

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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# festivals in the west

16 PAGE FESTIVALS SUPPLEMENT INSIDE THIS WEEK

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# From a tin hut in Dalmally, charity helps 1M children

**LOUISE GLEN**  
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A DALMALLY charity is set to record a remarkable milestone when it feeds one million of the world's poorest children, it has been revealed this week.

Mary's Meals, founded from a tin hut in Dalmally, says it is now feeding almost one in every five children who are said to live in poverty throughout the world.

At ceremony on Tuesday evening in New York city there was the highest praise for Mary's Meals founder, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, a father-of-seven from Dalmally, who has been nominated for a prestigious award.

Magnus was named alongside 100 other world luminaries at the Time magazine's 100 world's most influential people list. Included in this impressive catalogue are Israel's president Benjamin Netanyahu, Soviet premier Vladimir Putin, writer Haruki Murakami and musician Kanye West.

Magnus was named as a world leading 'pioneer' for his charity work. The work of Mary's Meals will be celebrated at a ceremony in New York attended by US President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama.

Former UK prime minister Gordon Brown, who works as a United Nations special envoy for global education, nominated

Magnus for the accolade. He told the *Oban Times*: 'Scotland boasts great missionary heroes, including David Livingstone and Eric Liddell of Chariots of Fire fame. Now Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow is following in their footsteps.'

'His organisation, Mary's Meals, will soon be feeding one million schoolchildren across 12 countries every day. His work began in Bosnia, but a visit to Malawi, where a child told him his dream was having enough to eat, cemented his mission: to get thousands of girls and boys to come to school by providing a meal.'

'The impact has been breathtaking. Attendance figures have

risen, by as much as 50 per cent in some areas. And Magnus is right behind the #UpForSchool petition to get 58 million out-of-school children aged between six to 11 into education.

'This quiet-spoken father of seven won't rest while there are children to feed and to educate and to give them a chance in life.'

Magnus' mother, Mary Ann MacFarlane-Barrow, said she was very proud of her son. She said: 'When Magnus is given these awards, he doesn't think of them as something for him. They are for all the people who have believed that we can rid the world of starving children.'

'The wonderful thing, the thing that takes priority, is that in a month or so it is very likely that we will be feeding one million children every single day. If we can do that from a project that started from a tin hut in Dalmally, working together we can feed every single starving child in the world.'

Glenorchy and Innishail community councillor Ian Craig, who lives in Lochawe, said: 'If you think about it for a moment, it is astonishing that from a project started in a tin hut in Dalmally he feeds more than a million children throughout the world.'

'But not only does he do that, but he and his family at Craig Lodge have employed lots of local people. Like many people in the area we are proud of what he has done, but especially proud that he is from Dalmally.'

Later this year, Magnus will be launching his first book and a film following the stories of those children educated in a Mary's Meals school in each of the 12 countries it works in.

## It's high Times for Les and Issy



OUTDOOR enthusiasts Les and Issy Silkowski (pictured above) hit the heights when they embarked on their latest adventure.

The North Shian couple, who are keen climbers and hillwalkers, travelled all the way to the Himalayas to take on the strenuous Annapurna Circuit in Nepal.

During the 16-day trek, they successfully reached the high point of the trip at 5,416m when they crossed the Thorong-La pass on the edge of the Tibetan Plateau.

Issy said: 'We have been to the Alps before, but this was our first time in Nepal. We were really lucky with the weather.'

'There were 15 of us altogether on the trek which we were told was about the average number. The food was surprisingly varied which was great as Les and I thought we would be living on rice.'

Now Les, 57, a retired police officer, and Issy, 54, who is a part-time receptionist at the Port Appin surgery, are back home but have no plans for a return trip to the top of the world.

## TIMESLINE

### A leap of faith for party candidates

AN ELECTION hustings with a religious flavour will take place tonight (Thursday, April 23) in Oban's parish church.

Some of the town's churches have come together to organise the debate with Argyll and Bute candidates Alastair Redman, Conservatives; Mary Galbraith, Labour; Alan Reid, Liberal Democrats; and Brendan O'Hara, SNP agreeing to take part.

The hustings start at 7.30pm and everyone is welcome.

### A nice little earner for new portfolios

TOP portfolios in Argyll and Bute council will be filled as councillors meet today to ratify who among them will be in charge of tourism and adult care.

The briefs attract an extra payment of £8,000 – boosting salaries to £24,000. Vivian Dance stood down from tourism, while Dougie Philand retired for health reasons.

### Powerful gesture for the Red Cross

THE BRITISH Red Cross will help people on the west coast during any power cuts after Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution (SSEPD) announced a £400,000 donation to the organisation.

SSEPD boss, Stuart Hogarth, said: 'We have a responsibility to make people safe.'

### Box office increase for town's cinema

OBAN Phoenix Cinema said it had almost 30,000 visitors in its last tally of numbers at its year end.

The numbers, while provisional, show an upturn in the number of cinemagoers in the town.



THEIR HERO: Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow from Dalmally with some of the children Mary's Meals helps to feed around the world

## Another setback for Billy as court postpones appeal

CONNEL seaman Billy Irving received yet another blow in his bid to be reunited with his partner and baby son after an Indian court adjourned his appeal hearing.

Billy, originally from Campbelltown, and five other ex-servicemen have been detained in Chennai, India for almost two years despite being cleared of illegal arms charges after their boat strayed into Indian waters. Indian police still hold the men's passports.

Billy's partner, Yvonne MacHugh, also from Connel, said:



'Still nothing to report, as court was adjourned again. It's a huge disappointment as courts close for May and June. We could be looking at July at the very earliest.'

The couple (pictured above) became parents in February, when William Archie was born.

## Build your skills at Business Gateway workshops in Oban

Business Gateway are running workshops that cover the basics of self employment. These workshops are aimed at individuals looking to set up their business in the next few months.

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01546 604555  
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## Ladies who lunch take to the pub

**LOUISE GLEN**  
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FANCY a pint of ale with a bit of crocheting? Or a G&T and a little bit of card making?

Well, the Scottish Woman's Institute (SWI) has a plan to bring in new members to its meetings.

As part of its drive towards attracting a new generation, the SWI is holding its first new-style pilot meeting next week – in a pub on Mull.

The pub meeting is the first in a new format of gatherings being introduced to help the organisation suit the lifestyles of prospective new members.

Flexible meetings at different times of the day and in different venues are being trialled to help the SWI become more 'accessible and relevant to women who work, have families and busy lifestyles'.

SWI branches will be encouraged to take up themes and activities that reflect the interests and lifestyles of their communities, alongside the traditional syllabus which provides training in home skills, family welfare, citizenship and friendship.

There will be less formal minute-taking or members being required to take on formal roles, and new institutes may

choose to communicate by blogs and social media instead.

The first Scottish pilot takes place at the Bellachroy hotel in Dervaig on Monday, April 27 at 8pm and a warm welcome is being extended to women of all ages who are interested in finding out more, says Sheelagh Still, of the Mull and Tiree Federation.

Sheelagh, who lives in Dervaig, said: 'Our SWRI in Dervaig closed last year due to lack of members, but I did some research locally and was surprised by the response I got and realised we could become part of the pilot project.'

'The pilot was to be concentrated on cities but we are now included and raring to go.'

'We're looking forward to being the first area of Scotland testing out this new approach, which we hope will help us broaden our appeal and generate new interest in the SWI.'

'This group will evolve depending on the interests of its members.'

Earlier this year, the institute dropped 'rural' from its name, and unveiled a new logo and motto, 'Women Together'.

With a membership drawn from Shetland to Wigtown, the SWI remains one of the largest women's organisations in Scotland.

Plumbing Trade Supplies, Oban is now trading as

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## Marine firms on shortlist

A NUMBER of businesses in the West Highlands and islands have been shortlisted for the 2015 Crown Estate's Scottish Marine Aquaculture Awards.

Representatives from the Scottish Salmon Company, Scottish Sea Farms, Marine Harvest and Gigha Halibut have been named in the running for farm manager of the year and outstanding contribution to the industry awards.

Dawnfresh Seafoods, which has fish farms in Loch Etive, Braevallich and Loch Earn, and Marine Harvest in Fort William are amongst the nominees for the product of the year award.

Other categories include: community initiative award, business development award, stewardship award and innovation award.

The winners will be announced at a ceremony in Edinburgh on Thursday June 11.

## Car park cash increase bid

RAISING half-a-million pounds from parking charges in Oban is not enough for Argyll and Bute council as it is looking for an extra £100,000 from drivers.

Overall, the council has raised £732,707 from April 2014- January 2015 from parking charges in the town. But Oban councillor Roddy McCuish told a meeting of Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee that more of the parking money should be used in the town.

He said: 'Perhaps it is time areas willing to have parking metres get the bulk of the benefit from them.'

## Pagers up and running again

FINGERS are crossed that emergency pagers on the island of Luing have finally been fixed.

Fiona Cruickshanks, chairwoman of the Luing First Responders group, had reported problems with the system, which is run by Vodafone, for four months when she spoke to the *Oban Times* last month. Fiona said: 'We are up and running again with pagers. Vodafone sent me an email to say the site is now working.'

## Iona slipway project praise

A £1.2 MILLION project to bring Iona's ferry slipway up to standard was praised by councillors at a meeting of Argyll and Bute council.

Work on the council-owned slip was due to be completed before the influx of summer visitors.

A council report said: 'In order to fund these works there is a requirement to use all available marine budgets both capital and revenue.'

# Argyll welcomes former soldier on epic four-year charity walk

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HOMELESS and suffering with depression and post traumatic stress disorder, former soldier Richard Long, from Gloucester, woke up one day and decided to start walking.

After making it to Penzance, the most southern part of the British mainland, he decided to carry on clockwise around the coast, visiting as many war memorials as he could on the way, to raise money for armed forces charities Help For Heroes and Combat Stress.

Now, a year and 5,000 miles later, Richard has made it to Argyll, as he embarks on his trek up the west coast and the Western Isles.

'It sounds a bit like the film *Forest Gump*, that I woke up one day and just started walking,' said 47-year-old Richard.

'The day I left was May 25, 2014, and although I didn't realise it at the time, that was exactly 30 years since I joined the army.'

After arriving in Argyll and Bute, Richard had a chance meeting with fellow coastal walker Adam Short, who is travelling anti-clockwise around Britain. The pair crossed paths in Campbeltown.

Richard spent more time in Oban than he had originally planned, using it as a gateway to the isles, including Mull, Iona, Coll and Tiree, along with a short stay in Oban's Lorn and Islands hospital.

'I was in hospital for four days to get a cyst removed,' explained



WELL LOOKED AFTER: Oyster Inn manageress Barbara Cowan wished Richard on his way after a bed for the night and a hearty breakfast. 16\_117richard01

Richard. 'The staff were amazing and it was actually a nice rest, apart from the pain.'

Plodding on from Oban, Richard was put up for the night at The Oyster Inn in Connel, where the *Oban Times* caught up with him on April 16.

Manageress Barbara Cowan explained: 'We were contacted and asked if we had a room for the night, or somewhere for Richard to camp, and we immediately said he could stay here and have a meal and a breakfast free of charge. We

were happy to help, especially considering Richard had spent the night before in a cave.'

Richard set off for Taynuilt on the morning of April 16, and then on to Appin by the end of the week, allowing him to get to the ferry to visit one of the

remaining islands on his to-do list, Lismore. The walk will finish in 2018, as Richard wants his four-year trek to coincide with the centenary of the First World War. To follow his progress and donate visit [www.bmycharity.com/RichardLong](http://www.bmycharity.com/RichardLong)

## Pensioner in call for Ganavan car park charges to be axed

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A CHARGING scheme for car parking at Ganavan Sands in Oban has been challenged by a dog walker who says the 'town had no right to sell off the land in the first place' and should certainly not be charging to park on land that was originally gifted to the people of the town.

Pensioner Doreen MacLeod, who lives in Soroba, demanded that Argyll and Bute council, through the town's area committee, remove the parking charges - and at the same time launch an enquiry into why the land around the area was sold to a property developer in the first place.

Mrs MacLeod said: 'What is the reasoning behind charging for car parking at Ganavan? It is a recreational spot for people in the town.'

'I understand that the town needs more revenue after it has given away the income from parking at Rockfield.'

'Think of the families with one, two or even three kids who might have never had their feet on the sand - it is wrong.'

'I walk my dogs from Ganavan to Dunbeg and back 365 days-a-year. My husband, when he was alive, would walk down here regularly and always saw it as belonging to the people of the town.'

'I would question the sensibility of charging for parking at a spot as beautiful as Ganavan.'

'I went to Lochgilphead recently and I found a nice little car park.'

'I parked and asked a passer-by "where do I pay for parking?"; He said: "We don't pay for parking in Lochgilphead".'

'So why should we have to pay not only in Oban but at Ganavan as well?'

'I was told by a traffic warden that if I had been two minutes later I would have been fined for parking there.'

'The whole situation seems very unfair.'

Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'We have taken on board your concerns and we are adding it to our list of items to be discussed at our business day next month.'

Callum MacLeod, of Piazza restaurant, who was also at the meeting, added: 'There are a lot of recreational vans parking down there.'

'If anyone should be charged the appropriate rental for using the area, it should be them.'

## TIMESLINE

### Fewer passengers on sleeper service

PASSENGER numbers on the Caledonian Sleeper between London and the Highlands have plunged by nearly a quarter in the last three years.

Competition from rival operators and cut price air fares have been cited as factors in the downturn.

Figures just released reveal that new franchise holder Serco has taken over the sleeper service amid a steady decline in passengers, from a peak of nearly 274,000 in 2010/11 to less than 210,000 by 2013/14.

### Broadband boost as speeds increase

THE NEXT phase of high-speed fibre broadband being rolled out across the Highlands and islands will see Strontian, Invergarry and Kinlochleven among those areas which will benefit.

In Argyll, some 'infill' will take place in parts of Campbeltown, where there are gaps in fibre broadband.

The announcement is the next phase in the £410 million Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband programme.

### Animal charity in fundraising push

AN ARGYLL animal charity is hoping pets without a home will be at the forefront of people's minds when they visit Oban's Pets at Home store.

Argyll Animal Aid is holding two fundraising events on successive Saturdays (April 25 and May 2) with a tombola and, weather permitting, an outdoor stall selling books and bric-a-brac, from 10.30am to 4pm.

### Council issues one fine for dog mess

ONLY one dog owner has been fined for failing to 'pick up' in Argyll and Bute.

In Oban, there were no fines but five people had complained about dog fouling.

Argyll and Bute council has received 66 complaints since the start of the year about canine mess throughout the entire region.

### All roads lead to Appin for lunch

PEOPLE in Appin and beyond are invited to a lunch in Appin Village Hall today (Thursday) to raise funds for Christian Aid.

As well as tasty food, there will be cake, plant, book, bric-a-brac and Traidcraft stalls and competitions between 12 noon and 2pm.



NO CHARGING: Doreen MacLeod regularly parks at Ganavan. 16\_117ganavan1

## Industry leads tributes to Campbeltown's Moira

THE TRAGIC death of a Campbeltown woman in London last week sent shock waves around the international culture and arts industry.

Moira Gemmill, 55, was killed on April 9 while cycling to work in the city after a collision with a tipper truck. She was one of the foremost British design directors and had recently taken up a post with Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II.

Colleagues at the Victoria and Albert Museum told the *Oban Times* they 'cannot overstate Moira's remarkable contribution in making the V&A the global leader in museum design'.

Martin Roth, director of the V&A, said: 'We are devastated to hear of the tragic death of our much-loved and respected colleague of many years, Moira Gemmill.'

'During her 13-year career at the V&A as the director of design before leaving for the Royal Collection Trust in



REMARKABLE CONTRIBUTION: Campbeltown woman Moira Gemmill. Photograph courtesy the Guardian

January this year, she made an extraordinary impact in transforming the museum's galleries and facilities with the FuturePlan programme of restoration, refurbishment and redesign.

'Major projects included the Medieval and Renaissance Galleries and most recently

the Weston Cast Court. I cannot overstate Moira's remarkable contribution in making the V&A the global leader in museum design.'

'She will be greatly missed and our thoughts are with her family at this very sad time.'

*Obituary page 23.*

## Mull patients' transport secured

PATIENT transport in the Ross of Mull has had its future secured after NHS Highland agreed to fund taking passengers to and from Mull and Iona community hospital at Craignure.

The news, delivered by councillor Mary-Jean Dev-

on at the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee, is seen as a 'sustainable way to deliver the transport to the hospital that is required - but allow the local community to have use of the mini-bus'. Speaking after Ross of Mull and Iona community trans-

port scheme was granted £565 from the area committee's community funds, councillor Devon said: 'The NHS is going through a review at the moment and have contracted a bus and taxi on the island. This money is just a plug-in at the moment.'

## MULLlines



ON THE RUN: Bunessan Easter races were held on a bright sunny day

## Off and running in Bunessan

BUNESSAN'S Easter races are designed to both start and finish at the community fire station in the heart of the village.

The main race is of two loops: a smaller one of 1.8 miles and a larger one of just more than 5.1 miles. The Loopy Race is run over the larger loop and the children's race is over the smaller loop.

On April 5, a glorious sunny Easter Sunday, the adult races both set off at 12.30 pm over the two courses, with the children's race and the pram race setting off 15 minutes later.

The races were contested keenly and the large group of spectators and supporters did their best to cheer on the leading runners and help motivate the others.

First home in the main run this year was Cameron Whyte of Salen, Mull, in 42 minutes 13 seconds. The first lady home in the main race, and second overall, was Emma Lamont in 44 minutes 25 seconds. The winner of the veteran trophy for over 40s was Brian MacLeod (49 minutes 13 seconds) veteran lady was Rhoda MacCrae (64 minutes 3 seconds); the super veteran lady was Babs Whyte of Salen and the trophy for the male super veteran was Jim Keenan (50 minutes 9 seconds). The prize for the first secondary school pupil home went to David Cameron of Bunessan.

The Loopy Run was won by Bill Gagie in a time of 40 minutes 08 seconds. First lady home was Abbie Cato, 13, of Fionnphort in 46 minutes 46 seconds. Abbie also won the trophy for the first local lady home. The trophy for the first local man went to Stewart MacDougall, 16, in 54 minutes 25 seconds.

The results of the children's races were: first boy under 10, Duncan Boyd; first girl under 10, Elena Cameron; first boy over 10, Douglas Boyd; and first girl over 10, Amy Gibson. The pram race was won by Ted Blacoe and his mum.

The organisers thanked everyone who helped especially sponsor Paul Knight of PDK Shellfish and Knights Offshore for his generous donation.

**Scottish Field**

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OT

## Making waves over potholes to rival Atlantis

POTHOLES - believed by residents to be the biggest in Oban - are being ignored by the council, a meeting of the town's area committee heard last week.

The problem is now described as a 'swimming pool to rival the Atlantis centre' with potholes more than 'two feet deep'.

Duncan Johnston, who lives at Dalrigh, a street behind the main A85 at George Street, told Argyll and Bute councillors the street was 'dangerous'.

He added a note of warning: 'If you do come over, please watch that you don't fall down a hole.'

Chairman of the area committee, councillor Roddy McCuish, said he was aware of the problem: 'The road is dangerous. We are waiting for further information to find out what it is that is in need of repair.'



ROAD TO RUIN: residents Rod Connelly and Duncan Johnston inspect one of the potholes

## Bonus question for the chairman

SELF-appointed 'Keep Oban tidy' campaigner Kenny MacLennan is on a mission to improve the 'problems' of dog fouling and car parking in the town.

At a meeting of Argyll and Bute council's Oban and Lorn area committee last week, Mr MacLennan asked if there was a bonus scheme for productivity.

When asked by the meeting's chairman, councillor Roddy McCuish, to clarify what was meant by his question, he said: 'Do parking attendants get paid more for the number of tickets they give out? Or do dog wardens get extra for the number of dog foulings they are prepared to clear up.'

Councillor McCuish said pointedly: 'There is no bonus for staff.'



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AN ISLAND GP has hit out at plans to build a second sewerage scheme on the Isle of Seil, calling it 'breathtaking in its ineptitude'.

Nine years after a scheme from Scottish Water, which was opposed by residents at the time and cost more than £10.7 million, the public company is planning to install a new scheme - and scrapping the original one altogether.

At a community meeting on Seil, Scottish Water representatives told islanders the system was 'too expensive to run' and the authority was now planning to spend more money on a new scheme that would pump effluent from a population of more than 500 people out into the bay which is a European special conservation area.

The current sewerage system runs from the famous 'Bridge over the Atlantic' to the village of Balvicar. It was finished in

2008. The plan at that time was to treat effluent and pump the treated sewage into Balvicar Bay.

Scottish Water blamed the high costs of the scheme on expensive anti-pollution procedures to protect the shellfish industry in the area and the scale of the project, which was likened to an area the size of Birmingham.

However, Dr George Hannah calculated the cost to link each house to the old scheme was £2,000 a year, with initial start-up costs of £100,000 per house.

Dr Hannah said: 'The most economical and environmentally acceptable solution is still to replace the current system with septic tanks.'

'This would pay for itself within 10 years. After wasting £10 million it is difficult for Scottish Water to admit how badly designed the system is. Until it admits its failures, the community can't trust it.'

Jean Ainsley, a resident of Seil Island, said: 'Scottish Water

has a very bad history on Seil Island. When it put in the £10.7 million scheme at Balvicar and Clachan Seil, it caused huge disruption and unhappiness on the island and the island is left with unsightly pumping stations and a treatment plant.'

'To save money on the running of this plant, it now intends to abandon that treatment plant and pump sewage along the road (with more pumping stations) over the hill and to pump it out from a septic tank somewhere near Seaview.'

'Apart from a septic tank, I understand that there will be no further treatment of the sewage from the island and the effluent will be pumped out into Easdale Bay, a European designated special area of conservation which at present has wonderful features below the surface and lots of amazing wildlife.'

'Scottish Water has said it will put a long pipe into the bay.'

'This, however, will not stand up to any serious wave action

'This new treatment consists of a septic tank and a sea outfall pipe.'

'Our proposed project would see the decommissioning of the treatment works at Clachan Seil, using the existing site as a pumping station to transfer waste to the new, below ground, septic tank at Easdale.'

'This will not only deliver significant customer savings over the next 25 years, but is also a more sustainable treatment option.'

'It is the correct and appropriate level of treatment for this particular SEPA designated watercourse.'

'Scottish Water plans to reuse much of the equipment at Clachan Seil with an actual net loss of only around £280,000 as the majority of costs on the previous projects was associated with the provision of sewerage pipes and pumping stations.'

She added that timescales were dependent on site surveys, design options and consultation with the local community.

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## Jobs to go as SAMS 're-balance' the books

LOUISE GLEN  
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NEWS of proposed job losses at a prestigious marine research organisation has sent shock waves throughout Argyll.

The Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), which has its headquarters in Dunbeg, told its 166 workers last week it will have to make redundancies if it is to remain 'a viable and thriving not-for-profit organisation'.

Challenging economic conditions were blamed for the cut in staff as the organisation slashed its budget by 10 per cent to avoid a deficit in 2015-16.

SAMS hoped the job losses would be achieved by voluntary redundancy.

Professor Axel Miller of

SAMS said: 'We are a big family at SAMS, characterised by highly competent and enthusiastic staff who are committed to working hard for a healthy marine environment for the good of society.'

'It is heart-breaking that we cannot operate sustainably in the current financial climate with the existing staff numbers. 'Salaries are the main cost for SAMS and we cannot find the required savings without reducing the staff levels.'

SAMS is an independent charitable organisation with an annual operating budget of approximately £10 million.

It does not receive any substantial grant from central government, but has to earn its income for research, education and commercial activities in an

increasingly competitive and restricted funding climate.

Axel Miller continued: 'Until this year we have been able to delay shrinking our operations by raising our game and performing better year on year.'

'The recognised quality and impact of our research has never been higher, as proven recently by our grading in the independently-assessed national research grading exercise.'

'We are also attracting more students and deliver more courses with a new European Masters programme in aquaculture, environment and society, starting in autumn.'

'It is very sad that we have to lose some of our colleagues, although we have performed so well across our activities and while the oceans face increas-

ing challenges that require more marine science.'

'But by making these very difficult changes now, we will remain a strong organisation ready to grow in the future when the funding environment improves.'

'In the meantime, we will continue to make a valued contribution to marine science in Scotland and beyond.'

SAMS is now in consultation with the unions and is calling for staff to come forward for voluntary redundancy, early retirement and part-time working. In May, management will consider any additional roles at risk and confirm redundancies.

A spokeswoman for SAM was unable to confirm the number of posts that would be lost.

A spokesman for Highlands

## Celebrity chef plan rejected

AN APPLICATION for money to pay for a celebrity chef at Tthree Music Festival has been turned down by Oban, Lorn and isles councillors.

An open-day at the Tthree Community Trust building and a food-stall run by celebrity chef Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, who has a house on the island, were both refused funding from Argyll and Bute council until more information was available.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon said the projects were both worthwhile, but that she had 'reservations about funding an open day'.

She went on: 'Tthree Development Trust does an amazing job. But I am surprised that it hasn't gone to the windfall trust on the island.'

'It brings in a lot of money every year and it would be an ideal source of money to pay for an open day.'

A lack of food providers on the

island saw an application by Tthree Music Festival to bring Mr Fearnley-Whittingstall to the island to cook in a 'big tent'.

Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'I am concerned about this.'

'I have never heard any concerns from anyone attending the Tthree Music Festival about not getting something to eat.'

'Again, for £1,500 I would like some more information.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson added: 'There has been a substantial drain on money over the last two years. Do we go on financing one big thing or are they eligible to get funds from the Tthree wind farm fund instead?'

Mr Fearnley-Whittingstall has confirmed he will be attending the festival anyway.

He will be cooking with Tthree chef Sian Milne of the Beachcomber cafe.

## A step in the right direction

A CAMPAIGN to reduce the rate of lower-limb amputation among people with diabetes has been launched in the Highlands.

The Scottish government, through the Scottish Diabetes Foot Action Group (SDFAG), has launched CPR for Feet (Check, Protect and Refer) to carry out foot checks for hospital

patients, to see if they are at risk of ulceration and of losing limbs.

Sandra Jones, podiatry diabetes coordinator for NHS Highland, said: 'By identifying patients with a foot ulcer, or those at risk of developing them in hospital, we can put appropriate measures in place to prevent further harm.'



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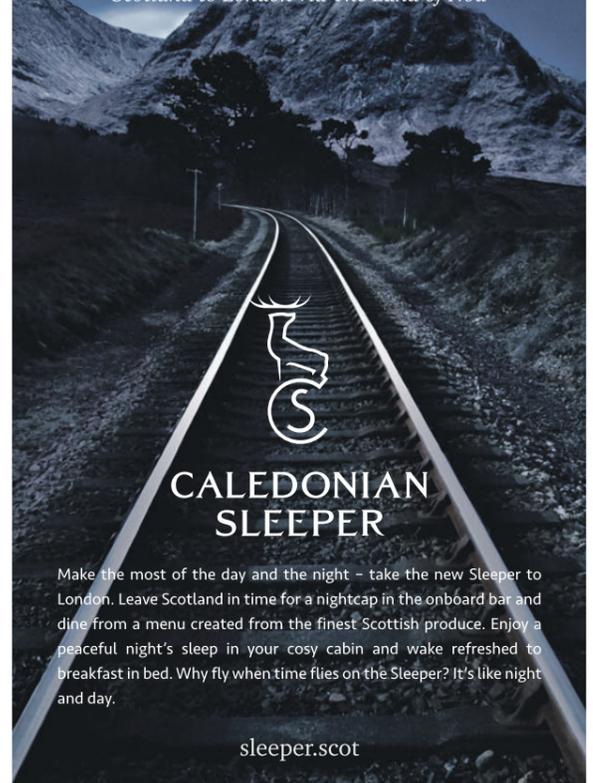
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# It's war and peace at island hustings

QUESTION TIME FOR ARGYLL AND BUTE'S WESTMINSTER 'HOPEFULS' AS THEY GO UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT IN MULL. LOUISE GLEN REPORTS

NUCLEAR weapons, historic child abuse, ferry services, bankers, borrowing and poverty were among the topics debated by Argyll's Westminster candidates in a packed Craignure village hall on Mull.

However, the outright winners of the debate last Friday evening were the joint organisers of the hustings - the island's community council and community trust.

Mull councillor Mary-Jean Devon was also praised for keeping a firm but fair control of proceedings as convener.

There was the obligatory spat - not between the candidates who all behaved impeccably towards each other - but between one candidate and members of the audience when asked about the Trident nuclear weapons system.

Alastair Redman, the Conservative

candidate, came under fire when he said he was 'proud to support our military tradition'. He likened objections to renewing Trident to the present situation in the Ukraine. He said: 'Look at Ukraine: Putin and his thugs have been attacking that country since it gave up the nuclear deterrent.'

When someone in the hall shouted at the Tory hopeful, he replied: 'I had hoped this heckling nonsense was over after the referendum. We should have Trident and the jobs it creates in Helensburgh.'

Campbeltown-born Mary Galbraith, the Labour Party candidate, said: 'I want to see a world free of nuclear weapons. I think the way to do it is through multi-lateral disarmament.'

'Labour has signed up for a global zero approach to nuclear weapons. We don't get rid of our weapons on our own - we use Trident as a lever to get

rid of those on the other side, as well.'

Brendan O'Hara, the SNP candidate, argued there was 'no moral, economic or military case for nuclear weapons'.

He continued: 'How can you negotiate while at the same time spending £100 billion to renew them. We are saying we are renewing them at a time when there is no money in the public purse.'

Alan Reid, the Lib Dem candidate who has held the seat for 14 years, said: 'We should be making every effort to negotiate our nuclear weapons away. Until then, it is right to defend our nuclear deterrent. We have no idea what threats we will face.'

He said that not to replace Trident would leave the country open to threat. He stated that Scotland's share of the Trident replacement was somewhere in the region of £200 million a year.

The debate moved on to the topic of



WILLING SUSPENSION OF DISBELIEF: the audience listens intently to the answers from the candidates



TALKING THE TALK: Alan Reid answers a question as the other candidates take notes

inequality and the number of women MPs in Westminster. Ross of Mull resident Terry Hegarty asked: 'I am concerned the Westminster parliament has way too many wealthy people and not enough women. What would you do to change that?'

The response of Mr Redman, who is a postmaster in Portnahaven, Islay, was to plead poverty: 'I am poorer by far than any other candidate here.'

Ms Galbraith added: 'The Labour party is by far the best represented in terms of women. The way we have tried to include women shows. Of course, I am a woman and I am certainly not wealthy.'

Bankers were on Mr Reid's radar, when he was asked why they were allowed to get off 'Scot free' for the financial crisis of 2008 and why they continued to receive massive bonus payments.

Mr Reid said: 'Morally they should have been jailed. But the Crown Prosecution Service and the Crown Prosecution Service Scotland could not bring a case against them that would stand up in court, because there were no laws to prosecute them.'

'We trust it will not happen again. I



DRAMATIS PERSONAE: Brendan O'Hara, Alastair Redman, councillor Mary Jean Devon, Mary Galbraith and Alan Reid

believe it will not happen again.' Mr O'Hara, who lives in Helensburgh, said: 'There is a moral problem with borrowing. The bankers involved should have been sent to jail, not knighted.'

'How should the greed and avarice of these bankers leave the vulnerable and the sick unfunded? It is wrong no matter how you try to spin it. That

society has to spin it, is just wrong.'

Andy MacArthur, of Oban, asked: 'A yes or no question. House of Lords?'

Reid, Galbraith and O'Hara all said 'no', while Redman said: 'Yes, you have to have an upper chamber.'

The fifth candidate for Argyll and Bute, Caroline Santos for UK Independence Party (UKIP) was unable to attend the hustings.

## SNP and Labour ready for fierce battle

THE Western Isles (Na h-Eileanan) has seen-sawed over the past two decades between Labour and the SNP.

For the constituency with the smallest electorate in the UK, the seat has become a fierce battleground between the unionist Labour Party and the separatist Scottish National Party.

The constituency, which is an archipelago off the north-west coast of Scotland, includes Lewis, Harris, South and North Uist, Benbecula and Barra.

It was held by Labour throughout the 1990s and into the early years of the new millennium, but changed hands in 2005 when Angus MacNeil won it for the SNP.

He further consolidated the position of the nationalists in the 2010 general election when he held off the challenge of Labour with a majority of 1885, polling 45.7 per cent of the votes. In stark contrast, Labour slipped to 32 per cent of the votes cast from a previous high-water mark of 56 per cent in 1997.

Recent opinion polls now place the nationalists as firm favourites to retain the Western Isles, and

increase Angus MacNeil's tenure to a third term. The battle lines have been drawn, with Labour's Alastair Morrison training his guns on what he describes as 'shambolic' ferry services to the islands, while Angus MacNeil argues that the nationalists will defend the Hebrides missile range from Ministry of Defence cuts.

The two other main parties - the Conservatives and the Lib Dems - captured 4.4 per cent and 7.5 per cent of the vote respectively in 2010, but it seems inevitable that they will only make up the numbers on May 7.

John Cormack is standing on behalf of the Christian Party.



### A common sense approach

MARK BROWN  
CONSERVATIVE



Mistrust and malaise in politics today shows that people want change.

The electorate do not want 'just another politician' - yet another product of the political candidate conveyor belt, destined for the Punch and Judy politics on TV.

This is where I can offer the electorate across the Western Isles a difference. I will use a common sense approach backed up by real world experience that, in my opinion, is vital in politics today.

