

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES



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### Tenants for European Marine Science Park

DUNSTAFFNAGE'S European Marine Science Park is on the brink of signing up its first tenant.

The good news for developer Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) comes at a time when the agency was under increased criticism for lack of use of the multi-million building development.

The building work was completed in 2012. Since then it has lain dormant, despite being short listed for design awards.

*The Oban Times* can reveal that HIE is in advanced discussion with potential tenants. It is understood that interest in the building has been shown from across the UK and Europe.

A spokeswoman for HIE said: 'HIE is in advanced legal discussions with potential tenants for EMSP but we cannot say more at this stage until these are concluded. Interest has been shown in the EMSP from across the UK and Europe.'

### Argyll pipers off to a flyer at contest

PIPING competitions got off to a high note after the weekend's first round of events.

Argyll competitors wiped the floor at the Gourock Highland Games Pipe Band and Drum Majors' Competition. This puts the county in a good position for a superb 2014 season.

Oban Pipe Band took third place in the Grade One competition, showing a strong start to the year.

Grade Two first place was also won by Oban Pipe Band.

It won The Caledonian MacBrayne Trophy and The Cardwell Garden Centre Trophy.

In the same grade, Oban High School Juvenile Pipe Band took fourth place winning the Duncan Fraser Trophy.

The Gourock Traders Association Shield and the Iain Kennedy Memorial Cup were won by Oban High School Juvenile Pipe Band while Kintyre Schools won third place and the Greenock Telegraph Trophy.

Winning the Peggy McDonald Memorial Trophy, and taking first place, for novice juvenile was Kintyre Schools and winning the Church for Peugeot Trophy, and fourth place was Oban High School.



Pupils, parents and staff at Benderloch's Lochneil Primary School will be inviting the community and baton relay runners to take part in a 'breakfast of champions' when the Queen's Baton Relay comes to the school. 15.120breakfast01

### Join in Queen's Baton Relay celebrations

COMMUNITY groups and individuals are being asked to join in the celebrations on Sunday July 13 as the Queen's Baton Relay for the Commonwealth Games comes through Argyll and Bute.

The relay will come into the area at Appin Primary School first thing in the morning before heading to Lochneil Primary School in Benderloch, then to Atlantis Leisure in Oban before going on to Mid Argyll Swimming Pool and Mid Argyll Sports Centre.

Inveraray Castle, Strachur Community Hall and finally Dunoon Stadium.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The relay offers the chance to cheer on local people as they carry the baton, to join in the excitement of an international celebration, and to showcase Argyll and Bute to a global audience. The council is asking people and community groups to get involved in their local events, for example by providing a come-and-try sports activity, a

promotional stall or fundraising activity or other forms of entertainment such as music or arts. We are also looking for people who could provide street entertainment as part of a tour on the day through Argyll and Bute. Anyone interested in providing street entertainment should contact Fiona Blakey on 01631 569165.'

For local contacts and more information email [gbr@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:gbr@argyll-bute.gov.uk) or phone 01546 604464 or 01546 604232.

### Long overdue road works welcome despite disruption

LONG overdue road works on the A85 into Oban have been welcomed.

Even those complaining about the timing of the work, during the tourist season, are calling the improvements 'cracking'.

The works got underway on Sunday evening and, despite long road closures and in some cases 40-minute waits, the improvements are getting the thumbs up.

The work is part of £320,000 worth of improvements spent over the last two months. The work to improve the road surface on the Bealach an Righ has been in the pipeline for at least seven years. The aged state of the road was recently highlighted by Councillor Duncan MacIntyre in *The Oban Times*.

BEAR Scotland's spokesman for the North West Unit, Eddie Ross, said: 'We are pleased that following the first two nights of resurfacing works to the Bealach an Righ, good progress has been made on site.'

'These schemes will see the completion of the final phases of resurfacing work throughout Oban which have been undertaken over the last number of years. Whilst we appreciate that during construction these works do cause some disruption, we hope that the longer term

benefits of the new surfacing will provide a positive boost to Oban's residents and traders.'

'We would like to thank the public for their patience during this time and look forward to seeing these important works completed next week.'

One hotel owner said: 'Yet again you have to question the timing of the road works during the season, but fair's fair - it is a cracking job.'

the council budget, as *The Oban Times* went to press. Council papers also advised members they could apply for further financial assistance for the visit from the Provost's civic budget to enhance the provision of hospitality. Papers given in advance of the meeting to councillors said: 'Given the long-standing twinning arrangements between Oban and Gorey, and the changing local government landscape in Ireland, members may wish to make use of the available twinning budget, to support the forthcoming visit to Oban.'

Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'I appreciate the fact that we are twinned with Gorey and there are major changes going on in Ireland.'

'But I feel this is the wrong time to be discussing civil receptions when we have much to be getting on with in Oban and throughout Argyll and Bute Council.'

20>  
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### Action group claims cafe 'contradicts' Oban town centre development plans

A COFFEE shop is the thin end of the wedge when it comes to changing the face of Oban, an action group claims.

The group has been set up to campaign against the change of use of a building in Station Square to a Costa Coffee cafe.

The group says it is not complaining about the coffee shop franchise - but is asking locals to think very carefully about the change of use in this area in the town.

The founder of the social media campaign group, Fay MacGillivray, a trustee of the MacGillivray Trust, said: 'Every single council document I've seen points to this area of the town being the jewel in the crown. It is seen by most people as an area of major potential development.'

'Changing the use of planning to a hot food and drinks outlet,' she said, 'contradicts'

every statement I have found about the town development. All the documents say that Station Square is a place to showcase the town, it is the shop window to the town, an area to promote high quality food - so, I want to ask does putting a fast food franchise into the area go against these plans?'

While he would not comment on a specific application, Councillor Roddy McCuish was keen to point out that people had been consulted on the look and feel of the town, and Station Square, over a number of years. He said: 'I think it is time we looked to the future of the town and there are plans in place to allow us to do that.'

Argyll and Bute Council documents outline development plans for Station Square as a place for meeting and orientation in the transport interchange area. An Argyll and Bute

spokeswoman confirmed this area's planning supports developments of the type of use under retail, food and drink, but as there was a live application for a change of use for the building it would be unable to comment.

Oban Community Council confirmed it would be discussing the matter at its meeting at the end of the month.

A Costa spokesperson said: 'As the UK's favourite coffee shop and one of the success stories on the UK high street, we work closely with planning departments across the country to open new stores for the benefit of their local communities, creating new jobs and providing attractive and popular social meeting places. We are currently evaluating opportunities in the Oban area, but have no definitive opening confirmed at this stage.'

**Public Meeting**  
Yes?  
No?  
Don't Know?  
  
Get informed

**Business For Scotland**  
Guest Speakers:  
Ivan McKee  
Michelle Thomson  
The Gathering Hall  
Oban  
21st May @ 7.30pm  
[yesargyll.net](http://yesargyll.net)  
Organised by Yes, Lorn and the Isles

**YES Lorn and the Isles**  
Presents a showing of the iconic film  
Dolina MacLennan  
Original cast member as guest speaker  
OBAN PHOENIX THEATRE  
Sunday 8th June 8.30pm  
Admission by donation

**SKIPINISH**  
17 May 3 - 4.30pm  
SKIPINISH CEILIDH HOUSE GEORGE STREET OBAN  
CAFÉ SESSION  
We are a creative group who want to inspire and engage the people of Oban in a discussion about our environment through music, song and the spoken word. Please join us for an audience participation session, a ceilidh, a film screening or just to share your thoughts on the Referendum.

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## Staff sold drink to underage teenagers

TWO PREMISES failed to ask a young person for proof of age during a recent test purchasing operation in the Inverness, Skye and Lochalsh area, police have confirmed.

The exercise, which aimed to ensure that licensed premises are not selling alcohol to under 18s, took place from May 2 to May 3 with 28 negative and two positive results.

The scheme involves fully briefed teenagers aged under 18 being sent into licensed premises to buy alcohol under controlled conditions.

The two premises that failed will be re-tested, following which a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

A police spokesperson said: 'Police are delighted that those premises who passed during the operation challenged the young person for identification and refused to serve alcohol.'

'Of these premises, staff were vigilant and were appropriately trained to challenge the youth.'

## Blue badge crackdown

A CRACK down on blue badge crime will be brought into force later this year.

The Blue Badge disabled parking scheme is used by almost 20 per cent of people parking on local streets.

New legislation is to be passed by parliament to give local councils the authority to confiscate badges in certain cases of misuse and makes it an offence to display a blue badge that has been cancelled.

## Population summit cancelled

A POPULATION summit was cancelled last Friday because of a funeral.

MSP John Swinney, minister for finance, employment and sustainable growth, has agreed to reschedule the event later in the year.

The summit was due to talk about a shrinking population in Argyll. Last year a similar summit was held in Inveraray Castle, hosted by Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell.

**Newsdesks**  
01631 568000  
01397 703003



Back to his roots: Hugh Ross has returned to his home community as Staffin Community Trust local development officer.

## North Skye man returns home to take trust helm

A NORTH Skye man has returned to his home community to support efforts to regenerate the area.

Hugh Ross, a former *Oban Times* and *Inverness Courier* journalist, has been appointed as the new local development officer for Staffin Community Trust.

The 34-year-old, originally from Garafad, has succeeded Marion Beaton, who spent more than three years in the Highlands and Islands Enterprise-funded post.

Hugh, who has spent almost 10 years in the media, said it was an exciting time in

Staffin as the trust stepped up its drive to create more local jobs for young people.

He said: 'Staffin has a huge amount going for it like our world-renowned scenery at the Quiraing and rich history - but we want to see more permanent jobs and retain our younger people so our community can thrive.'

### Population

The trust was formed 20 years ago in the wake of a worrying population decline in Staffin, which has again come into sharp focus recently amid the primary school's shrinking roll.

### Population

The trust was formed 20 years ago in the wake of a worrying population decline in Staffin, which has again come into sharp focus recently amid the primary school's shrinking roll.

The volunteer-led trust's achievements include re-developing Staffin slipway and opening a network of walking routes through its 'eco-museum', which has helped attract an extra 20,000 visitors annually.

It is working in partnership with Skye Sea Harvest to open a seafood processing facility next to the slip and create 40 jobs, while plans for an arts memorial marking the crofters' uprising, which was led by Valas man Norman 'Parnell' Stewart against the landlords in Staffin, are in the pipeline.

The trust is also working with Highland Council to assess improvements at the Old Man of Storr.

HIE is supporting around fragile 40 communities in the Highlands and Islands by funding key posts in the community.

Trust chairman Donald MacDonald said: 'Hugh arrives at an opportune time when his skills, enthusiasm and clear commitment to this community will bring about a raft of projects that will strengthen the community while also protecting the valuable environmental resources we already have.'



Killer whales off the west coast of Scotland are at risk of extinction. t20whale20

## Killer whales off west coast at risk of extinction

THE 'West Coast Community' of killer whales conservation status is believed to be critical, experts at Tobermory-based charity Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT) say.

The five males and four females are thought to be the UK's only resident group of the cetaceans.

The charity believes the group is likely to become extinct in our lifetime, as no calves have yet been seen within the group for several years.

The charity's findings also include the discovery that the Hebrides host what could be the UK's smallest resident population of bottlenose dolphins and one of Europe's highest densities of harbour porpoise.

An amazing 24 species of whale, dolphins and porpoises – including several national and international conservation priorities – have now been recorded in the region.

HWDT is working to secure the future of western Scotland's cetaceans and the Hebrides' globally important marine environment by enhancing knowledge and understanding through education, research and engagement with local

communities. Its research data is used to inform policy makers and generate recommendations for effective marine management.

In its 20th anniversary year, HWDT is recruiting volunteers

to work alongside marine scientists in surveys running from May to October, to gather crucial data on whales, dolphins and porpoises and basking sharks in western Scotland's seas.

The new expeditions form part

of the only offshore, long-term cetacean monitoring scheme of its type in the UK and will be carried out from HWDT's specialised research yacht *Silurian*, previously used in the filming of the BBC's acclaimed series *The Blue Planet*.

The 2014 surveys run from May to September and depart from Tobermory on the Isle of Mull or Kyle of Lochalsh. Participation costs cover boat expenses, support HWDT's research programme and include accommodation, food and insurance onboard *Silurian*. For details, contact Mark Whitaker at [volunteercoordinator@hwdt.org](mailto:volunteercoordinator@hwdt.org) or 01688 302620, or visit [www.hwdt.org](http://www.hwdt.org).

## Mull Lines

MULL Musical Minds has made it to the finals of the Scottish Care Accolades which will take place at Perth Concert Hall on Tuesday June 10.

Such national recognition for the work of all the people involved in this organisation is good news.

Mull Musical Minds set out to reach the remote and rural island population of Mull in an inclusive way that not only reduced the isolation islanders often experience but also promoted well-being, encouraged friendship and enabled people to take control while enhancing their quality of life.

Research suggests music therapy 'seems to reach parts of the damaged brain in ways other forms of communication cannot' and 'especially singing unlocks memories and kick starts the grey matter'.

For more information, contact Mary MacAllister, Dementia Link Worker Oban and the Isles, on 01631 570614 / 07780 003041 or email [mmacallister@alzscot.org](mailto:mmacallister@alzscot.org).

TOBERMORY High School Parent Council's Summer Fair is on Monday June 16 from 1 to 3pm and everyone is welcome.

It is the group's most important fundraising event of the year with money raised making a huge difference to supporting school trips and activities.

There will be a grand raffle, face painting, fortune teller and lots more. Tell family and friends about the Summer Fair and encourage them to come along and enjoy a great afternoon.

Glenorm Burgers will be on sale from 1pm, so come early.

MULL Eagle Watch has confirmed the first egg has hatched at Glen Seilisair as they watched both adult white-tailed eagles feeding a chick.

A ranger reporter: 'Fingal, the male, was seen bringing in a small item of prey and he and Iona then proceeded to break off very small pieces to feed to the chick.'

'We also saw a pair of golden eagles soaring and our great spotted woodpecker male, who has been drumming very loudly from trees near the hide, was perched on the entrance gate when I arrived last Wednesday morning.'

FOLLOWING Time Team's dig at the chapel site at Baliscate, televised in 2009, Mull Museum initiated a feasibility study, explored and obtained grant funding, obtained tenders and finally engaged a team from Argyll Archaeology, directed by Dr Clare Ellis, to carry out further excavations.

Carried out in August and September 2012, the dig involved seven professional archaeologists, as well as more than 50 volunteers, and uncovered much new evidence.

The dig was only made possible by funding obtained from Heritage Lottery, Argyll and Isles LEADER, Mull and Iona Community Trust, Hunter Trust, and the Museum itself. A display in the museum in Tobermory illustrates some of the findings.

## Suicide bereavement group

A SUPPORT group for people bereaved by suicide has been set up in Argyll.

Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide (SOBS) provides a safe, confidential space for bereaved people to share their experiences and feelings - giving and gaining support from each other.

The charity, along with staff from Choose Life, the government strategy for suicide prevention, and the Dochas Centre in Lochgilphead, has based the new group in Mid

Argyll. The group will be led by Joyce Mathers, who lost her son to suicide in 1994, reflecting the SOBS value that groups should be led by people who have themselves lost someone to suicide.

The group relies on the generosity of the public, charitable trusts and other organisations to fund their work and is open to anyone who has lost someone - friend, family, or colleague.

To find out more contact Ann on 07552 509118.

## New Hepatitis C service

THE FIRST support service for people living with Hepatitis C in Argyll has been launched.

Waverley Care, a charity providing support to people living with HIV or Hepatitis C throughout Scotland, will run the service, funded by Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership. Rachel Hughes, Waverley Care service manager, said: 'People living with Hepa-

titis C can feel socially isolated and can often be living with other complex health issues and overall poor emotional, physical and mental health. This new service will provide support to help people better manage their condition.'

Currently, treatment for Hepatitis C, which can be cured, can take from six months to a year.

## Advice on effect of natural algal blooms

IT'S THE time of year when shellfish harvesting can be hit by natural algal blooms and Argyll and Bute Council is on hand to advise the public and fishing industry.

The council's environmental health team has identified raised levels of naturally-occurring bacteria in a sample of common cockles

following routine monitoring work at the Isle of Kerrera. Naturally occurring algal toxins have also been found at Ardkinglas, Loch Fyne.

Other harvesting areas in Loch Fyne are unaffected.

Because of this shellfish from the areas may pose a risk to health and should not be harvested or eaten; as a

precaution, people should avoid eating shellfish from this area until further notice.

### Notices

Eating shellfish such as cockles, mussels, oysters or razor fish from the areas may pose a health risk and warning notices for the public and casual gatherers have been posted at various locations on the shore.

Commercial shellfish harvesters in the area have been contacted by the council, with steps taken to postpone harvesting until algae levels subside.

This is a natural phenomenon and closely monitored across Argyll and Bute; this is one of Europe's main shellfish sectors and the main area for scallops in Scotland.

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## Argyll and Bute Council by-election



### John MacGregor - Independent

OBAN born and bred, a true west coaster. Grew up in Dunbeg and Duonie and lived in Soroba when I first married.

I have four stepdaughters and six grand-children. I love the west coast. I am standing for election because I know I can do a good job and make a difference to many people's lives for years to come.

This election should not be about national politics but the candidate that you, the electorate, think is the best candidate for the area.

If elected, will bring drive, flair, enthusiasm and a business perspective to a flagging Area Committee and out of touch Argyll and Bute Council. It is clear that elected members have lost all control of policy with the policy being dictated by unelected senior officials.

This alarming trend must be addressed and rectified thus giving the real power back to elected members and thus to you, the electorate.

Local politics is about people and helping all without fear or favour.

Approachable to all, I look for solutions rather than problems, am positive in thought and deeds and am always constructive and full of ideas. I have a proven track record of success in business, employing many people and growing my businesses even in these recessionary times.

You, the electorate, will vote on May 22 and I ask that you give your vote to John MacGregor, a man for all. Should

FIVE candidates are seeking election next Thursday to the vacant seat in the multi-member ward four, Oban South and the Isles of Argyll and Bute Council.

Former councillor Fred Hall triggered the by-election by standing down last month.

This week *The Oban Times* profiles the five candidates: John MacGregor, North Connel, Independent; Neil MacIntyre, Oban, Labour; Ian Stewart MacLean, North Connel, SNP; David Pollard, Aros, Mull, Liberal Democrats, and Andrew Vennard, Oban, Conservative.

you require transport to the polling station transport will be arranged if you phone 01631 570584.

loom over rural schools. I will work to expand care provision within North Argyll to support our rising elderly population and will ensure that the Eader Glinn care home remains run by the council.

I will also campaign for a greater range of health services and treatments to be made available in Oban hospital to save the time and expense associated with travelling further afield. Most of all I will listen to local people and work hard to represent you on the council so please vote for me on May 22.

WE LIVE in a beautiful area but the shortage of social housing, jobs and basic facilities affects us just as badly as anywhere else.

I want to make Oban and the Isles a better place to live and work by encouraging investment, protecting vital public services and supporting local businesses.

I am also keen to expand the length of the tourist season. I will therefore support businesses seeking to do this, and in particular I see a great potential for growth in outdoor adventure holidays.

Furthermore I will work to ensure that construction contracts awarded through initiatives such as the CHORD project and TIF are given to local companies wherever possible. This will help create apprenticeships for our young people, as well as sustaining existing jobs.

We all rely on public services and I have been appalled by the proposals from this council to close Struan Lodge in Dunoon as well as the threats

**Lorn Lines**

AN OBAN walker who lost a camera on a hill climb up Ben Wyvis near Dingwall could soon be reunited with it.

The Olympus was left on the side of the path by the hiker and Hemel Hempstead holidaymaker Alan Hooper picked it up.

When Mr Hooper flicked through the photographs he realised he had met the man earlier on in the day.

Alan told *The Oban Times*: 'On my way back from the summit I came across one of your local young chaps around 30 years old, originally from the Newcastle area, with his walking partner, a four-year-old beagle pedigree dog. We stopped and chatted a while.'

'Much later on as I came down the last mile or so of the path and headed towards the car park, I came across a camera, lying on the side of the path. A very expensive and valuable camera'.

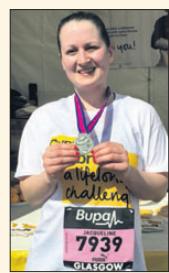
Anyone with information about the owner of the camera should contact *The Oban Times* who will put the walker in touch with Mr Hooper.

□□□



Oban-based students from Argyll College's NC administration course organised a coffee morning and auction in H2O's The Well as part of their event planning module. Proceeds from the day went to H2O, Oban's Christian youth charity.

16.12.0801



A FUNDRAISER for much-needed nursery equipment will really stretch the legs of all the families involved.

Stramash children and families are all set to walk the West Highland Way, all 95 miles of it. Organisers have divided the 95 miles into sections ranging from one mile to 13 miles in length. The Stramash nursery children and their families will walk a section according to their ability.

Event co-ordinator Aileen Finlayson said: 'We want to make this a real family event, babies in pushchairs, siblings, cousins and granny and grandpa too. The first part of the walk will take place on May 17. We plan to use mini buses to drop off and pick up the nursery children and parents at various points along the way. On that day we will cover 35 miles. The remainder of the walk will be completed by family members before June 28 when the last two miles will be celebrated in Fort William with a ceilidh and barbecue.'

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# New wind farm survey results re-fuel debate

THE DEBATE on the impact of wind farms on tourism has taken another twist after two surveys produced conflicting results.

Conservation charity the John Muir Trust (JMT) found 49 per cent of Highlands and islands people polled felt turbines had a negative impact on holidaymakers, with only six per cent believing they were a plus for tourists.

The findings were at odds with research from VisitScotland, in which 83 per cent of people said their decision to holiday in Scotland would not be affected by the presence of a wind farm.

The government tourism agency even found 46 per cent of

respondents were interested in visiting a wind farm site.

Industry observers attribute the difference to being one of perception - people who live in affected areas may be more sensitive to the permanent presence of the machines than visitors coming to Scotland on holiday.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said turbines could be acceptable if they were built in the right place.

He said: 'Clearly wind farms have to be sensitively sited in areas of wild land and natural beauty.'

'The responsibility of objecting on landscape and

environmental grounds lies with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) but also with local communities and individuals. The planning process takes such objections very seriously.'

'Here in Argyll, a number of proposed wind farms have failed to get permission or have been withdrawn before the formal decision because they would not sit in the landscape in a way that preserved the beauty and nature of the great area in which we live.'

According to the Scottish Conservatives, Whitelees windfarm south of Glasgow attracted 250,000 visitors between 2009 and 2012 while

and people's enjoyment of the Highlands and islands.'

The JMT survey also found that a majority Highlands and islands' residents supported a draft proposal by the Scottish Government to offer special protection for wild land areas mapped out by Scottish Natural Heritage.

JMT chief executive Stuart Brooks said: 'Overall this poll shows two things. First, that people in the Highlands and islands support protection of wild land. And second, there is deep concern that if it is not protected, the impact could be damaging to the economy of the region.'

## Play park fund boosted by event

PLANS to re-build a play park on ground near to Oban's Atlantis Leisure have been boosted by a table-top sale and fundraiser on Sunday.

The day, organised by Suzanne Mackenzie and Julie Didecock and friends of the playpark, raised an amazing £2,762.77.

Julie said she had really hoped that the sale - with everything from food to face-painting - might raise £500 and was delighted with the outcome.

The sale itself raised £612.77 from the tables.

Donations on the day from the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund, Fiaran Property and members of the public totalled £2,150.

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Receiving a cheque for £2,000 from Amanda MacPhail, centre, of the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund are, left, Suzanne Mackenzie, and Julie Didecock. t20playpark1

## Council praised for emergency planning

ROBUST practises are now in place to deal with severe weather in Argyll and Bute, the UK Parliament has confirmed.

The Scottish Affairs Committee heard lessons had been learned by Argyll and Bute Council.

In a report published yesterday, (Wednesday) the UK Parliament's Scottish Affairs Committee said the local authority and Scottish and Southern Energy's (SSE) response to the severe weather showed that important lessons had been learned.

The committee heard it had made 'obvious progress' in dealing with matters.

Committee member and Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid said: 'The response to the severe weather of a year past in March was more prompt and better organised.

'Local authorities responded quickly and effectively, and the power companies moved swiftly to restore power. Crucially, the compensation for those left without power - with all the damage that can cause - has been brought into line with the rest of the country, as we recommended in our last report. While we praise SSE and Argyll

and Bute Council for their improved responses, we must pay special tribute to the staff on the ground who worked so hard to clear roads in difficult and treacherous conditions.'

A spokeswoman for the council said: 'Our approach to emergency planning and community resilience is recognised nationally as an example of best practice.'

'Working closely with other agencies, we have developed a robust emergency plan - written with severe weather in mind, tested in real life situations and proven to work. Through mutual aid arrangements, we will share resources, including snow blowing equipment, with other agencies and also local contractors - notably when heavy snow affected Kintyre in March 2013 and during floods in Oban in December last year.'

She said the council carefully considered prioritising all its resources and was investigating purchasing its own snow-blown equipment. A protocol had been established with main mobile phone provider (Vodafone) in the area to ensure a swift response to any loss of cover in Argyll and Bute.

## Centre ownership transfer plan

KILBOWIE Outdoor Centre will no longer be controlled by North Lanarkshire Council, if plans by its education department get the green light.

The centre on Gallanach road, next to Kilbowie Castle in Oban, would be moved to North Lanarkshire Leisure, a council-owned arm's length organisation.

Opposing the transfer, SNP group spokesperson on learning and leisure, Councillor Tom Johnston said: 'Kilbowie Centre has a very direct link to our schools and children. Moving [its ownership] to North Lanarkshire Leisure means that schools overnight become mere clients of Kilbowie. A teamwork link will be broken.'

The matter will now be discussed by the June North Lanarkshire Council meeting.

## More flights to Barra

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council) has reached agreement with Loganair to increase extra Glasgow-Barra air services on a pilot basis between the end of May and the end of August 2014.

There will be 30 flights more on the route for the summer.

Comhairle leader, Councillor Angus Campbell, said: 'We have had positive discussions in relation to the provision of 30 additional rotations which would mean that there would be a double rotation on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from the end of May until the end of August.'

A spokeswoman for the council said: 'Our approach to emergency planning and community resilience is recognised nationally as an example of best practice.'

'Working closely with other agencies, we have developed a robust emergency plan - written with severe weather in mind, tested in real life situations and proven to work. Through mutual aid arrangements, we will share resources, including snow blowing equipment, with other agencies and also local contractors - notably when heavy snow affected Kintyre in March 2013 and during floods in Oban in December last year.'

The ISLAY lifeboat was launched on Friday evening to go to the assistance of the 35ft fishing boat 'My Amber' after it developed a fuel leak 23 miles west of Rhuvaal.

A tow rope was attached to the stricken vessel. It was taken to Port Askaig for repair. There was one man aboard.

## Islay lifeboat helps stricken vessel

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Willie Mack.

## Award-winning journalist appointed Oban Times editor

AWARD-WINNING journalist Willie Mack has been appointed editor of *The Oban Times*.

A seasoned campaigner with vast experience of local newspapers, Willie has edited titles both north and south of the Border in a career spanning almost four decades. He has occupied the editor's chair for Archant in Glasgow, for Johnston Press in the Scottish Borders and for Forth Independent Newspapers in Alloa. He also held a group editorial position with Newsquest in East London.

During his time at the Southern Reporter, the publication was voted best local newspaper in Scotland for three years in a row and he also picked up a clutch of awards at Alloa and Glasgow. Willie, a passionate advocate for the local press, relishes the prospect of progressing our plans to further improve *The Oban Times*. He said: 'The *Oban Times* is one of Scotland's great local newspapers and I am delighted to have the opportunity to help write a new chapter in the history

## Water bills reduced at NHS Highland

NHS HIGHLAND has cut its annual water bill by £400,000 in just three years.

The health authority was working with Business Stream, Scotland's largest supplier of non-domestic water and waste water services, to reduce costs.

The figure is equivalent to a third of what the health board was previously spending per year on its water services, a total of £1.2 million.

Costs were cut significantly through the installation of automated meter readers across its sites, which helped the board monitor water use and isolate problems in the system. Gordon MacDonald, energy and sustainability manager at NHS Highland, said: 'By cutting our water consumption, we're saving public money that would be better spent on clinical activities and other NHS services.'

## Victorian writing found in Kilmelford

AN ARGYLL hotelier was surprised to find a message from the past in one of the bedrooms of his hotel in Kilmelford.

The message said to be written during the reign of Queen Victoria, reads: 'James Porter, Painter, Oban, February 7, 1883.'

Simon Fletcher said: 'The writing caught my eye and when I finally got round to looking at it - I realised how old it was. It would

be lovely if the family was still in Oban.' Simon, who runs the Culfaul with his partner Yvonne O'Shea, said: 'Lots of people are keen to see it. I think after he wrote his name he must have painted over it. There is something else written under there as well. It looks like Andrew or something.'

The Culfaul Hotel dates from 1840 and was a former coaching inn.

## Appeal in hunt for missing Argyll man

POLICE are appealing for the assistance of the public in an effort to trace a man who has been missing since Saturday April 26.

