONSERVATORY ROOFS**  
**- DRIVEWAYS - WINDOWS AND DOORS**  
**GARAGE DOORS - CONSERVATORIES**

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

**D&A MUNN LTD.**  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS | EST. 1880  
JOINERS AND BUILDERS  
BREADALBANE STREET, OBAN  
24 hour Family run business  
Owned and run by Ian MacInnes and son.  
TELEPHONE: 01631 562562  
WWW.MUNNS-OBAN.CO.UK

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

**Gordon & Strathern Ltd HOME IMPROVEMENTS**  
**Roofline Conservatories/Porches**  
Fascias, Soffits & Gutters  
**GRP/Flat Roofs Replacement Sealed Units**  
**Garage Doors Doors & Windows**  
**Carports and Door canopies**  
Ronald or Lachie 01631 720074 or 07776402550  
gordon961@btinternet.com

REMOVALS & STORAGE

**MACQUEEN BROS LTD**  
Removals/Storage & Self Storage  
Full range of packing materials  
We store boats, caravans, trailers etc  
Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG  
Tel: (01631) 564848  
www.macqueenbros.com

STOVES

**OBAN STOVE CENTRE**  
Experienced and Established Suppliers of Heizomat Biomass Boilers  
**TRADE SUPPLIES AVAILABLE**  
**Scotland's Premier Stove, Spares & Flue Suppliers**  
Oban Stove Centre, Old Crofters Yard, Soroba Road, Oban, PA34 4HU Tel: 01631 564790

MOBILITY

**Tower Mobility**  
we supply a wide range of mobility products from walking sticks to scooters  
Mathesons, Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban.  
Tel: 01631 565195 www.towermobility.co.uk

CHIMNEY SERVICES

**ARGYLL & ISLES CHIMNEY SERVICES**  
**07834 640989**  
- AWARD WINNING POWER SWEEPING SYSTEM  
- OPEN FIRES - WOOD BURNING STOVES  
- OIL & GAS FLUES - AGA & RAYBURN  
- CCTV CHIMNEY INSPECTION  
When Was The Last Time You Had Your Chimney Cleaned?  
FULLY QUALIFIED & INSURED  
Covering Oban, Lochgilphead, Inveraray and surrounding area, including Isle of Mull etc.

NEW CAR INDEX

**new car index**

<b>ISUZU S &amp; S Services</b> Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080 / 880440	<b>S &amp; S SERVICES</b> Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080/880440
<b>SUBARU S &amp; S Services</b> Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080/880440	<b>W.D. SEMPLE</b> www.wdsemple.com Inveraray - Shore Street Tel: 01499 302150 Lochgilphead - Highbank Park Tel: 01546 606767 / 01546 606272
<b>CROFT MOTORS SERVICES</b> Unit 5B, Ben Nevis Estate Fort William PH33 6PR Tel. 01397 703877	<b>TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000</b>

COUNSELLING

**RELATIONSHIPS SCOTLAND**  
Couple Counselling Argyll  
Do you have a relationship problem?  
**WE CAN HELP**  
Appointments available in Oban, Lochgilphead, Dunoon, Rothesay & Helensburgh  
Call 01631 563297  
www.argyllcouplecounselling.org  
SCO23995

WINDOWS & DOORS

**Everest**  
Fit the best  
Making more of your environment  
**TRIPLE GLAZED WINDOWS AVAILABLE**  
Windows and Doors, various materials  
Patio Doors, Bi fold doors, Porches, Driveways  
Garage doors, Conservatories, Flat Roofs  
Gutters, Fascias, Soffits, Bargeboards  
Contact Consultant  
Peter Ramsay Tel 07816 934364  
Residential and Commercial enquiries welcome

PHOTO ORDERS

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**  
**PHOTO ORDERS**  
A5 photograph £4.41  
A4 photograph £6.75  
You can order photos that appear in the Oban Times  
Simply contact the Oban Times office with the date of publication and the code printed alongside the photograph  
(photographs that do not have codes have been submitted by private individuals and are therefore ineligible for this offer)  
Please add £1.30 to your total order if you require delivery of photographs to cover postage and packing.  
Fort William office  
Mamore House  
The Parade  
Fort William  
PH33 6BA  
01397 703003  
Oban office  
PO Box 1  
Lochavullin Ind Est  
Oban  
PA34 4HB  
01631 568000  
email: adverts@obantimes.co.uk

ADVERTISING

**ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE**  
**CALL 01631 568000**  
**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**

**HALF PRICE**  
The Oban Times  
\*Subscribe to the Oban Times digital edition and save 50%.  
Details at  
www.obantimes.co.uk/digital

**ITEMS UNDER £100** **BUY LOCAL** **SELL LOCAL** **TRADE LOCAL** **SWAP LOCAL**

applications. Telephone 07983 457117 Oban.  
3-FLEETGUARD HF6161 Hydraulic Filters for £7.50. Many commercial and marine applications. Telephone 07983 457117 Oban.  
**MOTORCYCLE EQUIPMENT**  
AKITO M/C JACKET size 42 black leather, padded, used but good condition. Leather M/C gloves included. Barcaldine, £20 Telephone 01631 720180.  
**OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT**  
DAIWA FISHING RUCKSACK very large green fish-

**POWER TOOLS**  
RYOBI RECIPROCATING SAW Ryobi RRS 1201 cordless lithium ion battery saw including selection of blades for wood and metal, £45 Telephone 01631 720425.  
**PRINTING AND STATIONERY**  
LAMINATING Keep your important documents safe from dust, dirt, tears and creases. A4-£2, A4-£3. Contact Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.  
PARTY INVITES Customised to suit any style or occasion, come supplied with envelopes. 50 invites

**Get The Oban Times for only 40p!**  
Subscribe to our digital edition for one year and save **50%**  
Delivered straight to your inbox  
**Subscribe today!**  
Visit [www.obantimes.co.uk/digital](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/digital)

Share your celebrations with **The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES** in our **Announcements Section**

Share your celebrations with our announcements adverts - starting next week!  
**5x2 colour ads with artwork, a photo and your own personal message.**  
Let everyone know about an engagement, birthday, anniversary or new arrival in your family!  
Call us now to book your space!  
**ONLY £25 + VAT**  
call us today on 01631 568000

**Michael and Sophie** got engaged on 1st January  
Both families are delighted to announce the recent engagement of Michael and Sophie. Congratulations from all family and friends.  
(sample ad - not to scale)

**Annie** Birthday: 25th January  
Look who's all grown up! Happy 21st birthday! Have a brilliant day. Lots of love from all the family xxx  
(sample ad - not to scale)

**Pauline** Born: 9th January 2014  
Bob and Lesley are delighted to announce the safe arrival of baby Pauline, a little sister for Susie and Gillian.  
(sample ad - not to scale)

**ADD A PHOTO TO YOUR CLASSIFIEDS AND INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF SELLING**

Three easy ways to place your photo advert:  
• visit [www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk/photo](http://www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk/photo)  
• Telephone 01631 568 000 or 01397 703 003  
OR  
• Bring your photo in to any of our offices in Oban, Fort William, Lochgilphead or Campbeltown

**NOW JUST £15 FOR TWO WEEKS**  
(6x1 COLOUR AD WITH PHOTO)  
Advert runs for two weeks (price includes VAT)

**ACOUSTIC GUITAR**  
Yamaha acoustic guitar in good condition. Built in tuner, new strings, comes with padded gig bag. In Oban.  
**£100**  
TEL 01631 568035

**Things to remember when placing your ad**  
✓ Product title i.e acoustic guitar  
✓ Product description (approx 15-20 words)  
✓ Selling price  
✓ Contact telephone number  
✓ Item location (as we cover a fairly large geographical area it is helpful if buyers know where the item is located)

The Oban Times reserves the right not to use photos that do not comply with our terms and conditions. No trade advertisers in private sales. All boats, cars and trailers must appear in Drive Times.

Sponsored by NFU Mutual  
Oban, call Euan Warnock  
and Donna MacDougall  
on 01631 567 036 for  
your insurance needs.  
Agent of The National Farmers Union  
Mutual Insurance Society Limited.



# Farming

## Farming Focus

with Ewen Campbell, SRUC farm manager for Kirkton and Auchtertyre

### Preparation vital for lambing season

THIS month has been busy for us all at SRUC Kirkton and Auchtertyre farms, with lambing on the way! We expect around 1,300 lambs to be born, and with such numbers, good preparation is key. We record the breeding performance of most of the ewes in our flocks (using Estimated Breeding Values - EBVs). Because of this, we need a simple and easy way to identify individual ewes without having to catch them each time we want to record their lambs. So, we are neck-banding our ewes this week. We attach a large cattle ear tag on a loop around their neck, so that we can identify the ewe from a distance, even in the fields and the rough parks. This makes life easier for the recorders who weigh and ID the new born lambs. Despite the weather continuing to be cloudy and damp, soil temperatures are on the increase. Now that the soil temperature has reached 6°C, the grass is finally growing. This is in contrast to last year when soil temperatures were still below 3°C in early April and only reached 6°C on April

22, three weeks later than this year. With the fields still being wet we haven't been able to spread fertiliser yet, but hopefully we should be able to do it soon, as the ewes will need the grass to keep all those lambs in milk. Finally, as our hogs have just returned from off-wintering, here is an update on our restocking effort for Auchtertyre. We are restocking the hill with homebred ewes and gimmers (from Auchtertyre and from Kirkton), as well as with some which were bought-in as hogs in 2012. After returning from off-wintering in the spring, the hogs are kept in a shed for about a week to train them to eat concentrates. This helps them to adapt to being fed hay and concentrates as in-lamb gimmers. At scanning, the gimmers averaged 40 kg and the home bred scanned better than the bought-in. It will be interesting to see how these figures are reflected at marking time. I had better go now - it appears that one ewe has already had her lamb today! And so it starts...



Lambing season is already underway at Kirkton and Auchtertyre monitor farms.

**COVENTRY for FENCING**  
Scotland's No. 1 WIRE, STOCK FENCING, BARBED, HIGH TENSILE, MILD STEEL BEST PRICES  
TIMBER DIRECT FROM OUR SAWMILL  
Depots throughout Scotland • Delivery available  
For a competitive quote please call 01631 566866

**CROSS MULE GIMMERS WITH SUFFOCK LAMBS AT FOOT**  
14 pair and 4 singles more information  
**01681 700340**

## Dalmally mart upgrade continues with roof and car park revamp

UNITED Auctions is undertaking a major upgrade of the roof and parking at Dalmally auction mart. Scotland's leading livestock auctioneer is improving the roof over the main sale ring at the centre, while the car park is being upgraded and extended to accommodate more vehicles on busy sale days. Dalmally mart is recognised as a principle market for the procurement of store cattle and lambs, breeding cattle and sheep as well one of the main centres for the well-known

Blackface Ram Sales. It also provides an essential facility for marketing stock from the islands, which is supplemented by facilities at Oban, including livestock trailers to ferry animals to and from the islands and an overnight lairage facility for animals being transported to the Dalmally sales. The improvements are the latest in a series of investments at the centre since UA purchased it in September 2007, which include a new sale ring, metal pens, upgraded concrete resurfacing, a new washing system

and weighing equipment as well as a new kitchen and eatery. Donald Morrison, UA's area managing director for Argyll and the Islands, said: "The continued investment at Dalmally reflects the very important role it plays in the area. In addition, we've recently introduced Peter Wood as the 'Dalmally man' responsible for the sales. "Once the scaffolding is down and the upgrades are complete, we're looking forward to welcoming more breeders to the

mart and a further increase in throughput this autumn." Peter Wood, assistant manager, said: "I'm delighted to be the dedicated contact for Dalmally. After spending seven years in Aberdeenshire, I've made lots of contacts and have a good working knowledge of the county to attract clients to Dalmally." The upgrades will be completed in time for Dalmally's principle spring sale of grazing cattle, with an entry of 400 cattle, on May 3.

Visit us online  
click  
VISIT US AT  
www.obantimes.co.uk

**OPEN TO ALL**  
Grow more grass with the GrassMaster  
Thursday 15th May, Lochaline, Morvern  
A practical day looking at increasing grass productivity through hands-on field assessment: providing guidance on rejuvenating, reseeding & over-seeding; what varieties to sow & why; & aftercare of a new ley.  
Speakers are Charlie Morgan, GrassMaster & Iain Eadie, Germinal Seeds GB.  
The day will also include a visit to Ardtornish Estate.  
Free of charge to farmers, growers & land managers & £60.00 plus VAT to others.  
Booking is essential so that lunch & resource packs can be provided.  
Call Lyn on 0131 666 0847 or email lwhite@soilassociation.org  
Future Proofing Scotland's Farming Programme  
With support from SRDP's Skills Development Scheme & QMS  
Soil Association Scotland

**Walter G Grant**  
Agricultural Machinery Sales & Repairs  
Tel: 01343 842114 or 07702 985180  
New Fleming Equipment - Water Filled Rollers 12ft for Williams Livestock Trailer c/w SheepDecks 10ft Discs Fraser Rotospreader 3mtr Power Harrow (as new) Drill Plough Plus much more  
Whatever you require, give us a call

Oban Times FARMING  
Oban Times FARMING  
Oban Times FARMING  
Oban Times FARMING

### Market reports

#### Caledonian Marts, Stirling

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 200 live cattle at their weekly primestock sale, comprising 85 bullocks and heifers, four young bulls, five OTM clean and 106 cast cows and bulls. Bullocks averaged 224p per kilo and sold to 243.5p per kg (three times) all heavy Limousins from Flemington Farm, Cambuslang and Learielaw Farm, Broxburn (twice) or to £1,609 per head for 686kg Limousin, Woodhead of Mailer Farm, Perth. Heifers averaged 224.5p per kilo and sold to 255.5p and 253.5p per kilo heavy British Blues, Wester Thomaston Farm, Banknock or to £1,582 per head for 624kg from the same farm. Butchers cattle sold in excess of 230p per kilo to average 238p per kilo and sold to 247.5p per kg for Limousin Heifer from Woodhead of Mailer Farm. Young Bulls sold to 210.5p per kg 574kg Simmental, Jaw Farm Fintry or to £1,502 per head for 20 month 738kg Limousin AirtreyKerse Farm, Bridge of Allan. OTM under 36-month cattle sold to 202.5p per kg 684kg Heifer Upper Kinneil Farm, Linlithgow or to £138.5 per head. Also forward were 111 cast cows, bulls and OTM cattle. Friesian cow sold to £1,015 from M/S Steel Gartentruach farm, Stirling. Limousin x cow sold to £1,255 from M/S Coffey Ramoan farm. All classes sold well. Leading Prices: Char: 147p £1,135 Burnhead; Sim: 143p £1,035 Borland; Lim: 157p £1,255 Ramoan, 160p £1,235 Westwoodlane, 155p £1,185 AirtreyKerse; Fr: 123p £1,015 Gartentruach, 127p £995 Stenhouse, 136p £985 Crookedstone, 128p £955 Muirco; AA: 158p £1,085 Woodhead of Mailer, 136p £1,185 Sauchenford, £1,045 Cultybraggan; BB: 138p £1,005 Meadowend; Sho: 135p £925 Upper Coull; Ayr: 109p £655 Ramoan. Cast Bull: Char: 127p £1,425 Bughtknowes,

Lim: 149p £1,425 Eskechreggan, BDA: 141p £1,245 Blackhill OTM: Sim: 185p £1320 Lim: £1,275 Burnhead Calves: Fr: £50 Barbeth, Pleau; Lim: £365 AirtreyKerse. CALEDONIAN Marts (STIRLING) had on offer 1,203 prime hoggets and 555 cast ewes and rams at its Stirling sale last Tuesday. Prime hoggets sold to 255p for 40.5kg Beltex from R Downie, Newton Farm and to £109 for 53kg Texels from A Duncan, Easter Duncan and 65kg Suffolks from J W Farquharson, The Horn to average 206.39 (+1.05 on the week). SOQ hoggets average 215.42p per kilo. Leading prices per kilo and per head: Belt: 242p MeikleSeggie, £106.50 Drumcairn. Cont: 246p Maidencots, £103.50 Newton. Cont: 240p South Park, £108 Bankhead. Text: 239p Airleyweight, £106 Easter Dullatur. Text x: 237p Easter Coates, £105 Airleyweight, Maidencots. Suff: 219p Newton, £105 Grange of Lindores. Suff x: 200p WesterPirleyhill, £102 Maidencots. Chev: 231p South Park House, £100 Maidencots and Newton. BF: 211p Maidencots, £964 Home Farm Cottage. Mule: 209p MeikleSeggie, £85 Maidencots. Prime Lambs sold to 217p for 46kg Zwarble from M McLaren, Greystone. Also forward were 555 cast ewes and tups. Heavy ewes averaged £93.24 (-58p on the week) and sold to a top of £157.50 for Texels from Mr Beaton, WesterCrosshill. Export ewes averaged £59.13 (-£3.76 on the week) and sold to a top of £75.50 for Blackfaces from Mr Heggie, Carden. Tups sold to a top of £146.50 for a Blue TexelTup from Mr M Bell, Wallaceton. Leading Prices: Text - £138.50 Drimsynie; BFL - £134.50 Broadleys; Tex X - £133.50 Horn; Suff - £133.50 Broadleys; Leic - £125.50 Horn; Suff X - £127.50