I want to restore trust by my actions, in proving that there is decency and morality in politics. I will be advocating positive politics where solutions and not criticism are the main theme. Also, where I agree with opponents I will say so, rather than create false dividing lines for political purposes.

As your MP, I will work hard to engage with communities, companies and stakeholders to help boost local employment opportunities.

Having worked with small to medium-sized private sector companies

my whole working life, I strongly support the traditional primary industries of crofting, farming, fishing and weaving as well as the new tourism enterprises, which are vital to our islands' economy.

It is also crucial for the competitiveness of our local industries and companies that we have transport links at a price which equates to that of mainland UK.

If elected on May 7, I will continue to fight for a fair deal on fuel and transport that our rural economy heavily relies on.

### Time for change and action

ALASDAIR MORRISON  
LABOUR



Being selected as Labour's candidate for the forthcoming general election is a privilege that brings great responsibility.

I have already begun the enjoyable process of engaging with people and communities across the islands. From these initial meetings and discussions, it's very clear that our pressing island priorities have been neglected for the past decade.

On May 7, the people of our islands will have a chance to change these depressing circumstances. From village to village, I hear about the negative impact the most centralising government Scotland has ever seen is having on tourism, fishing, crofting and a host of other important industries.

Our ferry services are a shambles and holding back our islands. We need change. This needs action, focus and a commitment from a person who actually believes in hard work and is willing to fight for the Western Isles.

A Labour government will target support at the most needy in society

and take on the vested interest in the energy companies, support our young and ensure that small businesses are properly supported and encouraged to develop.

I have already outlined some of the priorities needing urgent attention: the reform of Caledonian MacBrayne and all ferry agencies; a guaranteed, year-round Lochboisdale to Mallaig ferry service; tackle the scourge of fuel poverty in the isles and secure more support for our elderly and their families. These are some of the pressing needs which people have already identified.

The time for politics is over. We now need change followed by immediate action.

### Focus on Westminster issues

RUARAIKH FERGUSON  
LIB DEMS



Although I am originally from the Scottish Borders, moved to Tong in 1989 where I stood as the Lib Dem candidate in the 2007 Scottish parliamentary election.

I feel that one of the key issues in this election will be the way that the United Kingdom's constitution needs to be reformed and made fit for purpose.

Much of the party manifestos on offer for this election will be largely irrelevant to the constituents of the Western Isles and Scotland, as the elected MP will have no direct vote in Westminster on the health, transport and education issues affecting the Western Isles and Scotland.

These, along with many other matters, are quite rightly the devolved responsibility of the Scottish government in Edinburgh, yet surprisingly seem to have formed most of the current islands' debate on the forthcoming election.

I said that, given previous election results in the Western Isles, it's not

surprising that Lib Dem ambitions for the constituency will be different to others.

However, that doesn't mean that my role or any other candidate's role in the election should be diminished.

Last September's independence referendum revitalised Scottish politics and I sincerely hope that this continues in this election, and that as many communities as possible organise hustings to discuss the Westminster, not Holyrood, election issues.

### Exerting real influence

ANGUS B MacNEIL - SNP



This election could mark where Scotland decides to put the needs of our communities first. With the SNP riding high in the polls, Scotland is noticed and will be heard. If a Labour government is formed then Scotland, through the SNP, will definitely have influence.

If it's a Conservative government, Scotland, for the first time in those circumstances, will have moral force at Westminster and our voice will be heard.

Either scenario provides an insurance policy for Scotland but only if we vote SNP. Five years ago, Scotland gambled with Labour and lost, this time voting SNP gives an each-way secure bet.

We have to realise that choosing austerity at Westminster for the Tories and Liberal Democrats, supported by Labour, has cost the UK economy dearly.

Voting SNP not just helps Scotland get out of this political dead-end, but the rest of the UK too. We need to stimulate and grow the economy for businesses, jobs and

grow the tax base for health and education.

In the Hebrides, we have to ensure Scotland gets its fair share of defence spending and a Labour government never again threatens the Hebrides missile range.

Our job will be made far easier if the SNP has several dozen MPs, which is why I hope to have a colleague from Argyll in the shape of Brendan O'Hara beside me on the benches, along with Ian Blackford in Lochaber and Skye. We would make a great team for the West Highlands area. Only you have the power to make that happen.

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# Volunteers on top form as old school project gets under way

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

AN OPEN day at the former Rockfield primary school saw almost 200 people join organisers to find out what plans Oban Community Trust (OCT) has when it takes over the building and car park in early May.

During the event, the trust was presented with £5,000 each from the Oban Common Good Fund and Scottish Sea Farms.

This is the first event to be held on the town centre site and marks the launch of The Rockfield Centre's 'Top up the Tower' campaign.

Jade Manning of Scottish Sea Farms said: 'As a former pupil of Rockfield primary school, it gave me great pleasure to present a donation on behalf of Scottish Sea Farms Heart of the Community Trust to The Rockfield Centre.'

OCT was established to transform the derelict building into a cultural hub for the town. Chairman Gordon McNab said: 'We are extremely grateful for these generous amounts which kick-start our fundraising campaign for the first part of the re-development of the Rockfield building. 'This adds to the fantastic community support and donations already received. Progress towards our funding goal will be shown by our 'Rockfield Centre Top Up the Tower' campaign.'

The event also included the first



ROCK-ON: fund-raisers enjoy the sunshine at the trust's first 'pop-up shop' event

showing of The Rockfield Centre video filmed by James Gray of Oban's Kinetic Studios and an Old Oban Pictorial compiled by John MacLean.

Gordon McNab said: 'We believe The Rockfield Centre will be an amazing asset for Oban and its communities, acting as a magnet to attract locals and visitors alike and

helping the area in a multitude of ways.'

The trust has been successful in acquiring the landmark Oban Victorian building from Argyll and Bute council for £1,000.

A major programme of refurbishment works will take place in three phases, the first of which will see work begin on the huts and there-

after on the main building of the former school.

The 'Top up the Tower' fund-raising campaign will be launched to businesses and the community shortly with a tower barometer detailing progress on reaching targets.

A business breakfast has been organised for Wednesday April 29 at 8am in the Caledonian Hotel, Oban.

# JURA WOMEN RAISE ALMOST £19,000 FOR EMERGENCY AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE

## Island charity drive hits the heights

MARIAN MILLER  
mmiller@obantimes.co.uk

FOUR women from Jura have handed over a massive cheque for nearly £19,000 to Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA).

The cheque was the culmination of a year of highs and lows for Denise Rozga, Louise Muir, Deborah Bryce and Abi Beattall, who were involved in a car accident near Inveraray on April 6 last year.

Two of the women, who were on their way to Kennacraig from Edinburgh to get the ferry home, had to be airlifted to hospital along with a person from the other vehicle.

Denise, who suffered serious injuries, said: 'Louise and I had done the 10k run the day before and the other two came along for a night out.'

'We wanted something positive to come from it and wanted to say thank you somehow.'

The four women, three recovering from injuries, got together and decided to hold a dance in Craighouse village hall on Valentine's day this year, with a raffle and auction.

One hundred and twenty tickets were sold among the 200 islanders and some to Islay too and the SCAA's fund-raising representative was also invited.

In true island style, the dance went on to 4am and only stopped when the band's equipment broke down. 'Probably £6,000 came from

the auction; we sold all the raffle tickets, which raised around £3,000; the dinner dance tickets were sold for £25 each and the rest came from donations,' said Denise.

She said that people who couldn't make the dance made donations or gave what they would have bid on items in the auction.

'People just said it was a really good cause. It's amazing. There are only 200 people on Jura.'

'It's a massive amount and I am very overwhelmed,' she said, thanking everyone who took part or donated.

'I wouldn't want to live anywhere else in the world,' she added.

Denise and Louise travelled recently to Perth airport to the SCAA's base to present the cheque for £18,816 to the life-saving team, including the pilot who was on duty the day of the accident.

SCAA chairman John Bullough said the charity was 'overwhelmed' by the commitment and generosity of the four women and the people of Jura.

'This is by far the largest donation SCAA has had from any appreciative patients through a community fund-raiser,' he said, 'and for it to come from one of the country's smallest and most remote communities is even more touching.'

'This support will help SCAA to continue flying time-critical expert paramedic help where it is most



THANKS: From left, paramedic David Bywater, SCAA pilot Captain Russell Myles, Denise Rozga, Louise Muir and SCAA air paramedic Craig McDonald

needed and allow our team to fly patients to hospital with lifesaving speed - we can't thank the girls from Jura enough and we're delighted they are all recovering well.'

The charity, which receives no government funding, was launched in May 2013 and has responded to more than 550 emergencies across the whole of Scotland.

# £30k grants not just for the 'professionals'

EVENTS and festivals in Oban, Lorn and the Isles have been boosted to the tune of £22,900.

At a meeting of Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee last Wednesday, events receiving financial help from Argyll and Bute council included Oban Communities Trust's (OCT) plans for an OAPs' volunteering scheme for Rockfield.

A youth achievements awards ceremony and money to write an area plan for Dalavich were funded.

Access to land that makes up part of a community orchard at Loch Awe and plans for fringe events during the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival also cashed in.

Mull events and projects received funding for schemes including the

Mendelssohn on Mull music project and a half marathon on the island.

While he welcomed all the applications, chairman of the area committee, councillor Roddy McCuish said the grants were not for 'professional' fund-raisers.

He said: 'In future, we must ensure that people are allocated grants on the merits of their plans rather than their ability to fill in a form.'

Discussing the proposal for OCT, councillor McCuish said: 'It is a worthwhile application for what it is for but I would not like to see the money spent on renovations.'

Council community worker Laura MacDonald said: 'It has been discussed with the trust and it confirmed it is not for renovations.'

# Ferry group demand face-to-face meeting

ISLAY and Jura Ferry Group is calling for crisis talks with Holyrood transport minister, Derek MacKay.

The island economy was severely affected, including one of the biggest cattle sales of the agricultural calendar, by the debacle of ferry breakdowns over the very busy Easter period.

The Islay and Jura marketing group reported a loss of £20,000 between its 80 members alone over the breakdown of the Isle of Arran ferry.

The group contacted Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell to arrange

a local public meeting with the Derek MacKay, as a matter of urgency.

Islay McEachern, chairwoman of the ferry group, said: 'We have warned repeatedly about the lack of robust contingency plans to deal with it. Now we demand action.'

'Apologies are not adequate when there has been so much distress and great expense caused to so many. But credit is due to local staff and ships' crew who did their best.' She pointed out that there was a compensation scheme for disrupted ferry travel. Leaflets are available at ferry ports.

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The Rockfield Centre Start-Up Fund will finance the first of several phases of activity.

Our target is to raise:

£1000	from 10 businesses	= £10,000
£500	from 15 businesses	= £7,500
£100	from 15 businesses	= £1,500
£50	from 20 businesses	= £1,000

**Total from businesses = £20,000**

From individuals in the community = £20,000

From fundraising events = £10,000

From grant-making bodies = £20,000

From rental and carpark income = £30,000

**Total raised overall = £100,000**

Argyll and Bute Council has given this project the green light - it is now up to the community to pull together and make it happen!

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**Strathfillan**

STRATHFILLAN has secured funding to run a pilot outreach surgery for patients in the area. The matter was discussed at the Strathfillan community council meeting on Monday, April 13. Stirling Council Communities Fund is piloting four community schemes, with a consultation likely to take place in May, and the outreach surgery starting after. It is anticipated that the outreach surgery facilities will be for follow-up and routine appointments, and not for acute illness. Stirling council is working with Glasgow University to arrange this consultation, and it is expected that staff from the Killin Medical Practice and the wider Strathfillan community will all be involved. The pilot is a collaboration between Strathfillan community council and Strathfillan Community Development trust, with the trust also holding the funds. Jane Menzies, a member of the Stirling council communities team, has already arranged for the transfer of approx £2,500 to fund the proposed equipment purchase and two years of hall rental. However, the first step will be a community consultation to ensure the proposed scheme meets community needs. Crianlarich Village Hall will be used for the outreach surgery, with equipment used by the outreach surgery to be stored there, with the permission of the hall committee. This will not affect use of the hall in any way outside the pre-booked sessions. It is hoped that a relatively small amount of money could make a big difference to community life in the area, allowing for less travelling to appointments for patients in a wide geographical area.

**Fort William**

FORT William women's Scottish institute members were encouraged to research their ancestry at their last meeting. Enthusiast Graham MacKenzie told the group his interest was sparked by his grandmother's family tales. After looking up his own relatives Mr MacKenzie began to pass on his knowledge through presentations and evening classes. After a question and answer session Mr MacKenzie was thanked for his 'interesting and inspiring' talk by Martine Young. Elspeth MacKenzie won the raffle and also came second in the competition for oldest photograph, won by Edythe Knowles. The next and final meeting of the session will be the branch annual general meeting on Monday May 4 at Inverloch hall from 7.15pm.

**Machrihanish**

MINISTER for environment, climate change and land reform, MSP Aileen McLeod, visited Machrihanish this week to view first-hand the progress being made with the farming of wrasse, a UHI research project funded jointly by Scottish Sea Farms and Marine Harvest. Ballan wrasse is a cleaner fish used as a natural method of managing sea lice and reducing the dependency on veterinary treatments within fish farming. Mrs McLeod said: 'I was delighted to visit Machrihanish to see the collaborative effort and investment being made in cleaner fish by Scotland's farmed salmon industry and research community. This work will help manage sea lice and enhance the sector's environmental sustainability.'

**Arisaig**

RAINFALL in Arisaig was higher than usual during March at just over six inches, according to amateur meteorologist Randal Coyne. This brings the figure for the year so far to 20 inches, also above average. The average daily temperature in the village was from 6.4°C to 10.9°C, both normal for this time of year. Coldest night was -29°C but Mr Coyne was unable to record the hottest day.

**Plockton**

A GROUP fundraising for a new play park in Plockton took a great leap in the right direction when they received a donation of £15,000. Friends of Plockton Play Park raised £4,000 from a coffee morning last month, bringing their total to almost £5,000. But this was given a massive boost shortly after when the Heart of the Community Trust, operated by Scottish Sea Farms, granted the group £15,000.



**Ballachulish youngsters go 'wild' at tea party**

Ballachulish Gaelic nursery children enjoyed hearing David Walliam's book *The Queen's Orang-utan* and wanted to have a 'Really Wild Tea Party'. The youngsters all dressed up as wild animals and had a great time. The event raised £242 for Comic Relief 2015.

**Islay**

A HUSTINGS meeting of the Argyll and Bute candidates for next month's general election will be held on Islay next week. All five candidates have been invited to attend the meeting in Bowmore Hall on Wednesday April 29 at 7.30pm. Previous hustings have attracted a capacity crowd so those wishing to attend are advised to arrive early. The hustings, organised by the Isleach, will be chaired by Derek Mackay, who previously worked for BBC Alba. TWO medical professionals who have been posted on Islay have been found accommodation by West Highland Housing Association (WHHA). The staff - an occupational therapist and physiotherapist - have agreed the lease for a property in Bowmore which will provide accommodation for these incoming clinicians, allowing the continued provision of these vital services for the island. Mull and Colonsay also have similar arrangements in place to ensure accommodation is available for incoming clinicians there.



FUN AND GAMES: Bookbug joins in a special song with the children at Oban library. 16\_116bookbug01

**Children all smiles as Gruffalo drops in for lunch at library**

A SPECIAL story time event organised by Argyll and Bute libraries and the Big Lunch was held last week in Oban. Toddlers and their parents were treated to a Gruffalo-themed Big Lunch at Oban library on Thursday April 9, with special guest Bookbug at the library to meet and greet the visitors. The children joined in with a reading of the Gruffalo and enjoyed songs, rhymes and party treats. Oban library supervisor Sue Nicholson said: 'Libraries are a community space, not just a place to find books and computers but an important resource available to local people. They are a meeting point and a place to find out about what's happening in the community and how to get involved. The Big Lunch shares this community ethos and that is why we've teamed up with them to encourage our library users across Argyll to take part.' Neighbours in Oban and across Argyll are being encouraged to host Big Lunch events to help build community spirit and connect with neighbours they might not know yet. Anyone who is interested in getting involved can get started by requesting a free Big Lunch pack from: www.thebiglunch.com.

**Coll**

AN ENGLISH theatre company is carrying out the final leg of its Highlands and Islands tour with two performances off the west coast. Broken Spectacles, based in Dartington, will travel to Coll's An Cridhe tomorrow (Friday) for a performance of 'Head In The Clouds: The Peregrinations Of Marie Marvingt', the tale of a French woman's quest for freedom. Following its visit to Coll, the group its off to Luig on Sunday for the final performance of the tour at the Cullipool village hall. For more information, visit: www.brokenspectacles.com

THE MUSICAL duo Hoot will be on Coll next month for a special concert at An Cridhe. The duo, comprising of Helen MacLeod on the harp and Emma Wilkins on the flute, are the previous recipients of the 2008-2010 Enterprise Music Scotland Residency Project. They have recently completed their final Scottish Residency Tour, having played their eclectic mix of music across the country, and now will be travelling to Coll for a concert on May 9 at the An Cridhe community centre. The versatile musicians have performed individually with groups ranging from Scotland's professional orchestras to pop groups Belle and Sebastian and Texas.

**Strachur**

A PIECE of Travellers' history may be preserved for 'future generations' if a public consultation by Historic Scotland can gather enough stories about its provenance. The Tinker's Heart, a set of stones in the ground lying near to the Rest and Be Thankful at Hell's Glen, near Strachur, is believed to be the only ancient memorial to Gypsy Traveller communities in Europe. 'Historically,' campaigner Jess Smith said: 'It would have been used to celebrate marriages and births.'

**Tarbert**



STEP BACK IN TIME: part of the world war one exhibition at Tarbert port office

AN EXHIBITION showcasing the role people from the Western Isles played in the first world war has arrived in Tarbert, Harris. The display in Caledonian MacBrayne's port office was designed by Stornoway-based Pròiseact nan Ealan and includes historical narrative and personal memories, as well as war artefacts sourced from families across the Hebrides. Tina MacLeod, clerk of the Tarbert office, said: 'We have had both passengers and local people coming in to see the exhibition. It has brought something very different to the offices and certainly gives visitors pause for reflection.'

**Luig**

THE ATLANTIC Islands Centre on Luig swings open its doors next month. The £1.2 million newly-built visitor and community centre will have a restaurant managed by chef Vilas Roberts, two exhibition spaces, a flexible event space, work spaces and moorings. It will host regular events of art exhibitions; theatre shows; concerts and its very own three-day multi-arts festival the Atlantic Islands Festival this July. The opening art exhibition will be Dugald Macinnes' Slate Mosaics and first showcase event Magnetic North's award-winning production A Walk at the Edge of the World. The official opening will be held on Saturday June 13, with details to be released soon. With the much-awaited opening of the Atlantic Islands Centre comes a range

of opportunities - paid and voluntary. Young people's trainee placements are available, in partnership with Working Rite. These are 16-week placements at entry level, paying £90 a week. To be eligible for these placements people have to be aged between 16 and 18 years and not currently in employment or further education. The centre is especially keen to hear from volunteers interested in: catering, cleaning / window cleaning, retail, DIY / handyman jobs and gardening. Inductions, training, on-going development programmes and reasonable expenses will be offered to potential volunteers. For further information contact Laura McIntyre, laura@atlanticislandscentre.com

**MORVERN lines**

**Predictable spring weather**

ACCORDING to Alexander Nicolson's well-known book of Gaelic proverbs, published 1882, spring was divided into various periods with different names. The longest of these, the Faoilleach, or Faoilteach, corresponded to the month of February. Old Highlanders regarded stormy weather towards the end of January to mean there would be a fruitful season to follow. This period was made up of the last two weeks of winter and the first two of spring called the Faoilleach Geamhraidh and the Faoilleach Earraich. February of this year almost exactly fitted this pattern. A first week of sleet, hail and rain with some strong winds was followed by a week of gales, sleet, hail and rain, frosty mornings and nights with sunny days erased to some extent the memory of the long rainy period just past.

**Black game**

IT IS GOOD to see that black game are managing to hold their own in the area despite the loss of their haunts to intensive management, draining and forest clearance. Sometimes called black grouse, these magnificent birds prefer natural birch woods to larch and Sitka spruce plantations. As old estate sales particulars and game books will testify, there was a time when they were common throughout the Morvern peninsula, especially on the coastal estates of Drimnin, Glencripesdale, Laudale, Killundine and Ardtornish. Anthony Buxton, the well-known Norfolk naturalist and sportsman, used to film large numbers of males lekking on the Ulladale and Ullin flats on Ardtornish Estate in the 1940s which he wrote about in his book *Fisherman Naturalist*, 1946. Unlike some other game birds they actually decline when the old black cocks and grey hens - females - are not shot. A hundred years ago they were more common (10 to 1) than red grouse in the south west of Mull and for some unexplained reason, were known to travel as far as the treeless Treshnish Isles, although there is no evidence of their breeding there.



GOOD NEWS: black grouse are holding their own

**Sound of Mull wreck**

NO-ONE knows how many ships lie at the bottom of the Sound of Mull. Given it was a popular seaway to Loch Sunart and the inner and outer Hebrides for hundreds of years, there must be many. Modern equipment has allowed sport divers to locate a number of wrecks. One of the most popular with divers is the 1,424 ton, steel steamship *Shuna* which sank in May 1913. The *Shuna*, belonging to the Scandanavian shipping company Messrs Glen & Co, was in transit from Glasgow to Gothenberg with a cargo of coal when she struck the Grey Rocks off Craignure during a fierce storm. Although she started to sink, the captain, by the name of Elspet, decided to try to make for Tobermory. Passing the mouth of Loch Aline the *Shuna* began to take in water and by the time she had reached Finuary it was evident the pumps weren't coping so it was decided to beach her below Killundine to effect repairs and eventually to refloat her. There she was held by a powerful hawser and two anchors until 10 o'clock the following day. As the waves began sweeping over the bridge Captain Elspet gave the order to abandon ship and she sank in 30 fathoms. The shipwrecked crew of 18 left in three boats for Tobermory. There they were billeted in two hotels to await the arrival of the MacBrayne steamer *Chieftain* for Glasgow. The wreck sits upright on a slight incline less than 600 feet from the shore. The holds are still full of 'black gold' which, given the cost of a bag of coal in Morvern today, must surely be worth salvaging.

**Graveyard access**

THE REPORT on the front page of *The Oban Times* a few weeks ago of villagers in Strontian having a grievance about accessing Drimnatorran graveyard made sad reading. Regardless of the legal situation, the right to visit one's deceased without fear or favour in a civilised world must surely be respected and upheld. Almost two centuries ago the laird of Glen Cannel on Mull wanted to clear the entire glen for sheep. He managed to evict most of the large population except for a handful of stalwarts living around the old graveyard at Gortebuic near the head of the glen, who refused to budge. The laird, according to local tradition, crossed the Sound of Mull to take advice from his friend Patrick Sellar who had just acquired Ardtornish Estate. Sellar's advice was to demolish the graveyard, an act which he was certain would demoralise the 'renegades' to such an extent they would leave. The cemetery wall was quickly torn down and the gravestones smashed and incorporated in an adjacent cattle pen where they can be seen to this day. This wantonly cruel and callously wicked action had the desired effect. Ancestor reverence, respect and honour to the dead still runs deep in the Highlands. It is not so long ago that on the day of an interment at Drimnatorran the curtains in the nearby farmhouse were drawn as a mark of respect to the deceased.

**Local enterprise wanted**

MORE than a year has elapsed since Lochaline Quartz Limited, the owners of Morvern's famous sand mine, magnanimously cleared and donated the site of its former accommodation block, known as the 'cubicles', to the local community. With a desperate need in Morvern for bunkhouse accommodation, another grocery shop, a drop-in family cafe and a raft of other essential services, questions are being asked by angry residents why the local development company, which accepted the valuable site at the centre of the village for the benefit of the whole community, has done nothing with it. 'What is going on' they ask, 'what is hindering this development?' Iain Thornber iain.thornber@btinternet.com

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# Frustration grows as care home doors remain closed

NHS HIGHLAND UNDER FIRE AGAIN BUT INSISTS PROGRESS IS BEING MADE

**EMMA CRICHTON**  
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THE RE-OPENING of Mallaig care home, the Mackintosh centre, has been delayed by another month but NHS Highland staff insist progress is being made.

Interviews have taken place since the *Oban Times* revealed previous hold ups were a result of newly-recruited staff resigning because of daily commutes of up to 100 miles for training in Fort William. But new carers have yet to be hired and will need to be trained, meaning the Mackintosh will not be ready to re-open in May, as staff at NHS Highland had previously hoped.

A spokeswoman for NHS Highland has cited June as the new aim for opening but the families of residents at the Mackintosh centre, who have been housed at Invernevis house in Fort William since the

care home closed in July last year, have had enough of being 'fobbed off'.

A source close to the families, who asked not to be named, said: 'It's shameful the way they have conducted this, how can they keep going round in this circle where they lose staff they have just taken on? They have dug a big hole for themselves and the families are constantly being fobbed off. They keep saying 'Oh it'll be next month, and now the next one', at first they [the relatives] accepted it out of respect because these things take time but not any more.'

The source added that the families of residents were upset that they have had no communication about progress or opening dates. He said: 'The families still haven't had any contact whatsoever from NHS Highland. We were told a letter had been sent to relatives on April 7 but nobody has received one yet. It's terrible mismanagement

they way they have treated the families and not just them, the local GPs and councillors haven't been told anything either.'

The NHS Highland spokeswoman said: 'Interviews for the care home were held at the beginning of the month and we are hopeful that we will be able to appoint from those but we are still working our way through those processes. Once we have confirmation we will be providing an update to families, staff and the wider community.'

'I would say we're looking at June now.'

The eight-bed Mackintosh centre was closed in July last year when some staff members were suspended pending investigations of alleged poor practise. At the time, NHS Highland said the care home would be closed for four to six weeks.

## North Uist leads the way with community buy-out pub plan

A COMMUNITY buy-out has been proposed for a pub in North Uist - thought to be the first of its kind in Scotland.

A public meeting held last week showed support for the plan, which would see the Westford Inn on the west side of the island turned into a community hub.

Neil Beaton, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar councillor for North Uist, has been working with a steering group to gauge community interest in the buy out. He said: 'It was a very positive meeting and nearly 70 people attended. There's a lot of enthusiasm for a community take over, especially as it will be turned into somewhere that can be used for all sorts of different things, rather than just a pub. We think this could be the first community buy out of a pub in the country and now we can demonstrate community support, that will go a long way to helping us get funding.'

## Body of missing walker found during search of Glen Nevis

THE BODY of missing hillwalker Kyle Knox has been found during a search of the Glen Nevis area.

The 23-year-old from London was discovered in the Surgeon's Gully area, to the south east of Ben Nevis, at around 3pm on Friday, almost three weeks after he was reported missing on March 31.

The body of Mr Knox was discovered by rescuers on board the Royal Navy helicopter R177. He was last seen at around 10am on March 30 in Glen Nevis. It is believed he was planning to climb Ben Nevis.

A previous search carried out immediately after his disappearance was reported had to be abandoned because of bad weather.

A Police Scotland spokesman said: 'Next of kin have been informed and a report will be sent to the procurator fiscal.'

The spokesman also extended thanks to everyone who helped in the search.



GOOD WISHES: Su and Shirley Sen, front, were presented with a bench in Dr Sen's honour by members of Caol in Bloom and Caol Regeneration company limited

## Dedicated volunteer Su retires from public life with village's best wishes

A FOUNDED member of two Lochaber community groups has retired from public life.

Doctor Su Sen devoted his time to a number of voluntary projects since retiring as a general practitioner at Glen Mor medical practice in 1995 and founded both Caol in Bloom in 1998 and Caol Regeneration company limited in 2005.

Last week members of both groups

presented him with a bench which will sit in Caol village in his honour. His wife, Shirley Sen, also received flowers for her work in the community.

A spokesperson on behalf on both groups said of Dr Sen: 'Thousands of people owe him for his skills and expertise. He is loved by all and will be badly missed.'

'We wish him a happy retirement with good health.'

## Man crashes after taking ill at wheel

A 4x4 CAR crashed into a bin lorry after the pensioner driving it became ill at the wheel.

The 78-year-old man was travelling towards Ballachulish with his 76-year-old wife when they collided with the Bowman's recycling vehicle on the A82, three miles south of Fort William, on Monday morning.

The couple and the 52-year-old male lorry driver escaped with only minor injuries but both vehicles had to be recovered by emergency services after the incident at around 11.13am.

Both pensioners suffered chest pains and the car driver also had a fractured wrist, while the driver of the Bowman's vehicle was left with bruising.

The couple were kept at Belford hospital, Fort William, overnight as a precaution.

Stevie McAleer, head of road policing for Lochaber, said: 'The driver of the 4x4 had taken ill at the wheel. We know it was a medical matter but have yet to receive more information.'

The road was closed until 1.30pm because a diesel pipe burst so there was a big clean-up required.'

## Firefighters tackle Spean hotel blaze

AN HISTORIC Highland hotel has been damaged in a fire that started on Tuesday afternoon.

Four fire engines were called to the scene at the Spean Bridge hotel after witnesses said they saw smoke billowing from the roof. Eyewitnesses said 12 firefighters could be seen on a flat roof to the rear of the 17th century coaching inn.

Police were called to the scene to manage traffic on the A85.

The road remained open during the incident - but traffic had to slow to pass hoses lying over the road.



## Number of people using food banks in Highlands is rising, says charity

**EMMA CRICHTON**  
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MORE THAN 6,000 people in the Highlands had to use food banks in the last year.

New figures from charity the Trussell Trust show 6,076 people received a three-day

supply of food from March last year until the beginning of this month, including 1,627 children. In the Western Isles, 280 people were given food during the same period, of which 52 were children.

The same figures show more than 117,689 people used food

banks in Scotland, a 65 per cent increase on last year. This is the first year the figure has exceeded 100,000 in the country.

Ewan Gurr, the Trussell Trust's Scotland network manager, said: 'Despite welcome signs of economic recovery, hunger continues to affect sig-

nificant numbers of men, women and children in Scotland.

'The full extent of the problem could well be much wider as the Trussell Trust figures do not include people who are helped by other food charities or those who feel too ashamed to seek help.'

## Stirling family buys Cally Marts

A FARMERS' co-operative auction mart company, which leases Oban Mart, has been bought over by a family of Stirling farmers and livestock breeders, writes Marian Miller.

Caledonian Marts (Stirling) Ltd officially went into administration on Monday but was immediately sold to the firm of John, Brian and Steven Gilvear, which had previously been announced as the preferred bidder for the auction mart firm.

The new company is called Caledonian Marts Ltd and the independently-owned business will continue to operate along similar lines from its base at Millhall in Stirling and as the operator of the Oban Livestock Group's market at Oban.

The business structure and staff will remain the same, but has a new board of directors under chairman and Doune farmer Niall Bowser, including

a new managing director, John Kyle, previously operations director.

Mr Kyle said: 'It is a tremendous relief to have moved past any uncertainty and be looking to the future.'

'We fought long and hard to keep the market operating and cannot thank our loyal clients enough for their continued support.'

'The Gilvear family has been a large operator in livestock for decades and knows the auction system well.'

'They are dedicated supporters, not just of Caledonian Marts but of other firms too, and I look forward to working with them.'

'Competition is a crucial component of Scottish agriculture and our Stirling and Oban sites will ensure that we never lose sight of this.'

Mr Bowser said: 'It's still early days, but I would like to

see a practical bolstering of our auctioneering staff.'

'This would be with a view to having a much greater presence on farms, drawing buyers and sellers to the market.'

'I would like to investigate further developing specialist areas of marketing such as show cattle, native breed sales, butchers' cattle and perhaps breeding sheep sales.'

'Of course, I would also like to see progressive increase in turnover, perhaps then with a view to some modernisation of the premises.'

Caledonian Marts (Stirling) Ltd had run into financial difficulties, with irrecoverable debts of £3.75 million and had tried but failed in January to re-capitalise through the issue of new share sales.

Instead bids for the 52-year-old company were invited and included one from rival firm United Auctions Ltd.

Around £800,000 is understood to have been tied up in the company from members' loans.

The money from the sale of the company will be used to pay off creditors, with none of the more than 3,000 members getting any proceeds from the sale.

Andrew Davison, joint administrator with Ernst and Young, said: 'Unfortunately, in recent times, the business has faced financial difficulties due to a build-up of bad debts and, having explored a number of other options, the directors took the decision to appoint administrators to help safeguard the future of the business.'

'We are pleased to announce that a sale has been completed that sees the business assets and all employees transferring to the new company, with the business continuing to trade without interruption.'

## Only the Scottish Conservatives can stand up to the SNP and keep Ed Miliband out of No.10.

The LibDem vote has gone for good in Scotland. They failed to win a single mainland seat in the last Holyrood election and they now have no Scottish MEPs at all. The latest polls show they are falling further - with just 5% support. Incredibly, almost 90% of their past voters are saying they will not vote LibDem again.

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**Record-breaking college numbers**

RECORD-BREAKING numbers of people are applying to study at West Highland college of the University of the Highlands and Islands.

Staff at the college are encouraging potential pupils to apply as soon as possible to boost their chance of a place as applications for some courses have increased by 65 per cent.

And applications are expected to rise even further from next week, after the college's open day this Saturday at the Fort William campus.

Eleanor Brown, student services manager for the college, said: 'Our school of adventure studies is attracting students from all over Scotland, the UK and abroad. 'We have seen applications start much earlier and interest in these courses increase significantly this year. One of our degree courses has already attracted more than 70 applicants and our brand new degrees are also recruiting well. Our message would be apply now to be sure of a place in September.'