John Robertson aged 37, of West Princes St, Helensburgh, was last seen by his parents at their home address in Queen Street,

Helensburgh, on the Saturday evening. He is described as white, 6 ft in height, of stocky build and has short light brown hair. It is believed he is wearing a brown thigh length canvas style waterproof jacket with either jeans or tracksuit bottoms.

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SCOTTISH SEALIFE SANCTUARY

ENTRANCE & SWIMMING

## Nurse takes up new MS and Parkinson's role

A SPECIALIST nurse has been appointed to care for multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease patients.

In the first appointment of its kind on the west coast, Cheryl Howe, a former senior staff nurse on Ward B at Lorn and Islands Hospital, is looking to improve staff knowledge and experience.

The new post is jointly funded by Parkinson's UK and NHS Highland. Cheryl is already speaking with people and their families affected by the conditions to find out how patients in rural areas fare. Cheryl said: 'I



Cheryl Howe has been appointed as the MS and Parkinson's disease nurse specialist. t20nurse1

is really important that people have good access to health and social care no matter where they live. I will be putting patient pathways in place and ensuring everyone who has an input has a clear understanding to make the journey seamless from the perspective of the patient. Patients need to be at the centre of their treatment and in control of their choices, medications and treatments, with their opinions firmly central to all care.'

This means I will be working closely with the people and their families affected by these conditions, health professionals from primary and secondary care, social care, the private and the voluntary sectors.'

Pat Tyrrell, lead nurse for Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership, said: 'We are very grateful to Parkinson's UK for co-funding this important post. We know that Cheryl's role in working with patients, families and other health and social care providers will make a significant and positive difference to people who are affected by both multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease in Argyll and Bute.'



BILLIONAIRE Grangemouth oil refinery boss, Jim Radcliffe's superyacht, Hampshire II has been in and out of Oban Bay over the last 10 days.

The huge 255ft, £130 million luxury vessel was spotted around the west coast with the oil tycoon entertaining visitors. It is believed the guests were also oil industry owners.

Mr Radcliffe used a speedboat from the launch to

land on the North Pier. He also enjoyed walking about the town and bought items from local shops.

He also brought in his jet aeroplane into Oban Airport - where his visitors also arrived and departed from the area. The billionaire would have been charged a landing fee of 35p per person at the North Pier and approximately £100 for landing his jet at Oban Airport, all payable to Argyll and Bute Council.



Cameron Allen, centre, is congratulated by little brother Max as he is presented with his Commonwealth Games Legacy Competition winning certificate by Pauline Clifford, Wyvern Media's marketing and promotions executive. Cameron won two tickets to a games event after being chosen by The Oban Times' sports stars panel. 16\_t20commonwealth01

## Games ticket cheer for brave Cameron

Appin youngster wins prize for his fundraising and determination to become a Paralympian

A BRAVE Appin boy battling a debilitating condition will be going to the Glasgow Commonwealth Games in July after winning an *Oban Times* competition.

Cameron Allen was chosen as The Oban Times' Legacy Competition winner for his charity fundraising and determination to become a Paralympian.

Cameron, aged 12, will receive two tickets to one of the Games' events and *The Oban Times* will cover the family's travel expenses. The Oban High School pupil topped a shortlist of three after winning the most votes from our panel of local sporting heroes - racing driver Susie

By EUAN PATERSON  
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

Wolff from Oban, runner Susan Partridge from Benderloch and Fort William strong man Jeremy Vickers.

Cameron suffers from Osteogenesis Imperfecta (Brittle Bone Disease), which means his bones break easily and he is mainly wheelchair-bound.

But his love of sport, and swimming in particular, makes Cameron determined to get out of his chair as often as possible.

He goes swimming at Atlantis Leisure twice a week and has held ambitions to swim at the Paralympics since he met Paralympians Paul Noble and

Wilma Lawrie. The youngster, who has raised thousands of pounds for the Brittle Bone Society over the past few years, said he was delighted to be told of his competition win after a day of treatment at Yorkhill Children's Hospital.

Cameron said: 'I couldn't believe it when my mum told I had won. I had been for some treatment at Yorkhill, which was not a nice one, so it was a nice end to the day.'

The *Oban Times* invited nominations for the tickets before shortlisting the final three and allowing our judges to decide who would win.

Criteria for nominating included young people involved

in sport at school, community or club level; those who make sport happen, including volunteers; those who make a contribution to their communities through volunteering or other means; people without the opportunity to experience the games; those from disadvantaged groups or those with a disability.

Second place in the competition went to Taynuilt's Daniel MacDonald, who raised more than £6,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support and Yorkhill Children's Charity by running from Glasgow to Taynuilt last year. Peter McCracken, also of Taynuilt, who helps with a number of sporting clubs in the area, was third.

## Morvern Lines

'INTERPRETATION' is the latest expensive craze sweeping the Scottish countryside and here in Morvern we have an excellent example.

The perpetrator is Forest Enterprise who, despite budget constraints, is spending thousands of pounds on a project which can only be described as 'rural bling' of the worst possible taste.

I am of course referring to the work happening near Clach na Criche (Gaelic: 'The Boundary Stone') or 'The Wishing Stone', as it is more commonly called, situated between Fiunary and Killundine by the Drimnin highway.

As I have written before in this column, Clach na Criche is an old parish boundary where, in the days when coffins were shouldered to their final resting place, funeral parties would halt for a while.

There they refreshed themselves and built cairns to commemorate their dead before moving off. Later these cairns became places of pilgrimage for the families of the deceased.

Forest Enterprise, not content with putting up a simple interpretive board giving the history of this unique site, is turning a nearby, popular, off-road parking area, into a silly walled enclosure with insensitive mock cairns and bogus standing-stones, better suited for sheep to rub themselves against, than for helping visitors to understand and appreciate the sanctity of this interesting place.

In this instance and indeed elsewhere in Lochaber, FE is being wrongly advised on such matters.

WHEN Fiunary Manse was owned by the Church of Scotland it was the home of the parish minister because it was roughly half way between Lochaline and Drimnin.

When the church trustees decided in the late 1920s to dispose of it and re-house the ministers in the former United Free Church manse in Lochaline, there was public uproar on a grand scale.

The move was widely condemned. Several newspaper reported on it although none more succinctly than *The Oban Times*.

The fact that the U.F. Manse, Lochaline, may soon be open to accommodate the new parish minister is giving rise to some caustic remarks among the parishioners.

The absorbing question is – what will become of Fiunary Manse if Lochaline Manse is chosen? In such a case, it is generally believed that the glebe lands will be added to the adjacent farm of Savary, and that the Manse will be converted into a farmhouse. Doubtless, such an arrangement would accommodate some interested parties, but it would cause resentment in the hearts of the Highlanders all over the world.

The article adds: 'To give an incoming minister a choice of Manses would have been fair and reasonable, if the cases were parallel. But here the circumstances are abnormal.'

'The U.F. Manse is practically unknown – it has no history, and no associations worth mentioning. On the other hand, Fiunary has a world-wide fame in song and story.'

'It was the birthplace of modern Gaelic literature; it is sacred to the memory of the most distinguished family ever born in the Highlands, and with Fiunary is linked the name of Professor Thomas Campbell, the author of 'Ye Mariners of England,' 'Lord Ullin's Daughter,' and many other poems, dear to our countrymen.'

Stung by this and other writings, the trustees (like their colleagues in the Church of England who wanted to oust the Bishop of Bath and Wells from his medieval palace recently) got their act together, allowed the new minister to move into Fiunary Manse and in due course sold it to the late Lord Macleod of Fiunary, founder of the Iona Community, whose family had lived there for over a century.



Fiunary manse: once the subject of a church dispute, but dilapidated today.

VISITORS entering the Sound of Mull by boat from the Firth of Lorn, pass an island called 'Lady's Rock' which is covered only at very high water.

This, it is said, was the place where in 1527, one of the Maclean chiefs tried to get rid of his wife by drowning. The chief was Lachlan Maclean of Duart and his wife was Lady Catherine Campbell, sister of Archibald Campbell, 4th Earl of Argyll.

As most local school children know, the plot failed and Maclean was murdered by Lady Catherine's brother.

According to several Mull historians, however, the name 'Lady's Rock' was given to the spot in the 19th century by David Hutcheson and Co - later Caledonian MacBrayne, to provide a convenient point of interest for tourists travelling on their vessels.

The 'Lady's Rock' of the legend was in fact the less visible Sgeir Liath, lying further to the east and nearer the Lismore shore.

History has an odd way of repeating itself. In 1996 a party of Macleans, including the present chief and a few of his chieftains, was being ferried from Oban to Craignure on a wild, stormy night by a Campbell boatman on the eve of a clan gathering at Duart.

Some derogatory remarks were made about the boatman's capabilities until he reminded them of the saga of the 'Lady's Rock' and that he would happily avenge Lady Catherine by putting them ashore on it for the night if they didn't pipe down!

Iain Thorburn iain.thorburn@btinternet.com.

## Race organisers pull plug on event after 31 years

THE LOCHABER Marathon faces an uncertain future after organisers decided to stop running the event after 31 years.

Traditionally starting from An Aird Shinty Park in Fort William, the scenic run along Loch Eil and back traditionally attracts around 500 athletes from across the UK.

But now Lochaber Athletic Club members feel running the event has become too much of a burden and have reluctantly decided to call it a day.

Chairman Ian Adams told *The Oban Times*: 'At our last meeting we took the decision because it really is a lot of work.'

Organisers give up a lot of time to run the event and that's on top of being part of the club and full time jobs.

'The commitment shown over

the years has been unbelievable, especially from Dugald MacDonald who organised a number of the marathons but we just can't do it anymore. It was quite emotional dropping it from our calendar.'

'We hope another organisation will be willing to take it over because it's a great event that's been running for such a long time.'

Participants of previous races took to social media to express their disappointment.

Doug Veitch said: 'Thanks to all LAC and friends for hosting this iconic event over the years. Your hard work and dedication to the event is much appreciated.'

'I ran this last year for the second time and it is a shame this will be last marathon with Ben Nevis as the biggest spectator.'

Karen Campbell added: 'Oh man, I

ran this in April, my first and I hoped to return next year. Despite the awful weather conditions, the volunteers and supporters were fabulous.'

'Sad when a well organised event disappears but as part of a running club I fully appreciate the behind the scenes difficulties, hope this can carry on in another form.'

Lochaber Athletic Club will meet again on May 27 to discuss other groups that may be willing to take over the marathon.

Mr Adams said: 'We've all gone away to think about it and once folk have had a chance to think of people who may be willing to organise it we'll discuss it again.'

'As a club we will be more than happy to help and volunteer on the day.'

'We would be very say to see it go altogether.'



Fort William Primary School pupils learned about underwater life with the help of marine experts Campbell Pert, Sebastian Howell and Wendy Geary, back. 20\_f20fortps01

## Pupils turn attention to the sea

Fort William Primary School pupils spent a morning learning about life under the sea thanks to a visit from specialists. The youngsters wrote to Scottish Government marine protection policy advisors with their ideas about reducing pollution and protecting sea life. And on Friday three members of the team went to the school to show the children what kind of creatures live in the waters of nearby Loch Linne. They were fascinated by the tubeworms in a tub and looked under a microscope to examine sea life found in the loch.

## Dilapidated Acharacle house to be renovated for family to rent

A DILAPIDATED house next to the village shop in Acharacle is to be renovated and made available for rent to a local family.

The Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT) will carry out the work after receiving £100,000 from the Nationwide Foundation under a scheme to bring empty rural homes back into use.

It is expected the property, which has been leased from Acharacle Community Company, will be ready for the new tenant by late summer.

HSCHT boss Ronnie MacRae said: 'HSCHT is really excited to be involved in this project. Empty homes are a long standing issue across the Highlands and indeed

nationally. It is a credit to the Nationwide Foundation for providing funding to tackle these problems.'

He added: 'We will be looking at the impact of current regulations and VAT on the feasibility of renovations for affordable housing and identifying potential cost effective methods to enable further

empty properties to be brought into use as affordable homes.'

Leigh Pearce, the Nationwide Foundation's interim chief executive said: 'It is unacceptable that there is a shortage of affordable homes in the Scottish Highlands, while at the same time there are many empty properties which could be used.'

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## Only one complaint about odour

SMELLS emanating from sewerage works at Pennyfuir Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW), near Oban are not causing a stink with the public, says Scottish Water.

The publicly-owned company said it had only one complaint about the smell in the last year.

Vehicle drivers who pass the area, or those attending Pennyfuir Cemetery across the road who have reported the matter to *The Oban Times*, are asked to contact Scottish Water if the smell is offensive.

A spokesman for Scottish Water said: 'We apologise for any odour from the WWTW. We do our best to minimise this and counteract any odour issues.'

'But, like all WWTWs, there might occasionally be some odour that is noticeable in certain weather conditions, for example when there is little or no wind. The geography of the local area could also be a factor.'

'However, we have received only one formal complaint about odour from the WWTW in more than a year.'

## Work starts on new off-road path for walkers and cyclists

WORK has started on a new 2.1 km off-road path for cycling and walking from Lagnaha to Kettallen in south Lochaber.

The £350,000 path, on the right hand side of the main A828 heading north, will form part of National Cycle Network route 78 from Campbeltown to Inverness.

National sustainable transport charity Sustrans, which has been working on the Oban to Fort William section of the route since 2007, said the works are scheduled to be complete by June 27.

Lindley Kirkpatrick of Sustrans Scotland said it would fill in 'a key missing link' in the existing path.

She said: 'Sustrans aims to give people opportunities to travel on foot and by bike for more of their everyday journeys.'

'When finished, it will provide a safe off-road facility for both locals and visitors to use and enjoy.'



Fire service staff presented Lochaber youngsters with their Duke of Edinburgh bronze awards. From left: Peter Lees, Bonny Mealand, Lorna Linfield, Jordan Padron-Acosta, Vaila Kennedy, Evan Kyle, Torran Mealand, Christopher Findlay (Junior) and Pat McElhinney.

20\_f20fire01

## Award youngsters complete fire course

SEVEN Lochaber youngsters have received bronze certificates from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) after passing a course for the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

For the last eight weeks firefighters at Fort William instructed the schoolchildren on how ladders, pumps, knots, and fire hoses and other equipment is used to help and support operational activity.

The youngsters - Evan Kyle, Torran Mealand, Kyle Mealand, Vaila Kennedy, Lorna Linfield, Jordan Padron-Acosta and Cara Lees - also learned about the discipline and teamwork required by Fire and Rescue

Service personnel when facing emergency situations.

The course was led by crew manager Peter Lees, supported by firefighters Christopher Findlay (Jnr) and Alan Knox.

SFRS group manager for Lochaber Pat McElhinney presented the young people with their certificates at Fort William Fire Station last Thursday. He said: 'I would like to commend all seven of the young people who attended and completed this course. I am sure the skills and knowledge they have acquired will aid and support their direction in life. Communication, confidence, practical skills, problem solving, consideration

for others and commitment to excellence are just a few of the traits all of them will have developed during their time with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service - and no matter what their career path all these skills will serve them well.'

'We wish them all the best in the future. I would also like to personally thank my staff who run the entire course in their own time, working late nights and also after working a full day in their normal jobs.'

'Their commitment to the fire service and these young people is massively appreciated by myself and the community at large, I am sure.'

Residents complained the developer did not have permission from Historic Scotland, which

# Developer hits back over tree complaints

A PROPERTY developer has hit back complaints that he is damaging the environment.

Star Brae Properties Ltd is developing four single-storey houses and one two-storey property at a site east of Hawthorn Edge in North Connel.

Last week a contractor was seen by nearby residents cutting down trees in a plot on the opposite side of the road to the development, which they believed did not belong to the developer.

Callum MacLachlainn, a co-owner of Star Brae Properties, said the claims were wrong and he owned the land on which there is also a scheduled prehistoric burial cairn.

He said: 'We take advice from consultants before we do anything. We were advised that we were felling trees that were under five cubic metres so there was no felling licence needed.'

Mr MacLachlainn said trees were measured and were under the prescribed size. Forestry Commission Scotland said a licence was not required if the trees were 8cm diameter or less when measured at 1.3 metres.

Residents complained the developer did not have permission from Historic Scotland, which

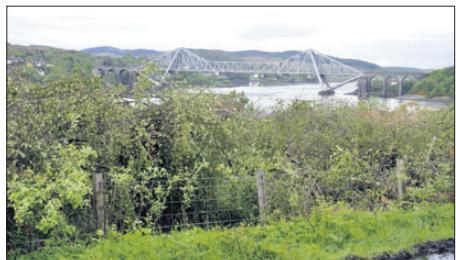
they would not be taken down.

A sign for the sale of the properties on the site had been defaced with the words 'destroying eco systems.'

A Historic Scotland spokesman said: 'We were made aware of the removal of trees from a scheduled prehistoric burial cairn at North Connel and one of our officers visited the site on May 2 to assess the extent of the work done.'

Mr MacLachlainn said the majority of trees were saplings, rather than fully grown trees.

There were reports that during a confrontation between the contractor and local residents people were hugging trees so



It was claimed that more than 50 trees were removed from a North Connel plot east of Hawthorn Edge, which the developer disputes. t20connell

## Oban charity shop hands over April proceeds to Royal Mod committee

A CHARITY shop that has dedicated two thirds of its income to the Royal National Mod in Oban next year has handed over a cheque for £4,700 for the month of April.

The MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust shop, which will continue its lease of the White Building on the North Pier until it is demolished next January, has an agreement with the Mod's local organising committee that will see a projected £30,000 raised for the event by next October.

Charity shop volunteer Freddie MacKenzie, who is also vice chairman of the Mod organising committee, was delighted to present a cheque to the Mod 2015 treasurer Danny MacRae last Friday.

### Agreement

Charitable trust chairman Graham MacQueen said: 'We will continue with our agreement to help the Mod organising committee until September this year, meaning we expect to hand over a total of £30,000.'

'Our involvement with the Mod has seen an increase in the number of volunteers to run the shop and, as a result, we will now be opening from 10am to 6pm. We previously had to close at 4pm.'

'We are also receiving a huge number of donations from the public, for which we are very grateful.'

Mr MacKenzie remarked that 15 of the 32 volunteers that help at the charity shop are fluent Gaelic speakers.

## Public to get say on council savings

HIGHLAND Council is to canvas public opinion on how to make millions of pounds of savings.

The first stage of the consultation will run to the end of June and will involve discussions between councillors and communities, social media and a 'budget blog'.

The council will study the responses and create specific proposals with detailed projections of savings and impacts on services. Between September and November the results will be put to the Citizen's Panel, focus groups and a new

'Communities Panel' featuring community councils, equality groups and parent councils among others.

The exercise will include Highland Council's pledge to reconsider the proposed closure of 23 of its 35 service points after the plan prompted a furious backlash from affected communities earlier this year. The consultation was discussed at a full council meeting last Thursday and was welcomed by councillors.

Councillor Maxine Smith said: 'It's really important we get everyone on board.'

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## LOCHAWE

CONCERNS about repeated flooding on the A85 at Lochawe village have been taken to the top table of the Scottish Government by Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie McGregor.

Last Thursday Mr McGregor raised in the Scottish Parliament constituents' concerns about repeated flooding of the trunk road by questioning the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Infrastructure Nicola Sturgeon.

Commenting afterwards, Jamie said: 'Sections of this stretch of lochside road have the particular danger of water over 200 feet deep directly below, and flooding is dangerous as it has the potential to make cars swear.'

'It is vital Transport Scotland and the council ensure all gullies, burns and culverts along the length of the road are cleaned and cleared appropriately and regularly so that they are able to cope with heavy rain.'

This, of course, applies to all the local and trunk roads across my region and is extremely important if we want to minimise the impact of flooding.'

## NETHERLORN

NETHERLORN Church has shared some good news this week.

John Alexander from Luing, who has been playing such an important part in leading worship in Netherlorn, is to be admitted as a Reader in the Church of Scotland.

The service for this will take place in Kilchantan Church on Tuesday May 27 at 6.45pm.

The church is planning a Summer Fun Day for the community on July 18 and ask that volunteer helpers come to a planning day on Monday May 26 at 3pm in Kilbrandon Church.

## KYLE

KYLE Lifeboat has thanked Eilean Donan Castle and the people from Skye and Lochalsh who took up their offer of free entry into the castle during April.

Thanks to their kind donations, £504.31 was raised.

## ARISAIG

RAINFALL at Arisaig during April was a below average 77.4mm - more than three inches - according to amateur meteorologist Randolph Coyne.

Precipitation for the year now stands at 534.2mm, or 21.2 inches, which is above average.

Mean minimum daily temperature was 6.9°C and the maximum 15.5°C, both slightly above average.

Coldest night was 1°C with the warmest day a scorching 24°C.

## Newsdesks

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Ballachulish Primary School pupils enjoy their new outdoor play area.

## Ballachulish pupils' delight at new play area

Ballachulish Primary School pupils are delighted with their new outdoor play area. What was previously waste ground next to the school building, has been developed into a climbing area, sandpit and seating, all with a safe bark surface. Thanks go to the school's eco co-ordinator Mrs Milne, local councillors, Ballachulish Community Council, Highland Titles Charitable Trust, parent fundraisers and Ballachulish Playpark Committee for their support.

## DUROR

A FLOWER festival will return to Duror Parish Church this summer after an absence of 14 years.

The Duror Parish Church event will be held from July 11 to 13 with floral displays and interpretations in the church and teas and coffees served in

the church hall. Donations to the church will be taken at the door.

Festival organiser and church elder Rena Cameron said: 'We haven't had a flower festival at the church since 2000.'

I hadn't considered another one until a friend of mine from Glasgow visited recently and mentioned it.'



## Actor visits Cruachan

Well-known Scottish actor David Hayman took time off during filming for the forthcoming series *On Weir's Way* last week to enjoy a well-earned cuppa at Cruachan Visitor Centre. Pictured with the actor are visitor centre employees Libby Cattanach and Christina Goodhair.

## PORTREE

A PORTREE charity has been shortlisted for a national award.

Youth drop in centre Ok Skate was named as a finalist in the Celebrating Communities category of the Scottish Charity Awards.

Lesley Hellon of Ok Skate, which has been running since 2006, said: 'What a fantastic achievement in such a small time span. Who knows what we can achieve as a team with time, more money and local support from many stakeholders. Delivering confident individuals, successful learners, effective contributors, creating our future responsible citizens, working towards sustainability and creating employment locally.'

Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in Edinburgh on June 5.

## SCARBA

EXPLORERS were lucky enough to see both a white-tailed sea eagle and golden eagle near Corryvreckan last Thursday.

The uninhabited island is also home to wild deer that swim between the island and Luing at low tide.

## RAASAY

CHILDREN at Raasay Primary School have discovered a new way to fundraise.

The school has registered with The Giving Machine, an online, non-profit organisation which provides cash donations from major retailers every time a registered user spends with them.

## MORAR

LADY Lovat Primary School in Morar welcomed Lucy Ballantyne from the Lochaber Fisheries Trust to begin the 'Go With The Flow' project with the children last week.

Lucy brought tadpoles with her and spoke to the girls and boys about how to look after them. The pupils are observing changes in the tadpoles as they grow and keeping a record of what they look like before a much-anticipated field trip in a few weeks' time when the tiny frogs will be released into the wild.

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The school would like to thank parents, families, friends and supporters who offered lots for the auction and to everyone who bid on the items.

THE SCHOOL hosted a family ceilidh and barbecue at the Astley Hall in Arisaig on April 29.

Pupils, friends and family entertained the public with a wealth of music, song and dance. A great time was had by everyone.

## LUING

THE INTERIOR design team for The Atlantic Islands Centre on the Isle of Luing has been announced.

Leach Colour Limited has been appointed and has already met with islanders to discuss the project.

## SEIL AND EASDALE

DIFIBRILLATORS have been delivered to both Easdale and Seil islands.

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## LOCHDON

LOCHDONHEAD Primary School has been entered into the finals of two competitions.

One is the Education Scotland Enterprise award and the other is Scotland's Finest Woods award.

Primary six pupils Henry Lines and Kara Gray said: 'On Thursday April 24, Education Scotland came to judge us on our Community Café Enterprise which has been running since August last year.'

'We were quite nervous when the judges arrived as there has been a lot to do in that last few months of running our café but we enjoyed our stay.'

'We are putting the money towards school ground development, particularly a new polytunnel so we can grow things all year round.'



## Inverie youngsters clean-up

Inverie Primary School pupils in Knoydart carried out a beach clean-up as part of their Eco Schools and Green Flag programme. The children collected rubbish from the shoreline near to the school which they went on to sort and categorise.

## PLOCKTON

POLLY Bryan from Skye held a needle-felting workshop in Plockton Hall on April 26 under the auspices of Plockton Horticultural Society.

The same day, Kyle fire brigade provided the annual dinner and social evening in the Kings Arms Hotel, Kyleakin, for Kyle and district senior citizens. Fifty-five people attended and after an excellent meal they enjoyed entertainment from students from the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music at Plockton, who accompanied non-trad band The Tom Oakes Experiment in Plockton Hall two days previously.

MRS LILIAS Simpson of Rudha Mor house and gardens at Plockton held an open day on Easter Monday, April 21.

Activities included an Easter egg hunt and afternoon teas. A total of £700 was raised and with £200 in the boxes in the gardens, £900 was shared between Highland Hospice, Crossroads Care and Macmillan Cancer Support.

SKYE and Lochalsh Sports Council held its AGM in Portree High School on April 28.

Attendance was disappointing but treasurer Peter Gordon submitted a satisfactory report. Chairman Charlie M MacRae, secretary/treasurer Peter Gordon and vice chairman Councillor Drew Millar were all re-elected. Committee: - Nicholas Kelly, Doreen MacPhee, both Broadford, Mairi Henderson, Elgol, Dave MacVicar, Karen Augier, Neil Cameron, all Portree, Ron Whyte, Skeabost, Ann Lloyd, Dornie, Albert Laodes, Balmacara. Sadly the council lost two of its committee members in the past year with the deaths of Dr Julian Thoms and John Nicolson. The next meeting is in Kyleakin Hall on June 16.

A DANCE organised by the music school was held in Plockton Hall on Friday April 25 to raise funds for the annual trip to Peru.

A CRAFT fair was held in Plockton Hall on May 2-3, organised by Sheila Matheson from Kintail arts and crafts group.

PLOCKTON Drama Club travelled to East Kilbride on April 26 for the Scottish drama finals after winning at Plockton and Nairn, but were unplaced.

THE CLEAN-UP at Plockton, now held twice a year, was held on April 25 with 20 Plockton schoolchildren picking up the litter in the afternoon and several adults took part in the evening. Three skips were filled.

GRANTS from Skye and Lochalsh Sports Council and Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association helped Plockton Bowling Club clean up the artificial surface of the only outdoor bowling green in Skye and Lochalsh.

## COMPETITION

**WIN A KID'S RACE CAR BED! WORTH £399**

To help raise awareness of local charity Friends of Oban Community Park, Matheson's Furnishing store in Oban is offering Oban Times readers the chance to win a kid's race car bed, including mattress and linen, worth £399.

## DONATE TODAY!

To donate online, visit [www.justgiving.com/obanplaypark](http://www.justgiving.com/obanplaypark)

To donate by mobile phone, text OBAN14 followed by a space then the amount you wish to donate to 70070. For example, to donate £10 text OBAN14 £10 to 70070.

Stay in touch on [www.facebook.com/obancommunityplaypark](http://www.facebook.com/obancommunityplaypark)

To enter this fantastic competition, simply answer this easy question, complete the coupon and hand it in to Atlantis Leisure Centre, Dalriach Road by Tuesday, May 20. An entry box and the Race Car Bed will be on display at the centre until May 20, 2014.

How much money does Friends of Oban Community Playpark need to raise?

a) £100,000 b) £200,000 c) £400,000

Answer \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Terms and conditions: Prize package does not include delivery. The winner will need to collect from Matheson's in Oban. By entering this competition you agree to be contacted by Friends of Oban Community Playpark, Atlantis Leisure, Matheson's and The Oban Times. The prize is as stated. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopies entries will not be accepted. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvern Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyvern Media and associated company employees and their families. The prize is not transferable or redeemable for cash equivalent.

OBAN COMMUNITY PLAYPARK



The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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## SEIL AND EASDA

## Sunart group's plot plans

A LOCHABER community group has applied to purchase a plot of land to grow produce locally.

Sunart Community Company (SCC) lodged an application to the National Forest Land Scheme to buy 0.14 hectares of land adjacent to the old schoolhouse in Strontian.

Details have not been finalised but members hope it can be used for a community growing project, to allow residents, and potentially pupils from local schools, to grow their own food.

SCC treasurer James Hilder said: 'Growing local produce is something a lot of residents are interested in and would benefit the community in terms of health and economy. There are a lot of ways we can go about it which we will decide on nearer the time but it would be nice for the schools to have a plot each.'

## Fort FC appeal

FORT William Football Club is appealing for more volunteers to help out at 20 home games at Claggan Park next season.

People are needed for various duties including manning the gate, monitoring supporters, providing first aid, managing the park and helping at the snack bar. Those interested can email [admin@fortwilliamfc.co.uk](mailto:admin@fortwilliamfc.co.uk) or phone 01397 698003.

Meanwhile, the Lochaber Welfare League is holding an Old Firm 'Rangers v Celtic' fundraising game at Claggan Park on Sunday.

The match will kick off at 2pm with kids games from 11.30am until 2pm.

A raffle will be held at the end of the game, with tickets available from Iain Ferguson.

## Argyll author visits West Highland Museum

AN ARGYLL author will be in Fort William this weekend signing copies of her book about an doctor executed in the Jacobite Rising.

Lady Mary McGrigor will be in the West Highland Museum from 2.30pm on Sunday (18th) showcasing her biography of Doctor Archibald Cameron. The book 'Doctor Archie - The Life and Times of Doctor Archibald Cameron' outlines how the well-respected doctor began his career in Strontian before he was drawn into the Jacobite rebellion in 1745.

## Schools get heart start machines

WESTERN Isles Council has teamed up with Skye-based charity 'Lucky2BHere' to install defibrillators at schools across the Outer Hebrides.

The life-saving heart start machines will be installed at Castlebay Sports Centre in Barra, Lonaclait Sports Centre in Benbecula, Shawbost and Lionel community schools in Lewis and at Smith Avenue Outdoor Facility in Stornoway. A defibrillator is already available at Iomad Spors Leòdhais.

Porrree man Ross Cowie started up Lucky2BHere after he almost died from a cardiac arrest back in 2007. Only the chance passing of a full-equipped ambulance crew saved his life.

Tony Wade, the comhairle's sports facilities services manager, said: 'It has been an aspiration for some time to have access to defibrillators on our sites with sports facilities.'

'We have been working with Ross Cowie and the 'Lucky2BHere' team in Skye for some time and I am delighted that they have agreed to support the project.'

### Inspirational

'Ross is an inspirational personality who drives the charity forward whilst confronting a serious heart condition himself.'

'We hope his story and the installation of the machines will kick start process that will include young people and our communities getting involved with learning about emergency life support.'

Next steps include holding a training session in Lewis with the aim of spreading skills out into the wider community.

Mr Wade said: 'People can be apprehensive about using a defibrillator but once the training has been provided and they understand how the machine effectively talks you through the process, they gain confidence really quickly.'

Mr Cowie said: 'It has been proven that defibrillators can make the difference between life and death. We hope this is the start of a long and potentially lifesaving relationship with the Outer Hebrides.'



Delighted: Lochaber Rugby Club players were thrilled to pick up silverware at the annual dinner dance. From left: Alistair MacKinnon, Calum MacDonald, Mike McLeish and Jack Baxter. 20\_20rugsbyprize01

## Rugby club teams up awards night with dinner

LOCHABER Rugby Club's annual awards ceremony was teamed with the dinner dance for the first time on Saturday night.

Trophies were presented by club president Alistair MacKinnon in the Ben Nevis Hotel in Fort William.

Lorraine Revitt was awarded Person of

the Year but was unable to attend the event to collect her award. The Calum Mercer Memorial Shield for an up-and-coming young player went to Calum MacDonald while team captain Mike McLeish picked up Player of the Year. The trophy for Most Improved Player went to Finlay Ireland.

Mr MacKinnon said: 'It was a really good night, it went really well. It's all young boys winning awards so things are looking good for the future of the club. Finishing fifth, this season was probably the most successful season on the pitch for a number of years hopefully we'll keep improving.'

## Former Lochaber surgeon to be honoured for outstanding service to the community

A FORMER Lochaber surgeon will be honoured with an award for outstanding service to the community next Friday night (May 23).

David Sedgwick will be presented with Fort William Community Council's first Citizen of the Year award in the town's council chambers.

The title goes to someone who has provided outstanding personal service to the community or whose service has made a special contribution to the wellbeing of Fort William and the wider area.

Prior to his retirement in January, Mr Sedgwick spent 21 years as Belford Hospital's consultant surgeon and led the five year campaign to save the Belford from being downgraded

to a community day hospital. He also introduced keyhole surgery at the Belford.

Fort William Community Council members chose Mr Sedgwick to receive the first award 'in recognition of his long and distinguished service to the population of Lochaber'.

Chairman Neil Clark said: 'This is the first time we have had this award and David fits all the criteria. He has provided outstanding personal service through his treatments and operations at the Belford over the years and is involved in youth and church work.'

'He was hugely involved in stopping the closure of the Belford and is extremely well known and liked in the community.'



David Sedgwick at his retirement send-off in January. 20\_f20doc01



Volunteers young and old who helped out at the Alzheimer Scotland coffee morning on Saturday morning. 120alzh1

## Oban coffee morning boosts Alzheimer funds

VOLUNTEERS of all ages came out in force to raise cash for the Oban Branch of Alzheimer Scotland's coffee morning on Saturday.

Held in Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban, the room was 'going like a fair' for the many people who came along. The successful event raised £820.40 with the money being matched by Lloyds Banking Group to make a grand total of £1,640.80 towards the good work of the charity.

A22 USERS are facing six more weeks of delays south of Fort William in the run up to the Scottish schools' summer holidays.

Forestry Commission Scotland is resuming harvesting work at Glen Righ on May 27 to bring down huge conifers above the road.

According to the commission, some are nearly 40 metres high and weigh more than five tonnes, meaning a major operation will be required to remove them from the hillside.

The lifeline route will be reduced to a single lane with traffic lights in place from Monday to Friday between 5am and 3pm.

Short periods of full road closure of up to 20 minutes between 5am and 7am, and of 10

minutes from 9am and 3pm will be also required to allow timber extraction. Vehicles will be permitted to clear from both directions between each period of closure and there will be no closures between 8am and 9am, the commission said.

No traffic management will be in place around the weekend of the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup on June 7-8.

Traffic lights will be removed after Friday, July 4 when the Scottish school holidays start and will not return again until after the English school holidays in early September.

Alex McLeod, who is managing the project for the commission, said a 'skyline' system would be

used to fell and remove the trees and apologised in advance for delays to journey times.

He said: 'We've built up a good body of experience of steep ground work over the past two years but we've not yet had to deal with trees of this size.'

'We're taking a belt and braces approach to public safety on this one and we've analysed traffic flows along the A82 – as well as ferry sailings - at this time of year in a bid to minimise disruption as much as we can.'

'However, we acknowledge that there will be some inconvenience and we would like to apologise in advance to road users who will be affected.'

## Borrodale school hostel plan takes step forward

PLANS to transform a mothballed school in northwest Skye into a £1m hostel, bar and restaurant have taken a step forward as a planning application has been lodged.

The Glendale Trust plans to buy the old Borrodale Primary School, which closed in 2007, and transform it into a 16-bedroom bunkhouse with laundry services. A new building will also be constructed to house a restaurant and heritage centre. Trust members are waiting for a price from Highland Council, which owns the

building, and are confident everything will go to plan. Joy Talbot, chairwoman of The Glendale Trust, said: 'We carried out an extensive community consultation and feasibility study and the overwhelming view was that we need to do something that will make use of a community asset, but also be economically sustainable.'

'Our hope is that the proposal will attract more visitors to the area as well as improve the recreational and social provision for the community.'

Skye-based architects Dualchas has drawn up

designs and project architect Neil Stephen said respecting the existing building and history was crucial. He added: 'The school and schoolhouse will remain the focal point of the site, but we are proposing to remove the unsightly rear annex and the clumsy extension to the front. The additional buildings will be distinctive and clad in larch, including a laundry building and a biomass store. The aim is to create a public garden within the stone wall enclosure and giving the bar stunning views to the coast.'

# Post Office move a 'done deal' claim residents

Spean Bridge anger as switch decision made before public views considered

## EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by  
EMMA CRICHTON  
[erichton@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:erichton@obantimes.co.uk)

shop and space to queue but we have always believed that the Post Office had already decided to move.

'It's just appalling what they get up to now, public bodies continually ignore community representatives and volunteers. They had no intention of taking our concerns into account, I have no doubt about that.'

A Spean Bridge resident who asked not to be named said: 'I believe that this was a done deal from the outset. All it is now is one of the best smoke and mirror acts I have seen.'

A spokeswoman for Post Office Ltd insisted to *The Oban Times* that no final plans are in place.

She said: 'Customer engagement letters were sent to the branch in February inviting comment on potential changes to service at the branch, with responses being accepted up until 21 March.'

'Following the end of this customer engagement process, a decision is yet to be made. Once a decision is made we will inform customers and local representatives, and issue a press release announcing any change.'

## Dancers step out on Skye Bridge to celebrate games

TRAFFIC will be halted across the Skye Bridge for around six minutes tomorrow evening for a mass dance to celebrate the upcoming Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

The 7pm event, part of the international Big Dance Pledge, will coincide with similar mass dances across

the Commonwealth.

One lane will be kept open to provide access for emergency vehicles and limit disruption to the public.

The dance, choreographed by

Alastair Redman

Conservative & Unionist



Alastair

Redman

Conservative & Unionist

Alastair prides himself on being a passionate and hardworking local political activist. He has taken a real interest in local matters in Kintyre & the Isles and is now vice-Chairman of his local community council. Working with the local community, Alastair is an integral part of the Armed Forces Support Group charity, sending morale boosting parcels to our overseas forces.

In addition to running a local small business and sub-Post Office on his native Islay, Alastair finds time to be a Director of his local recycling charity Re-Jig and cares strongly about the local environment. He was also instrumental in setting up the Better Together Islay Facebook page. Better Together is the cross party campaign that promotes the view held by millions of Scots: that Scotland is a better and stronger country within the UK family of nations.

Kintyre & Islands Ward Co-Coordinator (Conservative)

Tel: 01496 860 264 Email: [alastair.redman@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alastair.redman@hotmail.co.uk)

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# Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival

## Results

Highland Dancing Scottish Area Finals: North Aberdeenshire; Choreographed Solo/Duet: Pater- son School of Dance Edinburgh; Scottish: Choreography Challenge: Choreographed Set Theme: Open Age Group: Elizabeth Low School of Dance, Forfar; 12 years and under: Grant/Wilson School, Kirriemuir/Forfar; 16 years and over: Sarah Hendry School, Glenrothes.

Accordion and Fiddle Masters: Accordion: 1 Lagavulin Distillery Trophy: Emma Dickson, Dolphinton; 2 Iain Campbell, Donald William Campbell Memorial Trophy: Liam Stewart, Galston; 3 Susan MacFadyen, West Kilbride. Fiddle: 1 Oban Distillery Trophy: Maggie Adamson, Shetland; 2 Gordon MacLachlan Memorial Trophy: George Davidson, Tarves; 3 Shona MacFadyen, West Kilbride.

Champion of Champions: Jimmy Feighan Trophy for best performance at Concert of Champions: Chirsty Harkins, Alexandria.

Junior Solo Piping, Chanter and Drumming Competition: Chanter: Under 12 years: Scale and two-part tune: The Muir Trophy: Gregor MacDonald, North Connell; 2 Innes Munro, Connell; 3 Freya MacKechie, North Connell. Chanter: Under 12 years: four-part tune: Argyll Print Trophy: Laura Robertson, Fort William; 2 Archie Clark, Spean Bridge, Frances Shand Kydd Trophy: awarded to the most promising player: John MacLeod, Benderloch. Chanter: 12 years and under 14 years: Anthony Campbell Memorial Trophy: Tierney Dornan; 2 Ellen Mackechie, Oban; 3 Sinclair Hennessy, Loch Awe. Novice March: Under 13 years: Oban Electrical Services Trophy: Josh Barbour, Campbeltown; 2 Ross Conner, Campbeltown; 3 Anna May Woodhouse, Barcaldine. Ground of a Piobaireachd – Under 15 years: D Watt & Son Trophy: Jamie McKellar, Campbeltown; 2 Fraser Mitchell, Tobarerry; 3 Finlay Turner, Skaeost Bridge, The Lodge Earraghaidheal Trophy, awarded the highest placed Argyll resident: Josh Barbour, Campbeltown. Piobaireachd – Under 15 years: Pipe Dreams Trophy: Seonaidh Morrison, Bishopston; 2 Wallace Dempster, Arisaig; 3 Robbie MacIsaac, Falkirk. March: Under 15 years: The Willie MacCallum Trophy for March Playing: Harry McLachlan, Aberfeldy; 2 Robbie MacIsaac, Falkirk; 3 James Miller, Falkirk. Strathspey & Reel: Under 15 years: The Tommy Askew Memorial Trophy: Harry McLachlan, Aberfeldy; 2 Harris MacLennan, Lasswade; 3 Robbie MacIsaac, Falkirk. The

Billy Kirkham Trophy: Harry McLachlan, Aberfeldy. Jig: Under 15 years: The Cameron Family Trophy: Harris MacLennan, Lasswade; 2 Harry McLachlan, Aberfeldy; 3 Seonaidh Morrison, Bishopston. Piobaireachd: 15 years and under 18 years: Angus MacAlister Memorial Quaich: Brighde Chaibneul, An Caol; 2 Cameron MacDougall, Nigg; 3 Donald C Stewart, Stewarton. March: 15 years and under 18 years: Ryan MacPhail Memorial Trophy: 1 Ciaren Ross; 2 Cameron MacDougall, Nigg; 3 Jamie Baxter, Lochgilphead. Strathspey & Reel: 15 years and under 18 years: Chris Crowe Trophy: Ciaren Ross; 2 Cameron MacDougall, Nigg; 3 Brigid Chaibneul, An Caol. Hornpipe & Jig: 15 years and under 18 years: Bill Crowe Trophy: Ciaren Ross; 2 Cameron MacDougall, Nigg; 3 Liam Donaldson, Kirriemuir. The Allan MacInnes Memorial Trophy: Sandy Cameron, Roy Bridge, Stick & Pad, 14 years & under: Oban Music Trophy: Rona O'May, Campbeltown; 2 Eosaph Cainbeul, An Caol; 3 Adam MacLean, Connell. March: four part: 14 years & under: Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy: Raymond Gosling, Campbeltown; 2 Scott MacDougall, Nigg; 3 Rachel Thom, Livingston, 6/8 March: 14 years & under: Netherlorn Shield: Scott MacDougall, Nigg; 2 Raymond Gosling, Campbeltown; 3 Martin MacKinnon, Fort William; Hornpipe & Jig: 15 years and under 18 years: United Auctions Trophy: Alasdair Cameron, Oban. March, Strathspey & Reel: 15 years and under 18 years: Adam McCracken Trophy: Alasdair Cameron, Oban; Tenor: March: John Livingstone Memorial Trophy: Lucy Carroll, Livingston; 2 Bronwen Davies, Kilmorar; 3 Marley Squires, Benderloch.

Senior Piping: Piobaireachd: Grade A & P: Open: Cooper Salver: Finlay Johnston, Glasgow; 2 Dugald MacColl Memorial Trophy: Gordon McCready, Renfrew; 3 Allan Russell, Kelty. Piobaireachd: Grade B: Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy: Matt Fraser, Glasgow; 2 Walter Drysdale Trophy: Edward Gaul, Dundee; 3 Steven Leask, Irvine, Piobaireachd: Grade C: Ronald Lawrie Memorial Trophy: Duncan Beattie, Stirling; 2 Rhuaraidh Edwards, North Connell; 3 Finlay Clark, Spean Bridge; March, Strathspey & Reel: Grade A & P: Reid Family Trophy: William Geddes, Glasgow; 2 Finlay Johnston, Oban; 3 Peter Hunt, Stevenson, March, Strathspey & Reel: Grade B: Riona T MacInnes Trophy: Callum Moffat, Lockerbie; 2 Steven Gray, Lockerbie; 3 Andrew Wilson, Co Down, March, Strathspey & Reel: Grade C: Fusion Marine Trophy: John Cameron, Falkirk; 2 Gary Carruthers, Glasgow; 3 Gordon Barclay, Inverness. Accordion: Junior & Open:



Pupil follows in tutor's footsteps

Twenty years to the day that clarsach teacher Toni Russell, from Oban, won the beginners' trophy at the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival, her pupil picked up the same prize. The winner, Isabella Davidson from Perth, took the trophy at the competition held from May 2 to May 4 in Oban. t20festivals

March, Strathspey & Reel (Traditional): Under 12 years: Islay Strathspey & Reel (Traditional): Open: Mr & Mrs Hugh MacInnes, Beechglade Trophy: Michael MacLeod, Fort William; 2 John Weeks, Glasgow, March, Strathspey & Reel (Traditional): Open: McIntee Family Trophy: Adin Graham, Fifeshire; 2 Kyle Baker, Islay. March, Strathspey & Reel (Pipe): Open: Neil Sinclair Trophy: Adin Graham, Fifeshire; 2 Ciarsaigh-Sarah Campbell, Caol; 3 Elinor Baker, Islay. March, Strathspey & Reel (Pipe): 12 years and under 16 years: The Duncan Campbell Trophy: Kyle Rowan, Edinburgh; 2 Ciarsaigh-Sarah Campbell, Caol; 3 Finlay Cameron, Roy Bridge. The John Allan Memorial Cup: Kyle Rowan, Edinburgh. Own Composition: Accordion or Fiddle: Angus & Ella MacFadyen

March, Strathspey & Reel (Traditional): Open: Calum MacPhail Trophy: George Davidson, Tarves; 2 Shona MacFadyen, West Kilbride; 3 Lesley Thompson, Cupar. Slow Air (Traditional): Open: Christine MacKenzie Trophy: George Davidson, Tarves; 2 Lesley Thompson, Cupar; 3 Shona MacFadyen, West Kilbride.

Clarsach: Beginners: Campbell Family Trophy: Isabelle Davidson, Perth; 2 Rhona McCracken, Taynuilt; 3 Chirsty Cameron, Oban; Intermediate: Oban Gaelic Drama Trophy: Joanne Hall, Biggar; 2 Jessica Swan, Oban; 3 Breagha Charlton, Taynuilt. Solo Singing with Self Accompaniment: Clarsach Society Trophy: Anna Westwell, Edinburgh; Duet: The Barry Milner Trophy: Rhona McCracken & Chirsty Cameron; 2 Sarah Garvin & Niamh Cameron; Advanced: Russell Quaich: Ciorstaigh-Sarah Campbell, Isle of Skye. Non-Traditional: HIMDF Trophy: Catriona Clark, Castle Douglas; 2 Ciarsaigh-Sarah Campbell, Isle of Skye; 3 Anna Westwell, Edinburgh. Recital of Scottish and/or Gaelic Music: Soroba House Trophy: Catriona Clark, Castle Douglas, 2 Anna Westwell, Edinburgh. Ensemble: Feis Latharn Clarsach Group. Singing: Primary, Secondary & Open: The Gillies Cup – awarded for the highest marks overall in singing competitions: Mid Argyll Youth Chorus. Scots Song: Primary: HIMDF Trophy: Chirsty Harkins, Alexandria; 2 Abbie Williams, Mid Argyll Youth Chorus; 3 Niamh Brady & Holly Renton, Mid Argyll Youth Chorus. Scots Song: Secondary 3+: HIMDF Trophy: Kyle Renton, Mid Argyll Youth Chorus. Schools Singing and Recorder: Primary Folk Singing Group: NABO Trophy: Dunbeg Primary; 2 Barcalding Primary; 3 Rockfield Primary. Primary Choirs: Accompanied: Sinclair Family Trophy: 1 Rockfield Primary; 2 Barcalding & Ardchattan: 3= Taynuilt Primary and Lochmell Primary. Recorder: Primary Recorder Groups: Agnes Connally Trophy: 1 Dunbeg Primary; 2 Ardchattan Primary; 3 Kilmore & Oban (Wed). Recorder Group: Open: HIMDF Trophy: Kilmore & Oban Church. Recorder Solo: Open: HIMDF Trophy: Catherine Ravenhill, North Connell; 2 Nicole MacPhee, North Connell; 3 Emily MacFarlane, North Connell. Woodwind & Brass: Primary: Woodwind: Elementary (less than 1 year's experience): 1 Niamh Sedgwick, Woodwind: Open: 1 Rowan Chisholm, Taynuilt; 2 Katie MacCorquodale, Appin; 3 Aimee Butler, Oban. Brass: Open: 1 Anna Westwell, Edinburgh; 2 Erin McLellan, Campbeltown; 3 Duncan Fothergill, Cuil Ferry. Woodwind and Brass Duets: Eliza Cox & Matthew Houston, Taynuilt. Woodwind & Brass: Secondary: Woodwind: Secondary 1st Year: 1 Katie Ramsay, Peterhead; 2 Fiona Armstrong, Dennyloanhead; 3 Morgan MacDougall; Brass: Secondary 1st Year: 1 Amy Paterson, Campbeltown; 2 Jessica Tanner, Slockavulin; 3 Kathryn Mathers, Leven. Woodwind: Secondary 2nd & 3rd Year: 1 Bridget Cox, Taynuilt; 2 Katie Houston, Taynuilt; 3 Tess Bell, Lemahagow, Brass: Secondary 2nd & 3rd Year: Paul Mathers, Leven. Woodwind: Secondary 4th, 5th & 6th Year: 1 Chelsea McNab, Oban; 2 Kirsty Campbell, Oban; 3 Lorna Young, Oban. Ensemble – may include primary pupils: 1 Oban High School Flute Choir; 2 Oban High School Clarinet Choir. Woodwind & Brass Duets: 1 Briony Kincaid & Chelsea McNab; 2 Emily Scott & Kirsty Campbell; 3 Ruaridh Carswell. HIMDF Lorn Trophy – awarded to the overall winner in Woodwind and overall winner in Brass competitions: Primary Woodwind: Rowan Chisholm, Taynuilt. Primary Brass: Anna Westwell, Edinburgh. Secondary Woodwind: Chelsea McNab, Oban. Secondary Brass: Amy Paterson, Campbeltown.

Jack Westwell, Edinburgh. Classical Solo: Bryce Stewart Trophy: Magnus Westwell, Edinburgh; 2 Paul Mathers, Leven. Ragtime & Blues: 1 Ruaridh Lister-Campbell, Kilmeord; 2 Magnus Westwell, Edinburgh; 3 Neil McCracken, Taynuilt. Romantic Period: 1 Jack Westwell, Edinburgh; 2 Magnus Westwell, Edinburgh. Romantic Period (adult advanced): Margaret Burns Trophy: Antonina Clement, Dingwall. Modern: 1 Jack Westwell, Edinburgh; 2 Lucy Hennessy, Dalmally. Schools Singing and Recorder: Primary Folk Singing Group: NABO Trophy: Dunbeg Primary; 2 Barcalding Primary; 3 Rockfield Primary. Primary Choirs: Accompanied: Sinclair Family Trophy: 1 Rockfield Primary; 2 Barcalding & Ardchattan: 3= Taynuilt Primary and Lochmell Primary. Recorder: Primary Recorder Groups: Agnes Connally Trophy: 1 Dunbeg Primary; 2 Ardchattan Primary; 3 Kilmore & Oban (Wed). Recorder Group: Open: HIMDF Trophy: Kilmore & Oban Church. Recorder Solo: Open: HIMDF Trophy: Catherine Ravenhill, North Connell; 2 Nicole MacPhee, North Connell; 3 Emily MacFarlane, North Connell. Woodwind & Brass: Primary: Woodwind: Elementary (less than 1 year's experience): 1 Niamh Sedgwick, Woodwind: Open: 1 Rowan Chisholm, Taynuilt; 2 Katie MacCorquodale, Appin; 3 Aimee Butler, Oban. Brass: Open: 1 Anna Westwell, Edinburgh; 2 Erin McLellan, Campbeltown; 3 Duncan Fothergill, Cuil Ferry. Woodwind and Brass Duets: Eliza Cox & Matthew Houston, Taynuilt. Woodwind & Brass: Secondary: Woodwind: Secondary 1st Year: 1 Katie Ramsay, Peterhead; 2 Fiona Armstrong, Dennyloanhead; 3 Morgan MacDougall; Brass: Secondary 1st Year: 1 Amy Paterson, Campbeltown; 2 Jessica Tanner, Slockavulin; 3 Kathryn Mathers, Leven. Woodwind: Secondary 2nd & 3rd Year: 1 Bridget Cox, Taynuilt; 2 Katie Houston, Taynuilt; 3 Tess Bell, Lemahagow, Brass: Secondary 2nd & 3rd Year: Paul Mathers, Leven. Woodwind: Secondary 4th, 5th & 6th Year: 1 Chelsea McNab, Oban; 2 Kirsty Campbell, Oban; 3 Lorna Young, Oban. Ensemble – may include primary pupils: 1 Oban High School Flute Choir; 2 Oban High School Clarinet Choir. Woodwind & Brass Duets: 1 Briony Kincaid & Chelsea McNab; 2 Emily Scott & Kirsty Campbell; 3 Ruaridh Carswell. HIMDF Lorn Trophy – awarded to the overall winner in Woodwind and overall winner in Brass competitions: Primary Woodwind: Rowan Chisholm, Taynuilt. Primary Brass: Anna Westwell, Edinburgh. Secondary Woodwind: Chelsea McNab, Oban. Secondary Brass: Amy Paterson, Campbeltown.

Hiring is an aspect of life that has blossomed over the last 30 years to the point where it has become very big business indeed. Both in the domestic and commercial spheres, it has reached the point where it is no longer a 'last resort' or 'emergency' decision. Hiring these days is the automatic move taken whenever a special job needs doing, special equipment is required, temporary transport needed or even a venue required for a function. In the complex world we live in it does in fact, make economic good sense.

All facets of human activity are catered for by hiring firms. Hiring can be done by the hour, the day, the week, month, year or indeed for much longer periods. Generally speaking it can be divided into domestic and commercial areas, though by its very nature it does allow either side to 'cross the line', which is an even greater advantage in many cases.

For the private, domestic client, High Street hiring shops can provide

Diggers available for hire from Mull Hire



The function room at the Oban Lorne Rugby Club can be hired for any occasion.

all the DIY requisites necessary to keep even the busiest amateur painter, decorator, carpenter, plumber, electrician or car mechanic, toolled up. There too can be found all the mechanised aids that render gardening less of a backbreaking job.

In all these activities, the hiring of equipment and tools can mean a job becomes an economically viable activity. It means the average, hard-pressed householder can afford to improve his home or garden without having to buy expensive tools and

equipment which may only ever be used once or twice. Jobs can be safely executed simply because hired tools and equipment are in first class order, well maintained and safe.

If the holiday includes some special sport or pastime,



All manner of DIY and building equipment can be hired from Hire and Supplies.

cycling for example, then the hiring of appropriate equipment and clothing can also be a boon.

Of course the commercial hirer can find this way of acquiring highly specialised plant and equipment an extremely economical activity.

Hired equipment after all need only be accommodated whilst in use, so there are no complex storage problems to cope with. Hiring allows a firm to have the very latest equipment for the job at very minimal rates. It means valuable capital is not tied up in a rapidly depreciating asset.

Then there is the matter of maintenance. All mechanical equipment deteriorates eventually. Regular servicing, periodic repairs and eventual replacement, must all come into the calculation.

All of this just goes to show how deeply into our society the habit of hiring has gone. So important is it now, were it to stop tomorrow, a lot of homes would begin to deteriorate, many weddings would appear less smart and accommodate fewer guests, and a great many commercial concerns would simply cease to function.



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## Work to start on joint campus

HIGHLAND Council's third and final project in its £36.5 million programme to provide new primary schools for the Fort William area will officially get underway on May 29.

A sod cutting ceremony will herald the start of a £14.6m scheme to demolish the existing Caol Primary School and Caol Community Centre and replace them with two new buildings.

The first, a joint campus accommodating a new eight-classroom Caol primary and a six-classroom school combining the existing Fort William and Lochside RC primaries, will have nursery classrooms and an internal 'street' to link the schools together.

The second building will house a new community centre along with Caol library, Caol Youth Centre and a Room 13 youth café.

A state-of-the-art biomass energy centre will heat both buildings, while a new car park and multi-use games area also form part of the development.

Councillor Alasdair Christie,



State-of-the-art: an artist's impression of how the new joint campus building will look once finished.

## New bridges for Ben

TWO ALUMINIUM footbridges on the main path up Ben Nevis to the summit are to be replaced.

Work is due to start on Monday May 19 and is estimated to take up to four weeks.

The footbridges, about a mile up the climb from the visitor centre in Glen Nevis, have been in a deteriorating state for years, Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team leader John Stevenson said. 'The foundations are starting to go and the bridges themselves are starting to wear out,' he said. 'They have seen a lot of traffic over the past 10 years and have been there for

as long as I can remember.' A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'Due to the nature of this essential work and to ensure the safety of the contractors and all other path users, everyone using this route is advised to follow the advisory signs on the hill and the on-site instructions. Restrictions and path closures will be kept to a minimum and all other routes onto Ben Nevis will be unaffected.'

The work is being funded by the landowners Rio Tinto Alcan. Public Information and guidance can be obtained from Glen Nevis Visitor Centre 01397 705922, [glen.nevis@highland.gov.uk](mailto:glen.nevis@highland.gov.uk).

## Experts recommend upgrade at A82 accident blackspot

AN ASSESSMENT on the A82 between Corran Ferry and Fort William has been carried out by Transport Scotland after months of demands from campaign group the A82 Partnership.

Experts have recommended work to be carried out to improve safety after nine accidents on the blackspot so far this year.

Planned improvements include resurfacing, infilling roadside ditches and improving signs on bends.

A Transport Scotland spokeswoman said: 'Transport Scotland has been working with Bear Scotland to improve safety on the A82 between Corran Ferry and Fort William. As part of these considerations an assessment has recently been completed that has recommended a number of improvements.'

'We will include these recommendations in our wider programme of road safety improvements. A further update on the programme will be provided when this exercise is complete.'

The spokeswoman also said Transport Scotland, Bear Scotland and Police

Scotland will meet at the Corriechuanach exit on the A82 later this week to investigate the circumstances of the fatal accident there on April 1.

A82 Partnership chairman, Councillor Brian Murphy told the Oban Times: 'I would welcome any improvements to that stretch of road. People are still very concerned about the number of incidents on that section and I look forward to seeing work carried out as soon as possible.'

'It's interesting that they [Transport Scotland] are recognising that there may be problems with the road surface because a lot of people have been making that point for some time.'

'I'm glad to see that people's concerns are being taken on board. I hope now they have made the decision they will do it before the tourism season kicks in.'

The Transport Scotland spokeswoman also said that a reduction of the speed limit from 60mph to 50mph from South Ballachulish to Achintore Road is planned for this financial year as part of the speed limit review published late 2012.

## Six Days Trial takes detour to Appin

THE Scottish Six Days Trial took a detour into Appin for the first time in its 115-year history.

The Fort William based event was held between May 5-10 and traditionally moves between sections around Lochaber.

But this year, part of the third day's competition was held in Glen Stockdale and proved a tough day for riders. Only one competitor made it through without losing any points.

By all accounts people who made it to the Glen in Appin to speculate were impressed with the skill of the riders.

Kinlochleven rider Gary MacDonald, aged 30, achieved his goal of finishing in the top 10 and retained his trophy for being top Scottish finisher.

Overall winner of the event was Dougie Lampkin, with James Dabill second and Sam Connor third.

See photos from the Appin sections in next week's *Oban Times*.



Past and present Mountain Bike World Cup Champions unveil the honours boards at Nevis Range. From left: Ruaridh Cunningham, Katy Curd, Emmeline Ragot and Gee Atherton. 20\_f20bikes01

## Mountain bike champs honoured

AS FORT William gears up for another Mountain Bike World Cup, organisers have been celebrating past champions.

An honorary board outlining 48 previous downhill winners was unveiled at the Pine Marten Cafe, Nevis Range, on Friday, attended by reigning downhill champions Gee Atherton and Katie Curd, along with competitors Emmeline Ragot and Ruaridh Cunningham.

This year's event will be on June 7 and 8. Mountain Bike World Cup organiser Mike Jardine said: 'Since 2002 some of the best crowds in the world have made the annual pilgrimage to Fort William to see their heroes in action. It's fitting that athletes who have competed in the Fort William World Cup for over a decade are celebrated here today ahead of what will be another adrenaline-filled tournament starting next month.'

## Official opening of Glencoe track

THE OFFICIAL opening of part of the Glencoe orbital recreational track will take place on Saturday, developers Glencoe and Glet Etive Community Company (GGECC) has announced.

The new section, running

from Glencoe village to the Clachaig Inn following the line of the Old Glencoe Road, will be opened by author and historian Dr James Hunter.

GGECC chairman Dave Smith said: 'The community company thanks Highlands and

Islands Enterprise which fully funded the cost of this 2.5km of track. Also thanks should be given to project manager Claire Thomson and Fion Construction for their efforts in building the track on time whilst battling atrocious weather conditions.'

INVERGARRY has become the latest West Highland community to consider buying woodland after Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) put 30 hectares up for sale at the western end of the village.

The forest, which straddles the main A87 road, includes two hectares housing a former FCS workshop and offices, an 18-hectare stand of conifers and 10 hectares of natural woods along the River Garry.

Under the National Forest Land Scheme (NFLS), local communities have first option to buy if it can be shown that they can raise the cash required and manage the woodland for the public good.

FCS has priced the woods at a comparatively high £200,000 as the industrial site is a fully serviced, hard standing area with mains water and electricity. Good access to the main road was also a factor in the valuation.

### EXCLUSIVE REPORT

STEPHEN NORRIS  
[snorris@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:snorris@obantimes.co.uk)

Residents have formed a steering committee, Glengarry Community Woodland, to take the project forward.

A £10,000 funding application will be lodged with Awards For All Scotland by the end of May for a feasibility study into possible community uses. Should the grant be approved, a community ballot will be organised to canvass local opinion on this proposal. Majority support is required for FCS to consider any bid to buy the land.

Glengarry Community Woodland chairman, Bruce Kocjan-Griggs said plans were 'still at a very early stage'.

He told The Oban Times: 'We are still trying to come up with ideas for the three different blocks. Forestry Commission

Scotland have given us a bit of time to prove we can buy the land and manage it. We have been in contact with the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust on creating possible community-owned housing for key workers, while the hard-standing could serve as a spare car park for the cemetery over the road.'

'Part of the woodland could possibly be turned into a woodland craft for an individual to work, while other parts could be developed for more recreational use. We will keep the community informed at all times.'

The Glengarry move comes just weeks after the Achinacarry, Bunarkaig and Clunes (ABC) Group lodged a bid with FCS to buy four square miles of forest near Spean Bridge for £500,000. A decision is still pending.

The Invergarry group has already been in contact with the ABC Group for advice.

## John pedals forward with challenge

A KEEN Mallaig cyclist is getting on his bike to mark a special anniversary and raise funds for two worthy local causes.

John Angus Gillies, a manager with salmon farmers Marine Harvest, will visit colleagues on his 145-mile cycle challenge to mark the 10th anniversary of the company opening its Mallaig harvest station.

Funds raised from the June 20 challenge will be split between Mallaig's Fisherman's Mission and the newly-formed Mallaig and District Camanachd Shinty Club.

John Angus, better known locally as Gillie, recently resurrected the club with two workmates 15 years after it fell into abeyance.



Getting on his bike: Gillie will pedal round Marine Harvest sites in aid of charity.



**Local MPs Alan Reid and Charles Kennedy are backing Highlander George Lyon to be re-elected as our MEP - the voice of the Highlands and Islands in Europe.**

**Highlander George Lyon MEP has secured millions of pounds of investment for the Highlands and Islands to create jobs and boost the local economy.**

**As a farmer he has stood up for rural communities and the farming industry.**

**George and the Lib Dems are making the powerful case for Scotland's place in Britain and Britain's place in Europe.**

**Many people who normally back other parties are lending their vote to George Lyon this time because he's too good to lose.**



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# Business | editor@obantimes.co.uk 01631 568000

## MSP warns: don't ignore creel fishing

THE FRAGILE creel fishing industry on the west coast of Scotland is being held back because of a lack of engagement with inshore fishermen.

Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor raised the issue in his role as shadow fisheries spokesman at a cross-party working group.

Mr McGrigor, who has worked as an assistant to lobster fishermen since the early 1960s on Coll and on the island of Harris, said he understood some of the problems within the industry.

'We want scientists and government at all levels to work in conjunction with our fishermen, who have first-hand knowledge and practical experience of our fishing environments that they

have built up over generations and centuries,' he said.

'That should happen across all fisheries sectors, which is something for which I have consistently argued during my time as an MSP.'

'We need maximum involvement from individual inshore fishermen themselves and from their representatives in the local fishermen's associations and the Scottish Creel Fishermen's Federation.'

'The operation of the shellfish regulating order in Shetland is a good example of stakeholders working positively together, and we should look to emulate the good practise that has come from that approach in other places.'

Recognising the importance of the creel fishing industry to

the tourism market, Richard Lochhead, cabinet secretary for rural affairs and environment, upheld the Ninth Wave restaurant on Mull as an example of good practise of working together.

The Lamonts catch local seafood and then serve it there. Mrs Lamont is the chef and Mr Lamont is the fisherman who catches the produce that is freshly served to people visiting Mull.

The government has held two national conferences for the inshore fisheries sector in Scotland that were very well attended. Environmental interests were present, as well as the fishermen, scientists and public agencies. That kind of working together is certainly the way forward.'

OWNERS OF a Fort William

restaurant have celebrated 25 years of business.

Crannog has been serving seafood since local fisherman Finlay Finlayson, sick of seeing his catch shipped to London, converted the old bait shed on the town pier into a restaurant with the help of his wife Lorna.

Mr Finlayson said: 'Lorna and I are incredibly proud of the Crannog ethos of serving fresh, local seafood to locals and visitors in Fort William and are immensely proud of our enthusiastic and loyal staff who continue to make it possible.'

'Twenty five years has gone by

in a flash, so here's to the next

exciting period.' To celebrate the anniversary, the couple offered a free meal to the 25th diners in the restaurant last Monday evening.

The winners were Anne and Edward Jones, from mid-Wales, who were visiting Fort William to follow the Pre-65 motorbike trials.

**Crannog clocks up 25 years**



Crannog owners Finlay, left, and Lorna Finlayson celebrating the restaurant's 25th anniversary with customers Anne and Edward Jones.

## Award first for Dawnfresh

A FISH farming company that has sites in three areas within Lorn has become the first company in the UK to receive Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) Freedom Food certification for farmed rainbow trout.

Dawnfresh, which has sites on Loch Etive; Tervine, Kilchrenan; and Braevallich, Dalmally, was instrumental in initiating and developing the new welfare standards, which are the first to

be established by Freedom Food for any species in the last 10 years. Dawnfresh rainbow trout can now carry the prestigious Freedom Food logo on its packaging, which is recognised and sought after by consumers.

Dawnfresh farms are already managed in compliance with Code of Good Practice and the fish are grown to Quality Trout UK standards,' explained Barry Chung, commercial director of Dawnfresh.

'Achieving Freedom Food certification demonstrates the high welfare standards to which Dawnfresh work, and is testament to the considerable efforts expended by all our farm staff.'

Freedom Food, the RSPCA's respected farm assurance and food labelling scheme, aims to improve the welfare of animals farmed for food, and certification shows that farms conform to strict welfare standards.



Claire Holohan, will be practising at Lorn Market, today. 15\_120herb1

### Herbalist at Lorn Market

CLARE Holohan, a qualified medical herbalist, lives in Lochaline but spends her time travelling to see patients all over the west coast.

Claire makes teas and tinctures after an initial consultation. A first appointment with Claire lasts up to an hour when she takes a detailed history of patients. She then sends her herbal medicine to your home. Certified by the National Institute of Medical Herbalists, Claire will be at the Lorn Market at Kintaline Farm, Benderloch today, Thursday.

## Keeping campers happy key to Port Ban success

A FAMILY run holiday park is being supported by Business Gateway in its plans to improve and increase the facilities it offers campers.

Port Ban Holiday Park, located in Kilberry, Tarbert, has been running as a caravan park and camping site for 47 years and its owners, the Sheldrick family, wish to continue their parents' good work.

Recently, the company has used Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway services to advise on the development and funding of future projects.

Jonathan Sheldrick, one of the owner/directors, said: 'My parents set up Port Ban Holiday Park 47 years ago and since then we have provided visitors to the area with a superb base for their time here. The scenery from our park is amongst the best in the country and we have continued to increase our services to make our customers stay even more memorable. It should be emphasised that the park's facilities such as the cafe, beach and children's playground are also open to non-residents so we encourage locals and other holidaymakers in the area to visit.'

'We are looking forward to celebrating being in business for 50 years and having the park and its facilities as complete as possible by then.'

'We are hoping to install cheap overnight accommodation such as a wigwam or camping pod/hobbit house for guests who

don't want to pitch a tent, which means we will have three different types of accommodation to offer.'

Donald Melville, business adviser, Business Gateway added: 'Although Port Ban Holiday Park is a long-running family business, Jonathan felt our advice and assistance would benefit the business going forward.'

'We have helped him with potential funding avenues in order to invest in on-site developments and we will continue to work with Port Ban in the future.'

To find out more about how Business Gateway can help you set up and develop your own business call 01546 604 555 or visit [www.bgateway.com](http://www.bgateway.com).

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## Advice on marketing businesses better

ONE OF the most common questions asked of the business advisers in Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway is 'How do I market my business to the right people and how do I go about it?'

Angela Vernal, one of the advisers covering the Oban area for Business Gateway, offers some tips.

'Marketing is not just about putting an advert in a paper or a window - you need to know who your customers are and what it is you can offer that your competitor can't,' explains Angela.

'First you need to know who your target market is.'

'If the answer is 'everyone' then you have an incredibly hard task ahead and you probably won't reach the correct customers. Understanding who your customers are means you can provide them with the best product or service.'

'The winners were Anne and Edward Jones, from mid-Wales, who were visiting Fort William to follow the Pre-65 motorbike trials.'

This could be through social media or an advert in an industry specific publication.

Research where customers are going to be and how they decide on product/service providers.

Monitor the response received from marketing to gauge if money and time is being spent in the right areas.

Reward customers for interacting via social media by offering them exclusive discounts and offers.

### Recommend

Or try a 'recommend a friend' initiative by offering 10 per cent off as a reward for bringing in new business.

Marketing is about securing customers then retaining them. Think about what is in place to ensure the customer is happy and will buy again.

Make a courtesy call or send an email to discuss satisfaction levels and take action on the results.

Keep in touch by newsletter, email or social media, in order to keep customers up-to-date and you in the forefront of their minds when deciding on products and services.

Face to face meetings offer a personal touch and can help create a more solid relationship.

Bounce-backs – encourage customers to come back a second time by offering them an incentive.

Remember that the best way to advertise is word of mouth.

To find out more about how Business Gateway can help to set up and develop a business call 01546 604555 or visit [www.bgateway.com](http://www.bgateway.com).

## Helping businesses recruit and manage staff

Business Gateway still has some places available at two new workshops, designed in response to feedback from local businesses.

The 'Becoming an Employer' will take place in Oban on May 28 and 'Getting the Most out of Your People' on May 29 in Oban.

The 'Becoming an Employer' workshop will help businesses understand the process of employing people. It will cover legal obligations and recruitment and is aimed at those taking on staff for the first time, or as a refresher for those who have not taken on people for a while. It will cover setting job descriptions and salary, how to confirm a job offer, registering with HMRC, obligations when an employee starts work, health and safety legislation and employers'

liability insurance and managing staff performance.

The 'Getting the Most out of Your People' workshop will help businesses recruit, induct, manage and develop staff in a way that supports their growth.

It will cover the skills and processes required to get the best out of staff, rather than the legal aspects, and include recruiting and retaining the right staff, induction and training, managing performance and how a business can grow through developing its people. By the end of the workshop, attendees will be able to create a plan for managing and developing the staff within their business.

Places are limited so anyone wanting to reserve a space should call 01546 604 555 or email [business.gateway@argyllbute.gov.uk](mailto:business.gateway@argyllbute.gov.uk).

# SUMMER HOME & GARDEN

**IT IS** the time of year when the world is springing to life around us. The light shines in through the windows and we see all there is to be done in the house.

A little known fact is that more people set out to improve their garden and home in the spring 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 at the same time.

There are some amazing services on these pages who can offer something a wee bit special. They can make your 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 you feel

about the garden and the house - but also the way you feel about yourself.

As grannie used to say: 'A tidy house is a tidy head.'

Why not ditch the bag of slime in the bottom of the fridge and try a summer of home-grown salads instead. Or why not put a bench in the garden for you to enjoy a wee seat outside with friends and family.



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A top ten list of things to improve your home and garden:

1. More space and light
2. Create a home office
3. Tidy your garden to frame your house
4. Add a sunroom
5. Put out some decking
6. Put in a stove
7. Paint the walls
8. Landscape your home
9. Update your bathroom
10. Update your kitchen

Whatever you decide to do - enjoy it and let the experts take the strain. DIY is so much nicer when someone else is helping out - or if someone else does it altogether.

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If you are interested in renewable energy and would like information and advice on a range of technologies and government incentives please come along - all welcome!

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# what's on

THE OBAN TIMES  
FREE EVENT LISTING

**THURSDAY MAY 15**

Ramblers Association guided walk, Beinn Leamain, Glen Gour  
Ballet West Dance HND showcase, Corran Halls, Oban, 7.30pm

**FRIDAY MAY 16**

The Counterfeit Sixties tribute show, The Nevis Centre, Fort William, 7.30pm

**SATURDAY MAY 17**

Ramblers Association guided walk, Aonach Dubh and Stob Coire nan Lochan, Glen Coe  
National Collective Cafe Sessions, Rowantree Hotel, Oban, 12pm

**SUNDAY MAY 18**

Craft Fayre, Every Sunday, Creagan Inn, Appin, 12.30pm

**WEDNESDAY MAY 21**

Business for Scotland Public Meeting, Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban, 7.30pm

**SATURDAY MAY 24**

The Lismore Kayak Challenge, Ganavan Sands, Oban, 2.00pm  
Plant Sale, Victory Hall, Benderloch, 2.00pm

Scottish Wildlife Trust 50th Anniversary, Ardnamy Castle, 12noon

**SUNDAY MAY 25**

Craft Fayre, Every Sunday, Creagan Inn, Appin, 12.30pm  
Garden Opening at Ormsary, Lochgilphead, 2.00pm

Ramblers Association guided walk, Kentra Bay and the Singing Sands, Achärade

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

## Screen Machine Scotland's Mobile Cinema

**Fort William** Wed 21 - Sat 24 May

**Strontian** Mon 26 May

**Lochaline** Tue 27 May

**Craignure** Wed 28 May

**Tobermory** Thu 29 - Sat 31 May

**The Lego Movie** (U) 100 mins  
"An uproariously funny family adventure." The Telegraph 21/05 at 5.30pm

**Muppets Most Wanted** (U) 113 mins  
Trans-continental caper "Fun all the way." The Observer 23/05 at 5.30pm, 24/05 at 2pm, 26/05 at 5.30pm, 27/05 at 5.30pm, 28/05 at 5.30pm, 29/05 at 5.30pm, 30/05 at 5.30pm, 31/05 at 2pm

**The Amazing Spider-Man 2** (12A) 142 mins  
"The coolest superhero ever." The Telegraph 22/05 at 5.30pm, 24/05 at 8.30pm, 26/05 at 8.30pm, 28/05 at 8.30pm, 30/05 at 8.30pm, 31/05 at 5.30pm

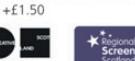
**The Grand Budapest Hotel** (15) 100 mins  
Glorious fun. "Reiper-sharp wit." The Guardian 21/05 at 8.30pm

**The Love Punch** (12A) 94 mins  
Divorced couple turn diamond thieves. "Likeable fun." The Guardian 23/05 at 8.30pm, 27/05 at 8.30pm, 29/05 at 8.30pm

**Cuban Fury** (15) 98 mins  
Nick Frost unleashes his inner salsa demon. "Heartfelt blast of fun." Empire 22/05 at 8.30pm

**Blackbird** (15) 90 mins  
Powerful drama set in a west coast Scottish village "... sings in praise of Scotland's cultural history." The Guardian 24/05 at 5.30pm, 31/05 at 8.30pm

Book in advance at: [www.screenmachine.co.uk](http://www.screenmachine.co.uk) or phone 0871 902 5750. Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. Cash, no cards. £7.00 Adults. Concessions £5.50. 3D +£1.50

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## Social scene Oban Lorne Rugby Club Sponsors' Lunch



Club supporters, from left: John MacEachen, Edward Thornton and Andrew Binner. 16\_118obanlorne09



### Winners of Wyvex Media's cookware competition

THE WINNERS of Wyvex Media's competition, including The Oban Times, for a Delimano six piece cookware set have been chosen.

They were Jan Anderson, from Machrie on the Isle of Arran; Mrs I A Sinclair from Glenfyne Park, Ardriishaig and Diane Williamson from Kinlochard, Stirling.

Each has won a six piece cookware set, courtesy of Delimano Cookware, including one small frying pan, one large frying pan, one cooking pot, saucepan and two glass lids. They correctly answered the following question: Complete the name of this famous TV chef – Jamie? And the answer was a) Oliver.

## First ever Oban songwriters' festival date set for August



A GERMAN musician, who enjoyed the music scene in Oban so much that he decided to stay and work for the summer, is helping to set up the town's first festival for songwriters.

Ralph Roeder first came up with the idea for the Songwriter Showcase after seeing young Oban musician Guy Forteith playing original material in one of the town's pubs.

Musical teacher and performer Ralph explained: 'I thought it was a shame that

this guy was playing his own songs but not everyone was listening and it was very noisy. There is no place dedicated to showcasing original material.'

'Performing your own music is not like playing Sweet Caroline in a pub somewhere. You stand in front of people, giving away part of your soul in a song.'

With assistance from Guy, Ralph has arranged the festival to be held in Oban Lorne Rugby Club

on August 2. Ralph has only made a few contacts in Oban but is enthusiastic about the potential. In fact, he is so committed to forging a career in the town that he is spending a summer away from his family, who are still in Dortmund.

Should Ralph fund regular work in Argyll, his wife, who is also a musician, and children will follow him to Scotland.

Guy, on the other hand, knows the Oban music scene well and has been

crucial in arranging the six acts already booked to play in August. He said: 'I've thought about something like this before but I didn't know if people would be up for it.'

'Because musicians in Oban have been brought up in the pub scene and playing covers, they don't have a lot of confidence to do their own stuff.'

'But there are plenty of songwriters out there and there is an audience if people are open to it.'

### Scouting for Mull

MORE than 500 Scouts from all over Scotland and Ireland descended on Duart Castle, Mull to take part in a four-day 'Island Adventure camp.'

The Scouts made the pilgrimage to Oban to catch a special ferry crossing to Craignure on Mull, arranged by CalMac, to ensure all Scouts and their

kit made their way to the island successfully.

**Historic Scout figure**

Duart Castle is a special place for The Scout Association because the current owner, Sir Lachlan Maclean's father, Sir Charles Maclean, was the UK's Chief of Scout from 1959 to 1971.

After this, Sir Charles continued as Chief Scout of the Commonwealth until August 1975.

In 1967, he was awarded the Bronze Wolf, the only distinction of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement for exceptional services to world scouting, awarded by the World Scout Committee.



### Moshi monsters in residence at Sea Life Sanctuary

STRANGE things have been happening behind the scenes at The Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary in preparation for some unusual guests arriving this week.

A trio of Moshi Monsters, characters from an online virtual world which has captured the imaginations of 85 million children across the globe, will be in residence from this Sunday May 18 until Sunday, June 8.

It's all part of a unique new partnership between

Moshi creators Mind Candy and the Sea Life network.

As well as getting to meet Moshi Monsters 'Buster Bumblechops,' 'Katsuna' and 'Poppet' young fans will follow their own Moshi Marine Force quiz trail and exchange collectible figures called 'Moshlings.'

Half-a-dozen of the latter will also be secreted in display tanks throughout the centre for children to seek out.

Displays staff have been busy testing the reaction of





Oban Lorne club members, from left: Colin Davron, Stuart MacGregor, Sandy Rokitta, Robert Wright and Neil McKechnie. 16\_t180banlorne07



Oban Lorne vice president, Murray Hamilton, right, with club supporter Neil Fraser. 16\_t180banlorne06



Club president Dee Bradbury. 16\_t128banlorne08

## Leisure centre open evening encourages more people to enjoy exercise

KEEP fit enthusiasts turned out in force to show what they can do and encourage more people to join in.

Lochaber Leisure Centre held an open night featuring boot camp, boxercise, aerobics, metafit, spinning

and aqua aerobics with more than 100 people taking part.

Fitness instructor and leisure attendant Ruth Lavin said: 'We just want to show people what we're doing at the leisure centre,

I think people just think it's a gym but we want to show people, who don't usually come, what we do and why we do it. It's a bit of fun and sociable as well as keeping fit and I think that's what a lot of people don't realise.'

Experts will give talks in wildlife, landscape and geology, while other attractions include a birds of

prey display and traditional music.

On Sunday, the Seashore Arts and Cultural Festival at Glenugie continues the outdoor theme with a day of rock pooling, seashore scavenger, storytelling, music and art workshops.

A presentation of entries of the schools' art and writing competition will also be a highlight.

Host of events takes place throughout the week before the festival concludes at the Glen Nevis Visitor Centre with

a special weekend of displays, stalls, pond dipping, mini-safaris, squirrel hunts and rock safaris.

David Findlay, director of Lochaber Geopark said: 'This year's festival, which is organised with voluntary local support, will be the best yet with many more activities and events to attract visitors and locals to get outdoors.'

'It really will be a great opportunity to enjoy the amazing wildlife and landscape we have in Lochaber.'

Ladies at Lochaber Leisure Centre enjoyed one of the classes on offer at the open night. 20\_f20leisure01

## Skipinnish to headline Cowal Gathering Ceilidh Tent

SKIPINNISH, one of the west coast's top ceilidh band, are to headline at Cowal Highland Gathering ceilidh tent.

The band will be joined by three up-and-coming names on the traditional music

scene – Hell for Leather, the Argyll Ceilidh Trail and the Reel Time Ceilidh Band.

Cowal Highland Gathering chairman Ronnie Cairns was delighted to have secured such a high quality line-up. 'We received

fantastic feedback on the Ceilidh Tent entertainment last year, and we're determined to at least match that at this year's event,' he said.

This year's Cowal Highland Gathering is August 28 to August 30.

## Classic car enthusiasts descend on Inverness

SEVEN cars from Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club took part in the Inverness Classic Vehicle Show which was held in the city last Saturday.

One hundred and thirty vehicles took part in the event ranging from classic motorbikes and tractors through to MacBrayne's

buses and nearly every marques of classic car was represented. The two oldest cars on display were a 1929 Austin 7 and a 1929 Rolls Royce.

The event was held in the city centre, and organised by BID Inverness. It was well attended and street entertainers and musicians

kept the crowds amused. The day came to a close with a fantastic parade of all the classic vehicles through the city centre, which was led by the Northern Constabulary Pipe Band.

In spite of light showers the parade attracted large crowds lining the route.

## Lismore pupils hit gold with winning rainbow lolly idea



Lismore Primary School children celebrate their win in the Fairtrade competition.

LISMORE Primary School children were delighted to hear that they have been awarded first place in the National Fairtrade Snack Attack Competition 2014.

Schools from all over the United Kingdom and further afield competed to design a fun Fairtrade snack, together with its packaging, a marketing campaign and a report about their activities.

Led by classroom assistant, Hazel MacCormick, the Lismore children worked

together as a company, brainstorming and presenting ideas before splitting into groups to take on the different responsibilities of graphic design, marketing and logistics.

The final product was a rainbow lolly made with fair trade fruits. The children named it a Rainbow Pop and produced a fun film advertisement for the product with the slogan 'What will you find at the end of your rainbow?'

They made a scrapbook about the design process, detailing their ideas and what they had learnt during the project. The judges were particularly impressed with the mock-up model of the lolly and the scrapbook.

Together with a certificate, the children have won £100 worth of Fairtrade products. They are now deciding how best to use this exciting prize to help them on their journey to achieving Fairtrade School status.

## Lochaber ready to 'Go Wild' at week-long outdoors festival

THE WILD Lochaber Festival gets underway on Saturday with Go Wild on the Canal at Corpach Basin.

Organised by Scottish Canals and Scottish Waterways Trust, the family day will feature water walkers, boat trips, a team challenge raft race, waterside workouts, 'come and try' canoes, sailing and kayaks.

Experts will give talks in wildlife, landscape and geology, while other attractions include a birds of

prey display and traditional music.

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'It really will be a great opportunity to enjoy the amazing wildlife and landscape we have in Lochaber.'

Ladies at Lochaber Leisure Centre enjoyed one of the classes on offer at the open night. 20\_f20leisure01

## Washington to rock Bannockburn

OBAN folk rock band Washington Irving is set to join Scotland's top Celtic and folk music artists to commemorate the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn on June 28 - 29.

Washington Irving, whose sound mixes strong folk influences with electronic guitars and drums, will join Julie Fowlis from North Uist, Dougie MacLean, Karine Polwart and Rachel Sermanni.

The Oban-based band members - who will

be fresh from the Camden Crawl in London - are no strangers to the festival scene, having performed at the Hebridean Celtic Festival in Stornoway and the Wickerman Festival in the Borders.

Kilt

The boys from Washington Irving said:

'We'll be wearing kilts and broadswords as part of the festivities.'

Tickets are available at [www.bannockburnlive.com](http://www.bannockburnlive.com).

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## Oban Phoenix Cinema

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The Amazing Spider-Man 2

Khumba: A Zebra's Tale

Calvary

The Lego Movie

Transcendence

Locke

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Thurs 15th 21.00 3D

Fri 16th 18.00 2D

Sun 18th 15.15 2D

tues 20th 15.30 2D

Thurs 22nd 19.00 2D (Screen 2)

Thurs 15th 16.00 2D (Screen 2)

Thurs 15th 14.00 & 18.30

Fri 16th 15.30 3D

Sun 18th 13.00 3D

Wed 21st 16.00 2D (Screen 2)

Fri 16th 21.00 2D (Screen 2)

Sat 17th 13.00 2D

Tues 20th 18.00 2D (Screen 2)

Sat 17th 21.00

Mon 19th 18.00

Wed 21st 18.30

Fri 16th 19.00 (Screen 2)

Sat 17th 18.30

Mon 19th 19.00 (Screen 2)

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Thurs 22nd May 19.00

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Following its smash-hit live broadcast in 2012, the National Theatre production of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time returns to cinemas. Based on the acclaimed novel by Mark Haddon, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time has been hailed by The Times as 'a phenomenal combination of storytelling and spectacle'. Winner of 7 Olivier Awards in 2013, including Best New Play.

Christopher, fifteen years old, has an extraordinary brain - exceptional at maths, while ill-equipped to interpret everyday life. When he fails to return home after killing Mrs Shears' dog Wellington, he records each detail of the event in the book he is writing to solve the mystery of the murder.

But his detective work, forbidden by his father, takes him on a frightening journey that upturns his world.

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# Silvers Marine Scottish Series offers Fyne Sailing for 40th anniversary

TARBERT is gearing up to welcome the 40th anniversary of the Scottish Series, this year sponsored by Silvers Marine and running from Friday May 23 to Monday May 26. Attracting around 100 yachts from the UK and held on the scenic waters of Loch Fyne, the event is organised by the Clyde Cruising Club (CCC), the largest sailing club in Scotland with over 2000 members.

One of Scotland's premier yacht racing events, the series starts at Gourock with Friday's Clyde Challenger Race. This race to Tarbert launches the event and the line up of yachts competing will include the big ocean racers Drum and Clyde Challenger. After arrival at Tarbert, racing continues on Loch Fyne on Saturday 24th to Monday 26th May, with the regatta prize-giving after completion of racing on Monday. The event format is a mixture of windward/leeward courses and coastal races including the Round Inch race that is also open to yachts who wish only to compete in this.

Classes range from high tech IRC yachts to CYCA handicap classes including those for 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 and to celebrate the 40th event.

Jamie McGarry of GSS Marine Services, new owners of Silvers Marine, the iconic Scottish Boatyard, confirmed their support and sponsorship of the regatta in April.

He said: 'As a re-launch of the yard and the Silvers brand we are delighted to

partner with the CCC in sponsoring the Scottish Series. This is particularly exciting given the 40th celebrations this year in Tarbert. Scottish Series is a magnificent event run by the army of volunteers and club officials from the CCC. To be able to support this and indeed participate in the event is tremendously exciting for all at Silvers and GSS.'

Also celebrating the 40th anniversary, McEwan's has come back onboard as a sponsor having been the title sponsor from 1986 to 1991. As part of McEwan's sponsorship of the series this year, spectators will be able to enjoy the races and soak up the atmosphere with a refreshing pint of McEwan's RED. Tara Karimian, Brand Manager for McEwan's said: 'We are delighted to be able to support the Scottish Series which is not only a renowned national event, but also has such a strong historical association with McEwan's. While we are continuing to modernise McEwan's, we are still extremely proud of the beer's rich heritage and sponsoring the Silvers Marine Scottish Series is a great way to recognise this- particularly as part of its 40th anniversary celebration.'

## Irish Feeder Race

MalinWaters is also welcomed back, having supported the event in 2013 and is committed to establishing the valued links between Ireland and Scotland and their shared coastlines. The connections between the Irish racing contingency and Scottish Series are very strong and Irish boats have often dominated the regatta over the years. The Bangor to Inverkip feeder race starts on Wednesday May 21 at 20.00hrs, at Bangor finishing off Inverkip Marina. Sailors have a chance to recover briefly before heading south to the Solent to compete in the RORC offshore events and IRC championships.

With Scotland hosting a Commodore's Cup team this year, the Scottish Series will be a good training ground for the nation's representatives. Jamie McGarry, title sponsor, and Colin Moore's Swan 45 Eala of Rhu, Steve Cowie's Zephyr and Rod Stuart and Bill Ram's Corby 37 Aurora. They will hone their team skills at Tarbert before heading south to the Solent to compete in the RORC offshore events and IRC championships.

There will be stiff competition from a host of

## Big boat interest

Drum has not competed in the Scottish Series since 1989 and this is very much a comeback for the big Holland 77. Drum's skipper Dave Lilburn praised the commendable efforts of the CCC running the Scottish Series over so many years and pointed up this special anniversary event. He said: 'Drum's owner, Arnold Clark, is very passionate about Scottish Sailing and we want to celebrate this event and do so through our participation.'

Dave Lilburn has a racing background and last year was determined to get Drum racing again. The yacht competes in the CYCA fleet in the passage races which will give the 78ft Maxi yacht the perfect opportunity to trim her sails and get up to speed. Race sponsor, Clyde Challenger, has been actively promoting the event around marinas and yacht clubs on tours around Scotland and Ireland. The big ocean racer will join Drum in both the Clyde Challenger and Inch Races. Long time CCC competitors Stewart and Dorothy Ritchie, formerly Clyde based but now from Loch Sunart will race their Contest 42, Anna Mae in both these races as well.

## Strong IRC competition

With Scotland hosting a Commodore's Cup team this year, the Scottish Series will be a good training ground for the nation's representatives. Jamie McGarry, title sponsor, and Colin Moore's Swan 45 Eala of Rhu, Steve Cowie's Zephyr and Rod Stuart and Bill Ram's Corby 37 Aurora. They will hone their team skills at Tarbert before heading south to the Solent to compete in the RORC offshore events and IRC championships.

other familiar names. Anderson and Findlay's Roxstar had an excellent season last year, just pipped from a first in IRC 1 by Zephyr and the line up includes Prime Suspect another high finisher in 2013, Sloop John T, Carmen II and Now or Never who all finished in top placings in last year's series. Enigma, Fortuna, Pure Magic are all up there in strong contention and entries were still coming in as the OT went to press.

## Local CYCA Competition

Amidst the CYCA competition west coast sailors will be keen to take home their share of the silverware

Joey Gough of Oban Sailing Club is a former CYCA Class 6 winner with his First 325 Tangle o'the Isles. Brian Robertson of Mid Argyll, who finished third in class in 2013, is always a consistent performer racing his X332 Celtic Spirit. Richard Shellcock's Prism 28 Thrust will be a new kid on the block at this year's event and promises a strong entry. James Hardie of Oban races his Grand Soleil Taz with regulars CYCA Class 5 winner last year Jamie Cumming's Rogue Trader, The Chalmers' Sunrise, Alan Moore's Delinquent, race sponsor Boyd Tunnock's Lemeraic, Iain McNair's First by Farr, Farr e Nuff and Roddy Angus's More Misif. Alistair Bilsland and Gus MacLeod's Stargazer from Arran won CYCA Class 6 last year from the evergreen Valhalla of Ashton that is always up there in the placings at the Scottish and there will be keen competition between the two GK 24s - Richard Doig's Sirius and the well sailed Zebedee of Downie and Wilson from Fairlie Yacht Club. Andrew Scott sails his Maxi Mixer Sequoia with the WIVC flag. Argento and Saracen in restricted sail classes will be looking to repeat their performances of last year.

The Sigma 33 and Sonata one designs are rising in popularity with ten Sonatas lining up on the water illustrating the come back of this popular David Thomas design. The McLaren's Sigmatic returns to defend last year's Sigma 33 Class win with close competition from Leaky Roof II of Harper and Robertson and Close Encounters. Sonatas Scruples, Jazz and Saraband who took the podium places last year will battle it out with some new boats this year.

Another Thomas design, the Hunter 707 also has class racing as does the VX and B/One Class

## 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. A special cutting of the 40th anniversary birthday cake will take place on Saturday in the marquee.

See attached table for all that's going on.

## SPONSORS

The event would not be able to be run without the support of the following sponsors:- Headline sponsors Silvers Marine Other sponsors - Malin Waters, Tunnock's, Highland Spring, Tarbert Enterprise Company and Tarbert Harbour Authority, Argyll and Bute Council, Marine Blast Media, Hempel sponsoring the Crawford McInnes Trophy, Hyde Sails, The Botanist, Bowmore and RYA Scotland.

## SILVERS MARINE TARBERT, LOCH FYNE

## SCOTTISH SERIES 2014 SOCIAL PROGRAMME

### FRIDAY, 23 MAY

Prize giving / Cutting the cake	6.30pm to 7.00pm	The Marquee
Helpers party	7.30pm to 9.30pm	The Bowling Club
<b>SATURDAY, 24 MAY</b>		
Lone Piper	8.30am	The Harbour
Stramash - introduction to sailing	10.00am - 4.00pm	The Harbour
Art Work Shops	11.00am to 4.00pm	The Marquee
Music from Scott Macdonald	4.00pm to 6.30pm	The Marquee
40th Celebrations	5.00pm to 6.30pm	The Marquee
Cutting the Cake	6.30pm	The Marquee
Prize giving	6.30pm to 7.30pm	The Marquee
Mid Argyll Pipe Band	7.45pm to 8.15pm	The Marquee

### Fireworks'

10.15pm From the Castle

Dance to the Democrats 9.30pm to 1.00am The Marquee

### SUNDAY, 25 MAY

Lone Piper 8.30am The Harbour

Stramash - introduction to sailing 10.00am - 4.00pm The Harbour

Art Work Shops 11.00am to 4.00pm The Marquee

Music from Scott Macdonald 4.00pm to 6.30pm The Marquee

Prize giving 6.30pm to 7.30pm The Marquee

Dance to the Democrats 9.30pm to 1.00am The Marquee

### MONDAY, 26 MAY

Lone Piper 8.30am The Harbour

Prize giving 4.30pm approximately The Marquee

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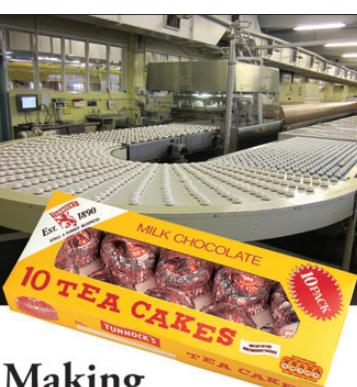
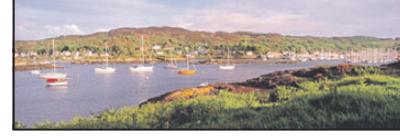
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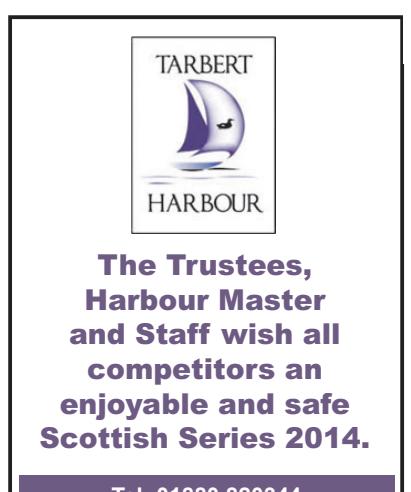


The Directors of Tarbert Enterprise Company, TEC, extend a warm Tarbert welcome to all competitors and visitors. Have a "braw" time on and off the water.

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



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## Shellfish Hatchery Assistant

FAI Aquaculture Ltd is a part of the Sustainable Science Division of Benchmark Holdings plc, which comprises an ethical and progressive group of companies working in the field of sustainable food production with particular emphases on aquaculture technology, animal health, sustainable science in food production and technical publishing to the global farming and food production industries. FAI Aquaculture is seeking to recruit a Shellfish Hatchery Assistant to help drive forward the expansion of the Shellfish unit as part of the redevelopment of Ardtroe Marine Research Facility. As well as assisting in the day to day operation of shellfish hatchery and associated microalgae production facility you will undertake R&D trials and assist in the development of the unit and the provision of shellfish culture courses for industry.

The successful candidate will hold a degree or equivalent in a biological science. A postgraduate qualification in an appropriate subject and/or previous shellfish hatchery experience would be advantageous. Enthusiasm and a willingness to learn together with the ability to work both independently and as a part of a team are key attributes along with the ability to adapt to life in an isolated rural area.

To apply, please send your CV together with a covering letter detailing your previous experience and suitability for the role to tim.attack@faifarms.com quoting job ref: FAI/02. Closing date for applications is 30th May



## Yard Sales Assistant/ Relief Driver Class 2 (Salary + benefits)

Oban Branch

A buzzing atmosphere, great benefits and plenty of opportunities for career progression - join Keyline

as a Yard Sales Assistant and share our success

and good times with a hard-working, friendly bunch of people.

This is a key customer-facing role, so your people skills will have to be razor-sharp. As a Yard Sales Assistant you will service all our customers with a smile and complete all necessary paperwork accurately to make sure they are absolutely satisfied with the products they buy and the service they receive. Full product training will be provided so the most important thing is that you have a flexible and can do approach.

Keyline is the UK's number one supplier of civils, heavy building materials and drainage solutions, with a nationwide network of branches and our aim is to be 'Best in Town' for product knowledge, availability and customer service. We're part of the Travis Perkins Group a FTSE 100 Company that's been recognised as one of Britain's Top Employers since 2010. If you aim to be the best you can be, then we'd like to hear from you.

If you would like to be considered for these positions please apply online, alternatively you can apply in writing to: Iain Hunter, Branch Manager, Keyline Builders Merchants, Soroba Road, Oban, PA34 4HQ. Email iain.hunter@keyline.co.uk

No agencies please

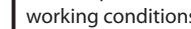
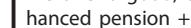
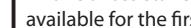
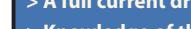
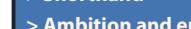
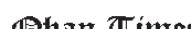
## GENERAL OPERATIVES (fish processing)

Other jobs available at  
argyll-recruitment.co.uk

Email CV to  
calum@argyll-recruitment.co.uk  
sean@argyll-recruitment.co.uk



Recruitment Solutions



# west coast recruitment



Ross Electrical

**At Ross Electrical Oban Branch we are looking for an Internal Sales Supervisor to join our busy team.**  
Whilst knowledge of the electrical industry is beneficial, it is not essential. Working in a business to business environment, you will be enthusiastic with a can do attitude and have the ability to lead sales strategies and work as part of a team in order to help the branch meet and exceed its targets and KPI's.  
We offer first rate benefits and a competitive salary package.  
All applications to be sent in writing in the first instance to David R Hamilton Branch Manager Oban david.hamilton@rosselec.co.uk  
Ross Electrical, Lochavulin Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4PL  
Closing date 22nd May 2014

**BUTCHER ASSISTANT - SEASONAL**

A Seasonal position working in a busy butchery facility. This position is for over 18s. Both applicants must be able to demonstrate the following: Keenness to learn, Quality conscious, Presentable, Hardworking and work as part of a team, Reliable, Numerate, Customer aware, Catering/Food experience preferred. Current Basic Health & Hygiene Certificate preferred.

-Immediate Start Available-

For further details and an application form please contact

**John Forteith - Depot General Manager**  
on 01631 569100

Forteith Foodservice, Glengallain Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG. email: john@forteith.lis.com  
www.forteith.co.uk



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TEL: 07919 214995

ALSO

**MAINTENANCE JOINERS**

APPLY:- KENNY J MACLEOD  
TEL: 07768 025762  
or e-mail - lli@mkmacleod.co.uk

**DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

Kilfinnan Community Forest Company, Tighnabruaich is seeking a Development Manager. This is a fixed term full time employment position at approximately 40 hours per week. Salary circa £28,000. This vital role is required to maximise KCFC's income streams and to implement our Sustainability Plan.

Please email michaela@kilfinnancommunityforest.com or telephone 01700 811809 to apply.

Closing date is Monday 26th May 2014.

This post is supported by

**CUILFAIL HOTEL KILMELFORD****Part-time Chef**

Pay negotiable according to experience

Please send CV to

Yvonne, Cuilfail Hotel, Kilmelford, Oban, Argyll PA34 4XA or mail@cuilfail.co.uk

**Cleaner/Housekeeper Required**

For Estate house close to Connel  
15 hours per week at £7 per hour  
2pm to 5pm – Monday to Friday preferred

**Applications in writing to**  
sophie.handley@bellingeram.co.uk

**Oban Distillery Visitor Centre, a five star Scottish Tourist Board attraction and the home of Oban Single Malt Whisky, are looking to recruit Temporary Seasonal Guides to carry out Distillery Tours.**

Our Client is looking for confident individuals with a high standard of communication and customer service skills.

The ability to work within a team and a flexible approach to hours of work are integral to this role. Hours will be on a rota basis of any 5 days over 7 with possibly some evening work.

Positions will be from end of May/beginning June until the end of September.

Interested candidates should call Andrea Verrall on 0141 272 8104 or email CV to andrea.verrall@brightworkltd.com. Interviews will be held locally.

Brightwork Ltd offers the services of an employment agency for permanent work and an employment business for temporary work.

## SENIOR ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

### The Oban Times

&amp; WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

**Excellent Basic (OTE) + Car + BUPA + Enhanced pension**

Based in Oban and reporting to the Sales Director, you will be responsible for day-to-day management of the sales team. Ideally you will have relevant experience, flexibility, motivation, confidence and the ability to get the best from a team. A senior position with a reputable and established local company. Travel throughout Argyll required. A full driving licence is essential.

Please apply with full CV and covering letter to Alison Arden, Wyvern Media Ltd, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB or email: ali@wyvernmedia.co.uk

**The Oban Times campbeltown courier argyllshire advertiser THE ARRAN BANNER**

**Vacancy - Skipper**

Crannog Cruises has a vacancy for a Skipper to operate cruises on Loch Linnhe aboard a 126 passenger vessel. Boatmaster Tier 1, Level 2 qualification with a general passenger endorsement is required.

Please email your CV to HR@crannog.net

**Crannog Concept Limited,**  
The Underwater Centre, Marine Walk,  
Carmichael Way, Fort William PH33 6FF

**Oban Times Oban Times RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT**

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The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997****PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
14/00812/FUL	BSW Sawmills, Annat Fort William	Partial removal of existing sub station and erection of replacement sub station
14/01061/FUL	Sunart Sea Farm Achاراicle	Continued use of shellfish holding pen with preparation ponds, provision of new living and work accommodation:- existing log cabin converted to self contained living accommodation; affordable housing; manager's house; studios/work spaces; existing shed retained; restaurant; 21 car parking spaces
14/01335/PIP	Plot 1, Rear of The Former Filling Station Onich	Erection of house (Renewal of 11/00327/PIP) including alteration to approved access arrangement
14/01336/PIP	Plot 2 to Rear of Former Filling Station Onich	Erection of house (Renewal of 11/00329/PIP) including alteration to approved access arrangement
14/01337/PIP	Plot 3 to Rear of Former Filling Station Onich	Erection of house (Renewal of 11/00330/PIP) including alteration to approved access arrangement
14/01620/FUL	Land 70m NE of Southend Ariveagha, Acharacle	Erection of house, agricultural shed, access road & associated external works & landscaping
14/01730/PIP	Tower Ridge, Torlundy Fort William	Proposed house site

Time period for comments is 14 days

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX

Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Argyll Bute COUNCIL**

**PLANNING**

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4NW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/01036/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Plot 1 Land South East of Garden Cottages Glencruitten Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4OB	Oban Area Office
14/01040/PP	Erection of holiday cabin	Plot 7 Dalovich Chalet Park Dalovich Argyll and Bute PA34 4OB	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
14/01113/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 11/00788/PPP (Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse)	Land North of An Taigh Spigle Heylipol Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute	Tiree Area Office

**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
14/01042/PP	Upgrading of public road to form passing place and allow access to Atlantic Islands PA34 4TX	Land North West of 1 Culipool Isle of Luing Oban Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Culipool
14/01084/LB	Demolition of existing lean-to plant room and dinner screen, erection of replacement plant room and installation of wood pellet plant	Lerags House Lerags Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4SE	Oban Area Office

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 -17:00 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](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

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

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/00994/PP	Installation of 9 replacement windows.	64 Main Street Port Charlotte Isle of Islay Argyll PA48 7TX	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through the Scottish Government website: <https://planning.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.

**The Scottish Government Riaghaltas na h-Alba**

**TRANSPORT SCOTLAND**

**A85 LOCHEARNHEAD ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT DETERMINATION BY THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS UNDER SECTIONS 20A AND 55A OF THE ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984**

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS hereby give notice that they have determined that their proposal to resurface a 1.5km or thereby length of the A85 trunk road through Lochearnhead is:-

(a) not a project which falls within Annex I of Council Directive No. 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment as amended by Council Directive No. 97/11/EC and Council Directive No. 2003/35/EC of the European Parliament and Council;

(b) is a relevant project within the meaning of Sections 20A(9) and 55A(7) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, and falls within Annex II of the said Directive but that having regard to the selection criteria contained in Annex III of the Directive it should not be made subject to an environmental impact assessment in accordance with the Directive, and accordingly the project does not require the publication of an Environmental Statement.

J J MORAN

A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers  
Transport Scotland, Trunk Roads Bus Operations, Buchanan House,  
58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF.



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## West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

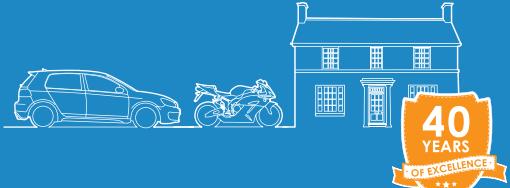
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### Private sector sets pace in Scottish construction recovery, despite skills shortage concern

RICS UK Construction Market Survey Q1 2014. The private housing sector is driving a construction industry revival in Scotland, although skills shortages threaten the pace of recovery, according to the latest RICS UK Construction Market Survey.

The speed at which confidence is returning to the market is revealed by the highest report in workloads since 2007 (net balance 31 per cent), with improvement being driven by the private sector and, in particular, the commercial housing sector.

However, the 'feel good' factor is being tempered by a further increase in reported skills shortages across many trades and in most parts of the country. In Scotland, 43 per cent of respondents believe there are insufficient numbers of quantity surveyors currently available to meet rising supply

demands for these skilled workers. This is teamed with a net balance of 35 per cent reporting a shortage of general construction professionals.

Sarah Speirs, Director RICS Scotland, said: 'What we are seeing as the recovery takes shape is that the impact of skills shortages in parts of the country where companies failed to invest in attracting new talent or in the training of existing employees at the height of the economic downturn. Now that the upturn in workloads is broadening out across Scotland, the industry must ensure it has the capability to capitalise on these opportunities.'

Despite this, the continuing recovery in the sector will see further job gains, with 41 per cent of respondents forecasting growth in construction employment during the next 12 months.



### COMMERCIAL

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#### FOR LEASE

BISTRO AT THE AQUALIBRIUM LEISURE COMPLEX, CAMPBELTOWN

The Bistro facility within the Aqualibrium leisure complex is being offered for lease and interested parties are invited to submit offers.

The Bistro comprises a fully fitted kitchen with serving/seating area all extending to 264 sqm and is located on the second floor of the Aqualibrium leisure complex, Kinloch Road, Campbeltown. The length of lease available is negotiable but is expected to be for minimum period of 3 years. Offers over £7,000 per annum are being sought.

Closing date for offers is 12:30pm on Friday 30th May 2014.

For an information pack please contact; Estates Office, Argyll and Bute Council, Blairvadach, Helensburgh, G84 8ND, Tel: 01436-658957

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ [www.arryll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.arryll-bute.gov.uk)



#### FOR LEASE

SNACK BAR SITES

Offers of lease for the summer 2014 season are invited for each of the under noted sites

• McCAGHS TOWER, OBAN

Offers over £40 per week are invited for the McCaigs Tower site

• FIONNPHORT CAR PARK, ISLE OF MULL

Offers over £65 per week are invited for the Fionnport Car Park site

Closing date for offers is Friday 30th May 2014.

For further details: Estates Office, Blairvadach, Helensburgh, G84 8ND, Tel: 01436-658957

### WANTED

Mature couple with well behaved family pet moving to the area to start new job require furnished accommodation to rent in Oban or within a 5 - 7 mile radius of the town.

Please contact  
**07814 599238**

## WEST COAST CLASSIFIEDS

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

## FREE LISTINGS FOR

Advertise your unwanted items in The Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier or Argyllshire Advertiser and your ad will also

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visit [www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk](http://www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk)

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**PLEASE NOTE: DEADLINE MONDAY 4.00pm**

NO MORE THAN 25 WORDS PLEASE

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FORT WILLIAM : The Oban Times, Mamore House, The Parade, Fort William PH33 6BA

CAMPBELTOWN : The Campbeltown Courier, Courier Centre, Main & Longrow South, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6AE

LOCHGILPHEAD : Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8NB

#### ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

CRYSTAL GLASSES X 3 BOXED SETS Three brand new boxed sets comprising: High ball tumblers, whisky glasses, champagne flutes. Brand new & in original boxes £15 Telephone 0790 685182.

EDINBURGH CRYSTAL SET OF FOUR Never used. Mint condition £10 Telephone 07790 685182.

WEDGWOOD 'ANGELA' ORCHID BOX Bone china. Brand new and still in original box. Immaculate condition £10 Telephone 0790 685182.

STEAM STERILISER Tommy Tippee plus 2 brand new bottles, from 3 months £10 Telephone 0790 685177.

BABY CRIB blue and green tartan, perfect condition £20 Telephone 07785 991773.

INFANT ROCKER baby chair £5 Telephone 07785 991773.

STERILISER Tommy Tippee plus 2 brand new bottles, from 3 months £10 Telephone 0790 685177.

BABY EQUIPMENT MILenco NOSE WEIGHT GUAGE Measures up to 130kg. Perfect condition, storage bag and box. Hardly used. Useful for any trailer, not just caravans £20 onto Telephone 01631 706928.

CAR ACCESSORIES EXPEDITION BAG Healthy back bag Medium Colour Loden Cotton Twill with Brown Leather Trim and Strap 10L Capacity 49x28x18cms on Ebay As new Hardly used £40 Telephone 07813 295540.

NIKE SHOES baby girl's infant shoes, size 0.5, never worn, white and pink £15 Telephone 07785 991773.

BICYCLES BOYS MOUNTAIN BIKE Muddy Fox full suspension, 6 speed, vgc, complete with lights/mudguards/bike lock. 20" wheels, suit 8-11 years. Cost £75 £50 Telephone 01631 358473.

CHILD'S BIKE Apollo Mirage, single speed, good condition, new rear tyre, new bearings, 20" wheels, suit 7-10 year old, ideal for summer £20 Telephone 01631 358473.

LADIES MOUNTAIN BIKE Raleigh Eclipse 10 speed. Metallic turquoise. In need of some TLC but generally good condition & in working order £20 Telephone 07790 685182.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES BREADMAKER Russell Hobbs bread making machine, in excellent condition. Full instruction booklet included £40 Telephone 01855 821086.

NEW LPG WHITE 4 BURNER HOB 580W X 510D x 39H White 4 burner hob, flame failure, automatic ignition, new still in box, £50 Telephone 07528 479746.

BUILDING / DIY FOLDING SHOWER SCREEN Aluminium and glass shower screen for sale. Good condition. North Connel area £15 Telephone 07790 685182.

DOMESTIC PETS ADORABLE SMALL MALTESE Terrier/ Bichon

METAL BED HEAD Gothic style king size

#### CARAVAN EQUIPMENT

MILENCO NOSE WEIGHT GUAGE Measures up to 130kg. Perfect condition, storage bag and box. Hardly used. Useful for any trailer, not just caravans £20 onto Telephone 01631 706928.

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in our Announcements Section

Michael and Sophie got engaged on 1st January



Both families are delighted to announce the recent engagement of Michael and Sophie. Congratulations from all family and friends.

(sample ad - not to scale)

Birthday: 25th January

Look

# Farming

## Market reports

### United Auctions

#### Stirling

UNITED Auctions, on Wednesday April 23, sold 2,191 store cattle and cast cows also forward 250 store sheep at its Stirling auction mart.

Bullocks (1132) averaged 233.88p (-1.14p) to 286.90p per kg for a 251kg LimX from Boland and £1,510 for a 754kg SHX from Highland Wagyu.

Heifers (897) averaged 219.95p (-2.45p) to 260.70p per kg for a 258kg CHX from Grove Farms and £1,290 for a 672kg LimX from Boghall.

B&W bullocks (107) averaged 150.86p (+0.75p) to 174.00p per kg for a 470kg BFX from Mossblown and £890 for a 540kg HFX from South Kilbride.

Young Bulls (55) averaged 195.27p to 250.00p per kg for a 348kg LimX from Auchnotterroch and £1,130 for a 454kg SimX from South Slipperfield.

Forward Cattle (11) averaged 164.14p to 218.90p per kg for a LimX from Stooshill and £1,470 for a BRBX from Stooshill.

Cass Cows (121) averaged 130.94p to 186.20p per kg for a LimX from Easter Mye and £1,470 for a LimX from Newhouse of Glams.

#### Cattle prices:

Bullocks: Up to 250kgs-Boland £720, 286.90p 251-300kgs- Grove Farms £850, Boland 285.20p 301-350kgs- Low Polquoye £950,

281.80p 351-400kgs- Cleugh £1,040, 269.40p 401-450kgs- Aveneugh £1,080, Gilkerseleugh 254.20p 451-500kgs- West Muirhouse £1,190, 257.60p 501-550kgs- Rumbleton £1,230, Heathfield 236.80p 551-600kgs- Deerpark £1,250, Mid Gallowhill 220.20p 601-650kgs- Ravenslie £1,280, Boghall 208.90p 651-700kgs- Ravenslie £1,390, 204.40p 701-750kgs- Highland Wagyu £1,510, 206.10p.

Heifers: Up to 250kgs- Cleughhead £520, 220.30p 251-300kgs- Auchnotterroch £750, Grove farms 260.70p 301-350kg-South Parkhouse £890, 260.20p 351-400kgs- Hardens £960, 244.30p 401-450kgs- Kirkton of Lundie £1070, Bargany Farms 258.70p 451-500kgs- Renton Home Farm £1,110, 230.30p 501-550kgs- Kirkton of Lundie £1,150, 219.90p

551-600kgs- Girthill £1,160, Priestfield 207.50p 601-650kgs- Boghall £1,290, 202.80p.

Young bulls: 251-300kgs-Upp- per Whitestone £620, 219.90p 301-350kg-Auchnotterroch £870,

250.00p 351-400kgs- Riccarton £760, 213.50p 401-450kgs- East side £945, 215.70p 451-500kgs- Eastside £1,070, 215.70p 501-550kgs- South Slipperfield £1,130,

207.30p 551-600kgs- Eastside £1,070, 178.90p.

OTW cows: Newhouse of Glams (Lim) £1470, Easter Mye 186.20p; The Ferms (AA) £1,310, Quixwood 168.00p; Quixwood (AA) £1,290, 158.90p; Traprain (Lim) £1,270, Quixwood 183.10p; Easter Mye (Lim) £1,270, Quixwood 182.60p; Quixwood (AA) £1,250, 155.50p; Traprain (Sim) £1,250, Balherrish 155.80p; Boghall (Sim) £1,210, Traprain 152.10p; East Bangour £1,050, 128.80p.

OTW bulls - Upper kidston (BSh) £1,410, 165.50p; Avenue- head (CH) £1,370, 121.20p.

Sheep prices:

Store Hoggs: Moreduin Research (Tex) £81; Wester Bleaton (Suff) £72; Antuim (X) £61; Westerhill (BF) £60.50; Antuim (Chev) £60.

Ewes with lambs: Texel ewes with twin lamb at foot, £185 Al- landale.

Mule hoggs with single lambs at foot, £170, Scarf.

Suffolk hoggs with single lambs at foot, £170, East Mains.

Mule ewes with twin Suffolk lamb at foot, £154 Bowleys.

STIRLING: United Auctions sold 4,406 prime sheep on Thursday May 1 including 3,166 hoggs, selling to an average of 201.19p/kg, with 122 spring lambs and 1118 ewes and rams.

Prices: Spring Lambs (122) - Brodleys (Suff) £120, Smaulholm Mains (Suff) £120, Westerton (Char) £115, Meikle Pinkerton (Tex) £111.

Spring Lambs (122): Meikle Pinkerton (Tex) 266p, Smaulholm Mains (Suff) 261p, Westerton (Char) 235p.

Hoggs (3,166): Easter Ochter- muthill (Btex) £118.00; Lucketburn (Btex) £106.00; St Mungo's (BF) £100.00; Witton (Chev) £100.00; St Mungo's (Mule) £100.00; South Witton (Suff) £99.50; Upper Auchenlay (Char) £94.00.

Hoggs (2545) - Easter Ochter- muthill (Btex) 243p; Ballechin (Tex) 240p; Over Kellie (Chev) 235p; St Mungo's (BF) 218p; Farden (Mule) 207p, Graystal (Char) 199p.

Ewes (690) - Nethermill (Tex) £146.00; Northfield (Btex) £105.50; Smaulholm Mains (HB) £103.50; Priestfield (Suff) £100.50; Bank (Char) £88.50; Northfield (Zwa) £84.50; Ardtosh (X) £80.00; Craigraigeach (Btex) £78.50; Glenherrie (Mule) £77.50; Dunruehan (BF) £70.00; Langbank of Balhaddie (Leyen) £68.50.

Rams - Dalmeny (Leyen) £126.50; Tullochan (Tex) £124.50; Hoprig (Suff) £118.00; Witton (Btex) £114.00; Hoprig (Chev) £102.00; Tangy (BF) £87.50; Tangy (BL) £84.50.

(Tex) 259p; Southpark (Chev) 234p; Milton of Duris (Suff) 216p; Kindrum Park (BF) 209p;

Glenenglass (Mule) 208p; Gilston Bridge (Char) 208p.

Ewes (1,118): Milton of Durris (Tex) £122.50; Westerton (Suff) £108.50; Marvingston (Chev) £89.50; Golland (Btex) £87.50; Westerton (X) £87.50; Milton of Durris (Mule) £86.50; Milton of Durris (Chev/Mule) £86.50; Marvingston (BF) £86.50; Milton of Durris (Char) £86.50; Starlaw (BF) £79.50; Cretelane (Btex) £78.50; Finnich Blair (Zwa) £77.50; Bank (Jacob) £49.50.

Rams: Milton of Durris (Tex) £116.50; South Fala Knowes (Suff) £104.50; Finnich Blair (Zwa) £94.50; Forter (BF) £92.50; 83 Bovine (Chev) £91.50; Whitehill (X) £63.50.

Richard Lochhead indicated to the Scottish Rural Affairs Committee the problems of a single flat rate area payment in the hill areas of Scotland.

A flat rate area payment of £25 per hectare will certainly

create brutal redistribution of support with extreme winners and losers. Farms and crofts that carry a significant stock of ewes

- and stocking rates of two ewes

per hectare can be found in the Borders, Galloway, Highland and the Islands - would see historic support cut by more

than half to a meagre £12.50 per ewe.

That slashing of support would almost certainly trigger a new cycle of destocking.

Given that cattle units based in the RGR are also in real trouble, this hit on production would have ramifications for communities and the rural economy.

Under the flat rate proposed, some genuine producers may see

support lifted but it also opens

up the potential to create a new

generation of slipper farmers

or low intensity claimants

activating big tracts of land.

At 0.05 livestock units (lu) per ha, a single ewe could deliver £17 of support on RGR land.

An estate comprising of 90 percent RGR but, with the benefit of in-bye land or lambing parks, stocking at the 0.05 lu per ha rate has the potential to

secure more than £130 per ewe.

Multiply these numbers over thousands of low intensity

hectares in Scotland's RGR and

a new madness will bleed money away from productive farmers.

To create a system which allows

extreme overcompensation over

large areas of low intensity

grazing is unacceptable

especially when many active hill

farmers will also be big losers.

Targeting support can start

to address these issues, driving

support into active hill farms

and crofts. Targeting support by

including the use of the 'Scottish clause'

minimum stocking

rate can free up budget to raise

area payments to over £30 per

hectare throughout the upland

RGR where producers also claim

significant area at the higher

rate. These same targeting

tools can also free up £3 to £4 million to create a higher level of beef scheme payment in the Fringe and very Fragile LFA.

Increasing calf payments by £30 or £40 per calf compared to the

standard area rate could provide

a better platform in these high

cost and remote areas.

There are a range of targeting

tools available - mapping sub-

regions based on land capability;

enhanced support to first 54

ha; creating payments regions

within the RGR based on the

land capabilities as defined by

the LFASS grazing categories

or coupling perhaps through

the support of replacement ewe

hoggs. Coupling remains the

most accurate technique; it will

generate the highest level of

budget efficiency opening up

wider benefits throughout the

RGR. It is, however, also the

most intensely political option

despite the EU intervention.

We have tested the use of an

enhanced coupled budget to

tackle Scotland's RGR issues

with others. The European

## CAP delivery in Scotland's rough grazing region will be judged by outcomes

By Nigel Miller, President  
NFU Scotland

THE CAP Reform process has meandered through uncertainty for almost three years leaving all involved fatigued and desperate for some final resolution.

In the past few weeks, the headlines on coupling have pulled us one way - dashing our hopes for additional coupling - and then raising expectation that a deal may be done. It is no wonder people are confused and uncertain on what Scotland may be able to do.

Coupling has dominated the political scene; the size of the package has become the news story when the real problem is that we still have to identify how we will support those genuine producers operating within a rough grazing region (RGR) in Scotland that could be close to 3 million hectares in size.

Since the European legal interpretation of regionalisation blocked an enhanced coupled envelope in Scotland, Commissioner Ciolo's team has been focused on turning that decision round.

The EU has stretched the regulatory framework to give Scotland flexibility through a hybrid implementation package with core delivery regionalised to Scotland but allocating coupled implementation to the UK to open up a larger budget to calculate the coupled envelope to be used in Scotland.

This fix opens up a powerful targeting tool for Scotland but also creates the requirement for Scottish Government to collaborate with Westminster

Richard Lochhead indicated to the Scottish Rural Affairs Committee the problems of a single flat rate area payment in the hill areas of Scotland.

A flat rate area payment will certainly create brutal redistribution of support with extreme winners and losers. Farms and crofts that carry a significant stock of ewes

and rams at foot, by more than half to a meagre £12.50 per ewe. That slashing of support would almost certainly trigger a new cycle of destocking.

Given that cattle units based in the RGR are also in real trouble, this hit on production would have ramifications for communities and the rural economy.

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An estate comprising of 90 percent RGR but, with the benefit of in-bye land or lambing parks, stocking at the 0.05 lu per ha rate has the potential to

**ENGAGEMENTS**

**WOOD - MCGILL** - Both families would like to wish Shugie and Claire huge congratulations on their engagement on May 10th. With love and best wishes always xx.

**DEATHS**

**BOYLE** - Elizabeth (née MacInnes), daughter of the late Johnnie and Mary MacInnes, Ivy Cottage, Glencoe, died peacefully in St Margaret's Hospice, Clydebank on Tuesday, April 15, 2014. A much loved mum and nana who will be sadly missed.

**KYNOCH** - At home on May 12, after a brief illness borne with great dignity, Graeme, darling husband and soul mate of Ann, adored father of Laura, Julie, Sarah and the late Richard. Funeral service will be held at Oban Parish Church on Monday May 19 at 1.30pm, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery, to which all friends are invited. Family flowers only please. Donations to Macmillan Cancer Research and Spina Biifida.

**MACKINNON** - Mary. Peacefully after a short illness with family beside her on Friday, May 2, at home, Park House, Tiree, Mary, beloved sister of Catriona and Lachlan, sister-in-law to Rena, dear aunt of Margaret and Iain and great-aunt to Kirsten. Sorely missed but now forever with her Lord and Saviour.

**MACNAB** - On May 11, 2014, peacefully at Glenaray Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, James Archibald MacNab, in his 68th year, beloved husband of the late Christine Logan, much loved father of Stephen and Jamie, dearly loved brother of Bertie, Kenny and Seona and dear partner of the late Frances. Funeral service at Tarbert Free Church, on Friday, May 16 at 12.00 noon, interment thereafter at Carrick Cemetery, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Cruachan Unit, Oban and Beaton Oncology Unit, Glasgow.

**MACVICAR** - After a short illness Peggy MacVicar, Bruach Gorm, Carinish, sadly passed away at the Belford Hospital, Fort William, on Tuesday May 6, 2014 aged 93 years. Beloved and precious mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Missed very, very much and remembered with great thankfulness and love.

**MCNICHOLL** - Michael, Isle of Colonsay. On May 6, 2014, at home, Mike, dearly loved husband of Liz and much loved Dad of Ewan, Colm and Duncan.

**SHAW** - Peacefully at Portree Hospital, Skye on May 6, 2014, Jessie Buchanan Shaw (née Campbell) wife of the late Robert Shaw (Bertie) loving mother, mother-in-law and aunt. Sadly missed.

**STEWART** - Peacefully at home, on Friday, May 9, 2014, aged 97 years, Lady Mary Florence Elinor, wife of the late Sir Frederick Henry Stewart FRS and beloved aunt of Jenny, also Frederick, Elizabeth, Martin, Stewart, Anne and Tricia. Private cremation service at Cardross Crematorium on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 12.15 p.m. A service of dedication and celebration will be held at St. Conan's Kirk, Loch Awe on Wednesday, May 21st, 1.00 p.m. No flowers please, but donations will be welcomed for the Oban Lifeboat and the Kirk Restoration Fund.

**YOUNG** - Very peacefully at home on Friday, May 9, 2014, Sheila, Moorcroft, Morvern Hill, Oban, beloved wife of the late Dr Jim Young and formerly widow of William Wilson, much loved mum to Pam, Martin, Derek and Sheila; gran to Jennifer and Fiona and great-gran to Charlie. Funeral service of Celebration of Life on Thursday, May 15 in Oban Parish Church at 1pm, followed by service on Friday, May 16 at Cardross Crematorium at 12.15pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired, in aid of Oban War and Peace Museum and Oban Hospice through D & A Munn Ltd.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**CAMPBELL** - Morvern, Gordon, Murdo and David, would like to extend their sincere thanks to our family, friends and neighbours, who showed us such kindness and support, following the sad loss of our dear mum, Emma. Thanks also, to all staff at the Lorn Medical Centre, district nurses, occupational therapy team, ambulance crews, staff in A & E and Ward B at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, for all their care of mum over the past few years. Thank you to Rev. Dugald Cameron for a very comforting service, to Donald MacKinnon for his lovely eulogy, Mary Catherine and Sileas for the lovely music in the church, Moreen Gracie for the beautiful flowers and the Royal Hotel for an excellent funeral tea. Thank you very much to Ian at D & A Munn for his sensitive and compassionate funeral arrangements. Also, thanks to all who contributed to the retiring collection in mum's

memory, for the local branch of Alzheimer's Scotland, the sum raised was £506.00.

**MACKINNON** - The family of the late Mary Mackinnon wish to express their grateful thanks to doctors Catherine and John, to Mairi and the nurses who tenderly attended to Mary in her final days, to neighbours and friends for their wonderful kindness and support, to the Rev Elspeth MacLean and Margaret MacKay (Carloway) for the comforting service at the home and graveside. Also thanks to all those who travelled by ferry and plane and to the many who attended the funeral and committal. Also to Joyce for the lovely music and to the Coop for excellent funeral arrangements. We would also like to thank all who visited, phoned, sent cards and messages of sympathy and for the beautiful floral tributes, to the hotel for catering. The sum of £300 was collected for the surgery fund.

**MACPHEE** - In loving memory of my sister Annie who passed away on May 16, 1994. Treasured memories. - Margaret

**MACQUARIE** - In loving memory of our dear father and father-in-law Donald John, who died May 21, 1989 also remembering our dear mother and mother-in-law Agnes, who died December 14, 2008 and loved ones gone before.

Always in our thoughts. - Inserted by Ann and Cameron, Erskine.

**MCALISTER** - Angus. Love you forever. - Dawn and Lauren.

**MORRISON** - In loving memory of our dear mum, granny and great-granny Mary Morrison who passed away May 17, 2004. A special person always with a smile.

A loving nature kind and true These are things we remember of you

- Teeny, Marie, Ross and families.

**MORRISON** - Mary. In loving memory of a darling mum and granny Mary who passed away on May 17, 2004. Sorely missed every day.

- Love Angus, Margaret and family.

**MORRISON** - Mary. Treasured memories of a dear mum, granny and great-grandmother. Special thanks to Mr Tom Day and all the nursing staff at the Belford Hospital, Fort William, for their kind and extremely compassionate care. Our sincere thanks to Rev. Roderick MacKinnon and Rev. John Smith. Grateful thanks to the elders, undertakers, Alasdair Morrison North Uist and Mike McFall Fort William, and the Stepping Stone catering team. Thanks to all who phoned, sent flowers and cards. A special thanks to those who donated so generously to the Alzheimer's society, the sum of £465 was raised. We would also like to extend our appreciation to those who came to pay their last respects. Thanks also to all those who provided care for Peggy while she was in

**MEMORIALS**

**CAMPBELL** - Treasured memories of a dear father and grandpa, Alasdair who died May 18, 1988.

Sadly missed today and always.

- Love Lorne and Kathie, Eriskay, Alasdair, Christine and family, Blairgowrie.

**CLARK** - In loving memory of my dear brother Tommy, who passed away suddenly on May 14, 2009.

Sadly missed along life's way. - Inserted by his sister Mary at Kilminian, Torloisk, Mull.

**FERGUSON** - Drew. Left us too early on May 14, 2013.

Our biggest brightest shining star

Never ever to be forgotten. Loved by all.

- From Mum and Dad xx Goodnight baby brother Sleep tight.

- Love Ashley and David xx

**KENNEDY** - In loving memory of May (Gillespie), loving mum and granny, died May 18, 2008.

Death leaves a heartache no-one can heal, love leaves a memory no-one can steal.

Love always, John, Catherine, John, Niall and Michael.

**MACCOLL** - In loving memory of dear Neilia who passed away on May 13, 2003.

Silent thoughts of times together Hold memories that will last forever

Gad chaoiadh gu brath.

- Inserted by Margaret

**MACDOUGALL** - Remembering our mother Catherine who died May 13, 1974, also remembering our father Archibald, our grandmother and young brother and all other dear ones who left us.

Mo choinneimh cathair Dhéag hár.

Inserted by the family in Islay and beyond.

**MACINTYRE** - In loving memory of Donald Archibald (DA), a dear husband, father and son who died May 17, 2005.

No longer in our lives to share But in our hearts you are always there.

- Rachel and family.

**MACKINNON** - Precious memories of a dear mother and nana, Duncanina, who passed away May 20, 2007 and dear father and grand-father Hugh, who passed away April 6, 2005.

Today, tomorrow our whole life through We will always love and remember you.

Also remembering dear loved ones gone before and after. All our love.

Elizabeth, Iain, Iona and Ewan.

**MACLEAN** - In loving memory of a dear wife, mum and granny Morag, who died May 14, 2012.

Deep in our hearts you will always stay

Loved and remembered every day.

- Donald, Marie, Donna, Andy, Daniel and Laura, Lorna, Lee, Cameron and Connor (Tiree and Somerset).

**MACPHEE** - In loving memory of my sister Annie who passed away on May 16, 1994.

Treasured memories.

- Margaret

**MACQUARIE** - In loving memory of our dear father and father-in-law Donald John, who died May 21, 1989 also remembering our dear mother and mother-in-law Agnes, who died December 14, 2008 and loved ones gone before.

Always in our thoughts.

- Inserted by Ann and Cameron, Erskine.

**MCALISTER** - Angus.

Love you forever.

- Dawn and Lauren.

**MORRISON** - In loving memory of our dear mum, granny and great-granny Mary Morrison who passed away May 17, 2004.

A special person always with a smile.

A loving nature kind and true These are things we remember of you

- Teeny, Marie, Ross and families.

**MORRISON** - Mary. In loving memory of a darling mum and granny Mary who passed away on May 17, 2004. Sorely missed every day.

- Love Angus, Margaret and family.

**MORRISON** - Mary. Treasured memories of a dear mum, granny and great-grandmother. Special thanks to Mr Tom Day and all the nursing staff at the Belford Hospital, Fort William, for their kind and extremely compassionate care. Our sincere thanks to Rev. Roderick MacKinnon and Rev. John Smith. Grateful thanks to the elders, undertakers, Alasdair Morrison North Uist and Mike McFall Fort William, and the Stepping Stone catering team. Thanks to all who phoned, sent flowers and cards. A special thanks to those who donated so generously to the Alzheimer's society, the sum of £465 was raised. We would also like to extend our appreciation to those who came to pay their last respects. Thanks also to all those who provided care for Peggy while she was in

**MEMORIALS**

**CAMPBELL** - Treasured memories of a dear father and grandpa, Alasdair who died May 18, 1988.

Sadly missed today and always.

- Love Lorne and Kathie, Eriskay, Alasdair, Christine and family, Blairgowrie.

**CLARK** - In loving memory of my dear brother Tommy, who passed away suddenly on May 14, 2009.

Sadly missed along life's way.

- Inserted by his sister Mary at Kilminian, Torloisk, Mull.

**FERGUSON** - Drew. Left us too early on May 14, 2013.

Our biggest brightest shining star

Never ever to be forgotten.

Loved by all.

- From Mum and Dad xx Goodnight baby brother Sleep tight.

- Love Ashley and David xx

**KENNEDY** - In loving memory of May (Gillespie), loving mum and granny, died May 18, 2008.

Death leaves a heartache no-one can heal, love leaves a memory no-one can steal.

Love always, John, Catherine, John, Niall and Michael.

**MACCOLL** - In loving memory of dear Neilia who passed away on May 13, 2003.

Silent thoughts of times together Hold memories that will last forever

Gad chaoiadh gu brath.

- Inserted by Margaret

**MACDOUGALL** - Remembering our mother Catherine who died May 13, 1974, also remembering our father Archibald, our grandmother and young brother and all other dear ones who left us.

Mo choinneimh cathair Dhéag hár.

Inserted by the family in Islay and beyond.

**MACINTYRE** - In loving memory of Donald Archibald (DA), a dear husband, father and son who died May 17, 2005.

No longer in our lives to share But in our hearts you are always there.

- Rachel and family.

**MACKINNON** - Precious memories of a dear mother and nana, Duncanina, who passed away May 20, 2007 and dear father and grand-father Hugh, who passed away April 6, 2005.

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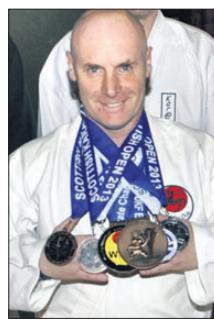
A loving nature kind and true These are things we remember of you

## Martial arts grudge match

### MARTIAL ARTS



Willie Rodger



Robert Neil

TWO OF Oban's most successful martial artists are to go head-to-head in a grudge match after a debate over whose style is the best spilled over from social media.

Willie Rodger of Senshi Do Kickboxing Oban and Robert Neil of the Shotokan-style Oban Karate Club will clash in a full-contact fight on December 6 this year, although a venue is still to be confirmed.

The match-up will give the winner the bragging rights but both fighters are keen to raise as much money as they can from the bout for Yorkhill Sick Children's Hospital, Glasgow.

Robert challenged Willie to a fight after the pair had a heated 'discussion' on social media.

Willie said he was up for the challenge and told The Oban Times: 'We have known each other for years. We started at the same club years ago.'

'We now have very different styles. It's like comparing tennis and table tennis, so we will have to agree on a set of common rules.'

'In competition I'll fight full contact and Robert fights for points.'

Willie, a former World United Martial Arts (WUMA) super heavyweight champion of Britain, added: 'I'm pretty laid back about it because I have been there and done it but I will be in training for this fight.'

Although Willie has the size advantage and the experience of full contact competition, Robert has been competing regularly over the past year, unlike his opponent, and says he is confident of winning the fight in December.

At the beginning of the year Robert won gold in the over-35 Masters Kumite (sparring) at the Scottish Karate Grand Prix.

A local martial artist said: 'There is a large martial arts scene in Oban and this fight has got a lot of people talking, it should be a good match and will help raise money for a worthy charity.'

# Broken leg sours Saints semi-final

Accidental clash puts defender out for the rest of the season

Jimmy Marshall Trophy  
Semi-final

Thorn Athletic 2  
Oban Saints 2

(Saints win 5-4 on penalties)  
McKENNA Park, Govan, home of St Anthony's Juniors was the venue for this Jimmy Marshall Trophy semi-final match against old rivals Thorn Athletic.

This is the fifth time the teams have met this season with every match being a cracker and this one was to be no different although a nasty injury early in the first half to Dene Cassells put the dampner on an otherwise entertaining encounter between these two teams.

Dene was rushed to the Southern General Hospital where a broken leg was diagnosed. He was kept in hospital overnight but released the next day with his leg in plaster.

Thorn took the lead in the 12th minute when Jamie Graham tried to get in front of his man but he failed to win the ball allowing James Donnelly a shot on goal. Daniel Cassells made a great diving save but he could only parry the ball into the path of Craig McGlone who slotted it home from 12 yards.

Thorn increased their lead on the half hour mark when Daniel Cassells misjudged a cross and

John McLister got the slightest of touches and the ball ended up in the back of the net.

Three minutes before half time Saints were back in the game when Paul Kerr was on hand to force the ball over the line from close range to make the score 2-1.

The Oban side drew level four minutes after the restart when they were awarded a free kick 25 yards from goal. Mattie Rippin bent a superb shot round the Thorn wall and the ball nestled in the bottom corner of the net - game on.

Saints were gaining the upper hand as the match wore on and both Myles McAuley and Allan MacKay were both through on goals with only the keeper to beat but they missed what can only be described as 'sitters'.

Saints made the last push to try and grab the winner, but the score remained level at 2-2 when referee Gordon Hay, who had a good game, blew for full time.

And so to the dreaded penalty shoot-out.

The Oban side have a poor record in penalty shoot-outs losing last year's Centenary Cup final, Jimmy Marshall Trophy final and this year's West of Scotland Cup tie against Giff-

### FOOTBALL

nock North on penalties.

Thorn won the toss and elected to take the first kick and scored. Allan MacKay netted for Saints, Thorn scored, then Mattie Rippin hit the back of the net for Saints. Thorn scored again.

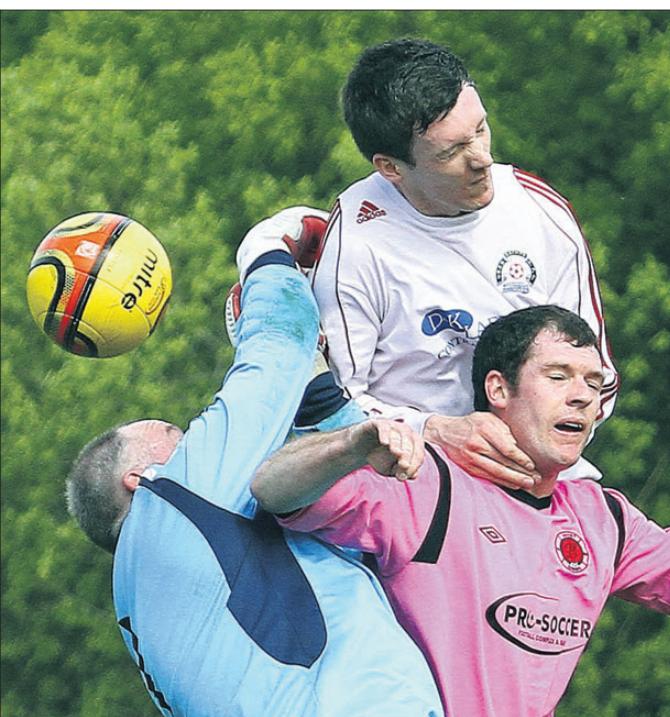
Davie McArthur was next in line for Saints and he hammered the ball home. Thorn scored again, as did Craig MacEwan to make the score 4-4. Unfortunately for Thorn David Gallagher blasted his spot kick over the bar.

Tension mounted in the Saints' camp as Donnie Campbell strode forward knowing that if he scored it would put Saints into the final for the second year in a row. Donnie made no mistake blasting the ball past Liam McWilliams much to the joy of his teammates.

Manager Iain Jackson was a very happy man after the game. He said: 'We got off to a terrible start and found ourselves 2-0 down. It took the boys a while to get going after Dene's injury but credit to them they worked really hard and we got ourselves back into the game. We had two great chances in the second half to kill the game off but failed to take them.'

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Craig MacEwan gets this header in despite the attention of Busby keeper Danny Moy and central defender Robert Donnelly. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

## Saints settle for a share of the points

Scottish Amateur League  
Premier Division  
Oban Saints 2

Busby 2

BUSBY were the visitors to Glencruitten for this Premier League encounter and a battling performance saw them head back down the road with a share of the points in a 2-2 draw.

Saints had beaten Busby 9-2 at Overlee Park earlier in the season, but there was no way that result was going to be repeated as the visitors started off in determined fashion and they took the lead in only the third minute when the Saints defence got caught knapping and the ball fell to Billy McGhee who wasted no time in thumping it past Daniel Cassells - a poor goal to lose as far as the Oban side were concerned.

Saints were stung by this goal but gradually came back into the game and Mattie Rippin had a good effort that whistled inches past the post then Myles McAuley was unlucky to see a shot come back off the post in the 10th minute with Busby keeper Danny Moy stranded.

This should have been the signal for Saints to consolidate for a few minutes then push on and try and win the game, but they shot themselves in the foot when Jamie Graham was caught knapping with a high ball into the box. Billy McGhee had time to control the ball on his chest before rifling an unstoppable shot past Daniel Cassells and into the net - another bad goal to lose.

Saints finally got the equaliser

with five minutes remaining after some good work on the left resulting in Donnie Campbell firing a cross into the box for Allan MacKay to head home, much to the relief of the Oban support.

Saints did get back on level terms in the 72nd minute when Donnie Campbell was brought down in the box. Allan MacKay was entrusted with the spot kick and he calmly thumped the ball home past Danny Moy to make the score 1-1.

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# MacTavish and Celtic cups' semi-final battles this weekend

## MacTavish Cup

GLENURQUHART'S fixture against Kinlochshiel on Saturday was postponed because of a waterlogged Kirkton Park so coach Billy MacLean is looking ahead to the home game against Newtonmore in the semi-final of the MacTavish Cup.

He said: 'That's a big game, especially with a few boys missing. Mike Brady is suspended, Aly MacIntosh is injured and Andrew Corrigan will be offshore. That's three of our key players but hopefully we can still give Newtonmore a good game.'

'They beat us 4-0 in the league so they're definitely the favourites to win but I think we have a stronger team now than we did then.'

Last year's Orion Group Premiership champions NEWTONMORE'S 3-0 victory against Lovat means the two teams are tied at the top of the table.

Coach PJ MacIntosh said: 'It was another good result. We played well even with a few players short but we're delighted to get the win.'

This Saturday 'More will travel to Glenurquhart for the semi-final of the MacTavish Cup.

Despite only losing one game so far this season, MacIntosh thinks his men could be doing more.

He said: 'It's going to be a hard game. They have home advantage, it's a semi-final and they're a strong side. We're playing well but not as well as we should be, we could still be doing better.'

KINLOCHSHIEL will go through to the final of the RBS MacTavish Cup if they can overcome holders Lovat at Kirkton on Saturday.

Form suggests the Lochalsh men have the capability of doing just that after they almost knocked Lovat out of the Artemis MacAulay Cup at Kiltarly but coach Colin Fraser will need his top men to shine if 'Shiel are to prevail.

Defender Paul MacRae will play no further shinty this season after breaking his hand against Lovat, forward Jordan Fraser is a doubt with a niggle in his hip problem but utility player Paul MacDiarmid is home from working offshore and will be available.

Fraser said: 'The last time we met Lovat we played really well and were a bit unlucky not to win. Hopefully it will work out for us on Saturday.'

'Lovat won't want to let go of the cup but both teams are pretty well matched and at the end of the day it will come down to who wants it the most.'

MacTavish Cup holders LOVAT have no intention of letting go of the trophy and will get through to the final for the second year in succession if they can beat Kinlochshiel at Kirkton.

The Kiltarly men have had the edge against 'Shiel so far this season, but had to rely on an extra time goal to secure a 2-1 home win in the Artemis MacAulay Cup in their last meeting.

Lovat will be without Craig Mainland, who has a broken hand. Defender Daniel Grieve is carrying an ankle injury but could play after benefiting from last weekend's enforced lay-off.

Lovat coach Allan MacRae said: 'We have had two close games against Kinlochshiel this season, both at our own park, so it will be quite nice to see how we perform away from home.'

'Both the teams had a rest last weekend and that should do us a bit of good as we have been able to rest a few players carrying

injuries.

'So it will be a level playing field on Saturday - on the Kinlochshiel slope!'

## Celtic Society Cup

KYLES ATHLETIC face an important match this weekend as round two of the AJG Celtic Society Cup gets underway.

The Tighnabruaich men would have entered into a match with South Division Two's Glasgow Mid Argyll with confidence last year but recent poor performance could see a more nervous Kyles Athletic tomorrow (Saturday).

Last weekend's match against Lovat was postponed because of an unplayable pitch and the Cowal men will be hoping the rest pays off when they take to the pitch in Glasgow.

A particularly special cup to Tighnabruaich, James Perlich's men won the cup last year after a penalty shoot out with Argyll rivals Inveraray.

INVERARAY players will need no motivation going into this weekend's AJG Parcels Celtic Society Cup fixture, the team's Chris Crawford has said.

The 'Aray man says his fellow teammates will get over their disappointing loss to Kingussie last weekend and focus on the challenge of beating Oban Camanachd at the Winterton

tomorrow (Saturday).

He said: 'There will not be any doubt, everyone will be up for it.'

'This is a cup that means a lot to everyone. All of us, except for one or two players, have won the cup before and we are experienced in that respect as well.'

The Mid Argyll men face a tough challenge as Camanachd have won most of their games this season.

Chris added: 'They have had a run of good form. They are going to be confident themselves but we are just thinking about our own game.'

'We are glad to have won the home draw, being at home will be easier to bounce back.'

It is a 3-2 defeat against Kingussie that the 'Aray men are keen to forget.

They managed to equalise through Lewis MacNicol and Peter MacIntyre after conceding two early goals. A final goal from Kingussie's Bob MacGregor from the semi-final.

Chris said: 'It is game we should have won. We had the chances we just couldn't quite take them.'

OBAN CAMANACHD got back to winning ways after their Camanachd Cup defeat at the hands of Beauly with a comfortable 5-1 win over Glenorchy at Mossfield.

On target for the red and blacks were 'Papa' MacCusih

(2), Lorn Dickie (2) and Aidan MacIntyre.

The Oban side travel to the Winterton Park on Saturday to play Inveraray in the semi final of the Celtic Society Cup.

## Orion Group Premiership

KINGUSSIE returned from their trip to Inveraray delighted with a 3-2 victory.

Coach Russell Jones said: 'It was really good especially since we were really short of players, six of the nine usual starters were missing so we had a lot of players in from the second team.'

'Hopefully we can take that form forward to this game.'

John said a few of his players had niggling injuries but he expected to have a full squad to choose from for the fixture, which throws up at 3pm.

BALLACHULISH are through to the Balliemore Cup semi-final after a fine 2-0 win at Taynuilt.

Ballachulish took the lead through top scorer Lorne Brown with a fine turn and shot in the 10th minute before James McLaren in the home goal saved excellent efforts from Brown, Michael Slezas and Duncan McDonald.

Jones added: 'I don't know what to think about this game, the league has been so up and down this season, anyone can win any game.'

'We'll prepare for them the same way we do for any other team. We've played them twice this season and it's been tight both times so I'm expecting the same again.'

LOCHABER suffered yet another blow on Saturday, losing 3-0 to Newtonmore at home.

But they will need to put that behind them to focus on this weekend's away fixture against Kingussie if they have any chance of moving up from the bottom of the Orion Group Premiership.

The Spean Bridge side have yet to win a game this season so are likely to struggle against Kings, who are currently third in the league table.

## South Senior Plate

BUTE made the journey over water to take on Glasgow Mid Argyll after the game was transferred to Yoker because the island pitch was unplayable.

Bute lost a close game 2-1.

On target for the islanders was Chris MacGowan.

Bute make the long trip to Aberdour on Saturday to play in the Senior Plate semi-final and Aberdour in South League Division 2.

## MacTavish Plate

FORT WILLIAM take on Boleskine in the RBS MacTavish Plate at An Aird with a place in the final against either Inverness or Skye the prize.

The Fort have been in fine form lately and confirmed their growing stature as a premier team in waiting with a 3-1 win over local rivals Kilmallie on Saturday.

That was achieved despite the absence of a host of first team players - suggesting Fort are close to achieving the squad strength and depth required to challenge for top honours.

Co-manager Adi Robertson said: 'The overall team performance in the first half against Kilmallie was absolutely excellent.'

'They moved Liam MacDonald from full centre to buckshee forward after the break which caused us a few problems but once we got to grips with that we got right back into the game.'

'To be honest though, we should have been out of sight by half-time.'

He added: 'Ryan Campbell has rediscovered his desire for shinty and deserved his two goals.'

## National Division

GLENORCHY took on Oban Camanachd in a National Division game at Mossfield last weekend, but found themselves on the wrong end of a 5-1 scoreline. Kieran MacKay got their consolation goal.

The Dalmally side are at home to Beauly this Saturday.

## Kilmallie

KILMALLIE remain on league duty this week looking to banish memories of their disappointing 1-3 defeat to rivals Fort William last time out.

Opponents Caberfeidh lie second in the Marine Harvest National Division and Kilmallie

coach Duncan Kelly is under no illusions the Strathpeffer men will not make it easy, with Alan MacDonald and Martin Stewart both doubts for the match.

He said: 'Caberfeidh got a draw with Beauly on Saturday and they have been playing well. Every game we have had against them has been hard - they just don't give up.'

This is our first league game at home and if the boys can pick their game up and play to their full potential I don't see why we should not beat Caberfeidh.'

Kelly thanked Fort William FC for the free use of a sponge roller last Saturday to clear water from Canal Parks in case the game against Fort William had to be switched from An Aird.

The Skymen have been in great form lately and ended past Strathglass 1-0 in a tough encounter last weekend to reach the semi-finals of the Balliemore Cup - and the prospect of installing at least one piece of silverware in the trophy cabinet is an exciting one for Skye coach John MacLeod.

He said: 'The effort the boys are putting into training through the week is really showing on

## South Division One

OBAN CELTIC found themselves on the wrong end of a 4-0

scoreline when they travelled to play Inverness in the quarter final of the Balliemore Cup last weekend.

The Oban side will be hoping to get back on track when they travel to play Kyles Athletic this Saturday.

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## Kilmory

KILMORY return to league duty tomorrow (Saturday) when they play away to Taynuilt for the first time this season.

The team will be hoping to reignite the good form it experienced at the start of the season

## SHINTY

a hard, hard game.'

But he added: 'In our last outing against Kilmallie we played really well for the first 75 minutes, it was the last 15 that were disappointing. We played really good shinty and we were pleased with that.'

'Hopefully we can take that form forward to this game.'

John said a few of his players had niggling injuries but he expected to have a full squad to choose from for the fixture, which throws up at 3pm.

BALLACHULISH are through to the Balliemore Cup semi-final after a fine 2-0 win at Taynuilt.

Ballachulish took the lead through top scorer Lorne Brown with a fine turn and shot in the 10th minute before James McLaren in the home goal saved excellent efforts from Brown, Michael Slezas and Duncan McDonald.

Jones added: 'I don't know what to think about this game, the league has been so up and down this season, anyone can win any game.'

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## Kilmory

KILMORY return to league duty tomorrow (Saturday) when they play away to Taynuilt for the first time this season.

He said: 'We're not happy having to travel to Skye, a lot of the players work for Marine Harvest so they probably won't be able to go that early. I don't know who I'll have missing yet but hopefully it won't be too many.'

## Argyll racer picked to trial prototype electric bike

A CHANCE meeting in the beer tent at the Isle of Man TT two years ago has resulted in an Argyll racer being selected to trial a prototype electric bike in this year's event.

Robert Wilson, from Taynuilt, will race in the TT for the fourth successive year this month and will compete as a seeded rider in the Supersport class on his new Yamaha R6 with the Oban-based Stoddart Racing.

The 35-year-old will also be racing in the zero class (for bikes with zero emissions) and will trial the prototype Saroléa SP7 electric motorbike from the Belgian Saroléa Racing team.

This is the first time the team has trialled its electric bike and Robert was thrilled to take on the challenge, which came about from a chance meeting between the two racing teams over a beer.

Robert, an architect to trade, said: 'Two years ago John Stoddart and Billy Robertson were in the beer tent at the TT and started talking to these two Belgian guys who told them they were thinking of making an electric bike but would need an experienced rider for it.'

'My team said that I would ride it if they ever decided to bring the bike over and left our contact details. It was a case of right place, right time.'

 Robert has had success at previous Isle of Man TTs.

The battery-powered bike must last for the near 40-mile lap meaning everything on the bike, including Robert, must be light as possible.

'I've been watching what I eat and hitting the gym most days,' admitted Robert. 'I think the Belgian team would like a top 10 finish but I'm wanting a win. The zero class is not as competitive.'



Robert Wilson will test the Belgian-made Saroléa SP7 electric motorbike at this year's Isle of Man TT.

### MOTORCYCLING

as the Supersport - there's only around 25 teams - so as long as it can get round the full lap I'm confident of doing well.'

A much lighter bike, the electric model will make little noise and is fully automatic. The fastest average time recorded by an electric bike in the Isle of Man TT is 112mph, compared with the 123mph average Robert managed last year on his petrol bike.

Robert leaves for the Isle of Man on May 23 and will be away for two weeks for practise and competition.

His two Supersport rides take place on June 2 and June 4, with the class zero race also held on June 4.

Saroléa Racing was Belgium's first Motorcycle brand when it was established in 1850. The team has always put a strong emphasis on racing to advance its technology, a tradition that has continued with the 2014 Saroléa SP7.

Designed and built in Belgium, the SP7 motorcycle showcases the company's latest developments in technology. The bike is built up around the innovative carbon fibre monotube chassis and its ultra-efficient axial flux motor.

During the design process the focus was on achieving a high power-to-weight ratio and an aerodynamic efficiency. Extensive use of carbon fibre and lightweight alloys helped reduce the overall weight.

Saroléa's project manager Torsten Robbins said: 'The Isle of Man TT is the most prestigious motorcycle race in the world. Its 37.73-mile laps also make it the most challenging event for both rider and machine.'

LAST weekend saw nine Skiffs from many parts of Scotland arrive in Oban for a Scottish Skiff Grand Prix event. The weekend of racing was part of a series of Skiff regattas which take place during the year in various parts of Scotland.

Oban Sailing Club was delighted to host the first of these events for these exciting high performance trapeze dinghies, with a number of club members covering the race control and safety boats.

The first race on Saturday initially looked in doubt with glassy conditions making the proposed partial circumnavigation of Kerrera uncertain. But a light north westerly breeze at the start took the eight single handed Musto Skiffs and the two man 49er down the sound of Kerrera, colourful asymmetric spinnakers flying.

The sun came out and the breeze picked up again along the south coast of Kerrera and the skiffs sped across to Bach Island and then took a long close hauled beat up the west shore to the finish off Seigir Dhonn towards the north end of Kerrera.

Eric and Irene Chapman's keelboat Amber Haze was committee boat for the weekend, and recorded the finishes as the wind died to a whisper.

First place was taken by John Reekie, who made a comeback after capsizing soon after the start, second place was taken by the 49er sailed by Scott Johnson and Martin Marshall and third place by Ian Morton.

The second race of the day was saved as spectacular clouds over Mull bubbled up and created a good breeze. A windward-leeward race off the west shore of Kerrera saw the skiffs beating into the wind and then downwind gybing as they completed a number of circuits of the course.



## Oban hosts Scottish Skiff Grand Prix

### SAILING

The glittering sea, the black hills of Mull shadowed by the white windblown cumulus thunder heads and the back lit colourful spinnakers made for a fantastic sight.

On Sunday morning the fleet headed round to Ganavan. The reasonable 8-10 knot winds made for good sailing allowing three windward-leeward races to be run.

John Reekie took first place in each of the races. Ian Renilson took two seconds and a third, Jono Shelley took a second, and Andy Hooton and Iain Morton each took a third.

The prize giving at Oban Sailing Club saw the overall prizes going to John Reekie in first place with a full house of first places. Taking second with nine points was Ian Renilson, and coming in third with 15 points was Jono Shelley. Thanks go to Nancy Blacks chandlery for the gift vouchers as prizes for the leading competitors.



The Skiff sailors pictured with Eric Chapman race officer on left and John Peden Oban Sailing Club Commodore on the right.

## Anne and Sandy win Dalriada competition

OBAN travelled to Tarbert last weekend for their second West Argyll League fixture of the season. Oban drew by winning two and losing two games but lost the tie on shots overall.

### Two bowls

Sunday May 11 saw 20 players taking part in the annual Dalriada competition which is played in pairs with each player playing with two bowls only.

Through the rounds emerged brothers John and David

McLaren who faced the pairing of Anne Campbell and Sandy Carr in the final.

A dramatic finish saw Sandy Carr's last bowl wreck the hopes of the McLaren brothers who had looked certain to win.

Sandy trailed the jack to his partner's bowls which were in the perfect position to receive the jack and end the match.

## Hockey and rugby sevens

### RUGBY

tyre will be joining the four Oban host teams taking part on the day.

There will be burgers available throughout the day alongside the rugby club bar. Disco by Ralph Roeder will start at 5.30pm warming everyone up for Chunks who will play a set from 9pm. Everyone is welcome and are encouraged to come along and support this fantastic event.

Oban Lorne RFC will be hosting their annual club dinner on Saturday May 31 in the club house. Tickets are available at £25 from Darrell Williams and Tommy Sutherland or at the club house.



Oban Camanachd Under 14s were presented with a new strip from the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund before their recent game against Bute. Ryan's mum Amanda is pictured with the Under 14 players and coaches. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

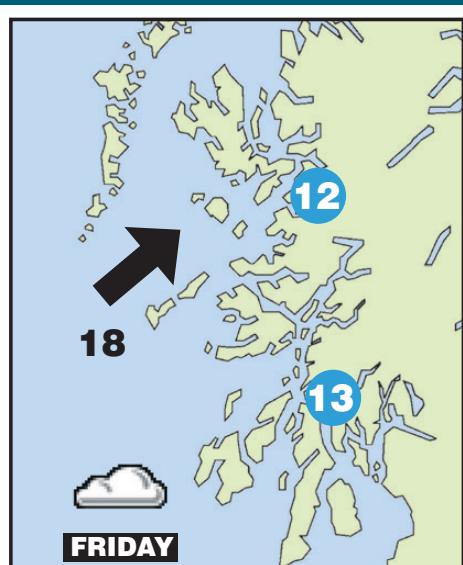
## Weather

**Thursday** Cloudy with some light rain  
Winds light south westerly  
Temperatures 10°C to 12°C

**Friday** Cloudy  
Winds moderate south westerly  
Temperatures 8°C to 13°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Heavy rain on Saturday  
Sunshine and showers on Sunday  
Winds moderate southerly  
Temperatures 9°C to 11°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate  
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from

**Thursday, May 15, 2014**

are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	
Thur	05.46	3.9	12.07
Fri	00.22	0.6	06.22
Sat	01.07	0.6	07.01
Sun	01.54	0.6	07.44
Mon	02.45	0.8	08.31
Tues	03.42	1.0	09.25
Wed	04.45	1.1	10.31
			3.0
			17.06
			1.2
			23.19
			3.2

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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### Taynuilt

LADIES: Duncarden Cup plus Medal played 6 May - 1 Susan Asher 61 (32); 2 Carol MacLarty 68 (20); 3 Sheena Ambrose 70 (36).

GENTS: Club Championship 1st round - scratch and handicap played 11 May: Handicap - 1 Andrew Diggory 59 (05); 2 Mark Henricksen 62 (07); 3 Ashley Dowell 63 (18). Scratch - 1 Andrew Diggory 64; 2 Mark Henricksen 69; 3 David Howie 71.

Match with Tobermory GC at Taynuilt played 10 May - Taynuilt 3, Tobermory 3.

### Glencruitten

THE Terry Ng Trophy which was played for at the weekend at Glencruitten has resulted in a play-off between John MacCallum, whose two round score was 125 (65 + 60) and Innes Clark (59 + 66). John MacCallum won the lifeboat competition.

This Saturday is the Pickford's Qualifier and the monthly medal.

### Tobermory

GENTS Section: Jubilee Cup - 1 William MacCrone 35 points; 2 Lewis Brown 35 points; 3 Richard Inglis 33 points.

Junior Section: May Medal - 1 William MacCrone 61-05-6 (equals the course record); 2 Lewis Brown 66-08-58; 3 Scott Paterson 81-19-62.

Ladies Stableford - 1 Margaret Ingram 30 points; 2 Olive Brown 28 points; 3 Kathy McAdam 27 points.

### Islay

MAY Medal Played 11 May: 1 C Stroud 80 Less 11= 69; 2 N Carmichael 81 Less 11=70; 3 I MacCuaig 77 Less 7 = 70. Css 71.

### 'Sociable sevens'

### RUGBY

SATURDAY May 24 will see the Mull Rugby Club annual sevens tournament take place.

Known as 'The Most Sociable Sevens' this year organisers are adding their event as a warm up to the Commonwealth Games. The order of the day is 11 am for the Island Tag finals before the high noon kick off for the senior tournament.

The event will be followed by a dance and disco featuring a set from the local boy band and rock gods, Vitamin T.

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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### Sunart group's plot plans

A LOCHABER community group has applied to purchase a plot of land to grow produce locally.

Sunart Community Company (SCC) lodged an application to the National Forest Land Scheme to buy 0.14 hectares of land adjacent to the old schoolhouse in Strontian.

Details have not been finalised but members hope it can be used for a community growing project, to allow residents, and potentially pupils from local schools, to grow their own food.

SCC treasurer James Hilder said: 'Growing local produce is something a lot of residents are interested in and would benefit the community in terms of health and economy. There are a lot of ways we can go about it which we will decide on nearer the time but it would be nice for the schools to have a plot each.'

### Fort FC appeal

FORT William Football Club is appealing for more volunteers to help out at 20 home games at Claggan Park next season.

People are needed for various duties including manning the gate, monitoring supporters, providing first aid, managing the park and helping at the snack bar. Those interested can email [admin@fortwilliamfc.co.uk](mailto:admin@fortwilliamfc.co.uk) or phone 01397 698003.

Meanwhile, the Lochaber Welfare League is holding an Old Firm 'Rangers v Celtic' fundraising game at Claggan Park on Sunday.

The match will kick off at 2pm with kids games from 11.30am until 2pm.

A raffle will be held at the end of the game, with tickets available from Iain Ferguson.

### Argyll author visits West Highland Museum

AN ARGYLL author will be in Fort William this weekend signing copies of her book about an doctor executed in the Jacobite Rising.

Lady Mary McGrigor will be in the West Highland Museum from 2.30pm on Sunday (18th) showcasing her biography of Doctor Archibald Cameron.

The book 'Doctor Archie - The Life and Times of Doctor Archibald Cameron' outlines how the well-respected doctor began his career in Strontian before he was drawn into the Jacobite rebellion in 1745.



Delighted: Lochaber Rugby Club players were thrilled to pick up silverware at the annual dinner dance. From left: Alistair MacKinnon, Calum MacDonald, Mike McLeish and Jack Baxter. 20\_f20rugbyprize01

### Rugby club teams up awards night with dinner

LOCHABER Rugby Club's annual awards ceremony was teamed with the dinner dance for the first time Saturday night.

Trophies were presented by club president Alistair MacKinnon in the Ben Nevis Hotel in Fort William.

Lorraine Revitt was awarded Person of

the Year but was unable to attend the event to collect her award. The Calum Mercer Memorial Shield for an up-and-coming young player went to Calum MacDonald while team captain Mike McLeish picked up Player of the Year. The trophy for Most Improved Player went to Finlay Ireland.

Mr MacKinnon said: 'It was a really good night, it went really well. It's all young boys winning awards so things are looking good for the future of the club. Finishing fifth, this season was probably the most successful season on the pitch for a number of years so hopefully we'll keep improving.'

### Former Lochaber surgeon to be honoured for outstanding service to the community

A FORMER Lochaber surgeon will be honoured with an award for outstanding service to the community next Friday night (May 23).

Fort William Community Council members chose Mr Sedgwick to receive the first award 'in recognition of his long and distinguished service to the population of Lochaber'.

Chairman Neil Clark said: 'This is the first time we have had this award and David fits all the criteria. He has provided outstanding personal service through his treatments and operations at the Belford over the years and is involved in youth and church work.'

Prior to his retirement in January, Mr Sedgwick spent 21 years at Belford Hospital's consultant surgeon and led the five year campaign to save the Belford from being downgraded

to a community day hospital. He also introduced keyhole surgery at the Belford.

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'This is the first time we have had this award and David fits all the criteria. He has provided outstanding personal service through his treatments and operations at the Belford over the years and is involved in youth and church work.'

'He was hugely involved in stopping the closure of the Belford and is extremely well known and liked in the community.'



David Sedgwick at his retirement send-off in January. 20\_f20doc07

### Fort William Railway Club Present

### Mick Flavin and his Band In Concert

Thursday 29th May 2014  
Doors open 7pm  
Show 8-10.30pm

Tickets £14 Concessions & OAPs £12

### Indy debate row as MSP withdraws

HIGHLANDS and Islands Conservative MSP Jamie McGrigor has been caught up in an embarrassing political row after it emerged he was instructed to pull out of a Scottish independence debate on the Isle of Skye.

Mr McGrigor had agreed to speak on behalf of Better Together, the group advocating a 'No' vote in the September 18 referendum, in a showpiece debate in Portree on June 6 - the 70th anniversary of D-Day.

But veteran Argyll-based politician had to beat a retreat after Better Together bosses vetoed his involvement.

Mr McGrigor had been due to make the case for the 'No' side against Ian Blackford of Yes Skye, Raasay and Lochalsh, the local campaign group backing independence for Scotland.

It has also emerged that local radio station Cuillin FM failed to secure a 'No' representative to debate with Mr Blackford in a live on-air

debate. Mr Blackford told *The Oban Times*: 'It does seem that the self-proclaimed project fear has become project fear.'

'Despite our best efforts the No campaign will not debate the issue of the future of Scotland.'

'What is it that they are afraid of? I repeat my offer to debate with them anywhere in our area. Why not rise to the challenge of putting both sides of the debate to the voters?'

'Quite happy'

A spokesperson for Mr McGrigor said the MSP had been 'quite happy to take part' in the debate.

He added: 'We were told by Better Together that it was not going ahead.'

Cuillin FM presenter Ashley Perks confirmed the 'No' campaign had failed to put up a speaker.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'All we got was an excuse saying it was too short notice.'

'I said fair enough, give me another date and you can come whenever you like, but I

have heard nothing from them since. It is quite extraordinary.'

Better Together spokesperson, former Labour MP Brian Wilson, denied the 'No' campaign was running scared.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Better Together is delighted to take part in debates organised by credible community organisations and indeed local newspapers. We are also hosting our own public meetings in every part of Scotland. In this case it became clear, contrary to initial indications, that this was not an independently-organised event and we therefore withdrew.'

'Mr Blackford is a prominent SNP figure and his press release confirms that the whole exercise was entirely disingenuous.'

Mr Perks said he 'had not heard a dickey bird' about Better Together holding any public meeting in Skye and Lochalsh, either through a third party or on their own initiative. See leader, page 10.

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## Work to start on joint campus

HIGHLAND Council's third and final project in its £36.5 million programme to provide new primary schools for the Fort William area will officially get underway on May 29.

A sod cutting ceremony will herald the start of a £14.6m scheme to demolish the existing Caol Primary School and Caol Community Centre and replace them with two new buildings.

The first, a joint campus accommodating a new eight-classroom Caol primary and a six-classroom school combining the existing Fort William and Lochside RC primaries, will have nursery classrooms and an internal 'street' to link the schools together.

The second building will house a new community centre along with Caol library, Caol Youth Centre and a Room 13 youth café.

A state-of-the-art biomass energy centre will heat both buildings, while a new car park and multi-use games area also form part of the development. Councillor Alasdair Christie,



State-of-the-art: an artist's impression of how the new joint campus building will look once finished.

## New bridges for Ben

TWO ALUMINIUM footbridges on the main path up Ben Nevis to the summit are to be replaced.

Work is due to start on Monday May 19 and is estimated to take up to four weeks.

The footbridges, about a mile up the climb from the visitor centre in Glen Nevis, have been in a deteriorating state for years, Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team leader John Stevenson said. 'The foundations are starting to go and the bridges themselves are starting to wear out,' he said. 'They have seen a lot of traffic over the past 10 years and have been there for as long as I can remember.'

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'Due to the nature of this essential work and to ensure the safety of the contractors and all other path users, everyone using this route is advised to follow the advisory signs on the hill and the on-site instructions. Restrictions and path closures will be kept to a minimum and all other routes onto Ben Nevis will be unaffected.'

The work is being funded by the landowners Rio Tinto Alcan.

Public Information and guidance can be obtained from Glen Nevis Visitor Centre 01397 705922, glen.nevis@highland.gov.uk.

## Mountain bike champs honoured

AS FORT William gears up for another Mountain Bike World Cup, organisers have been celebrating past champions.

An honorary board outlining 48 previous downhill winners was unveiled at the Pine Marten Cafe, Nevis Range, on Friday, attended by reigning downhill champions Gee Atherton and Katie Curd, along with competitors Emmeline Ragot and Ruaridh Cunningham.

This year's event will be on June 7 and 8. Mountain Bike World Cup organiser Mike Jardine said: 'Since 2002 some of the best crowds in the world have made the annual pilgrimage to Fort William to see their heroes in action. It's fitting that athletes who have competed in the Fort William World Cup for over a decade are celebrated here today ahead of what will be another adrenaline-filled tournament starting next month.'

## Official opening of Glencoe track

THE OFFICIAL opening of part of the Glencoe orbital recreational track will take place on Saturday, developers Glencoe and Glen Etive Community Company (GGECC) has announced.

The new section, running

from Glencoe village to the Clachaig Inn following the line of the Old Glencoe Road, will be opened by author and historian Dr James Hunter.

GGECC chairman Dave Smith said: 'The community company thanks Highlands and

Islands Enterprise which fully funded the cost of this 2.5km of track. Also thanks should be given to project manager Claire Thomson and Fion Construction for their efforts in building the track on time whilst battling atrocious weather conditions.'



Willie Mack.

## Award-winning journalist appointed Oban Times editor

AWARD-WINNING journalist Willie Mack has been appointed editor of *The Oban Times*.

A seasoned campaigner with vast experience of local newspapers, Willie has edited titles both north and south of the Border in a career spanning almost four decades. He has occupied the editor's chair for Archant in Glasgow, for Johnston Press in the Scottish Borders and for Forth Independent Newspapers in Alloa. He also held a group editorial position with Newsquest in East London.

During his time at the Southern Reporter, the publication was voted best local newspaper in Scotland for three years in a row and he also picked up a clutch of awards at Alloa and Glasgow. Willie, a passionate advocate for the local press, relishes the prospect of joining *The Oban Times*. He said: 'The *Oban Times* is one of Scotland's great local newspapers and I am delighted to have the opportunity to help write a new chapter in the history

of this well-respected, popular title. Ever since my first job as a cub reporter on the *Paisley Gazette*, I have always enjoyed the variety and richness of local newspapers. That interest remains undiminished. These are both exciting and challenging times for the local press, but I passionately believe that local newspapers such as *The Oban Times* can still play a crucial and central part in informing and shaping the community - whether in newsprint or on a digital platform.'

Willie and his wife Ann, a journalist, have visited Oban and the surrounding area many times over the years and have enjoyed family holidays on Mull and Tiree. He added: 'I am really looking forward to taking up the reins and becoming part of the local community.'

Wyvex Media Managing Director Alister Bennett said: 'We very much look forward to Willie joining us in June and to progressing our plans to further improve *The Oban Times*'.

## Community council voices dismay at being 'ignored'

A LOCHABER public group may refuse comment on planning applications to Highland Council in future as it feels its views are being sidelined.

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achtnacarry Community Council was dismayed that permission was granted last month for six wooden camping pods beside the Caledonian Canal at Gairloch - despite strong objections from members and other residents.

And at a meeting last week, irate members claimed they were being 'continually ignored' and saw no point in making further representations on planning issues.

Mr Fotheringham said: 'The council tells community councils we are the voice on the ground and they want us to be involved in planning and give our input.'

'Some people have spent a massive amount of time doing that and then we are continually ignored. Now I think what is the point? I feel like we should tell them we want nothing more to do with planning and won't comment, but will that have any impact?'

Caol and Mallaig councillor Bill Clark said rejecting a planning application required substantial reasons which would stand up in an appeal. He added: 'Councillors on the planning committee can only make

decisions based on what is before them. The application for the plans at Gairloch detailed information and councillors, having read and discussed that, thought it should go ahead. I wish that I could please everyone that objected to a planning application but that's never going to happen - 90 per cent of applications would never be approved, hardly a house would be built if every objection meant a rejection.'

Councillor Clark also suggested that rather than boycotting applications the community council should invite Allan Todd, the South Area planning manager for Highland Council, to attend a meeting and hear their concerns. Mr Fotheringham said: 'I don't know if we should up sticks, instead I think we should find out why it is like that and try to change it. We should invite Allan Todd here and tell him if this keeps happening we will seriously consider having nothing to do with planning in the future.'

The Alpine-style camping pods are part of dozens Scottish Canals plans to build along the Caledonian. As well as Gairloch and Laggan, permission has been granted for eight in Fort Augustus and six at Kyte Locks with more planned at other sites between Inverness and Banavie.



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Past and present Mountain Bike World Cup Champions unveil the honours boards at Nevis Range. From left: Ruaridh Cunningham, Katy Curd, Emmeline Ragot and Gee Atherton. 20\_f20bikes01

## Invergarry considers buying forest

### EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Residents have formed a steering committee, Glengarry Community Woodland, to take the project forward.

A £10,000 funding application will be lodged with Awards For All Scotland by the end of May for a feasibility study into possible community uses. Should the grant be approved, a community ballot will be organised to canvass local opinion on this proposal. Majority support is required for FCS to consider any bid to buy the land.

Under the National Forest Land Scheme (NFLS), local communities have first option to buy if it can be shown they can raise the cash required and manage the woodland for the public good.

Glengarry Community Woodland has priced the woods at a comparatively high £200,000 as the industrial site is a fully serviced, hard standing area with mains water and electricity. Good access to the main road was also a factor in the valuation.

The Glengarry move comes just weeks after the Achinacarry, Bunarkaig and Clunes (ABC) Group lodged a bid with FCS to buy four square miles of forest near Spean Bridge for £500,000. A decision is still pending.

The Invergarry group has already been in contact with the ABC Group for advice.

Scotland have given us a bit of time to prove we can buy the land and manage it. We have been in contact with the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust on creating possible community-owned housing for key workers, while the hard-standing could serve as a spare car park for the cemetery over the road.

'Part of the woodland could possibly be turned into a woodland craft for an individual to work, while other parts could be developed for more recreational use. We will keep the community informed at all times.'

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The Invergarry group has already been in contact with the ABC Group for advice.

## John pedals forward with challenge

A KEEN Mallaig cyclist is getting on his bike to mark a special anniversary and raise funds for two worthy local causes.

John Angus Gillies, a manager with salmon farmers Marine Harvest, will visit colleagues on his 145-mile cycle challenge to mark the 10th anniversary of the company opening its Mallaig harvest station.

Funds raised from the June 20 challenge will be split between Mallaig's Fisherman's Mission and the newly-formed Mallaig and District Camanachd Shinty Club.

John Angus, better known locally as Gillie, recently resurrected the club with two workmates 15 years after it fell into abeyance.

Dubbed the 'Fish Cycle', Gillie's route starts in Armadale in Skye and takes in a number of Marine Harvest sites before ending in Mallaig.

The 46-year-old said: 'I wanted to do something to something to mark the anniversary of the Mallaig Harvest Station and with the Commonwealth Games fast approaching this seemed like an ideal challenge.'

'I'd be delighted if any of my Marine Harvest colleagues want to join me en route for one mile or even 10.'

He added: 'I'd also like to thank all my sponsors and supporters for their help in organising the challenge.'

Anyone wishing to make a donation can visit <http://www.justgiving.com/jayne-MacKay>.



Getting on his bike: Gillie will pedal round Marine Harvest sites in aid of charity.

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Ref: OSAN14

## Tenants for European Marine Science Park

DUNSTAFFNAGE'S European Marine Science Park is on the brink of signing up its first tenant.

The good news for developer Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) comes at a time when the agency was under increased criticism for lack of use of the multi-million building development.

The building work was completed in 2012. Since then it has lain dormant, despite being short listed for design awards.

*The Oban Times* can reveal that HIE is in advanced discussion with potential tenants. It is understood that interest in the building has been shown from across the UK and Europe.

A spokeswoman for HIE said: 'HIE is in advanced legal discussions with potential tenants for EMSP but we cannot say more at this stage until these are concluded. Interest has been shown in the EMSP from across the UK and Europe.'

## Argyll pipers off to a flyer at contest

PIPING competitions got off to a high note after the weekend's first round of events.

Argyll competitors wiped the floor at the Gourock Highland Games Pipe Band and Drum Majors' Competition. This puts the county in a good position for a superb 2014 season.

Oban Pipe Band took third place in the Grade One competition, showing a strong start to the year.

Grade Two first place was also won by Oban Pipe Band.

It won The Caledonian MacBrayne Trophy and The Cardwell Garden Centre Trophy.

In the same grade, Oban High School Juvenile Pipe Band took fourth place winning the Duncan Fraser Trophy.

The Gourock Traders Association Shield and the Iain Kennedy Memorial Cup were won by Oban High School Juvenile Pipe Band while Kintyre Schools won third place and the Greenock Telegraph Trophy.

Winning the Peggy McDonald Memorial Trophy, and taking first place, for novice juvenile was Kintyre Schools and winning the Church for Peugeot Trophy, and fourth place was Oban High School.



Pupils, parents and staff at Benderloch's Lochnell Primary School will be inviting the community and baton relay runners to take part in a 'breakfast of champions' when the Queen's Baton Relay comes to the school. 15\_120breakfast01

## Join in Queen's Baton Relay celebrations

COMMUNITY groups and individuals are being asked to join in the celebrations on Sunday July 13 as the Queen's Baton Relay for the Commonwealth Games comes through Argyll and Bute.

The relay will come into the area at Appin Primary School first thing in the morning before heading to Lochnell Primary School in Benderloch, then to Atlantis Leisure in Oban before going on to Mid Argyll Swimming Pool and Mid Argyll Sports Centre,

Inveraray Castle, Strachur Community Hall and finally Dunoon Stadium.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The relay offers the chance to cheer on local people as they carry the baton, to join in the excitement of an international celebration, and to showcase Argyll and Bute to a global audience. The council is asking people and community groups to get involved in their local events, for example by providing a come-and-try sports activity, a

promotional stall or fundraising activity or offer other forms of entertainment such as music or arts. We are also looking for people who could provide street entertainment as part of a tour on the day through Argyll and Bute. Anyone interested in providing street entertainment should contact Fiona Blakey on 01631 569165.'

For local contacts and more information email gbr@argyll-bute.gov.uk or phone 01546 604464 or 01546 604232.

## Long overdue road works welcome despite disruption

LONG overdue road works on the A85 into Oban have been welcomed.

Even those complaining about the timing of the work, during the tourist season, are calling the improvements 'cracking'.

The works got underway on Sunday evening and, despite long road closures and in some cases 40-minute waits, the improvements are getting the thumbs up.

The work is part of £320,000 worth of improvements spent over the last two months. The work to improve the road surface on the Bealach an Righ has been in the pipeline for at least seven years. The aged state of the road was recently highlighted by Councillor Duncan MacIntyre in *The Oban Times*.

BEAR Scotland's spokesman for the North West Unit, Eddie Ross, said: 'We are pleased that

following the first two nights of resurfacing works to the Bealach an Righ, good progress has been made on site.

'These schemes will see the completion of the final phases of resurfacing work throughout Oban which have been undertaken over the last number of years. Whilst we appreciate that during construction these works do cause some disruption, we hope that the longer term

benefits of the new surfacing will provide a positive boost to Oban's residents and traders.'

'We would like to thank the public for their patience during this time and look forward to seeing these important works completed next week.'

One hotel owner said: 'Yet again you have to question the timing of the road works during the season, but fair's fair - it is a cracking job.'

## Schools get heart start machines

WESTERN Isles Council has teamed up with Skye-based charity 'Lucky2BHere' to install defibrillators at schools across the Outer Hebrides.

The life-saving heart start machines will be installed at Castlebay Sports Centre in Barra, Lionacleit Sports Centre in Benbecula, Shawbost and Lionel community schools in Lewis and at Smith Avenue Outdoor Facility in Stornoway. A defibrillator is already available at Iomair Spòrs Leòdhais.

Portree man Ross Cowie started up Lucky2BHere after he almost died from a cardiac arrest back in 2007. Only the chance passing of a full-equipped ambulance crew saved his life.

Tony Wade, the comhairle's sports facilities services manager, said: 'It has been an aspiration for some time to have access to defibrillators on our sites with sports facilities.

'We have been working with Ross Cowie and the 'Lucky2BHere' team in Skye for some time and I am delighted that they have agreed to support our project.'

### Inspirational

'Ross is an inspirational personality who drives the charity forward whilst confronting a serious heart condition himself.'

'We hope his story and the installation of the machines will kick start process that will include young people and our communities getting involved with learning about emergency life support.'

Next steps include holding a training session in Lewis with the aim of spreading skills out into the wider community.

Mr Wade said: 'People can be apprehensive about using a defibrillator but once the training has been provided and they understand how the machine effectively talks you through the process, they gain confidence really quickly.'

Mr Cowie said: 'It has been proven that defibrillators can make the difference between life and death. We hope this is the start of a long and potentially lifesaving relationship with the Outer Hebrides.'



Volunteers young and old who helped out at the Alzheimer Scotland coffee morning on Saturday morning. 120alzh1

## Oban coffee morning boosts Alzheimer funds

VOLUNTEERS of all ages came out in force to raise cash for the Oban Branch of Alzheimer Scotland's coffee morning on Saturday.

Held in Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban, the room was 'going like a fair' for the many people who came along. The successful event raised £820.40 with the money being matched by Lloyds Banking Group to make a grand total of £1,640.80 towards the good work of the charity.

A22 USERS are facing six more weeks of delays south of Fort William in the run up to the Scottish schools' summer holidays.

Forestry Commission Scotland is resuming harvesting work at Glen Righ on May 27 to bring down huge conifers above the road.

According to the commission, some are nearly 40 metres high and weigh more than five tonnes, meaning a major operation will be required to remove them from the hillside.

The lifeline route will be reduced to a single lane with traffic lights in place from Monday to Friday between 5am and 3pm.

Short periods of full road closure of up to 20 minutes between 5am and 7am, and of 10

minutes from 9am and 3pm will be also required to allow timber extraction. Vehicles will be permitted to clear from both directions between each period of closure and there will be no closures between 8am and 9am, the commission said.

No traffic management will be in place around the weekend of the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup on June 7-8.

Traffic lights will be removed after Friday, July 4 when the Scottish school holidays start and will not return again until after the English school holidays in early September.

Alex McLeod, who is managing the project for the commission, said a 'skyline' system would be used to fell and remove the trees and apologised in advance for delays to journey times.

He said: 'We've built up a good body of experience of steep ground work over the past two years but we've not yet had to deal with trees of this size.'

'We're taking a belt and braces approach to public safety on this one and we've analysed traffic flows along the A82 – as well as ferry sailings - at this time of year in a bid to minimise disruption as much as we can.'

'However, we acknowledge that there will be some inconvenience and we would like to apologise in advance to road users who will be affected.'

## Borrodale school hostel plan takes step forward

PLANS to transform a mothballed school in northwest Skye into a £1m hostel, bar and restaurant have taken a step forward as a planning application has been lodged.

The Glendale Trust plans to buy the old Borrodale Primary School, which closed in 2007, and transform it into a 16-bedroom bunkhouse with laundry services. A new building will also be constructed to house a restaurant and heritage centre. Trust members are waiting for a price from Highland Council, which owns the

building, and are confident everything will go to plan. Joy Talbot, chairwoman of The Glendale Trust, said: 'We carried out an extensive community consultation and feasibility study and the overwhelming view was that we need to do something that will make use of a community asset, but also be economically sustainable.'

'Our hope is that the proposal will attract more visitors to the area as well as improve the recreational and social provision for the community.'

Skye-based architects Dualchas has drawn up

# Action group sees progress on loch 'shores of shame'

'ENOUGH is enough': it is time to tidy up.

That is the final word from Loch Etive residents who claim years of neglect from landowners and government agencies are causing 'shores of shame'.

One week since a letter appeared in *The Oban Times* followed by a Facebook and Twitter campaign the 'Loch Etive Shores of Shame' campaign group is already seeing progress.

The Crown Estate, Argyll and

Bute Council, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Police Scotland are working together to improve conditions around the loch.

Rubbish from used nylon lines,

fishing hooks, fish farm debris and general waste on the shore side is simply not acceptable

say residents. They are calling for landowners and government agencies to account for their lack of action.

Campaign organiser Andy MacArthur touched a raw nerve when he set a social media group.

He said: 'In little over a day the group had 90 members.

I love Loch Etive. It has so much to offer and yet nobody wants to take responsibility. They've [at the Crown Estate] had their chance to do something. The lack of care is seriously damaging the area's reputation.

'Crown Estate has blamed the debris on Black Isle Seafood Ltd which it has served notice on.

### Recovered

If it had not recovered the rubbish by the time *The Oban Times* went to press, it was to be removed by a contractor and the costs recovered from the company.

A Crown Estate spokesman said: 'This followed repeated attempts by The Crown Estate to have the company comply with the terms of their leases.'

Used in VisitScotland's 2014 advertising campaign, residents say they don't understand why people or businesses would be so inconsiderate to the area.

And it is not just about fish farm

rubbish. Sandra MacNeeley from Bonawe said: 'It is such a shame that folk leave all their rubbish behind here and don't think about the environment. Who is going to uplift it all? This part is very popular with campers and fishing clubs. They come from all over, and it is great to see people enjoying this area, but many a time I have gone down there myself and picked up rubbish. I just don't get it.'

Diarmid Macmillian, who lives on the loch side, added:

'The top end of Loch Creran is just as bad.'

Fiona Squire, from Aberdeen, a regular visitor to the area, said:

'Enough is enough it is time to tidy up.'

An Argyll and Bute Council spokesperson said: 'The council is aware of the situation at Loch Etive and alongside SEPA and Police Scotland have been working with the Crown Estate which is leading in addressing the issue.'

Black Isle Seafood Ltd was unavailable for comment.

## Questions raised over twin town spending

A CIVIC visit between Oban and Gorey councillors was to be discussed yesterday (Wednesday) at a special area committee.

Oban, Lorn and the Isles councillors were being told that a 17-year twinning arrangement with the Irish town council of Gorey was coming to an end because of changes in local government in Ireland.

Councillors discussed getting together one last time at the end of May. The committee was set to agree spending this year's allocation of £833 from the available twinning budget to support the forthcoming visit

### Alastair Redman

Conservative & Unionist



Alastair prides himself on being a passionate and hardworking local political activist. He has taken a real interest in local matters in Kintyre & the Isles and is now vice-Chairman of his local community council. Working with the local community, Alastair is an integral part of the Armed Forces Support Group charity, sending morale boosting parcels to our overseas forces.

In addition to running a local small business and sub-post office on his native Islay, Alastair finds time to be a Director of his local recycling charity Re-Jig and cares strongly about the local environment. He was also instrumental in setting up the Better Together Islay Facebook page. Better Together is the cross party campaign that promotes the view held by millions of Scots: that Scotland is a better and stronger country within the UK family of nations.

Kintyre & Islands Ward Co-Coordinator (Conservative)  
Tel: 01496 860 264 Email: alastair.redman@hotmail.co.uk

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**Lorn Lines**

AN OBAN walker who lost a camera on a hill climb up Ben Wyvis near Dingwall could soon be reunited with it.

The Olympus was left on the side of the path by the hiker and Hemel Hempstead holidaymaker Alan Hooper picked it up.

When Mr Hooper flicked through the photographs he realised he had met the man earlier on in the day.

Alan told *The Oban Times*: 'On my way back from the summit I came across one of your local young chaps around 30 years old, originally from the Newcastle area, with his walking partner, a four-year-old beagle pedigree dog. We stopped and chatted a while.'

'Much later on as I came down the last mile or so of the path and headed towards the car park, I came across a camera, lying on the side of the path. A very expensive and valuable camera'.

Anyone with information about the owner of the camera should contact *The Oban Times* who will put the walker in touch with Mr Hooper.

□□□



Oban-based students from Argyll College's NC administration course organised a coffee morning and auction in H2O's The Well as part of their event planning module. Proceeds from the day went to H2O, Oban's Christian youth charity. 16.12.08.01



OBAN woman Jacqueline Cullen helped fund research into beating cystic fibrosis by completing the Great Women's 10k in Glasgow on Sunday.

Jacqueline, 28, only took up running recently and completed the race in just over an hour. She also hosted a fundraising cake sale in Oban to boost funds.

Jacqueline decided to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust as one of her friends suffers from the condition.

□□□

A FUNDRAISER for much-needed nursery equipment will really stretch the legs of all the families involved.

Stramash children and families are all set to walk the West Highland Way, all 95 miles of it. Organisers have divided the 95 miles into sections ranging from one mile to 13 miles in length. The Stramash nursery children and their families will walk a section according to their ability.

Event co-ordinator Aileen Finlayson said: 'We want to make this a real family event, babies in pushchairs, siblings, cousins and granny and grandpa too. The first part of the walk will take place on May 17. We plan to use mini buses to drop off and pick up the nursery children and parents at various points along the way. On that day we will cover 35 miles. The remainder of the walk will be completed by family members before June 28 when the last two miles will be celebrated in Fort William with a ceilidh and barbecue.'

# New wind farm survey results re-fuel debate

THE DEBATE on the impact of wind farms on tourism has taken another twist after two surveys produced conflicting results.

Conservation charity the John Muir Trust (JMT) found 49 per cent of Highlands and islands people polled felt turbines had a negative impact on holidaymakers, with only six per cent believing they were a plus for tourists.

The findings were at odds with research from VisitScotland, in which 83 per cent of people said their decision to holiday in Scotland would not be affected by the presence of a wind farm.

The government tourism agency even found 46 per cent of

respondents were interested in visiting a wind farm site.

Industry observers attribute the difference to being one of perception - people who live in affected areas may be more sensitive to the permanent presence of the machines than visitors coming to Scotland on holiday.

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said turbines could be acceptable if they were built in the right place.

He said: 'Clearly wind farms have to be sensitively sited in areas of wild land and natural beauty.'

'The responsibility of objecting on landscape and

environmental grounds lies with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) but also with local communities and individuals.

The planning process takes such objections very seriously.'

'Here in Argyll, a number of proposed wind farms have failed to get permission or have been withdrawn before the formal decision because they would not sit in the landscape in a way that preserved the beauty and nature of the great area in which we live.'

According to the Scottish Conservatives, Whitelees windfarm south of Glasgow attracted 250,000 visitors between 2009 and 2012 while

Beinn Ghlas windfarm above Taynuilt has hundreds of visitors taking the two-mile walk up to the turbines each year.

A spokesman said energy should come from as broad a base as possible.

He said: 'Onshore wind has a role to play in achieving this and that remains our position.'

'Wild land areas as mapped by SNH should be treated with extra care but we have reservations about a blanket ban on any sort of activity on land as it could interfere with traditional land uses, such as hill-farming, deer-stalking, hill-walking and mountaineering. That could be counter-productive to tourism

and people's enjoyment of the Highlands and islands.'

The JMT survey also found that a majority Highlands and islands' residents supported a draft proposal by the Scottish Government to offer special protection for wild land areas mapped out by Scottish Natural Heritage.

JMT chief executive Stuart Brooks said: 'Overall this poll shows two things. First, that people in the Highlands and islands support protection of wild land. And second, there is deep concern that if it is not protected, the impact could be damaging to the economy of the region.'

## Centre ownership transfer plan

KILBOWIE Outdoor Centre will no longer be controlled by North Lanarkshire Council, if plans by its education department get the green light.

The centre on Gallanach road, next to Kilbowie Castle in Oban, would be moved to North Lanarkshire Leisure, a council-owned arm's length organisation.

Opposing the transfer, SNP group spokesperson on learning and leisure, Councillor Tom Johnston said: 'Kilbowie Centre has a very direct link to our schools and children. Moving [its ownership] to North Lanarkshire Leisure means that schools overnight become mere clients of Kilbowie. A teamwork link will be broken.'

The matter will now be discussed by the June North Lanarkshire Council meeting.

## More flights to Barra

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council) has reached agreement with Loganair to increase extra Glasgow-Barra air services on a pilot basis between the end of May and the end of August 2014.

There will be 30 flights more on the route for the summer.

Comhairle leader, Councillor Angus Campbell, said: 'We have had positive discussions in relation to the provision of 30 additional rotations which would mean that there would be a double rotation on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from the end of May until the end of August.'

A spokeswoman for the council said: 'Our approach to emergency planning and community resilience is recognised nationally as an example of best practice.'

'Working closely with other agencies, we have developed a robust emergency plan - written with severe weather in mind, tested in real life situations and proven to work. Through mutual aid arrangements, we will share resources, including snow blowing equipment, with other agencies and also local contractors - notably when heavy snow affected Kintyre in March 2013 and during floods in Oban in December last year.'

The

committee heard it had made 'obvious progress' in dealing with matters.

Committee member and Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid said: 'The response to the severe weather of a year past in March was more prompt and better organised.'

'Local authorities responded quickly and effectively, and the power companies moved swiftly to restore power. Crucially, the compensation for those left without power - with all the damage that can cause - has been brought into line with the rest of the country, as we recommended in our last report. While we praise SSE and Argyll

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Charlie Donaldson of Lochaber Rugby Club presents Mallaig High School team captain Matthew Baker with the trophy.



Lochaber primary pupils turned out in force for the annual inter-school rugby tournament. 20\_f20rugby01



Mallaig, left, and Upper Achintore won the P6/7 and P4/5 tournaments, respectively.

## A win over Clach would lift Fort off bottom place



Andy Martin rises high to clear his lines before being red-carded against Hurntly - now the defender can play a key role in Fort's last game against Clach tomorrow night. 20\_f19footie02

**REPORT BY**  
**STEPHEN NORRIS**  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

IT'S DO or die for Fort William at Claggan Park tomorrow night when they take on Highland League Cup winners Clach in their final game of the campaign.

A win would see Calum MacLean's men consign Rothes to the Highland League wooden spoon and give the Lochaber side a huge fillip for next season.

Fort's form of late - the disappointing 1-3 home defeat to Keith last week excepted - has been encouraging with last week's 5-3 loss away at high flying Cove providing further evidence of a late season revival.

But it will all count for nothing without victory against Clach - and Fort boss Calum MacLean will throw caution to the wind to make that happen.

He told The Oban Times: 'I will tell the boys exactly what I told them last Saturday - go out and attack. Motivation will not be a problem - getting the three points is a big enough incentive.'

'I won't need to say much to the boys on Friday before the game, that's for sure. We will do all we can to get off the bottom of the league and if we win we will do that, although I don't think

MacLean said: 'The boys were

absolutely brilliant against Cove.

Jonathan Cooper and Barna Tot did not play because they were

injured and we had a couple of

boys from Aberdeen to help us

on the day and they did very

well. I can't remember the last

time a Fort William team put

three goals past Cove, certainly

not since I was playing.'

### FOOTBALL

[Clach manager] Iain Polwarth would want me to beat him.'

Captain courageous Andy 'Zoomer' Martin will make a welcome return from suspension after being red-carded in the 1-1 draw against Hurntly - a huge bonus for MacLean as he sets out his team.

'It will be a great help having him back,' said MacLean. 'Andy is a real die-hard and does everything for the club.'

Fort will be without Darren Quigg, who has work commitments, while Jonathan Cooper's troublesome ankle injury could rule him out. Willie Gemmill, however, could make a return to the midfield.

Key will be building on last Saturday's performance, which saw a makeshift Fort team go 3-1 up before the home side's late rally.

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### SCHOOL RUGBY

Upper Achintore's P4-5 team claimed the junior primary title, defeating Acharacle 2-1.

#### Natural ability

Around 250 pupils from 16 Lochaber primary schools braved heavy showers during the morning but did not let the wet weather dampen their spirits, showing natural ability and great sportsmanship.

In the afternoon, 80 pupils from Lochaber,

Mallaig, Kinlochleven and Ardnamurchan high schools provided some explosive games of entertaining rugby.

Thanks go to pupils, teachers, support staff, volunteers and Lochaber High School.

### GOLF

AS THE clock ticks down to golf's 2014 Ryder Cup at Gleneagles in September, local children are being invited to try out the sport and join the junior section at Fort William Golf Club.

PGA-qualified coaches will be on hand to instruct beginners and more experienced juniors at sessions on Mondays at 6pm.

Willie Mackay, Highlands and Islands regional manager for organisers ClubGolf, said: 'ClubGolf is a great opportunity for both boys and girls aged seven and over for exercise and meeting new friends, and to learn the basic skills of golf.'

For William currently has two juniors in the Scottish Golf North District squads while Alastair Ross, a member of the Scottish Golf Academy squad, will shortly return from a golf scholarship in the USA to help coach the local youngsters.

### Returns from Fort William Golf Club

### GOLF

FORT WILLIAM Golf Club returns:

Wolverton Cup (Saturday) - 1 Willie Hendrie net 61 (78 - 17); 2 Dale Monk net 67 (79 - 12); 3 Henry MacDonald net 68 (81 - 13).

Four Ball Better Ball Stableford (Sunday) - 1 Neil Feggans and Brian Gillespie 38 points; 2 Kenneth Jerram and Toby Richardson 36 points (bih); 3 Michael Bowman and Ian Robertson 36 points.

Stableford (Sunday) - 1 Ian Robertson 36 points; 2 Neil Feggans 34 points; 3 Frank Sweeney 30 points.

Ladies: The annual inter-club match between Spean Bridge, Traigh and Fort William was held at Traigh on Saturday 10th May.

The winners of the Inverlochy Castle Tray were Spean Bridge with a team score of 131 points, runners-up were Fort William with 129 points and third were Traigh with 128 points. Medal and Electric (Tuesday, May 6) - 1 Rosemary Macintyre net 71 (82 - 11); 2 Iona Cameron net 79 (95 - 16) bih; 3 Helen Brian net 79 (97 - 18).

### Strath and Skye Cups at Sconser

### GOLF

ISLE OF Skye Golf Club staged rounds of the Skye Cup and the Strath Cup at Sconser last Wednesday and on Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

Returns: Wednesday 7 May, Strath Cup round one - 1 Chris Mackinnon 42pts; 2 Donald Bethune 38pts (bih); 3 Mike Mace 38pts; 4 Jamie Beaton 37pts.

Saturday/Sunday 10/11 May, Skye Cup round two - 1 Kyle Pirie 78 (18) net 60; 2 Alasdair 'Starsky' Campbell 73 (12) 61; 3 Alex Munro 73 (10) 63; 4 Graham Cope 76 (12) 64; 5 Donald Bethune 82 (18) 64.

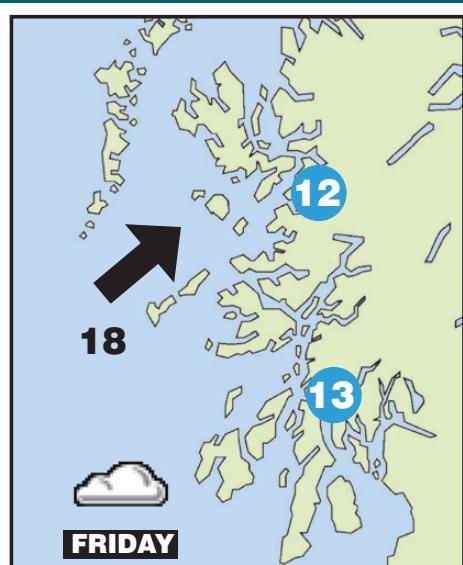
## Weather

**Thursday** Cloudy with some light rain  
Winds light south westerly  
Temperatures 10°C to 12°C

**Friday** Cloudy  
Winds moderate south westerly  
Temperatures 8°C to 13°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Heavy rain on Saturday  
Sunshine and showers on Sunday  
Winds moderate southerly  
Temperatures 9°C to 11°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate  
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from

**Thursday, May 15, 2014**

are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	
Thur	05.46	3.9	12.07
Fri	00.22	0.6	06.22
Sat	01.07	0.6	07.01
Sun	01.54	0.6	07.44
Mon	02.45	0.8	08.31
Tues	03.42	1.0	09.25
Wed	04.45	1.1	10.31
			3.0
			17.06
			1.2
			23.19
			3.2

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	<b>-5.35</b>	Mallaig	<b>+0.25</b>
Campbeltown	<b>-5.30</b>	Portree	<b>+0.55</b>
Crinan	<b>-0.47</b>	Tobermory	<b>+0.16</b>
Islay Port Ellen	<b>2.00</b>	Dover	<b>+5.30</b>
Lochboisdale	<b>+0.30</b>		

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**NORTH WEST MARINE DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS**



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