

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8250

Thursday 7 May, 2015

www.obantimes.co.uk

80 pence



The 32nd Highlands & Islands Music & Dance Festival 2015

30 years of Oban Rotary Am Am



Turbulence ahead as talks stall over island air service

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

AIR services to Coll, Colonsay and Tiree are under threat after talks between the council and an airline company broke down amid turbulent exchanges over the weekend.

Cumbernauld-based Hebridean Air Services Limited (HASL), the current service provider and preferred bidder, said it had still been in active negotiations as late as last Friday night on the renewal of the £2.1 million contract.

HASL owner George Cormack said he was 'shocked' by an Argyll and Bute statement on Saturday afternoon saying the company was asking an inflated price to provide the service.

He described the impasse as a 'misunderstanding' and strenuously denied the company had walked away from negotiations.

Mr Cormack said he was still waiting to hear from the council

on whether it wanted him to continue to run a service after May 16 when its current contract ends.

He said: 'On Saturday morning we were forced to put a notice on our website to explain to customers that as our services have until now not been retained by the council, then we would no longer have the right to provide the flights under the Public Service Obligation (PSO) contract.'

'Under European legislation we have to formally notify our customers or pay hefty fines.'

'We want to provide the service but it is simply impossible to provide the same service for seven years at the same price. We told the council this on February 17.'

'The council is asking us to

provide even more services for the same money. It just cannot be done. They knew from the very beginning how much it costs to provide the service it wants.'

'The strangest thing is that we were asked by the procurement team to provide further information on Friday evening and we returned the information to them on Monday morning.'

'To say we walked away from negotiations is not true.'

However, a council press statement issued at lunchtime on Saturday said HASL had offered an 'inflated bid' to run the PSO air services out of Oban.

The spokesman said the local authority was 'to re-tender for the new three-year PSO contract to secure an operator within the

existing budget.' The spokesman continued: 'It would be completely irresponsible to acquiesce to HASL's unacceptable demands.'

The spokesman went on to say island communities would be able to use the 'improved' ferry service: 'Island communities will stay connected to the mainland through existing ferry services, which have been improved as part of the Scottish government's ferries plan, although the council remains committed to ensuring a resumption of the lifeline air service.'

Chris Baker from Colonsay, a regular air passenger, said: 'The flights are vastly more important than people on the mainland would think. They provide, tourism, visitors from all over the world, travel for children and jobs. The airport was specifically built for the children. It is a lifeline for parents and the high school. Losing the service will cause lasting damage to the island's small economy and tourism.'

Oban-based Councillor Roddy McCuish demanded the immediate resumption of negotiations. He said: 'We are speaking about children and adults on islands, we are speaking about jobs and hospital appointments.'

'It is time all this nonsense stopped and everyone gets back around the table to sort it out.'

'We need to find a solution within the budget. It is unbelievable that anyone would turn down £2.1 million.'

Councillor McCuish's call was backed by Holyrood's Transport and islands minister, Derek MacKay, who has demanded that both sides get back to the negotiating table. And Argyll and Bute's MSP, Michael Russell, added his voice to the call for the talks to restart: 'Now that Mr MacKay's officials and Transport Scotland are available to assist a resolution, I urge the council to get this sorted within days.'

Celtic disconnection



DISCONNECT: visitors to Iona could not use the iPad to view the collection of Scottish Celtic art

'PRICELESS' pieces of Scottish Celtic art from the late 19th and early 20th century have been presented to a charity on Iona - but no one could see the full catalogue because of a 21st century problem.

A faulty broadband connection stopped Celtic art aficionados from viewing the works of two early 'unsung' pioneers, Alexander and Euphemia Ritchie.

An iPad set within a carved plinth holds information never seen before about the work of the late 19th and early 20th century Iona-based jewellery designers and makers.

A celebration to present the collection to the Iona Her-

itage Centre by engineering millionaire Charles Ritchie and his wife Betty, was cut short late last month because the broadband connection had failed.

The couple also presented a number of the Ritchies' original pieces, made on the island, to the heritage centre. Both the iPad and the jewellery is only on public display in Iona.

Brian Gilston, who had made a special visit to see the resource, said: 'It was hugely frustrating that we can have the best resources about one of Celtic art's most industrious couple, but no internet connection to allow people to enjoy the full resource.'

TIMESLINE

Money to be used for schools project

SCHOOLS built under a Non-Profit Distributing Organisation (NPDO), which replaced the former PFI arrangement, are being refinanced.

A full meeting of Argyll and Bute council heard the local authority is in the process of negotiating a new funding structure for the project.

It is anticipated that the NPDO will generate a payment to the council of £1.75 million, and it was agreed to keep this money for the building and redevelopment of schools.

Awards in the bag for Argyll groups

ENVIRONMENTAL charity Keep Scotland Beautiful has announced the names of seven successful bids for its community grant scheme in Argyll and Bute.

The awards of £250 are funded from the proceeds of the 5p carrier bag charge collected by Tesco.

Special ingredient appeals to TV chef

CELEBRITY chef Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall finally got charity cash from Argyll and Bute council to open a food tent for three days at the Tiree Music Festival.

Event organisers claimed it needed a grant of £1,470 to make the food tent project appetising for the wealthy chef.

Teacher numbers up for discussion

NATIONAL agreements on teacher to pupil ratios are due to be discussed by Argyll and Bute council in June.

It is understood both the curriculum and staffing levels will be discussed with a view to making savings.



9 771461 487099

Obanites urged to take part in bid for world record

A GUINNESS Book of Record challenge on the largest number of people dancing a 'Strip the Willow' will be attempted this July in Oban.

The town's third attempt on the Highland dance world record hopes to attract more than 2,015 people to beat the record of 1,917.

Community business company BID4Oban will host the event on Saturday, July 4.

BID4Oban's Neil Mackay, who is organising the event, said: 'Put the date in your diary folk, because this time we're all needed to smash the world record.'



BACK ON COURSE: Roddy McCuish is calling for talks to restart

A taste of the high life for acrobats

THESE three young high trapeze acrobats will bring their breathtaking head for heights and for colourful headwear to Oban next week.

They are among the many dazzling performers who will leave audiences stunned and thrilled when the Big Kid circus visits the town for the first time next week with its spectacular show.

The internationally acclaimed circus will be performing at the blaise pitch, Mossfield, Oban on May 13 and 14.



BIG KID CIRCUS

looks forward to visiting Oban with a Spectacular brand new show! Georgie our noisy and mischievous Clown returns; alongside Olympia our sparkling singing Ring Mistress. There are a host of daring and exciting acrobats, not least the only three man Wheel of Death in the UK! This is a show for the whole family to enjoy, whatever their age!

Show times - Wednesday 13th May - 7 pm show only; Thursday 14th & Friday 15th May - 5 pm & 7.30 pm; Saturday 16th May - 2 pm & 5 pm; Sunday 17th May - 1 pm & 3.30 pm.

Tickets from £8.00. For further details and special offers see our website www.bigkidcircus.co.uk, or ring us on 07766552211, visit our onsite box office, open 10 am to 8 pm daily from Monday 11th May or find us on Facebook!

Blaise Park at Mossfield Stadium, Glencruitten Road, Argyll Bute PA34 4PU

OILFAST

Fuelling Scotland

Oilfast - the new Scottish firm with fast, friendly delivery at competitive prices.

ARE YOU PAYING TOO MUCH FOR YOUR FUEL?

Is your current supplier letting you down?



NOW SUPPLYING OBAN, FORT WILLIAM & SURROUNDING AREAS

To order or for more information call Barbara or Linda on: 01631 705999



www.oilfast.co.uk

22-31 MAY

- Trips
- Seafood
- Films
- Talks
- Visits / open days
- Career & environment fair
- Storytelling

www.facebook.com/obanseafestival
www.obanseafestival.org

Our Funders

Marine talks in hot water

SOME of Europe's top scientists met last week near Oban to talk about rapid changes in the North Atlantic.

The event was hosted by the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) at Dunstaffnage to mark the 40th year of a regular ocean expedition along the Ellet Line, from the west coast of Scotland to the deep water of the Rockall Trough.

The line is named after former SAMS scientist David Ellett, who recognised the importance of collecting data over time to gauge oceanic climate variability.

Dr Stefan Gary of SAMS, a research associate in physical oceanography who organised the event, said: 'Over the last 20 years the waters to the west of Scotland have been getting ever warmer and saltier. The data from our study is crucial to our understanding of future climate change in northern Europe.'

Train service on right track

SCOTRAIL'S latest figures show the train franchise has almost hit its target for punctuality in the four weeks until March 2015, with reliability figures peaking at 99 per cent.

The West Highland line between Oban and Fort William and Glasgow is part of ScotRail's rural service and does not include the sleeper service. Dutch firm Abellio operates the train services.

HOUSEBUILDING MASTERPLAN PREDICTED TO INCREASE ISLAY'S POPULATION BY 15 PER CENT

Plan for 180 homes set to revitalise island economy

STEVEN RAE
srae@obantimes.co.uk

A NEW housing development on Islay will boost the economy and increase the island's population by around 15 per cent, according to an estate factor.

The Bowmore strategic masterplan, put in place by Islay Estates and approved on April 23 by Argyll and Bute council, will see 180 houses built in the village, with new business space and community facilities also planned.

Islay Estates has donated the first piece of land, which Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) has built 20 affordable flats on as the first phase in the development. The flats should be occupied by June.

A planning application is currently being considered for ten more houses and, as the developments take shape, people will see a variety of housing from housing stock for the elderly to large family homes, to commercial development including offices, tourist accommodation, retail and leisure facilities in two future phases, creating new employment opportunities.

Islay Estates company factor Willie Inglis explained: 'Rather than reacting to council decisions regarding housing, the Islay Estates company decided to be proactive regarding the housing

demand on the island, working with ACHA and the council.

'Young people couldn't afford to buy or rent houses here, so ended up staying with their parents or moving away. I really think this development will address the reducing population problem.'

'That's 30 houses built in Bowmore in two years, as well as ACHA's plan for around 150 others. If those 180 houses have an average of 2.5 people in them, that's a total of 450 people. That would raise the population of the island by around 15 per cent.'

The council's head of planning and regulatory services Angus Gilmour said: 'This is really good news for the community in and around Bowmore and for potential investors in the area.'

'It gives real certainty, with developers knowing what kind of construction is appropriate in which part of the masterplan area and lets the community know exactly how its town will develop.'

'The focus of the council's planning service is on making things happen, supporting sustainable economic growth and regeneration.'

'This is another demonstration of our open for business approach, working with developers to ensure a best fit for all, addressing the challenges of population decline and improv-



TAKING SHAPE: the first 20 houses, constructed by ACHA as part of the Bowmore masterplan, should be occupied next month

ing the value on offer to residents of Islay.'

The development was planned as part of the Shoreline project by Urban Animation, a planner and urban design company which put the development together over a seven-year period.

Mr Inglis added: 'This will fundamentally improve the economy on Islay.'

'The commercial buildings will hopefully provide small units for offices or other business use, as there aren't many commercial use properties of that size.'

'The units would be ideal for something like a taxi driver unit, fisherman's storage or a small-scale boat builder. There may also be a bigger commercial opportunity to be developed too,

but at the moment we don't know what. There are some huge projects on Islay at the moment, with distilleries and hotels expanding, as well as various hydro schemes.'

'That won't just stem the decline of population, it will increase it and grow the economy and Islay Estates wants to directly contribute to the island economy as much as it can.'

Oban, Argyll and the isles shine on world stage

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

OBAN, Argyll and the Isles have been promoted across the world, thanks to an international tourism expo.

Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative (AITC) and Love Oban (L4Oban) each had a stand at the VisitScotland event last week in Aberdeen.

Oban and Lorn Tourism Association's (OLTA) Calum Ross and Linda Battison and L4Oban's Andrea Simpson, Nic Jones and Neil Mackay were all on hand to talk to international buyers, while AITC chose to launch its new touch-screen kiosks to the expo audience.

The kiosks, which will be installed across the area over the coming months, allow people to plan an itinerary using an interactive map, with points of interest that can be added to a 'basket'. It can then be emailed to a phone or tablet.

AITC chairman Gavin Dick,



VISIT ARGYLL: Mike Cantlay, VisitScotland chairman, with the team from the Argyll and the Isles who were exhibiting at this year's VisitScotland expo between April 22-23 in Aberdeen

who was delighted with the two-day event, said: 'This is the fourth year running that we've exhibited at expo and this year has been especially busy on our stand.'

'I'm confident that Argyll and the Isles is firmly on the itineraries of many of the expo visitors and I'm looking forward to hearing about their adventures in our wonderful region this summer.'

'We are competing against the rest of Scotland and it is up to us as the voice of tourism in the region to attract visitors.'

'Events such as expo also give us an opportunity to listen to potential visitors and to make sure they have what they want when they visit. We want Argyll and the Isles to be a great place to visit and do business with and we know that our new kiosks are just another way of providing a top quality visitor experience.'

'It's been a great couple of days and we're now gearing up for what we hope will be a bumper tourist season.'

Contractor's fears about court orders

AN OBAN businessman has claimed criminals serving Community Payback Orders are carrying out work that used to be undertaken by local firms.

The comments were made by a contractor during a meeting of Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee when councillor Elaine Robertson said council work at Ganavan Sands had been referred to the Argyll and Bute Community Payback team.

Community Payback is a court order that sentences offenders to undertake between 40 and 300 hours of community service.

However, a council spokesman denied the orders had taken work from the town. He said: 'Councillor Robertson has asked us to look at a number of potential projects around Oban. We are currently assessing whether they are suitable.'

TIMESLINE

Workforce looking long in the tooth

ARGYLL and Bute council is lagging behind other Scottish local authorities when it comes to employing young people.

And male council employees are being paid more than their female counterparts.

These two telling statistics were revealed by Jane Fowler, the council's recruitment chief, at a meeting of the policy and resources committee last month.

She said there were issues with a 'gender pay gap' but said it was 'shrinking'.

Council chief executive Sally Loudon said: 'We will take on the impact of these statistics.' And council leader Dick Walsh added: 'We are making good progress but nothing is perfect.'

Highland board is set to go 'Dutch'

NHS HIGHLAND has taken its search for staff as far as Holland after it advertised vacancies in a Dutch newspaper.

The health board said it is difficult to find staff for some of the more remote parts of the Highlands.

Elaine Mead, chief executive of NHS Highland, said: 'Ours is a beautiful area where the quality and pace of life are exactly what many professional people are looking for. We actively seek to recruit people from outside the UK.'

There are currently 105 NHS vacancies in the Highlands, including positions for doctors in Oban, Lochgilphead, Fort William and Dunoon.

Population drops in Argyll and Bute

THE NUMBER of people living in Argyll and Bute and the Western Isles has dropped, despite the national population rising to its highest ever level.

A recent report released by Holyrood shows the Scottish population rose to 5.3 million in 2014, an increase of 19,900 on the previous year.

Inverclyde saw the biggest drop in population, with 0.6 per cent, followed by Argyll and Bute at 0.5 per cent and the Western Isles at 0.4 per cent.

NHS patients to get the message

NHS HIGHLAND patients are now being reminded about their outpatient appointments by text message. The new service will alert patients 24 hours in advance. It is hoped this will save thousands of pounds in missed appointments.



Eye to eye with John Wallace

Myopia ... A Short sighted approach

I have just returned from the annual meeting of the International Academy of Orthokeratology and Myopia Control. This is the leading event in the world for research into preventing our children and future generations from becoming myopic. Why, you might ask, am I concerned about preventing children developing myopia? After all, myopia has been around for centuries. The simple answer is myopia (known as short sightedness) is not only very inconvenient for the sufferer, their visual world without optical correction is very blurred, but it is also potentially blinding.

In Britain some 23% of children are myopic. This pales into insignificance compared to Taiwan and mainland China where some 90% of children are myopic. Myopia is linked to cataract development, glaucoma and retinal detachment, all potentially blinding diseases. Anything that can be done to prevent children becoming myopic must be beneficial. Causes of myopia are numerous and include genetic factors e.g. having myopic par-

ents, excessive near vision tasks and insufficient playing outdoors in sunlight.

Newly published research from Ohio State University found by examining children from age five onwards every year it is possible to quickly and easily identify those youngsters who have a high probability of becoming myopic and therefore plan preventive action in plenty of time. If a child is in the very early stages of developing myopia it is now possible to dramatically reduce the rate of myopic development. This involves the use of special myopia control contact lenses and exercise programmes to ensure maximum visual efficiency. Simply ensuring your children have regular eye examinations and have their glasses increased in strength is no longer acceptable.

Youngsters who are already myopic can still be helped with programmes to limit further myopic development. Ensure your children and grandchildren are regularly examined by a paediatric optometrist and help save their sight.

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

MULLlines with Louise Glen

Pilots seal deal to oversee Glenforsa airfield

AFTER 'protracted and lengthy negotiations' with Argyll and Bute council, two pilots who manage the neighbouring Mull hotel, will now oversee the council-owned Glenforsa airfield.

The 730-metre grass strip alongside Glenforsa beach is a popular destination for aviators and enthusiasts.

Brendan and Allison Walsh gave up running the Intrepid Aviation Company to renovate and re-open The Glenforsa Hotel in 2003.

Brendan said: 'We have succeeded in transforming a once woefully neglected site into an unique gem of a hotel.'

'What the Glenforsa hotel and airfield now offer is a unique experience for pilots where everything from contact to single malt nightcap is seamlessly managed by the same team and designed expressly with aviators in mind.'

'After protracted and lengthy negotiations with Argyll and Bute council, the Glenforsa team of 2015 will bring its extensive experience of running the North Weald and Orsett air shows in the hope of putting the Glenforsa fly-in back on the map as an unmissable event for private pilots from the UK and beyond.'



LIVE WIRES: members of the new energy project which will explore the possibility of developing a system for supplying electricity from renewable sources straight to local consumers in rural areas of Mull

Island live wires look to spark power project into rural areas

AN INNOVATIVE energy project that will explore the possibility of developing a system for supplying electricity from renewable sources straight to local consumers in rural areas is under consideration for Mull.

Assisting Communities to Connect to Electrical Sustainable Sources (Project ACCESS) is a cost-effective project which will enable the real time matching of local renewable electricity generation to local electricity demand in off-grid properties.

Part funded through the Scottish government's Local Energy Challenge Fund and valued at just over £2 million, Project ACCESS aims to drive the development of financially viable grid connections for small scale generators in transmission constrained areas of the Scottish networks.

Project ACCESS will be delivered by a group made up of SSE, Community Energy Scotland, Element Energy, VCharge and Mull and Iona community trust.

It is one of six projects being trialled by the Local Energy Challenge Fund throughout Scotland.

Felix Wight, of Community Energy Scotland said: 'Community Energy Scotland is delighted to be working with SSE and the other partners in the delivery of this ground-breaking project.'

'There is a huge appetite amongst Scottish communities to generate their own clean energy and supply it to local homes and businesses, where possible.'

'We are hopeful ACCESS will give communities the tools to open that door to a more sustainable and resilient energy future.'

Project ACCESS is looking to recruit up to 100 householders and two small businesses to participate in the field trial on Mull.

TRIBUTES FLOOD IN FOR POPULAR OBAN SKIPPER WHO WAS KILLED WHILE WORKING ON MULL

Fishing and shinty communities stunned by tragic boat accident

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A COMMUNITY is in mourning after the tragic death of a hugely popular young fisherman on Mull last Thursday.

Oban man Jamie Kerr, 25, who worked for Mull-based Inverlussa Marine Services, was killed while working on a marine landing craft, the 'Carole Anne', at Loch Spelve near Craignure on Thursday lunchtime.

Although emergency services tried to save him, Jamie was pronounced dead at the scene.

Former Oban high school pupil Jamie was well-known throughout the area - as a friend, shinty player, motocross competitor and as an 'up and coming' fisherman who was dedicated to his work, his family and his partner.

Family members have spoken of their shock of the 'kind and generous' young man's death. Parents John and Morag Kerr and Jamie's partner Toni MacIntyre are being comforted by family and friends at home.

Thousands of messages of support for Jamie's family, including tributes from siblings John, Jordon, Ashley and Amanda, were posted on social media sites Facebook and Twitter.

It is understood the family made their way to Mull on Saturday to formally identify Jamie's body.

Leading the tributes was local councillor Mary-Jean Devon who said: 'Tragic, tragic news. So young a life. Everything in front of him.'

'The people of Mull send their heartfelt condolences to Jamie's family and to his many friends at this very sad time.'

Jamie was a talented shinty player who played for Oban Camanachd and Lochside Rovers, whose weekend fixtures were postponed as a mark of respect.

Gareth Evans, manager of Lochside Rovers, said: 'Our thoughts are with the family of Jamie Kerr, a fantastic player for both Lochside Rovers and Oban Camanachd.'

'It was great to get Jamie back playing this year after a few years out because of a knee injury. He was a clean hitter of a ball.'

'He was a class act on and off the park.'

'After a match in Aberdeen, he was named man of the match and he deserved it.'

'I have no doubt he was going to be a permanent fixture in the first team before too long.'

'We like a singsong on the bus back from matches and Jamie was often at the heart of it all.'

'When someone dies everyone says he was a nice guy. But Jamie was one of the best - a genuinely good man that no-one had a bad word for.'

'He will be greatly missed by

“ He was such a great lad with a great personality and so much potential. He will be missed by so many people ”

Brian McMahon
School friend

everyone.' A school friend from Oban who now lives in Helensburgh, Brian McMahon, said: 'No matter how close a friend you were to Jamie or how well people knew him, everybody knew him through somebody and no-one had a bad word to say about him.'

'He was such a great lad with a great personality and so much potential. He will be missed by so many people.'

Fellow fisherman Jack MacGregor, who worked with Jamie, said: 'There is a lot of



PRIZED MEMORY: Jamie celebrating a sporting success

shocked and sad people around and work was the last thing on our minds - you could never say that about Jamie Kerr. He crewed, skippered and ended up

owning the Channel Hound and I was glad to sell her [the vessel] to him because I knew he would look after her and use her to her potential.

TIMESLINE

Fishermen caught out by tent thieves

A STRANGE incident saw thieves break into a fisherman's tent, steal items and then set fire to it to destroy the evidence.

The owners of the tent from Hamilton and Coatbridge were out on Loch Etive fishing when the engine on their boat failed and they had to be brought ashore by the coastguard.

While the campers were being towed, the thieves struck, stealing fishing equipment and personal items from the tent which was set up at Tainult pier.

It is believed the thieves then set fire to the tent. When the fisherman returned, they called the police to report the crime.

PC Miller, the recently appointed community constable in Dalmally, is following a positive line of enquiry. Anyone with information should phone 101 and ask for Oban.

Crooks target the famous pink shop

POLICE are appealing for witnesses to a break-in and theft at the 'world famous' Benderloch store.

In the early hours of Saturday morning, May 2, cigarettes and food were stolen from the main street store.

The building was also damaged during the break-in sometime between midnight and 5.40am.

Police are appealing for any information about the crime to be given to PC Dempster by phoning 101.

Getting the view of the big picture

A SHORT film entitled 'Argyll - The Big Picture' is to be shown in Oban on Friday May 15.

Michael Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute, will introduce the film at Cuan Mor at an event organised by Argyll Voluntary Action between 3pm and 5pm. Originally shown at the Rural Parliament in November last year, the film is a politically-neutral insight into some of the issues which affect people in Argyll.

Improvements to A82 at Tyndrum

ROADWORKS on the A82 south of Tyndrum start on Monday for two weeks as part of a £400,000 investment by Transport Scotland.

Improvements to a 1km section of the road at Dalriach by BEAR Scotland will run from May 11 between 7am and 7pm, Monday to Friday.

Temporary traffic lights and a 10mph convoy system will be in operation while the work is carried out, with traffic management removed outwith working hours.

Outboard engine is 'outsourced'

AN ENGINE was stolen from a motorboat in Dunstaffnage, Dunbeg sometime between Saturday lunchtime and Monday morning.

Anyone with information about the theft of the outboard motor is being urged to call PC Brack on 101.

New course will keep teachers at home in Argyll

AN 'ACUTE' problem in recruiting teachers to the Highlands and islands has spurred on Argyll and Bute council to 'grow its own'.

Cleland Sneddon, education director, said a new course delivered through Argyll and Bute college will see students complete teacher training degrees in their homes.

Mr Sneddon told a meeting of councillors in Kilmory last week that the impact of having locally-trained teachers will be that they 'are more likely' to want to teach in schools in Argyll.

Two of the posts are likely to be in Gaelic education. The training is scheduled to start in August.

Investment in health and social care technology

MORE people in Argyll and Bute will have health and social care monitored at home through the use of technology.

The next three years will see £400,000 invested in the development of technology enabled care, including mobile phone apps, instant messaging and access to web-based resources to help people actively monitor their conditions, enabling them to remain at home while receiving health care.

It's a catch over a 'slate-tin' roof

OBAN BUSINESSMAN SLATES PLANNERS OVER DECISION ABOUT HISTORIC BUILDING IN OBAN

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

PLANNERS have insisted that an historic building in Oban can have a tin roof at one end while it must be fitted with a 'traditional slate roof' at the other end.

The decision, which is due to be endorsed by Argyll and Bute council planners later this month, will see an 'odd combination' on one of Oban's oldest buildings - category B-listed Charles Street.

Callum MacLeod, whose family is about to start rebuilding the Argyll Hotel on the Esplanade, says it is one decision for their development work and another for the rest of the building.

Callum said: 'We own number five, while a developer owns numbers one to four. The tenant of numbers one to four wishes to remove the existing traditional slate roof and replace it with a tin one.'

'We own number five and our listed building application was submitted to restore and re-slate our building. Historic Scotland has said it has no problem with a tin roof being placed on numbers one to four.'

'The roof line is continuous. The application of a tin roof will be totally incongruous with the traditional slate of the neighbouring property.'

'Can it be justified in allowing one to four to be replaced with a tin roof when there is a commitment to slate five?'



HIT THE CEILING: should Charles Street is to have a combination?

'It is going to look ridiculous with the bulk of the roof in tin and the remainder in slate.' One can't help think that the whole situation smells worse than a farm spreading silage.

'I only wish Historic Scotland was present when it came to our three-year battle to demolish

The Argyll Hotel. We might have accomplished it in six months.'

Historic Scotland's senior heritage management officer Gordon Mackie said: 'The advice we provided to the council on the proposals for one to four Charles Street took into account the current condition of the

property and its location. It is our view that the proposal provides a viable and proportionate method of halting the building's current dereliction.'

'This does not preclude a conservation-based approach for the refurbishment of all the buildings coming forward at a later date.'

Reporter Steven's good news story pays off

STAFF REPORTER
editor@obantimes.co.uk

AN OBAN TIMES reporter has raised more than ten times his target for a charity close to his heart.

After winning a Kindle in a raffle, reporter Steven Rae decided to sell it and donate the money to Alzheimer Scotland, after his grandmother suffered from dementia for 10 years. He hoped to raise £100.

However, after publicising the sale of the hand-held electronic device for reading books on Facebook, with proceeds going to the charity, friends, family and colleagues offered to donate to the good cause, so Steven set up a JustGiving page instead.

After making a final donation himself on Friday towards the cause, the total amount raised was £1,010.

He presented a cheque and donated the Kindle to dementia adviser Andy Crabb at the dementia resource centre on Oban High Street, which is a partner of Alzheimer Scotland.

Andy said: 'On behalf of Alzheimer Scotland's Dementia Resource centre in Oban and all the people living with dementia in Oban and Lorn, I would like to say a huge 'thank you' to Steven and all the people who donated to his JustGiving page for this amazing contribution to our work.'

“ Steven has personal family experience of dementia and he has always been very supportive when we have had dementia-related events or activities that we wanted to highlight to the community. ”

Andy Crabb
Dementia adviser

'But this donation has gone above and beyond his work as a journalist, and shows his personal dedication to helping the growing number of people in this community whose lives have been impacted by dementia.'

'Not only has he raised more than £1,000, but he has also donated the



A GOOD READ: Steven Rae, right, hands the cheque and Kindle to Andy Crabb

Kindle that first inspired his fundraising campaign. The money will go to support Alzheimer Scotland's ever-increasing work in the local area and the Kindle will make a valuable addition to our resources at the dementia resource centre, which are used to raise awareness and increase understanding of dementia in our community.'

Steven added: 'Thanks to everyone who supported this fantastic cause. Mental health problems are so common these days yet, unfortunately, are both stigmatised and under-funded. Hopefully this donation will go a small way to helping people affected by dementia in Scotland and, on a local level, the Kindle will be put to good use here at the dementia resource centre in Oban.'

FORTHCOMING SALES

An invitation to consign

Our specialists will be travelling in your area the week commencing 18th May offering free valuations with a view to selling in our forthcoming auctions.

ENQUIRIES
0141 223 8866
glasgow@bonhams.com

176 St. Vincent Street
Glasgow, G2 5SG

JOHN MACLAUCHLAN MILNE RSA
(British, 1886-1957)
Iona
Sold for £52,871



Bonhams

bonhams.com/glasgow
Prices shown include buyer's premium. Details can be found at bonhams.com

Western Isles face drastic cuts from council budgets

WESTERN Isles council, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, may have to slash its spending by more than £15 million over the next five years.

At a budget meeting last week, it was revealed estimated cuts totalling £15.7 million could be axed from council spending, starting next year.

A comhairle spokesman said there were still 'unknown factors' in light of this year's general election but said current estimates show the cuts were likely to start with £4.1 million between 2016 and 2017, and a further £3.1 million between 2017 and 2018.

The spokesman added: 'The comhairle has estimated what it needs to find year on year but this is still dependent on a number of currently unknown factors. Some estimates are that, in a worst case scenario, £15.7 million of savings will be required over the five-year period.'

Bill to pass cost of repairs bill to building owners

COUNCILS could be given new powers to repair derelict buildings without having to foot the bill.

Under a new bill at Holyrood, introduced by Highlands and Islands MSP David Stewart, charging orders will be reintroduced, allowing councils to make a building safe and pass the cost on to the owner.

Mr Stewart said: 'Too many buildings have been allowed to drift into disrepair and need urgent remedy. 'It is the owner's responsibility to repair a building. My bill will enable councils to carry out repairs whilst shifting the financial burden back to the owners.'



Rotary in the swing for Am/Am

IT WAS time for a tidy-up of the almost immaculate fairways and greens of Glencruitten golf course in Oban as organisers of the Rotary club's Am/Am com-

petition get ready for the hugely successful annual charity drive on June 7.

And first to the fore of this year's tournament was Iain Mac-

Intyre, the rotary club's event organiser (pictured far right). Local businesses have also chipped in to support the event and it is on course to be the

biggest yet in the club's history. Next month will mark the club's 30th tournament and over the years it has raised thousands of pounds for local charities

and has provided much-needed equipment for the hospital and other organisations. For more on Am/Am, turn to the special feature on pages 24 and 25.

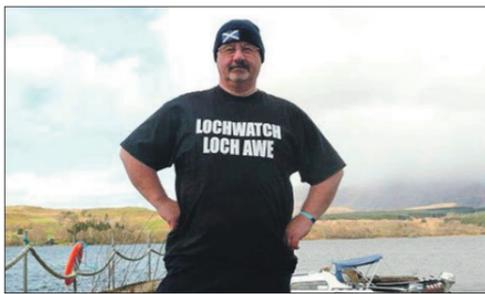
Loch safety campaigner plunges into row over BBC programme

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A LEADING loch safety campaigner has hit out at the BBC for 'romanticising' swimming in open water saying: 'Don't do it - the cold water will kill you.'

Iain MacKinnon, a founder member of LochWatch Loch Awe, a charity set up after the deaths of fishermen on the loch, said no one should ever risk jumping into open water - but especially not Scottish lochs or rivers.

Mr MacKinnon said: 'A feature on the BBC programme, Coun-



COLD REALITY: Iain MacKinnon is taking issue with the BBC

trifile, on Sunday romanticised swimming in open water and lakes of England. An individual was shown to be swimming alone in crystal clear waters.

'Brief mention was made of the cold, but the overall impression was of idyllic swimming in spectacular scenery.

'At the end of the article, mention was made of checking the Countryfile website for advice - no such advice could be found on the website.

'The lochs, rivers, reservoirs and canals of Scotland are always cold, no matter how hot it is. 'Please, please, please do not be

tempted to jump in to cool down 'Cold water shock will grip you; if you're lucky you will survive, but the chances are you will not survive the experience.

'Look after yourself and those around you - please take care.'

The BBC said safety advice would shortly be in place on the Countryfile website.

A spokesman said that anyone going into open water should take advice beforehand and never swim alone.

He confirmed that the broadcaster had received a number of complaints from Scotland about the item.

Project will share school memories

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

THE FIRST of what is hoped will be many projects at the Rockfield Centre has received funding to go ahead.

'Memories Matter - time to share our stories' has been given £8,000 from the heritage Lottery Fund's sharing heritage fund.

The project will see stories from those who went to the former school share their memories of their days there and what the town was like from 1945 to 1955.

Argyll College and North Argyll Young Carers have already agreed to help gather the stories for the Oban Communities Trust (OCT) project and training will be offered to volunteers.

It is hoped this will bring a real social aspect to the

sharing of the memories. Dunollie Projects will also help the trust to present its research in what will be the first exhibition for the Rockfield Centre.

Gordon McNab, chairman of OCT, said: 'We are very pleased to have been awarded this grant from Heritage funding.

'This gives us the opportunity to incorporate an oral history project in the first stages of the development of the Rockfield Centre.

'There is so much social history to this building and from around our wider area, for us all to learn about.

'I look forward to seeing our end objective of having our first exhibition set up in our community/heritage room for everyone to visit, learn and enjoy.'

And, thanks to players of

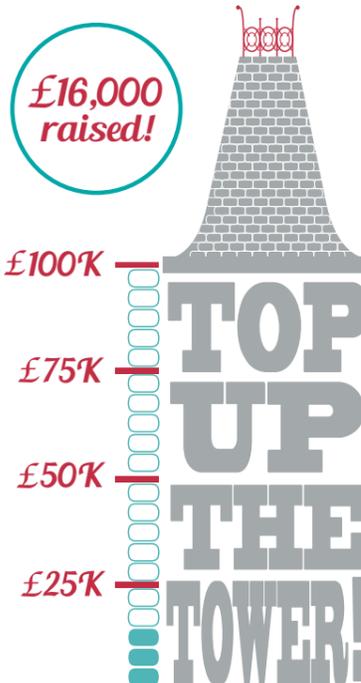
People's Postcode Lottery, £1,700 has been gained by OCT from the Postcode Community Trust to upgrade the outside classrooms, known as the huts.

Competition for this award was intense and the communities trust was successful from 985 applications for the 2015 Q1 funding round.

In announcing the funding a statement from the People's Postcode Lottery said: 'The trustees were impressed by your organisation and this particular project.'

Mr McNab added: 'We are again delighted to have received this funding which will help us to get the work on the huts started as soon as we have the building.

'We now have £16,000 in our Top up the Tower Fund, which is a fantastic. Please keep giving generously.'



Voting for a healthier option could change people's lives

CHANGING lives is the challenging plan laid out by Oban's Healthy Options charity.

The group, not content with already changing the lives of more than 400 people, has now managed to get to the final round of a funding application for 100 Healthier Lives, a project which hopes to work with more people willing to take up exercise, and make lifestyle and diet changes.

Roy Clunie, a founding director of Oban's Healthy Options, said: 'Getting this far in the Aviva Community Fund application is very exciting.

'We have been put forward by our insurance brokers, Clark Thomson and it is now up to a public vote.

'We are asking people to log on and use their 10 votes in favour of a project that benefits everyone in the community.'

Healthy Options encourages people to be more active with programmes tailored to people's individual needs and interests, delivered in a community setting.

Roy said: 'We can support the 4,000 plus people in our community who have one or more chronic medical conditions if we have the resources available.'

To vote register on the Aviva Community Fund website and click on the Healthy Options project entitled 100 Healthier Lives.

The Rockfield Centre Start-Up Fund

Well done, Oban - we did it!

We've got the green light to turn the former Rockfield Primary School building into a cultural community centre!

Now the hard work starts.

We need to raise £100K to fix the dry rot, make the building watertight and get the huts open.

And that's just for starters.

So please,

give what you can and help create a fantastic cultural centre at the heart of Oban!

How can you help?

- 1** Donate online via our website: *giftaid it*
www.obancommunitiestrust.org.uk
- 2** Pick up a Start-Up Fund donation sheet from the Oban Communities Trust office at Linndhu House, Stevenson Street, Oban.

Thank you for your support.

OUT NOW!

SCOTLAND'S NEWEST AND BEST EQUESTRIAN MAGAZINE

Subscribe to EQY

- DRESSAGE
- EVENTING
- CARRIAGE DRIVING
- SHOW JUMPING
- BREEDING
- POLO
- PARALYMPICS
- EQUESTRIAN ART
- GREAT HACKS
- PONIES
- ENDURANCE
- VAULTING
- TOP PRODUCTS
- FASHION
- LEISURE RIDING
- BOOKS
- EVENTS

Available from all WH Smiths, all good Independent Newsagents or online.

www.eqymagazine.co.uk

TIMESLINE

Ferry good record carries award bid

WEST Highlands and islands ferry operator CalMac has been nominated for a National Coach Tourism award after carrying more than 11,000 coaches in 2014.

Nominated in the Best Sea-Carrier category, the estimated number of people on those coaches was almost 500,000, out of around 4.65-million passengers for the year.

The favoured coach routes include Arran, Bute, Mull, Cumbrae and Skye.

The awards will be held at Bewdley in Worcestershire on May 14.

Holyrood agrees to keep petition 'live'

THE SCOTTISH parliament has agreed to keep 'live' a petition from Argyll First councillors until proposals on access at the A83 Rest and Be Thankful are tabled in June.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell welcomed the Holyrood committee's decision to hold a hearing about the petition, and asked them to consider doing so in Argyll itself so that members can see the road and talk to local residents.

Lions roar 'thanks' to Nepal donors

OBAN and Lorn Lions club held a street collection in Oban last Saturday (May 2), which raised £1,236 for the people left destitute by the recent earthquake in Nepal.

The funds will be sent to the multiple district disaster appeal fund, to be distributed to those affected.

The club would like to thank all who made a donation to the collection and the Palace Hotel for providing coffee.

Airports see passenger numbers fly

HIGHLANDS and Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL) is reporting a strong start to the year with passenger numbers up 8.7 per cent in the first three months compared to last year.

Latest figures show that HIAL's 11 airports handled an extra 25,000 passengers, bringing the total up to 314,136 in the first quarter of the year, compared to 2014.

In the West Highlands and islands, passenger numbers were up 7.4 per cent at Benbecula, 6.3 per cent at Islay and 1.6 per cent at Stornoway.

Numbers were down at Barra, Campbeltown, and Tiree, partly due to weather-related cancellations at the start of the year.

The main increase in passenger numbers was at Wick John O'Groats, which reported a 64.5 per cent increase in passenger numbers.

The biggest upsurge in numerical terms was recorded at Inverness where a new service to Dublin, winter flights to Geneva and increased capacity on the Manchester route, saw the airport gain more than 29,000 passengers.

Inglis Lyon, managing director of HIAL, said: 'We are pleased to have started 2015 on such a high, particularly at Inverness and Wick John O'Groats, which have both enjoyed strong growth during the first quarter.'

'Elsewhere, at Benbecula, Islay and Stornoway, growth was more modest but no less important for the businesses and communities that rely on those airports.'

The operator reported record passenger numbers for 2014, up 3.8 per cent to 1.4 million.

Road to nowhere may lead to gridlock, claim residents

STEVEN RAE
srae@obantimes.co.uk

THE blocking of an Oban road which leads to two caravan parks has been described as the 'worst idea the council has ever come up with'.

Part of Glenshellach Road is no longer accessible between the entrances to McKelvie heights and Hayfield, after Argyll and Bute council put up bollards and left large boulders to block off the road to traffic.

This means that drivers will now have to be diverted through a busy residential area via McKelvie Road to get the other side of the blockade.

There are fears among nearby residents that McKelvie Road could become gridlocked as re-routed caravans try to reach the Roseview caravan park and Oban caravan and camping centre further up Glenshellach Road.

The situation is further exacerbated by a large volume of traffic travelling to and from Soroba Road past Lorn and Islands hospital.

One resident of McKelvie Road, who asked not to be named, said: 'McKelvie Road can't handle this volume of traffic.'

'At the moment, if you want to be somewhere at 9am in the town, you need to leave at 8.30am, because of the amount of traffic that tries to get out past the hospital. This is only going to make things worse.'

'There are loads of people towing caravans who use that road to get to the two caravan parks, and there are construction vehicles as well for the houses being built above Catalina Avenue.'



DEAD END: the section of Glenshellach Road which has been blocked off to vehicles

'They will get to the end of the road and see that it's blocked off - what are they going to do? There's nowhere to turn at that point. I don't think the council has properly thought this through.'

Motorists and pedestrians took to the 'Oban and Lorn road watch' page on Facebook to express their feelings about the council's decision.

Lorna Wylie said: 'This is the worst idea the council has ever come up with.'

'Caravans and all that traffic

are now going through a very busy residential area, plus it all has to come down through the stupid high school lights.'

'If they would fix the lights at the high school, people wouldn't resort to using back roads to save time.'

Caz Craik said: 'I have young children who are outside playing all the time and I had to sit them down last night and explain that the road at the end of our street was now going to be a lot busier with buses and caravans.'

'Believe me, this is a massive

worry for us. Will this road remain safe with the volume of traffic that is going to be coming through?'

However, Margaret Menassa felt it was the right move by the council, saying: 'I think it's a good idea. My kids are now safer on the road and caravans can go past the pier. The road does still give access to 31 houses.'

And Karen McKenzie added: 'I think it's a good idea. There was too much traffic on a wee road. Too many taxis used it as a short cut. And Glenshellach doesn't

have a pavement either.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'Part of the road has been closed because of the construction of the new housing scheme at Hayfield.'

'Traffic will now be diverted down McKelvie Road, which has been designed to handle that volume of traffic, rather than the section of Glenshellach Road, which is single track. This was planned at the same time as the housing development. The road will remain open as a right of way for pedestrians and cyclists.'

TIMESLINE

Doubt cast about voluntary grants

A LEADING Oban councillor has given an indication that this year's allocation of voluntary sector grants may be the last from Argyll and Bute council.

The annual £140,000 cash pot is distributed at a local level.

The authority's Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee awards £35,000 a year.

At a meeting of the area committee last Friday, chairman councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'Next year we may not have these decisions to make as we may have no money to give to our communities.'

Oban crew towed powerboat to pier

A POWERBOAT was left aground on Loch Etive on Monday afternoon after it developed engine failure.

The three crew on board dropped anchor close to the shore of Bonawe quarry and called the coastguard.

Oban lifeboat, Mora Edith Macdonald, was launched at 3.50pm and made contact with the powerboat at around 4.30pm.

A tow was attached to the stricken boat and it was taken back to its launch pier.

Fish farmers move to increase flow

FISH farm firm Dawnfresh has made an application to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) to allow additional discharge at two of its Loch Awe fish farms.

The company is aiming to increase the maximum amount of discharge of effluent from its Braevallich and Tervine fish farms.

Director of Dawnfresh, Gideon Pringle, stressed that the increase would have no effect on the size or noise of the farms.

Islay voluntary groups merge

THREE voluntary groups on Islay are merging to form Argyll Community Empowerment (ACE).

The island has been represented by Islay and Jura Council of Voluntary Services (IJCVS) working in partnership with Argyll Voluntary Action and Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network to support those working for and in the third sector.

The merger recommendation follows an independent review.

Nine dog fouling fines in one year

NINE people, in Argyll and Bute in 2014-15, were fined for their dog fouling in a public place.

The figure equals one conviction for each of the nine environmental wardens, who deal with all aspects of dog control, employed by the area's council.

A council spokesman encouraged the public to report dog fouling, including information about the person responsible, the type of dog and the time and place it had occurred.

New director 'confident' about future of SAMS

A NEW director has been appointed to the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), following the sudden death of Professor Laurence Mee last August.



Professor Nicholas Owens (pictured), who has been director of the Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science in Plymouth since 2012, will take charge of the Dunstaffnage-based organisation from September 1.

Professor Owens said: 'I am delighted to have been offered the opportunity to become the director of SAMS.'

'I have long had an affection for the organisation since my early days as a PhD student in Scotland at the University of Dundee.'

'SAMS has the distinction of carrying out not only world-class marine science, but also of translating that science to support business and economic growth for both the region and the wider UK.'

'It is a wonderful opportunity to lead such a prestigious marine science institute.'

SAMS president Professor Geoffrey Boulton said: 'Nick has unrivalled experience

of directing a number of important research institutes in the UK, including the Plymouth Marine Laboratory (2000-2007) and the British Antarctic Survey (2007-2012).'

'I am confident that his experience, scientific vision, global connections and commitment to excellence in science and education will further enhance SAMS' scientific impact and creativity and the benefit it brings to the region.'

SAMS, a founding partner with the University of the Highlands and Islands, employs 166 people and has a turnover of around £10 million but Professor Owens will take over a slimmed down version as the association looks to cut its staff in the coming weeks to meet a forecast 10 per cent reduction in its budget.

Staff pay-offs 'unattractive'

UNIONS SAY REDUNDANCY PACKAGES FALL BELOW WORKERS' EXPECTATIONS

STEVEN RAE
srae@obantimes.co.uk

A TRADES union official has described the redundancy packages on offer at a world class marine research facility as 'financially unattractive' for 90 per cent of the workforce.

The Dunbeg-based Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) told its 166 workers two weeks ago that redundancies were required for it to remain a 'viable and thriving not-for-profit organisation'.

Challenging economic conditions were blamed for the cut in staff as the organisation faces slashing its budget by 10 per cent to avoid a deficit in 2015-16. At the time redundancies were announced, SAMS bosses had hoped the job losses would be achieved by voluntary redundancy.

Two trade unions have been involved in the negotiations with SAMS management: the University and College Union (UCU) and Prospect.

Prospect union representative for SAMS, Christine Campbell, said: 'When research establish-



HARD TIMES: pay-off talks are ongoing at SAMS

ments seek redundancy, usually people are awarded a substantial amount above the statutory level.

'The James Hutton institute, for example, went through redundancy six months ago, and was in a position to offer its staff a year's salary as it had the financial reserves to do so.'

'However, SAMS is not in a position financially to offer a substantial amount.'

'The offer is a bit more above the statutory rate but not as much as to seem particularly attractive. Some members of staff are

involved in a civil service scheme for their pension but for most, I would say 90 per cent of the staff, this offer is not financially attractive.'

'The unions are in the middle of negotiations and people at risk should be notified by the end of the week - at that stage they could still volunteer for redundancy or submit mitigating circumstances as to why they should keep their jobs. Then two weeks after that, decisions should be made.'

Statutory redundancy payments depend on a person's age while

working for an organisation. They are equal to half a week's pay for every year a person worked for the firm while under age 22; one week's pay for every full year while aged over 22 but under 41; and one-and-a-half weeks' pay for every full year while aged 41 or over.

The length of service is capped at 20 years and weekly pay is capped at £475 meaning, under statutory guidelines, the maximum amount of statutory redundancy pay is £14,250.

SAMS acting director, Professor Axel Miller, said: 'SAMS policy is to offer statutory redundancy pay, which is capped at £475 per week, but the current redundancy offer is an enhanced package, which is uncapped.'

'SAMS management is working closely with union representatives to ensure the fairness of our processes.'

'This is an incredibly difficult time for everyone at SAMS as we go through the redundancy process. We have a relatively small staff, who work closely with each other, so these redundancies will affect everyone.'

A gem of a name for a tiny princess

WITH BETTER odds than those offered by the bookies, eight people out of 140 challengers correctly predicted the name of the royal baby as 'Charlotte' in a competition run by Oban Jewellers, the Gem Box.

And now the eight onomastic experts are in the running to pick up a prize worth £200 thanks to their clever guesswork.

Princess Charlotte Elizabeth Diana was born in London on Saturday morning to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

The name of the royal infant was finally announced on Monday to an expectant and festive nation.

Mairi MacAulay, general manager of the Gem Box, said: 'We had eight correct entries out of a total of 140. We have raised £140 - all the money will go to Friends of Oban Playpark.'

'We will draw the winner in the shop on Tuesday, May 12 at 4pm.'

'The prize is a gift voucher for £200 to be spent in the Gem Box.'

Pupils aim to stamp their authority on the national enterprise awards

STEVEN RAE
srae@obantimes.co.uk

A TEAM of young traders from Oban high school have won the Argyll and Bute Young Enterprise competition, and will now compete in the national finals in June.

Teams from schools across the region gave a presentation on April 28 at the Argyll finals in Inveraray, with the group known as 'STAMP!' from Oban High school winning the best overall company and best presentation trophies.

The Lochgilphead high school team won best trade stand and Dunoon Grammar school team won best company report.

The company programme, organised by Young Enterprise Scotland, is the ultimate business experience for S5 and S6 pupils.

Young people set up and run their own company and develop a wide range of skills throughout this year-long entrepreneurial experience.

Teams had to come up with a name, product and business plan for selling their items.

Susan Forrest, music teacher at



Oban high school, said: 'This is a competition our senior pupils are involved in every year. The teams have to take up all aspects of the business.'

'There was a lot of hard work involved in the process and I'm very proud of all three companies, who did a really good job.'

STAMP! sold a variety of gift products including handmade Christmas wreaths and Christmas candles inside logs,

POSITIVE IMPRESSIONS: Oban high schools pupils Laura Campbell, Zoe King and Claire MacKinnon of winning group 'STAMP!', who will now progress to the Scottish finals in Glasgow in June

marketing them at the town's winter festival, school concerts and other charity events.

Zoe King, Claire MacKinnon and Laura Campbell, the main members of 'STAMP!' since the start of the competition, will now progress on to the Scottish area finals in Glasgow on June 17 at the Thistle Hotel, where they will take on teams from schools in the other local authority areas of Scotland.

Manor House Hotel & Restaurant

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

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

There are some things you can't do with

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Digital Edition

but you can **save 64%**

obantimes.co.uk/digital

on an annual subscription

Islay

AIRLINE Loganair has announced a 25 per cent increase in the number of seats between Glasgow and Islay over part of the peak summer period.

Extra return flights on Fridays and Sundays from May 18 until July 6, and then on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays from August 10 to September 20 will coincide with a number of tourist events including the Islay Festival of Malt and Music and the Islay Jazz Festival.

That brings the total number of return flights between those dates to three on Mondays and Fridays and two on Sunday by Loganair, which is a franchise of Flybe.

Paul Graham, who owns the Islay hotel and is on the board of the Islay and Jura marketing group, welcomed the news.

'I'm absolutely delighted, this is brilliant news,' he said. 'There's been a few times when people have struggled to get off the island at busier times of the year, so this will help that greatly.'

'Economically, this will be a great boost for the island as, although it's only an extra 36 people per flight, it makes an enormous difference to some of our smaller businesses.'

Phil Preston, Loganair's chief operating officer, said: 'The Islay route is extremely popular, particularly with passengers travelling to experience the island's diverse and enticing selection of food and drink.'

'Islay has always been a fantastic destination for a short break and these weekend flights should be attractive to people taking the quick hop from the mainland to the Inner Hebrides.'

Duncan MacGillivray, Islay airport station manager, said: 'This is a welcome boost for the island's tourist industry and will allow for more weekend breaks on the island this summer. Islay Airport has enjoyed strong growth in the first few months of the year and this additional capacity should see the airport welcome many more visitors to the island over the summer months.'

HOW A remote community tackles isolation and loneliness will be examined by Holyrood this May.

Scottish Parliament's equal opportunities committee continues its age and isolation inquiry by focussing on the experience of people living on the island of Islay on Sunday May 10 and Monday May 11.

Since launching its inquiry at the beginning of this year, the committee has heard views from young and older people across Scotland, experiencing loneliness, and the organisations working to support them. The committee's Islay visit aims to understand the unique challenges that can come with living in a remote island setting.

Margaret McCulloch MSP, convenor, said: 'Everyone is welcome to come to Ionad Chalum Chille Ile, Bowmore, on Monday May 11 at 10am and watch the committee as we continue to tackle the very serious issue of social isolation and loneliness.'

'The key questions for the committee are: what is the impact of loneliness and social isolation on people in remote island areas, is this an escalating problem, and how can it be tackled effectively?'

People on Islay are invited to watch the committee at work as it takes forward its inquiry at Ionad Chalum Chille Ile, Bowmore, on Monday May 11 from 10am to 12.30pm.

The committee is also planning to host informal discussions with local people to hear their views.

Western isles

A SUBSEA cable carrying electricity generated on the Western Isles to mainland Scotland could be constructed by December 2020.

Costing around £780m, the interconnector would export electricity generated by wind farms and other renewable schemes on the islands to the mainland for distribution. It would stretch from Gravir on Lewis around 50 miles to Ullapool, Ross-shire.

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission, part of SSE, has set out a timetable for the interconnector, hoping to submit a case to the energy regulator Ofgem this year for construction to start in 2017.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar leader, Angus Campbell, has welcomed the timetable.

Aberfeldy

A WIND FARM developer is seeking a two-year extension to erect 80m masts that collect wind-speed data.

Crossburns Windfarm Ltd is seeking permission to develop a wind farm on the Urlar Estate, south-west of Aberfeldy. An application was submitted to the Scottish Government in October 2014 for the farm, which comprises of 25 turbines.

The planned site is adjacent to the 14-turbine Calliachar farm. Planning permission was originally secured in February 2013.



SUCCESS: Jane Young, manager of Inveraray Castle, with Will Montano of CIE Tours, left, and Charlie Smith of VisitScotland.

Three in a row for top-rated castle

FOR THE third year in a row, Inveraray Castle has won an award based on visitor ratings.

The prestigious Award for Excellence was presented to staff at a ceremony on Thursday, April 23, in Aberdeen by Irish bus tour operator CIE Tours International.

It recognises the quality of the UK's hotels and visitor attractions by awarding a merit award to those who have received a greater than 90 per cent customer satisfaction rating.

Jane Young, castle manager, said: 'We're absolutely delighted. This is a credit to all our staff, and shows our customer service is second-to-none, and it's really nice to have recognition of that.'



WINNERS: Spean Bridge primary pupils Brianna Beard, front, Seonaidh MacDonald, left, and Lyra Swabey won prizes for poetry

Winning words from Spean Bridge pupils

THREE creative Spean Bridge primary school pupils won prizes in a poetry competition organised by the rotary club of Lochaber.

Of more than 300 entries from children across the region, Lyra Swabey, primary six, won the primary four to seven category whilst Seonaidh MacDonald, primary three, and Brianna Beard, primary one, were runners up in the primary one to three section.

Members of the group are now visiting local community councils with the aim of setting up a constituted group. Everyone agreed this is an important group to be represented on.



DAY TRIP: Some of Oban and district classic vehicle club's motors at Kenmore

Classic cars hit the road

FIFTEEN members of Oban and district classic vehicle club took part in the National Drive It Day 2015.

This is a designated day when all classic vehicle owners are encouraged to take their motors out for a day trip.

The Oban members headed out to Killin, travelled up the

side of Loch Tay, stopped for lunch at Kenmore before returning via Amulree, Crieff, Lochearnhead and back to Oban. Club chairman Kevin Devine said that, despite some unsettled weather, including rain, hail and sunshine, the first run of the season had been a great success.

West Ardnamurchan

ABRIDGED minutes of the west Ardnamurchan community council's April meeting:

Marine Protected Areas in Loch Sunart and the Sound of Mull: The Scottish government is currently preparing its proposals for managing the new marine protected areas around Scotland's coast, including Loch Sunart and the Sound of Mull. The protection has been introduced to this area on a conservation and archaeological basis. Particular species designated as requiring protection include the common skate (Sound of Mull), and the serpulid worm (Loch Teacuis) amongst others.

The consultation on managing the area closed in early February and an announcement from the government is expected soon. A local group is being proposed, covering Morvern, Sunart and Ardnamurchan to allow local voices to have an influence in the process.

The new emergency responder for west Ardnamurchan is due to begin her training in the next couple of weeks. An update on Scottish ambulance service support for the current team will be sought from Alan Knox.

It was reported that some patients were not being seen by district nurses in Kilchoan if they did not already have appointments.

Clarification will be sought at the next meeting with NHS Highland. Corran ferry: A ward forum is to be held in Strontian on May 18 to discuss ideas the community has come up with to continue

received: The GP with a temporary contract has made the decision to work until the end of June 2015 but will be leaving to pursue other interests. At the interviews on March 18 another GP was recruited who expressed an interest in working in Acharacle initially once she takes up post in August 2015. In the meantime, Dr MacAdam has increased her hours at the practice to include an extra half a day per week. A third GP is still expected to join the rural support team during 2015.

In terms of the wider rural support team, following four rounds of interviews, a number of nurse/paramedic practitioners have been appointed.

The new emergency responder for west Ardnamurchan is due to begin her training in the next couple of weeks. An update on Scottish ambulance service support for the current team will be sought from Alan Knox.

It was reported that some patients were not being seen by district nurses in Kilchoan if they did not already have appointments.

Clarification will be sought at the next meeting with NHS Highland. Corran ferry: A ward forum is to be held in Strontian on May 18 to discuss ideas the community has come up with to continue

MORVERN lines

An old Ardnamurchan heroine

WHO HASN'T heard of 'the Battle of the Braes' which took place on Skye in 1882 between sheriff officers and local crofters because they had a grievance about their rent and withheld it?

Although some of the crofters were charged and imprisoned, their actions led to the Napier Commission and the Crofter's Act of 1886 which gave them security of tenure and the right to pass on their holdings to their heirs. So they were victorious in the end.

Not so well-known is a clash that took place in 1888 at Glendrian, a mile or so along the coast from Sanna on the Ardnamurchan peninsula, between Mrs Mary McGillivray, or Smith, and a sheriff officer from Oban. Mrs McGillivray, in common with a number of other crofters on the Ardnamurchan estate prior to the visit of the crofters commission, fell behind with her rent.

A decree was obtained against her by the proprietor, John James Dalgleish, and in due course a sheriff officer appeared to pounce (seize) her cattle and some other belongings.

Mrs McGillivray, then aged 82 and living with her elderly and infirm brother in a croft said to have been held by their ancestors for at least 400 years, advised her visitor and his witnesses to leave as she did not mean the pouncing to go on.

According to the record, 'they appeared determined to perform their allotted task; whereupon Mrs McGillivray seized a superannuated (old fashioned) grait with three prongs and brandishing it above her head, intimated her resolution of resenting and meddling with her chattels.'

She was possessed of considerable physical strength and her attitude being decidedly menacing, the officer deemed discretion the better part of valour, declared himself deformed and beat a hasty retreat.'

For her bold defiance of the law, the old lady was eventually tried before a sheriff and jury in Oban where she was convicted and sentenced to two weeks in prison.

On her release she was met at the prison gate by a large crowd of sympathisers, headed by a piper and conducted to one of the town's principal hotels.

There she was entertained to lunch, over which one of the Oban magistrates presided and to which several councillors and other prominent townsmen sat down.

Doubtless her spirited stance was applauded by her friends and neighbours at the time but, unfortunately, euphoria was short-lived. The poor lady died alone nine years later in what was described as 'a wretched hovel and in great penury'.

I often wonder how different Morvern would be today if more crofts had been created in the parish following the act of 1888.

One need only consider, admire and in many cases envy, the enterprising and independent spirit that prevails in the crofting townships of Acharacle, Strontian, Lochelside, Ardgor and Kilchoan to see what might have been.

Large land units have their place but there can be no doubt smaller holdings make far better use of agricultural ground, especially in coastal communities.

Of course the opportunity exists for the creation of new crofts in Morvern but who will give the land and who will work it? The martial spirit is now as dormant and as unconscious as The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus.



EXTRAORDINARY: The Field of the Hawthorn Trees above Lochaline

An interesting memorial

ROUGHLY opposite the village of Lochaline, on the south side of the loch of that name, there is a spectacular memorial which can be seen for miles.

It appeared in the local landscape many generations ago and is probably the largest of its kind in Argyll. No mason's chisel or sculptor's hand helped shape it and nor does it commemorate a death, so what is it?

To the casual observer it looks like a field enclosed by a stone wall of the type that can be seen all over the Highlands and islands.

But this is no ordinary field. Its old name is 'Achadh na Craoibh-sgteiche' - the Field of the Hawthorn Trees - now called No 5. It was created and reclaimed out of the surrounding hillside during the catastrophic potato famine of 1846 by dozens of starving men, women and children whose only wages were a few handfuls of oatmeal.

The average Highland crofter and cottar was ill-prepared for the complete failure of the potato crop.

Many had been evicted a few years previously from their ancestral homes along the Sound of Mull, the White Glen, Drimmin, Glencripesdale, Barr, Kinlochteacuis and the islands of Carna and Oronsay, to the congested settlement above the entrance to Loch Aline.

The poor people were in dire distress, their supply of meal was exhausted and their little savings gone.

Fortunately the government, the church and some benevolently-minded individuals stepped in; a distress fund was established and a central board set up in Glasgow to consider relief schemes.

These consisted mainly of local reconstruction work, such as road-making, jetty building and land reclamation. The payment was in kind, generally oatmeal.

Memories of these times have now disappeared but 'the Field of the Hawthorn Trees' is still there as a monument to a hard period in the life of our forefathers.

Iain Thornber
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

subscribe to
The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

DIGITAL OR PRINT
And receive a
FREE GIFT

WORTH
£22.00

courtesy of Arran Aromatics

ARRAN AROMATICS SCOTLAND

tel: 01371 851868
or visit: www.obantimes.co.uk/subscribe
QUOTE OT1214

ARRAN AROMATICS SCOTLAND celebrating 25 years of gifting
www.arranaromatics.com

Terms and conditions apply. Minimum one year subscription costing £58. New subscribers only. Cancellation charges apply and no refunds can be given. UK subscribers only. While stocks last. Fragrances in this free gift may vary.



KIND: Oban Congregational's 'wee minister' Rev Charles Cammock

Oban's 'wee minister' remembered

A FORMER Oban resident is sponsoring a charity climb up Ben Cruachan in memory of her father.

Lorna Cammock, 83, was born in Oban, where her father served as minister of Oban Congregational Church from 1930-1936.

'My father climbed Ben Cruachan with two other young men in the early 1930s,' said Lorna. 'Christian Aid, 70 years old this year, has launched a challenge to climb 70 Munros, and I have decided to sponsor my father's long ago climb.'

The Rev Charles 'Charlie' Cammock was born in Glasgow and attended college in Edinburgh where he trained with legendary athlete and missionary Eric Liddell.

'I have the warmest memories of the good folk of the Oban Congregational Church,' said Lorna.

'They took our family to their hearts and my father was known to all as 'the wee minister'. Daddy was the kindest man and nearly always had a twinkle in his eye.'

Lorna, a musician and retired teacher who now lives in Uddingston, will go inside Ben Cruachan to encourage a team who will be climbing the Munro on May 8.

Christian Aid is a relief agency that works to support sustainable development, fight poverty and social injustice and provide disaster relief around the world.

'On the day of his funeral in 1962, my father would have been conducting one of the first Christian Aid Week services for Uddingston's joint churches,' said Lorna.

To find out more or to sponsor the climbers visit 70munros.everydayhero.com/uk/lorna.



MEMORIES: Lorna Cammock is sponsoring a climb up Ben Cruachan in memory of her father

Lochgilthead

A CELEBRATION to show appreciation of the work of the armed forces will be held in Lochgilthead on Saturday June 20.

A parade will take place at 12 noon including veterans, serving personnel and cadets from Drill Hall to Poltalloch Street for an inspection, led by pipe bands. The marchers will fall out after paying their respects at Lochgilthead war memorial. George Rhodick, chairman of the Lochgilthead Armed Forces Day organising committee, said: 'Celebrating 50th Anniversary of Freedom of Lochgilthead conferred on Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders we hope to have some of the boys who took part in the freedom parade in attendance.'

During the celebrations in Lochgilthead there will be gala in the town until 4pm.

Parents lead the way in bid to end school debacle

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

A RURAL Lochaber community could come together to replace the village's rundown primary school after Highland council officials announced they could not afford a new building.

Last year the local authority suggested moving Strontian primary school pupils to the grounds of the nearby Ardnarmurchan high school, where they would be taught in 'demountable buildings', dubbed 'glorified Portakabins' by parents at the time, at the cost of more than a million pounds. This came after a consultation which also mooted a new permanent build on land adjacent to the high school or refurbishments to the current building, both also costing more than £1m.

But now the community could

be set to take matters into its own hands after council officials revealed to parents they could only spend between £300,000-£400,000 on an upgrade.

It has now been suggested that a yet-to-be-decided social enterprise group builds a new primary school to be leased to Highland council. This would mean the building would be in community ownership and used to benefit residents as well as pupils.

The idea was given by members of the Highland Small Communities housing trust, which is currently building six affordable houses in the area. The group suggested a new school could be erected on the same land.

Jamie MacIntyre, a parent of three Strontian pupils, said: 'The last couple of years have been a bit of a debacle and we seem to be back where we were at the beginning.'

'However, the possibility of

a new solution which could meet the needs of the school community and at the same time provide a long term asset for this community is a positive development and I hope the various stakeholders can work together to explore the possibility further.'

Another parent, who asked not to be named, said: 'I think most people are just totally disillusioned with the whole situation because it has been going on for so long.'

'Nothing is changing and the council has completely backtracked on what it originally suggested.'

'The children need better facilities whether that's in a new school or getting the one they're in up to scratch.'

Highland council is due to arrange a meeting between officials, elected members and the Strontian community, to be held later this month, but declined to comment further on the issue.

Fresh calls for new bypass out of town

GRIDLOCKED traffic in Fort William caused by the breakdown of a mobile crane has resulted in fresh calls for a new bypass out of the town.

The vehicle came to a halt on the A82 at Inverlochy junction on Saturday afternoon, as thousands of people made their way into town for the Scottish six days trial and Fort William football club's home game, causing traffic to come to a standstill through the town, affecting cars travelling both north and south.

This has added new weight for calls to build a new road to link the dual carriageway with the A830 Mallaig road to ease congestion.

Stewart MacLean, of road improvement campaigners the A82 partnership, said: 'This demonstrates the vulnerability of the north access into Fort William and demonstrates the requirement for a major look at the bypass roads. It was a classic case of congestion arising at a peak time in Fort William when there was so much sporting activity.'

Adults urged to tune into Mod

ADULT musicians are being urged to enter Lochaber provincial mod.

Ronald Cameron, acting chairman of Meur Loch Abair, said the event had become focused on primary school children and he would like to see more adults competing in this year's event next Friday and Saturday (May 15 and 16).

Mr Cameron said: 'We're trying to encourage more adults to come along. We've changed the dates to include a Saturday as a lot of people who wanted to participate couldn't because of work.'

'The reformed Lochaber Gaelic choir is one of the groups signed up to compete and provincial mods are a great opportunity for adult performers to practice before the national.'

Junior events will be held in Fort William RC school and St Andrews hall on Friday before moving to Caol community centre for the adult contests on Saturday morning. For more information or to enter contact Linda Campbell on 700800.



READ ALL ABOUT IT: with a long trip ahead, Fern Britton takes a break to read the *Oban Times*

Spean pit stop for Fern



ON YOUR BIKE: An excited Fern Britton arrives in Spean Bridge

TELEVISION personality Fern Britton said she felt 'so blessed' to visit Lochaber as part of a mammoth fundraising cycle from the top to the bottom of Britain.

The presenter stopped off in Spean Bridge on Monday as part of a 1,000-mile group bike ride from John O'Groats in the north east to Land's End in the south west.

Ms Britton, best known for hosting *This Morning* and *Ready, Steady, Cook*, is marking her 57th birthday, being born in 1957, by cycling approximately 57 miles a day and raising £57,000 for the Genesis Research trust, a charity working to find treatments and cures for stillbirth, premature birth, miscarriage and brain damage. Taking a break to speak to the *Oban Times* on Monday, Fern said: 'This is such a beautiful part of the world and I feel so blessed to be here. I have been cycling with Genesis Research for 11 years and have been a patron for five years. We all know someone who has been affected by miscarriage or stillbirth so I'd like to see as many people as possible get on their bikes to take part in one of their events.'

Lindsay Simpson, from Spean Bridge, was taking part in a 171-mile section of the route in memory of stillborn babies in her family. She said: 'This is a charity close to my heart because I had two stillborn babies and my mother had three. Anyone who can do just a little bit to help will be making a difference.'

The team stopped overnight in Glencoe on Monday then went on to Inveraray on Tuesday before setting off for Glasgow.

TIMESLINE

Rotary volunteers collect Nepal £800

THE ROTARY club of Lochaber has raised more than £800 to help people following the earthquake in Nepal.

Volunteers appealed for donations in Fort William on Sunday as part of a nationwide effort by rotary clubs to provide tents, blankets, lamps and cooking utensils to the millions of people who lost their homes last month.

John Harvey, president of Lochaber rotary, thanked the public for donations.

Donations can still be given to any club member or delivered to the Alexandra hotel.

Bag charge profits donated to groups

THE FIRST community groups in the west Highlands to benefit from the profits of the five pence carrier bag charge have been announced.

In the Highlands, Glen Spean and Great Glen villages in bloom, Lochaber Geopark, Dunvegan and district community council, Sunny Lochaber united gardeners and Kyleakin and Kylerhea community council were among the 13 groups to make gains from the charge, which came into force on October 20 last year.

Doors re-open on Raigmore wards

ALL WARDS have reopened at Raigmore after some areas of the hospital were closed for almost two weeks due to an outbreak of norovirus.

The Inverness hospital had been closed to all visitors and new admissions to prevent the spread of the sickness and diarrhoea infection but reopened in full on Tuesday (May 5).

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

Check our Specials

Bunessan Bakehouse

Come and visit us at for a delicious evening meal and great atmosphere.

A la Carte menu available - Includes locally sourced ingredients and the freshest of west coast seafood.

Summer opening times:
Wednesday-Sunday 10am-3pm 5pm-8.30pm (last orders 8.30pm)
To book - pop in during opening hours or call on 01681 700454 (booking advised)

Please note - cash only. "Bring your own bottle" (corkage £2.50 per couple)
Main Street, Bunessan, Isle of Mull, PA67 6DG Check out our Facebook page [TheBunessanBakehouse](#)

Café Shore

Café Shore
Argyll Square, Oban

Come and visit Café Shore and taste our delicious ice creams, hearty soups and fresh sandwiches. We serve fresh coffee as well as a range of tea and cakes all within our relaxing and newly refurbished coffee shop.

Our outside seating area is the perfect place to take the weight off your feet and watch the world go by in Oban's beautiful Argyll Square.

the colintraive hotel

Award winning Hotel with Gastro pub, Sea Shell Restaurant and gorgeous en suite bedrooms with sea views.

Our chef prepares fantastic fresh dishes using local game and fish products and ingredients from our home grown garden.

Fresh Kyles of Bute Langoustines, Hand Dived local scallops & Winston Churchill Venison.

Our restaurant and lounge have been fully refurbished in an elegant style with comfy leather chairs and period furniture.

Fab views, excellent food and great hospitality.

Also Luxury holiday home, sleeps 10
[www.eileandhu.com](#)
Tel: 01700 841207
Email: enquiries@colintraivehotel.com
[www.colintraivehotel.com](#)

MARKIE DANCE

Serving a new and improved menu, including a variety of traditional meals and pub favourites with some lighter bites.

Quality home cooked food, using locally sourced ingredients where possible.

Food served daily 12pm - 9pm.

May Live Music	Skerryvore Decade Weekend
Friday 8th - Donald Livingston	Friday 29th - Crooked Reel
Saturday 9th - The Antics	Saturday 30th - Crooked Reel 3pm-6pm
Friday 15th - John Mackenzie	Open Till 2am - Sandra MacBeth
Saturday 16th - John Colletta	Sunday 31st - Crooked Reel 3pm-6pm
Friday 22nd - Trail West	Live Music Starts at 9.30pm unless stated
Saturday 23rd - Signal Fires	

Tiroran House Hotel

Scottish Country House Hotel of the Year 2013 & 2014
AA Rosette Restaurant

We are open to non residents for dinner throughout the season and look forward to welcoming islanders and holidaymakers alike

Treat yourselves or someone special

Isle of Mull
[www.tiroran.com](#)
info@tiroran.com
01681 705232

THE WIDE MOUTHED FROG

Check our official website [www.widemouthedfrogofficialsite.co.uk](#)

Sundays at The Wide Mouthed Frog just got better!

Coming Soon BBQ & Live Music

Overlooking the bay and Dunstaffnage Castle, we offer a relaxed family run restaurant, the perfect place to relax, enjoy good food, local music and great company.

We also have various staff vacancies, please call or come in for more details.
Wide Mouthed Frog Restaurant with rooms, Dunstaffnage Bay, By Oban, Scotland, PA37 1PX
Tel: 01631 567005 email: widemouthedfrog@btconnect.com



The 32nd Highlands & Islands

NOW IN its 32nd year, the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival (HIMDF) is an Oban tradition, bringing together hundreds of singers, dancers and musicians from across Scotland.

This year's festival was held last weekend, with different events held at venues including the Corran Halls, Atlantis leisure centre and Oban high school.

Donald MacLean, chairman of the festival, said: 'The festival is a dazzling array of talent in music and dance. Add to that the spectacular scenery of the surrounding area, unrivalled local produce and our world-famous hospitality, and you have the makings of a veritable feast in this, Scotland's year of food and drink.'

Organisers were praised for the hard work and dedication that puts on an outstanding showcase of talent, year-after-year, bringing music competitors and the country's top Highland dancers, for the areas finals and Scottish choreography competitions, to the town.

Margaret Farmer, treasurer of the festival committee, said: 'There was an amazing standard of performers and it just seems to get better and better in the 32 years I've been involved with the festival. Personally, the highlight for me was the choreography at the Highland dancing contests which was just amazing. So much work and effort goes into them and they are so spectacular to watch.'

Alistair Dewar, chairman of Netherlorn Piping Society, awarded prizes to the junior solo piping, chanter and drumming competitors. He said he was impressed with the standard of the playing, particularly the piping, and thanked all the organisers and volunteers at the school for their help in making the day run so smoothly.



Brodie Sloss, Oban, won the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival trophy for Scots song primary and classical song primary

Photo Kevin McGlynn



Innes MacKay, 6, was a scary crocodile in Dunbeg primary one's 'Bop Bop Adoo' during the children's action song on Friday at the Corran Halls

Photo Kevin McGlynn



HIMDF Results 2015

ACCORDION AND FIDDLE MASTERS:

ACCORDION:

1 Lagavullin Distillery Trophy: Liam Stewart, Galston, 2 Iain Campbell and Donald William Campbell Memorial Trophy: Adin Graham, Windygates, 3 Emma Dickson, West Linton;

FIDDLE: 1 Oban Distillery Trophy: Maggie Adamson, Shetland, 2 Gordon MacLachlan Memorial Trophy: George Davidson, Tarves, 3 Shona MacFadyen, West Kilbride.

JUNIOR SOLO PIPING, CHANTER AND DRUMMING COMPETITION:

Chanter – Under 12 years – Scale & 2 part tune: The Muir Trophy: Thomas Wilson, Co. Down, 2 Harrison Bishop, Newton Mearns, 3 Tamzyn Cassidy, Broughty Ferry; Chanter – Under 12 years – 4 part tune: Trophy – Argyll Print: Laura Robertson, Fort William; Frances Shand Kydd Trophy – awarded to the most promising competitor: Harrison Bishop, Newton Mearns; Chanter – 12 years and under 14 years – March: Trophy – Anthony Campbell Memorial: Sinclair Hennessy, Loch Awe, 2= Ellen MacKechnie, Benderloch and Iain MacPherson, Oban; Novice March – Under 14 years: Trophy – Oban Electrical Services: Innes Munro, Connel, 2 John MacLeod, 3 Calum Garvin, Oban; The Lodge Earraghaidheal Trophy will be awarded to the highest placed Argyll resident: Innes Munro, Connel; Ground of a Piobaireachd – Under 15 years: Trophy – D Watt & Son: Gregor MacDonald, North Connel, 2 James Divers, Benderloch, 3 Josh Barbour, Campbeltown; Piobaireachd – Under 15 years: Trophy – Pipe Dreams: Calum Craib, 2 Finlay Cameron, Roy Bridge, 3 Lewis Russell, Livingston; March – Under 15 years: Trophy – The Willie MacCallum Trophy: Robbie MacIsaac, Falkirk, 2 Calum Craib, 3 Lewis Russell, Livingston; Strathspey & Reel – Under 15 years: Trophy – The Tommy Askew Memorial Trophy: Robbie MacIsaac, Falkirk, 2 Calum Craib, 3 Lewis Russell, Livingston; The Billy Kirkham Trophy – Calum Craib; Jig – Under 15 years: Trophy – The Cameron Family: Finlay Cameron, Roy Bridge, 2 Lewis Russell, Livingston, 3 Calum Craib; Piobaireachd – 15 years and under 18 years: Trophy – Angus

MacAlister Memorial Quaich: Liam Donaldson, Kirriemuir, 2 Brighde Chaimbeul, An Caol, 3 John Dew, Crieff; March – 15 years and under 18 years: Trophy – Ryan MacPhail Memorial Trophy: John Dew, Crieff, 2 John Campbell, Crookston, 3 Joshua J Townsley, Chapelhall; Strathspey & Reel – 15 years and under 18 years: Trophy – Chris Crowe: John Campbell, Crookston, 2 Joshua J Townsley, Chapelhall, 3 John Dew, Crieff; Hornpipe & Jig – 15 years and under 18 years: Trophy – Bill Crowe: Brighde Chaimbeul, An Caol, 2 James Miller, Falkirk, 3 John Campbell, Crookston; The Allan MacInnes Memorial Trophy: John Campbell, Crookston; Stick & Pad (14 years & under): Trophy: Oban Music: 1 Angus MacLean, Kilmartin; March (4 part) (14 years & under): Trophy: Royal Bank of Scotland: Rachel Thom, Livingston, 2 Scott MacDougall, Nigg; 6/8 March (14 years & under): Trophy: Netherlorn Shield: Rachel Thom, Livingston, 2 Scott MacDougall, Nigg; Tenor – March: Trophy: John Livingstone Memorial Trophy: Lucy Carroll, Livingston;

SENIOR PIPING:

Piobaireachd – Grade A & P (Open): Cooper Salver: Darach Urquhart, Glasgow; Dugald MacColl Memorial Trophy: Jenny Hazzard, Edinburgh, 3 William Geddes, Glasgow; Piobaireachd – Grade B: Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy: Greig Canning, Edinburgh; Walter Drysdale Trophy: Katherine Belcher, Partick, 3 Connor Sinclair, Crieff; Piobaireachd – Grade C: Ronald Lawrie Memorial Trophy: Andrew Wright, Dundee, 2 John MacDonald, Aberdeen, 3 Taylor Townsley, Airdrie; March, Strathspey & Reel – Grade A & P: Reid Family Trophy: Steven Gray, Lockerbie, 2 Gordon McCready, Renfrew, 3 Ben Duncan, Edinburgh; March, Strathspey & Reel – Grade B: Trophy – Riona T MacInnes: Matt Fraser, Glasgow, 2 Cameron MacDougall, Nigg, 3 Euan Dewar, Oban; March, Strathspey & Reel – Grade C: Trophy – Fusion Marine: Andrew Wright, Dundee, 2 Katherine Belcher, Partick, 3 Edward Gaul, Dundee.

ACCORDION –

Junior and open: March, Strathspey

& Reel (Traditional) – Under 12 years: Trophy – Islay Accordion Club: Clelland Shand, Dunfermline; Gaelic Waltzes – 12 years and under 16 years: Trophy – Iain MacPhail: Kyle Rowan, Edinburgh, 2 Elinor Baker, Islay, 3 Cioistaidh-Sarah Chaimbeul, Caol; March, Strathspey & Reel – 12 years and under 16 years: Trophy – Iona Shop: Kyle Rowan, Edinburgh, 2 Cioistaidh-Sarah Chaimbeul, Caol, 3 Elinor Baker, Islay; March, Strathspey & Reel (Pipe) – 12 years and under 16 years: The Duncan Campbell Trophy: Kyle Rowan, Edinburgh, 2 Cioistaidh-Sarah Chaimbeul, Caol; The John Allan Memorial Cup: Kyle Rowan, Edinburgh;

OPEN ACCORDION:

March, Strathspey & Reel (Traditional) – Open: Trophy – Mr & Mrs Hugh MacInnes, Beechglade: Michael MacLeod, Fort William, 2 John Weaks, Glasgow; March, Strathspey & Reel (Traditional) – Open: Trophy – McIntee Family: Adin Graham, Windygates, 2 Alex Morrison, Peterhead, 3 Shanna Rodgers, Oban; March, Strathspey & Reel (Pipe) – Open/Button Key Accordion: Trophy – Mr & Mrs Hugh MacInnes: Michael MacLeod, Fort William, 2 John Weaks, Glasgow; March, Strathspey & Reel (Pipe) – Open: Trophy – Neil Sinclair: Adin Graham, Windygates, 2 Alex Morrison, Peterhead, 3 John Weaks, Glasgow; The Jimmy Shand Scottrail Trophy: Adin Graham, Windygates; Gaelic Waltzes (Traditional) – Open: Trophy – Iain MacPhail: Alex Morrison, Peterhead, 2 John Weaks, Glasgow, 3 John McCormick, Oban; Own Composition – Accordion or Fiddle: Trophy – Angus & Ella MacFadyen Memorial Trophy: George Davidson, Tarves, 2 Alex Morrison, Peterhead, 3 Kyle Rowan, Edinburgh; Traditional Scottish Band/Group – Open: Trophy – HIMDF: Rowan Brothers & 1, 2 Copacetic, 3 Tarsainn n Drochaid.

FIDDLE:

Slow Air & March – Under 12 years: Trophy – Oban Strathspey & Reel Society: Aiva Harper, Wick, 2 Sasha Clement, Dingwall, 3 Alex MacPherson, Oban; The Frances

Shand Kydd Trophy – awarded at the judge's discretion to the most promising competitor: Alex MacPherson, Oban; March, Strathspey & Reel – 12 years and under 16 years: Trophy – Accordion Club: Magnus Westwell, Edinburgh, 2 Sorcha Gall, Huntly, 3 Amy Paterson, Campbeltown; Slow Air – 12 years and under 16 years: Trophy: McLachlan Trophy: Magnus Westwell, Edinburgh, 2 Amy Paterson, Campbeltown, 3 Sorcha Gall, Huntly; March, Strathspey & Reel – Open: Trophy – Calum MacPhail: Magnus Westwell, Edinburgh, 2 Shona MacFadyen, East Kilbride, 3 George Davidson, Tarves; Slow Air (Traditional) – Open: Trophy – Christine MacKenzie: Magnus Westwell, Edinburgh, 2 George Davidson, Tarves, 3 Kirstie McLanaghan, Currie.

CLARSACH:

Beginners: Trophy – Campbell Trophy: Sarah Garvin, Oban, 2 Niamh Cameron, Oban, 3 Rhona McCracken, Taynuilt; Intermediate: Trophy – Oban Gaelic Drama: Isabelle Davidson, Perth, 2 Jessica Swan, Oban; Duet: Trophy: The Barry Milner Trophy: Niamh Cameron & Sarah Garvin, 2 Jenny MacIntyre & Shona MacKenzie; Advanced: Trophy – The Russell Quaich: Breagha Charlton, Taynuilt, 2 Ciorstaidh-Sarah Chaimbeul Isle of Skye; Non-Traditional: Trophy – HIMDF: Ciorstaidh-Sarah Chaimbeul, Isle of Skye, 2 Cationa Clark, Castle Douglas, 3 Breagha Charlton, Taynuilt; Recital of Scottish and/or Gaelic Music: Trophy: Soroba House: Catriona Clark, Castle Douglas; Ensemble: Feis Latharna Clarsacha Group.

SINGING: PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND OPEN:

The Gillies Cup – awarded for the highest marks overall in singing competitions: Sequence Ladies Choir; Scots Song – Primary: Trophy – HIMDF: Brodie Sloss, Oban, 2 Eleasaid MacLean, Lismore; Classical Song – Primary: Trophy – HIMDF: Eleasaid MacLean, Lismore, 2 = Jenny Whitelaw, Appin and Megan Currie, Appin; Vocal Solo Girls – Primary 6 & 7: Girls Trophy: Frances Shand Kydd: Katie Cook, Lismore, 2 = Brodie Sloss, Oban

and Charlie Johnston, Appin; Scottish Song (English or Gaelic): Trophy: Argyll Oils: Shona Keith, MAYC, 2 Alison McGinty, MAYC, 3 Catriona MacLean, MAYC; Junior Choirs (under 18): Trophy: John Wallace: Mid Argyll Youth Chorus; Ensemble: Trophy: Hugh MacPherson: Etha, MAYC, 2 Tralalhee, Benderloch; Songs from the Shows – Secondary 3 +: Trophy – MacKinnon Family: Fiona Cupples, MAYC, 2 Holly Renton, MAYC, 3 Kyle Renton, MAYC; Songs from the Shows – Primary: Trophy – Berni MacMillan: Charlie Johnston, Appin, 2 Brodie Sloss, Oban, 3 Eleasaid MacLean, Lismore; Senior Choir (Piano accompaniment): 1 Sequence Ladies Choir; Scots Song – Secondary 1 – 2: Trophy – Margaret Farmer: Christy Harkins, Alexandria, 2 Maria Clark, Oban, 3 Alistair Cupples, MAYC; Secondary Duets: Trophy – Mary Pollock: Abbie Williams & Eve Maxwell, MAYC, 2 Fiona & Alistair Cupples, MAYC, 3 Ellie Simpson & Holly McKinnon, MAYC; Scots Song – Secondary 3 +: Trophy – HIMDF: Charlotte Lawson, Benderloch, 2 Magnus Westwell, Edinburgh, 3 = Kyle Renton, MAYC and Holly Renton, MAYC; Songs from the Shows – Secondary 1 & 2: Trophy – Frances Grant: Christy Harkins, Alexandria, 2 Joey Luxmore, MAYC, 3 = Holly McKinnon, MAYC and Alistair Cupples, MAYC; Classical Song: Trophy – HIMDF: Shona Keith, MAYC, 2 Anna Twigg, Benderloch, 3 Alison McGinty, MAYC; Classical Song – Secondary 3 +: Trophy – HIMDF: Fiona Cupples, MAYC, 2 Eve Maxwell, MAYC, 3 Abbie Williams, MAYC; Songs from the Shows: Trophy – The Highlands Restaurant: Shona Keith, MAYC, 2 Anna Twigg, MAYC 3 Alison McGinty, MAYC; Anne MacDougall Memorial Trophy: Shona Keith, MAYC; Classical Song – Secondary 1 – 2: Trophy – Iona Shop Cup: Christy Harkins, Alexandria, 2 Joey Luxmore, MAYC, 3 Holly McKinnon, MAYC.

LADY FERMOY PIANO COMPETITIONS: The Lady Fermoy Trophy – awarded for the most meritorious performance overall in the under 18 piano classes: Mollidh McGriogair,

Glasgow; Pianoforte Solo – Grade 1 standard: Trophy – Caroline Boyle: Blythe Shand, Dunfermline, 2 Arabella Files, Oban, 3 Sasha Clement, Dingwall; Pianoforte Solo – Grade 2: Trophy – Sileas Sinclair: Carmen Watt, Fraserburgh; Pianoforte Solo – Scottish Music Grade 1 – 2: Trophy – Visit Scotland: Carmen Watt, Fraserburgh, 2 Sasha Clement, Dingwall; Pianoforte Solo – Grade 3: Trophy – Sheila Sinclair: Lewis Sutherland, Glasgow, 2 = Katie Ramsay, Peterhead and Neil McCracken, Taynuilt; Pianoforte Solo – Grade 4: Trophy – Peter and Peggy Sinclair Memorial Plate: Jordan Ramsay, Peterhead, 2 Hannah Black, Campbeltown; Duet – Grade 3 to 5: Trophy: Fay Black: Hannah Black & Iona McAllister, Campbeltown; Pianoforte Solo Scottish Music Grade 3 – 5: 1 Alan Rowan, Edinburgh, 2 Marnie Clark, Dumfries; pianoforte Classical Solo: Trophy: Bryce Stewart: Magnus Westwell, Edinburgh, 2 Paul Mathers, Fife, 3 Marnie Clark, Dumfries; Pianoforte Solo – Ragtime and Blues: Trophy – McLellan: Neil McCracken, Taynuilt; Pianoforte Solo – Romantic Period: 1 Mollidh NicGriogair, Glasgow, 2 Magnus Westwell, Edinburgh, 3 = Emma Dickson, West Linton and Marnie Clark, Dumfries; Pianoforte Solo – Classical Period (Adult advanced): Trophy: Margaret Burns: Marek Kochmanski, Oban, 2 Jack Westwell, Edinburgh, 3 Antonina Clement, Dingwall; Pianoforte Solo – Modern Period (Adult advanced): Trophy: Margaret Burns: Jack Westwell, Edinburgh, 2 Antonina Clement, Dingwall; Pianoforte Solo – Modern: 1 Mollidh NicGriogair, Glasgow.

SCHOOLS: SINGING AND

RECORDER: Primary Folk Singing Group: Trophy – NABO: Rockfield Primary, 2 Barcaldine Primary, 3 Dunbeg Primary; Primary Choirs – Accompanied: Trophy – Sinclair Family: Lochnell Primary, 2 = Rockfield Primary and Strath of Appin Primary, 3 = Dunbeg Primary and Taynuilt Primary; RECORDER: Primary Recorder Groups: Trophy – Agnes Connelly: Kilmore and Oban Church (Wednesday group), 2 Dunbeg Primary,

Oban Music & Dance Festival 2015



Rockfield primary 2/1g and Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige, were all sailors aboard the steam boat Photo Kevin mcGlynn



Maggie Adamson, from Shetland, who won the fiddle masters competition for the fourth year in a row 16_t19srhimdf02



Liam Stewart, from Galston, won the accordion masters, 12 years after his first win 16_t19srhimdf03

Left: The winners from the various under-15 junior solo piping, chanter and drumming competitions 16_t19srhimdf16



Right: Una Reid (centre with flowers), who presented the junior piping and drumming prizes, with the junior prize winners at Oban high school. Una has been a devoted follower and contributor to piping in Argyll for 43 years Photo Kevin mcGlynn



Some scary bears were on the Corran Halls stage as Park primary, Oban, performed their action song 'Goldilocks went down to the wood one day' Photo Kevin mcGlynn



Charlotte Lawson from Benderloch took first place in the secondary three plus Scots song competition. 16_t19srhimdf06



The open choreography team from the James McCorkindale School of Dance (Campbeltown) and the Christina Cairns School of Dance (Dunoon) who were runners-up. Photo by Ronnie Cairns Photography



The Argyll and Bute team, who took part in the Scottish Area Finals. From left, Katie McNiven (Islay) Courtney Cowden (Dunoon) Eilidh Macdonald (Islay), Kirsty McGillivray (Dunoon), Sophie Baker (Islay) and Lisa McGillivray (Dunoon). Photo by Ronnie Cairns Photography



The Clark family, Oliver, 6, Maria, 12, who was second in Scots secondary 1-2, and Aoibheann, 4, who took part in the songs from the shows for primary children and was the youngest competitor Photo Kevin mcGlynn



Colourful jellyfish took to the stage at the Corran Halls on Friday as Strath of Appin primary, Appin, pupils performed 'Under the deep blue sea' in the action songs, pre-school and primary Photo Kevin mcGlynn



Fort William Gaelic medium pupil Laura Robertson, with her prize for the under 12 years, four part tune chanter competition. 16_t19srhimdf09

Gregor MacDonald, North Connel and Innes Munro, Connel, who are tutored by world champion piper Angus MacColl of Benderloch Photo Kevin mcGlynn

Kyle Rowan is from Edinburgh but his mum Mhairi is from Bowmore on Islay and his dad, Gordon, from Crossapol on Tiree. Kyle won the Iain MacPhail trophy for Gaelic waltzes (12 years to 16 years) Photo Kevin mcGlynn

Ealasaid MacLean, Lismore, with the RT MacInnes Trophy for vocal solo girls primary four and five Photo Kevin mcGlynn

Viewpoint

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

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8216

Given Russell Brand's highly-publicised Damascene conversion to exercising the democratic franchise, it underlines the fundamental importance of voting.

Casting a vote in an election - be it parliamentary, European or council - is the direct expression of the will of the people. It holds politicians to account and marks their report card.

Granted, it is an imperfect form of democratic accountability, but it's the best system there is at present. The writer E M Foster was about right when he cried,

'Two cheers for democracy'. At times, the temptation not to vote may seem irresistible given the quality of politics, but it severely compromises the ability of constituents to have a day of reckoning with their elected representatives.

West Highlanders have a duty to play a part in the democratic process. Last year's referendum proved that politics matters; that it can galvanise people.

The power to vote someone out of public office is significant and not to be taken for granted. It's time for the West Highlands' electorate to make its mark.



Days gone by - postmen hit the beat

This week's flashback photograph comes from the files of The Oban Times and features three Oban postmen ready to hit the beat 30 years ago as part of a newly re-organised Royal Mail. Left to right: George Crawford, Peter Smith and Grant Nicholson. 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.

VisitScotland should re-open old church

Sir, I write to you in relation to the former tourist office church building on Argyll Square, Oban.

Now that the former Rockfield school building has been bought over by the community, surely the owner, VisitScotland, has a responsibility to repair and re-open the church building.

Given that Oban is one of the busiest tourism centres in Scotland, VisitScotland has a responsibility to re-open the old church instead of letting it fall into disrepair.

I refer to the quote in the *Oban Times* from a VisitScotland spokesman in April 2014 saying they were looking at moving back into the church with other partners.

What happened to this idea? Come on VisitScotland - stop adding to the town's derelict buildings.

Tommy Anderson, George Street, Oban.

Fantastic efforts to keep beaches clean

Sir, David Witchell (Great holiday on Mull but clean up beaches, April 30) writes about the amount of plastic rubbish on the beaches of Mull. Sadly this is an ever-recurring

problem as a quick search of the internet will show - horrific photos of the 'North Atlantic garbage patch' a whole island made up of floating plastic and dead seabirds with stomachs full of man-made debris.

However, we wanted to point out the fantastic efforts made every year by schools and other local groups to clean up our beautiful local beaches.

Usually this occurs after April, once the worst of the stormy seas have died down.

At Mull and Iona ranger service we do our best to raise awareness and encourage action, for example, a recent Friends of Calgary Bay work party removed two trailer-loads of rubbish.

And there are beach cleans planned for the Ross of Mull on Wednesday May 29 and the weekend of June 6 and 7.

Please get in touch if you would like to join in.

Next time you enjoy one of Mull's great beaches, please do your bit by taking away a few extra pieces of rubbish with you and leave the area better than you found it.

Emily Wilkins, on behalf of Mull and Iona ranger service.

Disgust at Strontian cemetery situation

Sir, May I, through your pages, express my absolute disgust at the situation

the residents of Strontian are in with the cemetery access.

This road is, I believe, a public right of way.

My grandma on my mum's side is laid to rest there and to think people would stop us or anyone else taking their car to the small car park beggars belief.

As for letting the goats roam the cemetery eating floral tributes, well I don't know how these people sleep at night.

I can only hope the peace and freedom of access returns to how it has been in all the 36 years I have lived in the area.

Please afford those that have relatives in the cemetery the respect they rightly deserve.

Neil Murray, Acharacl.

Look to the heights for A83 solution

Sir, Regards your article 'Landslide prone A83 needs solution', April 16, it certainly does.

My suggestion, which admittedly would not be cheap but would be effective and permanent, would be to build the road up on concrete pillars to above avalanche debris height.

This has been done successfully in many places in Alpine countries where similar landslide problems exist.

Davie Kerr, Onich, Lochaber.

Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON
rrobertson@obantimes.co.uk

Glasgow Sutherland Association appeal

THE GLASGOW Sutherland Association has appealed to its members and associates to attend its ceilidh this Saturday, May 9, and annual general meeting on May 28.

The association was instituted in 1857 to offer assistance to fellow county folk in finding work, shelter and comradeship among a busy environment - making it the first and oldest extant association to be established in Glasgow by Highlanders and islanders.

In recent years, however, the association has struggled with falling attendances at their events.

Not so long ago, the association was incredibly active. Its annual gathering was held on the fourth Friday in November followed on the Saturday by a dinner dance or a ceilidh. There were monthly ceilidhs on Thursdays, a Burns' Supper in January, regular ladies' lunches and an annual golf match with the Edinburgh Sutherland Association.

Sadly these activities gradually disappeared and the association was left to lament a lack of young blood carrying on the vibrancy of the past century and a half.

It is not all doom and gloom, however. Sisters, Kirsty and Catriona Kerr, have recently been welcomed onto the committee and they have arranged a ceilidh to be held in Partick Burgh Halls at 7.30pm on Saturday May 9 - tickets £10.

It would be wonderful if this venture was well supported - the first step in the revival of an association with such a rich history.

Glasgow taxi drivers - real city characters

IT IS a long established fact that some of the best stories about Glasgow originate from the

inimitable patter of the city's taxi drivers. Every Highlander knows the feeling of jumping into a black cab, asking to go to one of the famous bars at the top of Argyll Street, and being asked immediately: 'Whit one ae the islands ur ye from?' Or: 'dae ye speak the Gaelic?'

Last week, I was in a taxi with two boys from Skye and a girl from Mull. We were having quite an impassioned discussion about the qualities of various types of tune - we really know how to enjoy ourselves.

I was arguing the corner of the 2/4 and 6/8 pipe marches.

One of the other boys was suggesting that more complex tunes (9/8s or 12/8s) were more musically interesting.

I told him I thought he was wrong and began to whistle an old 2/4 to prove how catchy they were.

At this point, on hearing my whistling, the taxi driver turned round and to our surprise exclaimed: 'Aye, that's Donald MacLean's Farewell to Oban - an excellent choice of 2/4!'

He then announced that his other favourite was 'The Wee Man from Skye' and proceeded to diddle it to us for the rest of the journey.

He wouldn't reveal to us how he came to know those tunes, only admitting that, in his words, 'he was keen on the teacher music'.

Goodness knows what his background was, but the guy was a true character.

Park Bar revellers in music video spotlight

MONDAY nights aren't usually renowned party nights, but Monday May 4 was a busy one for the Park Bar as revellers piled through the doors hoping for a chance to appear in Skerryvore's latest music video.

The video, part of which was filmed in the bar, will be released later this month as part of the band's 10th

anniversary celebrations. It will accompany the release of a new single, featuring Irish accordion legend Sharon Shannon, entitled: 'Happy to be Home'.

As well as the filming, the crowd was also treated to a few tunes and songs from the band.

Let's hope no students told their mothers and fathers that they were at home studying hard that night... only to be caught on camera in the Park Bar.

What's on

Friday May 8: Dosca, a new traditional folk band, playing at The National Piping Centre.

Saturday May 9: Glasgow Sutherland Association ceilidh, Partick Burgh Halls, 7.30pm.

Tuesday May 12: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association annual general meeting, Sgoil Ghàidhlig Ghlaschu (Glasgow Gaelic School).

Thursday May 14: Comunn an Taobh an Iar annual general meeting, Ellangowan Social Club, Milngavie.

Thursday May 28: Glasgow Uist and Barra Association annual general meeting, Lourdes Secondary School.

Thursday May 28: Glasgow Sutherland Association annual general meeting, Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, 937 Dumbarton Road, 7.30pm.

Wednesday June 3: Glasgow Skye Association annual general meeting, Partick Burgh Hall.

Wednesday June 3: An Lòchran traditional music session, Partick Brewing Company.

Pub scene

Park Bar: Thursday May 7: Session. Friday May 8: Scott Harvey. Saturday May 9: Horo. Sunday May 10: Scott Harvey.

Islay Inn: Friday May 8: Trail West. Saturday May 9: The Ragaals.

Robert Robertson
rrobertson@obantimes.co.uk

Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

ALLAN CAMPBELL
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

TRÌ NAIDHEACHDAN a tha uile a' bualadh air beatha a' mhòr-shluaigh.

'S e suidheachadh air leth duilich a bh' ann dhan duine a lorg corp leanaibh air staran ann an Dùn Èideann bho chionn dà bhliadhna air ais. Cha robh a' còmhachadh a' bhalaich bhig, a bha mu shia seachdainean a dh'aois, ach plangaidd bheag agus cha deach aig poileas air a' mhàthair a lorg. Nuair a chaidh an leanabh gun ainm a thiodhlacadh Dihaoine seo chaidh, bha còrr air dà cheud an làthair, a' nochdadh càirdeas is taic nach robh a rèir coltais aige na bheatha ghoirid. Ach càite bheil a' mhàthair, agus dè seòrsa taic air am bheil ise a' cur feum?

Aig an ire seo 's e LMTX ainm droga a chaidh a rannsachadh agus a dhealbhadh aig Oilthigh Obair Dheathain agus a tha an-dràsta fon deuchainn dheireannaich ann am fichead dùthaich eadar-dhealaichte.

Ma dhearbhas an dàrna deuchainn seo èifeachdas an droga, tha e coltach gun bi bacadh làidir air tinneas Alzheimer a tha cho bitheanta agus cho tàireil feadh an t-saoghail.

Tha mi air iomradh a thoirt air Alzheimers roimhe agus air mar a chumnaic mi fhìn 's mo pheathraichean ar màthair a' call cuimhne agus aithne thar bhliadhnaichean, fiù 's chun na h-ire nu d'fhearradh far nach robh fios aice air ciall fhaclan! Fad nan còig bliadhna mu dheireadh de beatha cha b' aithne dhi cò sinn. Ma chuireas an droga ur aig an Ard-Ollamh Claude Wischik bacadh air an tinneas oilteil seo, bheir e atharrachadh air beatha dhaoine feadh an t-saoghail agus coisnidh e cliù mhaireann. Chan iongnadh gun bheil bataraidhean gan dealbh gun dealan a ghleidheadh bho chumhachd na grèine, ach chaidh an t-amas goireasan a chur ann an togalaichean fa leth a' mhineachadh mar bhuille-bàis dha na seirbheisean cumhachd a th' againn an-dràsta.

Ann an Ameireagaidh tha a' chompanaidh Tesla an dùil a bhith a' reic siostam den t-seòrsa seo ann am beagan mhiosan, agus ro dheireadh na bliadhna san dùthaich

seo tha Ecotricity gu bhith a' dèanamh rannsachadh air goireas airson cumhachd dealain a stòradh. 'S e an t-amas a th' ann gun tèid cosgais cumhachd a lughdachadh ri linn comas barrachd feum a thoirt bho theas na grèine, agus cuideachd le bhith a' glacadh dealain aig na h-amannan as saoire a bhithas e. Dà innleachd a dh'fhaodadh atharrachadh mòr a thoirt air an t-saoghail. Dh'fhaodadh agus an Taghadh Coitcheann an-diugh, feuch gun gabh sibh cothrom bhòtadh!

PROFESSOR Claude Wischik of Aberdeen University is in the final stages of testing a potentially significant treatment for Alzheimer's disease.

Apparently LMTX could be available worldwide by 2017, changing the lives of millions of sufferers.

American manufacturer Tesla plans to launch home energy storage units to take advantage of cheap tariff periods as well as green energy sources. This, too, could benefit millions of homes and businesses worldwide.

Have your say in how this country is run by being sure to vote today!

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

Le taic bho

SABHAL MÒR OSTAIG

www.smo.uhi.ac.uk

Press policy

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

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

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

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

Your letters

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

The editor also reserves the right to shorten, amend or to refuse to print them. Names and

postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification.

Anonymous letters or those supplied without a

contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

SCOTS

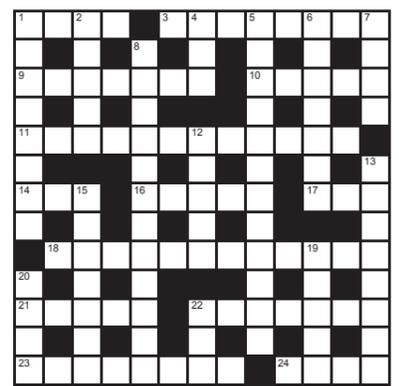
Heritage Magazine SPONSORS

THE OBAN TIMES
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE
CROSSWORD

SUMMER EDITION

OUT NOW

www.scotsheritagemagazine.com



- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Down</p> <p>1 Drink place to place (3-5)</p> <p>2 Cold discharge (5)</p> <p>4 When lit, used in cooking (3)</p> <p>5 A show of uniforms (6,6)</p> <p>6 Lack of respect (7)</p> <p>7 Not one shortened (4)</p> <p>8 Stingy (5,7)</p> <p>12 Once more (5)</p> <p>13 Turning aside (8)</p> <p>15 One who operates at sea (7)</p> <p>19 Raw pasta (5)</p> <p>20 An object nearby (4)</p> <p>22 Compete (3)</p> | <p>Across</p> <p>1 Gaze, at the opening? (4)</p> <p>3 Type having square slab serifs (8)</p> <p>9 Signal devices (7)</p> <p>10 Turn colourful from green (5)</p> <p>11 Fireworks (5,7)</p> <p>14 Fly catcher (3)</p> <p>16 Collide with (5)</p> <p>17 Churchyard tree (3)</p> <p>18 Soldiers in the front line (6,6)</p> <p>21 Sound uttered in disbelief (5)</p> <p>22 Tube used to avoid drag (7)</p> <p>23 Fruit left outside in the heat (3-5)</p> <p>24 Water bird (4)</p> |
|--|--|

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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



High school students head off on study leave

SIXTH year pupils at Lochaber high school gathered for a final photograph before heading off on study leave. Their official leaving date is Friday May 29 when exams are over but the departing students will return on June 11 to say 'goodbye and good luck' at their graduation ceremony and ball



NEW FACE: special constable Attila Olah is joining Lochaber's police team

Welcome addition to Fort police team

A NEW officer enrolled at Fort William police station will bolster the team's bilingual ranks, said Lochaber's area inspector.

Special constable Attila Olah, from Hungary, was sworn in at an oath ceremony at the Highlands and Islands divisional headquarters in Inverness last week, along with six other officers to be deployed across the region.

Donald Campbell, area inspector for Lochaber, said he was looking forward to Mr Olah's 'imminent arrival'.

He said: 'I'd like to welcome special constable Olah to our ranks in Lochaber.'

'He will boost our linguistics bank, which include a Polish speaker and a couple of Gaelic speakers and that's always an advantage.'

Western Isles road works under way

WORK to improve roads in the Western Isles will begin on May 11.

The surface dressing programme will begin on Uist and Barra and will last for two weeks before transferring to Lewis for two to three weeks.

A spokesman from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar said: 'The comhairle would like to thank the public for their continued patience and co-operation during this period and are advised to take notice of all signs, speed limits and traffic management on the sites.'

'The travelling public is encouraged to heed the temporary speed limits through the sites and have due consideration for vehicles travelling in the opposite direction.'

COMPETITION WIN WOULD SEE £25,000 BANKED TOWARDS PROJECT THAT WOULD BENEFIT ENTIRE AREA

Appeal for public to back plans for multi-use centre

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

A NEW indoor sports centre could benefit the whole Lochaber community but it needs the public's help to come to fruition.

Members of Lochaber sports association (LSA) have been holding consultations on how to make the best use of a potential new, multi-use facility in Fort William and are now calling on as many people as possible to vote for the project in a new competition, which could see

it win £25,000. If the project is named a winner, the insurance giant Aviva community fund could provide £25,000 of the £1.47 million required.

Davy Duncan, chairman of Fort William cricket club, nominated the project and is encouraging everyone in Lochaber to go online and vote.

He said: 'I'm very proud of the project and the organisation, as over the five years of its development, it has overcome several challenges to bring clubs, community, councillors and council together, working

towards a much-needed facility to be shared and enjoyed by all.'

Highland council has pledged £850,000 in principle, depending on the agreement of members at the authority's June meeting.

If this goes ahead, SportsScotland will contribute a further £500,000.

While the anxious wait for funding news drags on, members of LSA have been consulting with community groups and NHS Highland to find out how a new sports centre could benefit the whole community.

Christine Falconer, LSA board

member, said: 'We have been in consultation with several NHS departments and various other local community groups in order to gain a better understanding of how the indoor sports hub could benefit the wider community in terms of health and wellbeing.'

'We'd like to get the message across that this facility is not just for our sporting community, but for any group which would benefit in any way from having access to the hub.'

'These consultations will help shape the future use of the facility and ensure that it

becomes a community asset used by all.'

'We'd like to thank all those who have, to date given generously of their time, and for the advice and productive ideas that were forthcoming.'

To vote for the Lochaber sport centre in the Aviva community fund, go to <https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/project/view/1552>.

Community groups who would like more information about how they could benefit from the new facility can contact jane@lochabersportassociation.org.



LIFESAVING: a defibrillator was donated to Lochaber high school by Certas Energy. From left: Scott Wilson, Ruth Laven, Jared Simpson and Mary MacFarlane

Firm digs deep for school defibrillator

LIFESAVING equipment is now available at Lochaber high school, thanks to a £750 donation.

The defibrillator, used in the event of cardiac arrest, will be kept in the school's sport centre which is used by hundreds of people every week for High Life Highland activities, as well as school pupils.

Scottish Fuels regional sales manager Scott Wilson and Fort William office manager Mary MacFarlane presented the equipment on behalf of parent company Certas Energy to Jared Simpson, head of physical education at Lochaber high, and Ruth Laven, High

Life Highland staff member, following a £750 donation to the school. Jim Sutherland, head teacher at Lochaber high school, said: 'We are very grateful to Certas Energy for this generous donation. Hopefully it will never have to be used but, as our sports centre is used by hundreds of people each week, the provision of an on-site defibrillator will give an added security for school and community users.'

Scott Wilson added: 'It's a sad fact that a number of children's lives have been lost due to there not being a defibrillator nearby, so this donation will give parents peace of mind knowing this equipment is within easy reach.'

Skye school closures to be reviewed

A PROPOSAL to close four rural schools in north-west Skye is to be reviewed by Scottish government ministers following a backlash from parents.

Members of Highland council agreed to close Dunvegan, Edinbane, Knockbreck and Struan primary schools earlier this year, forcing some children to travel round trips of more than 20 miles on single track roads. But on Tuesday it was confirmed ministers have 'called in' the proposal for review. This can be done if it appears a council's education authority may have failed to comply with legislation requirements or failed to take account of a relevant consideration.

Alasdair Christie, chairman of Highland council's education, children and adult services committee, said: 'This is due process to ensure

there has been full and proper consultation in relation to the [School's Consultation Scotland] act, and we welcome the opportunity to demonstrate this has been the case.'

'The council remains firmly of the view that there are strong educational and community benefits from the proposed new community school.'

Ian Renwick, Highland councillor for Skye, welcomed the decision. He said: 'I am delighted the parents' campaign to have the decision by Highland council called in by the Scottish government has borne fruit.'

'I would like to congratulate the parents for all their sterling campaign efforts and I welcome the fact that the Scottish government has listened to their concerns and called the decision in.'



FUN AND GAMES: children of Lochaber autism support group enjoy their new sensory tent

New sensory tent for autism group

CHILDREN of the Lochaber autism support group will benefit from a quiet yet stimulating environment in a new sensory tent.

The tent was bought with a donation from Fort William's McDonalds fast food restaurant.

Lochaber autism support group meets once a month in Fort William's Salvation Army hall to allow autistic children and their parents to meet, socialise and share ideas.



Gary MacDonald, middle, prepares to set off on the Scottish six days trial parade flanked by his nephew Duncan MacDonald, left, and Craig Houston of Ayrshire

Lochaber biker going well in trial races

LOCHABER biker Gary MacDonald is storming this year's Scottish six days trial, taking fifth place after the first races.

The trials began with a parade in Fort William high street on

Sunday and competitions began on Monday.

As the *Oban Times* went to press, Mr MacDonald was in fifth place. The Kinlochleven rider has yet to win the trials but

took third place in 2013 and 10th place last year.

Mr MacDonald's nephew, Duncan MacDonald, from Ballachulish, is also competing for the first time.

Applications sought for business grants

GRANTS totalling £50,000 have been offered to new businesses and enterprises in the west Highlands.

The West Coast Communities growth trust is calling for applications of up to £10,000 from organisations across the north west which are looking to grow assets and services or increase employment opportunities in the area.

James Robertson of Isle of Skye candles said a funding boost from the trust helped him to expand his business.

He said: 'The grant really made a huge difference to us as a company because it enabled us to accelerate our growth rather than having to wait to fund it entirely from our profits.'

And to boost the grants available, the newly-founded LMM Business Enterprise trust has pledged a number of one-off grants of up to £8,000 to kick start or expand new businesses in the West Highlands, bringing the total available to £50,000.

The deadline for applications is June 30 and successful candidates will find out in September.

For more information contact Jan Torrance on 0141 3414960 or jan@foundationscotland.org.uk.



Lochy Caravans of Fort William are no longer an authorised Calor dealership, however, we are pleased to announce that **West Highland Gas Ltd** are available for all your cylinder and LPG appliance needs.

West Highland Gas Ltd
Unit 33,
Ben Nevis Industrial Estate,
Fort William, Highland, PH33 6PR
Tel: 01397 701414

Put some **CALOR** in your life

summer

HOME & GARDEN



Burnside Joiners & Builders

M.R.C, Barcaldine, near Oban
 Mob: 077191 58777 Home: 01631 720700
 www.burnside-builders.co.uk mmckay796@btinternet.com



We undertake an extensive range of joinery & building work to include:

- Dormer Windows
- Loft Conversions
- Kit Erectors
- Chalets
- Kitchens
- Repair flat roofs slating / tile roofs

NOW AVAILABLE
 Budget Sheds,
 starting from just
£495.00 + Vat

We have our sheds on display at the following locations

- MGM timber, Oban
- Our unit at the MRC in Barcaldine
- Poppies Garden Centre
- Old sheds can be repaired or dismantled as required

We deliver to all Islands
DISTANCE NO OBJECT



Please phone for a free quotation.

Please phone Willie for more information
 07719 158777 or 01631 720700

WEST COAST WALL & FLOOR TILING SPECIALIST

OVER 38 YEARS IN THE INDUSTRY/TRADE

Commercial and domestic contracting
 Kitchen/bathrooms • Terracotta & porcelain

Full bathroom renovations
 email: tilerdave66@gmail.com
 Tel: 01631 571147 Mob: 07879812603



DAVID PETRO FORESTRY SERVICES

- ▲ Tree surgery
- ▲ Site clearance
- ▲ Stump Grinding
- ▲ Dangerous tree removal
- ▲ Tree Surveys and Consultancy
- ▲ Forest Establishment work
- ▲ Chipper/Stump grinder hire
- ▲ Fully NPTC Certificated
- ▲ Fully Insured
- ▲ 24 Hr Emergency Call-out
- ▲ Insurance approved
- ▲ Treatment of Japanese Knot weed



Contact:
 Office: 01369705564 Mobile: 07884434257
 Email: petro.glen@btinternet.com
 Web: www.dpforestry.co.uk

50 PAIRS OF TICKETS UP FOR GRABS



The Oban Times has teamed up with the organisers of this year's Scottish Homebuilding & Renovating Show to give 50 readers the chance to claim a pair of tickets.

The show, sponsored by Anglian Home Improvements, is back at the SECC, Glasgow on 16 - 17 May.

It's a one-stop shop for all your needs, whether extending, undertaking a conversion, remodelling or building your home from scratch and will feature over 140 exhibitors presenting their latest products and services on everything from architectural design, furnishing, lighting to insulation and loft conversions.

Experts will be on hand to provide free guidance and support to visitors for every project from first home alterations to a full scale self build, at 25 free seminars and masterclasses as well as the Ask the Architects and Ask the Experts advice areas. Dulux's interior design team will be showcasing the latest colour trends and providing personal consultations at the Dulux Design & Decorating Clinic.

The show is taking place at the SECC, Glasgow on 16 - 17 May 2015. Opening hours: Saturday 10am - 5pm; Sunday 10am - 4.30pm. For more information call 0844 858 6754 or visit www.homebuildingshow.co.uk/scotland

Advance tickets, which can be booked until 3pm on Friday May 15, cost £8 and on the door tickets £12. Under 16s go free

TO CLAIM YOUR FREE TICKETS SIMPLY VISIT
www.homebuildingshow.co.uk/localpress
BEFORE 3PM ON THURSDAY MAY 14 2015

Terms and conditions: Travel and parking not included. Children under 16 enter for free

JEWSON

OFFERS YOU'LL DIG
 IN STOCK NOW!



Come in and take a look at our range of Marshalls paving slabs. Also Decorative chips, fence panels, top soil, bark, Grono artificial turf and more

www.jewson.co.uk

Opening hours:
 Mon - Fri: 7:30am to 5pm - Sat: 8am to 12pm
 Tel: 01631 562208 Tel: 01397 700744
 Sinclair Drive, Oban North Rd, Fort William

Car, Bike, Home and Van Insurance with Adrian Flux



Great Insurance deals for your Car, Bike, Home and Van

Adrian Flux Insurance Services offer a range of policies which reflect the low risk nature of highland life. We can offer you great insurance deals on your car, bike, home and van. Call us today for a free no obligation quote.

0800 081 8989
adrianflux.co.uk

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority



IT'S the time of year when the world is springing to life around us. The light shines in through the windows and all that needs to be done in the house can be seen. A little-known fact is that more people set out to improve their garden and home in the spring and summer than at any other time of the year. Of course, with so many things to do around the house - it is great to get some help from the experts. There are lots of things to declutter - not only will the garden need a complete overhaul after the winter, but

inside the house is probably needing some attention too. There are some amazing services on these pages which can offer something a wee bit special. They can make a spring ambition for a decluttered and fully improved house and garden a reality. It is amazing how one or two things can make all the difference. Not only to the way the garden feels and the house - but also to the way those using the house and garden can feel.

15 QUICK AND EASY WAYS TO SPRUCE UP ANY ROOM IN YOUR HOME

1 GIVE YOUR WINDOWS SOMETHING NEW TO WEAR.
Ready-to-hang window treatments are easy to install and yield dramatic results, transforming a 'ho-hum' dining room or living room. Or start smaller. Maybe all it takes for a fresh look is a new curtain rod. Experiment!

2 PLACE FLOWERS WITH A FLOURISH FOR AN INSTANT BREATH OF FRESH AIR IN ANY ROOM.
Or, if you prefer, potted ferns, wreaths, and potpourri can also make a statement. The focal point of the display doesn't have to be only the greenery - give thought to the vase, as well.

3 A SIMPLE AREA RUG CAN DRAMATICALLY CHANGE THE FEEL OF A ROOM.
Dress up with an Oriental rug, or lighten up a dark room with a white or cream-coloured rug.

4 WARM UP YOUR FAMILY ROOM WITH A FIREPLACE
A faux fireplace will work just as well as the real thing, adding ambiance or romance to unexpected places. You can buy a complete 'fireplace unit' from specialised retailers and build your own mantle with an eye-catching array of candlesticks.

5 BRIGHTEN UP WITH NEW LIGHTING.
If you've had your eye on an antique lamp or fun lampshade, why resist the urge any longer? A new lamp will make you feel you're in a brand-new room. You can install strip lighting above cabinets. Also consider redirecting your existing lighting to highlight particular features of your room.

6 ONE WORD: PAINT.
Granted, 'paint it' is the most common suggestion you'll hear to update a room. But it remains good advice. Don't feel bound to one shade either - get creative and paint your walls and floors with borders, vines, even faux rugs.

7 INSTALL DECORATIVE DISPLAY SHELVES.
You'll solve storage and decorating issues at the same time. If you collect shells, matchbooks, or family photos, don't hide them away. Give each their own space to shine, and give your room a new vibe in the process.

8 FABRICATE A NEW LOOK.
When was the last time you let loose with new fabrics or changed up colours and textures? Pick fabrics you love, then use your new finds as tablecloths, runners, pillows or even upholstery. Fresh fabrics can unite a room and take a low-key look up a notch.

9 ORGANISE A ROOM AROUND A THEME.
This works best in rooms where you don't have to be quite so serious, such as children's rooms and bathrooms. Turn your bathroom into a miniature tropical escape with bright, festive colors, or give your family's little princess her own 'castle'.

10 BREAK OUT THE HAMMER AND RULER:
'Deck the Halls' is a famous Christmas song and excellent decorating advice. Frame photos. Hang artwork. Transform bare walls. Keep in mind the style of frame can matter as much as what it displays, too.

11 ADD A STRIKING ACCENT PIECE:
Such as a Japanese-inspired decorative screen. Whether made of wood, paper, or bamboo, folding screens are unusual, versatile, and add a touch of Zen to any environment.

12 UPDATE YOUR HARDWARE.
A stylish new door knob or new drawer and cabinet pulls will give a room a new feel.

13 TOP IT ALL OFF WITH TRIM.
You may not think your room is missing anything, but when you add wainscoting and crown molding, you'll wonder how you ever lived without it.

14 OPEN UP A ROOM.
It's an old trick, but it works every time: hang up a large mirror, and watch a small room open up.

15 LOOKING FOR THAT FINISHING TOUCH?
Change your light switch plate. Move a piece of furniture from one room to another. The difference from such small details can be dramatic.

Once you start freshening rooms, you may not stop. That can be a good thing. Making subtle updates to a room is fun and a satisfying form of self-expression and creativity. Your guests and family will enjoy your changes, as well.

Not every room needs a total makeover. These simple, fun and often inexpensive updates can make a big difference in your home. Enjoy!



SCAFFOLDING SERVICES

All works considered, call Peter on 07557401942 or email scaffolding@mkmacleod.co.uk

Tube/Fit & Cuplock
Kit works & Streetworks
Internally supplied equipment
Design Services
Dayworks

COMPETITIVE RATES

MacLeod Construction Ltd
Kilmory Industrial Estate
Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RR
Tel 01546 602989 Fax 01546 603789
Email scaffolding@mkmacleod.co.uk
www.mkmacleod.co.uk

MACLEOD
UKAS 1800 certified
CISRS and CSCS and compliant

For all your Plumbing & Electrical needs

Macleod Plumbing & Electrical

- Low energy heating
- Low energy lighting
- Small works
- Rewires
- Servicing

Call 01546 602989

MACLEOD
PLUMBING & ELECTRICAL

MacLeod Construction Ltd
Kilmory Industrial Estate
Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RR
Email sales@mkmacleod.co.uk
www.mkmacleod.co.uk

SAMBOREK

Unit 5, Kilmory Ind Est, Lochgilphead PA31 8RR
Tel: 01546 603158 Fax: 01546 602829
Email: alex@samborek.net URL: www.samborek.net

Oil, Gas, Underfloor, Heat Pumps, Solar
All forms of Heating Installations
Full Bathroom installations supplied and fitted
Boiler & Cylinder Services

H.C. MUNTON

Painting Contractors

The Old Inn, Easdale
Argyll, PA34 4RF

Tel: 01852 300177 Fax: 01852 300088
E-mail: hcmunton@yahoo.co.uk

OBAN STOVE CENTRE

TRADE SALES AVAILABLE HETAS

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

THE LANDSCAPING CENTRE

Unit 1, Lochavullin Drive, Oban PA34 4BW

w: www.tlcoban.co.uk e: tlc@tlcoban.co.uk t: 01631 571777 m: 075139 63764

Transform your garden from start to finish

BEFORE **AFTER**

Once a budget has been agreed we can work closely with you to create a design that suits you best. You may want a theme to your garden i.e. Japanese, natural, traditional, modern, country etc. Or you may also want your garden to be unique with new ideas. Working together with us, deciding on ideas, materials and plants we can create exactly what you want at the price you can afford. No job too big or too small.

Showroom open 6 days Mon-Fri 8am-5pm, Sat 10am-3pm
FULL RANGE OF GARDEN MACHINERY AND TOOLS

Machinery Sales, Service and Repairs
Inspirational garden furniture

Prices from: £1849

WEIBANG DORMAK Kubota ALKO OREGON Kawasaki MITOX

CITY PLUMBING SUPPLIES

part of the Travis Perkins Group

FOR ALL YOUR PLUMBING AND HEATING NEEDS

Join Mark and the team in their new branch

City Heating Spares
SPECIALISTS FOR THE TRADE

LOOK OUT FOR THE BATHROOM SHOWROOM

7e Glengallan Road, Oban
Tel: 01631 567640



food and drink

As part of the Year of Food and 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?
BLASTA at the Royal Hotel

What do they do?
Offer a delicious, well-balanced menu full of Scottish produce

Where can I find them?
In a cosy, relaxed restaurant in Oban's town centre at Argyll Square



Blasta is a new and exciting restaurant situated in the ground floor of Oban's Royal Hotel. Offering top quality seafood, steak and Scottish fayre, it opened its doors at the end of last year.

Using the Gaelic word for tasty, Blasta offers a dining experience with emphasis on quality and flavour, using local produce where possible such as Mull scallops and prime Scottish steaks.

Chef Michael France, formerly of restaurant Room 9, is delighted to announce that the fantastic new menu will be launched on May 19 when the restaurant reopens after refurbishment.

With a brand new kitchen now fitted and ready to go, Blasta will be open for evening meals seven days a week from 5.30pm and the team looks forward to welcoming diners.

Also available for events and functions for up to 50 people, Blasta is the perfect venue for a special occasion. Please get in touch to discuss any requirements.

To make a reservation, call 01631 563021 or pop in to the Royal's reception. Walk-ins welcome

Blasta recipe

Pan Roast Fillet of Cod, Potato, Samphire and Smoked Scallops



Ingredients

- 4 x Cod Fillets
 - 10 x Boiled Baby Potatoes
 - 1 x pack Samphire
 - 3 x Tomatoes (Cut into 6)
 - Balsamic Vinegar
 - Olive Oil
 - 12 x Scallops
 - Salt & Pepper
- (4 Portions)

Method

In a smoker add the Scallops and smoke for 8-10 minutes. Take out allow to cool, heat a frying pan and fry the potatoes. Once browned add samphire, tomatoes and balsamic. Sear the scallops for three minutes. Heat frying pan and oil fry the cod (skinside down) for about 10 - 12 minutes on a medium to low heat. Once cod is cooked arrange on a plate.

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

Social scene

Highlands and Island Music and Dance Festival Festival Fling, Argyllshire Gathering Halls



AN EVENING full of fun and dancing was enjoyed by all ages at the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival (HIMDF) family ceilidh on Saturday night. The Festival Fling, which took place at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, saw lots of youngsters take to the floor for various Scottish dances, such as the Dashing White Sergeant, Strip the Willow and the Canadian Barn dance. Accordion and fiddle duo Susan and Shona MacFadyen provided the music for

the evening. The 'fling' rounded off a busy day of competitions at venues across the town, with many competitors attending the event. For full coverage of the HIMDF see pages 8 and 9.

16_t19social02, 16_t19social04 and 16_t19social05

Oban pet store to help Scouts gain badges

OBAN store Pets At Home is offering the area's Beaver and Cub Scout groups free workshops to help members gain their animal carer and animal friend badges.

In order to achieve the badge criteria, young people attending the workshops at the store will receive free workbooks to help record the advice they will receive from trained, in-store staff on how to care for pets responsibly.

To obtain their badges, Beaver Scouts and Cub Scouts will learn about the five welfare needs of different animals and how to care for them.

Cara Bald, store manager at Pets At Home, said: 'The free workshops and workbooks will help local Beavers and Cub Scouts find out all the information they need to achieve some of their badge activity tasks, teaching them how to care for pets responsibly and everything that's involved in looking after pets.'

Argyll and Lochaber Gaelic drama festival

PUPILS from across Lochaber and Argyll gathered together on Tuesday May 5 for an afternoon of Gaelic drama in the Corran Halls, Oban.

In its ninth year, the project provides youngsters with an opportunity to learn new skills, while putting together a brand new play.

This year Rockfield

primary school, Fort William Gaelic primary school, Achraacle primary school, Mallaig primary school and Sandbank primary school were all involved.

Some of the schools contributed two plays to the project, meaning a total of eight plays were showcased - with topics ranged from Japan, Australia

and even a new take on the classic, Macbeth. Dougie Beck, who is involved with drama at Fèisean nan Gàidheal, has been working in many of the schools taking part.

He said: 'Some of the children involved this year have been taking part since the very first project back in 2006.'

'We strongly believe

that drama is an excellent tool for developing a wide range of skills - public speaking, self-confidence, teamwork and behaviour among them; every year it's encouraging to see that they will then go on to high school with new skills that will be beneficial to them in the years ahead.'

Although the show-

case isn't competitive, the children were given a small memento to remind them of their hard work.

A panel of drama and arts experts gave their thoughts on the plays.

For more information on the project contact Calum MacMillan on 01463 225 559 or at calum@feisean.org

Weekend of creative workshops in Tarbert

PARTICIPANTS were treated to a fantastic, creative weekend of workshops in Tarbert during the May bank holiday weekend.

As part of the George Campbell Hay Centenary Celebration an event was facilitated by Mary Ann Kennedy, Finlay Wells, Joy Dunlop, Derrick McClure, Margaret Kerr and Kevin MacKaveney.

A crew from BBC Alba's An Là programme filmed the various workshops and the evening event, which included a talk by Angus Martin and a Na Seudan Ùr performance of a Campbell Hay poem, Bean an Iasgair.

With guidance from Mary Ann Kennedy and Finlay Wells, musicians worked hard to create various new settings of Campbell Hay's poetry, in a

wide range of musical styles. An example of a sensitive setting of a Campbell Hay poem, Bean an Iasgair (The Fisherman's Wife), can be heard on www.georgechay.com, together with a photomontage and translation for non-Gaelic speakers.

Artists and photographers focused on creating visual representations of these same poems, all of which will be used to create material for the centenary experience on December 5.

Joy Dunlop's Gaelic workshop gave participants a lively introduction to Gaelic and Derrick McClure's Scots workshop offered a fascinating insight into the language, literature, culture and history of Argyll, with a focus on Campbell Hay's Scots poetry.

This workshop weekend was the first in a series of six workshop weekends which will culminate in a centenary celebration exhibition and experience in December 2015.

Each workshop weekend will focus

on different poems, so anyone interested in attending the next workshop weekend on May 23-24 can register via the website www.georgechay.com.

The organisers can also be contacted via ghecc@outlook.com or

on Facebook.

George Campbell Hay spent part of his youth and later years in Tarbert.

A large proportion of his huge collection of poetry was inspired by Tarbert, Kintyre and fishing.



SNAP: The photography workshop gets underway

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Oban Congregational Church
COFFEE MORNING
Saturday 9th May
10.30am - 1.00pm
Tea or Coffee & Cakes
£3.00
All proceeds to church funds

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

Advertise in the Community Noticeboard for just £16.21 (plus VAT)
This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number.
All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page
Please ask for details

QUIZ NIGHT
in aid of
Cancer Research UK
will be held on Friday
8th May 2015 at 7.30pm
in the Masonic Lodge, Albany Street
Admission £3.00 each (teams can vary from 2 to 6 in number)

ABCD: Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease
Annual 10k race and Fun Run
Sunday 10th May at 1.00pm
starting from the hospital
All ages and abilities welcome.
Application forms from Atlantis Leisure, selected shops in Oban, and on our web site: www.abcd-oban.co.uk
Or register on the day from noon till 12.30pm

GREAT WESTERN CRAFTERS AND PRODUCERS MARKET
SATURDAY 9TH MAY
10AM - 4PM
Bar Meals Available
Proceeds to charity

To advertise in our community noticeboard call 01631 568000

ENJOY A PIECE OF HISTORY

You can enjoy a special experience aboard the world's last seagoing Paddle Steamer, celebrating 40 years of sailing in preservation! Don't miss the first trips aboard Waverley in 2015 - Visit Armadale on the Isle of Skye, Inverie, Iona, enjoy an evening showboat with live music or cruise 4 Lochs & a Whirlpool!

Sailing with OBAN North Pier

SATURDAY May 30 Leave 10am back 9.30pm Visit Armadale £39 SC £37 Inverie £41 SC £39
SUNDAY May 31 Leave 12.30pm back 6.30pm 4 Lochs & Whirlpool £31 SC £29
SUNDAY May 31 Leave 7.30pm back 10pm Castles & Ceilidh Showboat with Trail West £19
MONDAY June 1 Leave 11.30am back 7.30pm Isle of Iona £43 SC £41
TUESDAY June 2 Leave 9am back 8.30pm Mull of Kintyre £31 SC £29
June 2: Return by inclusive coach from Campbeltown



Book online at waverleyexcursions.co.uk call 0845 130 4647 or Book at Oban Information Centre

Don't Miss The Gentleman Of Irish Country Music

SHAUN LOUGHREY & THE COUNTRYSIDERS

In Railway Club, Fort William on Fri 8th May

Doors Open 8.15pm
Admission £12
Tickets on sale from club or Tel 01463 221268



Big Kid Circus rolls into town

BIG KID Circus visits Oban for the first time with a spectacular new show! Georgie, their noisy and mischievous Clown is back, alongside Olympia Rose, their sparkling singing Ring Mistress. While Olympia entertains with some stunning songs Georgie tries her patience with some hilarious new comedy sketches. This year they are

joined by Duo Aspire from the Ukraine. This duo perform high in the Big Top with a breath-taking Double Trapeze routine; while on the ground they demonstrate their incredible strength and dexterity; balancing on cubes and a pole. The Moroccan Acrobats are back. This year they present the only three-man Wheel of Death Act in the UK.

Watch as Abdul walks blind folded around the outside. Joined by other members of the Agadir Troupe they go on to perform a fast paced acrobatic and tumbling act. There has never been such a mesmerising Hula Hoop routine as that of Ms Gorbacheva. This Russian Circus Star also performs high in the roof of the big top with an

amazing performance on a Cloud Swing. From Ukraine Big Kid Circus introduces Denys to the UK. He executes an incredible Cossack style Rola Rola Routine. Balancing five high on hollow cylinders, which move in all directions at once; then performing a somersault from the top. This is a circus for all the family to enjoy;

whatever their age. Hope you can visit their show in Oban; if not look out for future dates on their 2015 Scottish Tour. Big Kid Circus will be performing at Blaise Park, Mossfield Stadium, Oban on May 13 and 14. Details of show times; tickets and special offers can be found at www.bigkidcircus.co.uk, or ring 0776655211.

CalMac ferry could be produced in Lego

FERRY operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) is backing a campaign to have one of its vessels produced as a Lego model.

A fan, known by the username 'Lukabeebe' has built a version of the MV Loch Shira, which operates between Largs and Cumbrae, from Lego bricks.

The model has been entered in a contest to have the design considered for production by Lego, and has attracted 340 supporters so far, but requires 10,000 by next April to be in contention.

CalMac head of marine, Guy Dale-Smith, said: 'We are absolutely thrilled a member of the public has developed and nominated this great model of a CalMac ferry.'



The model of the CalMac ferry

New grants available to improve derelict land

DERELICT areas in town centres are set to be transformed thanks to a small grant scheme from Argyll and Bute council.

The local authority has put aside £15,000 to be shared among five towns to 'enhance vacant or derelict land within their town centres'.

Information sessions are planned in April and May with grant awards being made by the end of June.

For more information is available from the council's project manager Lorna Pearce at lorna.pearce@argyll-bute.gov.uk or on 01700 501 374.

V&A arrives in Oban

THE VICTORIA and Albert museum, V&A, Dundee's first national touring exhibition, Design in Motion, arrives in Oban today (Thursday) as part of its 17-week journey across Scotland.

The exhibition, a collaboration with the Travelling Gallery, is housed in a custom built gallery in a bus which will be visiting Oban high school and Argyll College, Oban tomorrow, Friday May 8.

Part of the new museum's pre-opening programme, Design in Motion, is the second V&A Dundee project to benefit from funding from players of People's Postcode Lottery.

The exhibition includes leading fashion designer Holly Fulton, BAFTA award-winning game designer Sophia George and innovative product designer and artist Geoffrey Mann.

All seven featured designers use digital technologies to push the boundaries of their discipline, enabling them to demonstrate

how design can be put to work to reconstruct heritage, visualise the unseen, and create products not previously possible.



Holly Fulton's dress designs feature in a travelling gallery

Lochaber natural history society to visit Cuil Bay

LOCHABER natural history society members will venture to the great outdoors for their next meeting.

The group is holding a trip to Cuil Bay, south of Durr, in conjunction with Lochaber Geopark on May 22.

For more information contact Ian Strachan on 01397712566 or Jon Mercer on 01397712700.

Will beavers be allowed to live freely in Scotland?

NEXT MONTH, Scottish Natural Heritage will send a dossier on a beaver trial in Knapdale Forest, Mid Argyll to the Scottish government on one of Scotland's most significant wildlife issues of recent years.

It is said it will help the Scottish minister for the environment reach a decision on this key question: will beavers be allowed to live freely in the Scottish countryside again or not?

The dossier will contain scientific data and reviews from academics and conservationists.

It has been a long road to reach this point, dating back almost 20 years since initial work was begun to look at the feasibility of reintroducing the beaver to Scotland after an absence of almost 500 years.

In short, SNH hopes the Scottish Government will follow the lead of other European countries and permit beavers to live freely in Scotland again in the very near future.

Funded residency for Gaelic writers

GAELIC writers have been offered a week-long residency at Skye's Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

The course, to be carried out in June, aims to engage both new and experienced Gaelic writers to develop their theatre skills for future initiatives.

Run by Pròiseact nan Ealan (the national development agency for Gaelic arts), in collaboration with the National Theatre of Scotland, Playwright's Studio and Gaelic Books Council tutors and guest speakers at the residency include Gaelic scriptwriter Iain Finlay MacLeod and the theatre's associate literary manager George Aza-Selinger.

The cost of tuition, accommodation, food and travel will be covered for all participants.

For more information email Mairi Graham at mairi@gaelic-arts.com.



Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

Entertainment Guide

Cinema

Oban Phoenix Cinema

Community owned and run

Tel: 01631 562905 www.obanphoenix.com

08 MAY 2015 - 14 MAY 2015

AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON (12A)

Fri: 15:00 3D, 18:00, 20:10 Sat: 15:30 3D, 19:30
Sun: 14:40 3D, 19:30 Mon: 17:30 3D, 20:30
Tue: 17:30, 20:30 Wed: 17:30 3D, 20:30

CINDERELLA (U)

Sat: 16:30 Sun: 12:00

HOME (U)

Sat: 11:40 Sun: 14:30

MAD MAX: FURY ROAD (TBC)

Thu: 16:00 3D, 20:30

NT LIVE: MAN AND SUPERMAN (12A)

Thu: 19:00

THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE: SPONGE OUT OF WATER (U)

Sat: 13:15 Sun: 12:30 3D

THE WATER DIVINER (15)

Fri, Wed: 15:10 Sat: 18:30
Sun: 16:40 Mon, Tue: 18:00, 20:40
Thu: 15:30

TOY STORY (PG)

Sat: 11:30

WHILE WE'RE YOUNG (15)

Fri, Sat: 21:00 Sun: 20:10
Mon, Tue: 15:00 Wed: 20:40
Thu: 18:00

WOMAN IN GOLD (12A)

Fri, Sun: 17:40 Mon, Tue: 15:30
Wed: 15:00, 17:40

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) jumps starts a dormant peacekeeping program, things go terribly awry, forcing him, Thor (Chris Hemsworth), the Incredible Hulk (Mark Ruffalo) and the rest of the Avengers to reassemble. As the fate of Earth hangs in the balance, the team is put to the ultimate test as they battle Ultron (James Spader), a technological terror hell-bent on human extinction. Along the way, they encounter two mysterious and powerful newcomers, Pietro and Wanda Maximoff.

CINDERELLA (U) 112 MIN

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

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.

MAD MAX: FURY ROAD

Action man Tom Hardy plays the iconic Road Warrior in the fourth adrenaline-driven Mad Max thriller. In a stark and parched post-apocalyptic landscape, taciturn anti-hero Max Rockatansky (Tom Hardy) meets his shaven-headed female counterpart Imperator Furiosa (Charize Theron) who needs to cross the desert to get home. Writer/director George Miller revisits the Mad Max series after 20 years with this hyper-kinetic chase movie. Breathtaking visuals and an intense performance from Tom Hardy, Mad Max: Fury Road promises to be a worthy sequel to one of the all-time great action franchises.

NT LIVE: MAN AND SUPERMAN

Oscar nominee Ralph Fiennes stars in a dazzling reinvention of Bernard Shaw's fantastical philosophical comedy. A serious, self-styled revolutionary and wealthy bachelor, Jack Tanner (Ralph Fiennes) becomes the reluctant guardian to a charming heiress named Ann. Rejecting the adoration of a poet, she decides to marry and tame the suitably agitated Tanner. Naturally, he opts to flee to Africa instead. But our radical hero then finds himself captured by bandits. What follows is an extraordinary philosophical dream-debate about Heaven and Hell with the Devil himself! Meanwhile, scheming force of nature Ann is in hot pursuit. Inspired by Don Juan, George Bernard Shaw's 1903 play is a romantic comedy, a social satire, an epic fairytale and a profound philosophical argument all in one.

SPONGEBOB: SPONGE OUT OF WATER (PG) 92 MINS

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 ferdish pirate named Burger Beard (Antonio Banderas), who has his own plans for the delicious delicacies.

THE WATER DIVINER

An Australian farmer who travels to Gallipoli to discover the fate of his three sons. In 1919, after the Battle of Gallipoli, three of Joshua Conners' (Russell Crowe) sons are reported missing in action. Determined to find out whether they are alive or dead, Joshua travels to Turkey, where his search begins.

TOY STORY (KIDS CLUB)

A cowboy doll is profoundly threatened and jealous when a new spaceman figure supplants him as top toy in a boy's room.

WHILE WE'RE YOUNG

A middle-aged documentary filmmaker and his wife recapture their youth after striking up a friendship with an aspiring young director and his girlfriend. Josh (Ben Stiller) and his wife Cornelia (Naomi Watts) are a childless couple living in New York, who are surrounded by friends with young children. After two miscarriages Cornelia feels that her opportunity to become a mother has passed, while Josh, a once-acclaimed documentary filmmaker is struggling with his latest project. Everything changes when they meet 20-something aspiring documentary filmmaker Jamie (Adam Driver) and his urban hipster girlfriend Darby (Amanda Seyfried). Soon Josh and Cornelia find themselves turning down the usual baby-centred invites to hang out with their new friends in an attempt to recapture their faded youth.

WOMAN IN GOLD

Helen Mirren stars in the compelling true life tale of Maria Altmann, a Holocaust survivor who, in the 1930s, 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 an entire government in order to take back what is rightfully hers.

Radio

Oban FM

Community Radio - your local radio station

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 Lavin

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

eilean eisdeal

CREATIVE LAND SCOTLAND

ORKESTRA DEL SOL

The swagger of a Balkan wedding band; the riotous energy of a Latin carnival

"brass-bound lunacy" - The Scotsman
"magnificent" - The Independent

Saturday 9th May
8.15pm, (doors open 7.30 pm), late return ferry
Entry £11/£9 (accompanied under 16s free)

Easdale Island Community Hall
tickets & info: www.easdaleislandhall.org

THE BRAND NEW FAMILY SING-ALONG SHOW FROM ANYA, GARY, KEVIN & BONZO

FORMERLY OF THE SINGING KETTLE

PRESENTS

FANCY DRESS FUN

ANYA GARY KEVIN BONZO

COME IN FANCY DRESS OR WEAR A SILLY HAT

Saturday May 30 OBAN Corran Halls, 2.00pm
01631 567 333

Sunday May 31 HELENSBURGH Victoria Halls, 1.00pm
01436 673 275

Tickets also available from argyll-bute.gov.uk or Ticketmaster

www.funbox.co.uk

info@funbox.co.uk



SCOTTISH SERIES

ORGANISED BY CLYDE CRUISING CLUB



Photograph courtesy of Graeme Cowan, www.yachtingimages.co.uk



ARGYLL MARINE SERVICES
Available for mooring installations, inspection and servicing

For further information please contact us on
07881 536736 / 01546 830245
email info@argyllmarineservices.co.uk or visit our website

ARGYLL MARINE SERVICES www.argyllmarineservices.co.uk

Trail West
Trailer and Tow Bar Centre
An Aladdin's cave for anyone who Tows

Trail West - Trailer Sales, Servicing and Repairs
Spare Parts & Accessories
Tow-bars supplied and fitted
Caravan Servicing & Repairs
Motorhome Servicing & Repairs
Motorhome Rental
Winter Storage

Boat trailers from **TRAIL WEST**

3-4 Mill Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban PA34 4HA
Oban, Telephone (01631) 563638 trailwest@talktalkbusiness.net

Kilmory Guest House
Lochgilphead

Paterson Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8JP
e: baker470@aol.com w: kilmoryguesthouse.co.uk

A beautiful & traditional house situated on the shores of Lochgilphead within the township of Lochgilphead.
Rooms from £25pppn
Doubles: 3 Twin: 3

Tel: 01546 603658

OWENS SAILS
www.owensails.com

**SAIL AND COVER VALETING
NEW SAILS, COVERS, UPHOLSTERY,
RIGGING, FURLING GEAR
RIG INSPECTION,
TUNING AND SERVICE**

Tralee Bay, Benderloch, by Oban, Argyll PA37 1QR
Tel: 01631 720485
Email: info@owensails.com

TARBERT
YACHT CHANDLERY

Your local chandlery serving Kintyre and Loch Fyne.

Comprehensive range of chandlery, technical and lifestyle clothing and full brokerage.

Proud to support competitors at this year's Silvers Scottish Series.
Extended opening hours over weekend. 7:30am - Late.

T: 01880 820 614
Email: tarbertyachtchandlery@gmail.com

BARCALDINE MARINE

BOOK YOUR MOORING NOW!
West Coast Yachting Facilities
Pontoon-Moorings-Parking
Showers-Laundry-Free Wi-Fi
6 miles from Connel Bridge
2 hours from Glasgow

For information contact Martin Waterhouse
Barcaldine Marine, Barcaldine, Oban, PA37 1SE
Tel: 01631 720291. Mob: 07767 380235
e-mail: moorings@barcaldinemarine.co.uk
www.barcaldinemarine.co.uk

Milk Chocolate
10 TEA CAKES

Making Teacakes for your enjoyment

TUNNOCK'S
EST. 1890

100% Pure Milk Chocolate
10 Tea Cakes
100g

www.tunnock.co.uk

Mallaig Marina

Marina Tel: 07824 331031
Harbour Office Tel: 01687 462154
Email: info@mallaigharbourauthority.com
www.mallaig-yachting-marina.com

NEW FOR 2015 - SHOWERS, LAUNDRY AND TOILET FACILITIES

Gear up for some Fyne Sailing with the Silvers Marine Scottish Series!

THE 41st Silvers Marine Scottish Series will welcome more than 100 yachts to Tarbert on Loch Fyne from May 22 to May 25 2015.

Organised by the Clyde Cruising Club (CCC), the largest sailing club in Scotland with more than 2,000 members, the event offers a mix of CYCA and IRC handicap racing including CYCA white sail classes. This ever popular racing event looks set to mark a revival of yacht racing in Scotland. The last few years have seen a decline in racing numbers across all regattas – but with numbers building, this year's Scottish Series looks set to reverse the trend.

Silvers Marine Scottish Series chairman Dane Ralston said: 'We'd love to see 150 take part this year out on the waters of Loch Fyne. Silvers Marine Scottish Series is a major event in the yachting calendar in Scotland and we're keen to encourage more people to take part. Thanks to Clyde Challenger sponsorship we can attract those sailors who not only want to take part in a regatta but also cruise in company. The White Sail class at Scottish Series is the perfect introduction to racing.'

Glen Porter from Clyde Challenger said: 'The team at Clyde Challenger, Scotland's Iconic Clipper 60 Ocean Racing Yacht is delighted to continue sponsorship of the Scottish Series white sail fleet in 2015. We look forward to seeing a wide range of family and cruising yachts join us for this great event.' There are two classes for the Clyde Challenger Passage Race on Friday and The Inch Race on Sunday.

Tarbert Harbour Authority is further demonstrating commitment to the regatta by offering all boats a discount on their berthing fees. And Portavadie Marina just across the water from Tarbert, will also be a host port for competitors and guests with discounts for those staying in their accommodation. A regatta rate may also be introduced for competing boats.

Racing schedule

For 2015 all Spinnaker classes will revert to racing in Loch Fyne on Day 1 whilst the white sail class and passage race-only classes will start their event in Largs on Thursday night. A buffet supper will precede the race to Tarbert on Friday. The Clyde Challenger Passage race to Tarbert and the Round Inch Race on the Sunday are open to all comers as stand-alone races. After arrival at Tarbert, racing continues

on Loch Fyne from Saturday to Monday May 25, with the regatta prize-giving after completion of racing on Monday. The event format is a mixture of windward/leeward courses and coastal races.

Classes range from high tech IRC yachts to CYCA handicap classes both spinnaker and white sail and the popular one design classes. Many of the renowned names on the Scottish racing scene return to compete as well as new faces attracted by the great racing and après sail socialising that the series is famed for.

Stuart Childerley, race officer for the Brewin Dolphin Commodore's Cup, will be race officer on the IRC/CYCA big boat course whilst Alan Cassels and David Kent will run the White sail/one-design/sportsboat IRC classes. Stalwart Johnnie Readman remains as PRO.

Northern Area Championships for J70 class

And in conjunction with the Silvers Marine SS the inaugural J70 Northern Championships will be held. The J70 fleet has seen a rapid expansion across the country and currently seven boats have entered. With 12 races to be held over the four days of the series, the fleet is treating the event as essential practise for British teams hoping to compete at the 2015 World Championships in La Rochelle this July.

ON THE START LINE FOR THE 2015 EVENT IRC competition

Familiar names line up in the IRC classes once again. The battle between Eala of Rhu that won last year's IRC 1 from Steve Cowie's Zephyr will continue again. Jamie McGarry and Colin Moore's Swan 45 Eala is a formidable competitor, particularly when the wind is up. As is Rod Stuart and Bill Ram's Corby 37 Aurora. Add the now legendary Anderson and Findlay's Roxstar, Sloop John T and Spirit of Jacana and there is strong competition for the class title.

Joining IRC Class 2 this year is Richard Shellshock with his Prism 28 Thrust from Bendersloch. He has sailmaker Chris Owen of Gaastra Sails aboard calling tactics. Richard will use the SMSS as a platform before heading south at the start of August to do the southern regatta circuit. John Corson's Salamander, last year's class winner, is back to do business as well as Fools Gold and the First 36.7 of Jeffrey and Scott Carmen II. With fellow First 36.7 Kevin and Debbie Aitken's Animal, Neil Sandford's Now or Never 3 and the Thomson's Sloop John T all in contention, it will be an interesting class to watch.

IRC Class 4 sees the two Wildebeest go head to head with Craig Latimer's well prepared J92 racing against Derek Buchanan's Brenta 24. Buchanan's boat won the class last year.

In CYCA Class 5 Oban sailor Graham Ander-

son with his Hanse Lucky Ned Pepper takes on the Beneteau 44 Local Hero of Geoff and Norman Howison, always a difficult duo to beat. This is another tough class with the familiar names of Enigma, Significant and Delinquent alongside regulars Ian McNair's First by Farr and MacLachlan's Polaris.

CYCA local and national

Joey Gough of Oban Sailing Club also faces stiff competition in CYCA Class 6 with a huge range of handicaps to contend with, ranging from 14.2 to 20.25.

Stargazer from Arran won this class last year and is hard to beat across most wind strengths. John Kent's Farr 727 Farr e-Nuff was runner-up last year and the evergreen Valhalla of Ashton is always well placed, particularly if the wind is strong. Series sponsor Boyd Tunnock's Moody 38 also likes a breeze and following a second placed class position in West Highland Yachting Week last year, will be hoping to repeat this. Angus Cartwright's Honeybee and Graham Goudie's Cara of Kip can also be good performers and at the smaller end of the fleet Garth and Lucy Wilson's GK24 Zebedee is always well placed and with the wide handicap range should see good results. Western Isles Yacht Club Andrew Scott's Maxi Mixer Sequoia adds to an interesting range of yachts in this class.

White Sail Fleet

Brian Robertson of Mid Argyll with his X332 Celtic Spirit has opted for white sail this year and he and fellow X332 owner Owen Mcmanus of Campbeltown Sailing Club rank smallest in the fleet of big boat CYCA Class 8. They will be up against the 60ft Clipper Clyde Challenger as well as Ken Grant's Tigh Soluis II, always a consistent performer whilst the Beneteau 40.7 of Richard Smith North Star is a fast machine and could show the fleet a clean pair of heels.

Sixteen yachts line up in restricted sail CYCA Class 9 with Allen and Shearer's Sigma 33 Brave defending her title of 2014. Clive Reeves was class runner-up last year in his Maxi 1000 Lyrebird and also back as is Marc Ritson's Sigma 36 Saracen. All will be hard to separate for the top three placings. Stewart and Dorothy Ritchie, seasoned campaigners on the Clyde racing circuit, bring their big Contest 44 Anna Mae down from Salen, Acharacle, to compete in this class.

Sigma and Sonata one-designs

The Sigma brigade makes up one of the best sailed classes and this year looks to be no exception with the usual suspects under the starting gun. Former winner the McLaren's Signatic is always hard to beat with Leaky Roof II of Harper and Robertson James Miller's Mayrise and Harold Hood's Odyssey II chasing hot on the McLaren's heels.

Similarly a large and 'top notch' Sonata one design fleet is headed up by Murray Caldwell and team, last year's class and overall Scottish Series title winners back to defend both titles

with Red Hot Poker.

Former overall Scottish Series champion Steve Coacher also makes a return with Eric the Boat and with five Sonatas from Helensburgh that regularly compete against each other, the racing promises to be 'fast and furious' making for a closely fought class, currently standing at a dozen boats.

VX / J70 and Hunter 707s

Nine line up on the start line in the VX Class – this is an exciting and fast boat that is seeing an increased number of owners. Three boats travel from Ullswater to compete and Howard Steavenson from Tyneside, an international 14 sailor, will be a boat to watch. Duncan Hepplewhite under the Loch Lomond Sailing Club flag and Martin Darrer from Ovington also bring considerable competition to this exciting class.

As with the Sonatas a revival in small boat racing is being seen and with lower overheads than a larger yacht small boat racing is burgeoning. Seven J70s compete in their one design class including former Scottish Series champion Ruairidh Scott from Tarbert racing aboard Ian Atkin's boats.com – they travel from the south of England for the event as do Paul and Marie Clare Heys of J Boats from the Royal Southern Yacht Club.

Five Hunter 707s complete the one-design class divisions – again a closely fought class in the making with Clark and Parker's Black Sheep coming from Scarborough SC, More T Vicar from N. Ireland, Rammie from Aberdeen and Stonehaven Yacht Club and Jalapeno and Valhalla from Port Edgar. With all the one design classes good racing is promised with tactics and trimming the all important difference in taking the edge in the placings.

Please note all class divisions were correct at time of going to press but may change with entry for the event.

Entertainment for all the family ashore at Tarbert

As well as the hectic on the water competition, there will be a full social programme during the day in Tarbert with live bands playing in the event marquee in the evening. Shore-side entertainment and activities are organised by Tarbert Enterprise Company. Funding is also being given by EventScotland and coincides with a special year-long celebration of food and drink, showcasing and celebrating local food. So the Silvers Marine Scottish Series will be an ideal opportunity to experience some of Scotland's fantastic larder not only to competitors but the many visitors to the event bringing the best of food, drink and boating together for an even better experience.

The event would not be able to be run without the support of the following sponsors:-

Silvers Marine

Silvers Marine is again the headline sponsor for 2015. This is the company's second year of support. Silvers is a well known and histor-

ic yard on the Clyde and beyond – building, repairing and maintaining yachts. The tradition has been extended and secured with the purchase of Silvers by parent company GSS in 2014.

Tunnock's

Legendary biscuit manufacturer Tunnock's has been a loyal supporter of the series for many years returning again this year with their survival packs of goodies for competitors. Boyd Tunnock said: 'Tunnock's has been associated with the event for more than three decades. It's a fantastic event in the Scottish sporting calendar giving a perfect blend of serious racing and true Scottish hospitality.'

North Sails

North Sails, one of the world's largest sail manufacturers, has come aboard as a new sponsor. North Sails One Design agents for Scotland – Sailingfast will have a free crane at the event to help all small boat competitors in and out of the water. For more than four years, Sailingfast has worked closely with the team at North Sails One Design loft and pride themselves by only working on the leading brands on the market. Having raced at SS for many years Sailingfast owner Emma Hepplewhite is delighted to be supporting the event. Sailingfast was formerly known as Scottish Sailing.

Clyde Challenger

The iconic first generation 60ft round-the-world Clipper Race yacht is delighted to be a class sponsor of the White Sail fleet. After four circumnavigations, twice as Glasgow Clipper, she is now open for all to take the challenge of sailing an ocean racing yacht. See www.clydechallenger.co.uk

Crewsaver

Crewsaver is the safety partner and product sponsor for the series, and provides a brand new set of inflatable marker buoys to be used during the event and afterwards for use at Clyde Cruising Club. SMSS Chairman Dane Ralston said: 'We are delighted to welcome Crewsaver into our event family. The Scottish Series race management team has been using Crewsaver racing marks for years and they have always performed even on the most challenging days we have on Loch Fyne.' Ross Wilkinson, managing director for Crewsaver added: 'We are delighted to become a part of the Scottish Series; it is both professionally run and well respected throughout the community and will be a great platform to showcase our products.'

The Botanist and Bruichladdich

And The Botanist Islay Dry Gin and Bruichladdich, the renowned Single Malt whisky from the same distillery will also support the event. Jim McEwan, Bruichladdich master distiller, said: 'We believe in innovation and progress, in constantly striving to produce a spirit with integrity and provenance.'

'A spirit to put a smile on your face wherever you are and to help you close your eyes and quietly dream of Islay.'



All photographs courtesy of Graeme Cowan, www.yachtingimages.co.uk

The Oystercatcher
Pub and restaurant right on the beach at Otter Ferry
Amazing beer garden overlooking Loch Fyne
Professional chef proprietor and a superb supply of fresh local seafood, real ales and meat from the isle of Bute.
www.theoystercatcher.co.uk
Telephone 01700 821229

DUNSTAFFNAGE MARINA
www.dunstaffnagemarina.com
01631 566555

- Lifting Facilities up to 40t
- Brokerage
- Chandlery
- Shop @ West Coast
- Excellent Engineering Services
- 180 fully serviced berths
- Winter Storage ashore/afloat

TYHA Gold Anchor Award Scheme
ISO 9001
SUPERYACHT UK

TARBERT HARBOUR

The Trustees, Harbour Master and Staff wish all competitors an enjoyable and safe Scottish Series 2015.

Tel: 01880 820344
info@tarbertharbour.co.uk

DUNCAN'S SCOTLAND'S No. 1

1st for Service
1st for Value
1st for Choice
1st for Advice
1st for Price

Why not pay a visit and see our vast range of Chandlery, Electronics, Inflatables, Outboards, Clothing, Footwear, Life Jackets, Buoyancy Aids and lots, lots more...

DUNCAN YACHT CHANDLERS

7 Scotland Street, Glasgow G5 8NL. Tel: 0141 429 6044 Fax: 0141 429 3378
Email: sales@duncanyachtchandler.co.uk www.duncanyacht.co.uk

subscribe to **The Oban Times**
A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Subscribe from £22*

Call subscriptions on 01371 851868 or subscribe online at www.obantimes.co.uk/subscribe

The Oban Times
A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
FREE 2015 CALENDAR

Oban drives parking cash

Subscribers should note that to keep down the cost of postage, some special supplements may, on occasions, be excluded from the subscribers editions of the paper. *£22 for 3 month UK subscription.

TARBERT ENTERPRISE COMPANY

The Directors of Tarbert Enterprise Company, TEC, extend a warm Tarbert welcome to all competitors and visitors. Have a "braw" time on and off the water.
www.tarbertfestivals.co.uk

Fish Farmer NOW MONTHLY

IN THE MARCH ISSUE

- NEWS ROUND UP
- SEA CUCUMBER
- VILLALON PROFILE
- DEEP BLUE AQUA
- TRAINING & EDUCATION
- THE MIDDLE EAST
- BRUSSELS 2015

SUBSCRIBE NOW £75 UK only
Rest of World £95 (including P&P)

For subscription information see website: www.wyvoxmedia.co.uk/subscribe
Email: wyvox@escosubs.co.uk
Tel: +44 (0) 1371 851868

The Oban Times would like to wish the Scottish Series every success

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

West Coast **MOTORING TIMES**

DRIVETIMES NOW ONLY
£31
 IF UNSOLD AFTER 1ST WEEK JUST CALL BEFORE TUESDAY 3PM TO GET YOUR SECOND WEEK FREE
 Tel: 01631 568000

DRIVETIMES SAILING TIMES GARAGES CAR DEALERSHIPS MOTORING NEWS

DRIVETIMES

4 BERTH CARAVAN SWIFT CHALLENGER

Excellent condition
£4000

Telephone 01436 820240

Yamaha YFM 450 automatic

Fully serviced, 5 years old V.G.C
£3,200+vat

Tel: 07769 516134

Piaggio B125 Scooter

'53 plate, Piaggio B125 Scooter for sale. MOT'D December 15, automatic, great runner, very economical, no time wasters.
£650 Ono

Tel: 01631 720710/ 07503921690

HONDA CRV : SE model

Petrol, 4 wheel drive. June 2002, 105,000 miles. 12 months M.O.T. One owner since new.
£1,800 o.n.o.

Phone Gavin Fulton on 01770 600454

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.

Tel: 07748 436575

Suzuki GS 500F 54 plate

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

Tel: 07769 516134

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.
Fixed price £2,600

Tel: 01880 820060 or 07719 165910

Coachman Pastiche 460/2

2006. Two berth caravan. VGC. Non-smokers. No pets. FSH. Truman motor mover. New Protec cover plus many extras.
£5,125 o.n.o.

07899 750993/ 0777 1996352

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)

BMW 320D TOURING

2005 68000miles
 12 month MOT
£3500 o.n.o.

Tel: 01770 600654 (Arran)

Fiat Cinquecento

11 months MOT. Very good condition. Would suit learner driver. Ideal run around.
£650

Tel: 01770 860480 (Arran)

Nissan X-trail Sport DCI

5 Door Hatchback, SG54 MPX, Silver, 2184cc, MOT 08/10/15, mileage 130786.
£2,250

Tel: 01852 300213

SAILING TIMES

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

Tel: 01463 238791

Tohatsu 3.5 4-stroke longshaft

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

Tel: 07769 516134

17' bilge keel yacht built by Isles of Norbury.

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 hatchets, flooring and gunnel beading. Ideal fun/first boat. Few small jobs left to finish hence price.
£550. 2 hp Yamaha aux engine - £100 extra.

Delivery arrangements possible. Lochalsh 07946 961442

Mooring wanted in Oban bay

Call Geoff 01631 569610 07799 265146

Orkney Spinner with trailer 16 foot

£1500

Telephone: 01631 770647 Mobile: 07786 684891

Fishing kayak Trident 13 Excellent condition

£499 o.n.o.

07749 264450

18ft 2 berth Norman. GRP hull.

50 hp evinrude engine. Comes with 2 man dingy plus seagull engine.
£3000 o.n.o.

Tel: 01546 600179 / 07767 891330

Dejon 14

Dejon 14 with 40HP two stroke + 5HP Seagull L.S including trailer.
£2,200 o.v.n.o.

Tel: Oban 564623 Mob: 07776 296592

4.2m X-Pro Sea Swift RIB

2007 Yamaha Outboard 4 stroke 100hrs. Electric Start / Trim. 2012 Lightweight Aluminium Hull / Tubes. Garmin Fish Finder. Galvanised Roller Trailer & Cover. Superb family fun boat for all watersports.
£5,500 o.n.o.

Tel: 01583 441275 / 441263 Mob: 07833141678

Mooring in Carding Mill Bay, off jetty at water station.

Parking and dinghy space. Close to town for walking.

Tel: 07929 955901

WANTED

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

WANTED

4 x 4s, 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

NEW CAR INDEX

ISUZU

S & S Services
 Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr
 Tel. 01292 880080 01292 880440



Great Wall

S & S Services
 Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr
 Tel. 01292 880080 01292 880440



SUBARU

S & S Services
 Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr
 Tel. 01292 880080 01292 880440



Gordon Motors
 UK Dealer Of The Year 2014
 Comrie Rd, Crieff, Perthshire PH7 4BQ
 Tel. 01764 652125
 Delivery throughout the West
 www.suzuki.co.uk/
 gordonmotors



W.D. Semple
 www.wdsemple.com
 Inveraray
 Shore Street
 Tel. 01499 302150
 Lochgilphead
 Highbank Park
 Tel. 01546 606767 01546 606272

TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000

53%
 of decision-makers source their vehicles locally

Regional press is the relevant choice for motors advertising.

Regional Press



M

AA MacDougall's Garage RBC

24HR BREAKDOWN AND RECOVERY REPAIRS, FUEL OILS TYRES MOT TEST CENTRE

We'll get you home
 We are certified to B.S.P.A.S.43 for recovery work
 Corrie Glen, Fionnphort Tel: 01681 700294

Call now to advertise your business in the Motoring Classifieds section Tel: 01631 568020

Fish Farmer
 Serving worldwide aquaculture since 1877
NOW MONTHLY



SUBSCRIBE NOW £75 UK only
 Rest of World £95 (including P&P)

For subscription information see website:
 www.wyvexmedia.co.uk/subscribe
 Email: wyvex@escosubs.co.uk
 Tel: +44 (0) 1371 851868

THINK PRINTING

THINK krisp print

BESPOKE PRINTING OUR SPECIALITY
01586 554975
 Main Street/Longrow South, Campbeltown
 email: staff@krispprint.co.uk www.krispprint.co.uk

Farming

Sponsored by NFU Mutual
Oban, call Euan Warnock
and Donna MacDougall
on 01631 567 036 for
your insurance needs.
Agent of The National Farmers Union
Mutual Insurance Society Limited.



Dairy farmers reel from further First Milk price cut

ALREADY struggling dairy farmers in Kintyre and Bute have been dealt another blow as First Milk has announced yet another cut in the price it will pay per litre of milk.

In order to meet the farmer-owned business's plans to meet the challenges facing the industry in the UK, First Milk's new chief operations officer Mike Gallacher last Friday announced a turnaround plan for the company.

Included in the plan is a cut in prices to the majority of Scottish suppliers of a further 0.2p per litre from June, while those on Bute will see prices cut by 1.2p per litre.

In Campbeltown and on Arran the price will drop to 20.67ppl but on Bute it falls to 19.3ppl, which, after capital contributions to First Milk, equates to around 16ppl.

The business plan also includes removing up to 70 jobs, 50 per cent of which will be in its head office and support teams, with a small number of roles at manufacturing sites affected.

The milk pricing changes will see First Milk move away from a liquid or manufacturing price paid to members depending on its end use, regardless of where the member was located in the UK.

Instead, a member will now be allocated to one of seven milk pools, four manufacturing and

three balancing, and their price will be based on the net commercial returns from First Milk's own manufacturing sites and its customers.

Farms around Arran, Campbeltown, the Lake District and Haverfordwest creameries will make up the manufacturing pools while farms located on the Scottish mainland, within Northern England, and the Midlands of England/ East Wales will make up the balancing milk pools.

The price for producers on Bute has been most severely affected due to the costs associated with transporting milk off the island.

The National Farmers Union Scotland and First Milk have been pressing the Scottish government to extend existing subsidised ferry transport to milk tankers and a meeting with transport minister Derek MacKay is to be held in the Scottish Parliament later this month.

Argyll and Bute MSP Mike Russell said the price reduction for Bute was nothing more than 'blackmail' in a 'cynical attempt' to get the Scottish government to further subsidise transport costs to and from the island, adding said such a concession would not benefit farmers, but the company.

'It is also a cruel betrayal of the Bute farmers, who have supported their own co-operative over

many years,' he added.

After speaking to Mr Gallacher, NFU Scotland president Allan Bowie said: 'We can appreciate that restructuring and turning around a business often means pain, but for Scottish dairy farmers supplying First Milk these further cuts will place them in a hugely difficult position.'

'We know that a number of First Milk members have already taken the difficult decision to walk away from milk production and those that remain have some challenging business decisions to make.'

'Given that this is a co-operative, it will rankle with many Scottish producers the price differential now opening up between those supplying different parts of the First Milk business.'

'Many Scottish First Milk suppliers are staunch, lifelong supporters of co-operation, with an expectation that pain and gain should be shared.'

'For Kintyre and Bute, where dairying is a huge part of the local economy, First Milk has put a taskforce in place to support the Campbeltown creamery in the coming months and drive forward the marketing of Mull of Kintyre cheddar.'



CAMPBELTOWN: Kintyre farmers will contribute to a manufacturing pool which will feed into Campbeltown Creamery

Oban farmer faces up to Quality Meat Scotland campaign



QUALITY: Neil McCorkindale of Scammadale farm is backing the campaign

AN OBAN farmer has backed a bid to encourage more farmers to join the Quality Meat Scotland cattle and sheep quality assurance scheme by being one of the 'faces' in an advertising campaign.

Neil McCorkindale of Scammadale farm is one of a number of farmers who has appeared on adverts as part of the campaign which has been running since the start of the year and has seen more than 160 applications for new memberships received.

Mr McCorkindale, who is also vice-chairman of the Scottish Beef Association and runs 100 cows to produce suckled calves, said he was proud that his farm was a long-standing member of the QMS quality assurance scheme.

'There is no doubt in my mind that quality assurance is vital to the future of my business and the beef industry in Scotland,' he said.

'Consumers expect to be able to buy beef with total confidence it has been produced to a high standard and quality assurance is the only way we can offer them that guarantee of production and welfare standards.'

'The horsemeat fraud highlighted the importance of having a Scotch Beef brand underpinned by a robust set of standards.'

Scotland's quality assurance schemes are among the longest-running in the world, with the Scots global pioneers of the

quality assurance concept first introduced here in 1990.

Currently, over 90 per cent of Scotland's breeding cattle population and 80 per cent of the breeding sheep flock are born on farms covered by quality assurance, along with almost 100 per cent of significant pig farming businesses.

Jim McLaren, chairman of QMS, said the response to the campaign had been very encouraging and he emphasised the importance of everyone in the industry continuing to work together to reduce the number of businesses which don't yet benefit from quality assurance.

'Whether you are a farmer, haulier, feed company, auction market operator or a processor, it is vital to the future of these businesses and our industry that everyone is united in support of our whole chain quality assurance,' he said.

The recruitment drive has also seen many processors and auctioneers contacting any non-assured customers to encourage them to become members.

Quality assurance scheme membership is open to farms of all sizes - from large finishing units to much smaller businesses with a few animals.

The membership fee varies with the size of the unit and discounts are available for crofting groups and those who combine assessments with those for other schemes.

Slipper farmers will not be able to get into bed with CAP

A STRONG message is being sent out to landowners and so-called 'slipper' farmers that the 'days of getting money for nothing are over'.

This comes on the back of meetings which have taken place between representatives of the agricultural industry and the Scottish rural affairs secretary Richard Lochhead.

Concerns had been raised previous to the meeting that, because payments are now

made on the basis of land area rather than historic payments, that some landowners would claim CAP payments but still lease the land out.

'Landowners leaning towards taking land back in hand to claim CAP payments themselves should think carefully about the responsibilities, obligations and potential consequences of doing so,' said Mr Lochhead.

'Would-be 'slipper' farmers

have no place in the new CAP.'

'If anyone thinks that land owners with no track record of farming can take land back in hand and get payments then they are mistaken.'

'And they are severely mistaken if they think payments will be made on entitlements where there is no farming activity.'

'Scotland's minimum activity rules are among the toughest in Europe and the requirements for making a valid claim are

clearly set out in our guidance.'

He said environmental audits could not be done on the cheap and there were penalties for over-claiming or trying to get round regulations.

'Landowners who were not claiming under the old regime need to be aware that unless they can prove they were actively farming in 2013, they will not be eligible for automatic entitlements under the new CAP.'

'And everyone claiming basic payments will need to provide verifiable and robust evidence of appropriate farming activity, that will be carefully scrutinised by my officials.'

'The clock is ticking and so now is the time for landowners and graziers - if they have not already done so - to sit down and agree a workable solution in line with the new CAP regulations,' added the rural affairs minister.

Potential sting in the tail of imported honeybee stocks

SCOTLAND is under threat from a new honeybee pest, the small hive beetle.

This pest has caused great damage to hives in North and Central America and in Australia after spreading from its original home in sub-Saharan Africa.

In September 2014 it was discovered in southern Italy and there are fears that it will reach the UK, most likely on bees sold to beekeepers.

Although there are restrictions in place on exporting bees from the infested region in Italy, there is a significant risk that the pest may have

already moved out of this area on bees moved for honey crops or for trade.

Gavin Ramsay, Bee Health Officer for the Scottish Beekeepers' Association said: 'We urgently ask beekeepers not to import bees and not to buy bees from those who import them, at least until the spread of this pest is better known.'

'Seeking bees bred from local stock or increasing your stock from your own bees is particularly important during this time of uncertainty over the risks of buying imported stock.'

Three-year wait now over for Carloway residents land buyout

A CROFTING community on Lewis now own the land they live on, following a buyout process lasting three years.

Carloway estate is now officially owned by residents after paperwork changed hands last Friday (May 1).

Working group the Carloway estate trust had been in dealings with the landowners, who were willing to sell, since residents voted by 254 to 86 in favour of the buyout in a ballot held early last year.

The trust has also appointed a development officer to steer improvement on the estate.

Kenny MacLennan, chairman of the Carloway estate trust, said: 'Today [Friday] signifies a great step forward for Carloway estate trust. We have been

on a three-year journey which proved to be exciting, challenging and hard working but we have now achieved the goal that the community entrusted us with, and we see it as a great achievement.'

'This has to be seen as the first step in a process that we hope will see prosperity, development, and long term benefit for the residents of Carloway estate.'

'We have been in the fortunate position of having a willing seller, and I would like to thank the Galloway family for their professional approach to the entire process.'

Councillor Angus Campbell, leader of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, said: 'I congratulate the community of Carloway on

what is a historic occasion for all concerned.'

'I know that a great deal of work has been put in by the Carloway Estate Trust which has worked tirelessly to secure the funding needed.'

'Historic structures such as the world famous Callanish Stones, which remain in the hands of Historic Scotland, and the Carloway Broch are just some of the sites which have boosted tourism in our islands and added to the local economy over the years.'

'I wish the community, the trust and all the residents the very best for the future and I must say that it is great to see more and more of the land being brought back to the people of our islands.'

Market reports

United Auctions

DALMALLY UNITED Auctions held its annual May sale of all classes of cattle and sheep at Dalmailly auction mart on Saturday.

Another increased entry on the year sold to strong force of buyers.

A total of 285 head of cattle was catalogued and averages were as follows: Bullocks averaged 265.7 pence per kilo or £861.96 against 250.7 pence per kilo or £845.79 last year.

Heifers averaged 248.8 pence per kilo or £736.25 against 229.4 pence per kilo or £726.03 last year.

The entry of cattle consisted mainly of smaller grazing type cattle between 270/320 kilos which were in keen demand whilst heavier sorts proved harder to cash which is in keeping with current trends.

Bullocks sold to a top of 307 pence per kilo for Limousin crosses from Duncroisk and to £1,155 per head for Charolais crosses from Tiraghoil, Mull.

Heifers sold to 289 pence per kilo for Charolais crosses from Dunans and to £945 for Limousin crosses from Tiraghoil. All classes of sheep sold in keeping with recent prevailing values.

Principal lots and prices: Top prices per head:

Bullocks: AAX: £895 - 16 Carnock: £885 - Barnakill: £855 - Traigh Farm. BRBX: £830 - Dall Farm. CHARX: £1155 - Tiraghoil, Mull: £1015(3) - Auchlyne Farm: £995 - Tiraghoil and Auchlyne Farm(4): £985 - Tiraghoil: £945(5) - Auchlyne Farm: £940(4) and £920(4) - Ardmaleish Farm: £905(3) - Barnakill Farm. LIMX: £1125, £1115 and £875(3) - Tiraghoil: £980 - Dall Farm: £940(3) - Ardmaleish: £935(10) - Tiraghoil: £910(6) - Ardmaleish: £890 - Dall Farm: £875(5) - Tiraghoil. SHX: £840 - Dall Farm. SIMX: £920 - Blarghour Farm: £905(6) - Keilator Farm: £850 - Blarghour Farm: £835(5) and £835(3) - Keilator Farm: £835 - Blarghour Farm: £825(2) - Keilator Farm: £810 - Dall Farm.

Heifers: AAX: £765(3) - Barnakill Farm. CHARX: £905 & £880 - Barnakill Farm: £855 - Ardmaleish(4) & Auchlyne Farm(4): £835 - Tiraghoil & Auchlyne(2): £815 - Tiraghoil. LIMX: £945 & £875 - Tiraghoil: £855 - Ardmaleish: £835(9) and £805(7) - Tiraghoil. SIMX: £855 - Ardmaleish.

Top prices per kilo: Bullocks: AAX: 294p - Traigh Farm: 275p - Barnakill Farm: 264p - Traigh Farm. BRBX: 259p - Dall Farm. CHARX: 296p and 279p - Tiraghoil Farm: 277p(4) - Ardmaleish Farm: 275p - Barnakill Farm: 269p - Ceder Cottage and Ardmaleish(4): 266p and 265p - Tiraghoil: 263p(5) - Auchlyne Farm. LIMX:

307p - Duncroisk Farm: 298p - Dall Farm: 295p - Tiraghoil Farm: 291p - Dall Farm: 285p and 281p(3) - Tiraghoil Farm: 280p(2) - Ellary Farms: 275p(2) - Ardmaleish Farm: 273p(10) - Tiraghoil Farm. SHX: 299p(15) - Ellary Farms. SIMX: 306p(2) - Keilator Farm: 298p(3) - Ellary Farms: 297p - Dunans: 291p(5) - Keilator Farm: 288p - Dall Farm: 286p - Blarghour Farm.

Heifers: AAX: 248p(3) - Barnakill Farm. CHARX: 289p - Dunans: 280p - Tiraghoil Farm: 273p (2) - Ceder Cottage: 266p (3) - Ardmaleish Farm: 263p - Tiraghoil Farm. LIMX: 260p(12) - Ellary Farms: 259p(2) - Dall Farm: 256p - Duncroisk & Tiraghoil Farm: 250p - Ardmaleish Farm: 250p - Duncroisk Farm. SHX: 245p(2) - Knockderry. SIMX: 289p(3) - Dunans: 283p, 280p & 275p - Keilator Farm: 274p(4) - Dunans: 270p(2) - Brechnoille Farm: 266p - Ardmaleish Farm: 262p(2) - Keilator Farm: 253p - Dunans: 250p - Brechnoille(2) & Ardmaleish Farm.

Sheep: BF prices per kilo: Bullocks: AAX: £55.00 - Torran Farm. SUFFX hogs. £52.00 - Couston Farm. Cross hogs: £50.00 - Couston Farm. Cross ewes: £51.50 - Couston Farm.

A good offering of grazing type cattle were keenly bid for and more could have been sold to advantage.

All classes of sheep sold in keeping with current mainland values.

Bullock storks sold to 273 pence per kilo from Ardmay whilst heifer storks sold to 237 pence per kilo from Heylipol Farm.

Bullocks sold to a top price of £1045 from Clachan whilst Drumasaigh led the heifer prices at £1000.

Principal lots and prices: Top prices per head: Bullocks: AAX: £990(4) and £890(2) - Heylipol Farm. CHARX: £805 - Ardmay: £715 - 8 Cornaigbeg. HERX: £1045(2) - Clachan. LIMX: £845 & £755 - Ardeas. SALX: £1035 - 6 Crossapoll: £955 - Clachan. SIMX: £815 & £795 - Lochpuhil.

Heifers: AAX: £845 and £775(3) - Heylipol Farm. CHARX: £850 - Heylipol Farm. LIMX: £920, £850 and £805 - Heylipol Farm: £755 - Ardeas. SIMX: £1,000 and £885 - Drumasaigh.

Top prices per kilo: Bullocks: AAX: 264p(2) and 247p - Scarinish Farm. CHARX: 273p, 268p and 253p - Ardmay. LIMX: 270p & 239p - Mainroad. SALX: 264p - Scarinish Farm. SIMX: 247p & 239p - Lochpuhil. Heifers: AAX: 223p(3) - Heylipol farm. CHARX: 231p & 228p - Ardmay.

LIMX: 237p, 235p and 234p - Heylipol Farm. SIMX: 236p(2) - Lochpuhil. Sheep: Ewes: £90.00 - Heylipol Farm: £86.00 and £82.00 - 4 Kilkenneth: £81.00 - 2/15 Balevullin: £80.00 - Heylipol Farm: £78.00 - Hillcrest and Ruaig: £75.00 - Heylipol Farm.

Hogs: £81.00 - Croish: £74.00 - Mainroad: £72.00 - 8 Kilkenneth: £71.00 - Heylipol Farm, 8 Kilkenneth and Drumfhaich.

LOCHBOISDALE UNITED Auctions held its annual spring sale on April 24 of all classes cattle and sheep at Lochboisdale Auction Mart.

All classes of cattle sold in keeping with current trends with stronger short keeping types proving hard to cash due to the current downward spiral of values for prime cattle whereby finishers are receiving £120/£150 less for finished cattle.

However, younger stores were easier sold as

was all classes of sheep but in particular fleshier sorts. Bullocks from John Morrison, 50 Balgarva sold to £1340. Limousin yearling bullocks sold to 257 pence per kilo whilst Limousin Heifers from 7 Griminish sold to 223 pence per kilo.

Another factor affecting the trade of cattle was the lack of farm-assured animals offered for the sale. Principal lots and prices: Bullocks: LimX: £1,340, £1,320, £1,240 and £1,190 - 50 Balgarva: £900 - 14 West Gerinish: SHX: £710 - 393 Garrynamonie. Heifers: LimX: £770 - 7 Griminish: £680 - 224 Stonybridge: £670 - 3 Milton. Breeding cattle: £1,350 - 291 Daliburgh. Cast cows: £960 - 8 Milton: £810 - 1 Ormriclate. Sheep: Widders: £60 - No8 Accarsaid, Eriskay. Ewes: £83 - 6 Milton: £64 - 409 Smerclate

subscribe to

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Subscribe from £22*

Call subscriptions on
01371 851868
or subscribe online at
www.obantimes.co.uk/subscribe

Subscribers should note that to keep down the cost of postage, some special supplements may, on occasions, be excluded from the subscribers editions of the paper. *£22 for 3 month UK subscription.

COVENTRY for FENCING

Scotland's No. 1
WIRE, STOCK FENCING,
BARBED, HIGH TENSILE,
MILD STEEL BEST PRICES

TIMBER DIRECT FROM OUR SAWMILL
Depots throughout Scotland • Delivery available
For a competitive quote please call 01631 566866

West coast recruitment

A rewarding job with child friendly hours!



ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVE

BASED IN OBAN

£ Excellent Basic

+ £ Bonus

+ Private Health Care

+ Pension

+ Good Holidays

Organising childcare outside of school hours can be tricky and expensive. We offer a position with hours that may suit parents; 9.30am - 3pm each day.

If you've got the energy, drive, determination and ambition, we can offer you an exciting and rewarding career with one of Scotland's foremost independent newspaper publishers.

You would be part of a small, highly motivated team selling advertising and features for our well established, award winning publications.

You will be responsible for calling new and existing clients to generate and maintain lasting business relationships, and you will benefit from on-going training, first class support, job stability and the opportunity to work for a professional company that believes in rewarding success and effort. A full driving licence is essential.

Please apply by email with full C.V. and covering letter to: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

Special publication sales

OBAN

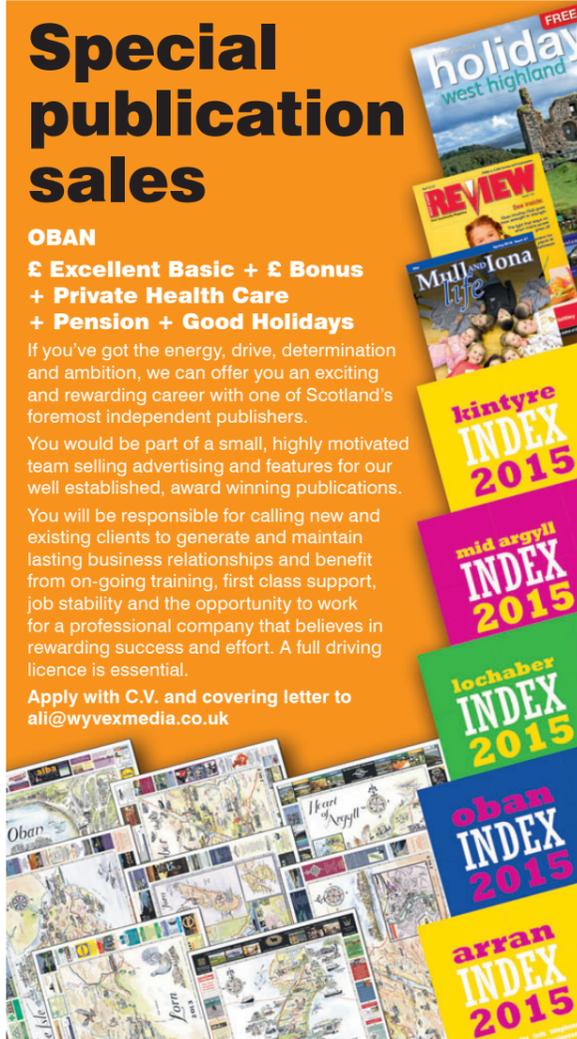
£ Excellent Basic + £ Bonus + Private Health Care + Pension + Good Holidays

If you've got the energy, drive, determination and ambition, we can offer you an exciting and rewarding career with one of Scotland's foremost independent publishers.

You would be part of a small, highly motivated team selling advertising and features for our well established, award winning publications.

You will be responsible for calling new and existing clients to generate and maintain lasting business relationships and benefit from on-going training, first class support, job stability and the opportunity to work for a professional company that believes in rewarding success and effort. A full driving licence is essential.

Apply with C.V. and covering letter to ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk



Move with the Times

Chief Reporter

WYVEX MEDIA

This is a key editorial appointment with Wyvex Media's flagship title, the Oban Times, the newspaper of record for the West Highlands which delivers Scotland's second largest accredited weekly circulation.

BASED IN OBAN
£ Excellent Basic + £ Bonus + Private Health Care + Pension + Good Holidays

The ideal candidate will be an experienced, qualified journalist who has worked in a busy regional or local newspaper environment at a senior level and who has the ambition, motivation and passion to take the next step in the development of their career.

He or she will be able to handle the pressures of leading a small, dedicated and talented team of reporters, keeping the title at the forefront of breaking news, while at the same time maintaining the strong grassroots connections with the many communities served by the Oban Times.

The challenges of the digital age will be regarded as opportunities and he or she will engage positively in harnessing the immense potential of web and social media platforms.

An appetite for hard work will be matched by a drive to deliver a quality news agenda for a discerning readership.

In return, we offer an attractive salary and conditions with the prospect for advancement with one of Scotland's leading independent newspaper publishers. Add the stunning backdrop of the West Highlands to this offer, and this makes a very appealing package.

Apply with C.V. and covering letter to ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk

Cleaners Required in Oban for 3 Premises

Premises 1:
7am to 8.30am
Monday & Thursday
£7.00 Per Hour

Premises 2:
5am to 8am
4 Days on 2 Days Off
Continual Rota Basis
£7.00 Per Hour

Premises 3:
7.30am to 9am or
4pm to 5.30pm
Monday, Wednesday &
Friday
£7.00 Per Hour

Contact: 01397 700457



Argyll Voluntary Action and The Community Bureau

Are seeking a Project Manager (37.5 hours per week @ £15.10 per hour) and Three Choices SDS (Information & Support) Officers (22.5 hours per week each post @ £11.17 per hour) to undertake a new initiative in Argyll and Bute. Posts will be located in Helensburgh or Dunoon, Oban and Mid Argyll but work across the area.

These are community development and support roles working within the Scottish Government Self Directed Support (SDS) agenda.

To find out and request an application pack please contact kathleen@argyllvoluntaryaction.org.uk or telephone 01631-564839.

Closing date for applications is 22nd May 2015
Argyll Voluntary Action Regd Charity SC029947 Co. no. SC277345
The Community Bureau is a social enterprise company SC487905

The Scottish Salmon Company

The Scottish Salmon company is the leading independent producer of Scottish salmon. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy.

MARINE OPERATIVE
Ref: Stronachullin MO/05/15
Salary - Dependant on experience

We are seeking a Marine Operative within our site at Strondior Bay/Stronachullin. Candidates will be enthusiastic, self-motivated and be able to demonstrate prior experience in working within small, focused teams. Day to day duties will include fish welfare, sampling, grading and moving of the fish, site maintenance, net changing and boat handling. Previous aquaculture experience is desirable for this post; the company can offer further development and training opportunities through in-house training and also by external training providers. Preference will also be given to those candidates who can offer transferable, related skills and qualifications.

In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package including entry into the Company pension scheme. A full, clean driving licence is also essential.

For an application form and job description, please contact: Angela Gibson HR Officer, The Scottish Salmon Company, Ardkinglas Estate, Cairnadow, Argyll, PA26 8BH. Tel. No. 01499 600 430
Email: angela.gibson@scottishsalmon.com Closing date for applications: 5pm Friday 15th May 2015
Visit our website at www.scottishsalmon.com



Fusion Marine Ltd is well established as one of the leading manufacturers of high quality equipment for marine and freshwater environments all over the world, particularly in the fish farming industries. The company is expanding sales in new markets and we have the following vacancies.

Office/Accounts Administrator

We require a full time experienced Administrator to run our busy office at the Marine Resource Centre, Barcaldine. The candidate must be highly computer literate with a sound knowledge of the SAGE accounting system, well organised and have excellent communication skills.

Please contact us for a full list of duties.

Salary is dependent on experience.
Hours of work: Mon - Fri 8.30am to 5.00pm
Please apply by sending a covering letter and enclose a current C.V.

All applications to
Mrs E Divers
Fusion Marine Ltd, The M.R.C., Barcaldine PA37 1SE
Or email: edivers@fusionmarine.com
Closing date: Friday 15th May 2015

KILMELFORD YACHT HAVEN

Kilmelford, by Oban, PA34 4XD

Boatyard Assistant

knowledge of marine engines and electrical installations.

Attractive rate of pay

Three month contract, could lead to permanent position.

Apply in writing or email info@kilmelfordyachthaven.co.uk

Mellex Group Limited

Are looking to fill the position of Hire Desk Controller at our Ardrishaig Depot.

This is a full time permanent position, working with colleagues and on own initiative to achieve a high standard of service to our customers.

The main responsibilities of the post will be dealing with customer enquiries, counter sales and service, face to face and on the telephone in a polite and professional manner.

The successful candidate should be computer literate (training will be given with regards our bespoke hire IT system). Have a strong commitment to deliver good customer service, with excellent communication skills. Be organised with the ability to multi-task. Having knowledge of tool and plant preferable, but not essential. A driving licence is also required.

Please apply in writing to - Fay Harris, Mellex Group Ltd, Glenburn Road, Ardrishaig, Argyll PA30 8EU. Or email to - fay@westcoastplantire.co.uk. Applications can also be handed in to the Ardrishaig depot. Please provide information on previous experience. Closing date Monday 18th May 2015.



Administrator Wanted

Ballet West is looking for an enthusiastic and experienced full-time Administrator. This is a demanding role requiring a professional and highly organised individual. A warm and friendly manner is vital and experience in secondary or higher education would be advantageous. You must have experience in a similar office role, the ability to work to deadlines and deal with constantly changing demands. Driver essential.

Please send a CV and covering letter to balletwest@btconnect.com or call the office on 01866 822641 for a job description. Closing date 22 May.

Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times

COOK/CHEF or couple Required

Busy Restaurant/
Tearoom
Strontian, West Highlands
Accommodation available
Telephone
01967 402279

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

EXPERIENCED 360 MACHINE OPERATORS AND TRACTOR DRIVERS REQUIRED to work within the forest environment, candidates should preferably have an agricultural/farming background. Candidates must be enthusiastic, reliable and be able to work to a good standard. Full training to obtain certification will be provided to suitable candidates.

Tel: 07850 852845 / 07818 066976 after 6.30pm



RETIREMENT HOUSING ASSISTANT

MACCALLUM COURT, OBAN
£3,454 - £3,600 pa (£12,951 - £13,501 FTE)

We are looking for a proactive Retirement Housing Assistant to support the manager in the delivery of our retirement housing service at MacCallum Court in Oban.

Your main duties will include maintaining a high level of cleanliness within the common areas of the development and providing general assistance to tenants on issues relating to the development and their Tenancy Agreement. You will also provide cover in the absence of the Retirement Housing Manager.

Hours of employment are 10 per week organised over five days as follows: Monday 12.00 pm to 2.00 pm
Tuesday - Friday 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm

Please visit our website www.bield.co.uk for the full job description and details of how to apply.
Closing date for returned applications is Monday, 18 May 2015.

Bield Housing & Care Scottish Charity No. SC006878
INVESTORS IN PEOPLE Silver
Striving to be an equal opportunities employer

There are some things you can't do with The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES Digital Edition



but you can

save 64% on an annual subscription

*Calculated against the cost of a printed annual subscription at £58 per year which includes postage and packaging. Please note this product does NOT work on iPhone, iPads or Tablets. Requires PC or Mac with access to the internet (Broadband recommended) with an internet browser that supports Flash.

obantimes.co.uk/digital

YOUR LOCAL PAPER
Regional & local press advertising gets the job done.

Regional Press closer to home

public notices

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003
WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011
APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AUTHORISATION
RIVER ARKAIG HYDRO SCHEME, ACHNACARRY

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Green Highland Renewables (Loch Arkaig) Ltd to vary water use licence number CAR/L/1114999 authorising the carrying on of controlled activities at, near or in connection with the River Arkaig Hydro Scheme, Achnacarry, as follows:

Description of change to controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Weir location to be moved 30 meters downstream from original licensed position and weir height to be increased from 1.25 to 1.6 metres	River Arkaig	NN1753 8819

SEPA considers that the above change(s) to a controlled activity may have an impact on the water environment and on the interests of other users of the water environment.

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30a.m. and 4.30p.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_regulationadvised_activity.asp

Any person affected by 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 the reference number CAR/L/1114999:

Registry Department, SEPA, Dingwall office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

Written representation received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the application.

Before determining the application, SEPA will

- assess the risk to 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 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 the relevant legislation

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the applications.



Argyll Community Housing Association

Mike Brown, Chairman and Alastair MacGregor, Chief Executive of ACHA will be holding a Roadshow for ACHA tenants and other service users in the Assembly Hall, Oban High School, Soroba Road, Oban at 6.30pm on Monday 11th May 2015. Please come along to hear about ACHA's plans in the Oban and Lorn area and get involved in a question and answer session on your priorities for the future.

"Putting Our Tenants and Our Communities First"

AGMs
Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mor and Taic Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mór
 Saturday
 30th May 2015
 from 4.30pm,
 Lismore Gaelic Heritage Centre.
www.lismoregaelicheritagecentre.org

CROFTING COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD
DECROFTING APPLICATION

Mr R L MacLennan, Mrs E Webb, Mr A MacLennan, Mrs F Gallacher, Mr C MacLennan & Mrs C M MacLennan
 4 Bay, Strachur
 1.46 ha - Site of a Residential Housing Development
 4.86.54746

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper.

Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

DECROFTING DIRECTION ISSUED

Mrs C D Livingstone
 3/4 104 & 105 Caol, Kilmallie
 0.061 ha - Croft house site and garden ground
 4.85.55206

Conditions: 3a & 4

Conditions:
 (3) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of:

- (a) the date of the direction
- (4) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council
 Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
 The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>
 Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
15/01065/FUL	Ben Nevis Hotel North Road Fort William	Installation of container units to house biomass facility
15/01068/FUL	Alexandra Hotel Parade Road Fort William	Installation of container units to house biomass facility
15/01610/FUL	7 Dalnabreck Acharacle	Demolition of cottage and erection of replacement house and associated works

Time period for comments is 14 days.
 ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
 Email: elanning@highland.gov.uk

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING
 These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4WJ, 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. 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	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/00483/PP	Erection of fencing/gates and grass shed and installation of replacement windows and door panels	Corran Esplanade Church Oban Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office
15/00596/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, garage, formation of vehicular access and installation of sewage treatment plant	Land to North West of 4 Ruaig Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute PA77 6TR	Tiree Area Office
15/00771/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land Adjacent to Park House Port Ramsay Isle of Lismore Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5UN	Sub Post Office Lismore
15/00876/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land West of Hill House Arduaine Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4XQ	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
15/00932/PP	Demolition of existing secondary school and associated outbuildings/structures and erection of new secondary school and piping pavilion with associated car parking, bus drop off facilities, playing fields and outbuildings	Oban High School Soroba Road Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4JB	Oban Area Office
15/01067/PP	Erection of agricultural shed	Land West of The Bungalow 2 Heylipol Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute PA77 6TY	Tiree Area Office
15/01100/MFF	Addition to existing shellfish site to create 3 x 200 metre long lines.	Shellfish Farm Sgeir Dhearg/Pol Atach Loch A' Chummainn Dervaig Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dervaig

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

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/00505/LIB	Internal alterations to church to form nursery, erection of fencing/gates and grass shed and installation of replacement windows and door panels	Corran Esplanade Church Oban Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office

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

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

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/00971/LIB	External painting, rendering and repair works to existing dwellinghouse.	The Old Police House Main Street Port Charlotte Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA48 7TL	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
15/01073/PP	Installation of telecommunications cabinet	Land North of Port Charlotte Hotel Main Street Port Charlotte Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

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

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
Single mooring in Loch Feochan

Notice is hereby given that Mr. J. Still has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of installation of a Single mooring in Loch Feochan.

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Loch Feochan	56° 20.75' N	005° 30.53' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban. 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 - quoting reference: 05485

Applicant: Mr J Still

Proposed Division of a Croft by Owner-occupier Crofter

Terence Glenn and Mrs Helen Glenn, Saddell Home Farm, Saddell, Campbeltown are applying to divide the croft at Whitestone, Saddell, Campbeltown in to two parts.

If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

Lomond & Argyll Advocacy Service

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 Wednesday 27th May 2015
 New members welcome
 For further details contact: (01389) 726543

Taigh-Eiridinn an Obain/ Oban Hospice
 Day Hospice/Community Services/Sponsorship of in-patient and relatives rooms

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 11th May 2015, 7pm
 Glencruitten Church Hall
 All welcome

First Registration of a Croft
 Mr James Porter has registered his croft 4 Port Ellen, Kildalton & Oa 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 9th January 2016.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is A0639.

69% of the business community read the regional press

www.facebook.com/obantimes

Regional Press

West Coast **PROPERTY GUIDE**

Find your next property at westcoastpropertyguide.co.uk

Labour shortages in Scottish construction intensify on back of firm workloads

RICS UK Construction Market Survey Q1 2015

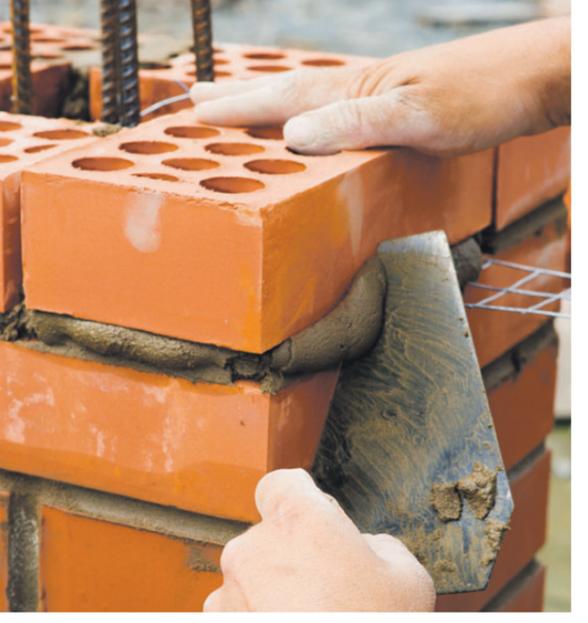
While workloads remain positive in Scotland across all sectors, the private sector remains the principal driver of growth, with 33 per cent of respondents reporting a rise in private commercial workload activity and private industry seeing the strongest rise in workloads in Q1.

Yet, as workloads continue to expand, labour shortages are becoming increasingly visible in all divisions, with bricklayers and construction professionals (including quantity surveyors) being in short supply with 53 per cent and 59 per cent of respondents retrospectively reporting difficulties sourcing these skills in Scotland.

Despite the outward optimism, there are some very real unknowns which are impacting on industry, including the UK's relationship with Europe and skills shortages.

Sarah Speirs, director RICS in Scotland said: 'Now that material shortages are becoming less of an issue, the practical challenges are now in providing the skilled labour the industry needs and in alleviating the financial constraints, which saw nine months of decreased lending in 2014.'

Despite all the anecdotal evidence that a degree of uncertainty is entering the market in the count down to the general election, outward confidence for growth in the Scottish market is strong, with 63 per cent of respondents expecting their workloads to rise over the next 12 months and 3.75 per cent growth in 2015.



Bricklayers are just one of the trades in short supply in Scotland.

TO LET

Bell Ingram **RICS**

TO LET
Stornacrobh 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
Renal Offers Invited

Bell Ingram, Boswell House, Argyll Square, PA34 4BD
 01631 566122
oban@bellingram.co.uk

Single Self Contained Bedsit
 Quiet location in central Oban
 £100 per week to include electricity, gas, parking, WiFi and Council Tax
 Sorry no DHSS
 Telephone 07748 343945

AUCTION

166 commercial investments
 to include (unless previously sold or withdrawn)

Bank House, 7 Leven Road, Kinlochleven PH50 4RP
 Lot 82: Part let to National Westminster Bank Plc at £4,250pa to June 2015 and vacant offices.

Monday 18th May 2015
 020 7543 6803
www.allsop.co.uk

allsop

west coast PROPERTY

like us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

Property Classifieds
 Woodburning Stoves

AFFORDABLE
Country Kiln
Woodburning & Multifuel stoves
 Delivered Nationwide
01560 483966
www.WoodburningStovesLimited.com

LOOK!
 your customers do
 this advert could be seen by over 35,000 people every week*

promote your business with
The Oban Times
 & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
 call our sales team today
01631 568000

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

EVERY WEEK IN THE OBAN TIMES, WE HAVE A SELECTION OF LOCAL SERVICES TO ADVERTISE HERE, PLEASE CONTACT 01631 568000 OR ADVERTS@OBANTIMES.CO.UK

GAME SUPPLIER

ALLGAME
Suppliers of quality pheasants and partridge

High quality grass reared pheasant and partridge poult orders now being taken for the 2015 season. Family run game farm based in North East Scotland with over 20 years rearing experience and suppliers to prestige shoots in Angus and Aberdeenshire.

01561 298169 | 07933 711383 | 07740 511676
info@allgametd.co.uk

Inspections welcome | Delivery nationwide | References available.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Gordon & Strathern Ltd
HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Roofline Fascias, Soffits & Gutters
Conservatories/Porches
GRP/Flat Roofs Replacement Sealed Units
Garage Doors Doors & Windows
Carports and Door canopies

Ronald or Lachie 01631 720074 or 07776402550
gordon961@btinternet.com

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

D&A MUNN LTD.

FUNERAL DIRECTORS
EST. 1880
BREADALBANE STREET, OBAN

24 hour Family run business
Owned and run by Ian MacInnes and son.

TELEPHONE: 01631 562562
EMAIL: INFO@MUNNS-OBAN.CO.UK
WWW.MUNNS-OBAN.CO.UK

FAS Golden Charter Funeral Plans

CHIMNEY SERVICES

ARGYLL & ISLES
CHIMNEY SERVICES

07834 640989

When Was The Last Time You Had Your Chimney Cleaned?

- AWARD WINNING POWER SWEEPING SYSTEM
- OPEN FIRES - WOOD BURNING STOVES
- OIL & GAS FLUES
- AGA & RAYBURN
- CCTV CHIMNEY INSPECTION

FULLY QUALIFIED & INSURED

Covering Oban, Lochgilphead, Inveraray, Tarbert and Kintyre, sweeping through Argyll

REMOVALS & STORAGE

MACQUEEN BROS LTD

Removals/Storage & Self Storage
Full range of packing materials
We store boats, caravans, trailers etc
Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG

Tel: (01631) 564848
www.macqueenbros.com

MOBILITY

Tower Mobility

we supply a wide range of mobility products from walking sticks to scooters

Mathesons, Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban.
Tel: 01631 565195 www.towermobility.co.uk

MATHS TUTOR

Maths Tutoring

S1-S2 Nationals Support classwork
Highers/Adv Highers Exam preparation
Adult Refresher Job/interview prep.
College/University stats Individual & small groups

Contact Sally on: 01631 705070
www.facebook.com/ObanMathsTutor

BLINDS

Chris Craft
window blinds

- FREE MEASURING
- FREE ESTIMATES
- FREE FITTING
- MADE IN SCOTLAND
- MADE TO MEASURE

OBAN 01852 300174 FORT WILLIAM 0800 371250
www.chriscraft.co.uk

STOVES

OBAN STOVE CENTRE

Experienced and Established Suppliers of Heizomat Biomass Boilers

TRADE SUPPLIES AVAILABLE

Scotland's Premier Stove, Spares & Flue Suppliers

Oban Stove Centre, Old Crofters Yard, Soroba Road, Oban, PA34 4HU Tel: 01631 564790

PRINTING

Wedding stationery
Invitations, order of service, menus, place cards, thank you cards

Event stationery
Invitations, raffle tickets, thank you cards

krisp print

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery, Main Street/Longrow South, Campbeltown PA28 6JD
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

LOCAL SERVICES

WEST COAST CLASSIFIEDS www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL TRADE LOCAL SWAP LOCAL

FREE LISTINGS FOR ITEMS UNDER £100

Advertise your unwanted items in The Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier or Argyllshire Advertiser and your ad will also appear online. Visit www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk and place your advert. Deadline for classifieds is 3pm on Tuesday each week.

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

FOOTBALL MEMORABILIA Up to £1000 paid for each football memorabilia, football programmes, football books, badges, scarves, ties medals etc. Telephone 0141 5717590 Anytime for full details.

BABY EQUIPMENT

GRACO TRAVEL COT green travel cot in very good condition. Used occasionally. From a smoke free home, £25 Telephone 01866 822044.

LITTLE SHIELD TRAVEL COT with carry bag and changing table in blue. Sturdy good quality Which? best buy, £30 Telephone 01631 710110.

BICYCLES

CLAUD BUTLER large purple frame of light aluminium. Missing pedal, some rust, buyer collects, paid £340 will accept, £60 Telephone 07717 526999 Taynuilt.

WOMAN'S MOUNTAIN BIKE good working order. A little rusty, includes helmet, buyer collects, £60 Telephone 07717 526999 Taynuilt.

BOOKS

THE FOSTER FACTORY by David Learmonth. An elderly couple become foster carers. Witty, acerbic. It's also on Kindle and Nook books, £7 Telephone 07599 331606.

BUILDING / DIY

HOPPERS HEADS 4 x black plastic hoppers heads. £10 Telephone 01546 605374.

LAMINATE FLOORING oak-effect laminate flooring, approx 3.5 sq. metres + underlay (Campbeltown), £10 Telephone 01586 551604.

LEATHER NAIL POUCH

Leather nail and tool pouch, £5 Telephone 01546 605374.

RECORD VICE Record "quick vice" portable vice. quarter ton pressure. Still in box - never used, £10 Telephone 01546 605374.

TOOL BOX WITH TOOLS a metal tool box with an assortment of tools. Hammer, screwdrivers, pliers, chisels etc. £15 Telephone 01546 605374.

CAR ACCESSORIES

ROOF RACK to fit Ford Transit LWB semi hi-top (gutter approx 4 inches from top), £95 Telephone 01631 570060.

CARAVAN EQUIPMENT

CARAVAN PORCH AWNING Bradcot Portico Plus. Easy system aluminium frame, blue & grey complete with curtains, under caravan skirting, pegs. Ex cond, £99 Telephone 01866 833009.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

BLACK LEATHER HAND GLOVES size L/XL, never worn, £20 Telephone 01631 570351 or 07775 203930.

RIVER ISLAND RED DRESS size 14 brand new with tags, strapless, very flattering cost £50 from the shop. (Oban), £15 Telephone 07951 025003.

ROCKFIELD SCHOOL JUMPERS all size 28. 1x hooded jumper immaculate condition, 3x sweatshirt jumpers 2 like new also one is older but still great condition, £20 Telephone 07951 025003.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

DUAL FUEL COOKER Belling, 5 ring hob, with fan assisted and conventional ovens, plus full width storage drawer, w100cm, h90cm, d60cm, £150 Telephone 01967 421227.

HOTPOINT FZA34 FREEZER under counter freezer. Energy efficient A+ rated. Good storage capacity, £95 Telephone 01631 710110.

TROUSER PRESS hardly used, perfect condition and order, £20 Telephone 01631 570351 or 07775 203930.

DOMESTIC PETS

GORGEOUS SPRINGER SPANIEL PUPS black and white, pedigree, KC Registered, suitable for work or pets, ready now. Telephone 01852 300213 Isle of Seil.

LABRADOR PUPS yellow and black, with parents and grandparents can be seen. All hip scored and eye tested, £500 Telephone 01290 338747.

PATTERDALE TERRIER PUPS



Plum line choc brown Patterdale Terriers. Eight weeks old. Parents from working stock, born into loving home. Hardy dogs require active home. Well socialised, love kids 1 male 1 female

£350
Telephone 07919 870664

HEALTH AND FITNESS

EXERCISE CYCLE top of the range Vision Fitness exercise bike, full digital readout programs incl heart rate monitor. Little used, excellent condition. Today's price around £800., £275 ono Telephone 01546 603465.

HEATING, FIRES AND FIREPLACES

DIMPLEX STORAGE HEATER 2.5Kw, willow white as new, £90 Telephone 01852 500258.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

PEARLISED PAPER & CARD White, Blue & Pink colours in stock available in A3/A4/A5

LIVESTOCK

WHITEBRED SHORTHORN BULLS

Out wintered, well grown, docile Whitebred Shorthorn bulls for sale. Ready for work. PCHS accredited for BVD, IBR, John's (Level 1) and Leptospirosis free.

Telephone 07939 630730

MISCELLANEOUS

LARGE AMOUNT of plumbing tools, suit car boot trader, £50 Telephone 01546 600343.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

CASIO ELECTRIC KEYBOARD on stand. Cost £125, £25 one Telephone 01499 302097.

RIKTER ACOUSTIC GUITAR Rikter steel stringed guitar and

HOME FURNISHINGS

BOB THE BUILDER SINGLE DUVET Set, brand new in sealed packet (Oban), £10 Telephone 07951 025003.

COAT STAND modern wooden pedestal coat stand in very good condition, £25 Telephone 01546 606237.

DINNER SET Apilco porcelain 14 piece dinner set in black with gold edging, exceptional condition, £40 Telephone 01475 726360.

LIME GREEN AND PURPLE CURTAINS brand new sealed in packet 46"x54", unlined (Oban), £10 Telephone 07951 025003.

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

PYREX 3.6L ROUND PAN (NEW) red, cast iron casserole pan, used on hob or in the oven, costs over £50 online. brand new (Oban), £25 Telephone 07951 025003.

FURNITURE

COFFEE TABLE glass coffee table 100cm x 50cm with chrome supports, £30 Telephone 01546 606237.

DINING TABLE glass dining table and four chairs, top diameter 90cm. Chrome pedestal 59cm, easily dismantled for transit, £67.50 Telephone 01546 606237.

SINGLE BED with royal blue headboard and some bedding. Excellent condition, hardly used, pick-up Alexandria, £55 Telephone 01389 750948.

GARDEN

HORSE SWING TREE with chains. Offers. Telephone 01546 850287.

PATIO / GARDEN CHAIRS 4 stacking green plastic chairs suitable for patio or garden, £15 Telephone 01631 570544.

THREE IRON BARROW WHEELS Offers. Telephone 01546 850287.

YOUNG COLLIE BITCH

15 months old, partially trained. Telephone 07825 038955.

FIREARMS

BENELLI SUPER BLACK EAGLE CAMO

OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT

THOMAS TAYLOR BROWN BOWLS size 2, with leather case. (Ardrishaig), £45 Telephone 07752 193194.

TOPPER DINGHY with launching trolley and cover. Complete and ready to sail. All in Good condition, £300 Telephone 07947 855941.

PRINTING AND STATIONERY

COLOUR PHOTOCOPYING A4/A3, single/double sided, reduce/enlarge, from originals, files on disk or by email. A4 copies from 25p. Call Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

ENVELOPES Wide range of sizes and colours, sold individually or by the box. Contact Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

PHOTOGRAPHY

CAMERA TRIPOD professional, Giottos, aluminium, BNIB, unwanted gift, closed 22ins, max height 69.5ins, four section, £49 Telephone 01436 810079 or 07799 292163.

POWER TOOLS

CREUSEN GRINDER Creusen DS7150 Powerline twin bench grinder. Like new. Axminster price is £184, £90 Telephone 01546 605374.

TOYS AND GAMES

6V MINI COOPER PINK CAR only used once immaculate condition, rechargeable battery, working sounds & lights. 3kph speed, cost £200 new, £99 Telephone 07717 241174.

FROSTY DRINKS MAKER ideal for making slushies at home, just crush ice and add diluting juice, cups brand new inside. (Oban), £7.50 Telephone 07951 025003.

WANTED

ALL TYPES OF SCRAP METAL we uplift scrap cars, copper, brass, lead etc. Smaller quantities considered. Telephone 07435 589701.

Oban Times TRADE CLASSIFIED

PRINTING AND STATIONERY

COLOUR PHOTOCOPYING A4/A3, single/double sided, reduce/enlarge, from originals, files on disk or by email. A4 copies from 25p. Call Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

ENVELOPES Wide range of sizes and colours, sold individually or by the box. Contact Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

PHOTOGRAPHY

CAMERA TRIPOD professional, Giottos, aluminium, BNIB, unwanted gift, closed 22ins, max height 69.5ins, four section, £49 Telephone 01436 810079 or 07799 292163.

POWER TOOLS

CREUSEN GRINDER Creusen DS7150 Powerline twin bench grinder. Like new. Axminster price is £184, £90 Telephone 01546 605374.

TOYS AND GAMES

6V MINI COOPER PINK CAR only used once immaculate condition, rechargeable battery, working sounds & lights. 3kph speed, cost £200 new, £99 Telephone 07717 241174.

FROSTY DRINKS MAKER ideal for making slushies at home, just crush ice and add diluting juice, cups brand new inside. (Oban), £7.50 Telephone 07951 025003.

WANTED

ALL TYPES OF SCRAP METAL we uplift scrap cars, copper, brass, lead etc. Smaller quantities considered. Telephone 07435 589701.

Oban Times TRADE CLASSIFIED

ADD A PHOTO

TO YOUR CLASSIFIEDS AND INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF SELLING

NOW JUST £15.50 FOR TWO WEEKS
(GX1 COLOUR AD WITH PHOTO) Advert runs for two weeks (price includes VAT)

Things to remember when placing your ad

- Product title i.e acoustic guitar
- Product description (approx 15-20 words)
- Selling price
- Contact telephone number
- Item location (as we cover a fairly large geographical area it is helpful if buyers know where the item is located)

Three easy ways to place your photo advert:

Online at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk/photo
Telephone 01631 568 000 or 01397 703 003

Or bring your photo in to any of our offices

The Oban Times reserves the right not to use photos that do not comply with our terms and conditions. No trade advertisers in private sales. All boats, cars and trailers must appear in Drive Times.

BIRTHS



BLUE

Robert and Rosin are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Orla on April 12, 2015 at Royal Jubilee Hospital, Belfast. A wee sister for Cormac, second grandchild for Bobby and Joan and fifth for Laurence and Marie.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BLACK - The family of Morna Black would like to thank relatives and friends for their support at this sad time. Thanks also to all the care services that helped to look after our mum and also the Rev Dugald Cameron and D&A Munn. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

BRODIE - John Clark. The family of the late John Clark Brodie would like to thank all friends and neighbours for the kind expressions of sympathy and support received following the death of their dear brother and uncle and to all who came to pay their respects at Dunvegan Parish Church and Trumpan Cemetery. Special thanks to Janet Anderson for her comforting service, Hazel Wotton for her warm and moving tribute and to M & D MacLeod Funeral Directors for funeral arrangements. Thanks also to the staff of Home Farm Care Home, Portree for the care given to John and to Stein Inn for their excellent catering, and to all those who donated so generously in aid of Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland.

DEATHS

ALLAN - Suddenly but peacefully with her family by her side at Forth Valley Royal Hospital on May 2, 2015. Christine (nee Currie), aged 69 years. Beloved wife of David, much loved mum of Kevin and Robert, dear mother-in-law to Wendy and Carol, proud and caring granny of Jonathan, Douglas and Kyle, a much loved sister and aunt of her family. The funeral will take place at Falkirk Crematorium on Wednesday May 13 at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please however donations, if desired in aid of Macmillan nurses. Co-operative Funeralcare, Tillicoultry - 01259 751539.

ANDREW - Peacefully at home with her family on Friday, May 1, 2015. Fay Andrew, aged 82 years. Beloved wife to the late Sam, a loving mum to Fiona, a dear mother-in-law to Sandy and a much loved Granny to Louise and Ashleigh. Funeral Service in Ellon Parish Church on Friday, May 15 at 12.30pm thereafter to Aberdeen Crematorium (East Chapel) at 2.40pm. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired at the church for C.L.A.N. and Macmillan Nurses. Resting at George Burgess and Son, Station Road, Ellon.

KERR - Suddenly as the result of a tragic accident at work on April 30, Jamie, aged 25 years. Darling son of John and Morag, adored brother of John and his girlfriend Danielle, Amanda and her fiancé David, Jordan and Ashleigh. Cherished uncle of Jack. Treasured boyfriend of Toni. Much loved grandson, nephew, cousin and genuine friend to so many.

ROBERTSON - Suddenly on April 23, 2015 at Ross Hall Hospital, Glasgow. Peggy, aged 52, beloved sister of Donald John, Catherine and the late Hector, a loving aunt and grand aunt, who will be sadly missed. Funeral arrangements to be confirmed.

RYDINGS - Peacefully, at home on May 1, 2015, in her 79th year, with her family at her side Edie Rydings (nee Hill) beloved wife of the late Hughie Rydings, much loved mum of Melanie and Christopher, devoted nana to Lyndsay, Caitlin and Erin. A dearly loved mother-in-law, sister, aunt and friend. Service to be held at the Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Friday, May 8 at 1pm. Family flowers only please. At Edie's request please wear something bright. Retiring collection, if desired, for Marie Curie and Macmillan. Sorely missed.

STEELE - Suddenly at home, Aldersyde, Taynuilt, on April 30, 2015, aged 62 years, Donald, (Donnie), formerly of North Connel, dearly loved father to Karen and the late James, loving father-in-law to Ewen and Michelle, much loved Papa to Callie, Carter, Megan and Jamie and a beloved brother, uncle and friend. Sorely missed.

MEMORIALS

Stokes Memorials. Serving Argyll and the Highlands & Islands for over 35 years. Established 1973 - Fraser Downie, Master Sculptor. New and traditional memorials. Work carried out in any cemetery. Additional lettering. Free estimates and advice. Cleaning and renovations. House signs. Pet memorials.

MEMORIALS

CLARK - Loving you dear Tommy every day in some small way Memories of you come my way thou absent you are always near Still missed, loved and always near. - Sister Mary at Kilninian

CLARK - Thomas Goldie. Precious memories of my dear uncle Tom, died at Kilninian, Isle of Mull on May 4, 2009. He lived for those he loved and he is loved, missed and remembered every day. - From loving niece Mary and her husband Bobby

KENNEDY - In loving memory of my wife Margaret Mary, mother, mother-in-law and granny, who passed away May 11, 2013. This time comes with sad regret The day, the hour we will never forget You slipped away without goodbye Our love for you will never die. - Peter, Lloret, Lorne, Robert, Jane and grandchildren.

MACKAY - In loving memory of our mum and gran Nan MacKay, died May 10, 2012. Gone are the days we used to share But in our hearts you're always there. - Violet, Hugh and families.

MACPHEE - In loving memory of our dear father Alexander (Sandy), who died May 11, 1974. Your love is always with us Your place no-one can fill In life we loved you dearly In death we love you still. - Your loving daughter Mary and family and son Alistair and family xxx.

MARSHALL - In memory of my beloved wife Betty Dunlop, who passed away on May 11, 2008. A laugh, a smile A gentle touch These are the things we miss so much May angels watch over you Until we meet again. - Steve.

MAY - In loving memory of Angus, a much loved dad and devoted grandad, who died May 12, 2014. Sadly missed by us all. McAFFER - Fondest memories of our dear uncle John, who passed away May 4, 2009. Also a dear mother and granny Annie, who passed away May 15, 1990. Always in our thoughts and sadly missed. - Dugie, Teen, Angela and Alexander.

MACDOUGALL - Veronica and family would like to thank everyone who supported them throughout Charlie's long illness, we were very touched by the visits, calls, messages and cards received. Thank you to everyone who travelled from near and far to pay their respects and to Rev. Joyce Watson for her heartfelt words. The sum of £404.71 was collected for Mull and Iona Community Hospital.

MACFADYEN - Maggie and Peggie sincerely thank everyone for their kindness and support in the recent sad loss of their sister Nonnie. Special thanks to all the staff at Tigh a Rudha who cared for Nonnie since September. Grateful thanks to Dr Holliday, Dr Slater and the community nurses. Sincere thanks to Rev Elspeth MacLean for her comforting service, Lachie MacKinnon for his Gaelic prayer and Joyce MacInnes for her music. Thanks also to Scottish Coop, Tirie for efficient funeral arrangements and to Tirie Scarinish Hotel for excellent catering. Finally thanks to all who attended the funeral service in Tirie Parish Church especially those who travelled from Tobermory, Dunoon and Oban.

CHARITY DONATIONS

CANCER RESEARCH UK Scotland. Fighting Cancer on all fronts... CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation. Commitment of over £15 million each year. Cancer Research UK Angel Building 407 St John Street London EC1V 4AD

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 0800 100 6000 In memory of Dawn Joyce

Oban Hospice. CARING FOR THE FUTURE. Donations always gratefully accepted. Please contact Jack Tollan Birch Hill Achnacreebeag North Connel, PA37 1RE

SINCLAIR - Achaleven Farm. Treasured memories of our dear grandparents, Donald, who died March 21, 1985 and Duncan, died May 6, 2003. No words, No verse could ever say How much we miss you every day Precious are our memories of a Shen and grampa. We will never forget. - Your loving family xxx

STEELE - Loving memories of our dad Ian, who died May 9, 1984. - Love Morag and Alan

STOTT - Treasured memories of a dear mum and granny Christina, who died May 6, 1987. Always in our thoughts. - Ewen, Rosemary and family, Spear Bridge.

TAYLOR - Remembering always with love my darling husband William, who passed away May 5, 1992. Quietly today your memory I treasure Missing you always Forgetting you never Love always. - Violet.

TAYLOR - Cherished memories of a loving dad and grampa William, who passed away on May 5, 1992. May the wind of love blow softly and whisper for you to hear that we'll always love and miss you and wish that you were here. - Shaun, Tony, Steven and families

WYLLIE - Alistair who passed away May 9, 2013. Sorely missed. - Lorraine, Kevin and Craig

Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS. Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS. Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

subscribe to The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES. Subscribe from £22*. Call subscriptions on 01371 851868 or subscribe online at www.obantimes.co.uk/subscribe

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES. Oban drives parking cash. Subscribers should note that to keep down the cost of postage, some special supplements may, on occasions, be excluded from the subscribers edition of the paper. £22 for 3 months UK subscription.

SUBSCRIBE TO SCOTS Heritage Magazine. Now the official magazine of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, the new-look Scots Heritage magazine is an unbeatable read. With features on clans, genealogy, great Scots, the events which forged a nation, and a wealth of articles on Scottish history and culture, no other magazine is as successful at keeping Scots at home and abroad in touch with their heritage. To subscribe to Scots Heritage call the subscriptions number, fill out the form opposite and post to the relevant address or visit the website and click on subscribe. It couldn't be easier. UK subscription: £15 Worldwide subscription: £25 01371 851868 www.scotsheritagemagazine.com

Diamond celebration for Connel couple

AN ADVENTUROUS couple who list curling and international travel as their passions celebrated 60 years of marriage at a family party in Oban.

Robert and Cathie Miller of Connel were married on April 23 in the Grand Hotel Glasgow by the Revered Ross.

Together they've racked up 28 houses and travelled as far afield as Singapore, Malta, Northern Ireland and throughout Scotland and England.

For the last 10 years the couple have settled in Connel where Robert, a former squadron leader in the Royal Air Force, has become a church elder.

Cathie said the secret to a happy marriage was 'toleration' and 'living in separate houses for years as any military family is often forced to do'.

Robert and Cathie have a great sense of humour and shared laughter and fun with their family, who had come from all over Europe to join them in staying at the Wellpark Hotel and then a fine meal in The Queen's Hotel.

from both Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and The Lord Lieutenant of Argyll Patrick Stewart as well as many other well wishers.

The couple have two

daughters Sue Baker, who lives in the Oban area, and Linda Palazzo who lives in London with a family home in Italy as well.

They have five grandchildren.



DIAMOND COUPLE: Cathie and Robert Miller of Connel celebrated 60 happy years together 16_11happy1

Renowned speaker to preach at Kilmallie

AN INTERNATIONAL-ly renowned Christian speaker will be preaching this Sunday (10 May) at 11am in Kilmallie Free Church in Caol, Fort William.

Professor John Lennox, a well-known Christian author who has previously debated atheists like Richard Dawkins, will be preaching on the biblical character of Daniel - the focal point of his latest book.

Kilmallie minister Rev Chris MacRae said: 'One of the key themes from Daniel in the Bible is that despite ruling over governments he remained faithful to his God, and this is so apt for Christians today.'

'We can often feel the pressure to conform to what society tells us is acceptable, be it spending our money gambling or excessive drinking, or the kind of relationships we have.'

'It doesn't matter if we are in a top government post, or in the house or at school, we have the challenge to be faithful witnesses to God in our community and be a blessing to others just as Daniel was.'

Professor Lennox's new book is 'Against the Flow: The Inspiration of Daniel in an Age of Relativism'. As a professor of mathematics at the University of Oxford, Professor Lennox has lectured extensively

in North America, and in Eastern and Western Europe on mathematics, the philosophy of science and the intellectual defence of Christianity.

He last visited Kilmallie Free Church in autumn last year, when he spoke about the need for the church to answer people's real questions.

Professor Lennox will speak at the 11am morning service at Kilmallie Free Church on Sunday.

Kilmallie ministers the Rev MacRae and Rev David Kirk assured all of a warm welcome, including first-time visitors, to the church which overlooks Loch Linnhe.

Community spirit shines through as church gate is repaired



The repaired gate at Ardour parish church

TWO Lochaber businesses showed true community spirit when they repaired an old church gate free of charge.

The damaged 100-year-old gate at Ardour parish church was reported to the local community council meeting and Marine Harvest fish farm manager Chris Ryan sprang into action.

Members of the Ardour community removed the gate and Mr Ryan arranged a temporary barrier to keep out sheep before his colleague Alan Murdoch transported the gate to Thistle Engineering in Fort William to be repaired.

As the gate and railings are believed to have been crafted by a local black-

smith 100 years ago and is of sentimental value to the community, both businesses carried out the work free of charge.

John Maitland, who first reported the damaged gate, said: 'We are so grateful to Marine Harvest and Thistle Engineering. This is a good news story and certainly put a smile on my face.'

Thought for the week Is the Lord our shepherd?

PSALM 23 is undoubtedly one of the best-known passages in all the Bible.

Most of us learned it as children and it continues to be a comfort to those who are dying, or those who have lost loved ones.

Maybe it's so well-loved because it is so personal and individual.

When we read it, we don't think of David shepherding his sheep 3,000 years ago. It applies to us.

'The Lord is my shepherd'. A famous actor was once the guest of honour at a social gathering where he received many requests to recite favourite excerpts from various literary works.

ty-third Psalm.

The actor agreed on the condition that the preacher would also recite it.

The actor's recitation was beautifully intoned with great dramatic emphasis for which he received lengthy applause.

The preacher's voice was rough and broken from many years of preaching, and his diction was anything but polished.

But when he finished there was not a dry eye in the room.

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS. YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited. Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited and the one party and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications. 1. Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes. 2. The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement. 3. The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice. 4. An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person. 5. Cancellation of display advertisement must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement. 6. The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose. 7. The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement. 8. Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose. 9. The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order. 10. Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance. 11. Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice. 12. A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions. Published by Wyvex Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Tel: (01631) 568000 Fax: (01631) 568001 www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. http://www.obantimes.co.uk

The Oban Times & West Highland Times THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL. The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsagents every week. Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB. Tel: 01631 568000 Fax: 01631 568001 www.obantimes.co.uk

Editorial. Reporter Emma Crichton ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk. Reporter Louise Glen lglen@obantimes.co.uk. Reporter Steven Rae srae@obantimes.co.uk. Web Co-ordinator Marian Miller miller@obantimes.co.uk. Newsdesk Oban 01631 568060 Fort William 01397 703003 editor@obantimes.co.uk. Advertising Executive Rhona McKillop adverts@obantimes.co.uk. Advertising Executive Nadine Ross nross@obantimes.co.uk. Advertising Executive Danielle Martin dmartin@obantimes.co.uk. Advertising Executive Stephanie Dunstaffnage sdunstaffnage@obantimes.co.uk

Branch Offices. Fort William Tel 01397 703003. Lochgilphead Tel 01546 602345. Campbeltown Tel 01586 554646. Arran Tel 01770 302142. www.obantimes.co.uk

like us on facebook www.facebook.com/obantimes



30 glorious years Oban Rotary Am

Wishing Oban Rotary every success with the 2015 Am Am

2 Queens Park Place, Oban
Tel: 01631 562071
www.ionashop.co.uk

CParchitects

Proud to sponsor the AM-AM 2015. Congratulations on the event.

110 George Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5NT
t. 01631 563177 f. 01631 563234
e mail@cparchitects.net
www.cparchitects.net

Simmers & Co
Chartered Accountants

Your local firm providing the full range of professional business and personal accountancy and taxation services to meet the demands of today's complex financial and business world.

Wishing the Rotary Club AM AM a successful event this year

Albany Chambers
Albany Street, Oban, Argyll
T: 01631 562169
F: 01631 565959
E: mail@simmers.co.uk

HANNAHS NEWSAGENTS

5 Stevenson Street, Phone 01631 566913
Open: Mon - Sat 6am - 9pm
Sun 6am - 6pm

PROUD TO SUPPORT OBAN ROTARY AM AM

E. Thornton & Co.
SOLICITORS, NOTARIES AND ESTATE AGENTS

Visit our website at www.ethornton.co.uk

Abacus Buildings (01631) 566771 info@ethornton.co.uk

E Thornton & Co proudly sponsor the 2015 Rotary Am-Am and wish them every success for 2016

D.FERGUSON welders Ltd.

Tel: 01631 563136 Mob: 07979 432186
Email: davidferguson1@btconnect.com

Proud to be associated with the Rotary Club AM AM

Units 3, 4 & 5 Block A Glengallen Road, Oban Argyll PA34 4HG

A H CONTRACTS

Proud to sponsor the 2015 Rotary Golf Am-Am

Call us today on: 07766890014
or Email: A.HContractors@live.co.uk
To see what else we do visit
www.ahcontractors.co.uk

Strathclyde Scaffolding Services

For all your scaffolding needs...

Proud to support Oban Rotary Am Am

Glengallen Road, Oban PA34 4HG
Tel: 01631 565229 www.strathclydescaffolding.com

MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust

The White Building, North Pier, Oban, Argyll PA34 5QD
Tel: 01631 564848
Opening hours Mon-Sat 10am-4pm

AND

MacQueen SELF STORAGE LTD
Tel: 01631 564848
Email: info@macqueenbros.com

are very pleased to support the Rotary Club and Glencruitten Golf Club in their marvellous community fund raising Am-Am Competition

JEWSON

Proud to have sponsored the Rotary Am Am at Glen Cruitten Golf Club 2015

www.jewson.co.uk

Opening hours:
Mon - Fri: 7:30am to 5pm - Sat: 8am to 12pm
Tel: 01631 562208.
Sinclair Drive, OBAN PA34 4DR



ROTARY CLUB ANNUAL GOLF

CHARITIES, community Rotarians all pull together, taking on various roles in the successful event annual groups and clubs in the Oban and Lorn area all set to benefit from the most successful AmAm ever run by Rotary Club of Oban. The golfing event, will attract more than 44 teams in its 30th year, made more than £12,000 for good causes. Many teams are paying for the privilege to play on their own 'turf'. Local businesses sponsor holes and give to the prize money and trophies.

Rotarians all pull together, taking on various roles in the successful event annual event. and their efforts paid off with a fine day for golfing on Sunday, June 1 in almost perfect golf play. Iain MacIntyre, AmAm convenor, said: 'We are absolutely over the moon with the efforts of everyone involved this year. The feedback I get from the sponsors is they are extremely proud to be associated with



rs of m Am

Oban's Rotary principal fund raising event is its annual Golf Am-Am which traditionally is played on the first Sunday in June.

Funds raised from the event are utilised in support of local good causes with an emphasis on youth orientated activities although in the past year blood pressure monitors were purchased for Lorn and Islands Hospital as well as support being given to Oban Hospice in acquisition of a therapeutic chair.

2015 will see Oban Rotary complete its 30th successive Am-Am and the idea for Am-Am came about as a result of a friendship between Oban Rotarian Terry Macnair and Roy and Shirley Erskine who are the grandparents of Andy and Jamie Murray, the internationally renowned tennis players. This led to an invitation from Dunblane Rotary to send a team of four to their inaugural Am-Am and on their return it was decided that Oban Rotary

could do likewise, hence the birth of the Oban Am-Am.

From fairly modest beginnings Oban Rotary's Golf Am-Am has grown in strength each year with in excess of £145,000 having been raised to date for local good causes and this figure will go well beyond £150,000 after this year's event. The event now had in excess of 100 sponsors with in the region of 180/200 players competing for various prizes.

A Rotary is a voluntary organisation expenses relating to the Am-Am are kept to minimum and another important feature is that in distributing funds locally Rotary is especially effective in providing support at levels which are perhaps lower than that considered by the larger charities.

Oban Rotary's Gold Am-Am attracts teams from outside the town; indeed a team from Glasgow has been a regular participant for some years now.



OF OBAN - AM-AM

the event because they know all the money raised will go to local good causes.

'The Rotary club has sends out a certificate of acknowledgement to the sponsors, thanking them for their support, and that is important.

'They can display that in their office window to show they were part of it and it can help generate a sense of civic pride.

'The Rotary club motto is 'Service before self' and there

are a huge number of worthy causes out there. We have to try and make money available.'

The AmAm is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the town's Rotary club.



Halfway Filling Station
Dunbeg By Oban
Proud to sponsor the 2015 Annual Golf Am-Am event

MAURICE LOCKHART SELECT REGISTERED
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR
All types of electrical work undertaken
Proud to sponsor the 2015 Golf Am-Am event on its 30th Anniversary
T: 01631 564628 M: 07766428380
mauricelockhart2@aol.com

S & S SERVICES
8 Old Bridge Road Heathfield Ayr Ayr KA8 9SX. Tel: 01292 880080
Supporting the people of Argyll for over 30 years
S&S are proud to sponsor the Rotary Club of Oban Golf Am-Am Event.

5 YEAR WARRANTY
4 YEARS PCP FINANCE
3 YEAR'S FREE SERVICING
2 GOOD TO MISS
1st MOST RECOMMENDED MANUFACTURER

ALL NEW SUBARU OUTBACK
SUBARU WITH WORLD LEADING EYESIGHT TECHNOLOGY
Great Steed
Includes: A 6 YEAR 125000 mile warranty and a 2.5 tonne towing limit for the price of £14998 + VAT

ISUZU D-MAX
Scottish Farmer Special Edition with towbar, bedliner and rubber mats with 3.5 tonne towing limit and 5 years / 125000 mile warranty

WORK STN FROM **£28,995**
MORE SUBARU PERFORMANCE FOR YOU
THE LEGEND REBORN
5 YEAR WARRANTY

ASK ABOUT A TEST DRIVE TODAY
S & S Services, Heathfield, Ayr.
Tel: 07831 808702

DEMONSTRATOR DEAL WEEKEND
6th and 7th June, Glencruitten Golf Course
We have the largest selection of demos available

Plate	Year	Make	Model	Colour
15	15	Subaru	Outback 2.0D SE Premium CVT Eyesight	Lapis Blue
15	15	Subaru	Outback 2.0D SE CVT Eyesight	White
15	15	Subaru	STi Type UK 4 Door	Black
15	15	Subaru	BRZ 2.0 SE Lux	Ice Silver
64	15	Subaru	Impreza 1.6i RC CVT	Quartz Blue
64	14	Subaru	Impreza 1.6i RC	Ice Silver
14	14	Subaru	XV 2.0 D SE	White
63	13	Subaru	XV 1.6s CVT	Dark Grey
14	14	Subaru	XV 1.6s CVT	Marine Blue
64	14	Subaru	XV 2.0D SE	White
15	15	Subaru	XV 2.0 SE	Quartz Blue
15	15	Subaru	XV 2.0 SE	White
15	15	Subaru	Forester 2.0D X	Silver
15	15	Subaru	Forester 2.0D X	White
15	15	Subaru	Forester 2.0D XC CVT	Jasmine Green
64	14	Subaru	Forester 2.0i XE CVT	Quartz Blue
15	15	Subaru	Forster 2.0i XT	Black
64	14	Isuzu	Dmax Eiger Double Cab	White
15	15	Isuzu	Dmax Utah Auto Double Cab	Mineral Grey
15	15	Greatwall	Steed 2.0D SE	Silver

Phone for special demo prices 07831 808702



CAPTAIN'S DAY: Golfers from different clubs gathered for the Seil golf club captain's invitational golf day.



Glencruitten

MARTIN Tait and Finlay MacKay won the Greensome Pairs last Saturday with a score of 70 - 10.8 = 59.2. Arvid Fagervold and Cameron Milne were second with a score of 66 - 3 = 63. In third place were Alan Jamieson and Malcolm Cullen with a score of 73 - 9.8 = 63.2. In the first round of the junior championship on Sunday, Aidan McCuish scored 75 - 6 = 69. In second place was Daniel MacMillan with a score of 79 - 9 = 70. Steven Murphy and Finlay Sinclair were third with net scores of 71. On Saturday the second round of the Captain of Dunstaffnage and Isis Cup takes place along with the first round of Terry Ng Trophy.

Fort William

RETURNS from Fort William golf club on Saturday May 2. The May medal, section one: 1 Keith Duncan 71 (80-9); 2 Henry MacDonald 72 (85-13); 3 Dale Monk 75 (87-12). Section two: 1 Jason Wallace 71 (92-21); 2 Alan Overend 72 (87-15) bh; 3 Calum MacQueen 72 (99-27). The ladies' E Cameron Stableford: 1 Iona Cameron 31 points; 2 Ann Lovatt 25 points, bh; 3 Helen Brian 25 points.

Isle of Skye

THE ISLE of Skye golf club's Royal National Lifeboat Institution trophy results: 1 John Marshall, 42 points; 2 Craig Campbell, 40 points; 3 John Allan MacLeod 39 points.

Taynuilt

FLIT Self Drive Ltd sponsored mixed open played Sunday May 3. Scratch category: 1 Iain MacCalman (Clobber GC) / Anne S MacCalman (Taynuilt GC) 73; 2 Allan Stewart (Taynuilt GC) / Fiona McGlynn (Taynuilt GC) 82 BH; 3 Donald MacVicar (Glencruitten GC) / Moira MacVicar (Taynuilt GC) 82. Handicap Category: 1 Wyndham and Margaret Tranter (Raglan Parc GC) 65.5 (8.5); 2 Jim Carmichael (Airdrie GC) / Sheena Ambrose (Taynuilt GC) 66 (22); 3 Paul Walton (Taynuilt GC) / Carol MacDougall (Taynuilt GC) 67 (21). Ladies' nearest the pin on 15th hole: Jill Stewart (Taynuilt GC). Gents' nearest the pin on second hole: Iain MacCalman (Clobber GC). Ladies' longest drive on seventh hole: Anne S MacCalman (Taynuilt GC). Gents' longest drive on 10th hole: Wyndham Tranter (Raglan Parc GC).

Fun in the sun at Isle of Seil Golf Club

ENTHUSIASTIC golfers from Seil, Luing, Oban and Glasgow recently gathered for a great day of competition on the Isle of Seil golf course. Seil golf club ladies' captain Isobelle Smith hosted the captain's invitation golf day on Saturday, April 18 in brilliant sunshine, with founder, current and potential members of the club coming together to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the formation of the club. An extravaganza of golf was held with competitions to suit all levels of ability.

In the stableford competition, held on the croft side of the course, in a re-creation of the first ever golf tournament held by the club, Craig Robertson came in ahead of David Mudie. **Clean sweep** In the ladies' section, Mary Phillips came home just ahead of Pat Mills and in the nearest the pin competitions, on the fourth and eighth holes, Gordon MacColl scored a clean sweep, winning both medals. On the quarry side, a special 'captain's course' was created for the day, with the

trophy lifted by Cammy MacKenzie, and Donald Campbell taking the runner-up prize. In the ladies' section, Mary Norris carded the winning score, followed by joint runners-up Ann Cunningham and Liz Dickey. The junior medals were taken in first place by Kieran McLarty and runner-up Joe McVicar. Also on the quarry side, a putting competition and a chipping competition proved extremely popular with Robbie McLarty and Geo Adams tying in the

putting and Brian Dicky just beating Cammy MacKenzie in the chipping. **Putting prize** In the junior section, Kieran McLarty took the putting prize and his brother Innis McLarty took the chipping prize. Following a superb buffet enjoyed by everyone present, club captain Isobelle outlined the early history and formation of Seil golf club and paid tribute to the work of club members, past and present, who had given their time freely to transform the course from the rough ground it was 20 years ago, to

the challenging nine-hole course that exists today. Thanking all those who had served on the club committees over the years, Isobelle concluded by encouraging everyone to enjoy their golf and hoped she would see them throughout the season taking part in the many competitions and events to be held on the course to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Isle of Seil Golf Club.

MMA

DUE to their success in the last few competitions, Oban MMA has been concentrating on Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. The club has been focusing on the fundamentals and increasing the drilling of techniques. This makes it a great time to start if anyone has been thinking about trying something new.

The next Gi and no Gi competition is in Edinburgh on June 6 and training will be focused towards this over the next few weeks. For further information contact: coogiepots@gmail.com

Kyokushinkai Karate

THE Oban club is still in preparation for the international tournament in Edinburgh on May 16, preparation is going well with all those involved working hard towards the event.

For further information contact: iain@ikku.co.uk

Around the world there is currently a lot of talk about karate gaining Olympic status. Kyokushinkai is part of a group of styles known as 'Knock-down Karate' and in the world of knock-down, karate in the Olympics is a contentious issue.

While most points fighting styles would like to see their sport



represented, and quite rightly so, there is a lot of unrest amongst the full contact styles over this.

Knockdown karate is a bare knuckle, full contact competition with no padding or protection (apart from groin guards for men and breast protection for women) and most of the people involved are worried about it being watered down, in the way that Olympic Tae Kwon Do and boxing have been.

They simply can't see the current exciting rule set being able to carry on in an Olympic situation. In fact, news this week confirms this. They already have very prestigious world tournaments, where the top fighters from each country attend and fight to a common set of rules and for many knockdown fighters this is as good as it gets.

They simply don't want a different set of rules for the Olympics causing a division within the

ranks. **Shukokai Karate** TRAINING at all the clubs is going well with everyone learning the new techniques required for their next grading test. For further information contact: kennigray@btinternet.com

Kick Boxing SHARON'S 'ladies only' class is continuing to flourish, for ladies wanting to get fit and learn how to defend themselves, this is a great place to be on Sundays at 2pm. The mixed class is still in preparation for the international tournament in Edinburgh on May 16. For further information contact: shihanwill@gmail.com

Shotokan Karate Tuesday, April 28, was the Oban club's children's spring squad tournament, held at the Scout

Hall Oban. This is used to evaluate an individual's ability at performing circuit training, kata, and kumite. It is a tough competitive course for placings in the team squad for children. The circuit course entailed the participants (ageing from five to 10) to undergo various exercises, and forward rolling techniques across a variety of obstacles to bench mark their speed, agility, and balance.

Further to this they had to perform the first three basic Shotokan Katas showing their ability to achieve at a competitor's level. This consists of focus, breathing, timing and completion of movement without mistakes.

Finally they underwent Shobu Ippon Kumite under strict competition conditions consisting of team events. Shobu Ippon is a type of fighting where a winner is declared for scoring an 'Ippon' - a single strike performed with correct timing, speed, accuracy, distance and spirit. These squad tournament placings for the club will be a regular feature along with the 'United World Karate (Scotland)' curriculum.

This is designed to train youngsters for the stringent competitive roles that they will find themselves in during regional, national, and international tournaments. It is designed to build leadership skills, team work, and individual confidence to compete as an athlete for sport karate. Club instructor: Robert Neil 1st Dan Shotokan, Team Coach. Results: Team A Gold Alfie Byers, Ally Campbell, Callum Neil and Bethan Neil Team B Silver Liam Byers, Aimee Moffat, Rhys Neil, and Logan Watt. For information contact: oban-shotokan@outlook.com



CHAMPIONS: Ellis Hunter and Rona Shearer with the trophy

Taynuilt primary are top orienteers

TAYNUILT primary school was once again the over-all winner of the annual eighth Stramash and Active Schools Oban, Lorn and the Isles orienteering competition.

It was held on Friday April 24 at Inverawe country park, with children from Appin, Lochnell, Barcaldine, Isle of Coll, Taynuilt and Kilninver's P4-P7 classes taking part.

Orienteering

Only 21 points separated the first and fourth placed teams following an intense but fun competition.

Scooping the top prize for the eighth time was Taynuilt, followed by Kilninver and Appin, Barcaldine and Lochnell, as a North Lorn team, in third and Arinnagour, Coll, in fourth place.



SILVERWARE: Medal winners at the Shotokan karate spring squad tournament.



WINNERS: Prizewinners at the Taynuilt Mixed Open played on Sunday

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . . THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2300



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

G Milliken
Croft Hill Road
Glasgow

D Campbell
Lochnell Road
Dunbeg

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

.....

.....

Tel No.



Camanchd Cup first round games take place on Saturday

Macaulay Cup

KYLES ATHLETIC delighted home fans when they demolished Glenorchy, with Grant Irvine scoring seven of the 10 goals in their Macaulay Cup tie.

His goals included a hat trick in just 12 minutes.

Earlier in the season Glenorchy, who play in South Division 1, lost to Kyles second team by three goals in the league so the result was not unexpected.

Thomas and Gordon Whyte scored one each with Matthew MacColl scoring the other.

The win sets up an Argyll derby with close rivals Inveraray, who struggled to score one against Glasgow Mid Argyll in their cup match.

Next weekend Kyles are back in league action at home to Lovat.

GLENORCHY have a free week this week, having lost 10-0 to premier outfit Kyles in the Macaulay cup on Saturday.

The side sit second bottom in Marine Harvest South Division one, with no points. Strachur are bottom, having been docked two points for failing to field a team.

Glenorchy are next in league action on May 16, when they welcome Oban side Lochside Rovers to the Mart park for a league tie, which throws up at 2.30pm.

INVERARAY failed to capitalise on many chances as they dominated play against Glasgow Mid Argyll in their Macaulay Cup tie at Winterton Park.

In the first half the ball barely made it down to the Inveraray goal end but Glasgow defended bravely.

It was left to 16-year-old Allan Cameron, playing his second game for the senior side having impressed at Newtonmore the previous weekend, to take 'Aray through in the 78th minute.

Coach Joe Fyfe said: 'It was quite a frustrating day for us. We probably had enough chances there to win the game three or four times.'

'The boys are quite down as they were wanting to play better than that and make the win a bit more convincing.'

'It was great that Cameron came on and scored.'

'However we got the result and that gets us into the next round of the cup.'

Inveraray are at home to Lochaber in premier league action on Saturday.

KINGUSSIE are through to the second round of the Macaulay cup after beating Lochaber 3-2 at home.

Kings' goalscorer John Gibson was sent off, along with the visitors' Kevin Ferguson but manager Russell Jones said they were separate incidents and both deserved to be booked.

He said: 'It wasn't a dirty game by any means although it may look like it when you see a man was sent off from each team.'

'It was a hard game but we're glad to get the win.'

This weekend Kingussie welcome Kinlochshiel to the Dell, just two weeks after their last clash.

Jones said: 'When we last played them we went from 2-0 down to win 3-2 and both of the goals were late on. Two teams are evenly matched so it'll be a tough game.'

Jones will be without John Gibson through suspension and

will find out if Barry Dallas has recovered from injury nearer the game.

LOCHABER have been knocked out of the Macaulay cup after going down 3-2 to Kingussie in the first round.

Kevin Ferguson of the Spear Bridge side was sent off at the away clash, along with Kings' John Gibson, in two separate incidents. This means Kevin will be missing from the squad for his team's away game against Inveraray in the premierships.

Lochaber are currently just one point ahead of their hosts in the league, so both teams have everything to play for.

FORT WILLIAM have been knocked out of the Macaulay cup in the first round after losing 2-1 to Lovat at home.

A Ewen Campbell goal in the first minute gave the An Aird side an early lead but goals from visitors Greg Matheson and Fraser Gallagher sent Lovat through to the next round.

This weekend Fort William travel south to take on Oban Camanchd in the premierships.

LOVAT make the long journey to Tighnabraich this weekend for their crunch tie with Kyles Athletic in the Marine Harvest Premiership.

With top side Newtonmore in cup action, a win for either side would see them go top of the division. A draw would leave Lovat top and Kyles and Newtonmore joint second.

Lovat manager John MacRitchie said this was an important game for the club if they want to remain in league contention.

'If we come away with a result -



TUSSLE: Fort William's Bryan Simpson and Lovat's Michael MacKenzie tussle for the ball during their Artemis Macaulay cup tie last weekend which Lovat won 2-1.

a draw or a win - I'll be delighted,' said MacRitchie. 'We need to take something from the games against Newtonmore and Kyles because they are the teams to beat.'

'The rest of the teams are really competitive too though. There's not much in it. Fort William are bottom at the moment but they can give anyone a game.'

Lovat knocked Fort William out of the Macaulay Cup with a 2-1 win on Saturday, having gone 1-0 down in the first minute to a Ewen Campbell goal.

Lovat fought back and goals from Greg Matheson at the start of the second half and Fraser Gallagher, 20 minutes from time, sealed Lovat's place in the quarter finals where they will face Kingussie.



BATTLE FOR THE BALL: Skye's Kenny Campbell and Caberfeidh's Jamie Mackintosh battle for the ball during the Marine Harvest National Division match at Castle Leod, Strathpeffer, last Saturday. The islanders came out on top 2-0 thanks to goals from Danny Morrison and Allan MacKinnon

Photograph: Donald Cameron

Shinty

Saturday's tie with Kyles throws up at 2.30pm at the Playing Field.

OBAN CAMANACHD'S Macaulay Cup game against Bute was postponed following a bereavement.

There is an early throw up at 12 noon at Mossfield this Saturday against Fort William in the Marine Harvest premierships.

Both sides have played five with Fort William yet to win. They languish at the bottom of the league and the pressure will be on for a win.

BUTE'S Macaulay Cup tie away to Oban Camanchd was postponed following a bereavement in Oban. This Saturday the islanders are on Camanchd Cup duty away to Strachur and will be hoping for a re-run of their March league match when they beat the Cowal side 3-0.

It should not be too much of an ask as Strachur are having a poor season, sitting bottom of the league and have yet to notch up a win in any match.

NEWTONMORE will face Glenurquhart this Saturday in the Macaulay cup.

P J Mackintosh's men had a free week last week, but remain top of the premier league on goal difference, with Lovat equal on eight points and third place Kyles on seven.

The winner of the Newtonmore vs Glenurquhart game will go on to face the winner of the Kilmallie vs Kinlochshiel game in the quarter finals of the Macaulay cup in June.

Saturday's tie throws up at



ON TARGET: Inveraray defeated Glasgow Mid Argyll 1-0 in the first round of the Macaulay Cup at the Winterton last Saturday. Our photo shows Inveraray goalscorer Allan Cameron dribbling his way through the Mid Argyll defence 06_a19cameron01

hopefully beat these bigger teams.

'Kinlochshiel are a premier league team and the boys held their own against them so I'm really proud.'

With a free weekend lined up, MacPherson is looking ahead to his national division away game against Beaulieu on May 16. The teams clashed at Canal parks last month and Kilmallie's John Stewart ended up with 12 stitches after sustaining a nasty lip gash.

MacPherson said: 'It's going to be a hard game but they need to keep their heads. I've already told them I don't want it to turn into a battle. Playing good shinty and beating them is better revenge than fighting them.'

Camanchd Cup

BALLACHULISH will face Glasgow Mid Argyll this Saturday in the Camanchd cup, having had no game at the weekend.

The side are still without a league win this season, but are still in the Macaulay and Camanchd cups, having beaten Oban Celtic in the Macaulay cup two weeks ago.

Saturday's tie throws up at 2.30pm at the Jubilee.

OBAN CELTIC take on Skye this Saturday in the Camanchd cup, with manager Davy Hamilton hoping his side can use the home advantage.

Celtic's scheduled home tie with Strachur never went ahead after the travelling side failed to field a team on Saturday. The game will now be replayed at a later date, with Strachur docked two points.

Looking to the Skye match, Hamilton said: 'It'll be a hard task, with Skye being in south division one, so it'll be a difficult game for us. I'm just glad it's at home. We will hopefully be able to use Mossfield to our advantage, the big spaces there, but it will be a big test for the boys.'

'You always want to do well in the Scottish cup though. That's the one you want to win.'

Saturday's tie throws up at 3pm at Mossfield.

STRACHUR'S league game with Oban Celtic never went ahead last Saturday after the Cowal side failed to field a team.

Strachur will now be docked two points, with the game to be rescheduled.

Strachur face Bute in the Camanchd Cup on Saturday, with a 2.30pm throw-up at Strachurmore.

Sutherland Cup

GLENGARRY were drawing with Beaulieu at full time. The score was level at 1-1 in their Sutherland Cup 2nd round tie.

In extra time Daniel MacLennan put two past the Beaulieu keeper but the north team were only able to find one from Steven Maclean giving Glengarry a 3-2 win and a quarter final match against Fort William on Saturday, May 23.

Following the tragic death of former **LOCHSIDE** and Oban Camanchd player Jamie Kerr, fixtures for the two sides were cancelled on Saturday as a mark of respect.

Lochside were due to travel to Kingussie in the Sutherland cup, with the tie to be played this Saturday instead, at 2.30pm at the Dell.

Marine Harvest Premiership

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	5	4	0	1	17	4	8
Lovat	6	3	2	1	19	12	8
Kyles Athletic	4	3	1	0	13	14	7
Kinlochshiel	5	2	2	1	8	4	6
Glenurquhart	5	2	1	2	6	8	5
Kingussie	5	2	1	2	9	13	5
Lochaber	5	1	2	2	7	17	4
Inveraray	5	1	1	3	6	13	3
Oban Camanchd	5	1	0	4	5	10	2
Fort William	5	0	2	3	4	9	2

National Division

SKYE Camanchd gained another two points in the national division when they beat Caberfeidh 2-0 at the weekend.

Two early goals from Danny Morrison in the 13th minute and Allan MacKinnon just four minutes later secured the islanders' victory but it came at a price as Iain Nicolson left the pitch with a broken hand, just two weeks after rejoining the Portree side from Lovat.

The former Scotland under 21 international will be out of action for at least a month, said manager John MacLeod.

He added: 'I'm disappointed about Iain because we only just got him back in to the fold but that was the only downside of the game. It was a tough match but we got goals at the right time.'

This weekend Skye will travel south to face Oban Celtic in the first round of the Camanchd cup but will also be without Ally MacLeod and Shokie MacLennan.

MacLeod said: 'This is a bit of an unknown entity for us but we'll prepare the right way then just go down and see what happens.'

South Division One

KILMORY'S Alex Cunningham scored a single goal as the Mid Argyll side went down 2-1 to Taynuilt on a freezing cold Macrae Park.

Stuart Scott scored a brace to give Taynuilt their first league win of the season.

Kilmory make the long journey north to take on Inverness at Bught Park in the Camanchd Cup on Saturday.

TAYNUILT recorded their first win of the season on Saturday with a 2-1 away win against Kilmory, leaving his side joint sixth in

the league. A brace from Stuart Scott and what Taynuilt manager Davy Thomson has called a 'man of the match performance' from keeper Chris Parr, gave Taynuilt two points and their relegation battle a huge boost.

Thomson said: 'I'm really pleased. It's good to finally get that win after a few defeats.'

'We were a wee bit fortunate to get the win but a few times this season I'd say luck has been against us so overall it's balanced out.'

'We decided to bring a few of the more experienced players back and although some of them weren't 100 per cent fitness wise, they made the difference for us.'

'Chris Parr was definitely our man of the match too, with some really important saves in the second half when we were up against it.'

Looking to Saturday, Thomson's men play host to Kyles second team, who have three wins and a loss this season and sit in third place.

Thomson said: 'They are a good side but that win for us has really boosted our confidence. Those points are so important to us. If it had gone the other way, we would be four points behind Kilmory. Hopefully we can use that boost and carry it on into the game with Kyles.'

Saturday's game throws up at 2.30pm in Taynuilt.

South Division Two

OBAN LORN are in league action against Col Glen at Ganavan on Saturday.

Just a point separates the two sides in second and third spot in the league.

It will be the first time they have met this season as their first game was called off due to an unplayable pitch.



LITTLE AND LARGE: diminutive Kingussie forward James Falconer fights his corner with Lochaber players Shaun Nicholson and Brennan Macdonald during last weekend's Macaulay Cup tie at The Dell. The Badenoch side edged a close game 3-2.

Photograph: Neil Paterson

Fixtures

Saturday 9 May

Scottish Hydro Camanchd Cup 1st Round

Oban Celtic v Skye
Deek Cameron - 3pm
Aberdour v Caberfeidh
Robert Baxter
Ballachulish v Glasgow MA
John MacGregor - 3pm
Inverness v Kilmory
Strachur v Bute
Innes Wood
Beaulieu v Strathglass
Evan MacRae

Artemis Macaulay Cup 1st Round

Newtonmore v Glenurquhart
David Stafford

Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup 2nd Round

Kingussie v Lochside Rovers
Euan Pearson - 12pm

Marine Harvest Premiership

Oban Caman v Fort William
Lachie Wood - 12pm
Inveraray v Lochaber
Billy Wotherspoon
Kingussie v Kinlochshiel
Ron Kennedy - 3pm
Kyles Athletic v Lovat
David Mitchell

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Fort William v Lochcarron
Ronnie Campbell
Glenurquhart v Beaulieu
John Angus Gillies
Kinlochshiel v Lovat
Martin MacLean

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Taynuilt v Kyles Athletic
Alan Harrison

Marine Harvest North Division 2

Boleskine v Caberfeidh
Graham Cameron
Glengarry v Inverness
Jim Barr
Kilmallie v Aberdeen University
Andy MacLean
Skye v Lewis
John Matheson
Strathspey v Lochaber
TBA - 1.30pm

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Ballachulish v Glenorchy
TBA - 12pm
Bute v Tayforth
Jon Gallagher
Glasgow MA v Aberdeen
Ewen MacDonald
Oban Lorn v Col Glen
Jim Innes
Throw ups 2.30 unless stated)

Youth Fixtures

Sunday 10 May

Marine Harvest Under 14 9-a-side League
Glasgow Kelvin v Ballachulish
Bute v Kyles Athletic
Aberdour v Oban Camanchd

Womens Camanchd Association

Sunday 10 May

Marine Harvest National Division 1
Aberdour v Lochaber
Glasgow MA v Badenoch & Strathspey
Glengarry v Skye

Marine Harvest National Division 2

Glasgow MA v Cowal & Bute
Strathglass v Lovat
Strathspey v Dunadd

Results

Saturday 2 May

Artemis Macaulay Cup 1st Round

Bute P - P Oban Camanchd
Due to bereavement
Inveraray 1 - 0 Glasgow MA
Kyles Athletic 10 - 0 Glenorchy
Fort William 1 - 2 Lovat
Kingussie 3 - 2 Lochaber

RBS MacTavish Cup 2nd Round

Kinlochshiel 2 - 1 Kilmallie

Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup 2nd Round

Aberdour 0 - 5 Lochaber
Caberfeidh 0 - 8 Newtonmore
Glengarry 3 - 2 Beaulieu
After Extra Time
Glenurquhart 4 - 2 Lovat
Kilmallie 1 - 2 Inveraray
Kingussie P - P Lochside Rovers
Due to bereavement
Kinlochshiel 2 - 3 Fort William
Skye 4 - 2 Col Glen

Marine Harvest National Division

Beaulieu 3 - 1 Inverness
Caberfeidh 0 - 2 Skye

Marine Harvest North Division 1

Lochcarron 0 - 0 Strathglass

Marine Harvest South Division 1

Kilmory 1 - 2 Taynuilt
Oban Celtic P - P Strachur
Strachur unable to field a team, tie to be rescheduled.

McPhee fights back from 25th to finish in 10th place at Jerez

Transmission problems result in poor qualifying session for the Scot

CONNEL'S John McPhee staged a great fightback on Sunday, having started his Spanish GP at the Jerez circuit from a lowly 25th on the grid.

This was the result of a poor qualifying session where John was beset by transmission problems. 'There was nothing I could do about it,' he said. 'I pushed to the maximum every lap, but we had problems with the gearbox.'

The Racing Steps Foundation, which backs the Scot, quickly scythed his way through to 13th to set up a mid-distance, four-rider fight for fifth behind runaway leaders Danny Kent, Fabio Quartararo, Miguel Oliveira and Brad Binder.

But by the closing stages the SaxoPrint-RTG rider was gradually sucked into the battle for the final points-paying places behind as Enea Bastianini, Isaac Vinales and Jules Danilo joined the fray.

Constant to-ing and fro-ing up and down the pack rapidly put fifth beyond McPhee's reach as

Motorcycling

the riders in front took advantage of the scrap to pull away, consigning the foursome behind to a scrap for ninth.

With a lap to go, less than half a second covered the four with Bastianini in front ahead of McPhee, Vinales and Danilo.

By the chequered flag there was no change leaving McPhee to pick up the final point at the end of a determined fight back.

Danny Kent on 91 points has now increased his lead in the world championship rider standings over team-mate Efen Vazquez to 31.

Quartararo moves up a place to third on 52. McPhee remains eighth on 28, two points up on Alexis Masbou who finished the race in 15th place.

John's next race is on Sunday May 17 at the Monster Energy Grand Prix de France at Le Mans.



ACTION MAN: John McPhee showed impressive riding skills during the Spanish Grand Prix at Jerez. Photo: Bonnie Lane

Saints senior team back in action

Football

OBAN Saints senior team get back in action on Saturday when they travel to take on Haldane United in a premier division league match. The game will be played at Inler Park, Balloch, with a 2pm kick-off. Referee in charge is Andy Seymour.

The Oban side cannot retain the premier division title they won last season after Thorn Athletic defeated St Joseph's 3-2 last Saturday, but manager Iain Jackson is determined to finish the season on a high note.

The Oban side still have a chance of retaining the Jimmy Marshall Cup, which they won last year, but they must see off the challenge from St Joseph's who they meet in the semi-final at Millburn Park, Alexandria on Wednesday May 13, kick-off 6.45pm.

Saints would like to congratulate old friends and rivals Greenock HSF on winning the West of Scotland Amateur Cup last Friday evening when they defeated Colville Park 2-1 in the final held at New Douglas Park, Hamilton.

Oban Saints youths results and fixtures

Youth football

LAST weekend's results: Broomhill 1, Under 13s 7; Under 14s v Ardencape. On target for Saints were Aidan MacPhee (2), Euan Finlay (2), Aaron McKay, Jamie Forgive and Liam MacDonald. Under 14s v Ardencape postponed; Under 15s no game; Wednesday - Lochgilhead Red Star 3, Under 16s 3; Sunday - Under 16s 0, Drumchapel United 4; Under 19s no game.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Clydebank; Blair Thistle v Under 14s; Dumbarton United v Under 15s; Under 16s v Ardencape; Milngavie v Under 19s.

Taynuilt bowlers hand out the prizes

Indoor bowls

TAYNUILT Bowling Club held their annual dinner and prizegiving in Taynuilt Hotel on April 18.

Prizewinners were: club singles: C Campbell; club doubles: C Allen and A Piggot; league singles: C Campbell; league doubles: C Campbell and D Henderson; ladies singles: C Allen; best rink: S MacFarlane, A Cuthbertson, C Henderson, G Moore, C Reid and G Frew.

League and cup double for Trialists

Indoor football

THE TRIALISTS defeated the Teachers 7-4 to secure the title of cup winners in the indoor over 35s League, held at Atlantis Leisure.

Despite some tough competition, the Trialists were crowned league champions for the 11th time out of 13, an impressive feat by any standards.

And it looks like the Trialists are not prepared to hang up their boots quite yet.

like us on
facebook
www.facebook.com/
obantimes

Wilson to ride hybrid bike at the Isle of Man TT

TALENTED Taynuilt rider Robert Wilson is gearing up for the SES TT Zero Race qualifiers in June, having confirmed he will ride on a hybrid bike provided by Saroléa.

The Belgium outfit launched its new 2015 Saroléa Electric Superbike last month at Autoworld, the vintage car museum in the centre of Brussels.

Wilson will now take part in three qualifying sessions, which have been confirmed for this

year's SES TT Zero Race on the Isle of Man, on Friday, June 5, Saturday, June 6, and Monday, 8 June. The big race will take place on Wednesday, June 10.

The new Saroléa is an evolution of the 2014 model and has been modified and enhanced on a number of levels and the team is now targeting a podium place at this year's SES TT Zero Race on the Isle of Man.

The biggest improvement, however, is the new motor, which has

Motorcycling

a major increase in torque. Early tests by Saroléa are demonstrating a 50 per cent increase.

Architect Wilson, 36, first started racing in the Isle of Man TT in 2011, having previously ridden in Ulster Grand Prix and International Gold cup competitions, and said he was relishing the challenge of the 2015 competition.



ELECTRIC BIKE: Robert with the new 2015 Saroléa Electric Superbike, which he will ride in the SES TT Zero Race on the Isle of Man next month



CHAMPIONS: Oban Saints 2003s along with head coach John Horne pictured with the Crieff football festival trophy.

Saints' youngsters win silverware in Crieff

OBAN Saints 2003s took part in the Crieff Juniors 11-a-side football festival last Saturday and an impressive day's work saw the boys go undefeated in their seven group games, winning six and drawing one.

Saints beat Lathan United from Perth 1-0 in the semi-final before successfully beating Inverness Clachnacuddin by the same scoreline in the final to bring the handsome trophy back to Oban.

The team scored 13 goals and conceded only three during the festival. On target for Saints were Connor Moore (7), Adam Munro, (4), Ruairidh Munro and Kieran Lopez.

Youth football

The club would like to thank the Halfway House Filling Station, Dunbeg, for sponsoring the new playing kit and training gear. The trophy will be on display at the filling station for the next few days.

Delighted

Head coach John Horne was delighted at the performance of his team. He said: 'The boys were fantastic, a real credit to the club and of course the town. They played some great football and everybody involved at the club is very proud of them.'

Scottish Amateur Football League results and fixtures

LAST Saturday's results: Premier Division - Oban Saints and Campbeltown Pupils no game; Premier Division Two - Lochgilhead Red Star 3, Clydebank 2; Division 1B - Tarbert no game.

This Saturday's fixtures: Premier Division - Haldane United v Oban Saints; Campbeltown Pupils no game; Premier Division One - East Kilbride v Dunoon; Premier Division Two

Football

- Centre v Lochgilhead Red Star; Division 1B - FC Argyll v Tarbert.

SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES

NORTH WEST MARINE
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS

7 E Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG
T: 01631 565740 F: 01631 565780 M: 07836 366419
Em: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk Web: www.northwestmarine.co.uk



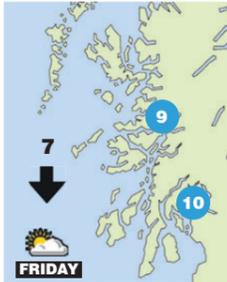
Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

WEATHER

Thursday Light rain showers
Winds light northerly
Temperatures 5°C to 10°C.

Friday Sunny
Winds light northerly
Temperatures 5°C to 10°C.

Weekend Outlook Light rain on Saturday
Heavy rain on Sunday
Winds light east south easterly
Temperatures 6°C to 11°C.



Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, May 7, 2015 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am			pm								
Thur	01.24	0.9	07.16	3.7	13.41	1.0	19.40	3.7	Ardrihaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Fri	02.02	1.0	07.53	3.5	14.19	1.1	20.20	3.6	Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Sat	02.47	1.1	08.36	3.3	15.05	1.2	21.08	3.4	Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Sun	03.42	1.3	09.29	3.1	16.03	1.3	22.08	3.3	Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Mon	04.52	1.4	10.37	2.9	17.16	1.4	23.28	3.2	Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Tues	06.11	1.4	12.11	2.9	18.35	1.4	**.**	**				
Wed	01.15	3.2	07.28	1.3	14.00	3.0	19.51	1.3				

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

The Oban Times

FORT WILLIAM & LOCHABER EDITION

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8250

Thursday 7 May, 2015

www.obantimes.co.uk

80 pence



The 32nd Highlands & Islands Music & Dance Festival 2015



Parents lead the way in bid to end school debacle

EMMA CRICHTON
ericrichton@obantimes.co.uk

A RURAL Lochaber community could come together to replace the village's rundown primary school after Highland council officials announced they could not afford a new building.

Last year the local authority suggested moving Strontian primary school pupils to the grounds of the nearby Ardnurchan high school, where they would be taught in 'dismountable buildings', dubbed 'glorified Portakabins' by parents at the time, at the cost of more than a million pounds. This came after a consultation which also mooted a new permanent building on land adjacent to the high school or refurbishments to the current building, both also costing more than £1m.

But now the community could be set to take matters into its

own hands after council officials revealed to parents they could only spend between £300,000-£400,000 on an upgrade.

It has now been suggested that a yet-to-be-decided social enterprise group builds a new primary school to be leased to Highland council. This would mean the building would be in community ownership and used to benefit residents as well as pupils.

The idea was given by members of the Highland Small Communities housing trust, which is currently building six affordable houses in the area. The group suggested a new school could be erected on the same land.

Jamie MacIntyre, a parent of three Strontian pupils, said: 'The last couple of years have been a bit of a debacle and we seem to be back where we were at the beginning.'

'However, the possibility of a new solution which could

meet the needs of the school community and at the same time provide a long term asset for this community is a positive development and I hope the various stakeholders can work together to explore the possibility further.'

Another parent, who asked not to be named, said: 'I think most people are just totally disillusioned with the whole situation because it has been going on for so long.'

'Nothing is changing and the council has completely backtracked on what it originally suggested.'

'The children need better facilities whether that's in a new school or getting the one they're in up to scratch.'

Highland council is due to arrange a meeting between officials, elected members and the Strontian community, to be held later this month, but declined to comment further on the issue.

Fresh calls for new bypass out of town

GRIDLOCKED traffic in Fort William caused by the breakdown of a mobile crane has resulted in fresh calls for a new bypass out of the town.

The vehicle came to a halt on the A82 at Inverloch junction on Saturday afternoon, as thousands of people made their way into town for the Scottish six days trial and Fort William football club's home game, causing traffic to come to a standstill through the town, affecting cars travelling both north and south.

This has added new weight for calls to build a new road to link the dual carriageway with the A830 Mallaig road to ease congestion.

Stewart MacLean, of road improvement campaigners the A82 partnership, said: 'This demonstrates the vulnerability of the north access into Fort William and demonstrates the requirement for a major look at the bypass roads. It was a classic case of congestion arising at a peak time in Fort William when there was so much sporting activity.'

Adults urged to tune into Mod

ADULT musicians are being urged to enter Lochaber provincial mod.

Ronald Cameron, acting chairman of Meur Loch Abair, said the event had become focused on primary school children and he would like to see more adults competing in this year's event next Friday and Saturday (May 15 and 16).

Mr Cameron said: 'We're trying to encourage more adults to come along. We've changed the dates to include a Saturday as a lot of people who wanted to participate couldn't because of work.'

'The reformed Lochaber Gaelic choir is one of the groups signed up to compete and provincial mods are a great opportunity for adult performers to practice before the national.'

Junior events will be held in Fort William RC school and St Andrews hall on Friday before moving to Caol community centre for the adult contests on Saturday morning. For more information or to enter contact Linda Campbell on 700800.



READ ALL ABOUT IT: with a long trip ahead, Fern Britton takes a break to read the *Oban Times*

Spean pit stop for Fern



ON YOUR BIKE: An excited Fern Britton arrives in Spean Bridge

TELEVISION personality Fern Britton said she felt 'so blessed' to visit Lochaber as part of a mammoth fundraising cycle from the top to the bottom of Britain.

The presenter stopped off in Spean Bridge on Monday as part of a 1,000-mile group bike ride from John O'Groats in the north east to Land's End in the south west.

Ms Britton, best known for hosting *This Morning* and *Ready, Steady, Cook*, is marking her 57th birthday, being born in 1957, by cycling approximately 57 miles a day and raising £57,000 for the Genesis Research trust, a charity working to find treatments and cures for stillbirth, premature birth, miscarriage and brain damage. Taking a break to speak to the *Oban Times* on Monday, Fern said: 'This is such a beautiful part of the world and I feel so blessed to be here. I have been cycling with Genesis Research for 11 years and have been a patron for five years. We all know someone who has been affected by miscarriage or stillbirth so I'd like to see as many people as possible get on their bikes to take part in one of their events.'

Lindsay Simpson, from Spean Bridge, was taking part in a 171-mile section of the route in memory of stillborn babies in her family. She said: 'This is a charity close to my heart because I had two stillborn babies and my mother had three. Anyone who can do just a little bit to help will be making a difference.'

The team stopped overnight in Glencoe on Monday then went on to Inveraray on Tuesday before setting off for Glasgow.

TIMESLINE

Rotary volunteers collect Nepal £800

THE ROTARY club of Lochaber has raised more than £800 to help people following the earthquake in Nepal.

Volunteers appealed for donations in Fort William on Sunday as part of a nationwide effort by rotary clubs to provide tents, blankets, lamps and cooking utensils to the millions of people who lost their homes last month.

John Harvey, president of Lochaber rotary, thanked the public for donations.

Donations can still be given to any club member or delivered to the Alexandra hotel.

Bag charge profits donated to groups

THE FIRST community groups in the west Highlands to benefit from the profits of the five pence carrier bag charge have been announced.

In the Highlands, Glen Spean and Great Glen villages in bloom, Lochaber Geopark, Dunvegan and district community council, Sunny Lochaber united gardeners and Kyleakin and Kylerhea community council were among the 13 groups to make gains from the charge, which came into force on October 20 last year.

Doors re-open on Raigmore wards

ALL WARDS have reopened at Raigmore after some areas of the hospital were closed for almost two weeks due to an outbreak of norovirus.

The Inverness hospital had been closed to all visitors and new admissions to prevent the spread of the sickness and diarrhoea infection but reopened in full on Tuesday (May 5).



Letterfinlay Lodge Hotel
We are pleased to announce that our

Osprey

Seafood Restaurant

IS NOW OPEN

Why not enjoy one of our high quality Cuban cigars & single malts on the Osprey Sun Deck.

Our new team of chefs will be working with only the best of local fresh produce.

We will be offering daily seafood specials from 12 Noon onwards

01397 712622

New gallery marks Caol milestone

AN INTERNATIONAL art charity founded in Lochaber has celebrated its 21st birthday by opening a new gallery and workshop - just metres from where it all began.

Room 13 started in 1994 when a group of pupils set up their own art studio in an abandoned classroom of Caol primary school, running the workshop as a business by raising funds for materials and employing an artist in residence to work with them.

Now, 21 years later, Room 13 has a network of 70 studios all over the world but continues to work with the youngsters of Caol. To mark the milestone birthday, the charity's new art gallery and workshop, named the Window, at Caol square was unveiled to support-

ers at a joint birthday celebration and launch on Thursday.

Claire Gibb, chief executive of Room 13 since 2002, said: 'The idea here is to provide a home to the enterprising creative spirit which has sustained Room 13 for all these years.'

As well as expanding the charity worldwide, Room 13 continues to develop creativity at home and recently led a campaign to see Fort William shortlisted for this year's Creative Place awards. Funded by Creative Scotland, winning communities will receive grants to promote artistic activities and programmes in their area.

A second stage application for funding is now underway and winners will be announced at a ceremony in June.



Claire Gibb, middle, Room 13 chief executive, celebrates with artist in residence Richard Bracken, development officer Lara Van de Peer and Caol primary school pupils

JOHN McLELLAN
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Built on Tradition, Experience & Trust
- Since 1923 -

01397 702128
24 Hour Caring, Personal Service

Golden Charter
Funeral Plans

www.johnmclellanfunerals.co.uk

20% OFF

NIRVANA

MATTRESSES AND BEDS

Blindcraft makes all the difference

Highland BlindCraft Beds
They work like a dream

www.highlandblindcraft.co.uk
39 Ardconnel Street, Inverness

Telephone
01463 233662
OPEN
Mon - Fri 9am-5pm,
Sat 9am-4pm
Charity no. SC03764

FW



High school students head off on study leave

SIXTH year pupils at Lochaber high school gathered for a final photograph before heading off on study leave. Their official leaving date is Friday May 29 when exams are over but the departing students will return on June 11 to say 'goodbye and good luck' at their graduation ceremony and ball



NEW FACE: special constable Attila Olah is joining Lochaber's police team

Welcome addition to Fort police team

A NEW officer enrolled at Fort William police station will bolster the team's bilingual ranks, said Lochaber's area inspector.

Special constable Attila Olah, from Hungary, was sworn in at an oath ceremony at the Highlands and Islands divisional headquarters in Inverness last week, along with six other officers to be deployed across the region.

Donald Campbell, area inspector for Lochaber, said he was looking forward to Mr Olah's 'imminent arrival'.

He said: 'I'd like to welcome special constable Olah to our ranks in Lochaber.'

'He will boost our linguistics bank, which include a Polish speaker and a couple of Gaelic speakers and that's always an advantage.'

Western Isles road works under way

WORK to improve roads in the Western Isles will begin on May 11.

The surface dressing programme will begin on Uist and Barra and will last for two weeks before transferring to Lewis for two to three weeks.

A spokesman from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar said: 'The comhairle would like to thank the public for their continued patience and co-operation during this period and are advised to take notice of all signs, speed limits and traffic management on the sites.'

'The travelling public is encouraged to heed the temporary speed limits through the sites and have due consideration for vehicles travelling in the opposite direction.'

COMPETITION WIN WOULD SEE £25,000 BANKED TOWARDS PROJECT THAT WOULD BENEFIT ENTIRE AREA

Appeal for public to back plans for multi-use centre

EMMA CRICHTON
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

A NEW indoor sports centre could benefit the whole Lochaber community but it needs the public's help to come to fruition.

Members of Lochaber sports association (LSA) have been holding consultations on how to make the best use of a potential new, multi-use facility in Fort William and are now calling on as many people as possible to vote for the project in a new competition, which could see

it win £25,000. If the project is named a winner, the insurance giant Aviva community fund could provide £25,000 of the £1.47 million required.

Davy Duncan, chairman of Fort William cricket club, nominated the project and is encouraging everyone in Lochaber to go online and vote.

He said: 'I'm very proud of the project and the organisation, as over the five years of its development, it has overcome several challenges to bring clubs, community, councillors and council together, working

towards a much-needed facility to be shared and enjoyed by all.'

Highland council has pledged £850,000 in principle, depending on the agreement of members at the authority's June meeting.

If this goes ahead, SportsScotland will contribute a further £500,000.

While the anxious wait for funding news drags on, members of LSA have been consulting with community groups and NHS Highland to find out how a new sports centre could benefit the whole community.

Christine Falconer, LSA board

member, said: 'We have been in consultation with several NHS departments and various other local community groups in order to gain a better understanding of how the indoor sports hub could benefit the wider community in terms of health and wellbeing.'

'We'd like to get the message across that this facility is not just for our sporting community, but for any group which would benefit in any way from having access to the hub.'

'These consultations will help shape the future use of the facility and ensure that it

becomes a community asset used by all.'

'We'd like to thank all those who have, to date given generously of their time, and for the advice and productive ideas that were forthcoming.'

To vote for the Lochaber sport centre in the Aviva community fund, go to <https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/project/view/1552>.

Community groups who would like more information about how they could benefit from the new facility can contact jane@lochabersportassociation.org.



LIFESAVING: a defibrillator was donated to Lochaber high school by Certas Energy. From left: Scott Wilson, Ruth Laven, Jared Simpson and Mary MacFarlane

Firm digs deep for school defibrillator

LIFESAVING equipment is now available at Lochaber high school, thanks to a £750 donation.

The defibrillator, used in the event of cardiac arrest, will be kept in the school's sport centre which is used by hundreds of people every week for High Life Highland activities, as well as school pupils.

Scottish Fuels regional sales manager Scott Wilson and Fort William office manager Mary MacFarlane presented the equipment on behalf of parent company Certas Energy to Jared Simpson, head of physical education at Lochaber high, and Ruth Laven, High

Life Highland staff member, following a £750 donation to the school. Jim Sutherland, head teacher at Lochaber high school, said: 'We are very grateful to Certas Energy for this generous donation. Hopefully it will never have to be used but, as our sports centre is used by hundreds of people each week, the provision of an on-site defibrillator will give an added security for school and community users.'

Scott Wilson added: 'It's a sad fact that a number of children's lives have been lost due to there not being a defibrillator nearby, so this donation will give parents peace of mind knowing this equipment is within easy reach.'

Skye school closures to be reviewed

A PROPOSAL to close four rural schools in north-west Skye is to be reviewed by Scottish government ministers following a backlash from parents.

Members of Highland council agreed to close Dunvegan, Edinbane, Knockbreck and Struan primary schools earlier this year, forcing some children to travel round trips of more than 20 miles on single track roads. But on Tuesday it was confirmed ministers have 'called in' the proposal for review. This can be done if it appears a council's education authority may have failed to comply with legislation requirements or failed to take account of a relevant consideration.

Alasdair Christie, chairman of Highland council's education, children and adult services committee, said: 'This is due process to ensure

there has been full and proper consultation in relation to the [School's Consultation Scotland] act, and we welcome the opportunity to demonstrate this has been the case.'

'The council remains firmly of the view that there are strong educational and community benefits from the proposed new community school.'

Ian Renwick, Highland councillor for Skye, welcomed the decision. He said: 'I am delighted the parents' campaign to have the decision by Highland council called in by the Scottish government has borne fruit.'

'I would like to congratulate the parents for all their sterling campaign efforts and I welcome the fact that the Scottish government has listened to their concerns and called the decision in.'



FUN AND GAMES: children of Lochaber autism support group enjoy their new sensory tent

New sensory tent for autism group

CHILDREN of the Lochaber autism support group will benefit from a quiet yet stimulating environment in a new sensory tent.

The tent was bought with a donation from Fort William's McDonalds fast food restaurant.

Lochaber autism support group meets once a month in Fort William's Salvation Army hall to allow autistic children and their parents to meet, socialise and share ideas.



Gary MacDonald, middle, prepares to set off on the Scottish six days trial parade flanked by his nephew Duncan MacDonald, left, and Craig Houston of Ayrshire

Lochaber biker going well in trial races

LOCHABER biker Gary MacDonald is storming this year's Scottish six days trial, taking fifth place after the first races.

The trials began with a parade in Fort William high street on

Sunday and competitions began on Monday.

As the *Oban Times* went to press, Mr MacDonald was in fifth place. The Kinlochleven rider has yet to win the trials but

took third place in 2013 and 10th place last year.

Mr MacDonald's nephew, Duncan MacDonald, from Ballachulish, is also competing for the first time.

Applications sought for business grants

GRANTS totalling £50,000 have been offered to new businesses and enterprises in the west Highlands.

The West Coast Communities growth trust is calling for applications of up to £10,000 from organisations across the north west which are looking to grow assets and services or increase employment opportunities in the area.

James Robertson of Isle of Skye candles said a funding boost from the trust helped him to expand his business.

He said: 'The grant really made a huge difference to us as a company because it enabled us to accelerate our growth rather than having to wait to fund it entirely from our profits.'

And to boost the grants available, the newly-founded LMM Business Enterprise trust has pledged a number of one-off grants of up to £8,000 to kick start or expand new businesses in the West Highlands, bringing the total available to £50,000.

The deadline for applications is June 30 and successful candidates will find out in September. For more information contact Jan Torrance on 0141 3414960 or jan@foundationscotland.org.uk.

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

FORTHCOMING SALES

An invitation to consign

Our specialists will be travelling in your area the week commencing 18th May offering free valuations with a view to selling in our forthcoming auctions.

ENQUIRIES
0141 223 8866
glasgow@bonhams.com

176 St. Vincent Street
Glasgow, G2 5SG

JOHN MACLAUCHLAN MILNE RSA
(British, 1886-1957)
Iona
Sold for £52,871



Bonhams

bonhams.com/glasgow
Prices shown include buyer's premium. Details can be found at bonhams.com

Turbulence ahead as talks stall over island air service

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

AIR services to Coll, Colonsay and Tiree are under threat after talks between the council and an airline company broke down amid turbulent exchanges over the weekend.

Cumbernauld-based Hebridean Air Services Limited (HASL), the current service provider and preferred bidder, said it had still been in active negotiations as late as last Friday night on the renewal of the £2.1 million contract.

HASL owner George Cormack said he was 'shocked' by an Argyll and Bute statement on Saturday afternoon saying the company was asking an inflated price to provide the service.

He described the impasse as a 'misunderstanding' and strenuously denied the company had walked away from negotiations.

Mr Cormack said he was still

waiting to hear from the council on whether it wanted him to continue to run a service after May 16 when its current contract ends.

He said: 'On Saturday morning we were forced to put a notice on our website to explain to customers that as our services have until now not been retained by the council, then we would no longer have the right to provide the flights under the Public Service Obligation (PSO) contract.'

'Under European legislation we have to formally notify our customers or pay hefty fines.'

'We want to provide the service but it is simply impossible to provide the same service for seven years at the same price. We told the council this on February 17.'

'The council is asking us to

provide even more services for the same money. It just cannot be done. They knew from the very beginning how much it costs to provide the service it wants.'

'The strangest thing is that we were asked by the procurement team to provide further information on Friday evening and we returned the information to them on Monday morning.'

'To say we walked away from negotiations is not true.'

However, a council press statement issued at lunchtime on Saturday said HASL had offered an 'inflated bid' to run the PSO air services out of Oban.

The spokesman said the local authority was 'to re-tender for the new three-year PSO contract to secure an operator within the existing budget.' The spokesman

continued: 'It would be completely irresponsible to acquiesce to HASL's unacceptable demands.'

The spokesman went on to say island communities would be able to use the 'improved' ferry service: 'Island communities will stay connected to the mainland through existing ferry services, which have been improved as part of the Scottish government's ferries plan, although the council remains committed to ensuring a resumption of the lifeline air service.'

Chris Baker from Colonsay, a regular air passenger, said: 'The flights are vastly more important than people on the mainland would think. They provide, tourism, visitors from all over the world, travel for children and jobs. The airport was specifically built for the children. It is a lifeline for parents and the high school. Losing the service will cause lasting damage to the island's small economy and tourism.'

Oban-based Councillor Roddy McCuish demanded the immediate resumption of negotiations.

He said: 'We are speaking about children and adults on islands, we are speaking about jobs and hospital appointments.'

'It is time all this nonsense stopped and everyone gets back around the table to sort it out.'

'We need to find a solution within the budget. It is unbelievable that anyone would turn down £2.1 million.'

Councillor McCuish's call was backed by Holyrood's Transport and Islands minister, Derek MacKay, who has demanded that both sides get back to the negotiating table. And Argyll and Bute's MSP, Michael Russell, added his voice to the call for the talks to restart: 'Now that Mr MacKay's officials and Transport Scotland are available to assist a resolution, I urge the council to get this sorted within days.'

Celtic disconnection



DISCONNECT: visitors to Iona could not use the iPad to view the collection of Scottish Celtic art

'PRICELESS' pieces of Scottish Celtic art from the late 19th and early 20th century have been presented to a charity on Iona - but no one could see the full catalogue because of a 21st century problem.

A faulty broadband connection stopped Celtic art aficionados from viewing the works of two early 'unsung' pioneers, Alexander and Euphemia Ritchie.

An iPad set within a carved plinth holds information never seen before about the work of the late 19th and early 20th century Iona-based jewellery designers and makers.

A celebration to present the collection to the Iona Her-

itage Centre by engineering millionaire Charles Ritchie and his wife Betty, was cut short late last month because the broadband connection had failed.

The couple also presented a number of the Ritchies' original pieces, made on the island, to the heritage centre. Both the iPad and the jewellery is only on public display in Iona.

Brian Gilston, who had made a special visit to see the resource, said: 'It was hugely frustrating that we can have the best resources about one of Celtic art's most industrious couple, but no internet connection to allow people to enjoy the full resource.'

TIMESLINE

Money to be used for schools project

SCHOOLS built under a Non-Profit Distributing Organisation (NPDO), which replaced the former PFI arrangement, are being refinanced.

A full meeting of Argyll and Bute council heard the local authority is in the process of negotiating a new funding structure for the project.

It is anticipated that the NPDO will generate a payment to the council of £1.75 million, and it was agreed to keep this money for the building and redevelopment of schools.

Awards in the bag for Argyll groups

ENVIRONMENTAL charity Keep Scotland Beautiful has announced the names of seven successful bids for its community grant scheme in Argyll and Bute.

The awards of £250 are funded from the proceeds of the 5p carrier bag charge collected by Tesco.

Special ingredient appeals to TV chef

CELEBRITY chef Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall finally got charity cash from Argyll and Bute council to open a food tent for three days at the Tiree Music Festival.

Event organisers claimed it needed a grant of £1,470 to make the food tent project appetising for the wealthy chef.

Teacher numbers up for discussion

NATIONAL agreements on teacher to pupil ratios are due to be discussed by Argyll and Bute council in June.

It is understood both the curriculum and staffing levels will be discussed with a view to making savings.

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

Obanites urged to take part in bid for world record

A GUINNESS Book of Record challenge on the largest number of people dancing a 'Strip the Willow' will be attempted this July in Oban.

The town's third attempt on the Highland dance world record hopes to attract more than 2,015 people to beat the record of 1,917.

Community business company BID4Oban will host the event on Saturday, July 4.

BID4Oban's Neil Mackay, who is organising the event, said: 'Put the date in your diary folk, because this time we're all needed to smash the world record.'



BACK ON COURSE: Roddy McCuish is calling for talks to restart

Bunessan Bakehouse

Come and visit us at for a delicious evening meal and great atmosphere.

A la Carte menu available - Includes locally sourced ingredients and the freshest of west coast seafood.

Summer opening times:
Wednesday-Sunday 10am-3pm 5pm-8.30pm (last orders 8.30pm)
To book - pop in during opening hours or call on 01681 700454 (booking advised)

Please note - cash only. "Bring your own bottle" (corkage £2.50 per couple)
Main Street, Bunessan, Isle of Mull, PA67 6DG Check out our Facebook page [TheBunessanBakehouse](#)

Café Shore

Café Shore
Argyll Square, Oban

Come and visit Café Shore and taste our delicious ice creams, hearty soups and fresh sandwiches. We serve fresh coffee as well as a range of tea and cakes all within our relaxing and newly refurbished coffee shop.

Our outside seating area is the perfect place to take the weight off your feet and watch the world go by in Oban's beautiful Argyll Square.

the colintraive hotel

Award winning Hotel with Gastro pub, Sea Shell Restaurant and gorgeous en suite bedrooms with sea views.

Our chef prepares fantastic fresh dishes using local game and fish products and ingredients from our home grown garden.

Fresh Kyles of Bute Langoustines, Hand Dived local scallops & Winston Churchill Venison.

Our restaurant and lounge have been fully refurbished in an elegant style with comfy leather chairs and period furniture.

Fab views, excellent food and great hospitality.

Also Luxury holiday home, sleeps 10
www.eileandhu.com
Tel: 01700 841207
Email: enquiries@colintraivehotel.com
www.colintraivehotel.com

MARKIE DANCE

Serving a new and improved menu, including a variety of traditional meals and pub favourites with some lighter bites.

Quality home cooked food, using locally sourced ingredients where possible.

Food served daily 12pm - 9pm.

May Live Music

Friday 8th - Donald Livingston	Skerryvore Decade Weekend
Saturday 9th - The Antics	Friday 29th - Crooked Reel
Friday 15th - John Mackenzie	Saturday 30th - Crooked Reel 3pm-6pm
Saturday 16th - John Colletta	Open Till 2am - Sandra MacBeth
Friday 22nd - Trail West	Sunday 31st - Crooked Reel 3pm-6pm
Saturday 23rd - Signal Fires	Live Music Starts at 9.30pm unless stated

Tiroran House Hotel

Scottish Country House Hotel of the Year 2013 & 2014
AA Rosette Restaurant

We are open to non residents for dinner throughout the season and look forward to welcoming islanders and holidaymakers alike

Treat yourselves or someone special

Isle of Mull
www.tiroran.com
info@tiroran.com
01681 705232

THE WIDE MOUTHED FROG

Check our official website www.widemouthedfrogofficialsite.co.uk

Sundays at The Wide Mouthed Frog just got better!

Coming Soon BBQ & Live Music

Overlooking the bay and Dunstaffnage Castle, we offer a relaxed family run restaurant, the perfect place to relax, enjoy good food, local music and great company.

We also have various staff vacancies, please call or come in for more details.
Wide Mouthed Frog Restaurant with rooms, Dunstaffnage Bay, By Oban, Scotland, PA37 1PX
Tel: 01631 567005 email: widemouthedfrog@btconnect.com

TRIBUTES FLOOD IN FOR POPULAR OBAN SKIPPER WHO WAS KILLED WHILE WORKING ON MULL

Fishing and shinty communities stunned by tragic boat accident

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A COMMUNITY is in mourning after the tragic death of a hugely popular young fisherman on Mull last Thursday.

Oban man Jamie Kerr, 25, who worked for Mull-based Inverlussa Marine Services, was killed while working on a marine landing craft, the 'Carole Anne', at Loch Spelve near Craignure on Thursday lunchtime.

Although emergency services tried to save him, Jamie was pronounced dead at the scene.

Former Oban high school pupil Jamie was well-known throughout the area - as a friend, shinty player, motocross competitor and as an 'up and coming' fisherman who was dedicated to his work, his family and his partner.

Family members have spoken of their shock of the 'kind and generous' young man's death. Parents John and Morag Kerr and Jamie's partner Toni MacIntyre are being comforted by family and friends at home.

Thousands of messages of support for Jamie's family, including tributes from siblings John, Jordon, Ashley and Amanda, were posted on social media sites Facebook and Twitter.

It is understood the family made their way to Mull on Saturday to formally identify Jamie's body.

Leading the tributes was local councillor Mary-Jean Devon who said: 'Tragic, tragic news. So young a life. Everything in front of him.'

'The people of Mull send their heartfelt condolences to Jamie's family and to his many friends at this very sad time.'

Jamie was a talented shinty player who played for Oban Camanachd and Lochside Rovers, whose weekend fixtures were postponed as a mark of respect.

Gareth Evans, manager of Lochside Rovers, said: 'Our thoughts are with the family of Jamie Kerr, a fantastic player for both Lochside Rovers and Oban Camanachd.'

'It was great to get Jamie back playing this year after a few years out because of a knee injury. He was a clean hitter of a ball.'

'He was a class act on and off the park.'

'After a match in Aberdeen, he was named man of the match and he deserved it.'

'I have no doubt he was going to be a permanent fixture in the first team before too long.'

'We like a singsong on the bus back from matches and Jamie was often at the heart of it all.'

'When someone dies everyone says he was a nice guy. But Jamie was one of the best - a genuinely good man that no-one had a bad word for.'

'He will be greatly missed by

“ He was such a great lad with a great personality and so much potential. He will be missed by so many people ”

Brian McMahon
School friend

everyone.' A school friend from Oban who now lives in Helensburgh, Brian McMahon, said: 'No matter how close a friend you were to Jamie or how well people knew him, everybody knew him through somebody and no-one had a bad word to say about him.'

'He was such a great lad with a great personality and so much potential. He will be missed by so many people.'

Fellow fisherman Jack MacGregor, who worked with Jamie, said: 'There is a lot of



PRIZED MEMORY: Jamie celebrating a sporting success

shocked and sad people around and work was the last thing on our minds - you could never say that about Jamie Kerr. He crewed, skippered and ended up

owning the Channel Hound and I was glad to sell her [the vessel] to him because I knew he would look after her and use her to her potential.

New course will keep teachers at home in Argyll

AN 'ACUTE' problem in recruiting teachers to the Highlands and islands has spurred on Argyll and Bute council to 'grow its own'.

Cleland Sneddon, education director, said a new course delivered through Argyll and Bute college will see students complete teacher training degrees in their homes.

Mr Sneddon told a meeting of councillors in Kilmory last week that the impact of having locally-trained teachers will be that they 'are more likely' to want to teach in schools in Argyll.

Two of the posts are likely to be in Gaelic education. The training is scheduled to start in August.

Investment in health and social care technology

MORE people in Argyll and Bute will have health and social care monitored at home through the use of technology.

The next three years will see £400,000 invested in the development of technology enabled care, including mobile phone apps, instant messaging and access to web-based resources to help people actively monitor their conditions, enabling them to remain at home while receiving health care.

It's a catch over a 'slate-tin' roof

OBAN BUSINESSMAN SLATES PLANNERS OVER DECISION ABOUT HISTORIC BUILDING IN OBAN

LOUISE GLEN
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

PLANNERS have insisted that an historic building in Oban can have a tin roof at one end while it must be fitted with a 'traditional slate roof' at the other end.

The decision, which is due to be endorsed by Argyll and Bute council planners later this month, will see an 'odd combination' on one of Oban's oldest buildings - category B-listed Charles Street.

Callum MacLeod, whose family is about to start rebuilding the Argyll Hotel on the Esplanade, says it is one decision for their development work and another for the rest of the building.

Callum said: 'We own number five, while a developer owns numbers one to four. The tenant of numbers one to four wishes to remove the existing traditional slate roof and replace it with a tin one.'

'We own number five and our listed building application was submitted to restore and re-slate our building. Historic Scotland has said it has no problem with a tin roof being placed on numbers one to four.'

'The roof line is continuous. The application of a tin roof will be totally incongruous with the traditional slate of the neighbouring property.'

'Can it be justified in allowing one to four to be replaced with a tin roof when there is a commitment to slate five?'



HIT THE CEILING: should Charles Street is to have a combination?

'It is going to look ridiculous with the bulk of the roof in tin and the remainder in slate.' One can't help think that the whole situation smells worse than a farm spreading silage.

'I only wish Historic Scotland was present when it came to our three-year battle to demolish

The Argyll Hotel. We might have accomplished it in six months.'

Historic Scotland's senior heritage management officer Gordon Mackie said: 'The advice we provided to the council on the proposals for one to four Charles Street took into account the current condition of the

property and its location. It is our view that the proposal provides a viable and proportionate method of halting the building's current dereliction.'

'This does not preclude a conservation-based approach for the refurbishment of all the buildings coming forward at a later date.'

Mr Mackie concluded: 'Determination of the listed building consent application is for Argyll and Bute council to progress.'

A spokesman for Historic Scotland said: 'As Charles Street is category B listed, any decision on the listed building consent application will be taken by the council.'

'Our role is one of consultation only.'

'We are aware of two current applications regarding these buildings, which are used for storage.'

'To date, we have been consulted on only one application, which proposes a metal roof on numbers one to four.'

'We have raised no concerns with this proposal, because it would ensure a halt to the building's decline and allow its continued use.'

'We have no record of earlier discussion with the owners of five Charles Street regarding proposed works to their property.'

Council planner Stephen Fair told Mr MacLeod: 'I cannot speak for Historic Scotland. However, your concerns regarding the proposal are noted and will be included in our consideration of the application.'

'Enforcement matters are handled in accordance with the council's enforcement charter.'

Oban community council has placed an objection to the tin roof plans on the council's planning portal on its website.

TIMESLINE

Fishermen caught out by tent thieves

A STRANGE incident saw thieves break into a fisherman's tent, steal items and then set fire to it to destroy the evidence.

The owners of the tent from Hamilton and Coatbridge were out on Loch Etive fishing when the engine on their boat failed and they had to be brought ashore by the coastguard.

While the campers were being towed, the thieves struck, stealing fishing equipment and personal items from the tent which was set up at Tainult pier.

It is believed the thieves then set fire to the tent. When the fisherman returned, they called the police to report the crime.

PC Miller, the recently appointed community constable in Dalmally, is following a positive line of enquiry. Anyone with information should phone 101 and ask for Oban.

Crooks target the famous pink shop

POLICE are appealing for witnesses to a break-in and theft at the 'world famous' Benderloch store.

In the early hours of Saturday morning, May 2, cigarettes and food were stolen from the main street store.

The building was also damaged during the break-in sometime between midnight and 5.40am.

Police are appealing for any information about the crime to be given to PC Dempster by phoning 101.

Getting the view of the big picture

A SHORT film entitled 'Argyll - The Big Picture' is to be shown in Oban on Friday May 15.

Michael Russell, MSP for Argyll and Bute, will introduce the film at Cuan Mor at an event organised by Argyll Voluntary Action between 3pm and 5pm. Originally shown at the Rural Parliament in November last year, the film is a politically-neutral insight into some of the issues which affect people in Argyll.

Improvements to A82 at Tyndrum

ROADWORKS on the A82 south of Tyndrum start on Monday for two weeks as part of a £400,000 investment by Transport Scotland.

Improvements to a 1km section of the road at Dalrigh by BEAR Scotland will run from May 11 between 7am and 7pm, Monday to Friday.

Temporary traffic lights and a 10mph convoy system will be in operation while the work is carried out, with traffic management removed outwith working hours.

Outboard engine is 'outsourced'

AN ENGINE was stolen from a motorboat in Dunstaffnage, Dunbeg sometime between Saturday lunchtime and Monday morning.

Anyone with information about the theft of the outboard motor is being urged to call PC Brack on 101.

Reporter Steven's good news story pays off

STAFF REPORTER
editor@obantimes.co.uk

AN OBAN TIMES reporter has raised more than ten times his target for a charity close to his heart.

After winning a Kindle in a raffle, reporter Steven Rae decided to sell it and donate the money to Alzheimer Scotland, after his grandmother suffered from dementia for 10 years. He hoped to raise £100.

However, after publicising the sale of the hand-held electronic device for reading books on Facebook, with proceeds going to the charity, friends, family and colleagues offered to donate to the good cause, so Steven set up a JustGiving page instead.

After making a final donation himself on Friday towards the cause, the total amount raised was £1,010.

He presented a cheque and donated the Kindle to dementia adviser Andy Crabb at the dementia resource centre on Oban High Street, which is a partner of Alzheimer Scotland.

Andy said: 'On behalf of Alzheimer Scotland's Dementia Resource centre in Oban and all the people living with dementia in Oban and Lorn, I would like to say a huge 'thank you' to Steven and all the people who donated to his JustGiving page for this amazing contribution to our work.'

“ Steven has personal family experience of dementia and he has always been very supportive when we have had dementia-related events or activities that we wanted to highlight to the community. ”

Andy Crabb
Dementia adviser

'But this donation has gone above and beyond his work as a journalist, and shows his personal dedication to helping the growing number of people in this community whose lives have been impacted by dementia.'

'Not only has he raised more than £1,000, but he has also donated the



A GOOD READ: Steven Rae, right, hands the cheque and Kindle to Andy Crabb

Kindle that first inspired his fundraising campaign. The money will go to support Alzheimer Scotland's ever-increasing work in the local area and the Kindle will make a valuable addition to our resources at the dementia resource centre, which are used to raise awareness and increase understanding of dementia in our community.'

Steven added: 'Thanks to everyone who supported this fantastic cause. Mental health problems are so common these days yet, unfortunately, are both stigmatised and under-funded. Hopefully this donation will go a small way to helping people affected by dementia in Scotland and, on a local level, the Kindle will be put to good use here at the dementia resource centre in Oban.'

Lochy Caravans of Fort William are no longer an authorised Calor dealership, however, we are pleased to announce that **West Highland Gas Ltd** are available for all your cylinder and LPG appliance needs.

West Highland Gas Ltd
Unit 33,
Ben Nevis Industrial Estate,
Fort William, Highland, PH33 6PR
Tel: 01397 701414

Put some **CALOR** in your life

Corporate stationery
Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

Personal stationery
Matching paper & envelopes, postcards, address labels

krisp print

Contact us at: Krisp Print & Stationery,
Main Street/Longrow South,
Campbeltown PA28 6JD
Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

Double up for Martyn and James

Darts

MARTYN Cameron and James Whyte defeated Gordon MacDonald and Martin Keenan in the final of the Dewar's doubles darts competition on Friday night.

The semi-finalists at the Railway club, Inverloch were partners Maurice Wells and David Fairgrieve and Graham Irving and Duncan Rogers.

Keen darts players also took part in an open singles competition in Tradewinds bar on Sunday night, won by visiting Donald MacDonald from Mull, who defeated Ian Robertson by four legs to two. Defeated semi-finalists were Duncan Carmichael and Neil Young. Paul Shearer scored two 180s and John Matheson, Neil Young, James Whyte, Ian Robertson, Donald MacDonald and Duncan Carmichael all scored a 180 each.

The singles leagues continues in Tradewinds on Friday night, and everyone is welcome.

Gary is top dog in both leagues

Ten pin bowling

GARY Cowan continues to lead both leagues in the Lochaber ten pin bowling contest.

After week six of the Nevis centre competition Cowan is top of the table in the scratch league with 123 points, followed by Pam Weller with 115 points and Brian Stewart with 107 points.

In the handicap lead Cowan has 120 points, followed by James Porter with 106 points and David Cameron on 92 points.

Weller continues to lead the chase for the Nevis Radio high pin trophy with 2824 pins, followed by Cowan with 2770 and Brian Johnstone with 2618.

It was a triple success for Ron Gretton this week when he achieved the top individual scratch game, rolling 192, the top three-game handicap series with 632, and the top three-game scratch series with 494 - although this was shared with Johnstone who rolled the same.

Bike festival proves to be a big success

Cycling

CYCLISTS young and old are enjoying a well-deserved rest after a week-long bike festival in Lochaber.

From street races to battling snow on the hills around Loch Leven, the event by West Highland Wheelers offered something for all abilities.

Emma Holgate, festival organiser, said: 'The bike festival was a huge success, with several new faces from our local area as well as the regulars out on their bikes with the West Highland Wheelers.'

Dunfermline win Lochaber Sevens

Rugby

LOCHABER rugby club welcomed teams from all over the country for their annual sevens tournament at the weekend.

Despite fielding two teams, the host club didn't pick up any silverware at Banavie on Saturday but Mull rugby club made it to the final, where they were beaten by Dunfermline.



DEVELOPMENT FOOTBALL: Young footballers from five Lochaber schools gathered for a tournament.

Football tournament proves to be a big success

YOUNG footballers from Mal-laig joined Fort William children for a football tournament in Lochaber high school.

Develop
Organised by High Life Highland, the festival last Friday was part of an ongoing initiative to

develop junior football in the area. It also gave the children the chance to try out new goals, footballs and bibs bought from sponsorship from Crown Vets and SportsScotland.

Teams from Banavie, Caol, Inverloch, Mallaig and Upper

Achintore took part and all schools had the chance to play against each other.

Skills
Active schools coordinator Bridget Thomas said: 'It's great to see so many youngsters getting a chance to develop teamwork

and show off their footballing skills.'

'Huge thanks to Crown Vets, SportsScotland and all the coaches and parents without whom this event could not have happened.'

Youth football

A series of tournaments in the coming months. Anyone interested can contact bridget.thomas@highlifehighland.com or 07747762497 to find out more.

Fort William celebrate best league finish for 25 years

'We scored four goals, but could quite easily have scored seven or eight'

Fort William	4
Deveronvale	3
Highland League	

Football

PLAYERS, management and fans of Fort William football club can celebrate their best season in almost 25 years, thanks to a 4-3 home victory against Deveronvale on Saturday.

The Claggan side still have one Highland league game to play, a home clash against Fraserburgh, but are set to finish the season in 13th place, regardless of the result. This is the Fort's best finishing position in an 18-team league since they took 12th place in the 1990/91 season.

Fort's fate was secured at Claggan park on Saturday thanks to goals from James Whyte, Nick Stein and a double from John McLeod.

Fort William manager Calum

MacLean said: 'I was absolutely delighted with the boys. They worked their socks off, and got their reward in the end.'

'We scored four goals, but could quite easily have scored seven or eight. Special praise must go to stand-in keeper Iain Foggo, who performed heroics between the sticks.'

The Fort will have a fight on their hands at Claggan on Saturday, as if Fraserburgh take all three points, they will leapfrog Inverurie Locos and Formartine United to finish fifth in the league.

But MacLean has confidence; he added: 'The spirit and commitment of this team never ceases to amaze me and they thoroughly deserve all the plaudits that have come their way this season.'



DOUBLE TOP: Fort's double scorer John McLeod goes for a goal, tackled by Ross MacKillop



St Brides win primary tournament

MORE than 100 primary school pupils gathered in Kinlochleven for an action-packed shinty tournament, with St Brides, north Ballachulish, taking the top spot.

The festival, held on April 24, marked the end of a six-week training programme by David Campbell, coach of Ballachulish shinty club.

Children from primary four to seven from Ballachulish, Duror, Glencoe, Kinlochleven and St Brides schools took part.

The competition was fiercely contested, with St Brides one taking first place, closely followed by Kinlochleven three and Ballachulish six.

School shinty

Prizes were also awarded to pupils who hadn't played shinty before the training but showed great potential. They were Owen Callander, Ballachulish; Cameron MacDonald, Duror; Charlie Henshall, Glencoe; James Ramsay, Kinlochleven; and Sophie Cameron, St Brides.

The tournament was organised by High Life Highland's active schools coordinators, Jane Bruce and Tracey Jeffrey, who thanked all pupils for taking part and the Kinlochleven high school pupils who refereed.

Runners-up spot for Lochaber High

LOCHABER high school's senior football team ended the season as runners up in the Highland schools league cup, losing out on the top spot by just one goal. The Fort William side went down 5-4 in a hard-fought final against Culloden academy on April 22.

Lochaber got off to a good start leading 3-1 at half time but Culloden were over-

School football

powering in the second half and showed why they have been undefeated this season.

Lochaber head teacher Jim Sutherland thanked coaches Mr Currie and Mr Simpson for their support throughout the year.



RUNNERS UP: Lochaber high school's senior team were runners up in this year's league cup

Ewan proves a big hit in his first fight

Boxing

YOUNG Lochaber Phoenix boxer Ewan Easson showed he has a bright future in the sport when he won his first fight at the weekend.

The 13-year-old made his debut in Dunfermline on Friday night when he faced fellow debutant Ryan Haddow.

Easson only took up boxing six months ago but showed good balance and footwork to win him the first round.

In the second round the Fort William teen came out in the second round working body and head and began to force his opponent back the way before landing a flush jab which knocked back Haddow's head and forced the referee to issue a standing eight count.

Sensing he could force an early finish Easson picked up his pace and began to cut the ring off on his retreating opponent. After landing more clean combinations to the head to inflict another standing eight on his opponent the referee stopped the contest and Ewan had won his first bout inside the distance and in impressive style.

Easson is one of a dozen Lochaber boxers who will fight at the Phoenix home show in the Nevis Centre this month. They will be joined by champions from across Scotland on Saturday May 16. Tickets are available from the venue, Niall Clark (07477150100) and Steve Docherty (07881379851).

Plockton win Robertson Sixes School shinty

PLOCKTON high school were this year's winners of the Robertson cup shinty sixes.

The pupils won the under fourteens tournament at Blairbeg park, Drumnadrochit, last Wednesday after defeating hosts Glenurquhart 2-1 in a closely-fought final.

Plockton defeated their neighbours Portree 2-1 in the semi-finals and Glenurquhart secured their place in the final with a 1-0 win over Lochaber.

A goal from Duncan MacRae gave Plockton the lead in the second half, only for Glenurquhart to level with a Penri Jones strike just a minute later. Martin MacRae secured the win with a goal midway through the second half for Plockton.

Other schools taking part included Kinlochleven, Kingussie and Kinlochbervie.

Lochaber ladies reach semi finals Women's shinty

LOCHABER ladies are headed to the semi-finals of the Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup after securing a 3-0 victory against Aberdeen.

And the girls were dressed to impress for the quarter final last Sunday, wearing their new strips sponsored by the Old Station restaurant, Spean Bridge.

The strips were presented by owners Ben and Vanessa Martin ahead of the game.

Lochaber ladies will now go on to play Glasgow Mid Argyll in the semi-final in June.

like us on facebook
www.facebook.com/obantimes

SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES

NORTH WEST MARINE
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS

7 E Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG
T: 01631 565740 F: 01631 565780 M: 07836 366419
Em: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk Web: www.northwestmarine.co.uk

Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

WEATHER

Thursday Light rain showers
Winds light northerly
Temperatures 5°C to 10°C.

Friday Sunny
Winds light northerly
Temperatures 5°C to 10°C.

Weekend Outlook Light rain on Saturday
Heavy rain on Sunday
Winds light east south easterly
Temperatures 6°C to 11°C.

Stop Press: New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

TIDAL INFORMATION
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, May 7, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am			pm		
Thur	01.24	0.9	07.16	3.7	13.41	1.0
Fri	02.02	1.0	07.53	3.5	14.19	1.1
Sat	02.47	1.1	08.36	3.3	15.05	1.2
Sun	03.42	1.3	09.29	3.1	16.03	1.3
Mon	04.52	1.4	10.37	2.9	17.16	1.4
Tues	06.11	1.4	12.11	2.9	18.35	1.4
Wed	01.15	3.2	07.28	1.3	14.00	3.0

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate