

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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### Fiddlers' rally a huge success

### Mull Music Festival



**HOLED:** a community bus is damaged on a Lismore road when it drove over one of the island's many potholes

### Island roads look like a lunar scene, says resident

**LOUISE GLEN**  
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ON A STRETCH of road less than half a mile long, Lismore residents have counted more than 250 potholes.

The U49 Salen loop on the island is home to a small holiday business, three families as well as two other fully occupied houses yet the road is 'practically non-existent,' says resident Colin MacLean-Fleming.

Mr MacLean-Fleming said: 'The moon has probably got smaller craters than this road. I am frightened our cars are going to get lost on it. This hasn't just been going on for a couple of years, it has been since at least the 1980s.'

'In January of 2014, there was 261 potholes and I took photos of them and sent them to the council but very little has been done since. Enough is enough we need our road fixed.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'We are committed to making sure Argyll and Bute's road network is maintained and repaired, although it is important to prioritise budgets and resources which are under pressure.'

'When specific issues are reported, we look at how best to deal with these against all of our road network priorities.'

# Clan chief says beach is for people of Oban

**LOUISE GLEN**  
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GANAVAN Sands was sold to the council in the hope that it would be used for the enjoyment of townsfolk and tourists, the granddaughter of the landowner has revealed in a letter to the *Oban Times*.

The land and its ownership has long been a bone of contention between the people of Oban and the council.

It was thrust into the limelight when it was sold to a private developer in the early part of the 21st century.

Houses now stand where a bandstand and a children's play area once stood.

Last week, Soroba resident Doreen MacLeod raised the issue with councillors after she was threatened with a fine if she didn't put a parking ticket on her car which was parked at Ganavan Sands.

This week, clan chief Morag MacDougall of MacDougall of Dunollie joined the debate: 'What Doreen MacLeod had written is correct: the land was sold by my grandfather - Colonel Alexander, J. MacDougall of MacDougall, the 29th chief, to the council, earlier last century.'

She continues: 'It was (sold) with the hope that it would be used for the enjoyment and recreation of the townspeople, and visitors to Oban.'

'Many of the past facilities have now disappeared for the benefit of 'developers' rather than the Oban community.'

'I wonder how my grandfather would be feeling about it if he were still with us?'

Doreen MacLeod, who initially raised the issue, agreed: 'He would be turning in his grave.'

'For years people have asked and wondered about the ownership of the land - and here it is, it does belong to the townsfolk. I've been asked if I will start



**AMENITY:** (Main picture) Ganavan is a popular beauty spot for Oban residents and visitors. (Below, right) Doreen MacLeod



**Morag MacDougall of MacDougall**

a petition, but I don't have a computer.

'We need to get rid of those charges because all over Scotland people can have the pleasure of visiting a beach for nothing. Why should they have to pay when they come to Oban?'

The *Oban Times* asked to see council documentation on the sale of the land, including a schedule of sale - but at the time of going to press it was still unavailable.

A council spokeswoman said: 'Part of an area of land at Ganavan, which had been transferred to this council at local government reorganisation in 1996, was sold in 2001.'



### TIMESLINE

#### Councillors agree to salary increase

COUNCILLORS are in line for a one per cent pay rise despite a continuing squeeze on local authority budgets.

Argyll and Bute council approved a pay rise from £16,234 to £16,560, saying it was 'out of our hands' as the council's umbrella body, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) had negotiated the increase.

A decision to raise the salary of portfolio holders by one per cent to almost £25,000 was also agreed last week.

#### Foodbank use in Highlands rises

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.

#### Teenagers to wait two years for vote

VOTERS aged 16 and 17 will have to wait two more years to vote at community council elections, Argyll and Bute council heard last week.

Despite heralding a vote for teenagers last year, council lawyer Charles Reppke said it would wait until Holyrood elections to start the 'youth' franchise.

#### Keys to Rockfield handed over

OBAN'S former Rockfield school is due to transfer ownership from Argyll and Bute council to Oban Communities Trust (OCT) tomorrow (Friday). OCT plans to open a community arts and culture hub over the next three years.



### Screen Machine Scotland's Mobile Cinema

**Lochgilthead** Mon 4 - Wed 6 May  
**Tarbert Loch Fyne** Thu 7 May  
**Port Ellen** Fri 8 - Sun 10 May  
**Gigha** Mon 11 May  
**Tighnabruaich** Tue 12 May

**Shaun the Sheep** (U) 85 mins  
Aardman animated animal shenanigans. "Packed with charm." Empire  
04/05 at 5.30pm, 06/05 at 5.30pm, 07/05 at 5.30pm, 08/05 at 5.30pm, 09/05 at 2pm, 11/05 at 5.30pm, 12/05 at 5.30pm

**Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel** (PG) 122 mins  
Dream cast returns for more chaos in an Indian hotel. "... unexpected and rewarding..." The Telegraph  
04/05 at 8.30pm, 05/05 at 5.30pm, 07/05 at 8.30pm, 09/05 at 8.30pm, 10/05 at 5.30pm, 11/05 at 8.30pm, 12/05 at 8.30pm

**Still Alice** (12A) 101 mins  
Oscar-winning performance about early-onset Alzheimer's. "Julianne Moore shines..." The Guardian  
06/05 at 8.30pm, 09/05 at 5.30pm, 10/05 at 8.30pm  
**The Gunman** (15) 115 mins  
05/05 at 8.30pm, 08/05 at 8.30pm  
Conspiracy thriller starring Sean Penn, Javier Bardem and Mark Rylance. "... lively action scenes." Daily Mail

Book at: [www.screenmachine.co.uk](http://www.screenmachine.co.uk)  
Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings: Cash only, no cards. £7.50 Adults. Concessions £5.50.



## Marina row hits Holyrood

A ROW over a short-stay transit marina in Oban Bay has spilled over to involve the Scottish government.

The council claimed building the marina with public funding would result in a lengthy legal battle with other local marine businesses, and that the Scottish government state aid unit had unequivocally given this advice.

A Freedom of Information request lodged by the *Oban Times* asked the Scottish government for details on any discussions, verbal or otherwise, including notes and diary dates, that had taken place with the local authority.

The response was: '...no

such decision to advise has been taken as no approach for advice has been received.'

However, an Argyll and Bute spokesman said: 'The council sought advice from the Scottish government's specialist unit in early 2014.'

'They advised that this level of public funding, if given directly to a third party, would be likely to raise state aid issues.'

He said more information would follow once he had spoken to the Scottish government.

At the time of going to press, the information on the discussion was not available.

A report to Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee earlier this month on the OBM business plan, said: 'Based on discussions with the Scottish government's state aid unit this level of public funding (more than £400,000) if given directly to a third party is likely to raise state aid issues, which is deemed a high risk.'

A spokesman for OBM said while the group was not surprised if confusion existed, it was saddened that the local authority had dropped such a good project, adding: 'It is time this whole situation was externally reviewed.'

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Our Funders: OBM 2015, The Scottish Government, SAMS, University of the Highlands and Islands, Oban Bay Communities Trust

## Music festival to hit Oban

OBAN will be alive with the sound of music at the weekend as the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival takes place.

Starting on Friday at the Corran Halls with the primary school singing competitions, the day will also include the Scottish Area Finals, the only team Highland dancing event in the world, at Atlantis Leisure and the Accordion and Fiddle Masters at St John's Cathedral.

On Saturday the majority of other competitions take place in venues throughout the town, alongside a number of fringe events in and around Oban.

In a change to previous years' programmes there will be no parade of pipes and drums or concert of champions, instead the Festival Fling family dance takes place on Saturday evening in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, while the Corran Halls on Sunday will host the popular spectacle that is the Scottish Choreography Challenge.

## Airport staff dispute over

AN ONGOING dispute between security staff and Highland and Islands Airports Limited (HIAL) has been resolved, subject to a ballot of staff.

Inglis Lyon, managing director of HIAL, said: 'A revised offer was made to the Prospect Union which will be the subject of a consultative ballot.'

'Both parties have compromised and in so doing have secured some long-term stability for the business.'

'We believe that the agreement reached today delivers a balanced package of improvements to pay and conditions for security staff.'

## Spelling error amusement

A SPELLING mistake on a council paper raised a few eyebrows when the word 'climactic' was used.

In a call for an end to high costs of household fuel in the Highlands and Islands, councillor Isobel Strong, a former teacher, said: 'You have used the word climactic, when it should have been climatic.'

Argyll and Bute council said it would change the documentation.

## Seafront rails to be painted

BEAR Scotland has said it will paint 'flaking' railings along Oban's Esplanade.

Business company BID4Oban raised the state of the railings last month with the transport quango.

A spokesperson for BEAR Scotland said: 'We are aware of the condition of the railings. Plans are currently being developed with our specialist contractors to repair and paint the railings in the spring.'

# Wildfire hazards raised across Argyll and Bute by fire service

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THE HAZARDS of grass fires and wildfires, particularly at this time of year in the West Highlands, are being promoted by Oban fire and rescue service.

Part of this has been done by the distribution of fire safety literature throughout Argyll and Bute on the subject of deliberate fire setting.

Along with the police it is keen to educate communities on the hazards associated with grass fires and wildfires.

Station manager Martin Hill said: 'In the high risk season, these hazards are especially pertinent to our area given our geography.'

'With the fairer weather that we've enjoyed lately we've seen a small rise in the number of grass fires within Argyll and Bute.'

'Such incidents are resource intensive for the fire service, demanding large numbers of personnel and equipment.'

'It is important people are aware of how quickly wildfires can spread, often changing direction and threatening livestock and property.'

'I'd urge members of the community to join Scotland's Fight against Fire programme and prevent fires in the countryside by visiting [www.firescotland.gov.uk](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk) for practical fire safety advice.'

Information is also available from Oban community fire station on 01631 569995.



FACT: Wildfires are dangerous, and spread very quickly. Fire fighters and police are asking people to read leaflets and be aware of the risks of setting fires 16\_t18fire1

# CalMac's contribution revealed

MARIAN MILLER  
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CALEDONIAN MacBrayne employs 282 people in Argyll and Bute at a cost of £8.15 million a year.

In the Western Isles and the Highlands a total of 359 people are employed across the islands and mainland, with wages to the value of £9.39 million going into the local economies.

These findings come from a new study by the Fraser of Allander Institute which has looked at the ferry operator's contribution to the economy of Scotland.

CalMac's impact is far-reaching, according to the report, as it also enables 3,247 jobs in island tourism through economic activity on islands served by the ferry services, creating £53 million-worth of wages.

The ferry operator is one of the largest employers on the islands, with Mull employing

29 people; Islay 17; Tiree six; Colonsay three; Coll three and Gigha five.

CalMac in Oban employs 71 people or an estimated one in every 48 people in the town.

In the Western Isles, where there are relatively small populations like Barra, Eriskay, North Uist and South Uist, CalMac employs 73 people directly on those islands and supports an additional 22 jobs.

In total the company employs 1,476 people but 169 of those are at its headquarters in Inverclyde, where the average pay packet is £30,660 a year.

On average, CalMac employees earned 12 per cent above the Scottish average in 2014.

Study author and researcher Stewart Dunlop said: 'CalMac is clearly the key channel of support for commercial activity on the islands it serves.'

'Items exported from the islands include food and drink products, notably high value ex-



MV FINLAGGAN: CalMac employs 17 people on Islay

ports such as whisky and shellfish, both of which contribute significantly to total Scottish exports.

'In terms of imports, CalMac's activities cover the majority of items sold by local retailers, including fuel, food, mail, medical supplies, oil, gas and utilities, without which it would be dif-

which fell significantly. 'The fall-off in both passengers and cars in 2011 and 2012 is mostly likely due to reduced economic activity in Scotland,' said Mr Dunlop.

Managing director of CalMac Ferries Martin Dorchester said: 'The Fraser of Allander's report outlines in detail the extent of the contribution which CalMac's people and operations make to Scotland's economy across all key areas.'

'Our aim is to add value to our contract across all these areas such as employment, tourism and supplier spend, which lies behind our commitment to employing local people in our island communities and to supporting the Inverclyde area which continues to face economic challenges.'

The tendering process for the Scottish Government-funded Clyde and Hebridean ferry services' eight-year contract, from 2016, is currently under way.

## TIMESLINE

### Wintry weather is here 'til May Day

EXPERTS say the current 'snowy' conditions are not unusual in April but are likely to last.

The west coast and Highlands are said to be in the middle of an 'Arctic blast'.

Just weeks after the west coast experienced the warmest April day in four years - three centimetres of snow lay on the ground at the A83 Rest and Be Thankful on Tuesday.

Steven Keates, a Met Office forecaster, said: 'The unsettled weather is set to last into next week, meaning those who are hoping for a sunny May bank holiday weekend look set to be disappointed. It is a contrast from what we have seen recently for the first three weeks of April - we have been spoilt.'

### Germans eye up Oban as twin

RESIDENTS of a German town have contacted an Oban community councillor in a move to twin with the Argyll port.

Kenneth MacColl, who is session clerk of Kilmore parish church, was contacted by a member of a church in Tresben, a town located in Saxony.

The German town has a population of about 4,000 people, and holds an annual Highland games event, thought to be the largest annual Scottish event in Germany.

Oban is already twinned with Laurinberg, North Carolina, and Gorey, County Wexford, Ireland.

### Appeal on streets for Nepal victims

OBAN and Lorn Lions club is holding a fundraising drive this weekend to help people affected by the earthquake in Nepal.

Members of the charitable organisation will be collecting donations outside Waterstones on George Street on Saturday, May 2, between 11am and 3pm.

All funds will be sent to the Nepal Earthquake Appeal, an official charity established to help those in the disaster zone.

### Batty ending to wildlife sessions

BATS will be on the agenda at the Scottish Wildlife Trust's Argyll and Lochaber group's final meeting of the season today (Thursday).

Scottish bat officer Anne Youngman makes a welcome return at 7.30pm to the group's sessions held at the Scottish Association for Marine Science at Dunstaffnage.

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## Trust in bid to buy forest land for units

MULL and Iona Community Trust (MICT) wants to buy forestry land to develop a small scale, light industrial and storage site to serve the communities of north Mull.

MICT plans to locate a variety of storage and workshop units on a site at Ardmore forest. It also hopes to use renewable energy to power the units on the site in a bid to reduce running costs and provide an additional income for the trust.

The trust has applied to the National Forest Land Scheme (NFLS), which is administered by Forestry Commission Scotland, to buy or lease the land on the basis that it will prove a benefit to islanders.

There will be a 28-day public consultation period to canvass local opinion. All comments on the proposals must be submitted by Saturday May 16, 2015.

Responses and comments should be addressed to Malcolm Wield, Forestry Commission Scotland, Highland Conservancy, 'Woodlands', Fodderty Way, Dingwall, Ross-shire, IV15 9XB or to [malcolm.wield@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:malcolm.wield@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

Forestry Commission Scotland has a policy of making any comment public, unless a request is made to keep it confidential.

## Feedback 'positive' on housing complex

POSITIVE feedback about the standard of care provided at Craignure's sheltered housing at Bowman Court was given by Argyll and Bute council's head of adult care for Lorn and the Isles.

Shaun Davidson told a meeting of NHS Highland's public partnership last month that tenants at the housing complex, which is based at the Mull and Iona hospital, were 'positive' about the level of care.

A recent meeting of the Mull health liaison group recorded an equally positive report about the complex. Mr Davidson said there was one vacant flat at the newly-built housing, but thought it would be occupied shortly.

He explained that the allocation of tenancies was discussed and decided jointly between the NHS, Argyll and Bute council and West Highland Housing Association.

Mr Davidson said he was considering running a day centre at Bowman Court which would be open to all islanders.

## MULLlines



CLIMBING THE SCALES: children will know the score thanks to Hup Photograph: Solen Collet

## From cradle to concerto

IT IS more a case of from the high chair to high culture as a plan to introduce tiny tots on Mull to the many joys of classical music is about to take place, writes Louise Glen.

'Hup' is a new musical experience which has been designed for children younger than 24 months and is due to be staged at Comar on June 5.

Starcatchers, an organisation which specialises in performances and creativity for babies, toddlers and young children and the Royal Scottish

National Orchestra (RSNO) have jointly devised this new sound experience.

The aim is to develop the interest babies show in lullabies and play by telling a story through theatrical movement and classical music.

Co-created by artist Hazel Darwin-Edwards and musician Abigail Sinar, Hup combines live classical music with a heart-warming storyline in a performance for babies, toddlers and their carers.

In this new theatrical phe-

nomenon, a trio of musicians will perform an original score composed by Abigail, intertwined with a non-verbal 'narrative' presented by Hazel.

This will take the young audience on a journey in pursuit of the story's lead character, a very inquisitive raccoon.

The setting for the music-led story is a forest, with the audience seated on the set, drawing them into the story. This is a radical break from the conventional methods of both theatre and classical music.

## Glass attack teenager said he can't recall bar assault

A TEENAGER who claimed he could not remember smashing a glass into the face of a stranger in an Oban bar has been detained for six months.

Oban sheriff court was shown CCTV footage on Tuesday from the bar which showed Luke Gordon, 19, raise his arm above his head and smash a pint glass down into his victim's face. Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told Sheriff Ruth Anderson that the attack, on September 27 last year, had left the victim with a two-inch cut, which needed stitches and a one inch cut, which needed a butterfly stitch.

He said: 'The victim was approached by the accused who became argumentative and aggressive before him.'

'Without any warning, he struck the victim on the face with the pint glass.'

'When police arrived they noted that the accused was fairly drunk, his T-shirt was blood-stained and there was fresh blood on his hands.'

Defence solicitor Edward Thornton said he spoke to his client, who had been in the bar with family, a couple of hours after the incident and he claimed not to remember anything.

'This remains his position,' he added. 'When he saw the CCTV footage, he was pretty shocked about what he had done that evening.'

Gordon had pleaded guilty in March of this year to assault by striking his victim on the head with a glass.

Sheriff Anderson told unemployed Gordon, of Chestnut Court, Taynuilt: 'I have heard the narration from the Crown and seen the footage of that behaviour and have no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that a community service order would not be appropriate.'

She sentenced Gordon to six months in a young offenders' institution, reduced from nine months because of his early guilty plea.

## Grandmother realises lifetime ambition when she takes flight of fancy

AN ISLANDER had the 'flight of her life' when a passer-by invited her to join him in an impromptu trip over Iona.

Carol Kirkpatrick was sweeping up the road outside her house when one of Scotland's richest men, engineering firm Score Group owner Charles Ritchie, invited the grandmother-of-two for a trip in his helicopter.

Carol said: 'I could not believe my ears. It is something that I've always wanted to do. My children have been trying to sort a trip out for me, but have never managed to arrange it.'

'It was amazing to see Iona from a completely different viewpoint. It was like a doll's house all laid out so beautifully.'

'The planners should be very pleased because from above it all looks so organised - even the new houses that I had thought looked like they were on the edge of everything, fit beautifully together.'



## Doctor reflects that 'viral' blog on ferries was bitter medicine

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A BLOGGER whose posts went 'viral' after saying ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) had spoiled her life, says she should have thought for a while before she pressed the publish button.

Last week Morna MacNeil, whose family live on Colonsay and who works as a doctor in Glasgow, wrote a scathing open letter to CalMac complaining about cancelled ferries, missed funerals and lack of communication.

She said: 'Over the last 34 years you appear to have made it your mission to ruin my life. I'm sure you don't mean to. You probably don't understand why anybody might want to travel to and from Colonsay with any regularity.'

'I understand you can't always get there in bad weather. I don't expect you to risk the lives of



“ A couple of hours reflection isn't a bad idea ”

Dr Morna MacNeil (Pictured)

your crew or the fabric of your ferries by travelling when the conditions are not safe.

'I do expect you to stick to your timetable where the weather permits though.'

CalMac held its hands up and said 'sorry' but explained there were technical and weather issues that made it impossible to keep to their timetable.

Martin Dorchester, managing

director of CalMac, said: 'We are genuinely sorry whenever bad weather or technical issues lead to the cancellation of a sailing as we fully recognise the importance of our services to every community we serve, including Colonsay.'

'We would absolutely refute the assertion that we do not care. The majority of our crew and staff - nearly 1,000 people - come from the area we serve and they know from personal experience the implications of cancellations on families and businesses.'

'While it will be of little consolation to those inconvenienced by disruptions, it is worth noting that across the network, out of nearly 135,000 scheduled sailings in the last 12 months, a comparatively small percentage - 0.4 per cent or 535 sailings - were cancelled for technical reasons. Bad weather accounted for just more than three per cent

or 4,276 sailings. Regrettably, we have limited options at our disposal, but it is always our priority to provide the best service we can across a broad and diverse network.'

'However, even with our best endeavours, there will be times when unforeseen technical or other issues prevent us operating as we would all like and we can only ask for the patience and understanding of our customers.'

This week, a reflective Morna wrote on her blog: 'It's been a funny old week. I had the excitement of one of my posts going viral. Whilst it was great to have lots of page views, it also led to some negative comments. I got to the point where I was dreading my comment notifications.'

'I've learnt a lot from the experience, not least that a couple of hours' reflection between spilling your guts and pressing the publish button probably isn't a bad idea.'

## TIMESLINE

### Two killed as bike collides with car

A MOTORBIKE rider and his pillion passenger were killed near Crianlarich last Wednesday, April 22, after their Yamaha motorcycle was involved in a collision with a Volkswagen Golf car.

Biker James Whiteside, 59, from Greenock, and Jacqueline Hennessey, 54, from Tullibody, were both pronounced dead at the scene.

The 24-year-old driver of the car was uninjured.

The A85 between Crianlarich and Killin was closed until later that night.

Anyone who witnessed the collision is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101.

### Four charged with supplying drugs

FOUR people were arrested in Oban on Thursday last week on suspicion of supplying drugs.

The arrests followed a search under a warrant of house in Sinclair Drive in the town around 10pm that day.

The following day two men, aged 21 and 51 years, were arrested on suspicion of supplying drugs following the search of a house in the Glengallan area of Oban.

Reports have been sent to the procurator fiscal on both incidents.

### Council wants say on fracking rights

FRACKING was not ruled out on the west coast at a meeting of Argyll and Bute council last Thursday as 'underground oil drilling rights' were devolved from Westminster to the Scottish government.

The local authority asked for a meeting with Scottish ministers to demand that the rights to frack, the extraction of oil through hydraulic fracturing directed at underground rocks, would be determined under council planning committees rather than at hearings in Holyrood.

## Reshuffle steers towards islanders

A FOURTH reshuffle at Argyll and Bute council has led to fewer local councillor positions, writes Louise Glen.

It also marked the absence of popular Oban councillor Duncan MacIntyre from the senior councillor list for the first time in many years.

Council leader Dick Walsh's reshuffle seemed to favour island councillors and Helensburgh when handing out portfolios last week.

Mull is represented by two policy leads in Mary-Jean Devon and Alastair MacDougall alongside Robin Currie from Islay and Len Scoullar of Bute.

In Helensburgh three ward councillors from Lomond have taken senior positions.

Robin Currie, Rory Colville and mother and daughter, Ellen and Aileen Morton, the only Liberal Democrats, make up the biggest political group represented in policy leads with

all four picking up portfolios in the local authority.

The biggest surprise was the move of up-and-coming councillor Aileen Morton swapping education, where some of the biggest budget cuts are expected to fall, to lead councillor for sustainable economic growth.

The full list is councillor Len Scoullar - island affairs, Mary-Jean Devon - health and social care integration, Dick Walsh - strategic finance, Ellen

Morton - infrastructure and special projects, Aileen Morton - sustainable economic growth, Alistair MacDougall - transportation, Robin Currie - housing, community and Gaelic, Rory Colville - education, and David Kinniburgh - planning and environment.

Councillor MacIntyre has had an extended period of absence because of ill health, but is due to return to take up his duties on the council later this year.

## Film nut from Knutsford is admonished

A TRANSPORT enthusiast who makes a hobby of filming modes of transport found himself in Oban sheriff court for posting a film of an Oban bus driver on a video-sharing website.

David Spencer, 63, of Lower Peover, Knutsford, Cheshire, had been filming in Oban's Station Square on a weekday in April last year when a bus pulled into a stop. Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty said the driver did not want to be filmed and pulled down the sun visor. When Spencer continued to film, the driver got out of the bus and asked him to stop but Spencer told him it was a 'free country'.

The driver decided not to take it further until a friend told him the contretemps had been posted on YouTube under the title 'West coast Polish driver gets angry in Oban'.

In the film, Spencer could be heard saying: 'I don't know which country you come from but you want to get back there.' The driver replied: 'I'm going to the police about this'. Spencer then said: 'Do what you want mate, you are a disgrace to West Coast Motors.'

Defence solicitor Laura McManus said her client was a training manager who trained engineers but his hobby took him all over the world.

'When he realised the driver did not wish to be filmed, why did he just not stop?' asked Sheriff Ruth Anderson. Mrs McManus said when the driver had come out of the bus her client had continued filming in case the driver became violent. 'But the bus driver got back in his bus. There is a level of arrogance in this,' said the sheriff.

She continued: 'We are one of the most spied-on nations in the world but ... I can understand why an individual would not want to be filmed. I would have thought Mr Spencer would be aware of that too.'

She said it was 'unfortunate' that an alternative resolution could not have been found instead of bringing Spencer from Cheshire to Oban to face the charge. 'This is a sorry mess that has cost the taxpayer a lot of money,' she added.

Spencer, who pleaded guilty to filming without permission and making racist comments, was admonished.

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# Constitutional role holds key to independence



# Westminster still delivers for Scotland

*Ian Hamilton first claimed the oxygen of publicity when he and three other students stole the Stone of Destiny from Westminster Abbey and took it back to Scotland in 1951. A highly respected lawyer and QC, he has been a lifelong and impassioned advocate of Scottish independence. From his home in North Connel, he argues that the only legitimacy Westminster has is to introduce the legislation to grant Scotland independence.*



In his entry in Wikipedia, George Robertson says that if Scotland was given devolution it would be the end of the SNP.

I quote this to remind us how devolution came about. There was no long consultation. The experiences of the Canadian and Australian provinces were not looked at. No constitutional lawyers gave their opinions. It all started as a political trick. Little blobs of things were squeezed out from nowhere with no cohesion, one with the other, but with no power over money. It was a botched job.

That was supposed to be the end of it but it wasn't. Soon amending legislation was needed, adding bits here and there. That still goes on. Indeed, the first ever financial provision of the Scottish government came into force three weeks ago on April 1 2015. Still we bits are added here and there. This is no way to govern a country. Indeed, we still need Westminster because the power lies there to carry through the reforms we so badly need.

We need them because we live in a backward country. We struck oil and now live in austerity. The banks failed us and we ordinary people are made to pay the price. We have a vision of a proper social democratic society as

Nicola Sturgeon has so remarkably shown. Yet we can do nothing about it. The power is still at Westminster and we must wrestle it from there.

Foremost among the powers we need is the power to run the NHS. We are told we already have this power. This is not so. We have managerial power but not financial power. This is still at Westminster. We all know about the Barnett formula but no one understands it. One thing emerges from it. When England spends less on its NHS, we are given less for our NHS. Now England is selling off its NHS. So in Scotland we get less and less. This should not be. We guard the duty to look after our sick, yet are deprived of the money to do so.

Where is the money to come from? We give more per head in taxes to Westminster than we get back. This simple statement is only contested by Nigel Farage and his like and not by anyone who knows. George Osborne may come to Edinburgh and declare, 'You can't have the Bank of England', but he misses the point. Any rearrangement of the governments of the nations in these islands will be done by negotiation, not by declaration. I, and so many like me, am in love with two countries and only one of them is England.

I suspect the reason Westminster wants to keep us in their grasp is not merely because of our money. That too perhaps. The real reason is that their ruling class still sees themselves as imperialist. Again, turn to George Robertson in Wikipedia if you don't believe me. There is still a vision of Great Britain lording it as a member of the security council of the United Nations. These days are past. We have different ambitions. We want to see our children fed. What is the advantage of the security council if one in four of our children lives in poverty?

It is of the nature of all human institutions that they change. When change comes, it comes very quickly. One day the Berlin Wall was there. The next day it was being chipped into souvenirs. Who would have thought a few years ago that a working class Scots woman would have gone to England and held her people in thrall. We have a vision. We need Westminster to help us to project that vision. It will help the English as well as the Scots.

I have seen Scotland rise again and be recognised as a nation. Now we need Westminster so we can gouge out a constitution. I have been a Zambian barrister and a Canadian barrister. I know the type of constitution that can allow us to live at peace with our neighbour. As I die I charge those who come after me to see that Scotland gets such a constitution. Not just for your own sakes but for the sake of generations yet unborn.

*Labour Party grandee Lord George Robertson of Port Ellen, born in Islay and educated at Dunoon academy, has served the Westminster cause with distinction. He rose to the office of Secretary of State for Defence and was also Secretary General of NATO. Here he argues why Westminster still matters to the people of Scotland.*



Last year the Scottish people, in unprecedented numbers, made a convincing decision to reject Scottish independence. According to the then First Minister that decision should stand for a generation. Had it gone the other way, however narrowly, it would have been forever.

That decision meant that the Scottish people recognised the strength given to Scotland by being a vital part of the United Kingdom. The people had clearly given the signal that although they respected and liked the devolution of powers to a Scottish parliament, they still wanted to be part of the UK parliament.

It is not hard to see why. Given an increasingly perilous world situation, a globalised marketplace and the way in which big countries set the standards and make the pace, we are, as the winning slogan said, 'better together'.

As one of the architects of the devolved Scottish parliament, I firmly believe in the principle of devolving power and decisions to the lowest relevant level in a country. It is a shame that those who championed independence last year now believe in centralising all decisions in Edinburgh. That increasingly leaves communities like Argyll and the Highlands out of the loop.

That is why the 'vow' of new powers to the Scottish parliament made by the three party leaders in the referendum campaign was implemented so swiftly. On top of the 'Calman' powers, the Smith Commission also proposed a series of substantial new powers for the Edinburgh parliament.

The Scottish parliament will have extensive powers over income tax, certain welfare payments, air traffic duty and a host of other important functions. And all of that on top of full powers over education, health, local government, the justice system, policing, agriculture, forestry, fishing, tourism and transport – which the parliament has already got.

Of course, those who lost the referendum last year want more. They call for 'full fiscal autonomy' – which means that Scotland would raise and keep all its own taxes and simply give Westminster the cash for defence and foreign policy.

Full fiscal autonomy was rejected by the Smith Commission as it was in the referendum. And for good reason. The price of oil is now a fraction of what was promised last year. If Scotland could only spend what it raised

in taxes – including oil taxes, there would be a seven thousand million pound hole to fill. So, either taxes would go up sharply or services would be cut more savagely than anything Mrs Thatcher dreamed of. It would be a nightmare and yet the new First Minister says that is still SNP policy.

So Westminster, with all the pooling and sharing that being in a union means, will be increasingly relevant especially as the price of oil remains low and the North Sea business starts to contract. The Barnett formula, which gives Scotland a very good deal in UK public expenditure terms, is invaluable for maintaining spending on Scottish health and Scottish education. Incredibly, the SNP say it should go.

