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## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8252

Thursday 21 May, 2015

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# Sleeper boss says link from Oban to London is on track

**LOUISE GLEN**  
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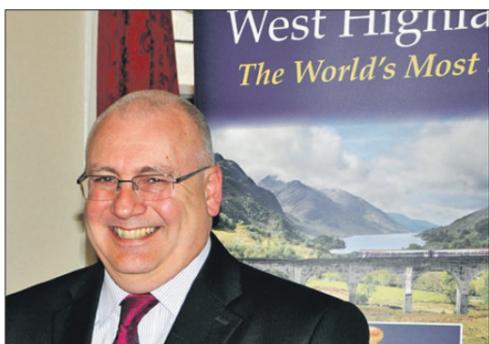
A SLEEPER service between Oban and London is on track after the Caledonian Sleeper boss said 'it just makes sense to link up Oban and the islands with London'.

The service could be under way as early as 2018, if a £100 million train investment can be made to 'fit the line'.

Speaking at a meeting of Friends of the West Highland Line (FotWHL) in Oban last weekend, Peter Strachan, managing director of the Caledonian Sleeper service, gave a commitment to support a direct route between Oban and London.

Mr Strachan, the former Edinburgh trams boss, was keen for the west coast train line to be linked by a direct service to Oban 'as soon as we can do it'.

He said a solution for passengers who travel between London and Oban, but were currently 'forced to spend two hours waiting in Crianlarich in the early hours of the morning', needed to be addressed as soon as possible.



**DRIVING FORCE:** train boss Peter Strachan

Mr Strachan, who also heads major projects for the Department of Transport, said: 'Upgrading the West Highland sleeper line to include Oban is one of the things that we are considering to improve the sleeper service to Scotland.'

'It just makes sense to link Oban and the islands with London.'

He said that train operator Ser-

co, which took over the operation of the sleeper service in April 2015, had already made real improvements to the service and cited the new food menu, upgraded accommodation and sleep kits for passengers as examples of the company's commitment.

Mr Strachan continued: 'The real change will come in 2018 when new trains are introduced

It just makes sense to link Oban and the islands with London

**Peter Strachan**  
Caledonian Sleeper Co.



**ON TRACK:** the London sleeper may be heading for Oban soon

to the line. At that time there will be more than £100 million-worth of investment in 75 'state-of-the-art' carriages. It would seem short-sighted not to think about making that upgrade suitable for a train that can come into Oban.'

Mr Strachan explained that the difference in track gauge between Oban and Crianlarich made it impossible at the mo-

ment to run the current train on the line.

He continued: 'But with the new trains due to be on track in early 2018, we may be able to resolve these issues.'

Welcoming the news, FotWHL chairman Doug Carmichael, of Oban, said: 'Serco came to our meeting with a very positive attitude and seem to be actively

looking for solutions for the line.

'The importance of Oban was shown in that the company clearly wants to find a solution to bring passengers directly to the town.'

Oban councillors Roddy McCuish and Neil MacIntyre, who were at the meeting, said they would do everything they could to support a direct Oban service.

# One in a million

**STEVEN RAE**  
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DALMALLY-based charity Mary's Meals has reached the remarkable milestone of feeding one million of the world's poorest children every day.

Mary's Meals, which began in Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow's tin shed in Dalmally, was feeding just 200 children in Malawi in 2002, but reached the staggering one million mark on Tuesday.

The charity currently works in 12 countries across four continents, setting up community-run

school feeding programmes, which encourage children - who may otherwise be forced to work, beg or forage for food - to come to school, where they can receive a nutritious meal that helps them to concentrate on their studies.

Magnus said: 'When I first started the charity I didn't envision it going anywhere at all. I went over to Bosnia in 1992, didn't think anything of it, that I'd just be going back to my job at a fish farm.'

'I returned and found this avalanche of donations that had come in. So I gave up my job,

thinking I might do it for about a year.

'I never sat down and said: "I'm going to start an aid organisation", or anything like that. And here we are, 23 years later, feeding one million children a day.'

For an exclusive interview with Magnus and his vision for Mary's Meals, turn to page four.

**GLOBAL MISSION:**  
Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow's tireless campaign for the world's hungry children knows no bounds



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## Flora leaves a majestic legacy

THE 'Queen of Gaelic' Flora MacNeil has died, aged 86, after a short illness. Born into a Barra crofting family in 1928, Flora MacNeil said she 'soaked up' hundreds of songs through singing with her mother, Ann Gillies, and other women as they worked on the croft while men were away at sea.

In 1948, Flora MacNeil was recorded by American folklorist Alan Lomax as part of a library of traditional singers throughout the world he was compiling. This brought her to a wider audience. She performed across Europe and America and released two albums - Craobh nan Ubhal in 1976 and Orain Floralidh in 2000.

She also starred at Glasgow's Celtic Connections festival in 2013.

## Ill-gotten gains put to good use

**YOUTH groups in Argyll are to benefit from money seized from criminals by the Scottish government under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.**

**A total of £12,169 is being distributed through the latest round of CashBack for Communities fund by YouthLink Scotland.**

**Three Community Development Trust is being given £2,160 for its Fresh Fridays projects to allow 14-18-year-olds to take part in sports and activities. The programme will run for 40 weeks throughout 2015-16.**

**Oban Youth Cafe is to receive £962 for youth sessions; Kintyre Youth Enquire Service is to get £2,370; Tarbert Duke of Edinburgh open award group, £472 and Mid Argyll Youth Forum, £840.**

## Meters ahead of the nearest rivals

FIGURES for parking meters in Argyll and Bute show Oban has more ticket machines in car parks than anywhere else in the region.

Dunoon and Bute has six car parking meters, the towns of Helensburgh and Inveraray have eight meters each, but Oban has 11.

The total income last year from parking charges was £484,651.71, the majority of which came from Oban. The car park at the former Rockfield primary school brought in £27,000, while Ganavan accounted for £3,000 for the year. A further £32,000 was paid to Argyll and Bute council from parking ticket fines. There were 1,146 parking tickets issued but only 707 of the fixed penalties were paid.

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## Tankers go head-to-head during rush-hour accident



**COLLISION COURSE:** two lorries crashed into one another in the 40 mph limit area on the A85 on the way into Connel from the east shortly after 8am on Tuesday morning. Both drivers were unharmed. A report is to be made to the procurator fiscal. Photo: Stephen Lawson

## The royal seal of approval

A NEW vice lord-lieutenant and two deputies have been appointed to Argyll and Bute. Lord-Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute, Patrick Stewart, MBE, WS, announced this week that Her Majesty the Queen had approved the appointment of Jamie Mellor as Vice Lord-Lieutenant. Mr Mellor's appointment runs for three years.

Mr Mellor is well-known in Argyll farming circles and has farmed at Barndromin, Knipoch, Oban since 1976. Stewart Shaw, a retired head-teacher of Dunoon Grammar School, has been appointed deputy lieutenant for Bute, and Miranda van Lynden, known for her charity work, has been appointed to East Lochfyneside.

## Public meetings hold the key

TWO social housing organisations are holding public meetings today (May 21) to discuss plans for developments in Dunbeg and Ganavan.

A fact-finding mission to canvass people's views. Staff will be on hand to take the public through the proposals, to record feedback and take on board any suggestions. The Oban meeting will be held between 11am and 3pm at the Caledonian Hotel, Station Square and the evening meeting is between 5pm and 7.30pm at Dunbeg primary school.

## Dunbeg flies flag for Argyll

PRIMARY six and seven pupils at Dunbeg primary school have a flag they designed flying this week in Parliament Square, Westminster.

The 22 pupils took part in the 2015 Flag Project celebrating the 750th anniversary of the Simon de Montfort parliament in 1265. Their blue and green triangular background, fronted by McCaig's Tower in Oban, was one of two flags from Argyll and Bute - Luss primary was the other - to be among 80 chosen to fly this week.

## TIMESLINE

### Shellfish is pearl in local economy

THE VALUE of Scotland's shellfish industry increased from £8.9 million in 2013 to £10.5 million in 2014. Employment levels in the industry, a large proportion of which, outside the Shetland Islands, is in the West Highlands and islands, rose by four per cent in the same period with a total of 345 full, part-time and casual staff. Production of Pacific oysters increased the most, by 79 per cent, to 6,792,000 shells. The survey published by Marine Scotland Science included farming of mussels, Pacific oysters, native oysters, queen and other scallops.

### Funds available for local projects

COMMUNITY groups in Oban, Lorn and the isles are being urged to apply for funding from the council. Argyll and Bute council's volunteer sector programme still has £6,160 of funding to give out in the area to communities and vulnerable people to help kick-start new projects and events. Since April, 19 groups have been awarded a total of £28,840 in Oban, Lorn and the isles. Applications should be submitted by June 15 with councillors deciding on recipients in August.

### Green light for White building

PERMISSION for a visitor centre on the White Building site in Oban was approved by Argyll and Bute council last week.

# Sky's the limit for Portnahaven postie

**LOUISE GLEN**  
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SKY media has pulled out all the stops to solve an eight-month satellite problem on Islay which is driving Portnahaven's postmaster to distraction. In frustration, Alastair Redman contacted the *Oban Times* and needed help to get his Sky box working again. Mr Redman said: 'Despite nu-

merous visits by engineers from Sky, they told me that they will not be able to fix this problem once and for all until the 28th of this month. 'That means that we would have been paying for a service for nearly eight months that we have not been getting. 'To make matters worse, they left two defective satellite dishes in my garden saying that it is my responsibility to dispose of them which is, of course, untrue.

'I have heard from many other people from across Argyll and Bute who have been getting the same poor level of service from Sky and this is unacceptable. 'Just because we live in a rural area, it does not mean Sky can give us a substandard service. 'We pay the same as those who



**DISHING IT OUT:** Mr Redman from Islay with his two discarded satellite dishes

live in inner cities, so we should get the same treatment.' A spokeswoman for Sky said: 'We are hoping to solve the problem today (Thursday) when we make a visit to Mr Redman's house. 'We are sorry for the problems Mr Redman has encountered with his Sky dish. 'We have arranged a follow-up appointment to relocate the dish to the front of the property as he requested.'

## New homes at Ulva Ferry poised to go

PLANS to build community-owned rental housing at Ulva Ferry on the Isle of Mull have taken a huge leap forward. The majority of funding is now in place, thanks to a substantial grant from the Trusthouse Foundation and a generous anonymous donation. Working in partnership with Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT), the Ulva School Community Association (USCA) is tackling the deep rooted problems of population decline, a falling school roll and lack of economic opportunities in the Ulva Ferry area by building two affordable rental homes, which will be owned by the community and let to local families. The high quality houses will offer good value for money and be sympathetic to the landscape, and while two houses may not seem many, they will enable USCA to realise many wider social and economic benefits for this fragile community as local people can

continue to live, work and go to school in the area. This month the housing project has received a huge boost with the award of a £30,000 grant from the Trusthouse Foundation towards the capital costs of constructing the houses. In addition, the anonymous benefactor, who had previously pledged £15,000, has now increased their donation to more than £31,000, including GiftAid. Along with grants from Argyll and Bute council's rural housing development fund and the Scottish Land Fund, generous assistance from USCA's own fundraising and donations via an online Buy-a-Brick campaign, the project is now close to reaching its target. Anyone interested in renting one of the houses or who would like to find out more about the Housing Project, should contact Helen on 01688 500 056 or hmaedonald@mict.co.uk

## MULLlines with Louise Glen

### Concession tickets still available

CONCESSIONARY fares will remain at the same level for passengers from Mull to Oban, Strathclyde Passenger Transport (SPT) has confirmed. Last week, the *Oban Times* had understood that in line with other ferry routes now charging lower fares under the Scottish government's Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) scheme, concessionary reductions would be scrapped. However, in a communication to Argyll and Bute councillor for Mull Mary-Jean Devon, SPT confirmed there were 'no plans' to remove the £1.30 return fare for islanders when the RET subsidy is introduced later in October. Community councillor Steve Willis said: 'It would have been a real blow to have to pay a higher fare than what we are used to with the introduction of RET.'

### Island economy soars as eagles herald the arrival of sunny days

A CHANGE in the behaviour of Mull's star adult eagles has signaled the arrival of this year's chicks. The rangers at Mull Eagle Watch have confirmed one chick in the viewing nest on the island but believe there could be two birds. With the adults now in a feeding frenzy, with lots of activity to and from the nest, the project's staff say it is a really good time to visit and see these huge birds in action. The hide was closed recently for two weeks due to felling operations at the site but it is now fully open for business. Mull Eagle Watch officer Rachel French said: 'With all the activity going on it has been tricky to know for sure if there are two



**FLYING HIGH:** eagles are a boon to the island

chicks in the nest - but we are keeping our fingers crossed. 'We are sure that the first chick hatched last week because the adults' behaviour changed dramatically. Since then we have seen the birds feeding small morsels to the youngster. 'We are very hopeful that the parents will now successfully rear their young so that we can witness one, or possibly two, fledglings leave the nest later this summer.' Mull Eagle Watch is a partnership between Forestry Commission Scotland, RSPB Scotland, Mull and Iona Community Trust, Police Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage. The project is a five star VisitScotland attraction and has been awarded Gold under the Green Tourism Business Scheme. Mull's eagles are estimated to generate up to £5 million towards the island's economy each year, with around £60,000 going back into community projects. There are two guided trips being run per day during Monday to Friday and bookings can be made through the Craignure visitor information centre on 01680 812 556.

## Oban group leaves Alzheimer Scotland

A NEW fundraising group to support people in Oban and Lorn with dementia has been set up, writes *Steven Rae*. Oban and Lorn Dementia Support Group (OLDSDG) is made up of volunteers who previously were part of Alzheimer Scotland, but will now operate separately. The move comes after recent legislation changed the way money raised locally was distributed, with the branch saying it no longer had a say in how it was spent. The volunteers decided to form the new group, free from what they

described as 'restrictions imposed by the local branch committee'. However, the dementia support group will continue to back the Oban dementia resource centre on the town's High Street, run by Alzheimer Scotland. And members will also contribute to the research undertaken by the national organisation, but have said the new group will leave them free to support other people and organisations in the local area who meet the new group's objectives. \* Alzheimer Scotland will be holding its second annual Memory Walk on the August 30 2015.

### Follow path to discover secrets of Ross of Mull garden glory

EXPLORE the secrets of unique and inspiring private gardens on the wild and wonderful Ross of Mull. From the small and quirky to spectacular grand design, all in a good cause. From a tranquil haven of wildlife to a working garden providing food for a community, May 22 -25 give a great opportunity to

see it all for the price of £5 per ticket and a trail map with a description of each garden. One ticket gives access to all gardens on all days for two adults. Accompanied under 16s are free. Tickets are available from Pennyghael Stores, Bunessan Bakehouse, the Argyll Arms in Bunessan, and The Keel Row in Fion-

phort from Friday May 15 - please make a purchase before visiting the gardens. Proceeds go to the Ross of Mull and Iona Community Transport Scheme. Plants, cuttings, produce, crafts and artworks by island makers will be on sale at some locations. Refreshments are available at the Pennyghael Stores, Bunessan Bake-

house or the Keel Row in Fionnphort. Please be aware that some locations have uneven areas of ground and unguarded ponds, which may not be suitable for the very young and those with mobility problems. Sensible footwear is recommended. Please leave dogs in well-ventilated cars.

## OBAN STOVE CENTRE








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**Ex council leader challenges move to spend £550k on consultants' fees**

A FORMER council leader has hit out at a local authority's plans to spend more than £550,000 on consultants for the Oban Tax Incremental Funding (TIF) plan, after the money was agreed at a meeting last Thursday.

Councillor James Robb, a former international banker, said, while the nine projects under the TIF scheme were viable, that he questioned whether Argyll and Bute council could justify spending more than half a million pounds on consultants' fees.

Mr Robb said: 'TIF is an option to borrow, not an obligation.' Speaking of the agreement to allocate council cash to the project, he said: '£560,000 is a lot of money to pay someone to justify £5.2 million of borrowing.'

A spokeswoman for the council said: 'This start-up project budget was unanimously approved by the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee and the policy and resources committee. It is not a target to spend and is in line with normal market levels of total project costs.'

'Spending will be phased and will include a full business case and independent economic impact assessment at an early stage of the process. This will ensure spend is minimised prior to detailed design being commissioned, which is the bulk of the potential cost.'

**PC returns from Canary Islands to face prospect of jail for assault**

**COURT REPORTER**  
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A FORMER Oban police constable is facing jail after he pleaded guilty to assaulting a man and falsifying official documents, at a hearing at Oban sheriff court last Wednesday May 13.

Oban sheriff court heard that on Saturday October 27, 2013 Ronald John MacBrayne, 43, of Benderloch had assaulted a member of the public travelling as a passenger in a police car.

He was told by sheriff Ruth Anderson QC to 'be prepared as custody has to be uppermost in the court's mind'.

MacBrayne said he was receiving help from his doctor for stress and anxiety at the time of the incident.

Travelling from Puerto Ventura in the Canary Islands, where he now lives, for the trial, MacBrayne listened to the facts from procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty.

Mr McGinty described a catalogue of events in the early hours of October 27 after MacBrayne and three other officers went to find four men who had left a taxi without paying the fare.

The men were quickly found at Balindore, Taynuilt.

The officers agreed to take the men back to Oban and that in turn they would pay the money owed to the taxi driver.

It wasn't until one of the four men opened a window in the police car, that a fellow police

**Be prepared as custody has to be uppermost in the court's mind**

Sheriff Ruth Anderson

officer described MacBrayne as behaving in an unusual way.

Mr McGinty told the court that MacBrayne was seen to be hitting the man with his baton on the legs and body.

MacBrayne then pulled the terrified man out of the police car and would not allow him to stand up by pressing his foot on the man's leg.

His colleagues remonstrated with MacBrayne about his behaviour.

But moments later, MacBrayne, who was back in the car sitting beside the passenger he had previously assaulted, launched yet another attack on the same man by pushing his face against the window.

Eventually, the man was placed in a police cell and released in the early hours of the morning.

His parents came to the police station the following day to make a formal complaint.

Mr McGinty praised the courage of the police officer who came forward to make a complaint about MacBrayne's treatment of the car passenger.

When the same officer read the statement MacBrayne had given about the incident, he said that the information had been falsified.

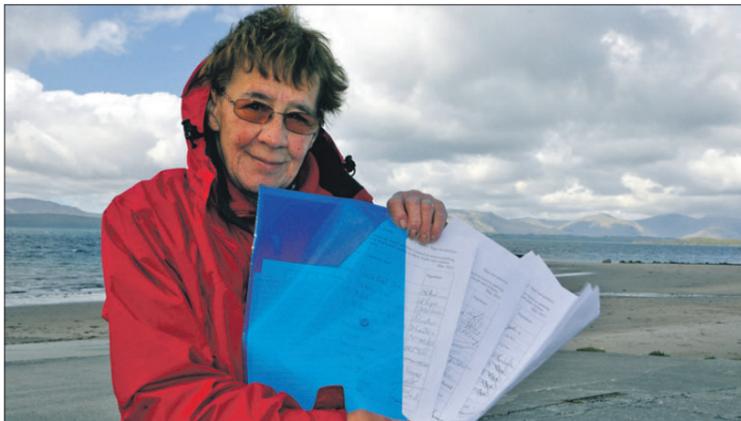
The victim was never cautioned or charged with any offence.

MacBrayne's lawyer, Stuart Carson, said he accepted the statement of facts from the procurator fiscal, but said that his client had also suffered a blow to the leg.

Mr Carson said that MacBrayne had been receiving treatment from a doctor for 'stress and anxiety'.

MacBrayne is due to be sentenced on June 9.

**UNUSUAL BEHAVIOUR:** Former Oban police officer John MacBrayne, who now lives in the Canary Islands, is facing the prospect of a jail sentence after he pleaded guilty to assault and falsifying his incident report



WINDS OF CHANGE: campaigner Doreen MacLeod with the petition at Ganavan Sands 16\_121ganavan1

**Sands of time running out for Ganavan parking charges**

**LOUISE GLEN**  
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A PETITION to bring an end to 'punitive' parking charges at Ganavan Sands has already gathered more than 120 signatures, since it was launched on Tuesday.

Doreen MacLeod, who originally raised the matter with Oban, Lorn and the Isles councillors at an area committee meeting in April, said the response to her campaign had been very encouraging.

Mrs MacLeod, who enjoyed

the beach every day with her husband Duncan before he died last year, wants the matter resolved as quickly as possible.

She argued that parking charges operating seven days a week were driving away families from the popular Oban beauty spot.

Mrs MacLeod is collecting signatures by herself, but she is keen to gather as many names as possible before she hands them over to the council's area committee when it meets to consider the matter on June 10.

She said: 'While the charges are

punitive, it is a point of principle to have them removed. The land belongs to the people of Oban.'

Oban councillor Roddy McCuish said he was keen to reach a speedy resolution: 'We have some hard choices to make and it will be down to the eight councillors in the area committee to bring options forward.'

'If we lose revenue from somewhere it will have to be replaced from somewhere else. My main priority at the moment is protecting as many services as we can and protecting jobs for our staff.'

**Ferry operator praises captain for seamanship after ship is grounded**

**STEVEN RAE**  
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A CLAIM that a Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) ferry grounded on a sandbank as it attempted to berth at Port Ellen on Islay has been described as an example of skillful seamanship.

Eye witnesses reported on Tuesday, May 12, that the MV Hebridean Isles ferry, with passengers on board from Kennacraig, tried to berth at Port Ellen, but struggled because of strong winds and had to manoeuvre away from the pier.

It then appeared to get blown on to a sandbank.

One witness, who photographed the event, said: 'I could clearly see, and others with me, it being grounded with the front of the ship being stuck in the sand.'

'The captain then tried to reverse but it actually took several minutes with the props in full reverse, and a push from the bow thruster, before she managed to free herself from her precarious position.'

The ferry then left for Port Askaig, despite passengers and cars waiting to board at Port Ellen.

A CalMac spokesman said: 'While trying to berth at Port Ellen, the vessel was caught in a strong (approx 35knots plus) westerly squall.

'In these circumstances, one



contingency is to allow the bow to lightly touch a sand bar adjacent to the berth on the southern side of the bay in order to prevent the vessel from being blown to leeward and into the shallower water in Loch Leodamais - this is what the Master opted to do.

'He then backed clear of the

berth to allow adequate sea-room to swing the vessel and proceeded back to sea, diverting to Port Askaig.

'This was deliberate seamanship, not an accidental grounding. The vessel was inspected after the manoeuvre before progressing to its next destination.'

**GROUNDS FOR PRAISE:** MV Hebridean Isles is deliberately grounded on a sandbank by the captain as he tries to berth the vessel at Port Ellen on Islay.

Photo courtesy www.islayinfo.com

**Stafford Street plan is on schedule**

**LOUISE GLEN**  
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THE pedestrianisation of Stafford Street in Oban will come in on time and on budget, says Argyll and Bute council.

Concerns that the project, which is designed to transform the town centre street into an outdoor seating area, had over-run were rejected by the local authority.

Some residents complained about the disruption caused by the construction work, which they described as 'chaotic'.

However, a council spokeswoman said: 'The response we have received so far to the Stafford Street project has been very positive.'

'Local people are looking forward to enjoying this new asset for Oban.'

'The project is running to

schedule, aiming for completion of all substantive works within the agreed timescale.

'While work is under way, our CHORD management team remains in regular contact with local businesses in the area affected.'

'Full pre-planning was carried out.'

'When the need for a new water pipe was identified while work was in progress, the asso-

ciated work was completed with no extension to the contract period.

'Alternative pedestrian routes have been clearly signposted throughout.'

The local authority confirmed that the project manager in charge of the contract, Linda Houston, had tendered her resignation. It is understood that she is due to leave her post tomorrow, Friday.

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SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

## Concern over head injuries

WEST coast hospitals have seen an increase of almost 20 per cent in head injuries since 2005, with almost a third caused by road accidents.

The sharp rise in the number of people with head injuries admitted to hospital was revealed by brain injury charity Headway Glasgow on Monday.

In Scotland, more than 21,000 people were treated for head injuries and strokes, according to a report issued by the charity.

Simon Glen, from Headway Glasgow, said: "These figures are a real cause for concern."

"Many of those admitted each year will be left with no lasting cognitive, physical, or behavioural deficits as a result of their injuries. Many others, however, will not be so lucky and will face an arduous battle to rebuild their lives and relearn lost skills most of us take for granted, including walking and talking."

"Even those who make good recoveries are still likely to require some short-term support and information from charities like Headway Glasgow."

For further information on Headway Glasgow contact Simon on 0141 332 8878, or visit [www.headway.org.uk](http://www.headway.org.uk)

## Sheep deaths are 'strange'

A STRANGE incident has been reported to police after sheep and lambs were found dead on a remote Duror hillside.

Glencoe police are carrying out an investigation, but until a full examination is completed, they remained tight-lipped about what may have killed the sheep.

Two sheep and two lambs have been found dead.

The first deaths were reported on Tuesday May 12 when two sheep and a lamb were found.

The second report was made on Saturday May 16 with the discovery of a dead lamb.

Inspector Donald Campbell of Glencoe police said it was a 'strange incident' and appealed to anyone who may have information to call the police on 101.

# An incredible journey from hut in Dalmally to world's trouble spots

STEVEN RAE

srae@obantimes.co.uk

THE word that springs to mind when speaking to the founder of international charity Mary's Meals is 'modest'.

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, OBE (to give him his correct title) still uses a lop-sided tin shed at his family home in Dalmally as his office, having acquired it from his father to store food for an appeal during Balkans War in 1992.

That mercy mission set him on a course that would eventually lead him to setting up the acclaimed worldwide relief organisation.

Ten years later in 2002, while in Malawi assisting with famine relief, Magnus met a 14-year-old boy whose mother was dying of Aids. The boy told him that all he wished for in life was to be able to go to school and have enough food to eat.

That encounter turned Magnus's charity, then known as Scottish International Relief, into Mary's Meals, which provides one meal a day for children at school, simultaneously tackling the issue of hunger and lack of education simply and effectively.

The charity now provides a meal for children in 12 countries at an annual cost of £12.20 for each child.

And now, despite Mary's Meals reaching the astounding milestone of feeding one million children a day, the former Oban high school pupil remains remarkably grounded for a man who was named 'Hero' by American broadcaster CNN in 2010 and just last month recognised by Time magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Magnus, who is married to Julie and together they have seven children, explained: "In some ways I feel this is just the beginning. That might seem strange to say when we're feeding a million children - and that is something amazing to celebrate - but I real-



GROUNDING: Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow still works from the hut in Dalmally where it all began

ly feel that we are just beginning.

"But we, as an organisation, are not hung up on targets. It's very much about the next child, or the next school. It's about people, not numbers."

"When I first started the charity, I didn't envision it going anywhere at all."

"I just took a week's holiday from being a salmon farmer in Lochgilphead. I went over to Bosnia in 1992, and didn't think anything of it. I thought I would return to my life at the fish farm."

"But I came back here and found this avalanche of donations that had come in. So I gave up my job, and thought I might do it for a year. I never sat down and said: "I'm going to start an aid organisation", or anything like that. It was very unexpected. Yet here we are, 23 years later."

Now 47, Magnus has just written a book about his incredible

journey, which is called 'The Shed That Fed a Million Children', and it is published today, May 21. The proceeds will go to Mary's Meals.

He explained: "It's an incredible story - one I could never have made up. I saw the pleasure people got from hearing the story when I told it, so I wanted to write it as a book to share that story and the message of Mary's Meals with as many people as possible."

Magnus explained that in naming the book, he wanted to highlight how much Dalmally and Argyll still mean to both him and Mary's Meals.

The man, whose local credentials are impeccable, having played shinty for Glenorchy Camanachd and Scotland, continued: "A lot of people say to me, "You're a global organisation, what are you doing here

in Dalmally?" But for me, it's really important to stay rooted here."

"This is where it all began; I love Argyll. I love the people of Argyll and I hope they are proud of this thing that has grown out of their goodness."

"Obviously there are generous people all over the world. But at the same time I would say there is something very special about the people of Scotland, and Argyll and Bute and other parts of the west of Scotland."

"I'm not sure it could have been born anywhere else. And the shed itself reminds us how we began, stops us getting carried away, keeps us grounded. And it's also about the fact that we're really dedicated to being a low-cost organisation."

Magnus is in Malawi this week to see how the work of Mary's Meals is progressing. Then he

is off to promote his book in London, Glasgow, New York, the mid west of America and then Canada, all in the space of a month. Despite the international talks, accolades and book signings, Magnus remains single-minded in his efforts.

"I really believe the vision that every child can eat and go to school every day, is possible," he said. "There's another 57 million kids out of school because of hunger and I think at this stage, more than anything, we've proven that this system works."

"And why should there be even one hungry child? Why should any child go a whole day without a school meal, when there's enough food in the world to feed all of us?"

For more information about Mary's Meals, and Magnus' book, visit: [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk)

## TIMESLINE

### Oban to Fort bus takes to the road

OBAN is set to benefit from a seven-day-a-week bus service to Fort William starting from Sunday May 24.

This will be the highest level of service operated on the route for almost 20 years.

The enhanced 918 Oban-Fort William service comes after a successful funding bid to the Scottish government's bus investment fund, made by Argyll and Bute council in partnership with Highland council and lobby-group HiTRANS.

The new timetable started on Monday.

And as the service provides an important connection between two West Highland towns, it has been included in the Scottish Citylink coach network, and Citylink tickets are valid for use.

### A healthy sum for community plans

A PUBLIC health charity has £67,000 to spend on supporting community-led health improvement activities across Argyll and Bute.

The funds will be available to Tiree, Mull and Coll as well as Oban and Lorn.

Potential applicants should either contact the Oban, Lorn and Isles area co-ordinator Eleanor MacKinnon at [olhw@gmail.com](mailto:olhw@gmail.com) or Carol Flett at [tcmhwn@gmail.com](mailto:tcmhwn@gmail.com)

Further details and application pack can be found at [www.healthyargyllandbute.co.uk](http://www.healthyargyllandbute.co.uk)

### MSP praises local press in debate

JAMIE McGrigor, Highlands and Islands MSP, has praised the vibrant media sector in the West Highlands and the hard work of local newspaper editors, reporters and staff.

The Tory politician was speaking at a debate in Holyrood on media, society and newspaper regulation following the Leveson Inquiry.

# A low-carbon alternative to fossil fuels that can be cheaper to run

## What is biomass?

Biomass renewable heating systems burn wood pellets, chips or logs to provide warmth in a single room and can power central heating and hot water boilers.

Central heating systems using locally sourced sustainable wood fuel are a low carbon alternative to fossil fuels and can be cheaper to run than off-gas alternatives.

## How does it work?

A boiler burns logs, pellets or chips, and is connected to a central heating and hot water system. A wood-fuelled biomass boiler could save you up to £880 a year compared to electric heating\*.

## What do I need?

Suitable properties should have enough space to install the heating system (inside or outside) and store the fuel, and have a locally available wood fuel source.

## The benefits of biomass heating

### 1 Affordable heating fuel

The price of wood fuel varies considerably but it is often cheaper than other ways of heating your home.

### 2 Financial support

Wood fuel boiler systems could benefit from the Renewable Heat Incentive. For a four-bedroom detached house, you could receive payments of around £1,730 to £2,610 a year\*\*. In addition, the Home Energy Scotland renewables loan scheme is currently open to new applications. Interest-free loans for up to 75 per cent of the total cost of renewables systems are available up to £10,000.

### 3 A low-carbon option

The carbon dioxide emitted when wood is burned is the same amount that was absorbed over the months and years that the plant was growing. The process is sustainable as long as new plants continue to grow in place of those used for fuel. There are some carbon emissions caused by the cultivation, manufacture and transportation of the fuel, but as long as the fuel is sourced locally, these are much lower than the emissions from fossil fuels.

**For more information call Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282 to find out how you can save energy and more money, and book a free home visit to assess your property.**

\*Based on a typical four-bed detached solid-walled home switching from electric storage heating to a biomass pellet boiler. Using an off-peak (Economy 7) electricity price of 7.22p/kWh and a wood pellet price of 4.77p/kWh (bulk price). Prices correct as of February 2015 and valid for 2015.

\*\*Based on an RHI tariff of 8.93p/kWh, valid for installations made between April 1 and June 30, 2015.





## thinking about wood fuelled heating for your home?

Scotland has an abundance of wood. However, is a wood fuelled heating system the right option for you and your home? We can give you free, impartial and in-depth advice on the best renewables options. We can also provide information on financial support available.

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# 'We're living the dream' - Rockfield trust chairman

**LOUISE GLEN**  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

THE keys to the Rockfield centre were finally handed over to the people of Oban last Friday, May 15.

The battle to keep the landmark town centre building in community ownership will see the Grade-B listed former primary school start a new era as a community arts, culture and heritage hub.

A car park adjoining the building now also belongs to the Rockfield centre where there will be no charges for parking until June 1.

Oban Communities Trust (OCT), the group that started a campaign to save Rockfield and is now the custodian of the building, said it was 'a momentous step forward'.

OCT chairman, Gordon Mc-

Nab, said: 'This has been a very quick campaign in the scheme of things and a huge learning curve - but what an achievement.

'There is a massive journey ahead but at least we have secured and saved this iconic old building for the community and the town.

'We will now focus on the development of the huts, the car park, the eradication of dry rot and water ingress in the main building as per the business plan with the development of the main building following thereafter.

'A huge amount of hard work lies ahead and we need continued financial and practical support. But for now a huge 'thank you' is in order to all who helped get us to this point. The dream is now starting to become a reality.'

An open day will be held on June 13 in the car park and huts

area to celebrate the transfer of ownership from Argyll and Bute council to OCT.

Meanwhile, the Rockfield Centre has been successful in gaining £8,200 National Lottery funding from Awards for All, to help with the first stage of the refurbishment.