Wallaceton; Cont - £125.50 Skeoch; BTex - £100 Graystale; Mule - £98.50 Heights and Scart; Chev - £95.50 Wallaceton; Cross - £90.50 Er Coates; BF - £74.50 Graystale; BF - £72.50 Eastside: Tups Text - £141.50 Skeoch; Tex x - £137.50 Atholl; Suff - £121.50 Craithie; BF - £73.50 Burnhead: UNITED Auctions, Stirling UNITED Auctions sold 2,001 store cattle and cast cows at its Stirling sale last Wednesday. Also forward were 171 store hogs and ewes with lambs at foot. Bullocks averaged 235.02p (+2.53p) to 297.90p per kg for a 327kg CHX from Glenrath and £1280 for a 535kg CHX from Hatton of Newtyle. Heifers averaged 222.40p (+0.36p) to 255.80p per kg for a 258kg CHX from Burn and £1,400 for a 672kg LimX from Titwood. B&W bullocks averaged 150.11p (-2.74p) to 182.70p per kg for a 394kg HOX from Dykehole and £820 for a 510kg BFX from Kirminnock. Forward cattle averaged 162.03p to 179.80p per kg for a AAX from Southside and £1085 for a LimX from Drumoider. Cast cows averaged 132.77p to 187.50p per kg for a BSHX from Quixwood and £1,410 for a SimX from Traprain. Bullocks: Up to 250kgs-Tomnagairn £700, 291.70p 251-300kgs-Tomnagairn £800, Netherthrid 276.40p 301-350kgs-Glenrath £980, 297.90p 351-400kgs-Stobswood £1050, 277.80p 401-450kgs-Bonshawsie £1,110, Castlehill 265.50p 451-500kgs-Hatton of Newtyle £1,160, 239.30p 501-550kgs-Hatton of Newtyle £1,280, 227.80p. Heifers: Up to 250kg-Bonshawsie £570, 241.50p 251-300kgs-Threepwood £740, 255.80p 301-350kg-Pitcairle £860, 251.50p 351-400kgs-Castlehill £940, 255.40p 401-450kgs-Stobswood £1,040, 241.30p 451-500kgs-West Balmirmer £1,140, 237.00p 501-550kgs-Hatton of Newtyle £1,230,

237.90p 551-600kgs-Titwood £1,400, 208.30p. OTM Cows: Traprain (Sim) £1,410, 175.80p; Quixwood (BSH) £1,410, 187.50p; Traprain (Lim) £1,290, Quixwood 153.80p; Kinneil Mill (BRB) £1,270, 159.90p; Quixwood (AA) £1,250, 182.20p; Woodmill (CH) £1,210, 152.00p; Woodmill (Sal) £1,050, 131.60p. OTM bulls: Kinneil Mill (Lim) £1,430, 181.50p. Store Hoggs: Moleigh (Tex) £70; Wester Ochtermuthill (Suff) £65; Rhodders (BF) £61; Auchensalt (BF) £57. Ewes with lambs: Mule gimmers with twin lambs at foot, £192, East Mains. Broken Mouth Mule with twin lambs at foot, £170, Dykehole. Correct Tex ewe with single lamb at foot, £146 East mains. Broken Mouth Ewe with single lamb at foot, £142 East Mains. UNITED Auctions sold 2,976 prime Ss sheep at its Stirling sale on Thursday, including 2,444 hoggs, selling to an average of 215.41p/kg, 63 spring lambs and 469 ewes and rams. Spring Lambs: Medwyn Hill (Suff) £122, Craigend (Char) £121. Spring Lambs: Craigend (Char) 260p, Broadleys (Suff) 258p. Hoggs: Luckenburn (BTex) £122.00; Easter Ochtermuthill (Tex) £118.00; Stanley (Suff) £117.50; South Park (Chev) £106.00; Newton of Collessie (Char) £103; Glenferate (BF) £98.00; South Park (Mule) £96.50. Hoggs: Luckenburn (BTex) 283p; Easter Ochtermuthill (Tex) 279p; Southpark (Chev) 249p; Penston (BF) 241p; Stanley (Char) 231p; Peattieshill (Suff) 223p; Southpark (BF) 221p. Ewes: Cultiehdloch (Tex) £146.50; Newton of Collessie (Suff) £135.50; Southfield (Char) £124.50; Moleigh (Chev) £105.50; Cultiehdloch (BL) £102.50; Kinnaird (Mule) £98.50; Stuck (BFL) £97.50; Drumharrow (BTex) £94.50; Hillhead of Careston (Lley) £80.00; Sauchie Mains (BF) £79.50; Bankhead (Chev/Mule) £74.50; Remony (X) £66.50. Rams: West Balgothrie (BFL) £131.50; Strageath Mains (Tex) £126.50; Muirside of Kinnedar (Suff) £114.50; Kipperoch (BTex) £108.00; Moleigh (BL) £55.50.

THINK PRINTING  
THINK krisp print  
BESPOKE PRINTING OUR SPECIALITY  
01586 554975  
Main Street/Longrow South, Campbeltown  
email: staff@krispprint.co.uk www.krispprint.co.uk

THE 2014 FISHUPDATE ALMANAC  
CATCHING PROCESSING AQUACULTURE  
interviews • news • surveys • movers & shakers  
people on the move • days gone by • maps • events • species  
contacts • company index • diary • notes  
NOW ON SALE!  
TO PURCHASE A COPY OF THE ALMANAC PLEASE CALL  
0131 551 1000

ENGAGEMENTS

**FLEMING - KAPUSTA** - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Danica and Tomasz on April 12, 2014. Wishing them all the luck for their future together.

DEATHS

**FOGIE** - Galashiels. Late of Carlisle. Peacefully at Borders General Hospital after a long illness borne with great dignity John, aged 93, devoted husband of Isabel (Bel), much loved dad of Alison and the late John, loving papa John to all the family and a dear brother and uncle. A service will be held today, Thursday, April 24 at Caddonfoot Parish Church at 1.45pm thereafter burial at Caddonfoot New Cemetery at 2.30pm to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Burial service to be received on retirement from service to Cancer Research.

**MACLEOD** - Suddenly but peacefully at home, 'Lyn Leven' on Sunday, April 13, 2014, John Alick, aged 68 years, beloved husband of Pricilla and devoted dad of John, Alistair and Pamela. Dear father-in-law of Johann and Jenny, a loving grampa of Alistair, Roddy, Scott, Nathan and Cameron. Funeral service was held on Monday, April 21, 2014 at St Munda's Church. Burial thereafter at Caddonfoot Parish Church on Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at 12.00 noon, funeral thereafter to Kilkerran Cemetery. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation.

**NICOL** - Peacefully at home, 16 Knockscalbert Way, Dalintober, Campbeltown, on April 18, 2014, after a short illness, Mary Elizabeth Agnes MacDonald Armour, in her 77th year, dearly beloved wife of Hugh Nicol, much loved mother of Hugh, Wendy and Judith and a loving mama of Cara and Andrew. Service in the Lorne and Lowland Parish Church on Saturday, April 26, 2014 at 12.00 noon, funeral thereafter to Kilkerran Cemetery. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**HARVEY** - Robin, Fay and the far-flung family of Sheila Margaret Harvey, Benderloch wish to express their heartfelt appreciation to everyone who gave their love and support during her recent illness and sad loss. Dr John Lyon and his magnificent team of doctors, nurses and pharmacists, along with Marie Curie Cancer Care, allowed mum to stay at home to the end. Elaine Maddy of the Council Social Work Department sensitively ensured that carers were available as mum's needs changed. Our thanks go to the many carers who attended mum during her last few months and made her as comfortable as possible. Staff at the Oban and Fort William hospitals could not have been kinder during appointments, short stays and visits to the Oban day hospital, where she made new friends. Thanks also to the many friends who helped with visits, meals, home baking, flowers and emergency call-outs in our absence, especially Eileen & Suzanne Hill and Steve & Jane Eccles. Kate Cameron provided help in a multitude of ways during mum's time at Benderloch and her weekday visits kept mum cheerful and in touch with local life. Hamish Hoey and Sons kindly arranged her cremation at Cardross. A gathering to celebrate her life will be held in the near future.

**MEEK ROSS** - Donald and Rachel Meek and family would like to thank everyone who attended Ishbel Ross's funeral at 'Coll View' and Kirkapoll, Tiree, on the beautiful afternoon of Thursday April 10, 2014. We are particularly grateful to the Rev. Peter Williams for conducting the funeral, Lachlan MacKinnon, 'Dunfoot', Balesphetrish, for his Gaelic prayer, and the Rev. Elspeth MacLean for assisting at the graveside. We also want to thank Co-operative Funeral Care, Falkirk and Tiree, and its repatriation service, for outstanding support through Amanda Gourlay in Falkirk. Rhona Campbell and John Donald MacLean in Tiree were likewise excellent. The understanding and respect of Caledonian MacBrayne staff at Oban and Tiree, and of the crew of MV 'Clansman', were deeply moving and meaningful. Our thanks too to Fiona MacPhail and Scarinish Hotel staff for their fine attention. Our loss was much easier to bear because of your kindness and sympathy.

MEMORIALS

**BANNATYNE** - In loving memory of Caroline who died April 30, 1968. 46 years and not forgotten. - Dad John

**BROWN** - Precious memories of a dear wife and mother Rena, who died 26 April 2013. We think of you in silence We often speak your name Now all we have are memories And your picture in a frame. - Donald, Colin, Donna and families.

**COOPER** - Cherished memories of a much loved wife, mum and nanny Iseobel who sadly passed away on April 29, 2012. Always loving, caring and kind. What wonderful memories she left behind. A friend to all, her family too. An inspiration to all she knew. - Victor and all the family.

**DEMPSTER** - In everlasting memory of a much loved husband, father and pappy Donald John, who passed away April 30, 2011, also remembering with love Robert Dempster, who passed away on May 23, 2010. Sadly missed along life's way. Quietly remembered every day.

No longer in our lives to share But in our hearts you're always there. - Jessie, John, Marie, Cathy and Donald John and all the Dempster family at home and away.

**GILLIES** - In loving memory of Ronnie a dear father, papa and great grandfather who passed away April 26, 2003. Deep in our hearts your memory is kept To treasure and love and never forget. - Love Theresa, Anne, Angela and families.

**MACALISTER** - In loving memory of Scott lost at sea April 25, 2013 aged 40. A year has passed but no goodbyes Our love for you will never die You were so special in every way And sadly missed every day. - MacAlister family.

**MACCORMICK** - In memory of Morag, dearly loved mother and 'Grannie Mull' who died April 23, 2012. Also remembering my father Dugie who died December 2, 1968 and brother Iain who died May 24, 1990. Always in our thoughts. - Inserted by Ann and family.

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of my husband Donald Angus, who sadly passed away on April 23, 2012. Always in our thoughts. - Ruth and family.

**MACKINNON** - In loving memory of my dear husband, father and grandfather Neil, who passed away on April 30, 1991. Always remembered. - Jessie, David, Eileen, Lisa, Helen and John and great-grandsons James and Andrew.

**MACPHEE** - In loving memory of Margaret (Manda), a much loved auntie who passed away April 28, 2006. - Missed by all the family.

**McLENNAN** - In loving memory of a dear husband, father, grandfather and GD, Donnie who passed away on April 24, 2013. Always in our thoughts. - From Margaret and family.

**STEWART** - In loving memory of a dear father and grandfather, Jimmy, who died April 25, 1989. Gone are the days we used to share. But in our hearts you are always there. - Catherine, Kenneth, Margaret and families.

**ROBERTSON** - Remembering my cousin John (Lochaline) who died April 28, 2008. - Catherine, Stonehaven

CHURCH NOTICES

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**

**Sunday 27 April 2014**  
**2nd of Easter**  
**St John's Cathedral, Oban**  
 Holy Communion..... 08:00  
 Combined Mattins and Eucharist..... 10:15  
 Children's Corner Loop System  
 Large Print Hymn Books All Welcome  
 Nicki McNelly, Provost. (01631) 562323  
**St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich**  
 Mattins followed by Holy Eucharist..... 11:00  
**St Columba, Gruline, Mull**  
 Holy Eucharist..... 11:00  
**St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona**  
 Holy Eucharist..... 08:00  
 Evensong..... 20:15  
 Holy Eucharist Wed 30 April..... 14:30

# New premises needed for Oban Baptist's growing congregation

OBAN'S Baptist Church is on the lookout for a new home as its congregation starts to outgrow its Albany Street home.

The church's minister, Ian McFarlane, has been on the lookout for alternative premises for the past few months after attendances at services quadrupled since his arrival 18 months ago.

While numbers for the church can comfortably hold a congregation of around 90, up to 120 have been arriving for services on Sundays.

So far, various premises have been looked at, including the former St Columba's Church on Argyll Square and even the old Harbour Bowl.

Options both temporary and permanent are being examined as the church also considers an expansion of its current home.

He said: 'We had a huge sermon on Sunday, with 120 there. We had a Baptism recently, the first one we've had for years, and our Sunday School numbers are in their middle 20s.'

'We're thinking if this goes on we'll need something bigger, so we're desperate to get somewhere else to expand the congregation.'

## Thought for the week

We are told that, following the events of the first Easter morning, Peter "went home marvelling". He had just seen for himself that the grave where Jesus had been laid was now empty. It began to dawn on him that something utterly unexpected and unprecedented had occurred. Everything began to look different.

Until then death was something final. At the end of the day, death would always win. That was people's experience then. It is our experience now. But Easter brings a new perspective.

## Fall prevention programme proves to be a success

AN EXERCISE programme for elderly people who are at risk of falls is keeping more people out of hospital - and it was devised in Oban.

Nicola Granger, senior physiotherapist at Lorn and Islands Hospital created the falls prevention pilot programme last summer to help those at risk to be at home but can be susceptible to falls.

And following the conclusion of the first year of the strength and balance classes, which includes Tai Chi, those attending seem to be impressed with the benefits.

Gordon Lockhart, aged 83, of Connel, said: 'This year has been difficult for me because I have fallen twice and I am finding my balance starting to deteriorate.'

'I'm on a blood thinning course of treatment, so when I do fall it is very bruising and quite a shock.'

'These classes have been very beneficial and I feel a lot stronger. I am not prepared to accept nothing can be done to help me.'

Ms Granger said she has devised the programme around specific exercises, including Tai Chi.

When asked how willing he and his fellow patients were to do Tai Chi, Mr Lockhart replied: 'If they say it's good for us, we'll do it. Anyway, it is very calming.'

Another elderly patient, Peter Cleave, of North Connel, said: 'At our age you don't look to get better, as in becoming young, fit and healthy again. The best I'm going to be is to get back to regaining some self confidence in being able to do things for myself.'

But in our hearts you are always there. - Catherine, Kenneth, Margaret and families.

**ROBERTSON** - Remembering my cousin John (Lochaline) who died April 28, 2008. - Catherine, Stonehaven



Falls prevention patients, from left: Peter Cleave, Tommy Wood and Gordon Lockhart with senior physiotherapist Nicola Granger, left, and physiotherapy technical instructor Jenny Dairon. 16\_117alls01



Members of the Oban Baptist Church with centre, Rev. Ian McFarlane.

question, saying: 'We are a growing church, but we are not a rich church.'

He added: 'We're hoping that by moving not only can we provide more room for the growing congregation but also provide a benefit to the community.'

## Going Home Marvelling

Outwardly things may still look the same. The cycle of life and death continues. Tragedies still strike. Losses must still be endured. But look deeper and an entirely new reality comes into view. Something truly marvelous has happened. Jesus has risen from the dead.