Scotland's economy is not an island. The UK is a gigantic market without borders and tariffs. Westminster will still be responsible for macro-economic policy and employment law – and we will still have to have MPs dealing with these big UK issues.

And then there is defence and foreign policy.

As a former UK defence secretary and NATO secretary general, I know well how important Britain's defences are for this country and the western world. Our nuclear deterrent, along with the French and American ones, have prevented for the last 60 years any aggressor thinking that a conventional war was worth trying. Whether you subscribe to that thesis or not, a Scottish voice at Westminster is vitally necessary. Some will pretend that devolution and a strong Scottish parliament have rendered Westminster irrelevant. They are dangerously wrong. And by an unanswerable majority last September, the Scottish people agree.

## THE OBAN TIMES TOOK TO THE STREETS TO FIND OUT WHO IS WINNING THE FIGHT FOR THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THE ELECTORATE

# National issues dominate battle for votes

### Political landscape has changed

*Alec Clark, 61, is a semi-retired stone mason and has four grown-up children.*



'My mind is made up and I'm voting SNP.  
'I don't believe the Westminster politicians have Scotland's interests at heart and I think a lot of their policies are toxic for Scotland. They have an English and London-centred view of the country as that's where the politicians are mainly based.  
'The political landscape has changed forever in Scotland. No longer is it a two-party system, which I think was the downfall of the country.  
'I find it quite interesting that if there is a majority of SNP politicians elected fairly through the democratic process, then they have every entitlement to sit in Westminster. But the media seems to be biased against the SNP sitting. When the referendum was coming, the other parties said they wanted Scotland to be a part of the union. Now it seems it is only on their terms and conditions. They can't have their cake and eat it.'

### It's a vote for the candidate

*Jemma Grant, 26, is a waitress in Oban and has a young child with her partner.*



'I'm voting for the Conservative Party. I think they are doing quite well in Westminster at the moment.  
'I really don't want Labour leader Ed Miliband to be prime minister so in many ways it's a vote for the party rather than the candidate as I dearly want a Conservative government.  
'I do know the Conservative candidate for the Argyll and Bute constituency Alasdair Redman though and actually went to school with him.  
'He's a really nice guy and is hopefully in with a good chance of winning the seat.  
'He really does a lot for the local residents on Islay, where I grew up.  
'I've voted Conservative in the past and always will.  
'I think the rise of the SNP is a bad thing and I really don't like Nicola Sturgeon.  
'All the nationalists do is focus on independence for Scotland - nothing else.'

### Local man doing a decent job

*Bruce Duthie, 53, is an electrical engineer. He has two children and has lived in Oban for more than 30 years.*



'I'm voting Liberal Democrat. I hate the Scottish National Party and Labour.  
'The Conservative Party never seem to field a decent candidate. If they did, I might consider voting for them.  
'I care strongly about Trident and think we absolutely need the nuclear deterrent.  
'I'd be scared to live here without it.  
'I don't particularly like Alan Reid, but he does stand up for the constituents he represents in Argyll and Bute.  
'He's paid to do what he does and if there's an issue he believes in, he will stick up for his constituents quite vigorously. I've seen him do it.  
'That's really about the size of it for me. He's a local man and does a decent job.  
'As I said before, I will never vote SNP, so the Lib Dems have my vote.'

### More engaged in politics

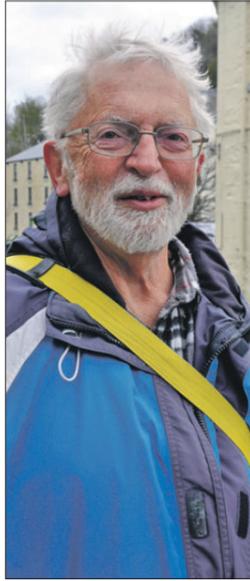
*Linda Leggett, 49, is a voluntary worker and is married with two teenage children.*



'I'm thinking I will vote for the Scottish National Party.  
'I voted 'no' in the Scottish referendum last September, but now I think there should be more nationalist MPs in Westminster.  
'It's not particularly a vote for the SNP candidate, more a vote for the party.  
'The SNP want to protect the National Health Service and stop its privatisation and they seem to care strongly about education as well, including tuition fees for university education.  
'They represent the interests of Scotland and the Scottish people and I definitely think Scotland should have more say about what happens here.  
'I think the political landscape has changed as well, following the referendum.  
'People are more engaged in politics which is obviously good for democracy and the rise of the nationalists coincides with what I think.'

### A good, left-of-centre party

*Nick Holmes, 71, is a self-employed photographer from Mull and is married with four grown-up daughters.*



'I'm voting for the Scottish National Party in this general election and have voted for them for a long time.  
'They're a good, left-of-centre party and I think they will do a good job if they get a decent number of MPs into Westminster as they have done in the Holyrood parliament.  
'They will do well for rural economies, such as here in Argyll and Bute, and I also think they have a good number of social policies.  
'Years ago, I voted for the Socialist Workers' Party, but they don't seem to have any candidates these days and there are no other Marxist parties left to vote for in this election.  
'I hope with enough support, the nationalists will be able to put the squeeze on the Labour Party about their policy on the nuclear deterrent and the scrapping of the Trident programme.'

### Giving Scotland a better voice

*Lynn Robertson, 36, is a sales assistant in Oban and is married with two children.*



'I've always voted for the Scottish National Party because of the influence of my family background, although I was swithering about who to vote for in this general election.  
'But my mind is pretty much made up now and I will be voting for the Scottish National Party once again and so will my husband.  
'Although the Scottish National Party stands mainly for independence, I think in this election it is also about giving Scotland a better voice and representation in the Westminster parliament.  
'Contrary to what some people believe, I don't think there will be another referendum on the question of independence any time soon either.  
'But for me that's not what voting for the Scottish National Party is all about.  
'It's about representing the interests and wishes of the people of Scotland.'

## Village mourns over the loss of talented John

**MARIAN MILLER**  
mmiller@obantimes.co.uk

VILLAGERS in Taynuilt are in shock following the death of one of their own in a motorcycle accident a mile from the village.

Talented mechanic John Johnston, 34, was heading west on the A85 last Wednesday, April 22, when he appeared to lose control of his Honda Fireblade a mile from the village.

He was thrown clear of the bike and was fatally injured as a result.



“John was a loving brother who adored his niece”

Janine Johnston  
John's sister

John grew up in the village with his two sisters, Eilidh and Janine and his parents, John and Yvonne, who still live there.

Janine said John was a 'loving' and 'funny' brother and was a talented mechanic, who doted on their three-year-old niece who 'adored' him in return.

'Every single person who has come to see us said that John had worked on their car or motorbike at some time or another,' said Janine.

'He never studied mechanics - no-one taught him; anything mechanical, John could fix it. 'Since John was 10, you would come home to find the video recorder or television taken apart and he would put it all back together again.'

Even the Honda bike John was riding the day of the tragic accident had been one of his projects, which Janine said he had brought home as a 'rusty heap'.

He had worked on the motorbike for two years with his father, who manages McConochy's tyre centre in Oban's Lochside street.

John was also a keen angler and often fished on the shores of Loch Etive.

Janine said she and her family wanted to thank Oban police and all the emergency services, as well as staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban, for their 'amazing' support as well as friends and neighbours who have rallied round.

Police Scotland are still appealing for motorists who were on the A85 between Taynuilt and Inverawe before 11.30am and may have seen John on the Honda to contact road policing officers in Dumbaron on the non-emergency number 101.

The road was closed for six hours following the accident to allow road accident investigations to take place.

# Holyrood under fire over ferry disruption

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

ARGYLL'S MSP Michael Russell will meet Holyrood transport minister Derek MacKay twice in one week, as he calls for urgent action on the ferry problems affecting Islay, Colonsay and Jura.

The service was recently reduced to a single vessel which caused substantial delays, many cancellations and inconvenience for islanders and visitors.

It was claimed the disruption had a damaging effect on local businesses during the Easter holidays.

Normal service was restored after five difficult days but Caldonian MacBrayne (CalMac), the ferry operator, has now withdrawn one of the vessels and taken it into dry dock to carry out repairs.

Michael Russell met Derek MacKay on April 23, while another meeting between the two, which included representatives from Islay community council, due to take place yesterday (Wednesday).

Mr Russell said: 'There is considerable anger on the islands, as more than 40 sailings have been cancelled since the summer timetable came in only three weeks ago.'

'The community had been



Derek MacKay



Michael Russell

warning for some time about the difficulties that might arise because of a shortage of boats and they have now been proved right.

'I met Derek MacKay and have been in touch with him on an almost daily basis since Easter. I have urged him to do everything he can to secure a quick and lasting solution to these problems and impressed upon him that the issue is one of capacity.'

'Islay, Jura and Colonsay need and must have sufficient capacity on the routes to serve all local and visitor needs and when that capacity falls short huge problems arise. Two boats are required at all times.'

Mr Russell also cited the introduction of Road Equivalent Tariff, with its low ferry fares, as a contributory factor to the problem.

vestment by the Scottish government and it should be conducting an urgent vessel replacement strategy.'

MSP for the Highlands and Islands Jamie McGrigor also contacted the transport minister to address deep concerns about the Islay service. He said: 'Considering the value of Islay as a tourist destination and the amount of revenue the island puts into the British economy, it seems that not enough thought is being put into the vital ferry service.'

'If this were a transport service anywhere within the central belt, this would not be allowed to happen - so why on Islay?'

A CalMac spokesman said that problems with vessels were an issue for Transport Scotland as it sets the service levels and provides the ferries.

A spokesman for Transport Scotland said: 'The Scottish government minister for transport and islands is scheduled to hold a meeting with Mr Russell and members of Islay community council on April 29 to discuss these issues.'

'Whilst the operation of services is the responsibility of CalMac, the Scottish government is continuing to invest in new vessels and ferry infrastructure to upgrade the fleet which should reduce future problems.'

## 'There be monsters' at sea festival

FROM an army of sea monsters to an array of local seafood, this year's Festival of the Sea is set to be the biggest and most diverse yet, writes Steven Rae.

Organised by the Dunstaffnage-based Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), the 10-day festival in May will celebrate how the sea influences Oban and Lorn's culture.

The festival starts on Friday May 22 with a 'fishy' disco at Glencruitten golf club, where

the Friends of Oban Community Playpark will also launch its latest fundraising campaign, Fishy Tales.

Oban's Atlantis leisure centre will host a fun-packed water sports day on Sunday May 24 and Mull aquarium is inviting visitors to discover the peculiar microscopic 'monsters' normally hidden from human eyes in Tobermory Bay.

On Thursday May 28, young people are invited to the Corran

Halls to a marine careers event. Friday May 29 will see local primary schoolchildren take centre stage in the Corran Halls to showcase their learning and artwork around the theme of sea monsters that has engaged them since early spring.

The festival will then conclude with a seafood and ocean craft fair at the Ocean Explorer centre on Sunday May 31.

Festival director Dr Anuschka Miller of SAMS, who will be

giving a presentation entitled 'Living on the coast of the great Atlantic Ocean' on May 25 at the Atlantic Islands Centre on Luing, said: 'This is our third festival of the sea and we hope our programme demonstrates how very important the marine environment is to the local area.'

'We are grateful to the Scottish government and the University of the Highlands and Islands as our main funders and to the partnership with BID4Oban.'

## TIMESLINE

### Scientist calls for Holyrood debate

THE WASTE of £11 million spent on an island sewage treatment plant should be discussed at the Scottish parliament, says a former scientist from Seil.

Last week the *Oban Times* revealed that Scottish Water, a publicly-owned company, was scrapping an island scheme because it was expensive to run.

John Gordon of the Old Manse asked: 'Can the Scottish parliament allow these bodies to close a treatment plant with high quality output and replace it with a septic tank discharging poorer quality effluent into an environmentally sensitive area?'

### Preparing charges on battery thefts

A REPORT has been made to police on Mull that a number of items have been stolen from the Glengorm landfill site near Tobermory.

The theft of a quantity of scrap metal and batteries is thought to have taken place between April 17 and 22.

Anyone who may have witnessed anything suspicious is asked to phone PC Jamie Toal on 101.

### Morning motorist was over the limit

IN THE early hours of Sunday morning, a 30-year-old man was stopped while driving in Tobermory, Mull.

The man was arrested around 6am on suspicion of driving while under the influence of alcohol. A report has been sent to the procurator fiscal.

### Man arrested on assault charge

FOLLOWING a serious assault in the Dunollie area of Oban on Sunday April 26, a 27-year-old man was arrested by police.

The victim was a 34-year-old man. A report has been sent to the procurator fiscal.



HAPPIER TIMES: Les and Issy Silkowski only a couple of weeks ago on the slopes of Annapurna

## Appin couple's fears for fellow climbers in Nepal

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

A COUPLE who posed with a copy of the *Oban Times* while on a trip to Nepal have spoken of their shock, but relief, that they avoided an earthquake by a matter of days.

Les and Issy Silkowski, from North Shian, Appin, travelled to the Himalayas on a 16-day trek of the Annapurna circuit on March 28.

They arrived back on April

13, just 12 days before the earthquake struck the country, killing more than 4,200 people and injuring around 6,500.

Issy, a part-time receptionist at Port Appin surgery, said: 'The fact we were in these areas and then for this to happen is awful. 'Obviously we're so glad we're not there but it is such a tragic occurrence.'

'We are still waiting to find out if people we know from our trip, including guides and people from our group of climbers,

are okay. We're just waiting for confirmation to come through about some of them.'

The 7.8 magnitude quake struck an area of central Nepal, roughly halfway between the cities of Pokhara and Kathmandu, which is where the couple's Annapurna circuit began.

Several hundred Britons are believed to be in Nepal and while there are no reported deaths as yet, up to 72 are still missing.

## Keep major roadworks in full view, says chairman

A ROADS repair programme must concentrate on the 'big picture' and not on the 'small lanes', the chairman of Argyll and Bute council's area committee told a meeting recently, writes Louise Glen.

Park Hotel Lane in Oban was due to be upgraded to the tune of £31,000, but because of a shortage of cash for the programme of works, the council's roads manager said it was unlikely to be completed in 2015/16.

The council has earmarked £830,000 for roads in Oban and Lorn, including Scammadale Road, William Street, Kerrera Terrace and the Salen Loop on

Lismore. A total of £700,000 was due to be spent on the Salen south route on Mull.

Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee chairman councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'This is the last of £20 million investment in our roads. It is unlikely that in our lifetimes we will ever see this level of funding again.'

'It is vital we have as good an infrastructure on the islands as we do on the mainland.'

'We have to look at where we are giving our biggest bang for our buck.'

'So if that means a small lane in Lorn missed out by the programme, then that has to be the case.'

## Island rendezvous for Easdale flotilla

AROUND 50 rigid inflatable boats (RIBs) are heading to Easdale this weekend, May 2-3, for the Easdale RIB Rendezvous 2015.

This year's event, subject to weather, will see the flotilla head for Oronsay on the Saturday and on Sunday there will be a trip to Loch Buie and Carsaig off the south of Mull.

Wildlife RIB operators Seafari Adventures will provide one of its powerful cabin RIBs as a safety boat to accompany the flotilla.

Contact the Seafari ticket office in Easdale on 01852 300003 for more information about the weekend programme.

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**Kyleakin**

PUPILS of Kyleakin primary school have been campaigning for worldwide education. The south-east Skye children sent messages to Ross, Skye and Lochaber UK parliamentary candidate Charles Kennedy saying what they would do to help children who are not receiving an education. Some of the ambitions included upgrading schools, giving out water and providing an education to every child. The Kyleakin pupils asked Mr Kennedy to share the messages with the prime minister. Mr Kennedy said: 'I would like to thank the hard efforts of the pupils at Kyleakin primary school. The models and messages were very impressive indeed. Their messages showed how much they value education and the importance they put in education for all young people. A powerful message that we should all pause and reflect on. I certainly share their ambition for education. I look forward to sharing their messages with the prime minister.'

**Benderloch**

AN AFTER-dark field trip to Kintaline farm, near Benderloch, brought a number of winged visitors to meet Lorn National History Group. The group saw more than 14 different species of cold-water moth. Carl Farmer, a member of the group, said: 'It turned out quite a chilly night and we only had cold-weather species in the traps. The best moth was the Brindled Ochre, a coastal species mostly seen in autumn. Only the females overwinter, and as female moths are much less inclined to visit traps than males their presence in spring is not often detected. The Pale Pinion was also of interest as the National Biodiversity Network map shows no records north of Ayrshire but it has been moving north in recent years. Today's record will put the NBN right - that's the advantage of sending records to us. They actually appear on maps instead of gathering dust in drawers. Thanks to Jill and Tim Bowis for hosting the traps.'

**Appin**

A CHRISTIAN Aid soup in Appin village hall lunch last Thursday raised £892.13 for the charity. Minister Robert Brooks opened the event with a summary of Christian Aid and what it does to help relieve poverty by providing money to micro-business ventures by individuals. This makes it possible for them to earn their own money to feed themselves and their families in some of the poorest parts of the world. The event was well supported by both locals and friends from surrounding villages and also from Oban. Everyone enjoyed the soup lunch and the various stalls and competitions available in a relaxed and happy atmosphere.

**Ardgour**

AN ENVIRONMENTAL project in Lochaber has been shortlisted for funding of up to £50,000. Sustainable Ardgour, a project working to reduce the carbon footprint of the Ardgour community, has been named as one of 64 groups in the running for the Jewson's community funding competition. Chosen out of 2,000 submissions, Sustainable Ardgour could receive a grant from £1,000 to £50,000 to upgrade Ardgour memorial hall and create a new toilet block. To vote for Sustainable Ardgour in the competition see www.buildingbettercommunities.co.uk.

**Seil Island**

THE SCOTTISH chapter of the Vulcan Riders Association, held its annual general meeting at Seil Island Community Hall on the weekend of April 11. This was followed by another annual event - the legendary evening quiz, held at the Oyster bar and restaurant in Connel to raise funds for Scotland's air ambulance charity. On this occasion the bikers' group raised £37.03 and would like to thank the community for its welcome and generosity.

**Kilbrandon**

AT THE April meeting of Kilbrandon SWI, speaker for the evening was Mike Shaw of the slate heritage museum who gave a talk on the Slate Islands heritage trust. He told members about the origins of the trust, about its founding curator Jean Adams and the way in which the museum is financed. The museum depends on donations and volunteers to run it and there are between 10 and 12 thousand visitors a year to the museum. Mike painted a fascinating picture of what life would have been like on Seil island in the past and explained its importance as a trade route from Switzerland to Inverness in times gone by. The museum is located in Ellenabeich on Seil.



DONATION: Alex Grey, left, presents the cheque to Holly Walker, second left, of Glendaruel play park, watched by Heather MacVicar, Jelena Finnie, Pete Currie and Bob Basford

**Gun club on target for Glendaruel play park**

GLENDARUAL play park is £100 better off thanks to a donation from Glendaruel and Colintrave gun club. The money was raised at the club's spring open shoot from the proceeds of the trap competition and was presented, following the shoot, at the park. The play park is the culmination of nine years' hard work by the park's community and is well equipped and maintained. The club thanked the residents of Glendaruel for their assistance in the past and recent help with re-siting the shooting field.



PLAY: Some of those youngsters who attend the drop-in early years group at St Columba's school



TASTY TREAT: there was cake for everyone joining in the group's celebrations

**Oban early years group celebrates first birthday**

ST COLUMBAS primary school's drop-in early years group has celebrated its first successful year. Set up to give a friendly and fun place for families to bring their children, without having to pay a block or booking fee, the group runs on donations from those participating in the Wednesday afternoons at the school. Children have the chance to take part in messy play, a kitchen area, play with the many toys, do art, music and other fun activities in a large, bright classroom. The group has been very popular since opening at the Oban Joint Primary Campus and it helps that the school is on a bus route. As well as grant funding and donations and support from the school, parent council and families, resources have been received from Argyll and Bute council's early years team. The group gave a special thanks to Margaret Anderson, who helped behind the scenes before the group was set up. Thanks were also given to the St Columba mums, Helen, Lovisa, Isla and Julie, who run the group. Anyone with a child under the age of five years is welcome to attend, accompanied by an adult.



**Spean Bridge**

A FAIR trade daffodil tea held at Spean Bridge primary school raised more than £300 for charity. Pupils also sold fair trade products to parents and members of the community. The event raised £146.62 for Marie Curie cancer care as well as £218.39 from the commission of fair trade sales, to be split between various charities. The children also helped to raise even more for fair trade producers by selling £600-worth of items from a catalogue.

**Arisaig**

ABRIDGED minutes of the Arisaig and district community council March meeting. Police report: The honesty box in the Arisaig public toilets was forced open with a crow bar, but not successfully broken into. The box is badly damaged and will require major repairs. No-one has come forward to report anything about the vandalism. There have been some incidents of scrap metal being stolen from the pier in Mallaig. The community council thanked PC Brown for her report. PC Brown then left the meeting. Arisaig medical centre: A meeting between community council members, Tracy Ligema, NHS Highland district manager, and Liz Featherstone, NHS Lochaber district manager, had been arranged in the Astley Hall. Dr Gartshore was invited to attend. This was to discuss the continued reduction in GP appointments at the Arisaig surgery. Community emergency plan: funding may be available in April from Scottish and Southern Energy of between £500 and £20,000 for 'resilient communities'. Plans to erect a shed at the Astley Hall to house a generator may need planning permission. This will depend on the size of the shed. A community resilience desk top exercise took place at the Sunart Centre in Ardnarmurchan high school on March 25. Community council members attended. Defibrillators: An email was received from Morar community council with a contact address for several different versions. This will be followed up when funding becomes available. Noticeboard: a new noticeboard has been despatched. The cost of £370.80 will be split equally between the community council and Arisaig community trust. A830: A meeting with Transport Scotland has been offered to discuss the 50mph speed restrictions on the A830, date to be confirmed. Christmas lights: John MacDonald will research costings and suppliers for new lights. Recycling: Can and paper bins have been removed. More bottle banks to replace them will be requested. Road at Clanranald Place: the tech services went to inspect the road, but looked at the wrong place. Councillor Bill Clark will follow this up. Village 20 mph speed limit: Plans have been advertised locally. Continuance of 'safe route' path: It may no longer be possible to purchase the land needed to continue the path between St Mary's and the primary school. Land on the other side of the road has been offered, but this is unlikely to be a suitable option.

**MORVERN lines**

**Whales, sharks and dolphins**

THE HEBRIDEAN Whale and Dolphin Trust, which is based in Tobermory and whose staff do a wonderful job monitoring and introducing visitors and locals to the creatures of the deep, has already recorded the arrival of basking sharks, risso's and bottlenose dolphins, minke, humpback and killer whales. Some are earlier than usual suggesting a rise in water temperature and an influx of food. Thanks to today's hi-tech equipment, it is possible to determine with accuracy how fast these creatures can travel both on and below the surface. Long ago this wasn't so easy but a local naturalist, the Rev Alexander Stewart (1829-1901), who was also the Church of Scotland minister for North Ballachulish and Ardgour, came up with a novel idea of measuring it in Loch Linnhe. Stewart, better known as Nether Lochaber, recorded that one day sometime before 1869, he was leaving Fort William riding one of the fastest mares at the time in Inverness-shire. Less than half a mile out of the village, he saw a large whale, probably a rorqual, opposite him heading straight for the Corran Narrows on the ebb tide. Keen to arrive at the narrows, eight miles distant, to have a good look at it when passing through, he spurred his horse on and rode as fast as possible. The whale beat him, surfacing to blow just beyond the lighthouse. The whale, he knew, had been going for at least half an hour and had therefore been travelling at 16 miles an hour. If alarmed, he deduced it could probably have done an additional four. The same man, when he was a small boy, travelling from Morvern to Oban on an old steamer called the Rob Roy, recorded being accompanied by a large whale which created fear and alarm amongst passengers. The whale, he said, first appeared within a few yards of the steamer's bow just off Ardtornish Point and kept circling the boat, lashing the surrounding waters into seething foam, until well past the Lismore light on Eilean Musdile. So close did the whale come and so imminent seemed the danger, that the steamer had to stop more than once to avoid contact because, reported Stewart, 'a butt from its head or an angry lash from whose tail would probably have sent such a crazy old tub as the Rob Roy to the bottom'. Those aboard reckoned that the whale had been attracted by the sound and motion of the steamer's paddles. Unfortunately the species was not named but given that the Rob Roy, scrapped in November 1850, weighed 42 tons and measured more than 83 feet in length, it must have been one of the larger species if it really was a threat to the vessel.



SPOTTED: A pair of basking sharks off Mull

**Abnormal swimmers**

STILL on the subject of things that swim, I had an email recently from a research student, on the subject of red deer, enquiring if there were any records of them swimming from the mainland to Mull. In 1935, several hundred passengers aboard MacBrayne's steamer the Lochyfine watched a stag jump over a rock on the Morvern shore and swim across the Sound of Mull - a distance of three miles. Captain Mackenzie, who was on the bridge at the time, altered course slightly to avoid striking the animal which was seen to be battling against fierce currents, before landing successful on the Mull shore. More interestingly, perhaps, I have a record of a rabbit swimming across Loch a' Choire, Kingairloch, in September 1910. This interesting story comes from, of all places, the columns of the Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette in the form of a letter from a London visitor. The writer records sitting on the banks of the loch when he saw, a good way out, an animal swimming towards him. As it came nearer he saw it was a rabbit which came out of the water very close to him, shook itself and ran off into the hills. It was assumed that it had probably taken to the loch, which is a little less than half a mile across, to avoid shooting which was going on at the time. Infrequent but not impossible as a quick glance at YouTube will confirm.

**Cuckoos**

THE CUCKOO has arrived - spring must be here. The first to be heard, which I have a note of in the area, was on April 17 at Kinlochell. The same Alexander Stewart, who was interested in whales, was told by a wandering herbalist that he had heard a cuckoo on February 10 1882 at Kinlochleven near the foot of the Devil's Staircase. Stewart was inclined to dismiss such an early occurrence until he read of others also being heard in the south of Scotland. I have already mentioned that it is bad luck to hear your first cuckoo on an empty stomach. The Irish put it rather more strongly, saying 'you don't want to be looking at the ground when you hear the first cuckoo of the year as it means you will be below the ground before it returns next year'.

Iain Thornber  
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

**Fort Augustus**

A RETIRED doctor from Fort Augustus will be spending the coming months in Africa providing health care for poverty-stricken communities. Iain Farmer was a general practitioner for more than 30 years but rather than putting his feet up when he retired, the 61-year-old studied for a diploma in tropical medicine. And last week doctor Farmer set off for Zambia where he will be working with Glasgow-based charity On Call Africa until the end of June. As well as providing treatment in remote villages, the kind-hearted Highlander will be providing glasses to workers donated by Optical Express. Doctor Farmer said: 'As soon as Optical Express staff found out I was volunteering with On Call Africa it offered to support the charity by donating glasses. As a result, we will now be able to give the gift of sight to those who are most in need. To the villagers I will be treating, being able to see is the difference between being able to pursue a livelihood and being unable to work.'

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# Mallaig care home to remain closed for another ten weeks

DISAPPOINTMENT AS NHS HIGHLAND MANAGER REVEALS ONE MEMBER OF STAFF STILL NEEDS 'EXTENDED TRAINING'

EMMA CRICHTON  
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

MALLAIG care home the Mackintosh centre is to remain closed for another 10 weeks because one member of staff requires 'extended training', an NHS Highland manager has revealed.

New staff have been appointed following long-running recruitment problems since the home closed last July amid allegations of poor practice.

But despite overcoming this hurdle, it could take until July of this year to have the residents, who have been housed more than 40 miles away at Invernevis house in Fort William, back in Mallaig.

Tracy Ligema, NHS Highland area manager for the west, told Lochaber district partnership on Tuesday that all vacancies had been filled but some new employees have to work four weeks notice in current jobs and it would take a further six weeks to prepare another member of staff who requires extended training. Ms Ligema said at the meeting: 'Since interviews on the first and second of April we have been able to make offers for all available posts. The really positive news is we are pretty sure we will be able to fill the vacant posts but combining the longest notice period of four weeks and the fact someone needs about six weeks training means we're looking at about 10 weeks.'

Allan Henderson, Highland councillor for Caol and Mallaig who also attended the meeting, said he was 'disappointed' about the further delay. He said: 'I can only express my disappointment because this is quite different to when we last met and we all agreed mid May would be the aim. If you're just talking

**“**I think you could find another member of staff who could take up the role temporarily**”**

Allan Henderson  
Highland councillor for Caol and Mallaig

about one person I think you could find another member of staff who could take up the role temporarily if it meant getting the place open sooner. To me it's vital that it opens as soon as possible.'

Michael Foxley, NHS Highland board member and joint chairman of Lochaber district partnership, asked Ms Ligema to look into opening the Mackintosh centre sooner and called it a 'major issue in the west [Lochaber]'. Ms Ligema, who attended the meeting via video conference, replied: 'I'll definitely look into it but my absolute main priority is the safety of the patients so that might mean waiting.'

Joanne MacDonald, NHS Highland's director of adult social care, added: 'This has taken longer than we anticipated but we want to make sure when residents go back the staff roster is robust and safe.'

The eight-bed Mackintosh centre temporarily closed in July last year amid allegations of poor practice. At the time, an NHS Highland spokesman said the care home would be closed for four to six weeks.



## Sharing memories as merger looms

AS THE last term at Fort William primary school is now under way, former pupils and staff visited to say goodbye and share memories.

The school is set to merge with Upper Achintore after the summer so current

pupils and staff have been learning about the 140-year history of Fort William primary school.

On Friday two past head teachers, Angus MacIver and Jennifer Cattanach, joined former pupils to share their favourite

memories with the current children of Fort William primary.

As part of the ongoing celebrations, a coffee morning will be held at the school from 11am on Wednesday June 3. Everyone welcome.



## Kinlochleven trusts villager Marion to take over helm

A NEW development officer has taken the helm at Kinlochleven community trust.

Marion Smith has lived in the Lochaber village for more than 20 years and said she is looking forward to the new role.

She added: 'Kinlochleven is a beautiful place to live and I wanted to be involved in developing what already exists and supporting the tenants of Kinlochleven community trust. 'I'll be continuing projects such as the hydro scheme and we're hoping to have a project manager hired by mid May to help us bring that forward. 'I'm looking forward to taking that forward, along with our other projects.'

WESTERN isles council will become the first local authority in the United Kingdom to run a bilingual Twitter account during the general election count.

The social media feed will provide updates from the count at Lewis sports centre in both English and Gaelic, adding to the council's already extensive Gaelic election coverage.

THE ROTARY club of Lochaber has announced its latest round of grants. At the group's meeting on Monday, it was decided Fort William's men's shed would receive £250 and £200 went to Lochaber high school's nimble fingers. Members also donated £500 to a charity which provides prosthetic limbs in Africa.

### TIMESLINE

#### Police appeal for help with crimes

LOCHABER police are appealing for information about the following crimes in the area.

Sometime between 5.30pm and midnight on Friday April 24 a Honda civic parked at Travis Perkins on Ben Nevis industrial estate had parts of a body kit removed and stolen.

At around 9.45pm on Saturday April 18 at Morrisons filling station, Fort William, an attempt was made to gain entry to the vacuum and air line machines to steal money.

Sometime between 9pm on Saturday April 18 and 7.30am the following day, money was taken from the pressure washer and vacuum cleaner at Gleaner petrol station, Fort William.

Anyone with information about these incidents should contact Lochaber police by calling 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

#### Rotary boost for shed and school

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#### Bilingual Twitter first for council

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## Seriously injured in fall from roof

A MAN who was spoken to by police in connection with a disturbance was later seriously injured in a fall from the roof of a building.

The incident in Stornoway last Thursday night began when officers responded to a disturbance in a property in Kenneth Street.

Police spoke to a 22-year-old man believed to be responsible for the disturbance. The same man later fell from a roof in Church Street. He was taken to Western Isles Hospital with serious, but not life threatening, injuries.

## Building society boosts charities

OBAN charities are among thousands to benefit from the Yorkshire Building Society's Charitable Foundation.

Oban Youth Cafe was given £1,506 last year to replace camping equipment after it was stolen.

And the MS Therapy centre and Oban and Lorn District Seniors have received part of the £6,531 donated to local causes.

## CHAIRMAN VOICES DELIGHT AT 'FANTASTIC START' TO CAMPAIGN

# More Rockfield trust donations

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

MORE money has been received in the campaign to turn Oban's old Rockfield school and surrounding buildings into a town centre community and cultural hub.

The latest donation of £800 brings the £100,000 Top up the Tower fundraiser to £12,500.

Gordon McNab, chairman of Oban Community Trust (OCT), said: 'This is a fantastic start to our fundraising campaign and we are grateful to everyone who has donated already. It shows the strong community backing we have for this project. Our target for this first phase is £100,000 to get the lights back on in the building and we urge everyone to give generously.'

Eleanor MacKinnon for

OCT said: 'As development progresses, donations of time and skills will be in demand.'

'Already OCT has a list of people willing to roll up their sleeves and help with the workload ahead. If you have a particular talent and want to help, please let us know.'

The trust is due to take over the building tomorrow (Friday) from Argyll and Bute council for the sum of £1,000.

The money for the first phase will be used to prepare the former outside classrooms for tenants including disabled access and toilets.

Thereafter remedial works to make the main building wind and watertight and deal with the first phase of dry-rot work will be tackled.

When it opens it will offer events, activities and group facilities for people of all ages,

backgrounds and interests. The business community of Oban learned more about the plans for the Rockfield centre on Wednesday when James Hilder, former chairman of Argyll and Bute's Social Enterprise Network, was due to speak at a business breakfast at the Caledonian Hotel.

He was to talk about the values of such a community enterprise and there was also the chance to see the Rockfield centre video compiled by James Gray of Oban's Kinetic Studios.

OCT's Graham MacQueen said: 'The business community of the area should be aware now of the huge benefit the Rockfield centre will bring to the town and its surrounding areas. This centre will contribute positively to Oban becoming not just a local community focus but an excellent visitor destination.'



WINNERS: Alice Campbell, Catherine Smith, Pat MacLeod and Fiona Dickie show off the trophies they won at the Lorn area show of baking and handicrafts

## High standards at Lorn rural show

A SUCCESSFUL Scottish Women's Institute, affectionately known as 'The Rural', show of baking and handicrafts was held in Connel Hall on Saturday with almost 400 entries submitted from the six institutes in the Lorn area.

Organisers said the standard of entries was high with most points going to Kilmore and district institute. The group also won the banner for most

points per member. The best exhibit in handicraft was won by Margaret Whitton, Kilmore, for her encrusted calico and the best exhibit in baking went to Pat MacLeod of Lochaber institute with her Victoria sponge.

Taynuilt institute won the community shield after presenting four items on a tray with a Christmas theme.



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It is well known that food produced in this area goes all around the world - with several of our products regularly used in the world's finest restaurants.

From hand dived scallops or salmon caught or farmed on the west coast, to

Highland beef or high quality cheeses - people will never grow tired of trying the treats on offer, nor will they be short of finding something local to complete a course.

Whether out for the day and looking for some fine dining, or on a short break involving an overnight stay, the west coast's abundance of restaurants and hotels will mean no-one is ever stuck for somewhere of the highest quality to be 'fed and watered'.

And the variety of dining experiences on offer is second to none, from cafes with mouth-watering home-baking to cosy pub lunches to some of the best restaurants

in the country.

Locally-sourced produce of the highest quality is always popular, to really give people a taste of the area.

Top rated hotels or fantastic self-catering options mean anyone can take in the scenery no matter what their means are.

Beyond the plate, a glass can easily be filled with a host of fine west coast drinks. The spiritual home of whisky, there are more than a few tasty drams to tantalise the tastebuds, from peaty Islay malts to the milder tipples found across the region, all with their own characteristics and nuances to satisfy every taste.

Given the history of area, it is little surprise that it is never too far to a crafter or producer creating fine clothes or accessories for every occasion.

Some of the unique activities the west coast has to offer include boat trips on the area's stunning lochs or day trips away to the islands.

For a memento of a special stay, gift ideas from art galleries, jewellers and other gift shops mean a long-stay or day trip is rounded off with an authentic west coast feel.

There are a host of other products too numerous to mention here, but if anyone is looking for quality and wants to support the producers on their own doorstep, remember, the Best is From the West.



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**'Champion' of wild land dies, aged 77**

A CONSERVATIONIST involved in the management of west Highland nature reserve Creag Meagaidh has died aged 77. Dick Balharry MBE, former chairman of the John Muir Trust, began his working life as an under keeper in Tighnabruach and devoted much of his 50-year career to the protection and regeneration of woodland. Mr Balharry, who died on April 22, was a key member in the management of national nature reserve Creag Meagaidh in the Great Glen and worked for Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) until retiring in 1997, but continued to fill ambassador and senior management posts with the organisation and was given an MBE in 1996 for services to nature conservation. A spokesperson for SNH said: 'With the death of Dick Balharry we have lost a friend, colleague and formidable champion of wild land.'

**Energy cash lined up for new grants**

COMMUNITY benefit groups in the Western Isles could receive grants of up to £10,000 thanks to a new funding stream. The Western Isles development trust (WIDT) has announced it will be providing money earned from renewable energy schemes to groups across the wider island community. WIDT directors will soon be considering applications for funding and charitable groups from the Butt of Lewis to Barra could be in with a chance. Angus Campbell, chairman of WIDT, said: 'This is an exciting opportunity for communities to benefit from renewable energy developments.' More information, enquiry forms and eligibility guidance is available from www.widt.co.uk

**Injured hill walker airlifted off peak**

A MAN had multiple injuries after falling more than 300 feet from a mountain in south Lochaber on Sunday. The 41-year-old was walking on Meall Mor, near Glencoe, with another man, when he slipped and fell 328 metres, injuring his head, arm and torso. The injuries were described by police as 'serious but not life threatening'. Members of Glencoe mountain rescue team went to the scene and were assisted by coastguard helicopter Rescue 951. The casualty was flown to Fort William where he was transferred to Belford hospital.

# Angry villagers demand action on cemetery gate

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RESIDENTS of a rural Lochaber village have come together to demand that a gate preventing access to their local cemetery is removed.

In an ongoing row, Strontian villagers say the owners of nearby Drimnatorran Farm, who put up the heavy metal obstruction, have been making it difficult to visit the graveyard and they allowed their goats to roam the cemetery and eat the flowers, real and plastic, which had been left at gravesides.

Brenda and Jim Oddy, an elderly couple living on the cemetery side of the gate, told the *Oban Times* they couldn't leave their house alone because the gate wouldn't stay open long enough to drive through it.

A rope has since been added to hold it open, but the angry villagers say this is not enough and the gate should be moved completely.

Mrs Oddy, 80, said: 'We could

only go out together because one person had to hold the gate open while the other drove through; that's no way to live. 'They've put rope there now but it's still not good enough. 'This isn't their private estate and they have no right to pretend otherwise or to prevent people from coming in.'

Mr Oddy, 84, added: 'We have lived here almost 30 years and there has never been a gate. It's completely unnecessary and I can't understand why the Shaws [farm owners] would want it there in the first place. 'If you're elderly or can't walk well there's no way you could push that gate without help so it's stopping a lot of people from visiting the cemetery.'

'They've upset the entire village and I don't understand why because it's such a friendly and welcoming community.'

Alan Thomson, secretary of Sunart community council, said there is no reasoning with Melvin and Sally Shaw, who moved into Drimnatorran Farm



A GATE TOO FAR: Strontian residents demand the gate to the cemetery is removed. From left: Tony Dobson, Brenda Oddy, Jim Oddy, Mike Laybourne and Jackie Laybourne 20\_f18strontian01

three years ago. He said: 'Even before the gate went up we were trying to come to an agreement with them because their goats ate all the flowers, even the plastic ones, and they were shouting at people for parking outside the cemetery but we didn't get anywhere. 'People were devastated when

that happened with the flowers, but they don't care.'

'We want the gate removed and the stones they have put in place to obstruct visitors parking.'

'We also want them to take down the sign that says private road because it makes people think they're not allowed into the cemetery.'

Drimnatorran Farm is now for sale and the worried villagers say they would like to see the issue resolved before new owners move in.

Mr Thomson added: 'If new owners come here and the gate is already there, they'll think that's okay and how it has always been and we'll be back to square one.'

'We just want it sorted so we can all get on with living our lives peacefully.'

Mike Laybourne, another community council member, added: 'I tried to reason with them and at first I felt like I was getting somewhere but not anymore. They don't want to listen to anyone and said they don't have to explain themselves.'

Mr Laybourne's daughter-in-law, Jackie Laybourne, added that she had been accused of trespassing by Mrs Shaw when she walked her dog at the cemetery.

Mr and Mrs Shaw declined to comment.

**Drivers warned to heed red lights**

POLICE have warned drivers in Lochaber they could be subject to a fixed penalty and three points on their licence if they ignore red lights.

This comes after a number of 'near misses' at the temporary convoy system currently in place at Banavie swing bridge, whilst road works are carried out, as drivers have disobeyed red lights.

A spokeswoman for Lochaber police said: 'Registration plates are being noted and CCTV is in operation. Drivers reported to police for disobeying red lights could be subject to three points and a fixed penalty of £100.'

'This has been dangerous for workmen at the bridge as there have been quite a lot of near misses due to people driving through red lights. The convoy system is in place for the health and safety of both workers and drivers.'

**Development plan in meeting**

A SOUTH Skye public group is devoting its entire next meeting to discussing a local development plan.

Sleat community council will discuss what it would like to see in Highland council's west Highlands and islands local plan and give a presentation on the formal statement submitted by the group.

All business owners, organisations and individuals from Sleat are invited to the meeting, to be held this Tuesday (May 5) at Seomar Cruinneachaidh, Sabhal Mor Ostaig, from 7.30pm.

**School hosts fair to raise funds**

A PRODUCE fair is to be held in Arisaig today (Thursday) to raise money for the village primary school.

Astley Hall will be filled with plants, jams, home baking, crafts and knitwear from 11am until 3pm. Soup and sandwiches will also be available, with all proceeds going to Arisaig primary school.

## Running together for cancer research



BIG CHEER: Runners and supporters look forward to the main event 20\_f18run03



THEY'RE OFF: scores of youngsters lead the field 20\_f18run04



MONKEYING AROUND: One runner didn't feel the cold in his outfit 20\_f18run02

## Fundraisers brave wind and rain to boost charity

FUNDRAISERS braved wind and rain for the fifth Lochaber Together fun run in aid of cancer research UK.

Despite the poor weather, 187 people took part in the event, with many more watching and cheering on the runners from the starting point at An Aird shinty ground, Fort William.

Although numbers were down on previous races, which reached 500 runners at its peak, organiser Adam Ramsey said he was really pleased with the result.

He said: 'The weather wasn't great but there's nothing we can do about that and a lot of people still came out to do their bit, so that's really good.'

'Numbers were down a fair bit compared to previous years but there was still a really good atmosphere on the day.'

Mr Ramsey said it would take about a month to count the total raised but a side event alone, organised by local strongmen, has raised between £3,000 and £4,000.



Noreen MacGillivray takes part in a different costume every year 20\_f18run01



The pink panther stops for a quick photo mid-run 20\_f18run05

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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

Politics, according to Bismark, is the art of the possible. Sadly, of late, it has also become the art of the plausible as some polished parliamentary performers promise the earth but deliver only a handful of dust. Or so it may seem to a disillusioned electorate. A week today (May 7) people throughout the West Highlands will cast their vote to decide who will represent their constituency at Westminster.

In all fairness, the West Highlands has fared better than most with those it has sent to Westminster. However, the bar has been raised by last year's referendum on Scottish independence. Expectations are indeed great which makes it all the more important that MPs never lose sight of the debt of fidelity and loyalty they owe the people who sent them to London in the first place.

### Great holiday on Mull but clean up beaches

Sir, I visited Mull for a week with my family during the Easter holidays and had a great time - good weather and lovely walks. The trip was, however, spoilt slightly by the amount of plastic rubbish on a couple of beaches we visited. There was a huge amount of it and it gave the impression they were not cleaned up. Does Mull have a policy of trying to contain this problem? While it wouldn't stop us returning, it could damage tourism and cannot be good for the wildlife. **David Witchell, London.**

### Island's £11m plant must not go to waste

Sir, I refer to the article 'Scottish Water plans to scrap £11 million treatment works' in your April 23 edition. The untreated sewage of the eight former council houses on Seaview Terrace, Easdale, is collected at a junction box on the foreshore and discharged below low water mark to the Firth of Lorne by a pipeline. Some years ago, following storm damage, Scottish Water repaired this pipe at considerable expense. After some controversy, all the owners of the eight houses now pay full waste water charges for this service. Scottish Water has been given a directive to treat this waste. They have told the residents a septic tank for the eight houses would cost £450,000. What world are they living in? In 2008/2009 Scottish Water spent £11.7 million providing a waste water treatment system for about 130 houses in the Clachan Seil/Balvicar

area which is providing high quality effluent into an area of shellfish cultivation. The annual running costs are high, allegedly because of poor design in coping with high freshwater rainfall inputs into the system. Scottish Water's money-saving solution is to turn the Balvicar treatment plant into a holding tank, pump the sewage about a mile over hill to a septic tank and discharge effluent of lesser quality into the Firth of Lorn special area of conservation. This tank would also take the sewage from the eight houses. Scottish Water is a publicly-owned company, answerable to the Scottish Parliament as is the Scottish Environment Protection Agency. Can the Scottish Parliament allow these bodies to close a treatment plant with high quality output and replace it with a septic tank discharging poorer quality effluent into an environmentally sensitive area?

### Coach crash survivor grateful for support

Sir, I was recently on the coach which, as a result of freak weather conditions, was blown off the road at the Rest and be Thankful. We are all so fortunate to have survived and wish to thank everyone who helped us. Thanks go to the ambulance and medical teams, the police and helicopter rescue service and all others whose skill and training resulted in the co-ordination needed at such incidents. Thanks also to the many car drivers travelling the same road who helped us out of the coach and sheltered us in their cars out of the continuing storm conditions.

I would like to thank two young men, Anthony and Luke, who were travelling home from work near Campbeltown who sheltered us in a warm cab, gave us hot mugs of tea and, after two hours, took us to the Arrochar Three Villages hall before continuing their long journey. The people at the Three Villages hall warmly welcomed us and nothing was too much trouble. The company, Lochs and Glens, has done more than one could ever expect. Everything in their power has been done to care for their guest's individual needs and for the care of the driver. I am not able to contact most of these people mentioned above as I don't have contact addresses but I am hopeful they may hear of the value which we place on all they did for us. **Margaret and Stuart Wright, Gravesend.**

### Sale of land has only benefited developers

Sir, Your story 'Pensioner in call for Ganavan car park charges to be axed' is correct in that the land, once owned by Dunollie Estates, was sold by my grandfather, Colonel Alexander J MacDougall of MacDougall (29th Chief), to Argyll and Bute council earlier last century, with the hope it would be used for the enjoyment and recreation of townspeople and visitors to Oban. Many of the facilities have now disappeared for the benefit of 'developers', rather than the Oban community. I wonder how my grandfather would be feeling about it if he were still with us? **Morag MacDougall of MacDougall, Dunollie House, Oban.**



## Oban detachment Mountain Battery before war deployment to Gallipoli

With the current interest in the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings, Bob McCulloch of Oban submitted this week's flashback photograph of the local detachment of the Mountain Battery which served with distinction in Gallipoli, Salonika and the Balkans. The photograph was most likely taken in MacIsaac and Riddle's studio, Oban, prior to 1914. The studio became Scriven's and is now the Taj Mahal restaurant. Notice the obvious youth of the bugle boy. 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.

### Glasgow Letter

**ROBERT ROBERTSON**  
rrobertson@obantimes.co.uk

### Glasgow Skye - 150 years young

IT WAS a massive honour to be present in Glasgow City Chambers for an evening to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Glasgow Skye Association. The date, April 21, was the exact date on which the association was formed. Friends of the Glasgow Skye were joined by representatives from many of the other kindred associations, all of which have a great history and a valued place in Glasgow's story. After the top table had been piped in, everyone was welcomed with a speech from association president Margaret Elder. The Lord Provost then delivered her speech before a beautiful meal was served. While admiring the gold chain of office around the Provost's neck, I was tempted to approach her and ask what year she had won the Mòd gold medal! Such was the importance of the evening, however, I thought it wise to refrain. Christine MacLeod spoke after the meal to give a vote of thanks and the night finished off with the singing of 'Soraidh Leibh is Oidhche Mhath Leibh' to the sound of Shona Masson on fiddle and Hamish MacLeod on guitar, who had together provided superb background music to the whole evening. The stunning surroundings of the city chambers ensured the significance of the event was lost on no-one. Yet, amid all this breathtaking splendour, the Lord Provost drew our minds back a century and a half to the evening when, in far more humble circumstances, the Glasgow Skye Association was founded. It was formed, of course, to support

those Sgitheanaich - and those from all over the highlands and islands - who came to Glasgow to live. The associations provided a means by which people could stick together and help each other in what must have been a very foreign environment. It was with that thought we all drew a huge sense of pride at being in attendance at the anniversary of such an honourable institution. Times have changed since those days, but still many people, including myself, view the Gaelic community in Glasgow, with the help of all the kindred associations, as a real home-from-home. For that reason, it is particularly pleasing the Glasgow Skye has a number of younger committee members ensuring the good work of the association continues.

### Closing ceilidh

JUST days after its 150th celebration, the Glasgow Skye held its closing ceilidh of the session on Saturday April 25 in the Crawford Hall. Singers for the evening were Jayne Morrison, Fiona Ross, Gordon McKeeve and Kenneth Nicolson. Ryan Young gave a few tunes on the fiddle, John Rennie piped and Margaret Elder was in the chair. As usual, there was tea and coffee and a nice selection of goodies.

### Govan Gaelic Choir concert

GOVAN Gaelic choir is looking forward to its concert on Wednesday May 6 in Partick South Church, Dumbarton Road, at 7.30pm. Bean an tìghe will be Catriona Campbell and fiddler Cameron Ross, a final year student at the

Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, will be the guest artist. As well as songs from the choir, the evening will also include a special item from choir members' young children. Most importantly, I have been assured there will be plenty time, and I quote, for a wee 'strupag' and some 'craic!' Tickets are £8 from choir members or at the door on the night.

### Erskine ceilidh

THE SUCCESSFUL evening held by Clydebank Highlanders' association to fundraise for Erskine Hospital for war veterans raised £1,000. Congratulations to everyone involved.

### What's on

**Wednesday May 6:** Govan Gaelic Choir annual concert, Partick South Church, Dumbarton Road, 7.30pm.  
**Wednesday May 6:** An Lochran traditional music session, Partick Brewing Company.  
**Friday May 8:** Dosca - new traditional folk band - The National Piping Centre.  
**Tuesday May 12:** Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association AGM, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu (Glasgow Gaelic School).  
**Thursday May 14:** Comunn an Taobh an Iar AGM, Ellangowan Social Club, Milngavie.

### Pub scene

**Park Bar - Thursday April 30:** Session; Friday May 1: Gunna Sound.  
**Islay Inn - Friday May 1:** The Keelies; Saturday May 2: Crossroads; Sunday May 3: Trail West.

### Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

**ALLAN CAMPBELL**  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

NUAIR a sgrìobh mi bho chionn chola-deug mu Chomann Sgitheanach Ghlaschu a bhith ga stèidheachadh air 21 den Ghiblean 1865, cha tug mi an aire gur ann ceud agus ceathrad bliadhna chun an latha, an dèidh sin, a chaidh Achd na Gàidhlig aontachadh ann am Pàrlamaid na h-Albann. Chaidh am Bile airson na h-Achd aontachadh air 21 An Ghiblean 2005 agus ghlèidh e aonta Rìoghail air 1 An Ògmhios 2005! Latha eachdraidheil dhan Ghàidhlig a bh' ann an 21 An Ghiblean 2005, agus crìoch shoirbheachail dhomh fhìn air iomairt a thòisich ann an 1992 aig Comann na Gàidhlig airson inbhe na Gàidhlig a neartachadh. 'S iomadh dùbhlán a thàinig san t-slighe agus 's iomadh ceatharnach agus bana-cheatharnach, mòran dhiubh gun fhacal den chànan nan cinn, a chuidich. Tha an eachdraidh sin airidh air a clàradh. Mar a bhios fios aig neach-iomairt sam bith, feumaidh tu a bhith soilleir dè tha thu ag iarraidh mus tèid thu a shireadh taic luchd-poilitigs sam bith, agus saoilidh mi gun tug sinn

greis mun do dh'aontaich Dòmhnall Meek agus mi fhìn gur e 'inbhe thèaraintè' am mineachadh a b' fheàrr a chuireamaid air a' chaid cheann-uidhe a bh 'againn dhan Ghàidhlig. Ged a bha sinn taingeil airson adhartas sam bith dhan chànan, bha tàmailt ann gun robh gach iomairt taice an eisimeil deagh-rùn phoilitigeach is nach robh dìon sam bith aig na h-iomairtean sin. Bha dearbhadh gun robh taic ionmhais na Gàidhlig an cunnart anns a' bhàd a thigeadh teannachadh sam bith air ionmhas poblach, agus bha sinn a' sireadh dìon air gach ceum adhartais ge b' e dè cho beag 's a bhiodh iad. Chaidh sin seachad agus thàinig an Achd, agus cha robh e na annas sam bith gun robh cuid a' càineadh cho beag cumhachd 's a bha i a' toirt a thaobh a' chànan, agus gu sònraichte nach robh còraichean foghlaim is eile air an daingneachadh innte. Tha mise a' tuigsinn nan gearainean sin glè mhath, ach dhearbhb mi cuideachd dhomh fhìn nach gabh coileanadh nach gabh coileanadh stèidheachadh ann an lagh! Mar eisimpleir, cha b'

urrainnear foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig, neo gu dearbh seirbheis sam bith eile, a ghealltainn air feadh Alba 's gun daoine gu leòr ann a bhiodh comasach air na seirbheisean sin a libhrigeadh. Fhuair sinn nam bheachdas na ghabhadh faotainn deich bliadhna air ais, agus 's i a' cheist am bheil sinn air an fheum as fheàrr a dhèanadh leis a' chaid Achd seo? ONE HUNDRED and forty years to the day after the founding of the Glasgow Skye Association, a Bill to establish The Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act was passed by the Scottish Parliament on April 21 2005. Predictably, the act did not satisfy wider Gaelic community aspirations, but it was difficult to argue for national services through Gaelic when there were insufficient speakers to deliver such. This act was a first important step and the question is whether we have fully exploited its potential. **Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell) ailean@obantimes.co.uk**

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

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

Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timeous, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can

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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

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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25			

**Across**

- 1 Leave the canvas shelter (6)
- 4 Vinegar acid (6)
- 9 ...It's off to work we go! (5-2)
- 10 Chatter (3-2)
- 11 Block house? (5)
- 12 Quiet (7)
- 13 Control rooms up high (6,5)
- 18 Finish, of a sort (7)
- 20 Orthopteron insect (5)
- 22 Run off to the chapel (5)
- 23 Fish with deep tones? (3,4)
- 24 Burrowing (6)
- 25 As arms can be (6)

**Down**

- 1 Showy bloom (6)
- 2 De-stress (5)
- 3 Chinese game (7)
- 5 Coagulate (5)
- 6 Tree product used for hides (7)
- 7 Tree seed, used in games (6)
- 8 Mode of secluded manner of living (11)
- 14 Rest (3,4)
- 15 Designate (7)
- 16 Favour (6)
- 17 Exercise treatment (6)
- 19 Sleep late (3-2)
- 21 Raised for help (5)

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**

S	C	R	P	D	E
A	C	R	U	E	H
U	O	S	A	A	U
O	D	S	T	N	S
S	D	E	M	T	
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V	E	L	A	R	M
O	R	D	I	N	A
I	N	R	J	T	U
F	A	S	C	E	N
Y	D	Y	G	E	A

## ISLAY letter

### The dancing years

OVER three decades have passed since the late Danny Campbell, a Bowmore businessman, was instrumental in setting up the Islay branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

He was also the moving force behind the establishment of the island's annual country dancing weekend and the latest of these takes place in Bowmore village hall on Friday and Saturday, May 1 and 2.

The public are invited to attend the opening ceilidh tomorrow evening (Friday) and enjoy input from local entertainers and a varied programme of country dancing.

Dance music will be provided by the Ian Muir Sound and Ian and his merry band will also be on duty at the Saturday morning classes directed by tutor Anne Robertson. He will also be in full swing for the Saturday night jig for the dedicated terpsichoreans.

This is the island branch's 33rd annual get together and it will attract local eager hoofers as well as those from much further afield.

### Church changes

THE REV Valerie Watson, minister of the linked charges of Kilmenny, Kilchoman and Portnahaven parishes, has been appointed as interim moderator for the also linked and currently vacant charges of Kilarrow, Kildalton and Oa and Jura.

These moderator duties were previously carried out by the Rev Thomas Bryson of Tarbert Loch Fyne and Kilberry and who is to begin a new ministry at St Ninian's Church in Nairn at the end of May.

The new interim moderator has been a minister on the island since August 2013 and is well known to local congregations.

The three parishes in her moderator's remit have been without a minister for close on two years following the departure of the Rev Dr Rob Barlow to Auchterarder Parish Church.

The previous interim moderator was held in high regard on both islands and the linked congregations wish him and his wife Jean every blessing in their new ministry.

### Jazz tour opening

THE SCOTTISH National Jazz Orchestra, led by saxophonist and founder member Tommy Smith, will open its 20th anniversary tour with the new song suite 'Alba', featuring the songs of Scotland, at Port Ellen's Ramsay Hall on June 10.

The orchestra will be joined by the celebrated vocalist Eddi Reader and the suite will incorporate popular airs and ballads which will include Scots and Gaelic favourites as well as a selection of Burns songs which are high in the guest vocalist's repertoire.

The jazz genre has a large following on the island and the orchestra leader is a firm favourite and regular performer at the local jazz festival.



LEGEND: Carragh Bhan, the standing stone supposedly marking the burial site of Godred Crovan

### Godred Crovan

TRADITION tells us that the Ilich had a particular affinity with the Norse warrior and Manx and Isles king Godred Crovan, who founded a dynasty that held power for close on two centuries.

Legend suggests that such was this affinity and their regard that the Ilich sent for Godred when their island was at the mercy of a dragon which was causing much devastation and suffering when hunger drove it from its lair at Imir a' Chonairt, close to Ballygrant.

Godred responded speedily to the islanders' call for help and he ingeniously destroyed the offending saurus. Other islands have been known to claim this story as their own but the Ilich are adamant that they have the greater claim.

Godred Crovan died on Islay in 1095 and a standing stone, known as An Carragh Bhan and situated close to Kintra in the Oa district, allegedly marks his burial place.

The Norse king's galley was also the subject of one of the most popular songs composed by local bard Duncan Johnston under the title 'Birlinn Ghoraidh Chrobhain'.

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JX. Telephone 01496 810658.

# Staff dive in with fundraising tile sale appeal

STAFF at a swimming pool on Islay are selling off its tiles individually to raise £17,000 to keep it open.

The grout, expansion joints and areas of tiling have deteriorated to such an extent at the pool at the Mactaggart leisure centre in Bowmore, that a complete draining of the pool is now required and a specialist mainland contractor commissioned to undertake the upgrade works.

The pool is a registered charity, run by the social enterprise company Islay and Jura Community Enterprises, and had the work priced by a contractor at £17,000.

A campaign was launched earlier this month to raise the necessary capital funds, with proposals being submitted to Sport Scotland, EB Score environment as well as a range of private trusts and foundations along with private donors.

However, staff are focusing on asking the community



CASH DRIVE: Gary Scott, head of fundraising for Islay and Jura community enterprises, at Mactaggart leisure centre pool on Islay

for help too, selling the tiles off to raise funds, although it is more of a sponsorship as the tiles will not be physically removed.

Centre manager, Gary Scott, said: 'We calculated how many tiles there were and how much we needed to raise, and worked out that the 11,500 tiles, at a price of £1.50 each, would be enough to raise the funds.'

'The drive is going really well. As well as the £500 raised from local public donations, a funding body, which I can't name at the moment, has bought 6,666 tiles, raising £10,000.'

'The money needs to be raised by December, when it will be drained and the work carried out. It's the first time in 24 years this has been done so it is long needed.'

Anyone who wishes to buy tiles can make cheques payable to 'Islay and Jura Community Enterprises Limited' and post them to: MLC, School Street, Bowmore, Isle of Islay PA43 7JS.

# Quick thinking saves commando collection

## FIREFIGHTERS' SWIFT EFFORTS ENSURE MEMORABILIA IS UNDAMAGED IN HOTEL FIRE

EMMA CRICHTON  
erichton@obantimes.co.uk

A COLLECTION of commando memorabilia was saved from damage after a fire at a Lochaber hotel.

The blaze started in the restaurant of the Spean Bridge hotel last Tuesday and caused fire and smoke damage to the roof and several bedrooms.

But the hotel manager praised the quick work of firefighters who saved items from the second world war which are still on display in the hotel bar from when soldiers used the nearby Achnacarry castle as a training site.

Two fire engines from Fort William attended the scene, followed by a pump from Fort

Augustus and another appliance from Kinlochleven.

The aerial rescue platform from Perth also attended and the blaze was brought under control by 10.30pm.

Investigations into the cause of the fire are unknown, although it is understood work was being

carried out on the roof at the time. A fire spokesman said: 'There do not appear to be any suspicious circumstances.'

Beth Sessions, manager of Spean Bridge hotel, said: 'Thankfully the commando bar is totally unaffected by fire and smoke and I'd like to thank

Scottish fire and rescue service for the way it quickly dealt with this fire, which will allow us to continue to do business.'

'We are so pleased none of the commando memorabilia has been affected in any way as a result of the fire.'

Pat McElhinney, Lochaber group manager for Scottish fire and rescue, added: 'I would like to praise the crews for their quick actions which prevented the fire from spreading to the area of the bar where much of the establishment's treasured commando memorabilia was located. Firefighters applied water very quickly and their hard work has saved a vital community function area as well as a key business in the local area.'

## Back fighting cylinder blaze

LESS than 24 hours after tackling the hotel blaze, Lochaber firefighters were called back to Spean Bridge when a large shed containing gas cylinders caught fire.

Two appliances from Fort William, one from Fort Augustus and a water carrier from Inverness attended the incident at Gairloch holiday park on Wednesday afternoon.

Crews fought the blaze from a distance and managed to cool the acetylene cylinders to a safe condition but the shed was destroyed as a result of the fire.

## Bug hit hospital re-opens in part

A HIGHLAND hospital has partially re-opened to visitors, following a complete closure last week.

Members of the public were asked to stay away from Raigmore in Inverness on Friday, following an outbreak of norovirus, but some wards re-opened on Tuesday.

When the *Oban Times* went to press, four wards (7C, 5C, 3A and 2C) remained closed due to the sickness and diarrhoea bug and visitors were asked not to go to these areas unless by prior arrangement.

Doctor Adam Brown, NHS Highland consultant microbiologist, said: 'I would like to thank everyone for their co-operation and understanding over the past few days when we restricted all visiting. This was to try to reduce any more norovirus coming into the hospital. While I am pleased we have been able to re-open to visiting we know norovirus is still rife in the community so visitors are limited to two per patient and if you, or anyone you live with, has had diarrhoea and vomiting you should refrain from coming into the hospital until you are clear for 48 hours.'

All clinic and outpatient appointments are running as normal.



HITTING THE HIGH NOTES: Lochaber community wind band members pose for a photo before their performance at Lochaber rotary club's spring concert

# Concert hits the right notes

FORT William was filled with music at the weekend when performers gathered for Lochaber Rotary club's annual spring concert.

Held in the Ben Nevis hotel on Friday night, Lochaber community wind band kicked off the event with both classical and modern music.

The band was joined by several guest musicians, travelling from as far afield as Norway and a travelling tuba player took a break from his cycle

from Land's End to John O'Groats to play a quick tune.

The Great Glen swing band led the second half of the evening, accompanied by Geoff Wright and local trio the Red Hot Toddlies, before a 'Rotary Come Dancing' competition, featuring Lomond Waltz, Quickstep and Square Tango. Lochaber dancers Norma and David Garrington achieved an impressive score of nine out of 10.

# Lifeboat crew rescue injured woman

THE VOLUNTEER lifeboat crew from Kyle of Lochalsh was called out to assist an injured woman stranded on a remote beach on Friday night.

The casualty, described as 'middle aged', fell and broke her leg at Coral beach in Plockton and due to the remote location it was decided that a lifeboat was the only way to rescue her.

Volunteers of Kyle of Lochalsh Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) launched the Spirit of Fred lifeboat shortly after 10pm and were on the scene 15 minutes later, where they were met by paramedics, police officers and a coastguard team.



SWIFT: Kyle lifeboat crew

The crew placed the woman in a stretcher and took her to Kyle pontoons, where they were met by an awaiting ambulance. A crew member said: 'The beach where the woman was

located was remote and she was in a lot of pain, however, all of the emergency services worked together to get her onto the lifeboat as quickly and safely as possible.'

## Earthquake appeal donations sought

AN APPEAL to support those suffering the impact of the Nepalese earthquake has been issued by the convener of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles council).

At least 3,600 people are known to have died and more than 6,500 people have been injured since the 7.8 magnitude 'quake struck on Saturday.

Convener Norman MacDonald said: 'Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those suffering the effects of the earthquake in Nepal.'

'The scale of this disaster is extensive and the response should be on a similar scale.'

'These people need our help.'

'The people of the Western Isles have already shown themselves to be generous with local businesses, schools, voluntary organisations and individuals making considerable efforts of assistance.'

'I commend those efforts and would urge people throughout the islands to lend further support by donating whatever they can afford.'

Donations to the Nepal earthquake appeal can be made via [www.redcross.org.uk/nepal-earthquake](http://www.redcross.org.uk/nepal-earthquake).

## Full steam ahead as canal re-opens

THE CALEDONIAN canal was due to re-open to all sea-to-sea traffic today (Thursday).

It had been closed at Culloch Weir, near Fort Augustus, since March 10 following a breach of the embankment, caused by heavy rain and snow melt.

Restricted passage for small vessels has been available since Saturday.

A spokesman for Scottish canals said: 'Following the recent breach at Culloch Weir, we are happy to confirm that the Caledonian Canal will be fully open to all sea-to-sea-traffic from 8.30am on Thursday April 30.'

## Model show in aid of mountain team

A MODEL show is to be held in Fort William this weekend to raise money for Lochaber mountain rescue team.

Focusing on transport, hundreds of replica lorries, boats, trains, planes and helicopters will be on display in Duncansburgh Macintosh church hall on Saturday.

The event will run from 10am until 4.30pm and all profits will be donated to the mountain rescue team.

## Police probe theft of copper cable

POLICE in Kyle of Lochalsh are investigating the theft of copper from a work site.

A 'substantial quantity' of cable, valued between £800 and £1,000 was stolen from Nostie power station between Friday April 24 and Monday April 27.

Anyone with information about this is asked to contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800555111.



# Clean-up volunteers brave wind and rain

ON A MISSION: hardy volunteers braved wind and rain on Sunday to clean up Glen Nevis. Some of the Friends of Nevis team collected litter from the glen ahead of the busy tourism season

LOCAL TOURIST MAPS

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# Thinking constructively about the future



Bunkhouse, Isle of Coll



Site preparation at Dunbeg (Phase 2)



The considerable progress we have made over the past 3 decades has only been made possible by the outstanding contribution from our employees; we will only ever be as good as our workforce.

**Andy Knight**  
Managing Director



Timber loading at Mull commercial marine facility

When Neil MacKinnon first went to work with Andy Knight at Torosay Sandpit Limited in 1984, when the company was just 5 years old, it is doubtful either of them would ever have envisaged where the company would be 36 years on.

Rising from humble roots as a quarrying company supplying processed aggregates in a small community on the Isle of Mull, TSL Contractors Ltd is now a multi-disciplined company offering an exceptional range of integrated services to the local area and throughout the UK.

Estimated to turn over around £15m in the next financial year, TSL has organically expanded by continuously diversifying its activities and increasing its area of operation and with a strong workforce behind them, Andy and Neil have driven the company through a series of natural progressions to where it is today.

**TRANSPORT**

Neil spearheads the haulage operation and has succeeded in developing it substantially, gearing it mainly towards timber transportation but also offering transport and delivery in the construction and agricultural sectors. TSL exports around 75,000 tonnes of timber each year with a large proportion of that passing through Mull Commercial Marine Facility on the Isle of Mull, constructed and operated by TSL. Aimed to take the pressure off the island's rural roads, the Commercial Marine Facility

was built to accommodate bulk cargos, mainly the export of timber. The pier is subject to continued development and has opportunity for future expansion. Neil also manages the logistics and maintenance of all plant and fleet vehicles within the company, as well as the aggregate and ready mix concrete supply. This side of the business plays an integral part in supporting all aspects of the company.

**CONSTRUCTION**

Andy will openly admit that Civil Engineering is his passion, establishing this in 1990 before branching into the building sector in 2001, he heads up the construction side of the business alongside a strong and valued construction team. The company has a diverse amount of projects in its building portfolio from larger commercial and community projects and residential developments down to bespoke homes and off plan plots.

Alongside Civil Engineering activities, the delivery of affordable social housing projects makes up the core business, with construction of affordable housing being essential in the company's expansion - the company is currently on site with three of these projects.

Civil engineering has been continuously serving the public sector by delivering utilities and infrastructure projects, but the last few years have seen Hydro Schemes become a principal activity,

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Wishing Andy and his team all the very best for the future

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Val-U-Therm



Ben More hydro scheme, Isle of Mull

with the company having successfully completed six schemes, both privately and community funded – with another six currently under construction.

Robert Forbes has been with the company since 1990 and manages all concrete batching operations including Mobile Concrete Solutions, a 50/50 joint venture between TSL and Breedon Aggregates. Established with the renewable energy market in mind MCS provides on demand concrete in remote and isolated areas across the UK and has successfully completed several projects, from wind farms to coastal projects and rail routes.

**FOCUS**

2014 was an exciting year for the company, with an increasing number of contract enquiries TSL was perfectly poised to establish two new construction offices in Lochaber and Arrochar at the same time as founding the latest division of TSL, Skyhook Helicopters. Skyhook was set up to help businesses carry external loads to the remotest and inhospitable locations where road transport is impractical or even impossible.

With this significant expansion underway and recognising the importance of conveying a professional image the company also took the decision to change their logo and website, introducing the strap line of 'constructive thinking' – fitting for a company that prides itself in being

innovative, considerate and forward thinking. An example of this is that 10 per cent of profits are distributed amongst all employees by way of an annual bonus.

The company is committed to the communities in which it operates by offering employment opportunities as well as apprenticeships to young locals wishing to obtain careers in their local area. It also sponsors local clubs, initiatives and events including sponsoring local drivers in the world famous Tour of Mull Rally.

**FUTURE**

Environment and sustainability are at the forefront of TSL's focus, with newly-obtained ISO140001 certification in Environmental Management Standards from BSI which, combined with their existing ISO 9001 certification, means the company now operate a fully comprehensive Integrated Management System. TSL aim to obtain ISO18001 later this year showing their commitment to external certification.

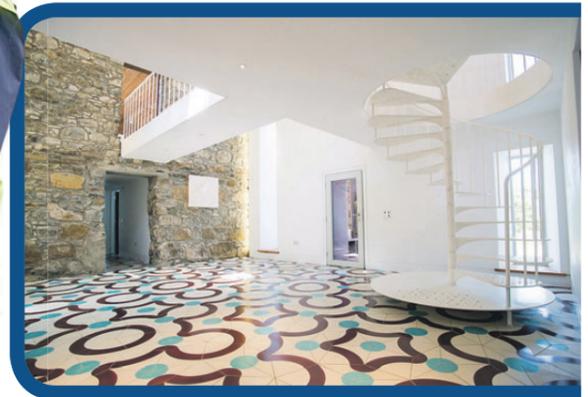
All of TSL's services are integrated, and combined with experience and knowledge of the local area, it means they can provide a truly unique service to individuals, businesses and organisations. So with a keen eye on the future, TSL remains strong in times when the construction industry plays a key part in contributing to a healthy economy, and intends to continue being instrumental in building a better future.



Managing director Andy Knight (right) receiving ISO 14001 from BSI



Head office, Isle of Mull



Gorsten Farmhouse rebuild, Isle of Mull



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PMG WOULD LIKE TO WISH TSL ALL THE VERY BEST FOR THE FUTURE

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

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

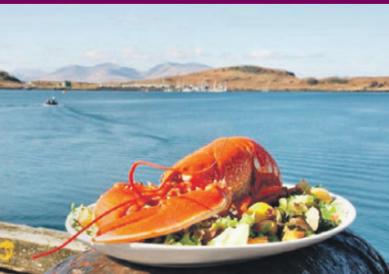


### This week...

Who is it?  
**Ee-usk**

What do they do?  
**Serve incredibly fresh, local fish and shellfish in a relaxed atmosphere**

Where can I find them?  
**In a modern, stylish restaurant located on the water's edge in the heart of Oban Bay at the North Pier.**



Eeusk's waterfront location gives uninterrupted views to Kerrera, Lismore, and the mountains of Mull and Morven beyond. Caledonian MacBrayne ferries and fishing boats ply the bay amongst the yachts and dinghies. There is always something to watch.

Wildlife is abundant in Oban Bay, customers in Eeusk have seen otters, dolphins and seals from their tables. Wild duck, swans, guillemots, cormorants, terns and turnstones are all visitors to the North Pier.

The Macleod family, with over 25 years' experience in the seafood industry, have built Eeusk into a restaurant of world renown. Their shellfish is 100 per cent locally caught. Lobsters and crabs from the rocky coast of Luing. Langoustine, mussels, and oysters from the cold clear water of Loch Linnhe and the scallops are mostly from the Isle of Mull. All of the shellfish comes live to Eeusk and is prepared and cooked on the premises.

A huge selection of wet fish is locally caught and served in Eeusk. In the last year Halibut, Turbot, Brill, Megrin Lemon and Dover Sole, Ling, Lythe, Hake, Cod, Haddock, Plaice, Monkfish, Gurnard, John Dory, Squid and Octopus have all featured on the menu.

To make a reservation, email [info@eeusk.com](mailto:info@eeusk.com) or call 01631 565666

### Eeusk recipe

#### Sheila's Scallop Chowder



#### Ingredients

- 100 grams butter
- 2 cloves garlic (finely chopped)
- 4 shallots (finely chopped)
- 250 grams scallops (quartered)
- 1 litre fish stock
- 1 tablespoon plain flour
- Pinch of cayenne pepper
- Half cup of fresh cream
- Fresh parsley to garnish

#### Method

In a heavy bottomed pan, melt butter and fry shallots. Add garlic and half of the scallops, when shallots have softened. Add flour to thicken, then add fish stock and pinch of cayenne.

Bring to the boil and simmer for a few minutes.

Add the remaining scallops and take off heat. Add the cream, stir and season to taste adding the parsley garnish.

For an extra flavour add some mussel bree if available.

Sheila Macleod

Our food and drink column will appear weekly in the coming months

If you would like your business to feature here please call us on

01631 568000

# Fiddlers' rally a huge success



FULL HOUSE: The Corran Halls was alive with the sound of music at the Fiddlers' Rally on Saturday 16. 118fiddlers



PUPILS: Children from Dunbeg primary school performed dances on the night accompanied by the musicians 16. 118fiddler1



The performers also enjoyed the evening, including veteran player Donald Harrison 16. 118fiddler3

A FABULOUS Oban and Lorne Strathspey and Reel Society - Fiddler's Rally - played to a packed house on Saturday evening in the town's Corran Halls.

With marches, reels and jigs to make the feet tap - and plenty of youngsters taking part, it was an event not to be missed.

Surprise guests for the evening were pupils from Dunbeg primary, who entertained with dances accompanied by the musicians.

Helen Jordan is said to have revitalised the show since she has brought more and more children into performing at the event.

## Concert marks 40th anniversary of Oban Bach Choir and Orchestra

A CONCERT by Oban Bach Choir and Orchestra will mark the 40th anniversary of the society.

The programme will include many favourite pieces performed by the group.

The two main works will be by Haydn: Symphony no. 104 and the choral work Heiligmesse. The remaining short pieces are two chorales by Bach - 'Jesu, joy of man's desiring,' and a work that the society performed at its very first concert Bach's Christmas Oratorio.

The evening promises to be full of attractive and fairly well-known music, conducted by Norman Nicholson, who founded the society, and takes place in St John's cathedral in Oban on May 9 at 7.30pm.

## Play in a Day Gaelic drama workshop

DUNOON grammar school Gaelic pupils have the opportunity to take part in a 'Play in a Day' drama workshop with Arthur Donald, the Artist in Residence at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in Skye, on Tuesday, May 5.

This workshop, conducted through the medium of Gaelic, will give pupils the opportunity to combine their Gaelic and drama skills, working together on a series of drama games and exercises before creating their own mini-play.

Anyone wishing to go to the school to watch the afternoon performances should contact Miss Howitt at Dunoon Grammar School for more information.

This workshop has been funded by Urras Brosnachaidh na Gàidhlig, the Gaelic language promotion trust.

## Calls for BBC Alba to embrace media changes

ADDRESSING the Celtic Media Festival in Inverness on Thursday Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell called for BBC Alba to embrace changes in the media landscape.

Highlighting the resurgence of community activism and grassroots campaigns, combined with increasingly sophisticated digital technologies, Mr Russell argued that widening the existing remit of BBC Alba, to include community-produced content and information programming, could revolutionise Gaelic broadcasting and nurture creative talent in Scotland.

Mr Russell said: 'Scotland's renewed democracy, and the thirst for information and radical perspectives, creates a good chance of an even more successful repositioning for BBC Alba, if it chose to take it.'

'It would create a new platform for those who may never be mainstream broadcasters but who are experimenting in the visual media. I am sure all of those who spent hours in dark, analogue edit suites in the '80s are astonished, but excited in equal measure, by the ease by which broadcast quality video can be put together today on a laptop, with the aid of a mobile phone camera.'

'It is a channel not only of language, but fully engaged with community and country.'



BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT: The Absurdist pipe band probably thought they had received four kisses from the judging panel.

In actual fact it was four rejections and the zaniest troop in the world were given the big hee-ho from the popular ITV entertainment show.

But presenters Ant and Dec said they 'loved' the group. Lead piper Steven MacAnally, from Taynuilt, said he was not deterred by the rejection and said that he would happily go back to his day job, which is with BT Openreach.

## New artist in residence at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

A RESIDENCY at Skye's Gaelic college, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, has been awarded to a Scottish-based artist for the first time.

Oliver Mezger, a filmmaker and performance artist, was awarded the John Schueler scholarship out of 406 applicants from all over the world.

Mr Mezger has staged several exhibitions and screenings since he graduated from Glasgow school of art with a masters in fine art in 2006.

He said: 'I'm delighted to be given this opportunity. It'll be great to spend time considering the roots of Scottish Gaelic poetry and piping with the students and researchers of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.'

'In trying to make a contemporary interpretation of pibroch or Ceòl Mòr, all the questions that I will bring to Sleat, as a filmmaker and performance artist, relate to how I might encapsulate, visually, the closeness but difference we feel in our digital age towards these older forms of expression.'

Mr Mezger follows in the footsteps of Japanese-based Takeshi Shikama who was awarded the first John Schueler residency in 2013 and German sound-artist Helmut Lenke who took the helm last year.

Kath MacLeod, arts development officer at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, said: 'The residency continues to grow in reputation and appeal to artists who recognise the draw of the Gàidhealtachd in a contemporary global context, and the unique opportunity to interact with the community, language, landscape and culture as well as the outstanding facilities offered to artists here at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.'

## Ballet West students prepare for final show

AUDIENCES in Oban will be able to catch a glimpse of the dance stars of the future as Taynuilt-based Ballet West puts on its degree show at the Corran Halls.

The HND and BA (Hons) students will be dancing alongside senior principals and siblings Sara-Maria and Jonathan Barton.

A highlight of the programme on May 22-23 will be Concerto, a work especially created for Ballet West's students by the company's choreographer and artistic adviser Daniel Job, from Belgium.

Sara-Maria Barton and Martin Fenton will be performing a piece created for them by Jordi Guitart.

Martin Fenton is head of contemporary dance at Ballet West and most famous for his appearances in the TV series Pineapple Dance Studios and in the title role in The Snowman

in London's West End.

The showcase is the culmination of the year's work for both the HND and degree students, and is the final assessment for the degree students before graduation and moving on to the professional stage.

Ballet West's principal Gillian Barton said: 'This is a wonderful opportunity for audiences in Oban to see our very talented young performers as they are about to move on to the professional stage.'

'For the students, Ballet West's showcases provide invaluable experience of live performance in a theatre setting.'

'It is particularly exciting this year to have a work specially choreographed by Daniel Job.'

The show will also be performed for the first time in Stirling at the MacRobert arts centre on May 29.



SHOW: Students Owen Morris and Helen Foskett will perform at the Corran Halls Photos by Ryan Davies

# Social scene

## Mull Music Festival, Tobermory



**TOB HOT:** Scott Thompson, Coll MacDonald and Rowan Leslie of The Raggaels during a lively performance in the Tobermory Hotel



**HO-RO:** Young band Ho-Ro entertained at various venues over the weekend

# Another great year at Mull music festival

GREAT fun on the island of Mull saw music aficionados dance three days away on the island to some of the top folk and festival bands on the circuit. Venues in Tobermory included MacGochans, the Mishnish hotel, The Western Isles hotel, the Park Lodge, MacDonald Arms and Tobermory Hotel and the festival proved to be a hit with locals and tourists alike. The annual event, which is free, boasts 'no tickets needed just turn up and join in the party'. It attracted people from all over the nation, including a hen and stag party from Glasgow. Moira McNulty, the bride-to-be, said: 'We loved it so much we took a guitarist back on the ferry with us and we've booked him to come and play at our wedding.'



**SHENANIGANS:** Only those who attended this year's festival will know if the name of this band sums up the weekend



**MUSICIANS:** The audience and the performers enjoyed the festival



**ALL SMILES:** Carolyn Buchanan, Laura Campbell, Sheila Nicoll and Lindsay Dingwall had a great weekend



**CROWDS:** People packed in to MacGochans each night to enjoy great music and soak up the party atmosphere



**HAVE MERCY, MULL:** The music was not confined to Tobermory with band Have Mercy Las Vegas playing a few tunes on the ferry too

# Entertainment Guide

## Cinema

Oban Phoenix Cinema  
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Tel: 01631 562905 www.obanphoenix.com

01 MAY 2015 - 07 MAY 2015

<b>AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON (12A)</b>	
Fri: 20:25	Sat: 21:20
Sun: 20:50	Mon, Thu: 14:30, 20:50
Tue: 17:30	Wed: 14:30, 20:50
<b>AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON 3D (12A)</b>	
Fri: 17:15	Wed: 17:40
Sat: 18:15	Sun: 14:15
Mon: 17:30	Thu: 17:40
<b>BIKES VS CARS</b>	
Sun: 17:30	
<b>CINDERELLA (U)</b>	
Fri: 14:17	Sat: 13:32
Sun: 11:45, 16:10	
<b>FROZEN SING ALONG (PG)</b>	
Sat: 09:00 Kids Club every Saturday morning - £4	
<b>GOOD THINGS AWAIT</b>	
Thu: 17:30	
<b>HOME (U)</b>	
Fri: 12:30	Sat: 11:45, 16:10
Sun: 14:05	
<b>THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE: SPONGE OUT OF WATER (U)</b>	
Fri: 15:00	Sat: 11:30, 16:00
<b>THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE: SPONGE OUT OF WATER 3D (U)</b>	
Fri: 12:45	Sat: 13:45
Sun: 12:00	
<b>WOMAN IN GOLD (12A)</b>	
Fri: 16:23, 18:45, 21:10	Sat: 18:10, 20:30
Sun: 18:30, 20:55	Mon: 15:30, 17:40, 19:50
Tue: 14:40, 15:10, 17:05, 19:30, 20:30	Wed: 14:40, 17:05, 19:30
Thu: 14:40, 17:05, 19:30	

## FILM SYNOPSIS

**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.

**BIKES VS CARS. 120MINS**  
Bikes vs. Cars represents a global crisis that we all deep down know we need to talk about: climate, earth's resources, cities where the entire surface is consumed by the car. In the film we meet activists and thinkers who are fighting for better cities.

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

**FROZEN: SING-A-LONG 108MINS**  
Fearless optimist Anna teams up with Kristoff in an epic journey, encountering Everest-like conditions, and a hilarious snowman named Olaf in a race to find Anna's sister Elsa, whose icy powers have trapped the kingdom in eternal winter.

**GOOD THINGS AWAIT 100MINS**  
Follow the story of the most idealistic farmers in Denmark as authorities and bureaucracy threaten to close down the farm. Their struggle to ensure that they are not the last to do agriculture the way they do, but some of the first. Danish, English subs.

**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.

**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.

**WOMAN IN GOLD**  
Helen Mirren stars in the compelling true life tale of Maria Altmann, a Holocaust survivor who, in the 1980s, went to the law courts to reclaim five paintings by the artist Gustav Klimt, which, after being stolen by the Nazis, ended up in the possession of the Austrian government. An all star cast, including Ryan Reynolds, Katie Holmes, Charles Dance, Daniel Brühl, Max Irons and Jonathan Pryce, help bring this little known true story to life in director Simon Curtis' captivating drama about an ordinary person who takes on an entire government in order to take back what is rightfully hers.

## Radio

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Tune in to 103.3 or listen live at www.obanfm.com  
For requests, competitions or questions please email: studio@obanfm.org.uk or call us on 01631 570057

## THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

**Argyll Animal Aid at Pets At Home**  
10.30am - 4pm  
Saturday 2nd May  
Home Baking  
Bottle Stall  
Books etc  
Please support us

**Oban U3A**  
Tuesday 5 May 2015 at 10.30am  
Main Hall, Glencruitten Church Centre, Oban  
A warm welcome to members new and old for our monthly coffee and chat meeting  
Please note the change of venue for the May meeting

**CONCERT**  
marking the 40th anniversary of the society  
Saturday May 9th at 7.30pm  
St. John's Cathedral, Oban  
**OBAN BACH CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA**  
Haydn: Heiligmesse  
Haydn: Symphony no. 104 in D  
and short pieces by Bach, Handel, Pachelbel and Sibelius  
SEAT WITH PROGRAMME (obtainable at the door) £8.00, Concessions £6.50

**H.I.M.D.F.**  
Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd May  
Music and dance competitions  
**FESTIVAL FLING FAMILY DANCE**  
on Saturday 8.30pm in The Argyllshire Gathering Halls  
Fringe events with live music in and around Oban  
Visit our trailer in Queen's Park Place - for programme; tickets; live music and further info

**H.I.M.D.F. ACCORDION & FIDDLE MASTERS**  
Friday 1st May at 7pm in St John's Cathedral  
Come and listen to some of Scotland's best young Accordion & Fiddle players  
Following the competition and presentation of trophies the musicians will Stramash!  
Tickets at the door £6 or £5 conc.

**FORT WILLIAM ACCORDION & FIDDLE CLUB**  
**Musical Evening**  
on Tuesday 5th May @ 8pm  
Local Artists Night  
Railway Club Inverlochry  
All Welcome  
Admission £4.00  
Tea & Raffle Extra  
In the event of a last minute cancellation by any guest artist the committee will find an alternative artist

**The Reykjavik Wind Quintet**  
play Mozart, Rossini and more  
Friday 8th May 7.30pm  
Craignish Village Hall, Ardforn  
Tickets £9, £6 conc., £20 family (2 adults + 2 children)  
01852 500746  
cvh.artsevents@gmail.com  
www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/164333

**Saturday 9th May**  
Easdale Island Community Hall  
tickets & info: www.easdaleislandhall.org

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For further information on any of our services, or to arrange a no obligation chat contact either of our two specialists Barry Law or Andrew Cowling.

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## FOR SALE

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### FOR SALE - ON BEHALF OF ARGYLL & BUTE COUNCIL

**Former Salen Resource Centre, Ardmor Road, Salen, Isle Of Mull, PA72 6JE**

ASKING PRICE £150,000 CLOSING DATE FOR OFFERS, 12 NOON MONDAY 18TH MAY 2015

Attractive 2 storey stone and slate former school building in the village of Salen. Potential for conversion to dwelling houses, offices, community centre, guest house, bunk house or restaurant. GFA about 3,583 ft<sup>2</sup>. Site about 0.52 acres.

**The Former Dunaros Care Home & Hospital, Salen, Isle Of Mull, PA72 6JF**

ASKING PRICE £100,000

A substantial property on the edge of Salen. GFA about 6,700 ft<sup>2</sup>. Potential for conversion to a number of dwellings, offices, community centre, guest house, bunk house or restaurant. Or Potential Residential Development Site about 1.01 acres.

**Former Slaughterhouse, Erray Road Depot, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, PA75 6PF**

ASKING PRICE £35,000 CLOSING DATE FOR OFFERS, 12 NOON MONDAY 18TH MAY 2015

An interesting possible residential development site with existing storage building of about 800 FT<sup>2</sup>; extensive parking area on a site extending to about 0.31 acres.

**Former Salen Roads Depot, Ardmor Road, Aros, Salen, Isle Of Mull, PA72 6JB**

ASKING PRICE £20,000 CLOSING DATE FOR OFFERS, 12 NOON MONDAY 18TH MAY 2015

An interesting residential development opportunity with existing storage building of about 2,275 FT<sup>2</sup> on a site of about 0.15 acres. Useful site for contractors to store plant & equipment.

**Potential Residential Development Site, Fountainhead, Buessan, Isle Of Mull, PA67 6DP**

ASKING PRICE £20,000

Extending to about 0.13 acres with superb views over Buessan and Loch Scridain.

All enquiries to:  
**BALLANTYNES** 28 York Place Perth PH2 8EH Tel: 01738 441825 Email: perth@ballantynes.uk.com

30 Stafford Street, Edinburgh, EH3 7BD 0131 459 2222 28 York Place Perth PH2 8EH 01738 441 825

## Politicians must recognise central role of housing in society says Chartered Institute of Housing Scotland chairman



POLITICIANS must recognise the central role housing plays in society, according to Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) Scotland board chairman Keith Anderson. Speaking at CIH Scotland's annual conference and exhibition at the SECC in Glasgow, Mr Anderson challenged politicians, housing professionals and the business community to work more closely together to create a housing system that works for everyone.

He said: 'Having worked in housing for more than 35 years, I am more determined than ever to see that everyone in Scotland lives in a good quality, secure home, which meets their needs and that they can afford. It is a simple ambition, but still we are some considerable way from achieving it. Our population is increasing and the number of households is expected to increase by 330,000 over the next 25 years.'

More than 29,000 households in Scotland were classed as homeless last year, and when you add the stark reality of around 180,000 households currently on council and housing association waiting lists, it is clear we have a housing crisis on our hands.

He added: 'Housing is central to delivering a stronger society and a stronger economy. You cannot have a fair and just society without everyone being properly housed and supported. Politicians, the business community, and civic Scotland all need to get this. Some of them do, but not all by any means. This is our challenge - getting everyone to accept that it is not in our collective long term interest for anyone to experience poor, insecure or unaffordable housing conditions.'

'There is an important opportunity here for us all to work more collaboratively in future, focusing on the things that really will make a positive change. While the scale and complexity of the housing challenge is great we must keep our eye on the prize - that everyone in Scotland lives in a good quality, secure home, which meets their needs and that they can afford.'

## TO LET

**TO LET**  
Stornacroibh Farm, Isle of Lismore

Spacious, 2 bedroom farmhouse with beautiful views over the Firth of Lorn. Approximately 105 acres (42ha) of grazing land with a number of useful outbuildings and a functional farm. Double glazing. Oil central heating. Ideal Starter Farm with significant scope. EPC Rating: F33  
Landlord Registration: 43444/130/25060  
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Hi, my name is Nicola MacPhail and I run West Property. You might have seen our purple "W" boards around Argyll.



I set up West Property four years ago. We started off offering lettings and property management services, but now we have a successful estate agency too. We have clients from all over the world who trust us to look after and sell their homes across Argyll, Lochaber and the islands.

## Further assistance for first-time buyers through the introduction of Help-to-Buy ISAs

A major announcement in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's final Budget before the General Election outlined new Help-to-Buy ISAs, which are aimed at giving first-time buyers a helping hand getting onto the property ladder. Despite the introduction of Help-to-Buy mortgages, many first time buyers still struggle to save the deposit which they need.

Due to launch in Autumn 2015, the Help-to-Buy ISA will be available through banks and building societies. The main benefit will be a bonus representing 25% of the amount saved, so for the maximum monthly saving of £200, the government will contribute £50, with a maximum government contribution of £3,000 on £12,000 of savings. The bonus will be calculated and paid when first-time buyers complete the purchase of their first home. Outwith London, buyers will be able to put these savings towards purchasing a home worth up to £250,000. Accounts are limited to one per person rather than one per home, so those buying together can both open an ISA and both receive a bonus.

During the last 18 months first-time buyers have steadily returned to the market, but saving the deposit required to secure a mortgage remains a significant obstacle. The struggle to save has been exacerbated by a combination of the increased cost of living and low returns on savings since the onset of the financial crisis.

Additionally, demand for housing continues to increase; with life-expectancy rising and the average household size falling, demand for housing is rising quicker than the rate at which new homes are being built. The result - increasing house prices. It is hoped that this incentive will assist many people onto that tricky first rung of the housing ladder; but the issue of the supply of new affordable housing remains.

### Thinking of buying your first home this year?

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01631 569 466

## FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE

Plots 1-3 Craobh Haven Marina, Nr Oban, Argyll

### PLOTS FOR SALE

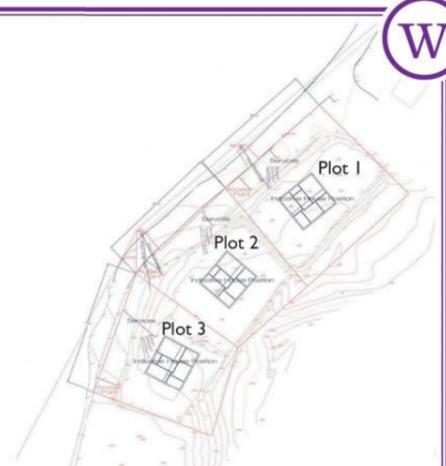
- Features:**
- 3 Plots ranging from 0.19 - 0.23 Acres with stunning sea views
  - Fully serviced and ready for development
  - Planning permission in principle
  - Within walking distance of Craobh Haven Marina

**The Plots:**  
The plots range from 0.19 - 0.23 Acres and have been excavated and levelled in preparation for development. Connections for water, sewerage, power and BT are available close by. Each of the plots have outline planning permission for a single dwelling details can be accessed via the Argyll & Bute planning website (Ref No:12/02819/PPP).

- Plot 1 - 0.23 Acres - £95,000
- Plot 2 - 0.19 Acres - £93,000
- Plot 3 - 0.19 Acres - £90,000

These sites offer potential purchasers a tranquil setting with excellent views. Yacht and boat enthusiasts can enjoy exploring the beautiful West Coast whilst making use of the excellent facilities in one of the best marinas in Scotland. Houses built on these sites would make an excellent permanent residence, second home or holiday home investment.

**Overview:**  
All 3 plots enjoy panoramic views sea views towards Mull, the Slate Islands and Jura to the south. Located within a short walk of the 250 berth Craobh Marina on the northern shore of the Craignish peninsula. The marina has a range of facilities including a well stocked chandlery, hoist & mobile crane, covered workshop and spacious hard standing for winter storage ashore in addition to the Lord of the Isles bar/restaurant and well stocked village store.



CALL West Property ON 01631 569 466 FOR MORE INFORMATION

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### The Cairns Apartments, North Connel, Argyll

## FOR SALE

### 2 & 3 Bedroom Lochside Apartments

- 3 Bedroom Apartments:**  
2 Double bedrooms - (master en-suite shower room & walk-through dressing room)  
Office / Study  
Family bathroom  
Open plan kitchen, dining area and lounge  
Loch views to the south  
Private south facing decked area (ground floor only)
- 2 Bedroom Maisonette (over 2 floors):**  
Ground Floor:  
Open plan kitchen, dining area and lounge with south facing glazed doors with loch views & access to private decked area. Shower room  
First Floor:  
2 Double bedrooms with loch views  
Family bathroom

Communal garden & allocated parking in residents car park.

Completion June 2015 - CALL NOW TO RESERVE YOUR APARTMENT TODAY!



- Apartment 1: 3 Bedroom - Ground Floor AVAILABLE
- Apartment 2: 2 Bedroom - Maisonette AVAILABLE
- Apartment 3: 3 Bedroom - Ground Floor AVAILABLE
- Apartment 4: 3 Bedroom - First Floor **SOLD**
- Apartment 5: 3 Bedroom - First Floor AVAILABLE



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14 Skoda Fabia Elegance, 1.6TDI CR, Estate, Silver, 14,000 Miles	£10,650
14 Ford Ka, Plain Red, 6600 miles	£7,000
63 Skoda Octavia S, TDI Estate Silver 14,000 miles	£14,750
13 Dacia Duster 4x4 Laureate, silver, 11,000 miles	£12,750
13 Renault Megane Dyn tomtom, DCi Estate, Blue, 14,000 miles	£11,750
13 Peugeot 107 Allure, 5dr, blue, 12,000 miles	£7,250
11 Vauxhall Corsa Excite, 1000cc, 49,000 miles	£5,250
60 Renault Clio Dyn 1.5dci, 5Dr, Silver, 59,000 miles	£5,550
59 Renault Clio DYN DCi 5dr, Black, 44,000 Miles	£5,650
09 Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec, Black, 80,000 miles	£4,500
09 Renault Kangoo Car 1.2, Blue, 44,000 miles	£3,950
08 Renault Laguna DCi 150, Black, 86,800 miles	£POA
56 Citroen Picasso 1.6DCi, silver, 44,000 miles	£3,000

**COMMERCIALS**

64 Renault Kangoo Van, ML19 DCi 75, 100miles	£8,950+VAT
60 Vauxhall Vivaro DCi Van	£8,000 plus VAT
08 Renault Master SWB, White	£8,000+VAT

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Sandero shown is a Laureate 1.2 16V 75 from £7,995. Sandero Stepway shown is a Laureate TCe 90 from £9,795. Duster shown is a Laureate dCi 110 4x2 from £12,995. Metallic paint optional on Sandero/Duster at £470.



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# West Coast MOTORING TI

DRIVETIMES SAILING TIMES GARAGES CAR DEALERSHIPS MOTORING NEWS

## DRIVETIMES

**Suzuki GS 500F 54 plate**

Years MOT, 8,000 miles, very clean condition  
£1,300 o.n.o.

Tel: 07769 516134

**Renault Trafic 2008 swb van**

115k, MOT Jan 16, owned since new, 4 new tyres, new power steering, inspection welcome.  
£3000

Tel: 01567 820413/07772 973082

**Fiat Ducato Hymer motorhome**

3/4 berth 2003 reg, 43,000 miles, 2.8 JTD, Solar panel on roof, cycle rack, roof rack, ladders, pull out motorcycle rack, wind out awning. Air/spring suspension. 1 yrs MOT (no advisories)  
£16,000 o.n.o. May part exchange for smaller motorhome

Tel: 07810 481987

**HONDA CRV : SE model**

2002, petrol, 105K, one owner from new.  
£2000

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Excellent condition  
£5,500

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**Tohatsu 3.5 4-stroke longshaft**

Brand new, fully manufactured, 5 year warranty  
RRP £658 Buy now £580

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**Toyota Aygo**

60 plate, 1.1, 5 door, 15,033 miles, petrol, can be manual or auto. MOT until Nov 2015. Cheap to tax & insure. Great little run around car.  
£4,200

Please call for more information 07795 606609 (Campbeltown)

**Renault Kangoo 1.9dti**

2001 Y Reg. 89,000 miles, 4 months MOT  
£1400

Tel 01546 602147 / 07855 302016

**FOR PARTS OR REPAIR**

07 Ford Focus 1.6 zetec. MOT to 30/05/15. Good condition but requires engine. Alloy wheels & good tyres.  
**Offers**

Telephone: Graham 01852 300301

**Mercedes 220 diesel**

automatic, 53 plate, 140k miles, MOT Sept 2015, excellent runner with a few issues. £1500 O.N.O.

Tel: 01852 300344 (Clachan Seil)

**18' SPRITE SUPER CARAVAN**

2 berth  
good condition for age  
£900 o.n.o.

Telephone 07730 094865 01631 562755 (Roseview Caravan Park, Oban)

**Ford Focus Titanium TDCI**

2011 35,300 miles MOT  
£8900

Telephone 07775 818019 (Fort William area)

**Renault Modus Dynamique**

1.6 Petrol Automatic First Registered Dec 06 (56 Plate) MOT Dec 15, 26,000 miles, good condition & clean.  
£2000

Tel: 07789 604468

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**WANTED**

All types of motor homes & caravanettes. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards.

Telephone: 01250 884306 or mobile 07885 203020

**WANTED**

Wanted all 4 x 4s, old or new Toyota Hilux, land cruiser, all pickups single or double cabs, any condition, runner or not, high miles no problem.

Telephone: 07703490572 ask for Robert

**WANTED**

Motor homes, caravanettes and camper vans, all makes or models considered. Also touring caravans and statics, instant decision, same day payment.

Contact William 07730 130284 or 07716 200394 or email wlmotorhomes@outlook.com

**WANTED**

All types of good quality 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrovers, Mitsubishi, Kia, Ford etc and all 4 x 4 pickups, must be good condition and reasonable mileage. Older 4 x 4s and non runners/MOT failures etc considered. Will collect.

Telephone 07546 788945

**Mini Cooper Sport, John Cooper Works Special Edition**

Black, 1.6 petrol, Full Leather Interior, 2 Door hatchback, 17" alloys with good tyres, very fast car, not for the faint hearted! Mot till Dec 2015, service history, very good condition, lady owner, non smoking owners past and present, 6 gear manual, well cared for car looking for a good home.  
£3,500 o.n.o.

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**RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION 1.2 16V 75hp**

2006 (06), Silver, 32,700 miles, Manual, MOT expires 19.8.15 Low mileage, good condition. Lady owner.  
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## SAILING TIMES

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50 hp evinrude engine. Comes with 2 man dingy plus seagull engine.  
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**Orkney spinner with cuddy on galvanized trailer**

Easily launched and recovered, good sea/loch fishing boat with Yamaha 5hp outboard. All in excellent condition.  
£2200

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**15' GRP boat**

Simulated clinker hull with cuddy, built in buoyancy and launching trailer for sale £850. Shp Yamaha possibly negotiable.  
£850

Tel 01852300353 evenings

**ZODIC PRO-MAN 7**

Length 5.4 meters roller coaster trailer, 60hp big foot mariner, Nav lights, stainless steel A frame tubes red in colour, hull white all in great condition Can be viewed on Isle of Arran  
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17' bilge keel yacht built by Isles of Norbury. Aluminium mast and boom. 5/5 rigging. Nylon sail - 2 berths. Gas cooker. Compass, oars and mooring ropes. Self drain cockpit, new hatches, flooring and gummel beading. Ideal first boat. Few small jobs left to finish hence price.  
£550. 2 hp Yamaha aux engine - £100 extra.

Delivery arrangements possible. Lochalsh 07946 961442

**WANTED**

4 x 4's, all makes and models, Toyota, Landrover, Mitsubishi, high miles no problem, MOT or not, instant decision, same day payment. Also light commercials, vans and pick-ups bought.

Contact William 07730 130284 or 07716 200394 or email wlmotorhomes@outlook.com

MES

DRIVETIMES NOW ONLY £31

IF UNSOLD AFTER 1<sup>ST</sup> WEEK JUST CALL BEFORE TUESDAY 3PM TO GET YOUR SECOND WEEK FREE  
Tel: 01631 568000

Dacia Duster helps life-saving charity

The Dacia Duster – the UK's most affordable SUV – is helping to save lives and deliver first aid cover across Scotland with one of the country's longest established charities.

St Andrew's First Aid – which has a team of 2,000 highly trained volunteers – has been loaned the top-of-the-range model by Dacia UK to help deliver its critical services.



The rugged four-wheel drive model will help the charity to continue providing First Aid cover at major events which have typically included T in the Park, The Pedal for Scotland Charity Bike Ride, The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo and most Scottish Premiership matches.

It has also been equipped with a defibrillator to help the charity's volunteers save the lives of cardiac arrest victims.

Andrew Heiron, Dacia UK Brand Manager, said: 'St Andrew's First Aid operates throughout Scotland and so has a fairly large patch to cover, sometimes involving challenging terrains.'

'The Dacia, with its high economy diesel engine and all-wheel drive capability, is going to be an invaluable asset to the whole team as it travels the length and breadth of the country covering events, training and other official business.'

'We're glad we can lend them the Dacia Duster to help with their potentially life-saving work.'

According to St Andrew's First Aid, the average wait time for an ambulance in Scotland is about eight minutes. The first three minutes following cardiac arrest are critical and for each minute that passes, the chances of survival reduce by a further 10 per cent.

people. Its ambition is that one day, every child leaving school will do so with at least a basic knowledge of emergency first aid.

Ray Diggins, Head of Marketing and Fundraising at St Andrew's First Aid, said as well as taking it to public events, the charity would be using the Dacia Duster to help deliver more first aid training across the country.

Diggins commented: 'There are an estimated 12,000 preventable admissions to A&E departments in Scotland every year. The more trained volunteers we can get out there and the more people we can reach with our first aid message, the more we can address that and ensure that no-one suffers or dies because they needed first aid and didn't get it.'

'We operate all over the country and occasionally across challenging terrains too so the Duster is the perfect vehicle for us. Thanks go to Dacia UK for so generously supporting our charity in this way.'

The Duster is the most affordable SUV on the UK market – and has been since it came to the UK in January 2013. The model – which starts from a 'shockingly affordable' £9,495 – has claimed numerous industry awards and has established an immensely loyal following, not least because of highly competitive pricing and generous specification.

Dacia, part of Renault Group, has experienced an unprecedented period of ahead-of-the-

market growth over the last two years. After record-breaking sales in 2014, the 'no nonsense' car brand posted first quarter sales of 7,524 vehicles – up 10.3 per cent on last year and again outpacing the growing car market. As well as the Duster, Dacia's UK range includes the Logan MCV, Sandero and the Sandero Stepway.

NEW CAR INDEX

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Farming

Camping areas to protect farm and loch sides

PLANS to protect a Lomond and Trossachs unique environment, National Park authority has approved the creation of four camping zones on some of the park's busiest loch shores, which will see 300 camping places created.

A mixture of camping permits and low-cost campsites with the new byelaws would operate.

The plans come following public consultation across the park, which has been put under pressure from high volumes of campers repeatedly visiting the same spots, giving fragile areas no time to recover.

These include the west side of Loch Lomond, Loch Earn and Loch Lubnaig.

Other damage has been caused by the irresponsible behaviour of some visitors, including littering, loch shores being used as a toilet, trees being cut down for fire wood, abandonment of entire campsites and summer-long unauthorised caravan encampments in laybys.

The plans will include educating visitors about responsible camping.

Linda McKay, convener of the board, said: 'Our proposals build on the success of wide-ranging measures introduced at east Loch Lomond and if



WILD: Fragile areas in the national park are being hit by wild campers

we are successful in seeking Scottish Government approval for these new steps, we feel absolutely confident we can provide an outstanding national park experience for everyone.'

During the recent Your Park consultation, Police Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and Forestry Commission Scotland all responded positively in support of the proposals and provided constructive feedback that helped improve the final recommendations.

Richard Graham, local business owner and member of St Fillans Community Council, at Loch Earn, said: 'It is quite clear when you look at the transformation at

east Loch Lomond, that the legislation works.

'People who come to enjoy themselves and use the park for the numerous activities available here, have nothing to fear from these changes.'

'It's heart-breaking to see the damage being done to such a beautiful area, the rubbish being left here and the constant antisocial behaviour.'

'I know of visitors who've been coming for years who now say publicly that they won't return.'

'You rarely see kids

paddling in the water because of the broken glass and cans that have been dumped and the septic toilets which have been emptied into the Loch and surrounding fields.'

'Even in the last few weeks I have again heard people using chainsaws to cut down live trees for fire wood.'

'My hope is that the park authority's proposals go ahead so that changes can be made to help return this beautiful place to the world-class national park that it should be and that it once was.'

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NFU Scotland brands European animal feed policy 'unworkable'

EUROPEAN proposals to re-nationalise policy on the use of animal feed containing GM have been described as 'unworkable' and could 'throw the Scottish, UK and European livestock sectors into disarray'.

The European Commission is proposing to shift decision-making on GM feed or food back to member states.

The move would retain responsibility within Europe for the authorisation of new GM products but then allow the decision to be made at the member level whether or not to allow the use of any GM product in animal feed or food.

NFU Scotland says that, if adopted, the policy could cause

'serious distortions across internal EU borders and goes against the principle of a common EU market'.

'It would also be highly disruptive and virtually impossible to implement and police,' said a statement from the union.

Scotland is already reliant on imports for its protein feed requirements, most of which is GM. Any change to that arrangement would have ramifications for many of the nation's producers, particularly in the pig and poultry sectors, where imported protein is a huge part of rations.

The proposals were a key issue for discussion at a meeting of COPA, the umbrella group for European farming unions, taking place in Portugal and attended by NFU Scotland's president Allan Bowie.

Speaking from Lisbon, Mr Bowie said: 'With an increasing world population and growing demand for quality food, GM technology provides an opportunity to increase food production to meet their needs.'

'However, all too often, it is rhetoric rather than science that drives the debate on GM and that is case here.'

'With this proposal, Europe runs

the risk of setting a dangerous precedent which goes against the core principle of having common policies that operate across Europe.'

'Approval of GM feed and food must remain at an EU-wide level and be firmly based on sound scientific evidence.'

'Opening the door to nations or regions introducing unilateral arrangements would wreak havoc on existing trade, undermine competitiveness across Europe and drive up costs for those producers affected.'

'Options for growing our own protein for animals remain limited so Europe will continue to be largely reliant on imports for the majority of its protein feed requirements.'

'An estimated 90 per cent of compound feed for the livestock sector currently contains GMO material.'

'Were GMO feed not available to our farmers, the increase in costs associated in sourcing non-GMO feed would be prohibitive and render sections of our industry unviable.'

'The price differential between GMO and GMO-free animal feed is already around 30 per cent and supplies of non-GMO feed are extremely limited.'

Youngsters get involved with the future of crofting

A YOUTHFUL perspective is to be brought to crofting with the formation of a younger crofters group as a branch of the Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF).

The idea of forming such a group was raised at a special gathering of young crofters in Assynt earlier this year and was consolidated at a meeting last week in Inverness.

Branch spokesman James Shewan said: 'We know that SCF has a long history of fighting for crofting so we want to be part of that.'

'But, no offence meant, people are getting older and we feel it is time for younger crofters, and those aspiring to be crofters, to get more involved and bring the young folk's voice out.'

'It is our future and it is up to us to help protect crofting and to make sure it thrives.'

'We want to give the young person's view to those that have the power to change policy that affects crofting.'

Around a hundred people - school pupils, young crofters, aspiring crofters, crofting elders and policy makers - had met in Glencanisp Lodge at Assynt for a three-day workshop on a vision for crofting and how to help the young - the future of crofting.

During the workshop there was an enthusiastic reception to the idea of setting up a young crofters' group.

Fiona Mandeville, chairwoman of the SCF, added: 'We are very heartened by the clear thinking of these young people and welcome them to the SCF as a branch in their own right.'

'We expect to see nominated representatives coming on to our board and our advisory council.'

'They are the future, not only of crofting, but of the SCF too.'

'It is 30 years since the Scottish Crofters Union, as it was then, was set up so it is very significant to see a group of young activists again standing up for crofting.'

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Market reports

Dingwall and Highland Marts

LOCHMADDY  
A TOTAL of 87 store cattle, one adult head breeding cattle and 79 store sheep were sold on April 24 at Lochmaddy by Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd.

'A mixed show of cattle on offer resulted in a hesitant demand,' said a spokesman for the mart. Bulls (43) averaged 220.0p and sold to 261.8p per kg for a 275kg Limousin cross from 21 Grenitote, Solas, and £1,080 gross for a 525kg Charolais cross from Glebe, Tigharry.

Heifers (44) averaged 212.0p and sold to 266.7p per kg for a 345kg Limousin cross from 8 Clachan Sands, Lochmaddy, and £980 gross for a 450kg Limousin cross from 4 Tigharry, Lochmaddy.

Breeding cattle (one) sold to £1,000 gross for a Simmental cross in calf cow from 22 and 10 Balmore, Bayhead.

Store lambs (53) sold to £50 for Cheviots from 7 Middlequarter, Solas.  
Ewes (15) sold to £80 from 4 Tigharry, Lochmaddy. Rams and wethers (11) sold to £82 for Suffolk x wethers from 18 Illeray, Baleshare.

Other leading prices per head and per kg:  
Bulls 251-300kg - Dunskeall, Solas, £720, 21 Grenitote, 259.3p; 301-350kg - Hastain, Bayhead, £790, 19 Carinish, Lochmaddy, 237.5p; 351-400kg - 15 Carinish, Lochmaddy, £920, 1 Clachan Farm, Lochmaddy, 231.6p; 401-450kg - 8 Balranald, Tigharry, £1000, No 1 Clachan Farm, 232.1p; 451-500kg - Dunskeall, £880, 189.3p; 501-550kg - 7 Pabliesgarry, Lochmaddy, £960, Glebe, 205.7p.

Heifers 251-300kg - 8 Balranald, £660, 220p; 301-350kg - 8 Clachan Sands, £920, 9 Illeray, Lochmaddy, 228.6p; 351-400kg - 1 Clachan Farm, £980, 245p; 401-450kg - 9 Clachan Sands, £960, 231.3p.

PORTREE  
DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 56 store cattle, two breeding cattle, four OTM cattle and 31 sheep at Portree on April 25.

Bulls (26) averaged 231.2p and sold to 293.8p per kg for 160kg Limousin crosses from 5 Eyre, Snizort, and £1,150 gross for a 550kg Limousin cross from 2 Eynort, Carbost.

Heifers (30) averaged 220.9p and sold to 249.1p per kg for 285kg Limousin crosses from Glendale Estate, Dunvegan, and £820 gross for 340kg Limousin crosses from South Cuidreach, Earlish.

Breeding cows (2) sold to £1,950 gross for a Simmental cross with a male calf at foot from 17 Garafad, Staffin. OTM cows (4) sold to £660 gross for a 540kg Short-horn cross from 9 Portnalong, Carbost.

Sheep (31) sold to £72 gross for a Cheviot ram from 2 Earlish, Uig.

Other leading prices per head and per kg:  
Bulls up to 200kg - 5 Eyre, £470, 4 Greep, Dunvegan, 194.3p; 201-250kg - Lyndale, Portree, £560, 243.5p; 251-300kg - 1 and 2 Stenschoil, Staffin, £760, 266.7p; 301-350kg - 2 Drummuie, Portree, £800, 4 Balnacoe, Uig, 252.5p; 351-400kg - 1 and 2 Stenschoil, £880, 244.4p; 401-450kg - 4 Kingsburgh, Snizort, £900, 2.00p; Over 500kg - 2 Eynort, 209.1p.

Heifers up to 200kg - Lyndale, £460, 230.0p; 201-250kg - 4 Balnacoe, £570, 237.5p; 251-300kg - Glendale Estate, £710, South Cuidreach, 234.5p; 301-350kg - 4 Balnacoe, £810, South Cuidreach, 241.2p.

United Auctions

UNITED Auctions sold 4,568 prime sheep on Thursday April 23 at Stirling, including 48 spring lambs and 3,810 hogs selling to an average of 163.6p/kg and 710 ewes and rams.

Spring Lambs (48) - Smallholm Mains (Tex) £116; Smallholm (Suff) £115; Mid Lecropt (Hamp) £110; Southfield (Char) £100; Gillbank (BTex) £94

Spring Lambs (48) - Smallholm Mains (Tex) 250.00p; Smallholm Mains (Suff) 236.00p; Gillbank (BTex) 235.00p; Southfield (Char) 222.00p; Mid Lecropt (Hamp) 213.00p.

Hogs (3,810) - Wester Highgate (Tex) £96; Easter Ochtermuthill (BTex) £94; Easter Buchlyvie (Suff) £86; Kinaldy (Chev) £84; Dunruhan (BF) £83.00; Upper Auchenlay (Char) £76.50.

Hogs (3,810) - Coilavoulin (BTex) 222p; West Quarter (Tex) 208p; Upper Auchenlay (Char) 194p; Broachrigg (Chev) 190p; Braglenmore (BF) 188p.

Ewes (710) - Humeston (Tex) £129.50; Southfield (Char) £110.50; Hill of Errol (Suff) £109.50; Cretlevane (BFL) £105.50; Humeston (X) £101.50; Penston (Mule) £93.50; Newlands (Iley) £88.50; Newlands (Cont) £87.50; Markethill (BF) £77.50.

Rams - Broadleys (Suff) £113; Longcarse (BFL) £99; Castlehill (Tex) £97; Shenlarich (BF) £73.50.

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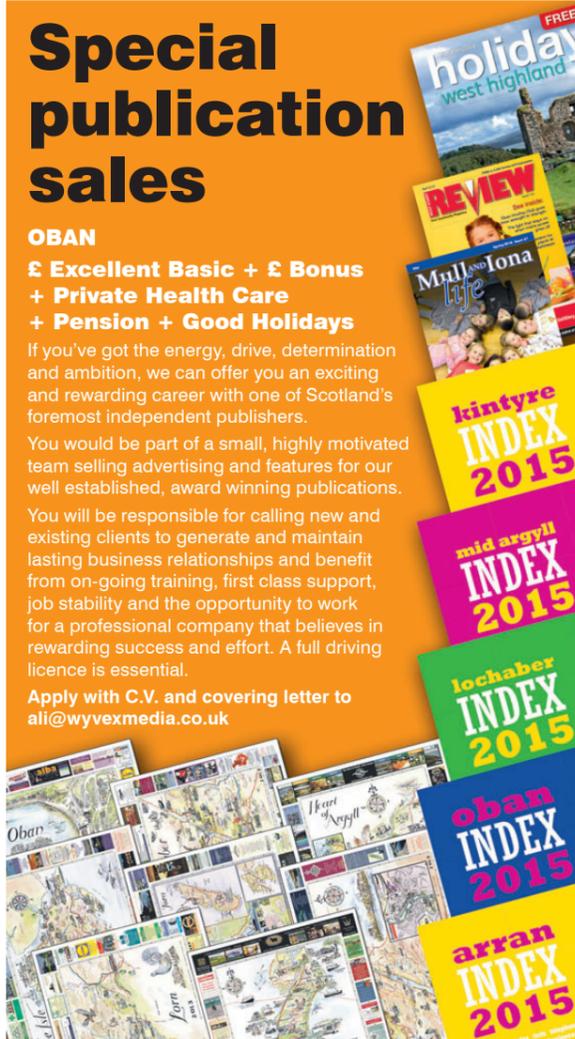
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LAND COMPENSATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973 (AS AMENDED)  
A82 TRUNK ROAD (CRIANLARICH BYPASS) ORDER 2012**

- The Scottish Ministers hereby give notice that the length of road detailed in the Schedule below was first open to public traffic on 23 December 2014.
- Under Part I of the Land Compensation (Scotland) Act 1973 (as amended) there is a right to compensation in respect of any depreciation of more than £50 in the value of certain interests in land caused by the use of the new or altered roads resulting from specified physical factors (noise, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke and artificial lighting and the discharge onto the land in respect of which the claim is made of any solid or liquid substance). Compensation is assessed by reference to prices current at the date 12 months after the road was first open to public traffic.
- Interests qualifying for compensation are specified in section 2 of the above mentioned Act and there are special provisions relating to claims by heritable creditors, trustees and persons acquiring relevant interests by inheritance. However, no compensation can be paid under Part I where part of a property has been acquired for the purpose of constructing or altering the road.
- Any person entitled to a qualifying interest who considers he or she has a claim under the said provision may obtain further information and claim forms from Design Team 1, MTRIPS, Transport Scotland, 7th Floor North, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF.
- Claims may be made 12 months after the date when the new road was first open to public traffic, that is on or after 24 December 2015 (the "first claim day"). Claims should be made within 5 years from the first claim day. However, if an interest is disposed of or (insofar as the interest is in land which is not a dwelling) a tenancy is granted, the claim must be made before such disposal or grant of tenancy.

**SCHEDULE**  
**A82 TRUNK ROAD (CRIANLARICH BYPASS) ORDER 2012**  
Construction of approximately 1.3 kilometres of new single carriageway to the south and west of the village of Crainlarich, Stirling.

**D. ANDERSON**  
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Major Transport Infrastructure Projects  
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20 April 2015

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**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**  
Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

**PLANNING**

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/00367/PP	Demolition of existing barn, erection of dwellinghouse, installation of sewage treatment plant, upgrading of existing access, temporary siting of caravan and replacement garage/workshop (part retrospective)	Land East Of Lerags Farm, Lerags Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4SE	Oban Area Office
15/00605/PP	Formation of storage area.	Tullich Water Treatment Works Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4SB	Oban Area Office
15/00889/PP	Erection of agricultural shed	Ormaig Croft Lochdon Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA64 6AP	Sub Post Office Craignure
15/00901/PP	Partial change of use to use lower ground floor to provide self catering accommodation	Traighuaine Ard Arduaine Oban Argyll And Bute PA34	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
15/00941/PP	Provision of infrastructure for 5 plot housing development	Land North East Of Movern Drive Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Tobermory Area Office
15/00948/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of bio disc treatment plant and formation of vehicular access	Land At Former Sawmills Site (Plot 5) Taynuilt Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
15/00953/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse, installation of bio disc treatment plant and formation of vehicular access	Land At Former Sawmills Site (Plot 3) Taynuilt Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
15/00954/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse, installation of bio disc treatment plant and formation of vehicular access	Land At Former Sawmills Site (Plot 4) Taynuilt Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
15/01033/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and formation of vehicular access	Plot 2 Nant Park Land South West Of Alasdair Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1JH	Sub Post Office Taynuilt

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/00750/PP	Change of use from footway to form outdoor seating area	Coffee Corner Station Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34	Oban Area Office
15/00926/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 2 Land North Of The Surgery Rockfield Road Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Tobermory Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Marne Lochlighead Brae PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/00296/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land East Of Bishop's Well Craighouse Isle Of Jura Argyll And Bute PA60 7XG	Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <http://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintains a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Marne Brae, Lochlighead PA31 8RD.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website.

Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

**COUNCILLOR'S SURGERY**

Councillor Roddy McCuish (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)  
Councillor McCuish will be holding a surgery on Friday 1st May 2015 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 3:00pm - 5:00pm.

He can be contacted by email - [Roddy.McCuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Roddy.McCuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk) and by telephone 01631 567854.

**WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003**  
**WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011**  
**APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION**

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited to vary water use licence number CAR/L/1004226 authorising the carrying on of a controlled activity at, near or in connection with Bagh Dail nan Ceann Marine Cage Fish Farm, as follows:

Description of Change to Controlled Activity	Waters Affected	National Grid Reference
Discharge of effluent from marine cage fish farming with a maximum weight of fish held at any time of 2100 tonnes. The discharge will include the release of medicine residues used for treating sea lice infestations.	Sound of Jura	NM 7761 0480

SEPA considers that the above controlled activity may have an impact on the water environment and on the interests of other users of the water environment.

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) and by prior arrangement at SEPA's Fort William Office, Carr's Corner, Lochybridge, Fort William, PH33 6TL. Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: [www.sepa.org.uk/water/water\\_regulation/advised\\_applications.aspx](http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/water_regulation/advised_applications.aspx)

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the applications may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting licence number: CAR/L/1004226  
Registry Department, SEPA Dingwall Office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the applications.

Before determining the applications, SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

**WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003**  
**WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011**  
**APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AUTHORISATIONS**  
**BRAEVALLICH FISH FARM AND TERVINE FISH FARM, LOCH AWE**

Applications have been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Dawnfresh Farming Ltd to vary water use licences numbered CAR/L/1000232 and CAR/L/1000236 authorising the carrying on of controlled activities at, near or in connection with Braevallich Fish Farm and Tervine Fish Farm, Loch Awe, as follows:

Site	Description of change to controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Braevallich Fish Farm (CAR/L/1000232)	Additional discharge of effluent from a cage fish farm increasing from a maximum licenced biomass of 300 tonnes to 365 tonnes of Rainbow Trout.	Loch Awe	NM 9540 0790
Tervine Fish Farm (CAR/L/1000236)	Additional discharge of effluent from a cage fish farm increasing from a maximum licenced biomass of 400 tonnes to 485 tonnes of Rainbow Trout.	Loch Awe	NM 0810 2610

SEPA considers that the above changes to the controlled activities may have an impact on the water environment and on the interests of other users of the water environment.

A copy of the applications and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays). Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: [www.sepa.org.uk/water/water\\_regulation/advised\\_applications.aspx](http://www.sepa.org.uk/water/water_regulation/advised_applications.aspx)

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number: CAR/L/1000232 and/or CAR/L/1000236.  
Registry Department, SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall Business Park, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the applications.

Before determining the applications, SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the applications.

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)

**The Highland Council**  
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**  
**PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
15/00864/PIP	Land 100m South of Tigh Nam Beithe, Braeroy Road, Roy Bridge	Erection of house (renewal of 10/04385/PIP)
15/01120/LBC	Clounlaid, Morvern, Oban	Change of garage to living room
15/01164/MSC	Land 60m SE of Colins Cottage, Glenuig	Construction of dwellinghouse and associated access road
15/01181/FUL	Bethany Gospel Hall, Tulloch Place, Inverloch, Fort William	Alterations and extension
15/01354/PIP	Land 45m NW of Ardgour Parish Church, Ardgour	Application for PIP for the erection of a residential house on an infill site
15/01381/S42	South Side of Alcan Site Entrance, North Road, Fort William	Amend Condition 17 of 14/02865/FUL to allow Simply Food store to operate from Unit C
15/01458/FUL	Land 40m South East of Meran's House, Carnoch, Glencoe	Proposed dwelling house & detached garage - amendment to planning permission 15/00441/FUL
15/01460/MSC	Workshop 80m East of Aonoch Mhor Hotel, Spean Bridge	Conditions 2, 3 & 5 of 12/03981/PIP
15/01464/PIP	Sites 670m West of Keppoch House, Arisaig	Erect house for holiday let

Time period for comments is 14 days. Application 15/01120/LBC is 21 days.  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010**  
**INSTALLATION OF 2 SINGLE MOORINGS, AROS BAY, TOBERMORY**

Notice is hereby given that Tobermory Harbour Association has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of Installation of 2 Single Moorings, Aros Bay, Tobermory:

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Aros Bay, Tobermory	56° 36.833'N 56° 36.817'N	006° 3.050'W 006° 3.177'W (WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at the County Buildings, Breadalbane Street, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6PX

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:  
Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: [MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk), quoting reference: 05502

Tobermory Harbour Association

**First Registration of a Craft**

Mr Archibald MacFadyen has registered his craft 1 Balmartin, Isle of Tiree PA77 6UA on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by January 10, 2016.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The craft registration number is A1051.

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30th April 1965  
Love you always

DEATHS

BLACK - At home with her family, on April 23, 2015, in her 90th year, Charlotte MacKinnon Black, much loved mum to Donald and the late Tina, a dear mother-in-law and granny.

CAMERON - John (Jack) Cameron, Wigtown. Retired Veterinary Surgeon and Regional Councillor passed away peacefully in the care of Munches Park Care Home, Dalbeattie on Sunday April 26, 2015, aged 91 years. Husband to the late Morag and father to Allan, Iain and Gill. Father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather. Cremation private.

JOHNSTON - John Harry Trivett (John Boy). Died tragically on April 22, 2015 as the result of a motorbike accident. Adored and much loved son of John and Yvonne, precious brother of Eilidh and Janine, loving uncle of Lois, beloved nephew, cousin and godfather. Forever in our hearts John Boy.

MACDONALD (ALFORD) - Peacefully at ARI on Monday, April 20, 2015, surrounded by his family, Donald John Fraser Macdonald (Donnie) in his 90th year (late of British Rail, Oban and Rogart, Sutherland) devoted and much loved husband to Muriel MacKay, loving dad to Kyreen, Sheila and Derek, father-in-law to Theresa, dearly loved papa to Cheryl, Susan, Angela, Alyson, Claire, Tracey, Heather, Scott, Emma, Patrick, Morgan, Dylan and Rohan. Funeral service was held at Alford on Friday, April 24, 2015.

MACFADYEN - Peacefully at Tigh a Rudha, Tiree on Monday, April 20, 2015, Nonnie in her 89th year formerly of Airport View, Crossapol, Tiree. Beloved wife of the late Alexander MacFadyen and a loving sister of Maggie and Peggie. Sadly missed.

MACGREGOR - At home with her family, after a long illness, on April 22, 2015, aged 67 years, Rosemary (nee Chamberlain), much loved mum to Murray, Joseph, Gareth, Robin and Lyndsay. She will be sorely missed by all her family and friends.

MACLEOD - Peacefully at Oban hospital on April 23, 2015 aged 74, Catriona (Green) Macleod, Fionnphort. Dearly loved mother/mother-in-law to Donald, Iain, Ivor, Katherine and Anne, much adored Nana to Jodi, Shayna, Emma, Rebekah, Lewis, Tom, Amy and Louis. Will be sorely missed and forever in our thoughts. Funeral service was held at Bunnassan Church on Wednesday, April 29, 2015. Thereafter to Suidhe Cemetery.

McKINNON - On April 18, 2015, peacefully at home, with his family and friend Josephine, Thomas (Tommy) McKinnon, in his 91st year, beloved husband of the late Netta, much loved father of Alan, Peter and Janet, dearly loved grandfather of Ruairaidh, Fergus, Myles, Katy, Mairi, Thomas, Nicholas, Louise, Fiona, Karen, Haley and Charlotte and great grandfather of Freya, Catriona, Sebastian and Mia. Sadly missed by all. Funeral service was held at St Brendan's Church, Skipness, followed by interment at Skipness Cemetery.

MOORE - Unexpectedly but peacefully in hospital, Rennes, France on April 20, 2015 with her loving family by her side, Lorna (nee McDermott), aged 68, beloved wife and best friend of Eric, loving mother to Sandra, Christine, Ian and Alan, much loved mother-in-law and sister-in-law, treasured granny and great-granny. Memorial service to be held at Dunbeg Church on Friday May 1, 2015 at 1pm. Much loved and sorely missed.

ROBERTSON - Elliot. Dearly loved husband of Hazel, proud father of Fiona and Struan and much loved grandfather of Mairi, Euan, Alex and Finlay, died peacefully at Lynn of Lorne Care Home, on Friday, April 24, 2015. Funeral service will take place at Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban, on Friday, May 1, 2015 at 1.00 p.m., followed by cremation service at Cardross Crematorium, on Saturday, May 2 at 10.30 a.m. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to RNLI or Alzheimer Research UK.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BLAIR - The family would like to thank relatives and friends for their support at this sad time. Thanks also to the 'Highland Getaway' for purvey and to Rev Kinnear for his comforting services at the Church and Kinlochmore. The sum of £665.60 was raised towards Save the Children.

CAMERON - Margaret would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness and support at this sad time, for cards, flowers and messages of support. To the Reverend Robert Brookes for his comforting service, to Ian and staff of D & A Munn for caring and supportive handling of funeral arrangements. To the Brander Lodge Hotel for excellent purvey and to all who paid their last respects at church and graveside and so generously donated £541.60 for A.B.C.D.

WEBBER - Ken would like to take this opportunity to express his thanks to Mike McFall, Funeral Directors, Fort William for all the support, care and attention to detail afforded him in the recent loss of his beloved brother Norman, who died suddenly on April 9, on the Island of Rum.

MEMORIAMS

CAMPBELL - Cherished memories of Emma, a much loved mum and nana, who died on April 30, 2014. Also remembering Duncan, a much loved dad and papa, who died August 20, 2011. Those we love don't go away they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard but always near. Still loved, still missed and very dear. - Morvern, Gordon, Murdo and David.

DEMPSTER - In everlasting memory of a much loved husband, father and pappy Donald John, who passed away April 30, 2011, also remembering with love Robert Dempster, who passed away on May 23, 2010. Your love is always with you. Your place no-one can fill. In life we loved you dearly. In death we love you still. - Jessie, John, Marie, Cathy and Donald John and all the Dempster family at home and away.

DOWNIE - Alister who died May 2, 1999. Loved and remembered. - McLean and Downie families.

MACKECHNIE - Remembering our dear parents John Angus MacKechnie, who died on April 28, 1972 at Kilmalieu and Catherine McCallum, who died March 6, 1953 at Ardslingish. Time may pass and fade away. But love and memories forever stay. - Inserted by their loving family.

MACKINNON - Mary who passed away on May 2, 2014. Sorely missed by all the family but lovingly remembered. - Parkhouse, Tiree

MACKINNON - In loving memory of my Granny, Dolina Marnoch, who died May 4, 2006. Whatever I am doing Wherever I may be Part of me is there with you And part of you with me Love you always Dearest Gran - From the Boy xxx

MILLER - Betty, died 30/04/13 and Peter, died 13/05/08. Missed by all of us. Simply the best. - George, Carla, Rebecca, Jolene, Kirsty and family xxx

MILLER - Betty died 30/4/13 Peter died 13/5/08 Our family chain was broken The day God called you both away But in our hearts forever You will always stay. Simply the best. GBNF. - Isabel, Cammy and Jacqui. xxx

RUSSELL - Martin Donald. In loving memory of a gentle, loving son, brother and uncle, died May 1, 2012. Forever in our hearts and prayers - Inserted by Billy, Sandra, Rachael and William Missing your fun and patience - From the boys.

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MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch Donations always gratefully accepted Please contact Mrs Lillian Kermode Tynwald, Glenburn, Soroba Road, Oban 01631 571009

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer West of Scotland Fundraising Office 1st Floor, Erskine House North Avenue, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR Tel 0808 100 6000 In memory of Dawn Joyce

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The Oban Times & West Highland Times 2015 CALENDAR Oban drives parking cash

Obituary: Betsy (Bessie) West December 2 1915 - March 13 2015

BETSY (Bessie) West (nee MacNeill), who died in her 100th year in the Islay hospital after a short illness, had a long and active life which was fittingly celebrated by a large gathering of relations and friends in Portnahaven church on Thursday, March 20.

She was one of Islay's oldest residents and, until the final days of her life, lived on her own in her Port Wemyss home. This was always a wonderful place to visit for neighbours, relations, friends and, on many occasions, complete strangers who never left until they had enjoyed her lavish Hebridean hospitality and usually with their genealogy well explained; her knowledge of local families' histories - especially clans MacNeill, MacKinnon, Macallister, MacArthur and Ferguson - was legendary thanks to her prodigious memory and painstaking research.

Her knowledge of folk history, an impressive collection of photographs and work on family trees brought countless visitors from Australia, America and indeed all over the world; and, thanks to the good offices of Iain MacIntosh, a website was established based on Bessie's life and photographs - not bad for an 88-year-old to have had her own website created which is well worth a visit and will be permanent tribute to this fine native of the Rhinns.

Bessie was born in Portnahaven and although her working life was spent away from her native island she was always extremely proud of belonging to the Rhinns of Islay.

After sound education, which she acknowledged stood her in good stead for her future studies, at Portnahaven primary and Bowmore secondary, her career choice was nursing and this noble profession benefited from the lifetime dedication of an able practitioner.

She trained at the Western infirmary, Glasgow, where she was the gold medal winner for her year group, an achievement of which she was justifiably proud.

She went on to study midwifery and, after her marriage to Fred West of Frasersburgh, she worked as a nurse in Aberdeenshire, until she retired in 1975, giving much appreciated service and was involved in delivering countless babies which gave her so much pleasure. Although not blessed with children of her own, she was a generous 'Auntie Bessie' to many.

After retiring from nursing, the couple moved back full-time to her native island but their time together was short as Fred died in 1976.

However, she settled in into life in her new home in Port Wemyss with her typical commitment and, inter alia, bought a rowing boat for her brother, Malcolm, and herself and it was a huge source of pleasure to her to go fishing of a summer evening.

She loved to salt the piocaich (saith) which she caught and this was often on offer as a special delicacy at new year time.

She had a great understanding of, and passion for, the natural environment, especially the sea, and was very proud of her family of seafarers, including her brother and her father, and her ancestors who, in the years before the First World War, had been among the last Rhinnsmen to go from Portnahaven across the Irish Sea to the Ould Lammais Fair at Ballycastrate.

She herself went to this famous fair on a number of occasions and, on her last trip shortly before her 90th birthday, sailed directly from Portnahaven which had been a lifelong ambition for this intrepid sailor and traveller.

At 80 her interest turned to swimming and she went on to be swimmer of the year at the Bowmore pool.

To celebrate her 80th birthday, in 1995, she travelled on her own to visit relations in New Zealand taking great offence when offered assistance between flights at Heathrow airport.

Bessie was always busy at some pursuit or other - baking, knitting, gardening etc. - and rarely missed any local events always enjoying going to ceilidhs, concerts and mods. As a stalwart of the Women's Guild, WRI and a supporter of all local causes, she gave generously to all sales of work.

Her provisions for picnic expeditions were legendary and it was always such a pleasure to go round any part of Islay,



Jura or Colonsay in her company.

Gaelic was her native tongue and she took immense pride in speaking pure Islay Gaelic, being interviewed on a number of occasions for BBC Radio nan Gàidheal.

She had a huge interest in the language and especially local vocabulary consulting MacAlpine's dictionary when necessary.

She always appreciated the gatherings for Gaels arranged at the Gaelic College (Jonad Chaluim Chille Ile) and appreciated the opportunity of meeting fellow Ileachs fluent in the language.

An avid reader and historian, she had a fine collection of books about Islay and with her passing the Rhinns has lost one of its last and best informed tradition-bearers.

The old Gaelic saying, 'nam b'e eileanach mi, b'e Ileach mi; 's nam b'e Ileach mi b'e Rannach mi/ If I was an islander I would be from Islay; if I was from Islay I would be a native of the Rhinns', could not be more fittingly ascribed than to Bessaidh Neill/Bessaidh Mhor Fhionghain.

On the occasion of her 90th birthday a party was held in her honour by friends and relations in the Rinns Hall and that happy occasion will be an even more precious memory for friends and relations who had all hoped that a similar celebration would take place to mark her 100th birthday - that was not to be but Bessie will be remembered most fondly not just by relations, friends and neighbours but by all who had the privilege of knowing this remarkable character.

And she would surely have approved of the sumptuous purvey provided in the hall by An Tigh Seinne (Portnahaven hotel) and the adherence to local traditional funeral customs, including the drams and biscuits and cheese in the graveyard at Nerabus where she was laid to rest in the family grave.

As a mark of respect, the cortège on the way to Nerabus went round Port Wemyss and James MacEachern, the piper, poignantly played 'The Rhinns of Islay' outside 'Faithlie', Bessie's home.

At the funeral service in the church, of which she was such a faithful and supportive member, the Rev Valerie Watson paid a highly appropriate tribute to a great and much-loved lady who lived life to the full; and the packed church was testimony to her popularity with her Rhinns neighbours joined by friends from throughout Islay and all over Scotland, including Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeenshire, the Borders and Ross-shire.

Bhaid a luchd-eòlais fad 's farsaing ag ionndrainn fìor chairid - ar beannachdan 's ar taing airson ur beatha, a Bheasaidh choir.

Duncan Ferguson

Skye's new most northerly minister the Rev John Murray

SKYE'S newest minister has taken up his new charge almost 67 years to the day since his late father-in-law became minister in the parish of Kilmuir and Stenscholl.

Rev John Murray and his wife, Neilian, will now maintain the family connection in the most northerly of Skye's five parishes.

Originally from Glasgow, and brought up in Cruden Bay, John arrived on the island 20 years ago to practise as a solicitor in Portree.

He served as an auxiliary minister, before sensing the call to full-time ministry and studying at Highland Theological college in Dingwall.

Now John is starting his vocation as a full-time minister.

'It's a real privilege for me to enter the parish ministry, and I'm thankful to Kilmuir and Stenscholl for calling me as their new minister,' he said.

'The Highland Theological college is a fantastic centre of learning, at the forefront of using modern communication, and for me it made things so much easier.'

John is married to Neilian, whose father Angus MacKay from Lewis was the minister in Kilmuir for 30 years.

Kilmuir and Stenscholl lies in a vibrant Gaelic

speaking area and John is learning to speak Gaelic while his wife is a native Gaelic speaker.

Mr Murray's service of induction on Friday, April 24 was presided over by the moderator of the Presbytery of Lochearn and Skye, Rev David Kellas.

Also present was Rev Dr Rory MacLeod, who was himself appointed as minister to Skye's most southern parish of Strath and Sleat last month.

Dr Macleod preached on the need for the church to move forward with renewed purpose and unity.



Thought for the week

Look after each other

IN THE short term we all need to eat, keep warm and keep safe.

Whoever we are, those are basic human rights. In the longer term they will continue to be basic human rights.

For all humans whoever we are, wherever we live, whatever we believe. We are rightly outraged if someone threatens our own needs.

What makes us think we shouldn't do all we can to safeguard the needs of others? Whether they live in our neighbourhood, or our region, or country, or area of the world, or whole world. Nobody should have to

rely on food banks, nobody should have to risk their life to seek asylum in another country.

Everyone needs the education and opportunity to lead a healthy fulfilling life, and appropriate care when illness or accident strikes. It is possible.

Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan. Whole sermons and books can and have been written about this parable but the crucial point is that help was given and received by a supposed enemy.

Unless we want to identify with those who 'walked by on the other side' we need to take action to help all sorts of other people, not just

those most like ourselves.

We can't all do everything but how we live affects the whole world - people and planet.

That's vital to remember when we get up each day, at home, in the workplace, in school, in the shops and streets, not least in the polling booth.

Demanding such concern from those who represent us but practising it ourselves too.

Short and long term it's up to all of us to look after each other across every conceivable boundary.

Rev Liz Gibson, Freelance Church of Scotland Minister based in Argyll

The Oban Times

& West Highland Times

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Geo with his trophies

**Dry spell ends for Geo Adam**  
**Pool**

LAST week saw the half way stage of the SEPF regional tours where players from the west coast of Scotland try and pot their way into the 2016 Scotland squad.

With a reduced number of tours this year, each is extremely important and no one knows that more than two times regional number one Geo Adam.

Geo started his first season in 2012 firing on all cylinders to become the region's number one player. He held the title in 2013 before letting it slip away with no tour wins in 2014.

His 2015 campaign started off well reaching the final but he lost out on the big prize by one frame. Tour event two was to be a different story as he saw off three past and present Scottish international players to end his dry spell and put him in the top spot for 2015 with two tours remaining.

A special mention must also go to John Telfer for reaching the final and Lochgilphead newcomer Ian MacIver who made it to the semi-finals.

Thanks went to all competitors who took part. For more information on how to become involved, go along to The Lancaster Hotel.

Tour event three will be held on Saturday May 23 at The Lancaster Hotel, Oban.

**John McPhee back in action**  
**Motor cycling**

CONNEL'S Saxoprint RTG rider John McPhee will be back in action on Sunday when he takes part in the Moto3 grand prix in Jerez, Spain.

John will be hoping to improve on his 15th place finish in Argentina on April 19.

# Three points for 10-man Athletic

Oban Athletic	1
Helensburgh	0
West of Scotland AFL	

OBAN Athletic played their first home game in a month against Helensburgh at Glen 2 last Saturday with the park in great condition despite overnight rain.

The only change to the team from the previous week's line-up was Steph Campbell coming in for Mark Robertson who is on holiday. The Oban team started with Craig Livingston, Davy McPhee, Steven McLeod and Stephen Fox at the back and Craig Campbell playing just in front to help strengthen the midfield.

Athletic started well, with Paul Carmichael and Ryan Campbell dictating play in midfield.

However, an off-the-ball incident after 10 minutes, involving Stephen Fox, was caught by referee Peter Laing and he had no choice but to send Fox off.

Good play by Ryan Campbell and Fraser McFarlane in the 20th minute sent Paul Carmichael through on the left wing. Carmichael cut inside and shot from 25 yards with the ball heading to the top right corner of the goal.

Paul Cavanna, the Helensburgh goalkeeper, made a good save pushing the ball out for a corner.

Athletic took the lead in the 35th minute when Craig Campbell lobbed the ball wide to Andy Smith on the right wing. Smith beat his marker and ran to the touch line before crossing the ball to the on-rushing Carmichael and from eight yards bulleted a header past the helpless goalkeeper to make the half time score 1-0.

The second half started with Helensburgh pushing another player forward to try and put some pressure on the Athletic defence.

Being down to 10 men didn't seem to bother the Oban team too much as they were working hard for each other and they continued in that fashion when on the 50-minute mark another run from Carmichael through the Burgh defence sent Smith through with a pass with Smith's chip over the keeper hitting the inside of right hand post.

The ball came back to Carmichael but Gordon Brodie, Helensburgh's centre half, threw himself to block Paul's shot. The ball fell to Ryan Campbell but

**Football**

his shot was well saved by the goalkeeper.

Midway through the second half manager Donald Campbell made three substitutions with Smith and Steph Campbell making way for Alan Buchanan and Ruairidh Finlayson, who was making his debut for Athletic after Lochfynside disbanded. Fraser McFarlane made way for Callum Stewart.

In a dour last quarter Athletic had shots from Finlayson, Campbell and Stewart saved by the 'Burgh keeper.

Graham Douglas, the home team's keeper, only had two freekicks to defend in the last 10 minutes before referee Peter Laing, who had a good match, blew for full time.

Manager Donald Campbell said: 'Going down to 10 men so early could have caused us problems but the team stuck together and played good football at times.'

Athletic are at home to Bellaire from Gourrock on Saturday with a 2pm kick-off at Glen 2.



**Friendly match at Dalmally Golf Club**

FRIENDLY: twenty ladies from Dalmally, Glencruitten and Tainuill golf clubs met recently in glorious spring sunshine for a friendly match at Dalmally Golf Club, followed by light refreshments in the clubhouse. The winners were Ann Colthart and Ann Hay from Dalmally and the runners-up were Mary Plunkett and Helen Pearson from Glencruitten.



CHAMPION: Carly MacIntyre walks on to Hampden Park with referee Steven McLean  
Photo Kevin McGlynn

**Hampden Park honour for Dunbeg pupil Carly**

EIGHT-year-old Carly MacIntyre had the honour of being one of the mascots at the recent Inverness Caledonian Thistle versus Celtic Scottish Cup semi-final.

The Dunbeg lass was put forward by her Celtic-mad great-aunt Margaret MacIntyre in a Specsavers competition and her name came out of the hat.

Her mum, Vicky MacIntyre, Dunbeg, said: 'She got three free tickets for the game, a goody bag and she got to keep the strip she wore.'

Naturally Margaret was given one of the Hampden Park tickets and Vicky and Carly had the other two.

The Dunbeg primary pupil got to meet the teams in the tunnel and had the honour of being walked on to the pitch by referee Steven McLean.

Vicky said Carly was very excited at all the attention and was even spotted on the television coverage.

Dad Alan MacKay, who plays for Oban Saints and is a regular at Celtic matches, was also at the game but sitting elsewhere in the ground.

Unfortunately for the Dunbeg contingent, Celtic were beaten 3-2 after Mr McLean sent off keeper Craig Gordon.

**Shadowfax wins round Kerrera race**  
**Sailing**

BLUSTERY conditions confronted Oban sailing club's keelboat sailors as they prepared for the start of the Barcaldine Marine round Kerrera race, the first of five feature races being held by the sailing club over the summer season.

Five boats headed off down the sound of Kerrera with quite strong gusts coming over the hills.

The fleet stayed close together, each boat trying to gain advantage as the gusts swept in. Reefs were shaken out as the wind dropped in the shelter of the lower sound.

As the fleet left the sound and headed along the south shore of Kerrera, conditions soon picked up and reefs were hurriedly put back in. The fleet tacked along the south shore, passing through the gap between the south west tip of Kerrera and Bach Island. The building wind made for a fast fetch up the west coast, before entering back into the calm of Oban bay.

First across the line was Billy Fortie's Shadowfax, closely followed by Colin Crawford's Nimrod.

The next feature race is the Art and Sea Round Creags race on May 30.

Results: 1 Shadowfax - Billy Fortie; 2 Nimrod - Colin Crawford; 3 Amber Haze - Eric and Irena Chapman; 4 Seal - Andrew Mead and Leonie Woolf; Calvador - Kevin McGrath - retired.



**Glencruitten**

STEVEN McCuish won the Lifeboat Competition and leads the qualifying for the Stokes Trophy with a score of 71 - 10 = 61 on Saturday. Donald McGill 89 - 27 = 62 was next followed by Scott MacLennan with a score of 88 - 25 = 63.

In the junior section on Sunday Steven Murphy scored 72 - 7 = 65 to lead the Young Trophy. Scott Robertson was next with a score of 83 - 17 = 66.

On Saturday a Greensome is to be held. In the junior section on Sunday the first round of the club championship takes place along with the monthly medal.

**Tobermory**

MEN'S section: Western Isles Challenge Cup - 1 Ewan MacCrone 35 pts; 2 Donald (Dods) MacLean 32 pts; 3 John Weir 31 pts. Marie Curie Shield - 1 Richard Inglis 31 pts; 2 Graham Davidson 30 pts; 3 Donald Brown snr. 30 pts.

Ladies' 18-hole Stableford - 1 Doris Hargreaves 34 pts; 2 Olive Brown 29 pts; 3 Kathy McAdam 25 pts.

Junior: Willie MacAllister - 1 Lewis Brown 64-06-58; 2 Ross MacCrone 78-12-66; 3 Scott Paterson 87-19-68.

**Islay**

HUNTER Trophy played Wednesday April 22 - 1 G Hamilton 43 Pts; 2 D Holyoake 39 pts; 3 R Hogben 39 pts.

Laphroaig Trophy played Sunday April 26 - 1 N Carmichael 36 pts; 2 A MacMillan 33 pts; 3 I MacCuaig 33 pts. C.S.S 72.

**Coach development course held in Oban**

SIXTEEN hardy souls braved the elements to take part in a recent SFA level 1.1 development activities coach education course held in Oban and run by Argyll and Bute Council/SFA Football Development Officer Martin Rae.

This six-hour course was open to all those aged 16 and over, experienced or otherwise, who work with youths/adults 13 plus.

In addition to delivering new content, the course assisted coaches to develop their coaching technique, focus on skill development and explored the best age specific activities for developing young players.

Martin said: 'A great day was had, despite the

**Football coaching**

poor weather conditions, and it's great this service can be provided locally for our volunteers to further their education and knowledge to pass this onto the young people they are working with.

'Not only did the course focus on the development of the coaches' repertoire of educational practices, it also re-emphasised other key issues that sport can provide, including health and physical benefits but also other important life skills for young adults to make the most out of life-like discipline, respect, social skills and willingness to learn.'



HARDY SOULS: the 16 coaches who braved the elements at the recent coach development course



**Spartak play in Hamilton tournament**

FESTIVAL FUN: Oban primary league team Spartak travelled to New Douglas Park, home of Hamilton Accies, to take part in a football festival recently. They had five games and did themselves proud playing some excellent football. The club would like to thank Strathclyde Scaffolding for a very generous donation which funded the entry into the festival.

**SPOT THE SHINTY BALL**

**THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2250**

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

J Cullen  
Nant Drive  
Oban

G Milliken  
Croft Hill Road  
Glasgow

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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.....

Tel No. ....

# Macaulay and Sutherland Cup ties take priority this weekend

## Marine Harvest Premiership

**GLENURQUHART** gained a crucial two premiership points thanks to a 1-0 win against Oban Camanachd at the weekend.

Fraser Heath scored the game's solitary goal in the 15th minute but manager Billy MacLean said his side did not play as well as they could have.

He said: 'We knew this would be a hard game, and it was, but we didn't play terribly well either. 'Oban played well, especially in the centre line. They're a good side so we're relieved we managed to get the win.'

The Glen have a free weekend lined up before facing Newtonmore in the first round of the Macaulay cup and Skye in the semi final of the MacTavish cup.

MacLean said: 'We need to play a lot better than we did on Saturday if we want to progress in the cups.'

**OBAN CAMANACHD** suffered a 1-0 loss at Glenurquhart.

Manager Gussie Campbell said: 'We were disappointed with the score, which was probably because we were missing four key players through work commitments.'

'The boys who started were hard done by.

'Their goalie was good but we should have come away with a draw. We need to start picking up some points.'

This weekend Camanachd are away at Bute in the Macaulay Cup.

Campbell said: 'We need to be prepared. Bute are a much better side than they were last year.'

'If the boys play with the same attitude that they had last weekend we should do well.'

'It will be good to have a break from the league.'

**NEWTONMORE** avenged their March defeat at Inveraray.

Winning 4-1, they now top the Marine Harvest Premiership on goal difference from Lovat.

Four Newtonmore regulars were missing - Steven MacDonald, Scott Campbell, Danny MacRae and Evan Menzies.

Scotland forward Glen MacKintosh had a great game.

He scored all the goals including netting a 71st minute penalty after an Inveraray defender kicked the ball inside the 'D'.

On Saturday, Newtonmore meet Glenurquhart in the Macaulay Cup at home.

When the two sides played three weeks ago in the league, Newtonmore recorded a 4-0 victory.

**INVERARAY** failed to repeat their historic March victory when they beat Newtonmore for the first time in six years.

For a while on Saturday it looked good for 'Ary. Chris Crawford scored an early goal in the ninth minute but Glen MacKintosh equalised within nine minutes.

Garry McPherson said: 'Chris was our most dangerous player in the first half getting a number of strikes but failing to score.'

'Unfortunately though, at the end of the half, he suffered a dislocated thumb and we had to bring on 16-year-old Alan Cameron as substitute.'

In the second half play switched firmly to Newtonmore and Scotland forward MacKintosh scored a hat trick taking his tally to four.

Inveraray coach Joe Fyfe said that next Saturday they will be fielding the strongest team possible in their Macaulay Cup home tie against Glasgow Mid Argyll.