Eleanor MacKinnon, project facilitator for OCT, said: 'This will help us get the huts ready for tenants and support volunteer activity.

'From day one, we have had community involvement in this project which will help build a foundation for activity at the Rockfield centre.'

Volunteers are needed for a programme of works and the trust is urging people to lend a helping hand. For more information visit the website. www.obancommunitiestrust.org.uk



KEY MOMENT: councillor Iain Angus MacDonald hands the key to former pupil Catherine Carswell

## Hirsute David has the imperial look



OBAN man David Nicholson has found a new 'career' as a beard model, coming third in a national competition for hairdressers and colourists.

David, 30, who works for BT Openreach and lives in Oban town centre, is seen sporting a fine example of an Imperial Van Dyke beard.

David's father Grant joked that his son had the perfect appearance to star in BBC Victorian drama, Peaky Blinders.

## Oban rises to Nepal aid call

A FUNDRAISING campaign for the stricken people of Nepal saw many folk rising to the challenge of giving £1 to a chef who plans to return to the devastated country with aid from Oban in June.

Matty Braidwood (pictured), an Oban chef, was in Katmandu last month when the first two major earthquakes brought death and destruction to the Himalayan country.

Matty is delighted with the response to his campaign, and has planned a trek up Ben Nevis to raise more cash for the many



thousands of people who have been left without shelter in the country.

Matty said: 'People were very generous and every penny will make a difference. People have been asking me for collection tins and I hope they will be out throughout the town shortly.

'I also hope a local business will get involved either to make a donation or to assist with the projects I hope to help with.'

Donations can be made directly to Matty, or through the Justgiving website using the reference name of Matty Braidwood.

## Support for 'attentive' home

**LOUISE GLEN**  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A VOLUNTEER and a relative connected to the Lynn of Lorne nursing home say the treatment people receive in the Benderloch facility is 'attentive and conscientious'.

A report in last week's *Oban Times*, outlined concerns raised by former staff, family members and the Care Inspectorate.

It also highlighted the pro-active response of the home's owner, MacKenzie Care, which implemented an admissions ban

while it investigated issues.

Helen Anderson, a volunteer, said: 'Regarding the recent article in the *Oban Times* about the Lynn of Lorne Care Home, I have been a volunteer at this care home for a number of years and have found the carers, nursing staff and activities manager to be caring, attentive and conscientious.'

Hazel Robertson, whose husband lived in the home, said: 'I was disappointed to read in last week's paper about the care at the Lynn of Lorne Care home. My husband was a resident

there for five years and was well cared for, especially since the new management has been installed.

'I agree at times there were not enough staff to provide one-to-one care, but all the staff were kind and caring and the meals nutritious.

'There are several foreign staff who are also caring and I don't think there is often a language barrier.'

Argyll and Bute council said it was working with care home management to resolve the concerns over staffing issues.

## Traumatised girl, 15, could only put the details of sex assaults on paper

A TEENAGER has told a court she was sexually abused by a Mid Argyll man at his house when she was only seven.

The girl, who can't be named for legal reasons, said she was so affected by Peter Carter's abuse that she couldn't speak to anyone about it at the time.

She told a jury at the High Court in Paisley last week that the only way she could alert an adult to what was happening was to write it down on a piece of paper.

Carter, 49, is currently on trial accused of sexually assaulting two young girls over a five-year period.

He faces three charges in relation to a girl who is now 15, with prosecutors claiming he abused her between the ages of seven and 11.

He also faces a fourth charge of abusing an 11-year-old girl when she was seven.

The older girl told the jury of eight men and seven women last week that it was easier for her to write down the details of the assaults as she found it 'very hard to get the words out' at the time.

Carter, of Upper Raslie Cottage, Stockavullin, is said to have molested her on numerous occasions. He denies repeatedly using lewd, indecent and libidinous practices and behaviour towards the girl at his home between October 2006 and November 2010, when she was aged between seven and 11.

He is also accused of repeatedly sexually assaulting her between December 2010 and October 2011, when she was aged between 11 and 12.

Prosecutors also claimed he raped her at his home between October 2006 and October 2008.

He denied the charges and also pleaded not guilty to the charge that he sexually assaulted the other girl at his home in August 2011, when she was seven.

The trial, before temporary Judge John Beckett QC, continues.

## Ferryman all at sea after drinking binge

A MAN in charge of a passenger ferry while awash with alcohol was fined £800 at Oban sheriff court last Wednesday, May 13.

Simon Yarwood, 48, was the ferryman on the Oban North Pier to Kerrera route for three weeks before colleagues suspected he had been drinking on the job and reported him to the police.

The court heard how on May 2 this year fellow crewmen thought he had stashed away a half empty bottle of alcohol which they found and marked by drawing a ring around the bottle. When they returned later that morning to inspect the bottle, the level of the alcohol had dropped.

Yarwood, previously of Kerrera now of Pocklington, near York, had by this point transferred 71 passengers to and from the island. His colleagues took control of the boat and the police met them at the North Pier.

Yarwood was found to have 87 millilitres of alcohol in 100 millilitres of his breath when the legal limit for drink driving a boat is 35 millilitres in 100 millilitres of breath.

Yarwood pleaded guilty to being drunk in charge of the passenger-carrying vehicle.

## Lifeboat answers missing people call

OBAN lifeboat was called out twice last week by Stornoway Coastguard.

On Tuesday evening, the crew was asked to check out a sailing boat moored at Melfort Pier, Kilmelford, after the two people on board had not been seen for a couple of days.

Both people were found to be safe and well and had been waiting for better weather before setting sail again.

The Mora Edith MacDonald also launched on Thursday evening, with two paramedics, to take a patient from Craignure to Oban, where she was transferred by ambulance to hospital.

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**Arisaig**

AN ARISAIG man helped raise more than £7,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support by arranging a one-day festival dedicated to rock band Rush.

Musician Steve Brown, with two friends from Lanark and Falkirk, spent months putting together the event, which included tribute bands, a quiz and an auction for fans of the Canadian trio.

The festival, RUSHfest Scotland, took place on Saturday April 18 at Dreadnought Rock in Bathgate, Scotland's longest running rock club, and 150 fans attended from the UK, Ireland, Italy and the USA.

£7,638.09 was raised on the day, including £2,112 in the auction for a pair of VIP tickets to see Rush live in Toronto.

Mr Brown said: 'Last year's inaugural event raised just over £3,000 for Macmillan so we're all still a bit shell-shocked from this year's amount.'

'We have been totally blown away by the fans' generosity. Sincere thanks to everyone who took part.'

**Luing**

THE COMMUNITY bus recently picked up its first passenger in Cullipool.

Luing islander Chrissie MacLean, a pensioner, used the bus to visit the island shop.

The bus will run every Tuesday morning, picking up people around the island to visit the shop, and on Thursday mornings to pick up passengers to meet the ferry for the Oban bus.

Islanders said they were grateful to Argyll and Bute community transport for a grant of £3,222.

Islanders have set up a Luing shopping club at an annual cost of £26 per adult and £13 for school children.

The bus is also used as the Luing school bus. The drivers are Kirsty MacLachlan and Simone Van Dijk.

**Ulva**

ULVA Ferry housing project has been awarded a £30,000 grant from the Trusthouse Foundation towards construction costs.

In addition, the anonymous benefactor who had previously pledged £15,000, has now increased its donation to more than £31,000 with Gift Aid.

Helen MacDonald of Ulva Ferry housing project said: 'This means we are now close to securing all the funding required and we are on track to start building later this year.'

If you would like to support us in making affordable, community-owned rental housing a reality here at Ulva Ferry you can do so via our Justgiving page: [www.justgiving.com/ulvaferryhousing](http://www.justgiving.com/ulvaferryhousing).

For more information about renting one of the two houses, contact Helen MacDonald: [hmacdonald@mict.co.uk](mailto:hmacdonald@mict.co.uk) or call 01688 500056.

**Ardfern**

A SPECIAL presentation was made recently to Ardfern dinghy sailor Angus Richardson.

Despite being profoundly deaf, Angus, 18, has always been an active member of Craignish boat club.

He is part way through a 47-week course at the international boatbuilding training college at Lowestoft.

The 125th anniversary award is presented annually to support the recipient in a sailing related activity.

It was first presented in 2006, which was the 125th anniversary of the Royal Highland Yacht Club. For Angus, the award is to provide the working tools he needs and to support the cost of sign language translators at Lowestoft.

Craignish boat club commodore Guy Neville



TOP SAILOR: Joey Gough presenting the award to Angus Richardson at the Craignish boat club spring ceilidh.

said: 'Angus has been an enthusiastic cadet and is now helping to teach dinghy sailing to the next generation. The club wishes him well in his boat building career.'

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SPRING CLEAN: Connel Rainbows and Brownies before the litter pick at Connel beach

**Good turn-out for annual Connel beach clean**

CONNEL beach was given a spring clean recently by the local rainbows and brownies.

After being provided with bags, litter pickers and reflective vests from Keep Scotland Beautiful, the volunteers set about their task on April 20, collecting the rubbish in a special cage provided by Argyll and Bute council, next to the village hall. Marion Fisher, who volunteers with the brownies, said: 'It was a good turn-out with a lot of adults coming along to help the children. There was a lot of litter on the beach but we got rid of it all. This is around the 20th year we've done the litter pick and we would like to say thank you to Keep Scotland Beautiful for its help.'

**Disbelief at Coll cliff face work**

RESIDENTS on Coll have described their disbelief after a local business owner began hammering into a cliff face on one of the island's beaches without permission.

Rock pecker machines arrived on barges and were driven across Gallanach beach by Neil Smith, director of Gallanach Green Generation Limited, on May 4, who then began hammering into the rock.

Despite a visit from Argyll and Bute council planners on May 7, when Mr Smith agreed to stop work, residents said work continued the following morning, from 7am until 10.30pm.

Mr Smith was granted consent for the erection of a 77-metre tall wind turbine at Gallanach farm following a public hearing in October 2012.

Progress stalled after an appeal to allow machinery and equipment to be taken to the site via Coll's unsuitable single-track roads was rejected last year. It is thought Mr Smith planned to channel a route through the rocks to build an alternative road, through his own land, to serve the turbine site.

Pat Graham, a trustee of Isle of Coll heritage trust, said: 'It's absolutely diabolical. Planning laws are there and everyone else has to go through them. As soon as the council staff left, he started work again. He's been working from 7am until 10.30pm at night and it's a really horrible noise that the equipment makes.'

'It was absolute disbelief when the equipment arrived on the barges. I think people are genuinely heartbroken as it is such a beautiful island.'

Councillor for Oban south and the Isles Roddy McCuish said he had numerous complaints since the work started.

'I'm extremely disappointed at the actions of the developer, especially as he has no planning permission for this work, of any kind,' he said.

'This type of environmental vandalism is to be halted immediately or Mr Smith will face the full force of the law.'

Colin Scott, chairman of the Isle of Coll heritage trust, said: 'It was certainly shocking to see the equipment arrive on the beach and, as far as I'm aware, totally illegal.'

'Our house is within 600 metres of the work and it's incredibly noisy when the jackhammer is in operation.'

'But really, it's the principle of the whole situation. He was told that he couldn't carry out further work by bringing equipment along the roads here so just does this instead, totally against the advice from the council.'

At the time of going to press, Mr Smith was unavailable for comment.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'Planning officers were made aware of alleged unauthorised works that have been ongoing at Gallanach farm since last week. They visited the site at the earliest possible opportunity after the complaints were made and confirmed that operations are considered to be in breach of planning consent and are also unauthorised. To this extent, an enforcement file has been opened and all possible enforcement measures are being considered.'



**Banavie**

NURSERY pupils at Banavie primary school were recently transformed into princes and princesses to celebrate the birth of the royal baby.

After seeing the latest addition to the monarchy, the children decided to throw a party for Charlotte Elizabeth Diana and dressed up as royals for the occasion.

CELEBRATIONS: Banavie nursery pupils as princes and princesses



VOLUNTEERS: the Plockton primary school pupils who helped clean up the village

DURING April, Plockton enjoyed 11 dry days, with only 3.5 inches of rain, the same as last year, compared with nine inches in March.

The warmest day was 19°C and coldest was 1.5°C.

**Plockton**

Adults took part in the evening and two skips were filled.

PLOCKTON small boat sailing club's season started on Tuesday April 28 with tuition for youngsters which will continue every Tuesday throughout the season.

The first local boat race is on Saturday June 6.

MACHRIHANISH airbase community company (MACC) has been awarded a grant to explore all forms of renewable power.

**Machrihanish**

The company has been given £9,400 by the Local Energy Scotland-led CARES start-up fund to carry out a study, by consultants SgurrEnergy, to identify the best options for maximising renewable potential on the site. The former RAF airbase narrowly missed out on the Local Energy Challenge Fund in March.

MACC chairman Tom Millar said: 'Huge potential for renewable development lies

in the infrastructure of our site. We have received a great deal of interest from industry leaders in solar, biomass and wind. The award will allow us to carefully consider the best course of action for the benefit of the site, our tenants and the wider community.'

SgurrEnergy's community renewables manager Fergus Tickell said: 'We are delighted to be working with MACC during the feasibility phase of this sustainability project.'

**MORVERN lines**

**Exotic animals in Argyll**

THE COYPU is not an animal readily associated with Morvern or the Highlands, yet they were to be found on Killundine estate on the Sound of Mull in the 1930s.

Coypu, which look like large brown rats, are native to South America and were imported to Britain for fur farming around 1929. In the 1950s coypu were responsible for serious damage to dykes and banks through burrowing. They also damaged agricultural crops and indigenous flora. An extensive control campaign initiated in 1962 reduced coypu to about 2,000 individuals restricted to Norfolk and Suffolk by 1970.

A second campaign was initiated in 1981 with the aim of eradicating coypu from Britain within 10 years. About 34,900 coypu were trapped during this campaign; only 12 animals were captured in 1987. The Coypu (Prohibition of Keeping) Order 1987 prohibits the keeping of coypu in Britain. Only a few are now kept in secure conditions in zoos.

Coypu were brought to Morvern sometime between 1932 and 1937 as an experiment by Mrs Lees Milne, owner of Killundine Estate, who was better known as a breeder of pedigree highland cattle.

According to a local source, a few coypu escaped from the 'Coypu field' and the carp ponds above the Castle of the Dogs but were soon dealt with. I am uncertain if Mrs Lees Milne took them with her to Ardachy on Loch Etive-side when she left Killundine, but it is surely no coincidence to read of one being seen crossing the A85 between Dalmlally and Tyndrum in a letter published in The Oban Times in March 1974.

I believe experimental coypu farms were established elsewhere in Argyll and it would be interesting to hear of them.

**Persecution of birds of prey**

IT WAS sad to read in a national newspaper last week that hen harriers are England's most threatened breeding bird of prey and that with only four successful nests in the whole country they may soon become extinct.

Hen harriers have fared better in Scotland where, hopefully, they will continue to hold their own.

Of course they, and many other birds of prey, were heavily persecuted when people knew no better.

Henry Davenport Graham in his 'Birds of Iona and Mull' (1890) records that he allowed a cock hen harrier to escape his gun because he thought it was a sea gull.

Indicative of past times are the following advertisements which appeared in 1859 and 1861 in an Inverness newspaper. 'Two young peregrine falcons for sale, apply Thomas Dalgleish, gamekeeper, Ardnornish, Morvern' and 'Thos Dalgleish, gamekeeper, Ardnornish, Morvern, shot on the 14th May, two peregrine falcons. The female bird had a bell and leather strap attached to its leg which will be restored to the owner on giving up the mark of the bell and paying expenses.'

Thomas Dalgleish (1821-69), gamekeeper on Ardnornish estate for 11 years, is buried at Kiel, Morvern, and was described on his headstone as 'a good and faithful servant'.

Taking and killing birds of prey today is rightly a serious offence and punishable by severe penalties.



THOROUGHbred: the Nahlin in the Sound of Mull

**Elegant yacht sails into sound**

IT IS not often those of us living on the west coast of Scotland catch a glimpse of one of the last of three large steam yachts built in the UK.

Already this season some lovely yachts have sailed through the Sound of Mull but none of them could hold a candle to this 300-foot long beauty. The 1,377 ton 'Nahlin' was built on the Clyde by heiress Lady Yule who commissioned G L Watson and Co to design a steam yacht that would permit her to 'visit every part of the globe she desired'. Following in a line of acknowledged classics, they produced a design which was at the pinnacle of the evolution of clipper bow and counter stern steam yachts.

Lady Yule recruited most of her crew from the Clyde, the Western Isles and Lochaber where she rented a large house on the south bank of the River Lochy.

Over the course of six years, Lady Yule made several major cruises aboard the 'Nahlin' and considered her the most beautiful yacht in the world and the most seaworthy. She was sold in 1937 to the King of Romania whose successor allowed her to fall into disrepair. She returned to the UK and was finally restored in 2010.

She is currently owned by Sir James Dyson, best known as the inventor of the bag less vacuum cleaner.

Not since Craig Sellar's 550 ton 'Rannoch' slipped through the entrance to Loch Aline in 1914 leaving Ardnornish for the last time, has so elegant a private yacht been seen from Morvern.

One need not be interested in boats in the slightest to recognise a thoroughbred.

Iain Thornber  
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**ALDI**

# Inquiry after ten men found living in three-bedroom flat

EMMA CRICHTON  
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OVERCROWDED: at least 10 men have been living in a three-bedroom flat in Moray place, Fort William 20\_21fla01

AT LEAST 10 men have been living in a Lochaber housing association flat in Fort William under the name of a national company, despite it only being let to one tenant.

The eastern Europeans, who have been working with Concordia construction on an Eon energy wall insulation project in Upper Achintore and Caol for more than a year, have been living in the three-bedroom property in Moray place, also Upper Achintore, for a year.

Lochaber housing association (LHA) chief executive Blair Allan called the situation 'completely inappropriate over-occupation' and said he is 'dismayed' and 'extremely concerned' that Concordia bosses had allowed it to happen.

The issue was reported to the *Oban Times* by a concerned neighbour who asked not be named, which then started an investigation by LHA. Mr Allan said it looked like 10 or

11 men had been sharing the accommodation, despite it being registered to a single tenant, but the neighbour said she believed there could have been as many as 15 occupants at one time.

The neighbour said it became a problem because so much rubbish was coming from the flats it was causing the communal outside

bins to overflow and she was worried it could attract vermin. She said: 'I think between 12 and 15 men have been living here for over a year, since the work started. Even the blue [recycling] bins are overflowing with bin bags and it's not recycling so the bin men won't empty it. It's a mess and I'm worried about rats

and the smell as it gets warmer.'

The concerned resident's partner added: 'There's more people living in that one flat than the rest of the building put together and it's putting an enormous strain on the building.'

'The bins are absolutely overflowing with rubbish and there's mess everywhere.'

Mr Allan confirmed LHA had been renting the property to Concordia construction under a 'single occupant' agreement with the contractor and had no idea so many people were living there. Concordia has been carrying out the insulation works on behalf of energy company Eon.

He told the *Oban Times*: 'To facilitate this worthwhile project [insulation] Lochaber housing association agreed, for the period of the contract, to make an empty property available to Concordia construction for the accommodation of a member of its supervisory staff for the project.'

'We are grateful to your reader who has brought our attention to this clear and unauthorised

breach of the tenancy agreement, which we have now brought to an end, and the flat is now back in our possession.'

'As you would expect, we are extremely concerned that this completely inappropriate over-occupation of the flat has been allowed to happen by Concordia construction, Eon's contractors.'

'We are dismayed that this company would allow this to happen rather than securing alternative, decent accommodation for its workers.'

'Up until this point there have been no issues raised by any of the other residents of the neighbouring flats so, as I have said, we are really pleased that one of the neighbours has told the *Oban Times* what has been going on, since this is a situation we could obviously not tolerate.'

'We are very sorry that this has been allowed to happen and for any inconvenience or nuisance that may have been caused to any other residents.'

'For the absolute avoidance of doubt, I can confirm, as I have already said, that this

arrangement with Concordia construction, as a result of this clear breach of the regulations and of our trust, has been terminated.'

A spokesman for Concordia construction said it had investigated the issue and confirmed the number of staff living in the flat was excessive but it had been only short-term and a one-off situation while alternative accommodation was sought.

He added: 'Concordia construction has been working in Scotland, improving homes and reducing fuel costs for the homeowners of Fort William for a number of months.'

'It has been brought to our attention that having rented a local property to stay whilst the works are being completed, concern has been raised regarding the overcrowding of the property. Concordia takes these situations very seriously and is completing a review of all projects, where the supply chain are renting accommodation, to ensure this does not occur again.'

## TIMESLINE

### New head teacher for village school

A NEW head teacher has been found for Ballachulish primary school as stalwart Sam Clark prepares for retirement.

The headmaster, who has worked at the school for more than 30 years, will step down at the start of the summer holidays.

Mr Clark's replacement, Carol Divers, has previously taught at Ballachulish as well as a number of other schools in Lochaber and will take up her new role in August this year.

Miss Divers said: 'I am delighted and excited to be appointed as head teacher at Ballachulish primary and am looking forward very much to working with the parent council and local community on the challenges ahead for our school.'

### Powering ahead with hydro project

WORK has started on a community hydro project in Lochaber, just six weeks after money was secured.

Construction by MHL civil engineering, from Tisee, began at the Strontian site on Monday and local contractor West Coast electrical will be carrying out work at a later stage.

Richard Laybourne, chairman of Sunart community renewables, the group behind the project, said: 'It is fantastic to see our vision becoming a reality and we are delighted for all our members who bought community shares, who can now see how their support is translating into action.'

'We are on track to commission the hydro by November this year, after which it will start generating electricity and income for the community.'

## Lochaber MSP to hand over baton to younger candidate

LOCHABER MSP Dave Thompson has announced he will be standing down ahead of the Holyrood election next year.

The SNP member of Scottish parliament for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch revealed his retirement plans on Monday (May 18).

An MSP since 2007, Mr Thompson was a regional representative for the Highlands and Islands from 2007 until 2011 and then as the constituency MSP from 2011. The 65-year-old almost missed out on his time as an MSP when the Highland returning officer declared he had lost the election in 2007, but Mr Thompson demanded a recount which saw him elected and

gave the SNP the one seat needed to take a majority over Labour. He said: 'This has been a difficult decision but I believe it is the right time for me to now hand over the baton to a younger candidate. The party has never been in a better position and I firmly believe I will see independence in my lifetime. I will, of course, continue to be involved with the SNP and plan to spend more time helping to develop Christians for Independence, of which I am currently convener. I will be 66 at the time of the Scottish election and still have many things I want to do. Indeed, I am quite excited about embarking on a new phase of my life when I step down from the Scottish parliament.'



## Lochside first to fourth green flag

A FORT William primary school has become the first in Lochaber to be awarded a fourth Eco Schools flag.

The children of Lochside RC primary worked hard on a number of environmental projects to achieve the recognition, including working on their eco garden on the school grounds.

Lochside RC primary school's eco committee were delighted to receive their fourth flag 20\_21lochside01

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## Council seals more cash to buy from local companies

ARGYLL and Bute council's procurement team has negotiated a higher amount for 'keeping it local' after securing a threshold of up to £350,000 for providing services to the council from the area's businesses.

The local authority is running meet the buyer information sessions to encourage local businesses to find out about the support available in securing council contracts.

The council has negotiated a higher threshold than other public sector bodies in Scotland for holding closed tender exercises to support local businesses.

It also splits separate contracts into lots, where possible, to allow local small and medium sized businesses and contractors an opportunity to tender. Mary-Jean Devon, health and social care spokeswoman, said: 'The council works hard to support local businesses to secure contracts. Overall our focus has to be on securing the best results for the people who need the services being commissioned. The contract awarded to provide drug and alcohol support services in Argyll and Bute is one example. Service users, via focus groups, were involved in saying what they wanted from services and had a representative on the selection panel. We now have a valid contract in place, with a service provider that is already helping people move on with their lives.'

'Clearly the council must meet legislative requirements and ensure best value. We also identify ways to help local people take advantage of opportunities. I would encourage all local businesses to find out more.'

Barry Colville, of McKinven and Colville Limited from Campbeltown, said: 'Since Argyll and Bute council implemented its new procurement process through Public Contracts Scotland, we feel, as

I would encourage all local businesses to find out more

Mary-Jean Devon  
Health and social care spokeswoman

a small locally-based building contractor, there has been a huge benefit to the access we now have to tendering contracts in our working area and being able to process tender documents online is convenient and saves time.'

As well as holding meet the buyer events, the local authority has joined the national supplier development programme to help locally-based businesses take advantage of free advice, support, information and training on the www.sdpscotland.co.uk website.

This includes online training events on maximising tender scores and using innovation to stand out from other suppliers.

Information is available on the council's website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk about contract opportunities, the tender process and how to get involved.

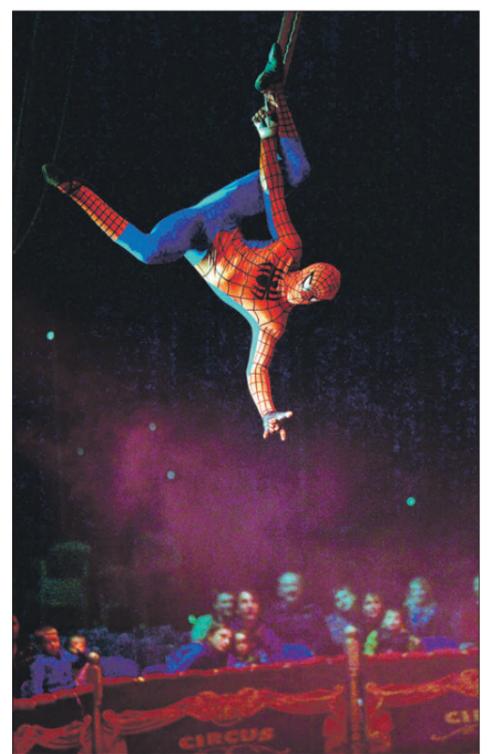
Argyll and Bute council has asked The Oban Times to clarify the term used in last week's issue in regard to 'unsafe legal advice' in the tendering process for £1.25 million worth of alcohol and drug advice services was incorrect. A spokeswoman said: 'As indicated in the Audit Scotland report [referred to in The Oban Times story], the council obtained external legal advice which supports the council's view that the contract agreed with Addaction Scotland is valid.'



AMAZING: the audience was thrilled by the Big Kid Circus acts



BALANCE AND POWER: this act took the circus big top by storm



SUPERHERO: Spiderman dropped in on the circus when it visited Oban last week

## Big Kid Circus turns on the style in Oban

BIG KID Circus made a great impression in Oban over its four-day stint in the town last week.

Kiril Kirilov and his wife Billi-Anna have worked for many years as professional circus artists and choreographers.

Kiril's father, Jordanov, was a well-known performer and circus manager in the USA and helped set up the show, while Billi's mum is seen regularly at the show helping with the paperwork.

The family tradition in the circus world spans more than 50 years on the road.

Kiril and Billi's son Deyvid, having trained with his parents, has also worked as an artist in Bulgaria, Thailand, Malaysia and Turkey.

Their daughter Julia is at university, but still visits the show regularly, and their daughter Nicole is just embarking on life as a circus child.

# Treasures of the west



THE OLD saying 'if we don't have it, you don't need it,' may well apply to the west coast's local producers of everything from food to gifts. At markets, local shops and galleries, the best of the west is on offer from celebrated food producers, artists and crafters. Artisans and producers of all kinds find inspiration in the landscape and bounty of Argyll, and shoppers are spoiled for choice. Choosing local means choosing the best of the west. While out and about at the weekend many of folk will go for a wander down their local high street and enjoy a spot of shopping or some lunch. But this can become a bit mundane after a while and seeing the same thing all the time is less than inspiring. Things needn't be this way though, the west coast of Scotland has a huge array of different shops, restaurants and attractions on offer in places people might not be expecting. Make a day of it and head off to visit one of

the many breathtaking castles or gardens that abound in this area. For those who are green fingered and inspired by these beautiful places, there are plenty of garden centres on offer, both in and out of town, to recreate the scenery at home. If adventure calls, why not grab the children and head off to an activity centre or hill walking. Just remember to stop off at one of the cafes, pubs or restaurants on the way. It's bound to taste better if it's been earned after a long walk. Head off on the ferry for a day out. There are lots of islands within easy reach of a nearby port: why not try Lismore or Mull? Once there, there will be plenty of hidden gems to explore. There are lots of places in the many towns in the area that are just waiting to be explored or events happening. Look past the usual haunts, and try something new and different. The west truly is full of treasures, just head out and find them.



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Fancy trying a new festival and a new experience for summer 2015? Then look no further than ButeFest, the most accessible and affordable Island Festival of the Summer, who are offering two lucky readers the chance to win a pair of weekend tickets, which include camping, to this year's festival.

Rightly proclaimed as one of Scotland's most beautiful islands (the clue's in the name), from 17-19 July the Isle of Bute will play host to ButeFest, a brand-new three-day festival of music, food and fun. ButeFest has compiled a richly varied and superb line-up that includes both the contemporary and the classic of the music world and runs that gamut from rock to roots and folk to dance. Confirmed acts currently include Skerryvore, Peatbog Faeries, Treacherous Orchestra, The John Langan Band and We Banjo 3. To buy tickets visit www.skiddle.com or call 0844 884 2920.

For your chance to win a pair of weekend tickets to ButeFest, simply answer this easy question, complete the coupon and post it to The Oban Times, ButeFest Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by Wednesday 3rd June 2015.

**Question: ButeFest 2015 takes place over how many days?**

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PASSENGER CLAIMS TRYING TO MAKE SMALL SAVINGS 'LIKE REARRANGING DECKCHAIRS ON THE TITANIC'

Debate over who pays disabled tab

THOUSANDS of pounds could be saved on the Corran ferry if Highland council picks up the tab for disabled drivers, attendees of Monday's meeting said.

Currently anyone with a blue badge is entitled to travel the vessel free and campaigners say this should continue - but not at the cost of other users.

Tony Boyd, chairman of campaign group Free Crossing for Corran, said: 'A ferry worker told me about 10,000 disabled drivers use the ferry every year. Some of them will be paying full price and others will be using the discounted book of tickets but even with that reduced rate some £50,000 could be added to the ferry's income if Highland council paid that.'

'That's quite a significant amount of money.'

'The council's policy is to give disabled drivers a free service and we have no issue with that but if that is their policy then why is it us paying for it?'

William Gilfillan, the local authority's director of community services, said he would look into the matter but councillor Graham MacKenzie, chairman of the community services committee, disregarded the suggestion.

He said: 'That is council policy but the last thing I can see the council doing is ploughing more money into the ferry, the committee will never agree to that.'

# Corran Ferry cost cutting ideas launched at meeting

EMMA CRICHTON  
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TRYING to make small savings on the Corran ferry is like 'rearranging deckchairs on the Titanic', a regular user has said.

The statement was made at a meeting between the public, Highland council officials and elected councillors on Monday night, in a bid to cut costs on the ferry connecting the Ardnamurchan peninsula to mainland Lochaber.

At £8 per single journey, or £71 for a book of 30 tickets to travel over the 400-metre Corran Narrows, it is the most expensive cost per distance crossing in the country but users have faced three price hikes in the last 12 months by operators Highland council.

Campaign group Free Crossing for Corran (FC Corran) has fought against fare rises and appealed to the local authority to look at other ways to balance the books, resulting in Monday night's ward forum in Strontian.

At the meeting councillor Graham MacKenzie, chairman of community services, said he was committed to listening to ferry users and looking at alternatives to more fare increases.

Cost cutting suggestions included charging cyclists, pedestrians and disabled drivers - who all currently receive a free service - sponsorship or advertising, and increasing the fare for coaches or other large vehicles.

But Strontian resident Robert Dunn said too many cost factors were out of Highland council's control and making small savings wouldn't fix the long term problem.

He said: 'Trying to cut costs on the Corran ferry is like rearranging deckchairs on the Titanic.'

'The solution isn't to find small cost cutting measures here and there, that's papering over the cracks. Things like fuel prices, maintenance costs and replacing the vessels are all out of the council's hands so to try to work out all of the little bits isn't going to work.'

But Tony Boyd, chairman of FC Corran, thought the meeting was a positive step. He said: 'I think it was constructive. They [council officials] listened and said they would look into what we suggested to see what will work best.'

'They seemed to take our thoughts and feelings on board



COST CUTTING: Corran ferry

so we can only wait to see what the outcome of that is.

'The ferry made a profit last year for the first time since 2005 so if savings can be found in different areas it might help to make that more consistent.'

William Gilfillan, Highland council's director of community services, said: 'I have tried very hard to listen to what the community wants and we want to continue that. I will take all of these ideas and views away and work out what will make the best savings.'

## Fare hike going against the tide

INFLATION in the UK has turned negative for the first time in more than 50 years as a result of reduced air and ferry fare prices, a report revealed on Tuesday.

While the price of the Corran ferry continues to rise, the Office of National Statistics released a report saying inflation was down to -0.1 per cent in April for the first time since 1960, based on historic estimates.

The report cited air and sea fares as the biggest contribution to the fall.

Corran ferry user Robert Dunn said: 'You couldn't make it up. Everywhere else the ferry prices are coming down yet ours are still going up and we've just been at a meeting to discuss how we can stop them going up again.'

TIMESLINE

### Ardgour cottage wins Euro praise

A HOLIDAY cottage in Lochaber has been named one of the best in Europe.

Cuil Moss cottage on Ardgour estate was shortlisted for best beach house in the European holiday home awards.

The scenic tourist spot has only been open for 18 months but was up against entries from Norway, Italy and France, losing out to a house in Croatia.