We can know him as one who is present with us, working the transformation of his death and resurrection into our lives, making us new people, lighting up our lives with purpose and hope. No longer does death command the field. Now the last word is "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:58)

**Kenneth Ross, Parish Minister, Netherlorn**

# Rev Dr Roderick Campbell bids farewell at Easter Sunday service



Easter Sunday saw the final service by Rev Dr Roderick Campbell as the Church of Scotland minister in Appin. The minister and his wife Sue are leaving to take up charge in St Andrew's Scots Kirk, in Colombo, Sri Lanka, although they plan to return to Appin when Rev Campbell retires in four years. He is pictured following his final service as he said goodbye to his parishioners, including Robert and Shirley Dunlop. 16\_117appinchurch01

**The Oban Times**  
 & West Highland Times  
**THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL**

The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsagents every week.

**Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB**  
 Tel: 01631 568000  
 Fax: 01631 568001  
 www.obantimes.co.uk

**Editorial**

**Northern Editor**  
 Stephen Norris  
 snorris@obantimes.co.uk

**News Editor**  
 Euan Paterson  
 epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

**Senior Reporter**  
 Steven Flanagan  
 sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

**Reporter**  
 Emma Crichton  
 ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

**Web Co-ordinator**  
 Marian Miller  
 mmiller@obantimes.co.uk

**Newsdesk**  
 Oban 01631 568060  
 Fort William 01397 703003  
 editor@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising**

**Advertising Executive**  
 Rhona McKillop  
 advert@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising Sales Executive**  
 Nadine Ross  
 nross@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising Executive**  
 Kaireen Moore  
 kmoore@obantimes.co.uk

**Branch Offices**

**Fort William**  
 Tel 01397 703003  
 Fax 01397 702495

**Lochgilphead**  
 Tel 01546 602345  
 Fax 01546 602661

**Campbeltown**  
 Tel 01586 554646  
 Fax 01586 553006

**Arran**  
 Tel 01770 302142  
 Fax 01770 302021

www.obantimes.co.uk

**Save 50%**  
 when you subscribe to  
**The Oban Times**  
 digital edition!

details at www.obantimes.co.uk/digital

CHARITY DONATIONS

**WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT**

Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer

West of Scotland Fundraising Office  
 1st Floor, Erskine House  
 North Avenue, Clydebank  
 Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR  
**Tel 0808 100 6000**  
 In memory of Dawn Joyce

**MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE**  
 Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch

Donations always gratefully accepted

Please contact  
 Mrs Lillian Kermode  
 Tynwald, Glenburn,  
 Soroba Road, Oban  
 01631 571009

**Stokes Memorials**  
 Serving Argyll and the Highlands & Islands for over 35 years  
 Established 1973 - Fraser Downie, Master Sculptor

- New and traditional memorials.
- Additional lettering.
- Cleaning and renovations.
- Pat memorials.
- Work carried out in any cemetery.
- Free estimates and advice.
- House signs.

312/314 Argyll Street, Dunoon • Tel/Fax 01349 702162 • Email: info@stokesmemorials.co.uk

**Oban Hospice**

CARING FOR THE FUTURE

Donations always gratefully accepted

Please contact  
**Jack Tollan**  
**Birch Hill**  
**Achnacreebeag**  
**North Connel, PA37 1RE**

**CANCER RESEARCH UK**

**Fighting Cancer on all fronts...**

CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation

Commitment of over £15 million each year

Cancer Research UK  
 Angel Building  
 407 St John Street  
 London EC1V 4AD

Follow us on  
**facebook**

www.facebook.com/obantimes

**CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS**

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited (on the one part) and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

1. Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.

2. The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.

3. The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.

4. An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertiser's order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.

5. Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.

6. The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

7. The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (howsoever caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

8. Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.

9. The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.

10. Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.

11. Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to issue an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

12. A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

Published by Wyvex Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB, Tel: (01631) 568000 Fax: (01631) 568001  
 www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. http://www.obantimes.co.uk

# Reds see stars as Saints go on scoring spree

'We played some good football against a plucky Red Star team'

**Jimmy Marshall Trophy Oban Saints 8 Lochgilphead Red Star 0**  
**LOCHGILPHEAD** Red Star made the journey north to take on Oban Saints in the second round of the Jimmy Marshall Trophy last Wednesday night, but unfortunately for the Mid Argyll team they found the Premier Division outfit to be in top form with the gulf between the teams clear to see.

The game should have been played in Lochgilphead, but Red Star sportingly agreed to switch the game to Oban because of the poor state of the playing surface at Ropework Park.

Saints stuck with the same starting 11 which defeated St Josephs at the weekend with the exception of Roy McLuckie coming in to replace the unavailable Craig MacEwan in midfield.

Red Star started the stronger of the two sides winning the midfield battle in the opening exchanges. It took Saints seven minutes to register an attempt on goal when a Ross Maitland header from a Lewis Cameron cross was well saved by Red Star's Australian keeper Luke Kalache.

A Paul Kerr shot followed within a minute which the keeper again saved comfortably.

Saints opened the scoring in the 9th minute when Paul Kerr played Donnie Campbell through on the left and he calmly slotted the ball past the Red Star netminder.

This was not the start the Mid Argyll boys would have been wanting, but credit to them they settled down and played some decent football with Gregor Peacock taking the eye up front.

The home team doubled the score in the 17th minute when good work from Lewis Cameron and Donnie Campbell set up Allan MacKay who turned his marker before firing a shot goalwards which Luke Kalache managed to get his hands to but could not prevent the ball ending up in the back of the net.

The visitors came back into the game after the second goal and Innes Meikle had a long range effort that flew past the post.

Red Star's best chance fell to Gregor Peacock who ran off his marker and got his head to a corner, but his effort flashed inches over the bar.

**Tormented**  
 Saints killed the game as a contest with two goals in the last five minutes of the first half when Lewis Cameron, who had tormented the Star defence all night, danced past three or four defenders before thumping a great left foot shot past the helpless keeper and right on the half time whistle Lewis played a great ball through the middle for Ross Maitland who netted a well taken goal to make the half time score 4-0.

With the game in the bag Saints turned on the style in the second half giving manager Iain Jackson the chance to give his substitutes, Jamie Graham,

## FOOTBALL

Daniel Cameron and young Shaun MacIver a good amount of game time.

The home team increased their lead in the 51st minute when a Lewis Cameron shot came back off the post and fell kindly for Donnie Campbell who netted from close range.

The goal of the game arrived 10 minutes later when Donnie Campbell picked the ball up in midfield, took a couple of strides forward before thumping an unstoppable 25 yarder past the helpless goalkeeper to score Saints' sixth goal and his own hat trick.

With the Lochgilphead team tiring and Saints in total control the home side added another two goals, both from youngster Shaun MacIver. The first when he headed home a great cross from Roy McLuckie and the second with another header when he found himself unmarked at the back post and he headed home Ross Maitland's cross.

Referee John Scott, who handled a sporting game well, then blew for full time with Saints cruising to a comfortable 8-0 win.

Saints manager Iain Jackson said: 'We played some good football tonight against a plucky Red Star team.'

'We were clinical in front of goals and I was delighted that young Shaun managed to get on the score sheet.'



Roy McLuckie gets a sore one after this collision with Robert Docherty.

# Late strike seals the points for Saints

Scottish Amateur League - Premier Division  
**Thorn Athletic 1 Oban Saints 2**

**SAINTS** travelled to the 3G pitch at Johnstone Sports Hub to take on old rivals Thorn Athletic last Saturday and as expected another very close game was fought out between the teams with a great strike from Craig MacEwan five minutes from time winning all three points for the visitors.

The Oban side got off to a good start knocking the ball about well and Lewis Cameron brought out a fine save from Thorn goalkeeper Liam McWilliams in the first minute of the game.

Then Donnie Campbell was unlucky a few minutes later when a great free kick crashed off the crossbar with the goalkeeper stranded.

**Good chance**  
 Saints were on top in the opening period and Myles McAuley had a good chance but his header went straight to the keeper.

The visitors thought they had opened the scoring in the 18th minute when Allan MacKay rolled his marker and sent a great chip goalwards, but the ball went agonisingly past the post. Ross Maitland made a valiant effort to reach the ball but just failed to reach it before it had crossed the line.

Saints eventually took the lead in the 24th minute with a well worked goal after some

fine play from Lewis Cameron, Myles McAuley and Donnie Campbell. The ball was played through to Allan MacKay who cleverly dummied it which completely deceived the Thorn defence allowing Ross Maitland to run in and score.

The home side got back on level terms in the 36th minute when they were awarded a free kick on the right. The ball was swung into the Saints' box where the defence got caught ball watching and David Gallagher stole in at the back post to knock the ball into the net.

Just on the half time whistle Saints had another good chance when Paul Kerr, Myles McAuley and Donnie Campbell combined to set up Ross Maitland but Liam McWilliams made a good save from Ross's header.

Referee Gary Logan then blew for half time with the score standing at 1-1.

Thorn would have been the happier of the two teams at the interval as Saints had created two or three good goalscoring opportunities which they failed to take.

The visitors had a great chance in the 57th minute when the Thorn defence got into a bit of bother and the ball fell to Ross Maitland who chipped the goalkeeper but the ball went agonisingly past the post.

Saints then had to replace Dene Cassells who was suffering from a tight hamstring. His place at the back was taken by the

experienced Jamie Graham who slotted in beside Alex Craik and Colin Carswell.

The game then moved into a rather dull period when nothing much was happening, and it looked as though both teams would settle for a point apiece but with five minutes remaining it burst into life again when Craig MacEwan, who had come on for Roy McLuckie, cut inside two defenders to drill an unstoppable low shot into the back of the net from 20 yards to give Saints a 2-1 lead.

**Kitchen sink**  
 Thorn threw everything but the kitchen sink at Saints in the last few minutes and had a penalty claim turned down by the referee with a minute remaining.

Saints then broke forward into the Thorn half in the last minute of added time and took the ball to the corner flag to run down the clock and win another entertaining game between the teams.

Manager Iain Jackson was a delighted after the match. He said: 'The games between the two teams are always close and this one was no exception.'

'I thought we deserved to win the game as we created more goalscoring chances than they did and in the end we ran out deserved winners.'

This Saturday Saints face a crucial league game against title rivals Finnart at Glencairn. The game kicks off at 2pm and will be refereed by David Cameron.

# Three new routes for Mull Rally

## RALLYING

THREE new routes have been designed for this year's 45th annual Mull Rally, with a special offer also announced for young competitors.

Course clerk Iain Campbell has confirmed this year's routes will maintain the 150-mile total course minimum when the Tunnock's sponsored rally takes place on October 10-12.

The new Hill Road-Achnadrish, and reverse Ardtun stages light up the first two legs of competition, while the Saturday evening stage will see the reintroduction of the Tobermory stage, with the second run of the stage finishing at the Mishnish Lochs.

Meanwhile, tyre manufacturer DMack has confirmed its sponsorship of the Junior events. The deal will mean drivers under 25 who enter the rally and who use DMack tyres and wear DMack decals will receive a £200 discount on their entry fee.

Iain said both announcements were exciting for the event.

'Because we've been running for 45 years, it's quite hard to come up with different routes and things you can do. However, we've had a look and for each of the three legs of competition there's something new.'

'DMack have come on board too and what they're offering drivers under 25 is excellent. It's a great deal and it was a car with DMack tyres that won last year's rally so they're good tyres.'

Interest in this year's event continued to exceed expectations, he added, with social media accounts for the event 'going crazy' with links from across the world.

However, Iain wouldn't be drawn on what surprises are under wraps to help the rally celebrate its 45th birthday.

# Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

## YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST Wednesday's result Helensburgh 0, Under 13s 6. Scoring for Saints were Scot Mossman (2), Cameron Hill, Oran Bryce and two own goals.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Blair Thistle; Under 14s v Drumchapel United; Milngavie v Under 15s; Ardencaple v Under 17s.

# Results from Taynuilt Golf Club

## GOLF

**LADIES:** Captain's Prize (Matchplay qualifier) played 15 April - 1 Grace Petrie 70 (25); 2 Mairead Sim 75 (14); 3 Jill Stewart 75 (22).

**Gents:** Inverform Plate 1st round played 20 April - 1 Richard Bergant 38 pts (13); 2 Mark Grant 38 pts (17); 3 David Howie 38 pts (03).

Match with Craignure GC on Mull played 19 April - Craignure 2, Taynuilt 2. Inter Club Trophy retained by Taynuilt as previous winners.

Follow us on facebook  
 www.facebook.com/obantimes



Malcolm and Tracy Kerr, of M. Kerr roofing and roughcasting, were at Mossfield last Saturday to officially present Oban Camanachd with a new set of strips in the traditional black and red hoops. The couple were thanked by the squad and manager Gussie Campbell before their 5-0 victory over Oban Celtic.

# Cash boost for Dalriada Dolphins

MEMBERS of the Dalriada Dolphins swim team were presented with a cheque for £1,000 from the Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) recently.

The money will be put towards the cost of training instructors for the team, which trains at Mid Argyll Community Pool on a Thursday night.

The club aims to improve swimming technique, build stamina and fitness, develop

competitive swimming and promote water safety.

Iain McIntyre, south production manager for SSC, said: 'The pool here is a real focal point for young people in the area and SSC is happy to be able to continue its support.'

'It's a fitting opportunity for us as we like to encourage young people to embrace swimming as part of a healthy lifestyle that also includes a good diet.'

## SWIMMING

A MACPool spokesman, said: 'We're delighted that the Scottish Salmon Company is able to continue its support for the pool and thank the company for its donation.'

'Dolphins has been running for many years and this donation will help ensure it is around for many more.'

# Champions in waiting keep the champagne on ice

Anything other than a win for the Cellar would be seen as the shock of the season

THE TITLE-winning champagne is now sitting on ice for the Cellar with only one game to go.

And without being disrespectful to their remaining opponents, Outreach, who sit rooted to the foot of the table with a solitary point, anything other than a win for the Cellar would be seen as the shock of the season.

With that in mind, premature celebrations took place last week. Markie Dans 'A' headed into the top-of-the-table clash leading the race by a point themselves and with the luxury of home advantage.

This, however, proved meaningless as the Cellar decimated their line-up with aplomb. The Lancaster 'A' were willing Markies on, having an outside chance of the title themselves, but both sides ended the evening bitterly disappointed.

Lancaster 'A' took care of business at their end by easing to victory in their derby clash against their 'B' team, unaware

## POOL

the scoreline would have little effect on the destination of the championship.

Elsewhere, draw specialists the Claredon remained in seventh spot after yet again picking up a point against Lochnell and the Lochavullin leap-frogged the Gluepot after a comprehensive victory.

## Valiant

The remaining fixture saw a valiant performance from Outreach, which saw them fall just short against Foley's Bar, who remain in eighth place after the win.

Results from April 17: Markie Dans 'A' 2-8 Cellar; Outreach 4-6 Foleys Bar; Lancaster 'B' 3-7 Lancaster 'A'; Claredon 5-5 Lochnell; Lochavullin 8-2 Gluepot.

Fixtures on April 24: Outreach v Cellar; Foleys Bar v Lancaster 'B'; Lancaster 'A' v Claredon; Lochnell v Lochavullin; Markie Dans 'B' v Gluepot.



Zander with Alan McInally  
**Magic moment for young Zander**

## YOUTH FOOTBALL

A YOUNG Lochgilphead footballer was presented with a golden ball after he wowed referees with his goal at the ESL International Tournament.

Zander MacKenzie, who plays with the Red Star under nine team, won the ball for the best magic moment beating 100 other youngsters for the accolade.

The eight-year-old picked up the ball in his own box, ran the length of the park, beat six players and then scored.

The youngster was presented with his ball by Sky Sports football analyst Alan McInally.

# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

## WIN £800

### COMPETITION

**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.

**This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:**

**G Wright, Shuna Terrace, Oban**

**M Cameron, Telford Place, Fort William**

**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 Wykes Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box)  The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Please tape your £1 coin here

Name .....

Address .....

..... Tel No. ....

# Macaulay Cup games take centre stage this weekend

## Artemis Macaulay Cup, 1st round

Ahead of this weekend's Macaulay Cup tie with Aberdeen, **OBAN CAMANACHD** manager Gussie Campbell says his side have unfinished business in the competition.

Having reached the Macaulay Cup final in 2012 where they lost 6-0 to Glenurquhart, Campbell says the class of 2014 would benefit from a second chance at the trophy.

Campbell, buoyed by last weekend's 5-0 Celtic Cup victory over rivals Oban Celtic, said: 'We are a better side than we showed in that final in 2012, so we would love another crack at the Macaulay Cup.'

'We are capable but it is about making sure you play your best on the day.'

'This weekend we will be favourites against Aberdeen and will be expected to win but we have to go out and do it. It won't be an easy tie.'

Campbell described last weekend's victory over Celtic as 'laboured', adding that Celtic frustrated his side with staunch defending for much of the game.

'They defended from deep and hit us on the counter attack really well,' said Campbell, whose side would have been 1-0 down were it not for a missed penalty.

'It took us 41 minutes to score our first goal. The Celtic back four and goalkeeper played really well but it was mostly one-way traffic in the second half.'

Iain 'Gussie' Campbell opened the scoring for Camanachd before 16-year-old Connor Howe and Malcolm Clark grabbed a brace each to complete the scoring.

**FORT WILLIAM** are in fine fettle going into Saturday's Artemis Macaulay Cup clash with Glenurquhart after hammering Strathglass 7-0 away in the RBS MacTavish plate with Arran MacPhee knocking in four goals.

Bryan Simpson and Chris Bamber are likely to make a return to the side but a doubt hangs over Gordy MacKinnon, who was hospitalised after being injured against Strathglass.

It was feared MacKinnon had a broken wrist but x-rays at Raigmore proved negative and his legendary powers of recovery mean he could yet feature.

Co-manager Aid Robertson said: 'There was a lot of heavy swinging from Strathglass in the first 20 minutes and Gordy got caught by one.'

'He had to come off and went straight to hospital. Fortunately

his wrist is not broken but he will be a major doubt against Glenurquhart.'

Gary Innes will again take his place in the forward line for a game in which the Fort are more than capable of causing an upset, especially after running Kingussie so close in the MacTavish.

Robertson said: 'Glenurquhart have had a good start to their league campaign and we are looking forward to it. It will be another marker on how we are measuring up against premier league teams.'

**GLENURQUHART** are through to the semi-finals of the MacTavish Cup thanks to a 2-0 victory against Caberfeidh.

Coach Billy MacLean said: 'It was a tough game as we expected but we got the goals and a good result in the end. We got David Smart playing for the first time this season as he's been injured so it was good to have him back, he played really well.'

The team will be hoping for more success in the first round of the Macaulay Cup on Saturday when they take on Fort William at An Aird, although they will be without Ally MacIntosh and James MacPherson thanks to injuries.

MacLean said: 'This is going to be a difficult game. Fort had a big win at the weekend so they'll be on good form. They're doing really well recently and they seem to be scoring a lot of goals so it's definitely going to be hard.'

**KILMALLIE** put up a brave display in their 5-2 defeat to Lovat in the MacTavish - and it doesn't get any easier for the Caol men this weekend with Newtonmore lying in wait in the Artemis Macaulay Cup first round.

Coach Duncan Kelly will have his defence bolstered by the return of Graham Mitchell and should have a full squad at his disposal for a game which will be another pointer to Kilmallie's progress.

Kelly said: 'We will have played the top two premier league teams in two weeks but these are the kind of games you want to be playing in.'

'We will have to up our game and try to hold them for the first 20 or 25 minutes and take it from there.'

'Newtonmore are a more physical team and we will have to try and match them in that department. We will have to try and keep the ball moving, try to create space and try to pull them all over the park, if that's possible.'

'They humped us 9-1 up at Newtonmore so our defence will

have to be on their toes - but we will have to take the game to them as well.'

**NEWTONMORE** face Kilmallie in the first round of the Macaulay Cup this weekend.

They have only lost one game this season but coach PJ MacIntosh thinks it will be tough at Canal Parks.

He said: 'It's always a hard game there and Kilmallie are playing really well, even when they're losing and they're a tough team to beat, they're very fit. They should probably be a premiership team. It's about time they were back in there but we will do what we can on Saturday.'

Newtonmore added another win to their list last weekend with a 3-0 victory against Beaulieu in the MacTavish Cup quarter-finals. They secured the win despite being without five players due to injuries, none of which are expected to recover by the Kilmallie game.

**LOCHABER** suffered another loss at the weekend when they travelled to Skye to be beat 3-2 in the first round of the MacTavish Plate.

This Saturday they will take on Kingussie for the second time in a fortnight in the first round of the Macaulay Cup. Lochaber will be hoping for a better result at Spean Bridge after a 5-2 defeat when the teams last clashed in the premiership.

Coach Robert Johnstone will be without Martin Johnston who is out on suspension.

**KINGUSSIE** have everything to play for in Saturday's game against Lochaber after going out of the MacTavish Cup quarter-finals.

It was an even game said coach Russel Jones, with Kinlochshiel scoring the winning goal in the last seconds.

He added: 'The teams were evenly matched, there was nothing in it but fair play to Kinloch and good luck to them in the next round.'

Kings are now determined to win at Spean Bridge on Saturday in the first round of the Macaulay Cup.

Jones added: 'It's going to be a very difficult game, I don't doubt that because it always is at Spean Bridge but we don't want to be kicked out of two cups in two weeks so we really need to win.'

The team will be without Lee Brian who is still suspended.

Orion Group Premiership leaders **LOVAT** will look to preserve their 100 per cent record in all competitions by defeating Kinlochshiel at Kiltarity in the Artemis Macaulay Cup first round.

'Shiel ran their hosts close in an entertaining league encounter on April 5 and after beating Kingussie in the MacTavish and are again likely to provide Allan MacRae's men with a stern test.'

MacRae said: 'Kinlochshiel are dangerous up front with the MacRae boys who are always worth the watching. They are a fit team with a great work ethic and you can never slacken off against them.'

'But we will set the team out to play our normal game and play to our strengths.'

Lovat avoided a potential banana skin by easing past Kilmallie 5-2 in MacTavish last weekend with Greg Matheson chipping in with a hat-trick.

Craig Mainland went off with a leg knock but should be fit for Saturday but Calum MacAulay remains doubtful with a hamstring strain he picked up in the 2-0 victory over Newtonmore.

**KINLOCHSHIEL** travel to Kiltarity on a high for their

## SHINTY



Oban Celtic's Andrew MacDonald and Iain 'Gussie' Campbell of Oban Camanachd tussle for the ball during last Saturday's AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup quarter final. The red and blacks ran out 5-0 winners. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

MacPherson gave all of his 15 players a run out last Saturday in an attempt to give them more game time, something that has been lacking in the first two months of the season.

**KYLES ATHLETIC** trainer James Perlich has demanded a better performance from the players ahead of their trip to Argyll rivals Inveraray this weekend - despite watching them score 11 goals at Taynuilt last week.

The premier league team struggled to break down the Lorn side during the first half of last Saturday's AJG Celtic Society Cup match but went on to score 10 second half goals.

But Perlich said the team will need to improve to get past Inveraray and into the next round of the Artemis Macaulay Cup.

'Taynuilt put up a terrific effort in the first half but basically ran out of steam.'

'We did not play well as a team and the difference was that one team plays in the premier league and the other in South Division One, not our own performance.'

'We will need to step up a gear against Inveraray on their home park.'

## South Division One

**OBAN CELTIC** president David Hamilton says this weekend's league opponents Ballachulish will be a 'hard test' but is confident home advantage will see his side prevail.

The South Division One tie is a precursor to the sides' meeting in the Camanachd Cup the following weekend.

Speaking after a 5-0 defeat at the hands of rivals Oban Camanachd, Hamilton said: 'On paper, Ballachulish are a really good team and at the beginning of the season they had high expectations. John MacDonald could still walk into any premier league team and they certainly have experience throughout the side.'

'But I don't know if they have yet reached the expectations set for them and we are strong at home.'

Hamilton praised his team's effort against Oban Camanachd, particularly young defenders Iain MacFarlane and Andrew MacDonald, who deputised well for the injured Daniel Madej.

And Alan Duffy scored a first half penalty with the scoreline at 0-0, things may have been different.

'Against Camanachd we frustrated them for most of the first half, despite losing our main man in defence, Daniel Madej, to injury and we matched them for fitness levels,' Hamilton added.

A strong **BALLACHULISH** side started slowly in their South Division One fixture against Lochside, who took the lead through a fine strike from Brian MacCallum in the fifth minute.

A fairly even first half saw no further scoring but Lochside started the second half better and raced into a three-goal lead through Sean Morgan and Daniel MacKinnon.

Ballachulish woke up just in time and claimed an unlikely 3-3 draw through goals from John MacDonald in the 80th and 90th minutes and Scott Henderson in the 85th minute.

Meanwhile, Ballachulish's young second team made the long trip to play Bute and lost 4-1 to a strong home team. Ali Carmichael scored a hat-trick for Bute and Ben Clark scored one with Ballachulish replying through Thomas Rae.

The young Ballachulish team continues to improve and had good showings from Cameron Sutherland in goal, Ally Banks, Ryan MacIntyre and a returning Alex Whittaker.

Ballachulish's resources will be tested again this weekend with away ties at Oban Celtic and Inveraray in their respective leagues.

**STRACHUR** play host to Kilmory tomorrow in South Division One and both sides will be keen to improve on the draw when they met last month.

The young Colwal side, which sits sixth in the league, has home advantage in the fixture and will hope to leave Saturday's defeat against Kyles Athletic behind them.

Strachur were defeated 5-1 by the Tighnabraich men with Strachur's only goal coming from Ian MacLellan.

**KILMORY** will hope to see their luck change this weekend when they return to league action and take on Strachur.

The Mid Argyll side crashed out of the AJG Celtic Society Cup at the weekend when they suffered a 5-0 defeat at the hands of premier league giants Inveraray.

The Lochgilphead side went two goals down in the first half with 'Ary' scoring three later in the match to secure the win.

The defeat comes after the side was knocked out of the Balliemore Cup with a 5-2 at the hands of North Division One side Inverness.

When Kilmory and Strachur met last month they each walked away with a point.

**LOCHSIDE ROVERS** manager Tony Howlett admits he would have taken a draw before throw-up against Ballachulish but said last weekend's 3-3 draw felt more like a defeat.

Lochside raced to a 3-0 lead through Brian MacCallum, Shaun Morgan and Daniel MacKinnon but Ballachulish, inspired by substitute John MacDonald, replied with three goals of their own in the final 10 minutes - the last on 93 minutes - to level the score.

Howlett said: 'Our centre line just collapsed and we gave



## Fixtures

Saturday 26 April

### Artemis Macaulay Cup

- 1st Round**  
 Aberdeen v Oban Camanachd  
 David Mitchell  
 Fort William v Glenurquhart  
 Graham Cameron  
 Glasgow Mid Argyll v Bute  
 Daniel MacRae  
 Kilmallie v Newtonmore  
 Evan MacRae - 12pm  
 Lochaber v Kingussie  
 Billy Wotherspoon  
 Lovat v Kinlochshiel  
 Deek Cameron  
 Taynuilt v Glenorchy  
 Ted McDonald  
 Inveraray v Kyles Athletic  
 Innes Wood - 3pm

### The RBS MacTavish Plate

- Lochcarron v Inverness  
 John Angus Gillies

### Marine Harvest

#### North Division 1

- Kingussie v Skye  
 John Matheson  
 Newtonmore v Lovat  
 Euan Pearson  
 Strathglass v Beaulieu  
 David Stafford

#### Marine Harvest North Division 2

- Aberdeen Uni v Boleskine  
 Calum Girvan  
 Kinlochshiel v Lochaber  
 Andy MacLean  
 Skye v Fort William  
 Ronnie Campbell

#### Marine Harvest North Division 3

- Kilmallie v Inverness  
 Archie Ritchie - 3pm  
 Caberfeidh v Strathspey  
 Martin MacLean

#### Marine Harvest South Division 1

- Kyles Athletic v Lochside  
 Neil MacDonald - 12pm  
 Oban Celtic v Ballachulish  
 Lachie Wood  
 Strachur v Kilmory  
 Alex MacVicar

#### Marine Harvest South Division 2

- Inveraray v Ballachulish  
 Neil MacDonald - 12pm  
 Bute v Aberdeen  
 John MacGregor  
 Glenorchy v Glasgow MA  
 Ron Kennedy  
 Tayforth v Col Glen  
 Robert Baxter

## Results

Saturday 19 April

### RBS MacTavish Cup

- Quarter Finals**  
 Newtonmore 3 v 0 Beaulieu  
 Glenurquhart 2 - 0 Caberfeidh  
 Kinlochshiel 3 - 2 Kingussie  
 Kilmallie 2 - 5 Lovat

### AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup - Quarter Finals

- Glasgow MA 1 - 0 Glenorchy  
 Kilmory 0 - 5 Inveraray  
 Oban Caman 5 - 0 Oban Celtic  
 Taynuilt 0 - 11 Kyles Athletic

### Marine Harvest North Division 1

- Inverness 2 - 2 Glenurquhart

### Marine Harvest North Division 2

- Fort William 4 - 3 Boleskine  
 Glenarry 2 - 1 Kinlochshiel  
 Lochaber 6 - 2 Skye

### Marine Harvest North Division 3

- Kilmallie 5 - 1 Lewis  
 Strathspey 2 - 1 Lochbroom  
 Caberfeidh 2 - 3 Inverness

### Marine Harvest South Division 1

- Lochside 3 - 3 Ballachulish  
 Strachur 1 - 5 Kyles Athletic

### Marine Harvest South Division 2

- Glasgow MA 2 - 1 Col Glen  
 Bute 4 - 1 Ballachulish  
 Glenorchy 0 - 5 Inveraray

### Balliemore Cup

- Lochcarron 1 - 3 Aberdeen Uni



John MacDonald of Ballachulish clears his lines during the Marine Harvest South Division One match held at Mossfield Stadium, Oban. The game ended in a 3-3 draw. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

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	5
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

Bute docked two points for failing to fulfil a fixture

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
Glenurquhart	5	2	1	2	12	12	5
Kingussie	5	2	1	2	14	16	5
Strathglass	2	2	0	0	10	2	4
Inverness	5	1	2	2	14	16	4
Beaulieu	5	2	0	3	6	16	4
Lovat	4	0	0	4	6	22	0

Marine Harvest South Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kyles Athletic	4	1	2	1	7	5	4
Ballachulish	2	1	1	0	6	3	3
Aberdour	2	1	1	0	4	2	3
Kilmory	2	1	1	0	3	1	3
Lochside Rovers	3	0	2	1	4	6	2
Strachur	3	0	2	1	4	8	2
Oban Celtic	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Taynuilt	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

Marine Harvest North Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glenarry	3	3	0	0	5	2	6
Fort William	3	2	0	1	11	9	4
Boleskine	5	2	0	3	13	17	4
Skye	3	1	0	2	9	7	2
Lochaber	3	1	0	2	8	8	2
Kinlochshiel	3	1	1	1	8	4	1
Aberdeen Uni	2	0	1	1	1	8	1
Lochcarron	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Kinlochshiel docked two points for failing to fulfil a fixture

Marine Harvest South Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Col Glen	7	4	1	2	30	5	9
Tayforth	5	4	1	0	12	2	9
Glasgow MA	6	4	0	2	27	9	8
Inveraray	5	3	2	0	13	2	8
Bute	5	2	0	3	8	15	4
Ballachulish	4	1	0	3	7	14	2
Glenorchy	5						

**Corporate stationery**  
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

**Personal stationery**  
Matching paper & envelopes,  
postcards, address labels

**krisp print**

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery,  
Main Street/Longrow South,  
Campbeltown PA28 6JD  
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk  
www.krispprint.co.uk

## Oban Lorne lose vital game by two points

The Green Machine now face an uphill struggle to gain promotion from Division Two

**RBS West Division 2**  
**Garnock 32**  
**Oban Lorne 30**

A DEVASTATED Oban Lorne saw their league title hopes slip out of their hands within a matter of minutes, as Garnock sealed victory in this top-of-the-table clash with the last action of the match.

A Craig Wright penalty looked to have sealed the points for the Green Machine with five minutes to go but a dubious penalty decision against the visitors allowed Garnock to score a penalty of their own and take the win.

**Contrasting emotions**

The final whistle saw contrasting emotions from both sides. The North Ayrshire side knew they had won the game with a gritty performance and accurate kicking, while Oban Lorne had been the much better team, out-scoring the hosts by five tries to two.

stormed back into the lead with one of the best tries scored this season. Stand off Dave McCabe slotted a superb cross field kick for Craig Wright to catch on the left wing. Wright burst away from the Garnock defence, who had no chance to catch him as he finished off from 40 metres out.

From the kick off Oban failed to build on their lead as they conceded several penalties from the break down.

Deadly Garnock kicker Rory Walker punished the Oban team by firing over two further penalties to give the home side a 16-12 lead 10 minutes before the break. As the hosts preferred to force penalty after penalty Oban Lorne looked to play some great running rugby and were rewarded just before halftime

**RUGBY**

was rewarded for his efforts with a try in the corner to cut back Garnock's lead to just one point at 23-22.

But the boot of Rory Walker came to Garnock's rescue minutes later as he sailed over a brilliant drop goal to again retake the lead.

With 20 minutes to go both sets of supporters were becoming nervous as they game remained so close. A knock-on from the Garnock winger from an Oban clearing kick gifted the Green Machine their fifth try of the day as winger Struan Simpson pounced on the mistake, gained possession and had an easy finish over the line. Oban's fifth try of the day meant they led 27-26 with the conversion again going wide.

The theme of the day continued as Garnock replied shortly

RBS West Division 2 (top three)						
	P	W	D	L	PD	Pts
1 Oban Lorne	21	18	0	3	468	89
2 Garnock	20	19	0	1	462	89
3 Carrick	20	17	0	3	668	85

Oban Lorne had made a good start to the match at a sun-kissed Lochshore Park but on 10 minutes Garnock drew first blood as the home backs spun the ball out to the right hand side of the pitch to surge over the line. Oban hit back from this early blow almost immediately as Corrie Louw shrugged off two onrushing defenders only a couple of metres from the line to dive over and put Oban's first points of the afternoon on the scoreboard. Wright converted to tie the game at 7-7.

Garnock replied with a penalty to regain the lead but Oban were looking the better team and were being undone with a large penalty count against them. Nonetheless, the Green Machine

with the fourth try of the afternoon. Winger Struan Simpson finished off on the left hand side from a fantastic passage of passing from the backline to give his side a 17-16 lead at the break.

Shortly into the second half the hosts stormed into the Oban 22 after another succession of penalties. Oban's poor discipline led to Garnock retaking the lead with a soft try given away by some poor Oban tackling close to the line.

Oban Lorne's never-say-die attitude came through as they again hit back with another try, this time from winger Callum MacLachlan. MacLachlan had been impressing all afternoon with some storming runs through the home defence and

after through the boot of Walker to lead 29-27 before Oban spent a 10-minute period of dominance in the Garnock 22. Oban powered at the line from a five-metre scrum, lineout, and some close forward play but could not force the ball over the line.

Then, minutes later, Callum MacLachlan looked to have sealed the victory with his second try but the referee judged the 17-stone winger was held up over the line.

**Penalty**

Oban refused to let this affect them as they were soon awarded a penalty in the Garnock half that Craig Wright shot straight between the uprights, despite the best effort of the home crowd to put him off.

Luck proved not to be on Oban Lorne's side as Garnock were again awarded a dubious penalty in the Oban half and Walker made them pay again with the last points of the afternoon.

Oban now face an uphill struggle to be promoted from the league and must hope that Carrick drop points in their remaining two league games.

Oban Lorne play the last game of the 2013/14 season at Glencairn on Saturday as they take on fourth placed Cambuslang.

The club is using this fixture as an open day at the club with locals encourage to come along and support the team who have had such a fantastic season. Kick off is 3pm.



A devastated Craig Wright is inconsolable after the narrow defeat at Garnock. Photo: Stephen Lawson

## Scottish Amateur Football League results and fixtures

### FOOTBALL

LAST Saturday's results: Premier Division - Thorn Athletic 1, Oban Saints 2; Division 1A - Tarbert 2, Ferguslie Star 2.

This Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division - Oban Saints v Finnart; Premier Division One - Eaglesham v Dunoon; Rolls Royce East Kilbride v Campbeltown Pupils; Premier Division Two - Dunoon Athletic v Easthall Star; Lochgilhead Red Star v Goldenhill; Division 1A - Tarbert v Millbeg.

Wednesday 30 April: Jimmy Marshall Trophy, quarter final - Jamestown v Oban Saints.

## John has high hopes in Argentina

### MOTOR CYCLING

FRESH from a short break in his home village of Connel and his first top 10 finish of the Moto3 season, John McPhee has high hopes for the next round in Argentina this weekend.

The 19-year-old road racer started the Grand Prix of the Americas earlier this month from 15th position following a minor crash in qualifying but finished the race in ninth.

Following the result he said: 'I'm really happy to get my first top 10 finish of the season and am feeling stronger race by race.' Following the Argentinian Grand Prix this Sunday, John will fly to Spain to race at the Jerez de la Frontera on May 4.

## Saints players star for Scottish Select

### FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints players Donnie Campbell, Myles McAuley, Lewis Cameron and Craig MacEwan starred for the Scottish League Select against Edinburgh and Lothian AFL at Northholm Park, Giffnock last Sunday.

Lewis Cameron set up three of the goals and Craig MacEwan got on the scoresheet as the Scottish League defeated their Edinburgh counterparts 5-1.

## Athletic lose by the odd goal in seven

### FOOTBALL

OBAN Athletic lost 4-3 in their West of Scotland league match away to Antonine last Saturday. Scoring for the Oban side were Scott Maitland, Dean Smith and David MacPhee.

This Saturday Athletic play at home to Minorities Youth Foundation in the quarter finals of the Thomson Trophy.

Follow us on facebook  
www.facebook.com/obantimes

## Lochside's new kids on the block



Lochside Rovers' young stars, from left: Charlie Spreadbury, Daniel MacVicar, Ross MacMillan and Evan MacLellan.

FOUR young recruits to Lochside Rovers this season are making a big impression with management and supporters, as they set out to prove that south shinty is not bereft of future talent.

Daniel MacVicar, Ross MacMillan and Evan MacLellan, who have recently turned 15, and Charlie Spreadbury, who turned 16 in February, have been taking the majority of plaudits this season in a youthful looking Lochside team.

Ross, Daniel and Evan played under-14 shinty last season, while Charlie barely lifted his caman because Oban Camanachd could not field an under-17 side.

**SHINTY**

their interview with *The Oban Times* last Saturday.

'The bigger opponents are more of a test but that doesn't bother us. We are all coping well with it,' said Evan, as his teammates nodded confidently in agreement.

At that moment their attention is taken by the not insignificant frame of Ballachulish full-back David Campbell emerging from the changing rooms.

'Whoa! Look at the size of that guy,' all four exclaim in unison, with just a hint of concern in their voices.

Lochside Rovers manager Tony Howlett said the boys were proof that south shinty had a bright future, adding that he had a squad of 19 players last Saturday, the vast majority of which were under 25 years old.

'These boys have no hesitation at being chucked in at the deep end. Ross, in particular, is a wee warrior and there are now other boys their age who are starting to believe they can do the same,' he said.

'There are boys their age playing in the premier league, so it's not that unusual, but in the four games they have played for us they've hardly put a foot wrong. It's as if they've been playing for years.'

But the impact the boys have made in their first season in senior shinty is causing much excitement at the club.

Ross, a deceptively strong player despite his 5' 5" and seven-stone frame, has already claimed a man of the match award.

When asked how difficult it was to step up from under-14 to senior shinty, the boys were unanimous in their conclusion: everyone is just bigger.

The four Lochside youngsters certainly back up tough talking with mighty displays on the pitch but their confident front was momentarily betrayed during



Struan Simpson scored two tries for the Green Machine against Garnock. Photo: Stephen Lawson

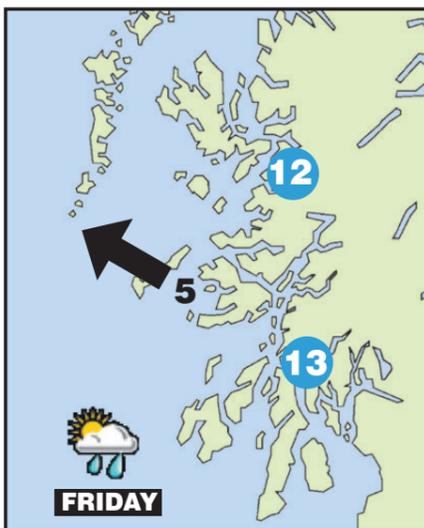
## Weather

**Thursday** Sunshine and showers  
Winds moderate southerly  
Temperatures 6°C to 13°C

**Friday** Sunshine periods  
Winds light east south easterly  
Temperatures 8°C to 13°C.

**Weekend** Sunshine and showers  
**Outlook** Winds light southerly  
Temperatures 9°C to 14°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 24, 2014** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	01.32 3.2 07.36 1.3 14.21 2.9 20.03 1.3	
Fri	02.41 3.4 08.49 1.2 15.19 3.2 21.11 1.0	
Sat	03.34 3.6 09.45 1.0 16.01 3.4 22.06 0.8	
Sun	04.18 3.8 10.32 0.8 16.36 3.6 22.53 0.7	
Mon	04.58 3.9 11.13 0.7 17.10 3.8 23.37 0.6	
Tues	05.35 4.0 11.52 0.6 17.45 3.9 ** ** *	
Wed	00.19 0.6 06.10 4.0 12.30 0.6 18.19 3.9	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-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		

The Oban Times weather is brought to you in association with

**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

# The Oban Times

FORT WILLIAM & LOCHABER EDITION

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

WIN ★ WIN ★ WIN

a six piece cookware set  
With Delimano Cookware **delimano**



PLUS last chance

to nominate someone to go to the Commonwealth Games

Established 1861 No 8196

Thursday 24 April, 2014

www.obantimes.co.uk

80 pence

## High school Gaelic singers search for conductor

KEEN Gaelic singers at Lochaber High School are being silenced as they can't find a conductor for their choir.

The teenagers are enthusiastic about setting up the group and teachers are willing to help but they can't begin until they find someone to lead them. They have now appealed to An Comunn Gàidhealach, organisers of the Royal National Mod, in their bid to find a conductor.

Gaelic singer Joy Dunlop has also joined the search. She said: 'It's great the interest is there and teenagers are enthusiastic about Gaelic singing but they can't find a conductor. Anyone interested in conducting a teenage Gaelic choir can do it, as long as they have the basic skills. They don't need to have conducted before or even speak Gaelic because the school's Gaelic teachers have said they will help with that.'

Lorna McDiarmid, Gaelic teacher at Lochaber High School, said: 'We very much welcome the opportunity to work with An Comunn Gàidhealach in sourcing a conductor for Lochaber High School Gaelic Choir.'

To find out more about conducting the choir contact Ms Dunlop on 07834922667 or info@joydunlop.com.

## B&B shortlisted for national award

A POPULAR bed and breakfast in Lochaber has been shortlisted for a national award.

The Distant Hills Guest House was chosen as one of 25 finalists for the AA's Friendliest Bed and Breakfast Awards. Hotel inspectors nominated the Spean Bridge accommodation out of 2,500 visited.

Distant Hills is known for its service and food, offering pancakes, scones, soda bread, haggis and eggs from their own hens for breakfast.

Owners Peter and Lesley McIntosh were delighted to hear of the nomination. Mrs McIntosh said: 'It has come as a complete surprise and has given us a shot of pride. Whilst we have always been aware of the award it is not something we ever imagined being shortlisted for.'

The winning guest house will be announced at the AA's Bed and Breakfast Awards lunch to be held in London on May 13.



## Youngsters enjoy An Clachan Easter fun

Lochaber children were kept busy during the Easter break with crafts and activities at a local holiday club run by the Lochaber Rural Educational Trust. Around 25 youngsters descended on the trust's base at An Clachan near the Nevis Range ski centre to take part in nature walks, treasure hunts, crafts and baking. At the end of the week volunteers helped the children make their own Easter cards to give to family and friends. 20\_f17club01

## Lochaber meeting hears cabinet minister make impassioned plea for 'yes' vote in referendum

THE REFERENDUM debate in Lochaber stepped up another notch on Tuesday night when Richard Lochhead, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Environment, made an impassioned plea for a 'yes' vote on September 18.

Addressing an audience of around 40 in the Nevis Centre, Mr Lochhead said Scotland could more than pay her way as a successful, independent nation at the heart of Europe.

He argued being independent would be more democratic as for more than half the time since World War Two Scotland had been ruled by a UK government its people had not voted for.

The UK, Mr Lochhead claimed, with the bedroom tax and welfare cuts, was one of the most unequal societies in the world but an independent Scotland would have 'social justice and solidarity'.

'With independence we will



Richard Lochhead: urging 'yes' vote. 20\_f17loch01

always get the governments we vote for,' he said.

'Charities estimate that 100,000 more children in Scotland will be living in poverty by 2020 because of Westminster benefit cuts, but we would be the 14th

wealthiest nation in the world if we were independent.'

Mr Lochhead said after independence the remainder of the UK 'would be our closest ally and friend'.

Both First Minister Alex Salmond and Prime Minister David Cameron were committed to working together in the interests of both countries after the referendum, whatever the result.

'No-one wants border posts or foreign exchanges between neighbouring countries,' he said. 'Nobody wants to throw Scotland out of the EU - we would be welcomed with open arms.'

That view was challenged by Euro sceptics in the audience and Tom Bryan-Brown of the Mallaig and Northwest Fishermen's Association was concerned that Scotland's already beleaguered fishing industry could lose out amid

uncertainty over membership. Mr Lochhead argued the UK had bargained away fishing rights and now received just 1.1 per cent of EU fishing grants while landing seven per cent of the catch.

Scotland, meanwhile, landed 70 per cent of the UK total but only got 40 per cent of the UK's EU money.

'We will negotiate a fair share from Europe and that bigger share will come straight to Scotland,' he said.

Christine Hutchison asked how the crisis in recruiting specialist medical staff to Lochaber would be resolved in an independent Scotland.

Mr Lochhead replied that creeping privatisation on the NHS in England would mean less money for the NHS in Scotland under UK funding arrangements.

See Danny Alexander on independence risk, page 3.

## Passengers' fury over bus time change

Firm breaks vital public transport link between Mallaig and Fort William

HIGHLAND Council and bus operators Stagecoach have come under fire for breaking a vital public transport link between Mallaig and Fort William without consulting local interest groups.

Previously, the early morning train from Mallaig got into Fort William at 7.25am - allowing passengers time to catch the 7.30am Citylink bus to Inverness.

The connection was popular with shoppers and people attending appointments at Raigmore Hospital because it allowed them to return to Mallaig from Inverness by early evening.

Offshore workers making onward journeys also used the service, for which Stagecoach receives a subsidy to operate on Highland Council's behalf.

But after complaints that pupils attending Glenurquhart High in Drumadrochit were late getting to school, council officials signed off a timetable change for the bus to depart Fort William at 7.20am - five minutes before the Mallaig train arrives.

The move incensed Lochaber Transport Forum, which knew nothing of the arrangement until after it was implemented.

Forum chairman Councillor Brian Murphy said even the next bus at 8.15am was under threat because Stagecoach had applied to change the departure time to 8.45am.

If implemented, that could mean west Lochaber residents going to Inverness for the day waiting on the 10.14pm train from Fort William to get back to Mallaig.

Councillor Murphy told *The Oban Times* on Tuesday: 'Stagecoach say they have

By STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

been having problems with this service for a number of years but they never brought it to the attention of the forum, which they attend regularly.

'An official within the council agreed to this change without any consultation whatsoever with local members of the local committee.'

'I am extremely upset about it. Along with other members I have been trying to get this decision reversed, unsuccessfully, so I want to bring the issue to the attention of the public.'

'I am absolutely furious that this decision has been made and I have written to senior officers, the council convenor and the council leader this morning to demand that we get this sorted out. I have also written to the Traffic Commissioner for Scotland to make her aware of the problems this is causing and asking for her assistance in reversing this change.'

He added: 'There has to be a solution which restores these connections while enabling youngsters to get to school in Glenurquhart. As chairman of the Lochaber Transport Forum I want to try to improve public transport in the area, not make it worse - which this situation is doing. They have taken totally the wrong course of action.'

Mallaig man Arthur Cowie, of Lochaber Disability Access Panel, also heavily criticised the move. Speaking in a personal capacity, he said if the bus time was switched to 8.45am, anyone attending Raigmore for an appointment could not be there before 11.30am - leaving no time to catch the 12.45pm return bus

to Fort William. The next bus, the 2.45pm service, arrives in Fort William at 4.27pm - eight minutes after the 4.19pm train to Mallaig leaves. Mr Cowie told *The Oban Times*: 'The problem that we have is the way this has been done - it is shocking. None of the elected members or community councils in Lochaber knew about this in any shape or form.'

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'The council received vigorous representations from parents of pupils travelling from Invermoriston to Glen Urquhart High School to bring forward the time of the Stagecoach service bus from Fort William from 7.30 to 7.20am to ensure pupils arrived in Drumadrochit in time for the start of the school day.'

'There are 13-15 pupils travelling on the service, which is subsidised by the council.'

'The council has a statutory duty to transport these children and it was on this basis the timetable was amended in consultation with Stagecoach. The council has been made aware of misgivings from Lochaber Transport Forum and local councillors about the change.'

'The council is currently and actively looking at a number of options to accommodate both pupils attending Glen Urquhart High School and passengers from the Mallaig rail service.'

A Stagecoach spokesperson said: 'I understand the decision was taken to deliver greater reliability for the pupils who use the service to get to school.'



**Ceol on the Croft**  
Cille Mhoire SKYE

Fri 30th - Sat 31st May @ Whitewave

Friday 30th May: 6.30 - 11pm £25  
The Mischa Macpherson Trio,  
Colm Sands, Daimh and more...

Sat 31st May: 3.00pm - 11pm £35  
Breabach, Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band,  
Donald MacDonald & The Islands  
Shaka and more...

Limited tickets - make sure of yours..!  
Full weekend £50 (u14 special £1 deal)  
Contact:-  
ceolonthecroft@gmail.com  
or phone 01470542414

A great wee festival on the Isle of Skye

## Evidence reveals Lochaber Food Bank feeding the same number of families as city groups

FURTHER evidence that a growing number of Lochaber families are struggling to make ends meet has emerged after Lochaber Food Bank reported that it is feeding the same number of people as similar charities in Inverness.

Manager Alec McConachie told *The Oban Times* that the lifeline organisation has handed out food packages to 143 people since its opening in November and the end of March and is now supplying vital provisions to at least five families a week.

Mr McConachie said: 'It's really getting going now, we're feeding the same amount of people as the banks in Inverness.'

'It shows we're really starting to reach people but then you still hear people saying they don't understand why it's needed.'

'They will be people that have never needed help a day in their life. What we're getting in and

giving out every week shows that it's very much needed.'

With this in mind, food bank managers are finding new ways to reach out to those in need and will now be operating from Kilmallie Free Church in Caol one afternoon a week.

Volunteers are hoping the new service will help those who can't travel into town as well as providing the benefit of increased opening hours.

Mr McConachie said: 'If people are struggling they don't have money for bus fares to get into the town and to the food bank so hopefully this will help.'

'If not we'll look at moving the extra afternoon into Fort William and we'll find a way to get the food to them.'

The extra support adds to the charity's service in Mallaig, where the Fisherman's Mission is

helping to give out provisions in the area. A permanent collection point has also been set up in Fort William's Tesco store - but Mr McConachie said it has been slow to fill so far.

He added: 'Just now people aren't seeing it until they're already at the checkout with their shopping so they don't have anything to put in.'

'People are usually great with handing stuff into us so hopefully once people realise it's there they'll start putting food in the collection point.'

The charity is set to get even busier in the summer months as families who usually benefit from free school meals will need extra provisions for their children during the school holidays.

Mr McConachie said: 'Some people still don't know where to go for help so I'm hoping if I speak to the teachers they will let the parents know.'

'There's so many people struggling and we help as much as we can and give as much as we can.'

**APPLY NOW**  
FOR FULL TIME COURSES

COLLEGE OPEN DAY: all welcome in Fort William, Sat. 26th April 11am - 3pm

01397 874246

University of the Highlands and Islands  
West Highland College

Ollthigh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean  
Colaiste na Gàidhealtachd an Iar

www.whc.uhi.ac.uk  
West Highland College UHI

**NOBLE CONSTRUCTION**  
www.nobleconstr.co.uk

High Quality Steel Framed Buildings  
Bespoke Agricultural, Agricultural & Equestrian Construction  
Ask about our affordable, high-spec Indoor Riding Arenas

General Purpose Buildings from £8,425!  
(60' x 30' x 13' with 12' cladding all round minus doorways!)

- Foundations
- Erection
- Concreting
- Internals supplied
- Precasts supplied

Cattle Building Special from just £11,100!  
100' x 40' x 12' with 4'6" Cantilever

Cubicle/Stock Buildings from £14,475!  
100' x 50' x 14' with 4'6" Cantilever

Dutch Barns from £14,375!  
100' x 60' x 15' in 20' bays

info@nobleconstr.co.uk  
Tel: 01236 793194

Find us on Facebook

Why not try our competitive Foundation and Erection Services

# Kinlochleven gears up for Pre'65 Trial

Anniversary event sees parade through village

KINLOCHLEVEN is gearing up for its biggest spectacle of the year, the Pre'65 Scottish Trial, which rolls into the village next weekend.

The May 2-3 event, organised by the Edinburgh and District Motor Club, will see 181 riders from all over Europe compete for two days on vintage motorcycles - all manufactured before 1965 - over a tough course for the right to be crowned champion in the trial's 30th anniversary year.

To celebrate the special occasion, a parade of the 2014 entrants and their bikes will take place round the streets of Kinlochleven starting at 9.15am on Friday May 2.

Lochaber Schools Pipe Band will open the parade where clerk of the course Willie Robertson will be joined by guest of honour Alex Fender, who is a well-known face at the Scottish Six Days Trial and the Pre'65.

Also joining them at the head of the parade will be the winner of the raffle for the coveted No. 181 plate, Mark Samuel.

Immediately after the parade, the riders will make their way to the start area ready for the 10am start to commence two days of fierce competition.

Edinburgh and District Motor Club secretary Ann Gordon

said the event - the traditional curtain-raiser for the Scottish Six Days Trial in and around Fort William from May 5-10 - was 'set to be the best one yet', especially after last year's trial was severely curtailed by torrential rain.

She said: 'The new committee have worked tirelessly to resolve many of the problems that beset the 2013 event and are looking forward to seeing all their hard work come to fruition.'

'There are a few new sections as well as some old favourites with something for all to enjoy. Many of the sections are accessible by foot and I would urge spectators not to take bikes around the course.'

'One major change is that machine examination will take place on Thursday and new machine examiner Willie Stewart is looking forward to meeting all the competitors.'

She added: 'Thank you to all the villagers for embracing this parade and encouraging us to take the parade route further round the village than originally planned.'

'The enthusiasm within the village for this event is immense and we are grateful to them for the welcome and support we receive every year.'



PC Paul Gallagher, left, and John Bryden prepare to leave Fort William. The charity attempt was cut short by injury. 20.1717jhn01

# Dismay as ankle injury cuts charity walk short

A SERVING policeman has failed in his bid to complete the West Highland Way non-stop in aid of a Lochaber charity.

PC Paul Gallagher had hoped to walk the 97 miles from Fort William to Milngavie for Kirsty's Kids.

Lochalort man John Bryden set up the charity in memory of his daughter Kirsty following her death in 2010 in a car accident.

PC Gallagher, accompanied by a kilt-wearing Mr Bryden, left Fort William at 10am on Friday aiming to reach the finish late on Saturday night.

The duo walked the first 30 miles together with Mr Bryden, himself a former policeman, collecting cash from hikers along the way.

At the King's House at Glencoe the pair met up with fellow members of international police motorcycle club The Blue Knights, who were acting as support team.

PC Gallagher, 45, from Anniestland in Glasgow, tramped on - but a damaged ankle meant

By STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

and decided I wanted to raise money for both Kirsty's Kids and the Police treatment centres at Harrogate in Yorkshire and Castlebrae at Auchterarder.

'I had aimed to walk home and make it in one piece and hoped to finish some time late on Saturday night. I'll be back.'

Mr Bryden and wife Jan have converted their Lochalort home into an accommodation base for Kirsty's Kids, which offers respite breaks to children suffering from short life expectancy and serious life limiting illnesses.

Mr Bryden said: 'For children to break away from their medical procedures and be given the opportunity to come to the Highlands and experience fun and joy is an incredible thing.'

'I do know for a fact that the families who benefit from the fundraising appreciate it so much.'

PC Gallagher, an operational planning officer at Dumbarton, said: 'I came up with the idea of an endurance 'walk home'

# 'No' campaigner claims an independent Scotland would be 'risky and dangerous'

AN INDEPENDENT Scotland is feasible but would be 'risky and dangerous', a leading Highland MP and 'no' campaigner claimed at a Lochaber Chamber of Commerce debate on Friday night.

Danny Alexander, Liberal Democrat member for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey, maintained that increased powers for the Scottish Parliament within the union was the country's safest future.

But when challenged to specify what additional powers were being promised by Better Together and if they would be guaranteed in a document similar to the SNP's 'White Paper', Mr Alexander side-stepped the issue.

He said: 'We did discuss a lot

By EMMA CRICHTON  
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

of extra powers that will be put in the manifestos of all three parties. I would say that you will be able to see from each of the three parties what they are saying and people have to make their choice between them after the referendum.'

Mr Alexander, who is also Chief Secretary to the Treasury, told the audience of around 30 in the Alexandra Hotel that devolution gave Scotland the 'best of both worlds'.

He said: 'It's important that you don't throw the baby out with the bath water and don't throw away benefits of being part of the UK.'

'The SNP are putting forward a change, they're the ones



MP Danny Alexander made the case for a 'no' vote in Fort William. 20.1717alexander01

responsible for justifying the change they want to make. 'People say Better Together is negative but I don't think it's at

all negative if someone has a bad idea to tell them it's a bad idea.' Mr Alexander said he did not know if he would stand

for election to an independent Scottish Parliament following a 'yes' vote. He said: 'I'm not one of the people who argues it's not possible for Scotland to be independent, of course it is, but I think it would be risky and dangerous.'

Mr Alexander insisted a shared currency between Scotland and the remainder of the UK was a non-starter, despite an un-named UK minister saying otherwise.

He said: 'As part of the UK you have shared benefits of using the pound sterling. We've heard from all parties about why this [shared currency] can't happen but I just don't understand why a country that wants to be independent would argue for a currency union. Why would you give up control of your interest

rates and exchange rates to a branch in a different country? It seems to me to be mad, it's like tying your own hands behind your back.'

Marian Austin of Lochaber Chamber of Commerce asked: 'A lot of people up here [Highlands and Islands] feel out of touch with decision making, wouldn't it be in our interest if all of the decisions were being made in Scotland?' Mr Alexander replied: 'I think the Scottish Government is becoming more and more centralised and any chance of them focusing on outside of Edinburgh is a long way away. I wish the Scottish Government would pay more attention to all the things that are happening in the Highlands and Islands.'



Peter Lees and Cheryl MacPherson were coated in treacle, flour and seaweed in a traditional blackening. 20.1717uzee02

# Onlookers stunned at charity wedding stunt

THOSE enjoying the sun in Fort William at the weekend got more than they bargained for when a pair were covered in treacle, flour and seaweed.

Onlookers were stunned when a mock bride and groom took part in a traditional 'blackening' on the High Street to raise money for Lochaber Hope.

The event, organised by Fuze Ceremonies, included a 'wedding parade' with Scott Graham and Cheryl MacPherson posing as bride and groom, accompanied by Lochaber High

School Pipe Band. Peter Lees then took over as groom for the blackening. The fun didn't end there as money was thrown across the parade in a scramble for the kids.

The event company organised the affair as a warm up to its charity event in the Nevis Centre this weekend, featuring a fashion show, dress auction and music.

'Fun, Frocks and Fundraising' starts at noon on Saturday, with proceeds going to Lochaber Hope.

## Police name death crash biker

POLICE have named the motorcyclist who killed in an accident on the A87 at Drumnacloch, near Luib on the Isle of Skye on Sunday.

Alexander Kenneth Brown (33) from the Shawlands area of Glasgow died at the scene despite efforts by medical personnel to save him.

No other vehicle was involved in the incident.

A police spokesperson said: 'A road traffic collision investigation has been carried out and a report has been submitted to the procurator fiscal.'

## Council director to retire

THE DIRECTOR of Highland Council's education, culture and sport service has announced his intention to retire later in the year.

Hugh Fraser, who will be 60 in July, will step down at the end of September after more than 37 years service as a teacher and in education management.

Mr Fraser's retirement comes as his department prepares to merge with health and social care services from 28 April.

Bill Alexander will become director of the new integrated care and learning service and will work with Mr Fraser to achieve a successful transition.

Follow us on facebook  
www.facebook.com/obantimes

# Thousands enjoy Easter snow

MORE than 4,500 people - including 800 skiers and snowboarders - flocked to Nevis Range to enjoy superb weather and snow conditions over the long Easter weekend.

Although snowsports were quieter than expected tourists and locals alike enjoyed the sun from a height at the winter sports and mountain biking centre.

Marketing manager Heather Negus said: 'It was absolutely

stunning up the hill, it was just incredible.

'Loads of people went up on the gondola just to enjoy being on the mountain because the weather was so lovely.'

'We will be delighted that that is a sign of things to come in the summer.'

Glencoe had also hoped more skiers would take advantage of the almost unprecedented amount of snow on the slopes.

Managing director Andy Meldrum reported just 1,500 visitors from Friday to Monday.

He said: 'It was quieter than we expected but it's getting to that time of the year when people pack away their ski stuff and dig out their golf and sailing gear. We're expecting to still be open over the May holiday weekend and we're expecting similar numbers.'

'We've still got more snow than

we've had for decades but it's at the wrong end of the season.'

Mr Meldrum is now looking forward to the annual free ride competition, the Coc Cup, on Saturday.

More than 60 skiers and snowboarders will descend the Glencoe slopes at the event, now in its third year.

The cup is usually held in March but was postponed due to bad weather.



New man at the helm: Nevis Centre manager Kenny McLaughlin is determined to make the Nevis Centre a successful business. 20.1717centre01

## New man at Nevis Centre helm

THE BOARD of Linnhe Leisure Ltd, the charitable company operating the Nevis Centre, has appointed a new manager to run the Fort William sports and events venue.

Kenny McLaughlin, 43, held a managerial position at Mount Stuart on the Isle of Bute before his relocation to Lochaber. He and his wife Kathryn have moved to near Lochaline, where Kathryn has taken up a management position with Ardornish Estate.

Mr McLaughlin's appointment comes after a turbulent year for the venue, which

last year required a financial bail-out from owners Highland Council to stave off possible closure.

Linnhe Leisure chairperson Sheana Fraser said: 'Kenny's appointment is regarded as a positive step in the move to improve services and increase the range of events on offer.'

Mr McLaughlin, originally from Stirling, said: 'I am looking at building closer ties with community groups while trying to bring in some good established acts. Customers are desperate for this place to be a success.'

### NEW LOOK POWER WASH

#### ROUGHCAST STONE CLEANING SPECIALIST

Roughcast cleaning is a process carried out using our own NLP cleaning solution which is not acid based and won't cause any damage. This is lightly sprayed over the roughcast and rinsed off. No water pressure at all involved. This means no stones or shells removed. We can also seal the cleaned area with NLP water barrier clear treatment to protect the roughcast at a low price. Free Quote and Free demo. Nothing to lose

**driveways and stonework**

**SPECIAL OFFER UNTIL THE END OF MONTH**  
Roughcast Cleaning HALF Price  
Average Mid-Terrace House - Roughcast Cleaned From £300 - End Terrace £450. Detached £600 - All cills, gutters, facias and windows included

**CALL NOW FOR A FREE ESTIMATE!**

**Tel: 07596 859092**  
**01631-358027**

**info@newlookpowerwash.co.uk**  
**www.newlookpowerwash.co.uk**

**QUALIFIED STONEMASONS**

Not to be missed by those with interest in food & drink production/distribution and service delivery

## OBAN PHOENIX

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**Monday 28th May**  
**Oban Phoenix Cinema**  
**Launch of Oban Perfect**  
**Networking lunch with Gary Goldie**

Discussion time national recognised inspirational speakers

**11- 3pm**  
**Booking essential**  
**admin@obanphoenix.com**

## Police step in to end traffic chaos

POLICE officers stepped in to end traffic chaos on Good Friday after workers trimming hedges at the roadside were told to 'cut it out'.

KN Network Services caused miles of tailbacks on the A85 outside Oban on Friday, with tailbacks stretching from the Bealach an Rìgh to Poppies Garden Centre as they cut back hedges and grass between Dunbeg and Oban using a tractor-mounted trimmer.

So bad was the congestion that holiday-makers flocking to Oban to take full advantage of the good weather were quick to vent their frustrations to the police, who told the firm, who were under contract from BEAR Scotland, to clear off.

It is understood BEAR Scotland's contract with KN Network Services stipulated work shouldn't be carried out on bank holidays, a request that was ignored by KN.

Oban police's Inspector Julie McLeish said: 'We became aware of significant delays so we contacted BEAR Scotland and spoke with the guys carrying out the work, who packed up and left without objection.'

Andrew Gibson of KN Network Services said: 'Unfortunately, these works were not rescheduled as requested. We apologise to motorists for any inconvenience and have taken steps to ensure the situation does not arise again.'

BEAR Scotland, meanwhile, say they are in discussions with KN to ensure no repeats of the incident throughout the verge trimming programme.



## Sisters' smiles as they step out with Easter Bunny

The MacIntyre sisters from Scammadale met up with the Easter bunny at Balcaldine Community Association's annual Easter fayre in Sutherland's Grove on Saturday. The sisters, from left, Sara, aged nine, Becca, eight, Kirsty, 11, and Emma, four, wore their entries to the Easter bonnet competition. The many visitors to the fayre enjoyed a sunny day out in the forest and took part in an egg hunt, splat the rat and other competitions. 16\_117Easter01

# Pressure grows on NHS over Oban dental hospital delays

PRESSURE is growing on NHS Highland to get Oban's dental hospital up and running after another deadline to agree a contract for its operation passed.

Nearly nine months have gone by since the dental suite at the Lorn and Islands Hospital was completed by the health board, but negotiations with the Argyll Square Dental Practice to run it continue to stall.

Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership (CHP) is due to meet this week, when there will be an update on negotiations, but *The Oban Times* understands the hitch remains the recent reduction in the number of dentists practising at the surgery from three to two.

Oban councillor Elaine Robertson was one of the key figures in campaigning for the new dental hospital and she admits she's saddened by the protracted delays in seeing it open to the public.

She said: 'I'm really disappointed this is taking so long. I know everyone is working on it, but I ask the question at every CHP meeting. 'Until we get everything

signed off, it cannot progress. It is a grave concern and I hope it's a minor point that needs ironed out.'

'It's such a shame because it is a wonderful facility and everything has been catered for. To have the facility there and not used is so sad.'

Disabled patients and those with extra needs are not suffering as a result of the delay, she added, as they are being referred to the specialist consultant already working at the accessible dental hospital.

Oban community councillor and CHP member Duncan Martin described the delay as 'a waste'.

He said: 'It's much better that all the details from both sides - the NHS and the surgery - have been agreed before moving in, rather than taking things on trust and finding they may not be as they should have been later.'

'On the other hand, I don't know what the score is. Clearly we have a facility there that has been open for months with only [consultant] Colin Crawford working in there. For

all the money that has been spent on it, it is a waste if it is not being used.'

'It may be it should be re-advertised for another dentist because I'm sure there may be someone else that has an interest in moving in.'

Speaking yesterday morning (Wednesday), NHS Highland said it expected a contract for the hospital to be signed off 'in the next few weeks'.

Previously, the NHS said agreement would be reached by last October, then by the end of last year and most recently by early this year.

The spokesman for NHS Highland added: 'We can understand the concerns of the local community and we can only apologise for the delay in reaching this point.'

In March, Elizabeth Reilly, NHS Highland's assistant dental director, told the CHP there would be no repeat of the situation that saw patients in Kintyre wait two years for Campbeltown Dental Centre to open its doors.

She said: 'We will not be in that position.'

## Five to stand in town by-election

FIVE candidates have been put forward for election to the vacant Argyll and Bute Council seat in the multi-member ward four, Oban South and the Isles.

Former SNP councillor Fred Hall triggered the by-election by standing down last month as a protest against the SNP Government's stance on the law of corroboration. Mr Hall, who quit the party in May last year, is a notable absentee from the list of candidates, having initially planned to contest the by-election as an independent.

The candidates are: John MacGregor, North Council, Independent; Neil MacIntyre, Oban, Labour; Iain Stewart MacLean, North Council, SNP; David Pollard, Aros, Mull, Liberal Democrats; Andrew Vennard, Oban, Conservative.

The election will be on the same day as the European elections on Thursday, May 22.

## Practice to look at staffing issues

KILLIN Medical Practice says it is 'not unaware' of the problems created by a series of hits to staffing levels there in recent months, including staff departures and a referral to the GMC.

Residents of the Killin and Strathfillan areas have expressed concerns about the time it now takes to get an appointment at the surgery, following a series of incidents

that coincided with the opening of a new pharmacy in the village last year.

Some are waiting more than a week to get an appointment, up from a day's wait or so last year. Not only has one of the practice's doctors left, but Dr David Syme, a partner, has been restricted to working one day a week by the General Medical Council (GMC) following a referral in November.

He is also unable to prescribe opiates, sleeping pills or hypnotics until after a hearing, likely to be heard later in the year.

That leaves the practice with one full-time GP, with locums employed to try and cover the shortfall. The practice's district nurse has also left, limiting or ending some outreach services. While a replacement has been brought in, services will be re-

introduced gradually as she is trained to the same standard.

Dr Syme said the series of incidents has no real relation to the opening of the pharmacy, which resulted in the closure of the surgery's dispensary, but said the surgery was working to try and resolve the problems.

'We are not unaware of the problems and we are taking steps to try and sort things out,' he said.

## Hospice annual general meeting

OBAN Hospice supports at least a third of cancer sufferers in Lorn and the islands, board members have reported.

The two beds were filled by patients with long-term or terminal conditions 95 per cent of the time and the relatives' room was used by 50 families in the last year, volunteers heard at the recent AGM.

Lorn and Islands Hospital's day hospice facility treated between three and eight people each week, to provide families with

respite. Members highlighted that the hospice is in a good financial position and thanked the generosity of locals as well as the work and support of The Friends of Oban Hospice.

The board of Oban Hospice Ltd is looking for a volunteer to fill the secretary vacancy.

**NEWSDESK**  
01397 703003

## History society talk gives insight to seashore project

BIOLOGIST Dr James Merryweather gave Lochaber Natural History Society a fascinating insight into the Highland Seashore Biodiversity Project at their April meeting.

The three-year project, set up by Highland Council, aims to promote recording of marine life, raise public awareness about marine biodiversity and provide training in the identification of seashore life.

The importance of recording in being able to monitor what is going on in our seas was stressed by Dr Merryweather.

Over 60 people attended a seashore day at Traigh, Arisaig, last summer as part of the public outreach programme, where children, in particular, were enthused by the strange and wonderful creatures to be found along the shore.

A number of training days have been held on Skye and at Plockton attended by local recorders, and it is hoped to arrange a recording / training day in Lochaber soon.

Outings have been times to coincide with low spring tides and on the latest outing participants were delighted to find riches such as peacock worms and a flame shell, normally only experienced by divers.

The next big event to be held locally by the project will be a Seashore Arts and Culture Festival to be held at Glenugie on Sunday 18th May, to coincide with

the Wild Lochaber Festival. Dr Merryweather also gave international examples of the need for monitoring sea life.

On the Great Barrier Reef off Australia, over half the coral cover has been lost in the past 27 years through bleaching, storms, pollution and predation by the crown-of-thorns starfish.

Closer to home we could see similar effects on our own biodiversity hotspots, as continued growth in fish farms leads to dead zones around sea cages and spreading pollution.

Apparently the sewage from one medium sized farm produces the same amount of sewage as 50-60,000 people, and as this is deposited straight into the sea it is not difficult envisage the long-term damage that could be done.

Careful monitoring of our local marine biodiversity will at least inform us of what these effects are.

LNHS will hold a field trip to the River Spean at Bunroy on Wednesday, May 21 during the Wild Lochaber Festival.

This is a guided walk to look at woodland birds and flowers and anyone wanting to come along should meet at the car park in Roy Bridge at 10am.

For further information about training under the Highland Seashore Biodiversity Project, co-ordinator Janet Ullman, can be contacted via www.highland-biodiversity.com.



Members of South Islay Development celebrate taking ownership of Port Ellen filling station.

## Islay village given fuel injection after takeover

PORT Ellen's filling station will soon be up and running again as the South Islay Development committee takes full ownership.

Missives have been completed for the group to acquire the mothballed site and SID will be in control of the station from May 1.

An opening date is to be arranged soon

after, said SID local development officer Kirsten Laurie. She added: 'We would like to say a big thank you to the community for all your support and patience working through this process and it is sure to be a challenging and exciting few months as we get our teeth sunk into our very first community run asset.'

'A huge appreciative thank you also to our funders Scottish Land Fund, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and other local loan contributors who have made this purchase possible.'

Residents and visitors to Port Ellen currently have to complete a 20-mile round trip to buy fuel at Bowmore or Bridgend.

## Mid Argyll in shock at pool manager's death

THE MAN credited with bringing new energy and enthusiasm to Lochgilphead's MAC-Pool has died suddenly at the age of 40.

Stuart Owen, MAC-Pool manager, collapsed and died last Saturday at a beach clean in Lochgair where he and his wife Kay had made their home.

Stuart became pool manager two years ago in April 2012.

Sue Hillman, MACPool chairwoman, said: 'Stuart's untimely death leaves a huge gap. He was a pleasure to work with, his energy and commitment was boundless, his personality warm and engaging. His contribution to the pool, its services and performance has been immense.'

'I speak for the board and staff when I say how much he will be missed, not only as a colleague but as a friend.'

'The board and the whole team at the pool send their sincere



Stuart Owen.

condolences to Kay and to his family.'

Stuart set up several new initiatives to enhance the pool's range of services and his business acumen had improved the pool's finances and day to day running costs.

## Isles youth support service is best practice

YOUTH support services in the Western Isles have been used as an example of best practice across Scotland.

There are just two educational psychologists across the islands but their work in providing support for learning has been praised by Scottish ministers during a report to Parliament.

**Prime examples**

Commitment and support to families shown by the professionals were highlighted as prime examples of best practice during a progress report on

implementing the Additional Support for Learning Act.

Councillor Catriona Stewart, chair of Education and Children Services, said: 'It is very pleasing to note that the Annual Parliamentary Report on the ASL Act has recognised the valuable work being done in the Western Isles by our educational psychologists.'

'Their work was recognised by Education Scotland during their recent inspection as being sector leading and contributing to the well-being of our pupils.'

## Navy ships tour west coast

THE UNIVERSITY Royal Naval Unit (URNU) ships *HMS Biter*, *HMS Exploit* and *HMS Express* called in at Dunstaffnage during their Easter deployment.

After all three ships arrived in time for Easter Friday, *HMS Express* left Dunstaffnage on Friday morning to go through the Crinan Canal, while *Exploit* and *Biter* both left on Saturday - *Biter* bound for Port Ellen on Islay and *Exploit* heading for Tobermory.

The ships are not open to the public during their visits to the Argyll but locals will be able to spot them in harbour and the crews always welcome the

chance to chat to people about their experiences in the Senior Service and the continued work of the Royal Navy in protecting the nation's interests around the world.

As well as large off-visited ports like Dublin, Belfast and Holyhead, *HMS Exploit's* 28-day journey has also taken her all around Scotland's west coast, including a recent visit to the Caledonian Canal and navigation training in Loch Etive.

*HMS Biter* deployment is 22 days in total and has already taken her to the likes of Holyhead, Troon and Oban. *HMS Express* has made several west

coast port stop-overs including Oban, Tobermory and Craobh Haven.

Each ship carries a full-time Royal Navy crew of five, which will be joined by up to 12 university students at any one time.

The deployment will allow the students to put into practice what they have learned on shorter deployments and drill nights with their URNU throughout the year.

Skills such as seamanship and navigation will be put to the test throughout, perhaps none more so than on the occasional nights which the ships will spend at sea rather than in port.



HMS Exploit in the locks at Fort Augustus.

## Convicted sex attacker to have appeal heard

A SEX attacker who took pictures of his Oban victim as he abused her will have an appeal into his conviction and sentence heard next month.

Timothy Robson, once of Kilmore, was jailed for four years at Oban Sheriff Court in June 2012 of indecently assaulting a 25-year-old woman when she was asleep.

The jury unanimously found him guilty of plying the woman with drink and drugs before photographing himself sexually assaulting her.

Robson, 52, who had given the girl so much valium and alcohol that she became unconscious, denied the indecent assault charge.

Sheriff Douglas Small imposed an extended sentence, meaning he'd be on licence for three years following his release.

Robson was caught after taking the photographs of the incident into the Oban branch of Tesco to have them put on a CD.

Edinburgh's High Court of Justiciary will hear the appeal on May 1.

### Artist's striking anti-smoking message

A STRIKING painting of cigarette-packet headstones weighed down by a ball and chain is an Argyll artist's latest weapon in the war against smoking.

Gloria Young has been a staunch campaigner against smoking after her late husband, Derek, developed lung cancer as a result of the addiction, sadly passing away in 2004.

The Benderloch painter has raised money for Cancer Research in recent years by selling calendars featuring her works but hopes her latest image - inspired by the current design of cigarette packets - can be used to deter people from inhaling the potentially deadly drug.

Gloria, who is in her mid 80s, was inspired to create the painting after finding a discarded cigarette packet on Tralee Bay. She said: 'My husband was a chain smoker. As soon as he finished one, he was in the pocket to try and find another. He tried to resist, but it is addictive.'

'I found this packet and I was going to put it in the dustbin, but it made me think.'

Asked if the painting was in part her lashing out at cigarettes for taking her husband's life, she said: 'It is. I wanted to shout about it.' Pausing, she added: 'He knew it was affecting him. He tried to quit, but it is a powerful drug.'

'I was speaking to a young girl recently who was no older than 15, maybe 16. She was smoking a cigarette and it struck me so hard. She's going to struggle. Smoking is a dreadful thing.'

While Gloria doesn't necessarily think her painting will help people stop straight away, she hopes it will contribute to a final decision - and has offered it to anti-smoking campaigners to make use of the painting for free to raise further awareness of the dangers of smoking.

She said: 'It doesn't matter how many people tell you or warn you about the dangers, they have to make the decision to quit themselves.'

'I don't think they sell as many packets as they used to, but all they need is for a younger person to want to smoke and they'll be picking up the cigarettes for life.'

'The idea behind the picture is so the person looking at it feels something. My hope is that somehow, somebody somewhere will see this picture and use it to help people. I don't want any money for it, but if anything can be done with it I'd be very grateful.'



Gloria Young's painting, Smoking Killed. The most prominent 'tombstone' is marked DY in tribute to her late husband, Derek. 15\_117gloria1

# Soroba's rubbish heap shame



Surveying the rubbish behind Colonsay Terrace in Oban are, from left: community PC Paul MacMillan, Soroba community garden volunteer Archie McIntyre, councillor Roddy McCuish, community councillor George Berry and community PC Scott MacPhee. 16\_117soroba01

'SOROBA'S shame' is how one community councillor has described a scatter of rubbish in a corner of the Oban housing estate.

Volunteers building a community garden behind Colonsay Terrace in Soroba came across the sea of litter when clearing some bushes and trees from unused ground at the weekend.

The site, below Gillies' Rock and just 50 metres from Colonsay Terrace flats, is covered in discarded bottles and cans of alcohol. The volunteer group even found a mattress, a drinks cabinet and a bus stop sign among the rubbish.

Now the volunteers are calling on Argyll and Bute Council, Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) and police to help.

Volunteer and Oban community councillor George Berry said: 'We cleared a bit of rubbish while we were working on the site but when we moved through to this section I couldn't believe my eyes.'

'We are not clearing all of that because there is broken glass everywhere. It's not just a council issue, it's an environmental issue and because it is beside the railway it is going to give rail passengers a terrible impression of the town.'

'We are trying to create a nice space for people to come and use but this is completely demoralising.'

Mr Berry said he has seen teenagers drinking alcohol in the area but is met with abuse when he tries to move them on.

'This isn't just Soroba kids,' he said. 'They're coming from all over the place but to the Soroba kids I would say, get a grip. For the others that come here from elsewhere to drink alcohol, I have no words. It's just soul destroying.'

Ward councillor Roddy McCuish and two officers from Oban Police visited the site on Monday.

Councillor McCuish described the scene as 'unbelievable' and said he would work with the council, ACHA and the Community Payback scheme to try and get it cleared.

He added: 'We can do something here but I have never seen anything like it.'

Oban Police Inspector Julie McLeish said incidents of underage drinking in Soroba, including at Gillies' Rock, had been less common since February 2013, when Oban's bylaw that prohibits drinking alcohol in public areas was extended to Soroba.

She added: 'There has been a significant decrease in reports of underage and street drinking in recent years and the bylaw extension has contributed to that.'

'There has been a lot of positive police action in that area to address community concern.'

'However, should these issues flare up again the police will attend, armed with the powers the bylaw gives us.'

Residents of Soroba campaigned for six years to have the bylaw extended to the housing scheme in an attempt to rid the streets of drinkers.

## Oban chip shop owners in new war of words over sign

A NEW war over words has broken out between two chip shops in Oban - thanks to a dispute over a sign for one of the town's busy traders.

Lilian Hutchison, of The Oban Fish and Chip Shop, has lashed out after George Street near-neighbour Nories erected a new sign above its door, headed Nories with the sub-header 'Obans [sic] Fish and Chip Shop'.

But Renato Di Ciacca, who owns Nories, is bemused by the complaint,

saying it is clear their premises is called 'Nories'. Lilian maintains the new sign was designed to chip at her business.

'I don't understand why they would do that,' she said. 'My partner, George, went over and spoke to them about it, but all they said was 'do you want us to put an apostrophe in?''

Mrs Hutchison said the situation echoed that of another trader in town, John Ogden, who took legal action against a competitor after he painted his seafood

shack green - the same colour as Mr Ogden's well known Green Shack.

She said: 'I don't want to have to go down the route John Ogden did, but I will if I have to. Tourists come in to town looking for our shop. If they see that, 'Obans Fish and Chip Shop', they'll go there instead. There is plenty of business for everyone and there's no need to resort to dirty tactics.'

Renato said: 'We don't know what we've done wrong. They have threatened us with

legal action and we are taking advice, but I don't think you can copyright Oban.'

'My shop is called Nories and it is in Oban. That's the end of it really.'

It is the second time the George Street rivals have exchanged words over signs. Lilian's business has previously been praised by chef Rick Stein and critic Tam Cowan - but she claimed she'd been battered after Nories put out sandwich boards, with similar reviews attributed to 'Rick' and 'Tam'.



Irene Hannah celebrates her 80th birthday and the end of her 80-mile walking challenge. 16\_117irene01

## Plucky pensioner completes 80-mile walking challenge

A PENSIONER who suffers from a number of medical conditions has completed an 80-mile walking challenge for two charities, despite being admitted to hospital during the trial.

Great-grandmother Irene Hannah, who suffers from neuropathic feet, varicose veins and asthma, among other conditions, intended to walk a total of 80 miles from the beginning of the year until her 80th birthday last Sunday.

She achieved the feat with time to spare and at her birthday party in Glencruitten Golf Club last Saturday she celebrated raising more than £2,000 for the Dementia Resource Centre and North Argyll Carers Centre.

The mother of six's fundraising was for services that became so important when her late husband, Samuel, became terminally ill. He died on January 5, 2012.

Irene, who also has a replacement hip and has postponed a leg operation in order to complete her fundraiser, revealed her progress was interrupted by admission to hospital with a leg injury.

'I would have done it a lot quicker if the weather had been better and I hadn't needed to go into hospital,' said the plucky pensioner.

'I was taken to hospital during one of my walks but that didn't put me off.'

And Irene says she is now considering another sponsored swim, 11 years after she swam 66 lengths of the Atlantis Leisure pool in an hour to raise £1,009 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

'When I get my leg operation and get it sorted I want to do a swim but I'll need to see what the doctor says - and get a few practice swims in first.'

## Midwives retire together after chance meeting in '90s



Joanne Thorpe, left, and Mairi McGregor, who celebrated their retirement from the NHS this month.

THEY came together in incredible circumstances to help deliver a baby on Oban's lifeboat in the 90s, now two of NHS Highland's most popular employees have retired at the same time.

Midwife Joanne Thorpe and nurse co-ordinator Mairi McGregor decided to hang up their uniforms after carving out successful careers in Argyll and Bute's Community Health Partnership (CHP).

But it was a chance meeting in 1997 that tied the pair's careers together, when Mairi miraculously spotted Joanne's waves for help when passing by the newly launched Oban lifeboat, the Mora Edith MacDonald.

Joanne was called to the vessel after a woman went into labour on Mull, with the baby starting to arrive on the journey back to Oban.

Mairi, meanwhile, was driving back to Oban from the Kerrera ferry when she saw Joanne's through the porthole of the boat, frantically waving for

help. Mairi abandoned her car and dashed to board the vessel, where she found the baby was almost born. Together with the couple and with help from the crew, she and Joanne delivered the baby. So grateful were the parents that Mora was included in their newborn daughter's name.

Joanne came to Argyll in the early 1990s, first as a midwife in Oban braving the elements to provide a service in more remote locations.

**Paddled**  
At one point, she even paddled a canoe with the father of a new baby to their island home to carry out a post-natal visit to the new mother and baby.

Joanne then moved to Mid Argyll for a more senior post, where, through strong leadership, she challenged entrenched views and succeeded in developing services where more women could have their babies born locally and receive care and support at home. As a result, Joanne became the

Lead Midwife for Argyll and Bute in 2008. Mairi worked as a midwife with Joanne in Oban in the 90s, latterly working more with women affected by substance misuse and domestic violence. She then took up a role working to improve access to health services for homeless people and in 2009 her role changed to incorporate a co-ordination of services role for Looked After and Accommodated Children, Gypsy Travellers and Homeless people.

Pat Tyrrell, lead nurse for Argyll and Bute CHP, said: 'We would like to give our most heartfelt thanks to both Joanne and Mairi for all of their years of service. Each of them has contributed hugely to the improvement in health services in Argyll and Bute and they will both be very much missed by all of us.'

'We wish them well in the next phases of their lives, knowing that neither of them will be resting on their laurels for too long.'

## Nominate a local hero for games tickets

RACING driver Susie Wolff will join power lifter Jeremy Vickers and Commonwealth Games athlete Susan Partridge in deciding which local hero will receive two tickets to the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow this year.

The Oban Times is asking readers to nominate someone in their local community who deserves to experience the games first hand as part of The Scottish Government's Legacy Ticket scheme.

Nominations are being sent in for unsung heroes making a difference, whether it is a young person involved in sport,

someone helping to make sport happen by volunteering, or someone simply making their community a better place.

As judges on The Oban Times Legacy Ticket panel, Susie, Jeremy and Susan will take time out of their busy schedules to read through a shortlist of nominations sent in by readers.

Susie, originally from Oban, is a development driver for the Williams Formula One Team. Jeremy, from Fort William, will represent Scotland in the British and European Strongest Man under 90kg this year after recently winning

the Scottish final. Susan, from Benderloch, will compete for Scotland in the marathon at Glasgow's Commonwealth Games this summer, having won the Great Scottish Run last October. To nominate someone for this once in a lifetime opportunity, see the form provided on page six of this issue or online at www.obantimes.co.uk/legacy.

All nominations must be received by midnight, Tuesday April 29, 2014.

Nominees must live in Argyll or the West Highlands. Terms and conditions apply.



Susie Wolff.

Jeremy Vickers.

Susan Partridge.

### Driver reported for careless driving on A85

A THREE-vehicle collision on the A85 outside the Halfway House, Dunbeg, has resulted in one of the drivers being reported for careless driving.

The incident, which happened last

Saturday at around 6.15pm, closed the road for 45 minutes. A man who was in the middle car was removed and taken to hospital with a suspected spinal injury but this was ruled out following an examination.

### OBAN STOVE CENTRE

Sales stock now available

COMPLETE IN HOUSE FITTING SERVICE HETAS

Old Crofters Yard, Soroba Rd, Oban, Argyll, PA344HU  
Tel: 01631564790 Fax: 01631562919  
info@obanstovecentre.co.uk

## A82 overnight closures



Overnight closures of the A82 at Pulpit Rock, south of Ardlui will begin on **Saturday 10 May**, for up to 14 nights.

**The road will close at 2200hrs and re-open each day at 0600hrs. The A82 will remain open either side of the closure.**

Diversion routes between these hours will be northbound via the A83 at Tarbet, A819 and A85, and southbound via the A85 at Tyndrum, A819 and A83.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

This is to allow essential work to be carried out safely on the A82 Pulpit Rock improvement project.

For further information please visit:

[www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/projects/A82-Improvements/A82-Pulpit-Rock](http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/projects/A82-Improvements/A82-Pulpit-Rock)



**Corporate stationery**  
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

**Personal stationery**  
Matching paper & envelopes,  
postcards, address labels

**krisp print**

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery,  
Main Street/Longrow South,  
Campbeltown PA28 6JD  
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk  
www.krispprint.co.uk

## Fort boss confident his team can get off the bottom of the table

'If we can tighten up at the back a wee bit and stop giving silly goals away I think we can get some points'

FORT WILLIAM have five games left to find the streak of form they need to escape bottom spot in the Highland League - but have a real opportunity to cut the deficit on teams above them against struggling Huntly at Claggan on Saturday.

The Fort could be without Michael Ellis, who had to come off five minutes into the second half against Cove last weekend after taking a sore one on the back.

The striker was a stand-out until his return in the 6-2 defeat - but even without his services caretaker manager Calum MacLean remains convinced his team can still mount a late season charge.

He told The Oban Times: 'Michael really is in quite a lot of pain and might be doubtful for Saturday.'

'Huntly are not doing that great at the moment and it's a home game for us so we should be looking to take some points

from it. Nobody likes to come to Claggan and if we have a decent squad we will have a right go at them.'

He added: 'We still have a chance of getting off the bottom of the league and there are games there to be won. We are just five points adrift and I think that is doable. It's just a matter of getting that first win - after that, who knows?'

**Silly goals**  
'If we can tighten up at the back a wee bit and stop giving silly goals away I think we can get some points - and looking at the games we have left we are capable of doing that.'

Against Cove, not for the first time Fort were slipshod at the back and gifted the visitors goals at critical points in the game - much to MacLean's frustration.

Hope flickered when MacKay pulled a goal back after Clark, Lennox and Scully had netted easily for Cove.

Scully made it 4-1 on 71 min-

### FOOTBALL

utes but Cooper's 79th minute strike for 4-2 cut the deficit once more. Selfridge ended any chance of a late rally and Scully completed his hat-trick in added time.

Maclean said: 'I don't think it was a fair reflection of the game and the score flattered them a bit. Most of their goals came from our mistakes and they did not have to work hard for any of them, except one.'

'I did not think we played well for the first half hour but at 2-0 at half time I still thought we had a chance of getting back into the game.'

'I gave the boys a bit of a bollocking at the break and although we lost four goals I thought we played better in the second half.'

Fort William were due to play runaway Highland League leaders Brora Rangers at Claggan last night.



Barna Tot clears his lines from Cove dangerman Connor Scully. 20. 171for01

### More teams wanted for Welfare League

#### FOOTBALL

AN APPEAL is being made for more teams to register for the summer Lochaber Welfare League.

Last summer just six sides, Fort William outfits Lundavra, Claggan, Coal Cosmos and Lochaber, together with Mallaig and Ballachulish competed in league and cup competitions.

Now organiser Ronnie Wegner is keen to reverse the decline in amateur football locally and is inviting anyone wishing to enter a team or find out more to attend a meeting in the Railway Club in Inverloch tonight (Thursday) at 8pm.

Mr Wegner told The Oban Times: 'We can take as many teams as possible. Anyone interested or needing more information can send a representative to the meeting and we will tell them what's required.'

'Hopefully we can eight team which would be great because it's a long season. A lot of teams have plenty of players at the beginning but then it just dies away.'

### April medal at Fort William Golf Club

#### GOLF

FORT WILLIAM Golf Club played its April medal on Saturday and the senior April medal on Sunday.

Returns: Saturday, Section 1 - 1 Duncan Rodger 74 (4) 70 bh; 2 Neil Feggans 82 (12) 70; 3 David Matheson 78 (5) 73. Section 2 - 1 Sinclair Gunn 90 (19) 71; 2 David MacDonald 88 (15) 73; 3 Martin Duncan 92 (15) 77.

Sunday - 1 Patrick Cassidy 80 (14) 66; 2 David Martin 87 (18) 69; 3 Robert McCover 84 (14) 70.

The ladies played a Medal and Eclectic on Tuesday, April 15 and the first round of the E Howie Trophy on Saturday.

Returns: Tuesday - 1 Hazel Cameron 94 (18) 76 bh; 2 Iona Cameron 92 (16) 76; 3 Kim Topping 92 (15) 77.

Saturday - 1 Rosemary Macintyre 83 (11) 72; 2 Kim Topping 91 (15) 76; 3 Hazel Cameron 98 (18) 80.

### Neil Kerr singles

#### DARTS

THE ANNUAL Neil Kerr singles in the Railway Club on Friday saw a total of 41 entries with James Whyte beating Martin Keenan 4-1 in the final.

James defeated David Lav and Martin got the better of Alex MacInnes in the semi finals to go through.

It's back to the Railway Club tomorrow for the annual Dewar's doubles competition.

### Skye Cup

#### GOLF

ISLE of Skye Golf Club held the first round of the Skye Cup on Saturday and Sunday.

Returns: 1 Kyle Pirie 81(23) net 58; 2 Alasdair Grant 74 (9) 65 bh; 3 Stewart Johnston 76 (11) 65; 4 Martin Bird 79 (13) 66.

## Phoenix big hitters gear up for top show at the Nevis Centre

### BOXING

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club holds what promises to be their biggest show yet at the Nevis Centre in Fort William on Saturday, May 3 when 12 of its boxers are scheduled to appear against opponents from all parts of Britain.

The club boasts an impressive pedigree in the amateur fight game with three Scottish open, two Scottish intermediate and five Scottish novice champions in its stable.

The club's young boxers may be among the country's elite but the show will be opened by 12 year-old Leon Smith, who will have his maiden bout against Merik Wolecki from the St.Francis club in Dundee - who is also making his debut.

Twelve year old sensation Cameron Whyte from Spean Bridge, who in just two years has already annexed the Scottish novice and intermediate titles and is a two time Scottish open champion, will face Luke Scott-Brown from the Horseshoe Club in Swindon as there are very few boxers in Scotland to match his credentials.

Caol lad Dan Nixon, also aged 12, hopes to show his progress when he faces James McCool from Kinlochthorpe in Aberdeen.

Another twelve year-old, Kein Johnstone, boxes a rematch of the

North of Scotland final against Keiron Swanson of Highland Boxing Academy, who earned a controversial split decision the last time the pair met.

Kein won the Scottish novice title last year and is currently rated second in the country so the bout should be a cracker.

The final 12 year-old of the local club's quartet, Robert MacDonald, is the Scottish intermediate champion and will look for revenge against the unbeaten Jimmy Laing of Insh ABC, the North of Scotland champion who defeated Robert earlier in the season.

Fourteen year-old Robbie Hall, meanwhile, who won silver in the Scottish open championships and has become a vicious puncher, will square up against Jordan Williams of the Horseshoe Club.

Tickets for the show are available from the venue or Niall Clark (07554994744) or Steve Docherty (07767069532).

Details of bouts involving Lochaber Phoenix's older boxers will be in next week's Oban Times.

**Kein Johnstone: won Scottish novice title and is looking for revenge against Keiron Swanson. 20. 171box01**



## Railway Bowling Club green opens



Fort William Railway Bowling Club opened their green for the new season in brilliant sunshine on Sunday when Anne Bell, wife of president Jim Bell, threw the first jack.

## Weather

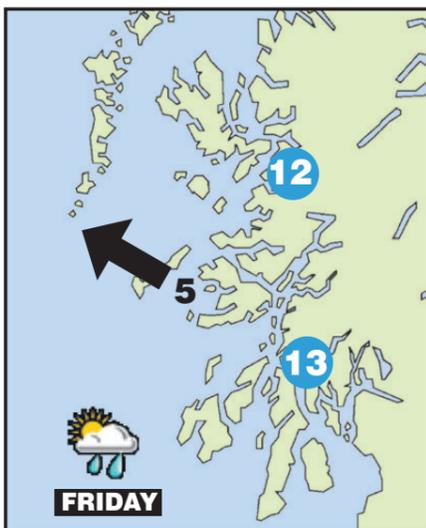
**Thursday** Sunshine and showers  
Winds moderate southerly  
Temperatures 6°C to 13°C

**Friday** Sunshine periods  
Winds light east south easterly  
Temperatures 8°C to 13°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Sunshine and showers  
Winds light southerly  
Temperatures 9°C to 14°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 24, 2014** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	01.32 3.2 07.36 1.3 14.21 2.9 20.03 1.3	
Fri	02.41 3.4 08.49 1.2 15.19 3.2 21.11 1.0	
Sat	03.34 3.6 09.45 1.0 16.01 3.4 22.06 0.8	
Sun	04.18 3.8 10.32 0.8 16.36 3.6 22.53 0.7	
Mon	04.58 3.9 11.13 0.7 17.10 3.8 23.37 0.6	
Tues	05.35 4.0 11.52 0.6 17.45 3.9 ** ** **	
Wed	00.19 0.6 06.10 4.0 12.30 0.6 18.19 3.9	

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		

The Oban Times weather is brought to you in association with

**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