**KINGUSSIE** will welcome Lochaber to the Dell this weekend for the first round of the Macaulay cup, off the back of a

3-2 victory against Kinlochshiel. Manager Russell Jones said: 'We had a good game at the weekend, especially the last two goals right at the end which gained us the points.'

'I'm feeling quite good about the game against Lochaber. We have a good home record and we have Louis Munro and Gary Munro back so I'm looking forward to it. Jones will have a full squad to pick from this weekend.'

**KINLOCHSHIEL** suffered their first premiership defeat of the season when they went down 3-2 at home to Kingussie on Saturday.

Despite goals from hosts Jordan Fraser and Calum MacLean, Kings took the points thanks to a hat trick from Savio Genini.



**OUCH:** Oban Camanachd's Lewis Buchanan sustained a badly broken pinkie in a recent under 17 game against Fort William. The 14-year-old was taken to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley where he was operated on. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

'Shiel's Paul Shearer was also sent off in the second half and will be suspended for this weekend's home clash against Kilmallie in the second round of the MacTavish cup.'

Manager Colin Fraser said: 'It was a close game at the weekend and one we really should have won but fair play to Kingussie they never gave up.'

'Paul being sent off was a blow because we had to rearrange our defence a bit.'

'This weekend will be hard too, Kilmallie have been playing well and really holding their own.'

**LOVAT'S** game against Kyles Athletic was cancelled following a bereavement.

On Saturday, Lovat travel to Fort William for a first round Macaulay Cup match.

**KYLES ATHLETIC'S** game against Lovat last Saturday was cancelled after Lovat defender Callum Cruden's grandfather Callum MacRitchie passed away.

On Saturday Kyles are at home in the Macaulay Cup to Glenorchy, who are two divisions lower.

After a free weekend, **LOCHABER** Camanachd will be ready to take on Kingussie in the first round of the Macaulay cup on Saturday.

The teams last clashed in the MacTavish cup in March when Kingussie won 2-1 at the Dell. Kings' will again have home advantage over the Spean Bridge side.

## South Division One

**LOCHSIDE** manager Gareth Evans has admitted his side's fixture with Kingussie this Saturday will be a big step up for the team as they try to maintain their unbeaten run this season.

With four wins in the Marine Harvest South division one, including a 5-0 victory against Taynuilt at home on Saturday, Evans' side sit top of the table.

Lochside also advanced in the Sutherland cup and will face premiership outfit Kingussie in the second round this Saturday.

He said: 'It was 2-0 at half-time and up until that point it had really been one-way traffic.'

'We maybe should have been a few more up than that but their goalkeeper played really well. We played some nice shinty and I'm obviously delighted to score five goals and keep a clean sheet.'

Looking to Saturday's cup tie, Evans said: 'The game is a big step up for us. Kingussie have some good old hands playing for them so we know how tough a game lies in store.'

The tie will throw-up at 12pm at the Dell.

**BUTE** dropped to fourth in the table after a 1-1 home draw with Inveraray.

It started well, when Adam Stirling put Bute into the lead, in the 31st minute scoring the only goal of the half.

There were no more goals until Fraser Watt's late equaliser 12 minutes from the end.

Bute face Oban Camanachd this Saturday in the Macaulay Cup.

It should be an exciting game as two weeks ago they gave the premiership side a scare drawing 1-1 in the Celtic Cup before going down 2-4 after extra time.

Inveraray have an away game this weekend at Canal Park against Kilmallie in the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup.

**KILMORY** played their first home game of the season and rewarded fans with their first league win beating Aberdeen 2-0.

Many fans missed some early play though as the game was rescheduled on Saturday morning for a 1.30pm throw up.

John Strachan found the net in the first half and an Alex Cunningham strike in the second half gave the home side both points.

Kilmory's Alister MacArthur said: 'It was quite a close game and great to win and get the boys' heads up a wee bit.'

Kilmory are now in sixth place and Aberdeen in eighth in the league.

This weekend Kilmory have another home league tie against bottom team Taynuilt.



**ON TARGET:** Lochside youngster Daniel MacVicar, red and black strip, scored two goals in his team's 5-0 win over Taynuilt at Ganavan last Saturday. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

**STRACHUR** now sit second from the bottom of South Division 1 having lost every league game they have played this season conceding 13 goals in total.

On Saturday they played a local derby at Tighnabraich and went down 2-1 to Kyles Athletic.

Scott MacDonald opened Kyles' account in the 35th minute and four minutes later Strachur's Robert Flint levelled the score at 1-1. In the closing moments Kyle McMartin scored Kyles' winning goal.

Strachur are in league action at Mossfield when they take on Oban Celtic this weekend.

**TAYNUILT** manager Davy Thomson recognises the importance of Saturday's tie with Kilmory, as his side struggles at the bottom of the South Division one.

Three losses in three games, including a 5-0 defeat against Lochside Rovers on Saturday, leaves the side bottom of the division.

Thomson said: 'We're so short at the moment, it was kind of expected.'

'We are around five or six players down so, realistically, we were always going to struggle.'

'Hopefully when we get boys back from injury we will be stronger and the quality will improve.'

'We need to be competing against teams like Kilmory, Aberdeen and Strachur so

## Shinty

Saturday is an important game.' The tie throws up at 2.30pm in Lochgilphead.

## South Division Two

**OBAN LORN** dropped off the top spot after their first loss of the season to Glenorchy who recorded their first league win.

Just two minutes into the game, Scott MacIntyre scored to put Glenorchy ahead. In the second half Zander Kilmurray doubled the advantage on the 57th minute.

Lorn are at home to Col Glen this Saturday.

**GLENORCHY'S** first league win of the season was against the team that at the start of the day sat six places higher at the top of the league.

Glenorchy's Scott MacIntyre scored in the sixth minute and Zander Kilmurray confirmed the advantage in the 57th.

Next weekend Glenorchy are in league action away at Ballachulish.

## Norh Division Two

**GLENGARRY** had a convincing 4-1 home win over Boleskine last weekend thanks to a hat-trick from Daniel MacLennan and one from Scott Bremner.

The win keeps Glengarry second in the table on goal difference to Skye.

This week the Glens are at home to Beaulie in the Sutherland Cup

## Camanachd Cup

**KILMALLIE** are out of the Camanachd cup after a last minute Beaulie goal gave the visitors both points.

The home side equalised from 2-0 down at Canal Parks during the replay on Saturday but a goal from Jack MacDonald in the 90th minute sent Beaulie through to the next round.

To add insult to injury, Kilmallie's John Stewart will be missing from this week's away clash against Kinlochshiel after



**RACE:** Oban Camanachd's Daniel Cameron wins this race for the ball with Glenurquhart's Eddie Tembo during the Marine Harvest Premiership match at Drumadrochit last Saturday. The Glens won a close encounter 1-0. Photo: Donald Cameron

Askev scored the two goals in the 56th and 71st minutes.

Celtic's Davy Hamilton said: 'If you take your chances you get goals. We had lots of play but we never took all our chances.'

'It is never ever going to be easy, that's just the way it goes.'

This weekend Celtic face Strachur at Mossfield.

Hamilton said: 'Strachur are a stuffy team. We beat them last year but it will be a test for our young boys.'

**BALLACHULISH** put three past Oban Celtic to win 3-2 and go through to the quarter finals of the Macaulay Cup. It was a case of sweet revenge as the previous week they had lost 3-0 to Oban in the Celtic Society Cup.

The victory was that bit more pleasing as Balla' played much of the match a man down after Stuart Robertson was sent off.

Balla's goals came from Scott MacDonald, Davie MacPhee and Grant MacKenzie.

Ballachulish entertain Glasgow Mid Argyll in the Camanachd Cup on Saturday.

## MacTavish Cup

**SKYE** Camanachd are through to the MacTavish cup semi finals after a 2-1 victory against Fort William in Portree.

The islanders were missing injured Shockie MacLennan and Allan MacKinnon as well as keeper Jamie Gannon who failed a mid-week fitness test but managed an early goal through Kenny Campbell in the sixth minute and a late goal from Jordan Murchison secured their place in the semi final in the 85th minute.

Manager John MacLeod said: 'There wasn't much between the two teams at all. It was a really tight game until the last goal at the tail end but it's a win so we're happy with that.'

This weekend Skye are away to Caberfeidh in the national division.

MacLeod said: This will be another tough game. We drew

with them in Portree at the start of the season so we'll need to try harder to get a win but we'll have Shockie back so that will be a help.'

**FORT WILLIAM** are out of the MacTavish cup after going down 2-1 to Skye in the second round.

Visiting Fort had a fight on their hands from the beginning when a sixth minute goal from Kenny Campbell gave the islanders an early lead. Ewan Campbell equalised for Fort William in the second half but Jordan Murchison's goal in the 85th minute gave Skye the victory.

Fort co-manager Victor Smith said: 'It was a poor result but not for lack of trying. The guys played really well and it was a good game of shinty.'

This weekend Fort William welcome Lovat to An Aird for the first round of the Artemis Macaulay cup.

Smith said: 'This will be a real test. We'll have to pull out all the stops to beat Lovat.'

'They're playing really well so we'll have to improve greatly on Saturday's performance to be in with a chance.'

**VALERIE FRASER** Camanachd Cup quarter final between Lorn Ladies and Glasgow Mid Argyll held at Mossfield last Sunday. The Glasgow side came out on top 8-0.



**Action from the Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup quarter final between Lorn Ladies and Glasgow Mid Argyll held at Mossfield last Sunday. The Glasgow side came out on top 8-0.** Photo: Stephen Lawson

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Aberdour 0 - 2 Ballachulish  
Col Glen 1 - 3 Tayforth  
Glasgow MA P - P Bute  
Bute unable to raise a team, points to Glasgow Mid Argyll  
Glenorchy 2 - 0 Oban Lorn

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Beaulie P - P Lovat following a bereavement  
Fort William 2 - 0 Newtonmore  
Lochcarron 6 - 3 Kinlochshiel  
Strathglass 0 - 4 Kingussie

**Marine Harvest National Division**  
Glasgow MA 4 - 0 Inverness

**Marine Harvest Under 17 MacQuiston Cup 1st Round**  
Aberdour 4 - 3 Ballachulish (after extra time)

**Marine Harvest National Under 17 League - London Shield**  
Section A  
Caberfeidh 0 - 7 Beaulie  
Lovat P - P Lochaber  
Kinlochshiel 0 - 3 Glenurquhart  
Section B  
Kingussie 1 - 2 Newtonmore  
Oban Caman 2 - 0 Fort William  
Kilmallie P - P Ballachulish

**Marine Harvest Under 14 League**  
Kingussie 9 - 0 Newtonmore  
Fort William 13 - 0 Lochaber  
Kinlochshiel 1 - 7 Skye  
Beaulie 7 - 1 Strathglass  
Inverness 9 - 0 Lovat



**UP CLOSE:** Inveraray's Grant Griffen is closely marked by Newtonmore's Norman Campbell during the Badenoch side's 4-1 victory at the Eilan. Photo: Neil Paterson



## Fixtures

Saturday May 2

### Artemis Macaulay Cup 1st Round

Bute v Oban Camanachd  
David Mitchell  
Inveraray v Glasgow Mid Argyll  
Robert Baxter  
Kyles Athletic v Glenorchy  
Billy Wotherspoon  
Fort William v Lovat  
Ron Kennedy  
Kingussie v Lochaber  
Graham Cameron - 3pm

### RBS MacTavish Cup 2nd Round

Kinlochshiel v Kilmallie  
Evan MacRae - 3pm

### Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup 2nd Round

Aberdour v Lochaber  
Ewan MacDonald  
Caberfeidh v Newtonmore  
Martin MacLean - 12pm  
Glengarry v Beaulie  
Deek Cameron  
Glenurquhart v Lovat  
John Matheson  
Kilmallie v Inveraray  
Innes Wood  
Kingussie v Lochside Rovers  
Euan Pearson - 12pm  
Kinlochshiel v Fort William  
Andy MacLean - 12pm

### Marine Harvest National Division

Beaulie v Inverness  
Archie Ritchie  
Caberfeidh v Skye  
Calum Girvan - 3pm

### Marine Harvest North Division 1

Lochcarron v Strathglass  
John Angus Gillies

### Marine Harvest South Division 1

Kilmory v Taynuilt  
David Stafford  
Oban Celtic v Strachur  
John MacGregor

Marine Harvest South Division 2  
Col Glen v Oban Lorn  
Ronnie Campbell

(Throw ups 2.30 unless stated)

## Results

Saturday 25 April

### SSE Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Preliminary Round Replay

Kilmallie 2 - 3 Beaulie

### Artemis Macaulay Cup 1st Round

Oban Celtic 2 - 3 Ballachulish

### RBS MacTavish Cup 2nd Round

Skye 2 - 1 Fort William

### Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup 1st Round

Lochaber 3 - 0 Scots Camanachd

### Marine Harvest Premiership

Glenurquhart 1 - 0 Oban Caman  
Kinlochshiel 2 - 3 Kingussie  
Lovat P - P Kyles Athletic following a bereavement  
Newtonmore 4 - 1 Inveraray

### Marine Harvest National Division

Glasgow MA 4 - 0 Inverness

### Marine Harvest North Division 1

Beaulie P - P Lovat following a bereavement  
Fort William 2 - 0 Newtonmore  
Lochcarron 6 - 3 Kinlochshiel  
Strathglass 0 - 4 Kingussie

### Marine Harvest South Division 1

Bute 1 - 1 Inveraray  
Kilmory 2 - 0 Aberdeen  
Kyles Athletic 2 - 1 Strachur  
Lochside Rovers 5 - 0 Taynuilt

### Marine Harvest North Division 2

Caberfeidh 2 - 0 Strathspey  
Glengarry 4 - 1 Boleskine  
Kilmallie 2 - 0 Skye

### Marine Harvest South Division 2

Aberdour 0 - 2 Ballachulish  
Col Glen 1 - 3 Tayforth  
Glasgow MA P - P Bute  
Bute unable to raise a team, points to Glasgow Mid Argyll  
Glenorchy 2 - 0 Oban Lorn

### Youth Results Under 17 MacQuiston Cup 1st Round

Aberdour 4 - 3 Ballachulish (after extra time)

### Marine Harvest National Under 17 League - London Shield

Section A  
Caberfeidh 0 - 7 Beaulie  
Lovat P - P Lochaber  
Kinlochshiel 0 - 3 Glenurquhart  
Section B  
Kingussie 1 - 2 Newtonmore  
Oban Caman 2 - 0 Fort William  
Kilmallie P - P Ballachulish

### Marine Harvest Under 14 League

Kingussie 9 - 0 Newtonmore  
Fort William 13 - 0 Lochaber  
Kinlochshiel 1 - 7 Skye  
Beaulie 7 - 1 Strathglass  
Inverness 9 - 0 Lovat



**FESTY:** Oban Celtic's Kenny Wotherspoon shields the ball from Alan Clark of Ballachulish during a festive Macaulay Cup tie at Mossfield Stadium. Ballachulish won the game 3-2 despite having a player sent off. Photo: Stephen Lawson

## Saints net four against Rangers

'After we got into our stride there was only going to be one winner'

**Kings Park Rangers** 1  
**Oban Saints** 4  
SAFL Premier Division

OBAN Saints recovered from a 1-0 deficit after a lacklustre first half performance to record an ultimately convincing win over the Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division's bottom club Kings Park Rangers at Glasgow Green last Saturday.

The win keeps alive Saints faint hopes for retaining the Premier Division title, however, those hopes now depend on St Joseph's FP and current leaders Thorn Athletic dropping points.



**ON TARGET:** Scott Maitland netted Saints third goal against Kings Park Rangers

Manager Iain Jackson had Ross Maitland and Myles McAuley available for selection again but resisted the temptation to throw them straight back into the action electing to name exactly the same starting line-up which had knocked Haldane United out of the Jimmy Marshall Trophy the week previous.

Remarkably, with just four weeks of the season remaining, this was the first time the same starting eleven had been possible in consecutive fixtures.

After a cagey opening 10 minutes, Saints created the first chance of note when Lewis Cameron made a good run up the right wing and picked out Dean Smith just inside the box with a neat cut-back. Dean's low shot beat James McLaughlan in the Kings' goal but shaved the outside of the keeper's right hand post.

Two minutes later Thomas McCulloch, now elevated to first choice Saints goalkeeper, made his first telling contribution of the afternoon when he did well to hold a powerful header from Kings' striker Dean MacCallum from an inswinging free kick wide on the Saints left.

Kings' demonstrated their aerial threat in the 33rd minute. From a long throw on the Saints' right, the ball was flicked on at the near post by Dean MacCallum to Chas Mauchin, who beat the close attentions of Donnie Campbell to send in a header which glanced off Thomas McCulloch's left hand post and behind for a goal kick.

Saints fell behind in the 43rd minute from another Kings' set piece. A deep free kick from the Saints left was headed powerfully beyond the despairing dive of Thomas McCulloch by Chas Mauchin to nestle in the bottom corner of the Saints net.

Immediately after the restart Saints were dealt another blow when Craig MacEwan pulled up with what appeared to be a groin strain and was replaced on the left wing by Ross Maitland.

Saints drew level on the 49-minute mark when Ross Maitland pressured the Kings' defence into conceding a throw-in on the Saints left level with the six-yard line. Ross took the throw himself picking out Donald Campbell with his back to goal and tightly marked by the Kings' defence.

With a deft touch Donnie gained himself enough space to hit the byline and chip an exquisite left foot cross to the back post for the waiting David McArthur, who headed home from a tight angle to finally open his Saints goal scoring account.

The visitors increased their lead in the 55th minute when Lewis Cameron took a corner kick from the right and picked out Allan MacKay at the near post



**ACTION:** Donnie Campbell takes on Kings Park Rangers central defender Barry McCallum during last Saturday's match at Glasgow Green.

Photos and match report: Derek Black

who lost his marker to volley into the net and give Saints the lead. Manager Iain Jackson decided to ring the changes at this point and replaced David McArthur and Dean Smith with Scott Maitland and Myles McAuley.

Saints made their final change withdrawing Allan MacKay and replacing him with Martin Bonar. Bonar made an instant impact flicking on another Donnie Campbell ball out of midfield to Scott Maitland on the left wing.

Scott made good progress up the wing and picked out Donnie

Campbell with a cut-back to the edge of the box. Donnie's first time shot wrong footed the goalkeeper but struck the base of the post before being scrambled behind for a corner.

Saints extended their lead in the 85th minute when Myles McAuley made a terrific run up the right wing to get on the end of a measured through ball from Ross Maitland. On the corner of the box Myles checked back onto his left foot and curled a delightful cross to Scott Maitland at the back post who glanced a header

into the bottom corner for his first goal in Saints colours. Saints rounded off the scoring just one minute later when a perfectly weighted pass from Myles McAuley sent Martin Bonar through the inside right channel and in on goal. With the big striker about to pull the trigger, his progress was crudely halted by a trip from behind giving the referee an easy decision to award a penalty kick. Donnie Campbell assumed responsibility for the spot kick which he calmly converted sending the keeper the wrong way to

### Football

make the final score 4-1 to the visitors.

Manager Iain Jackson was happy with the win and the three points. He said: 'We didn't play all that well in the first half but after we got into our stride there was only going to be one winner. Our fitness told in the second half and we dominated play and could have scored more goals.'

Saints have no game this Saturday. Their next fixture is away to Haldane United on May 9.

## Youngsters turn on the style at Dalriada

ETIVE Vikings RFC hosted the latest Mini Rugby Dalriada Festival at Taynuilt Sports Pavilion on Saturday.

Teams from Oban, Mid Argyll and Etive Vikings attended the event along with visitors Helensburgh, who had more than 50 players in attendance on their annual tour to the Dalriada clubs.

All of the teams impressed at both age groups of P4/5 and P6/7 with some entertaining rugby on show. With no overall winners announced after the series of

### Mini rugby

games, the emphasis for the day was focussed on sportsmanship, teamwork and most importantly, fun.

The next festival, hosted by Isle of Mull RFC, will take place at Garmony on Saturday May 16.

**FUN IN THE SUN:** Etive Vikings at the Dalriada festival last Saturday.  
Photo: Stephen Day/Stargate42.com



## Fun-filled football in Oban over Easter holidays

**FOOTBALL FUN:** Argyll and Bute Council's football service provided fun-filled football opportunities for children over the Easter holidays. Courses were well attended and not only focused on the young players' enjoyment of sport, the focus was also on improving skills, competition, games and other important life skills that young people gain through sport, the likes of respect, effort, behaviour, willingness to learn and learning that mistakes are allowed and mistakes can be used as a learning tool to success.

## Rugby round-up

### Oban Lorne 7s

OBAN Lorne RFC is stepping up preparations for its annual 7s tournament taking place on Saturday May 16 at Glencruitten from 12 noon. So far 12 men and four ladies teams have confirmed for the day.

### Oban High welcome Cliftonhall

OBAN high school's S1/2 rugby team welcomed Cliftonhall School from Edinburgh to Oban on Friday. The teams competed in a late afternoon match at Glencruitten with the home side running out 36-24 winners. Both sides enjoyed a post match meal and games in the Oban Lorne clubhouse. The S1/2 section have several

### Rugby

more fixtures planned between now and the end of the season. Training takes place every Wednesday evening from 4-5pm at Oban High School.

### Oban Lorne 1st XV

OBAN Lorne's 1st XV will travel to take part in the Lochaber 7s this Saturday at Banavie. The Green Machine are still awaiting confirmation that their final West Division 2 fixture at home to Uddingston will be going ahead on Saturday May 9.

The opposition have been struggling to field a team in recent weeks.

Oban Lorne's 2015 AGM takes place in the clubhouse on Saturday June 1 at 6pm

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**WEATHER**

**Thursday** Sunny  
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Temperatures 2°C to 10°C.

**Friday** Sunny intervals  
Winds light north northerly easterly  
Temperatures 2°C to 10°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Light rain showers on Saturday  
Light rain on Sunday  
Winds moderate east south easterly  
Temperatures 4°C to 8°C.

**TIDAL INFORMATION**

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, April 30, 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>	03.20	3.2	10.12	1.4	15.53	3.3	21.52	1.3
<b>Fri</b>	03.58	3.4	10.44	1.2	16.27	3.5	22.30	1.1
<b>Sat</b>	04.35	3.6	11.12	1.1	17.01	3.7	23.06	1.0
<b>Sun</b>	05.11	3.7	11.40	1.0	17.34	3.8	23.40	0.9
<b>Mon</b>	05.44	3.8	12.10	0.9	18.05	3.8	***	**
<b>Tues</b>	00.14	0.8	06.15	3.8	12.40	0.9	18.34	3.8
<b>Wed</b>	00.49	0.9	06.44	3.8	13.10	0.9	19.05	3.8

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

**FRIDAY**

Ardershaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate



### Fiddlers' rally a huge success

### Lochaber Together fun run



# Mallaig care home to remain closed for another ten weeks

DISAPPOINTMENT AS NHS HIGHLAND MANAGER REVEALS ONE MEMBER OF STAFF STILL NEEDS 'EXTENDED TRAINING'

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

MALLAIG care home the Mackintosh centre is to remain closed for another 10 weeks because one member of staff requires 'extended training', an NHS Highland manager has revealed.

New staff have been appointed following long-running recruitment problems since the home closed last July amid allegations of poor practice.

But despite overcoming this hurdle, it could take until July of this year to have the residents, who have been housed more than 40 miles away at Inverness house in Fort William, back in Mallaig.

Tracy Ligema, NHS Highland area manager for the west, told Lochaber district partnership on Tuesday that all vacancies had been filled but some new employees have to work four weeks notice in current jobs and it would take a further six weeks to prepare another member of staff who requires extended training. Ms Ligema said at the meeting: 'Since interviews on the first and second of April we have been able to make offers for all available posts. The really positive news is we are pretty sure we will be able to fill the vacant posts but combining the longest notice period of four weeks and the fact someone needs about six weeks training means we're looking at about 10 weeks.'

Allan Henderson, Highland councillor for Caol and Mallaig who also attended the meeting, said he was 'disappointed' about the further delay. He said: 'I can only express my disappointment because this is quite different to when we last met and we all agreed mid May would be the aim. If you're just talking

**“**I think you could find another member of staff who could take up the role temporarily**”**

**Allan Henderson**  
Highland councillor for Caol and Mallaig

about one person I think you could find another member of staff who could take up the role temporarily if it meant getting the place open sooner. To me it's vital that it opens as soon as possible.'

Michael Foxley, NHS Highland board member and joint chairman of Lochaber district partnership, asked Ms Ligema to look into opening the Mackintosh centre sooner and called it a 'major issue in the west [Lochaber]'. Ms Ligema, who attended the meeting via video conference, replied: 'I'll definitely look into it but my absolute main priority is the safety of the patients so that might mean waiting.'

Joanne MacDonald, NHS Highland's director of adult social care, added: 'This has taken longer than we anticipated but we want to make sure when residents go back the staff roster is robust and safe.'

The eight-bed Mackintosh centre temporarily closed in July last year amid allegations of poor practice. At the time, an NHS Highland spokesman said the care home would be closed for four to six weeks.



## Sharing memories as merger looms

AS THE last term at Fort William primary school is now under way, former pupils and staff visited to say goodbye and share memories.

The school is set to merge with Upper Achintore after the summer so current

pupils and staff have been learning about the 140-year history of Fort William primary school.

On Friday two past head teachers, Angus MacIver and Jennifer Cattanach, joined former pupils to share their favourite

memories with the current children of Fort William primary.

As part of the ongoing celebrations, a coffee morning will be held at the school from 11am on Wednesday June 3. Everyone welcome.



## Kinlochleven trusts villager Marion to take over helm

A NEW development officer has taken the helm at Kinlochleven community trust.

Marion Smith has lived in the Lochaber village for more than 20 years and said she is looking forward to the new role.

She added: 'Kinlochleven is a

beautiful place to live and I wanted to be involved in developing what already exists and supporting the tenants of Kinlochleven community trust.

'It'll be continuing projects such as the hydro scheme and we're hoping to have a project manager hired by mid May to help us bring that forward.'

'I'm looking forward to taking that forward, along with our other projects.'

**TAKING THE HELM:** Marion Smith 20\_18kinlochleven01

## TIMESLINE

### Police appeal for help with crimes

LOCHABER police are appealing for information about the following crimes in the area.

Sometime between 5.30pm and midnight on Friday April 24 a Honda civic parked at Travis Perkins on Ben Nevis industrial estate had parts of a body kit removed and stolen.

At around 9.45pm on Saturday April 18 at Morrisons filling station, Fort William, an attempt was made to gain entry to the vacuum and air line machines to steal money.

Sometime between 9pm on Saturday April 18 and 7.30am the following day, money was taken from the pressure washer and vacuum cleaner at Gleaner petrol station, Fort William.

Anyone with information about these incidents should contact Lochaber police by calling 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

### Rotary boost for shed and school

THE ROTARY club of Lochaber has announced its latest round of grants.

At the group's meeting on Monday, it was decided Fort William's men's shed would receive £250 and £200 went to Lochaber high school's nimble fingers. Members also donated £500 to a charity which provides prosthetic limbs in Africa.

### Bilingual Twitter first for council

WESTERN isles council will become the first local authority in the United Kingdom to run a bilingual Twitter account during the general election count.

The social media feed will provide updates from the count at Lewis sports centre in both English and Gaelic, adding to the council's already extensive Gaelic election coverage.



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VW Polo Sel 1.4 Petrol	10 - 5 dr h/back - 21,393 miles	£8,395
VW Move Up 1.0 Petrol	13 - 5 dr h/back - 12,165 miles	£7,495
VW Fox Urban	11 - 3 dr h/back - 25,135 miles	£4,775
VX Corsa 1.3 Diesel	13 - dr h/back - 9,959 miles	£7,995
VX Corsa 1.4 Petrol	13 - 5 dr h/back - 16,131 miles	£7,395
Citroen C1 1.0 Petrol	12 - 5 dr h/back - 32,769	£4,850
Kia Ceed 1.6 Petrol	58 - 5 dr h/back - 36,438 miles	£4,495
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## Politicians back call for care review

THE FUTURE of health care in Skye and Lochalsh must be addressed with an independent review, say Highland politicians.

Parliamentary candidates for Ross, Skye and Lochaber have backed calls by campaign group Save Portree hospital for clearer information about what services will be retained in north Skye when a new hospital is built in Broadford, south Skye.

When Broadford was chosen by NHS Highland as the location for the new hospital, it was said Portree would remain open as a 'spoke' facility and would no longer treat inpatients. Anyone who requires emergency treatment will also be sent to Broadford. Although NHS Highland stated Portree does not currently have an official accident and emergency service, patients in need of out-of-hours medical care have been treated there previously.

Members of Save Portree hospital condemned the plans and said full services should be retained in the north of the island, as well as opening the new hospital in Broadford, and have called for an independent review.

Charles Kennedy, Liberal Democrat candidate for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, said: 'The welcome new hospital at Broadford must be accompanied by proper provision at Portree. I back those calling for a fully independent review of health care across Skye and Lochalsh.'

Lindsay McCallum, Conservative candidate for the same constituency, also backed the calls. She said: 'A clinical review with the involvement of the local community is now the best route forward.'

A spokesman from Save Portree hospital said Green candidate Anne Thomas and Labour candidate Chris Conniff have pledged their support.

Scottish national party candidate Ian Blackford has not supported an independent review but has instead called for the reinstatement of a rural practitioner in north Skye, to increase emergency cover, and the retention of inpatient services in Portree. He said: 'With this additional rural practitioner and enhanced ambulance services I believe the concerns of the public will be met allowing us to move forward in harmony to discuss the future needs of the whole of Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross.'

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12 12 Vauxhall Astra SRI	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	£7,995
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**'Champion' of wild land dies, aged 77**

A CONSERVATIONIST involved in the management of west Highland nature reserve Creag Meagaidh has died aged 77.

Dick Balharry MBE, former chairman of the John Muir Trust, began his working life as an under keeper in Tighnabruach and devoted much of his 50-year career to the protection and regeneration of woodland. Mr Balharry, who died on April 22, was a key member in the management of national nature reserve Creag Meagaidh in the Great Glen and worked for Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) until retiring in 1997, but continued to fill ambassador and senior management posts with the organisation and was given an MBE in 1996 for services to nature conservation. A spokesperson for SNH said: 'With the death of Dick Balharry we have lost a friend, colleague and formidable champion of wild land.'

**Energy cash lined up for new grants**

COMMUNITY benefit groups in the Western Isles could receive grants of up to £10,000 thanks to a new funding stream.

The Western Isles development trust (WIDT) has announced it will be providing money earned from renewable energy schemes to groups across the wider island community.

WIDT directors will soon be considering applications for funding and charitable groups from the Butt of Lewis to Barra could be in with a chance.

Angus Campbell, chairman of WIDT, said: 'This is an exciting opportunity for communities to benefit from renewable energy developments.'

More information, enquiry forms and eligibility guidance is available from [www.widt.co.uk](http://www.widt.co.uk)

**Injured hill walker airlifted off peak**

A MAN had multiple injuries after falling more than 300 feet from a mountain in south Lochaber on Sunday.

The 41-year-old was walking on Meall Mor, near Glencoe, with another man, when he slipped and fell 328 metres, injuring his head, arm and torso. The injuries were described by police as 'serious but not life threatening'.