Annie MacLean of Ardgour estate said: 'We are overwhelmed to have achieved such success in a short period of time. To be recognised within Europe is fantastic not only for Ardgour Estate but more importantly for the Ardnamurchan peninsula and Lochaber tourism as whole.'

### Planning sought for homes plan

A PLANNING application has been lodged to convert offices in Fort William into flats.

Twedeale buildings is currently occupied by Highland council staff but it is hoped the site can be converted into housing when the local authority moves to new premises. This is part of a wider plan by the council to move its workforce into the old Fort William high school on Achintore road, which has been empty for more than 25 years.

### Lochaber groups awarded grants

GRANTS worth more than £7,000 have been awarded to community groups in Lochaber.

Five grants totalling £7,550 were dished out of the Lochaber ward discretionary budget at the meeting last week, including £2,000 for High Life Highland's summer youth activities programme.

High Life Highland received a further £2,000 for new gymnastics equipment, £1,000 was provided towards the running costs of Safe Highlander 2014 and £300 was given to Lochaber piping society towards drumming workshops.

Both Fort William and Ardnamurchan and Caol and Mallaig council wards also received £1,125 each to top up current youth funding.



JOINT FORCE: Lochaber housing association and Lochaber credit union have teamed up to offer a simpler payment system for residents. From left: Aileen Duncan, Marion Carr, Cheree Kennedy, Sean Doherty and Margaret Gillies 20\_21credit01

## Groups join forces to set up new rent help for residents

TWO GROUPS working to support Lochaber residents have joined forces to make paying rent easier.

Lochaber housing association (LHA) and Lochaber credit union (LCU) have set up a new initiative which they say will help with the upcoming benefit changes.

When universal credit is introduced it will replace a number of previous benefits, including income support, job seekers' allowance and housing benefit. Under this new scheme claimants who receive assistance

with their rent can have this included in their universal credit payment and can then pay their landlord directly.

An LHA spokesperson said: 'Universal credit will involve direct payment of housing costs to the claimant and will be paid monthly as a single household benefit into a bank, building society, post office or credit union account. If you live with your partner and you are both eligible, you will get one monthly joint payment. To help tenants prepare for changes within the benefit system and

the implementation of universal credit, the housing association has formed a partnership with Lochaber credit union to assist tenants to manage their benefits.'

Marion Carr of LCU added: 'Any help you get with your rent will be included in your universal credit payment and you'll then pay your landlord yourself. I'd encourage people to have their universal credit payment paid into a Lochaber credit union account. LCU will then ensure your rent is paid to LHA.'



Drew Hendry

### Leader takes up new role as MP

THE LEADER of Highland council, Drew Hendry, has officially stepped down from his position.

This comes after Mr Hendry, who has been council leader since 2012, was elected as the member of parliament for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey earlier this month.

A new leader will be elected at the full Highland council meeting in June, with deputy leader councillor David Alston temporarily taking on the role in the meantime.

Steve Barron, chief executive of the local authority, said: 'I would like to take this opportunity to thank Drew for his commitment and congratulate him on his achievements as leader over the past three years and to wish him all the very best in his new role as MP representing his Highland constituents at Westminster.'



David Alston

## Ross harvests permanent job

THE FIRST apprentice of a major Lochaber employer has secured a permanent role in the company.

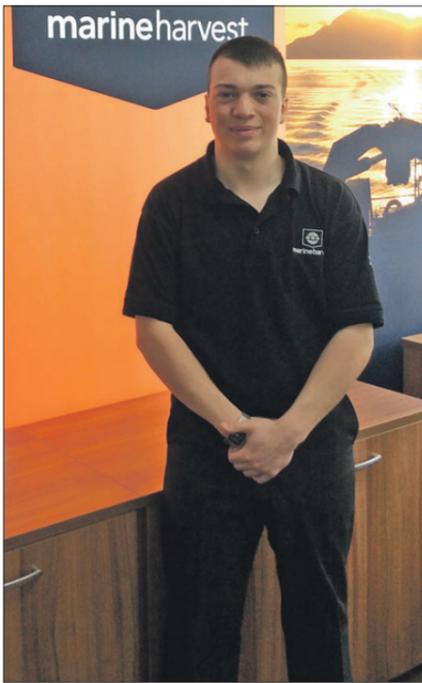
Ross MacDonald, from Fort William, has been training with salmon farming business Marine Harvest since 2013, working at 10 sites, as well as the Mallaig harvest station and the processing plant in his home town.

After finishing his training, the 18-year-old has now received a job as a farm technician for Marine Harvest's Loch Linnhe sites. He said: 'I've thoroughly enjoyed my apprenticeship and I'm really pleased that I've now got a full-time permanent post with Marine Harvest Scotland.'

'It's great to have a secure job at a company with such a good track record in an industry that is so successful.'

Alan Sutherland, managing director of Marine Harvest Scotland, added: 'The jobs on offer in the aquaculture industry today require a wide range of skills and it's really heartening to see a new generation of salmon farmers starting to work their way up through the company.'

'We're delighted that Ross has secured a job which will give him the opportunity to work in a growing industry and continue to develop skills that are in demand not just in Scotland but all over the world.'



TIME SERVED: Marine Harvest Scotland's first apprentice, Ross MacDonald, has secured a permanent role in the company

## Green light for 'glamping' cabins

NEW CAMPING accommodation has been approved for planning permission, despite worries it would be rejected by Scottish ministers.

The eight 'glamping' cabins to be built at the Dragon's Tooth golf course near Ballachulish were passed to Scottish government ministers for approval after permission was granted by members of Highland council's south planning committee in February. But council officers and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) advised that the scheme should be rejected because of flooding concerns.

But at the planning committee's meeting on Tuesday (May 19), chairman councillor Dave Fallows confirmed the government had 'no intention to intervene' and the tourist facility could go ahead. SEPA warned the site was a medium flood risk and the Abhainn Greadhain

burn could burst its banks like it did 30 years ago and send floodwater into the campsite but Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Thomas MacLennan said much of Lochaber had the same odds of flooding, yet new homes were still being built.

A letter from Scottish government ministers to the planning committee said: 'It is not the Scottish ministers' intention to intervene in this application by either issuing a direction restricting the granting of planning permission or by calling in the application for their own determination. Accordingly, your council are hereby authorised to deal with the application in the manner it thinks fit.'

The camping pods, built by golf course owner Laurence Young, will feature two beds, a toilet and sink, TV, wifi, a kettle and microwave. Mr Young was unavailable for comment.

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# Viewpoint

## The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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It's hardly rocket science, but the news that the man who runs the Caledonian Sleeper company thinks the time has come to fast-track a direct train line between London and Oban is an exciting proposition. Peter Strachan, a transport guru in every sense of the word, said that a direct service from the metropolis to Oban could be up and running by 2018, if the princely sum of £100 million is invested in state-of-the-art

rolling stock. It could be a vital engine to help drive the local economy. No more stopping off at Crianlarich in the dead of winter, waiting for the connection to Oban for a couple of hours in the bitter night air. What a wonderful prospect. As Oban is rightly regarded as the gateway to the islands, it makes for a very persuasive argument to follow Mr Strachan's train of logic right down the track.



## Days gone by - Islay farmer travels to famous Ould Lamass fair, Ballycastle

This week's flashback photograph features farmer James Brown of Octomore Farm, Port Charlotte, Islay, who was one of the many Scottish visitors who travelled to Ballycastle, County Antrim, for the famous Ould Lamass Fair in days gone by. James, 18, took his bagpipes along and is pictured playing to a group at the event. Photograph courtesy of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board. Digital versions of flashback photos for The Oban Times can be sent to editor@obantimes.co.uk or prints sent in to Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Anyone who wishes a print returned should include a stamped, addressed envelope.

### Kind, caring staff at Lynn of Lorne home

Sir, I was disappointed to read in last week's *Oban Times* about the care at Lynn of Lorne care home, Benderloch.

My husband was a resident there for more than five years and was well cared for, especially after the arrival of the new management.

I agree at times there wasn't enough staff to provide one-to-one care, but all the staff were kind and caring and the meals nutritious.

There are several foreign staff, who are also caring, and I don't think there is often a language barrier.

H M Robertson, by email.

### Tourist office far too small so move vital

Sir, I refer to the letter of May 7 in relation to VisitScotland's tourist information office (TIC) in Oban.

While the current office is modern with friendly staff, it is far too small and I have seen a queue of visitors waiting to get in on more than one occasion.

But not all visitors will do that. It will, in turn, have a negative effect on businesses, particularly those who advertise within the TIC and rely on TIC referrals.

Please VisitScotland - move back into the church, whatever it takes. I'm sure the community will help.

Fi Campbell, Oban.

### Dismay at Strontian cemetery road gate

Sir, The public access road to Strontian cemetery, which passes through land owned by Mr and Mrs Shaw of Drimmaroran Farm, has for the first time in living memory been blocked by a gate, below, which is kept shut

at all times. The gate contains no indication this is the only access to the cemetery a few hundred metres ahead, but carries a sign saying 'Drimmaroran farm', another of the VisitScotland emblem and a third which appears to refer to farm animals.

Our local cemetery is also a commonwealth war grave and I find it appalling anyone could be so disrespectful to the local community whose relatives gave their lives that we may have our lives and live in peace with each other.

I have brought the gate to the attention of Highland Council which has the responsibility for the upkeep of the cemetery and I feel must therefore be responsible for the safe passage to it.

VisitScotland, I feel, should be ashamed it is allowing its sign to be used in part to prevent visitors to an imperial war grave site.

Most locals, including myself, are at a loss as to the mind set of Mr and Mrs Shaw who must have known about the right of access road. The up coming sale of the farm and its refurbished house may well have some connection.

Tony Dobson, Strontian.

### Welcome reduction in Glenshellach traffic

Sir, With regard to the article in the *Oban Times* of May 7, Glenshellach Road residents have waited many years for this road closure to happen.

Glenshellach Road is a narrow road with no pavements and has been subjected to heavy lorries going to the many construction sites and a huge increase in residential traffic from the new housing developments.

The new road has been designed for the extra traffic and has pavements and traffic calming on the road to safe guard pedestrians from any speeding cars, a luxury Glenshellach Road does not have.

Planning permission was secured



### Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

A' BRITHEAMHACHD aig Mòd Ionadail Loch Abair Dihaoine seo chaidh, bhual e orm às ùr an t-saothair mhòr a tha luchd-teagais, pàrantan, is eile a' dèanamh gus clann agus inbhich a chuideachadh gus deasachadh airson farpaisean Mhòdan feadh na dùthcha.

Cha bheag an obair e agus tha iad airidh air a h-uile moladh, mar a tha cuideachd gach neach a tha ag obrachadh cho dìcheallach airson Mòdan ionadail agus nàiseanta a leigeil air adhart gach bliadhna.

Chan eil mi idir a' tuigsinn carson a tha Alba Chruthachail den beachd nach eil cuirm fharpaiseach leithid Mòd airidh air taic a dh'aindeoin na tha luchd-pàirt aig gach ìre a' dèanamh a' foillseachadh cultar is cànan agus an t-luchd fhollaiseach a tha luchd-amharc is luchd-èisteachd a' faotainn asta.

Theagamh nach eil Mòdan 'a' cruthachadh' ealain ùra fad an t-siubhail ach tha iad uile gu cinnteach nam màthair-uisge airson misneachd agus moit dualchais a thoirt dha sean is òg, agus chan eil teagamh nach eil iad a' cruthachadh sgeulaichean agus seinneadairean Gàidhlig.

Saoilidh mi gum bheil beàrn ann am Plana Gàidhlig Alba Chruthachail leis nach eil iad comasach air taic chunbhalach a thoirt dhan Gàidhlig a tha aithnichte leis an Riaghaltas mar phàirt luachmhor de dhualchas nàiseanta na dùthcha.

Agus a' bruidhinn air beàrn ann am poileasaidh a thaobh na Gàidhlig, tha gu cinnteach feum air smachd a ghabhail gun dàil air irean eadar-theangachaidh!

Bho chionn dà bhliadhna dheug air ais stèidhich mi fhin buidheann-obrach gun inleachd a dhealbha bheireadh dearbhadh air ìre comais eadar-theangairean. B' e an t-amas a bh' agam gum biodh Bòrd na Gàidhlig air chomas buidhean poblach agus prìobhaideach a stiùireadh a dh'ionnsaigh eadar-theangairean dearbhte agus anns an dòigh sin gum biodh ìre na Gàidhlig a bhiodh a' nochdadh chunbhalach agus ceart.

Gu mì-fhortanach cha do lean a' bhuidheann-obrach agus cha do shoirbhich le oidhirpean eile gus siostam dearbhadh a stèidheachadh aig an am sin, agus air an t-seachdain seo chaidh bha eisimpleir às ùr air an fheum air a leithid. Ged a dh'

for these new developments on the condition that the road would be blocked off and anyone moving into these new houses should have been made aware of this.

It is a pleasure to live in Glenshellach Road where our children are once again safe from speeding vehicles.

I have three grandchildren who are here regularly and we often walk up and down the road. Over the past few years, with all the new developments, it has been difficult to do this because sometimes it is a constant stream of traffic, often driving too fast.

At last the road is almost back to what it was when we moved here 28 years ago when it was fairly safe for my own children to be walking on the road.

Jennifer Miller, Glenshellach Road, Oban.

### Service with a smile at Mary's Meals shop

Sir, I was passing the Mary's Meals charity shop in Oban recently when some pretty beads in the window caught my eye.

I went in to see if they were for sale or part of the display and I was really glad I did because the three ladies working in the shop were a breath of fresh air. They were chatty, friendly and nothing was too much trouble.

It was raining quite heavily and a lady was in the shop looking for a raincoat.

The assistant serving her was really helpful, even going into the back shop to see if there was anything more suitable.

The beads I admired were retrieved from the window and other ones were quickly found to complement the mannequin's outfit, then everyone gathered round to see how they looked when I tried them on.

Sadly, it's something of a rarity nowadays to say that shopping is a pleasure, as old-fashioned 'service with a smile' is pretty thin on the ground in many establishments, but it was a pleasure to be in the Mary's Meals shop that day.

The ladies serving are a credit not only to themselves, but to the charity and to Oban.

Even though it was still raining when I left the shop, wearing my 'new' beads, my day had certainly been made a lot brighter.

Mary Stewart, Appin.

### Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON  
robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk

### Bernie on the loose

SPOTTED on the loose in Partick recently was Bernie Smith from Tìree.

Bernie is the classic example of the Gael in Glasgow. When he comes down to 'the big smoke', he is always in good form, blethering in Gaelic and giving a song in one or two of the city's hostels. 'Lag nan Cruachan' and 'My Native Isle Tìree' are among his repertoire or, my personal favourite, 'Hercules the Bear'. His



eldest son Ian, accordionist of Trail West fame, is nearing the end of a degree in Scottish music at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and, in 2014, was a finalist in the BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician at Celtic Connections.

Ian's younger brother, Bernie junior, plays drums with popular Oban band Ceol an Aire.

This photo appeared on Facebook under the heading 'An islander reading and enjoying the sun'. He is, of course, not reading The Sun but the vastly superior *Oban Times*.

### West End Festival

JUNE sees the 20th annual West End festival in Glasgow.

The event will feature various events, from an exhibition of Alastair Gray's earliest prints to an a cappella performance of 12th century pieces from The Glasgow Madrigals in the Kibble Palace. Also on the bill are Gaelic events hosted by An Lochran: Tuesday June 9: Togaibh Fonn, Gaelic singing workshop at Coffee and Craic, 74 Elderslie Street. Saturday June 13: A' Mhuir (The Sea), Gaelic themed 'book bug' session (0-3 years) at The Gaelic Books Council, 32 Mansfield Street. Tuesday June 16: Togaibh Fonn, Gaelic singing workshop at Coffee

and Craic, 74 Elderslie Street. Saturday June 20: Na Neonachain (Aliens Love Underpants), Gaelic Books Council, 32 Mansfield Street. Tuesday June 23: Togaibh Fonn, Gaelic singing workshop at Coffee and Craic, 74 Elderslie Street. Wednesday June 24: Seisean-ciùil, traditional music session, the Lismore, 206 Dumbarton Road.

### What's on

Thursday May 28: Glasgow Uist and Barra Association AGM, Lourdes Secondary School. Glasgow Sutherland Association AGM, Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, 937 Dumbarton Road, 7.30pm.

Wednesday June 3: Glasgow Skye Association AGM, Partick Burgh Hall. An Lòchran Traditional Music Session, Partick Brewing Company. Friday June 5: Glasgow Skye Association end-of-session social, Redhurst Hotel, Giffnock.

### Pub scene

Pub Bar: Thursday May 21: Session. Friday May 22: Ceol an Aire. Saturday May 23: Dodgy Ground. Sunday May 24: Martainn Skene. Islay Inn. Wednesday May 20: quiz night. Friday May 22: Black Velvet. Saturday May 23: Penny Dogs.

### Press policy

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

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

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

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

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

### Your letters

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

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

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

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

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- 7 Dancing jacket? (6)
  - 8 Leave en masse (6)
  - 9 Sown to grow (4)
  - 10 The turfing out (8)
  - 11 Connoisseur (7)
  - 13 Give the third degree or heat at a higher degree of heat (5)
  - 15 Pompous walk (5)
  - 17 Viceroy of Egypt (7)
  - 20 Move it to position (8)
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  - 23 Type of humour (6)
  - 24 New book... (6)
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- 1 ...large one (4)
  - 2 Makeshift shelter using branches and tarpaulin (6)
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  - 6 Former countryman from the western Balkans (8)
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  - 16 One who is not recognised for honour (6)
  - 18 Misshape (6)
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  - 22 Enthusiasm (4)

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**

A	B	J	E	C	T	C	L	E	R	I	C
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# breast cancer campaign

## Research that saves lives

One in two people will develop cancer at some point in their lives, according to the most accurate forecast to date from Cancer Research UK. This new estimate replaces the previous figure, which predicted that more than one in three people would develop cancer at some point in their lives.

Thanks to research, the UK's cancer survival has doubled over the last 40 years and around half of patients now survive the disease for more than 10 years. But, as more people benefit from improved healthcare and longer life expectancy, the number of cancer cases is expected to rise.

'The news that one in two people can now expect to develop cancer during their lifetime underlines the importance of prevention and early detection of all cancers, including

breast cancer, in order to prevent patient suffering,' said Dr Christopher Runchel, research officer at Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

'Cancer is not a done deal, and with breast cancer the most common cancer in the UK, these statistics bolster us in our aim to not only stop people dying from this disease but, importantly, to also focus on stopping it developing in the first place,' Dr Runchel said. Breakthrough Breast Cancer raises around £17 million a year through flagship campaigns such as Fashion Targets Breast Cancer, TLC: Touch, Look, Check, as well as its world class projects such as the Breakthrough Generations Study – the world's largest and most comprehensive study into the causes of breast cancer.

'At Breakthrough Breast



You know your body better than anyone else - you don't need any training to check for signs of breast cancer but it is advisable to be on the lookout for:

- Lumps - may not be seen, but might be felt - in the breast, upper chest or armpits.
- Skin texture eg dimpling or puckering.
- Appearance or direction of nipple.
- Nipple discharge.
- Rash or crusting.
- Unusual pains.
- Change in size or shape of your breast.
- Change in colour of your breast eg red or inflamed.

**Remember to get anything unusual checked by your doctor.**

Cancer, our Generations Study, following more than 113,000 women over 40 years, is giving us the answers we need on what causes breast cancer,' said Dr Runchel. 'With the knowledge from these types of studies, we will focus our efforts on new ways to prevent women and men getting this disease in the future.'

The charity has been instrumental in developing new breast cancer treatments, targets and tools to prevent, detect and treat the disease. Along with its supporters it has successfully campaigned for key improvements in patient care, such as the two-week wait for all breast cancer referrals,

access to new drugs such as Herceptin, chemoprevention drugs for those at high risk and continued government funding for research schemes such as the Charity Research Support Fund (CRSF).

They currently fund the work of more than 270 research scientists across the UK.



<b>ANDERSON BANKS</b> Solicitors • Notaries • Estate Agents 01631 563158 www.andersonbanks.co.uk Happy to Support Breakthrough Breast Cancer	<b>Blair Villa South</b> 01631 564813 Delighted to support Breakthrough Breast Cancer	<b>bowman stewart</b> Chartered Surveyors • Consulting Engineers 01546 606067 Proudly supporting Breakthrough Breast Cancer	<b>CAMERON AUTO REPAIRS</b> 01499 302995 Pleased to be supporting Breakthrough Breast Cancer	<b>FRANK'S mico</b> DIY & AUTOS 01631 562787 Glad to Help Breakthrough Breast Cancer Charity	<b>Manor House Hotel Restaurant</b> 01631 562087 Pleased to be supporting Breakthrough Breast Cancer	<b>Mull Hire Tools &amp; Plant</b> 01680 300422 Happy to support Breakthrough Breast Cancer	<b>R A Clement Associates</b> Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors 01631 562643 Proud to be Supporting Breakthrough Breast Cancer	<b>Scott Robertson</b> Accident Repairs 01631 569441 Happy to support Breakthrough Breast Cancer
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Aine O'Rua accepts the prize for under 13 learners choir on behalf of Lochside RC school choir 20\_21mod03



Laura Robertson picked up another three prizes during the day time competitions on Friday 20\_21mod02



Spean Bridge's Freddy Fulford, 11, won the intermediate accordion category 20\_21mod08



The trip to Fort William was worthwhile for Donald Henderson from Mallaig, whose tune on the button box saw him win the beginners' accordion competition 20\_21mod06



Morvern's Hector MacKechnie impressed the adjudicators with his singing to pick up the men's solo and traditional learners solo 20\_21mod16



Alex MacMahon of Kinlochleven high school was top of the class for advanced fiddle 20\_21mod13



Hannah Calder, 16, won the age 16-18 years girls' singing solo in both prescribed and traditional during the adult contests on Saturday 20\_21mod14



Magaidh Ward, 10, of St Brides primary school, won first prize for beginners' fiddle 20\_21mod09



Alistair MacRae, 14, of Lochaber high school, won four trophies for piping 20\_21mod11



The newly formed Lochaber district Gaelic choir won the senior choir competition in its first public performance 20\_21mod17

# Gaelic choir back in business as mòd hits all the right notes

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

LOCHABER district Gaelic choir received rapturous applause from the audience at this year's Mòd Ionadail Loch Abair (Lochaber Provincial Mòd), after its first public performance.

The newly reformed group won the senior choir competition on Saturday, the final contest of the two-day festival.

Numbers were up on last year and organisers were 'delighted' to see more adult entries.

Secretary Linda Campbell said: 'Entries were up on last year except in the piping but Lochaber pipe band was covering an event the same night so that could have been why. I was delighted to see so many entries, from the young children up to the adults. We're really hoping to see even more adults take part next year.'

Some familiar faces were seen snapping up numerous trophies including nine-year-old Laura Robertson from Fort William, who won prizes for song, conversation, recitation and chanter.

Other multi-winners were Lochaber high school pupils Martin MacKinnon and Alistair MacRae, both for piping.



Fergus Munro, 17, won the age 16-18 boys' singing solo in prescribed and traditional 20\_21mod15



Regan Rodgers, eight, was awarded the Chrissie Oliver memorial cup for fluent conversation 20\_21mod05



Right: Inverloch primary school pupil Alice Campbell, 11, came first in the intermediate fiddle contest 20\_21mod12



Laura Robertson, left, and Regan Rodgers, both of Fort William RC Gaelic medium, were joint winners of the highest points in Gaelic trophy 20\_21mod01



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## Lochaber Provincial Mod 2015: results

Fluent Solo 5-6: 1 Emma MacLeod, Bun Sgoil Mhalaig; Learners Solo 7-8: 1 Emma MacColl, Fort William RC Primary le Roinn Sgoile Ghaidhlig a' Ghearsdain; Fluent Prescribed Solo 7-8: 1 Owen MacRaidh, Roinn Sgoile Ghaidhlig a' Ghearsdain; Learners Solo 5-6: 1 Ruairidh MacDonald, Fort William RC Primary; Learners Solo girls 9-10: 1 Leah MacLellan, Lochside Primary; Fluent Solo 9-10 (boys): 1 Alexander MacDonell, Bun Sgoil Mhalaig; Fluent Traditional Solo: own choice, Under 13: 1 Elasaid Faye MacKinnon, Lochside Primary; Fluent Solo 9-10 (girls): 1 Laura Robertson, Roinn Sgoile Ghaidhlig a' Ghearsdain; Fluent prescribed Recitation 7-8: 1 Orla Morrison, Bun Sgoil Mhalaig; Learners Poetry 5-6: 1 Lily Robertson, Roinn Sgoile Ghaidhlig a' Ghearsdain; Fluent Prescribed Recitation 9-10: 1 Laura Robertson, Roinn Sgoile Ghaidhlig a' Ghearsdain; Recitation Learners 11-12: 1 Kristian Martin, Fort William Primary; Recitation Learners 7-8: 1 Katherine Rodgers, Fort William RC Primary le Roinn Sgoile Ghaidhlig a' Ghearsdain; Fluent Conversation 9-10: 1 Laura Robertson, Roinn Sgoile Ghaidhlig a' Ghearsdain; Fluent Conversation 5-6: 1 Emma MacLeod, Bun Sgoil Mhalaig; Learners Conversation 7-8: 1 Meggie Soe-Paing, Roinn Sgoile Ghaidhlig a' Ghearsdain; Reading under 13 years fluent: 1 Owen MacRaidh; Fluent Conversation 7-8: 1 Regan Rodgers, Roinn Sgoile Ghaidhlig a' Ghearsdain; Fluent Conversation 11-12: 1 Ruairidh McDonnell, Bun Sgoil Mhalaig; Fluent, prescribed solo: girls, 11-12: 1 Aine O'Rua, Lochside; Fluent Traditional own choice solo: under 10: 1 Floraidh Stevenson, Roinn Sgoile Ghaidhlig a' Ghearsdain; Learners Prescribed Solo (girls) 9-10: 1 Ellie MacPherson, Bun Sgoile Mhalaig; Fluent prescribed Solo 11-12: 1 Ruairidh MacDonnell; Learners Solo boys 11-12: 1 Finn Smith, Fort William Primary School; Learners Solo boys 9-10: 1 Stuart Petrie,

Lochside Primary; Pre School Action Song: 1 Fort William RC Gaelic Nursery; Choir - Under 13: prescribed Puirt a beul (learners): 1 Lochside Primary School; Action Song Under 13: 1 Roinn Sgoile Ghaidhlig a' Ghearsdain Primary 2,3 and 4; Prescribed Puirt a Beul: 1 Roinn Sgoile Ghaidhlig a' Ghearsdain - Primary 4, 5, 6 and 7; Clarsach: Beginners: 1 Elasaid MacKinnon; Clarsach: Intermediate: 1 Aine O'Rua; Accordion: beginners: 1 Donald Henderson, Mallaig; Accordion: Intermediate: 1 Freddy Fulford, Spean Bridge Primary; Fiddle: Beginners: 1 Magaidh Ward, St Brides Onich; Fiddle: Intermediate: 1 Alice Campbell, Inverloch Primary School; Fiddle: advanced: 1 Alex MacMahon, Kinlochleven High School; Fiddle: Open: 1 Hannah MacRae, Lochaber High School; Fiddle Group: 1 Sgoil Chiuil Loch Abar; Folk Group: 1 Sgoile Chiuil Loch Abar; Chanter Under 10: 1 Laura Robertson, Lochaber Pipe Band; Chanter 10-13 years: 1 Ronnie MacIntosh, Lochaber Pipe Band; Piping Slow Air & 6/8 March: Under 18: 1 Martin MacKinnon, Lochaber Pipe Band; March, Strathspey and Reel: Under 18: 1 Martin MacKinnon; Piping Slow Air 6/8 March: under 15: 1 Alistair MacRae, Lochaber High School; Piping March: Under 15: 1 Alistair MacRae; Piping Strathspey & Reel: Under 15: 1 Alistair MacRae; Piping Jig Under 18: 1 Alistair MacRae; 16-18 years Girls solo - prescribed: 1 Hannah Calder, Caol; Song of the District: 1 Hector MacKechnie, Savary; Ladies Solo - prescribed: 1 Fiona Cameron, Acharacle; 16-18 years boys solo - prescribed: 1 Fergus Munro, Corpach; Men's Solo - prescribed: 1 Hector MacKechnie; 16-18 years Girls solo - Traditional: 1 Hannah Calder; Men's Solo - prescribed: 1 Hector MacKechnie; 16-18 Learners Solo (boys) - Traditional: 1 Fergus Munro, Lochaber High School; Learners Solo - Traditional: 1 Hector MacKechnie; Senior Choirs - 2 songs (unison & harmony) - own choice: 1 Lochaber District Gaelic Choir.



TRIBUTE: Kingussie and Skye shinty teams played a memorial game in bespoke strips

## Fallen Festubert soldiers honoured at Skye memorial weekend events

FALLEN soldiers were remembered in Skye this weekend, with three days of commemorations to mark the centenary of the battle of Festubert.

A host of performers including Gary Innes and Allan Henderson kicked off the memorial events with a concert and conference in Portree on Friday, with stories of the part soldiers in the west Highlands played in the First World War told by broadcaster and shinty historian Hugh Dan MacLennan.

The following day Skye and Kingussie camanachd teams donned bespoke shinty strips and played together to remember former players from both teams who died in the battle of Festubert and other conflicts during both world wars.

In May 1915 the battle claimed an estimated 16,000 lives over 10 days, including Skye men and six players of the Kingussie team who had lifted the Camanachd Cup just months before.

Skye's second team also played military team Scots camanachd and Skye ladies took on Badenoch and Strathspey ladies in other memorial games.

The weekend's commemorations ended with a service at the war memorial in Somerled square, Portree, led by Scots camanachd player and army padre Hector MacKenzie, from north Skye.



WINNERS: the 1914 Kingussie team with the Camanachd Cup, just months before six players died in the First World War

## US judge donates £160,000 to care home

AN AMERICAN benefactor has donated £160,000 to a Western Isles care home to help provide new beds.

Maryanne Trump Barry, a judge in the United States, donated \$250,000 (approximately £160,000) to Bethesda care home, Stornoway, in memory of her mother, Maryann MacLeod Trump, who was originally from Tong on Lewis.

Combined with a one-off

allocation of £200,000 from the Scottish government, nine new beds can be provided, preventing bed blocking in the Hebridean hospitals. The first three years of running costs will be met jointly by NHS Western Isles and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

Councillor Uisdean Robertson, chairman of the comhairle's health and social care committee, said: 'This is good

news for older people and their families, in providing more bed spaces which will help address the delayed discharge waiting list. As well as this very welcome private donation to Bethesda, the comhairle and NHS Western Isles have worked hard to identify additional resources.'

Carol Somerville, Bethesda general manager, said: 'Since the completion of the extensive refurbishment and extension of

the nursing home, completed in 2010, the Bethesda trustees have fought hard to secure the capital and revenue funding to complete the upper floor to provide an additional nine nursing home beds for the benefit of the community. We are delighted to have worked alongside Maryanne Trump Barry in order to make a lasting memorial to her mother, who was born and brought up in Tong.'

## Three standing for estate board

THE COMMUNITY company which owns South Uist estate has announced the nominees for new directors.

There are two vacancies on the board of Sealladh na Beinne Mòire as current members Kate MacDonald and Neil Campbell were required to stand down after completing three years.

Both directors have confirmed they will stand for re-election, along with new candidate Angus A MacMillan.

John MacMillan, vice-chairman of Sealladh na Beinne Mòire, said: 'The annual elections ensure members can elect their representatives to the board of the company to deliver the aspirations of the community buyout.'

All members will receive ballot papers, which must be returned by June 10.

## Engine trouble forces landing

A PLANE made an unscheduled landing on the Isle of Lewis at the weekend.

The two people on board the twin engine aircraft were travelling from Wick to Iceland on Sunday when they had difficulties with one of the engines. The A866 road from Stornoway to Point was closed and police, fire, coastguard, ambulance and RNLI personnel attended the scene at Stornoway airport but the plane landed without incident at 7.15pm.

## Primary school set for fun night

SPEAN Bridge primary school is holding a fun night next Friday, May 29.

Activities start at 5.30pm and include a bouncy castle, face painting, body zorb, a raffle and craft stalls. There will also be a barbecue, chocolate fountain and home-baking.



It was a triple success for Lochaber high school pupil Martin MacKinnon, 15, who won the slow air march, Strathspey and reel and jigs, all under 18 section 20\_21mod10



Seven-year-old Owen MacRaidh from Fort William RC Gaelic medium won the under 13 fluent reading 20\_21mod04

## Island group seeks talks with new UK government

A GROUP working to increase the power of island councils is seeking a meeting with the new UK government to ensure previous commitments will be honoured.

Our Islands Our Future (OIOF), made up of councils from the Western Isles, Orkney and Shetland, say the powers they discussed with the previous parliament, including the possibility of passing Crown Estate management to coastal communities, should be upheld.

Angus Campbell, leader of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and member of OIOF, said: 'We did the groundwork previously with the UK government and although there has been a change in government we would expect it to continue along similar lines. It is good to hear the prime minister say the Smith commission recommendations, arising from the 'vow', will be honoured in full from the islands point of view.'

'That is important as one of the key recommendations is the transfer of revenues and management of the crown estate to the Scottish government and, as agreed by the Scottish government, onwards to local coastal communities.'



## Face-painting fun at Banavie fund-raiser

Two young brothers enjoyed Banavie primary school's fun night on Friday. Five-year-old Connal Morrison, left, and three-year-old Ciaran Morrison did their best tiger and elephant impressions after having their faces painted as the animals as part of the annual fundraiser

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The Oban Times A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## food and drink

As part of the Year of Food and Drink Scotland, the *Oban Times* has teamed up with local businesses to celebrate the wealth of variety, quality and talent in this booming industry. Over the coming months, the paper will be promoting a selection of events, stories, restaurants, pubs and producers from the west coast. Each week, one business from the sector will be the focus of this exciting new column, along with a delicious recipe, so keep an eye out and allow the *Oban Times* to provide a taste of the fantastic food and drink available in the area.

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



### This week...

Who is it?  
**The Queens Hotel**

What do they do?  
**Delightful afternoon teas, west coast seafood, Sunday roasts and homemade meals using local produce**

Where can I find them?  
**Boasting spectacular views over the bay, the Victorian Queens Hotel is located on Oban's Esplanade**



#### BEST WESTERN

The Queens Hotel

Under the canny eyes of the very experienced and well travelled Scottish executive chef Douglas Gillies (ex-Hilton group), The Queens is now offering fantastic lunches daily with a roast of the day on Sundays (served 12-2pm).

Naturally using the best local produce available not to mention west coast seafood, Douglas' team have put together menus of satisfying, homemade meals both in the Lounge Bar and Grill and, of course, in the Cuanra Restaurant.

To celebrate the hotel's history and the Scot's love of a 'wee shivery bite', the Queens is once again serving Afternoon Teas!

Using secret, old, mouth-watering family recipes, afternoon teas will be served daily between 3pm and 5pm. Traditional-style teas with smoked salmon or cucumber finger sandwiches, scones and home baking will be available.

The old Glen Campa Hotel (the former name of BEST WESTERN The Queens Hotel) was once famed throughout Argyll and the Isles for its very own Glen Campa scones, and this historic recipe is shared below.

The Queens is also offering 'Burn's own' scones served with Glayva cream, cranachan scones and, of course, strawberry cream teas in the summer months.

Non-residents and parties most welcome, please call the hotel to make a booking on 01631 562 505.

### The Queens Hotel original recipe Glen Campa Scones



- Ingredients**
- 1 lb (450g) S.R. flour
  - 1 tsp baking powder
  - 4 oz (100g) margarine
  - 2 eggs
  - 4 tblsp treacle
  - 2 tblsp syrup
  - milk
  - 2 oz (50g) raisins

#### Method

1. Rub margarine into dry ingredients to resemble breadcrumbs.
2. Beat eggs with treacle and syrup in a little milk.
3. Add to mixture along with raisins to form a stiff dough.
4. Knead and roll out on a floured board to 1/4" thickness.
5. Cut with 2" cutter and place on a baking tray.
6. Bake in a pre-heated oven at 230 degrees centigrade/ Gas 8 for 10-15 minutes.

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

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

01631 568000

## Story of William MacRae performed in new play

WILLIE MacRae - who was an anti-nuclear campaigner, SNP politician and successful lawyer, whose death prompted speculation that he was murdered by the state - will be at the centre of a one-man play coming to the west coast.

MacRae's story is performed by former journalist and playwright Andy Paterson and Edinburgh radical punk band Oi Polloi.

It is a moving and thought-provoking play, offering a reminder of darker political times, seen through the eyes of an ageing gay man.

The story has been well told over the years but Andy's version was well-received at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

It is a story of the mystery and intrigue surrounding Willie MacRae, a well-respected international lawyer who was found dying in his car on Invernesshire Glenmoriston road in 1985 with a single gunshot wound to his head, apparently fired from his own gun.

MacRae was born in Carron, Falkirk, where his father was an electrician.

MacRae edited a local newspaper in Grangemouth at the same time as reading history at the University of Glasgow, from which he gained a first-class honours degree.

In the Second World War he was commissioned into the Seaforth Highlanders but transferred to the Royal Indian Navy, in which he became a lieutenant commander and aide-de-camp to Admiral Lord Mountbatten.

After the war MacRae returned to the University of Glasgow and graduated again, this time in law. MacRae became a solicitor and an SNP activist.

On April 5, 1985 MacRae left his Glasgow flat to spend the weekend at his cottage near Dornie, Ross-shire.

He was not seen again until the next morning around 10am, when two Australian tourists saw his maroon Volvo saloon car on a moor a short distance from the junction of the A887 and A87 roads in Inverness-shire.

The car was straddling a burn about 90 feet from the road. The tourists flagged down the next car to pass, whose driver turned out to be a doctor, Dorothy Messer, accompanied by her fiancé as well as David Coult, an SNP Dundee councillor who knew MacRae. MacRae was found in

the car with his head slumped on his right shoulder, and there was a considerable amount of blood on his temple.

Another car was sent to call the emergency services. Dr Messer examined MacRae and found that he was still alive and breathing.

She noted that one of his pupils was dilated, indicating the possibility of brain damage, and estimated that he had been in that state for 10 hours.

MacRae was removed by ambulance to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, accompanied by Dr Messer. After admission it was decided to transfer him to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

At Aberdeen it was realised that the incident was more than a road accident; six hours after he had been found, a nurse washing his head discovered what appeared to be the entry wound of a gunshot.

His brain was severely damaged and his vital functions very weak. The next day MacRae's life-support machine was switched off.

Although it was ruled at the time by authorities that MacRae's death was a suicide, the official account has been disputed, some claiming that the distance from MacRae's car at which the gun was found and the lack of fingerprints on it rendered such a verdict not credible.

At the time of his death, MacRae had been working to counter plans to dump nuclear waste from the Dounreay Nuclear Power Development Establishment into the sea.

Because his house was burgled on repeated occasions prior to his death, he had taken to carrying a copy of the documents relating to his Dounreay work with him at all times. They were not found following his death, and the sole other copy was stolen when his office was burgled. No other items were taken.

After his death, a forest of 3,000 trees was planted in his memory in Israel, where he was an emeritus professor of the University of Haifa.

3000 Trees: The Death of Mr William MacRae, can be seen in Oban on June 18, Iona June 19, and Mull on June 20. Tickets are available online at [www.3000treesoban.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.3000treesoban.brownpapertickets.com).



3000 TREES: Andy Paterson gives a gripping performance in this exploration of the death of Willie MacRae

## Professional development course for Gaelic teachers seeks new recruits

STREAP, the highly successful postgraduate course for Gaelic teachers, is seeking new recruits for the 2015 to 2016 session.

The course is run in partnership between Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Scotland's Gaelic college, and the University of Aberdeen, and is fully-funded by the Scottish government.

Streap is aimed at teachers already working in Gaelic medium or with the fluency in Gaelic to move from English medium teaching. The main focus of the course is on the development of language and professional skills for Gaelic medium teaching. Teachers on the course will build on their professional portfolio throughout, and can achieve 60 credit points at SCQF level 11 if they complete Streap.

Dr Alasdair Allan, MSP minister for Scotland's languages, said: 'The Scottish government is committed to providing opportunities to those interested in teaching through the medium of Gaelic and Streap is part of a suite of courses available.'

'With a 40 per cent increase in pupils entering Gaelic medium education since 2007, we are pleased to continue to support this course and

give those attracted to this career the chance to succeed.'

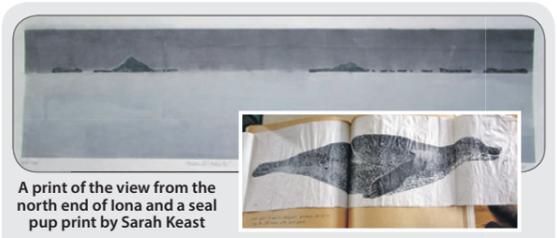
Course materials are available via the MyAberdeen online learning environment, and teachers can undertake most of the study and assessment for Streap in their homes or work-place.

There are also face-to-face meetings (three per session), where the teachers can meet their tutors and other members of the course team, and regular telephone tutorials.

Nine teachers are currently working to complete Streap this session, and applications for the new session are invited by May 29 2015 for the 2015 to 2016 session.

Siùsaidh NicNéill, the first teacher to receive the Streap post-graduate qualification when the course began in 2006-2007, said: 'I found the course to be most useful in terms of language skills, teaching methods and the confidence I gained. I would like to do a similar course in the future.'

For further information about Streap and details of how to apply, please go to: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/education/degrees-programmes/gaelic-medium-education-pgcert-436.php>



A print of the view from the north end of Iona and a seal pup print by Sarah Keast



'Beaufort wind scale 6 | strong breeze | rough' is a mixed media piece, part of the 'Close to the Edge' collection by Anna Raven

## Art on the croft, Iona

ARDGOUR artist Anna Raven is currently exhibiting at the Resipole Studios, Archaracle.

She is showing work carried out over a month long art residency at Iona Hostel last winter.

Titled 'Close to the Edge' and largely produced on the beach, her work captures the sheer elemental energy of an Iona winter storm.

John Maclean, who lives on the croft of Lagandorain and owns Iona Hostel, said: 'Given Iona's rich artistic legacy, I realised that there was a need for

practising artists to be able to come to Iona for a sustained period to pursue their art work.'

'It has proved to be a fantastic success.'

'Three visual artists came over the winter months and tell me that they gained greatly from their experience on the island.'

'Many islanders have appreciated their creative presence and the opportunity to visit the hostel to see their work.'

'Personally, I've loved having them around and they have added to my understanding of this remarkable place.'

Printer Sarah Keast also spent a month at Iona Hostel. She said: 'There was a clarity for me here - I had this absolutely clear focus on the island - when I put pen to paper things happened.'

'I leave Iona with my creativity very much refreshed and stimulated.'

Iona Hostel is also hosting and developing 'Book and Ink', a series of workshops in early spring based around bookbinding, illustration and paper art.

More information available at <http://ionaartresidencies.wordpress.com>

## Spare a penny for Guy



Guy Forteith's gig will raise money to support the hyperbaric chamber at the Oban MS Centre. 16\_121ms1

AN OBAN musician is putting on a 'mellow' concert to raise cash for a charity close to his heart.

Guy Forteith, who lives with the debilitating muscle-wasting condition of multiple sclerosis (MS) to raise awareness of the disease, and at the same time give some local performers the chance to perform.

Performers will include Robert Robertson (traditional/country

accordionist), Elissa Conway (pop/jazz), Mairi Innes (alternative), Nicky MacInnes (alternative) and Guy Forteith (alternative/country).

Guy said: 'We have some brilliant artists in this area and I wanted to give them an opportunity to actually be filmed and recorded live because some have never had the opportunity.'

It's also to raise awareness of MS so

people are actually aware of it instead of presuming someone has had a bit too much to drink.'

The gig, in aid of the MS Therapy centre (Oban) and also the MS Society, takes place on May 23 and will serve up mellow music in a very warm setting with snacks and drinks served by the MS Centre. T-shirts will also be on sale. Doors open for public at Glencruitten church hall at 8pm.

## Skye company awarded at international film festival

ISLAND-based video production company Skye Films has just returned from Riga in Latvia where it picked up the Jury Award for its film Ramon as part of Tourfilm-Riga International Tourism Film Festival.

The award was given for a short film 'Ramon' made in Barcelona last year and was made in collaboration with Spanish company Otxo Productions and regional newspaper BCN Mes as part of their 'Voices, Faces, City Spaces' series.

It tells the story of a formerly successful and well-travelled chef who became homeless after illness and is now regaining his life with the help of Hidden City Tours, dedicated to showing tourists a different perspective on the city.

The annual festival attracts entries from more than 15 countries and entries are judged by an international panel of film producers and tourism officials.

Jury member Uldis Cekulis of VFS Films said 'This was the first film I saw and it has such a powerful message it really stayed with me. It is the one film in this festival everyone should watch.'

Fiona Duncan, director of Skye Films, set up the company on the island last year with partner David Tindall after many years spent in corporate video production and marketing in Glasgow and the south of England.

Fiona said: 'We work with businesses in all sectors but particularly love tourism so this is a huge achievement for us to receive an international award in such a short time.'

'Video now is so important for companies to promote themselves but it is really hard to stand out from the crowd.'

'We hope this award will be a further boost to Hidden City Tours and encourage more visitors to support them.'



RAMON SKYE: Fiona Duncan and David Tindall with members of the production team

## WIN! A FAMILY TRIP ABOARD THE PADDLE STEAMER WAVERLEY TWO TRIPS TO GIVEAWAY



Bookings are now being taken for 2015 sailings aboard Waverley, the world's last sea-going paddle steamer. Sailing from Oban May 30 until June 2 you can be a part of a special anniversary year for Waverley! 2015 marks the 40th year that the ship has sailed in preservation. Sailing from Oban North Pier you can visit the Isles of Skye or Iona; enjoy a cruise of Loch Nevis to Inverie, steam past the Four Lochs of Shuna, Melfort, Craignish & Crinan to the Corryvreckan Whirlpool or sail round the world famous Mull of Kintyre! Don't miss the evening Castles and Ceilidh cruise with bars and restaurant open all evening! Fares start from £19. Visit [www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk](http://www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk) or call 0845 130 4647. The Oban Times has teamed up with Waverley to offer two lucky readers a family trip, for two adults and two children, aboard Paddle Steamer Waverley, selecting a trip from the following 2015 dates: Saturday May 30, Sunday May 31 (day or evening cruise) or Monday June 1.

For your chance to win, simply answer this easy question, complete the coupon and post it to The Oban Times, Waverley Comp, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by Thursday 21 May 2015.

**QUESTION: How many years has Waverley been sailing in preservation for this year?**

a) 35 b) 40 c) 45

Answer.....  
Name.....  
Address.....  
Postcode.....  
Telephone..... Email.....

Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. A family ticket consists of two adults and two children under 18 years of age. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entry coupons will not be accepted. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Waverley Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Waverley Media and associated company employees and their families. Winners will be notified by Friday 22nd May 2015. Average cost £100.



Andy Crabb and Sue Nicholson, with the unicorn picture 16\_119unicom01

## Unicorn painting helps to raise awareness of dementia

PRIMARY school children, hoping that pupils in Oban are being given the chance to adopt a unicorn as a school pet in a competition.

The winning school won't have to contact a vet for unicorn dietary advice, however, as the mythical beast in question is a painting by local artist, the late Barry Richards.

Irene Hannah, 81, donated the picture to Oban's Dementia Resource centre, having been a long-term supporter of Alzheimer Scotland.

Last year, she completed a sponsored walk when she undertook 80 miles for charity.

Andy Crabb, dementia advisor, explained: 'When Irene very kindly donated this beautiful painting to the dementia resource centre, we felt that it was such a special picture that we wanted to do something more than just hang it on the wall.'

'Together with library manager Sue Nicholson, we have come up with the idea to use the picture to raise awareness of dementia amongst local primary school children, as well as raising some much needed funds to support the centre's work.'

Oban Library has organised the writing competition for local primary school children, hoping that pupils, with the support of their teachers, will write a short story about how the unicorn forgot his name, then found it again with a little bit of help from a friend.

The winning entry will gain the painting for their school, with each entry to be accompanied by a small donation of £1 to Alzheimer Scotland.

Andy added: 'Many children now have personal experience of dementia through family connections, and this is a gentle way to introduce the idea that people who have memory difficulties, one of the primary symptoms of dementia, can continue to live full and active lives for much longer if they stay connected and have the help and support of their friends and local communities.'

'The painting is the work of much-loved local artist Barry Richards, who sadly passed away several years ago.'

'Barry was a friend of the dementia resource centre, and his daughter Amber continues to be a volunteer at the centre, so the painting has a very strong local connection.'

Anyone who wishes more details about how to enter the competition should contact Sue at Oban Library on: 01631 571 444.

## Kirsteen's services to community recognised

SINGING tutor Kirsteen Graham is one of the first members of the Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame for services to the community, after being nominated for her work nurturing young singers and musicians throughout Skye and Lochalsh.

Gaelic singer Kirsteen has imbued her pupils with a love of their native song, but outside school hours she has thrown herself into running and managing Fèis an Earraich.

A spokeswoman for Hands Up for Trad, which organises the awards, said: 'We are very lucky in Scottish traditional music to have amazing musicians and brilliant organisations. However, most of the musicians and organisations wouldn't be able to learn or operate without the help of passionate teachers, volunteers and mentors within the community.'

'These people's work (although appreciated) often goes uncelebrated, so Hands Up for Trad has decided to do something about this. We have created a new section in the Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame called services to community.'

'In 2015 we have inducted five people without whom traditional music would be a poorer place.'



Kirsteen Graham

## Cycling musician visits Skye

A CYCLING musician will visit Skye as part of a mammoth tour around the UK, travelling the whole way on his bike.

Richard Darrant will pedal up to 100 miles between gigs, carrying his guitar and ukulele to be played during performances up and down the country.

On June 14 the athletic guitarist will arrive in Portree for a concert in the Aros centre and a donation from this show, and the others, will be made to the cycling defence fund, an information and advice charity for bikers.

For more information or tickets contact the Aros centre on 01478 613750 or www.aros.co.uk.

## Competition winners

WINNERS of superb prizes from the *Oban Times*, Arran Banner, Argyllshire Advertiser and the Campbelltown Courier are as follows:

£100 CalMac: Andrew Swan, Lochgilphead.

Ideal Home Show Scotland winners were: Iain Henderson, Ibrox; Ellinor McKay, Bridge-of-Allan; Peter McCreath, Port Appin; Ross Douglas, Arisaig; H A White, Fort William.

Mrs Anne Muir, Campbeltown; Jean Miller Campbeltown; Eila Durnan, Carradale; Mrs E Kelly, Alexandria; Richard McCallum, Campbeltown.

Mrs E MacLachlan, Ardrishaig; Mrs Isabel A Sinclair, Ardrishaig; Mr J McCuaig, Lochgilphead; Catriona Ross, Cairnbaan; Elizabeth McLean Lochgilphead; Neil Leach, Wishaw; Elizabeth Kelso, Arran; Bill Roberts, Arran; Nicola Jane Donnelly, Dumbarton; Mrs Z E MacDougall, Tarbert.



FINALE: Skye accordion and fiddle club's guest performers George Mackintosh, left, and Sandy Ross

## Great evening at Skye accordion and fiddle club

THE FINAL club night of the Skye accordion and fiddle club before the summer recess was held on May 7 in the Royal Hotel, Portree in front of a large and appreciative audience.

Local players who got the feet tapping were accordionists John MacGilvary, young Erin Baker and Shannon MacLeod, Blair Douglas and Ceitidh Douglas.

Shannon also contributed on tin whistle and fiddlers taking part were Julia Rudram, Ellie MacPherson and Caerina Campbell.

The sole drummer of the night was Donald John Campbell and some excellent guitar accompaniment was provided by George Baker.

The remainder of the entertainment was ably provided by special guests, the very fine duo of Sandy Ross of Lochcarron on three-row button key accordion and George Mackintosh of Invergordon on piano.

The duo presented a well balanced programme of tunes which included pipe marches, jigs, waltzes, reels, Polkas and two-steps played in a steady and traditional style which delighted the audience.

Mr Ross expressed his admiration for Shetland music by playing a beautiful set of Shetland waltzes and Mr Mackintosh treated the audience to a fabulous piano solo.

A night of great music from local and guest players alike left everybody looking forward to the club's major annual event, the hugely popular annual Skye Accordion and Fiddle Festival which starts tonight (Thursday May 21).

Details can be found at www.skyemusic.co.uk.



A partnership between Dunbritton Housing Association, West Highland Housing Association and Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside trust has secured the funding to launch ACT Argyll in Oban and Helensburgh.

ACT Argyll will employ local people for environmental contracts, taking care of the countryside and green spaces.

Pictured are people employed by ACT Argyll taking part in countryside maintenance.

# Entertainment Guide

## Cinema

Oban Phoenix Cinema  
Community owned and run  
Tel: 01631 562905 www.obanphoenix.com

### 22 MAY 2015 - 28 MAY 2015

<b>A BUG'S LIFE (U)</b>	
Sat: 10:00	
<b>FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD (12A)</b>	
Fri, Tue: 15:30	
<b>FESTIVAL OF THE SEA</b>	
Thu: 19:00	
<b>HOME (U)</b>	
Sat: 11:50	Sun: 11:00
<b>MAD MAX: FURY ROAD (15)</b>	
Fri, Tue, Thu: 18:50	Sat: 15:40, 21:10
Sun: 16:20	Mon, Wed: 15:30, 18:50
<b>MAD MAX: FURY ROAD 3D (15)</b>	
Fri, Mon, Tue, Wed: 21:00	Sat: 13:50, 19:20
Sun: 13:00, 18:30	
<b>THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE: SPONGE OUT OF WATER (U)</b>	
Sat: 10:30 Sun: 11:10	
<b>TOMORROWLAND (12A)</b>	
Fri, Mon, Tue, Wed: 16:00, 18:10, 21:30	Sat: 12:50, 16:30, 18:20, 22:00
Sun: 13:30, 15:40, 19:00	Thu: 16:00, 21:30

### FILM SYNOPSIS

- A BUG'S LIFE - U - 90MINS**  
A misfit ant, looking for "warriors" to save his colony from greedy grasshoppers, recruits a group of bugs that turn out to be an inept circus troupe.
- FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD (12A) 119MINS**  
Stunning remake of the classic film. After her father unexpectedly dies, young Ella (Lily James) finds herself at the mercy of her cruel stepmother (Cate Blanchett) and stepisters, who reduce her to scullery maid. Despite her circumstances, she refuses to despair.
- FESTIVAL OF THE SEA U - 180MINS**  
3 short films from SAMS film maker in residence Andy Crabb to accompany the beautiful folk music of Catriona Mackay (harpist) and Chris Stout (fiddle)
- HOME (U)**  
Oh, an alien on the run from his own people, lands on Earth and makes friends with the adventurous Tip, who is on a quest of her own.
- MAD MAX: FURY ROAD (15) 120 MINS**  
Thrilling, edge-of-seat action fantasy starring Tom Hardy and Charlize Theron. In a stark desert landscape where humanity is broken, two rebels just might be able to restore order. Max, a man of action and of few words, and Furiosa, a woman of action who is looking to make it back to her childhood homeland.
- SPONGEBOB: SPONGE OUT OF WATER (PG) 92MINS**  
Delightfully zany comedy for kids and grown-ups alike. Life is dandy in Bikini Bottom for SpongeBob Squarepants (Tom Kenny) and his friends Patrick (Bill Fagerbakke), Squidward (Rodger Bumpass), Mr. Krabs (Clancy Brown) and Sandy (Carolyn Lawrence). However, when the top-secret recipe for Krabby Patties is stolen, SpongeBob finds that he must join forces with perpetual adversary Plankton (Mr. Lawrence) and come ashore to battle a fiendish pirate named Burger Beard (Antonio Banderas), who has his own plans for the delicious delicacies.
- TOMORROWLAND - 12A - 130MINS**  
Bound by a shared destiny, a teen bursting with scientific curiosity and a former boy-genius inventor embark on a mission to unearth the secrets of a place somewhere in time and space that exists in their collective memory.

## Radio

Oban FM  
Community Radio - your local radio station  
Tune in to 103.3 or listen live at www.obanfm.com  
For requests, competitions or questions please email: studio@obanfm.org.uk or call us on 01631 570057

### THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS

<b>MONDAY:</b>
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Jim Edge, 1700 Drivetime With Danni Hay, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McCluckie's Show, 2100 David Cullen, 2200 American Jukebox with Michelle
<b>TUESDAY:</b>
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show with Maggie May, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are Made of This with Ken Hunter, 1330 The Quiz with Danni Hay, 1500 Lesley Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 1900 Sounds Scottish with Archie Cameron, 2000 Highest Praise with Stuart, 2100 Elaine Lamb, 2300 Northern Soul with Gordon Covey
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Sound Scottish (repeat), 1000 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Elaine Lamb, 1700 Drivetime with Campbell and Coll, 1900 Country Meets Rock with Len & Ken, 2100 Gordon's Grooves
<b>THURSDAY:</b>
0800 Maggie May's Carousel, 1100 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drivetime with DJ Taz, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's Ceilidh, 2200 Margo Till Midnight
<b>FRIDAY:</b>
0800 Jean Ainsley Breakfast Show, 1000 Teeny and Tiny Show, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Weekend Warmup with Ian Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 1845 Sports View, 1900 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 2000 Friday Night with Innes, 2100 TFI Friday with Jim Lavin
<b>SATURDAY:</b>
0900 Maggie's Swingin' Sixties, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowther, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis
<b>SUNDAY:</b>
0900 Sunday Morning with Breege, 1100 - 1400 Allan, 1630 Archie Darling, 1800 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 1900 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 2100 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott

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## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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

**NORTH CONNELL & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SHOW**  
**Plant Sale**  
Saturday 24 May, 2.00pm  
Victory Hall Benderloch  
Perennials, Herbs, House plants, Shrubs, Vegetable plants, Bedding Plants  
Admission (includes teas)  
Adults £2 Children £1 Raffle Tickets  
Tips on how to show your vegetables!

**BEREAVEMENT GATHERING**  
Rowantree Hotel, George St, Oban  
Thursday 28th May  
11am-1pm & 5pm till 6pm  
Tel 01631 563 737  
All affected most welcome

To advertise in the **WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD**  
Telephone: **01631 568000**

To advertise in our community noticeboard call 01631 568000

## WIN A FAMILY TICKET TO FUNBOX

When the owners of The Singing Kettle decided to shut up shop, the stars; Anya, Kevin and Gary, were having too much fun to let it end there and decided to start their own show together - Funbox. Anya, Kevin and Gary aren't the only familiar faces, their furry pal Bonzo the dog joins them. He's as naughty as ever, but he does behave for his best friend Anya. Funbox's 'Fancy Dress Fun' is coming to Argyll and Bute from the 28th - 31st of May. Audience participation is still the name of the game, and everyone is invited to come in fancy dress and/or wear a silly hat. 'Fancy Dress Fun' will be touring all over Scotland and comes to Oban on Saturday 30th May at 2.00pm. Tickets available at Corran Halls, 01631 567 333, full details at www.funbox.co.uk

For your chance to win a family ticket to the Funbox show at the Corran Halls in Oban on Saturday, May 30, simply answer this easy question, complete the coupon and post it to The Oban Times, FUNBOX Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by Monday 25 May 2015.

**QUESTION: What is the name of Funbox's naughty dog?**  
A) Bingo, B) Bonzo, C) Bernard

Answer.....  
Name.....  
Address.....  
Postcode.....  
Telephone.....  
Email.....

Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. A family ticket consists of two adults and two children. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entry coupons will not be accepted. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. Winners will be notified by Tuesday 26th May 2015.





A giant octopus puppet, a mascot for this year's Festival of the Sea, needs a name, and budding scientists are being given the chance to win a special prize by coming up with one. The octopus was created by puppeteer Nicky Graziano, wife of SAMS scientist Marcello, and is based on a deep sea octopus called *Cirrothoema murrayi*, which was discovered by SAMS' founding father and influential marine scientist John Murray. Nicky has been working with primary schools in the Oban and Lorn area in preparation for the festival's Sea Monster Cabaret and their imaginative creations will be on show at the Corran Halls event. For your chance to win a scientific experience during a visit to SAMS submit a name for our mascot to [info@oceanexplorercentre.org](mailto:info@oceanexplorercentre.org)

# WHAT'S A NAME?

# FESTIVAL

# OF THE SEA

## AND THE ISLES



Take a dive with Basking Shark Scotland as part of this year's Festival of the Sea

**2015** ORGANISED BY **ocean EXPLORER CENTRE**

### Thursday, May 28th

#### CAREERS DAY & ENVIRONMENT

**FAIR Corran Halls, Oban: 10am - 6.30pm**  
Our marine careers day invites young people, parents, teachers and those looking for new opportunities to meet employers showcasing careers in the marine sector from marine sports and aquaculture to marine and wildlife tourism, from art and design to marine science as well as the Royal Navy. The environment fair offers hands-on workshops and displays on topics such as ocean energy, marine animal conservation, litter and more. At 10.30, 11.30 am, 2 pm and 3 pm Shane Wask talks about his career in basking shark conservation.

#### DIVE THE WRECK OF THE SS BREDA

**Dunstaffnage Marina: 6pm**  
Only a few minutes from Dunstaffnage marina, between 12 and 30m below the sea surface, lies the wreck of the SS Breda, teeming with marine life. This dive is led by Dive Oban & Argyll and open to qualified and fit divers age 16+. You may bring your own equipment or hire from us. Please book at [dive@oceanexplorercentre.org](mailto:dive@oceanexplorercentre.org) T: 07975 723140 £20 per person.

#### CHRIS STOUT & CATRIONA MCKAY live: SONGS OF THE SCOTTISH SEA

**Oban Phoenix Cinema: 7pm**  
Attend the premiere concert of the collaboration between renowned Scottish musicians Chris Stout (fiddle) and Catriona McKay (Scottish harp) with SAMS' filmmaker-in-residence Andy Crabb. The event will include short films exploring aspects of our marine environment with original scores composed and performed by Stout and McKay together with other songs from their extensive repertoire. Support from Oban's own Gaelic Choir! This event and the residency project were made possible thanks to investment by Creative Scotland. Tickets from Oban Phoenix Cinema: £10 (£5 concession)

### Friday, May 29th

#### SCHOOL SEA MONSTER CABARET

**Corran Halls, Oban: 10am - 12noon**  
Loch Ness has its sea monster and we wanted each classroom in our region to have one too! For the Sea Monster Project our primary school children learned about life in the deep sea, designed and built sea monster puppets and produced their own performances for the Sea Monster Cabaret: Be dazzled by re-enactments of sea monster legends, mini puppet skits and sea monster songs. Teachers, children, parents, friends! All are invited to admire the sea monsters of Oban, Lorn and the Isles!

#### GEOLOGICAL WALK AROUND KERRERA

**From Gallanach ferry slip: 10am - 4pm**  
Join SAMS geologist John Howe on an informal guided walk of ca 5 miles on rough footpaths and beaches from the ferry slip to Gylen Castle and back across Kerrera. Learn about rocks, past climates and the geological evolution of the area. Please book in advance by phone 01631 559257 or email [John.Howe@sams.ac.uk](mailto:John.Howe@sams.ac.uk). Tour free but £4.50 adult, £2 child for return ferry.

### Saturday, May 30th

#### FILM SHOW: FINDING NEMO

**Oban Phoenix Cinema: 10.30am**  
This family classic CGI spectacle follows the eventful journeys of two fish - Marlin and his son Nemo - who become separated in the Great Barrier Reef when Nemo is unexpectedly taken far from home. Pay at cinema.

#### THAI COOK & EAT SEAFOOD SPECIAL

**Corrie Cook School, Craobh Haven: 2pm**  
Complete novice or competent cook: enjoy a relaxed afternoon in the inspirational Corrie Cook School creating and savouring delightful seafood dishes with our Thai tutor, Eddie. Please book in advance on 01852 500305 or e-mail [info@corriecooschool.com](mailto:info@corriecooschool.com). Ticket price £55 including glass of wine

### SOUNDSCAPES @ SKERRYVORE DECADE

**Craft & Culture Tent, Mossfield, Oban: 3pm - late**  
Being immersed in a music festival, explore what the sea sounds like to dolphins, seals, fish and other sea creatures. Be creative and record a festival of the sea soundscape and song. Scientists from SAMS will be on hand to share their enthusiasm and knowledge of the science of underwater sound.

### Sunday, May 31st

#### SEAFOOD DAY & OCEAN CRAFT

**FAIR Ocean Explorer Centre, Dunbeg: 10am - 4pm**  
Conclude the Festival of the Sea with our 'Toast the Coast' day celebrating the area's exquisite seafood, aquaculture and marine inspired art and crafts at the Ocean Explorer Centre. Cookery demonstrations, music and facepainting create a relaxed party atmosphere. From 2.30 - 4 pm celebrate the official launch of Crùbag at the Ocean Explorer Centre. Crùbag makes beautiful textiles inspired by the oceans and marine science. Meet the designer, admire the scarves, cushions and napkins and find out about this innovative new Argyll company. With live DJ Aaron Fortson.

#### DIVE INTO HISTORY

**Oban Pier: leaving 11.30am & 2pm**  
Two hard boats take divers, snorkelers and day trippers to Duart Point. There you can choose to dive the historic wreck sunk 1653, snorkel in the shallows or visit the wreck room at Duart Castle. Each trip will last about 2 hours. Ticket price: £20 for divers & day trippers; £30 for snorkelers as kit is provided. A medical disclaimer will be required for snorkelers. Age group: 12 upwards for day trippers. Book in advance with Lochaline Dive on 01967 421627.

#### CANOE TASTER SESSIONS

**Oban Bay: 11am - 4pm**  
Open to everyone from age 3. Allow our qualified Stramash instructors to introduce the basic canoeing skills and then take a tour around the bay. £10 per family of 4 (2+2). £4 per adult, £2 per child. Sign-up available on the day.

### 22 - 31 MAY: ART EXHIBITIONS UNDER THE SEA IN ARGYLL: AN ART EXHIBITION BY ARGYLL SCHOOL PUPILS

**CalMac Ferry Terminal, Oban & Ocean Explorer Centre, Dunbeg (during opening hours)**  
Local school pupils from around Argyll have been taking part in a Festival of the Sea art competition. They have created jaw dropping and thought provoking collages representing their local marine environment. While all submitted artworks are amazing, the three deemed the best are on display at the CalMac Ferry Terminal in Oban. The many other entries are on display at the Ocean Explorer Centre from 25 - 29 & 31 May between 10 am and 5pm.

#### CHALLENGER - AN EXHIBITION BY ALICE STRANGE

**SAMS reception, Dunbeg: Mon-Fri 9am - 5pm**  
The Challenger Expedition 1872-76 laid the foundations of the academic discipline of oceanography. The Royal Navy ship HMS Challenger was modified for scientific work, with laboratories for natural history and chemistry. The ship sailed from Portsmouth, England on 21 December 1872 and travelled nearly 70,000 nautical miles over four years, surveying and exploring. The result was the 50 volume *The Report of the Scientific Results of the Exploring Voyage of HMS Challenger* during the years 1873-76 that took 4,000 previously unknown species. This exhibition takes its inspiration from the groundbreaking Challenger Expedition and is on display at SAMS, an organisation founded in 1884 by John Murray, naturalist of the expedition and main editor of the reports. The SAMS library holds a complete set of original Challenger Reports. [www.obanseafestival.org](http://www.obanseafestival.org) [www.facebook.com/obanseafestival](https://www.facebook.com/obanseafestival) [twitter.com/obanseafestival](https://twitter.com/obanseafestival)

## ALIENERGY

Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency

Thursday 28th May, Corran Halls, Oban 10am - 6.30pm

"Energy of the Sea" Workshop at the Environmental Fair and a stand at the Careers Fair. Come along and see us.

Proud to support the Festival of the Sea

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### ENJOY A PIECE OF HISTORY

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

#### Sailing from OBAN North Pier

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

June 2: Return by inclusive coach from Campbeltown



Book online at [waverleyexcursions.co.uk](http://waverleyexcursions.co.uk) call 0845 130 4647 or Book at Oban Information Centre

# Farming

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## Scottish minister pledges to work with First Milk

FIRST Milk and the Scottish government have agreed to work together to get the dairy industry on a more stable footing.

Rural affairs secretary Richard Lochhead met CEO of First Milk Mike Gallacher last week, following the announcement by the farmer-owned co-operative that it was going to further cut the price it would pay per litre for milk as part of its 'turnaround' plan for the business.

Hardest hit were Bute farmers, who from June 1 face a further reduction of 1.2 pence per litre, with dairy farmers in Kintyre looking at another 0.2ppl cut.

Mr Lochhead said, following the meeting: 'Whilst I welcome the efforts of the company to get on to a more stable footing, I explained I was disappointed with the recent price reduction announced to all dairy farmers, and in particular with the 1.2ppl reduction to Bute dairy farmers. I have urged First Milk to

reverse this reduction as soon as it is able to do so.

'I also confirmed that we expect to provide the £400,000 grant funding award for development of Campbeltown Creamery imminently.'

He said that as part of the Scottish government's dairy plan to get the industry back to 'a place where it can look forward to a brighter future' the industry needed to be streamlined and First Milk was a part of that.

'If everyone works together as an industry I am confident that the Scottish dairy sector will see market benefits both at home and overseas.

'If we all work together to do our bit - retailers, shoppers, the public sector, processors and farmers - we can look forward to a day when the top sellers of dairy in Scotland are the ones made in our country.'

National Farmers Union Scotland representatives also met Mr



Rural affairs secretary  
Richard Lochhead

Gallacher, as well as chairman Sir Jim Paice and directors Willie Campbell, Jim Baird and Paul Flanagan and James Withers of Scotland Food and Drink, Paul Grant of the Scottish Dairy Growth Board and James Graham of Scottish co-operative body SAOS.

Allan Brodie, NFUS president,

said: 'It was clear that, as First Milk's new CEO, Mr Gallacher has a clear grasp of what is required to turn the company around and return a viable milk price back to its members as quickly as possible.

'He has recognised the issues that exist across the whole business and we accept that some of the fundamental problems he has identified will take some time to address.

'For First Milk members, the current price they are receiving remains wholly unacceptable and unsustainable.'

Mr Gallacher has been called to give evidence before the Scottish Parliament's rural affairs, climate change and environment committee on Thursday, May 28.

The committee is concerned about the impact the further cut in milk prices will have on fragile rural communities and on the sustainability and recovery of the dairy industry in Scotland.

## Island dairy farmers press for transport costs

SCOTTISH minister for transport and islands Derek Mackay MSP met with dairy farmers on Bute on Monday afternoon to discuss subsidised ferry transport for milk tankers as a way of assisting beleaguered milk farmers on Bute and Gigha.

Speaking from Rothesay, NFU Scotland vice-president Andrew McCornick said: 'Dairy farmers welcomed the opportunity to meet Mr Mackay, in order to discuss the increasingly difficult situation for dairy producers in Bute and Gigha and the significant difference that subsidised ferry transport for milk tankers might make to the future of the dairy industry on these islands.

'We welcome Mr Mackay's support in principle for putting temporary measures in place to



NFU's vice president  
Andrew McCornick

provide half of the cost of ferry fares for First Milk tankers until

the planned review period in September.

'However, it is clear that the stumbling block will be finding the required funding in order to bridge this gap, believed to be in the region of £35,000.

'NFUS will, therefore, continue discussions with Mr Mackay and the secretary for rural affairs Richard Lochhead in the hope of securing this vital funding to part-remedy the increasingly desperate situation for dairy producers in Bute and Gigha.

'There will be on-going frustration amongst milk producers on these islands that this matter remains unresolved and our dialogue with ministers will start again tomorrow (Tuesday) with renewed vigour,' added Mr McCornick on Monday.

## Much of the CAP reform needs to be simplified, says NFUS

STATEMENTS made by EU agriculture and rural development commissioner Phil Hogan on simplifying the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform have been welcomed by the National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS).

Although the first steps have been taken, the NFUS maintains that much more remains to be done.

The comments come following a meeting which took place in Brussels last week, between EU agriculture ministers, where a list of priority actions that could help ease the burden of the new rules for 2015 was agreed.

Included in the list is the commission's intention to allow member states to only map declared Ecological Focus Areas (EFAs) rather than all potential EFAs.

This will reduce a huge burden

on the Scottish government, a move strongly supported by NFUS Scotland as a precursor to opening up new EFA options in the future.

The union believes strongly that it would be extremely unfair for payments to be withheld from those farmers who have done their best to comply when rules were either unclear or not provided in the first place.

While recognising the focus on greening is necessary the NFUS says simplification must not stop there - other aspects of the direct payments regulations and their implementation can be simplified without altering the policy intention or disturbing fragile finances.

Some complexity has been necessary to provide flexibility to tailor the CAP to Scottish conditions

NFUS Scotland's chief execu-

tive Scott Walker said: 'The efforts made this year by Scottish farmers to comply with the new greening requirements while at the same time adapting to a completely new support system must be recognised.

'We will be working hard to make sure no farmer, who has attempted to deliver greening under the guidelines that so far have been given, loses out.

'We need strong recognition from the government that it will adopt that approach.

'For Scotland we need a further package of simplification actions to cover elements not just greening, but also the voluntary coupled support schemes, aspects of the administration and control system, cross-compliance requirements and penalties, and for changes to be in place as quickly as possible.'

## Time running out for farmers to apply farm payments

FARMERS in the West Highlands and islands who have not already applied for farm payments using the single application form (SAF) are being urged to do so as soon as possible.

As the June 15 deadline looms, Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thomson said that farmers should take advantage of the improvements to the Rural Payments and Services website to get on and fill in their forms.

Mr Thomson said: 'Local farmers have just over one month left to complete their

SAF forms. 'We already know this task has been made more difficult by the complexity of the new policy, so people should not leave it till the last minute to apply.'

Rural affairs secretary Richard Lochhead said: 'This is the first year of the new payment system for the more complex Common Agricultural Policy and, although delivery has been challenging, we are now seeing real improvements to the system's operation.

'While the new system is different from the previous one

that farmers will be familiar with, it offers significant benefits to farmers, ensuring they get paid what they are due and is designed to minimise errors and penalties.

'We are aware that some farmers and agents have experienced issues and we have a dedicated team working to ensure all problems are sorted quickly and we have extended the deadline for the submission of applications by one month to allow for more time to get used to the system and rules of the new Common Agricultural Policy Programme.

'In addition, we recognise that that online applications do not suit everyone and paper applications have always been welcome.'

Mr Thomson added: 'It is good news that the Scottish Government has taken action so that the performance of the Rural Payments and Services system has improved - particularly the speed at which it runs.

'Scotland, along with 15 other EU countries, has extended the deadline for farmers and crofters to submit their SAF - but, if possible, farmers should beat the last minute rush and apply now.'

## Scottish beef event brings out the experts

A MAJOR event for the beef industry is being held next week, with beef farmers from the West Highlands joining those from across the country at Blairgowrie in Perthshire.

Organised by the Scottish Beef Association and sponsored by the Clydesdale Bank it is the first national beef event and the venue is one of Scotland's most renowned commercial beef and sheep farms with a suckler herd of 1,000 Limousin cross cows and 2,000 Blackface and Scotch Mule ewes, run over four units.

Host farmers at Mains of Mause, Peter and Pat Alexander, and son, Murray, are recognised for the first class management of their highly productive livestock enterprise and willingness to adopt innovation and new technology.

The aim of the event is to demonstrate all the latest technologies for sustainable beef production against the background of reduced support for beef production as a result of CAP reforms.

'Beef prices are under pressure and the emphasis is moving



BEEF EVENT: Scott Henderson, Scottish Beef Association, Peter and Pat Alexander, host farmers, Robert McNee, chairman of the organising committee, Murray Alexander, farm manager and David Hannon, head of agribusiness, Clydesdale Bank

relentlessly towards technical efficiency,' said SBA chairman, Scott Henderson.

'Beef producers need to take

a long, hard honest look at their costs and performance of their cattle.'

Features of the event will in-

clude a farm tour by tractor and trailer with grassland management and winter feeding likely to be issues of major interest.

Recent innovations on the farm include the introduction of AI, selection of breeding heifers on the basis of pelvic size and the adoption of radio technology to determine optimum time of service and give advance warning of calving.

'The aim is to achieve a higher percentage of calves born from cows and heifers put to the bull,' said Mr Alexander.

The event will be officially opened at 10.30am by Ian Gallo-way, chairman of Scotbeef, and other features of the day will include 100 trade stands, 16 breed society exhibits, demonstrations on electric fencing and bull selection, a seminar and auction sale of 350 Limousin cross cattle from the farm which is scheduled to start at 4 pm.

Mains of Mause was the venue for NSA ScotSheep in 2002 and in recent years has hosted the International Limousin congress and the annual British Grassland Society tour.

## Market reports

### OBAN

IN OBAN on May 12 Caledonian Marts Ltd sold 189 store breeding and OTM cattle, 534 store hoggets and feeding ewes.

Bullocks (94) averaged 251ppk selling to 300p per kilo for Simmentals from Aird Farm, Balvicar and to £1,060 for a Limousin from Achnacreebeg, North Connel.

Heifers (75) averaged 221p per kilo selling to 263p per kg for Limousins from Tyree, Benderloch and to £950 for a Limousin from Achnacreebeg, North Connel.

Bulls (6) averaged 207p per kilo to 268p per kilo for Simx from Back of Keppoch, Arisaig and to £660 for Simmentals from Back of Keppoch. Heifers (75) averaged 2283p to 298p per kg for two 225kg Limousins from Achnacone, Appin and £790 gross for two 315kg Limousins from Ardachy, North Connel.

Leading Prices - Bullocks - £ per head: £1,060, £1,050, £1,030 Achnacreebeg; £1,010 Salum (Tiree) £1,000 Achnacreebeg; £980 Achnacreebeg; £950 Ardachy; £940 Tyree; £900 Back of Keppoch and Shenavallie.

Leading Prices - Heifers - £ per head: £950 Achnacreebeg; £890 Salum; £880 Achnacreebeg; £850 Homestead; £800 and £790 Tyree; £760 Achnacreebeg; £700 Upper Large.

Leading Prices - Bullocks - p per kilo: 263p Tyree; 251p Achnacreebeg; 249p Keills Croft; 246p Tyree; 241p Achnacreebeg; 240p Back of Keppoch; 238p Upper Large; 233p Aird; 231p Sithean.

Seventeen OTM cattle sold to 156p per kilo for a Simmental from Dunach Estates, Oban and to £890 from the same home sale average 123p per kilo.

Leading prices: 141p Kilbride; 136p Sithean and Kilbride; 125p Saulmore; 123p Sithean; 121p Pennyngown. Store hoggets sold to £87 for a pen of Suffolks from Ardshellach, Ard-maddy, which was closely followed at £81 for a pen of Blackface from Kilbride, Balvicar.

Leading prices: Mule Hoggets - £80 + £78 Ardshellach; Swale Hoggets - £80 Kilbride; Texel Hoggets - £77 Lorn.

Feeding ewes sold to £108 for Beltex from Acharonich, Ardfern closely followed at £100 for Texels from Tyree, Benderloch. Leading prices: Suffolk - £80 Bard-caldine Home Farm; Cheviot - £78 Shenavallie; Mule - £79 Upper Large; Suffolk x - £78 Tyree; Black-face - £68 Pennyngown; Tups sold to £112 for Texels from Dunach Estates, Oban.

### STIRLING

CALEDONIAN Marts Ltd on Monday May 18 at Stirling sold 567 store cattle and eight young bulls. Bullocks (268) averaged 236p per kg selling to 300p per kg for 275kg Charolais from Balkeachy, Girvan and to £1200 for a 620kg Simmentals from Mawmill Farm, Kinross. Heifers (271) averaged 216p per kg selling to 281p per kg for nine 190kg Aberdeen Angus from Lawhead of Stobwood, Forth and to £1,100 for an Aberdeen Angus from Bowridge, Carluke.

Bulls (8) averaged 235p per kg selling to 290p per kg for British Blues from Grieves Bungalow, Fife and to £750 for a Simmental from Burnbrae, Gartocharn. Black & White Bullocks (28) averaged 163p per kg selling to 189p per kg from Knockraich, Fintry and to £770 from Dyke, Slamannan. Leading Prices - Bullocks - £ per head: Up to 250kg - £690 and £620 Balquhaston; £560 Burnbrae; 251-300kgs - £825 Balkeachy; £815 Alton; 301-350kgs - £885 Dyke; £880 Burnbrae; 351-400kgs - £1010 East Kerse; £950 Camreggan; 401-450kgs - £1105 Ardgate; £1100 Easterton; 451-500kgs - £1190 Easterton; £1170 Ardgate; 501-550kgs - £1170 Bowridge and Ardgate; £1160 Easterton; 601-650kgs - £1200 Mawmill; £1190 Bowridge. Leading Prices - Heifers - £ per head: Up to 250kgs - £535 Lawhead of Stobwood; £520 East Lochlane; 251-300kgs - £720 Balkeachy; £645 East Gartfarren; 351-400kgs - £910 East Lochlane; £900 Camreggan; 401-450kgs - £1,000 Inchie; £985 East Lochlane; 451-500kgs - £1,020 East Lochlane; £990 Lyleston; 501-550kgs - £1,040 East Kerse; £1,030 Netherton; 551-600kgs - £1,100 and £1,090 Bowridge. Leading prices Bullocks p per kilo: Up to 250kgs - 295p and 287p Balquhaston; 254p Burnbrae; 251-300kgs - 300p Balkeachy; 291p

East Gartfarren; 301-350kgs - 264p Dyke; 262p Burnbrae; 351-400kgs - 277p East Kerse; 249p Knockdow; 401-450kgs - 254p Ardgate; 247p Easterton Graham; 451-500kgs - 245p Easterton (Graham); 243p Ardgate; 501-550kgs - 223p Easterton; 222p Easter Dullatur; 601-650kgs - 194p Bowridge; 193p Mawmill.

Leading Prices - Heifers - p per kilo: Up to 250kgs - 281p Lawhead of Stobwood; 269p Balkeachy; 251-300kgs - 253p Balkeachy; 223p East Gartfarren; 301-350kgs - 237p Knockdow; 232p Spouthead & East Gartfarren; 351-400kgs - 236p Knockdow; 230p Skeoch; 401-450kgs - 237p East Lochlane; 232p Inchie; 451-500kgs - 213p Easter Dullatur; 212p East Lochlane; 501-550kgs - 206p East Kerse, 202p Netherton; 551-600kgs - 198p Bowridge.

### STIRLING

UNITED Auctions on Thursday May 14 at Stirling sold 3,431 prime sheep, including 207 spring lambs, averaging 207p/kg and 2449 hoggs selling to an average of 173p/kg and 775 ewes and rams. Spring Lambs (207) - Harpercroft (Suff) £120; Little Raith (Tex) £111; Craigend (Char) £90. Spring Lambs (207) - Smallholm Mains (Suff) £26p; Smallholm Mains (Tex) £23p; Craigend (Char) £10p.

Hoggs (2449) - Carriston (Tex) £114; Balgillo (Chev) £97; Milton (Suff) £90; St Mungoes (Btex) £92; Upper Kidston (BF) £92; Fullarton (Mule) £87.50. Hoggs (2449) - Harviesmailing (Tex) £93.50; Over Kellie (Chev) £88.50; Doune Farms (BF) £96p; Wallaceton (Btex) £200p; Fullarton (Mule) £179p.

Ewes (775) - West Bank and Outerston (Tex) £128.50; Catcune (Suff) £120.50; Meadowbank (Mule) £108.50; Bordland (Btex) £105.50; Balnacree (Leic) £105.50; Parks of Keillour (Chev) £103.50; West Gormack (BFL) £98.50; Wallaceton (Char) £95.50; Dalowie (Chev) £93.50; Noblehouse (Cross) £88.50; Outerston (BF) £77.50. Rams - Oakbank (Suff) £165; Bordland (Tex) £133; Linnhead (Zwa) £111.50; Bamff Farms (Lly) £111; Milkieton (Chev) £107; Head of Moulin (BF) £89.

## Ash dieback found in West Highlands

THE rapid spread of ash dieback (Chalara fraxinea) in Scotland this year has reached the West Highlands, within the Forestry Commission's designated sheltered area.

The incurable disease has been confirmed in woodlands on the Morvern peninsula and in Glen Nant, near Taynuilt, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserve.

The sheltered area, covering most of the Highland and Argyll and Bute council areas as well as the Outer Hebrides and the island of Arran, was established in 2013 as part of the Commission's Chalara Action Plan, in an attempt to delay establishment of the disease in the area's mature woodlands.

Scotland's environment minister Dr Aileen MacLeod said: 'The sheltered area's comparative remoteness offered some prospect of delaying the arrival of the disease but, regrettably, this now appears not to have been the case.

Health Advisory Group, to assess what more can be done to promote adaptive action and to consider the appropriateness of current actions within the sheltered and buffer areas.'

Such adaptive actions could include identifying trees with lower disease susceptibility, as well as collecting ash seed to help preserve a wide gene pool for future use, the Forestry Commission has advised.

By the end of last month, 37 infections had been recorded within the buffer area, which lies between the sheltered area and the south and east of the country.

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## Commission awaits new crofting chief

THE MATTER of a new convener for the Crofting Commission is a decision for Scottish ministers, according to vice convener and commissioner Colin Kennedy of Coll.

The board met for the first time last week, following the resignation of convener Susan Walker.

Mr Kennedy, who chaired the meeting, said: 'Susan has decided to move on and the commission respects that decision.

'The commission wants to wish Susan well and we are grateful for the contribution she has made during her time as both commissioner and

convener. 'The next steps for appointing a new convener is a matter for Scottish Ministers and we will discuss this with the crofting minister when we meet her later this month.

'I would like to assure all crofters that it is business as usual and we will continue to focus on the primary function of the Commission, which is the effective regulation of crofting,' he added.

Mrs Walker was appointed by Scottish ministers and was one of nine commissioners on the board, six voted for by crofters and three appointed.

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## Tyre safety tips keep you on track this bank holiday

MILLIONS of people will be out in their cars this bank holiday weekend, heading off for a holiday or visiting family and friends. And with the Spring bank holiday leading straight into the May half term for some school children, even more families will also be using the road networks for week-long staycations or journeys to airports for trips abroad.

Estimates say that somewhere between 14 and 18 million people will use the UK's road networks this weekend alone. To help avoid any unwanted delays, and to keep loved ones safe as travellers take advantage of the extended break, TyreSafe – the UK's tyre safety organisation – advises that its quick tyre safety tips are used.

'Punctures and tyre-related incidents are the second most common cause of breakdowns according to the AA,' said TyreSafe chairman Stuart Jackson.

'We're advising drivers to use these tips because we know anyone travelling this weekend will want to arrive safely and on time.'

### Tyre Tips

#### Check your tyre pressure:

- Check your recommended pressure using the owners' manual. It can also be found on a sticker in the fuel flap or inside the driver or passenger side door
- You can check your pressure and inflate your tyres at your local fuel station
- Remember: if you are carrying more passengers or luggage, the manufacturer's recommended pressure will often change

#### Check your tread depth:

- You must have at least 1.6mm across three-quarters of the tread around the entire circumference of the tyre

- Insert a 20p coin into the main tyre grooves at several places around the tyre
- If the outer band of the coin is visible your tyre may be illegal and you should have it checked by a specialist
- Remember: if your tyres are illegal you can face a fine of up to £2,500 and three penalty points for each illegal tyre

#### Check the condition:

- Inspect the tyre for signs of wear or damage such as cuts, lumps, bulges, exposed cords or sidewall damage
- Remove any stones or other items embedded in the tread
- If you spot any wear or damage to your tyres you should have them checked by an expert

#### Check your spare:

- If you have a spare wheel don't forget to check its pressure, tread and condition
- If your spare tyre is for temporary use only, remember that speed restrictions will apply
- Remember: if you have a spare and intend to change it yourself, make sure you have a functioning jack and tyre brace

For more information about how to perform pre-travel tyre safety checks, including a range of easy-to-understand advice, videos and animations, visit [www.tyresafe.org](http://www.tyresafe.org) or download the Tyre Safety Companion App.

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## Brick and brickie shortages threaten housing targets

THE INCREASING shortages of bricks and bricklayers will threaten future house building plans, warns the Federation of Master Builders (FMB).

Commenting on the results of the FMB's latest State of Trade Survey for Q1 2015, Brian Berry, chief executive of the FMB, said: 'How to solve the housing crisis has been one of the hot topics during this General Election campaign and we welcome the renewed focus on house building by all the main parties. Although each party had its own distinct plans for how this UK government should boost house building, all of them agreed it had to be a priority. However, the results of our latest State of Trade Survey expose continuing threats which could undermine their plans.'

Mr Berry continued: 'Half of all construction SMEs – that's one in two firms – are finding it difficult to recruit bricklayers. 62 per cent of firms are waiting for up to two months for new brick orders while almost one quarter are waiting for up to four months. An additional 16 per cent are waiting for a staggering six to eight months.'

'The brick manufacturers are working hard to reignite their kilns which were mothballed during the recession. However, in the meantime, let's make sure small local house builders are not overlooked in favour of large house builders when it comes to manufacturers meeting requests for new bricks.'

He concluded: 'In terms of skills, the ever-growing lack of bricklayers is causing concern. Compared to this time one year ago, more than twice the firms are reporting difficulties recruiting these tradespeople. In the short term, many SME house builders may have to rely on migrant labour. To ensure we have an ample supply of skilled workers in the future, this government must ensure it sets the right framework in terms of apprenticeship funding and apprenticeship standards.'

'Also more construction firms – large and small – need to willingly engage with training. After all, there's strong evidence to suggest that training apprentices is good for business.'



## CIH Scotland responds to Scottish Government consultation on a new tenancy for the private rented sector

THE CHARTERED Institute of Housing (CIH) Scotland has welcomed Scottish government moves to make private renting more secure for tenants.

In its submission to the government's second consultation on a new tenancy for the private rented sector, the organisation said it supported the decision to remove the 'no-fault' ground for repossession (where landlords can reclaim their property simply because the fixed term of a tenancy has ended). But it added that more detailed guidance will be needed on the evidence required by the First Tier Tribunal, which is taking over responsibility for resolving disputes between private tenants and landlords.

Head of policy and public affairs David Ogilvie said:

'The current system needs to change and we support the move to make private renting more secure so tenants can have more certainty about their home. More and more people are living in the private rented sector which means we need to get it right if we want to deliver a housing system that works for everyone.'

He added: 'It's important that the new system strikes the right balance between the needs of tenants and landlords. We need to see much more detail on how the tribunal system will work in practice and while we agree with the proposal to limit the frequency of rent increases, we think more work needs to be done on the implications of area-based rent limits. We would like to see a more detailed proposal on this.'

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 Building Plot- with planning permission in principle for a 3 bedroom dwelling house.  
 The sale area extending to 0.21ha in total has uninterrupted views over Loch Linnhe.

**Guide price £195,000**  
 Viewing strictly by appointment through Bell Ingram Tel. 01631 566 122




Bell Ingram, Boswell House, Argyll Square, PA34 4BD  
 01631 566122  
[oban@bellingram.co.uk](mailto:oban@bellingram.co.uk)

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# west coast recruitment

A rewarding job with child friendly hours!



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Please apply by email with full C.V and covering letter to: [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)

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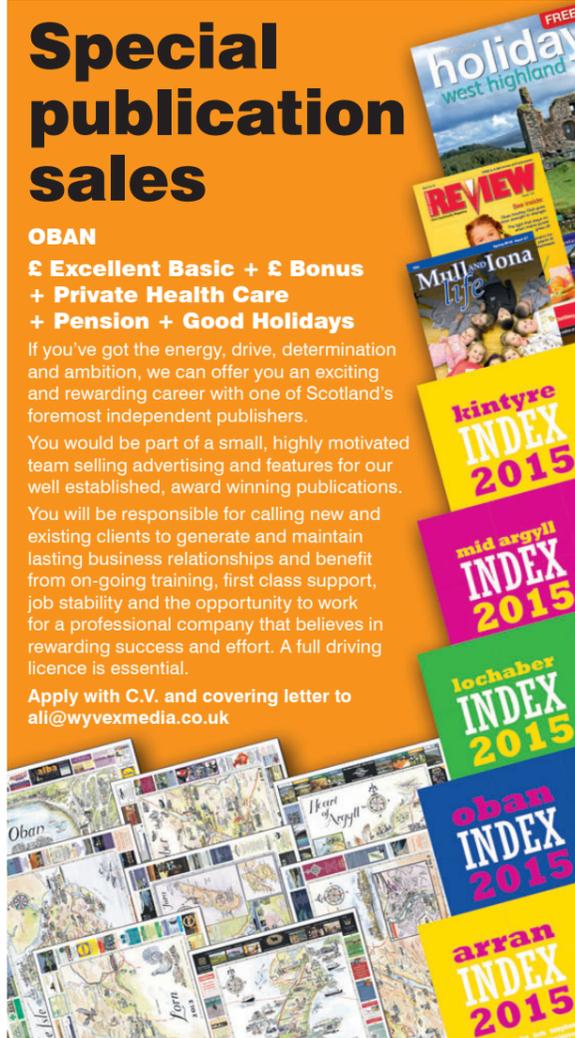
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If you've got the energy, drive, determination and ambition, we can offer you an exciting and rewarding career with one of Scotland's foremost independent publishers.

You would be part of a small, highly motivated team selling advertising and features for our well established, award winning publications.

You will be responsible for calling new and existing clients to generate and maintain lasting business relationships and benefit from on-going training, first class support, job stability and the opportunity to work for a professional company that believes in rewarding success and effort. A full driving licence is essential.

Apply with C.V. and covering letter to [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)



## WYVEX MEDIA

### PART-TIME GRAPHIC DESIGNER

A part-time graphic designer is required to assist our production team with advert design and page layout.

Based in Oban you would be part of a small, highly motivated team who produce our well established, award winning publications.

Experience of In-design and Photoshop desirable.

Please apply by email with full C.V and covering letter to: [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)



### Manager - BID4Oban Ltd

£competitive

Full time

Since 2012, BID4Oban Ltd (Business Improvement District) has been very successful delivering on a wide range of objectives to develop and improve the local area. An opportunity has now arisen for an experienced and highly motivated Manager to continue this work on behalf of the town's businesses and other stakeholders.

Together with the team and supported by a Board of Directors, your drive, passion and enthusiasm will ensure the ongoing success of the BID programme in Oban. Critically, you will also play a key role in securing BID for a second five year term in 2017.

We require a strong completer-finisher with excellent management and communication skills and wide ranging business experience to continue to deliver the range of objectives in line with the business plan.

If you think you have the skills and experience we are looking for, please e-mail your CV and covering letter to: Graeme Bass, Chairman, BID4Oban, [gbass@clarkthomson.co.uk](mailto:gbass@clarkthomson.co.uk). If you would like further information about this role, please contact Graeme Bass, tel: 07872 131073 or David McGregor, Vice Chairman, tel:07552 655651. All enquiries will be treated in strictest confidence.

The closing date for applications is Monday 1st June 2015.

**Caledonian MacBrayne**  
Crewing (Guernsey) Limited

CalMac Ferries Limited has a requirement for:

### Seasonal Port Assistants x3

£9.24 per hour  
20 hours per week  
Fixed term contract available until 25 October 2015  
Oban Ferry Terminal

Applications are invited for the position of Seasonal Port Assistant based at the Oban Ferry Terminal. Reporting to the Port Manager, you will need a flexible approach to your day-to-day responsibilities. Your duties will include mooring operations, customer enquiries, sales of passenger/vehicle tickets, cash handling and control of passengers and vehicles embarking and disembarking from vessels.

You must be computer literate, with excellent verbal and written communication skills. You are expected to have a flexible approach to working as shift and weekend work will be involved.

You must be customer focused, have a clear understanding of the customer interface and have a proactive approach to customer care.

The successful candidate must be able to commute to the Oban Ferry Terminal on a daily basis. If you are interested in this position, please respond by emailing your CV quoting reference number 727-SB no later than 26 May 2015 to:

[vacancies@davidmacbraynehr.co.uk](mailto:vacancies@davidmacbraynehr.co.uk), or mail to  
**David MacBrayne HR (UK) Limited**  
Ferry Terminal, Gourock, PA19 1QP  
t: 01475 650144

Caledonian MacBrayne Crewing (Guernsey) Limited is an equal opportunities employer.

It's easy to apply for jobs through local newspapers.

People find regional press recruitment sections easier to use than any other media.

**ACHA**  
Argyll community housing association

### HR & Training Assistant

Ardrishaig  
Salary £17,097 - £18,889  
35 hours per week  
Interviews will be held in Ardrishaig on 8th June 2015

### Customer Services Assistant

Oban  
Salary £8549 - £9445 pro rata  
17.5 hours per week  
Fixed term to 30th September 2015  
Interviews will be held in June (Wed PM, Thurs & Fri)

**Closing Date for both posts: 12 noon on Friday 29th May 2015**

For further details and to apply visit our website at [www.acha.co.uk/recruitment](http://www.acha.co.uk/recruitment)  
If you are unable to access the website contact the Recruitment Team:  
Tel 01546 605917 or email [recruitment@acha.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@acha.co.uk)

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

### Part Time Work Available on Creel Boat

TRAINING PROVIDED  
Tel 07887 885559

**A M Transport (Campbeltown) Ltd** are looking for an experienced LGV Class 2 Driver for work within the Argyll area.

Duties to include multidrop deliveries of palletised freight and collections from our customers.

Guaranteed minimum 45 hours per week, Monday - Friday, with occasional Saturday.

Apply in writing to A M Transport (Campbeltown) Ltd, Building 120A, Machrihanish Airbase, Campbeltown, PA28 6NU or email [am.transport@talktalkbusiness.net](mailto:am.transport@talktalkbusiness.net) with a copy of your CV.

**Fyne HOMES LTD**

### TECHNICAL SERVICES OFFICER

Covering Mid Argyll & Kintyre  
Full time post of 35 hours Salary Scale: Grade 5  
£27,303 - £32,939

Fyne Homes are currently recruiting for a Technical Officer to be based in either the Lochgilphead or Campbeltown office and will involve travel to cover the areas of Mid-Argyll, Kintyre. Due to the nature of this role a current driving licence and use of a car for business purposes is required.

You will provide an effective and efficient property management service, as part of a small team within Fyne Homes and work closely with the contractors supplying services under our framework agreements.

Key tasks include the day to day management of reactive, cyclical and capital investment programmes along with working alongside our Design Teams delivering our high quality new build development programme.

Having several years practical knowledge and experience in the property maintenance/building sector would be beneficial. We are looking for experience which incorporates both working in a trade, having undertaken supervision of a team and taking full responsibility for delivering specific projects.

Much of the work involves communicating directly with tenants and other members of the public in a front line role. You will require good interpersonal and communication skills, a strong commitment to customer service and the ability to work as part of the team and on your own initiative within laid down objectives and targets. A knowledge and understanding of legislation and statutory responsibilities is necessary as is an ability to use current communications technology, such as smartphone, tablet etc to process workload.

In return for the above we offer an attractive salary and good conditions.

Application packs can be obtained by contacting  
Fyne Homes Ltd, 81 Victoria Street, Rothesay, Isle of Bute PA20 0AP  
Tel: 0845 6077117 e-mail: [postmaster@fynehomes.co.uk](mailto:postmaster@fynehomes.co.uk) or visit our website - [www.fynehomes.org.uk](http://www.fynehomes.org.uk) to download a pack.  
**Closing Date: Tuesday 2nd June 2015**  
Fyne Homes Ltd believes in promoting equality and diversity

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

**THE ROCKFIELD CENTRE**  
Vacancy: Freelance Oral History Project Co-ordinator

Oban Communities Trust are seeking a self-starting, dynamic individual to co-ordinate their first oral history project. 'Memories Matter' - a time to share our stories'. Work will be undertaken on a freelance/self employed basis.

Short-term contract - 12 hour per week for 25 weeks.  
Rate of pay £10 per hour  
**Deadline for application: 29th May 2015**  
Job description can be accessed on our website <http://www.obancommunitiestrust.org.uk/work-with-us/> telephone 07762756072 or [info@obancommunitiestrust.org.uk](mailto:info@obancommunitiestrust.org.uk) for more information

This project is supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fun and Argyll & Bute Council 3rd Sector Grant  
Oban Communities Trust Co No SC483489. Charity No SC045503 Registered Address: Linnidhu House, 19 Stevenson Street, Oban PA34 5NA

**Argyll Resources Group**

### Accounts & Administrative Person

We are looking for an enthusiastic and customer oriented person with experience of accounts and administration, to join our busy office in Oban.

The role will be varied and involve routine accounts processing, telephone and reception duties and basic administration, as well as other ad hoc administrative tasks as required.

This is a temporary post which may become full time. We offer a competitive salary and the opportunity to develop and participate in the expansion of a long established and well respected local business

To apply please send a full up to date CV together with current salary details to Christopher Jay, Financial Controller, using the address details below  
Christopher Jay, Argyll Resources, Torran Gorm, Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4PL  
Tel: 01631 566370 or  
Email: [christopher@argyllresources.co.uk](mailto:christopher@argyllresources.co.uk)

**J.M. BRECKENRIDGE**  
Driver/Storeperson  
Oban & Fort William  
Apply to Mr C McDonald. Telephone 01631 563 711  
Permanent full time position  
Full clean driving licence required  
• Good rates of pay

**Independent Timber Crane Operator.**

A&F Grant Ltd are seeking a suitably qualified and experienced Independent Timber Crane Operator. The hours of work are 40 per week, Monday to Friday, with additional overtime available. The successful applicant will be required to load and unload round timber on to flat and skeletal trailers.

Applicants should hold full CPC, Digi Tacho Card and Full HGV Class 1 licence. First Aid certificate, and any other relevant vocational qualifications are desirable. Additionally applicants must be able to demonstrate a sound knowledge and understanding of crane mechanisms and equipment, have good interpersonal and communication skills, a proven track record of punctuality and attendance and an ability to work with limited supervision.

Excellent salary available to the successful candidate.

If you are seeking a change and would like to join the team at A&F Grant Ltd - email [Natasha@afgrant.co.uk](mailto:Natasha@afgrant.co.uk) for further information.

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

## Oil expert brings industry leaders to west coast sites

AN INDUSTRY expert has led an international team to the west coast to assess the viability of offshore oil.

Dr Nick Schofield of Aberdeen University, a lecturer in Petroleum geology, has been in the area with international energy companies OMV, Dong, JX Nippon, Statoil and ENI.

Welcoming the news, Chic Brodie MSP, who last year lodged Freedom of Information requests that uncovered the Ministry of Defence had blocked a potential oil boom in the Firth of Clyde

during the 1980s, said: 'I am delighted to note that petroleum geology experts from both academia and industry are investigating the potential for oil in the inshore basins along the west coast of Scotland.'

'With the right support, Scotland's oil and gas industry has a bright future - and with a strong team of SNP MPs holding the Westminster establishment to account, we can guarantee that support is delivered and that the interests of the sector simply can't be ignored in the House of Commons.'

# New island planes unveiled

TWO new planes, which will fly between Glasgow, Campbeltown, Tiree and Barra, have been unveiled by the Scottish government.

The 19-seater Twin Otter DHC6-400 planes will service the public service obligation (PSO) routes from later this year.

Minister for transport and the islands Derek Mackay said on Monday, when the planes were unveiled at Glasgow: 'The aircraft will come as a welcome sight to the remote communities that rely on these services to keep them connected.'

'The new planes mean our PSO routes will continue to be reliable and attractive to travellers.'

'The purchase of our own aircraft will encourage more competition

for the next contract to operate the PSO routes.

'That contract has been enhanced, with more flights and better timings to offer local residents and businesses, as well as tourists, an improved service.'

'The next stage in the process is for the planes to go through the certification process so the crews can familiarise themselves with them.'

Inglis Lyon, managing director of Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL), said: 'We are delighted that these new purpose-built aircraft are now ready to serve the communities of Barra, Campbeltown and Tiree.'

'These new aircraft represent a significant public investment in these lifeline routes and

in the communities they serve.

'With their vibrant livery, these aircraft serve as a reminder of the important role that aviation plays in supporting social and economic development across regional Scotland and we look forward to working with the new operator to ensure these routes continue to go from strength to strength.'

The new contract is due to be awarded at the end of July, to start in October when the new winter timetable begins and will include two return trips a day, Monday to Saturday, to Barra, Campbeltown and Tiree and Sunday services to Campbeltown and Sunday services to Tiree and Barra to operate all year round.



FLYING RIGHT: one of the new Twin Otter aircraft purchased by the Scottish government for Campbeltown, Tiree and Barra

# public notices

### CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

Mr R MacLennan & Mrs C R MacLennan  
3 Kirkapoll, Tiree  
0.075 ha - Site for a dwelling house  
4.86.55793

Mr N MacDonald & Mrs S MacDonald  
2 Bohuntin, Kilmoinivaig  
0.19 ha - Site for a dwelling house  
4.86.56151

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper.

Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

**First registration of a croft**  
Donald MacFadyen JNR has registered their croft 47 Port Charlotte, Kilchoan on the Crofting Register held by the registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by February 8, 2016. Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is AO550.

**Updated Registration of a Croft**  
Mrs Elizabeth Connolly has registered her croft, 2 South Cuil, Duror of Appin on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 5 February 2016.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is A0933.

**FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT**  
Mrs Catherine Livingstone has registered her croft ¼ 104/105 Caol, Banavie, Corpach on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 13th February 2016.

Details of the registration can be found at www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home. The croft registration number is C1074.

**Proposed sub-let of a Croft**  
Lynn Cameron is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to sublet the whole croft at 1 Bonawe Crofts, Taynuilt to Christina Emsley of Taynuilt for 10 years.

If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin road, Inverness, IV3 8NW (email info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

### NOTICE OF DECISION SCOTTISHPOWER RENEWABLES (UK) LIMITED ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 (AS AMENDED) THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2000 (AS AMENDED) TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED) MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 THE MARINE WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2007 (AS AMENDED)

Further to the notice of an application for consent to construct and operate a tidal generation station in the Sound of Islay, the Sound of Islay Demonstration Tidal Array (central grid reference 143683E, 667551N), with a maximum generating capacity of up to 10 MW, comprising of up to 10 tidal turbines.

Notice is hereby given that the Scottish Ministers have granted ScottishPower Renewables (UK) Limited:

- consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989;
- a direction under section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) that planning permission for the ancillary onshore development be deemed to be granted; and
- a marine licence under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010.

to deposit, construct and operate the Sound of Islay Demonstration Tidal Array.

Copies of the section 36 consent and section 57(2) direction decision letter with conditions, the EIA consent decision and the marine licence can be obtained from:

The Scottish Government, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory,  
375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB  
Or by email to ms.marinelicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Or on the Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team website:  
http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/scoping/SoundofIslay

Copies of the decision letter with conditions, the EIA consent decision and marine licence have been made available to Argyll and Bute Council to be made available for public inspection during normal office hours by being placed on the planning register.

**GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE**  
OILFAST LTD of Nethan Street, Motherwell, ML1 3TF is applying for a licence to use GKM Motors, 15a Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, PA34 4HD as operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 0 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council  
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

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

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

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
15/01274/FUL	Smithy Cottage 30M North East of Kenmore House Kingairloch Ardgor Fort William	Change of use to house and alterations and extensions
15/01483/FUL	Land 2405M SE of White Corries Ski Centre Kingshouse Glencoe	Installation of new REB (building) and some minor cabling work to connect to existing small mast at White Corries (Meal A Bhuiridh), Glencoe. Located off A 89
15/01586/FUL	Land 60M South West of St Anthony's Argyll Road Fort William	Erection of house and detached garage (rebuild)
15/01631/FUL	Land 25M West of Queens Cottage Kilchoan	Proposed erection of 3no Terrace Housing units and associated drainage

Time period for comments is 14 days  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council  
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL  
CAOL AND LOCHYSIDE FLOOD PROTECTION  
PUBLIC CONSULTATION 25th May**

**Kilmallie Free Church, Glenpane Street, Caol  
Drop in between  
2p.m. to 4p.m. or 6p.m. to 8p.m.**

The latest flood mapping of the area will be available as well as illustrations of a preliminary design of the flood protection scheme for Caol and Lochyside. Representatives from the Council and our flooding consultant will be there to discuss the plans and answer your questions.

Please come along and tell us what you want for your community.

The Highland Council, Project Design Unit, Drummuie, Golspie, Sutherland, KW10 6TA

**CROFTING COMMISSION  
COIMISEAN NA  
CROITEARACHD  
PUBLIC HEARING**

A Public Hearing will be held by the Crofting Commission into the application by Hamish Morrison to decroft the whole of the croft at Strachurbeg, Strachur.

The Hearing will take place in the Strachur Memorial Hall on Wednesday, 3 June 2015 at 2pm and anyone interested may attend. A statement of the facts and relevant issues may be obtained by writing to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin road, Inverness, IV3 8NW (email info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

**Proposed sub-let of a Croft**  
Isla Macfarlane is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to sublet the whole croft at 3 Bonawe Crofts, Taynuilt to Christina Emsley of Taynuilt for 10 years.

If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin road, Inverness, IV3 8NW (email info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert.

**Oban Times  
PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Benderloch  
and N. Connel  
Drama Club  
AGM**  
Thursday 25th June  
2015  
7.30pm  
Club Hut, Keil  
Farm, Benderloch  
All welcome

**Oban Times  
PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Oban Times  
PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Oban Times  
PUBLIC NOTICES**

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @  
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk  
Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

**PLANNING**

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

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

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/00940/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage and formation of vehicular access	Land At Beadoun Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Tobermory Area Office
15/01077/PP	Erection of shed for agricultural and timber operations (log processor, wood chipper, pallet rapper), formation of plant room to facilitate 2 biomass boilers and formation of vehicular access	Beinn Deas Croft Glencruitten Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
15/01145/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle 12/00879/PPP (Site for the erection of dwellinghouse)	Land South Of Bramble Cottage Calgary Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6DQ	Tobermory Area Office
15/01193/PP	Erection of 4 ancillary accommodation units	Land East Of Crossapoll Farm Crossapoll Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute	Tiree Area Office
15/01201/PP	Installation of antenna and 5 dishes on existing telecommunications mast, erection of ground based cabinet and ancillary works	Glengorm Telecommunications Mast Glengorm Road Glengorm	Tobermory Area Office
15/01219/PP	Erection of 20 metres high meteorological mast for a temporary period of 24 months	Landfill Site Glengorm Road Glengorm Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Tobermory Area Office
15/01272/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse.	Land East Of Achabealaidh North Connel Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 10Z	Sub Post Office Connel

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

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/01123/PP	Installation of replacement windows	The Pier Cafe Pier Road Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6NU	Tobermory Area Office

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

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

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/01036/PP	Formation of storage shed (retrospective)	Land North West Of Ballimory Cottage Portnahaven Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Portnahaven
15/01143/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land Adjacent To An Curran Cottage Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Port Ellen

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

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/01047/PP	Installation of replacement windows from white aluminium to white uPVC	Bowmore House School Street Bowmore Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA43 7JS	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay
15/01231/LIB	Alterations to visitor centre and packing room including conversion of packing room to office suite	Bruichladdich Distillery Bruichladdich Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA49 7UN	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

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

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL  
(QUEENS PARK PLACE, STATION ROAD AND RAILWAY STATION ACCESS ROAD, OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2015**

On Monday 18th May 2015, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order under Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, which will make it unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle, with the exception of emergency services vehicles, through the entire length of Queens Park Place, Station Road and Railway Station Access Road, Oban in order to permit the holding of Charities Day on or near those roads.

The restrictions, which shall be effective when indicated by signs, will be in operation between 0600 hours and 1800 hours on Saturday 6th June 2015.

Alternative Route: There is no alternative route.

Jim Smith, Head of Roads and Amenity Services, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD

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**Thank you**  
Campbell Anderson

I would like to thank all those who sent numerous gifts, cards and good wishes on the occasion of my 80th birthday.

I would also like to thank the 'Boys' in the band for great music and all who attended the party in Brander Lodge where an excellent meal was provided.

**BIRTHS**

**GRAY - MACFARLANE** - Caitlin and Cameron are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Julia Catherine May MacFarlane on May 2 at RAH Paisley. Second grandchild for David and Pamela and Cameron and Sine. Thanks to all midwives at Oban and Paisley.

**LIVINGSTONE** - Stuart and Claire are delighted to announce the safe arrival of baby Isla on April 26, 2015, a little sister for Caya, Abbie and Rowan. Thanks to midwives Debbie and Gillian and all at Oban Maternity Unit.

**MARRIAGES**

**GRAY - LEACH** - At Oban Parish Church on Saturday, May 16, by Rev Dugald Cameron, Kirsten Gray, eldest daughter of Pamela and David to Andrew Leach, eldest son of Helen and Andrew. A wonderful day, love and congratulations from all the family.

**DEATHS**

**BOWMAN** - Passed away peacefully at home after an illness borne with dignity and grace, Ian, beloved husband of Mary, loving Dad of Douglas and Ian, dear father-in-law of Jenny and Mairi and devoted papa to Elizabeth, Ruth, Andrew, Laura, Katherine, Rosie and Johnnie. He loved and was loved. Funeral service was held at Tobermory parish church on Tuesday May 19, 2015, thereafter to Tobermory Beadoun Cemetery.

**CAMERON** - Peacefully, with his family by his side in Moss Park Care Home, on Monday, May 11, 2015, Kenneth (Kenny KK Cameron) aged 93 years, a much loved husband of Florence and loving dad of Kathryn, Kim and Denise. Special Papa of 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren, a dear brother of Jean Bettridge and the late Patricia Simpson, a fond father-in-law and friend to many. Funeral Service was held on Monday, May 18, 2015 in Nether Lochaber Parish Church. The family have been greatly comforted by the many messages, cards, letters and beautiful flowers they have received and want to express their sincere thanks to all those who have shown support in this way. Thanks also to all who cared for Kenny especially to Dr. John Wallace. Grateful thanks to Nether Lochaber Parish Church and the Rev. Christopher MacRae for his comforting service; to Scott Greenlees of John McLellan Funeral Directors for his compassionate handling of the funeral arrangements and to McDonald Brothers florist for the gorgeous flowers. Finally thanks to the Four Seasons for the exceptional refreshments. A total of £501.75 was collected and will be donated to Moss Park Nursing Home and Crossroads Lochaber.

**CHISHOLM** - Peacefully, surrounded by his family on Monday, May 18, 2015, George Chisholm 'Old Timer' (retired joiner). A loving and much loved brother of Pat, Agnes and the late Jim and Bill. Also a dear uncle to Flora, Cameron and Mariel. Funeral Service will be held on Saturday, May 23, 2015 at 12 noon in St. John's RC Church, Caol. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired to Macmillan Nurses and Moss Park Nursing Home may be given at the Church door. Enquiries to John McLellan Funeral Directors, Dudley Road Fort William Tel. 01397 702128.

**CLARK** - Elizabeth Ronald, nee Cowan, (Rona), passed away peacefully, in her 100th year, on May 16, 2015 at Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, formerly of Lynn Court, Oban, beloved wife of the late Alan Watson Clark, mother of the late Graham and Kenneth, nana to Alison, Alan and Morvern and seven great-grandchildren. Cremation to be held at Ayr Crematorium, on Friday, May 22 at 3.30pm.

**GIBSON** - Suddenly at home, on Saturday, May 16, 2015, aged 50 years, John Robert, (Gibby), son of Rosina and the late Gordon Gibson, brother of Jacqueline and Linda, brother-in-law of Rod, uncle of Erin, Kyle, Ashleigh and Meghan. Funeral will take place on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at St. Conan's Kirk, Lochawe at 1.00 p.m. thereafter to Dalmlenny Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations if desired, to Oban Hospice.

**MACDOUGALL** - Lachlan (Lachie), Cathcart, Glasgow. Glasgow police sergeant, retired, Mid Argyll, Camanachd, suddenly at home, May 7, 2015. The funeral will take place at the Linn Crematorium, Glasgow on Friday May 22 at 11.00a.m.

**McCORMICK** - Mary McCormick, Blackrock, Islay, passed away on May 20, 2015. Much loved by Sheena, May and Donald and her four grandchildren, Andrew, Ruairidh, Mairi and Niall. So sorely missed.

**McDOUGALL** - Peacefully on Friday, May 15, 2015 at F.V.R.H., Andrew (Andy) Cameron, aged 91 years, of Bridge of Allan, Stirling, formerly of Pulpit Hill, Oban. Loving husband of the late Mary, father of the late Martin and Susan, much loved grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral service will be held at Falkirk Crematorium on Wednesday, May 27 at 2.30pm to which all family and friends are respectfully invited.

**McLEAN** - Suddenly at the Western Infirmary Glasgow, on May 15, 2015, Annie McLean aged 92 years, formerly of Balephetrish, Tیره.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**JOHNSTON** - Yvonne, John, Eilidh and Janine sincerely thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness and support following our recent tragic loss of our precious son, brother and cherished uncle to Lois - John Harry Trivett Johnston (John Boy). Thank you to everyone who travelled from near and far to pay their respects and to Rev Robert Brookes for his uplifting service. £958.86 was raised from donations for Robin House Childrens Hospice. Special thanks to the Emergency Services who attended at accident. John Boy forever in our hearts x

**MACCALLUM** - Neil, Mairi and Elizabeth of the late Barbara McLean MacCallum (nee Hart), would sincerely like to thank all family and friends for their many kind expressions of sympathy, cards, flowers and visits. Many thanks also to the Doctors, Nurses and Staff at Bowman Court for their excellent care, attention and friendship for Mum. Billy McClymont Funeral Directors, Rev Joyce Watson, Brendan, Marilyn and the staff at the Keel Row. Finally thank you to all who paid their respects at the church and graveside. The sum of £300 very generously donated has been given to Alzheimer Scotland Action on Dementia.

**MACCORQUODALE** - Dougie and Jacqui would like to thank everyone who attended the celebratory service for Scott on Monday, May 18, 2015. Heartfelt thanks to all our family, friends and neighbours for their love and support. Thanks to staff of HDU and Ward B, Lorn & Islands Hospital, Port Appin Surgery, District Nurses, Macmillan Nurse Team and all everyone involved with the Learning Disability Team, Oban. Grateful thanks to Duncan Gunn, Appin, Rev Jeff McCormick, Rev Margaret Miller and Appin Parish Church and Hall committees for all their hard work and excellent service.

**MEMORIALS**

**CAMERON** - In loving memory of a dear wife, mother and grandma Nina, who died May 20, 2011. - Iain and family, Jura.

**CAMPBELL** - In loving memory of our dad and grandad Alasdair, who died May 18, 1988. Always in our thoughts and sadly missed.

- Lorne, Kathy, Alasdair, Christine, Kirsten and Harry, Eriskay and Blairgowrie.

**GALBRAITH** - In loving memory of Jimmy, who died on May 23, 2014, Joan, who died on May 27, 1998 and James, who died on May 6, 2011. We will always love you and cherish our memories of you. - Christine, Valerie, Colin, Sue and all their families.

**MACKINNON** - Precious memories of a dear mother and nana Duncannina, who passed away on May 20, 2007 and dear father and grandfather Hugh, who passed away April 6, 1985. Your presence we miss Your memory we treasure Loving you always Forgetting you never. Also remembering dear loved ones gone before and after.

- All our love Elizabeth, Iain, Iona and Ewan.

**MACKINNON** - Loving memories of our dear Auntie Dunkie who sadly passed away on May 20, 2007. Always in our thoughts. - The Omand Family, Tیره, Renfrew and Lewis.

**MACLEOD** - In loving memory of my husband and our dear dad and papa Duncan, who died May 24, 2014. Love you and miss you forever. - Doreen and family.

**McGUNIGAL** - In loving memory of my beloved son Sandy McGunigal, who died May 23, 2010. Remembering you is easy We do it everyday It's the heartache of losing you That never goes away. Love always. - Dad, sisters, nieces and nephews.

**NICOLSON** - In loving memory of our dear father and grandfather Donald, who died May 22, 1980. Also remembering our dear brother and uncles Joseph (Joe), who died April 30, 1987 and Alister, accidentally drowned September 16, 1965. Time passes memories stay Loved and remembered everyday. - Sadly missed by all the family.

**NICOLSON** - In loving memory of Katie a dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, who passed away May 21, 2010, also Donald a dear father, grandfather and great-grandfather, who passed away August 13, 1987. Always in our thoughts Sadly missed. - Inserted by your loving family at Spean Bridge and Fort William.

**STEWART** - Peacefully at the Lynn of Lorne Care Home, Benderloch, on May 22, 2014, in her 83rd year, Isobel, daughter of the late Duncan and Kate MacFarlane, sister of Flora and the late Cathy, dearest wife of the late James Stewart and beloved mother of Gordon and the late Norma. Always in our thoughts. - Inserted by the family.

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**Meeting space to support those suffering following bereavement**



Lynda Burgin and Graeme Pagan, who are establishing a group to support others who have been affected by loss

A MEETING space for people who have been bereaved will offer a safe place to talk - or not - says a former Oban solicitor.

Graeme Pagan was bereaved in recent years when his wife, Heather, died and following this co-wrote a

book about bereavement. He has now joined with Lynda Burgin who recently lost her husband.

Graeme said: 'We do not want anything formal so we are suggesting a casual get-together.'

'Lynda and I have both

been bereaved in recent years. We are inviting others who are still seriously affected by their losses so we can support each other in our loss.'

'Anyone who is similarly affected will be very welcome and there is nothing they will

have to do. 'We would just like to have them with us to talk, or not to talk, as they choose.'

The meeting is next Thursday, May 28, in the Rowantree hotel between 11am and 1pm and from 5pm until 6pm.

**New Moderator makes time for Argyll Convention**

ORGANISERS of the Argyll Convention invited Moderator Designate Angus Morrison, now Moderator in full, of the Church of Scotland to speak at their annual general meeting.

But little did they think the former Oban man would have the time, it being just days before the Church of Scotland General Assembly.

But they were delighted when he agreed to speak at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls in Oban last month.

A former pupil of Oban High School, Angus returned to the town in 1979 to become a minister. Edinburgh, Stornoway and Milnathort beckoned, but he returns to his native town as often as possible.

Being Moderator of the Church of Scotland is a major task, but he has not let being busy obscure the church's purpose.

He wants more people to read the Bible, and people to read the Bible more. He was keen to support the Argyll Convention, an annual event begun in 2013 that brings international speakers to Oban to explain and apply the teachings of the Bible.

The new Moderator's talk was entitled 'Bible Reading - God Speaking'.

He spoke about how 'The Book' had influenced him from his youth, and recommended reading through it every year.

Archie McPhail, chairman of Argyll Convention, said: 'He called it 'a love story' and suggested we will only understand what God is saying to us if we read the Bible in that light.'

'We wish him well for his term of office, and invite all and sundry to gather round the Bible and its teaching at the Argyll Convention this coming August.'

Last year it brought visitors who had never been to Oban before.

This August the main slots are provided by one of Scotland and America's greatest Bible teachers - Sinclair Ferguson, and the vicar of an important 'student' church whose forbears came from Oban - Ailsidair Paine of Cambridge.

They are joined by representatives of Care for the Family and Christians Against Poverty from August 4-6 at the Argyllshire Gathering halls.

**Volunteers roll up sleeves at St Conan's**



CLEAN KIRK: Volunteers from the Friends of St Conan's Kirk at the recent working weekend

AN ENTHUSIASTIC group of volunteers got on their gloves and took out their brushes and cleaning clothes over a recent weekend and set to cleaning St Conan's Kirk.

Spring cleaning jobs over May 16-17 included window cleaning, woodwork polishing, dusting, a bit of gardening, painting and clearing unwanted vegetation.

The kirk is now sparkling and will continue to welcome the many visitors this summer who pass through to enjoy Walter Campbell's architectural masterpiece,

as well as the programme of events over the next few months.

The trustees of the kirk, located in Loch Awe village, have the enormous task of raising around £1 million to repair damage to the kirk's roof.

The Friends of St Conan's Kirk was established around a year ago to support the kirk's trustees by promoting the kirk as a tourism and events venue, as well as in the upkeep of the church.

See www.stconanskirk.org.uk for more information about the fundraising.

**Thought for the week: Keep your eye on the ball**

'KEEP your eye on the ball' is an instruction which any golfer or batsman ignores at their peril.

Concentration is paramount and eye and brain co-ordination imperative in order to achieve hitting the ball into next week.

Walking along the shores of the loch with my dog, she was down in typical collie style, eyes intently concentrating on the ball in my hand, looking for the

tell tale signs of when and where I would throw it before dashing off in anticipation.

However, before I got that far, a friend walking towards us, stopped to stroke Bonnie, his face no more than a few inches from her.

She never batted an eyelid, not even a flinch, her eyes fixed intently on the ball.

That made me think of how easily I can be distracted, at times, from tasks I have set

myself, stopping one thing, starting another until in the end nothing is completed to my satisfaction.

In life, we may look to others whom we admire, taking advice and guidance from them.

But none of us are perfect, all prone to making mistakes and being distracted by this world's temptations.

In the book of Hebrews, we are told to 'run with perseverance the race marked

out for us Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end'.

His eyes are always on us - he even knows how many hairs are on (or not on) our head, we are told.

I have found that to do anything that is meaningful and worthwhile, I need to fix my eyes on Him.

Try it...you won't fail.

Dr Stuart Chalmers

**WEDDINGS**



MUNRO - MACCOLL

On Friday, May 8, 2015, Sandy, elder son of Margaret and Sandy, Arinagour, Isle of Coll, and Deborah, younger daughter of Janet and Alastair, Portuairk, Ardnamurchan, were married in Portuairk by Registrar, Mr Eric MacKenzie. Congratulations and love to them both and to little Maisie.



MITCHELL - BLACK

Gemma Joan Mitchell and Donald Callum Black, were married on March 7, 2015 at Kilmore Kirk, Oban by Rev D Cameron. Reception was held in The Royal Hotel. We would like to thank all our friends and family for their generous gifts, best wishes, love and support in helping make our wedding day such a special one. Thank you all so much. Donald and Gemma. Photographer - Mr Kevin McGlynn

**The Oban Times**

& West Highland Times

THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsagents every week

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# No silverware for Oban Saints this season

St Joseph's FP	2
Oban Saints	0
Jimmy Marshall Cup - semi final	

SAINTS relinquished their grip on the Scottish Amateur Football League Jimmy Marshall Trophy at bogey ground Millburn Park, Alexandria last Wednesday evening. Despite a change of dressing room and warm-up end, a sluggish opening 20 minutes denied Saints a third consecutive cup final appearance and culminated a trophy-less end to the season for the Oban men.

Injury and holidays ruled out Dougal Graham and Scott Maitland respectively, however, Jamie Graham returned to take Dougal's place in defence.

With those exceptions manager Iain Jackson named the same squad that had beaten Haldane United in Balloch just four days previously.

The home side took the lead in the fourth minute when a mix-up between Craig MacEwan and Lewis Cameron allowed St Joe's danger man Ryan Holms to make headway up the right flank before picking out a well-timed run into the box by Gary Redpath who, under no challenge was able to steer a header past Saints keeper Thomas McCulloch.

Worse was to follow after just 11 minutes when Ryan Holms set off at pace up the left wing before sending a terrific cross to the back post where Thomas Wilson out-jumped Jamie Graham to send a looping header back across goal into the top right hand corner of the Saints net.

Saints dusted themselves down from this double setback and slowly began to get into the game and created a good chance after 37 minutes. Allan MacKay won a free kick on the right from which Lewis Cameron found the head of Craig MacEwan.

Craig climbed well to reach the cross but was unable to guide his header on target under pressure from the St Joe's defence.

Half time arrived with the Oban side 2-0 in arrears but they knew that a goal early in the second half would bring them right back into the match.

Saints carved out their best chance of the match after 20 minutes. A terrific pass from Donnie Campbell forced out Allan MacKay's near post run, Allan's powerful shot was blocked by the legs of Kevin Connor with the rebound landing back at Allan's feet.

The close attendance of John Paul Seagrave forced Allan wide narrowing the angle considerably and his second attempt could only find the side netting.

With 10 minutes remaining Thomas McCulloch was called into action when he got down well at his near post to save from the very impressive Ryan Holms.

In time added on Saints had one last attempt on goal from a set-piece after Donald Campbell had been brought down 28 yards from goal.

Allan MacKay's curling effort over the St Joe's wall had Kevin Connor scrambling across his goal line but the ball slipped inches wide of his left hand post denying Saints a last-gasp consolation.

Saints will reflect ruefully on their poor start and two relatively cheap early goals conceded, however St Joseph's were the better team on the evening and deserved their victory.

Alba Thistle	2
Oban Saints	1
SAFL Premier Division	

RELEGATION threatened Alba Thistle were the grateful beneficiaries of by far Saints worse performance of the season



SHOOTING CHANCE: Donnie Campbell tries to make space for himself in the St Joseph's box during the Jimmy Marshall Cup semi final held at Millburn Park, Alexandria last Wednesday evening. Photo and match reports: Derek Black

at a windswept Seedhill Community Sports Centre, Paisley last Saturday afternoon.

Saints were without injured pair Dougal Graham and Donnie Campbell and holidaymakers Allan MacKay and Scott Maitland so PJ Sinclair and Shaun MacIver were added to the travelling party.

Alba won the first corner of the match in the seventh minute and punished Saints for some slack marking. The cross was cleared comfortably enough however Alba striker Mark McCormack was left unmarked on the edge of the box and his first time effort found the back of the Saints net.

Manager Iain Jackson had deployed a slightly unfamiliar 3-4-3 formation pushing Ross Maitland forward to join Lewis Cameron and Dean Smith in attack. More unfamiliar however was the disjointed and error strewn passing which prevailed throughout the whole game from the Oban side.

Not for the first time this season Saints shot themselves in the foot in the 38th minute leaving themselves up against it for the second game in a row.

A needless pass back from midfield put goalkeeper Thomas McCulloch under pressure to clear from the edge of his 18-yard box. With the ball coming straight onto him and struggling to make a decent connection on the

bumpy surface Thomas couldn't get any distance on his clearance sending it only as far as the feet of the unmarked Mark McCormack who casually clipped the ball into the unguarded net to give the hosts a flattering two goal advantage to take into the second half.

The second half was only minutes old when Alba were reduced to 10 men for a spot of afters on the floor when Michael Iau brought down Dean Smith

midway inside the Saints half. Unfortunately for Saints Dean also saw red for his part in the melee.

Saints pulled a goal back after a driving run into the Alba box by Craig MacEwan won a corner on the Saints left. Lewis Cameron's in swinging corner on top of the goal keeper was forced in at the back post by Paul Kerr.

The visitors huffed and puffed their way through the rest of the

## Football

second half and although they created a couple of half chances the game petered out and it was the home side who ran out winners in a game that Saints will want to forget.

Saints take on Finnart on Saturday. The game will take place at either Glen 2 or Oban high school 3G. Referee in charge is John Scott.



WINNERS: Open stableford winners at Taynuilt golf club

## Three-player open stableford at Taynuilt

A THREE-player open stableford was played at Taynuilt golf club on Sunday May 17: 1 Gents and trophy winners: Calum Munro (Taynuilt), Paul Walton (Taynuilt) and Donald MacLean (Glencruitten) - 105 points; 2 Allan Stewart, Robert MacLarty and David Thomson (all Taynuilt) - 100 points. 1 Ladies: Carol MacLarty, Sandra Elliott, and Moira MacVicar (all Taynuilt) - 86 points 2

## Motor cycling

Jill Stewart, Sally Thompson and Jane MacIntyre (all Taynuilt) - 79 points. Nearest the Pin Ladies: Carol Church (Dalmally); Nearest the Pin Gents: Donald MacLean (Glencruitten); Longest Drive Ladies: Anne MacCalman; Longest Drive Gents: Ian McCuish (Glencruitten GC).



## Argyll youngsters play at Dalmally

YOUNG golfers from Argyll came together for their first ever competitive event at Dalmally recently.

Sixteen players from Inveraray, Isle of Seil, Lochgilhead and Dalmally golf clubs made the journey on May 9, to take part in the ClubGolf flag event and chip and putt challenge.

The youngsters, ranging from primary three to secondary three, all take part in ClubGolf coaching, a national junior development programme.

With great playing conditions and hospitality from the home club, the children had the opportunity to meet fellow golfers from other clubs and take part in a fun and challenging flag event, followed by a test of their short game skills through the chip and putt challenge, led by PGA roving professional, Bob Collinson.

The event was supported by parents who acted as course marshals and provided home cooking and baking for everyone. The overall winner on the day was Andrew Fraser of Inveraray golf club.

The primary three to four category winner was Ruairaidh Rankin of Dalmally golf club. Andrew Innis of Lochgilhead golf club won the primary five to six category and Aaron MacLarty, Isle of Seil golf club, was the winner of the chip and putt.

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## Islay

SUMMER League played Wednesday May 6 - 1 W Ramsay 36 pts; 2 J Ferguson 34 pts; 3 S Currie 33 pts. C.Ss 71.

The Laddie Cup played on Sunday May 10 - 1 R Quail 36 pts; 2 R MacIntyre 33 pts; 3 J Rozga 32 pts. C.Ss 73.

Letters Prize played Sunday May 17 - 1 K MacDonald 77-7=70; 2 Colin Stroud 83-9=74; 3 N Carmichael 78-4=74. C.Ss 73.

## Dalmally

ANOTHER damp and windy day on Sunday at Dalmally golf club did not deter the hardy gents who took to the course for the first round of the McLure cup.

Jim Livingstone played the gusty conditions the best to record a net 64, with the only other net sub-70 posted by Davy McLeod.

On a day of few birdies, a notable exception was Gary Wilson's two at the par-three Orchy Splash, made more daunting than usual by the blustery conditions.

Ladies result: Club championship R1 and medal - 1, A Livingstone (19) 68; 2, L McKay (17) 71; 3, J Buchanan (18) 76.

## Glencruitten

CAMERON Milne won the Terry Ng Trophy at Glencruitten on Saturday with net scores of 64, 65 = 129.

Malcolm Cullen was in second place with 64, 67 = 131.

Phil Monteith leads the first round of the Liddell Quaiach (14 holes) with 26 pts (Stableford). Gordon McLachlan is in second place with 24 pts.

On Saturday the monthly medal and Pickfords Qualifier takes place and on Sunday there will be a two-man scramble.

The senior open takes place on Wednesday May 27.



TRAINING CAMP: Our picture shows instructor Iain Rodger, far right, after a training camp with Saiko Shihan Hasegawa, centre, a 9th dan Kyokushinkai black belt from Japan, along with other instructors from around the world.

Photo courtesy of Japanese Full Contact Karate Magazine

In the 84/85Kgs category, Ruairaidh Neish will take on Callum Dlodlo, while in the 80Kgs category Ricky Duffy takes on Les George.

This is Ruairaidh and Ricky's first K1 fight although they have both fought in international full contact Knockdown Karate tournaments. They are both looking forward to taking part in what is one of Scotland's premier international fight shows.

A report on the International Tournament on May 16 in Edinburgh will be in the next column.



Iain Rodger, left, with Kancho Hajime Kazumi, a world renowned Kyokushinkai fighter of outstanding ability and winner of numerous Japanese and world titles after a two-day training session

# MARTIAL ARTS WITH IAIN RODGER

Sharon's ladies-only classes on Sundays are proving very popular. For info contact: shihanwill@gmail.com

**Kyokushinkai Karate**  
A full report on the International Tournament in Edinburgh on May 16 will be in the next column. Unfortunately Amy Campbell had to pull out due to an injury, but hopes to back to full fitness very soon.

Club Instructor Iain Rodger was teaching at a fighting seminar in Stirling on the May 15.

Eleven members of Caledonia Kyokushin will be attending a summer training camp from July 10-12 in Derby. Shihan Iain Rodger will be one of the instructors at this camp.

The next tournament the adult fighters will be training for is the Cup of Europe event on October 17 at the K2 Arena in Crawley. For info contact: iain@ikku.co.uk

**Shukokai Karate**  
Argyll Martial Arts Dalmally club has doubled in size since last

year with a few new beginners and some juniors who had trained previously re-starting.

A few of the parents have also joined in rather than just wait for their children and those that have, have thoroughly enjoyed it. This may lead to an adult class being reintroduced in the autumn.

The Inveraray class is also going from strength to strength, with more than 40 students currently on the books. Oban classes are steady, with three new students since the Easter break.

The group is currently planning competitions and courses for the coming 12 months.

Anyone wishing to join is welcome.

Students from other styles are also welcome to train whether on a regular basis, or as a one-off.

Classes are in Oban High School 6.30pm to 7.30pm on Thursdays, Dalmally Community Centre on Tuesdays 6.30pm to 7.30pm, and Inveraray on Fridays 7pm to 8pm for under-10s, 8pm to 9pm for 10 years-plus.

For info contact: kennigray@btinternet.com

**MMA**  
Oban MMA travelled to Glasgow on Saturday May 2 for the first ever Scottish Brazilian Jiu Jitsu team meet where different teams from around Scotland met to train and exchange ideas on furthering the growth of Jiu Jitsu in Scotland.

After a lot of work on Jiu Jitsu, MMA training has started properly again with Fridays at 7.30pm concentrating on stand up and wrestling.

Training continues on Mondays at 7.30pm for the summer leg of the Scottish BJJ open, concentrating on technique and positional sparring. This is the perfect class to start a journey on the rewarding path of Jiu Jitsu.

Tuesday's class at 8.30pm is a Jiu Jitsu sparring class which is set up to help students go over moves and drills which they want to improve or perfect.

Thursday's 9pm class is a pure BJJ rolling class which has five-minute rounds and helps get everyone's cardio competition ready.

For info contact: coogiepots@gmail.com

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This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

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We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

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# Camanchd and Kyles reach final of the Celtic Society Cup

## Celtic Society Cup

**INVERARAY** crashed out of their Celtic Cup semi-final derby going down 3-0 to Kyles Athletic at the Winterton.

All the damage was done in the first half, with Kyles three up within 33 minutes.

The second half was marred by heavy rain and hail making conditions underfoot treacherous.

Coach Joe Fyfe said: 'Our problem was getting goals. We did all the work but could not finish it off.'

'Kyles are a good unit, there's no doubt about it. They are a top team in shinty, good luck to them in the final.'

Inveraray have a free week this Saturday but are back in action away at Glenurquhart in the Camanchd Cup on May 30.

They will be hoping to do better than their last game when they went down 2-0 in the league.

**KYLES ATHLETIC** forced their way into another Celtic Cup final after a show of strength at Inveraray.

The Tighnabruich team racked up three goals in just over 30 minutes with their sheer speed over the ground proving too much for 'Arao.

Dunkie Kerr opened the scoring on the third minute. David Zavaroni added to 'Arao's woes eight minutes later and Gordon Whyte sealed the win before the break.

Manager James Perlich said: 'I think the weather spoiled it for both teams. We are delighted to be in our first final of the year, especially being the holders of the cup.'

'It was a good first half performance. We took our goals well.'

Kyles travel to Kingussie in the premiership at the weekend.

**OBAN CAMANACHD** met local rivals Oban Celtic on Saturday in the Celtic Society Cup, resulting in a comfortable 7-1 victory for the red and blacks at Mossfield.

Goals from Connor Howe, Daniel Macmillan, a brace from Lorne Dickie and an Andrew MacCuish hat-trick sealed the win for Camanchd, who now face a tough test against Kyles Athletic in the final.

This Saturday, Gussie Campbell's men travel to Bute for a Macaulay cup first round tie, which throws-up at 2.30pm at the Meadows.

**OBAN CELTIC** went down in an eight goal home derby demolition to premier side Oban Camanchd in the Celtic Cup.

Camanchd opened the scoring through Lorne Dickie and Connor Howe added a second on the 21st minute.

Celtic must have had some hope when Daniel Madej scored a minute later but the red and blacks netted another five goals to seal a convincing win.

Oban Celtic manager Davy Hamilton said: 'We did not play to our full potential. We had chances but we never took them.'

'You have to play at your best when you are playing better teams.'

Celtic meet Inverness at Mossfield in a Bailliemore Cup tie on Saturday. Throw-up is at 3pm at Mossfield.

## MacTavish Cup

**NEWTONMORE** sealed their place in the final of the MacTavish cup with a 2-1 win at home to Kinlochshiel.

Manager P J Mackintosh said he was 'delighted' to make it to the cup final, where his side will face the winner of the Glenurquhart and Skye fixture, to be played on Saturday.

'I never thought we looked like

we would be beaten and Kinlochshiel took the lead against the run of play in the first half. We came back into it and looked comfortable, but then they hit the post with five minutes to go.

'As a manager you're just delighted to make the final.'

The side face Kinlochshiel again this Saturday, this time on league duty, with things tight at the top of the premiership.

The game throws-up at 2.30pm in Balmacara.

**KINLOCHSHIEL'S** Gordie MacDonald gave them a good start in their RBS MacTavish cup semi-final.

MacDonald put the Balmacara side ahead in the 27th minute but just before the break Newtonmore equalised through Glen MacKintosh.

Evan Menzies booked Newtonmore's place in the final with his 64th minute goal.

Neither side was able to find the net again.

Next weekend 'Shiel have a chance for redemption when they meet Newtonmore in the premiership at home.

## John 'Kaid' MacLean Cup

**KINGUSSIE** played a special match against Skye Camanchd beating them 4-3 on penalties for the John 'Kaid' MacLean cup.

It is a rarely played match and was part of the Festubert commemorations remembering men from the 4th Cameron Highlanders who died on May 17 and 18 1915. Six were from Kingussie and 10 from Skye.

John 'Kaid' MacLean survived the war, winning a Military

## Shinty

leaders Lovat this Saturday at home in a tie that could see them jump into the top four in the league.

Adi Roberston's side are equal on points with Kingussie and Lochaber, but are within touching distance of fourth place Kinlochshiel and Newtonmore, who are third.

Fort took the points in a memorable home tie against Glenurquhart on Saturday, with Ewen Campbell scoring two goals in the final two minutes to win 4-2. Saturday's match throws-up at 2.30pm at An Aird.

**GLENURQUHART** lost to a resurgent Fort William team which has turned round its fortunes in the premiership since the start of May.

Fort William got the scoring going through Bryan Simpson with Glenurquhart's Ewan Brady equalising before the break. Simpson scored a second time to put Fort in the lead again before Neale Reid equalised in the 75th minute.

It looked like the spoils would be divided but the Fort's Ewan Campbell had other ideas. With less than a minute on the clock he scored and with seconds to go hit a superb drive into the net to make it 4-2. The loss dropped Glenurquhart to third bottom of the league. At the weekend Glenurquhart travel to take on Skye in the RBS MacTavish Cup.

**LOVAT** remain at the top of the Marine Harvest Premiership, but manager John MacRitchie feels his side may have dropped too many points already this season



**ON TARGET:** Oban Camanchd's Connor Howe blasts the ball past Oban Celtic keeper 'Spider' Duncan for Camanchd's second goal in their 7-1 win over their Oban rivals in the semi-final of the Celtic Society Cup Photo: Kevin McGlynn

Newtonmore on May 30. Ally Ferguson's men were unlucky not to come away with a point against Lovat on Saturday, losing 4-3, having come back from 4-1 down with two goals in the last ten minutes, and hitting the post three minutes from time.

The Newtonmore tie will throw up at 2.30pm at Spean Bridge.

## National Division

**BALLACHULISH** disappointed the home fans when they let Inverness walk away with a 3-0 victory.

Balla's John MacDonald and Stuart Robertson were both unavailable as they are still serving suspensions.

Inverness lost Somhairle MacDonald through injury inside five minutes.

James Cameron did a turn in the Inverness goal but as soon as he was back in position he put Inverness ahead.

Matt Rippon added to the tally on the 53rd minute and Charlie MacDonald completed the score line in the 80th minute.

The game gave Inverness their first league win of the season leaving Ballachulish bottom with no points.

At the weekend Balla' travel to Beaulay for a 3pm throw-up in the Bailliemore Cup.

Top team in the National Division, **KILMALLIE**, will be keen to keep their 100 per cent league record alive this Saturday as they travel to Strathpepper to meet Caberfeidh.

Three wins out of three leaves Mark MacPherson's side on six points, equal with Glasgow Mid Argyll and Beaulay, but with two games in hand.

Throw-up is at 2.30pm on Saturday at Castle Leod.

## South Division One

**BUTE'S** South Division One match against Kilmory at MacRae Park was called because of an unplayable field. Bute will meet Oban Camanchd at the Meadows on Saturday in a Macaulay Cup first round tie.

**STRACHUR** finally found the mark and beat Aberdour 2-1 at Strachurmore to record their first league win of the season.

On the half hour Steven Bulloch put Strachur ahead and Iain Wilson got their second in the 65th minute. Angus Thorburn scored the only goal for Aberdour.

However, the win did nothing to help their league position and they still sit bottom of South Division One after a points adjustment. There will be another chance for both teams this Saturday when Strachur travel to Silversands for an away tie with Aberdour.



**GRIPPED:** Lovat's Euan Ferguson and Lochaber's Neil Macdonald get to grips with each other during their Marine Harvest Premiership match at Spean Bridge. Lovat won the game by the odd goal in seven. Photo: Neil Paterson

**KILMORY'S** game against Bute was cancelled following heavy rain on Friday night which left the ground water-logged. Kilmory have a local derby in South Division One against Kyles on The Playing Field at Tighnabruich this weekend.

**GLENORCHY** were due to meet Lochside Rovers but the pitch at Dalmally was unplayable.

This weekend they take on Glasgow Mid Argyll at home in the Bailliemore Cup.

**LOCHSIDE ROVERS** play host to Lochaber this Saturday in the Sutherland Cup.

The weekend fixture with Glenorchy was postponed after the referee deemed Mart Park in Dalmally unplayable.

The Lochaber tie throws-up at mid-day at Mossfield.



**ACTION:** Glenurquhart's Euan Lloyd and Fort William's Gordy MacKinnon in action last Saturday. 20\_f21shinty03

## Scotland under 17 shinty squad announced

THE Camanchd Association is delighted to announce the 2015 SSE Scottish Hydro Under 17 Scotland Squad who will travel to Ireland this July to take part in a playing tour against their hurling counterparts - the Kilkenny 17 County Team and the Under 17 Dublin Development Squad.

The annual tour, which has been taking place for more than 20 years, sees elite young shinty players from across Scotland make up the squad, many of whom honed their skills at the

previous year's SSE Scottish Hydro national player development camp.

Those selected for this year's tour are:

- Shane Gillies (Kilmallie)
- Struan Kish (Newtonmore)
- Will Cowie (Skye)
- Blair Morrison (Caberfeidh)
- Calum Grant (Kingussie)
- Alexander MacMillan (Fort William)
- Craig Macisaac (Kilmallie)
- Ross Macrae (Kyles)
- Calum Shepherd (Fort William)

Savio Genini (Kingussie) Rory Mackechan (Kingussie) Nick Dalgety (Lochcarron) James Falconer (Kingussie) Craig Ritchie (Newtonmore) Ian MacFarlane (Oban Celtic) Conon Howe (Oban Camanchd) National shinty development officer Ronald Ross said: 'The SSE Scottish Hydro Under 17 Scotland Squad, and the tour itself, is an integral part of shinty's player development pathway. It is

## Youth Shinty

the last opportunity for players to test themselves before preparing to step up to under 21 and senior level. This year's squad is made up of some highly skillful players, many of whom already hold spots in their own club's first team. I am in no doubt that we will see some excellent displays of shinty and hurling skill.'

The squad travel to Ireland on Sunday July 26 and return on Wednesday July 29.

## Fixtures

Saturday 23 May

### Artemis Macaulay Cup

**1st Round**  
Bute v Oban Camanchd  
David Mitchell - 3pm

### RBS MacTavish Cup

**Semi Final**  
Skye v Glenurquhart  
Innes Wood

### Bailliemore Cup 2nd Round

Beaulay v Ballachulish  
Evan MacRae - 3pm  
Glenorchy v Glasgow MA  
Robert Baxter  
Oban Celtic v Inverness  
Graham Cameron - 3pm

### Aberdein Considine

### Sutherland Cup 3rd Round

Inveraray v Skye  
John MacGregor  
Newtonmore v Glenurquhart  
John Matheson  
Lochside Rovers v Lochaber  
Ronnie Campbell - 12pm  
Glengarry v Fort William  
Archie Ritchie

### Strathdearn Cup 2nd Round

Inverness v Kinlochshiel  
Callum Duff

### Marine Harvest Premiership

Fort William v Lovat  
John Angus Gillies  
Kingussie v Kyles Athletic  
Ron Kennedy  
Kinlochshiel v Newtonmore  
Deek Cameron

### Marine Harvest National Division

Caberfeidh v Kilmallie  
Calum Girvan

### Marine Harvest North Division 1

Beaulay v Kingussie  
Duncan Kelly - 12pm  
Strathglass v Lovat  
Martin MacLean

### Marine Harvest South Division 1

Aberdour v Strachur  
Alan Harrison  
Kyles Athletic v Kilmory  
Lachie Wood

### Marine Harvest North Division 2

Aberdeen Uni v Caberfeidh  
Andy MacLean  
Kilmallie v Boleskine  
John Wood

### Marine Harvest South Division 2

Bute v Glenorchy  
Ewen MacDonald - 12pm  
Col Glen v Oban Lorn  
Jon Gallagher

Throw ups 2.30 unless stated

## Results

Saturday 16 May

### RBS MacTavish Cup

**Semi Final**  
Kinlochshiel 1 - 2 Newtonmore

### Gregor Cameron

### Consultancy Celtic Society Cup semi-final

Oban Celtic 1 - 7 Oban Camanchd  
Inveraray 0 - 3 Kyles Athletic

### Strathdearn Cup

### 2nd Round

Caberfeidh 2 - 3 Glengarry  
Caithness 1 - 6 Beaulay  
Kinlochshiel P - P Inverness  
Unplayable Field  
Lovat 3 - 0 Boleskine  
Newtonmore 2 - 1 Glenurquhart  
Strathspey P - P Aberdeen Uni  
Walkover to Aberdeen Uni  
- Strathspey unable to field a team.

### Bullough Cup 1st Round

### Aberdour P - P Glenorchy

Walkover to Aberdour

- Glenorchy unable to travel

Kyles Athletic 16 - 0 English SA

Oban Lorn P - P

Walkover to Oban Lorn

- Ballachulish unable to field a team

Bute 1 - 4 Inveraray

### Marine Harvest Premiership

Fort William 4 - 2 Glenurquhart

Lochaber 3 - 4 Lovat

### Marine Harvest National Division

Ballachulish 0 - 3 Inverness

Beaulay 2 - 4 Kilmallie

Caberfeidh 1 - 0 Glasgow MA

### Marine Harvest North Division 1

Strathglass 2 - 4 Fort William

### Marine Harvest South Division 1

Kilmory P - P Bute

Unplayable field

Strachur 2 - 1 Aberdour

Glenorchy P - P Lochside Rovers

Unplayable field

### Marine Harvest North Division 2

Lewis P - P Kilmallie

Travel problems



**TUSSLE:** Lorne Brown of Ballachulish, left, and former Balla' stalwart Dougie Rankine, now playing for Inverness, a tussle for the ball during last Saturday's National League match at Jubilee Park. Photo: Donald Cameron

## Lochavullin's Cellar win Oban Filling Station Cup Pool

AFTER much anticipation, last Thursday saw Oban's top two pool sides battle it out for the Oban Filling Station Cup.

The Lancaster Hotel was the venue for Lancaster A versus reigning champions the Lochavullin's Cellar for the campaign's first piece of silverware. The opening blow was delivered by Lancaster A but, unfortunately for them, it failed to have the desired affect and they conceded the next three matches.

With their backs to the wall, the Lancaster produced a couple of dogged displays, aided by a couple of fortuitous ricochets, to draw the contest back level, mounting the pressure on each team's seventh man.

The closing singles game would determine who led entering the doubles and both player's nerves took their toll. In the end, it was the Cellar which secured the point and crucially stopped their opponent's momentum.

The Lochavullin's Cellar could almost smell victory now and wasted no time in seeing the contest out by winning the opening two doubles matches to once again be crowned Oban Filling Station champions.

The league thanks Oban Filling Station for its continued support in what is a tough financial climate for most local companies.

Tonight (Thursday) the sides meet again, this time with the league championship up for grabs.

The Lochavullin's Cellar has the advantage of frame difference so a draw will see them retain the league crown.

## Oban Saints youths results and fixtures Youth football

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s 4, Dumbarton United 3. Saints goalscorers were Cameron Clark, Jamie Forgrieve, Aidan MacPhee and Aaron MacKay. Under 14s no game; Under 15s 1 Dumbarton United 3. Scoring for Saints was Martin Rennie. Under 16s 4, Drumchapel United 1. Ross MacMillan netted all four goals for Saints. Under 19s no game.

This weekend's fixtures - Baljaffray United v Under 13s; Renton Craigandro v Under 14s; Under 15s v Ardencaple; Under 16s no game; Under 19s no game.

# Double up for Green Machine

OBAN Lorne hosted its annual seven-a-side tournament at Glencruitten last Saturday - and walked away with the trophy for the first time.

Not to be undone, Oban Ladies rounded off a successful day by defeating Mull and Stirling County for its first home sevens trophy.

Nine men's and three ladies teams took part in the competition.

The Green Machine fielded strong teams with 1st XV captain Craig Wright picking a powerful

squad while Oban Ladies had many key players from its successful season available.

In the men's competition, Oban dominated the play in pool one with wins over Kintyre, Moffat, Aberfeldy and Shawlands.

Isle of Mull impressed in pool two by defeating Oban 35's, Allan Glens, Argyll and Bute and Islay. Oban comfortably defeated Allan Glens in the semi-final with Moffat progressing to the final with a win over Isle of Mull.

This set up a repeat of Oban Lorne against Moffat in the final,

## Rugby

which was won five tries to three by the hosts in a tough encounter.

Oban Lorne thank all of the visiting teams who travelled for the day, particularly Islay and Kintyre who turned out for their first sevens in several years.

The Green Machine's attention now turns to the 30th Mull sevens at Garmony this Saturday.

## Mini/ S1/2

OBAN Minis and S1/2 teams travelled to Mull on Saturday to take part in the islanders' annual end of season festival.

Oban Minis impressed in games against Mull, Lochaber, Lenzie and Taynuilt.

Winners at the mini festival were P4/5 Lenzie and P6/7 Oban.

Oban Minis welcome Dalziel this Sunday at Glencruitten.

The S1/2 festival was won by Oban who impressed with wins against Lenzie and Mull and turned out with an impressive squad of 24 players.

The S1/2 teams have a home game against Montrose on Saturday to be played at Oban high school or North Connel.



TACKLE: Oban Lorne's Dave McCabe makes a try-saving tackle during the final



NO WAY THROUGH: Oban Lorne's David MacLachlan is collared by a Moffat player during the final of the club's sevens tournament at Glencruitten last Saturday. Photos: Kevin McGlynn



WINNERS: Oban Lorne - winners of its own seven-a-side tournament



CLOSE CONTACT: Lorne Ladies' Ellie MacNiven bursts through the Mull defence



CHAMPIONS: not to be outdone, Lorne Ladies emulated their male colleagues by winning the sevens at Glencruitten

## Set-up woes frustrate John McPhee again

SAXOPRINT-RTG's John McPhee rounded off another frustrating race weekend with a 17th place finish in the French Grand Prix at Le Mans last weekend.

The Connel rider, who spent much of the weekend chasing a competitive set-up, lost three places on the opening lap to circulate outside the top 20 for the majority of the race.

His late-race rise up the order came courtesy of retirements at the end of interminable battle with Jorge Marin and Karel Hanika to break free of the tail-enders.

'For us as a team the race was just an absolute disaster,' said McPhee. 'After the first lap I was already having moments with the rear. It was sliding around

## Motorcycling

and was getting worse as the race went on. I tried to keep on digging deep and pushing on but it was really tough trying to keep up. Then, over the last few laps, I dropped off the back of the group I was in. Basically there was nothing I could do.

'The only good thing to come out of it all for me was that I got to find out a bit more about where and why we're really struggling. With that information I'm hopeful we can make a big step forward at the Italian Grand Prix in Mugello.

'We certainly need to because we're five races into the season now and we've not had a strong weekend yet.'

## Late call offs leave Athletic with only 11 men

Old Oak Thistle	5
Oban Athletic	1

League Cup - quarter final

OBAN Athletic travelled to Toryglen football complex on Saturday to play Old Oak Thistle, formerly Third Lanark, in the quarter final of the league cup.

The Oban team started the day four players down after two call offs. One followed a car crash which resulted in a road closure. But the biggest loss was goalkeeper Graham Douglas who pulled out sick. And with Craig Maitland on holiday and Andy Smith not playing, Athletic travelled with the bare 11 players, with captain Steven McLeod volunteering to play in goals.

**Pushing forward**  
The game got under way with Athletic playing the better football with the midfield five, Bailey

Taylor, Fraser McFarlane, Steph Campbell, Ryan Campbell and Rhuri Finlayson, keeping the ball well and using the wings, with Stephen Kelly and Craig Livingston pushing forward to keep the Oak defence under pressure.

A through ball from Ryan Campbell in the tenth minute saw Alan Buchanan in space. The big forward beat his marker and was just about to shoot from the edge of the box when he was tripped by the Oak sweeper.

Craig Campbell took the free kick and shot to the keeper's left. John Stewart, the Oak goalkeeper, parried the shot and grabbed the ball from the foot of the on-rushing Buchanan.

Within minutes, Oban cut through the defence with a neat one two involving Bailey Taylor and Stephen Kelly. Stephen cut the ball back to Rhuri Finlayson

who shot from the penalty area, but again the keeper parried the ball round the post.

Athletic opened the scoring in the 20th minute after a good build up involving Craig Campbell and Craig Livingston who sent the ball to Steph Campbell on the half way line. Steph ran at the defence beating two challenges before shooting from 20 yards into the net to open the scoring for the visitors.

**Drew level**  
Old Oak started to push forward after this set back and drew level in the 37th minute when a free kick was awarded on the right hand touchline.

Mark Downie swung the ball across the penalty area to be met by Davy McPhee amidst a number of players. His header was deflected towards the goal and away from the outstretched

hand of Steven McLeod to make the half time score 1-1.

The second half started with both teams trying to get the better of each other. Both midfields were playing possession football with no real end product but that was to change after 55 minutes when a good one two on the left sent Oak winger Mark Smith through and from a tight angle he hammered the ball home.

Within five minutes Oak had increased their lead with a similar move which left stand-in keeper Stephen Macleod helpless.

Athletic tried to push for the goal that would get them back in the tie.

Fraser McFarlane had a good chance after a pass by Rhuri Finlayson put him through for a one on one with the keeper. But the big keeper pulled off a good save. Two shots from the edge of the

## Football

box from Alan Buchanan and Ryan Campbell had the keeper troubled but Athletic could not find the back of the net.

The visitors were starting to tire as the game wore on and with no substitutes to freshen up the team it was only a matter of time before the home side increased its lead.

With Athletic pushing forward to try and get back into the game, Oak hit them on the break netting two more goals in the 75th and 80th minutes to kill off Athletic's cup dream and make the final score 5-1.

Athletic were due to play Cardross last night (Wednesday) and are at home to Duntocher on Saturday at Oban high school 3G pitch with a 3pm kick-off.

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**WEATHER**

**Thursday** Heavy rain  
Winds moderate south westerly  
Temperatures 9°C to 10°C.

**Friday** Light rain  
Winds moderate westerly  
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Cloudy on Saturday  
Light rain on Sunday  
Winds strong westerly  
Temperatures 8°C to 11°C.



**Stop Press:** New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

**TIDAL INFORMATION**  
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, May 21, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	Ardrihaig	Mallaig
Thur	01.49 0.8 07.32 3.7 13.53 0.8 19.41 3.8	-5.35		+0.25
Fri	02.32 1.1 08.10 3.5 14.35 1.0 20.19 3.6	-5.30		+0.55
Sat	03.16 1.3 08.51 3.2 15.19 1.2 21.00 3.4	-0.47		+0.16
Sun	04.03 1.5 09.37 3.0 16.06 1.4 21.47 3.2	2.00		+5.30
Mon	04.58 1.7 10.35 2.9 16.58 1.6 22.44 3.0			
Tues	06.04 1.9 12.08 2.8 17.55 1.7 ** ** *			
Wed	00.00 2.9 07.25 1.9 13.40 2.9 18.56 1.7			

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

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# Inquiry after ten men found living in three-bedroom flat

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

AT LEAST 10 men have been living in a Lochaber housing association flat in Fort William under the name of a national company, despite it only being let to one tenant.

The eastern Europeans, who have been working with Concordia construction on an Eon energy wall insulation project in Upper Achintore and Caol for more than a year, have been living in the three-bedroom property in Moray place, also Upper Achintore, for a year.

Lochaber housing association (LHA) chief executive Blair Allan called the situation 'completely inappropriate over-occupation' and said he is 'dismayed' and 'extremely concerned' that Concordia bosses had allowed it to happen. The issue was reported to the *Oban Times* by a concerned neighbour who asked not be named, which then started an investigation by LHA. Mr Allan said it looked like 10 or



**OVERCROWDED:** at least 10 men have been living in a three-bedroom flat in Moray place, Fort William 20\_210at01

11 men had been sharing the accommodation, despite it being registered to a single tenant, but the neighbour said she believed there could have been as many as 15 occupants at one time.

The neighbour said it became a problem because so much rubbish was coming from the flats it was causing the communal outside

and the smell as it gets warmer.' The concerned resident's partner added: 'There's more people living in that one flat than the rest of the building put together and it's putting an enormous strain on the building. The bins are absolutely overflowing with rubbish and there's mess everywhere.'

Mr Allan confirmed LHA had been renting the property to Concordia construction under a 'single occupant' agreement with the contractor and had no idea so many people were living there. Concordia has been carrying out the insulation works on behalf of energy company Eon.

He told the *Oban Times*: 'To facilitate this worthwhile project [insulation] Lochaber housing association agreed, for the period of the contract, to make an empty property available to Concordia construction for the accommodation of a member of its supervisory staff for the project.'

'We are grateful to your reader who has brought our attention to this clear and unauthorised

breach of the tenancy agreement, which we have now brought to an end, and the flat is now back in our possession.'

'As you would expect, we are extremely concerned that this completely inappropriate over-occupation of the flat has been allowed to happen by Concordia construction, Eon's contractors.'

'We are dismayed that this company would allow this to happen rather than securing alternative, decent accommodation for its workers.'

'Up until this point there have been no issues raised by any of the other residents of the neighbouring flats so, as I have said, we are really pleased that one of the neighbours has told the *Oban Times* what has been going on, since this is a situation we could obviously not tolerate.'

'We are very sorry that this has been allowed to happen and for any inconvenience or nuisance that may have been caused to any other residents.'

arrangement with Concordia construction, as a result of this clear breach of the regulations and of our trust, has been terminated.'

A spokesman for Concordia construction said it had investigated the issue and confirmed the number of staff living in the flat was excessive but it had been only short-term and a one-off situation while alternative accommodation was sought.

He added: 'Concordia construction has been working in Scotland, improving homes and reducing fuel costs for the homeowners of Fort William for a number of months.'

'It has been brought to our attention that having rented a local property to stay whilst the works are being completed, concern has been raised regarding the overcrowding of the property. Concordia takes these situations very seriously and is completing a review of all projects, where the supply chain are renting accommodation, to ensure this does not occur again.'

## TIMESLINE

### New head teacher for village school

A NEW head teacher has been found for Ballachulish primary school as stalwart Sam Clark prepares for retirement.

The headmaster, who has worked at the school for more than 30 years, will step down at the start of the summer holidays.

Mr Clark's replacement, Carol Divers, has previously taught at Ballachulish as well as a number of other schools in Lochaber and will take up her new role in August this year.

Miss Divers said: 'I am delighted and excited to be appointed as head teacher at Ballachulish primary and am looking forward very much to working with the parent council and local community on the challenges ahead for our school.'

### Powering ahead with hydro project

WORK has started on a community hydro project in Lochaber, just six weeks after money was secured.

Construction by MHL civil engineering, from Tیره, began at the Strontian site on Monday and local contractor West Coast electrical will be carrying out work at a later stage.

Richard Laybourne, chairman of Sunart community renewables, the group behind the project, said: 'It is fantastic to see our vision becoming a reality and we are delighted for all our members who bought community shares, who can now see how their support is translating into action.'

'We are on track to commission the hydro by November this year, after which it will start generating electricity and income for the community.'

## Lochaber MSP to hand over baton to younger candidate

LOCHABER MSP Dave Thompson has announced he will be standing down ahead of the Holyrood election next year.

The SNP member of Scottish parliament for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch revealed his retirement plans on Monday (May 18).

An MSP since 2007, Mr Thompson was a regional representative for the Highlands and Islands from 2007 until 2011 and then as the constituency MSP from 2011. The 65-year-old almost missed out on his time as an MSP when the Highland returning officer declared he had lost the election in 2007, but Mr Thompson demanded a recount which saw him elected and

gave the SNP the one seat needed to take a majority over Labour. He said: 'This has been a difficult decision but I believe it is the right time for me to now hand over the baton to a younger candidate. The party has never been in a better position and I firmly believe I will see independence in my lifetime. I will, of course, continue to be involved with the SNP and plan to spend more time helping to develop Christians for Independence, of which I am currently convener. I will be 66 at the time of the Scottish election and still have many things I want to do. Indeed, I am quite excited about embarking on a new phase of my life when I step down from the Scottish parliament.'



## Lochside first to fourth green flag

A FORT William primary school has become the first in Lochaber to be awarded a fourth Eco Schools flag.

The children of Lochside RC primary worked hard on a number of environmental projects to achieve the recognition, including working on their eco garden on the school grounds.

Lochside RC primary school's eco committee were delighted to receive their fourth flag 20\_210lochsided01



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## Dementia patients need public's help

BUSINESSES, organisations and members of the public can all help people suffering from dementia, according to one charity worker.

Jo Cowan, local community development officer for Age Scotland, is urging people to attend information sessions to learn more about the illness and what can be done to help.

The sessions will be held in St Andrews church hall, Fort William, on Wednesday (May 27) and can be attended at 11.15am or 2pm. Ms Cowan said: 'Our informal session lets you learn about dementia and the little things you can do to help those living with the condition.'

For more information contact Geraldine Ditta on 01463 516004 or GDitta@alzscot.org.



## Centenary cheers at Lady Lovat

Past and present pupils came together to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Lady Lovat primary school, Morar, on Friday. The centenary was marked with an open afternoon in the school, including a tour of the grounds, a balloon release and a whole-school performance of 'Lady Lovat primary through the ages'. A time capsule has also been created and will be buried in the school grounds.

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PASSENGER CLAIMS TRYING TO MAKE SMALL SAVINGS 'LIKE REARRANGING DECKCHAIRS ON THE TITANIC'

Debate over who pays disabled tab

THOUSANDS of pounds could be saved on the Corran ferry if Highland council picks up the tab for disabled drivers, attendees of Monday's meeting said.

Currently anyone with a blue badge is entitled to travel the vessel free and campaigners say this should continue - but not at the cost of other users.

Tony Boyd, chairman of campaign group Free Crossing for Corran, said: 'A ferry worker told me about 10,000 disabled drivers use the ferry every year. Some of them will be paying full price and others will be using the discounted book of tickets but even with that reduced rate some £50,000 could be added to the ferry's income if Highland council paid that.'

'That's quite a significant amount of money.'

'The council's policy is to give disabled drivers a free service and we have no issue with that but if that is their policy then why is it us paying for it?'

William Gilfillan, the local authority's director of community services, said he would look into the matter but councillor Graham MacKenzie, chairman of the community services committee, disregarded the suggestion.

He said: 'That is council policy but the last thing I can see the council doing is ploughing more money into the ferry, the committee will never agree to that.'

# Corran Ferry cost cutting ideas launched at meeting

EMMA CRICHTON  
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

TRYING to make small savings on the Corran ferry is like 'rearranging deckchairs on the Titanic', a regular user has said.

The statement was made at a meeting between the public, Highland council officials and elected councillors on Monday night, in a bid to cut costs on the ferry connecting the Ardnamurchan peninsula to mainland Lochaber.

At £8 per single journey, or £71 for a book of 30 tickets to travel over the 400-metre Corran Narrows, it is the most expensive cost per distance crossing in the country but users have faced three price hikes in the last 12 months by operators Highland council.

Campaign group Free Crossing for Corran (FC Corran) has fought against fare rises and appealed to the local authority to look at other ways to balance the books, resulting in Monday night's ward forum in Strontian.

At the meeting councillor Graham MacKenzie, chairman of community services, said he was committed to listening to ferry users and looking at alternatives to more fare increases.

Cost cutting suggestions included charging cyclists, pedestrians and disabled drivers - who all currently receive a free service - sponsorship or advertising, and increasing the fare for coaches or other large vehicles.

But Strontian resident Robert Dunn said too many cost factors were out of Highland council's control and making small savings wouldn't fix the long term problem.

He said: 'Trying to cut costs on the Corran ferry is like rearranging deckchairs on the Titanic.'

'The solution isn't to find small cost cutting measures here and there, that's papering over the cracks. Things like fuel prices, maintenance costs and replacing the vessels are all out of the council's hands so to try to work out all of the little bits isn't going to work.'

But Tony Boyd, chairman of FC Corran, thought the meeting was a positive step. He said: 'I think it was constructive. They [council officials] listened and said they would look into what we suggested to see what will work best.'

'They seemed to take our thoughts and feelings on board



COST CUTTING: Corran ferry

so we can only wait to see what the outcome of that is.

'The ferry made a profit last year for the first time since 2005 so if savings can be found in different areas it might help to make that more consistent.'

William Gilfillan, Highland council's director of community services, said: 'I have tried very hard to listen to what the community wants and we want to continue that. I will take all of these ideas and views away and work out what will make the best savings.'

## Fare hike going against the tide

INFLATION in the UK has turned negative for the first time in more than 50 years as a result of reduced air and ferry fare prices, a report revealed on Tuesday.

While the price of the Corran ferry continues to rise, the Office of National Statistics released a report saying inflation was down to -0.1 per cent in April for the first time since 1960, based on historic estimates.

The report cited air and sea fares as the biggest contribution to the fall.

Corran ferry user Robert Dunn said: 'You couldn't make it up. Everywhere else the ferry prices are coming down yet ours are still going up and we've just been at a meeting to discuss how we can stop them going up again.'



JOINT FORCE: Lochaber housing association and Lochaber credit union have teamed up to offer a simpler payment system for residents. From left: Aileen Duncan, Marion Carr, Cheree Kennedy, Sean Doherty and Margaret Gillies

# Groups join forces to set up new rent help for residents

TWO GROUPS working to support Lochaber residents have joined forces to make paying rent easier.

Lochaber housing association (LHA) and Lochaber credit union (LCU) have set up a new initiative which they say will help with the upcoming benefit changes.

When universal credit is introduced it will replace a number of previous benefits, including income support, job seekers' allowance and housing benefit. Under this new scheme claimants who receive assistance

with their rent can have this included in their universal credit payment and can then pay their landlord directly.

An LHA spokesperson said: 'Universal credit will involve direct payment of housing costs to the claimant and will be paid monthly as a single household benefit into a bank, building society, post office or credit union account. If you live with your partner and you are both eligible, you will get one monthly joint payment. To help tenants prepare for changes within the benefit system and

the implementation of universal credit, the housing association has formed a partnership with Lochaber credit union to assist tenants to manage their benefits.'

Marion Carr of LCU added: 'Any help you get with your rent will be included in your universal credit payment and you'll then pay your landlord yourself. I'd encourage people to have their universal credit payment paid into a Lochaber credit union account. LCU will then ensure your rent is paid to LHA.'



Drew Hendry

## Leader takes up new role as MP

THE LEADER of Highland council, Drew Hendry, has officially stepped down from his position.

This comes after Mr Hendry, who has been council leader since 2012, was elected as the member of parliament for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey earlier this month.

A new leader will be elected at the full Highland council meeting in June, with deputy leader councillor David Alston temporarily taking on the role in the meantime.

Steve Barron, chief executive of the local authority, said: 'I would like to take this opportunity to thank Drew for his commitment and congratulate him on his achievements as leader over the past three years and to wish him all the very best in his new role as MP representing his Highland constituents at Westminster.'



David Alston

# Ross harvests permanent job

THE FIRST apprentice of a major Lochaber employer has secured a permanent role in the company.

Ross MacDonald, from Fort William, has been training with salmon farming business Marine Harvest since 2013, working at 10 sites, as well as the Mallaig harvest station and the processing plant in his home town.

After finishing his training, the 18-year-old has now received a job as a farm technician for Marine Harvest's Loch Linnhe sites. He said: 'I've thoroughly enjoyed my apprenticeship and I'm really pleased that I've now got a full-time permanent post with Marine Harvest Scotland.'

'It's great to have a secure job at a company with such a good track record in an industry that is so successful.'

Alan Sutherland, managing director of Marine Harvest Scotland, added: 'The jobs on offer in the aquaculture industry today require a wide range of skills and it's really heartening to see a new generation of salmon farmers starting to work their way up through the company.'

'We're delighted that Ross has secured a job which will give him the opportunity to work in a growing industry and continue to develop skills that are in demand not just in Scotland but all over the world.'



TIME SERVED: Marine Harvest Scotland's first apprentice, Ross MacDonald, has secured a permanent role in the company

# Green light for 'glamping' cabins

NEW CAMPING accommodation has been approved for planning permission, despite worries it would be rejected by Scottish ministers.

The eight 'glamping' cabins to be built at the Dragon's Tooth golf course near Ballachulish were passed to Scottish government ministers for approval after permission was granted by members of Highland council's south planning committee in February. But council officers and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) advised that the scheme should be rejected because of flooding concerns.

But at the planning committee's meeting on Tuesday (May 19), chairman councillor Dave Fallows confirmed the government had 'no intention to intervene' and the tourist facility could go ahead. SEPA warned the site was a medium flood risk and the Abhainn Greadhain

burn could burst its banks like it did 30 years ago and send floodwater into the campsite but Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Thomas MacLennan said much of Lochaber had the same odds of flooding, yet new homes were still being built.

A letter from Scottish government ministers to the planning committee said: 'It is not the Scottish ministers' intention to intervene in this application by either issuing a direction restricting the granting of planning permission or by calling in the application for their own determination. Accordingly, your council are hereby authorised to deal with the application in the manner it thinks fit.'

The camping pods, built by golf course owner Laurence Young, will feature two beds, a toilet and sink, TV, wifi, a kettle and microwave. Mr Young was unavailable for comment.

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LIVING IT UP  
THE KNOW HOW TO FEEL GOOD



TIMESLINE

## Ardgour cottage wins Euro praise

A HOLIDAY cottage in Lochaber has been named one of the best in Europe.

Cuil Moss cottage on Ardgour estate was shortlisted for best beach house in the European holiday home awards.

The scenic tourist spot has only been open for 18 months but was up against entries from Norway, Italy and France, losing out to a house in Croatia.

Annie MacLean of Ardgour estate said: 'We are overwhelmed to have achieved such success in a short period of time. To be recognised within Europe is fantastic not only for Ardgour Estate but more importantly for the Ardnamurchan peninsula and Lochaber tourism as whole.'

## Planning sought for homes plan

A PLANNING application has been lodged to convert offices in Fort William into flats.

Tweedale buildings is currently occupied by Highland council staff but it is hoped the site can be converted into housing when the local authority moves to new premises. This is part of a wider plan by the council to move its workforce into the old Fort William high school on Achintore road, which has been empty for more than 25 years.

## Lochaber groups awarded grants

GRANTS worth more than £7,000 have been awarded to community groups in Lochaber.

Five grants totalling £7,550 were dished out of the Lochaber ward discretionary budget at the meeting last week, including £2,000 for High Life Highland's summer youth activities programme.

High Life Highland received a further £2,000 for new gymnastics equipment, £1,000 was provided towards the running costs of Safe Highlander 2014 and £300 was given to Lochaber piping society towards drumming workshops.

Both Fort William and Ardnamurchan and Caol and Mallaig council wards also received £1,125 each to top up current youth funding.

# Sleeper boss says link from Oban to London is on track

LOUISE GLEN  
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A SLEEPER service between Oban and London is on track after the Caledonian Sleeper boss said 'it just makes sense to link up Oban and the islands with London'.

The service could be under way as early as 2018, if a £100 million train investment can be made to 'fit the line'.

Speaking at a meeting of Friends of the West Highland Line (FotWHL) in Oban last weekend, Peter Strachan, managing director of the Caledonian Sleeper service, gave a commitment to support a direct route between Oban and London.

Mr Strachan, the former Edinburgh trams boss, was keen for the west coast train line to be linked by a direct service to Oban 'as soon as we can do it'.

He said a solution for passengers who travel between London and Oban, but were currently 'forced to spend two hours waiting in Crianlarich in the early hours of the morning', needed to



DRIVING FORCE: train boss Peter Strachan

be addressed as soon as possible.

Mr Strachan, who also heads major projects for the Department of Transport, said: 'Upgrading the West Highland sleeper line to include Oban is one of the things that we are considering to improve the sleeper service to Scotland.'

'It just makes sense to link Oban and the islands with London.'

He said that train operator Serco, which took over the operation of the sleeper service in April 2015, had already made real improvements to the service and cited the new food menu, upgraded accommodation and sleep kits for passengers as examples of the company's commitment.

Mr Strachan continued: 'The real change will come in 2018

It just makes sense to link Oban and the islands with London

Peter Strachan  
Caledonian Sleeper Co.



ON TRACK: the London sleeper may be heading for Oban soon

when new trains are introduced to the line. At that time there will be more than £100 million-worth of investment in 75 'state-of-the-art' carriages. It would seem short-sighted not to think about making that upgrade suitable for a train that can come into Oban.'

Mr Strachan explained that the difference in track gauge between Oban and Crianlarich

made it impossible at the moment to run the current train on the line.

He continued: 'But with the new trains due to be on track in early 2018, we may be able to resolve these issues.'

Welcoming the news, FotWHL chairman Doug Carmichael, of Oban, said: 'Serco came to our meeting with a very positive

## One in a million

STEVEN RAE  
srae@obantimes.co.uk

DALMALLY-based charity Mary's Meals has reached the remarkable milestone of feeding one million of the world's poorest children every day.

Mary's Meals, which began in Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow's tin shed in Dalmally, was feeding just 200 children in Malawi in 2002, but reached the staggering one million mark on Tuesday.

The charity currently works in 12 countries across four conti-

nents, setting up community-run school feeding programmes, which encourage children - who may otherwise be forced to work, beg or forage for food - to come to school, where they can receive a nutritious meal that helps them to concentrate on their studies.

Magnus said: 'When I first started the charity I didn't envision it going anywhere at all. I went over to Bosnia in 1992, didn't think anything of it, that I'd just be going back to my job at a fish farm.'

'I returned and found this

avalanche of donations that had come in. So I gave up my job, thinking I might do it for about a year.

'I never sat down and said: "I'm going to start an aid organisation", or anything like that. And here we are, 23 years later, feeding one million children a day.'

For an exclusive interview with Magnus and his vision for Mary's Meals, turn to page four.

GLOBAL MISSION:  
Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow's tireless campaign for the world's hungry children knows no bounds



## Council seals more cash to buy from local companies

ARGYLL and Bute council's procurement team has negotiated a higher amount for 'keeping it local' after securing a threshold of up to £350,000 for providing services to the council from the area's businesses.

The local authority is running meet the buyer information sessions to encourage local businesses to find out about the support available in securing council contracts.

The council has negotiated a higher threshold than other public sector bodies in Scotland for holding closed tender exercises to support local businesses.

It also splits separate contracts into lots, where possible, to allow local small and medium sized businesses and contractors an opportunity to tender. Mary-Jean Devon, health and social care spokeswoman, said: 'The council works hard to support local businesses to secure contracts. Overall our focus has to be on securing the best results for the people who need the services being commissioned. The contract awarded to provide drug and alcohol support services in Argyll and Bute is one example. Service users, via focus groups, were involved in saying what they wanted from services and had a representative on the selection panel. We now have a valid contract in place, with a service provider that is already helping people move on with their lives.'

'Clearly the council must meet legislative requirements and ensure best value. We also identify ways to help local people take advantage of opportunities. I would encourage all local businesses to find out more.'

Barry Colville, of McKinven and Colville Limited from Campbeltown, said: 'Since Argyll and Bute council implemented its new procurement process through Public Contracts Scotland, we feel, as

I would encourage all local businesses to find out more

Mary-Jean Devon  
Health and social care spokeswoman

a small locally-based building contractor, there has been a huge benefit to the access we now have to tendering contracts in our working area and being able to process tender documents online is convenient and saves time.'

As well as holding meet the buyer events, the local authority has joined the national supplier development programme to help locally-based businesses take advantage of free advice, support, information and training on the www.sdpscotland.co.uk website.

This includes online training events on maximising tender scores and using innovation to stand out from other suppliers.

Information is available on the council's website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk about contract opportunities, the tender process and how to get involved.

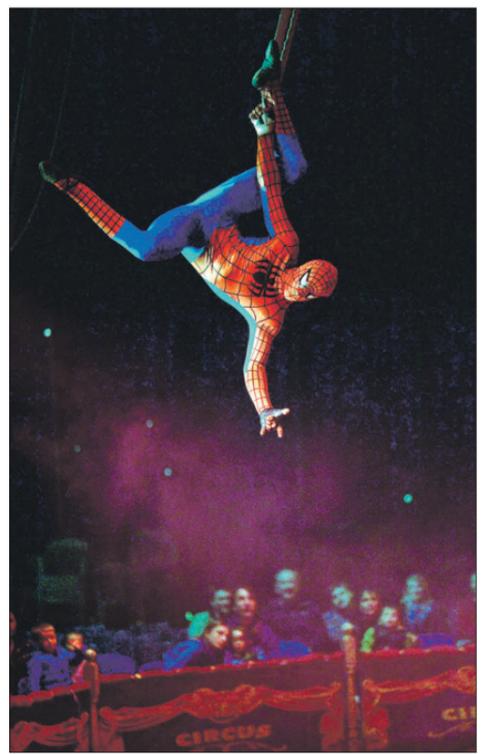
Argyll and Bute council has asked The Oban Times to clarify the term used in last week's issue in regard to 'unsafe legal advice' in the tendering process for £1.25 million worth of alcohol and drug advice services was incorrect. A spokeswoman said: 'As indicated in the Audit Scotland report [referred to in The Oban Times story], the council obtained external legal advice which supports the council's view that the contract agreed with Addaction Scotland is valid.'



AMAZING: the audience was thrilled by the Big Kid Circus acts



BALANCE AND POWER: this act took the circus big top by storm



SUPERHERO: Spiderman dropped in on the circus when it visited Oban last week

## Big Kid Circus turns on the style in Oban

BIG KID Circus made a great impression in Oban over its four-day stint in the town last week.

Kiril Kirilov and his wife Billi-Anna have worked for many years as professional circus artists and choreograph the show.

Kiril's father, Jordanov, was a well-known performer and circus manager in the USA and helped set up the show, while Billi's mum is seen regularly at the show helping with the paperwork.

The family tradition in the circus world spans more than 50 years on the road.

Kiril and Billi's son Deyvid, having trained with his parents, has also worked as an artist in Bulgaria, Thailand, Malaysia and Turkey.

Their daughter Julia is at university, but still visits the show regularly, and their daughter Nicole is just embarking on life as a circus child.

### TIMESLINE

#### Oban hopefuls in good voice for TV

MORE than 30 singers and musicians showed off their talents to a producer from the popular BBC TV programme, 'The Voice'. Hopefuls performed at two Oban sessions - one in the Lorne Bar and a second in Kinetic Studios.

James Gray, a director of Kinetic Studio in Oban, said: 'The producer said he was very impressed with the talent he saw in Oban.'

'He wanted to encourage people to apply to be on the show.'

#### Road closures for concert on show

PLANS for temporary road closures for the Skerryvore 'mega concert' to be held in Oban on the weekend of May 30 are now on display in the council offices in Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

Residents have raised concerns about a 100-mile trip to find out what is happening on their doorstep in Oban.

#### Passengers face an early journey

BUS cardholders can no longer take a coach between Oban and Glasgow at 8am after the service was taken off the summer timetable.

Soroba pensioner Mary Scott told the *Oban Times*: 'We now have to go at 6am or 10pm, neither of which are practical.'

#### Council assets add up to a tidy sum

BUDGET papers reveal that Argyll and Bute council has assets worth more than £510 million.

The assets are to be found in infrastructure, buildings, artefacts and balances in council reserves.

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**Ex council leader challenges move to spend £550k on consultants' fees**

A FORMER council leader has hit out at a local authority's plans to spend more than £550,000 on consultants for the Oban Tax Incremental Funding (TIF) plan, after the money was agreed at a meeting last Thursday.

Councillor James Robb, a former international banker, said, while the nine projects under the TIF scheme were viable, that he questioned whether Argyll and Bute council could justify spending more than half a million pounds on consultants' fees.

Mr Robb said: 'TIF is an option to borrow, not an obligation.' Speaking of the agreement to allocate council cash to the project, he said: '£560,000 is a lot of money to pay someone to justify £5.2 million of borrowing.'

A spokeswoman for the council said: 'This start-up project budget was unanimously approved by the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee and the policy and resources committee. It is not a target to spend and is in line with normal market levels of total project costs.'

'Spending will be phased and will include a full business case and independent economic impact assessment at an early stage of the process. This will ensure spend is minimised prior to detailed design being commissioned, which is the bulk of the potential cost.'

**PC returns from Canary Islands to face prospect of jail for assault**

**COURT REPORTER**  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

A FORMER Oban police constable is facing jail after he pleaded guilty to assaulting a man and falsifying official documents, at a hearing at Oban sheriff court last Wednesday May 13.

Oban sheriff court heard that on Saturday October 27, 2013 Ronald John MacBrayne, 43, of Benderloch had assaulted a member of the public travelling as a passenger in a police car.

He was told by sheriff Ruth Anderson QC to 'be prepared as custody has to be uppermost in the court's mind'.

MacBrayne said he was receiving help from his doctor for stress and anxiety at the time of the incident.

Travelling from Puerto Ventura in the Canary Islands, where he now lives, for the trial, MacBrayne listened to the facts from procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty.

Mr McGinty described a catalogue of events in the early hours of October 27 after MacBrayne and three other officers went to find four men who had left a taxi without paying the fare.

The men were quickly found at Balindore, Taynuilt.

The officers agreed to take the men back to Oban and that in turn they would pay the money owed to the taxi driver.

It wasn't until one of the four men opened a window in the police car, that a fellow police

**Be prepared as custody has to be uppermost in the court's mind**

Sheriff Ruth Anderson

officer described MacBrayne as behaving in an unusual way.

Mr McGinty told the court that MacBrayne was seen to be hitting the man with his baton on the legs and body.

MacBrayne then pulled the terrified man out of the police car and would not allow him to stand up by pressing his foot on the man's leg.

His colleagues remonstrated with MacBrayne about his behaviour.

But moments later, MacBrayne, who was back in the car sitting beside the passenger he had previously assaulted, launched yet another attack on the same man by pushing his face against the window.

Eventually, the man was placed in a police cell and released in the early hours of the morning.

His parents came to the police station the following day to make a formal complaint.

Mr McGinty praised the courage of the police officer who came forward to make a complaint about MacBrayne's treatment of the car passenger.

When the same officer read the statement MacBrayne had given about the incident, he said that the information had been falsified.

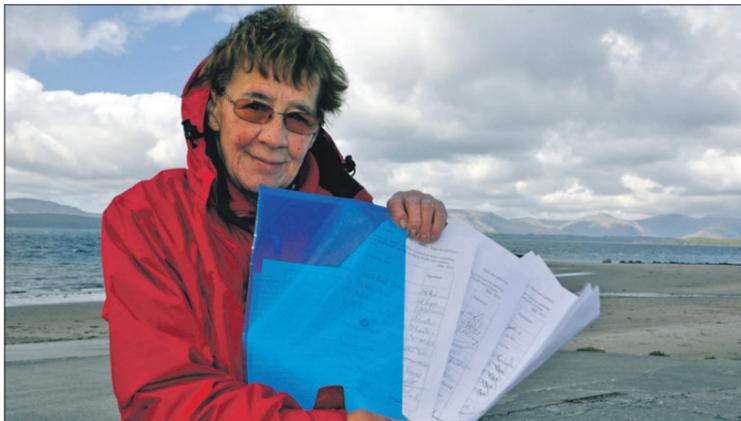
The victim was never cautioned or charged with any offence.

MacBrayne's lawyer, Stuart Carson, said he accepted the statement of facts from the procurator fiscal, but said that his client had also suffered a blow to the leg.

Mr Carson said that MacBrayne had been receiving treatment from a doctor for 'stress and anxiety'.

MacBrayne is due to be sentenced on June 9.

**UNUSUAL BEHAVIOUR:** Former Oban police officer John MacBrayne, who now lives in the Canary Islands, is facing the prospect of a jail sentence after he pleaded guilty to assault and falsifying his incident report



WINDS OF CHANGE: campaigner Doreen MacLeod with the petition at Ganavan Sands 16\_121ganavan1

**Sands of time running out for Ganavan parking charges**

**LOUISE GLEN**  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A PETITION to bring an end to 'punitive' parking charges at Ganavan Sands has already gathered more than 120 signatures, since it was launched on Tuesday.

Doreen MacLeod, who originally raised the matter with Oban, Lorn and the Isles councillors at an area committee meeting in April, said the response to her campaign had been very encouraging.

Mrs MacLeod, who enjoyed

the beach every day with her husband Duncan before he died last year, wants the matter resolved as quickly as possible.

She argued that parking charges operating seven days a week were driving away families from the popular Oban beauty spot.

Mrs MacLeod is collecting signatures by herself, but she is keen to gather as many names as possible before she hands them over to the council's area committee when it meets to consider the matter on June 10.

She said: 'While the charges are

punitive, it is a point of principle to have them removed. The land belongs to the people of Oban.'

Oban councillor Roddy McCuish said he was keen to reach a speedy resolution: 'We have some hard choices to make and it will be down to the eight councillors in the area committee to bring options forward.'

'If we lose revenue from somewhere it will have to be replaced from somewhere else. My main priority at the moment is protecting as many services as we can and protecting jobs for our staff.'

**Ferry operator praises captain for seamanship after ship is grounded**

**STEVEN RAE**  
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A CLAIM that a Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) ferry grounded on a sandbank as it attempted to berth at Port Ellen on Islay has been described as an example of skillful seamanship.

Eye witnesses reported on Tuesday, May 12, that the MV Hebridean Isles ferry, with passengers on board from Kennacraig, tried to berth at Port Ellen, but struggled because of strong winds and had to manoeuvre away from the pier.

It then appeared to get blown on to a sandbank.

One witness, who photographed the event, said: 'I could clearly see, and others with me, it being grounded with the front of the ship being stuck in the sand.'

'The captain then tried to reverse but it actually took several minutes with the props in full reverse, and a push from the bow thruster, before she managed to free herself from her precarious position.'

The ferry then left for Port Askaig, despite passengers and cars waiting to board at Port Ellen.

A CalMac spokesman said: 'While trying to berth at Port Ellen, the vessel was caught in a strong (approx 35knots plus) westerly squall.'

'In these circumstances, one



contingency is to allow the bow to lightly touch a sand bar adjacent to the berth on the southern side of the bay in order to prevent the vessel from being blown to leeward and into the shallower water in Loch Leodamais - this is what the Master opted to do.

'He then backed clear of the

berth to allow adequate sea-room to swing the vessel and proceeded back to sea, diverting to Port Askaig.

'This was deliberate seamanship, not an accidental grounding. The vessel was inspected after the manoeuvre before progressing to its next destination.'

**GROUND FOR PRAISE:** MV Hebridean Isles is deliberately grounded on a sandbank by the captain as he tries to berth the vessel at Port Ellen on Islay.

Photo courtesy www.islayinfo.com

**Stafford Street plan is on schedule**

**LOUISE GLEN**  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

THE pedestrianisation of Stafford Street in Oban will come in on time and on budget, says Argyll and Bute council.

Concerns that the project, which is designed to transform the town centre street into an outdoor seating area, had over-run were rejected by the local authority.

Some residents complained about the disruption caused by the construction work, which they described as 'chaotic'.

However, a council spokeswoman said: 'The response we have received so far to the Stafford Street project has been very positive.'

'Local people are looking forward to enjoying this new asset for Oban.'

'The project is running to

schedule, aiming for completion of all substantive works within the agreed timescale.

'While work is under way, our CHORD management team remains in regular contact with local businesses in the area affected.'

'Full pre-planning was carried out.'

'When the need for a new water pipe was identified while work was in progress, the asso-

ciated work was completed with no extension to the contract period.

'Alternative pedestrian routes have been clearly signposted throughout.'

The local authority confirmed that the project manager in charge of the contract, Linda Houston, had tendered her resignation. It is understood that she is due to leave her post tomorrow, Friday.

**Scottish Field** JUNE ISSUE OUT NOW

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**This summer's top dramas Saving a Lothian walled garden**

**10 OF THE BEST SPORTY SCOTS WHO MADE IT STATESIDE**

## Phoenix boxers prove a big hit at Nevis Centre

THE NEVIS centre was packed to the rafters on Saturday night when Lochaber Phoenix boxing club showed off its best fighters at its home show.

Ten of the 11 bouts in the Fort William venue featured local boxers and although more wins were awarded to visitors, accolades were given to a number of the Lochaber men for their efforts.

Eighteen-year-old Lewis Smith was named boxer of the night while 15-year-old Robbie Hall won the trophy for best young boxer. Dan Nixon, 14, was named the club's most improved boxer of the season.

First in the ring was middleweight Adam Watson who faced Highland boxing academy's

(HBA) Chris MacLeod. Watson has already defeated Inverness-based MacLeod twice this season so the visitor was on the hunt for revenge.

In the opening round southpaw Watson moved in the wrong direction for someone facing an opponent of the opposite stance and constantly walked onto a stream of MacLeod backhands losing the round.

Correcting his mistake in the next round, Watson was far more successful and the two collided with some meaty exchanges in what was a nip and tuck round.

The third saw a transformed Watson land some punishing combinations as he attacked body and head. But despite the Lochaber boxer's impressive last

### Boxing

round, the split decision went to MacLeod.

Novice middleweight Mark Gillespie had more success than his club mate, defeating HBA's Sean Finan by a unanimous decision, despite club officials commenting he was not in his best form.

Next up was light heavyweight Lewis Smith who made his debut against the older and more experienced Kieran Wilson of Dundee.

The 18-year-old showed why he was named boxer of the night, with a fantastic jab and tight defence for someone so inexperienced whilst Wilson was aggressive and fought in spurts.



FLOORED: Lochaber's Robbie Hall who put Ryan Sinclair of Dundee on the floor to win his bout



HOME SHOW: the Lochaber Phoenix boxers who took part in the club's home show on Saturday night

The Lochaber camp thought Smith's cleaner shots should have given him the nod but the split decision went to Wilson in the end.

But fellow debutant Lee Bruce did manage to pick up a win when he took on Northwest's Robert Murray in a brutal war of attrition which saw both boxers fight to an almost standstill. The 16-year-old

host showed better conditioning which saw him over the finishing line to a winning result.

Another victory came from 15-year-old Robbie Hall, who collected a unanimous points decision in his bout against Dundee's Ryan Sinclair, as well as his best young boxer accolade.

Cameron Whyte, 13, fought an incredibly close contest with

Kier Hardie's Stephen Black and despite both boxers putting on a great show, Black won on a narrow points margin.

Lochaber Phoenix teens Dan Nixon, 14, and Leon Smith both lost out to split decisions in the fights against visiting boxers but Ewan Easson, 13, achieved a unanimous victory against Elgin's Ian Reid.



WINNER: Mark Gillespie scores against opponent Craig MacIntosh of Highland boxing academy

## Lochaber pupils are in the swim

A YEAR of hard work by Lochaber high school pupils paid off when they received swimming certificates last week.

Youngsters from the pupil support for learning department have been having lessons at Lochaber leisure centre all year and, as the end of term draws nearer, their achievements were recognised on Friday.

Ami Kate Holden received an award for achieving the 800 metre distance while certificates for 400

### Swimming

metres were presented to Jonathan Mackay, Nellie Clark, Theresa Keil, Brighe MacKinnon and John Angus Sillars. John Kennedy and Morgan MacIntyre achieved 200 metres while Mya MacPhee accomplished 100 metres.

Shannon Davies and Jo Jo MacCormack also received certificates for completing the lessons.



SUCCESS: Lochaber high school pupils received swimming certificates from leisure centre coach Stevie MacDonald, right. Also pictured is additional support needs teacher Elaine Campbell

## Kerry crowned British champion

SOUTH Uist mountain biker Kerry MacPhee said she was 'absolutely delighted' to be crowned British champion after a gruelling 75 kilometre race.

MacPhee cleared the Scottish borders marathon route in four hours, 31 minutes and eight seconds, more than two minutes clear of her nearest rival, on May 2.

### Mountain biking

The win, but still quite shocked. I worked really hard for it and have been putting in some solid training ahead of the cross country world cups coming up.

**Ahead**

'As a cross-country rider I wanted to get ahead from the start to avoid any problems at the more technical sections.

I passed Lee [Craigie, second place] on the first climb and kept that position to the end. The plan paid off, what a great day.'

Kerry will now compete in the cross-country mountain bike world cup this summer.



Kerry MacPhee

## Lochaber youngsters do well in Mull

### Mini rugby

YOUNG Lochaber rugby players were grateful for their new warm up tops when they travelled to Mull for a tournament at the weekend.

The mini rugby team received the donation from Gavin and Sine Davis of the West Highland Hotel, Mallaig, before setting off to the island in wet and windy conditions.

At the tournament, the Lochaber primary four and five team made it to the final before losing out to Lenzie, while the primary six and seven team won two games and lost another two.



## Gary leads ten pin scratch league

### Ten pin bowling

AFTER week eight of the Lochaber singles ten pin bowling league, Gary Cowan continues to lead the scratch league, now with 160 points.

He is followed by Pam Weller with 151 points and Brian Johnstone in third with 141.

Cowan also leads the handicap league with 153 points, followed by Darren Duncan with 132 and James Porter in third with 128.

Weller still leads the chase of the Nevis Radio high pin trophy with 3,687 pins, followed by Cowan with 3,658 and Johnstone with 3,497.

This week Cowan achieved the top individual scratch game (183) and the top three-game scratch series (461). Ben Weller rolled the top three-game handicap series with 600.

## John Baird Memorial Cup

### Welfare football

LOCHABER welfare league continues this week with the first games of the John Baird memorial cup.

In the first cup clashes, The Volley will take on Ballachulish, Caol United face Lochaber, Fort William 17s play Mallaig and Lundavra go up against Nevis Range.

As the league continues, Caol United was due to play Lundavra on Monday night, Ballachulish faced Mallaig on Tuesday and Lundavra will play again tonight (Thursday), this time against Nevis Range. Tomorrow night (Friday) the Volley take on Lochaber.

Last week's results:  
Volley 4 - 1 Nevis Range, Mallaig 1 - 5 Caol United, Lundavra 2 - 1 the Volley, Lochaber 2 - 1 Ballachulish.

## Returns from Isle of Skye Golf Club

### Golf

ISLE of Skye golf club returns. Spring scramble, played on Saturday May 16: 1 Chris Hanley, Kenny MacLeod, Mike Williams and Stewart Johnston senior 59.0; 2 Ian Marr, Martin Bird, John Allan MacLeod and John Marshall 59.5.

Club outing, played on Saturday May 16 and Sunday May 17: 1 Alex Munro 60 points; 2 Simon Latton 59 points; 3 Jamie Beaton 58 points.

## Battle of Festubert remembered

### Shinty

A COMMEMORATIVE shinty game was held on Skye this weekend to remember fallen soldiers of the first world war.

Kingussie players travelled to the island for the match against a Portree side and took part in a memorial service in the town after the game to mark the centenary of the battle of Festubert, when shinty players from the home towns of both teams lost their lives, among thousands of British soldiers.

Dressed in commemorative strips, the teams battled it out to a full time score of 3-3, before the match went to penalties with Kingussie winning 4-3.

For more on the commemorations see page 13.

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**Stop Press:** New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

**TIDAL INFORMATION**  
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, May 21, 2015 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am			pm		
Thur	01.49	0.8	07.32	3.7	13.53	0.8
Fri	02.32	1.1	08.10	3.5	14.35	1.0
Sat	03.16	1.3	08.51	3.2	15.19	1.2
Sun	04.03	1.5	09.37	3.0	16.06	1.4
Mon	04.58	1.7	10.35	2.9	16.58	1.6
Tues	06.04	1.9	12.08	2.8	17.55	1.7
Wed	00.00	2.9	07.25	1.9	13.40	2.9

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardershaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

**WEATHER**

**Thursday** Heavy rain  
Winds moderate south westerly  
Temperatures 10°C to 11°C.

**Friday** Heavy rain  
Winds moderate westerly  
Temperatures 7°C to 11°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Cloudy on Saturday  
Light rain on Sunday  
Winds strong westerly  
Temperatures 8°C to 11°C.

**FRIDAY**