Courses in early education and childcare and administration and IT at the college have risen by 65 per cent since last year and further education applications have gone up by almost 20 per cent.

West Highland college's open day will run from 11am until 3pm, with staff on hand to help prospective students and answer questions.

# Stormy meeting sees Oban Bay Marine plan for pontoons sunk



## Lions club donates £2,000 to play park

Oban and Lorn Lions club presented Oban Community Play Park with a cheque for £2,000 recently. The cheque will go towards the £333,000 to build a dream play park next to Atlantis Leisure centre. Work has already begun at the site with the swings, which were put into the ground on April 8 and are to be safety inspected today (Thursday). Pictured are children from Oban Community Play Park with the Lions club members at Atlantis Leisure centre. 15\_17cheque01

**LOUISE GLEN**  
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A COMMUNITY group has been asked why it needs council cash for a short-stay marina 'if it is going to be so successful'.

Argyll and Bute councillor Roddy McCuish navigated his way through the stormy waters of turning down a business plan, at a meeting of Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee last week, from Oban Bay Marine (OBM) in favour of a council-led project to place a step-shore pontoon in the bay by next summer.

Earlier in the month, OBM was told by the council its short-stay marina project - seven years in the making - was 'not viable'.

Instead the council decided to spend £45,000 on the development - in consultancy fees and designs - of an interim 'step-shore' facility for 2016.

A business plan put forward by OBM was not considered by councillors because officials said it did not meet the guidelines laid down by the council to deliver a 'viable' scheme.

Council project manager Helen Ford explained that guidelines given to the group 'were very clear'.

Mrs Ford continued: 'The council and public sector partners would only ever have been able

## Community group 'hugely disappointed' at council decision to reject project

to meet eligible costs up to a maximum of £400,000.'

Someone in the audience was heard to shout 'that's a lie'.

Callum MacLeod, Oban restaurant owner, said: 'Some of the best people in the maritime world have given their time to work on this scheme. They have brought forward a superb project and asked Argyll and Bute for support.'

'Today we are being told 'yes but no, but yes, but no'. There is no will on that side of the table,' he said, pointing to councillors.

Councillor McCuish replied: 'I cannot find that there is no will on this side of the table.'

'At last something is happening in the bay.'

'If this is such a good scheme that is going to be so successful, why do you want us [the council] to hold you back? If it is going to make so much money where is the business backing?'

Councillor Iain Angus MacDonald asked councillors to reconsider pushing through the council scheme and asked for 'breathing space' to discuss matters with OBM.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon said: 'It is seven years since we first saw these plans. In Oban you have 16 cruise ships - in Tobermory we have 43. Let's get something in the water.'

A spokesman for OBM said: 'We can but hope that any future dialogue with council officials will be more constructive than has been demonstrated to date.'

'We are, of course, hugely disappointed that the opportunity has been lost for a permanent transit facility to be in the water by 2016 to be replaced by a possible temporary landing stage sometime during that year, and once again the full facility has been pushed back to sometime in the future - if at all.'

'We cannot understand why the officials fail to comprehend the extent of groundwork available.'

'It would have permitted a viable transit marina to be delivered within the same design development cost and timeframe as a temporary landing stage.'

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**Skye, Lewis and Harris in top ten**

SKYE, Lewis and Harris have been named in the top 10 British islands to visit by a travel comparison site. Based on reviews and opinions of travellers, TripAdvisor named Skye number five of the top 10 islands to visit in the UK and Channel isles, with Lewis and Harris close behind at number eight. Arran and the mainland of Orkney also featured, with Jersey taking the top spot. VisitScotland chairman Mike Cantlay said: 'From the rocky mountains of Skye to the Caribbean-like white sand beaches of Lewis and Harris, recognition from organisations like TripAdvisor really helps inspire even more people to visit our beautiful country as we continue to take Scotland to the world and sell it like never before.'

**Help police find thief and vandal**

**POLICE in Lochaber are appealing for information about two crimes that took place over the last week. Overnight on Saturday April 18 a vacuum cleaner and pressure washer at Ben Nevis filling station was broken into and a sum of cash was stolen. During the night of Monday April 16 at Lismore Road, Kinlochleven, a parked vehicle was scratched. Anyone with information is asked to contact police by calling 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.**

**Election hopefuls face public in Fort**

CANDIDATES in the Ross, Skye and Lochaber constituency will take part in a hustings. The event will take place in Fort William, one week before the general election. The seven candidates will deliver a short opening speech before answering questions submitted by the audience in Lochaber high school on April 30. The event is organised by Lochaber chamber of commerce. It will be chaired by businessman Laurence Young. Entry is free and advance booking is not essential, although spaces may be limited. To submit questions for the event go to bit.do/lochaberelection.

**Beth staying put at Kinlochleven**

IN LAST week's Oban Times (April 16) the headline of a report on the front page stated 'Kinlochleven high school bids farewell to Beth after 25 years'. The work of Beth Grant was celebrated at an end of term ceremony at Kinlochleven high school but she is not retiring or leaving for any other reason, as the headline suggested. We apologise for any confusion.

# Community urged to get behind plans for £3m Corpach marina

**EMMA CRICHTON**  
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

A NEW marina would be 'the best thing' to bring to Corpach, a business owner told a community council meeting last Wednesday. Plans for a £3 million facility in Lochaber were shown to the Kilmallie community council meeting last Wednesday. Residents were enthusiastic about the proposal and the increased trade it would bring to the area. John Cuthbertson, owner of the Snowgoose mountain centre in Corpach, encouraged everyone at the meeting in Kilmallie hall last Wednesday to give the project their full support. He said: 'I think it's a fantastic idea. The best thing you could bring to Corpach, I really think you must go for this, if not you'll be turning away the



FUTURE: an artist's impression of how Corpach marina could look

biggest thing this area needs.' Mr Cuthbertson added that he tried to build a similar facility in the 1970s and was even granted planning permission but an argument about land ownership prevented it from going ahead. Duncan MacPhee, one of the members of the working group behind Thomas Telford Corpach Marina limited, presented the group's ideas for the marina, to be housed in a bay to the right of the railway line. He said he was excited about the prospect, but insisted it would only go ahead with the 'full support' of the community. Mr MacPhee added: 'If the community isn't behind this then it's dead in the water. We really want the full support of the community and for this to benefit the community or there's no point.' Mr MacPhee, a well-known face in Lochaber as a solicitor of MacPhee and

Partners, explained the marina is set to include a slipway and moorings, with the potential for a cruise liner berth. The next step is to lodge a planning application and source funding. The group hopes to have a detailed design and full planning consent by the end of this year and have construction underway by 2017. Russell Leaper, secretary of Kilmallie community council, said there is a 'lot of enthusiasm' about the project but he would like to hear the views of more residents. He said: 'We would really like to get more feedback from people living close by to make sure they don't feel they would be adversely affected by this but there is clearly a lot of enthusiasm.' The community council were offered a seat on the board and will be eligible to vote on all decisions about the marina. Mr Leaper said they would be keen to take this up.

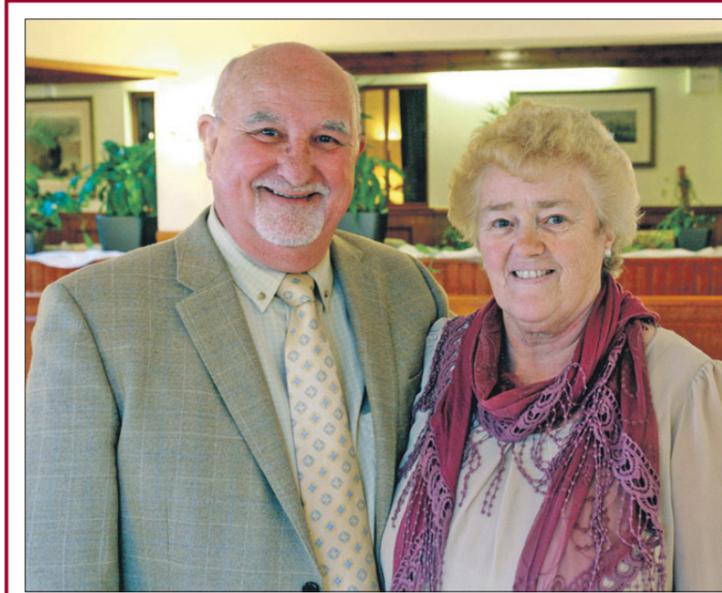
## Fergie's on song with new single

AT 78 years old, Lochaber musician Fergie MacDonald is determined to remain in the limelight and has just unveiled a new song - a spin-off to the worldwide number one 'The Shinty Referee'. The Acharacle pensioner released Niall Mór an Referee last week as a nod to his Gaelic speaking fans after his last single reached the top of the iTunes chart within 24 hours when it was released in 2013. Mr MacDonald, often dubbed the ceilidh king, said: 'I couldn't believe how well the Shinty Referee did. I was so happy with it. Then all the Gaels were asking for a Gaelic version but when I tried to do a literal translation I just couldn't make it fit so I accepted it as a bad job and wrote this instead. It's not a serious song. In the sad world we live in today

I wanted to write something that's just good fun and that's exactly what it is. Niall Mór is a fictional character based loosely round a shinty referee I knew from my school days. But I don't know if he did all the things I'm singing about.' Best known as a button box player, Mr MacDonald took to the microphone to record Niall Mór but the song features his son John MacDonald as well as Lochaber musicians Allan Henderson, Iain MacFarlane, Colm O'Rua, Hugh MacCallum, Gary Innes and Angus MacPhail. Mr MacDonald, a former pupil of Mingarry primary and Fort William high schools, said: 'I tutored all of these boys and I treat them all as my children. I'm no singer so I was going to stick to the accordion and get one of the boys to sing but they decided because of how humorous the song is I should sing it so that's exactly what I did.' Recording 35 albums on vinyl, cassette and CD during a career spanning 60 years, Mr MacDonald said he plans to stay in the West Highland music scene for as long as possible. He said: 'I can't bring myself to give it up. I have slowed down a lot but I'll be at some of the festivals over the summer and will be involved with Oban Mòd later this year.'



ON SONG: Fergie MacDonald with his new single 20\_17fergie01



TOGETHERNESS: John and Margaret MacAskill celebrated 50 years of marriage with a family dinner

## Golden wedding smiles

CARING and looking after each other is the key to a happy marriage, according to Margaret MacAskill, who celebrated 50 years with her husband John, earlier this month. The happy couple from Tomonie marked their golden wedding anniversary with a family dinner at the Moorings Hotel, Banavie, on April 11. Mrs and Mrs MacAskill met in Kinlochleven and were married at St Mary's church, Fort William, on February 20 1965 but postponed

the celebratory dinner until last week when their two sons and four grandchildren could be with them. Mrs MacAskill said: 'We had a lovely, happy evening to celebrate 50 happy years and we thank the Lord for blessing us with the lovely years we've had together. 'The key to a happy marriage is being loving to each other, looking after each other, sharing everything and talking about everything.'

## Ballachulish pond clear of crayfish

CRAYFISH damaging the wildlife and environment of a Lochaber pond appear to have been removed successfully. The small lobster-like species was first discovered at Ballachulish quarry by a countryside ranger in 2011, leading to concerns about the pond's natural habitat. Crayfish are known to compete with fish for food and shelter and can be a significant predator of insects, frogs, young fish and their eggs. Following an eradication programme carried out since July 2012 by Highland council, Lochaber Fisheries trust, Scottish Environment Protection agency and Scottish Natural Heritage, crayfish now appear to have been removed from the quarry waters. Diane Baum of Lochaber Fisheries Trust said: 'We are very encouraged by monitoring to date. It is a little too early to be completely confident that we've removed every last crayfish from the ponds, but at this stage we are cautiously optimistic about the success of the project.' Members of the public are reminded that it is against the law to capture, keep, transport or release live crayfish into the wild without a licence. Any suspicious activity, at Ballachulish quarry should be reported to the police.

## Visits could help identify potential energy savings

FREE sessions to help Lochaber householders save energy are being offered from this month. The project will see Lochaber environmental group visit homes with energy monitors and thermal imaging cameras to find ways in which homes lose energy through missing insulation and draughts.

The project is also available to local businesses. Charlotte Hatto of Lochaber environmental group said: 'The housing stock in Lochaber really needs improvement. Using our energy monitors and thermal imaging cameras we can help bill payers target the biggest drain on their finance ensuring they get the

biggest results for simple changes. Examples of savings that can be made include turning off unused appliances and draught proofing, which can increase comfort and reduce bills at the same time.' For more information call 01397700090 or email charlotte@lochaberenviro.org.uk.

## Big spring clean this weekend

FORT William's big spring clean has been rescheduled for this weekend, following bad weather for the planned last month. The Town Team, along with members of Zero Waste Lochaber, are encouraging volunteers to come along on Saturday and Sunday (April 25 and 26) to help.

Members have asked volunteers to meet at 1.30pm on both days, at the Mackintosh steps on Saturday and the old putting green shed on the Parade on Sunday. The town Team have a supply of brushes, shovels and gardening gloves but asked volunteers to bring their own if possible.

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**NOTICE TO LANDOWNERS & OCCUPIERS**

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

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

A helicopter will be used on Thursday 23rd April to transport wooden poles from the storage areas at Banavie and Moy to the construction site.

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

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

For more information please contact: Max Bigham 01631 569209.

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# Viewpoint

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

## The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8216

The vision of Dalmally man Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow and the work of the charity he founded, Mary's Meals, is inspirational and truly astonishing.

practical solution to a seemingly intractable problem. He realised that education held the long-term key to alleviating poverty and hunger; but he married that to the practical idea of providing a meal at school, thus nourishing both mind and body.

As Mary's Meals look set to reach the astounding milestone of feeding one million children by the end of this year, the West Highlands can be justly proud of this remarkable man and his wonderful organisation.

His was no airy-fairy notion of do-gooding: it was a



## Days gone by - Royal Hotel, Oban

This week's flashback photograph was submitted by Mary Tindall of Oban and features staff at a function in Oban's Royal Hotel about 1965. Included in the photograph are: Mrs M MacIntyre; Teresa Bain; Mrs Squires; Cathie Gemmell; Christine Blair; Agnes MacKay; Mary Tindall and Bessie MacDonald. Digital versions of flashback photos for The Oban Times can be sent to editor@obantimes.co.uk or prints sent in to Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Anyone who wishes a print returned should include a stamped, addressed envelope.

## Take heed of actual passenger numbers

Sir, Argyll and Bute council's development committee is too readily impressed by percentages and needs to take heed of the actual numbers of passengers using Oban Airport, the *Oban Times*, April 16.

An increase of 182 over the previous year is an increase of three and a half per week - hardly noticeable and, by any standard, certainly not worth hailing as a 'success'.

The story becomes even more incredulous if council tax payers look at how much they subsidise the operation. A net operating cost of £491,877 means each passenger gets a subsidy of £147. Many would argue there are more deserving causes for such largesse than giving it to those wishing to fly.

If any other operation yielded a cost to income ratio as poor as 14 to one, serious questions would be asked as to why it had not been shut down. We need justification for such an uneconomic activity from the development committee and an explanation of its definition of 'success' so we can understand the world in which our councillors live.

Ian Reid, Ardconnel Road, Oban.

## Urgent roads action needed now on Mull

Sir, How I enjoy reading the *Oban Times*, especially the hilarious adventures of the ostriches - you know, those people in Argyll and Bute council who try to see how far in the sand they can bury their heads.

This week's adventure featured Jim Smith who pontificated on the

effect, or rather the non effect, road equivalent tariff (RET) would have on Mull's infrastructure.

His observation that a £13 fare would have no huge impact on the volume of traffic coming over to Mull beggars belief.

His assertion that the ferries leave Oban only two thirds full is exactly why RET is being introduced, so that ferries do leave full, so much so that an extra ferry is scheduled to cope with the onslaught.

Why would the projected increase in traffic on Mull be any different to that experienced by those islands which already have RET? Maybe he has been instructed by the chief ostrich to spout this ridiculous nonsense in the vain hope the people of Mull will stop clamouring for the upgrade to our road infrastructure - some hope.

As I have been quoted on the front page a few weeks back and reiterated by councillor MacDougall this week, if our third world roads are not upgraded as a matter of great urgency then Mull will become Scotland's biggest car park.

Whilst I find most of the antics of Argyll and Bute council's unelected but well-paid staff farcical, in this instance, unfortunately, the joke has worn thin. We need action now.

Steve Willis, Gruline, Mull.

## South Uist resident shares RET concerns

Sir, With reference to the Mull councillor's concern over the proposed road equivalent tariff (RET) clogging roads on the isles, I also, living in the Uists, would be concerned on this issue.

It will no doubt cause more problems for bus drivers, delivery

drivers and others going about their daily lives. This is putting the cart before the horse as it is now 33 years since the two-lane scheme between Lochboisale to Lochmaddy was first started, a distance of 47 miles. That section is still half done.

Why can't the government complete and put in place an adequate roads building programme in the Uists and the road into Tobermory rather than encouraging more cars onto our single track and poorly maintained roads?

I worked in Argyllshire in the early 1970s and having recently travelled from Oban to Tarbert, Loch Fyne, there is hardly any difference in the state of the road from what it was 40 years ago. To all local councils, can we please do the right thing and implement a major roads programme for the Highlands and islands and stop playing politics and/or bring a large influx of unnecessary vehicles onto our already poor roads.

## Thanks for excellent Oban hospital care

Sir, I would like to thank Doctor Tolloczko, her surgical team and all the staff of Ward A at Lorn and Islands hospital, Oban, following my recent operation.

Everyone made things so comfortable and easy for me, even with my back problems. They were professional and friendly throughout.

We can't always be fortunate with our health but we are fortunate we have hospitals like the one in Oban and people for support when we are at our most vulnerable. Many thanks to everyone.

Daniel Sloan-Griffiths, Kilmory, by Lochgilphead.

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

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either telephone IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body which deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers and magazines. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

## Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON  
rrobertson@obantimes.co.uk

### Morino day

THE PARK Bar's biannual Morino day was held last Sunday, April 19.

It was a real 'who's who' of Scottish dance music as players from all over the country came to play and celebrate that most renowned of all accordion models, the Hohner Morino.

The playing was top-notch and the music continued from 2pm until midnight with only a brief pause while the pub kindly served up steak pie to the performers.

The whole day was kept going by Matthew MacLennan who acted as MC for the event and Nicky Mcmichan should take credit for much of the excellent organisation.

The biggest laugh of the day was provided by the punter who commented how nice it was that - after Chelsea beat Manchester United the previous day to go 10 points clear at the top of the league - the Park Bar had decided to show its appreciation by holding a celebration, not for Hohner Morinos, but for Jose Mourinho! That was all very well, but I can't imagine Mourinho is much use at a 2/4 march.

### Erskine ceilidh

A VERY successful night was held in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, as Clydebank Highlanders' held a ceilidh to raise funds for the Erskine Hospital for war veterans.

There was a great turn out, a great line-up and a lot of laughs.

Such was the number of raffle donations that the drawing of the raffle seemed to take forever.

The veterans all did well in the raffle and were sent home laden with a variety of bottles to be distributed within the hospital.

### What's on

Friday April 24: Glasgow Uist and Barra Association ceilidh dance.

Saturday April 25: Glasgow Skye annual spring concert (Wee Skye), Crawford Hall.

Wednesday May 6: An Lòchran

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

EARBSA agus creideas! Sin an rud as cudromaiche dhan mhòr-shluagh is iad ag èisteachd ri tagraichean a tha a' suirghe taic gu an cur dhan Phàrlamaid ann an Lunnainn.

Am bheil daoine a' creidsinn gun gabhadh na thathas a' gealltainn bho gach neach a chòileanadh? Tha daonnan eachdraidh riaghaltasan a chaidh roimhe gur cùl intinn dhaoine agus theagmh dol athoirt buaidh air mar a bhòtas iad.

Am measg nan daoine as sine bidh mòran cuideachd dileas dha pàrtaidh àraid air sgàth feallsanachd a tha bunaiteach dhaibh, agus nach eil iad deònach a thrèigsinn. Bhòt còrr air ochdadh 's a còig sa cheud air taghadh-bheachd an reifreinnan-uiridh, agus ged nach bi cothrom bhòtadh aig an fheadhainn aig sia bliadhna deug air an Taghadh Choitcheann seo, nach bu mhath gum biodh àireamh mhòr a' nochdadh beachd le bhòtadh.

Thathas ag innse dhuinn gur e seo taghadh cho teann 's a bh' ann am Breatann bho chionn bhliadhnaichean, agus gun teagamh dh'fhaodadh buaidh na bhòt atharachadh bunaiteach a thoirt air beatha na dùthcha.

Tha e follaiseach gum bheil

traditional music session at Partick Brewing Company. Friday May 8: Docsa - new traditional folk band - playing at The National Piping Centre.

### Pub scene

Park Bar: Thursday April 23: Session. Friday April 24: Trail West. Saturday April 25: Eriskay Lilt. Sunday April 26: Martainn Skene. Islay Inn: Friday April 24: Black Velvet. Saturday April 25: Penny Dogs.

### Glasgow Skye birthday

BY THE time this week's paper is printed, the Glasgow Skye and invited guests will have enjoyed a civic dinner in Glasgow City Chambers to celebrate the association's 150th anniversary.

Over the last week, Radio nan Gàidheal listeners will have noticed a 'Sgitheanach' flavour to the programmes, as the Gaelic airwaves were subject to an island takeover.

To mark the occasion, I am

including in this column some Glasgow Skye memorabilia from years gone by.

Last week, I included a picture of the letter sent from the association to those from the island fighting in the Second World War.

This week, the document below is the programme from the Glasgow Skye's centenary Gathering 50 years ago.

On the bill that night was a simply incredible line-up of legendary Gaelic singers and musicians and a fantastic array of classic Skye songs.

My favourite part of this document is the additional note which states: 'There will be no interval'.

The association audiences must have been hardy in those days.

Having said that, on reading the programme, anyone who would want to take a break from listening to that line-up would be mad.

Judging by what I hear from people who attended the gatherings back then, the 'assembly' that followed - from 12 midnight to 3am - would have been an awfully quiet affair.

Robert Robertson  
rrobertson@obantimes.co.uk

Programme	
Opening Chorus - "The Skye Boat Song" (The audience is requested to join in the Chorus)	Songs: Tig orm mo Phòib Pùirta-beù ALAIDAIR GILLIES
Chorus: VERSE	Songs: Selected POETRY: HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR
Chairman's Address	Songs: Nàir bha mi og Pùirta-beù KENNA CAMPBELL
Songs: Fàilte de'n Eilinn Sgitheanach Ciarla Iain Ghàidheil IAIN DOUGLAS	Selection: ANDY McCOLL'S CEILIDH BAND
Songs: Eillean nan Oig The Spirit of the Waves DONALDA ROBERTSON	Songs: An t-Eillean III on's na h-àraoille KIRSTEEN GRANT
Songs: Spiorach Chìlean Domhail Fìrka nan Donn Fhàidh ALAIDAIR GRANT	Note of Thanks JOHN A. McDONALD
Selection: ISLE OF SKYE PIPERS	Songs: Sios Chìlean Bhaile Fagail a' bhàig Fòrriugh GEORGE CLAVEY
Songs: Gid chìleanachadh Tìpagan Leam Tha Sàil DONALD MACDUNN	Accompanist JANET McGUIP, L.T.C.L.
Readings: Selected MARY B. MacLEAN	ODHICHE MBATH LEIBH GOD SAVE THE QUEEN
	NOTE: There will be NO INTERVAL.
	An ASSEMBLY will follow in the MAJESTIC BALLROOM, HOPE STREET, from 12 Midnight, to 3 a.m. MUSIC BY ANDY McCOLL'S CEILIDH BAND. M.C.'s - Pipe Major ALEX MACLEOD, Messrs. JOHN ROSS and ALAIDAIR ROSS.

Ailean Caimbeul

fiachan eagallach na dùthcha nan uallach fhathast, a dh'aindeoin nan gearraidhean a th' air tighinn air cùisean, agus cha tèid aig tagraiche sam bith air dùbhlain nam fiachan sin a sheachnadh.

'S e an duilgheadas, agus an dùbhlain, ciamar a ghabhas na fiachan sin pàigheadh air ais gun an tuilleadh cuideam a chur air na daoine as bochda san rìoghachd agus a tha mar-thà a' fulang a rèir eòlaichean.

Cha ghabh firinn an dùbhlain àicheadh agus cha mhòtha na sin nach tuigear nach eil gearradh de, mar eisimpleir, trì sa cheud dol a thoirt buaidh sam bith air teaghlach beartach, 's dòcha fìu 's nach mhothaich iad dha, ach dhan fheadhainn a tha mar-thà a' cunntas nan sgillinnean tha an suidheachadh tur eadar-dhealaichte.

Sin mar a tha suidheachadh leasachaidh na Gàidhlig ann an Alba Nuadh! Rinn an Riaghaltas sin deagh adhartas thar nam beagan bhliadhnaichean a chaidh seachad, chun na h-ìre gu dearbh is gum bheil sùil ga thoirt air cùrsaichean gun an tuilleadh luchd-teagais Gàidhlig a thrèanadh.

Nach b' olc an uairsin gun d' rachadh dithis den chòighear a bha an sàs san obair luachmhor sin a chur às an dreuchdan! Gun teagamh feumaidh riaghaltasan ionmhas a chaomhnadh bho am gu am, ach mar a thuir mi tha gearradh air 'a' bhonnach bheag' daonnan nas goirte na criomadh a dh'fhuilingeas na 'bonnach mhòra! Tha mi'n dòchas gum beachdaich Riaghaltas Alba Nuaidh a-rithist!

SHARING the pain of reducing the national debt can compound inequality.

People can only be 'all in it together' if they start from the same place and while modest reductions in income might go unnoticed by a wealthy family these can be seriously damaging to those bordering poverty.

The government of Nova Scotia made good progress with Gaelic development over recent years but in presumably 'sharing' public sector cuts they have reduced their Gaelic team by 40 per cent! Equality? Hardly!

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

## Press policy

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We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

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

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

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## 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, amend or to refuse to print them. Names and

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

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**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**

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# Oban High School gets a taste of THE BIG APPLE



**O**BAN high school pupils were warmly received in the Big Apple when the school's pipe band, choir and its traditional school of music played at parades and concerts to promoting Scotland in the United States of America.

The trip, two years in the planning, saw pupils from first year to sixth year take part in 'the trip of a lifetime' to the city that never sleeps with events celebrating Scotland.

Morven McKerrell, of the performing arts department, said: 'For many of the children,

teachers and adult helpers this was the trip of a lifetime.

'The trip was open to any pupils that wanted to go.

'On the Saturday we were the first Scottish band in the Tartan Day Parade - we were behind the grand marshal, who led the parade.

'We were officially named as the furthest travelled band and presented an award by Graham McTavish, the star of TV programme Outlander and grand marshal.

'The Traditional School of Music, the pipe band and choristers played at Bryant

Park with former Oban high school pupil Aidan O'Rourke on the Saturday. On Monday we performed at Trump Towers to people who were enjoying their lunch.'

The school pupils made a few special trips while they were on the island including: Grand

Central Station, The Empire State Building, The Hard Rock Café, Planet Hollywood and the 911 Memorial.

They also went on the Staten Island Ferry, made a trip on the New York subway and were up close with the Statue of Liberty.





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BEST OF LUCK TO EVERYONE COMPETING

# The 32nd Highlands Music & Dance Festival

## Dance and brings top

## Highlands & Islands Music & Dance Festival 2015 diary

**Friday 1st May 2015**  
Action Songs, Choirs, Ensemble, Recorder, Singing - Corran Halls  
Accordion & Fiddle Masters - St John's Cathedral  
Scottish Area Finals - Atlantis Leisure Centre

**Saturday 2nd May 2015**  
Accordion - St. Columba's Cathedral Hall  
Clarsach - Congregational Church (please note change of venue)  
Fiddle - Regent Hotel  
Highland Dancing - Atlantis Leisure and Corran Halls  
Piano - St. John's Cathedral  
Piping - Oban High School  
Scottish Choreography Challenge - Corran Halls  
Singing - Glencruitten Church and Church Centre  
Festival Family Dance 'Festival Fling' - Argyllshire Gathering Hall

**Sunday 3rd May**  
Scottish Choreography Challenge - Corran Halls

Scotland The Perfect Stage  
AWARDS FOR ALL SCOTLAND LOTTERY FUNDED  
Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

# & Islands Festival 2015

# music festival talent to Oban



The 32nd  
Highlands & Islands  
Music & Dance Festival  
www.obanfestival.org  
1 May - 3 May 2015  
Festival Fringe 'The Highland Fling'

The following establishments warmly welcome all festival competitors and visitors to come in and eat, drink and play music.

Barn Bar, Lerags	Sunday from 4pm
Chocolate Shop	Saturday from 10am
Corachie Clematis, Taynuilt	Saturday from 10am
Cuan Mor	Saturday from 9.30am
Grassroots Community Cafe	1st - 3rd May 12 - 4pm
Loch Melfort Hotel	Friday 9.30pm - 1am
Markie Dan's	Friday and Saturday from 9.30pm Sunday 5-8pm
Olive Garden	Saturday from 8.30pm
Poppies, Connel Road	Saturday from 10am
Royal Hotel	Friday and Saturday from 8.30pm

The Festival Fringe 'The Highland Fling' gratefully acknowledges the support of



IT'S FESTIVAL time in Oban. One of Scotland's major cultural events, the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival takes place over 10 venues on the weekend of May 1-3. Started in 1984 as a way to encourage young talent to pursue traditional arts, last year saw more than 1,110 participants and 125 competitive classes. Oban's population swells during the festival, with lively music filling the air and graceful dancers showing off their best moves. Disciplines include piping, accordion, fiddle, clarsach, piano, recorder, singing, Highland dancing and choreography. The woodwind and brass section event won't be held this year, but it will be back in 2016.

In addition to the competitive classes, the festival hosts several special events each year. The Scottish Area Finals, the only Highland dancing team contest in the world, begins Friday, May 1 and goes through Saturday May 2 at Atlantis Leisure Centre.

The tunes kick off on Friday, May 1, at 7pm with the Fiddle and Accordion Masters at St John's Cathedral. Featuring six of the best accordion and fiddle players from throughout Scotland, it's the only competition of its kind. The Scottish Choreography Challenge on Saturday and Sunday features teams of dancers showing off their most inventive dance routines, incorporating traditional Highland steps with glittering costumes and sound and lighting effects.

At the Festival Fringe, the music and dance flows over from the competitions to venues around town, where competitors and fans alike can join in throughout the weekend, whether it's a sing-along at a pub session or cutting a rug at the Festival Fringe family dance at Argyllshire Gathering Halls. The McQueen Brothers events trailer will be at Queen's Park Place all weekend with live music. The Concert of Champions on Saturday presents competition winners in a musical variety show. And pipe bands will march through Oban for the always-popular Festival Parade.

All-day competition tickets, excluding Highland Dancing, can be purchased at the various venues. Tickets for the dance events are in high demand and some sessions are already sold out, so check the website to avoid disappointment. For more information or to book, telephone 07510 841198 or visit obanfestival.org



The Oban Times is proud to support the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival



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Sat 2nd - 7-9 Jamie Flynn  
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Sun 3rd - From 5pm Finn

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## food and drink

As part of The Year of Food & Drink Scotland, The Oban Times has teamed up with local businesses to celebrate the wealth of variety, quality and talent in this booming industry.

Over the coming months, we will be promoting a selection of events, stories, restaurants, pubs and producers from the west coast.

Each week, one business or news story from the sector will be the focus of this exciting new column, along with a delicious recipe, so keep an eye out and allow us to give you a taste of the fantastic food and drink available in the area.

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



## Visit Scotland plate up a taste of Argyll for Spaniards

A GROUP of tour operators from Spain attending the country's biggest travel trade show - VisitScotland (VS) expo 2015 - have chosen to come to Argyll this week to experience a first-hand culinary experience.

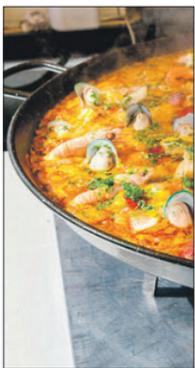
The trip is being organised by VS to encourage the international travel trade professionals to include Argyll and the islands in their tour itineraries and bring more Spanish visitors to the region.

The trip by the Spanish delegates will set off for Argyll with their first stop being a tour of Inveraray castle on the shores of Loch Fyne where the Spaniards will get their first taste of fresh shell fish.

The party will have dinner and stay overnight in Oban before taking the ferry to Mull and then to Iona to explore Iona Abbey.

The trip also includes an overnight stay in Tobermory, a visit to Isle of Mull Cheese, lunch at Oban Fish and Chip Shop and a visit to The Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary.

### Spanish recipe with Scottish seafood West Coast seafood Paella



#### Ingredients

- 1 leek, sliced
- 1 onion, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic
- 1 red pepper, chopped
- 110g chorizo sausage, chopped
- 1 tsp turmeric
- 300g long grain rice
- 1 hot fish stock
- tin chopped tomatoes
- 200g peas
- 400g fresh mussels
- 12 large prawns
- 150g squid
- fresh parsley

Serves 4

#### Method

In a large wide-based pan over a medium heat, soften the leek, onion, pepper and garlic in olive oil for 5 mins without browning.

Add the chorizo and fry until it releases its oils, stirring occasionally.

Stir in the turmeric and seasoning, and stir in the rice until coated by the oils, then pour in the stock and add the tin of tomatoes.

Bring to the boil and simmer for 15 mins, ensuring the rice doesn't stick to the base of the pan.

After 15 minutes the rice should be cooked so add the mussels and the prawns.

You may want to add an extra splash of stock if the rice looks a bit dry.

Keep stirring, and as the mussels start to open and the prawns begin to turn pink, add your squid and peas and cook for a further 5 minutes.

Discard any clams or mussels that don't open. Check for seasoning and serve immediately with lemon wedges and parsley.

Don't miss

*Eusk*

featuring next week

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## Oban and Mull feature in new television documentary

A new television series looking modern life in Scotland will focus on cabling for superfast fibre broadband on Mull and how it is expected to boost business in the Highlands and islands.

How Scotland Works is a three-part documentary series taking a fresh look at the country in the 21st century, from new thinking on working lives, to Scotland's international 'brand' standing and the growing and diverse population.

The first episode looks at how a new industrial revolution is transforming jobs, businesses and creating a new generation of entrepreneurs.

Service industries like call centres and hospitality are thriving.

The Highlands and islands are being connected to superfast fi-

bre broadband to help boost small businesses and create new jobs.

Traditional jobs like fishing and farming are going high-tech.

Scottish digital start-ups are creating new global businesses.

This documentary tells the story of modern Scotland at work through a diverse cast of characters including scallop divers, call centre workers, farmers, fishermen and software companies that are defining Scotland's economic future.

The first episode takes a look at the cabling installation, particularly centring on Oban and Mull, detailing local companies - from printers making jigsaw puzzles to music producers - and others in the local community looking to reap the benefits.

The second episode will look at how Scottish icons, from tartan

and castles to the Loch Ness monster, attract millions of visitors each year.

It also highlights how exports like whisky, porridge and even seaweed are also worth billions of pounds to the economy.

Life in modern Scotland is changing as this third and final episode of How Scotland Works reveals.

The population has never been higher.

Scots are living longer, ethnic diversity has doubled in a decade, and some of Scotland's remotest areas are being repopulated after years of decline.

This programme meets Scots of all ages, from all across the country, to tell the surprising story of life in modern Scotland from birth to old age.

How Scotland Works, BBC Two Scotland, Tuesday, April 28 at 9pm.

## Spring charity concert promotes Lochaber talent

LOCHABER Rotary Club is again promoting an exciting annual Charity Spring Concert featuring some of Lochaber's best musical talent.

The annual three-hour wind band concert will be slightly expanded this year to include a Strictly Come Dancing-style competition with three dances - a waltz, a samba and a quickstep - with points awarded and a prize for the winning couple.

This is in addition to the usual repertoire

that features the 20-piece Lochaber Community Wind Band, the Great Glen Swing Band, and other local artists including the Red Hot Toddlies and Geoff Wright.

Rotary club past-president Mike MacGruer, who is co-ordinating the event, said: 'It will be a similar format to previous years but this year we are trialling a short interval dancing competition between the musical performances.'

He added: 'The concert is the wind band's

principal event of its calendar.

'It was a huge hit last year, well attended and the feedback was very positive.'

Tickets can be obtained from Mike, from the reception desk at the Alexandra Hotel, in Fort William or from any member of the Wind Band.

They are £6 per ticket, or £3 for concessions or four tickets for the price of three. All the proceeds from the concert will go to local charities and good causes.

## Skye Mòd now open to adult competitors

FOR THE first time in almost 30 years the Skye Provincial Mòd will be open to adult competitors.

Held in Portree in June, a number of adult events will be introduced this year for the first time since the 1980s, including competitions in traditional song, solos, duets and choirs.

Stuart Jackson, Skye Provincial Mòd committee member, said: 'We have received a great deal of interest from all over the country and hope that

these are followed up by entries.

'We are fortunate that Skye has a huge amount of talented individuals and we hope that some of them can be coaxed out to compete at the local Mòd.'

'We are well placed to receive competitors from the islands with ferry links to Uist and Harris.

'An entry has already been received from a choir in Argyll and several of their members will be competing in the solo events.

'We will be delighted to receive participants from anywhere in the country and we are sure they will have a great time at the Skye Mòd.'

This year the Mòd will run over four days starting with the schools piping competitions on Wednesday June 3, the precenting and bible reading contests in Kilmuir on June 4, instrumental competitions on Friday June 5, followed by the junior and senior competitions on Saturday June 6.

## Mull Fungi flourishes at forest photo competition



The flora and fungi category winner of the 2014 Forest Stewardship Council photo competition came from the island of Mull. The photograph captured by Martin Jones, who lives in Dervaig, was taken during a fungi walk arranged by Mull Bird Club and led by Stuart Gibson.



PIANIST: Aleksander Kudajczyk, the pianist who was discovered playing the piano at Glasgow university

## Polish pianist to perform in Oban's Cathedral

A HOSPITAL cleaner who lives in Glasgow will be making his debut performance in Oban this weekend at the town's St John's Cathedral.

Aleksander Kudajczyk is the pianist who was discovered playing the piano at Glasgow university when employed as a cleaner and now performs full time.

Born in Poland in 1978 he was brought up in a family with strong musical roots.

His own musical talent came to the fore for the first time when he was only four years old and played a few lines from Mozart's Sonata C Major, which he had just heard.

Encouraged by his parents, he started learning to play the piano with his father, who was a music teacher.

He graduated from the Music Academy in Łódź, Poland with an honours degree and since then has

performed at concerts in Poland, Germany, Italy, France, Greece, Netherlands, USA, Great Britain, Australia and Indonesia.

In 2006 he left Poland for Scotland, and for the first few months he lived on income from various part-time jobs.

In 2007 his musical talent was discovered in Glasgow University, where at the time Aleksander was working as a cleaner, and had asked for permission to play the piano in University Chapel.

The story quickly became widespread amongst the world's media, translated into more than 30 languages, catapulting him into the limelight and enabling him to play the piano to packed concert halls.

The concert will take place on Sunday, April 26 and begins at 2.30pm. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

## Solo shows at Resipole



One of the artworks in the Iona series by Anna Raven

FOLLOWING the success of its spring show, which opened at the beginning of April, Resipole Studios at Archaracle is getting set for two solo shows that will run simultaneously throughout May.

Anna Raven and Jim Wright, although entirely unique in each of their styles and practices, are both inspired by the rugged Scottish landscape.

The two exhibitions of their work will run in harmony and hope to offer the audience two individual viewpoints of Scotland's remote coastline.

Jim Wright, originally from Scotland and now living in Yorkshire, has been showing with Resipole Studios since 2012 and will be presenting a new body of work in the main gallery called 'Waiting for the Storm'.

Jim, a marine artist, is renowned for his mixed media portrayals of the tumultuous sea and sky.

Emotionally charged

by the extreme elements and with the challenge of working in such adverse conditions, Jim produces work that is raw and expressive.

Jim's semi-abstract artworks, which are built up in layers of primarily oil paint and pastel, capture the severe beauty of Scotland's west coast that has enchanted its claimant for centuries.

It is therefore not surprising that Jim Wright is becoming somewhat of a household name across the UK.

The very same people that fall in love with Scotland's remote coastline undoubtedly rediscover these feelings when happening upon Jim's paintings.

Meanwhile, Anna Raven, an artist from Ardgour, will be exhibiting her work in the 'red gallery' - a recent extension to Resipole Studio's main gallery.

Anna's solo show entitled 'Close to the Edge' is a multi-media account of her month-long residency, living in a shepherd's hut on

the island of Iona in November and December last year.

Her artworks, which are central to the exhibition, were created by using pure pigments suspended in an acrylic binder and largely made on the beach.

Anna embraced her surroundings ensuring that the work was not just about the island but of it too - the sand and rocks were her easel and many of her tools were materials grabbed from the beach.

Like Jim, Anna's work is responsive to the harsh conditions of the outdoors.

The exhibition will also feature excerpts from Anna's blog written during her residency, as well as photographic documentation and a short film.



relationship with Resipole Studios and has exhibited with it in a number of group shows.

However, this is her first solo show at the gallery. Her work is shown regularly in London and will be featured in a pop-up show courtesy of Rebecca Hossack in the coming months.

Resipole Studios believes that these two shows offer something for everyone.

The artwork on show is intrinsic to the very landscape that envelops Resipole and in turn, the gallery hopes that visitors and locals alike can further their appreciation of the wild beauty of Scotland's west coast.

The show opens on May 1 and runs until the end of the month.

Opening hours are Tuesday to Sunday 11am - 6pm.



Joy Dunlop, who won both the traditional singing and solo traditional dance competitions



The quartet singing competition with Mikie Henderson, Helen Pearson, Joy Dunlop and Raymond Bremner representing Scotland  
Photo by Rory O'Doherty

## Pan Celtic Festival success for west coast competitors

NOW in its 44th year, the Pan Celtic Festival returned to Derry last week where competitors from the west coast of Scotland proved to be amongst the best in the Celtic world. The festival is a celebration of the cultural links between the six Celtic nations of Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Brittany, Cornwall and the Isle of Man. Musicians, singers and dancers arrive from all of the Celtic countries to share their cultural nuances in this family-friendly Easter event.



Taynuilt Gaelic choir and friends compete in the choral singing competition, taking second place. The contest was the first time conductor Audrey Paterson, who lives in Taynuilt, conducted competitively  
Photo by Rory O'Doherty

## New Gaelic writers award winners announced

THE GAELIC Books Council has named two writers from the Highlands and Islands as winners of the Gaelic New Writers Awards for 2015.

Greg Thomson, a librarian from the Isle of Skye, and Morag Ann MacNeil, a teacher originally from Harris and now living in Barra, were announced as recipients of this year's

awards, which is organised in collaboration with Scottish Book Trust.

The skills development scheme, which is now in its sixth year, provides each selected writer with a tailored programme of professional guidance and training sessions.

Over the course of a year, the participants will have the opportuni-

ty to take part in workshops and advisory sessions, as well as develop links in the publishing industry, with a view to advancement towards professional development and publication.

Further information about the Gaelic New Writers Awards 2015 can be found on the Gaelic Books Council's website [www.gaelic-books.org](http://www.gaelic-books.org)

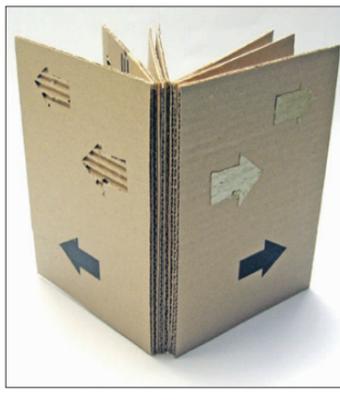


## A load of old rubbish?

Artist Joanna Caskie doesn't think so

AN EXHIBITION of handmade books made from recycled papers and packaging by Mull artist Joanna Caskie is currently being held at An Tobar, Tobermory. Never able to throw any paper out, Joanna turned paper and packaging 'waste' into something practical when teaching herself new book binding skills. Joanna has given new life to unloved materials and shown that these common-

place items from around the home can be made beautiful and useful again. Jo will also be holding a bookbinding workshop at An Tobar, sharing some simple bookbinding techniques. The exhibition runs until May 16. An Tobar is open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm. The workshop is on Saturday May 9 10.30am-12.30pm and can be booked by emailing [jojocaskie@yahoo.com](mailto:jojocaskie@yahoo.com)



WASTE: Joanna Caskie is turning rubbish into art with a series of recycled books



## le Studios



One of Jim Wright's pieces from the Waiting for the Storm collection

## Gaelic translation planned for Salmond's new book

FORMER first minister Alex Salmond's new book is to be translated into Gaelic later this year. Mr Salmond was in Oban on Tuesday, April 14, to promote the book, which is titled 'The Dream Shall Never Die: 100 Days that Changed Scotland

Forever'. He said: 'With some 60,000 Gaelic speakers in Scotland, it's a language with a rich heritage and a bright future given the right support. I look forward to seeing it available in bookshops across the country later this year.'

## Malt of the Month

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**Monkey Shoulder 40% ABV**

I once won a bottle of Monkey Shoulder at a Beetle Drive in Iona village hall. I was delighted to receive it. I had never had Monkey Shoulder - a very popular blend geared towards a younger market. If you have ever attended a beetle drive in the village hall you will know that it is well set up for the occasion. A long table sits along the middle of room and various card tables are spread around the room. At one point during the event I felt as though I had super glued my bottom to a chair as I lost game after game. A beetle drive is a simple game, made harder by strong liquor and the need to stand up and join a new table every time you win a game. I lost 13 'beetles' in a row. As 10-year-old Sean explained: 'You are meant to win and move, not sit still.' Sean travelled around the room three times as I remained static, winning nothing. It was in the tea break that I finally managed to hoist myself up out of my seat. Sean took advantage of my frailty and offered me raffle tickets. I bought £10 worth - showing off my big-city-Oban wealth.

It was a game of two halves concerning the beetle drive. The second time around was much happier and I mixed with many tables of old and new friends. At the close of play we were reunited with our families and friends - my luck was certainly on the up when I was presented with the top prize in the raffle. Third prize, a bottle of advocate (out of date, of course), went to Louise Alloway, who always wins something (but not musical chairs - that's my bag), second prize - a half full bottle of red wine - went to my friend Dot and I, lucky me, won a bottle of Monkey Shoulder. It too had been previously opened and two or three drams removed. I opened it again and passed it around - it was fine, not the best and not the worst and can probably stand up on its own as a sipping whisky. In fact, I know that is the case because when the bottle came back to me it was finished and enjoyed by most people in the room. I remember the days that alcohol was banned from Iona village hall - but I was happy to share my drink on that day.

*Louise Glen*

## Entertainment Guide

### Cinema

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#### LISTINGS FOR 24 APRIL 2015 - 30 APRIL 2015

<b>A LITTLE CHAOS (12A)</b>	
Fri: 13:00,15:10	Sat, Sun: 18:00
Mon, Tue: 15:10	Wed: 15:10,17:40
Thu: 13:00	
<b>AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON (12A)</b>	
Fri: 17:15	Sat: 15:30
Sun: 20:50	Mon, Tue, Wed: 15:00,21:00
<b>AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON 3D (12A)</b>	
Fri: 20:20	Sat: 20:50
Sun: 15:30	Mon, Tue, Wed: 18:00
Thu: 12:00,15:00	
<b>CINDERELLA (U)</b>	
Fri: 17:40	Sat, Sun: 11:10,15:45
Mon: 17:20	Thu: 16:00
<b>GET HARD (15)</b>	
Fri, Mon, Tue: 20:00	Sat, Sun: 18:30,20:30
Wed: 20:10	Thu: 18:30
<b>HOME (U)</b>	
Sat, Sun: 13:30	Tue: 17:40
<b>NT LIVE: A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE ENCORE (12A)</b>	
Thu: 19:00	
<b>THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE: SPONGE OUT OF WATER (U)</b>	
Sat: 11:00	Sun: 13:10
<b>THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE: SPONGE OUT OF WATER 3D (U)</b>	
Fri: 15:00	Sat: 13:10
Sun: 11:00	

#### FILM SYNOPSIS

**A LITTLE CHAOS (12A) 117MINS**  
Reunited for the first time since Sense and Sensibility, Alan Rickman directs Academy Award winner Kate Winslet in the romantic drama A Little Chaos. The year is 1682. Sabine De Barra (Ms. Winslet), a strong-willed and talented landscape designer, fulfils her chosen vocation in the gardens and countryside of France. One day, an unexpected invitation comes: Sabine is in the running for an assignment at the court of King Louis XIV (Mr. Rickman). Upon meeting with her, the Kings renowned landscape artist Andre Le Notre (Matthias Schoenaerts) is initially disturbed by Sabines distinctive eye and forward-thinking nature, but eventually chooses Sabine to build one of the main gardens at The Sun Kings new Palace of Versailles.

**AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON (12A) 142 MINS**  
Fun for the whole family as the long awaited explosive sequel finally arrives. When Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.) jumpstarts a dormant peacekeeping program, things go terribly awry, forcing him, Thor (Chris Hemsworth), the Incredible Hulk (Mark Ruffalo) and the rest of the Avengers to reassemble. As the fate of Earth hangs in the balance, the team is put to the ultimate test as they battle Ultron (James Spader), a technological terror hell-bent on human extinction. Along the way, they encounter two mysterious and powerful newcomers, Pietro and Wanda Maximoff.

**CINDERELLA (U) 112 MIN**  
After her father unexpectedly dies, young Ella (Lily James) finds herself at the mercy of her cruel stepmother (Cate Blanchett) and stepsisters, who reduce her to scullery maid. Despite her circumstances, she refuses to despair.

**GET HARD (15) 100 MINS**  
The prison-bound manager (Will Ferrell) of a hedge fund asks a black businessman (Kevin Hart) - who has never been to jail - to prepare him for life behind bars.

**HOME (U) 94 MINS**  
Oh, an alien on the run from his own people, lands on Earth and makes friends with the adventurous Tip, who is on a quest of her own.

**NT LIVE A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE (ENCORE) (12A)**  
Don't miss a stellar cast led by Mark Strong (The Imitation Game; Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy) in the Young Vic's 'magnetic, electrifying, astonishingly bold' production of A View from the Bridge - the Evening Standard, Guardian and Independent's top theatre pick of 2014.

**SPONGEBOB: SPONGE OUT OF WATER (PG) 92MINS**  
Delightfully zany comedy for kids and grown-ups alike. Life is dandy in Bikini Bottom for SpongeBob Squarepants (Tom Kenny) and his friends Patrick (Bill Fagerbakke), Squidward (Rodger Bumpass), Mr. Krabs (Clancy Brown) and Sandy (Carolyn Lawrence). However, when the top-secret recipe for Krabby Patties is stolen, SpongeBob finds that he must join forces with perpetual adversary Plankton (Mr. Lawrence) and come ashore to battle a fiendish pirate named Burger Beard (Antonio Banderas), who has his own plans for the delicious delicacies.

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#### THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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# festivals

## in the west



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**YOUR  
GUIDE TO THIS  
YEAR'S FESTIVALS  
AND EVENTS  
THROUGHOUT  
THE WEST  
COAST**

*Inside*

**FESTIVAL FOCUS  
DIARY OF EVENTS • BANDS  
ACCOMMODATION • CAMPING TIPS**

**WEST COAST FESTIVAL SCENE:** Rich in culture and steeped in history, the stunning scenery of Scotland's west coast creates the perfect backdrop for a whole host of events, festivals and concerts

## Introduction

We are delighted to produce our first comprehensive guide to the many festivals that fill the islands, lochs and glens of the West Highlands and islands with the sound of music and laughter.

The rise of the festival in these parts is a remarkable success story. Islands such as Mull, Islay, Colonsay, South Uist and Tiree and mainland venues like Oban, Tarbert, Lochgilphead and Kintyre now play host to thousands of visitors each year.

From humble beginnings, these festivals have gained a glowing reputation that reaches far beyond the borders of Scotland.

People from both far and near flock to these stunning locations to savour the best that Scottish music and culture has to offer while at the same time experiencing the vibrant, informal and friendly atmosphere of a true West Highland gathering, be it in a bar, beach, public hall or playing field.

Our guide also has a practical purpose as it highlights the essential services festival-goers need to make their visit truly memorable. From great places to eat and drink to accommodation that is the very epitome of Highland and island hospitality; from taxis to convenience stores, chemists to a laundry, this publication will prove invaluable.

We hope this supplement will whet your appetite for an authentic slice of Highland and island culture and will help make your stay as much fun as we had in producing it.

**Pauline McCart,**  
Sales Director,  
The Oban Times.

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[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)



# It's festival

## West Coast festival se showcases area's vibr

**T**HE WEST Coast is bursting with exciting culture. From music to dance, from literature to food and drink, a thriving festival season showcases the 'best of the west.' And if 2014 is anything to go by, 2015 looks to be the best year ever for the festival scene.

Billed as 'the best free festival in the world', the Mull Music Festival in April sees four days and nights chock full of music in the pubs and hotels of Tobermory.

Dubbed a 'literary lock-in', the Colonsay Book Festival in April welcomes renowned authors, poets and book lovers for workshops and readings, while the Colonsay Spring Festival looks forward to its fifth year with over 60 events celebrating all things Spring.

Campbeltown hosts two outstanding festivals this season. With a well-earned reputation as 'the friendliest festival in Argyll', the Kintyre Songwriters Festival in May is a delightful showcase of up-and-coming songwriting talent.

Also in May, the Islay Festival of Music and Malt, or Feis Ile, features a diverse programme of music,

dance, Gaelic language and the quintessential Scottish pastimes of golf, bowling and whisky tasting.

The much-anticipated Skerryvore Decade concert in May in Oban will feature a celebration of the band's favourite tracks, as well as new collaborations with guest artists including Dougie Maclean, Red Hot Chilli Pipers and Skipinnish.

The Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival held in the first weekend of May is one of Oban's biggest annual events, drawing top talent from all over the world. Future festival headliners are born at Ceòlas, a summer school for Gaelic music, song and dance on South Uist held in July.

The Mid Argyll Music and Arts, or MAMA Fest, held in September, is one of the most popular live music events of the season. And Tarbert is ground zero for festivals all season long, with the Scottish Series, Seafood Festival, Traditional Boat Festival, Tarbert Music Festival, Fair and Book Festival.

These and a plethora of small and large festivals on the West Coast leave visitors and locals alike spoiled for choice. Friendly shops and service providers in the area welcome guests and provide everything needed for a relaxing festival experience. There is much on offer, so pack a rucksack and get ready to make festival memories that will last a lifetime!

A bit of preparation can make attending a festival more comfortable, so here are some tips to make the most of your experience:



# time ason ant culture

Festivals in Scotland are amazing - if it doesn't rain. But even if it does rain, the fun doesn't stop. So make sure to pack a mac and wellies, as well as a change of clothes.

And speaking of clothes, always take a warm jumper even if the weather seems warm - you never know when a cool breeze or cloud may appear, plus at night the temperatures drop.

Don't let clouds fool you into thinking you don't need sunscreen- rays bounce off clouds and water. A straw hat and sunglasses, along with maximum SPF, can prevent a miserable burn.

Make sure your camera and phone are charged up, as you won't want to miss a single shot of all the great music, fabulous food and cute kid moments.

Tents can be a great way to protect yourself from the elements and provide a quiet place for a rest. But keep in mind you will have to carry all your gear from the car, so don't overload.

Fun items such as glow sticks, bubbles and glitter are a great way to jazz up your experience and keep the kids entertained.

One of the best parts of any festival is the food, but stock up with your own water and snacks to help get you through the day. Also, it never hurts to carry a bit of toilet roll in case the portable loos run out.

And last but certainly not least, don't forget the tickets! There is nothing worse than arriving at a festival just to remember you left them on the kitchen table. Some festivals have print-your-own tickets, so make sure you do this at home in plenty of time.



## Programme of Events 2015

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN
Mull Music Festival	Tobermory, Isle of Mull	23 - 26 April
Colonsay Book Festival	Isle of Colonsay	25 - 26 April
Colonsay Spring Festival	Isle of Colonsay	27 April - 17 May
Highlands & Islands Music & Dance Festival	Oban	1 - 3 May
Bute Jazz Festival	Isle of Bute	1 - 4 May
Brew at the Bog	Bogbain Farm, Inverness	2 - 3 May
Loch Fyne Food Fair	Loch Fyne Oysters, Cairndow	16 - 17 May
Islay Festival of Music & Malt	Isle of Islay	22 - 30 May
Oban Festival of the Sea	Oban	22 - 31 May
Skerryvore Decade	Oban	30 May
Skye Accordion & Fiddle Festival	Portree, Isle of Skye	21 - 23 May
Bluebell Music Festival	Inveraray	23 - 25 May
Kintyre Songwriters Festival	Campbeltown	29 - 31 May
Kyles Festival	Argyll Secret Coast	1 - 7 June
FyneFest	Glen Fyne, Inveraray	12 - 14 June
Tee in the Port	Isle of Bute	27 June
Mendelssohn on Mull	Isle of Mull	29 June - 4 July
Iona Music Festival	Isle of Iona	3 - 4 July
Tarbert Seafood Festival	Tarbert	4 - 5 July
Cantilena Festival	Isle of Islay	5 - 10 July
Tiree Feis	Isle of Tiree	5 - 10 July
Ceolas	South Uist - various concerts	5 - 10 July
Heb Celt	Stornoway, Lewis	15 - 18 July
Tarbert Traditional Boat Festival	Tarbert	17 - 19 July
The Away Game	Isle of Eigg	July
Lomond Folk Festival	Balloch	July
Bute Fest	Isle of Bute	17 - 19 July
Tiree Music Festival	Isle of Tiree	17 - 19 July
Tarbert Fair	Tarbert	30 July - 2 August
Belladrum	Beauly, Inverness	6 - 8 August
MOKfest	Campbeltown	19 - 23 August
Craignish Arts Festival/Galley Fest	Ardfern	August
Loch Lomond Food and Drink Festival	Loch Lomond	5 - 6 September
BLAS festival	Various locations	September
MAMAFest	Lochgilphead	4 - 6 Sept
Lagavulin Jazz Festival	Isle of Islay	11 - 13 Sept
Mull Mod	Isle of Mull	11 - 12 Sept
Best Of The West Festival	Inveraray	12 - 13 Sept
Ceòl Cholasa	Isle of Colonsay	September
Tarbert Music Festival	Tarbert	18 - 20 Sept
Jura Music Festival	Isle of Jura	25 - 27 Sept
Loopallu	Ullapool	25 - 26 Sept
CowalFest	Cowal	2 - 11 October
Ullapool Guitar Festival	Ullapool	2 - 4 October
Islay Book Festival	Isle of Islay	3 - 4 October
Callander Jazz & Blues Festival	Callander	3 - 5 October
Feis na Mara	Mallaig	2 - 3 October
Royal National Mod	Oban	7 - 17 October
Skye Swing & Jazz Festival	Isle of Skye	29 Oct - 1 Nov
Islay Sessions	Isle of Islay	November
Tarbert Book Festival	Tarbert	28 - 29 Nov
Oban Winter Festival	Oban	Nov - Dec
Hogmanay in Oban	Oban	31 December

Wyvex Media believes this information to be correct at time of going to press but would recommend checking with individual festivals for latest details.



# Mull hosts 'world's best free music festival'

## THE FACTS

### LOCATION

Various venues in the vibrant town of Tobermory - the capital of Mull

### HISTORY

The festival started in 1978 and has grown every year since then

### GENRE

Everything from folk rock to traditional Scottish music

### TICKETS

No tickets needed, just turn up and join the party - it's FREE!

### DID YOU KNOW?

At the Mull Music Festival, even the camping is free

### FAVOURITE MOMENT

When Skerryvore missed the last ferry to Mull and one of the local fishing boats was sent to pick them up. The band arrived in full tune with bagpipes blasting, and was met by a crowd of followers as they pulled into the pontoons at Macgochans.

**T**OBERMORY is the place to be April 23-26 for what is billed as 'the world's best free music festival'.

During the Mull Music Festival, this ordinarily sleepy village comes alive with melodies that flow like whisky from various pubs and venues.

Music fans will find lots to love, whether their preference is folk-rock, traditional fiddle and accordion, Gaelic singing or good old-fashioned ceilidh dancing.

Last year's festival was one of the busiest weekends on the island, according to organisers, and this year's line-up is the biggest ever, featuring Ho-Ro, Trail West, Ceol An Aire, The Red Pine Timber Company, The Raggaeles, Mull Historical Society, Holy Ghosts, Gentlemen of Few, Chunks, Gunna Sound and more.

In addition to crowd-pleasing acts, musicians from all over come to join in ad hoc sessions that tend to pop up through the week.

The festival brings a whole new dimension to the traditional pub crawl, with a full slate of entertainment at

MacGoachans, Mishnish, The Western Isles Hotel, MacDonald Arms, Park Lodge and the Tobermory Hotel over the four days.

Warm Scottish hospitality and delicious food and drink are on offer to fuel foot stomping festival-goers. 'The festival is totally free for visitors, including free camping,' said organiser Neil Morrison.

One of the most high-energy festivals of the season, wonderful memories have been made in its 37 years.

'One year Skerryvore missed the last ferry over to the island and were due to play first thing the following day, so we got one of the local fishing boats to steam to Oban to pick the boys up,' Neil shared.

'On arrival at Tobermory the band was in full tune with bagpipes blasting as they were met by a crowd of followers as the pulled into the pontoons at Macgochans.'

Booking accommodation early is advised, and for those who are wild at heart, the festival is tent and campervan friendly. As they say, no tickets needed, just turn up and enjoy the party!

**THE MULL MUSIC FESTIVAL**  
23rd 24th 25th & 26th  
**APRIL 2015**  
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**Park Lodge Hotel**  
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**WIN! WIN! WIN!**

**A meal for two at the Mishnish**

To celebrate the Mull Music Festival, The Mishnish Hotel in Tobermory has teamed up with the Oban Times to offer readers the chance to win a delicious three course meal for two people.

The Mishnish Hotel are delighted to be one of the festival venues hosting bands and sessions throughout the weekend, including performances from The Mad Ferret Band, amongst others. The Mad Ferrets are a Scottish duo from Perth, Scotland, known on the folk scene for their hard hitting blend of traditional and contemporary folk music. Their lively, energetic performances are packed with fast Mandolin solos, tight harmonies, driving Cajon beats and earth-moving Guitar sounds. The influence from both Scottish and Irish folk music has helped shape their unique sound.

01688 302500 www.themishnish.co.uk info@themishnish.co.uk

To enter the competition, simply answer the following question, complete the coupon and post it to: Mishnish Hotel Competition, Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.  
 Entries must be submitted by Thursday 30th April 2015.

**QUESTION: Which band will be performing at the Mishnish Hotel during Mull Music Festival?**  
 A: Crazy Badger Band B: Mad Ferret Band C: Nutty Squirrel Band

Answer.....  
 Name.....  
 Address.....  
 Tel..... Email.....

Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. The prize can be redeemed 7 days a week for lunch or dinner but must be pre-booked. Drinks are not included. The prize is valid throughout 2015. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entry coupons will not be accepted. Winners with the correct answer will be chosen at random. Winners must be willing to take part in publicity and their name may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website.

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# Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival attracts world's top talent

ONE of the most anticipated events of the year, the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival, takes place in ten venues over the weekend of May 1 to May 3 in Oban. Established in 1984 as a way to encourage young talent to pursue

traditional music and dance, it's become one of Scotland's major cultural festivals.

Last year saw more than 1,110 participants and 125 competition classes, bringing in an estimated £1 million for the local economy. Oban's

population swells during the festival, with music filling the air and colourful dancers showing their stuff.

Disciplines include piping, accordion, fiddle, clarsach, piano, recorder, singing, Highland dancing and choreography.

'The woodwind and brass section won't be happening this year, but it will be back in 2016 as normal,' said organiser Riona MacInnes.

In addition to the many competition classes, the festival hosts several special events each year,

including The Highlands and Islands Fiddle and Accordion Masters, The Scottish Choreography Challenge and the always-popular Festival Fringe.

'The accordion and fiddle masters will be on Friday May 1 at St John's Cathedral and will be

broadcast at a later date on Oban FM,' Riona said. The McQueen Brothers events trailer will be at Queens Park Place all weekend with live music. To round off the weekend there will be a family 'Festival Fling' dance at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.



## FESTIVAL DIARY

### Friday 1st May

Action Songs, Choirs, Groups, Ensembles, Recorder, Singing - Corran Halls  
 Accordion and Fiddle Masters - St John's Cathedral  
 Scottish Area Finals - Atlantis Leisure Centre

### Saturday 2nd May

Accordion - St Columbas Cathedral Hall  
 Clarsach - Congregational Hall  
 Fiddle - Regent Hotel  
 Highland dancing - Atlantis Leisure Centre, Corran Halls  
 Piano - St John's Cathedral

Piping - Oban High School  
 Scottish Choreography Challenge - Corran Halls  
 Singing - Glencruitten Church Centre & Glencruitten Church  
 Festival Fling - Argyllshire Gathering Halls

### Sunday 3rd May

Scottish Choreography Challenge - Corran Halls

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



The 32nd  
 Highlands & Islands  
 Music & Dance Festival

[www.obanfestival.org](http://www.obanfestival.org)

1 May - 3 May 2015

Festival Fringe 'The Highland Fling'

The following establishments warmly welcome all festival competitors and visitors to come in and eat, drink and play music.

Barn Bar, Lerags	Sunday from 4pm
Chocolate Shop	Saturday from 10am
Corachie Clematis, Taynuilt	Saturday from 10am
Cuan Mor	Saturday from 9.30am
Grassroots Community Cafe	1st - 3rd May 12 - 4pm
Loch Melfort Hotel	Friday 9.30pm - 1am
Markie Dan's	Friday and Saturday from 9.30pm
	Sunday 5-8pm
Olive Garden	Saturday from 8.30pm
Poppies, Connel Road	Saturday from 10am
Royal Hotel	Friday and Saturday from 8.30pm

The festival gratefully acknowledges the support of



The Oban Times  
 & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

COMPETITION

## AN OVERNIGHT STAY

WITH DINNER, BED & BREAKFAST AT THE TAYNUILT HOTEL

WIN

Music is the food of love - and food can generate the love in you too.

Give yourself - and your partner - a treat!

This historic coaching inn has a particularly high reputation for food (including lunches) and wine, and its bar stocks more than 80 whiskies.

Nestling at the foot of Ben Cruachan between Loch Etive and Loch Awe, it is owned by Chef-Patron John McNulty, formerly at the renowned Kilberry Inn seafood restaurant.

The 10-bedroom hotel is also perfectly situated as a base for exploring the Hebrides and West coast.



To celebrate this year's wide range of music festivals throughout Argyll and the Isles, the Taynuilt Hotel is offering 1 lucky reader the chance to win bed and breakfast (in a Superior double room where possible) for two with a £15.00 dinner allowance per person.

To enter simply answer the following question, complete the coupon and post it to: **Taynuilt Hotel Competition, Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.** Entries must be submitted by Monday 4th May 2015.

**QUESTION: How many bedrooms does the Taynuilt Hotel have?**

Answer.....  
 Name.....  
 Address.....  
 Postcode.....  
 Telephone..... Email.....  
 Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive information from the Taynuilt Hotel

Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. The prize can be redeemed 7 days a week but must be pre-booked. The prize must be used by 30 November 2015. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entry coupons will not be accepted. Winners with the correct answer will be chosen at random. Winners must be willing to take part in publicity and their name may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website.

# Colonsay festivals celebrate spring and literature

**F**OR such a small island, Colonsay has a lot going on this spring.

Described as one of the smallest and most remote literary events in Britain, the Colonsay Book Festival welcomes renowned writers and poets to this small island on April 25 and 26.

'Excitement is building ahead of the fourth instalment of the Colonsay Book Festival,' said Dilly Emslie, director of the festival. 'Yet again, we've lined up a fantastic programme with something for everyone to enjoy. On behalf of all the organisers, we can't

wait to welcome our visitors and authors to Colonsay.'

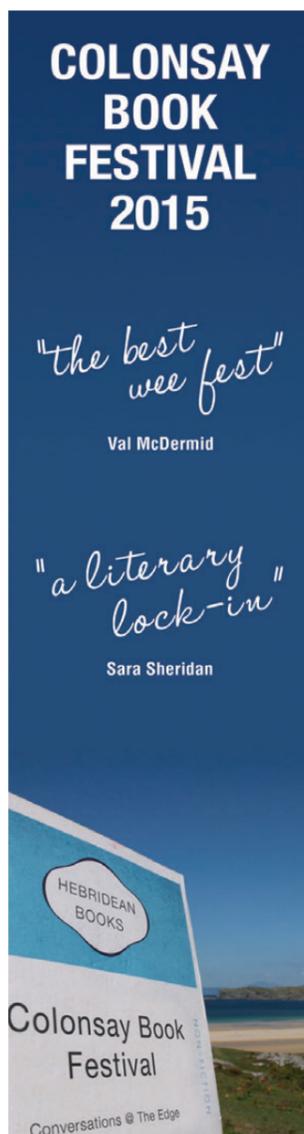
This year's programme features eminent Scottish crime writer and screenwriter Lin Anderson, roofer-turned-poet William Letford, cookery writer Mary Contini, novelist Sara Maitland, nature writer and poet Jim Crumley and award-winning author James Buchan, grandson of The 39 Steps writer John Buchan.

The two-day event was conceived and produced entirely by the island's residents. Dubbed a 'literary lock-in', Colonsay Book Festival

has carved its own niche in Scotland's book festival calendar since it launched in 2012.

The Colonsay Festival of Spring kicks off its fifth year on April 27 and runs until May 17 with a celebration of all things spring.

More than 60 events are planned over the three weeks as the isle welcomes the lighter and brighter days. This eclectic festival shows off the best of this stunning island and includes guided nature and foraging walks, art exhibits, textile workshops, cooking classes, foraging, local music and history.



 **Colonsay**  
book festival 2015

25th & 26th April

featuring

- Lin Anderson
- James Buchan
- Mary Contini
- Jim Crumley
- William Letford
- Sara Maitland

For details of tickets and accommodation, see [www.colonsaybookfestival.org.uk](http://www.colonsaybookfestival.org.uk)

Don't miss this literary treat – book now!

*conversations@theedge*

## THE ISLE OF COLONSAY Festival of Spring

April 27th to May 17th 2015



Come to our Festival of Spring - 27th April to 17th May and enjoy nature, craft & cooking events. Where better to celebrate the end of winter than in the Hebrides, on the amazing Isle of Colonsay?

For the fifth successive year the island will open its shores and welcome in the lighter & brighter days of the year with its three week Festival of Spring. The festival has an eclectic mix of nature, art, foraging, craft, heritage and baking events, with rspb guided walks, textile workshops, cooking classes, island history lectures & local music to name but a few.



The full 3 week programme can be viewed online as well as accommodation and other island info

[www.colonsayevents.co.uk](http://www.colonsayevents.co.uk)

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

# THE ISLAY FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND MALT



Friday 22nd May –  
Sat 30th May 2015

Why don't you take a trip west this year to the Southern Hebrides and visit Fèis Ile on the Isle of Islay? Truly you will receive a warm welcome, kindness, songs, poetry, history, piping, food, classes for Gaelic song and language and more. You will be pleased you came.

Every year we have a diverse programme featuring traditional music, ceilidhs, Gaelic lessons, golf, bowling and whisky tasting.

You can see the full festival programme plus buy tickets on the festival website:

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



## Islay Festival of Music & Malt offers authentic Gaelic experience



ISLAY is well known for its whisky, but love for music and food also abounds on this wee isle.

All are on display at the annual Islay Festival of Music & Malt, or Fèis Ile in Gaelic, held the last week of May.

In its 30th year, this small but popular festival offers music, dance, Gaelic lessons, food, bowling and, of course, whisky tastings.

Ramsay Hall is the place to be throughout the week for a top-notch line-up of musical delights. Perennial favourites Skipinnish, with the Rowan Brothers, opens up the week's entertainment on May

23. Award winning country music sensation Lee Matthews performs on May 29 and the Whistlin' Donkeys from Ireland will headline the final fling on May 30. In between the bigger acts, the hall will be busy with folk and traditional music, a whisky nosing and ceilidh dancing.

Distilleries across Islay, some of the finest in the world, will be hosting open days throughout the festival, so guests need not worry about getting a dry throat after kicking up their heels.

Other events include Gaelic chorus with Katherine MacLeod,

a 'come and try' tin whistle session for all ages and abilities and a Gaelic song and mixed instrument class.

Islay House is hosting a Garden Party, with cask samples, a luxury picnic featuring the island's fine produce and an evening of jazz.

For an authentic Gaelic experience in a breathtaking setting, Islay Festival of Music & Malt is not to be missed!



# WIN

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Caledonian MacBrayne operate award winning ferry services to the islands and peninsulas on the west coast of Scotland. Our service spans some of the most spectacular coastlines and landscapes in Scotland from Campbeltown in Kintyre to

Lewis in the Outer Hebrides. Sailing to 24 beautiful island destinations on Scotland's stunning west coast, each island offers its own distinctive beauty with plenty of things to see and do. You could travel there for the day or have a longer stay and no matter if it's

spring, summer, autumn or winter. To help you discover the beauty of the Hebridean islands, and in conjunction with this music festival guide, Caledonian MacBrayne are offering one lucky reader the chance to win £100 worth of vouchers.

To enter, answer the following question, complete the coupon and post it to: CalMac Competition, Oban Times, PO Box 1, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by Friday 8th May 2015.

**QUESTION: How many island destinations on Scotland's west coast do CalMac Ferries Ltd sail to?**

Answer.....  
Name.....  
Address.....  
Tel.....Email.....

Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive information from CalMac Ferries Ltd

Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. The prize can be redeemed on any CalMac route or on board until October 2015. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entry coupons will not be accepted. Winners with the correct answer will be chosen at random. Winners must be willing to take part in publicity and their name may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website.



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# Kintyre songwriters festival is all about the love of music

**S**IR Paul McCartney made the Mull of Kintyre famous with his love song to this stunning part of the world.

Music is in this area's DNA and the best is on offer at two stellar summer festivals, Mull of Kintyre Music Festival and Kintyre Songwriters Festival.

Dubbed the 'friendliest festival in Argyll', the Kintyre Songwriters Festival, held May 29-31 in Campbeltown, showcases musical talent in a relaxed atmosphere.

Founded in 2008, the Festival attracts the

best emerging and established talent from Scotland and further afield.

This year's line-up includes The Boy Who Trapped the Sun, Irenie Rose, Black and

White Boy, Ross Macinnes and Kathryn Joseph.

In addition to intimate performances, a seminar programme lets festival-

goers and budding musicians meet the guest artists and learn more about writing, performing and the music industry.

A grass roots event that focuses on artistic development, this festival is considered one of the most artist-friendly in Scotland.

Find out what inspired Sir Paul to say, "Carry me back to the days I knew then, nights when we sang like a heavenly choir, of the life and the time of the Mull of Kintyre."



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## KINTYRE SONGWRITERS FESTIVAL 2015

SPONSORED BY



*Friday 29th May*

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VIOLENT ECHO / GULLION / THE SHIFT / BOB ROSS APPRECIATION SOCIETY  
MEDIUM HIGH / DAVID FEE / CUCKOO'S NEST / PARALLEL PROOF

WHISKY MACS 8PM-LATE - FREE ENTRY

*Saturday 30th May*

**COLIN MACLEOD (THE BOY WHO TRAPPED THE SUN)**  
THE GILCHRISTIANS / FUJI ABOVE THE LIGHTNING / CHARLOTTE BRIMNER  
ROSS MACINNES / MISS IRENIE ROSE / VIOLENT ECHO / THE SHIFT / DAVID FEE  
NEIL DUNCAN / BOB ROSS APPRECIATION SOCIETY / GARETH CROLL  
RACHEL ADIE / PARALLEL PROOF

WHISKY MACS - OPEN MIC - 1PM-5PM - FREE ENTRY - ALL WELCOME  
SEMINAR WITH A PANEL OF MUSIC INDUSTRY EXPERTS - WHISKY MACS - 3PM-4PM  
WHITE HART - ACOUSTIC SHOWCASE - 7PM-LATE - TICKETS £15

*Sunday 31st May*

**HECTOR BIZERK / KATHRYN JOSEPH**  
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BLACK AND WHITE BOY / THOMAS JORDAN / CUCKOO'S NEST / IAIN MCINTYRE  
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WHISKY MACS - OPEN MIC - 1PM-5PM - FREE ENTRY - ALL WELCOME  
WHITE HART - ACOUSTIC SHOWCASE - 7PM-LATE - TICKETS £15  
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## TOP 10 FESTIVAL CAMPING TIPS

### 1. Buy a suitable tent

If there are two of you, don't choose a two-man tent. A two-man tent is perfect for one person, but once you are both inside there will be little room for anything else. Ideally you want space to keep any wet clothes away from your sleeping area. Make sure your tent is waterproof.

### 2. Practice pitching your tent

Before you leave, have a trial run pitching your tent. Make sure you have all the necessary bits and that you know how to set it up quickly. You don't want to spend your time wrestling with your tent in the campsite when you could be enjoying the music.

### 3. Buy a good quality sleeping bag and sleeping mat

You may not plan on doing much sleeping, but when you do, you will be glad you've spent the extra money on a good sleeping bag and sleeping mat.

### 4. Choose your spot

Get there early to have the best picks. You don't want to be too far away from the toilets, but you don't want to be too close either. Choose a spot roughly in the middle and preferably downwind from the toilets. Remember where you have pitched your tent. It might help to tie a coloured ribbon or balloon to the top of your tent so it stands out from the crowd.

### 5. Keep your valuables with you

Most people are trustworthy, however, there are the odd exceptions, so do not leave any valuables in your tent. Money, car keys, tickets, phones and cameras should all be kept with you at all times in an arm wallet, bum bag or small day pack, allowing you to keep your hands free to bust out your best dance moves.

### 6. Do not lock your tent

It might seem like a good idea to lock your tent, but the opposite is true as it says to potential thieves there is something valuable worth stealing in your tent. A small knife will easily cut through the fabric of your tent rendering the lock useless.

### 7. Stock up on essentials

Food and drink can be expensive at festivals and although many won't allow you to bring alcohol in, you should plan to take plenty of water and non-perishable food items with you. If you are planning on cooking, take a small camp stove and frying pan. Do not use an open fire.

### 8. Make friends with your neighbours

You will be living in close quarters, so introduce yourself.

### 9. Bring midge repellent

Let's face it, if you are outdoors in the west of Scotland, the dreaded midge won't be far away. Don't let them ruin your festival experience. Bring a good quality midge repellent with you and test for any potential allergic reactions before you leave. Top this up with a basic first aid kit.

### 10. Bring your wellies

It's Scotland, chances are the rain won't be too far away, even if the sun is splitting the sky. Keep your feet dry with a decent pair of wellies and change your socks regularly.

### Camping essentials checklist

- Tickets
- Money
- Ear plugs
- Torch
- Poncho
- Bin bags
- Wet wipes
- Antibacterial hand gel
- Arm wallet/bum bag
- Portable phone charger
- Midge repellent
- Food
- Water
- Toiletries/first aid
- Sun cream
- Wellies

**Keep safe and enjoy your festival experience!**

# Gaelic tradition is alive and well at Ceòlas

**C**EÒLAS on South Uist is where future festival headliners are born. Exploring the vital connections between the many traditional Gaelic music genres, Ceòlas runs events and activities throughout the year, such as symposiums, lectures, concerts and cultural demonstrations.

The flagship event of the year is the Gaelic Music and Dance Summer School, where singing, fiddling, piping, dancing and language classes are on offer July 5-10.

'Uist has an incredibly unique wealth of Gaelic linguistic and cultural

assets, and I would very much like to see that taking the fore,' said Gaelic development officer for Ceòlas Liam Alastair Crouse.

The 2015 programme welcomes back Howie MacDonald and Dwayne Cote tutoring fiddle workshops.

Margaret MacLellan and Paul MacCallum will be tutoring in song, and Jayne MacLeod will teach step dance.

Other classes include clasarch with Patsy Seddon and Gaelic Immersion with Catriona MacIntyre and Catriona Black.



Summer Music School 2015  
5th - 10th July, 2015  
Outer Hebrides, South Uist, Scotland

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THE WORLD WILL COME TO AN END, BUT LOVE AND MUSIC WILL ENDURE"

WWW.CEOLAS.CO.UK





# Fun for the whole family on tap at MAMA Fest

**T**HE MID Argyll Music and Arts Festival, or MAMA Fest kicks off a weekend of music September 5-7 in Lochgilphead.

Live music of all styles and genres is on offer at the outdoor stage, weather permitting, and at ticketed venues throughout the weekend.

The fun starts with a parade on Saturday, followed by a family day featuring stalls, food tastings and kids entertainment.

'We are focusing on Argyllshire-based acts, especially showcasing new talent,' said organiser George Durnan. 'We really like to see the

younger bands get a chance to perform.' Sunday afternoon singer/songwriters get a chance to debut original material, and everything winds down with 'The Immortals Night', where bands and revellers can socialise, enjoy a well-earned rest and enjoy impromptu music sessions.



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# MAMAFest

**2015 MID ARTS FESTIVAL - FRIDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 2015 - DRILL**  
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# Tarbert looks forward to festival season



**T**HE CHARMING fishing village of Tarbert plays host to several festivals this season that celebrate its rich heritage in music, sport, food and literature.

The excitement kicks off in May 22-25 with the Silvers Marine Scottish Series.

The Clyde Cruising Club organises this long-running event, in which keen sailors enjoy passage racing and Olympic triangles in Loch Fyne. This year's programme includes the opening 'Clyde Challenger Race' from Largs for white sail, family class and cruisers.

The laid-back atmosphere and good

craft of this event have sailors and non-sailors alike coming back year after year.

The Seafood Festival, which is held in July 4-5, gives visitors the opportunity to sample Tarbert's culinary delights. The harbour bustles with food stalls and a fisherman's market, with cookery demonstrations and tastings on offer.

A highlight of the weekend is the crowning of the Seafood Festival Queen and her princesses, who arrive in a flourish by sea and parade through the village led by the Mid Argyll Pipe Band.

Live music and kids' activities round out this family-friendly festival.

The Tarbert Traditional Boat Festival draws beautiful vessels of all kinds from across Scotland and Ireland the weekend from July 30-August 2, providing a spectacle in the harbour for on-lookers.

Visitors enjoy boat tours, stalls, live music, demonstrations and family activities.

One of the longest running music festivals in Argyll, the Tarbert Music Festival has been celebrating song and food for 27 years.

Held the weekend of September 18-20, it features kids' activities and a full programme of concerts by local talent, turning out everything

from rock to reggae to traditional music.

Impromptu sessions are encouraged and attract musicians from far and wide. Visitors will enjoy the fantastic local seafood and the relaxed vibe.

Rounding out the festival season are the Tarbert Fair, which has been running since 1705 on the last Thursday of July, and the Book Festival, which runs September 18-20.

Camping is available in the shadow of Robert the Bruce's castle, and scenic walks along the adjacent Kintyre Trail make Tarbert an ideal destination weekend for the whole family, so pack a tent and come along!



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17TH - 19TH JULY 2015 TARBERT TRADITIONAL BOAT FESTIVAL  
30TH JULY - 2ND AUGUST 2015 TARBERT FAIR  
18TH - 20TH SEPTEMBER 2015 TARBERT MUSIC FESTIVAL  
28TH - 29TH NOVEMBER 2015 TARBERT BOOK FESTIVAL**



[www.tarbertfestivals.co.uk](http://www.tarbertfestivals.co.uk)



# Skerryvore Decade hottest ticket of the year

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For help and further information please us at the above address or email [chairman@heartofargyll.com](mailto:chairman@heartofargyll.com) tel 077825 470 966

**F**ANS from all over the globe will converge at Mossfield Park, Oban, on May 30 for Skerryvore Decade.

The open-air show will feature the band's favourite tracks, as well as collaborations with the Red Hot Chilli Pipers, Sharon Shannon, the Scott Wood Band, Skipinnish and Trail West. Other special guests include Jill Jackson, Mary Ann Kennedy and Stuart Cassells.

'Having these friends being part of our special event will only add to the festival feel and help make it a celebration of past and present - with a few surprises thrown in for good measure,' said founding member and accordion player Daniel Gillespie. Internationally acclaimed

musician Dougie MacLean will join Skerryvore for a highlight of this very special event. 'We get a fantastic response when covering 'Caledonia', so we can't wait to be finally sharing a stage with the man himself,' Daniel said. 'It's brilliant to be a part of Skerryvore's tenth anniversary gig,' Dougie said. 'I've played festivals with the band but we've never shared a stage, so it will be a completely unique performance. Looking forward to what's going to be a great night in Oban!'

Skerryvore formed on Tiree in 2005 and has since grown in band size and sound, creating a fusion of traditional music with rock, pop and funk. They have performed in more than

25 countries, but look forward to coming home to Argyll.

'As a band we really wanted to mark our tenth year by holding the biggest and best Skerryvore gig to date,' said Daniel. 'We chose Mossfield Stadium, as Oban is the heart of Argyll and the Isles and it felt natural to return to the region that was so prominent in the early development of the band.'

When tickets went on sale in February, they sold out in less than an hour, so more tickets were made available. Bid4Oban and travel provider Caledonian MacBrayne are sponsoring the event.

See back page for full details of the event.

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# SKERRYVORE DECADE



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## Dairy products should have 'country of origin label' too

### Minister backs Scottish farmers at EU following launch of 'Kintyre Cheese? Yes Please!' campaign

THE EUROPEAN Union should extend 'country of origin' labelling to include dairy products.

This is what the Scottish rural affairs secretary told the EU's Agriculture and Fisheries Council earlier this week.

Mr Lochhead said: 'Scotland has a number of world class dairy products that truly are the cream of the crop - with a wide variety of excellent cheeses, milk, yoghurt and butter all made in our country.'

'Our recently launched Dairy Action Plan makes clear that increasing exports can play a key part in helping the sector to a more sustainable future.'

'I have no doubt that changes to EU rules to allow 'country of origin' labelling for dairy products would

boost our industry and allow them to capitalise on the provenance and reputation of our dairy sector.'

'This could increase exports and the profitability of our industry and that's why I am urging the EU to take forward country of origin labelling for dairy products as a matter of urgency and asking the UK Government to support us on this important issue.'

This follows the recent launch of the 'Kintyre Cheese? Yes Please!' campaign by Kintyre dairy farmers to encourage people to buy the cheese, made in Campbeltown by First Milk with milk produced in Kintyre.

National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS) members recently met First Milk representatives to look at what

can be done to drive positive change on the back of the campaign launch.

David Bolt, NFUS Scotland's Kintyre branch chairman, said: 'Lots of positives came out of the meeting. There was a strong representation from all the farmers in Kintyre, expressing disappointment at the turmoil within the milk industry.'

'However, a lot of good suggestions were made. We want to work with First Milk, get more clarity on the current situation and look for it to improve its communication with its members.'

'We hope in the longer term that First Milk will deliver on all the promises and agreements that have been made in the past.'

'We look forward to working with the new chief executive Mike Gallacher

and want to welcome him to Kintyre to experience first-hand the passion and enthusiasm the farmers here have for the future of dairying in Kintyre and Scotland.'

'We want milking cows to be part of our farming landscape for generations to come.'

Mr Bowie added: 'We need First Milk to do more to ensure that Scottish, UK and international consumers have the chance to buy the fantastic Mull of Kintyre cheddar.'

'Investment in the creamery needs to start as soon as possible, and we all need to work on how we take Mull of Kintyre cheddar further.'

'Producers have some great ideas, and we need them to be effectively channelled to First Milk.'

## Black grouse under the spotlight

A WIND farm in Argyll is one of a number of sites being used by ScottishPower Renewables (SPR) to help improve black grouse population numbers.

At Cruach Mhor on the Cowal peninsula, native woodland habitats are being created by planting trees and moorland areas are being restored.

SPR also plans to study the movements of black grouse in relation to wind farms, following on from a collaborative study with Newcastle University and funding from the World Pheasant Association.

The Cowal site will trial 'tagging' black grouse with data logger harnesses to track the birds' movements.

The data will provide information on the impact of wind farms on black grouse.



DATA: Black grouse movements will be tracked round an Argyll wind farm. Photo by Laurie Campbell

### Ewen Campbell, SRUC Kirkton and Auchtertyre farms manager

AT last spring is here. After the wettest March since records began (we had nearly 14 inches of rain, sleet and snow), April got off to a relatively dry start.

We are expecting more than 1,600 lambs in the next few weeks, so hope the weather stays mainly fine at this busy time.

The nice warm spell at the start of the month meant that the grass has started to grow, which is a bonus for the animals (and the shepherds).

Lambing only started last week, but already things are in full swing.

All ewes in the recorded flock are being lambed in the fields around the steading, to allow us to catch and tag each lamb with 24 hours of birth and record its mother, weight, litter size, sex, any lambing difficulties and other important information that could affect its performance.

Catching these lambs keeps our technicians fit at lambing time too. We are putting all the twin- or triplet-bearing ewes in to the sheds at night, for added protection against the weather.

This seems to be working well, as we have already had a Lleyn ewe successfully deliver a set of quads, which were all alive and well (averaging 3.3kg at birth, giving an impressive total litter weight of 13.2kg).

Ewes with single lambs will be put back on the hill after lambing, whereas those rearing more than one lamb will stay in the fields.

Additionally, as mentioned last month, we have a PhD student, Ping Zhou, using the Kirkton Blackface and Lleyn flocks for her research.

Since lambing started, she has been

collecting small samples of colostrum from twin-bearing ewes after they lamb.

Colostrum is the first milk produced by the ewes, which is rich in nutrients and antibodies, so vital for lamb survival.

She is testing these samples using a refractometer - a little handheld device that measures how light passes through a sample - which could potentially detect differences in colostrum quality.

She will be looking for any differences between breeds or groups of ewes and also relating results to growth and survival of the lambs.

It is quite different, but exciting.

Last month Ping also blood-sampled a number of ewes to look for pre-lambing differences in 'metabolic profile' - a set of blood tests that assess nutritional status. Results were reassuring, showing that all groups of ewes were within the expected range for each measurement, so ewes were being fed the right amounts and were not having to use too much of their own body reserves to cope with the pressures of pregnancy.

We will get more detailed information once she has analysed all results.

In the cattle herd, our cows have finally finished calving - we have had three late calves, but now it is all done and cows and calves are doing well.

At present, they are still in the new cattle shed, but we plan to move them out soon to enjoy some spring grass, once it gets going.

All in all, quite a busy month of April...but an exciting one in the farming calendar.



MILK TEST: Refractometer to test colostrum quality



STUDY: Ping Zhou measuring colostrum samples using the refractometer



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# Peatland restoration to benefit farmers and environment

A MAJOR peatland restoration project near Strathfillan is due to be completed by the end of this month. It is hoped it will have far-reaching benefits for farmers, wildlife and the environment.

The Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park project, part of its Wild Park 2020 biodiversity action plan, has involved £120,000 of repair work to Beinn Dubh, above Glen Luss and Auchtertyre.

Supplies have been flown in by helicopter and two-hour hikes endured through wind and snow to reach areas where drains have now been blocked to provide a number of benefits.

It is hoped the work will prevent the peat from drying out, which stops it from releasing carbon into the atmosphere and reduces flooding by slowing down water flow to farms and homes downhill.

It will also improve water quality and mountain vegetation for wildlife as well as supporting a number of important habitats.

Eroded areas of bare peat have also been re-planted to help stabilise the exposed sections.



RESTORATION: Work being carried out on the peatland at the summit of Beinn Dubh

Harriet Smith, land management adviser at the national park, said: 'Peatland restoration is incredibly important; not only to reduce the effects of climate change, but because of the far reaching additional benefits both for wildlife and people.'

'We have worked closely with Luss Estates and Scotland's Rural College at Kirkton and Auchtertyre farms to make these projects a reality and are looking forward to seeing more people being able to enjoy the benefits that these iconic landscapes provide.'

The work has been paid for by Scottish Natural Heritage's Peatland Action fund.

# NFUS hosts Oban election hustings

FARMERS and crofters in Oban and Lorn are being invited to attend a hustings involving Argyll and Bute's candidates for the general election.

Organised by the National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS), the meeting at the Corran Halls in Oban on Monday April 27 at 7pm is open to anyone with an interest in agriculture.

Speakers for the evening will be candidates Brendan O'Hara (SNP); Alan Reid (Liberal Democrats); Mary Galbraith (Labour); Alastair Redman (Conservative) and Caroline Santos (UKIP).

NFUS regional manager for Argyll

and islands Lucy Sumsion said: 'The event will be a valuable opportunity to put questions to the panel on many of the key issues currently facing Scottish farmers - how we can promote Scotland's fantastic produce at home and abroad, Scotland's future in the EU, and indeed in the UK.'

'Following the fantastic engagement of the rural community in last year's referendum on independence, NFUS urges all members and those living and working in rural Scotland to use this opportunity to quiz candidates on what their vision is for the future of our sector.'

## Reduced processing time on crofting forms

CROFTERS face a new, more in-depth form when applying to the Crofting Commission for changes to crofting activities.

This includes apportionment of common grazings land, transferring a tenancy, decrofting, division, enlargement, exchange, letting, sub-letting, short-term letting of crofts or creating

new crofts. The commission is asking for more information on its application forms in order to reduce the processing time.

It is also putting out new information leaflets and fact sheets to help crofters understand the whole process when planning changes to a croft or common grazings.

# Beef producers suffer as average prices dip below last year's sales

BEEF producers are suffering severe pressure on price, as demonstrated at Islay's recent sale of all classes of cattle, where the stronger cattle were hard to sell.

Wholesale prices for Scottish steers passing through abattoirs at the beginning of April averaged just over 360p per kg - 20p per kg less than at the same time in 2014.

Islay sales prices saw bullocks sell to an average 230.08 per kilo.

That means an average finished steer weighing 600 kilos is worth around £80 per head less when it

enters the food chain compared to prices last spring.

Adding to the problem, many beef animals on Scottish farms are now ready for the market.

However, a combination of lower retail demand for beef and a weak Euro making exports more difficult - and imports more attractive - means that beef cattle are backing up on Scottish farms waiting for slots to enter abattoirs.

NFU Scotland's livestock committee chairman, Charlie Adam, said: 'Lower demand, falling prices and

abattoir delays at this time of year appear to have become perennial problems for Scotland's beef producers. While experts point to a tightening of supplies later in the year, the reality for many beef producers is that prices are now substantially lower than last year.'

'While these may be offset by lower feed costs this season, the delays now being experienced in getting animals away to abattoirs when they are at their peak runs the risk of cattle no longer meeting the specification demanded by processors and

the marketplace. That runs the risk of price penalties being imposed for stock being too heavy or too fat, and any margin is quickly eroded.'

He said that currency was also a problem, with a weak Euro contributing to 'difficult' export conditions.

'NFUS will continue to work with Quality Meat Scotland through its beef marketing strategy group.'

'We welcome its decision to adjust the timing of next year's beef campaign to include Easter and believe it will help stimulate demand for Scotch during this holiday period.'

# Changes made to First Milk's senior staff

FIRST MILK has appointed three new people to its senior leadership team.

Kenny Bain, originally from Lewis, is First Milk's new operations director with responsibility for all of the company's creameries and processing sites, its distribution network and supply chain partnerships.

He has held a number of senior roles in food manufacturing both in Europe and Asia.

Maureen Ross, an experienced human resources director with top class companies, is the new group HR manager.

Paul Miley has taken on the role of interim managing director of First

Milk's sports nutrition business - CNP - with immediate effect.

He has worked in operations, marketing and finance roles for Mars, Michelin and ICI.

New chief operations officer Mike Gallacher said: 'These new appointments strengthen the First Milk leadership team as we move rapidly

to improve the First Milk business performance. Kenny, Maureen and Paul bring high levels of leadership, drive and commercial experience to First Milk and will play key roles in delivering our turnaround plan for the business.'

He will be explaining details of the plan to members in May.

# Justice needs to reflect effect of agricultural crime

THE ISSUE of rural and agricultural crime was raised by the National Union of Farmers Scotland (NFUS) at a recent meeting with the Solicitor General for Scotland Lesley Thomson QC.

NFU Scotland President Allan Bowie said: 'Agricultural crime in rural areas is on the increase, some of it by opportunist thieves, but there are links to organised crime.'

'The system needs to reflect the full damage and impact caused and then put forward in court cases in order for fines and compensation orders to reflect these concerns.'

Ms Thomson said: 'We recognise the devastating impact that agricultural crime can have on the farming commu-

nity in Scotland.

'We look forward to working with NFUS and other interested parties as part of the review group to look at the extent of agricultural crime, and will continue to ensure all powers are used to ensure that we tackle it as effectively as possible.'

The solicitor general has already announced a review of prosecution policy relating to agricultural crime.

NFUS has been pushing for change following an incident earlier in the year when a farmer lost 100 sheep, with £20,000-worth of damage caused.

The offender received a £400 fine and no compensation order was made by the court.

# Extension called for on farm greening inspections

A NEW deadline for farmers and crofters submitting the Single Application Form (SAF) has been followed by a call to allow more flexibility in farm inspections.

Scottish rural affairs secretary Richard Lochhead was at the EU Agricultural and Fisheries Council meeting earlier this week, where he asked the committee to allow flexibility over inspections to maximise the benefits for Scottish farmers and crofters.

Mr Lochhead said: 'Countries across Europe are dealing with the challenges of the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and in common with many, we have already said we will make use of the extension to the appli-

cation deadline that is expected to be approved this week.'

'That flexibility was welcome for farmers applying both online and those using the paper forms that have always been available in Scotland.'

'However, I am concerned about the lack of guidance or further information from the commission about the consequences of this.'

'We need to know what flexibilities there are around the timing and nature of Greening inspections as it will not be possible to identify farms for inspection until the SAF window has closed.'

The deadline for the SAF has been extended by a month to June 15.

# Beef farmers in line for spring payments of SBS

BEEF farmers were due to start receiving their spring payments last Wednesday, April 15 under the Scottish Beef Scheme (SBS).

Rural Affairs Secretary Richard Lochhead confirmed that around 7,600 Scottish farmers, who applied for the SBS before the Hogmanay deadline last year, would be getting a share

of the £20.9 million pot.

This is the last year of the current SBS - all animals born on or after December 2 2014 can only be claimed under the new 2015 beef scheme, with payment for that due next year.

Mr Lochhead said: 'I'm delighted that farmers will be getting their payments on time again.'

'Scotch Beef is a prime product that is in demand all over the world - and last year was voted the nation's favourite food and drink product.'

'The Scottish Beef Scheme is aimed at supporting this dynamic sector.'

'This support is vital for farmers, but with every £1 of output from the agricultural

sector generating an additional 80p in other parts of the Scottish economy, the £20.9 million paid out is clearly a welcome boost for all of Scotland.'

'The Scottish Government has a good track record in meeting its payment deadlines and I am pleased to say that has continued for this year's scheme.'

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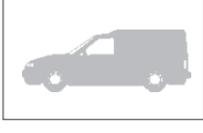
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provide a free courtesy car whilst it carries out yearly servicing - customers should just let it know what is best for their needs. Helensburgh Toyota has sold cars on the Motability Scheme for more than 21 years so knows what it is talking about, and has two Motability specialists, Stephen Vernon and David Smeeton.  
**Local appointments are available call 01436 672779.**  
 Helensburgh Toyota is a Premier Partner of the Motability Scheme, offering the highest standards in customer service. Currently it has some of the Toyota Aygo, Yaris and Auris Range available at nil advance payment on the Motability Scheme.

### NEW VITO TAKES TO THE ROAD IN NATIONWIDE TOUR

MERCEDES-Benz Vans is embarking on a country-wide tour to showcase the versatile New Vito to the UK market later this week.  
 Over the next month, the New Vito is going on view as part of an exciting and engaging display that gives visitors the opportunity to explore all that the new vehicle has to offer.  
 In addition to a hands-on display at each location, the New Vito pop-up modular stand will express the vehicle's promise of 'Raise Your Game' with a BATAK reaction game for visitors to try out. There will be a top score UK-wide leaderboard, which will pit the abilities of the host cities against one another.  
 The New Vito National Tour will visit Cabot Circus, Bristol (April 25 and 26), Bluewater, Kent (May 2, 3 and 4), Buchanan Galleries, Glasgow (May 9 and 10), Trafford Centre, Manchester (May 23, 24 and 25), and The Centre MK, Milton Keynes (May 30 and 31) and will be hosted by Mercedes-Benz Vans with support from the local dealer network, which will also be on hand to arrange test drives and further contact.  
 For further updates throughout the tour, search Twitter for #NewVito or visit www.NewVito.co.uk.

### SUN SHINES ON SCOTLAND AS MEDCALF AND BROOKS WIN FLYING SCOTSMAN 2015

THE sun shone down on this year's Flying Scotsman Rally as the 110-strong field of pre-war cars battled it out over 750 miles from Leeds to Scotland's Gleneagles in three days. It was William Medcalf, last year's winner, with navigator Tony Brooks in the 1925 Bentley Super Sports that raised the winner's cup at the finish line of what has been called 'the toughest short pre-war rally in the world'.  
 William said: 'This is a really tough event where you have to push the car to the limits to manage your position. It's full on for the navigators and there is stiff competition, as the event's reputation for being expertly organised has resulted in serious rally entrants from all over the world'.  
 Second place went to Bill Cleynert and Dan Harrison in the 1928 Ford Model A. They almost found themselves out of the rally on the final day when the rear axle broke until the rally leader came back to help them fix it.  
 Bill kept urging William to return to the rally, to which William replied: 'I want to beat you on the road, not by the side of it - now grab a hammer!'  
 David Thomson and Alan Smith in the 1936 Talbot 105 Alpine took third place with Sue Shoosmith and Trina Harley in the 1926 Bentley 3-4½ in fourth with the class win. The Netherlands' Olaf Pothoven and Piet van Leusden, also in a Bentley Derby 3½, finished just one second behind in fifth with a class win.  
 There were also class wins for Brad Mottier and William Hoff in the Riley Bigley Special, Jonathan Turner and Jonathan Proctor in the Triumph Dolomite, and Martin and Lesley Neal in the MG TA Sports.  
 Both team awards went to Bentley crews while the Spirit of The Rally award went to George Melville and Steve Gipson in the Ford Model A Sports Coupe. The Concours D'Elegance award went to Robin and Helen Rainsley in the Ford Model A.  
**The only long distance rally to be aimed solely at vintage car enthusiasts**  
 The Flying Scotsman, established in 2008 by the Endurance Rally Association (ERA), started out on Friday morning from Oulton Hall in Leeds, with overnight stays in Newcastle and Edinburgh. It is the only long distance rally to be aimed solely at vintage car enthusiasts incorporating several timed stages and off-the-road time trials.  
 Fred Gallagher, vice-president of the Endurance Rally Association, said: 'This is a full-on event that was made harder with the recent loss of Philip Young but the ERA team did him proud and delivered an exceptional event, as they will continue to do with the future rallies on the calendar'.  
 The next Flying Scotsman takes place April 14-17 2016. The next ERA event sees the team move stateside as 45 crews take part in the second TransAmerica Rally from Halifax, Nova Scotia, to San Francisco, California, in June. For the latest updates, visit www.endurorally.com

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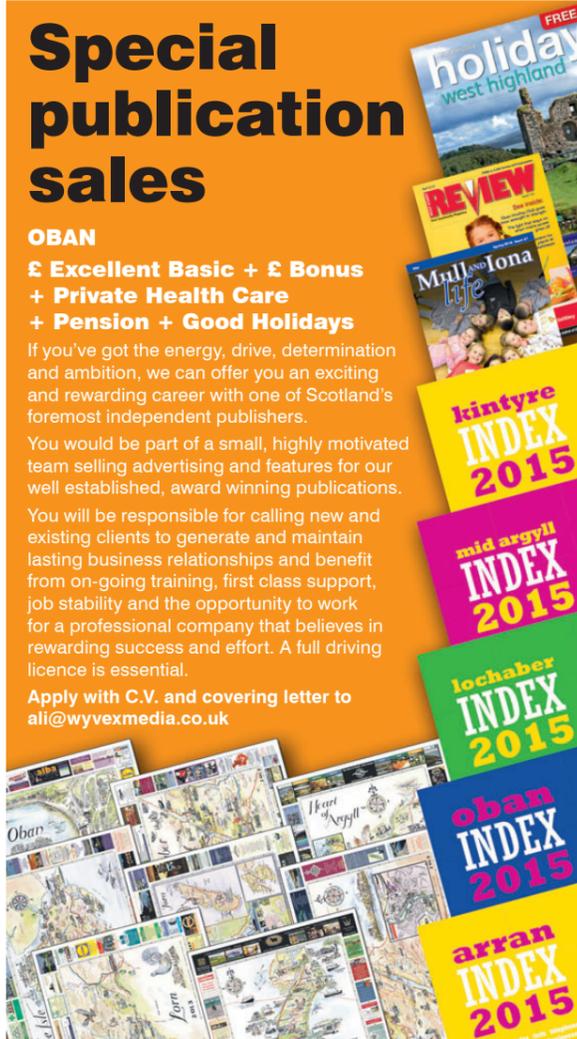
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BIRTH



**DELIN** - Steven Delin and Eilidh Hopkin would like to announce the birth of their son, Connor Delin, Tuesday, April 14. A grandchild for Joe and Barbara in Keswick, Josie and Michael, The Summit, Oban.

DEATHS

**BRODIE** - John Clark, died on April 7, 2015 at MacKinnon Memorial Hospital, Broadford, Isle of Skye, aged 81 years. Formerly of 5 Halistra, Watnish, Isle of Skye. Husband of the late Flora MacDonald Brodie and much loved brother, uncle and friend.

**EPPS** - Paul Claude passed away peacefully on Monday April 15, 2015, aged 86. Funeral Service will be held Tuesday April 24, 2015 2.00pm at Teddington Cemetery Chapel, followed by Burial. Donations can be made to Cancer Research UK, c/o Wake and Paine, Twickenham O20 8892 1784.

**MACCALLUM** - Barbara from Fionnphort, Isle of Mull passed away peacefully after a long illness on April 16, 2015, aged 74 years. Beloved wife of Norman, dearly loved mother to Neil, Mairi and Elizabeth, much loved mother-in-law and adored grandmother. Sadly missed by all and forever in our thoughts.

**MACDOUGALL** - Peacefully, after a long illness, at Mull and Iona Community Hospital on April 14, 2015, Charlie MacDougall, aged 72, Fionnphort, Mull. A much loved husband, dad and papa.

**MACLEAN** - Suddenly at home on April 6, 2015, aged 57, Mary Margaret MacLean, beloved daughter of Charlie and Isa MacLean, dear sister to Donald, Isabel, Andy, Charlie, Ann, Hazel and Willie. She will be missed by all her family and friends. A private funeral has taken place.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**TAYLOR** - The family of William Taylor would like to thank everyone who attended the funeral on Thursday, April 16, 2015. Grateful thanks goes to the staff of Ward I, Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban to all the staff at Carr Gomm, to Rev Dugald Cameron and to Hamish Hoey & Son Ltd. To a very special and dear friend Nina Robertson, without whom Willie wouldn't have been able to remain in his own home, thank you. The collection for Argyll RDA £168.60.

MEMORIALS

**BANNATYNE** - In loving memory of Caroline, who died April 30, 1968. Not forgotten. - Dad John.

**BANFIELD** - In loving memory of Peter, who passed away April 27, 2014. Husband of Helen, adored father of Helena and the late Fiona, father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather.

**BROWN** - Precious memories of a dear wife and mother Rena, who died 26 April, 2013. You gave us many things in life

Gifts both great and small But most of all you gave us love The greatest gift of all - Donald, Colin, Donna and families

**GILLIES** - Ronnie. In loving memory of a dear dad, papa and great-grandfather, who passed away April 26, 2003. Forever in our hearts Always in our thoughts. - Love Theresa, Anne, Angela and families.

**MACALISTER** - In loving memory of Scott, lost at sea, April 25, 2013, aged 40. Time may pass and move on but special memories stay You're in our thoughts every night and loved from day to 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.

**MACKENZIE** - Joan much loved wife, mum, mother in law and granny, passed away April 24, 2010. Remembered every day, sometimes with laughter and sometimes with tears. - Norman and family. Also in remembrance of Mama, much loved sister, aunt and great aunt.x

**MACPHEE** - In loving memory of Margaret (Manda), a much loved auntie who passed away April 28, 2006. - Catriona, Margaret, Christina, Lorraine and families.

**ROBERTSON** - In memory of my cousin John (Lochaline), who died April 28, 2008. - Catherine, Stonehaven.

**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.

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

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Moira Gemmill was involved in a fatal accident on her commute to work

Obituary: Moira Gemmill September 18 1959 - April 9 2015

THE TRAGIC death of a Campbelltown woman in London sent shock waves around the culture and arts industry.

Moira Gemmill, one of the foremost British design directors, who had recently taken up a post with Her Majesty The Queen, was killed while cycling to work. Moira Gemmill was born in Campbelltown, Argyll, and grew up on a remote farm in Kintyre. She was the daughter of Helen, a teacher, and John Gemmill, a farmer.

From Campbelltown grammar school, Moira went on to study graphic design and photography at Glasgow School of Art.

After graduating in 1981, she moved to Aberdeen where she helped set up Citygirl, a listings magazine. She became head of exhibitions at the Aberdeen Gallery and Museums between 1988 and 1998 before becoming head of design and exhibitions at the Museum of London for three years.

Moira worked at the V&A [Victoria and Albert Museum] for 13 years, joining initially in 2002 as head of design.

Within this role, she established and implemented a new graphic style for the V&A, developed design strategies for FuturePlan projects and rebuilt the in-

house team of 2D and 3D designers. Projects included major exhibitions such as Art Deco and Vivienne Westwood as well as new galleries for paintings, photography, metalwork, prints and drawings and portrait miniatures.

In December 2005 Moira was appointed the V&A's director of projects and design with overall responsibility for the on-going planning and implementation of the museum's ambitious FuturePlan development to redesign and renew the V&A's permanent galleries and visitor services.

She had continued responsibility for the delivery of design (2 and 3D) for the public programme and overall responsibility for the on-going planning and implementation of Futureplan - the V&A's programme of restoration and refurbishment of galleries and public spaces across all sites. Her portfolio of projects included: the Sacred Silver and Stained Glass gallery, the V&A shop, the V&A café, the Jameel Gallery of Islamic Art, Sculpture 1300-1600, the Sackler Centre, the William and Judith Bollinger Jewellery Gallery, the Theatre and Performance Galleries, the Ceramics Galleries, the Medieval and Renaissance Galleries, the Lydia and Manfred Gorvy Lecture Theatre, the Fashion

Gallery, the Dr Susan Weber Furniture Gallery, the Clothworkers' Centre for the Study and Conservation of Textiles and Fashion and the Weston Cast Court. She was the project lead for the new V&A Museum of Design Dundee, due to be completed in 2017, and was instrumental in the ongoing V&A projects to develop Exhibition Road and create a new entrance, courtyard and exhibition galleries and the Europe Galleries 1600-1800.

In January 2015, Moira left the V&A to take up a new position at the Royal Collection Trust and Palace of Holyroodhouse as director, capital programmes where she was responsible for planning and delivering major capital programmes at Windsor Castle and Holyrood Palace.

Moira was an Honorary Fellow of Royal Institute of British Architects, a director of Dundee Design Limited (V&A at Dundee) and a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

As director of capital programmes at the Royal Collections Trust, Moira had been looking forward to the opportunity to work on Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace and Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh.

She is survived by her parents, her brother, Andrew, and sister, Jennifer.

Season opens for eagle viewing on Isle of Mull

MULL'S famous white-tailed eagles are taking centre stage again as the new viewing season started last Monday.

Tours will start from Tioran in Glen Seilsideir where the successful Mull Eagle Watch initiative has been based for the last three years.

The eagle pair, Iona and Fingal, have been regular stars on a number of TV programmes and featured on BBC's Springwatch.

Speaking on behalf of Mull Eagle Watch, Rachel French said: 'We are very excited to start this year's viewing season again.'

'Visitors will be treated to spectacular views of these 'flying barn doors' swooping high overhead and perching on trees close to the nest. They are a truly spectacular sight to see.'

'There's also lots more wildlife to see too including golden eagles, red deer, ravens and buzzards.'

'We are keeping our fingers crossed that all goes to plan and the eagles' eggs hatch early in May.'

David Sexton, RSPB Scotland's Mull Officer said: 'This is a big year for the big birds. It is 40 years since

the white-tailed eagle re-introduction project began on Rum in 1975, 30 years since the first chick here on Mull in 1985 and at some stage this year we hope to hit a real milestone for the project with 100 breeding pairs across Scotland.

'We don't know where or when yet but for now we just hope people will come and enjoy seeing Fingal and Iona and that they have a successful breeding season. It's going to be a busy year.'

Mull Eagle Watch is a partnership between Forestry Commission Scotland, RSPB Scotland, Mull and Iona Community Trust, Police Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage.

To book a guided tour, call Craignure Visitor Information Centre on 01680 812556.



40 YEARS: White tailed sea eagles are celebrating 40 years since reintroduction on Jura Photos by Ian Erskine

Oban nursery closing its doors

HAPPY House Christian day nursery in Oban's Albany Street is closing its doors for the last time on June 25.

The pre-school group was initially established as a community nursery but grew into a centre for children, from babies to five-year-

olds. The charity said a lack of numbers registering at the nursery made it difficult to continue. Therefore it had made the tough decision to end trading at the end of the summer term.

Nine staff members will be made redundant.

Thought for the week

New Life

THE signs of spring and new life are all around in these days, with warmth and sunshine, there's amazing plant growth, with bursting buds and an array of colour and beauty in the flowers and shrubs. The sight and sound of lambs bring a special pleasure, and we marvel at the return of birds to nesting activity, along with the variety of birdsong.

There's so much to appreciate. All this seemed unimaginable a couple of months ago in the cold, grey, darker days of winter, but even then, the 'mystery action' of new life was well at work.

This is part of God's often invisible work in the world, ever renewing and restoring, creating new beginnings, bringing life from death.

The 'mystery action' of spring can be likened to our

response and trust in God in that we don't understand how it works but find that it does. Amazingly, we can find that God is there for us, often with us through the care and kindness of family and friends, longing for us to take up the 'partnership-living' that he offers to each person.

Since God is beyond our understanding of all things, and especially the complexity of daily living, then it makes sense to put our lives, our challenges, pain and concerns into His hands.

When reason and logic appear to fail, we should never forget that the 'mystery action' of God's love in our lives can, and does, bring about changes beyond our hopes and dreams. Now, there's a thought!

Rev Carol Leech

Tourism awards donate funds to Parkinson's UK

PEOPLE living with Parkinson's will benefit from a £2,250 donation made by the Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards (HITA).

The money was raised during the 2014 HITAs awards in November and will be used by Parkinson's UK for research and to improve the lives of people living with the condition.

Jan Mattison, community and events fundraiser west Scotland at Parkinson's UK, said: 'I'd like to say a big thank you to HITAs for

helping us to raise awareness of Parkinson's.

'The funds it has raised will help to improve the lives of local people affected by Parkinson's in the Highlands and Islands.'

Marina Huggett, of HITAs, said: 'We are delighted to be able to help this important charity with the vital work it does in the community.'

The free-to-enter annual awards celebrate and reward the very best tourism businesses and individuals in the Highlands and

islands. Businesses or individuals can put themselves forward for recognition or be nominated in 15 categories.

Visitors and peer nomination groups are being encouraged to propose businesses they feel deserve an honour, although success will not be based on the number of nominations made.

The event will culminate in a grand ceremony at the Drumossie Hotel in Inverness on 13 November.



Sandy Renfrew, local volunteer and chairman of the Scottish Council for Parkinson's UK (second left) is presented with the cheque by (left to right) Ken Macaulay and Elizabeth Mackintosh (HITA directors) and HITAs Chair Marina Huggett

WEDDING



PATERSON - BRYSON

Steven Paterson to Katy Bryson Saturday 14th March 2015, Kilmallie Church in Corrach, Fort William.



JONES - HALFORD

Kirsty Jones (Seil) & Kevin Halford (Reading) were married & had their reception, surrounded by family & friends, at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on Saturday August 9, 2014.

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# Saints book a place in Jimmy Marshall Cup semi-final

Oban Saints	1
Haldane United	0
Jimmy Marshall Cup - quarter final	

SAINTS edged past Haldane United in a tense and, at times, scrappy Scottish Amateur Football League Jimmy Marshall Trophy quarter final tie at Glencruitten last Saturday afternoon.

In stark contrast to Haldane's last visit to Oban, when torrential rain forced a switch to the 3G pitch at Oban high school, this match was played in glorious April sunshine on an excellent Glencruitten surface perfect for good football.

With both teams seemingly out of the running for the Premier Division title they contested so well last season, the Jimmy Marshall Trophy represented the only realistic hope of ending this season with some silverware.

Saints were without manager Iain Jackson, Daniel Cassells and Marc MacCallum, who were on holiday, Ross Maitland and Myles McAuley who were working on Colonsay and Ally McKerracher, who has surprisingly elected to switch sports and join up with



**WINNER:** Saints' Scottish Amateur International Lewis Cameron scored the only goal of the game

Oban Celtic Shinty Club. Making a welcome return to the squad were Allan MacKay and Scotland Amateur International Lewis Cameron.

Saints started brightly attacking the railway end with Lewis Cameron curling a first minute shot off the junction of post and bar.

With just two minutes on the clock Saints came close again with Allan MacKay flashing a drive from the edge of the 18-yard box inches over the crossbar.

Haldane's main threat comes from set pieces and Saints would have been working hard in training to tighten up on the soft goals conceded from corner kicks in the previous fixture against Thorn Athletic.

After 20 minutes Haldane forced their first corner and set about testing the resolve of the Saints defence. Haldane skipper and main aerial threat Daniel McIlmun evaded markers Alex Craik and Craig MacEwan to meet the corner kick from the right with a powerful header which Jamie Graham did well to head off the line and behind for a second corner.

In the 27th minute Lewis Cameron and David McArthur combined well on the right.

David made a terrific run to the bye-line before sending in a tantalising cross which fizzed across the face of goal agonisingly out of the reach of Allan MacKay and Dean Smith.

The Saints defensive trio of Jamie Graham, skipper Alex Craik and Dougal Graham were keeping the Haldane attack in check restricting them to shots from distance the best of which came on the half hour mark from Euan Kennedy which Thomas McCulloch did well to hold.

From the big keeper's clearance Saints launched an attack up the left wing with Craig MacEwan making a surging run to the



**UP FOR THE CUP:** Allan MacKay (No 9) celebrates as Lewis Cameron (No 10) wheels away after scoring the winning goal against Haldane United to put Saints into the semi final of the Jimmy Marshall Cup. Photo and match report by Derek Black

bye-line. Craig sent over a deep cross which Paul Kerr did well to head back across goal to Allan MacKay, who fired a terrific 16 yard volley which took keeper McCune two attempts to force behind for a corner.

In the 37th minute Donnie Campbell, Allan MacKay and Craig MacEwan carved open the Haldane defence to create a fantastic chance for Craig whose left foot shot under pressure from the retreating defenders was well saved on his six-yard line by keeper McCune.

Three minutes later Saints were on the attack again and Paul Kerr found himself in space just inside the Haldane box. From a knock down from Allan MacKay Paul shot for goal Frank Lampard style. Unfortunately Paul's shot was more Frank Lampard Senior (19 goals in 584 senior appearances) than junior and it sailed high over the bar.

Saints final opportunity of the first half came from a Lewis Cameron left wing corner which Jamie Graham was unable to connect with under pressure from the Haldane defence.

Haldane carved out the first opportunity of the second half forcing Thomas McCulloch into a smart save from another long

range shot.

Dean Smith looked to have created a great chance for himself when he turned towering defender Daniel McIlmun on the Haldane 18-yard line. With the goal at his mercy Dean was adjudged by referee Jimmy Litster to have fouled the big Haldane skipper which given the size difference between the two must have been quite a feat for Dean.

Haldane forced their way into the Saints box in the 58th minute which took the Saints defence three attempts to halt eventually forcing the ball behind for a corner. With the Oban rearguard preparing for another aerial attack Haldane went short with the corner picking out Euan Kennedy lurking on the corner of the box whose stinging shot brought out another good save from Thomas McCulloch.

In the 65th minute Allan MacKay held up a Donnie Campbell through ball under pressure from the Haldane defence and laid the ball off to Lewis Cameron who burst forward only to be crudely stopped in his tracks by a trip from behind.

Lewis took the resulting free kick himself and found the head of Craig MacEwan whose powerful header was well held by

keeper McCune.

Saints were now upping the pressure in search of a goal and came close in the 67th minute when Donnie Campbell shot through a ruck of players from 15 yards out bringing out another good save from keeper McCune.

Two minutes later Donnie repeated the feat this time beating McCune only for Allan MacKay, standing in an offside position inside the six-yard box, to deflect the ball wide of target.

With 20 minutes remaining acting management duo of secretary David Buchanan and coach Peter MacCallum made their one and only change of the afternoon replacing Dean Smith with Scott Maitland.

Scott took up a position in the centre of midfield with Lewis Cameron moving forward to join Allan MacKay in attack.

The speed and trickery of Lewis Cameron was now giving the tiring Haldane rearguard problems and his switch to attack eventually paid dividends in the 84th minute.

Lewis forced his way into the left hand side of the Haldane box and cut back onto his right foot before curling an excellent finish into the net beyond the helpless Haldane keeper.

## Football

With time running out Haldane now had to go for broke and launched the ball forward at every opportunity. Saints were sitting deep but remained relatively untroubled by the Haldane long balls.

Spaces were now opening up at the other end for Saints to exploit which, although no further goal scoring chances were created, helped to run down the clock for the nervous Saints faithful watching anxiously from the sidelines.

Referee Jimmy Litster, who had an easy afternoon's work, brought proceedings to a halt giving Saints a third consecutive Jimmy Marshall Trophy semi-final to look forward to.

David Buchanan said: 'It wasn't the greatest of game as the teams have always been evenly matched, so we are delighted to get into the semi-finals and hopefully go on and retain the trophy. We play old rivals St.Joes in the semi-final at Millburn Park, Vale of Leven on Wednesday May 13.'

The Oban side return to league action on Saturday when they travel to Glasgow Green to take on Kings Park Rangers, kick-off 2pm. Referee is James Carberry.

## Laura Ann pots her way to success

### Pool

AN OBAN woman is celebrating after potting her way to success in two national pool competitions and staking her claim as the number one female player in the country.

Laura Ann Sneddon, 35, won the ladies Scottish Open tournament on March 29 at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, beating eight opponents on her way to victory.

She followed that up with a win in the Scottish Eightball Pool Federation (SEPF) ladies' tour on April 12 at the Shandon snooker club in Edinburgh.

Hotel manager Laura Ann, who captained the Scottish ladies' side on a tour of Malta in February, said: 'I've been playing on the circuit for three years now and have got to so many semi-finals and finals, only to fall at the last hurdle. I was beginning to think I was just not at the same level as some of the top players.'

'There was a butterfly flying above my table during my semi-final and final at the Scottish Open and to me it was a sign from a friend spurring me on. It gave me the confidence I needed to give 100 per cent and make sure I won the final.'

'My opponent has been Scottish number one, on and off, for many years and is one of the best potters in the game so I was both delighted and shocked to finally get the upper hand.'



**TOP OF THE POTS:** Laura Ann with her trophy for the 2015 ladies' Scottish Pool Open



## Glencruitten

FINLAY Sinclair leads the qualifiers for the Britannia Cup with a score of 70-9 = 69. Steven Murphy was second with 70-8 = 62, and Greg Waddell was third with 74-10 = 64.

On Sunday the Captain of Dunstaffnage/Isis Cup first round was played. Phillip Murphy scored 65-0 = 65 to lead the way in the Isis Cup and Alan Jamieson scored 73-12 = 63 to lead the way in the Captain of Dunstaffnage.

On Saturday the Stokes Qualifier takes place along with the Lifeboat Competition.

## Islay

MEDAL played Sunday April 12 - 1 R MacIntyre 74-5=69; 2 A Livingstone 81-10=71; 3 N Carmichael 77-4=73 Cst 72.

Higginbotham Trophy played Sunday April 19 - 1 D Livingstone 39 pts; 2 K MacDonald 39 pts; 3 J Rozga 36 pts. Cst 70.

# MARTIAL ARTS WITH IAIN RODGER

**MMA**  
OVER the past few weeks Oban MMA have been preparing for the spring leg of the Scotia Cup, held at Ravenscraig Sports Centre in Motherwell. The team of eight boys did extremely well in an ever-improving standard of competition.

Scott McKeitch submitted all of his opponents on his way to



**MEDAL WINNER:** Dawid Loukil, on the bottom, won a gold medal at the Scotia Cup in the 88.3kg category

gold in the 94Kg category and Dawid Loukil swept through his 88.3Kg category also taking gold. Brendan McMillan took Silver in the 106+Kg category and Lee Williamson took silver in the Masters 73Kg category.

The other competitors all had tough draws and although some won their first fight, they went out in the second round, but still

gained valuable experience at this, Scotland's busiest Jiu-Jitsu event.

What was especially satisfying for the team and in particular, coach Iain 'Coogie' Potter was that the Oban team finished fourth overall out of 24 teams.

This is a massive achievement and testament to the coaching and hard work put in by the team.

Some of the team also travelled to Clydebank to a seminar hosted by 10th Planet Jiu-Jitsu with two world famous Jiu-Jitsu black belts, Sean Bolinger and Jeremy Fields.

The four-hour seminar helped add new cutting edge techniques to everyone's game and was a great experience.

Oban MMA have added a 'fundamentals' class on a Tuesday at 8:30pm which is perfect for beginners. Contact coogiepotter@gmail.com for more information.

**Kyokushinkai Karate**  
LAST week saw the promotion of Mark Welsh to nidan (second degree black belt). It has been

six years since Mark passed his shodan test (first degree black belt) during which time he took the title of Scottish Open Lightweight Champion at an International tournament in Edinburgh in 2011.

That same year, Mark went on to fight in the Cup of Europe in London. After beating a more experienced competitor from Switzerland, he went out in his second fight to the eventual winner Dani Redondo of Spain. Clips of that explosive fight are still shown on the highlight footage from that event.

Mark is back in action this



**Mark Welsh wears his new belt with the two gold stripes which denote his grade**

year, with his first fight in some time (due to his studies) on May 16 in Edinburgh at the Oyama Memorial International. Mark is also entered in this year's Cup of Europe event in October. Contact iain@ikku.co.uk

### Shukokai Karate

THE club resumes this week after an Easter break with the Inveraray club being split into two separate classes due to a large intake of new members. Five-to-nine-year-olds will be from 7-8pm and nine-to-16-year-olds from 8-9pm on Fridays. An Instructor and assistant Instructor are present at all classes. Contact: kenni.gray@btinternet.com

### Shotokan Karate

PREPARATIONS are on-going for the second stage of the SKA, WUKF, UWK Karate Grand Prix on Saturday May 23 2015 at Ayr Citadel.

Participants from Oban Shotokan will be entering Kata, and Kumite in Ippon, Nihon and Sanbon events.

Special mention and congratulations were made to Kevin Cassidy AKA 'Sid the Boxer' and Cecil Reid, both of who have been in training for more than a year at Oban Shotokan and have passed selection to qualify for the team squad.

All team positions will only be

chosen from the squad pool and these placements will be vigorously contested by squad members at squad training sessions.

Oban Shotokan members will attend a Karate seminar and training course in Largs on Friday May 1 to Sunday May 3.

This is organised by Sensei Kenny Davis 7th Dan (Zanshin Kai Karate Scotland) and will entail rigorous Kumite and Kata drills followed by invitational instructor training from various other styles.

Contact: obanshotokan@outlook.com

### Kickboxing

SHARON Dickison's women only kickboxing class was a huge success and will continue on Sundays at 2pm.

Preparing for the Oyama Memorial International on the May 16 in their first full contact fights are Cody McCulloch and Billie Bratton, in boys 8-9; Sara MacIntyre, girls 10-11; Angus Files and Robbie Bratton, boys 10-11; and Kaitlynn MacLeod, in girls 12-13. Also fighting are Jamie Killorn in his second full contact tournament, Craig MacLachlan and Andrzej Dariusz Pytko.

The club also have three hopefuls waiting to see if they get full contact kickboxing matches in the Headhunters show on the June 28.

Contact: shihanwill@gmail.com

# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2200

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

J Lambert  
Glencruitten Drive  
Oban

A McFadyen  
Park Road  
Oban

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

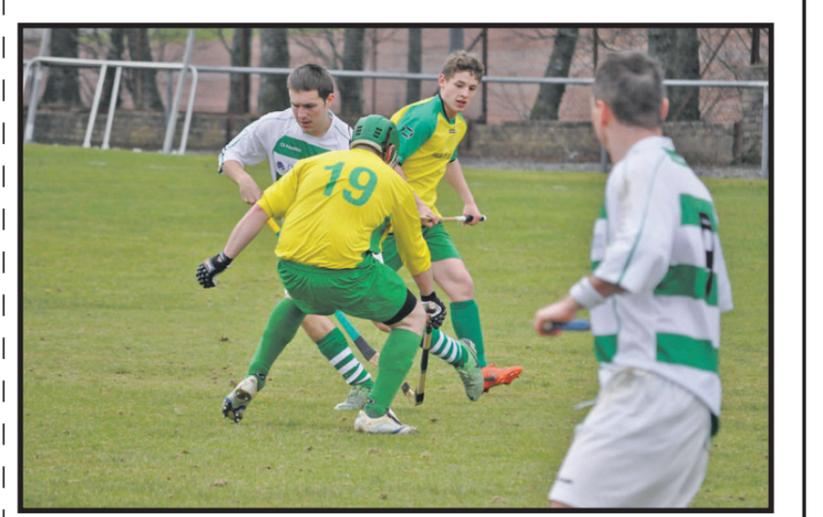
**Easy to enter**  
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition rules**  
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mistaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.  
The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

**Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses.** The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.  
If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.  
In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.  
The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.  
Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



Please tape your £1 coin here

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

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# Oban teams progress to set up local derby in Celtic Cup semi

## Celtic Society Cup

**BALLACHULISH** entertained Oban Celtic in the Celtic Society Cup in perfect conditions at the Jubilee Park, but the local side struggled to get into the game and Celtic looked the better team.

Indeed, it was no surprise when Lee Askew opened the scoring for the away side in the 12th minute.

Celtic continued to be the better team and the home side were reduced to 11 men when returning internationalist John MacDonald was shown a straight red card in the 32nd minute by referee Graham Cameron.

This obviously lifted the visitors and they went two up in the 38th minute, again through Lee Askew.

To the home team's credit they did start to get into the game more and played some good shinty.

In the second half, Scott Burnett put the tie out of reach with a fine finish in the 63rd minute to make the final score 3-0 to Celtic.

Ballachulish will have to raise their game this week as they visit Oban to play Celtic again, this time in the Macaulay Cup

**OBAN CELTIC** were apprehensive at the start of their Celtic Cup tie because of the size and physique of the Ballachulish team but put three past them to book a semi-final place.

Lee Askew netted a brace in the 12th and 38th minute.

Ballachulish's John MacDonald, who had just returned from a four-match ban, did not make it through the first half before being red carded out of the game.

Scott Burnett clinched it for Celtic in the 63rd minute.

Celtic's Davy Hamilton said: 'Ballachulish are a big physical team and the boys played well to secure the win. Their goalies made a few good saves.'

'However, our boys have a good vein of form at the moment.'

Ballachulish have a chance for revenge at Mossfield, Oban, on Saturday when they meet Celtic in the Artemis Macaulay Cup. Throw up is at 2.30pm.

Hamilton said: 'It is not a foregone conclusion we will beat them again.'

**BUTE** gave premier side Oban Camanachd a scare by taking them to a 1-1 draw at the end of play.

But Bute found the demands of 30 minutes extra time, for the third week running, a big ask and eventually lost out 4-2 to the stronger side.

Andrew MacCuish's third minute goal did not upset Bute's strategy as they have been drilled to fight and they matched Oban for the rest of the first half.

A 20-yard shot from Gordon MacMillan brought Bute back into the game in the 65th minute.

But three further goals from Oban showed the difference in class and despite John MacCallum's consolation goal in the 113th minute it was not enough.

Bute are away in league action this weekend against Glasgow Mid Argyll.

**INVERARAY** sent six goals past Aberdeen in the Celtic Cup second round at Silversands on Saturday.

Just three minutes into the game Euan McMurdo netted the first, followed by David MacKenzie 15 minutes later.

Lewis MacNichol scored from the spot on the half hour.

Grant Griffin netted a brace before half time and completed his hat trick just five minutes into the second half.

Coach Joe Fyfe said: 'The four

**MacTavish Cup**

**NEWTONMORE** are through to the semi final of the MacTavish cup following a 3-0 home victory against Lochaber.

A double from Fraser Mackintosh and another goal from Neil Stewart gave 'More the two points they needed but manager PJ Mackintosh said it wasn't easy.

He said: 'It was a good result but it was difficult. Lochaber can be a sticky team to play against.'

A win won't be easy to come



**TACKLE:** Glenurquhart's Eddy Tembo goes in to tackle Craig Nicholson of Inverness during last Saturday's MacTavish Cup tie at Drumnadrochit. The Glens won 3-0. Photo: Donald Cameron

striking forwards all contributed to the game.

'We were favourites because they play two leagues below us. As the score sheet shows, in the second half they defended very well and have some great young players who impressed me.'

'We were able to give two of our youngsters, brothers Kenneth, 19, and Kieran, 16, Kirkhope, a game in the side and they played their part.'

The victory will see 'Aray in a semi-final clash with Kyles Athletic on May 16.

On Saturday, back in Premiership action against third in the league Newtonmore, 'Aray will try to repeat their historic victory from last month.

Then a Grant Griffin goal gave them a win against Newtonmore for the first time in six years.

Fyfe said: 'The earlier game gave us two points against Newtonmore that we did not expect them to give us. They are a top team.'

**OBAN CAMANACHD** needed extra time to defeat Bute on Saturday in the Celtic Cup.

At 90 minutes the match was drawn on 1-1, but because of the number of games currently backlogged, it had to be played to the 'death'.

Camanachd's Andrew MacCuish opened the account, finding the net early on and it was 62 minutes until Bute's Gordon MacMillan equalised. There were no more goals until eight minutes into extra time, when MacCuish scored his second.

Aidan MacIntyre made it 3-1 and Lorne Dickie 4-1 before Bute's John MacCullum brought it back to 4-2 to finish the match.

Manager Gussie Campbell said: 'At the start we expected the game to be a potential banana skin and that is how it played out.'

'It had to be taken to the death and in the end we were the stronger fitter side.'

'We went there with one object in mind to get through the game and into the semi-final.'

'There have been some strange results so it was good to get the win.'

Next Saturday Camanachd are back in league action away against Glenurquhart.

Campbell said: 'It is back to the bread and butter of the league on Saturday. Glenurquhart are always a tough team to play. We have a lot of respect for them.'

**KYLES ATHLETIC** fired nine past Glasgow Mid Argyll to book a semi-final place in the Celtic Cup.

After scoring four, Roddy MacDonald let Dunkie Kerr have a go and he shot the next two with a lone goal for Gordon Whyte before Thomas Whyte completed the demolition with a brace.

Athletic are back in Premiership league action next weekend when they take on top of the table Lovat who will provide formidable opposition.

Club secretary Mick Atkinson said: 'Lovat are right on top of their game with two matches recently where they scored six goals.'

**Shinty**

by this weekend as Newtonmore face Inveraray in the premiership with five starting players missing due to injury.

Mackintosh said: 'This will be a difficult game. Inveraray are the only team to beat us this year. They frustrated us and played us well so it's going to be hard.'

**LOCHABER** are out of the MacTavish cup following a 3-0 by Newtonmore.

Ally Ferguson's men were playing away from home in the quarter finals and went down to two goals from 'More's Fraser Mackintosh and a third from Neil Stewart.

With a free weekend ahead, Lochaber look ahead to their next scheduled game on May 9 when they face Inveraray away.

**GLENURQUHART** are through to the semi finals of the MacTavish cup thanks to a 3-0 home victory against Inverness.

Manager Billy McLean said: 'It was a difficult game, it always is playing a team a division below you because they're always looking to come and cause an upset but we played well and I'm happy with the win.'

This weekend the Glen will welcome Oban Camanachd to Blairbeg park for their premiership clash.

McLean said: 'We're at home, which is good, but Oban have done well since they came up so we're expecting a tough game.'

Glenurquhart could be missing Calum Smith and Andrew Corigan because of work commitments but McLean won't find out until nearer the game.

**Camanachd Cup**

**SKYE** will be hoping to continue their successful cup run this weekend when they welcome Fort William for the second round of the MacTavish cup.

This comes after a 9-0 victory against Taynuilt on Saturday in the preliminary round of the Camanachd cup.

Goal scorers for the islanders at Taynuilt playing fields were Kenny Campbell, Jordan Murchison (3), Danny Morrison (2), Will Cowie (2) and Neil MacVicar.

Forward Johnathan MacLennan will be missing because of a knee injury.

**Marine Harvest Premiership**

**FORT WILLIAM** find themselves at the bottom of the premiership league table following a 3-0 defeat against Kinlochshiel at An Aird on Saturday.

Co-manager Victor Smith said: 'The first half hour was quite good but we just couldn't score and it came back to haunt us.'

'Shiel got a goal in the 31st minute then another early in the second half then scored a penalty but we couldn't argue with it. I'm disappointed we didn't at least get a couple of goals but that's the way it goes.'

This weekend, Fort William travel to Skye to take on the islanders for the second round of the MacTavish cup.

Smith said: 'Skye are playing a division below us but we played them in a cup game last year and it was tight so it's 50/50 for now.'

Gordon MacKinnon will be missing from the Fort line up but Smith will welcome back Stevie Stewart, James Tangey and Sean Cameron.

**South Division One**

Goals from **STRACHUR'S** Robert Flint and Scott Sanburn put the home team on top at half time against Kyles Athletic last Saturday.

A pep talk from Kyles' coach Mick Atkinson and a couple of positional changes made the difference and turned the tide in favour of the visitors in the second half.

Rupert Williamson scored in the 47th minute, followed by a

**South Division Two**

**OBAN LORN'S** win against Aberdeen last weekend keeps them top of South Division 2, a point above Col Glen.

David Martin Junior's 51st minute goal helped the side maintain their 100 per cent league record.

Oban Lorn are at home to Glenorchy this Saturday with throw up at 12 noon at Ganavan.

**North Division Two**

**GLENGARRY** recorded their first loss of the season on Saturday when seventh in the league Boleiskine beat them 3-2.

The loss took them off the top spot in the league which they had held with Skye.

Glenarry are now two points below the leaders.

The fivegoal thriller saw goals from Boleiskine's Robert Weatherspoon, Lewis Smith and Ewan Fraser and Glengarry's Stuart Gregory and Steven Cameron.

The team have a chance to avenge the defeat, and perhaps go back up in the league, when Boleiskine come to Craigard park on Saturday for a return match.

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**DELIGHTED:** Liam Macdonald scores the last minute equaliser for Kilmallie against Beaully in the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup preliminary round. Photo: Neil Paterson

**TAYNUILT** manager Davy Thomson said he 'wasn't too disappointed' with the weekend's result, despite a 9-0 thrashing from visiting Skye in the preliminary round of the Camanachd cup.

He said: 'It was to be expected really but the boys did their best and held them out for most of the first half.'

'Skye are a much fitter team and in the second half that really showed, especially in the hot weather. The boys played well with a lot of injured players so I'm not too disappointed.'

This weekend Taynuilt are away to Lochside Rovers in Marine

**KINGUSSIE** picked up a much-needed point in their home draw against Lovat at the weekend.

The final score was 2-2 in the premiership clash, with Kings' goals coming from Louis Munro and Savio Genini whilst Callum Cruden and Greg Matheson scored for Lovat.

This Saturday, Kingussie will travel to Kinlochshiel for another premiership game.

**LOVAT** picked up a crucial premiership point when they drew 2-2 against Kingussie on Saturday, pushing them to the top of the league.

A Louis Munro goal after 10 minutes put visiting Lovat down early on but they were quick to equalise with Calum Cruden just seven minutes later. Another two first half goals from Savio Genini of Kings' and Greg Matheson of Lovat made up the final score.

This weekend Lovat welcome Kyles Athletic in another premiership clash. Kyles are just one point behind so both teams have everything to play for.

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**LOCHSIDE ROVERS** return to action after a free Saturday last week when they take on Taynuilt at Ganavan. The match throws up at 2.30pm with referee Ronnie Campbell in charge.

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**CLOSE ENCOUNTER:** Action from the South Division Two match between Oban Lorn and Aberdeen held at Mossfield Stadium. The Oban side won a close game 1-0.

## Fixtures

- Saturday April 25**  
**Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Preliminary Round**  
 Beaully v Kilmallie  
 John Angus Gillies - 12pm
- Artemis MacAulay Cup 1st round**  
 Oban Celtic v Ballachulish  
 Lachie Wood
- The RBS MacTavish Cup**  
 Skye v Fort William  
 Evan MacRae
- Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup 1st round**  
 Lochaber v SCOTS Camanachd  
 Callum Duff
- Marine Harvest Premiership**  
 Newtonmore v Inveraray  
 David Mitchell  
 Lovat v Kyles Athletic  
 Graham Cameron  
 Glenurquhart v Oban Camanachd  
 Ron Kennedy  
 Kinlochshiel v Kingussie  
 David Stafford
- Marine Harvest National Division**  
 Glasgow Mid Argyll v Inverness  
 Robert Baxter - 3pm

- Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
 Beaully v Lovat  
 Innes Wood  
 Strathglass v Kingussie  
 Archie Ritchie  
 Fort William v Newtonmore  
 Calum Girvan  
 Locharron v Kinlochshiel  
 Rab MacCaskill
- Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
 Kilmory v Aberdeen  
 John Wood  
 Kyles Athletic v Strachur  
 John MacGregor  
 Bute v Inveraray  
 Deek Cameron  
 Lochside Rovers v Taynuilt  
 Ronnie Campbell

- Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
 Glengarry v Boleiskine  
 Martin MacLean  
 Kilmallie v Skye  
 John Matheson  
 Caberfeidh v Strathspey  
 Andy MacLean
- Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
 Glasgow Mid Argyll v Bute  
 Deek Cameron - 12pm  
 Oban Lorn v Glenorchy  
 Jim Innes - 12pm  
 Aberdeen v Ballachulish  
 Jon Gallagher  
 Col Glen v Tayforth  
 Alan Harrison
- Throw ups 2.30pm unless stated

## Results

- Saturday 18 April**  
**Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Preliminary Round**  
 Caberfeidh v Glenorchy  
 Walkover to Caberfeidh as Glenorchy unable to field a team.  
 Taynuilt 0 - 9 Skye  
 Beaully 2 - 2 Kilmallie
- RBS MacTavish Cup 2nd Round**  
 Glenurquhart 3 - 0 Inverness  
 Newtonmore 3 - 0 Lochaber
- Gregor Cameron Consultancy Celtic Society Cup 2nd Round**  
 Ballachulish 0 - 3 Oban Celtic  
 Aberdeen 0 - 6 Inveraray  
 Bute 2 - 4 Oban Camanachd  
 Glasgow MA 0 - 9 Kyles Athletic
- Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup 1st Round**  
 Bute 0 - 4 Kinlochshiel
- Strathdearn Cup 1st Round**  
 Aberdeen Uni 7 - 4 Kilmallie
- Marine Harvest Premiership**  
 Fort William 0-3 Kinlochshiel  
 Kingussie 2 - 2 Lovat
- Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
 Beaully 0 - 1 Strathglass  
 Glenurquhart 1 - 1 Kingussie  
 Locharron 1 - 7 Newtonmore  
 Lovat 1 - 5 Fort William
- Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
 Strachur 2 - 3 Kyles Athletic  
 Inveraray 2 - 1 Kilmory
- Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
 Boleiskine 3 - 2 Glengarry  
 Lochaber 4 - 1 Inverness  
 Caberfeidh 1 - 3 Skye  
 Strathspey 6 - 0 Lewis
- Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
 Glenorchy 3 - 4 Tayforth  
 Glasgow MA 6 - 1 Ballachulish  
 Oban Lorn 1 - 0 Aberdeen

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## Oban Lorne are crowned BT West Division Two champions

Paisley	20
Oban Lorne	24
BT West Division Two	

OBAN LORNE sealed the West Division Two title with a last gasp 24-20 win over an impressive Paisley side. The Green Machine secured the championship last week with a 51-0 win at Strathendrick but were keen to win the league in style and gain maximum points in their remaining games of the season.

Dave McCabe started at stand-off for the missing Colin Thwaites while Max Noordenbos, Jamie Bate, Vasco Borisov and Allan Wright all returned to the starting team.

Paisley made a great start to the game and were putting Oban under intense pressure with quick ball finding dangerous stand off Martin McKellar, who consistently kept his side on the front foot with some clever attacking play. Oban were struggling to get the journey out of their system and with key players such as Andy MacDougall and Struan Smith missing in the pack, the Oban team were failing to control the hosts at the breakdown.

The home side took the lead on 15 minutes with a converted try.

This was the wake-up call Oban needed as they finally got out of first gear and concentrated on their own attacking game. Oban were unlucky not to find the tryline with impressive breaks from captain Cammy Smith and winger Plato Moisiadis, who was impressing with some powerful runs on the right wing. Oban again squandered a chance to score by being overturned on their own scrum five metres from

the line; a wasted opportunity after some good pressure against the hosts.

Paisley took advantage of Oban's missed chances and extended their lead shortly before half-time with a well-taken penalty kick to end the first 40 minutes at 10-0.

Oban coaches Corrie Louw and Aaron Collins were frustrated at halftime and made a couple of changes to the side for the second half. Borisov was taken off allowing Graham MacEachan to move to scrum half and Alex Lawson to come off the bench to fullback.

This tactical change proved its worth for the Green Machine as they narrowed the lead shortly into the second half. Dave McCabe was taken down short of the tryline allowing Cammy Smith to pick the ball from the ground and dive over. 10-5 to Paisley.

Oban were now starting to dominate areas off the game and had vastly more field possession than in the first half. Paisley, however, were not going to make things easy for the Oban Lorne as they scored a fantastic try from a turnover scrum on halfway.

The Paisley backline took full advantage of the turnover in possession by spinning the ball out to the wing and scoring in the left corner. A successful conversion brought the score to 17-5 in favour of the hosts.

Just as the game was becoming out of sight for Oban, some fantastic individual runs from several players in the team proved vital as Oban fought back to lead the game. Back row Callum MacLachlan scored two tries as a result of his trademark powerful runs at the defence to give Oban a 19-17



CHAMPIONS: The Oban Lorne squad pictured with the BT West Division Two championship trophy

lead, aided by two Craig Wright conversions.

This set up a thrilling last 10 minutes of the game, both teams were attacking at will with both being cheered on from very vocal support. Paisley won a penalty just inside the Oban half with under five minutes remaining. Much to the home side's delight the ball was struck perfectly, slicing through the uprights for a 20-19 lead.

Oban were desperate to keep up their impressive winning form and launched a couple of last gasp attacks at the Paisley line. Eventually a break in the 22 from Dave McCabe setup Alex Lawson in the corner and sealed the game for Oban Lorne.

Oban Lorne's representative on the West League Committee, Jim Stevenson was on hand to present Oban Lorne with the 2014/15

### Rugby

league trophy. Oban Lorne will enjoy the taste of success for the time being but will have a hard summer ahead preparing for next season in West Division 1.

Oban have one further league game remaining at home on Saturday May 9.

This fixture, however, is increasingly looking like it won't happen due to Uddingston struggling for player numbers.

Attention now turns to sevens season which begins with a trip to the Crieff Sevens this weekend. Oban Lorne Sevens tournament will take place on Saturday May 16 at Glencruittin.

Oban Lorne's AGM will take place on Monday June 1 at 6pm in the clubhouse.



CAPTAIN FANTASTIC: Oban Lorne captain Cammy Smith was presented with the Division Two trophy by Jim Stevenson, west leagues representative on the Scottish Rugby council



UP AND OVER: Connel rider Lorne Sinclair during his race in Wiltshire last month. t17lornesinc01no

## Lorne wins MX quad championship

A TEENAGE quad rider from Connel has beaten 29 other riders to take first place in the Nora MX quad championships in Wiltshire.

Lorne Sinclair took overall victory in the 250 Youth Class on Sunday, April 12, at the Grittenham track, riding a Honda 250 Hybrid bike.

The weekend was a gruelling one for Lorne, who had a 20-hour round journey to contend with as well as his three races.

### Rode hard

In the first race, Lorne rode hard to take second place, behind series favourite Ayrton Knowles. 'I was just amazed I even got second, given the mistakes I was making,' said Lorne.

In race two, with the track turning solid and slippery, Ayrton

### Quadbiking

took the lead within minutes but Lorne pursued him relentlessly, before making his move with just one lap to go, to take the win and level the scores at one race each.

Lorne made a superb start to the third and deciding race, taking the lead in spectacular style. As the pack emerged from the dust, riders were hard on his heels, but Lorne defended well and took the race and overall win.

After the race, Lorne said: 'The 10-hour drive down was definitely worthwhile.'

He will next be in action during round three of the Southern based championship on April 26, at Pontilas in Herefordshire.

## MacPhee finishes 15th in Argentina

### Motorcycling

CONNEL'S John McPhee finished in 15th place in the Argentina Moto3 Grand Prix last Sunday.

Saxoprint RTG rider McPhee was in 13th position with four laps remaining but was shuffled back to 15th in the final corner.

John said: 'It was a difficult race for me as we started from a poor qualifying position.'

'The position I got was the best I could do. Now we come back to Europe and I am sure I can improve.'

## Oban regain West Coast Cup

OBAN regained the West Coast Cup with a nail biting victory against Fort William at Taynuilt.

On a lovely spring day, Sunday April 19, the margin of victory could not have been closer as Oban won by one wicket, making 101 for 9 to overtake their near neighbours' total of 100 all out.

Fort William made a total of 100 which was mainly due to a fine innings of 62 from David Duncan. He punished any loose bowling in a fine knock before he was brilliantly caught by Neil Belshaw at mid wicket when he mistimed a pull shot. Oban's bowling and fielding were tight throughout.

Andrew Leach and Taj Islam were the pick of the bowlers with four wickets each but special mention should be made for Jacob Barnsley, making his debut for the club, who bowled a fine spell of eight tight overs.

Oban required 101 runs to win and made a bad

### Cricket

start losing some early wickets. Opener Andrew Leach was playing superbly though but lost partners regularly at the other end as wickets fell regularly and Oban looked as if they would come up short of their target.

With the score on 85, Leach was joined by last man Oban captain Davy Hannah and somehow they managed to see off all that Fort William could throw at them and score the remaining runs to win by the narrow margin.

The match ball was sponsored by Oban Fish and Chip Shop.

Scores-Fort William 100 all out (D Duncan 62; A Leach 4-12; T Islam 4-18) Oban 101-9 (A Leach 52 not out)

## Young Mull driver does well in Circuit of Ireland Rally

A YOUNG Mull driver is speedily making his way through the motor racing ranks after he impressed at the Circuit of Ireland Rally.

Former kart racer Fergus Barlow, 22, who only started rally driving two years ago, finished seventh from 20 junior class entrants in his Ford Fiesta R2, a less powerful machine than his Peugeot competitors.

It was also the Tobermory youngster's first European-level race. He and co-driver Alasdair MacCrone, Dervaig, had to compile their own race notes the day before their race.

In fact, the pair only decided to enter the race at the 11th

hour and ended up pushing for a class win in front of up to 30,000 spectators.

Fergus, an engineer in the merchant navy, said: 'We basically threw ourselves in at the deep end. I got notice of the race a couple of days after I got back from Indonesia, where I had been working.'

'We got the car from Ireland and I still have contacts there, so I decided to give it a go.'

Like many young Mull drivers, Fergus has been inspired by the success of the island's own John MacCrone, who has competed in the junior World Rally Championship Academy.

Now Fergus has had a taste of

### Rallying

international competition he aims to follow in the footsteps of his role model.

He already has two Isle of Mull Rally events under his belt.

'At this standard of rally you can't slip up. You have to give maximum attack on every corner and follow your pace notes. Taking risks and commitment to the course are the main things I have learnt from the rally in Ireland.'

Fergus thanked all his supporters on Mull, with a special thanks to Eddie O'Donnell for helping with his entry to the Circuit of Ireland Rally.



RALLYING ROUND: Fergus Barlow and Alasdair MacCrone in action.

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**WEATHER**

**Thursday** Sunny intervals  
Winds light south westerly  
Temperatures 8°C to 13°C.

**Friday** Heavy rain  
Winds moderate south easterly  
Temperatures 6°C to 11°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Light rain showers on Saturday  
Heavy rain showers on Sunday  
Winds moderate west south westerly  
Temperatures 4°C to 8°C.

**TIDAL INFORMATION**

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, April 23, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm			
Thur	02.48	0.9	08.28	3.4	14.57	0.9	20.37	3.5
Fri	03.33	1.2	09.11	3.1	15.44	1.2	21.21	3.2
Sat	04.28	1.5	10.03	2.9	16.37	1.4	22.15	3.0
Sun	05.33	1.7	11.38	2.7	17.37	1.6	23.37	2.8
Mon	07.09	1.8	13.44	2.7	18.46	1.7	***	**
Tues	01.31	2.9	08.43	1.8	14.41	2.9	20.00	1.6
Wed	02.37	3.0	09.35	1.6	15.20	3.1	21.04	1.5

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		

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

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### TIMESLINE

#### Man crashes after taking ill at wheel

A 4x4 CAR crashed into a bin lorry after the pensioner driving it became ill at the wheel. The 78-year-old man was travelling towards Ballachulish with his 76-year-old wife when they collided with the Bowman's recycling vehicle on the A82, three miles south of Fort William, on Monday morning. The couple and the 52-year-old male lorry driver escaped with only minor injuries but both vehicles had to be recovered by emergency services after the incident at around 11.13am. Both pensioners suffered chest pains and the car driver also had a fractured wrist, while the driver of the Bowman's vehicle was left with bruising. The couple were kept at Belford hospital, Fort William, overnight as a precaution. Stevie McAleer, head of road policing for Lochaber, said: 'The driver of the 4x4 had taken ill at the wheel. We know it was a medical matter but have yet to receive more information. The road was closed until 1.30pm because a diesel pipe burst so there was a big clean-up required.'

#### Firefighters tackle Spean hotel blaze

AN HISTORIC Highland hotel has been damaged in a fire that started on Tuesday afternoon. Four fire engines were called to the scene at the Spean Bridge hotel after witnesses said they saw smoke billowing from the roof. Eyewitnesses said 12 firefighters could be seen on a flat roof to the rear of the 17th century coaching inn. Police were called to the scene to manage traffic on the A85. The road remained open during the incident - but traffic had to slow to pass hoses lying over the road.



# Frustration grows as care home doors remain closed

NHS HIGHLAND UNDER FIRE AGAIN BUT INSISTS PROGRESS IS BEING MADE

**EMMA CRICHTON**  
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

THE RE-OPENING of Mallaig care home, the Mackintosh centre, has been delayed by another month but NHS Highland staff insist progress is being made. Interviews have taken place since the *Oban Times* revealed previous hold ups were a result of newly-recruited staff resigning because of daily commutes of up to 100 miles for training in Fort William. But new carers have yet to be hired and will need to be trained, meaning the Mackintosh will not be ready to re-open in May, as staff at NHS Highland had previously hoped. A spokeswoman for NHS Highland has cited June as the new aim for opening but the families of residents at the Mackintosh centre, who have been housed at Invernevis

house in Fort William since the care home closed in July last year, have had enough of being 'fobbed off'. A source close to the families, who asked not to be named, said: 'It's shameful the way they have conducted this, how can they keep going round in this circle where they lose staff they have just taken on? They have dug a big hole for themselves and the families are constantly being fobbed off. They keep saying 'Oh it'll be next month, and now the next one', at first they [the relatives] accepted it out of respect because these things take time but not any more.' The source added that the families of residents were upset that they have had no communication about progress or opening dates. He said: 'The families still haven't had any contact whatsoever from NHS Highland. We were told a letter had been sent to relatives on April

7 but nobody has received one yet. It's terrible mismanagement they way they have treated the families and not just them, the local GPs and councillors haven't been told anything either.' The NHS Highland spokeswoman said: 'Interviews for the care home were held at the beginning of the month and we are hopeful that we will be able to appoint from those but we are still working our way through those processes. Once we have confirmation we will be providing an update to families, staff and the wider community. 'I would say we're looking at June now.' The eight-bed Mackintosh centre was closed in July last year when some staff members were suspended pending investigations of alleged poor practise. At the time, NHS Highland said the care home would be closed for four to six weeks.



GOOD WISHES: Su and Shirley Sen, front, were presented with a bench in Dr Sen's honour by members of Caol in Bloom and Caol Regeneration company limited

## Dedicated volunteer Su retires from public life with village's best wishes

A FOUNDING member of two Lochaber community groups has retired from public life. Doctor Su Sen devoted his time to a number of voluntary projects since retiring as a general practitioner at Glen Mor medical practice in 1995 and founded both Caol in Bloom in 1998 and Caol Regeneration company limited in 2005. Last week members of both groups

presented him with a bench which will sit in Caol village in his honour. His wife, Shirley Sen, also received flowers for her work in the community. A spokesperson on behalf on both groups said of Dr Sen: 'Thousands of people owe him for his skills and expertise. He is loved by all and will be badly missed. 'We wish him a happy retirement with good health.'

### North Uist leads the way with community buy-out pub plan

A COMMUNITY buy-out has been proposed for a pub in North Uist - thought to be the first of its kind in Scotland. A public meeting held last week showed support for the plan, which would see the Westford Inn on the west side of the island turned into a community hub. Neil Beaton, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar councillor for North Uist, has been working with a steering group to gauge community interest in the buy out. He said: 'It was a very positive meeting and nearly 70 people attended. There's a lot of enthusiasm for a community take over, especially as it will be turned into somewhere that can be used for all sorts of different things, rather than just a pub. We think this could be the first community buy out of a pub in the country and now we can demonstrate community support, that will go a long way to helping us get funding.'

### Body of missing walker found during search of Glen Nevis

THE BODY of missing hillwalker Kyle Knox has been found during a search of the Glen Nevis area. The 23-year-old from London was discovered in the Surgeon's Gully area, to the south east of Ben Nevis, at around 3pm on Friday, almost three weeks after he was reported missing on March 31. The body of Mr Knox was discovered by rescuers on board the Royal Navy helicopter R177. He was last seen at around 10am on March 30 in Glen Nevis. It is believed he was planning to climb Ben Nevis. A previous search carried out immediately after his disappearance was reported had to be abandoned because of bad weather. A Police Scotland spokesman said: 'Next of kin have been informed and a report will be sent to the procurator fiscal.' The spokesman also extended thanks to everyone who helped in the search.

## Anger as bus company axes route

THE MAY to October bus service from Edinburgh to Fort William and back will no longer run, in a decision branded 'disgraceful and disrespectful'. Highland councillor Allan Henderson said the short notice - it was due to start on May 18 - was an attempt by operator Citylink to 'hinder competition' and prevent another company running a similar service. Without this bus, which operated from the capital via Stirling, tourists and locals will only be able to travel from Lochaber to the central belt in Glasgow. A similar route from Oban to Edinburgh has also been removed from Citylink's summer timetable. Allan Henderson, councillor for Caol and Mallaig, said: 'Once again we are being treated with disregard by

Citylink. While I fully respect Citylink's right to take commercial decisions, the timing of this one is disgraceful and disrespectful. 'If carrying numbers were bad in 2014 season, then the decision to drop the service could have been announced much sooner so that any other interested bus operating company would have time to source a spare vehicle and go through the necessary procedure to register the service. As registration and advertising of a route is a time consuming process, it is unlikely this service will be able to be replaced this year, even if there was a willing operator. This timing has been calculated to hinder competition.' A spokeswoman for Citylink said vehicles were only a third full on the

route and the number of passengers had dropped by 30 per cent between 2013 and 2014. There was a 40 per cent drop on the Oban to Edinburgh route. She added: 'We review our timetable around twice a year to determine how we can best use our resources. We informed the local authorities of this decision at the beginning of March. However, we are sorry to anyone who will be disappointed. Customers who wish to travel between Fort William and Edinburgh can continue to do so by changing in Glasgow.' Fort William community council chairman Neil Clark called the decision 'regrettable' and 'unfortunate'. 'These decisions are typical in an area like ours and our bus service is already inadequate,' he said.



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- 12 12 Vauxhall Astra SRI .....£7,995  
1.4cc, Petrol, 5 Door, Hatchback, White, 27,900 miles, CD/Radio, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows & Mirrors, Air Con, Cruise Control, Alloys, Front Fog Lights, 1 Owner, Fully Serviced, 1 Years Mot
- 12 12 Vauxhall Zafira Design .....£8,995  
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- 12 12 Renault Kangoo ML19 DCI Van .....£4,995 + vat  
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- 12 12 Ford Focus Titanium 125 .....£9,495  
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- 11 11 Volkswagen Golf Sportline, Bluetotion TDI .....£9,295  
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**Skye, Lewis and Harris in top ten**

SKYE, Lewis and Harris have been named in the top 10 British islands to visit by a travel comparison site. Based on reviews and opinions of travellers, TripAdvisor named Skye number five of the top 10 islands to visit in the UK and Channel isles, with Lewis and Harris close behind at number eight. Arran and the mainland of Orkney also featured, with Jersey taking the top spot. VisitScotland chairman Mike Cantlay said: 'From the rocky mountains of Skye to the Caribbean-like white sand beaches of Lewis and Harris, recognition from organisations like TripAdvisor really helps inspire even more people to visit our beautiful country as we continue to take Scotland to the world and sell it like never before.'

**Help police find thief and vandal**

**POLICE in Lochaber are appealing for information about two crimes that took place over the last week. Overnight on Saturday April 18 a vacuum cleaner and pressure washer at Ben Nevis filling station was broken into and a sum of cash was stolen. During the night of Monday April 16 at Lismore Road, Kinlochleven, a parked vehicle was scratched. Anyone with information is asked to contact police by calling 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.**

**Election hopefuls face public in Fort**

CANDIDATES in the Ross, Skye and Lochaber constituency will take part in a hustings. The event will take place in Fort William, one week before the general election. The seven candidates will deliver a short opening speech before answering questions submitted by the audience in Lochaber high school on April 30. The event is organised by Lochaber chamber of commerce. It will be chaired by businessman Laurence Young. Entry is free and advance booking is not essential, although spaces may be limited. To submit questions for the event go to bit.do/lochaberelection.

**Beth staying put at Kinlochleven**

IN LAST week's Oban Times (April 16) the headline of a report on the front page stated 'Kinlochleven high school bids farewell to Beth after 25 years'. The work of Beth Grant was celebrated at an end of term ceremony at Kinlochleven high school but she is not retiring or leaving for any other reason, as the headline suggested. We apologise for any confusion.

# Community urged to get behind plans for £3m Corpach marina

**EMMA CRICHTON**  
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

A NEW marina would be 'the best thing' to bring to Corpach, a business owner told a community council meeting last Wednesday. Plans for a £3 million facility in Lochaber were shown to the Kilmallie community council meeting last Wednesday. Residents were enthusiastic about the proposal and the increased trade it would bring to the area. John Cuthbertson, owner of the Snowgoose mountain centre in Corpach, encouraged everyone at the meeting in Kilmallie hall last Wednesday to give the project their full support. He said: 'I think it's a fantastic idea. The best thing you could bring to Corpach, I really think you must go for this, if not you'll be turning away the



FUTURE: an artist's impression of how Corpach marina could look

biggest thing this area needs.' Mr Cuthbertson added that he tried to build a similar facility in the 1970s and was even granted planning permission but an argument about land ownership prevented it from going ahead. Duncan MacPhee, one of the members of the working group behind Thomas Telford Corpach Marina limited, presented the group's ideas for the marina, to be housed in a bay to the right of the railway line. He said he was excited about the prospect, but insisted it would only go ahead with the 'full support' of the community. Mr MacPhee added: 'If the community isn't behind this then it's dead in the water. We really want the full support of the community and for this to benefit the community or there's no point.' Mr MacPhee, a well-known face in Lochaber as a solicitor of MacPhee and

Partners, explained the marina is set to include a slipway and moorings, with the potential for a cruise liner berth. The next step is to lodge a planning application and source funding. The group hopes to have a detailed design and full planning consent by the end of this year and have construction underway by 2017. Russell Leaper, secretary of Kilmallie community council, said there is a 'lot of enthusiasm' about the project but he would like to hear the views of more residents. He said: 'We would really like to get more feedback from people living close by to make sure they don't feel they would be adversely affected by this but there is clearly a lot of enthusiasm.' The community council were offered a seat on the board and will be eligible to vote on all decisions about the marina. Mr Leaper said they would be keen to take this up.

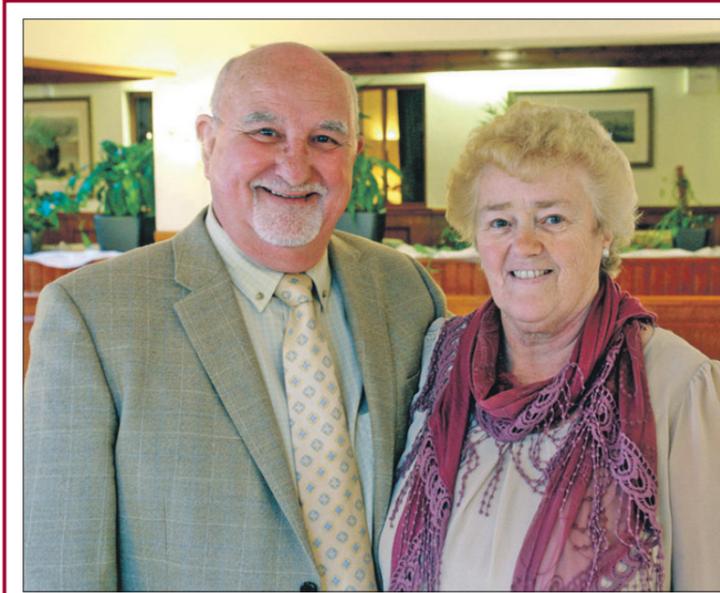
## Fergie's on song with new single

AT 78 years old, Lochaber musician Fergie MacDonald is determined to remain in the limelight and has just unveiled a new song - a spin-off to the worldwide number one 'The Shinty Referee'. The Acharacle pensioner released Niall Mór an Referee last week as a nod to his Gaelic speaking fans after his last single reached the top of the iTunes chart within 24 hours when it was released in 2013. Mr MacDonald, often dubbed the ceilidh king, said: 'I couldn't believe how well the Shinty Referee did. I was so happy with it. Then all the Gaels were asking for a Gaelic version but when I tried to do a literal translation I just couldn't make it fit so I accepted it as a bad job and wrote this instead. 'It's not a serious song. In the sad world we live in today

I wanted to write something that's just good fun and that's exactly what it is. Niall Mór is a fictional character based loosely round a shinty referee I knew from my school days. But I don't know if he did all the things I'm singing about.' Best known as a button box player, Mr MacDonald took to the microphone to record Niall Mór but the song features his son John MacDonald as well as Lochaber musicians Allan Henderson, Iain MacFarlane, Colm O'Rua, Hugh MacCallum, Gary Innes and Angus MacPhail. Mr MacDonald, a former pupil of Mingarry primary and Fort William high schools, said: 'I tutored all of these boys and I treat them all as my children. I'm no singer so I was going to stick to the accordion and get one of the boys to sing but they decided because of how humorous the song is I should sing it so that's exactly what I did.' Recording 35 albums on vinyl, cassette and CD during a career spanning 60 years, Mr MacDonald said he plans to stay in the West Highland music scene for as long as possible. He said: 'I can't bring myself to give it up. I have slowed down a lot but I'll be at some of the festivals over the summer and will be involved with Oban Mòd later this year.'



ON SONG: Fergie MacDonald with his new single 20\_17Fergie01



TOGETHERNESS: John and Margaret MacAskill celebrated 50 years of marriage with a family dinner

## Golden wedding smiles

CARING and looking after each other is the key to a happy marriage, according to Margaret MacAskill, who celebrated 50 years with her husband John, earlier this month. The happy couple from Tomonie marked their golden wedding anniversary with a family dinner at the Moorings Hotel, Banavie, on April 11. Mrs and Mrs MacAskill met in Kinlochleven and were married at St Mary's church, Fort William, on February 20 1965 but postponed

the celebratory dinner until last week when their two sons and four grandchildren could be with them. Mrs MacAskill said: 'We had a lovely, happy evening to celebrate 50 happy years and we thank the Lord for blessing us with the lovely years we've had together. 'The key to a happy marriage is being loving to each other, looking after each other, sharing everything and talking about everything.'

## Ballachulish pond clear of crayfish

CRAYFISH damaging the wildlife and environment of a Lochaber pond appear to have been removed successfully. The small lobster-like species was first discovered at Ballachulish quarry by a countryside ranger in 2011, leading to concerns about the pond's natural habitat. Crayfish are known to compete with fish for food and shelter and can be a significant predator of insects, frogs, young fish and their eggs. Following an eradication programme carried out since July 2012 by Highland council, Lochaber Fisheries trust, Scottish Environment Protection agency and Scottish Natural Heritage, crayfish now appear to have been removed from the quarry waters. Diane Baum of Lochaber Fisheries Trust said: 'We are very encouraged by monitoring to date. It is a little too early to be completely confident that we've removed every last crayfish from the ponds, but at this stage we are cautiously optimistic about the success of the project.' Members of the public are reminded that it is against the law to capture, keep, transport or release live crayfish into the wild without a licence. Any suspicious activity, at Ballachulish quarry should be reported to the police.

## Visits could help identify potential energy savings

FREE sessions to help Lochaber householders save energy are being offered from this month. The project will see Lochaber environmental group visit homes with energy monitors and thermal imaging cameras to find ways in which homes lose energy through missing insulation and draughts.

The project is also available to local businesses. Charlotte Hatto of Lochaber environmental group said: 'The housing stock in Lochaber really needs improvement. Using our energy monitors and thermal imaging cameras we can help bill payers target the biggest drain on their finance ensuring they get the

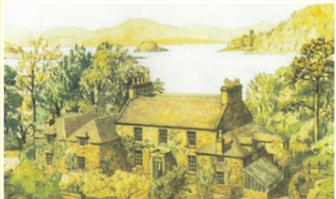
biggest results for simple changes. Examples of savings that can be made include turning off unused appliances and draught proofing, which can increase comfort and reduce bills at the same time.' For more information call 01397700090 or email charlotte@lochaberenviro.org.uk.

## Big spring clean this weekend

FORT William's big spring clean has been rescheduled for this weekend, following bad weather for the planned last month. The Town Team, along with members of Zero Waste Lochaber, are encouraging volunteers to come along on Saturday and Sunday (April 25 and 26) to help.

Members have asked volunteers to meet at 1.30pm on both days, at the Mackintosh steps on Saturday and the old putting green shed on the Parade on Sunday. The town Team have a supply of brushes, shovels and gardening gloves but asked volunteers to bring their own if possible.

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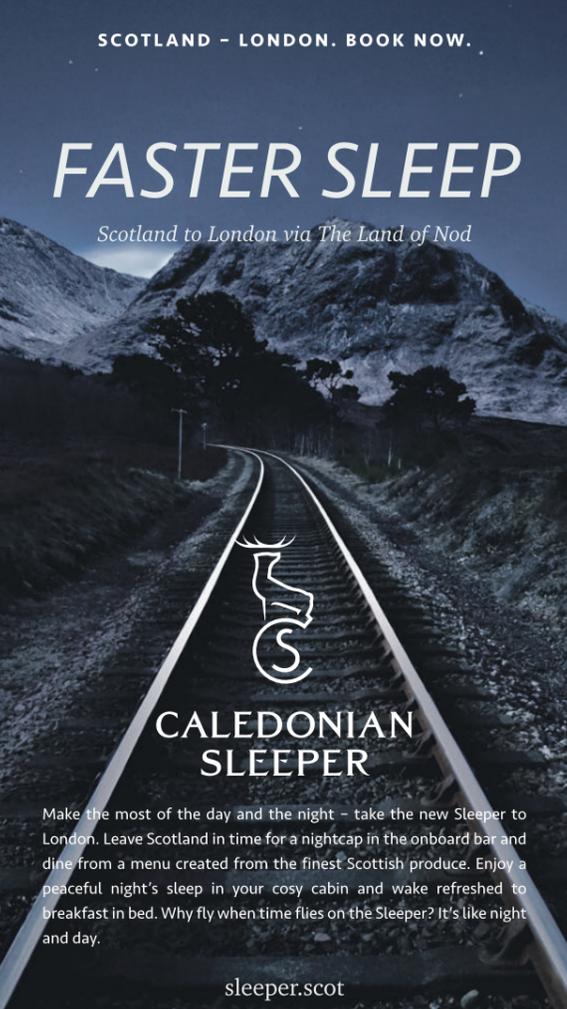
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# From a tin hut in Dalmally, charity helps 1M children

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

A DALMALLY charity is set to record a remarkable milestone when it feeds one million of the world's poorest children, it has been revealed this week.

Mary's Meals, founded from a tin hut in Dalmally, says it is now feeding almost one in every five children who are said to live in poverty throughout the world.

At ceremony on Tuesday evening in New York city there was the highest praise for Mary's Meals founder, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, a father-of-seven from Dalmally, who has been nominated for a prestigious award.

Magnus was named alongside 100 other world luminaries at the Time magazine's 100 world's most influential people list. Included in this impressive catalogue are Israel's president Benjamin Netanyahu, Soviet premier Vladimir Putin, writer Haruki Murakami and musician Kanye West.

Magnus was named as a world leading 'pioneer' for his charity work. The work of Mary's Meals will be celebrated at a ceremony in New York attended by US President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama.

Former UK prime minister Gordon Brown, who works as a United Nations special envoy for global education, nominated

Magnus for the accolade. He told the *Oban Times*: 'Scotland boasts great missionary heroes, including David Livingstone and Eric Liddell of Chariots of Fire fame. Now Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow is following in their footsteps.'

'His organisation, Mary's Meals, will soon be feeding one million schoolchildren across 12 countries every day. His work began in Bosnia, but a visit to Malawi, where a child told him his dream was having enough to eat, cemented his mission: to get thousands of girls and boys to come to school by providing a meal.'

'The impact has been breathtaking. Attendance figures have

risen, by as much as 50 per cent in some areas. And Magnus is right behind the #UpForSchool petition to get 58 million out-of-school children aged between six to 11 into education.'

'This quiet-spoken father of seven won't rest while there are children to feed and to educate and to give them a chance in life.'

Magnus' mother, Mary Ann MacFarlane-Barrow, said she was very proud of her son. She said: 'When Magnus is given these awards, he doesn't think of them as something for him. They are for all the people who have believed that we can rid the world of starving children.'

'The wonderful thing, the thing that takes priority, is that in a month or so it is very likely that we will be feeding one million children every single day. If we can do that from a project that started from a tin hut in Dalmally, working together we can feed every single starving child in the world.'

Glenorchy and Innishail community councillor Ian Craig, who lives in Lochawe, said: 'If you think about it for a moment, it is astonishing that from a project started in a tin hut in Dalmally he feeds more than a million children throughout the world.'

'But not only does he do that, but he and his family at Craig Lodge have employed lots of local people. Like many people in the area we are proud of what he has done, but especially proud that he is from Dalmally.'

Later this year, Magnus will be launching his first book and a film following the stories of those children educated in a Mary's Meals school in each of the 12 countries it works in.



THEIR HERO: Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow from Dalmally with some of the children Mary's Meals helps to feed around the world

## It's high Times for Les and Issy



OUTDOOR enthusiasts Les and Issy Silkowski (pictured above) hit the heights when they embarked on their latest adventure.

The North Shian couple, who are keen climbers and hikers, travelled all the way to the Himalayas to take on the strenuous Annapurna Circuit in Nepal.

During the 16-day trek, they successfully reached the high point of the trip at 5,416m when they crossed the Thorong-La pass on the edge of the Tibetan Plateau.

Issy said: 'We have been to the Alps before, but this was our first time in Nepal. We were really lucky with the weather.'

'There were 15 of us altogether on the trek which we were told was about the average number. The food was surprisingly varied which was great as Les and I thought we would be living on rice.'

Now Les, 57, a retired police officer, and Issy, 54, who is a part-time receptionist at the Port Appin surgery, are back home but have no plans for a return trip to the top of the world.

## A leap of faith for party candidates

AN ELECTION hustings with a religious flavour will take place tonight (Thursday, April 23) in Oban's parish church.

Some of the town's churches have come together to organise the debate with Argyll and Bute candidates Alastair Redman, Conservatives; Mary Galbraith, Labour; Alan Reid, Liberal Democrats; and Brendan O'Hara, SNP agreeing to take part.

The hustings start at 7.30pm and everyone is welcome.

## A nice little earner for new portfolios

TOP portfolios in Argyll and Bute council will be filled as councillors meet today to ratify who among them will be in charge of tourism and adult care.

The briefs attract an extra payment of £8,000 - boosting salaries to £24,000. Vivian Dance stood down from tourism, while Dougie Philand retired for health reasons.

## Powerful gesture for the Red Cross

THE BRITISH Red Cross will help people on the west coast during any power cuts after Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution (SSEPD) announced a £400,000 donation to the organisation.

SSEPD boss, Stuart Hogarth, said: 'We have a responsibility to make people safe.'

## Box office increase for town's cinema

OBAN Phoenix Cinema said it had almost 30,000 visitors in its last tally of numbers at its year end.

The numbers, while provisional, show an upturn in the number of cinema-goers in the town.



## Another setback for Billy as court postpones appeal

CONNEL seaman Billy Irving received yet another blow in his bid to be reunited with his partner and baby son after an Indian court adjourned his appeal hearing.

Billy, originally from Campbelltown, and five other ex-servicemen have been detained in Chennai, India for almost two years despite being cleared of illegal arms charges after their boat strayed into Indian waters. Indian police still hold the men's passports.

Billy's partner, Yvonne MacHugh, also from Connel, said:



'Still nothing to report, as court was adjourned again. It's a huge disappointment as courts close for May and June. We could be looking at July at the very earliest.'

The couple (pictured above) became parents in February, when William Archie was born.

## Number of people using food banks in Highlands is rising, says charity

**EMMA CRICHTON**  
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MORE THAN 6,000 people in the Highlands had to use food banks in the last year.

New figures from charity the Trussell Trust show 6,076 people received a three-day

supply of food from March last year until the beginning of this month, including 1,627 children. In the Western Isles, 280 people were given food during the same period, of which 52 were children.

The same figures show more than 117,689 people used food

banks in Scotland, a 65 per cent increase on last year. This is the first year the figure has exceeded 100,000 in the country.

Ewan Gurr, the Trussell Trust's Scotland network manager, said: 'Despite welcome signs of economic recovery, hunger continues to affect sig-

nificant numbers of men, women and children in Scotland.'

'The full extent of the problem could well be much wider as the Trussell Trust figures do not include people who are helped by other food charities or those who feel too ashamed to seek help.'

## Stirling family buys Cally Marts

A FARMERS' co-operative auction mart company, which leases Oban Mart, has been bought over by a family of Stirling farmers and livestock breeders, writes Marian Miller.

Caledonian Marts (Stirling) Ltd officially went into administration on Monday but was immediately sold to the firm of John, Brian and Steven Gilvear, which had previously been announced as the preferred bidder for the auction mart firm.

The new company is called Caledonian Marts Ltd and the independently-owned business will continue to operate along similar lines from its base at Millhall in Stirling and as the operator of the Oban Livestock Group's market at Oban.

The business structure and staff will remain the same, but has a new board of directors under chairman and Doune farmer Niall Bowser, including

a new managing director, John Kyle, previously operations director.

Mr Kyle said: 'It is a tremendous relief to have moved past any uncertainty and be looking to the future.'

'We fought long and hard to keep the market operating and cannot thank our loyal clients enough for their continued support.'

'The Gilvear family has been a large operator in livestock for decades and knows the auction system well.'

'They are dedicated supporters, not just of Caledonian Marts but of other firms too, and I look forward to working with them.'

'Competition is a crucial component of Scottish agriculture and our Stirling and Oban sites will ensure that we never lose sight of this.'

Mr Bowser said: 'It's still early days, but I would like to

see a practical bolstering of our auctioneering staff.'

'This would be with a view to having a much greater presence on farms, drawing buyers and sellers to the market.'

'I would like to investigate further developing specialist areas of marketing such as show cattle, native breed sales, butchers' cattle and perhaps breeding sheep sales.'

'Of course, I would also like to see progressive increase in turnover, perhaps then with a view to some modernisation of the premises.'

Caledonian Marts (Stirling) Ltd had run into financial difficulties, with irrecoverable debts of £3.75 million and had tried but failed in January to re-capitalise through the issue of new share sales.

Instead bids for the 52-year-old company were invited and included one from rival firm United Auctions Ltd.

Around £800,000 is understood to have been tied up in the company from members' loans.

The money from the sale of the company will be used to pay off creditors, with none of the more than 3,000 members getting any proceeds from the sale.

Andrew Davison, joint administrator with Ernst and Young, said: 'Unfortunately, in recent times, the business has faced financial difficulties due to a build-up of bad debts and, having explored a number of other options, the directors took the decision to appoint administrators to help safeguard the future of the business.'

'We are pleased to announce that a sale has been completed that sees the business assets and all employees transferring to the new company, with the business continuing to trade without interruption.'

## Only the Scottish Conservatives can stand up to the SNP and keep Ed Miliband out of No.10.

The LibDem vote has gone for good in Scotland. They failed to win a single mainland seat in the last Holyrood election and they now have no Scottish MEPs at all. The latest polls show they are falling further - with just 5% support. Incredibly, almost 90% of their past voters are saying they will not vote LibDem again.

The only party strong enough to stand up to the SNP is the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party. In Argyll and Bute, we finished as the SNP's main challengers in the 2011, 2012 and 2014 elections. If you support the United Kingdom, voting for ALASTAIR REDMAN is the only choice in Argyll and Bute.

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## Making waves over potholes to rival Atlantis

POTHOLES - believed by residents to be the biggest in Oban - are being ignored by the council, a meeting of the town's area committee heard last week.

The problem is now described as a 'swimming pool to rival the Atlantis centre' with potholes more than 'two feet deep'.

Duncan Johnston, who lives at Dalrigh, a street behind the main A85 at George Street, told Argyll and Bute councillors the street was 'dangerous'.

He added a note of warning: 'If you do come over, please watch that you don't fall down a hole.'

Chairman of the area committee, councillor Roddy McCuish, said he was aware of the problem: 'The road is dangerous. We are waiting for further information to find out what it is that is in need of repair.'



ROAD TO RUIN: residents Rod Connelly and Duncan Johnston inspect one of the potholes

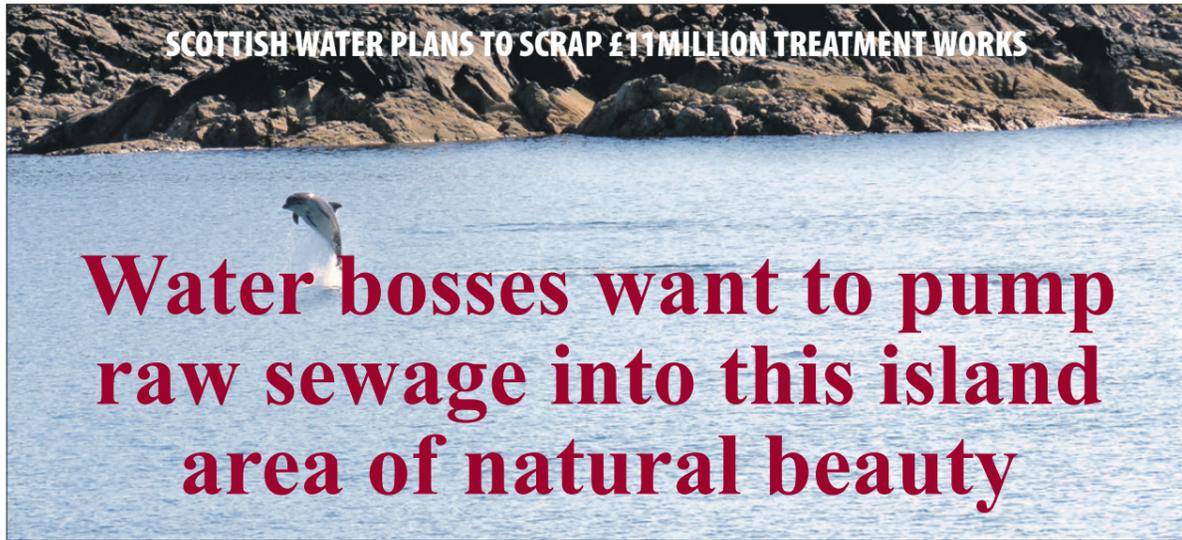
## Bonus question for the chairman

SELF-appointed 'Keep Oban tidy' campaigner Kenny MacLennan is on a mission to improve the 'problems' of dog fouling and car parking in the town.

At a meeting of Argyll and Bute council's Oban and Lorn area committee last week, Mr MacLennan asked if there was a bonus scheme for productivity.

When asked by the meeting's chairman, councillor Roddy McCuish, to clarify what was meant by his question, he said: 'Do parking attendants get paid more for the number of tickets they give out? Or do dog wardens get extra for the number of dog foulings they are prepared to clear up.'

Councillor McCuish said pointedly: 'There is no bonus for staff.'



## SCOTTISH WATER PLANS TO SCRAP £11 MILLION TREATMENT WORKS

# Water bosses want to pump raw sewage into this island area of natural beauty

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

AN ISLAND GP has hit out at plans to build a second sewerage scheme on the Isle of Seil, calling it 'breathtaking in its ineptitude'.

Nine years after a scheme from Scottish Water, which was opposed by residents at the time and cost more than £10.7 million, the public company is planning to install a new scheme - and scrapping the original one altogether.

At a community meeting on Seil, Scottish Water representatives told islanders the system was 'too expensive to run' and the authority was now planning to spend more money on a new scheme that would pump effluent from a population of more than 500 people out into the bay which is a European special conservation area.

The current sewerage system runs from the famous 'Bridge over the Atlantic' to the village of Balvicar. It was finished in

2008. The plan at that time was to treat effluent and pump the treated sewage into Balvicar Bay.

Scottish Water blamed the high costs of the scheme on expensive anti-pollution procedures to protect the shellfish industry in the area and the scale of the project, which was likened to an area the size of Birmingham.

However, Dr George Hannah calculated the cost to link each house to the old scheme was £2,000 a year, with initial start-up costs of £100,000 per house.

Dr Hannah said: 'The most economical and environmentally acceptable solution is still to replace the current system with septic tanks.'

'This would pay for itself within 10 years. After wasting £10 million it is difficult for Scottish Water to admit how badly designed the system is. Until it admits its failures, the community can't trust it.'

Jean Ainsley, a resident of Seil Island, said: 'Scottish Water

has a very bad history on Seil Island. When it put in the £10.7 million scheme at Balvicar and Clachan Seil, it caused huge disruption and unhappiness on the island and the island is left with unsightly pumping stations and a treatment plant.'

'To save money on the running of this plant, it now intends to abandon that treatment plant and pump sewage along the road (with more pumping stations) over the hill and to pump it out from a septic tank somewhere near Seaview.'

'Apart from a septic tank, I understand that there will be no further treatment of the sewage from the island and the effluent will be pumped out into Easdale Bay, a European designated special area of conservation which at present has wonderful features below the surface and lots of amazing wildlife.'

'Scottish Water has said it will put a long pipe into the bay.'

'This, however, will not stand up to any serious wave action

as it cannot be anchored to the seabed here as it is mobile slate sand.'

'The pipe will therefore be quite short and with the onshore wind and waves, it is guaranteed that barely treated sewage will come back along the shore and in any strong wind will be blown over land in an aerosol of effluent.'

'Cost saving should not be the only driver for the company - the environment and island must be protected.'

However, a spokeswoman for Scottish Water said: 'At Easdale Bay there is currently a raw, untreated public sewage outfall pipe serving customers at Seaview Terrace.'

'The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has asked us to provide appropriate treatment to this outfall at Easdale Bay.'

'As a result we are planning to provide first-time waste water treatment provision (WWTP) to residents living at Seaview cottages.'

'This new treatment consists of a septic tank and a sea outfall pipe.'

'Our proposed project would see the decommissioning of the treatment works at Clachan Seil, using the existing site as a pumping station to transfer waste to the new, below ground, septic tank at Easdale.'

'This will not only deliver significant customer savings over the next 25 years, but is also a more sustainable treatment option.'

'It is the correct and appropriate level of treatment for this particular SEPA designated watercourse.'

'Scottish Water plans to reuse much of the equipment at Clachan Seil with an actual net loss of only around £280,000 as the majority of costs on the previous projects was associated with the provision of sewerage pipes and pumping stations.'

She added that timescales were dependent on site surveys, design options and consultation with the local community.

## Jobs to go as SAMS 're-balance' the books

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

NEWS of proposed job losses at a prestigious marine research organisation has sent shock waves throughout Argyll.

The Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), which has its headquarters in Dunbeg, told its 166 workers last week it will have to make redundancies if it is to remain 'a viable and thriving not-for-profit organisation'.

Challenging economic conditions were blamed for the cut in staff as the organisation slashed its budget by 10 per cent to avoid a deficit in 2015-16.

SAMS hoped the job losses would be achieved by voluntary redundancy.

Professor Axel Miller of

SAMS said: 'We are a big family at SAMS, characterised by highly competent and enthusiastic staff who are committed to working hard for a healthy marine environment for the good of society.'

'It is heart-breaking that we cannot operate sustainably in the current financial climate with the existing staff numbers. 'Salaries are the main cost for SAMS and we cannot find the required savings without reducing the staff levels.'

SAMS is an independent charitable organisation with an annual operating budget of approximately £10 million.

It does not receive any substantial grant from central government, but has to earn its income for research, education and commercial activities in an

increasingly competitive and restricted funding climate.

Axel Miller continued: 'Until this year we have been able to delay shrinking our operations by raising our game and performing better year on year.'

'The recognised quality and impact of our research has never been higher, as proven recently by our grading in the independently-assessed national research grading exercise.'

'We are also attracting more students and deliver more courses with a new European Masters programme in aquaculture, environment and society, starting in autumn.'

'It is very sad that we have to lose some of our colleagues, although we have performed so well across our activities and while the oceans face increas-

ing challenges that require more marine science.'

'But by making these very difficult changes now, we will remain a strong organisation ready to grow in the future when the funding environment improves.'

'In the meantime, we will continue to make a valued contribution to marine science in Scotland and beyond.'

SAMS is now in consultation with the unions and is calling for staff to come forward for voluntary redundancy, early retirement and part-time working. In May, management will consider any additional roles at risk and confirm redundancies.

A spokeswoman for SAM was unable to confirm the number of posts that would be lost.

A spokesman for Highlands

and Islands Enterprise said: 'We are very disappointed for SAMS in having to reduce staffing and, of course, for the individuals affected by the rebalancing.'

'SAMS generates substantial benefits to Argyll from its research and education activities and in the significant economic contribution it makes locally.'

'It also has a substantial part to play in moves to establish Oban as a university town.'

'It remains a strong and well-led organisation with a promising future.'

'We will continue to work closely with the organisation, particularly its commercial trading subsidiary SAMS Research Services Limited, and support its ambitions for future growth.'

## Celebrity chef plan rejected

AN APPLICATION for money to pay for a celebrity chef at Tiree Music Festival has been turned down by Oban, Lorn and isles councillors.

An open-day at the Tiree Community Trust building and a food-stall run by celebrity chef Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, who has a house on the island, were both refused funding from Argyll and Bute council until more information was available.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon said the projects were both worthwhile, but that she had 'reservations about funding an open day'.

She went on: 'Tiree Development Trust does an amazing job. But I am surprised that it hasn't gone to the windfall trust on the island.'

'It brings in a lot of money every year and it would be an ideal source of money to pay for an open day.'

A lack of food providers on the

island saw an application by Tiree Music Festival to bring Mr Fearnley-Whittingstall to the island to cook in a 'big tent'.

Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'I am concerned about this.'

'I have never heard any concerns from anyone attending the Tiree Music Festival about not getting something to eat.'

'Again, for £1,500 I would like some more information.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson added: 'There has been a substantial drain on money over the last two years. Do we go on financing one big thing or are they eligible to get funds from the Tiree wind farm fund instead?'

Mr Fearnley-Whittingstall has confirmed he will be attending the festival anyway.

He will be cooking with Tiree chef Sian Milne of the Beachcomber cafe.

## A step in the right direction

A CAMPAIGN to reduce the rate of lower-limb amputation among people with diabetes has been launched in the Highlands.

The Scottish government, through the Scottish Diabetes Foot Action Group (SDFAG), has launched CPR for Feet (Check, Protect and Refer) to carry out foot checks for hospital

patients, to see if they are at risk of ulceration and of losing limbs.

Sandra Jones, podiatry diabetes coordinator for NHS Highland, said: 'By identifying patients with a foot ulcer, or those at risk of developing them in hospital, we can put appropriate measures in place to prevent further harm.'

## NOTICE TO LANDOWNERS & OCCUPIERS

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

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

A helicopter will be used on Thursday 23rd April to transport wooden poles from the storage areas at Banavie and Moy to the construction site.

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

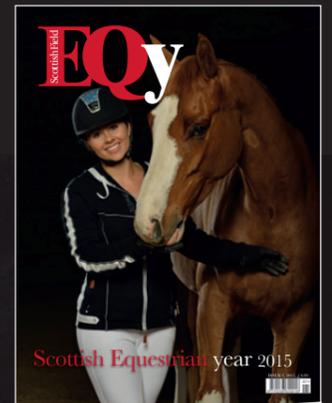
Should the helicopter not fly on this dates due to bad weather a new notice will be advertised.

For more information please contact: Max Bigham 01631 569209.



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TACKLE: Fort William's Willie Gemmell (left) and Andrew Hardwick try to dispossess this Lossiemouth attacker Photo Brian Smith

## Alternative sports for Kinloch' kids

### Active Schools

CANOEING, kayaking and white water rafting are just some of the activities to be enjoyed by pupils of Kinlochleven high school in the coming months.

Starting from May, the teenagers will have the opportunity to take part in a number of outdoor sports as part of a programme by Highlife Highland and Active Kids. The programme will run year-round, with activities through the summer holidays and into winter.

Active Schools co-ordinator Jane Bruce said: 'The aim of the project is to encourage those who are maybe not so interested in mainstream sports to try alternative activities and hopefully find the activity or sport that's right for them.'

## New offshore sailing event

### Sailing

A GROUP of sailing clubs have come together to organise a new event.

The West Highland offshore series will run from June to September and will see sailors compete in nine races.

Run by clubs in Skye, Oban, Glencoe, Plockton and Gairloch, the first race will see competitors sail from Oban to Glencoe on June 5.

For more information contact members of any of the above boat clubs.

## Martyn wins Neil Kerr Cup

### Darts

MARTYN Cameron added his name to the Neil Kerr cup after beating Martin Keenan by four legs to two in the final of the singles competition.

Defeated semi-finalists at the Railway Club on Friday night were Darren Sutherland and Martin MacLeod.

The highest finish of the night was 170 by John Woods.

# Injury time goal sees Fort lose all three points to Lossiemouth

## The Lochaber side drop to 15th place after two recent defeats

FORT William were relying on a win from yesterday's (Wednesday's) trip to Rothes after two defeats last week saw them drop to 15th place in the league.

The Claggan side went down 4-0 to Cove Rangers on Saturday, off the back of a 2-1 defeat against Lossiemouth last Wednesday,

causing both Lossiemouth and Keith to leapfrog ahead of them in the Highland league.

Manager Calum MacLean said Cove were the better team on Saturday, but he was disappointed not to get a point from Lossiemouth after John MacLeod opened the scoring for Fort

William early in the second half. He said: 'It was level for a long time but then three minutes into injury time Lossiemouth scored [Darren Bailey]. We would have been happy with a draw in that one but it wasn't to be.

'On Saturday we played really well in the first half and it took

until just before half time for Cove to score but they were a far better side in the second half. We still played well and battled away but to no avail.'

**'Crucial'**

As the *Oban Times* went to print, MacLean was gearing his men up for the 'crucial' away

game against Rothes. The teams clashed just two weeks ago at Claggan park, when they drew 4-4.

Speaking ahead of the game, MacLean said: 'This is crucial for us, it's a must-win. Two teams [Keith and Lossiemouth] have overtaken us in the league but if

### Football

we win these three points we can go back above them so we have to win.'

This Saturday Fort William will welcome Cove Rangers to Claggan Park, kick off 3pm.



## Final event of the season for the Wheelers

FINAL COUNTDOWN: Gary MacDonald leads the pack in the final event of the West Highland wheelers' winter league. The race, held at Nevis Range on Sunday, was followed by a barbecue and prizegiving for winners of the league. See next week's Oban Times for race results and trophy winners 20\_117wheelers01

## Gary leads scratch competition

### Ten pin bowling

AFTER week four of the Lochaber ten-pin bowling singles league Gary Cowan continues to lead the scratch competition with 83 points. Pam Weller is close behind with 80 points while Brian Stewart and Tim Attack share third on 72.

Cowan is now also leading the handicap contest with 80 points, followed by Attack on 74 points and James Porter in third with 70 points.

Weller is still in the lead in the chase for the Nevis Radio high pin trophy with 1,946 pins, followed by Cowan with 1,873 and Attack with 1,764. The top individual scratch games this week came from John Weller and David Cameron who both rolled 176.

## Results from Skye Golf

ISLE of Skye golf club's first round of the Skye cup, played on Saturday April 18 and Sunday April 19.

Results: 1 Dave MacVicar 77 (15) nett 62; 2 Jamie Beaton 74 (9) 65 bh; 3 John Finlayson 76 (11) 65 bh; 4 John Marshall 79 (14) 65.

## Lochaber youngsters lose in final

YOUNG Lochaber rugby players hosted a mini tournament at the weekend and made it to the final, before narrowly losing out to Caithness.

The primary six and seven team

competed against visiting teams from Inverness, Taynuilt and Mull to get to the final at Banavie on Saturday.

**Won**

Lochaber players from primary

### Mini rugby

four and five also took part and this tournament was won by Highland RFC.



MINI MARVELS: Young players from Lochaber, Taynuilt and Mull enjoy a game of mini rugby 20\_117rugby01

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**WEATHER**

**Thursday** Sunny intervals  
Winds light south westerly  
Temperatures 8°C to 13°C.

**Friday** Heavy rain  
Winds moderate south easterly  
Temperatures 6°C to 11°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Light rain showers on Saturday  
Heavy rain showers on Sunday  
Winds moderate west south westerly  
Temperatures 4°C to 8°C.

**TIDAL INFORMATION**

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, April 23, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm			
<b>Thur</b>	02.48	0.9	08.28	3.4	14.57	0.9	20.37	3.5
<b>Fri</b>	03.33	1.2	09.11	3.1	15.44	1.2	21.21	3.2
<b>Sat</b>	04.28	1.5	10.03	2.9	16.37	1.4	22.15	3.0
<b>Sun</b>	05.33	1.7	11.38	2.7	17.37	1.6	23.37	2.8
<b>Mon</b>	07.09	1.8	13.44	2.7	18.46	1.7	***	**
<b>Tues</b>	01.31	2.9	08.43	1.8	14.41	2.9	20.00	1.6
<b>Wed</b>	02.37	3.0	09.35	1.6	15.20	3.1	21.04	1.5

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

**Ardrishaig** -5.35 **Mallaig** +0.25

**Campbeltown** -5.30 **Portree** +0.55

**Crinan** -0.47 **Tobermory** +0.16

**Islay Port Ellen** 2.00 **Dover** +5.30

**Lochboisdale** +0.30

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate

Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate

Kennacraig to Islay Moderate