Members of Glencoe mountain rescue team went to the scene and were assisted by coastguard helicopter Rescue 951.

The casualty was flown to Fort William where he was transferred to Belford hospital.

# Angry villagers demand action on cemetery gate

EMMA CRICHTON  
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

RESIDENTS of a rural Lochaber village have come together to demand that a gate preventing access to their local cemetery is removed.

In an ongoing row, Strontian villagers say the owners of nearby Drimnatorran Farm, who put up the heavy metal obstruction, have been making it difficult to visit the graveyard and they allowed their goats to roam the cemetery and eat the flowers, real and plastic, which had been left at gravesides.

Brenda and Jim Oddy, an elderly couple living on the cemetery side of the gate, told the *Oban Times* they couldn't leave their house alone because the gate wouldn't stay open long enough to drive through it.

A rope has since been added to hold it open, but the angry villagers say this is not enough and the gate should be moved completely.

Mrs Oddy, 80, said: 'We could

only go out together because one person had to hold the gate open while the other drove through; that's no way to live.

'They've put rope there now but it's still not good enough.

'This isn't their private estate and they have no right to pretend otherwise or to prevent people from coming in.'

Mr Oddy, 84, added: 'We have lived here almost 30 years and there has never been a gate. It's completely unnecessary and I can't understand why the Shaws [farm owners] would want it there in the first place.

'If you're elderly or can't walk well there's no way you could push that gate without help so it's stopping a lot of people from visiting the cemetery.

'They've upset the entire village and I don't understand why because it's such a friendly and welcoming community.'

Alan Thomson, secretary of Sunart community council, said there is no reasoning with Melvin and Sally Shaw, who moved into Drimnatorran Farm



A GATE TOO FAR: Strontian residents demand the gate to the cemetery is removed. From left: Tony Dobson, Brenda Oddy, Jim Oddy, Mike Laybourne and Jackie Laybourne 20\_f18strontian01

three years ago. He said: 'Even before the gate went up we were trying to come to an agreement with them because their goats ate all the flowers, even the plastic ones, and they were shouting at people for parking outside the cemetery but we didn't get anywhere.

'People were devastated when that happened with the flowers, but they don't care.'

'We want the gate removed and the stones they have put in place to obstruct visitors parking.'

'We also want them to take down the sign that says private road because it makes people think they're not allowed into the cemetery.'

Drimnatorran Farm is now for sale and the worried villagers say they would like to see the issue resolved before new owners move in.

Mr Thomson added: 'If new owners come here and the gate is already there, they'll think that's okay and how it has always been and we'll be back to square one.'

'We just want it sorted so we can all get on with living our lives peacefully.'

Mike Laybourne, another community council member, added: 'I tried to reason with them and at first I felt like I was getting somewhere but not anymore. They don't want to listen to anyone and said they don't have to explain themselves.'

Mr Laybourne's daughter-in-law, Jackie Laybourne, added that she had been accused of trespassing by Mrs Shaw when she walked her dog at the cemetery.

Mr and Mrs Shaw declined to comment.

**Drivers warned to heed red lights**

POLICE have warned drivers in Lochaber they could be subject to a fixed penalty and three points on their licence if they ignore red lights.

This comes after a number of 'near misses' at the temporary convoy system currently in place at Banavie swing bridge, whilst road works are carried out, as drivers have disobeyed red lights.

A spokeswoman for Lochaber police said: 'Registration plates are being noted and CCTV is in operation. Drivers reported to police for disobeying red lights could be subject to three points and a fixed penalty of £100.'

'This has been dangerous for workmen at the bridge as there have been quite a lot of near misses due to people driving through red lights. The convoy system is in place for the health and safety of both workers and drivers.'

**Development plan in meeting**

A SOUTH Skye public group is devoting its entire next meeting to discussing a local development plan.

Sleat community council will discuss what it would like to see in Highland council's west Highlands and islands local plan and give a presentation on the formal statement submitted by the group.

All business owners, organisations and individuals from Sleat are invited to the meeting, to be held this Tuesday (May 5) at Seomar Cruinneachaidh, Sabhal Mor Ostaig, from 7.30pm.

**School hosts fair to raise funds**

A PRODUCE fair is to be held in Arisaig today (Thursday) to raise money for the village primary school.

Astley Hall will be filled with plants, jams, home baking, crafts and knitwear from 11am until 3pm. Soup and sandwiches will also be available, with all proceeds going to Arisaig primary school.

## Running together for cancer research



BIG CHEER: Runners and supporters look forward to the main event 20\_f18run03



THEY'RE OFF: scores of youngsters lead the field 20\_f18run04



MONKEYING AROUND: One runner didn't feel the cold in his outfit 20\_f18run02

## Fundraisers brave wind and rain to boost charity

FUNDRAISERS braved wind and rain for the fifth Lochaber Together fun run in aid of cancer research UK.

Despite the poor weather, 187 people took part in the event, with many more watching and cheering on the runners from the starting point at An Aird shinty ground, Fort William.

Although numbers were down on previous races, which reached 500 runners at its peak, organiser Adam Ramsey said he was really pleased with the result.

He said: 'The weather wasn't great but there's nothing we can do about that and a lot of people still came out to do their bit, so that's really good.'

'Numbers were down a fair bit compared to previous years but there was still a really good atmosphere on the day.'

Mr Ramsey said it would take about a month to count the total raised but a side event alone, organised by local strongmen, has raised between £3,000 and £4,000.



Noreen MacGillivray takes part in a different costume every year 20\_f18run01



The pink panther stops for a quick photo mid-run 20\_f18run05

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**HOLED:** a community bus is damaged on a Lismore road when it drove over one of the island's many potholes

## Island roads look like a lunar scene, says resident

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

ON A STRETCH of road less than half a mile long, Lismore residents have counted more than 250 potholes.

The U49 Salen loop on the island is home to a small holiday business, three families as well as two other fully occupied houses yet the road is 'practically non-existent,' says resident Colin MacLean-Fleming.

Mr MacLean-Fleming said: 'The moon has probably got smaller craters than this road. I am frightened our cars are going to get lost on it. This hasn't just been going on for a couple of years, it has been since at least the 1980s.'

'In January of 2014, there was 261 potholes and I took photos of them and sent them to the council but very little has been done since. Enough is enough we need our road fixed.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'We are committed to making sure Argyll and Bute's road network is maintained and repaired, although it is important to prioritise budgets and resources which are under pressure.'

'When specific issues are reported, we look at how best to deal with these against all of our road network priorities.'

# Clan chief says beach is for people of Oban

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

GANAVAN Sands was sold to the council in the hope that it would be used for the enjoyment of townsfolk and tourists, the granddaughter of the landowner has revealed in a letter to the *Oban Times*.

The land and its ownership has long been a bone of contention between the people of Oban and the council.

It was thrust into the limelight when it was sold to a private developer in the early part of the 21st century.

Houses now stand where a bandstand and a children's play area once stood.

Last week, Soroba resident Doreen MacLeod raised the issue with councillors after she was threatened with a fine if she didn't put a parking ticket on her car which was parked at Ganavan Sands.

This week, clan chief Morag MacDougall of Dunollie joined the debate: 'What Doreen MacLeod had written is correct: the land was sold by my grandfather - Colonel Alexander, J. MacDougall of MacDougall, the 29th chief, to the council, earlier last century.'

She continues: 'It was (sold) with the hope that it would be used for the enjoyment and recreation of the townspeople, and visitors to Oban.'

'Many of the past facilities have now disappeared for the benefit of 'developers' rather than the Oban community.'

'I wonder how my grandfather would be feeling about it if he were still with us?'

Doreen MacLeod, who initially raised the issue, agreed: 'He would be turning in his grave.'

'For years people have asked and wondered about the ownership of the land - and here it is, it does belong to the townsfolk.'



**AMENITY:** (Main picture) Ganavan is a popular beauty spot for Oban residents and visitors. (Below, right) Doreen MacLeod



**Morag MacDougall of MacDougall**

'I've been asked if I will start a petition, but I don't have a computer.'

'We need to get rid of those charges because all over Scotland people can have the pleasure of visiting a beach for nothing. Why should they have to pay when they come to Oban?'

The *Oban Times* asked to see council documentation on the sale of the land, including a schedule of sale - but at the time of going to press it was still unavailable.

A council spokeswoman said: 'Part of an area of land at Ganavan, which had been transferred to this council at local government reorganisation in 1996, was sold in 2001.'



## Seriously injured in fall from roof

A MAN who was spoken to by police in connection with a disturbance was later seriously injured in a fall from the roof of a building.

The incident in Stornoway last Thursday night began when officers responded to a disturbance in a property in Kenneth Street.

Police spoke to a 22-year-old man believed to be responsible for the disturbance. The same man later fell from a roof in Church Street. He was taken to Western Isles Hospital with serious, but not life threatening, injuries.

## Building society boosts charities

**OBAN charities are among thousands to benefit from the Yorkshire Building Society's Charitable Foundation.**

**Oban Youth Cafe was given £1,506 last year to replace camping equipment after it was stolen.**

**And the MS Therapy centre and Oban and Lorn District Seniors have received part of the £6,531 donated to local causes.**

## CHAIRMAN VOICES DELIGHT AT 'FANTASTIC START' TO CAMPAIGN

# More Rockfield trust donations

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

**MORE** money has been received in the campaign to turn Oban's old Rockfield school and surrounding buildings into a town centre community and cultural hub.

The latest donation of £800 brings the £100,000 Top up the Tower fundraiser to £12,500.

Gordon McNab, chairman of Oban Community Trust (OCT), said: 'This is a fantastic start to our fundraising campaign and we are grateful to everyone who has donated already. It shows the strong community backing we have for this project. Our target for this first phase is £100,000 to get the lights back on in the building and we urge everyone to give generously.'

Eleanor MacKinnon for

OCT said: 'As development progresses, donations of time and skills will be in demand.'

'Already OCT has a list of people willing to roll up their sleeves and help with the workload ahead. If you have a particular talent and want to help, please let us know.'

The trust is due to take over the building tomorrow (Friday) from Argyll and Bute council for the sum of £1,000.

The money for the first phase will be used to prepare the former outside classrooms for tenants including disabled access and toilets.

Thereafter remedial works to make the main building wind and watertight and deal with the first phase of dry-rot work will be tackled.

When it opens it will offer events, activities and group facilities for people of all ages,

backgrounds and interests. The business community of Oban learned more about the plans for the Rockfield centre on Wednesday when James Hilder, former chairman of Argyll and Bute's Social Enterprise Network, was due to speak at a business breakfast at the Caledonian Hotel.

He was to talk about the values of such a community enterprise and there was also the chance to see the Rockfield centre video compiled by James Gray of Oban's Kinetic Studios.

OCT's Graham MacQueen said: 'The business community of the area should be aware now of the huge benefit the Rockfield centre will bring to the town and its surrounding areas. This centre will contribute positively to Oban becoming not just a local community focus but an excellent visitor destination.'



**WINNERS:** Alice Campbell, Catherine Smith, Pat MacLeod and Fiona Dickie show off the trophies they won at the Lorn area show of baking and handicrafts

## High standards at Lorn rural show

A SUCCESSFUL Scottish Women's Institute, affectionately known as 'The Rural', show of baking and handicrafts was held in Connel Hall on Saturday with almost 400 entries submitted from the six institutes in the Lorn area.

Organisers said the standard of entries was high with most points going to Kilmore and district institute. The group also won the banner for most points per member. The best exhibit in handicraft was won by Margaret Whitton, Kilmore, for her encrusted calico and the best exhibit in baking went to Pat MacLeod of Lochawe institute with her Victoria sponge.

Taynuilt institute won the community shield after presenting four items on a tray with a Christmas theme.

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## TIMESLINE

### Councillors agree to salary increase

COUNCILLORS are in line for a one per cent pay rise despite a continuing squeeze on local authority budgets.

Argyll and Bute council approved a pay rise from £16,234 to £16,560, saying it was 'out of our hands' as the council's umbrella body, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) had negotiated the increase.

A decision to raise the salary of portfolio holders by one per cent to almost £25,000 was also agreed last week.

### Foodbank use in Highlands rises

**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.

### Teenagers to wait two years for vote

VOTERS aged 16 and 17 will have to wait two more years to vote at community council elections, Argyll and Bute council heard last week.

Despite heralding a vote for teenagers last year, council lawyer Charles Reppke said it would wait until Holyrood elections to start the 'youth' franchise.

### Keys to Rockfield handed over

OBAN'S former Rockfield school is due to transfer ownership from Argyll and Bute council to Oban Communities Trust (OCT) tomorrow (Friday). OCT plans to open a community arts and culture hub over the next three years.



## Glass attack teenager said he can't recall bar assault

A TEENAGER who claimed he could not remember smashing a glass into the face of a stranger in an Oban bar has been detained for six months.

Oban sheriff court was shown CCTV footage on Tuesday from the bar which showed Luke Gordon, 19, raise his arm above his head and smash a pint glass down into his victim's face. Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty told Sheriff Ruth Anderson that the attack, on September 27 last year, had left the victim with a two-inch cut, which needed stitches and a one inch cut, which needed a butterfly stitch.

He said: 'The victim was approached by the accused who became argumentative and aggressive before him.'

'Without any warning, he struck the victim on the face with the pint glass.'

'When police arrived they noted that the accused was fairly drunk, his T-shirt was blood-stained and there was fresh blood on his hands.'

Defence solicitor Edward Thornton said he spoke to his client, who had been in the bar with family, a couple of hours after the incident and he claimed not to remember anything.

'This remains his position,' he added. 'When he saw the CCTV footage, he was pretty shocked about what he had done that evening.'

Gordon had pleaded guilty in March of this year to assault by striking his victim on the head with a glass.

Sheriff Anderson told unemployed Gordon, of Chestnut Court, Taynuilt: 'I have heard the narration from the Crown and seen the footage of that behaviour and have no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that a community service order would not be appropriate.'

She sentenced Gordon to six months in a young offenders' institution, reduced from nine months because of his early guilty plea.

## Grandmother realises lifetime ambition when she takes flight of fancy

AN ISLANDER had the 'flight of her life' when a passer-by invited her to join him in an impromptu trip over Iona.

Carol Kirkpatrick was sweeping up the road outside her house when one of Scotland's richest men, engineering firm Score Group owner Charles Ritchie, invited the grandmother-of-two for a trip in his helicopter.

Carol said: 'I could not believe my ears. It is something that I've always wanted to do. My children have been trying to sort a trip out for me, but have never managed to arrange it.'

'It was amazing to see Iona from a completely different viewpoint. It was like a doll's house all laid out so beautifully.'

'The planners should be very pleased because from above it all looks so organised - even the new houses that I had thought looked like they were on the edge of everything, fit beautifully together.'



## Doctor reflects that 'viral' blog on ferries was bitter medicine

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A BLOGGER whose posts went 'viral' after saying ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) had spoiled her life, says she should have thought for a while before she pressed the publish button.

Last week Morna MacNeil, whose family live on Colonsay and who works as a doctor in Glasgow, wrote a scathing open letter to CalMac complaining about cancelled ferries, missed funerals and lack of communication.

She said: 'Over the last 34 years you appear to have made it your mission to ruin my life. I'm sure you don't mean to. You probably don't understand why anybody might want to travel to and from Colonsay with any regularity.'

'I understand you can't always get there in bad weather. I don't expect you to risk the lives of



“A couple of hours reflection isn't a bad idea”

Dr Morna MacNeil (Pictured)

your crew or the fabric of your ferries by travelling when the conditions are not safe.

'I do expect you to stick to your timetable where the weather permits though.'

CalMac held its hands up and said 'sorry' but explained there were technical and weather issues that made it impossible to keep to their timetable.

Martin Dorchester, managing

director of CalMac, said: 'We are genuinely sorry whenever bad weather or technical issues lead to the cancellation of a sailing as we fully recognise the importance of our services to every community we serve, including Colonsay.'

'We would absolutely refute the assertion that we do not care. The majority of our crew and staff - nearly 1,000 people - come from the area we serve and they know from personal experience the implications of cancellations on families and businesses.'

'While it will be of little consolation to those inconvenienced by disruptions, it is worth noting that across the network, out of nearly 135,000 scheduled sailings in the last 12 months, a comparatively small percentage - 0.4 per cent or 535 sailings - were cancelled for technical reasons. Bad weather accounted for just more than three per cent

or 4,276 sailings. Regrettably, we have limited options at our disposal, but it is always our priority to provide the best service we can across a broad and diverse network.'

'However, even with our best endeavours, there will be times when unforeseen technical or other issues prevent us operating as we would all like and we can only ask for the patience and understanding of our customers.'

This week, a reflective Morna wrote on her blog: 'It's been a funny old week. I had the excitement of one of my posts going viral. Whilst it was great to have lots of page views, it also led to some negative comments. I got to the point where I was dreading my comment notifications.'

'I've learnt a lot from the experience, not least that a couple of hours' reflection between spilling your guts and pressing the publish button probably isn't a bad idea.'

## TIMESLINE

### Two killed as bike collides with car

A MOTORBIKE rider and his pillion passenger were killed near Crianlarich last Wednesday, April 22, after their Yamaha motorcycle was involved in a collision with a Volkswagen Golf car.

Biker James Whiteside, 59, from Greenock, and Jacqueline Hennessey, 54, from Tullibody, were both pronounced dead at the scene.

The 24-year-old driver of the car was uninjured.

The A85 between Crianlarich and Killin was closed until later that night.

Anyone who witnessed the collision is asked to contact Police Scotland on 101.

### Four charged with supplying drugs

FOUR people were arrested in Oban on Thursday last week on suspicion of supplying drugs.

The arrests followed a search under a warrant of house in Sinclair Drive in the town around 10pm that day.

The following day two men, aged 21 and 51 years, were arrested on suspicion of supplying drugs following the search of a house in the Glengallan area of Oban.

Reports have been sent to the procurator fiscal on both incidents.

### Council wants say on fracking rights

FRACKING was not ruled out on the west coast at a meeting of Argyll and Bute council last Thursday as 'underground oil drilling rights' were devolved from Westminster to the Scottish government.

The local authority asked for a meeting with Scottish ministers to demand that the rights to frack, the extraction of oil through hydraulic fracturing directed at underground rocks, would be determined under council planning committees rather than at hearings in Holyrood.

## Reshuffle steers towards islanders

A FOURTH reshuffle at Argyll and Bute council has led to fewer lead councillor positions, writes Louise Glen.

It also marked the absence of popular Oban councillor Duncan MacIntyre from the senior councillor list for the first time in many years.

Council leader Dick Walsh's reshuffle seemed to favour island councillors and Helensburgh when handing out portfolios last week.

Mull is represented by two policy leads in Mary-Jean Devon and Alastair MacDougall alongside Robin Currie from Islay and Len Scoullar of Bute.

In Helensburgh three ward councillors from Lomond have taken senior positions.

Robin Currie, Rory Colville and mother and daughter, Ellen and Aileen Morton, the only Liberal Democrats, make up the biggest political group represented in policy leads with

all four picking up portfolios in the local authority.

The biggest surprise was the move of up-and-coming councillor Aileen Morton swapping education, where some of the biggest budget cuts are expected to fall, to lead councillor for sustainable economic growth.

The full list is councillor Len Scoullar - island affairs, Mary-Jean Devon - health and social care integration, Dick Walsh - strategic finance, Ellen

Morton - infrastructure and special projects, Aileen Morton - sustainable economic growth, Alastair MacDougall - transportation, Robin Currie - housing, community and Gaelic, Rory Colville - education, and David Kinniburgh - planning and environment.

Councillor MacIntyre has had an extended period of absence because of ill health, but is due to return to take up his duties on the council later this year.

## Film nut from Knutsford is admonished

A TRANSPORT enthusiast who makes a hobby of filming modes of transport found himself in Oban sheriff court for posting a film of an Oban bus driver on a video-sharing website.

David Spencer, 63, of Lower Peover, Knutsford, Cheshire, had been filming in Oban's Station Square on a weekday in April last year when a bus pulled into a stop. Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty said the driver did not want to be filmed and pulled down the sun visor. When Spencer continued to film, the driver got out of the bus and asked him to stop but Spencer told him it was a 'free country'.

The driver decided not to take it further until a friend told him the contretemps had been posted on YouTube under the title 'West coast Polish driver gets angry in Oban'.

In the film, Spencer could be heard saying: 'I don't know which country you come from but you want to get back there.' The driver replied: 'I'm going to the police about this'. Spencer then said: 'Do what you want mate, you are a disgrace to West Coast Motors.'

Defence solicitor Laura McManus said her client was a training manager who trained engineers but his hobby took him all over the world.

'When he realised the driver did not wish to be filmed, why did he just not stop?' asked Sheriff Ruth Anderson. Mrs McManus said when the driver had come out of the bus her client had continued filming in case the driver became violent. 'But the bus driver got back in his bus. There is a level of arrogance in this,' said the sheriff.

She continued: 'We are one of the most spied-on nations in the world but ... I can understand why an individual would not want to be filmed. I would have thought Mr Spencer would be aware of that too.'

She said it was 'unfortunate' that an alternative resolution could not have been found instead of bringing Spencer from Cheshire to Oban to face the charge. 'This is a sorry mess that has cost the taxpayer a lot of money,' she added.

Spencer, who pleaded guilty to filming without permission and making racist comments, was admonished.

## More and more people are backing the Lib Dems to stop the SNP



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## Igor proves his point in Inverness

### Boxing

LOCHABER Phoenix boxer Igor Sliwinski secured another victory at the weekend at a home show organised by Highland boxing academy.

The 18-year-old faced a tough challenge in Inverness as he stepped up to welterweight to take on host Michael George.

George reached the semi-finals of the Scottish Elite championships just two months ago but he was no match for Sliwinski who achieved a points victory.

George started aggressively in the opening round, looking to land overhand rights as he went forward while Sliwinski was happy to try and stay at long distance behind his jab. After a couple of minutes of the round George had a slight edge but both boxers were mainly negating each other's work so Sliwinski changed tactics and started a concentrated body attack which almost immediately had George looking uncomfortable. As the round drew to a close Sliwinski switched his attack to the head and George was glad to hear the bell.

Buoyed by this success the visitor was straight on the attack in the second round, concentrating mainly on the body but never forgetting to switch to the head at every opportunity he was given.

George managed to stay with Sliwinski's intensity only for the first 30 seconds of the round but showed tremendous courage to survive the onslaught coming his way and see through the round.

Sliwinski was in full flow now and in the third began to change angles during attacks and combinations varying the distance he was punching from and increasing the variety of punches he was throwing.

To see Sliwinski and his fellow Phoenix boxers in action, head to the Lochaber club's home show in the Nevis Centre, Fort William, on May 16.

Boxers from all over the country will be competing against the locals, from the novice category to some of Scotland's best. Tickets are available from the Nevis Centre, Niall Clark (07477 150100) and Steve Docherty (07881 379851).

# Fort thrash Rothes but lose four goals to classy Cove

'We'll definitely be looking for a win against Deveronvale'

### Football

IT WAS a week of two halves for Fort William football club, who achieved a 4-0 victory and 4-1 defeat just three days apart.

Last Wednesday the Claggan side won their away game against Rothes, securing the three points needed to put them in 13th place with what manager Calum MacLean called a 'great performance'.

But the good fortune was not to last when the Fort welcomed Cove Rangers to Claggan on Saturday and suffered a 4-1 defeat.

The visitors opened the scoring in the first half with a goal from Daryl Nicol but James Whyte equalised just a few minutes later, bringing the score to 1-1 at half time.

But Cove dominated in the second half with goals from Jamie Watt, Johnny Smith and Daniel Park.

MacLean said: 'We held our own in the first half and tried to keep it tight but we lost a goal about 40 seconds into the second half and it was all downhill from there.'

With two games left to play, the Fort only need one point to stay in 13th place, the highest they have finished since they finished 12th in 1991.

This Saturday Fort William welcome Deveronvale before their final game against Fraserburgh on May 9.

MacLean said: 'We can do well in both of these games. We'll definitely be looking for a win against Deveronvale.'

'We can't go any further up in the league but we want to pick up a few more points. We've had a cracking season and want to continue that right to the end.'



BATTLING ON: Fort William's Barna Tot gets a tackle in on Cove's Stirling Smith during last Saturday's game at Claggan. 20\_f18football01

## Large entry for six days trial Motorcycling

BIKERS across the country are gearing up for the Scottish six days trial, coming to Lochaber next week.

Almost 300 competitors have signed up for the annual motorcycle event, which will run from Monday May 4 until Sunday May 9.

Fort William has been the hub of the competition since 1938 and has welcomed bikers and spectators ever since.

But the trial is not only for visitors as 20 members of Lochaber and district motorcycle club have signed up, including local star Gary MacDonald from Kinlochleven, who took third place in 2013 and 10th place last year.

MacDonald's home village will also play host to the taster event, the pre-65 trials. Held annually on the Friday and Saturday before the main trials, the pre-65s is exclusively for motorcycles manufactured before 1965.

## Thorburn wins Aonach Mor race Athletics

ALMOST 50 runners took part in Lochaber athletic club's Aonach Mor uphill race at the weekend.

Euan Thorburn was first of the 48-strong field to complete the two-mile route on Saturday, crossing the finish line in 27 minutes and 38 seconds. Nicky Sedgewick took second place in 30 minutes and 32 seconds, followed by Steven Burns whose time of 32 minutes and 35 seconds won him first junior and third place overall. First lady home was Ciara Largey in 36:34, followed by Chloe Valentine and Nix Forster.

Top 10 finishers: 1 Euan Thorburn 27:38; 2 Nicky Sedgewick 30:32; 3 Steven Burns 32:35; 4 Michael Diver 33:15; 5 Bruce MacLean 33:42; 6 Sam Wood 33:57; 7 Gavin MacMillan 34:46; 8 Hugh MacKintosh 35:07; 9 Pawel Cymbalska 35:17; 10 Alan Lamont 35:54.

## Cowan still leads Ten pin bowling

GARY Cowan has increased his lead in the Lochaber 10 pin bowling league after week five.

Cowan is holding first place in the scratch competition with 104 points and the handicap competition with 100 points.

Pam Weller is in second place in scratch with 95 points while James Porter and Tim Attack share second in handicap, both with 87 points.

Weller continues to lead the chase for the Nevis Radio high pin trophy with 2,346 pins, followed by Cowan with 2,305 and Brian Stewart with 2,156.

The top three-game scratch series was won by David Cameron with 436, who also rolled the top three-game handicap series with 604.

## Cameron is top dog Darts

MARTYN Cameron defeated Paul Shearer by three legs to one in the final of the Tradewinds singles darts league, week seven.

To gain their places in the final, Cameron beat John Wood 3-1 and Shearer beat John Matheson, also 3-1, in the semi-finals.

There will be no darts in Tradewinds bar this Friday as the annual doubles competition will be held at the Railway club, Inverloch. The league will resume for week eight on Friday May 8.

## Texas scramble and Hydro qualifer at Fort William Golf

RESULTS from Fort William golf club.

The Letterfinlay three person Texas scramble and Scottish Hydro qualifer, played on Sunday April 19: 1 George Band, Dougie Duncan and Alex Stewart net 59 (66-7); 2 Neil Feggans, Peter Stewart and Frank Sweeney net 60 (67-7); 3 John MacLennan, Jason Wallace and Eric Wallace net 61 (68-7).

The April medal played on Saturday April 25. Section one: 1 Eric Wallace net 69 (75-6) bh; 2 Neil Feggans net 69 (80-11); 3 Willie McCann net 72 (85-13).

Section two: 1 Andrew Bergin net 71 (90-19); 2 Scott Duncan net 72 (93-21); 3 Paul Brian net 77 (95-18).

The senior April medal, played on Sunday April 26: 1 George Band net 65 (79-14); 2 Frank Sweeney net 69 (83-14); 3 Henry MacDonald net 70 (83-13).

Ladies' April medal, played on Tuesday April 21: 1 Helen Brian net 80 (99-19); 2 Kathleen Leitch net 85 (99-14).

## MacDonald on the podium Cycling

GARY MacDonald was the winner of the final West Highland Wheelers winter league race.

In his first appearance of the year MacDonald stormed the Nevis Range route to a near five-minute victory last Sunday, finishing in 42 minutes and 58 seconds. There was a closely fought race for second place with Gavin MacLean finishing in 47 minutes and 13 seconds, just pipping Neil Wright to the post, who crossed the finish line in 47 minutes and 21 seconds.

Fiona Mellor was first lady home in 59 minutes and 23 seconds. Mellor was also named

### Cycling

highest scoring lady in the winter league, followed by Gill Barnes and Fiona Beattie. Highest achieving men in the league were Liam Moynihan, Gavin MacLean and Gregor Muir.

Top 10 finishers: 1 Gary MacDonald 42:58; 2 Gavin MacLean 47:13; 3 Neil Wright 47:21; 4 Shaun MacLeod (first junior) 52:15; 5 Colin McTavish 54:59; 6 Graeme Corner 55:57; 7 Keir Gibson (junior) 56:58; 8 Roddy Wells 56:59; 9 Fiona Mellor 59:23; 10 Ruairidh Cant 59:41.



WHEELING: Gary MacDonald stormed the Nevis Range race



THEY'RE OFF: the adult field begin the Inverloch street race 20\_f18bikesfest02

## MacLean wins bike festival street race

WEST Highland Wheelers' annual bike festival kicked off with a street race on Saturday evening.

The first competition of the week-long event consisted of a route round Inverloch followed by music and a barbecue in the village square.

Gavin MacLean was the winner of the adult race, completing the six laps in 39 minutes and 22 seconds. Next up was Miles Mallinson, who finished the route in 40 minutes and 25 seconds, followed by Iain Rogerson in 42 minutes and 15 seconds.

In the shorter junior race Alistair Poll was first home, finishing three laps in 25 minutes and 38

### Cycling

seconds, followed by Daniel Parifitt and Cory Muir, who took joint second place when they crossed the finish line together after 29 minutes and eight seconds.

Tonight (Thursday) the wheelers are travelling south for a race at Loch Creran with North Argyll cycling club. Tomorrow night the festival will end with the grand finale event at Nevis Range with adult, junior and family fun races from 6.30pm.

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**Weekend Outlook** Light rain showers on Saturday  
Light rain on Sunday  
Winds moderate east south easterly  
Temperatures 4°C to 8°C.

**TIDAL INFORMATION**

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, April 30, 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>	03.20	3.2	10.12	1.4	15.53	3.3	21.52	1.3
<b>Fri</b>	03.58	3.4	10.44	1.2	16.27	3.5	22.30	1.1
<b>Sat</b>	04.35	3.6	11.12	1.1	17.01	3.7	23.06	1.0
<b>Sun</b>	05.11	3.7	11.40	1.0	17.34	3.8	23.40	0.9
<b>Mon</b>	05.44	3.8	12.10	0.9	18.05	3.8	** **	**
<b>Tues</b>	00.14	0.8	06.15	3.8	12.40	0.9	18.34	3.8
<b>Wed</b>	00.49	0.9	06.44	3.8	13.10	0.9	19.05	3.8

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate