

# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8255

Thursday 11 June, 2015

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# Disgraced PC lied over his brutal attack on passenger

COURT TOLD ARGUMENT OVER OPEN WINDOW CAUSED EX-OFFICER TO 'FLIP'

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A BATON-wielding Oban police officer who launched a brutal assault on a man involved in a taxi fare row was sentenced to 24 months behind bars.

Disgraced former Police Scotland constable, Ronald John MacBrayne, 44, appeared at Oban sheriff court on Tuesday to be sentenced for the unprovoked attack and lying about the incident.

He had previously admitted hitting a man with his baton and causing injury to his legs and head, as well as falsifying a crime report at a hearing in Oban sheriff court on May 13.

The victim, and three of his friends, had been 'offered' a lift from Taynuilt to Oban by police officers in the early hours of October 27, 2013 to pay a taxi fare they had failed to settle earlier in the evening.

An argument over an open window in the police car, caused MacBrayne, who lived in Bendorloch at the time, to 'flip'.

He attacked one of the men by seizing him, pulling him from the police vehicle and striking him on the legs and body with a police baton.

Later on in the journey to Oban, MacBrayne got into the back seat beside the victim and struck his head against the door

**This was a protracted assault in two parts with the use of your police baton as a weapon. This was reprehensible behaviour. You then went on to write a report that would have drawn your fellow officers to pervert the course of justice**

SHERIFF RUTH ANDERSON QC

frame of the car. At the hearing, Oban sheriff court heard that MacBrayne had to be pulled off his victim by a fellow officer.

MacBrayne 'fictionalised' the incident when he handed over his written report to senior officers. He claimed the victim was abusive, aggressive, and violent and had tried to escape. He also stated that the man had tried to bite him.

He admitted he had tried to pervert the course of justice

with the false report. Defence lawyer, Ian Moir, claimed that MacBrayne had been suffering from stress at work and had tried to raise the matter with senior colleagues.

After the incident, MacBrayne moved to Puerto Ventura in the Canary Islands with his wife and two children, but came back to stay with his father for the hearing.

Mr Moir said: 'Mr MacBrayne has had a long history of exem-

plary service. His family have given generations of service to the police. He is ashamed of his behaviour and is entirely clear of the gravity of the situation.'

While Mr Moir said he did not want to blame one person in the Oban police office for not taking MacBrayne's mental ill health seriously, he said the accused 'should have been offered help'.

'When he went for help from senior officers, it was dismissed,' he claimed.

Addressing MacBrayne, Sheriff Ruth Anderson, QC, said: 'You recognise the seriousness of this case.'

'This was a protracted assault in two parts with the use of your police baton as a weapon.'

'This was reprehensible behaviour. You then went on to write a report that would have drawn your fellow officers to pervert the course of justice.'

Sheriff Anderson continued: 'The public must have the confidence in the police. Especially in an area like this where police officers live and their families belong and where they are known personally by those people who know the law and those who don't.'

As Sheriff Anderson told MacBrayne he would be 'imprisoned from today', the court watched in silence as he was handcuffed and taken from the courtroom.



SHAMED: John MacBrayne arriving at Oban sheriff court

## TIMESLINE

**NY tea for two has the aroma of Mull**

TEA grown in Mull was served at a high-powered meeting in New York yesterday between US president Barack Obama and Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon.

Chai, a stem tea grown by Liz and Martin Gibson from Lochdon, was on the menu at the five-star Lowell Hotel in New York's Upper East side.

The couple started growing tea last year in their sea-level garden. Liz, who is a Church of Scotland minister, said: 'It is all very exciting.'

**Still walking tall after mixed result**

OBAN walking football team had a day of mixed results at last weekend's Scottish championships held in Edinburgh.

Team captain Maggie Dougal, from Argyll Voluntary Action, said: 'We won one and lost the rest.'

'However, it was a great day.'

**Work in progress on seafront plan**

STAFFORD Street pedestrianisation in Oban is running behind schedule.

The £1.5 million 'enhancement' works were due to be finished by May.

But the council was unable to confirm when the project would be completed.

**Parking charges back on agenda**

A PETITION was handed to Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee yesterday, Wednesday, asking the local authority to scrap parking charges at Ganavan Sands.

Councillors said they would consider the request.

## More staff plea to tackle foul problem

A GROUP set up to tackle the problem of dog fouling in Oban town centre is demanding more council staff to deal with the problem.

The Community Action on Dog Fouling group is holding a meeting on the foul matter with

Argyll and Bute council officials, housing associations and local councillors in Oban's Corran Halls today, Thursday.

Community councillor, Julie MacKenzie, said: 'The whole community needs to support us by making sure they are record-

ing any fouling problems with the local authority.'

'It is a simple matter of making sure that the people who are offending by letting their dogs foul, are fined.'

'The council needs more staff to do that.'

## Mail sale 'threatens island deliveries'

PLANS to sell off the UK government's remaining stake in Royal Mail will cause huge problems to people who live in rural areas, says the MP for the Western Isles (Na h-Eileanan an Iar), Angus MacNeil.

The Western Isles politician

has condemned the plans to privatise the remaining 30 per cent stake in the mail service.

Mr MacNeil said: 'The move further threatens postal deliveries to the Highlands and Islands under the terms of the Universal Service Obligation (USO).'

'The USO safeguards postal services and deliveries in rural areas such as the Highlands and islands.'

He questioned the legitimacy of the government move, as they made no reference to it in the run up to the general election.



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## Rescue me from this awful weather



JUST PAWFUL: the heavens opened on the army of dogged volunteers at Oban's Charities' Day on Saturday, including canine cutie, Fly, the latest addition to the town's mountain rescue team. Turn to page 18 for picture special

## Power from the people

WET weather has been good news for a community-owned hydro scheme on Mull as it produced its first electricity for the island last weekend.

While most people were complaining about the 'monsoon' conditions, Garmony Hydro began exporting electricity to the national grid. Working at maximum power, more than 400kw of electricity was produced.

It is expected to generate more than 1,000MWh of electricity annually, sufficient to power 280 homes. The £1.5 million scheme was financed by community shares and loans from the Charity Bank and the Renewable Energy Investment Fund administered by Scottish Enterprise.

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**Ferry feedback to shape CalMac bid**

PASSENGERS' complaints and praise will be used to inform ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne's (CalMac) bid to continue to run the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services (CHFS) contract, which comes into force next autumn.

Senior CalMac executives and non-executive directors met several hundred people at 24 separate meetings during last month, from Campbeltown and Arran to Stornoway and Ullapool.

A spokesman for CalMac said: 'We have operated the CHFS contract since 2007. 'We will use the feedback received from those communities to help shape our bid to run the service from next October.

'The current contract expires on September 30, 2016 and the process to select the operator of the next contract, for a period of up to eight years, is now under way.'

**It's a stitch-up for Argyll's knitters**

KNITTING needles will be to the fore as crafters from Argyll take part in a worldwide 'Knit in public' day when people from all over the world choose a public place in which to demonstrate their skills.

Knitters from Mid Argyll and Benderloch will be taking part and will be knitting in Kilmartin Museum cafe from 11am to around 1pm before moving onto Benderloch.

All knitters are welcome to join in - just bring needles and wool.

**Lucky millionaires had to retrieve winning lottery ticket from the bin**

**AMANDA CRAWFORD**  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

MID ARGYLL pensioners 'fed up being skint' were three times lucky when they won £1 million, £25 and a luxury trip to London on the Euro Millions.

But unfazed by their overnight millionaire status, Betty and Geordie Rhodick were still selling raffle tickets for a charity dear to their hearts just days after their life-changing win.

But Betty, 63, and Geordie, 71, almost lost out on the win when Geordie threw the golden ticket in the bin last Wednesday.

The ex-soldier had checked his tickets but threw them away thinking his numbers had not come up.

Luckily Betty fished the tickets out the bin and took them to be scanned in the shop.

She said: 'Geordie said something about being fed up with being skint, so I just decided to take them down to the shop anyway.'

Geordie buys two tickets on a Friday, but purchased his tickets a day early for the draw on May 29.

He said: 'We were going to Cowdenbeath to see Betty's mother, Granny, on the Friday, so I had actually bought the tickets on the Thursday before.

'I forgot I had them so I bought another two that morning. It just so happened that we left later than we had expected, so I had time to go to the shop.

'I checked teletext the following



TOASTING SUCCESS: Betty and Geordie say they won't be changed by their good fortune

Wednesday and I looked at the main numbers and they hadn't come up, so I stuck the tickets in the recycling.'

On discovering that she could be a millionaire, Betty and the store manager held on to each other to stop them from shaking.

The Mega Friday Millionaire Maker is an extra raffle number printed lower down on the ticket and it was to be the winning code.

Geordie and Betty, a carer for Enable Scotland and Carr Gomm, have been married for 44 years and together they have

worked around the world. Their close-knit family consists of six children aged between 31 and 43 and 10 grandchildren.

Betty and Geordie are the organisers behind Argyll's only Armed Forces Day.

And they were in the Co-op

in Lochgilhead selling raffle tickets last Friday after their win.

Geordie laughed: 'This won't change me, I will still be a crabbit old git. Our first priority now is to plan a surprise trip for Granny.

'Then our children will receive a share.'

**TIMESLINE**

**Funding jobs for future workforce**

YOUTH employment in the West Highlands will be boosted by £137,000 towards helping young people find work.

Argyll and Bute council Youth Employment Opportunities fund will provide £150,000 over two years to help young people leaving education to move into further or higher education, training, employment or voluntary work.

Councillor Rory Colville, education spokesman, welcomed the news of the cash boost.

He said: 'Young people are the future workforce and the council recognises that investing in them is key to both their success and to the development of our economy and communities.'

**Deadline nears on tax credit claims**

THE TAX man is urging the 22,100 people who receive tax credits in the Highlands and islands to renew their claims ahead of next month's deadline.

HM Customs and Revenue (HMRC) said people who fail to renew their claims by the July 31 deadline will have their payments stopped.

For the first time, renewals can be made online as part of a move to speed up the process.

HMRC has begun sending tax credits renewal packs to about 5.9 million households throughout the UK.

**Stocks and sharing at new food bank**

TINNED vegetables, pasta and other kitchen cupboard essentials are being collected by building society staff to help stock the shelves at a food bank in Oban.

The Oban branch of Yorkshire Building Society, on George Street, has become an official collection point for 'The Lord's Larder'. It is a joint project between all the churches.

Sally Jackson, manager of the Yorkshire's Oban branch, said: 'The Lord's Larder is a fantastic project which provides a lifeline to many people who are facing hardship within our community.'

**Rotary club raises stakes for Nepal**

A CONCERT of music and drama will help raise much-needed cash for the stricken people of Nepal.

The Rotary Club of Oban is planning the charity concert along with Oban high school. Funds raised will go to the relief work following the earthquake that devastated much of Nepal in April 2015.

The concert is to be held on June 18 at 7pm in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering hall. Tickets are available from Alba on Albany Street and at the door on the night.

**Oban restaurant in running for prestigious UK award**

**STAFF REPORTER**  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

OBAN seafood restaurant Ee-usk has been shortlisted for a prestigious national food award.

The inaugural Restaurant of the Year award, presented by Seafish and The Caterer magazine, recognises the best eateries in the UK serving fish and shellfish.

The award was created to find restaurants demonstrating both excellent examples of the cooking and the presentation of fish and shellfish, as well as evidence of expert knowledge among the staff.

The competition's judging panel has reduced the entries to a shortlist of 10 restaurants which will next be visited by a 'mystery' judge, before a final top five is selected, to be revealed with the next few days.

The final five shortlisted restaurants will be invited on an all-expenses paid study trip to Brixham, Devon, later this year, to further hone their knowledge regarding the catching, processing and supply of seafood from the south west of England to other

parts of the UK. There they will meet a range of industry experts and, at the same time, experience some of the world's freshest and tastiest seafood.

The five finalists will also be invited to attend an awards ceremony in London on June 24 at Benares Restaurant, when the overall national winner will be announced.

Ee-usk managing director, Alan Macleod said: 'There could be no greater accolade than being nominated by the industry authority, Seafish, whose work on sustainability is imperative.'



TOP SERVICE: Ee-usk staff

**Rescuers freed 12 beached whales**

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

NINE pilot whales died after they became stranded on the beach at Staffin island, off the coast of Skye.

A team of rescuers from British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR) were alerted to the pod of twenty-one beached whales around 4am last Tuesday.

The BDMLR said that eighteen whales were re-floated before ten became stranded again.

It is thought a pregnant female whale, which had got into difficulties, may have caused the others to swim too close to the shore.

The team was able to re-float 18 whales initially, however 10 of them returned and ended back up on the beach later in the day.

The rescue operation, which ended with 12 out of the 21 whales freed took around eleven hours.

Sam Nicholson, from Skye, was one of the first on the scene: 'I was one of the volunteer rescuers in Staffin Bay for the Pod of 21 stranded whales.

'As ever, I took my camera with

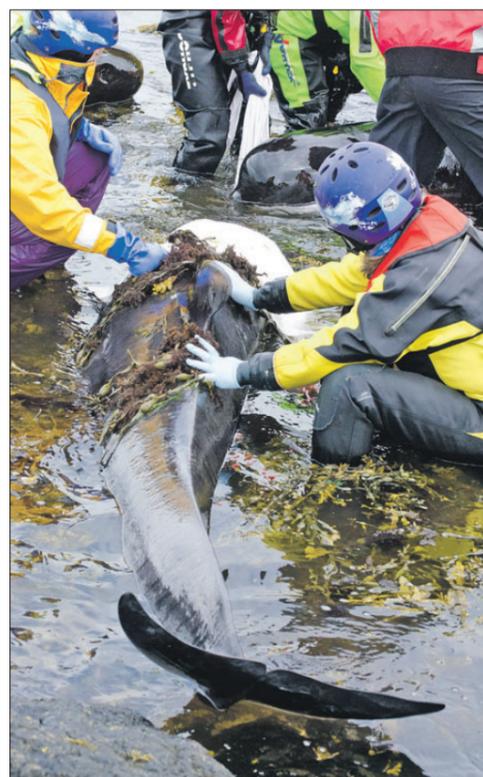
me and when time allowed took some shots. We were working with rescuers who came from places such as Skye, Perth, Aberdeen, Gairloch and from a nearby ship.

'When we first arrived at 9am, our group looked after four of the pilot whales. My friend Mairi and I, who is a marine medic, spent the day looking after a young juvenile we named 'Poseidon'. He would not leave the pod and re-beached himself to stay with them.

'It was a happy ending, however, after 11 hours when the tide came in and he swam away with the rest of the surviving members of the pod.

'While we patiently waited for the tide to lift them off the jagged rocks, we kept his skin hydrated with seawater and seaweed as he lay on the rocks.

'It was remarkable to watch two females from the pod spend the day communicating with each other - such a strong bond.'



PILOT RESCUE: Rescue workers re-float pilot whales on Skye. Photograph Sam Nicolson 2015

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**Learning to live with loss**



TAYNUILT resident ALISON Pringle and retired Oban solicitor Graeme Pagan were in Waterstone's store in Oban on Friday to promote their book, 'Don't Mention the Coal Scuttle'. The book is a touching, humorous and poignant account of how they both dealt with grief, told through their personal stories and the experiences of others

**MULLlines**

FIRST CLASS LESSON: Nicola Sturgeon with the Iona pupils

**Isla's invite to Nicola**

AS A culmination of their global citizenship theme, Iona primary pupils sat around the table at Holyrood last week with three MSPs: Jean Urquhart, Michael Russell, and John Finnie.

Pupils discussed the history and future of democracy in Scotland. The youngsters were complimented by the MSPs for their knowledge and understanding of democracy and its place in Scottish history.

The highlight of their visit to Holyrood was meeting First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, whom P5 pupil, Isla MacInnes, invited to visit Iona, which the SNP leader duly accepted.

**Ferry special deal is sweet music to Tiree festival and volunteers alike**

STAFF REPORTER  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

FERRY operator Caledonian MacBrayne, a long-term backer of the Tiree Music Festival, has announced extra support for this year's event, which will take place between July 17 - 19.

The additional sponsorship will be used to meet the travelling costs of the ever-increasing army of unpaid volunteers as they make their way from Oban to help at the multi award-winning festival.

The one-off commitment from CalMac follows in the wake of the hugely popular 10th anniversary Skerryvore concert staged at Oban's Mossfield park at the beginning of the month.

Skerryvore band member Daniel Gillespie, together with friend, Stewart MacLennan, both Tiree islanders, founded the festival in 2010.

The event has steadily grown in popularity and won the accolade of best small music festival in the UK last year.

The additional support will also strengthen the growing relationship between the festival organisers and CalMac.

Stewart, the Tiree Music Festival director, said: 'We would like to thank CalMac for their sponsorship over the years.'

'As the festival has grown both in size and duration over the past six years, their support has been immeasurable.'

'We are delighted that they have been able to offer additional sponsorship this year which will be used to reduce the travelling expenses of our much needed volunteers from Oban to the island.'

'This year is set to be our best yet, with plenty of local foodie produce, family fun and a stellar line up including The Fratellis, Funbox, Skerryvore, Manran and Calmac Culture Music winner, Little Fire to name a few.'

# Play group charts its course for a spectacular autumn adventure

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A PLAY park fit for all the children of Oban and far beyond will soon get under way, thanks to the 'incredible' fundraising power of townfolk.

There will be something for everyone at the park, based near Atlantis Leisure, with basket swings, inclusive swings, flat seats, rope end swings, zip wires, wide slides, fly mobile spinners and climbing rocks, not to mention a galleon with pole sliders and tunnels.

Friends of Oban Community Playpark said they were 'delighted' to announce the contract to build the five-to-15-year-old play park has been awarded to Northamptonshire-based Wickstead Playscapes.

It is scheduled to be up and running by autumn this year.

The group said the winning design included a ship with a six-metre high climbing tower, fireman's pole, scramble nets

and climbing rocks. The play park will have an easy access wide slide, rocking surf board and colourful 'eco-tumble' resin-bound flooring, which will allow buggies and wheelchairs to move around easily.

The special surface will also minimise the impact of the inevitable trips and falls as children explore the park and test their abilities.

Ground preparations, including drainage on-site, will ensure the park can cope with the ever-changeable Argyll weather.

There will even be a wooden shelter to keep off sun and rain, with open sides to discourage after-hours use.

The £172,000 contract has been funded by Sport Scotland, Scottish Sea Farms, The Robertson Trust, Crerar Hotels Trust, plus many donations from local groups including MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust, ABCD, the Lions club, Health and Wellbeing Network, Oban Rotary club and the Oban Common

Good Fund. Local businesses and individuals have made up the rest of the funding, with donations pouring in since the play park's closure in February 2014.

Lyndsay Elliott, of the play park group, said: 'Without the incredible support of our community, Argyll and Bute council and Atlantis Leisure's help, we would simply not be in the position we are today, and we look forward to a big party for everyone when the park is opened in the autumn.'

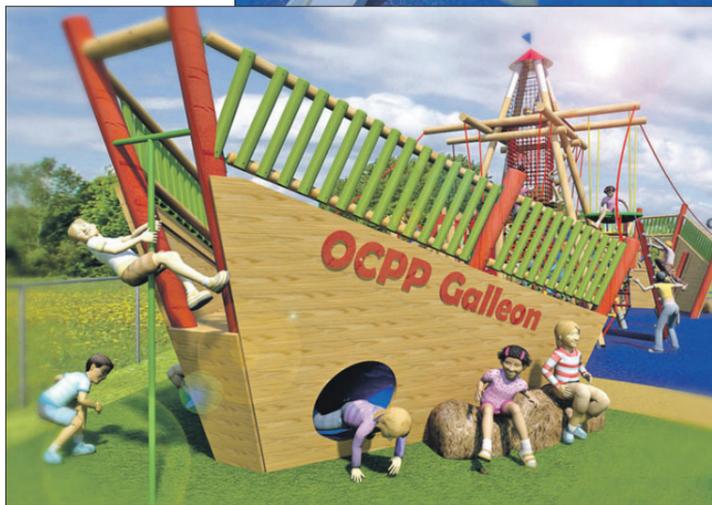
The play park group is still working hard with ongoing fund-raising to upgrade the path in the garden area and provide multi-sensory play equipment.

It also plans to build a new play park for under fives, on the site of the old play park, where temporary swings have recently been put up for use in the meantime.

SWASHBUCKLING: (right) a six-metre high climbing tower and (below) a galleon are just some of the attractions awaiting Oban's children when the new play park opens in the autumn



PLAYTIME: play park playmates Alex, Liam (centre) and Alfie with their trusted friend 'Socktopus'



TIMESLINE

**Heartless theft of graveside light**

CRUEL thieves who stole a solar light from a 17-year-old teenager's graveside have been branded 'heartless' by a grieving mum.

Tracey Goldie, of Oban, who lost her son Scott to a rare infection in April 2014, was horrified when she visited Pennyfuir graveyard last week to discover the expensive lights had been stolen.

Tracey said: 'I never wanted the light to go out on Scott.'

'We have had various solar lights at his graveside and none of them have lasted very long.'

'We paid a fair bit of money for the one that was stolen.'

'I could not believe it when some heartless individual had taken it. Why would anyone do anything like this?'

Anyone who has any information about the incident should contact the police by phoning 101.

**A sad ending to a happy experience**

CHILDREN who attended Happy House in Oban are invited to a commemorative garden party as the pre-school prepares to close.

Anyone who had a connection with the Albany street nursery over the 20 years since it opened is invited to attend this Saturday (June 13).

Beryl Carmichael, a member of the Happy House management board, said: 'After 20 years we're closing at the end of June. It's really sad to see it go so hopefully a lot of people can come along from 1pm to say goodbye.'

**Centre waiting on a flood of visitors**

THE ATLANTIC Islands centre on Luining will have its official opening this Saturday, June 13 from 11am.

The centre hosts a historical museum, art gallery, restaurant and work spaces for small business.

## Party with Rocky as trust celebrates

AN OPEN invitation to a party celebrating the purchase of the former Rockfield primary school in Oban has been issued to townfolk.

The celebration at The Rockfield Centre this Saturday will see music, dancing, Gaelic and art activities on the agenda as well as some delicious cup cakes.

The event takes place in the building's car park and huts area with burgers and refreshments on hand throughout the day.

Everyone is being asked to bring along a cup cake to build a giant celebration Rockfield Centre cake.

Gordon McNab, chairman of Oban Communities Trust, said: 'A warm welcome is extended to everyone to our celebration party this Saturday.'

'The community has achieved so much to date. If you just want to know what is going on, then come along. This is your community project, get involved and see the change begin.'

The event takes place in the building's car park and huts area starting at 11am and continuing until 3pm.



PARTY TIME: a colourful and conspicuous invitation to Rockfield

## Expenses claims fall as the belt tightens at Kilmory Castle

FIGURES released from council headquarters at Kilmory Castle show that councillors' expenses fell in the last year by more than £40,000.

The total bill for Argyll and Bute's 36 councillors was reduced from £864,844 in 2013/14 to £824,076 in 2014/15 for salaries, mileage and accommodation.

The wage bill for last year cost £681,653 with an extra £142,423 spent on mileage, the provost's car, accommodation, meals and ferry travel.

In Oban, Lorn and the Isles, the highest claim was made by Mull councillor, Alistair MacDougall, who spent £7,719. His bill included £3,426 on mileage, £1,853 on accommodation and £441 on meals on top of his enhanced salary of £21,538.64.

The lowest spender was Oban councillor, Neil MacIntyre, who claimed £106 on mileage and £193 on accommodation, in addition to his salary of £13,508. The highest overall expenses claim was recorded by Islay councillor, Robin Currie. Mr Currie spent £19,353 on his expenses, including £9,161.05 on accommodation and £5,695 on mileage. The Islay councillor also earns a salary of £23,630.

Council leader Dick Walsh's salary and expenses bill was £42,669. Helensburgh-based deputy leader Ellen Morton's bill was £33,884, spending £8,166.30 for the provost's car. While salary costs remained almost static for last year, expenses fell by some £39,873.

### Queen Mary 2 Prints for Sale




To celebrate the maiden voyage of the Queen Mary 2 liner to Oban a variety of prints are now available from Dennis Hardley Photography

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Neil Mackay and Roddy MacIsaac

## Roddy has high hopes

AN OBAN businessman will head for Britain's highest peak this weekend to raise money for the Royal National Mod.

Roddy MacIsaac has pledged £700 for the Gaelic festival, which will be held in the town this October, through sponsorship as he prepares to make his way up Ben Nevis this Saturday.

The big-hearted garage owner, originally from South Uist, takes on a fundraising challenge every year and has now set his sights on the 4,408 foot summit to help fund the Mod.

Roddy MacIsaac said: 'I'm a Gaelic speaker but I don't have time to get involved myself, so I decided raising money would be the thing to do. Hopefully, it will encourage other local business owners to do their bit to help the Mod.'

Neil Mackay, events and marketing manager of BID4Oban, presented a T-shirt and hooded top to Roddy to wear during the climb.

Neil said: 'We're working with the local mod committee and National Mod organisers to assist and prepare the town as much as possible. We thought this would be a great opportunity to launch our new merchandise for the first time.'

## Warning on rebate scam

TRADING standards officers have asked the public to be extra vigilante about phone calls offering a council tax discount.

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'A member of the public in Tarbert received a phone call from someone claiming to be a representative of the council advising them that they were eligible for a council tax rebate of up to £7,000 because their council tax band had changed, but that they would have to pay a fee of £67 for it to be processed.'

'The member of the public did not pay the fee and contacted our trading standards team to make them aware of this potential scam.'

'If council taxpayers are entitled to a refund, the council would write to them informing them of any rebate.'

The Citizens Advice Consumer Service can be contacted on 0345 404 0506 if anyone has been targeted by the fraudsters.

# Cuts become a sticking point for councillors seeing red over budget

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

PLACING stickers on the walls of the council chambers was one of the ways local councillors were asked to show their preferences over swingeing cuts.

Argyll and Bute councillors were asked to indicate by the use of coloured stickers which services they thought should be saved from the axe of budget austerity: a red sticker to put a stop to the cuts, while the green one would allow the axe to be wielded.

Only 20 of the 36 members took part in the seminar.

Councillors have been asked to slash more than £28 million from the local authority budget.

But members, such as the opposition leader, Sandy Taylor, have said the savings will be the

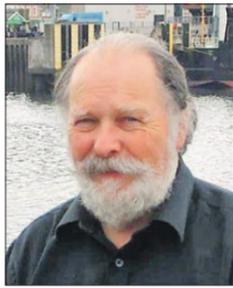
largest and most devastating cuts ever seen in Scottish local authority history.

One who attended the meeting, former Argyll college chief executive, councillor Michael Breslin from Dunoon, said: 'The seminar was better than nothing. We were talked at for most of the time and we weren't able to discuss any of the items that were not the subject of proposed cuts.'

'A budget pack was given to each of us and we were told, correctly, that some of the detail in it might lead to individuals being 'identified', in other words, people whose jobs were under threat.'

'The day deteriorated mid to late afternoon when we were all handed out red and green self-adhesive dots.'

'We were asked to place these



**“**  
**“**  
We should not do this by using red and green stickers  
**”**  
**”**

Iain MacLean (pictured)

against the budget options we wanted to see pursued and those we didn't. Only myself and councillor Iain MacLean refused to do this.'

Iain MacLean, councillor for Oban, North and Lorn, said:

'We need to have an in-depth discussion about the budget cuts. This is not salami slicing anymore. It is taking away large amounts of money from departments which in turn make them dysfunctional. It is time

to consider whether we need to stop doing things altogether rather than continuing to take cuts from every service.'

'These are serious decisions that will effect the way the council does business. We should not do this by using red and green stickers and placing them next to people's jobs.'

After the seminar, councillors were told they could not take budget cut proposal papers away with them.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'The seminar was not about making decisions; it was about getting a steer from members on what areas of the council's work to continue exploring for savings.'

'The outcome will guide information going to the special policy and resources committee in June.'

## Pupils find their ways to the medals at festival

TAYNUILT Primary, Oban High and Lochgilphead High schools all entered teams in the annual Scottish Schools Orienteering Festival, which this year was held in Livingston near Edinburgh on Friday, June 5.

Taynuilt Primary achieved fifth place overall out of 26 schools with Ellis Hunter and Rona Shearer taking first and third places respectively on the P7 courses.

Jura and Louis MacMillan both achieved a very good second place on the S3 and S1 courses for Lochgilphead High school.

However, it was top spot for Oban High pupil Roanne Lilley who was placed first in the S4 girls. Her fellow schoolmate Eilidh Shearer came second on the S1 girls course.

And despite having a small team, Oban High came a very worthy third overall out of 20 schools.



PATHFINDERS: Taynuilt primary's Scottish schools orienteering team

## Livewire Sean's all charged up for an award

A YOUNG man from Oban has the spark of promise as he became the second contender for Apprentice of the Year to be trained up by Oban Electrical Services (OES).

Sean Sutherland, 18, has just completed his first year training at Reid Kerr College in Paisley and was selected by his lecturers to go through to the west Scotland heats for the prestigious Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust's award.

Sean, who is very proud of his

achievement, said: 'I've wanted to do this job since I was a wee boy, because my dad did it. I didn't get the grades at school, but WorkingRite and OES gave me this great opportunity and I love everything about the work.'

OES hired Sean as an apprentice after he completed a 16-week WorkingRite programme with the company.

WorkingRite is a youth employment charity which individually matches young people to businesses in their local com-

munity for work-based learning and mentoring. Many of WorkingRite's trainees, like Sean, do not have the qualifications to get an apprenticeship right away, but 80 per cent of those who complete the programme achieve these outcomes.

Angus MacPherson, managing director of OES, is absolutely delighted that Sean has been named Reid Kerr College's Apprentice of the Year. He is the second OES apprentice to do so, following in

the footsteps of William Ward, another WorkingRite trainee, who received this award in 2012 and is still works for OES.

MacPherson said: 'The WorkingRite programme gives us the opportunity to see a young lad or lassie's work over a longer period of time.'

'Lots of people are good at interview, but not so great at the practical side. WorkingRite is like a 16-week interview.'

'I was able to identify the potential in Sean during the

programme, and that's why I took him on as an apprentice.'

'Before WorkingRite, I wouldn't hire anyone without a higher in maths and physics, but they've changed the way I think about recruiting.'

Audrey MacFadyen, Sean's WorkingRite co-ordinator, said: 'Sean is a lively wee lad and has always had a fantastic work ethic. He was determined to become an electrician right from the beginning. He's been an absolute pleasure to work with.'

## Western Isles bill drops as members show restraint in expenses claims

TOTAL salaries and expenses for the 31 councillors of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, (Western Isles council), has dropped over the past financial year.

The total for the financial year 2014/15 was £648,680.62 compared to £661,104.57 the previous year.

Councillor Norman MacDonald, convener, and councillor Angus Campbell, leader, both topped £16,000 in expenses as well as picking up enhanced salaries.

Councillor Donald Manford, the vice chairman of the council's scrutiny committee, had the second highest telephone and computer expenses, spending £1,310.82, with only the convener spending £210 more.

Overall, councillors had reduced their total spending on expenses and travel.

A spokesman said: 'Councilors' salaries are set by the Scottish government with the leader, convener and committee chairwoman and men receiving higher salaries and tending to incur more expenses because they have more duties.'

'Expenses can be claimed for carrying out duties as a councillor and include costs for travel and subsistence. All claims are receipted.'

## Too many islands to look after, as economic chief rejects proposal

THE LACK of vital services on Jura won't be on the agenda of an island focus group, despite the Argyll and Bute councillor asking for it to be made a priority.

Councillor Robin Currie had pressed for the group of islanders and council officials to discuss and scrutinise council services on the island.

The offer was made to Alex Dunnachie of Jura community council at a meeting of the council's area committee for Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Jura last week.

Councillor Currie suggested it would be useful to have a small group who 'engaged with the people on the island' to ensure they received the range and quality of services they needed.

But the council's head of economic development, Fergus Murray, said that this would be difficult to maintain because the local authority had 23 inhabited islands to serve.

But he went on to say that he would be happy to speak to the community council about the provision of services.



**Eye to eye**  
with John Wallace

### Essential Foods For Your Eyes

Last weekend I attended a conference examining the health of the front of the eye. Many of my patients suffer from "dry eyes" where their eyes either do not produce enough tears or produce plenty but without the oily outer layer necessary to prevent tears evaporating.

Each year our knowledge base seems to increase exponentially and this year's conference was no exception. Two days were devoted to causes and treatment of dry eyes. Gone are the days of simply prescribing bottles of artificial tears and hoping for the best.

The causes of dry eyes are many. It could be from prescribed medication or from disease of the outer layers of the eye. It could also be caused by changes in the chemistry of your tears or by blockage of glands in your eyelids. It can even be the result of major systemic diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis. Perhaps the most common cause is disease

of the glands in your eyelids which produce lipid (the oily secretion which coats your cornea to prevent tears evaporating). This frequently associated with inflamed eyelids and crusty deposits on your eyelashes.

Treatment involves deep cleansing of the eyelashes, removal of all crusty deposits on the eyelids and stimulating the glands back into production. Seems simple but this process can take several in-practice treatments over many weeks. In addition high quality omega 3 fish oil is required as an essential part of your diet. This can be achieved by eating several portions of oily fish (salmon, mackerel, herring or sardine) every week. Alternatively you can use omega 3 supplements but don't be tempted by cheap products. They seldom have a high enough dose to be effective and frequently are bulked up by non-specific fish oils which can actually be detrimental to the health of your eyes.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP

**Wallace Optometrists**

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## ISLAY letter by Hugh Smith

# Hellish deeds in holy sanctuary

### Chorus line

A SERIES of instrument playing and Gaelic chorus singing workshops took place in Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile as part Fèis Ile, the island's annual celebration of music and malt whisky.

As the original workshop Gaelic tutor had to withdraw through illness, the challenge was taken up by local vocalists Andrew McCowan and Alasdair Currie, currently studying Gaelic and traditional music at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

The chorus students were in good voice and did their tutors proud when they appeared at the traditional concert held in the Columba Gaelic centre where they brought the curtain down to tremendous applause.

Keeping up with chorus singers were soloists Libby Morris, Kirsten Laurie, David Ferguson and tutors Andrew and Alasdair. Mairi MacGillivray also sang and played the fiddle, accordionist Clare Jordan also entertained with song and the duettists were Zoe Wells and Hannah Gillies. The Ella Edgar dancers charmed all as did the lively selections from musicians from Fèis Oigridh Ile 's Dhiùra, with Isobel Ferguson as the solo whistle player. An evening of varied entertainment greatly enjoyed by the large numbers of locals and visitors present.

### Kilnave chapel and cross

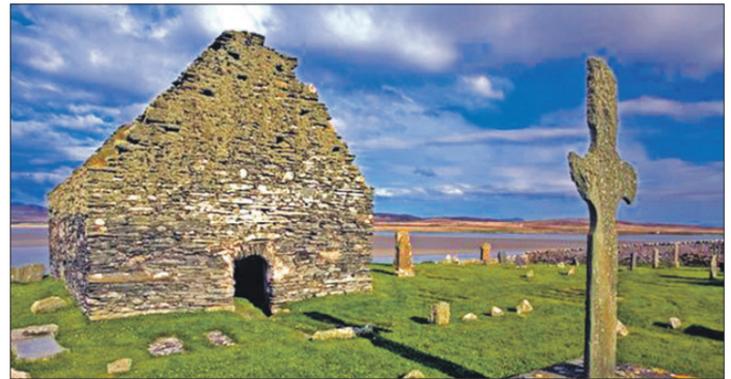
THE KILNAVE Chapel, now in ruins, dates from the late 13th or early 14th century and stands on the site of a much earlier place of worship.

It measures 29ft by 14ft and the walls are well over 2ft thick. The door on the building's west end is round headed and very low and, as was common with Highland churches of that time, is furnished with a long bolt hole thereby enabling a strong beam of wood to be completely pulled across the door on the inside.

Providing light in the chapel is a small round-headed window in the east wall and by a smaller window situated in the south wall and near to the location of the altar. Despite the ravages of time, traces of the altar foundations remain.

Today's visitors to the chapel, which once came under the dominion of the parish of Kilchoman, certainly enjoy the peace and tranquillity of this ancient site.

But it was not always thus. During the Battle of Loch Gruinart, fought between the MacDonalds of Islay and the MacLeans of Duart in Mull in 1598, the chapel was the scene of an act of cruel treachery.



BATTLE-SCARRED: Kilnave chapel and cross

The clan battle was going against the MacLeans, their chief Lachlan Mòr was dead, and the Mull defenders had no stomach left for the fight.

A group of them decided to leave the field of strife behind and head for their ships at anchor off Ardnave Point.

They were hotly pursued by the MacDonalds and the desperate Muilich decided to seek sanctuary in the Kilnave Chapel.

This was a bad move as the MacDonalds showed them no mercy and set fire to the chapel's thatched roof. All in-

side, with the exception of one fortunate escapee, perished in the conflagration.

The Kilnave standing cross, situated at the west end of the chapel, is now badly weathered and it is difficult to decipher what remains of the ornate carvings.

It certainly bears similar characteristics with the Kiells Cross at Knapdale and there are strong indications that some of the carvings shows facets of the Iona school of sculpture.

The Kilnave Cross is much older than the chapel of the same name and is thought to

date from the fifth century. The chapel and cross may take their name from the Gaelic word 'naomh' which means 'saint' or 'holy' and eventually becoming anglicised as 'nave'.

The name is also used in the nearby Ardnave and Nave Island. Another school of thought claims that the name derives from Saint Nem, an obscure Irish saint who may have established a monastery in this part of the island.

Hugh Smith, 4, Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Telephone: 01496 810 658

# Argyll charity makes a splash in Canada

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

A WORLD-FAMOUS landmark was lit up in Mary's Meals' signature blue to mark the launch of 'The Shed That Fed A Million Children' – the book written by the global charity's founder, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow.

Huge blue spotlights illuminated the breathtaking Niagara Falls last week to celebrate the publication of the book and to highlight the remarkable achievement of Mary's Meals, a charity that was founded in Dalmally in 2002.

'The Shed That Fed A Million Children' charts the remarkable story of the Argyll-based charity which now feeds over one million children worldwide through its community-run school meals programmes.

The illumination coincided with a visit to Canada by Mr MacFarlane-Barrow, who was in the country to talk to supporters about his book, which has now made the Sunday Times best-seller list immediately after its release.

He said: 'To have a famous landmark like Niagara Falls lit up in Mary's Meals blue was hugely special for all of us who are part of this global movement. It comes just a couple of weeks



**HIGHLIGHTS:** blue lights suffuse the cascading waters of the Niagara Falls to mark a red letter day for the Dalmally-based charity

after we celebrated reaching a million children every day with a nutritious meal at school.

'The support we have received in Canada is just extraordinary and it is really wonderful to know

the number of people around the world who are joining us, to ensure that every child receives a daily meal in their place of education.'

Mary's Meals now feeds

1,035,637 of the world's poorest children with a nutritious meal every day they attend school, in countries including Liberia, Kenya, Malawi, Haiti and India. The charity has grown phenom-

enally over the last few years, and enjoys support from fundraising groups across the globe – in Australia, Austria, Canada, Croatia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal,



**A GREAT STORY:**  
Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow

Spain, UAE, UK and USA – as well as from celebrities such as actor Gerard Butler and singer Celine Dion.

Mary's Meals is committed to keeping its running costs low, ensuring that at least 93 per cent of all donations are spent directly on charitable activities.

It costs just £12.20 for Mary's Meals to feed a child for a school year. And this daily meal draws chronically hungry children into the classroom, where they receive an education.

'The Shed that Fed A Million Children' by Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow is out now, published by Harper Collins in the UK.

## TIMESLINE

### Misunderstanding leads to custody

A MAN who failed to appear at Oban sheriff court due to a 'misunderstanding' about hearing dates was remanded in custody until his trial.

Honorary sheriff Graeme Pagan told 61-year-old Norman Mavor that failing to turn up for court on May 24 was 'not acceptable.'

Mavor said he was unaware that he was due to appear in court and got his dates mixed up.

The accused man travelled from Edinburgh to hand himself in at court last Monday afternoon after hearing a warrant had been issued for his arrest.

He learned about the warrant because he had been reporting to his local police station every day in Edinburgh where he lives, ahead of his court case later this month.

### Major 'incident' a training exercise

A MAJOR incident at Lorn and island hospital in Oban was not as bad as it seemed when concerned residents discovered it was a practice exercise for staff.

On Monday night, hospital staff and medical volunteers took part in the event as part of a planning and training exercise.

The staged event was used to iron out any issues that may occur during a real incident.

### Glasgow air route still lies grounded

THERE are no current plans for an air service between Oban and Glasgow.

A meeting of Argyll and Bute council held last Thursday heard that 'there is no update on the possible development of the air route between Oban and Glasgow.'

The local authority had been approached about the feasibility of providing a regular air link from Oban to Scotland's largest city.

## FORMER SOLDIER JAILED FOR ASSAULTING VULNERABLE WOMAN WITH SEVERE LEARNING DISABILITIES

# OAP carer ignored victim's plea

**COURT REPORTER**  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

A PENSIONER, who raped a woman with learning difficulties, was jailed last Wednesday for four and a half years.

Former soldier Stewart Winton, 73, from Oban, raped the woman who is in her 40s and cannot be named for legal reasons, on one occasion between April and June, 2013.

Last week at the High Court in Glasgow, Judge Lady Scott told Winton: 'You have been found

guilty of the rape of your victim who was incapable of consenting. 'She was obviously vulnerable and you exploited that vulnerability for your own sexual gratification.'

The offence took place in Oban. Winton admitted to police that he had sex with the woman, but claimed she had consented.

Advocate depute Kath Harper, prosecuting, said: 'This woman's care workers say that she can follow instructions with prompting, but learning new tasks is difficult unless the information is broken

down, for which she has support. On speaking to her, her learning disability would be apparent.

'Her IQ is in the bottom four per cent of the population. She is found to have significant impairment in social function which covers awareness of dangers and taking care of herself.'

However, Winton claimed that he had no idea of the woman's disabilities, despite having known her for a number of years, and believed she had consented to have sex with him.

The High Court in Glasgow

heard that the woman was eager to please and get along with people.

Miss Harper said: 'Despite the fact she doesn't like confrontation, she could not have made it clearer she did not want to have sexual contact with Stewart Winton.'

'She was frightened and told him, "No, no Stewart, stop it Stewart" and pushed him away.'

'And given her eagerness to please, this must be a clear sign that she really didn't like what was happening.'

The woman told her support worker what had happened and then reported it to the police.

When quizzed by police, Winton told them: 'It did happen to be honest with you. It was just one of those stupid things I did. My wife wasn't in at the time and she didn't seem to bother. I probably forced it a little bit.'

But the jury heard that, at the start of the police interview, he lied and said: 'There were no sexual relations or nothing.'

Winton served in Cyprus and Northern Ireland with the army,

and later worked as a chef until he retired.

Lady Scott placed first offender Winton on the sex offenders' register for life.

Defence counsel Louis Kennedy said: "Mr Winton has an honourable military service record. He served on active service in Cyprus in the 1960s and in Northern Ireland in the 1970s. He comes to the court at the age of 73 as a first offender."

Mr Kennedy told the court that Winton cared for his wife who suffers from multiple sclerosis.

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## Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry community council

ABRIDGED minutes of the Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry community council meeting, held on Tuesday June 2.

BEAR and Transport Scotland: The relief road in Glen Gloy is nearing completion, and the culvert at the junction of the A86 and A889 has been repaired. Alan Robinson's dialogue with both Transport Scotland and BEAR about various issues on the A82 is still unresolved. Transport Scotland is pursuing BEAR regarding the 24 hour street lights and the flashing warning lights at the school in Spean Bridge. The secretary will write to both reminding them of our concerns regarding the Loch Lagan viewpoint lay-by, the worn out section of the A82 in Spean Bridge and potholes generally on our trunk roads.

Broadband: Vodafone are still keen to find sites in Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge. Ian Matheson has suggested a site at Roy Bridge school, and the secretary is having discussions with Highland Council estates about the feasibility of such a scheme. Peter McIntosh and the Great Glen and Glen Spean marketing group are pursuing Spean Bridge sites, and it was agreed that the community council would bear the cost of installing an electricity point in commercial premises if that was necessary to achieve success.

Highland council - Mike Leary has confirmed that he will be our link with Highland Council. The fence on the path alongside the River Spean has been completed. The road to Kilmonivaig church and cemetery has been temporarily repaired, with a permanent solution promised later in the year. The road surface on Altour road, Spean Bridge, is being investigated to see what action is required to upgrade it. The Gairloch stop sign and lining at the junction of the A8004 and A8005 will be installed shortly, but the repairs to the bridge over the Allt Bahn at Clunes are not imminent. Concerns were expressed about the road surface conditions on the B8004 at the commando memorial, and on the B8005 west of the Cia Aig Falls, and the Secretary will contact TEC services.

Joint ward forum: The secretary attended the joint ward forum to discuss future planning policy for onshore wind farm developments. There were many concerns expressed about the impact and potential damage to tourism by excessive development in the Great Glen. Our area, although protected from most, could north of the Grey Corries, South of Loch Arkaig, Loch Lochyside and around Coire Glas have sites that might be deemed suitable for wind farm development. It was agreed that we would monitor the situation, but as no development was imminent, the matter was closed.

### Connel

CONNEL Friends of Mary's Meals are holding a fundraising lunch to raise money for its school kitchen in Malawi.

One of the organisers, Maureen Nichol, said: 'We are over the moon that Mary's Meals is now feeding more than one million children daily as of last week.'

'It won't stop us fighting for the next one million children. We are continuing to raise as much as we can for Chiperoni Primary School in Malawi where we funded a kitchen in 2008.'

The group is hosting a fundraising lunch for Mary's Meals on Saturday June 13 from 12 noon until 2pm in Connel church hall.

### Arisaig

ARISAIG villagers suffered a colder and wetter May than usual this year, with rainfall well above average.

Almost six inches fell over the month, bringing the total for 2015 so far to 29 and a half inches, both much higher than normal for this time of year. The average daily temperature ranged from 5.9°C, the lowest for May this century, to 13.5°C, about 2°C lower than usual.

The coldest night was 1°C and the hottest day was 20°C, both well below average for May.

### Morar

THE LADIES of Morar Scottish Women's Rural Institute came together for their final meeting of the session.

Last year's committee was disbanded and, following a vote, the new committee will consist of Christine Haynes, Eleanor Read, Heather Simpson, Isobel Morton and Nicky Parish.

Fiona Lawrie was named competition winner for the year and a sales table at the meeting raised £34.50.



UP AND AWAY: Duror primary school pupils were fascinated by a science workshop when they made a rocket fire sweets into the air

## Duror science workshop rockets to success

DUROR primary school pupils had great fun when they took part in a science workshop.

Mairi Sharpe from 'Happines' visited to teach the children about energy at a level youngsters from pri-

mary one to seven could understand. A highlight was building a 'rocket' that exploded sweets into the air.



RARING TO GO: volunteers turned out for a village and beach clean up in Broadford

## Sun shines for Broadford clean-up volunteers

THE SUN was shining on Broadford as volunteers turned out for a village and beach clean.

Between 40 and 50 islanders arrived on May 16, despite a poor weather forecast, but were rewarded with

sunshine and only a light shower. The clean-up was organised by High Life Highland and Broadford and Strath community company and was attended by members of the village youth club, as well as pupils and parents of

Broadford primary school. Highland council ranger Ellie MacLennan and waste awareness assistant Phil Dewar also helped out, along with Grace and Paul Yoxon of the international otter survival fund.



### North Ballachulish

Children of St Bride's nursery, North Ballachulish, enjoyed a day learning about the outdoors. The youngsters took part in storytelling, pond dipping and crafts with Glencoe national trust nature rangers

### Lochgilthead

A SECOND petition in Lochgilthead has renewed calls for the Saltire to fly once again above the front green.

With nearly 1,000 signatures already on an online petition calling for the replacement of the Argyll and Bute council flag, Lochgilthead community council member Gillian Voinot has launched a paper petition.

Mrs Voinot said: 'In the lead up to the Commonwealth games, Argyll and Bute council took down the Saltire and flew the Commonwealth flag. After that came down it was replaced by Argyll and Bute council's flag.'

Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara has given his support to Mrs Voinot's calls for the Saltire to replace the current flag.

Mr O'Hara said: 'The Saltire is apolitical. It is the flag of every single person living in Scotland. It is not owned by any political party. The sooner Argyll and Bute council step back from this embarrassing flag flying policy the better.'

A council spokesman said: 'The council receives a number of requests from people and groups who would like to have particular flags flying on Argyll and Bute's civic flag poles. Our existing flag policy already makes provision for flying certain flags on specific days and allows for flags which link to a cause or charity.'

## MORVERN lines

### Dole cuts

NOT LONG ago, the department of social protection in Ireland announced dole cuts for younger people who do not take up training, work placements or internship offers under a new government scheme.

Interfering with the dole is not new and more than 800 years ago resulted in a fearful curse being put on an old Anglo Saxon land-owning family who tried to cut it down.

Suffering from a wasting disease which had left her handicapped, on her deathbed Lady Mabella of Tichborne, a village near Alresford in Hampshire, asked her miserly husband, Sir Roger, to donate (or dole) grain to the needy every year in perpetuity.

Sir Roger Tichborne did not approve of her charity and agreed to her bequest on condition that the dole consisted only of produce from land that she was able to encircle under her own power while carrying a burning torch in her hand. Lady Tichborne, who was in poor health, is said to have successfully crawled around a 23-acre field before the torch went out.

Aware of her husband's meanness, she added a curse that, should the dole ever be stopped, then seven sons would be born to the house, followed immediately by a generation of seven daughters, after which the Tichborne name would die out and the ancient house fall into ruin.

The dole continued from the time of Lady Tichborne's death until 1796, when disturbances during the hanging out of the dole led to magistrates ordering it to stop.

The lord of the manor at that time, Sir Henry Tichborne, was the eldest of seven sons. He had seven daughters, but no sons.

However his brother Edward did have a son, Henry, born in 1829 but he died in 1836 aged six years old.

At this point, fearing the curse had come to fruition, the dole was hastily re-established and continues this day in a ceremony held in Tichborne village every year on March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation (Lady's Day).

More recently, I heard of a husband, a heavy smoker, leaving his whole and not inconsiderable estate to his widow.

Not only was she a non-smoker but she made every effort to keep him off the 'weed'. Following his death she appeared at the lawyer's office for the reading of the will. There she heard she was, indeed, the sole beneficiary, but that in order to inherit her fortune, which was to be doled out in monthly instalments for two years, she had to turn up each time and smoke a cigarette in front of the lawyer before getting a penny!

### Old laws

I WONDER how well it is known that tennis is forbidden by law?

Still on the statute book, from King Henry VIII's time, and still valid, it is stated that anybody who maintains a bowling alley or house or place for, 'quoiting or tennis or any unlawful new game, will be fined 40 shillings for every day he keeps it open, and every person using and haunting any of the said places and their playing, shall forfeit six shillings and eight pence every time.'

### Boating tragedy

SINCE the earliest times, the sea has always been synonymous with insecurity for those who venture on to it.

'He that would sail without danger must never come on the main sea' as the old proverb puts it.

Thanks to training, equipment and a far greater awareness of safety, there are, fortunately, fewer boating accidents today.

This was not always the case. In 1851 a tragedy occurred in Loch Sunart on a Sunday in May, when five people were drowned below Achleek on the Morvern shore.

Following the Gaelic service in the Floating Church, which was at anchor in Ardnastang Bay, eight individuals belonging to the Morvern congregation, set off across the loch in a punt only eight feet in length. It proved too small for so great a number and sank about 25 yards from its destination. Those drowned were a Mrs Cameron, and her son Donald, Achleek; Elizabeth McPhee, from Lochaber and Sarah and Isabel MacLachlan, cousins, who were employed as housemaids at Laudale. Those who managed to swim to safety were, Hugh MacPherson, Achleek; Hugh MacLachlan, Glensanda and Anne MacNaughton, Glencripesdale.



### Summer migrants

THE CORNCRAKE, or landrail, above, is one of our most endangered birds.

The Isle of Iona is one of the best places in Scotland where they can be seen and heard in the hay and silage fields and in the iris beds around the abbey.

Corncrakes used to be common enough in Morvern. The last time I saw and heard them was in the 1970s in a field beside the River Aline between Craighendarroch and Claggan and below Keil House. Now, probably because little or no hay is made in the parish, they have become extinct, unlike the golden plover whose mournful call can still be heard on the moors above the Sound of Mull. The scientific name for the corncrake is 'Crex crex'. I believe it is one of only two birds in the British Isles named after its call, the other, of course, being the cuckoo.

Iain Thornber  
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

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## The right notes at Luìng opening

THE ATLANTIC islands centre on Luìng was open to visitors for the first time on Monday May 25.

Ukulele Luìng - all the pupils from Luìng primary school - visited the centre and held a rehearsal of their performance

for the opening ceremony on June 13. The children then had a wonderful time exploring the centre and were thrilled to recognise many friends and relatives in the interesting display by Luìng historical society.

## Oral health teams get their teeth into national smile month

NATIONAL Smile Month is coming to Argyll and Bute and NHS Highland's dental improvement teams will be holding a number of special events to back the UK's biggest oral health campaign.

Taking place until June 18, National Smile Month aims to promote and raise awareness of good oral health and the oral health improve-

ment teams and local communities are getting involved in doing just that.

Staff in local council offices throughout Argyll and Bute will be involved in a toothbrush exchange and guess the celebrity smile.

And the team will be attending The Celtic Cup in Taynuilt on June 27, shinty's oldest competition, promoting the use of mouth

guards to protect teeth when playing contact sports. They will also be promoting the use of water for hydration and distributing water bottles and oral health advice.

As well as these events there will be a number of other activities involving local children in nurseries, primary schools and secondary schools.

# Council could break eight-year tax freeze

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

HIGHLAND council could be the first local authority in Scotland to break the eight-year council tax freeze as a new party takes the helm today (Thursday).

The Independent party is expected to form a minority administration at a full council meeting, leaving the SNP in opposition, along with Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

And party leader, Margaret Davidson, said she will be 'looking closely' at raising the tax as a way to fund investment in roads and health services.

During last year's budget cuts the Independent party, then the opposition, backed calls to end the freeze, implemented by the Scottish government, to boost council funds.

Councillor Davidson will be named council leader at the meeting today. She said: 'Nothing will be completely confirmed until after the meeting. We're going to form a full budget team who will be looking at a number of things, including a potential council tax rise.'

'During the budget consultation last year, we got a clear message that the public would rather pay more if it meant

protecting front line services, including education, so we will be looking closely at tax.'

But Alec McConachie, manager of Lochaber food bank, is worried that asking for more money from low income families could push them into poverty. He said: 'I think that would make everything worse. Every week I deal with families on the minimum wage and they can't afford to eat properly.'

'To ask them to put their hands in their pockets and pay more every month would put them in a real struggle.'

As the council tax freeze is Scotland-wide, if Highland council votes through the rise it may have to repay up to £3.5 million received for carrying out aspects of Scottish government policy. But parliament is currently reviewing the situation and may abolish the eight-year freeze.

Councillor Davidson said:

**“To ask them to pay more every month would put them in a real struggle”**

**Alec McConachie**  
Lochaber food bank

'None of us want to implement cuts to more front line services. But the government makes it very difficult for us to bring money in.' As a minority, the

Independents will rely on support from non-aligned members and parties such as the five-member Highland Alliance to carry out its plans.

The Aird and Loch Ness member also said she wants to see the council working 'cross party and cross chamber' to improve life for Highland constituents.

Thomas MacLennan, member of Highland Alliance and Lochaber area leader, said: 'I will be looking to work alongside the Independents and support them, but I won't be taking up a key role. I will vote with them on the issues I support and I will vote against them when I don't agree with what they're trying to do.'

Skye member Drew Millar, also of Highland Alliance, said: 'We haven't discussed our party stance on council tax yet, but it seems it could be up for discussion soon so we will be taking a stance soon.'

SNP group leader Maxine Smith said the position regarding council tax is 'unclear'.

She said: 'We don't know yet what the party position is nationally or whether the Independents have any set plans to suggest an increase.'

'It's all unclear at the moment, but when we know the situation we will discuss it as a group and take a position.'

## Nominations for top posts

**NOMINATIONS for senior council posts will be made at today's meeting.**

**Councillor Margaret Davidson is expected to be named local authority leader, Caol and Mallaig member Allan Henderson is likely to chair the community services committee and it is thought Bill Fernie of Wick will be nominated as chairman of the resources committee. Other chairmanships up for grabs are education, children and adult services, planning development and infrastructure, licensing and community safety, public engagement and equalities.**

## Walker still missing after two weeks

A MOUNTAIN rescue leader has appealed for 'any clue at all' about the whereabouts of a walker who has been missing for almost two weeks.

Eric Cyl was last sighted setting off for Mamore mountain range, near Fort William, on the morning of Saturday, May 30, and has yet to be found, despite extensive searches.

The 62-year-old is an expe-

rienced hillwalker and it is thought he was heading to the ring of Steall area.

An initial search involved Lochaber and Glencoe mountain rescue teams, assisted by search and rescue dogs and a HM coastguard helicopter and a more extensive search involving more than 60 personnel was carried out the following Monday, but with no success.

John Stevenson, leader of Lochaber mountain rescue team, said: 'We're really struggling now because it's such a vast area and we don't have any idea where he was. If anyone remembers anything or has any information at all, please get in touch. Any clue you can give us would be a start. We're now looking at the whole Steall area.'

Mr Stevenson added that as his team are volunteers they haven't been able to search as often as they would like, but will be back on the hunt as soon as possible.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police on 101.

Mr Cyl was last seen wearing a light grey jacket and dark trousers. He has a stocky build and short grey hair.



**REMARKABLE: Rene celebrated her 109th birthday with her nephew, Clive Chapman and his wife, Lesley**

## Rene, 109, celebrates landmark birthday

GOOD food, strong faith, family and a sense of humour are the ingredients for a long and happy life.

This is the advice of Irene 'Rene' Chapman, Scotland's oldest person, who celebrated her 109th birthday this week.

Friends and family joined the pensioner to celebrate the landmark event in the Telford centre care home, Fort Augustus, where she is a resident.

Dog-loving Miss Chapman enjoyed a specially made birthday cake in the shape of a Pekinese, her favourite breed.

Miss Chapman never married and spent much of her life as a carer, looking after her aunt and parents and was a keen organist and chorister. She became the oldest person in March this year following the death of Jessie Gallan from Aberdeen, who celebrated her 109th birthday in January.

Caroline Gunn, manager of the Telford centre, said Miss Chapman's memory remains sharp, but she has lost her sight and is hard of hearing. She added: 'We try to ensure

that she gets what she wants and to make today different from yesterday for Rene. She likes Shreddies for breakfast and toast and marmalade for high tea. She used to be very keen on sucking Fishermans Friends at night but now she likes Polo mints. She's also quite particular about her clothes - she likes everything to be just so. Rene used to enjoy listening to audio books, but was irritated by the American accents they often featured.'

Miss Chapman's nephew, Clive, travelled from Dorset for the birthday with his wife, Lesley. He said: 'Rene is a very special person. She has a very caring nature, is very family-orientated, has a lovely sense of humour and her memory is amazing.'

'She loves chatting to people and loves to get news about her family - she has five nieces and nephews, 11 great-nieces and nephews and nine great-great-nieces and nephews. She has said she attributes her long life to good food, strong faith, a loving family and a good sense of humour.'

## TIMESLINE

### Men banned from standing for SNP

MEN HAVE been banned from standing as SNP candidates for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch in next year's Scottish government elections when current MSP Dave Thompson steps down.

It is hoped the one-off rule from the nationalists will boost the number of female politicians at Holyrood.

Seven SNP MSPs are expected to give up their place ahead of the election and the party's constituency association has made a ruling stating only women can stand. Mr Thompson said it is part of a plan to bring the party's female representation to 50 per cent.

### Have your say on radio's big debate

**BBC RADIO Scotland's Big Debate will be broadcast from Duncansburgh Macintosh church hall, Fort William, next Friday (June 19). Members of the public are invited to join host Gordon Brewer to discuss topical issues. Places can be booked via [bigdebate@bbc.co.uk](mailto:bigdebate@bbc.co.uk). Questions can be sent to the same address.**

### Time for tea and vital fundraising

MARIE Curie nurses are appealing to communities to host fundraising tea parties between June 20 and 29.

Last year, similar events in the Highlands and islands raised £12,000 which paid for 600 hours of nursing care for people with terminal illnesses.

Nicola Cawthorpe, senior Marie Curie nurse for north west Scotland, said: 'I see first-hand how vital this hands-on care and emotional support is.'

To sign up and receive a free party pack, go to [www.mariecurie.org.uk/teatime](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk/teatime)



## Lifeboat rescues research craft

KYLE lifeboat was called out to assist a 54-foot research craft at the weekend.

Stornoway coastguard shouted the volunteer royal national lifeboat institution (RNLI) team when the whale and dolphin research boat ran into difficulty in the Ratagan area of Loch Duich on Saturday afternoon.

The Spirit of Fred Olsen launched at 4.48pm to rescue the RV Silurian when it began dragging anchor and the three crew on board were unable to start the engine.

The Silurian had come close to grounding on the shore so a tow was established to carry the vessel to deeper water before a temporary repair was carried out so the engine could be started.

One member of the RNLI crew said: 'Luckily one of our volunteers who was on the crew for this callout was the lifeboat mechanic and he was able to make a temporary repair to the vessel's engine.'

'The location and size of the vessel along with the changeable, squally weather conditions closer to Kyle meant it would have been a tricky tow back if the engines could not have been started.'



**THINK SAFE: children were asked to pick a safe stopping distance for a car and placed a dummy there. The car hit the dummy every time**

## Think safe is the message to pupils

ALMOST 200 primary seven pupils from across Lochaber gathered in Fort William to learn about looking after themselves and each other.

The children looked at bullying, safety online and on the road as well as hazards including house fires, electricals, water and alcohol abuse.

Interactive sessions on each area were delivered from Highland council and police, fire, coastguard and ambulance personnel at Safe High-

lander day, held at the Nevis centre on Monday. Thomas MacLennan, Lochaber area leader for Highland council, said: 'This is an important event for the safety of our children as they move from primary school to secondary and the sudden freedom they start to enjoy. That freedom opens up more risk and it is essential we raise the awareness of our children to the different dangers that may exist. Safe Highlander does this in a fun and non-threatening way.'

## Owners warned to keep buildings in good repair

DANGEROUS buildings in Argyll and Bute council area must be regularly repaired.

In a press release from the local authority, a spokesman told council taxpayers the 'ultimate responsibility for the maintenance of a property lies with the owner'.

He went on to say: 'The council will take action against buildings considered to be an imminent danger to public safety.'

'The main role of the council's building standards service is to maintain public safety in and around buildings.'

'It is their responsibility, on behalf of the council, to ensure

that any risk to the public caused by dangerous buildings is removed.'

Formal notices may require the immediate evacuation of the dangerous building.

Argyll and Bute council's planning spokesman, councillor David Kinniburgh, said: 'The general upkeep of a building is the responsibility of the owner. Our buildings standards team will only intervene when a building is imminently dangerous to public safety. Regular routine repairs will ensure buildings retain their value.'

To report a dangerous building phone 01546 605514 during office hours.



**LITTER PROBLEM: Nicole Clark and Calum MacMillan holding an old mattress which they found in Dunollie woods**

## Park school project unearths litter problem in woods

MATTRESS and fly tipping, the focus of Park primary pupils' most recent project, have helped the youngsters realise just how important the area is to residents.

The students have been learning about Dunollie Woods in Oban as part of a project to help understand the variety of species of plants and animals in the area.

The children created a survey for Dunollie residents to find out what they thought about the woods.

The response from the residents highlighted the importance of the woodland in the local community but also brought some problems to the fore. The major problem was litter.

The children decided to do a litter pick up to tidy up this popular part of the town and they were astounded to see how much litter there was.

## Extra funding for children's charity helping abuse victims in Argyll

CHILDREN in Argyll who have suffered from trauma and abuse will have extra services provided for them.

National charity Children 1st has been awarded £30,000 from the RS Macdonald trust and £1,500 from the Sylvia Aitken charitable trust.

Director of fundraising for Children 1st Kate Smith said: 'We are really grateful for this support which will help sustain vital local services.'

The support we provide to young people who have suffered abuse can ensure those experiences do not cloud the rest of their lives.'

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| Lochaline         | Mon 29 June             |
| Strontian         | Tue 30 June             |
| Fort William      | Wed 1 - Thu 2 July      |
| Dornie            | Fri 3 July              |
| Kyleakin          | Sat 4 July              |
| Mallaig           | Mon 6 - Tue 7 July      |
| Raasay            | Wed 8 July              |
| Lochcarron        | Fri 10 - Sat 11 July    |
| Torridon          | Sun 12 July             |
| Gairloch          | Mon 13 - Tue 14 July    |
| Ullapool          | Wed 15 - Thu 16 July    |
| Achiltibuie       | Fri 17 July             |
| Lochinver         | Sat 18 July             |
| Kinlochbervie     | Mon 20 July             |
| Durness           | Tue 21 July             |
| Bettyhill         | Wed 22 July             |
| Lairg             | Thu 23 July             |
| Brodick           | Wed 29 July - Sat 1 Aug |
| Millport          | Mon 3 - Tue 4 Aug       |
| Tarbert Loch Fyne | Wed 5 Aug               |
| Port Ellen        | Thu 6 - Sat 8 Aug       |
| Gigha             | Sun 9 Aug               |
| Tighnabraich      | Mon 10 Aug              |

Unfortunately, we can't always show all films in all locations. Book at: [www.screenmachine.co.uk](http://www.screenmachine.co.uk). Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings: Cash only, no cards. £7.50 Adults. Concessions £5.50.

**SOON** school will be out and echoes of 'Mum, I'm bored!' will resound throughout the house. Keeping the kids happy over the summer holidays can be daunting for parents, especially those on a budget. But with the help of our advertisers, families can keep the wee ones entertained, and if they learn something in the bargain, well, that makes everyone happy. In our 'School's out for summer' feature, we will share tips and ideas to have a fun holiday for the whole family.

- **Get out and about.** There are lots of events and activities on offer for kids through the summer, so check the newspaper, local websites and the bulletin board at the library for story times, arts and crafts days, classes and special interest groups. Many community activities such as this are free or very affordable, so they won't break the bank.
- **Get culture.** Museums and galleries often have special exhibitions aimed at kids in summer, and usually have free or reduced entrance for children.
- **Get cooking.** This is a great activity for a rainy day. Pick a recipe with the kids, go shopping for ingredients and cook something together. It doesn't need to be fancy or complicated - a special sandwich or cookies that the kids can help put together will mean a lot to them.
- **Get looking.** Organise a treasure hunt with clues and prizes - inside if it's rainy or in the garden if it's dry. The whole neighbourhood could get involved and hide things up and down the street.
- **Get creative.** Set up an arts and crafts day with canvas, paints or even crayons. Frame the resulting masterpieces - it makes great art for the children's rooms or the kitchen.
- **Get outdoors.** Dry days are great for picnics, ball games, a campout or a walk, even if it's in your own backyard. Have a family mini-Olympics with sack races, tug of war and foot races. Let the kids make 'medals' and celebrate the event with a picnic.

Remember that it's not necessary to fill the kid's schedules every minute of the summer. By letting children play on their own in their rooms or in the garden, they will develop imagination and independence. And it gives mum and dad a much needed break.

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| <b>20 - 24/07/2015</b><br>Gaelic Levels 1, 3, 5<br>Gaelic Song with Christine Primrose<br>Button box with Fergie MacDonald & Robert Nairn<br>Accordian with Addie Harper Jr<br>Gaelic for Irish Speakers (Beginners) | <b>24 - 28/08/2015</b><br>Gaelic Levels 2, 4, 6, 8, 10<br>Gaelic Song with Mairi MacInnes<br>Digital Photography with Caillean MacLean<br>Beartas Caintn with Ailig MacDonald |
| <b>10 - 14/08/2015</b><br>Gaelic Levels 2, 4, 6, 8<br>Fiddle with Charlie McKerron<br>Gaelic for Irish Speakers (Advanced)   | <b>Community Courses in Flodigarry</b><br>01/06 - 05/06/2015<br>13/07 - 17/07/2015<br>31/08 - 04/09/2015  |

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The College's short courses programme has grown in popularity over the years and regularly attracts over 700 people of all ages and nationalities each year. These 5-day courses are a great way to meet new people, learn the Gaelic language and enjoy a good music session or two on a Gaelic campus which is at the heart of a warm and friendly community.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig offers 5-day courses during Easter and throughout Summer. The college runs weekend courses, not only at SMO but in different communities across Scotland.

In addition to Gaelic tuition, there are also opportunities to take courses in traditional music, step-dancing, art, drama and photography. Some of the highlights in 2015 include Gaelic Song with renowned Gaelic singers Christine Primrose and Mairi MacInnes, Digital Photography with Caillean MacLean, Alasdair Fraser's Fiddle Week and Step-dancing with Sophie Stephenson.

Evening activities during the short courses include cèilidhs, music sessions, films, workshops in singing and dancing and a chance to meet and speak with local Gaelic speakers who may impart some of their stories and knowledge of the area.

The courses led by SMO attracts students from all over the world including Canada, the USA, Italy, Germany and Japan. The global interest in Gaelic is quite amazing, from countries which you might not expect. The Gaelic culture is rich in traditions, song and music and this often attracts people to the language.

Some of our courses are shown here but for a full list and further information, please visit our website at [www.smo.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk) or contact us at [cg@smo.uhi.ac.uk](mailto:cg@smo.uhi.ac.uk) or call the short course team on 01471 888 240. Thigibh a chèilidh oirn!

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YEARS OF FRUSTRATION COME TO AN END AS MS SUFFERER GETS KEYS TO NEW INVERGARRY HOME

# Life-changing move for couple

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

A WOMAN suffering from multiple sclerosis (MS) was handed the keys to a new custom-built bungalow this week, after years of struggling to move around in her home.

Carol MacKenzie and her husband, Ranald, have been living in North Laggan for 16 years. But when Mrs MacKenzie became wheelchair-bound five years ago, she found simple tasks such as getting in and out of her stairlift too difficult.

The frustrated couple contacted the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT) in 2013 who then received loan funding from the Scottish government to provide homes through a rent to buy scheme. This meant the house in Invergarry could be tailor-built



**LIFE-CHANGING:** Ranald and Carol MacKenzie received the keys to their tailor-made, wheelchair-accessible house on Tuesday

to suit Mrs MacKenzie's health needs, including an en-suite wetroom, low windows and level access to the garden.

In a happy coincidence, the MacKenzies were handed the keys on Tuesday (June 9), which also marked their 26th wedding anniversary, making the day even more special.

Mrs MacKenzie, 50, said: 'I'm so excited to finally be getting the house we've waited so long for. The fact that we got the keys on our anniversary made it even more special, it's just the best present ever. When you're disabled, everything has to be done differently and even things like moving from my wheelchair to the stairlift was becoming too hard. I've been telling everyone about this new house so I can't wait to move in now.'

Ronnie MacRae, chief executive of HSCHT, said: 'I am

delighted to welcome Carol and Ranald to their new home and I really hope it will make their day to day lives much easier. Thanks to A&N Fraser, the local joinery and construction firm, for their hard work and flexibility.'

Scottish government housing minister, Margaret Burgess, said: 'Housing is, and will remain, at the heart of the government's ambitions to deliver a fairer and more prosperous country.'

'This new home is a wonderful example of what can be achieved through partnership working, between the Scottish government and Highland Small Communities Housing Trust, to provide housing solutions for our more remote communities. I am delighted with the success of the rent to buy scheme and I am sure Mr and Mrs MacKenzie will be equally delighted with their new home.'



**BATTLE:** actor James Watson as lieutenant colonel James Macdonnell of Glengarry

## Battle role told in TV documentary

THE STORY of a Lochaber man who played a part in one of history's bloodiest battles is to be told in a new documentary.

The Scots at Waterloo will be shown on BBC Two on Tuesday night (June 16) and features the tale of lieutenant colonel James Macdonnell of Glengarry, who was commander of guards in Wellington's army of 1815.

In the run up to the 200th anniversary of the battle, the 'docu-drama' reveals the role played by Scottish soldiers in the battle of Waterloo, which ended Britain's 20 year war with France.

The anniversary will be marked too with a memorial walk, also on Tuesday, from Kilmallie hall in Corpach to Kilmallie church.

This will celebrate the efforts of colonel John Cameron of Fassifern, who commanded the 92nd Highland regiment or Gordon Highlanders as they were better known, and lost his life at the Battle of Quatre Bras on June 16, 1815.

## New vice principal welcomed at college

A NEW senior member of staff has started work at West Highland college (UHI).

Sue MacFarlane, who has more than 20 years' experience in education, took on the role of vice principal last week.

She most recently worked for the Scottish qualifications authority and previously held a number of roles at Perth college.

Lydia Rohmer, principal and chief executive of West Highland college, welcomed Ms MacFarlane.

She said: 'I am delighted that Sue has joined the college and I am sure that she will bring her wide-ranging experience in the tertiary education sector into her new role in a most positive manner.'

'I do look forward very much to working with Sue in taking our college into the next phase of development.'



**VICE PRINCIPAL:** Sue MacFarlane



**SUPERFAST:** members of the Kinlochleven community, including pupils from the village's primary and high schools, turned out to celebrate the launch of high-speed broadband

# Fast broadband celebrations

A LOCHABER village is the latest to benefit from high-speed broadband.

The launch of new fibre networks was celebrated by residents young and old on Tuesday.

And completion of the work takes the number of Highlands and Islands premises with access to superfast internet to more than 100,000.

The scheme is part of a roll-out of fibre-based broadband by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and BT, with the help of funding from both the Scottish and UK governments.

Carroll Buxton, HIE's director of regional development, said: 'Kinlochleven is a Highland village with a remarkable history, in a stunning rural location, and the community has a real shared ambition for business and community development.'

'The investment to build brand new fibre optic networks right across the region will reach many rural communities which, like Kinlochleven, would not have been reached by the market.'

'Bringing better broadband closer opens up new opportunities for the way

people live and work in our communities.'

As part of the West Highland Way, Kinlochleven is popular with tourists and it is hoped faster broadband will help local businesses in tourism and other industries.

Jamie Smith, owner of indoor climbing centre, Ice Factor, said: 'I am very pleased to see high speed broadband arrive in Kinlochleven.'

'Throughout the year, we attract visitors from both home and abroad.'

'As a business, our online presence, including the website and our social media

platforms, are vital for Ice Factor Kinlochleven to actively reach out and engage both current and future customers.'

'It's a brilliant way of sharing all the great reasons to visit Kinlochleven, whatever the time of year and weather,' he added.

The new service has also gone live in nearby villages, Ballachulish and Onich.

Customers in Fort William, Spean Bridge and Corpach can also order the faster service.

Roll-out will continue until the end of 2016 and will ultimately cover 84 per cent of the Highlands and Islands.



**FUN RUN:** Fort William sheep race is back for a second year, following the success of the inaugural event 20\_24square04

## Sheep back on the run

THE SECOND Fort William sheep race will be held this month, following last year's successful inaugural event.

Crowds lined the town's high street to watch the sheep run down the cobbles with teddy bear jockeys on their backs for the Lochaber rural education trust fundraiser.

And organiser Isabel Campbell has plans to make this year's event bigger and better.

A pipe band display will kick off events on Saturday June

27, followed by a fancy dress competition for all ages.

Artificial turf will be laid out for the main event and anyone who fancies a flutter can place a bet. Five races will take place with a Punch and Judy show in Cameron square to keep spectators entertained.

Ms Campbell is appealing for sponsorship from local businesses and has asked anyone interested to contact her via isabel@bosslochaber.co.uk

## Youth parliament gathers on Skye

HIGHLAND youth parliament is holding a three-day conference in Skye.

The elected members met at Gaelic college Sabhal Mor Ostaig yesterday (Wednesday) and will take part in consultations about education and the effect of drugs and alcohol.

They will also receive presentations on anti-sectarianism and raising awareness about rape, sexual abuse and mental health. The group will also discuss what is needed in their local areas.

Shaun Finlayson, highland youth convenor, said ahead of the conference: 'I'm looking forward to a great three days. We have a wide range of organisations attending and I think this demonstrates how seriously young people's views are taken in the Highlands.'

# Dancers delight at annual prizegiving



THE SUCCESS of the Nether Lochaber Scottish country dancers was celebrated at their annual prizegiving.

Young jiggers entertained the audience with both dances and music, accompanied by guest fiddler, Angus Grant, at Kentallen and Duror community centre on May 30.

The youngsters also showed off trophies they had won throughout the year, including those at Inverness and Lochaber music festivals.

Prizewinners for 2015: First junior, Linnea Livingston; First intermediate, Magaidh Ward and Ailsa Janzen; First senior, Ella Cockerill; Special award, Freya Ward; Munro trophy, Freya Ward; Morrison shield, Ailsa Janzen.

**ALL SMILES:** Nether Lochaber Scottish country dancers show off their prizes

## TIMESLINE

### Improving safety on Lochaber road

SAFETY measures will be implemented on a Lochaber road as part of a £250,000 Highland-wide initiative to reduce hazards.

Fencing and barriers will be erected at two sites on the A884 Carnoch-Lochaline road after it was picked by the council as one of nine priority areas.

The A980 Auchtertyre to Ardnaff road on Skye will also benefit, along with routes in Inverness, Caithness and Sutherland.

William Gilfillan, Highland council's director of community services, said: 'We have put a Highland-wide plan in place and identified risks. These are the top priorities for the money available just now.'

### Walk this way for chance to win £100

WALKING to work or the shops could reap more than just health benefits as people in Lochaber are being offered the chance to win £100, among other prizes, to leave the car at home.

Lochaber environmental group (LEG) has set up a challenge to reduce carbon emissions by asking people to walk, cycle, use public transport or car-share for a week.

To enter, complete a seven-day travel diary showing what changes were made to reduce carbon emissions. The diary will then be entered into a prize draw, to win £100 or other prizes donated by local businesses.

For more information see [www.lochaberenviron.org.uk](http://www.lochaberenviron.org.uk) or contact 01397 700090.

### Agreement over homes loan cash

A NEW affordable housing scheme in Fort William received a cash boost when Highland councillors agreed to loan £300,000 to the project.

Members of the local authority's planning, development and infrastructure committee approved the loan request by Lochaber housing association (LHA) to purchase land at Heathercroft drive, Upper Achintore, at their meeting last week.

This funding, combined with grant assistance from the Scottish government, will allow LHA to build 21 houses and flats.

Blair Allan, chief executive of LHA, said: 'While the association has bank lending and Scottish government grant assistance in place to build these affordable homes on this site, we are extremely grateful that the council is considering providing this additional funding.'

'This is a good practical example of how we can all work together for the benefit of our Lochaber communities.'

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# Viewpoint

## The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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It's an area where many wise men and angels have feared to tread for decades, if not centuries. But the move by the Scottish National Party to have a women-only contest next year for the Holyrood constituency of Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch has brought the issue of 'positive discrimination' sharply into focus once again.

For many, it will be heralded as a bold initiative, a declaration that a new, inclusive style of politics is the order of the day; one that will sound the death knell for patriarchal politics.

The composition of parliament should reflect accurately the make-up of the population.

Others feel that 'forcing' the issue is freighted with difficulties. Some women argue that it is 'patronising' to introduce female-only lists.

They contend that women should be elected on their merits and should be persuaded by reasoned argument and a shift in cultural values that they have a rightful and positive part to play in the political process.

It would need someone with the judgement of Solomon to deliberate on the outcome of this thorny issue.



## Days gone by - Oban bowlers, 1992

This week's flashback photograph comes from the files of the Oban Times and features triumphant members of Oban bowling club. The bowlers had just won through to the Scottish Bowling Association national finals at Northfield, Ayr. Left to right: Jim MacGregor; Brian MacGleish, John Jackson, John MacPhee, Billy Hay and Robert Dairon. Missing from the photograph is Bill Davidson. 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.

### Trust helped pay for monument repairs

Sir, I was delighted to read the life and work of Hector MacLean, Ballygrant, Islay, 1818-1893, is receiving the recognition it deserves and that his monument at Kilmeny has been put in order, Islay Letter March 5.

Clan Maclean heritage trust has been pressing for years for the monument to be restored, so we are delighted the monument has been renovated. But it was disappointing there was no mention of the trust's significant financial contribution to the work. The trust paid for a third of the cost of the restoration, which was so well co-ordinated by Glasgow Islay association.

New cairns, monuments and information boards are grist to the mill for heritage trusts, but repairing existing monuments, put up in more affluent days of the past, often needs expensive renovation to keep them going. The Clan Maclean Heritage Trust attempts, within its resources, to do both.

Our latest two projects have been to remember the life of J Angus Maclean, former premier of Prince Edward Island, 1914-2000, cousin of Sorley Maclean, and to mark 'Fort Dewart' in Pennsylvania, built and named by Sir Allan Maclean, 22nd Chief. The latter was unveiled by the present Chief, Sir Lachlan Maclean, on a recent visit to the United States.

Canon Allan Maclean, Dochgarroch, trustee.

### Parents struggling to access free childcare

Sir, Access to free childcare is still failing hard-working parents in Scotland.

In many state-funded council nurseries, the Scottish government has not been able to provide parents with sufficient nursery place flexibility. However, in contrast, the UK government is to begin trials to double the hours of free childcare.

From September next year, working parents in some areas of England will be entitled to double the 570 hours of free childcare they receive per year.

Now, the Scottish Conservatives are calling for the Scottish Government to look into nursery provision for parents of three to four-year-olds north of the border.

Evidence from parents' groups in Scotland suggests many children are not receiving the funding they are entitled to. The Scottish government is also facing criticism from councils as they do not have enough money for additional staff and infrastructure.

The system is failing children and parents in Argyll and Bute and the rest of Scotland. It's high time it was changed.

Alastair Redman, Islay.

### Viewing platform the way forward for Mull

Sir, We have been visiting Mull for many years and the re-introduction of the

white tailed sea eagle has added something special.

Osprey are now confirmed visitors to the island and this offers a further opportunity to increase attractions for tourists. Loch Garten in the Highlands was the successful pioneer of osprey breeding and I understand there are now several breeding pairs in Scotland. They come back from their winter in Africa and travel up the west coast of the UK to their old nests or to find new sites for young birds. The building of nesting platforms, together with patience and egg protection, is how they start new nesting sites.

The best example I know is the Dyfi Osprey project in mid Wales where there is now an established breeding pair. This is managed by the local wildlife trust which has an excellent observatory. It also runs a web site with 24-hour live pictures from the nest and a resident expert able to answer questions from viewers all over the world. They invite donations from viewers.

When the chicks hatched last year, they had 300 people who visited the observatory and 10,000 world wide web site viewers.

The estate or RSPB could put up a platform in Lochdon. The RSPB eagle watch project has been so successful that we failed to get place this year. It is low impact, as are the groups of watchers you find in lay-bys and the small number of wildlife tour vehicles following the lead of David Woodhouse, pioneer of this type of tourist activity on Mull.

John Buckman, Swansea.

### Glasgow Letter

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

#### Charles Kennedy

Last week, I had only just submitted the Glasgow Letter for print when I heard the shockingly sad news of Charles Kennedy's passing.

He was one of the most prominent Highlanders to take the well trodden path down to Glasgow and go on to great things and he was always extremely proud of his time at Glasgow university, during which he won the prestigious British Observer Mace for university debating.

On a personal level, I always counted Charles among my heroes and remember, as a wee boy, being immensely proud to hear a man with a Lochaber accent challenging for the highest office in the land.

I went to the same school as him, the same university as him and even studied in the same English literature department as him. It was probably for this reason that he was always hugely supportive of me.

When I won the Mòd Gold Medal, he kindly took the time to send me a wonderful letter from the House of Commons in which he really made me feel he was genuinely proud of me.

He finished the letter by telling me, in his typical humour, that I had to behave at uni because my rector was watching me - he was the rector at Glasgow uni until last year.

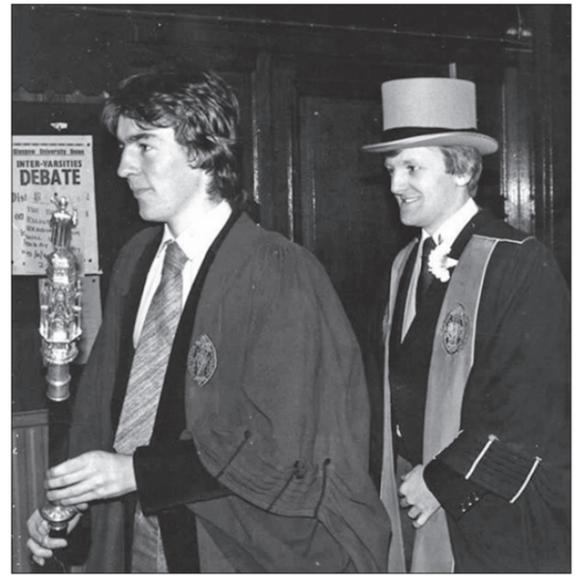
Five or six years ago, when I was still in school, I spoke to him after I had given a few songs at the Lochaber high school Burns supper.

Before I sang, I had cracked a joke and given myself the giggles.

When Charles congratulated me on my performance afterwards, I said something along the lines of: 'If only I had managed not to laugh at my own joke'.

He responded, without batting an eyelid: 'In 30 years of public speaking, I've learnt one thing: always laugh at your own jokes... at least then you know someone is going to laugh at them!'

The last time I met Charles was in January when he delivered an incredible speech at the Lochaber Burns supper and had the place in stitches. In my opinion, he was one of the best - if not the best - speaker of



WINNER: a young Charles Kennedy won the Observer Mace for debating at Glasgow university

his generation. In Charles Kennedy we have lost a legendary politician and, most importantly, a true highland gentleman.

### An Lochran at the West End Festival

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 with Calum Ross at Coffee and Craic, 74 Elderslie Street. Saturday June 20: Na Neonachain (Aliens Love Underpants), at the Gaelic Books Council, 32 Mansfield Street. Tuesday June 23: Togaibh Fonn, Gaelic singing workshop with Murdo 'Wasp' MacDonald at Coffee and Craic, 74 Elderslie Street. Wednesday June 24: Seisean-ciùil (Traditional Music Session), at the Lismore, 206 Dumbarton Road.

### Glasgow Islay juniors

ON MONDAY night I was delighted to attend my first rehearsal as conductor of Glasgow Islay Junior Gaelic Choir.

The choir has seen falling attendances, after its former conductor John Joe MacNeil moved to Oban, and now needs an increase in numbers to field a choir at this year's National Mòd.

The committee, however, is working hard to encourage more youngsters and I hope more under 19 year olds will head along at 6pm on a Monday night.

### Pub scene

Park Bar: Thursday June 11: Session. Friday June 12: Scott Harvey. Saturday June 13: Eriskay Lilt. Sunday June 14: Scott Harvey. Islay Inn: Friday June 12: The Ragaels. Saturday June 13: Twist of Fate. Wednesday June 17: quiz night.

### Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

CHÀIDH A' CHUIBHLE mun cuairt, ghrad thionndaidh gu fuachd am blàths!

Saoilidh mi gum bheil na faclan aig a' Chlàrsair Dall sònraichte freagarrach dhòmhsa mar aithris air an atharrachadh eadar mi bhith a' sgrìobhadh Beachd na seachdain chaidh agus seo, le naidheachd bàis aithghearr mo dheagh charaid Teàrlach Ceanadach.

Bha mise nam Mhanaidsear air a' BhBC ann an Inbhir Nis nuair a thàinig Teàrlach a dh'obair air sin mar fhoghlamach-naidheachdais nuair a dh'fhàg e an oilthigh. Thar nam beagan mhiosan a bha e cuide rinn stèidhich sinn càirdeas a lean, agus tha mi brònach da-riubh gum bheil sin a-nise crìochnaichte.

Chan ann tric a chithear neo a chluinnear uimhir de mholadh is a rinneadh air Teàrlach bho chail sinn e, agus na mo bheachd bha e airidh air a h-uile facal dheth. Cha ghabhadh cliù nas motha a chur às leth duine na gun robh e ri am modhail agus nach robh e ri càineadh pearsanta. Sin mar a bha Teàrlach agus bha e cuideachd càirdeil agus eirmeach, agus daingeann na

dhìlseachd dha sluagh is dualchas nan coimhearsnachdan a bha e a' riochdachadh. Sith mhaireann dhut, a charaid!

Nuair a bhios sibh a' leughadh seo, agus ma cheadaicheas slàinte dhomh, bidh mise air toiseach turais ris am bheil mi air a bhith a' gabhail fadachd mhòr. Seo an dàrna turas den t-seòrsa a tha mo charaid Murchadh Peutan air a chur air dòigh às leth Urras an Eilein, agus bidh sinn a' tadhal air làraich anns an Fhraing agus sa Bheilg co-cheangailte ris a' Chogadh Mhòr, gu sònraichte Blàr Festubert a dh'jobair uimhir a Ghàidheil san Ògmhios 1915. Bidh sinn a' tadhal cuideachd aig St Valery far an deach millean, Gàidheil nam measg, a ghabhail nam prìosanaich air 11 Ògmhios 1940 san Dàrna Cogadh.

Chaidh mòran de na prìosanaich sin a thoirt chun na Pòlainn far an robh iad nan tràillean air tuathan is eile, agus ged a dh' fhuiling iad brùidealachd uabhasach agus ged a chail cuid am beatha, chanadh feadhainn aca gun robh iad na bu shàbhailte na bhiodh iad ri uchd buailadh.

Rud a tha cinnteach 's e gum bheil iad uile airidh air an cuimhneachadh le spèis iurram, agus maoinneachadh cuideachd air na dh'fhaodadh iad a bhith air a chur ris an t-saoghal nan robhas air saoghal a bhuileachadh dhaibh seach cogadh!

I MOURN the loss of my friend Charles Kennedy.

Praised in eloquent speeches as a statesman, and also simply as a true Highland gentleman, Charles merited every accolade and the world is poorer for his passing.

As you read this I will hopefully be travelling to Europe to visit WW1 sites and cemeteries centred on Festubert, where the young men of many Highland and island communities were sacrificed in 1915.

I also look forward to visiting St Valery where so many Gaels, among others, were taken prisoner in June 1941.

So many who gave everything, when with life they might have achieved so much.

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

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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

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We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

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

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

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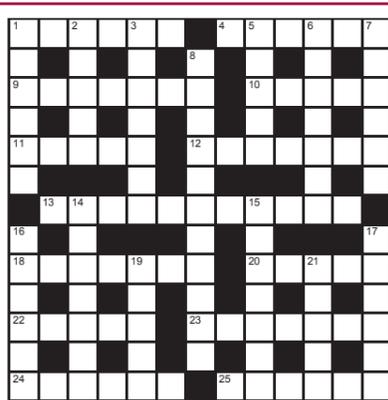
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#### Across

- 1 Freehold tenure of land (6)
- 4 Play (6)
- 9 Learner (7)
- 10 Agave plant (5)
- 11 One who speaks up for another's whereabouts (5)
- 12 Dispeller of dark (7)
- 13 Beneath our feet (11)
- 18 Whole figure (7)
- 20 Satellite of a planet (5)
- 22 Herring of the east North Atlantic (5)
- 23 State of freedom (7)
- 24 Austonesian language (6)
- 25 Leisure pants (6)

#### Down

- 1 Small-time dictator (6)
- 2 Of the raccoon family (5)
- 3 Explosive sound (7)
- 5 Man-made fibre (5)
- 6 Stand (7)
- 7 Small fissure (6)
- 8 Hostile (11)
- 14 Not man-made (7)
- 15 Too big for one's boots (7)
- 16 Dumplings (3,3)
- 17 Chronicles (6)
- 19 Urchin (5)
- 21 Headgear (5)

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**

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# Treat alcoholism as an illness

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

ALCOHOLISM should be viewed and treated as a serious illness to reduce the number of people dying as a result of excessive drinking, a Highland politician has said.

Dave Thompson, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, highlighted the issue following the announcement that Charles Kennedy's death last week was a result of his on-going battle with alcoholism.

He said anyone who admits to a drinking problem should be 'applauded' and revealed he made the decision to become teetotal 15 years ago, following his own excessive drinking.

On Friday, a statement was released by the family of Charles Kennedy, former MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, confirming his death at his Lochside home last Monday was caused by a major haemorrhage, a 'consequence of his battle with alcoholism'. Mr Kennedy was an MP in the Highlands for more than 30 years and served as Liberal Democrat leader until 2006, when he announced he had a drink problem.

Mr Thompson said: 'I think people realise more and more that it's an illness which has to be treated the same as any other illness. Alcoholism affects people right across the board,



**PROBLEMS:** Highland MSP Dave Thompson spoke out about his previous problems with alcohol

from all walks of life. The fact that Charles' family has been so open about what caused his death is a good thing, because the more we can bring this issue into the open, the better chance we have of showing people it is an illness we need to come to terms with.

'I'm happy that people are starting to take alcohol addiction more seriously, but we still have a way to go.

'For example, when someone admits they have a problem they should be applauded for having the courage to tell

people and it should be treated as a serious illness.

'In politics or other workplaces, opponents will cling to anything deemed a weakness and try to use it against you.

'Many people who have had a drink problem worry it will be held against them when it comes to things like promotion, even if they haven't touched a drop for years.'

The statement from Mr Kennedy's family said: 'We have now been informed by the office of the procurator fiscal of the findings of the post mortem. Charles' death was caused by a major haemorrhage and the report makes clear this was a consequence of his battle with alcoholism.

'We are grateful to the many friends and also medical experts who sought to help



**BATTLE:** Charles Kennedy died of a major haemorrhage, caused by his battle with alcoholism

down the years, but ultimately this was an illness Charles could not conquer, despite the efforts he and others made.'

Mr Thompson said there needs to be a clearer understanding of excessive drinking, particularly when it is not in its most obvious form.

And he used his own experience to highlight this: 'When I was drinking, it wasn't like I couldn't get up in the morning without a dram. In fact, I rarely drank during the week, but at the weekend I would drink an awful lot and it became a problem.

'Many people will have a few glasses of wine every night and think they're fine, but they would find it really hard if someone asked them to stop.

'They would actually find they have a problem.'

Charles was found dead last Monday (June 1) at his home in Lochside, near Fort William.

His former campaign manager, Conn O'Neill, said alcoholism 'should not be trivialised'.

He said: 'For just a year, I had the great honour of knowing Charles Kennedy. Through the most tumultuous times in Scottish politics, it was a pleasure to be by his side and to share in his insight.

'The revelation that his death is related to alcohol in no way diminishes the great tragedy of his loss. Charles' long suffering from a terrible illness should not be trivialised as a problem or 'his demons'.

'The legacy of Charles Kennedy is far greater, let us continue to reflect upon the positive impact he has had on the lives of so many.'

## TIMESLINE

### Carloway biker, 42, dies in island crash

A MAN from Lewis has died on the island after he crashed his motorbike on Saturday.

The accident happened in the Carloway area of Lewis at around 1.30pm and a police spokesman later announced Angus Chisholm, 42, had died.

No other vehicles were involved in the incident, which occurred on the A858 Stornoway to Barvas road near the Brue junction.

The road was closed in both directions while an investigation was carried out.

The police spokesman said: 'Police Scotland can confirm that the person who died in the one vehicle road traffic collision on the Isle of Lewis yesterday was 42-year-old Angus Chisholm. Mr Chisholm, who was from the Carloway area on the island, was riding a motorcycle at the time of the incident. A report will be sent to the Procurator Fiscal, as is the usual procedure in fatal road traffic collisions.'

### Police need help to catch town thieves

**POLICE in Lochaber are appealing for information following a number of thefts in the area.**

Sometime between Tuesday May 26 and Wednesday June 3, a black, adult mountain bike was stolen from an insecure garage in Hillside estate, Fort William.

On Sunday June 7, between 2.45pm and 4.30pm, two high-value adult mountain bikes were stolen from a venue tent at the mountain bike event at Aonach Mor, Fort William.

One is red and black with black suspension forks and the other is black with blue and yellow stripes.

Sometime between Friday May 1 and Monday May 18, a black Suzuki outboard motor was removed from a boat in the Gairloch area.

If you can help contact Lochaber police on 101.

## Family 'touched beyond measure'

THE FAMILY of Charles Kennedy said they were 'touched beyond measure' at the tributes that flowed in from all over the UK.

A statement was released ahead of his funeral, to be held tomorrow (Friday).

It said: 'Charles' family would first like to thank the public and politicians who have been so warm in their tributes to him and so sincere in their concern for us. We have been touched beyond measure by the

outpouring of warmth for a man whose loss we will feel deeply forever. The pain we feel has been at least eased somewhat by the reaction of so many people and how many lives he touched.

'We were grateful that his young son, Donald, was able to attend the Commons session where so many MPs spoke so warmly about his father. The words and images of that day, and of so many other tributes, will be there for us to look back

on with pride in Charles, and Donald will always know what a special father he had.

'We would also like to thank all the public authorities and emergency services who have dealt with the aftermath of Charles' death with such courtesy, kindness and efficiency.'

Mr Kennedy's funeral will be held in St John's RC church in Caol tomorrow (Friday). Memorial services will also be held in Glasgow and London at a later date.

## Consider others when parking at hospital

POOR parking at Raigmore hospital has been highlighted by staff following reports from patients about being blocked in and cars obstructing access roads.

Crawford Howat, hotel services manager at the Inverness hospital, said: 'The car park is very busy and we recognise it can be difficult trying to find a space when you are coming in for an appointment or to visit a patient.'

'We know that a hospital environment for some can be a stressful experience and a busy car park can add to that.'

'But we have examples of cars being blocked in, access roads being blocked and the disabled bays at the front of the car park being used by those who do not have blue badges displayed on their car.'

'What we are asking is that everyone takes responsibility for how they use our car park.'

'Leave enough time to find a space if you are coming in for an appointment.'

'Please don't block cars in or block any of our access roads and please be considerate of others when driving round and parking on our site.'

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**CHEERY:** brightly coloured bikes marking out a new walking route have cheered up Fort William

## Bright bikes light up Fort

FOR MANY it has felt like summer was never coming to Fort William as dark and gloomy weather hung over the town.

But that changed with the arrival of 13 colourful bicycles popping up around the town centre and brightening up the grey days.

The bikes mark out a short walking route through the Fort and each stands beside a signpost displaying a different tip about recycling as part of

a new project by Fort William town team and Lochaber environmental group (LEG).

It is hoped this will reduce the waste of common household items as well as encouraging both visitors and locals to walk or cycle more.

The route takes in the High street, the waterfront and the Old Fort, ending at the West End roundabout.

Lewis Fyfe, zero waste project manager of LEG, said: 'There are many barriers to recycling,

one of which is the confusion about what can or can't be recycled.'

'This recycle route will hopefully bring light to some of these confusions while creating a colourful attraction for the town and promoting walking as an alternative to car travel for short journeys.'

Even the bikes have been recycled by the Bike Station, a social enterprise based in Perth, which collects and repairs old bicycles.



## Delivering a glimpse of the past

BACK IN THE DAY: visitors to Roy Bridge could easily have believed they had travelled back in time when horse-drawn carriages made their way through the village. The unusual sight was a fundraising trip from Kingussie to mark 100 years since the last run of the old mail coach. The delivery service regularly travelled the 74 miles west with the post until it was replaced by a motor vehicle in 1915. The event raised more than £4,000 for the Cairngorms riding for the disabled association. Photo Gillies Campbell

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Lochaber high school sixth years, Fiona MacEachan and Oskar Wineberg, welcomed Holocaust survivor Joanna Millan, second left, after visiting Auschwitz last year with drama teacher, Jacqi Hume

## Holocaust survivor enlightens pupils

A HOLOCAUST survivor visited Lochaber high school last week to help pupils understand about life during Nazi Germany.

Local people joined the third year pupils to hear from Joanna Millan, born in Berlin in 1942. Ms Millan, a Jew, gave a presentation as part of the visit organised by the Holocaust educational trust before answering questions.

Sixth year pupils, Oskar Wineberg and Fiona MacEachan, were particularly fascinated after visiting Auschwitz last year and passed on their experiences to younger children at the school.

Jim Sutherland, head teacher at Lochaber high, said: 'It was a privilege for us to welcome Joanna Millan to our school and her testimony will remain a powerful reminder of the horrors so many experienced.'

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# OBAN PROVINCIAL MOD



Lauren MacLeod, 10, Eilidh MacFadyen, 9, and Shauna MacLeod, 10, took part in singing and conversation competitions. 16\_124modpics4



Rockfield primary school Gaelic medium pupils took part in the action song competition. 16\_124modpics12



Sorely Campbell, 9, Callum Neil, 10, Ruairidh Buchanan, 9, and Lia



The Robin Banks memorial salver was won by Argyll men's choir Coisir Ceann an Tuirc 16\_124modpics23



The George MacHardy trophy was won by fiddle player Bronwen Davies of Scammadale. 16\_124modpics22

## Gaelic language not o

OBAN provincial mòd was a glowing success from start to finish, with a huge number of participants, superb competitions and enthusiasm for the Gaelic language.

Over last Friday and Saturday, more than 2,000 people came to the town to take part in the events organised by Oban mòd committee.

Venues were packed to the gunnels with Gaelic-speaking and singing hopefuls and those who

came along to enjoy the craic.

The results speak for themselves; people came to show off their talent from across Argyll and beyond.

Largs Gaelic choir was warmly welcomed by choir chairman Freddy MacKenzie.

It was the children of Argyll who were the real stars of the show, with many turning out with great enthusiasm to take part in the 100 or so competitions. Eight venues around the town, including Oban Phoenix



Marsaili Cothart, 9, who took part in the Gaelic conversation class, with wee brother Seonaidh, 18 months. 16\_124modpics9



Piping competitors with adjudicator Tom Johnstone. 16\_124modpics36



Lochnell folk group after competing in the Argyllshire Gathering halls. Photo by Kevin McGlynn



Rockfield primary school's Neil MacKechnie, 10, and William MacEwan, 10 16\_124modpics8



Volunteer Nan Hopperton was on the door of the Phoenix cinema. 16\_124modpics17



Sillas Sinclair, conductor of Coisir Ghaidhlig an Obain, was presented with the Anne F MacDougall memorial salver. 16\_124modpics28



Oban high school choir. Photo by Kevin McGlynn



Freddy MacKechnie presents Audrey Paterson, conductor of Coisir Ghaidhlig Thighan an Uillt, with a cash prize. 16\_124modpics30

# OBAN PROVINCIAL MOD



Brodie Crawford, Inveraray, won solo singing of an own choice song, girls 11-12 learner. Photo by Kevin McGlynn



Maria Clark, Oban high school, winner of girls own choice song, girls 11-12 fluent. Photo by Kevin McGlynn



Angus Maclean, Kilmartin primary school, who came second in the boys 11-12 learners solo at the Argyllshire Gathering halls. Photo by Kevin McGlynn



Moira Westland and Janet MacDonald from Mull. Moira was competing in the women's solo singing competitions. 16\_124modcaps35



Moira Dunlop, mòd organiser, was praised for bringing the event together. Moira said the many superb volunteers made the task a pleasure. 16\_124modpics26



Olivia Gage, 7, of Rockfield primary school, won the Argyll and Bute trophy at her first mòd. Photo by Kevin McGlynn

## Results

### Junior Competitions

**Gaelic Conversation 9-10 years** 1. Shuna MacLeod 2. Neil Mackechnie, 3=Lauren MacLeod, Abigail Campbell.  
**Prescribed Poetry 9-10 years (Learners)** 1. Mairi Inglis 2. Angus MacAskill, 3. Charis Simpson.  
**Gaelic storytelling 7-8 years** 1. Finlay Cameron, 2. Rhys Neil, 3. Kieran Macintyre.  
**Gaelic Storytelling 11-12 years** 1. Niamh Cameron, 2. Kelly MacGillvray, 3. Iona Keys.  
**Gaelic Conversation 5-6 years** 1. Micheal Turek, 2. Alyss MacDonald, 3= Bethan Neil, Mia Grant.  
**Poetry 11-12 years** 1. Sean Campbell, 2. Saoirse McLennan, 3. Niamh Cameron.  
**Gaelic Conversation 11-12 years** 1. Sandy Stuart, 2. Joy Barrow, 3. Niamh Cameron.  
**Gaelic Conversation 7-8 years** 1. Phoebe Ashley, 2. Finlay Cameron, 3. Kieran Macintyre.  
**Poetry 5-6 years (Learners)** 1. Bethan Neil, 2. Mia Grant, 3. Alice McLennan.  
**Gaelic Conversation 11-12 years** 1. Sandy Stuart, 2. Rhona MacLeod, 3=Duncan Orr, Amy Stoddart  
**Poetry 7-8 years (Learners)** 1. Scott McPhee 2. Mya McCormick 3. Erinn Higgins.  
**Gaelic Story Telling 9-10 years** 1. Ealasaid MacLean, 2. Callum Neil, 3=Shauna MacLeod, Lauren MacLeod.  
**Gaelic Conversation 11-12 years** 1. Niamh Cameron, 2. Joy Barrow, 3. Sean Campbell.  
**Recitation of Poetry 9-10 years (Fluent)** 1. Ealasaid MacLean 2. Finlay McLuckie, 3. Sarah Garvin.  
**Verse Speaking** 1. Bunsgoil Achadh na Creige A, 2. Bunsgoil Achadh na Creige B  
**Poetry 7-8 years (Fluent)** 1. Ceitidh Garvin, 2. Katie MacLellan, 3. Daniel Grant  
**Solo Singing Girls 9-10 years (Learners)** 1. Islay Berrie, 2. Izzy Crawford, 3. Cara Duncan.  
**Duet Singing Under 13 years** 1. Sarah Garvin & Joy Barrow, 2. Brodie Crawford & Molly Blyth  
**Solo Singing Boys 11-12 years (Learners)** 1. Innes Munro, 2. Angus MacLean.  
**Solo Singing Boys 9-10 yrs (Learners)** 1. Angus MacAskill  
**Solo Singing Girls 11-12 years (Fluent)** 1. Maria Clark, 2. Joy Barrow.  
**Solo Singing Girls 13-15 years** 1. Cara Blyth, 2. Holly Renton, 3. Abbie Williams.  
**Gaelic Folk Group under 13 years** 1. Comhlan-Ciùil Bunsgoil Achadh na Creige, 2. Lochnell Primary Group 2 3. Craignish Folk Group  
**Solo Singing 5-6 years (Learners)** 1. Isla Hausrath, 2. Millie Fyfe, 3=Madison McCormick, Oliver Clark.  
**Solo Singing 7-8 years (Fluent)** 1. Katie MacLellan, 2. Kieran Macintyre, 3. Phoebe Ashley.  
**Action Song Under 18 years** 1. Bunsgoil Thaigh a Chladaich P6/7, 2. Achaleven Primary School, 3=P2/1G +Sgoil Araich, Bunsgoil Achadh Na Creige, Bunsgoil an t-Sailein Clas a h-aon's a dha a thri.  
**Solo Singing Girls 9-10 yrs (Fluent)** 1. Ealasaid MacLean, 2. Sarah Garvin, 3. Lauren MacLeod.  
**Solo Singing Girls 11-12 years (Learners)** 1. Brodie Crawford, 2. Kara Gray, 3=Molly Blyth, Rowan Chishoim.  
**Solo Singing Girls 13-15 years** 1. Abbie Williams, 2. Sophie King, 3. Jenny McIntyre.  
**Solo Singing Boys 13-15 years** 1. Ross McLeish, 2. Calum Garvin, 3. Gregor Campbell.  
**Solo Singing 16-18 years** 1. Alasdair McLean.  
**Solo Singing 7-8 years (Learners)** 1. Olivia Gage, 2. Ceitidh Garvin, 3. Erinn Higgins.  
**Choral Singing-Puir-a-Beul 13-18 years** 1. Oban High School Gaelic Choir.  
**Choral Unison Singing Under 13 years** 1. Inveraray School Choir, 2. Bunsgoil Thaigh A'Chladaich 3. Coisir Bunsgoil Achadh na Creige.  
**Choral Singing - Puir-a-Beul Under 13 years** 1. Coisir Bunsgoil achadh na Creige, 2. Dunbeg Primary School, 3. Taynult Primary School.  
**Drama Under 18 years** 1. Bunsgoil achadh na Creige P1-4, 2. Bunsgoil Achadh na Creige P5-7, 3. Bunsgoil Thaigh a' Chladaich P6/7  
**Poster Competition P1-P3** 1. Isla MacQuarie, 2. Ceitidh Garvin, 3. Daniel Grant P4-P7 1. Shauna MacLeod, 2. Sean Campbell, 3. Harry Johnston.

### Senior Competitions

**Reading at Sight a Piece of Prose selected (Learners)** 1. Frances R Lynn  
**Reading at Sight a Piece of Prose selected (Fluent)** 1. F Ann MacLean  
**Reciting from Memory (Fluent)** 1. F Ann MacLean  
**Reciting from Memory (Fluent)** 1. F Ann MacLean  
**Gaelic Speech** 1. F Ann MacLean  
**SINGING**  
**Female Solo** 1. Donna Dugdale, 2. Shona Keith, 3. F Ann MacLean.  
**Solo Singing of one of the prescribed songs** 1. F Ann MacLean, 2. Shona Keith, 3. Moira Westland.  
**Solo Singing of Song written by an Argyll Bard** 1. Shona Keith, 2. F Ann MacLean  
**Solo singing of one or prescribed song** 1. F Ann MacLean.  
**Duet Singing** 1. Donna Dugdale & Natalie Livingstone.  
**Solo Singing of Traditional or Unpublished Song** 1. Donna Dugdale, 2. Rebekah MacPherson.  
**Solo Singing of one of the Prescribed Song** 1= F Ann MacLean, Donna Dugdale.  
**Senior Choirs Four-Part Harmony** 1. Coisir Ghaidhlig an Obain, 2. Coisir Ghaidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich, 3. Coisir Ghaidhlig Thaigh an Uillt  
**Choral Singing Male or Female Voices** 1. Coisir Ceann an Tuirc  
**Choral Singing Mixed Voices Puir a Beul** 1. Coisir Ghaidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich, 2. Coisir Ghaidhlig an Obain, 3. Coisir Ghaidhlig Thaigh an Uillt  
**CLARSACH**  
**One own choice Introductory (up to Grade 1)** 1. Ealasaid MacLean.  
**Two Own Choice Elementary 1** 1. Christy Cameron, 2. Niamh Cameron, 3. Sarah Garvin.  
**Advanced** 1. Breagha Charlton  
**Clarsach Duets** 1. Sarah Garvin & Niamh Cameron  
**Clarsach Ensemble** 1. Feis Latharna Clarsach Ensemble  
**ACCORDION**  
**set of 3 Gaelic Waltzes Under 12** 1. Ewan McFadyen  
**Set of 3 Gaelic Waltzes 12-18 years** 1. Shanna Rodgers 2=, Calum Garvin, Emma McPhee, 3=, Isla MacCormick, Kirsty MacCormick  
**March, Strathspey & Reel 12-18 years** 1. Emma McPhee, 2. Shanna Rodgers  
**FIDDLE**  
**Slow Gaelic Air & March Under 13 years (Beginners)** 1. Iona Keys, 2. Alex MacPherson, 3=, Cara Nicol, Domhnall Aonghas Colthart  
**Slow Gaelic Air & March, Strathspey & Reel 13-18 years** 1. Bronwen Davies, 2. Breagha Charlton, 3. Eilidh Munro.  
**Senior Fiddle Ensemble** 1. Lochgoilhead Fiddle Workshop  
**PIPING**  
**March Under 15 years** 1. Ross Conner, 2. Emma Hill, 3. Gregor MacDonald  
**Strathspey & Reel Under 15 years** 1. Ross Conner, 2. Gregor MacDonald, 3. Emma Hill  
**March 15-18 years** 1. Aarron Hossein, 2. Alastair MacLean, 3. Bronwen Davies  
**Strathspey & Reel 15-18 years** 1. Alastair MacLean, 2. Aarron Hossein, 3. Bronwen Davies  
**ORAL**  
**Poetry 13-15 years (Fluent)** 1. Calum Garvin  
**Conversation 13-15 years (Learners)** 1. Gregor Campbell  
**Gaelic Storytelling 13-15 years (Fluent)** 1. Calum Garvin  
**Poetry 13-15 years (Learners)** 1. Christy Cameron, Gregor Campbell  
**Conversation 13-15 years (Fluent)** 1. Calum Garvin 2. Ellen MacKechnie

**Trophy Winners**  
**Etive Trophy** Katie MacLellan  
**Annie Lindsay MacLellan Cup** Maria Clark  
**Oban Cup** Inveraray School Choir  
**Rev. Wm MacPhail Memorial Trophy** Tobermory High School  
**Argyll & Bute Councils Cup** Olivia Gage  
**Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy** Bun Sgoil Thaigh a Cladaich P6/  
**Iseabal Scott Memorial Trophy** Shona Keith  
**Irene MacCowan Medal** F Ann MacLean  
**Anne M Macdougall Memorial Salver** Coisir Ghaidhlig an Obain  
**Hugh MacPherson Memorial Quaich** Coisir Ghaidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich  
**Comunn Gaidhealach an Obain Cuach** Coisir Ghaidhlig an Eilein Mhuilich  
**Inbhir Leacainn Cuach** Bunsgoil Achadh na Creige  
**George McHardy Trophy** Bronwen Davies  
**Duncan Ferguson Memorial Trophy** Alex MacPherson  
**Cuach Bheag - Clarsach** Ealasaid MacLean  
**Comann nam Parant an Obain** (Poetry) Sean Campbell  
**Robin & Ishbel banks Quaich** Rockfield Primary School  
**Robin Banks Memorial Salver** Coisir Ceann an Tuirc  
**Comann nam Parant an Obain** (Solo Singing) Isla Hausrath  
**George McHardy Trophy** Iona Keyes, Beaton Cup Ross Conner  
**Beaton Challenge Shield** Alastair MacLean

## 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? **Slimming World**

What do they do and where can I find them? **Oban classes are every Thursday 10.30am & 5.30pm Glencruitten Church Hall. Call Gillian 07796 040 803** You can find out more online at [www.slimmingworld.com](http://www.slimmingworld.com)



Our generous eating plan makes slimming easier than you ever thought possible! Instead of telling you what you can and can't eat, Food Optimising puts you in control. You don't need to worry about weighing all your food, counting points or monitoring every mouthful.

Slimming World's highly effective approach to weight loss is empowering and enabling. Our support - online and in group - is based on a deep understanding of how you feel and a passionate desire to help you achieve your personal weight loss goals - and maintain them for life!

Success isn't achieved by setting impossible standards, or through humiliation, it's achieved through caring, compassion and respect. You decide what size you want to be and we'll help you get there. At Slimming World we work together to help you look and feel great - body, mind and soul.



### Slimming World original recipe Jerky turkey skewers with summer salad

Serves: 4  
Prep time: 20 minutes  
Ready in: 30-60 mins  
Syns per serving:  
FREE on Extra Easy  
SP Perfect for Extra Easy SP

#### INGREDIENTS

500g British Turkey breast, diced  
Zest and juice of 1 lime  
3 tbsp jerk seasoning  
1 large handful of fresh coriander, chopped  
6 tbsp fat free natural yogurt  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
4 sweet potatoes, cut into chunky wedges  
Low-calorie cooking spray  
2 red peppers, cut into chunks

**Tip:** Soak bamboo skewers in water and the juice of 1 lemon for at least 1 hour to prevent the wood from burning.

For a colourful summer salad, enjoy lettuce, chopped beetroot, cucumber, strawberries, oranges, cherry tomatoes and peppers.

#### METHOD

Put the turkey in a bowl with the lime zest and juice, 2 tbsp of the jerk seasoning, coriander, yogurt and black pepper. Marinate in the fridge for 30 minutes, or overnight if you can.

Preheat your oven to 200°C/fan 180°C/gas 6. Spray a roasting tin with low-calorie cooking spray, toss with the pepper, 1 tbsp of jerk seasoning, then spread in a single layer on a baking tray. Bake for 35-40 minutes, or until crisp and golden, turning halfway.

Preheat your grill to medium-high and divide the turkey between four skewers, alternating with the peppers. Season with salt, spray with low-calorie cooking spray, then grill for 10-12 minutes, turning occasionally, until the turkey is cooked. Serve the skewers and wedges with a twist of black pepper and plenty of salad.

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

## Fabulous flora inspires arts and eco-tourism project on Raasay

LAST weekend saw the launch of an arts and eco-tourism project on Raasay which aims to attract visitors to enjoy the island's fabulous flora.

Patterns of Flora/Mapping Seven Raasay Habitats is an ATLAS Arts initiative which brought together artist Frances Priest with botanist Stephen Bungard in a celebration of local plants and flowers.

Their collaboration led to the creation of exquisite ceramics by Frances, below, which have been gifted to Raasay House as part of its restoration following the 2009 fire.

To accompany the ceramics Frances and Stephen, who has studied the island's plants for 30 years, have developed an illustrated map of botanical walks. These will guide visitors through seven distinct plant habitats across the island: bog, coastal, freshwater loch, limestone, moor, mountain and woodland.

Launch events, which were all free of charge, took place on Friday and Saturday in and around Raasay House, which is now a community-run outdoor centre and

four-star hotel. Emma Nicolson, director of ATLAS Arts, said: 'Raasay is a wonderland for anyone who loves the Scottish countryside with an amazing variety of habitats, from coastal to woodland, for people to explore and enjoy.'

'We hope this project will encourage eco-tourism and contribute to the development of a sustainable economy and also help promote the great work being done by the community with its restoration of Raasay House.'

'Frances' ceramics and the map she designed and illustrated are very beautiful and it was tremendous for her to be able to collaborate with someone like Stephen who has such an incredible knowledge and love of the flora of Raasay.'

'We are really looking forward to welcoming people to Raasay for the launch to enjoy lots of different activities - from walks and talks, to kayaking and poetry. It's a great way to find out about the Patterns of Flora project and everything it is trying to achieve.'



### HebCelt celebrates 20th anniversary with Limelight award

THE Hebridean Celtic Festival is the twentieth recipient of Hands Up for Trad's Business Limelight Award. This is the eleventh time the group has marked the end of session with a festival and the three-day event proved as popular as ever. Former long-serving club

chairman, Jim Campbell, formally opened the event on May 21, before handing over to Ally 'K' MacPherson who acted as master of ceremonies. Local and visiting musicians entertained a packed audience, and continued to do the whole weekend, before the evening rounded

### Argyll's libraries suffer drop in visitors due to bad weather

LIBRARIES have seen a fall in visitors due to bad weather, said Argyll and Bute's director of community services, Cleland Sneddon, at a meeting of the scrutiny committee last week. Discussing a drop in books being borrowed throughout Argyll, Mr Sneddon said: 'When the weather is not so good people don't come out to our libraries.'

### Fort William gallery seeks new artists

WEST HIGHLAND artists are being sought for a new gallery in Fort William. Gallery in the Fort opened last week in the town's High Street and will feature the work of local artists.

For more information or to sell work in the gallery, contact info@galleryinthefort.co.uk

## Skye accordion and fiddle club end season with three day festival

SKYE accordion and fiddle club went out with a bang as members rounded off the season with their annual festival.

This is the eleventh time the group has marked the end of session with a festival and the three-day event proved as popular as ever. Former long-serving club

chairman, Jim Campbell, formally opened the event on May 21, before handing over to Ally 'K' MacPherson who acted as master of ceremonies. Local and visiting musicians entertained a packed audience, and continued to do the whole weekend, before the evening rounded

off with a performance from the Andy Kain Trio. The Friday evening was a sell out with entertainment from guest band, Deoch 'n' Dorus, while on the Saturday afternoon the young Callum Cruikshank band packed the function room with their rousing efforts. The traditional

festival dance went down a storm on the Saturday evening as Skye gathering hall was packed to the rafters and music was provided by Brandon MacPhee and his trio.

John Grundy of Skye accordion and fiddle club said: 'Throughout the festival the informal sessions

in several venues in Portree attracted large support and the general opinion seemed to be that this was the best yet, with several festival goers already booking accommodation for next year's event in May.'

After a summer break the club will reconvene in October.



Skye gathering hall was filled to the rafters at the accordion and fiddle club's annual festival



Local and visiting musicians joined together for a tune

## All roads lead to the mòd for new Gaelic youth choir

A NEW junior Gaelic choir in Lochaber has its sights set on the mòd after a successful first performance.

Oigrìdh Shuaimeart (youth of Sunart) formed in November last year and now has 12 members, aged between five and 12.

Conducted by Sarah Madden, the group has been meeting weekly to prepare for its first public performance.

And the time came at a fundraising tea party last week when Oigrìdh Shuaimeart performed in front of 70 people in Strontian village hall.

Following this success, the choir will be competing at the Ardnamurchan provincial mòd on June 19, submitting 11 entries for choir and solo competitions.

Oigrìdh Shuaimeart will then compete at the Mull mòd before taking on the nationals in Oban in October.



Newly formed junior Gaelic choir, Oigrìdh Shuaimeart, with conductor Sarah Madden

## Author makes 'unusual' photo request for book launch

TO COINCIDE with the launch of Donald S Murray's new book, 'Herring Bones; How The Silver Darlings Influenced Human Taste and History', the publisher, Blooms-

bury Books, is looking for pictures of unusual uses of fish boxes for its website. These can take any form - from coffee tables to book-cases, go-karts to makeshift fences - and

can come from any historical period, whether contemporary plastic or the more traditional wood.

Even old-fashioned herring barrels will be considered.

And the more eccentric, the use, the better!

Donald can be contacted at either 01950 477256 or [dsmurray@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dsmurray@yahoo.co.uk)

## 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

**The Rockfield Centre** the heart of a creative community  
**Pop-Up Party!**  
Congratulations, Oban! We did it - together! Now, let's celebrate!  
Food, music, games, face painting, book bug 1.30pm  
**Saturday 13th June**  
11am-3pm  
Rockfield Centre, Stevenson Street, Oban

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

**Glasgow Madrigals Choir**  
St Conans Kirk Loch Awe  
Saturday 20th June at 7.30pm  
Entry £8 (£6 Friends of St Conans Kirk)  
Refreshments included  
All welcome. Pay at the door.

**Oban Lifeboat Open Day**  
Saturday 20 June 2015, 11am - 3.00pm  
Step aboard Oban's Trent Lifeboat.  
Seafair trips round Oban Bay  
Cream teas...Burgers...Tombola...Treasure Map... Vintage Fire Engine  
Lucky Duck Draw... Face Painting...Children's Painting Table... Great Raffle...  
Sea Safety and lifejacket advice.  
Meet our volunteer crew and Oban Coastguard Team  
Come and join in the fun at Oban Lifeboat Station, South Pier, Oban!

**Scottish Wildlife Trust SUMMER FAIR**  
Saturday, June 13 10am-4pm  
Dunollie House  
Children's Activities - Arts & Crafts  
Working Steam Engines - Plants  
Home Baking - Lunches & Refreshments  
Admission £6 Children over 5  
£3 - Families £15  
Includes entry to Dunollie Museum & Castle

To advertise in our community noticeboard call 01631 568000



OBAN'S Spotlight Musical Theatre Group goes on tour this June with two out-of-town concerts.

## our with musical classics

was delighted to be asked to bring a concert to the village.

The concert will feature song and dances from shows such as Hairspray, Blood Brothers, Funny Girl and Footloose.

The second half of the

show will be a special re-working of the 2015 sell-out production of Anything Goes.

Ellie Cooper, who plays leading lady Reno Sweeney, said: 'We all had so much fun bringing this wonderful show to the

stage in February. To be able to dust off our tap shoes and bring a little bit of high society on the high seas to more people is a great privilege.'

Spotlight also hope to bring the show back to Oban in August.

## Kyle Hall provides calm setting for Seashore Festival visitors

WET and windy weather confined much of the Kyle Seashore Festival to the calm interior of Kyle hall.

Despite attending an event about the sea last weekend, the 200 visitors experienced more water than they bargained for and took shelter indoors, browsing the vast range of stalls and activities.

Attendees enjoyed storytelling, live music, underwater film footage, displays, crafts

and seafood - all in keeping with the marine theme.

The event was organised by Balmacara estate and Kyle and Lochalsh community trust and also included a low-tide shoreline ramble at the Plock, open doors at the Eilean Ban Trust, seaweed tutorials and cookery demonstrations in Balmacara square.

It was rounded off with an evening cruise and more seafood at Plockton.



Visitors enjoyed the Lochalsh seashore festival last weekend

## Plockton school of music goes on tour

THE National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music announced the dates for this year's whole school concert tour.

There are shows in Dunoon, Glasgow, Birnam and Pitlochry before the tour concludes with the final concert at Plockton High School.

The concerts will feature the 22 students in various combinations, including them playing all together in a powerful finale.

The centre teaches accordion, clarsach, fiddle, pipes, piano, guitar,

whistle, flute, and Scots and Gaelic song, and all of these will feature strongly on the programme.

All of the youngsters are multi-talented and there are a few other instruments involved as well, so there really is something for everybody in the show.

The Dunoon show will also feature support from young members of the Lochgoilhead Fiddle Workshop, and pupils of Dunoon Grammar School.

Monday June 15, 7:00 p.m.: Dunoon Grammar

School, 60 Ardenslate Road, Kinn, Dunoon, PA23 8LU. Tickets £5.

Phone 01369 860499 or email eviccampbell15@gmail.com. Tuesday June 16, 7:30 p.m.: The National Piping Centre, 30-34 McPhater Street, Glasgow, G4 0HW. Tickets £8 full price, £6 concessions.

Phone 0141 353 0220 and ask for the shop. Saturday June 20, 7:30 p.m.: Plockton High School Hall, Plockton, IV52 8TU. Phone 01599 544706 or email rhona.sharp@highland.gov.uk

## Treehouse is new home for artists

THREE artists have taken up residence in a Fort William treehouse, working together on a community project.

Visual artists Ali Berardelli, from Fort William, and Jen Deshens from the Shetland isles, have been joined by musician Clare Reynolds, also from Fort William, as they research local folklore through music, storytelling and illustration from their base in the Outlandia treehouse in Ben Nevis.

The trio had a visit from the Spean Bridge primary three class last week, who drew pictures and made music relating to various stories they were told.

Mrs Berardelli, the artist behind the project, said: 'This is such an exciting project for us as we have talked often about working together and by exploring stories from our area we are beginning to understand so much more about our local history.'

'Glen Nevis is a fascinating area and we hope this opportunity to develop ideas during our residency will result in artwork that helps invigorate interest in the lost stories we have discovered.'

'By involving schoolchildren we are able to not only have an excellent outdoor adventure but also take them on a journey where their knowledge of the area can expand. Developing music alongside visual art is an interesting development for us and we hope that the children taking part will enjoy the project as much as we have had bringing it all together.'



Spean Bridge primary threes with Outlandia's artists in residence

## Funding for the Royal National Mòd just keeps on accelerating

A SPONSORED accordion music marathon which took place in March raised more than £4,000 for the Royal National Mòd in Oban later this year.

One of the contributors, Roddy MacIsaac, from Roddy's Garage, Mill Lane, donated £250.00 towards this event.

Roddy presented the cheque to Ross MacPherson who helped to organise the event and was the lead musician during the day.



Roddy is also doing a sponsored climb of Ben Nevis on Saturday June 13 to help boost Mòd funds even further.

## Entertainment Guide

### Cinema

Oban Phoenix Cinema, community-owned and run  
Tel: 01631 562905 www.obanphoenix.com

12 JUNE 2015 - 18 JUNE 2015

**JURASSIC WORLD (TBC)**

Fri, Mon, Wed: 16:30; Sat: 12:30, 17:20; Sun: 11:20, 17:00, 18:00; Tue: 19:20; Thu: 16:40

**JURASSIC WORLD 3D (TBC)**

Fri, Mon, Wed: 19:20; Sat: 14:30, 20:00; Sun: 14:10; Tue: 16:30; Thu: 19:00

**MONSTERS UNIVERSITY (U)**

Sat: 10:00

**MYSTERY MOVIE (15)**

Wed: 19:00

**PITCH PERFECT 2 (12A)**

Fri, Mon, Tue: 16:40, 19:15; Sat: 15:20, 17:50, 20:20; Sun: 15:30, 19:40; Wed: 16:40; Thu: 16:30, 19:20

**TWO BY TWO (U)**

Sat: 10:20, 12:20; Sun: 11:30, 13:30

### FILM SYNOPSIS

**JURASSIC WORLD (12A)**

Twenty-two years after the events of Jurassic Park, Isla Nublar now features a fully functioning dinosaur theme park, Jurassic World, as originally envisioned by John Hammond. After 10 years of operation and visitor rates declining, in order to fulfill a corporate mandate, a new attraction is created to re-spark visitor's interest, which backfires horribly.

**PITCH PERFECT 2 (12A)**

After a humiliating command performance at Lincoln Center, the Barden Bellas enter an international competition that no American group has ever won in order to regain their status and right to perform.

**TWO BY TWO (U)**

It's the end of the world. A flood is coming. Luckily for Dave and his son Finny, a couple of clumsy Neutrinos, an Ark has been built to save all animals.

**MYSTERY MOVIE (15)**

Buy your ticket for just £4.50, sit back, and let us entertain you!

**MONSTERS UNIVERSITY (U) KIDS CLUB**

A look at the relationship between Mike and Sulley during their days at Monsters University -- when they weren't necessarily the best of friends.

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### THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS

#### MONDAY:

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

#### TUESDAY:

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

#### WEDNESDAY:

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

#### THURSDAY:

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

#### FRIDAY:

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

#### SATURDAY:

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

#### SUNDAY:

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

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**Question: How many cottages are there to choose from? a) 4 b) 8 c) 14**

Answer.....  
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Address.....  
Postcode.....  
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Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. 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 30 June 2015.

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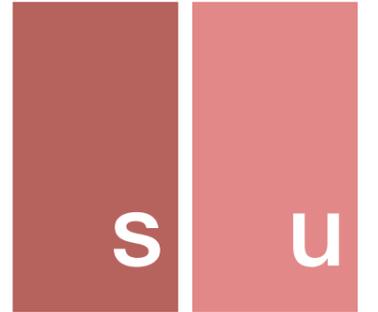
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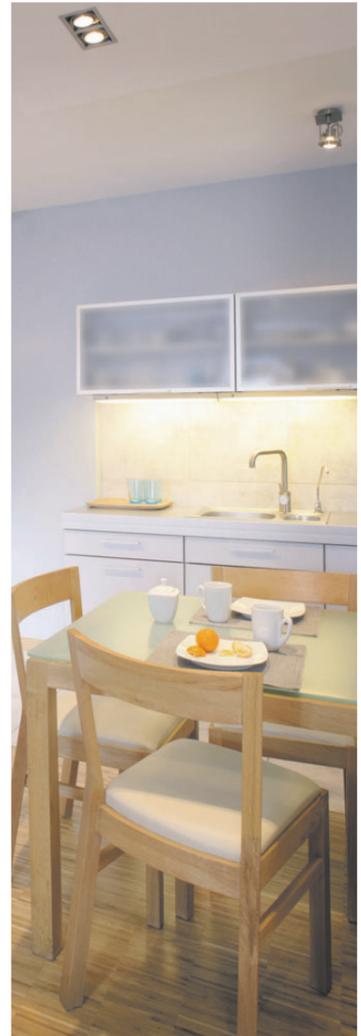
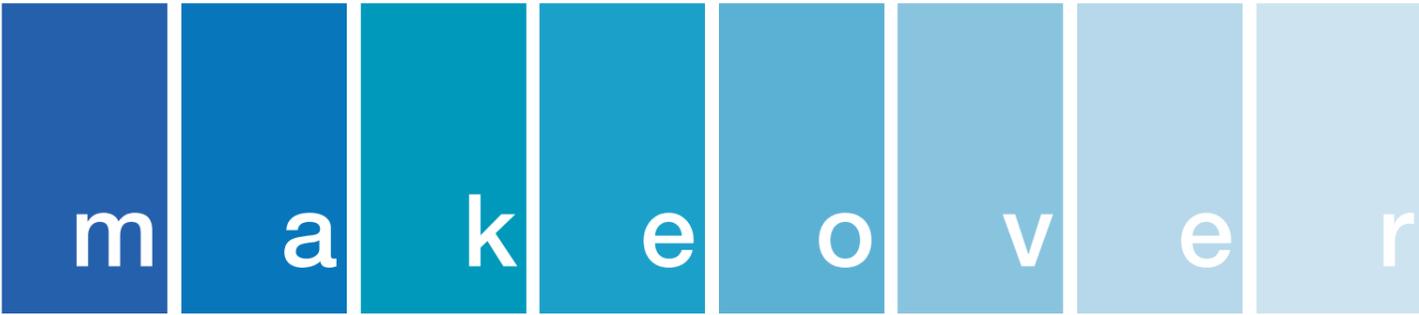
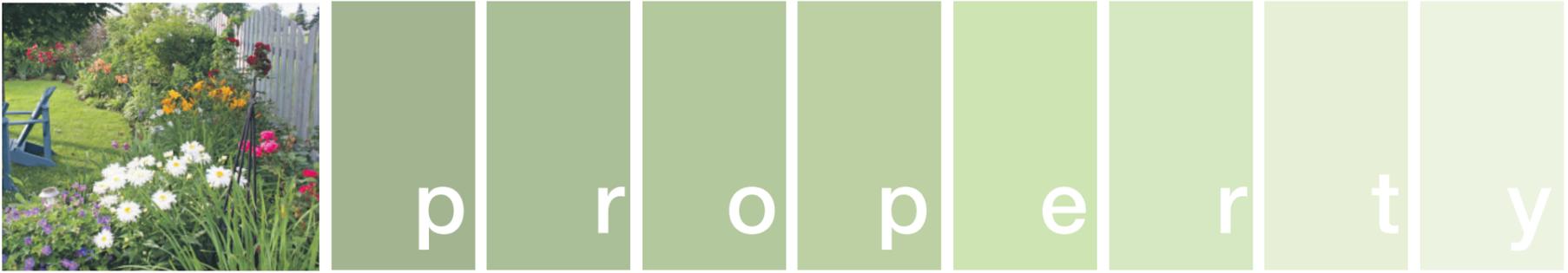
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**Summer is almost here, and that means it's time to give the home and garden a makeover. A bit of maintenance will get the house sparkling and the garden ready for a party anytime and our checklist will help organise priorities. With the support of our advertisers, those chores will get done in no time and the family can relax and enjoy the season in bright surroundings.**

Summer is window cleaning time. This isn't everyone's favourite job, but long sunny days will show every smear and handprint, so get it done early and enjoy the clear view. Window washing services can tackle the outside- especially

helpful for multi-story homes. For the inside, divide and conquer. Assign each family member a set of windows and provide plenty of glass spray and wipes. And here are two professional secret weapons of choice - use wadded up newspaper or a squeegee instead of paper or cloth towels to wipe down glass. They won't leave lint and they will plough through dust and stuck on dirt.

Change the bedding. Swap winter linens for lighter fabrics and brighter colours for summer. After removing them from storage, run them through a short wash cycle to freshen them.

Ditto for table linens. Bright, floral patterned napkins, table runners

and placemats will give the kitchen and dining area a quick yet inexpensive makeover. Add a vase of fresh flowers for a summery atmosphere.

Check the garden hose for leaks. Frost and snow can make it disintegrate over the winter and form cracks, leading to an unpleasant damp surprise the first time the flowers need watering.

Plan summer projects. Walk around the garden and make a note of any repairs that need taken care of and lawn furniture that needs a coat of paint. Prioritise the list, and note what chores can be taken care of by a professional. Lawn maintenance, painters, roofers, fence builders and other home

improvement services get busy in the summer, so identify what needs doing early and contact them soon so you can start getting your dream space ready for the season.

Give the lawn some TLC. Give it some love and it will be green and lush. Rake away old thatch, and while the rake and garden fork is out, use it to prick shallow holes throughout the lawn - this is called scarifying and it encourages healthy growth. If the grass is patchy, scatter some grass seed after punching the holes, then water in. Don't fertilise now, wait until autumn, and be sure to raise the lawn mower blade to at least 5cm. Any shorter may scalp the grass or make it dry out, leaving it unhealthy.

Divide flowers. Spring flowering bulbs should be divided every three to five years to prevent them from crowding each other out. After irises, day lilies and daffodils have flowered and died out, gently dig out the 'babies' of the original planting and either replant them somewhere else in the garden or pot them up and share with friends.

Plant summer annuals. Petunias, marigolds, begonias, sweet peas and geranium all pack a colourful and fragrant punch with minimum fuss. Whether in hanging baskets, terracotta pots, window boxes or in a bed, fast growing annuals will fill in those empty garden spaces after the perennials fade away.

**Open Plan Living**

Open plan living is a trend that is here to stay but, before embarking on any renovations, you should carefully consider if it is desirable for your lifestyle and home.



**Is it right for you?** - Whilst a small flat could benefit greatly from a feeling of spaciousness, a detached house with a large family will clearly need more than one communal area. Whatever you decide, you'll want to ensure your space is designed as efficiently as possible to maximise impact and increase your property value.

**Speak to the local authority** - Before knocking down walls to create an open plan living space, make sure you speak to a council planning officer or chartered surveyor to check the wall is not load bearing and find out if planning permission is needed.

**You will also need to consider ventilation and storage** - Removing walls will mean less storage space; therefore careful design is needed to hide clutter. If a kitchen is included in your space, an efficient extractor fan will avoid cooking smells drifting through your living areas.

**Use colour to your advantage** - Decorating with neutral colours retains a sense of openness, whilst areas can be defined through careful use of accessories. Display splashes of colour and texture with rugs and cushions to create a sense of warmth. Remember, open plan doesn't have to mean sparse.

**Carefully plan your lighting** - Each area could be lit differently to create zones and enhance the sense of spaciousness. Remember, whilst your kitchen requires brighter lights, the dining area could be softer with more functional lighting in the lounge for reading or studying.

**Break up large areas using your furniture** - A carefully placed sofa will create a cosy lounge area whilst still maintaining an impression of space. By using these ideas you will ensure your open plan living space is spacious and inviting as well as the value of your home.



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**C**HARITIES Day in Oban will be one that won't be forgotten for a while - not for the rain, but for the inimitable spirit of the volunteers from Oban and Lorn who were willing to get out and about and share information about their work with other volunteers and townfolk.

From hot dogs to sensory plants, not to mention more bottle stalls than you could shake a stick at, it turned out to be a wet but wonderful day for the town.

Organised by Oban and Lorn Lions Club, the event included a parade of volunteers through the town.



Jean Sutherland and Catherine Goodbrand from Argyll Animal Aid. 16\_t24charity10



An Oban Lions volunteer enjoys the day. 16\_t24charity2



Sandra and Derek Coates celebrated birthdays at the weekend but still helped out at Charities Day. 16\_t24charity1



Cancer research volunteer Linda Price with manager Helen McKenzie. 16\_t24charity5



Alison Murray and daughter Holly Strachan who were fundraising for the Project Trust on Coll. Holly, 17, hopes to visit Chile with the charity later this year. 16\_t24charity4



The Royal British Legion, Scotland: Marjory Gilmore, Ross Manson and Peter Bentley were on hand to fundraise. 16\_t24charity17



David Cullen from St Columba's primary school. 16\_t24charity23



Oban high school PTA members Nicky Campbell and Helen Hennessey were not put off by the weather. 16\_t24charity11



Volunteers from Oban Viewpoint, which hopes to establish a community centre in Soroba, ran a hot dog stall. 16\_t24charity8



Small Paws Rescue volunteers Donald MacDonald and Rose Rodaway. 16\_t24charity21



Oban Sea Cadets. 16\_t24charity31



Stuart Brooks of Oban Sensory Garden, standing, and Calum Morrison enjoying the view. 16\_t24charity7



Alexander Butler, 9, and his grandpa Mr Wallace. 16\_t24charity3



Inner Wheel volunteers Irene Bisset and Liz Crawford. 16\_t24charity22



Face painted: Maya Rippon, 3, of Oban. 16\_t24charity27



Oban Carers Centre had the novel idea of using socks as hiding places for prizes. 16\_t24charity12

# Business

editor@obantimes.co.uk

01631 568000

## New launch pad for expanding company

**T**HE GROWTH of a major Lochaber employer was celebrated as fish farming company Marine Harvest Scotland moved into their new offices in Fort William.

The new premises at Glen Nevis business park were opened officially at a ceremony last Monday (June 1).

Bigger offices were required to accommodate almost 50 staff, from new employees to people transferring from the existing offices at Blar Mor industrial estate.

Alan Sutherland, managing director of Marine Harvest Scotland, said: 'The business continues to grow to meet demand and that leads to more jobs.'



And people are often surprised by the range of jobs available in aquaculture. When people think of our industry, they often imagine it's all based at salmon farms, yet we have a wide range of office-based jobs including many specialist posts.'

Highland councillor and Lochaber area leader, Thomas MacLennan, cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony.

He said: 'It is always heartening to see business thriving in Lochaber and it was a pleasure to

come along here today to meet the staff and hear more about their plans for the future. I wish them every success.'

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) has leased the building to Marine Harvest to aid business growth in the region.

Scott Dingwall, head of regional development for HIE, said: 'We are delighted that Marine Harvest Scotland has moved into new and expanded office facilities at Glen Nevis business park.'

'We welcome the company's continued investment in and commitment to the region and look forward to continuing to work with them to achieve their future growth aspirations.'

**CUTTING EDGE:** Marine Harvest Scotland's Alan Sutherland, left, cuts the ribbon with councillor Thomas MacLennan

### Showing off can be good for business if you follow a few well-tested rules

**T**RADE shows and exhibitions are important for different types of businesses, but making the decision which ones to attend can be tricky if there are several on offer.

Barbara Halliday, a business adviser for Argyll and Bute council's Business Gateway, has been guiding local firms for years about the benefits of shows and exhibitions and has drawn up some useful tips and pointers on how to choose the right one.

She said: 'It's important to choose wisely as paying for a stand at an exhibition or trade show can be costly and you need to make sure you will get the most out of it.'

Barbara offered the following advice on how to get the most out of attending trade events and exhibitions.

- **Stage one (Planning):**
- Research a variety of shows and find out which ones are popular;
- Attend the most respected event within the industry. Aim for the show that really gets the business name out there;
- When talking to organisers, remember they are selling as well, so make sure there is clarity about what you are paying for;
- Most events will be advertised, so find out exactly what they will be doing to promote the event. Is there any promotion free of charge?
- Announce your attendance at an event via websites and social media and engage with other businesses who are attending prior to the event
- **Stage two (Attending):**
- Dress to impress the people you want to work with.

### Awards are food and drink to west coast businesses

**T**HE HIGH quality of food and drink in the Highland and Islands was recognised at the prestigious Scottish Food and Drink Excellence Awards last month.

Argyll seafood producer, Dawnfresh, the Isle of Skye Sea Salt company, Argyll smokery and Bruichladdich distillery, on Islay, all picked up accolades, fighting off competition from household names including Baxters Food Group, Loch Fyne Oysters and Scotbeef.

The UK largest farmer of trout and a major processor of fish and seafood, Dawnfresh, won both the Environmental Sustainability and Investing in People awards. The prize for soup, preserves and accompaniments went to the

Isle of Skye Sea Salt company, Argyll smokery picked up the award for fish and Bruichladdich distillery won an award for innovation, in conjunction with the Agronomy Institute of UHI.

Helen Muir, group HR director at Dawnfresh, commented on the double win: 'We pride ourselves on the passion, knowledge and expertise of our people and we have been recognised for our comprehensive suite of training designed to benefit and enhance all staff learning, development and progression.'

'Receiving the award for Investing in People in recognition of this is the result of the hard work from the whole team. We are all absolutely delighted.'

### New dental practice aims to fill town's growing demand



**CARING TEAM:** Louise Woods, Dr David Kennedy and Morag MacNeil

**A**RGYLL Square Dental Practice is moving premises and will be re-branded as Oban Dental Care, as the owner prepares to more than double the amount of full-time dentists he employs.

The surgery, owned by Dr David Kennedy, will be moving to the new, state-of-the-art, six surgery practice located at the old MICA building on Lochside Street.

While Dr Kennedy only took over the practice in 2014, there has been a dental surgery in the building, at 21 Argyll Square, for more than 100 years.

He explained: 'At the minute, there are issues with the present

surgery as it's up three flights of stairs. The new ground floor surgery will be easily accessible for everybody.'

'NHS and private patients will be welcome. I am aware the area has had a shortage of dentists and I want to resolve this. We want to be able to treat everyone in a modern, 21st century practice.'

'There are currently two full-time surgeries open at Argyll Square; the Lochside Street building is to house six.'

The new surgery will also offer treatments that were previously unavailable such as dental sedation, and new innovative modern techniques such as the ability to carry out facial scanning and 3D

printing so crowns can be made in a day.

Regarding the new posts, Dr Kennedy and his team were hopeful to have two full-time positions filled by September, with one dentist due to start in August.

'We are taking on more staff because we can't fulfil the community's demand here,' added Dr Kennedy.

'We have a big waiting list, which is around three months just now. With more dentists, we will be able to provide more appointments and resolve this.'

The new Oban Dental Care clinic is due to open its doors to patients on July 14.

### SAMS experts will examine reasons for lack of growth

**A**TEAM of marine scientists in Oban has embarked on a three-year project to investigate why the European aquaculture industry is flat-lining.

The AquaSpace project, led by Professor Kenny Black of the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), brings together a global team of experts on aquaculture in the environment.

The team will look at case studies across the world to find out how the EU can kick-start the industry to create more jobs and make the continent more self-sufficient.

The scientists will also consider what impact planning and public perception has on the industry.

Said Professor Black: 'As the world population grows, we will have huge issues regarding food security.'

'Aquaculture, if managed in a sustainable way, could be part of the solution.'

'We will also look at how society views aquaculture, whether its fears are justified or not and whether this creates uncertainty for farmers looking to start up a business.'

The aquaculture industry within the EU has failed to grow in recent years, while countries outwith the EU, including those such as Norway, have expanded theirs.

In China alone, the industry was worth more than \$66 billion in 2012 and it continues to grow.

### Still time to be the best

**T**HE opportunity for six Argyll-based firms to win a free trade stand for the day at the 'Best of the West' festival is once again up for grabs, courtesy of Business Gateway.

With over 5000 visitors to the festival expected over the weekend, Argyll and Bute council's Business Gateway is encouraging craft businesses in Argyll and Bute to submit their entry before the extended closing date of June 30.

Business Gateway is sponsoring the craft tent at the two-day event which will be held in Inveraray on Saturday, 12 and Sunday 13, September.

Last year's winners were Calgary Crafts, elwoodturner.co.uk, The Little Stitch Company, Heartfelt by Liz, Bonnie Bling and Crùbag.

To enter, companies must describe in no more than 250 words why their business and the products they sell represent the best in the west, either by email to business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk or by post to The Enterprise Centre, Kilmory, Lochgilphead PA31 8SH.

Competition terms and conditions are available at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/business-and-trade/business-gateway-service.

## Lorry driver John's heading off in a new direction

**A**HEAVY goods driver from Ardrishaig is now on route to a life of leisure after completing 36 years with Lochgilphead-based company, MacLeod Construction.

John MacBrayne, 65, was presented with a cheque by director Kenny MacLeod on his retirement in May and left for a holiday shortly afterwards.

John's former line manager, Harry Ross, said: 'I am really sad that John has retired. It is very hard to get drivers with his knowledge and reliability.'

'As a local man, he knew every-

where and everyone and will be greatly missed. Not many people give this length of loyal service these days.'

John drove an eight-wheel tipper truck delivering construction material to sites the length and breadth of Argyll and Bute where he and his vehicle were familiar sights.

**JOURNEY'S END:** Murdo MacLeod, Archie MacVicar, Jamie Menzies, John MacBrayne, Kenny MacLeod, Harry Ross and Kenny J MacLeod



## Fusion of sea, science and style makes waves for Jessica

**I**nnovative textile company Crùbag, one of last year's winners in the 'Best of the West' (BOW) festival, is run by marine science graduate and textile designer, Jessica Giannotti.

Jessica said: 'The BOW festival was a wonderful experience and we gained a lot of opportunities from it.'

She created Crùbag with a dream to bring together her love of the oceans, marine science and the arts. The business is based in the old teaching lab at the Scottish Association for



**INSPIRED:** Jessica Giannotti

Marine Science (SAMS). Jessica, who lives in Lochawe, launched a display unit at the Ocean Explorer centre at SAMS as part of the Festival of the Sea.

Crùbag's Gachon collection is based on cutting-edge research by SAMS psychologist, Dr Claire Gachon, on algae-pathogen interactions. This collection brings to the surface, for everyone to see and feel, a hidden part of our world that is only seen by a few.

Crùbag's Murray Collection, which was commissioned by SAMS to celebrate the legacy

of Sir John Murray and SAMS 130th Anniversary, tells the story of the 1872-1876 Challenger Expedition based on hand-drawn images from the original reports.

Every collection comes with a science outreach package which includes interviews with the scientists.

Scarves, pocket squares, cushions and cloth napkins are now available for purchase at SAMS and very soon at www.crubag.co.uk. Jessica recently visited Paris Fashion Week and Crùbag's innovative approach

has already attracted the interest of a wide range of people, including scientists, designers, major organisations and government officials. The business now consists of two full-time and two part-time workers.

Jessica said: 'Business Gateway has helped me through the development of my business. My adviser has been fantastic in providing assistance, information and support while giving me the opportunity to attend courses in topics such as business planning, book-keeping and a specialist

event designed for the textile industry.'

Angela Vernel, adviser for Business Gateway, said: 'We have been working with Jessica as she establishes Crùbag, with its high quality and innovative products.'

'We will continue to support her as the business develops.'

To find out more about how Business Gateway can help to set up and develop a business, telephone 01546 604 555 or visit www.bgateway.com/argyll-and-bute.

Staff should understand the importance of the event and key messages. Offer training prior to the event.

Take the time to mingle. Often there is time during set-up to go round and talk to other companies (exchange business cards), and talk to competitors - if possible create links with them - even a mutual agreement.

Let the most confident speaker take the reins. Confidence sells.

Use social media to give updates from the show, giving a location. Sometimes directions are needed in a large exhibition with so many businesses present.

Follow up on leads. Maintaining working relationships with contacts is one of the hardest but most rewarding things you can do.

Keep notes on business cards received and personalise replies.

Social media - engage in posts that are relevant to keep the interest going. Connecting with companies and customers prior to the event, speaking to them at the event and following up the lead and engagement on social media can help develop a relationship.

To find out more information about how Business Gateway can help set up and develop businesses call 01546 808 363 or visit www.bgateway.com/argyll-and-bute.

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## Rural crime under the spotlight

NFU Scotland has welcomed positive action by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) following the first working group meeting to look at agricultural crime prosecution policy.

The working group has been set up following positive work by NFU Scotland through evidence given to the Justice Committee on rural crime and latterly a meeting with solicitor general for Scotland Lesley Thomson QC.

Following the meeting with NFU Scotland president Allan Bowie and legal and technical policy manager Gemma Thomson, COPFS announced it would set up a dedicated working group to look at how this type of crime was dealt with at a prosecution level.

The meeting, held on Friday May 29, was hosted by COPFS with NFU Scotland attending alongside Scottish Land and Estates, Police Scotland and the Scottish government.

The organisations agreed action points to take forward with the next meeting due to take place in August.

Ms Thomson said: 'This initial meeting of the working group was extremely constructive and we welcome this positive action to review prosecution policy for agricultural crime.'

'NFUS is currently investing a large amount of time in assisting its members who are affected by rural crime issues. This work includes working with Police Scotland at a local and national level and this new working group with COPFS is welcome as it comes at a time when we are starting to see a real appreciation of the full effects of rural crime.'

A Crown Office spokesman added: 'COPFS was delighted to host the initial meeting of the working group and welcomed the positive contributions made by NFU Scotland, Scottish Land and Estates, Scottish government and Police Scotland.'

'The group will continue to work closely on the review to ensure that COPFS prosecution policy takes account of the full impact of agricultural crime on rural communities and that this information is conveyed to the court for consideration in the event of a conviction.'

## £12.2 million bonus for Scottish farmers

SCOTTISH farmers and crofters are to receive a share of Scotland's £12.2 million Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) refund within days, rural affairs secretary Richard Lochhead MSP has announced.

The funds were set aside from 2013 direct farm payments as required by Europe under a CAP budget balancing move called financial discipline. The European Commission now allows the repayment of unspent reserves.

The Scottish government has now begun repaying the money, with about 14,600 producers set to receive an average of £845 each.

The rural affairs secretary said: 'This will be a modest albeit welcome windfall for thousands of Scottish farmers and crofters who had their payments reduced in 2013 as required by Europe.'

'I am pleased to be able to confirm that the refunds should begin reaching bank accounts from today, Thursday June 11.'

'Of course, the level of financial discipline imposed by Europe in 2013 would have been millions of pounds higher had it not been for the Scottish government successfully lobbying the EU to minimise the impact on Scottish agriculture.'

'It is also a timely reminder for farmers and crofters to submit their single application forms (SAF) for 2015 CAP support as soon as possible.'

'We have now received 11,677 SAFs - more than 50 per cent of the expected final tally - with less than a week to go until the June 15 deadline and I continue to encourage everyone to finalise and submit their applications as soon as they can.'

## Major agricultural supplier takeover

AGRICULTURAL retailer Reid and Robertson Ltd, which has an outlet at Oban's livestock centre, has been bought over by Carrs Billington Agriculture (Sales) Ltd.

Based at Balloch, Reid and Robertson, which will still trade under the name as a division of Carrs Billington, specialises in animal health products and also has a presence at Ayr livestock centre.

Rae Tomlinson, managing director of Carrs Billington, said: 'This acquisition is a great step forward for Carrs Billington and I am thrilled to be welcoming Alan and David King and their team to the group.'

'Reid and Robertson's history as a major agricultural supplier fits perfectly with Carrs Billington's objectives and will contribute to the ongoing development and success of the business.'

## First crofting census presents positive picture

THE RESULTS of the first crofting census indicates crofts are cultivated and maintained with 87 per cent of crofters resident on their croft.

The Crofting Commission this week issued headline figures from the crofting census which was carried out by the commission in October last year.

Crofting census forms were sent out to more than 16,500 crofts with crofters legally obliged to complete the census forms in full and return them to the Crofting Commission within the three-month deadline. The crofting census forms were well received with many crofters seeing the benefit to providing the information and helping to establish a clear picture of the current state of crofting.

The Crofting Commission received an 85 per cent return rate. The full data from the Crofting Census will be issued next month.

## MSP claims poor conditions in hill farming a sign of global warming

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor has claimed poor conditions in hill farming are a sign of global warming.

Mr McGrigor was addressing a public rally on climate change outside the Scottish parliament at Holyrood last week, when he made the statement.

Organised by the Stop Climate Chaos Scotland coalition and addressed by a representative of each party in the Scottish parliament, the rally was organised to maintain pressure on the Scottish government to take further action to meet climate change targets.

Jamie McGrigor said: 'As a long time farmer myself, I see the changes in the climate at first hand and the impact of increased rainfall and flooding.'

'This year's lambing has been particularly difficult for hill farmers with cold and bad weather restricting the grass so vital to mothering sheep. All of us have a responsibility to the next generation to take the action now that will prevent even more dire climate change impacts becoming a reality in future.'

## Andrew Thin appointed new tenant farming adviser in interim role



Andrew Thin has been appointed as Scotland's new independent adviser on tenant farming. He is pictured with rural affairs secretary Richard Lochhead.

AGRICULTURAL expert Andrew Thin has been appointed as Scotland's new independent adviser on tenant farming, rural affairs secretary Richard Lochhead announced last week.

Mr Thin, a member of the Agricultural Holdings Legislation Review Group, has been tasked with working with the three main tenant farming industry bodies as sector reforms are taken forward.

The role of independent adviser on tenant farming is a short-term one and has been created until legislation can be brought forward to establish a tenant

farming commissioner with statutory powers - one of the main recommendations of the agricultural holdings legislation review.

Mr Lochhead said: 'I am delighted to confirm Andrew Thin as the new independent adviser on tenant farming.'

'He is trusted and well respected by industry and, during the review of agricultural holdings legislation, cultivated a deep knowledge of tenant farming issues.'

'His task is to continue the work that began during the review process to foster more positive and productive tenant and landlord relationships.'

'This is vital if we are to achieve the vibrant and healthy tenant farming sector which is so crucial for the future of Scottish agriculture and food production.'

'I know the industry is keen to have a tenant farming commissioner with statutory powers in post as soon as possible, in line with the review recommendations, but this will require legislation and to go through the public appointment process.'

'That is why Andrew has been appointed to this post in the interim so we do not lose momentum and go back to the way things were.'

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## Flexibility for cattle movements are in place despite BVD eradication scheme

SCOTTISH cattle keepers are being reminded by the National Farmers Union (NFU) Scotland that flexibilities built into Scotland's bovine

viral diarrhoea (BVD) eradication scheme can assist movements.

Phase 4 of BVD eradication started on June 1 and brought movement

restrictions for any cattle holdings with a 'not negative' status, or holdings that have no valid annual herd status recorded.

In herds with a 'not negative' status, animals will need to be individually tested before moving - unless that move is direct to slaughter.

Untested animals and known persistently infected animals will only be permitted to move direct to slaughter, not through a market.

## Market reports

**STIRLING**  
CALEDONIAN MARTS LTD on Tuesday June 2 sold 1,053 Prime Lambs, Hoggets, Cast Ewes and Tups.  
Spring Lambs met a similar trade to the previous week and more could have easily been sold. A smaller show of hoggets sold to the national averages with good hoggets selling in excess of 155p per kilo.

Spring Lambs (130) averaged 192.48p per kilo and sold to a top of 221p per kilo from Texel's from R A Campbell, Meikle Seggie or £98 for Beltes's from W S Young, Mawcarse.  
Hoggets (524) sold to a top of £79 for Texel's from N Greer, Wharlawhill. Leading Prices Lambs, £ per head & p per kg: Tex - 221p Meikle Seggie, £95 Kinninmonth; Beltex - 218p Easter Ochtermuthill, £98 Mawcarse; Beltex x - 218p Easter Ochtermuthill, £94 Mawcarse; Cont - 211p Easter Coates, £93 Meikle Seggie; Suff - 209p & £90 Gilmeadowland; Char - 204p Easter Coates, £94 Sauchans; Zwarb - £75 Linnhead.

Leading Hogget prices £ per head & p per kg: Tex - 158p Burnhead, £79 Wharlawhill; Belt - 150p Meikle Seggie, £76 Heights; Tex x - 153p & £76.50 Wharlawhill; BF - 145p Shields, £65.50 Graystale; BF Tups - £76 Shields.  
Also sold were 395 Cast Ewes & Tups.  
Top price of the day went to J Graham & Son, West Balgothrie, Leslie for a Texel Cast Tup at £49.00. All classes of Ewes similar good trade to that of last week with top price ewes selling to £123 for Suffolk's from J A C Stewart, Kinninmonth Farm, Ceres.

Leading Prices: Heavy; Cont - £111 Muirmeal; Belt - £110.50 Drumcain; Tex - £106 Garpel Way; Tex x - £99 Craigend; Suff - £98 Balkeachy.  
Mule - £86 Bankhead Farming; £85 West Balgothrie; £79 Lynn; £76

Broomfield. Export: BF - £73 Shankhead, £71 Drumessie & Harviessmailing, £70 Burnhead & Pitcairnie; Chev - £83 Tillyrie, £73 Wester Ochtermuthill; Tups: BF - £141 Shields; Suff - £140 Pitcairnie; Tex - £123 Lochend.

United Auctions on Thursday June 4 in Stirling sold 2,103 prime sheep, including 606 spring lambs, averaging 185p/kg, 894 hoggs and 603 ewes and rams.  
Spring Lambs (606) - Pyeston (Suff) £100; Mid Rotterns (Tex) £94; Easter Ochtermuthill (Btex) £90; Penston (Char) £85.  
Spring Lambs (606) - Easter Ochtermuthill (Btex) £122p; Wester Mye (Suff) £205p; Head of Balglass (Tex) £202p; Penston (Char) £186p.  
Hoggs (894) - Mailingsland (Mule) £75; Snaudon (BF) £72; Snaudon (Chev) £72.50.  
Ewes (560) - Pyeston (Suff) £108.50; West Clunskae (Cont) £77.50; Orchilmore (BFL) £74.50; Kirkettle (Chev) £74.50; Whitehills (Zwa) £73.50; Markethill (BF) £66.50.  
Rams (43) - Hagsgs (Tex) £167; Orchilmore (BF) £73.

**DINGWALL**  
DINGWALL, Dingwall & Highland Marts Ltd., (June, 2nd) sold 34 prime cattle.  
Prime bullocks (21) averaged 201.8p (+4.6p) and sold to 222p per kg for a 595kg Charolais cross from Easter Strath of Auchterflow, Killen, and £1,350.00 gross for a 675kg Limousin cross from Shoreton Farms, Culbokie.  
Prime heifers (10) averaged 196.3p (-7.0p) and sold to 223p per kg for a 495kg Limousin cross from Easter Strath of Auchterflow, and £1,432.20 gross for a 770kg Charolais cross from Shoreton Farms, OTM cattle (3) averaged 164p and sold to 179p per kg for a 495kg Lim-

ousin cross from 2 Easter Kinkell, Conon Bridge, and £1,110.00 gross for a 740kg Simmental from Culmally Farm, Golspie.  
Other leading prices per kg:  
Bullocks: Easter Sheep Park, Balblair, (BRB), 214p; Findon Mains, Culbokie, (LimX), 210p; Viewhill, Gollanfield, (LimX), 209p.  
Heifers: Shoreton Farms, (LimX), 216p; Easter Strath of Auchterflow, (LimX), 210p; Hilton Farm, Tain, (LimX), 204p.  
Other leading prices per head:  
Bullocks: Findon Mains, (LimX) £1,329.75; Easter Strath of Auchterflow, (CharX), £1,320.90; Easter Sheep Park, (BRB), £1,310.00.  
Heifers: Shoreton Farms,

(LimX), £1,320.60; Easter Strath of Auchterflow, (LimX) £1,197.00; Hilton Farm, (LimX), £1,183.20.

**DINGWALL**, Dingwall & Highland Marts Ltd., (June, 2nd) sold 271 prime sheep.  
New season lambs (21) averaged 213p (+29.7) per kg and sold to 238.6p per kg and £99.00 gross for 41.5kg Dorset crosses from Greenlands Farm, Arabella.

SQQ (NSL) 36.5kg to 45.5kg (19) averaged 214.3p (+29.2p) per kg.  
Old season lambs (220) averaged 156.2p (-3.3p) and sold to 193.3p per kg and £86.00 gross for 44.5kg Cheviot Mules from 1 Achavandra, Dornoch.

Feeding sheep (30) sold to £98 gross for Suffolk cross ewes from Little Kildrummie, Nairn.  
Other leading prices per head and per kg:  
New season lambs: CharX - Sanquhar Mains, £90.00, 214.3p; TexX - Sanquhar Mains, £81.00, 207.7p; SuffX - Sanquhar Mains, £80.00, 207.8p; Suff - Sanquhar Mains, £72.00, 200p.  
Old season lambs: Chev - Ardivot Farm, Lossiemouth, £80.00, 192.1p; BeltX - Ardivot Farm, £78.00, Glenurquhart Farm, Cromarty (Smith), 167.9p; TexX - Kilcoy, Killlearnan, £77.00, 179.1p; SuffX - Ardivot Farm, £76.00, 163.4p.

## SAILING TIMES

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# West Coast **MOTORING TIMES**

DRIVETIMES SAILING TIMES GARAGES CAR DEALERSHIPS MOTORING NEWS

## Sharing the road with horses and riders

Riders bring their horses onto the roads for many reasons, usually with no problem and good all-round co-operation.

However, incidents do occur, often because of a lack of understanding between driver and rider. The British Horse Society estimates that there are around 3,000 accidents involving horses on the road each year, the vast majority of which could be avoided.

GEM Motoring Assist chief executive David Williams MBE said: 'It's easy for drivers to blame other road users when there are incidents or differences of opinion. By developing a better understanding of the needs and concerns of others, we know we are doing our bit to make everyone safer on the roads.'

'Horse behaviour on the road can be unpredictable, despite the best efforts of the most experienced rider. The best thing we as car drivers can do is to be aware of the possible dangers and to reduce them by slowing down and giving riders plenty of room.'

GEM offers five simple tips to promote safety for drivers, riders and horses:

1. Give a horse as much room as the road allows. Slow right down as you go past, and be prepared to stop if required.
2. Look out for the signals made by the rider and always take notice of a request to slow down or stop. A rider may see or hear something happening that you are not aware of.

3. Sometimes it's necessary for riders to go two abreast on the road, usually to reduce risk for an inexperienced horse or rider. Be patient and courteous and only pass when it's safe.

4. Look for clues: triangular warning signs, the presence of stables, fields and gates all suggest that horses and riders may be on the road. Horse manure on the road is a giveaway, too.

5. The vast majority of riders will want to thank you for your consideration. However, if they are busy controlling the horse, please excuse them for not acknowledging your assistance, but be sure they will appreciate your help.



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

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G84 8BA  
Tel: 01436 672 779 http://helensburgh.toyota.co.uk @HBurghToyota /HelensburghToyota

Example: Toyota AVGO 1.0 VVT-i Fire 5-Dr SH12YUWV

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Term   | 37 months |
| 1 payment of                                   | £95.66    |
| 35 Monthly Payments of                         | £95.66    |
| Cash Price                                     | £5495.00  |
| Deposit  | £95.66    |
| Amount of credit                               | £5400.00  |
| Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment | £2295.00  |
| Total Amount Payable                           | £5833.76  |
| Fixed rate of interest (per annum)             | 2.03%     |
| Representative                                 | 2.9% APR  |

**USED AVGO & YARIS**

**2.9% APR**

REPRESENTATIVE\*

\*2.9/4.9% APR Representative only available on Approved Used retail orders of AVGO, Yaris and Toyota used passenger car (up to 5 years old) when purchased between 5th and 30th June 2015 and financed through Toyota Financial Services on a 37 month AccessToyota (PCP) plan. Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC, registered office, Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5UZ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Terms & Conditions apply.

# West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

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## Home-owner house purchase lending up 15 per cent in Scotland in first quarter

New Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) data shows the characteristics of lending in Scotland in the first quarter of 2015, including first-time buyer, home mover and remortgage lending.

In the first quarter of 2015:

First-time buyers took out 5,400 loans in Scotland, worth £580m. This was down compared to the fourth quarter 23 per cent by volume and 24 per cent by value. Compared to the first quarter of 2014, the number of loans decreased by seven per cent but the amount borrowed increased by two per cent.

There were 6,700 loans to home movers, valued at £1.1bn. This was down 17 per cent in volume and down six per cent in value compared to the fourth quarter 2014. Compared to the first quarter of 2014, there was an increase of five per cent in volume and an increase of 24 per cent by value. The total number of remortgage loans totalled 5,900 loans (£660m), which was up four per cent in volume and two per cent by value on the fourth quarter 2014. Compared to the first quarter of 2014, activity was down three per cent by volume and one per cent by value.

#### Lending for home-owner house purchase

Home-owner house purchase in Scotland decreased in the first quarter of 2015 to 12,100 loans, down 20 per cent on the fourth quarter and one per cent year-on-year compared to quarter one 2014. These loans reflected lending of £1.7bn, down 13 per cent compared to the previous quarter but up 15 per cent on the first quarter 2014.

#### Lending to first-time buyers

First-time buyer affordability changed slightly in Scotland quarter-on-quarter with first-time buyers typically borrowing 2.86 times their gross income, less than the 2.90 income multiple in the fourth quarter 2014 and less than the UK average of 3.37.

The typical loan size for first-time buyers was £94,795 in the first quarter, down from £97,200 in the previous quarter. The typical gross income of a first-time buyer household was £33,499 compared to £33,965 in the previous period.

First-time buyers' payment burden changed slightly in the first quarter at 17.2 per cent of gross income being spent to cover capital and interest payments, higher than the fourth quarter's 16.8 per cent but lower than the 19 per cent UK average.



#### Lending to home movers

Home movers typically borrowed 2.64 times their gross income which was unchanged from the previous quarter.

The typical loan size for home movers was £138,395 in first quarter, up from £128,142 in the previous quarter. The typical gross household income of a home mover was £53,924 in first quarter compared to £50,766 in the fourth quarter 2014.

Home movers' payment burden remained relatively low in Scotland at 16.8 per cent of gross income being spent to cover monthly capital and interest payments, unchanged from the previous quarter but considerably less than the 18.5 per cent UK average.

#### Lending to home owners for remortgage

The total number of remortgage loans in Scotland in the first quarter totalled 5,900 loans (£660m), which was up four per cent in volume and two per cent by value on the fourth quarter 2014. Compared to the first quarter of 2014, activity was down three per cent by volume and one per cent by value.

Linda Docherty, chairwoman of CML Scotland, commented: 'Seasonal factors play a part in the lull commonly seen in lending activity during the beginning of the year, as seen across the UK this period. What is encouraging is that home movers have been increasing year-on-year and first-time buyer and remortgage levels are relatively consistent with last year.'

**CKD Galbraith**

OnTheMarket.com



#### Duachy Farm, Kilninver

A delightful, traditional farmhouse with three additional self catering cottages, in a stunning location overlooking Loch Seil.

Oban 10 miles. About 1.9 acres (0.77 ha) in all. Study/Office. Dining Kitchen. Morning Room. Dining Room. Sitting Room. TV Room. 4 Bedrooms. Three 1 and 2 bedroom self catering cottages. Outbuilding suitable for development. Extensive, mature gardens. EPC=E.

Guide Price £550,000

Nicky Archibald  
01631 700205 | 07708 322929  
nicky.archibald@ckdgalbraith.co.uk



#### The Muir of Auchnabreac, Inveraray

A charming, detached house set in extensive grounds with far reaching views across Loch Fyne.

Lochgilpead 22 miles. About 5.0 acres (2.02 ha) in all. Sitting Room. Dining Room. Kitchen. 3 Bedrooms. Extensive grounds. Large bothy with excellent development potential. EPC=F.

Guide Price £300,000

Nicky Archibald  
01631 700205 | 07708 322929  
nicky.archibald@ckdgalbraith.co.uk



#### Ben More, Isle of Luing

An attractive, detached, coastal house with stunning, far reaching sea views across the Sound of Luing to the Garvellachs and Island of Mull.

Oban 17 miles. About 0.25 acres (0.10 ha) in all. Kitchen. Sitting Room. Dining Room. Conservatory. 2 Bedrooms. Detached Boathouse with self contained accommodation. Large workshop. Popular island location. EPC=E.

Guide Price £250,000

Nicky Archibald  
01631 700205 | 07708 322929  
nicky.archibald@ckdgalbraith.co.uk



#### Under Offer

#### Gallanach Cottage, Lochgair

A well proportioned detached house, enjoying a superb waterside location overlooking Loch Gair.

Lochgilpead 8 miles. About 0.70 acres (0.28 ha) in all. Kitchen. TV Room. Sitting Room/Diner. 5 Bedrooms. Conservatory. Substantial garden grounds and two garages. EPC=E.

Guide Price £315,000

Nicky Archibald  
01631 700205 | 07708 322929  
nicky.archibald@ckdgalbraith.co.uk

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18-21 June 2015



We have pleasure in inviting you to a joint drinks reception with RSABI on Thursday 18 June from 11am to 2pm in the CKD Galbraith Marquee on Avenue O (behind the Grandstand). Professionals from across the full breadth of the firm will be on hand and look forward to welcoming you to our marquee.

Visit us between 10am and 5pm throughout the show.

# west coast recruitment

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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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Apply with C.V. and covering letter to [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)



**Assistant Development Worker (Bank)**  
£16,880 - £18,424 pro rata Oban and Isle of Mull Ref: CMA00129  
Hours will be as and when required by the service  
☎ 01546 604334

Closing date: 26 June 2015.  
To apply visit our website

**Argyll Bute COUNCIL**

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs)

## JEWSON

We are currently recruiting  
for a Sales Executive to work  
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If you are enthusiastic, energetic with a can do attitude we want to hear from you. In return we offer a competitive salary and opportunity for progression.

If interested please send your CV to:  
**Jewson Ltd, Sinclair Drive, OBAN PA34 4DR  
or email [david.mcbride@jewson.co.uk](mailto:david.mcbride@jewson.co.uk)**

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**Argyll Resources Group**

We are now looking to recruit for the following positions:

**Accounts Assistant**  
Ideally part qualified or equivalent by experience  
The role will be varied and involve accounts processing, some analysis work, and an element of administration

**Trade Foreman**  
To undertake renovation/construction works

**LGV Driver**  
For general haulage, based at our Oban depot  
To apply please send a full up to date CV  
to Christopher Jay using the  
address details below  
Argyll Resources, Torran Gorm, Industrial  
Estate, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4PL  
Tel: 01631 566370 or  
Email: [christopher@argyllresources.co.uk](mailto:christopher@argyllresources.co.uk)



#### UNIT MANAGER

Required to compliment our existing skilled team. You must have a flexible approach to shift pattern and be able to work weekends. Excellent rate of pay depending on experience.

We also require **NURSES** to enhance our skilled team. Flexible approach to working required Good rates of pay and a variety of hours. Further skill based training available if required £14.50 - £16.00 per hour

**We also require Care Assistants**  
Experience not essential.

**WE ALSO REQUIRE AN ASSISTANT COOK**  
to cover chef's days off and annual leave 20hours per week  
Hours would be 07.30 - 1730 hrs

**Please contact Louise Glasgow, the Home Manager, for application form or further information.**

Tel: 01631 720278



The Stòrlann a' cur taic ri foghlam Gàidhlig gu naiseanta, gu sònraichte le bhith a' co-òrdanachadh ullachadh agus gaoileadh ghòireasan-teagais. Tha prìomh oifis Stòrlann ann an Leòdhas ach tha buill den sgioba ag obair ann an àiteanan eile air feadh Alba.

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'S e fo-fhastadh a b' fheàrr.  
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- a' cruthachadh ghòireasan ùra airson foghlam sa bhun-sgoil
- a' co-òrdanachadh cinneasachadh ghòireasan a rèir slatan-tomhais iomchaidh
- a' cur ri prògram CPD airson taic a chumail ri tidsearan ann a bhith a' dèanamh làn-fheum de ghòireasan

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Stòrlann Naiseanta na Gàidhlig, An Tosgan,

54 Rathad Shìophair, Steòrnabhagh,

Eilean Leòdhais H51 2SD

Fòn: 01851 700880

Post-d: [margaretmacleon@storlann.co.uk](mailto:margaretmacleon@storlann.co.uk)

Ceann-latha airson iarrtas 22 Ògmhios

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



## ORMSARY FARMERS OFFICE ASSISTANT

We are looking for an assistant to join our small rural management team responsible for processing business transactions, customer and supplier contact, general administration, and invoicing at Ormsary Estate in mid Argyll. Applicants should have a good knowledge of Microsoft Office. Experience with accounting software is desirable, but appropriate training is available for the right person.

An attractive employment package is offered. This is a full time position but flexible hours or job sharing may be considered.

Ormsary is a busy and diversified rural Estate with excellent local community and school facilities.

Apply with CV and references to Ormsary Farmers, Ormsary Estate Office, Lochgilphead, PA31 8PE or email to [Enquiries@Ormsary.co.uk](mailto:Enquiries@Ormsary.co.uk).



Caledonian MacBrayne Crewing (Guernsey) Limited has a requirement for:

## Corporate Social Responsibility Manager

£30,000 Ref: 734-SB

We are looking for a dynamic, creative and well organised individual to set up and deliver an effective Corporate Social Responsibility Programme. This will be a hands on role managing and delivering a social enterprise challenge programme to prompt regeneration of rural economies in Argyll & the Islands.

The ideal candidate will have outstanding relationship and organisational skills, sound administration skills and experience in engagement and marketing. You will have well developed people and communication skills, and experience of developing strategy and setting up and running development programmes. The role is fast-paced and you will work across multiple locations with strategic, local and community stakeholders as well as entrepreneurs with a range of skills and experience, so the ability to multi-task, prioritise and work to tight deadlines is essential.

The successful candidate must be willing to be based one day a week in our Gourock HQ and 4 days in one of our Argyll & Islands partner offices (likely to be Dunoon/Rothesay/Oban) and have their own car.

This is a great opportunity for someone with an interest in the social economy and the third sector.

Closing date for applications is 15th June 2015.

Interviews will be held in Glasgow on 22nd June 2015.

Full job profile available on request.

To apply for this role, please send a current CV, quoting reference number 734-SB to [vacancies@davidmacbraynehr.co.uk](mailto:vacancies@davidmacbraynehr.co.uk)

Caledonian MacBrayne Crewing (Guernsey) Limited is an equal opportunities employer.



## Fish Farm Technician - Loch Etive, Near Taynuilt

Dawnfresh Farming Ltd, part of the Dawnfresh Seafoods Group, is the largest Trout Farming Company operating in the UK. Our Marine and Freshwater farms are located throughout Scotland and Ireland.

We are seeking to recruit a candidate to fulfil the role of Seawater Fish Farm Technician based at our seawater cage farms on Loch Etive, near Taynuilt.

The role of Fish Farm Technician is interesting and varied. Working outdoors as part of a small team, it is focused upon all aspects of successful trout production including feeding, grading, harvesting, net changing and other general farm maintenance tasks, including boat handling.

Previous aquaculture experience is desirable but not essential as full training and support will be provided. A full driving licence is essential.

This post is a full time position, working a 40 hour week on any five out of seven days including weekend cover on a rota basis. You would be expected to undertake additional hours as required in order to accommodate the needs of the business.

Salary: £18,000 - £24,000 depending on experience.

If you are interested in applying for this position please send your CV, to:-

HR Department, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS. Office - 01698 810008 or E-mail: [hr@dawnfresh.co.uk](mailto:hr@dawnfresh.co.uk)

Closing date for applications: Friday 19 June 2015.

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# west coast recruitment

## The Scottish Salmon Company

The Scottish Salmon company is the leading independent producer of Scottish salmon. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy.

**MARINE OPERATIVE**  
Ref: Portavadie MO/06/15  
Salary – £16,830-£19,830 plus overtime depending on experience

We are seeking a Marine Operative within our site at Portavadie. Candidates will be enthusiastic, self-motivated and be able to demonstrate prior experience in working within small, focused teams. Day to day duties will include fish welfare, sampling, grading and moving of the fish, site maintenance, net changing and boat handling. Previous aquaculture experience is desirable for this post; the company can offer further development and training opportunities through in-house training and also by external training providers. Preference will also be given to those candidates who can offer transferable, related skills and qualifications. In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package including entry into the Company pension scheme. **A full, clean driving licence is essential.**

For an application form and job description, please contact:  
**Angela Gibson HR Officer,**  
The Scottish Salmon Company,  
Ardkinglas Estate, Cairndow,  
Argyll, PA26 8BH.  
Tel. No. 01499 600 430  
Email: angela.gibson@scottishsalmon.com  
Closing date for applications: 5pm Friday 19th June 2015  
Visit our website at www.scottishsalmon.com

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To undertake Multi Temp drops throughout Argyll and the Islands.  
Class 2 OTE £27,000 per annum  
7.5t OTE £25,000 per annum  
To apply please contact: John Gillies,  
Transport Supervisor, Forteith Foodservice,  
Glengallan Rd, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG  
Tel: 01631 569100  
email. johngillies@forteith.lis.com



## Carers Direct Limited

are an independent provider specialising in care at home.  
We are looking for Carers to work in the Oban Area.  
Rate of pay from £8.50/hour - evenings and weekends.  
Alternate weekends essential. Car driver essential SVQ 2 preferred, training provided.  
Application forms from 01631 569 550.  
Registered with Scottish Care Commission.  
Applications subject to PVG Scheme setting.

## SCOTTISHPOWER

Scottish Power are looking for a **Visitor Centre Manager** for a contract role until October 2016. This will be based at the 5 star attraction in Cruachan.  
Please email derek.anderson@rullion.co.uk

## public notices

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

**TRANSPORT SCOTLAND**

**THE A84 TRUNK ROAD (BALQUHIDDER STATION) (50 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2015**

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS hereby give notice that they propose to make the above Order under section 84(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 which will have the effect of imposing a 50 mph speed limit on that length of the A84/A85 Stirling to Crianlarich Trunk Road from a point (at Ordnance Map coordinates 256690,720658) 340 metres or thereby north east of its junction with the extended centre line of the C33 Kingshouse and Balquhiddier road in a north easterly direction to a point (at Ordnance Map coordinates 257732,712325) 80 metres or thereby north east of its junction with the extended centre line of the access road leading to Beech Tree Cottage, a distance of 1.257 kilometres or thereby.

Full details of the proposal are contained in the Order which, together with a plan showing the length of road involved and a statement of the Scottish Ministers' reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined free of charge during normal business hours from 11th June 2015 until 9th July 2015 at the offices of Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF; Strathyre Post Office, The Village Shop, Strathyre FK18 8NA; and Glen Ogle Post Office, Lochearnhead FK19 8PR.

Any person wishing to object to the proposed Order should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Director of Trunk Road and Bus Operations, c/o Robert McTaggart, Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF quoting reference NW/A84/RMC by 9th July 2015.

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/road/road-and-traffic-orders/north-west-traffic-orders>

**G EDMOND**  
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers  
Transport Scotland  
Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF

**www.highland.gov.uk**

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

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

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

| Reference Number | Development Address  | Proposal Description  |
|------------------|--|---|
| 15/01799/MSC     | Land 70m SE of Braeside Cottage, Achdallie, Fort William               | Erection of house (previous permission 10/01597/PIP)  |
| 15/01832/FUL     | 113-115 High Street, Fort William                                      | Modification of condition 2 of planning permission 12/02919/FUL to extend operating hours of external seating area to 11am - 8pm on Saturday & Sunday |
| 15/01947/FUL     | White House, Isle of Rum   | Conversion of existing Reserve Office to form 2 No semi detached houses   |
| 15/01994/FUL     | Land 40m SW of 8B Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Lochyside, Fort William | Erection of Contractor's office showroom and yard   |
| 15/02029/LBC     | 6 High Street, Fort William  | Installation of replacement shopfront signage post removal of signage currently in situ   |
| 15/02051/FUL     | Mingarry Park Guest House & Self Catering Lodges, Acharacle            | Alterations and extension   |
| 15/02123/FUL     | Site 30m West of Shilo, Morar, Mallaig                                 | Renew planning permission in principle 12/01006/PIP   |

Time period for comments is 14 days. Application 15/02029/LBC is 21 days.  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

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

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

**PLANNING**

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

| Ref No       | Proposal   | Site Address  | Location of Plans                 |
|--------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| 15/01227/PPP | Site for the erection of 2 dwellings   | Land East Of Achara Oban Argyll And Bute  | Oban Area Office                  |
| 15/01328/PP  | Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of new access            | Byre Cottage Kentallen Ards Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA27 6US                   | Sub Post Office Ards Isle of Mull |
| 15/01400/PP  | Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular accesses | Plot 4 Land North East Of Letterwall House Benderloch Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1RY | Sub Post Office Ledaig            |
| 15/01442/PP  | Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage  | Plot 5 Nant Park Tainuitt Argyll And Bute PA35 1JH                                  | Sub Post Office Tainuitt          |

**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     |
|-------------|--|---|-----------------------|
| 15/01257/PP | Demolition of existing shed, erection of dwellinghouse and formation of vehicular access | 2 Victoria Street Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6PH | Tobermory Area Office |
| 15/01519/PP | Renewal of planning permission reference 12/00939/PP (extension to hotel)                | Alexandra Hotel Corran Esplanade Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5AA    | Oban Area Office      |

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09.00 - 17.00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse, Lochgilphead Brae PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. 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.

**UNAUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1ST APRIL 2014 TO 31ST MARCH 2015**

Public notice is given in accordance with Section 195 (public notices) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, regulation 9(1) and 9(3)(a), that:

(a) Copies of the Unaudited Annual Accounts of Argyll and Bute Council and applicable charities for the period from 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015 will be available for public inspection in the offices of the Council at the following locations; Council Headquarters, Kilmony, Lochgilphead; Manse Brae, Lochgilphead; Hill Street, Dunoon; Burnett Building, Campbelltown; Loan House, Albany Street, Oban; Gargisham House, Mount Pleasant Road, Rothsay; Jamieson Street, Bowmore; Breadalbane Street, Tobermory; Crossapol, Tiree (restricted hours); Scotcourt House, 45 West Princes Street, Helensburgh.

A copy of the Unaudited Annual Accounts will also be available on the following website: [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

The Unaudited Annual Accounts will be open to Public Inspection during business hours from Monday 29th June 2015 until Friday 17th July 2015 inclusive.

(b) Any person interested may inspect a copy of the annual accounts to be audited, all books, deeds contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts related thereto, and may take copies of any or all parts of the accounts;

(c) Any person interested may object to the annual accounts or to any part of those statements, no later than Monday 20 July 2015, by:

- 1) sending their objection in writing, together with a statement of the grounds thereof to Fiona Mitchell-Knight, Assistant Director, Audit Scotland, 4th Floor Suite, The Athenaeum Building, 8 Nelson Mandela Place, Glasgow, G2 1BT and;
- 2) sending their objection in writing, together with a statement of the grounds thereof to the Controller of Audit, 110 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4JH and;
- 3) sending a copy of that objection and statement to the authority and to any officer of the authority who may be concerned, both at Strategic Finance, Council Headquarters, Kilmony, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT.

(d) The auditor shall, if requested by the person objecting, the authority, or by any officer of the authority who may be concerned, afford to that person or authority or officer, as the case may be, an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by the auditor with respect to that objection; and any such person or officer may so appear and be heard either personally or by a representative.

Sally Loudon, Chief Executive  
11 June 2015

## Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

**PROPOSED SUBLET OF A CROFT**

Mrs Andrea Docherty is applying to the Crofting Commission for the consent to sublet the whole croft at 367 South Boisdale, South Uist to Martin Matheson of 379a Garrynamonie, South Uist for 10 Years.

If you have 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](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk)) within 28 days from the date of publication of this advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

**WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND ACT 2003)**

**WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES)(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011**

**APPLICATION FOR AUTHORISATION FINE ALES LIMITED, ACHADUNAN, CAIRNDOW**

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Fine Ales Limited for authorisation to carry on a controlled activity in connection with a point source discharge from Fine Ales Brewery at Achadunan namely:

| Description of controlled activity                         | Waters affected | National grid reference |
|--|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Discharge of 100m <sup>3</sup> per day of Organic Effluent | River Fyne      | NN 1961 1299            |

SEPA considers that the above controlled activity may have an impact on the interests of other users of the water environment. A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays), alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: <http://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/consultations/advised-applications-under-car/>

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L1135453: **Registry Department, SEPA, Dingwall office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB**

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining whether or not to grant the application.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on the activity or activities;
- assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

**GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE**

John Morrison trading as J Morrison Plant Hire of 5 Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Estate, Oban is applying for a licence to use 5 Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Estate, Oban, Argyll, Scotland, PA34 4HB as operating centre for 1 goods vehicle 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.

**69%**  
of the business community read the regional press

Source: Business Check & The Newspaper Society

**MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010**  
**INSTALLATION OF OUTFALL PIPE, DUBH AIRD, UPPER LOCH TORRIDON**

Notice is hereby given that Ms. M. Bianco has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of Installation of

**Outfall Pipe, Dubh Aird, Upper Loch Torridon:**

| Cost £2500          |                       |                        |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Location            | Latitude Co-ordinates | Longitude Co-ordinates |
| Dubh Aird,          | 57° 32.169'N          | 005° 33.422'W          |
| Upper Loch Torridon | 57° 32.140'N          | 005° 33.360'W          |

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at:  
Highland Council Planning and Building Standards, 84 High Street, Dingwall, IV15 9QN

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:  
Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: [MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk), quoting reference: **05506**  
**Ms. M. Bianco**

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**First Registration of a Croft**  
Elizabeth Dawson as executor of Alan Dawson's estate has registered their croft 9 Upper Scotstoun, Upper Scotstoun, Ardnamurchan & Sunart 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 3rd March 2016. Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.rps.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.rps.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is A0662

**First Registration of a Croft**  
John Anthony MacDonald has registered his croft 2 Portnaluchaig, Arisaig and Moidart, 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 29, 2016. Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.rps.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.rps.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C1158

**First Registration of a Croft**  
Frank I Larkin has registered his croft 15 Clouviner, Ardour 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 March 4, 2016. Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.rps.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.rps.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is A0105

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OUTN'ABOUT PUSHCHAIR Nipper 360 cross country, 3 yrs old. Good useable condition. Rain cover. Has usual signs of use and storage. Can email photos, £55 Telephone 01546 830104.

**BICYCLES**

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KID'S BIKE HELMET black bike helmet, 54-58 cm. Round helmet style. Used but in excellent condition, £5 Telephone 07742 012085.

KIDS BLACK BIKE HELMET BRAND new, never used kid's black bike helmet, £10 Telephone 07742 012085.

MENS MOUNTAIN BIKE as new, suit person medium to tall, £60 Telephone 01499 302310.

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RADLEY WHEELED WEEK-ENDER BAG black vinyl and plum leather wheeled week-ender bag by Radley. Lots of room and individual pockets. Can be carried or wheeled, £40 Telephone 07742 012085.

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BIRTHS

**CARSWELL** - To Mammie and Colin on April 19, 2015, a beautiful little daughter Nuala Kate. Aithernie, Nursery Lane, Oban.

DIAMOND WEDDINGS

**CAMPBELL** - **MACFADYEN** - On June 10, 1955 at The Manse, Gott, Isle of Tiree, Jean to Alan. - Love and best wishes from all the family.

DEATHS

**DONN** - Suddenly but peacefully, at Leighton Hospital, Crewe, on June 2, 2015, aged 70 years, Lloyd, beloved son of Annie and of the late William Donn, Oban. Funeral will take place at Oban Parish Church, on Wednesday June 17, 2015 at 1.00 p.m. thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please, but if desired, donations in lieu to the RNLI.

**MACGREGOR** - Suddenly after a short illness, at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on June 1, 2015, aged 81 years, Donald MacGregor (formerly of Achavaich Farm, Connel) dear husband of Catherine, much loved dad of Fiona and father-in-law to Troy, adored granda to Cara, Lorna, Emma and Grace. Funeral took place on Monday, June 8, 2015.

**SWAN** - William, peacefully at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on June 3, 2015, in his 64th year, beloved husband of the late Ursula.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**CAMERON** - The family of the late Jessie Cameron, Lochaline, would like to thank all family and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy by letters, cards, phone calls and flowers. Thanks to Mike McFall for his efficient arrangements and to all who attended the funeral. Thanks also to Rev Ann Winning for a lovely service and to Sally and Charles at Lochaline Hotel. The sum of £520.20 was raised for the Morvern Medical Centre.

**DAVREN** - The family of the late Stan Davren wish to thank all relatives and friends for all their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and flowers received. Special thanks to the staff at the Belford Hospital, and the doctors, nurses and reception staff at the Ballachulish Medical Centre. A special thanks to Rev Anne Winning for her heartfelt services at Cardross Crematorium and St Munda's, Ballachulish. Thanks also to the Ardencaple Hotel and all the ladies who provided a lovely tea in the church hall afterwards. Thank you also goes to Jeanette Johnstone for the beautiful flower displays. Finally, many thanks to John McLellan, Funeral Directors for their caring professionalism with all the arrangements. The sum of £820 was collected for The British Heart Foundation.

**GIBSON** - John (Gibby). Rosina and family of the late John Gibson would like to thank all family and friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, flowers and cards received following their recent sad loss. Special thanks to rev. John Shedden for his kind and comforting words, D & A Munn Funeral Directors for funeral arrangements and Glenorchy Lodge for the catering. Finally thanks to everyone who paid their respects at the church and cemetery and who generously donated £339.31 to Oban Hospice.

**MACCOLL** - The family of the late Catherine MacDermid MacColl (née Binnie), would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy through cards and floral tributes. Special thanks to the staff at Mossparc Care Home, Fort William. Thanks to Rev Morag Muirhead for officiating at the Memorial Service, May MacIntyre, organist, Scott and Angus of John McLellan, Funeral Directors. Our thanks to all who attended the service at St Munda's, Ballachulish and who generously donated to Mossparc Residents Fund.

MEMORIALS

**CURRIE** - In loving memory of our dear mum and nana, Mary Allan, died June 6, 2003. Always in our hearts. - Agnes, Mary and family xx

**FERGUSON** - Precious memories of a beloved husband, dad and grampa Angus, died June 11, 1993. Sadly missed along life's way. Quietly remembered every day. - Catherine and family.

**LANGLEY** - Precious memories of Stewart, a beloved husband and father, who died on June 12, 2011. Not just today but every day in silence we remember you with love.

- Ann and Craig, Tieve and Exmouth  
**MACCALLUM** - In loving memory of Donnie a dearly loved husband, father, father-in-law and papa who died June 9, 2005. No longer in our lives to share

But in our thoughts you are always there. Sadly missed.

- Elizabeth and family.  
**MACDONALD** - In fond remembrance of Angus, a dear husband, father, grandfather and brother who passed away at Inverness on June 11, 1993, aged 67 years. Years may pass and fade away

But silent thoughts and memories stay. - Inserted by Kate and family, 4 Torlum, Benbecula.

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of my dear mum Nell, 10 Altour Road, Spean Bridge, who slipped away June 12, 2014. A golden heart stopped beating

Two smiling eyes are in the sky. A cheeky smile that would go a mile. God took you to rest mum, because he only takes the best. Love you always mum.

- Donna xxx  
**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of a dearly loved mum and extra special granny Nell, who passed away June 12, 2014. You gave me many things in life

Gifts both great and small. But most of all you gave me love. The greatest gift of all. - Catherine and Michael. Every day in some small way

Memories of you come our way. Though absent you are always near

Forever missed, loved and always dear. - Patrick, Michelle, Siobhan, Ryan and Nicola.

**MACDONALD** - Helen (Nell). In loving memory of my dear mum who died on June 12, 2014. Remembering you is easy mum I do it every day, it's the heartache of losing you that never goes away. Your laugh, your smile, your gentle touch are the things I miss so much. If I could have one wish, one dream that could come true I'd wish for yesterday and you. Love and miss you every day mum. Always in our thoughts.

- Jackie and Angus  
**MACKINNON** - Remembering our mum and dad, gran and grandpa Alan and Isabella, who both passed away on June 1994.

- Ian, Fiona and Nicola.  
**MACNEIL** - Michael, June 16, 2007. Always with me.

- Maree x  
**MACPHERSON** - In loving memory of a dear husband and father Gordon, who died June 16, 1990 and also a dear son and brother, Royal Marine Commando, Gordon Cameron, killed in action during the Falklands conflict, June 12, 1982. Memories bring us closer

We are never far apart. For you are always with us in our thoughts and in our hearts

- Dorothy and David.  
**MACTAGGART** - In loving memory of Islay, a dear husband, father, father-in-law and grampa, passed away June 12, 2014. The day, the hour we will never forget

You slipped away without goodbye. Our love for you will never die. Sadly missed every day. - Margaret and family.

**McLENNAN** - In loving memory of Isa, who passed away 10 years ago, June 15, 2005. Gone are the days we used to share but in our hearts you are always there. Loved and remembered every day.

- Jacqueline, Donna, Christine and families xx  
**POWER** - Fond memories of Heckie, who died June 6, 1988 and his parents Mary and Dan and brothers John and Jimmy.

- From the family at Caol and Fort William.  
**RAMSAY** - In loving memory of James (Jimmy), a husband, father and papa, who died June 12, 1988. Remembered and loved and missed always.

- Families, Lochgilphead, Oban, Killin and Edinburgh xx  
**SMITH** - In loving memory of James (Pop), a loving husband, father, father-in-law, grandad and great-grandad, who passed away on June 14, 2000. Precious memories last forever.

- Inserted by his loving wife Rena and family, 31a Glencruitten Drive, Oban.

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Charles Kennedy of Lochyside - an appreciation

CHARLES Kennedy was a life-long friend, colleague and verbal jousting with many and I am privileged to have, at various points, been all of the above.

He was, above everything else, a great companion and human being and one could add so many descriptors - wit, bon viveur, raconteur and so much more.

He was the greatest Prime Minister Britain never had and but for a whole host of circumstances could have achieved even more. There are politicians of whatever hue who have paid tribute to him in the last ten days since his tragic death who could not have laced his boots. There has been the so-often mis-used tsunami of grief and outpouring of tributes, some startling in its fulsome and genuine respect, and also warmth and empathy. Some of it hypocritical and sanctimonious which, perhaps, is to be expected in the world he populated with such dignity and aplomb for more than 30 years. The sound of glass houses being wrecked as stones are thrown, is demeaning, disrespectful and unwelcome.

Charles was, above all else, I believe, a cheat Lochaber man and a complex personality who put the cares and issues of his constituents ahead of everything else. He came from a long and rich tradition of hard work and humility which was reflected in his demeanour at all times. His family, forebears and all, were simply outstanding in so many ways. He wanted for nothing in his upbringing, nor did Isabel and Ian, his brother and sister.

He regarded public service as a privilege and his fragility and failings in challenging circumstances must not be allowed to diminish his remarkable achievements and absolutely outstanding commitments to the Highlands and his home area.

Born and brought up in the shadow of Ben Nevis, across the river from Inverloch Castle and the River Lochy through which his grandfather waded to move his cattle, Charles attended two schools within a decent stone's throw. In excelling at oratory in Lochaber high school - rather than sport - Charles unquestionably put the whole of Lochaber, and not just that fine educational establishment, on the map. Guided by the calming influence of luminaries such as Bob Dick, Charles blazed a trail followed by many others who, while they too celebrated success, never quite captured the public imagination to the same spell-binding degree.

University followed - we shared an alma mater - then our paths crossed again as the bold fellow was torn between a Fulbright scholarship in the States and a job at BBC Highland in Inverness. He went to the States and I stayed in Culduthel Road. But he chose eventually to come back and trample all over a senior Government Minister in one of the biggest political shocks of the era. A minister, Charles Kennedy once told me, who said to him that 'when one door closes another opens', knowing full well he - Hamish Gray - was on his way to the stuffed cushions of the House of Lords.

There is not the time nor space here to list Charles'



CHIEF AMONG MEN: Charles Kennedy at Glenfinnan.

political achievements as they are well documented elsewhere. History will show he was one of the outstanding politicians of the 20th century and beyond, for all that his personal fragility was to be his eventual undoing.

Beneath that exuberant exterior and chat-show personality there was a diligent and charming, hard-working and loyal constituency Member of Parliament.

And another, more unfortunate set of personal challenges which have been raked over with a fervour only matched by the genuine feelings of sympathy and sadness which have flooded the modern media.

The greatest and most perceptive accounts I have read of Charles' sad predicament have been from people who know what they are talking about - Alistair Campbell and Celia Munro who, between them saw, I am sure, every side of his personality, suffering and triumph. Their outstanding sense of the scale of the tragedy and its longevity should be heeded far and wide. Their critique of the failure to evolve a decent scheme of intervention, on a general scale rather than just in Charles' personal circumstances, for one of the most insidious and dangerous attacks on human nature bears very close examination

and its basis is clearly that of personal knowledge and experience. They know and they cared.

For too long this country's relationship with alcohol has been characterised by an ambivalence which should no longer be tolerated and must be addressed by our politicians. They must resource the research needed to help prevent the unseemly and tragic loss suffered in the last ten days, which is happening on an unimaginable scale. Charles isn't the first to have suffered the consequences of his torture. He didn't, I am sure, wish for it, nor could he overcome it.

I am no longer comfortable with the depiction of this state of affairs as a set of 'demons' and am tired of the endless debate about whether alcohol is an illness or a disease.

Had he suffered from Parkinsons, diabetes or hay fever, the rumbling about Charles Kennedy's death would have been very different. There but for the Grace of God, or some other higher authority, go many I know.

The media are as culpable in this as his so-called political foes. If half of what has been suggested in the aftermath of his loss of the election is true, then those in the highest authority need to act, and decisively. It is not good enough to seek comfort in allegations

of actions perpetrated in his name.

In the aftermath of 'the night of long sgian-dubhs', which he knew was coming, the all-enveloping darkness of Lochyside must be lit up by the smiling visage, the lilting Lochaber tones and the sheer brilliance and sophistication of an intellect and wit rarely seen in an otherwise dull and dismal world. This most charismatic of figures fought for, entertained and uplifted many souls while sacrificing his own well-being.

We should all remember both sides of Charles Kennedy's life, celebrating one and channeling the other into a lasting legacy of understanding and empathy for those similarly afflicted.

The sorrow being felt by what is left of his family, brother Ian and sister Isabel, Sarah and his son Donald James cannot be imagined. To lose a father mother and brother in such quick succession is beyond belief and our understanding when the loss is so raw.

Charles Kennedy's life and diligence touched so many people. His legacy is for others to measure in the fullness of time. For now, there is grieving and celebration to be done in no small measure.

Gu robh fois is sith aige gu siorraidh.  
Hugh Dan MacLennan.

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The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsagents every week

Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB  
Tel: 01631 568000  
Fax: 01631 568001  
www.obantimes.co.uk

Editorial

Reporter Emma Crichton ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter Louise Glen lglen@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter Steven Rae srae@obantimes.co.uk

Newsdesk  
Oban 01631 568060  
Fort William 01397 703003  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising

Advertising Executive Rhona McKillop adverts@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Executive Nadine Ross nross@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Executive Danielle Martin dmartin@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Executive Stephanie Dunstaffnage sdunstaffnage@obantimes.co.uk

Branch Offices

Fort William  
Tel 01397 703003

Lochgilphead  
Tel 01546 602345

Campbeltown  
Tel 01586 554646

Arran  
Tel 01770 302142

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WEDDINGS



**VINKALNS - WADE**  
Andris Vinkalns and Louise Wade were married on 18th April 2015 at the Barn Bar, Cologin, near Oban. Andris is the son of Maris and Alda Vinkalns, Riga, Latvia. Louise is the youngest daughter of Trevor and Mary Wade, Oban (formerly Isle of Mull). A wonderful time was had by all. Congratulations and love to them both.

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# UCI Mountain Bike World Cup



Britain's Rachel Atherton won the women's elite downhill at the UCI mountain bike world cup. Second was Tahnee Seagrave, also of team GB, left, and Emmeline Ragot of France, on the right, was third. Photo Scott Wilkie f24bikes1no

THOUSANDS of biking enthusiasts braved wet and windy weather in Fort William for this year's UCI mountain bike world cup.

Saturday's poor weather meant downhill qualifiers had to be postponed until Sunday, when spectators and competitors were relieved to see blue skies over the Nevis Range

Since Fort William is already considered one of the most physically demanding courses on the world cup circuit, having to do two race speed runs on the same day pushed the riders to their limits. Add to that, the deep mud and ruts caused by the rain, and many faced the toughest races of their career.

Bikers from all over the world took to the Aonach Mor slopes, joined by West Highlanders Greg Williamson, Fraser MacGlone, Drew Carter and Fergus Lamb.

Hometown hero Cory Muir, racing for West Highland Wheelers, was the third place finisher in the Under 10 Male race, losing out to eventual winner Harry Hemingway from Leeds and Hawick's Hector Paterson.

Port Appin's MacGlone, 21, took one of the best spots of the British riders, finishing 23rd in the men's elite competition. Fort William's Greg Williamson, 23, was hot in his heels in 26th place.

There was more celebration in camp GB as 28-year-old Rachel Atherton finished top of the women's elite contest, recording the 21st world cup victory of her career.

She said: 'It was horrendous, the track was ridiculous in the woods, it was a mess. It was just survival, I was suffering. This morning after qualifying, I thought that I was just riding for damage limitation.'

'I've got a trapped nerve in my neck and it's making my arms really weak. I thought I just had to go out there and try my hardest. I crashed three times in qualifying, so I can't believe that I won.'



Fort William's Greg Williamson competes on home turf Photo Scott Wilkie



Fraser MacGlone from Port Appin was one of the top British finishers

Photo Scott Wilkie



Fans found shelter when bad weather disrupted competitions Photo Kevin McGlynn



One spectator found a way to keep warm Photo Kevin McGlynn



**Fort William loses out on extra funding for indoor training facility**  
**Indoor facility**

THE GROUP behind a potential new indoor training facility in Fort William has lost out on a possible £25,000 of extra funding.

Davy Duncan of Fort William cricket club nominated the Lochaber sports association (LSA) project for a community fund by Aviva insurance, but the group narrowly missed out on a place in the final.

This means even after funding in principle from Highland council and SportsScotland, there will still be a gap to plug in the £1.47m total.

**Athletic's league game called off**  
**Football**

OBAN Athletic's West of Scotland AFL game against Old Oak Tree scheduled to be played at Glencruitten on Saturday has been cancelled as the Glasgow side are unable to raise a team for the trip to Oban

# 'Fools Gold' wins Scottish Series

AN Irish skipper and crew sailed into top spot at the Tarbert-based Silvers Marine 41st Scottish Series.

Robert McConnell, from Howth Yacht Club, and his Waterford harbour sailing team on 'Fool's Gold' took the overall title, won IRC class two and will take home the trophy for the best IRC class boat.

After four days, 11 races and some of the best sailing in Scotland, they also won the Crawford McInnes trophy sponsored by Hempel Paints for the best under 25-year-old helm.

Tarbert-based boat 'First By Farr', skippered by Ian McNair, clinched third in the Clyde Yacht Club Association's (CYCA) class five.

Campbeltown Sailing Club's Owen McManus, skippering 'Jochr', narrowly missed victory in CYCA class eight restricted sail when eventual winner 'Windhound' pulled out an ace on the last day. 'Eureka IV' took third.

On his way to second, McMa-

**Sailing**

nus sailed into two firsts and two seconds in class.

While Silvers Marine Scottish Series main sponsor, Jamie McGarry, may be disappointed to see the trophy go over the water to Ireland, both he and Colin Moore will be back to fight for it again next year.

McGarry, who has just announced Silvers Marine will sponsor the regatta again next year, praised the race officers Stuart Childerley, John Readman and Alan Cassels for their smooth management of the regatta.

The race teams on both courses were excellent and it is testament to them that all races were sailed and none cancelled.

Final class positions were as follows:

IRC Class 1: 1 Eala of Rhu, J McGarry and C Moore; 2 Zephyr, S Cowie; 3 Aurora, R Stuart and W Ram.

IRC Class 2: 1 Fools Gold, R McConnell; 2 Sloop John T, I and G



Robert McConnell and his winning crew on Fool's Gold.

Thomson; 3 Storm, P Kelly.

IRC Class 4: 1 Wildebeest V, C Latimer; 2 Trastada, R Angus and D Challis; 3 Lambay Rules, S Quinn.

CYCA Class 5: 1 Local Hero G and N Howison; 2 Enigma, M and H Morrison; 3 First By Farr, I McNair.

CYCA Class 6: 1 Valhalla of Ashton, A Dunnet; 2 She of the North, K Halliwell; 3 Zebedee, G Wilson.

CYCA Class 8: Restricted Sail 1 Windhound, D Macnab; 2 Jochr,

Owen McManus; 3 Eureka IV, C Frier.

CYCA Class 9 Restricted Sail: 1 Halcyon, S Owen; 2 Lyrebird, C Reeves; 3 Poppy, J Roberts.

Sigma 33 Class: 1 Busy Beaver, J Gallagher and M Bradshaw; 2 Leaky Roof 2, Harper and Robinson; 3 Sigmata, D and A McLaren.

National Sonata One Design: 1 Eric the Boat, S Goacher; 2 Old School, McNeish, Galbraith, Chas; 3 White Magic, D Matthews.

VX One Series: 1 Ovington Boats, M Darrer; 2 Robbers Dog, J and B Shelley; 3 Zhik, D Hepelwhite.

J70 Series: 1 Boats.com, I Aitkens; 2 Jacuzzi, P Hayes and S Hawthorn; 3. Django, C R Hawthorn.

Hunter 707: 1 More T Vicar, C Allen; 2 Rammie, M Fleming and D Smith; 3 Black Sheep, T Clark and S Parker.



**Islay**

SUMMER League played Wednesday June 3: 1 B O'Neil 47 pts; 2 K MacDonald 37 pts D Holyoake 36 pts Coss 70.

June Medal played Sunday June 7: 1 C Stroud 80-8=72; 2 A Woodman 81-8=73; 3 R Shaw 83-9=74.

**Tobermory**

CENTENARY Trophy first round - 1 Paul Brown 74-08=66; 2 Donald (Dods) MacLean 79-11=68; 3 Ewan MacCrone 76-07=69.

June Medal - 1 Tom Nunn 78-12=66; 2 Donald Brown snr. 76-10=66; 3 Graham Davidson 73-06=67.

**Isle of Skye**

ROUND one of the Skye championship played on Wednesday June 3. Category one: 1 Jamie Beaton 62 (70-10) 2 John Allan MacLeod 64 (76-12) 3 Jonathan MacKinnon 65 (77-12). Category two: 1 Kenny MacPherson 67 (85-18) 2 Chris Hanley 69 (83-14) 3 Alasdair MacKenzie 69 (90-21).

Senior Stableford, played on Thursday June 4: 1 Martin Bird 41 pts; 2 John Allan MacLeod 39 pts; 3 Chris MacKinnon 38 pts.

**Fort William**

RETURNS from Fort William golf club. On Sunday May 24 the May Medal was played with the following result: 1 Henry MacDonal 64 (78-14) 2 Rusty Duncan 69 (81-12) 3 Brian Stewart 71 (84-13).

On Saturday May 30 a two man Texas scramble was played with the following result: 1 Ian Robertson and Jimmy Ross 61 bih (69=8) 2 Andrew Brown and Graham Worsdall 61 (68-7) 3 Alistair Shearer and Neil Young 62 (66-4).

**Dalmally**

DALMALLY Golf Club recently held their annual Seniors Open in glorious sunshine and on a course in great condition.

The club would like to thank the many players from far and wide who supported the event, and the volunteer caterers who kept the competitors fuelled throughout the day.

The next open event at the Strathorchy club is the Ladies Open on Saturday 13 June, details on the club website.

Results: Gents - 1 John McLroy (Kenmore) 39pts; 2 Brian Stock (Kenmore) 38 pts; 3 Kerr Butterworth (Killin) 37 pts.

Ladies - 1 Ann Shanks (Dumbarton) 34 pts bih; 2 Ann Colthart (Dalmally) 34 pts bih; 3 Alison Livingstone (Dalmally) 34 pts

Category B - Gents: Sam Anderson (Garmouth & Kingston) 33 pts; Ladies: Barbara Robertson (Dumbarton) 34 pts.

Nearest the Pin - Gents: John Struthers (Hilton Park); Ladies: Colleen Brown (Dalmally).

Best Outward 9 - Gents: Kevin Mills (Taynuilt) 19 pts; Ladies: Josephine Monaghan (Dumbarton) 19 pts

Birdies - Janet Buchanan; Etive Brown; John Blackstock; John McLroy; John Struthers; Ann Shanks; Tony Barnard; Dick Lewis.

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GREAT DAY: Oban Real Madrid 2006's had a successful day at the recent Campbeltown football festival, winning five games and drawing the other with everyone having a great day.



TROPHY WINNERS: Elizabeth Kennedy (centre) presents the James Fitzsimons trophy to the winners of the Fort William Railway bowling club's competition, Bobby Lawson (second left) and Robert Hunter. Runners up Agnes Thain and Wilson Thain are pictured right

**Rockfield school sports medal winners**

MEDAL Winners P 6: Girls Compass Run - winner Niamh Cameron; runner-up Chloe Will.

Boys Compass Run: winner Ross Higgins; runner-up Robbie MacKay.

Girls Standing Long Jump: winner Chloe Will; runner-up Anna Spence.

Standing Long Jump: winner Rhys Fairbairn; runner-up Ross Higgins.

Girls Javelin Throw: winner Jordan MacIntyre; runner-up Emma MacDonald.

Boys Javelin Throw: winner Ross Higgins; runner-up Kyle Armstrong.

Girls 100m Sprint: winner Chloe Will; runner-up Rowan Drummond.

Boys 100m Sprint: winner Ross Higgins; runner-up Rhys Fairbairn.

Girls 200m Sprint: Winner Chloe Will; runner-up Rowan Drummond.

Boys 200m Sprint: winner Rhys Fairbairn; runner-up Sean Campbell.

Medal Winners Primary 7: Girls Compass Run - winner Bryana McCall; runner-up Evie Turner.

Boys Compass Run: winner Connor Moore; runner-up Luis Simmonds.

Girls Standing Long Jump - winner Keira Sheppard; runner-up Zoe Brown.

Boys Standing Long Jump: winner Connor Moore; runner-up Luis Simmonds.

Girls Javelin Throw: winner Emma Brown; runner-up Beth Campbell.

Boys Javelin Throw: - winner Lewis Budge; runner-up Daniel Laird.

Girls 100m Sprint - winner Zoe Brown; runner-up Beth Campbell.

Boys 100m Sprint: winner Lewis Budge; runner-up Connor Moore.

Girls 200m Sprint: winner Evie Turner; runner-up Zoe Brown.

Boys 200m Sprint: Winner Michael MacNeil; runner-up Lewis Budge.

**School sports**

P6 Championship: Girls - Duncan MacDougall Memorial Quaiach (and gold medal) winner Chloe Will 18 points; runner-up Rowan Drummond 7 points

Boys PTA Trophy (and gold medal) winner Ross Higgins 19 points; runner-up Rhys Fairbairn 14 points.

P7 Championship: Girls - J G Mathieson Cup (and gold medal) winner Zoe Brown 11 points; runner-up Evie Turner 9 points.

Boys - Round Table Cup (and gold medal) winner Connor Moore 14 points; runner-up Lewis Budge 13 points.

Girls Inter-School Relay - Park; Boys Inter-School Relay - Rockfield

Clan Relay: Girls - Aros ; Boys - Duart

Clan Championship: John Kermod Memorial Cup Winning Clan - Dunollie. Clan Football - Gylen. Clan Shinty - Duart.



PRIZEWINNERS: Some of the prizewinners at Dalmally Golf Club's Seniors Open.

## SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

### THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2550

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .

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.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter  
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules  
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mistaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Please tape your £1 coin here

Name .....

Address .....

Tel No. ....



# Cup fixtures transferred in bid to beat unplayable pitches

## MacTavish Cup Final

**GLENURQUHART'S** Iain MacLeod will line up for his first senior shinty final at the age of 39 on Saturday, determined to savour every second of a fairytale.

The veteran has been second team player/manager at Blairbeg Park for four years and only stepped in to help the Glen first team this season to bridge a player shortage.

However, his sparkling performances have merited an extended run in the side and now he finds himself a key man for the RBS MacTavish Cup final against Newtonmore at Bught Park.

The fateful turn-around is beyond anything the player, a full-time fireman in Inverness, could have imagined back in March.

**NEWTONMORE** consolidated their position at the top of the premiership and took another four goals from Lochaber, mak-



Glenurquhart's Iain MacLeod (right) pictured with Newtonmore captain Cameron Binnie, ahead of Saturday's RBS MacTavish Cup Final

ing it eight against the west coast side in two weeks.

The win gives 'More a two point lead at the top of the league with second from bottom Inveraray the only team to have beaten them so far this season.

'More put three past Lochaber before half time with a brace from Glen MacKintosh on 19 and 40 minutes and a single from his namesake Fraser on the whistle.

A late fourth from Paul MacArthur in the 85th minute secured the points.

Newtonmore have two games in hand over second placed Lovat but Kyles in third place also have a game in hand.

On Saturday 'More take on Glenurquhart in the RBS MacTavish Cup final at Bught Park.

## Camanachd Cup

Despite travelling 100 miles at the drop of a hat, **OBAN CAMANACHD** thrashed Inverness 6-0 in the second round of the camanachd cup.

A waterlogged Mossfield meant Gussie Campbell's men had to make the trip to the city at the last minute, but this didn't deter the south team as Lorn Dickie, Aidan MacIntyre and Andrew MacCuish scored two goals each to see their team go to the quarter finals.

This weekend Oban are at home and will welcome Ballachulish in

the quarter final of the Macaulay cup.

It took two games but **FORT WILLIAM** are through to the quarter final of the Camanachd cup after beating Kingussie 2-1 in the second round.

The clash at the Dell was a replay after a goalless game at An Aird the previous weekend, but a double from Ewan Campbell secured the Fort's place in the next round. Victor Smith's men will now face Lovat away in the quarter final next month.

He said: 'We're happy with the result. Our performance wasn't the best, but we got the result so that's the main thing. Our play was very similar to the previous week except this time we managed to get a couple of goals.'

This weekend the Fort will travel to Inveraray with a full squad for a premiership game.

Smith said: 'I'm not sure what to expect because they've been playing similarly to us this season. I'd expect at least a draw, but preferably a win.'

**KINGUSSIE**, the current holders of the Camanachd Cup, lost their replay against Fort William, going down 2-1, after a goalless draw the previous week.

All the action took place in the first half, Ewan Campbell gave Fort the lead on the six minute mark but Louis Munro equalised for Kingussie after 28 minutes. Ewan Campbell's 39th minute goal ended the scoring and secured the win for Fort William.

Kingussie tried hard to get back into the match in the second half but Fort William were tough in defence and did not let them at the goal.

Fort William take on top team Lovat at Kiltarlity in the next round.

Kingussie have a premiership game away to Lochaber on Saturday.

A last minute venue change to the mainland didn't put off **SKYE CAMANACHD**, who still managed a 1-0 win over Beaulieu.

The islanders were told on Saturday morning the game would be played in Inverness, but all players managed to attend and a 61st minute goal from Allan MacKinnon secured their place in the quarter final of the camanachd cup.

Manager John MacLeod said: 'It was a good result, especially after losing the home advantage. We knew it was going to be a

battle but we came out the other end and played well.'

Skye have a free weekend to watch their under 17s team in the MacTavish juvenile cup against Beaulieu.

**MACAULAY CUP** Kilmallie sailed through the first round of the Macaulay cup, thanks to a 4-1 victory against Kinlochshiel.

The game was scheduled to take place at Canal parks but had to be moved to Drumadrochit as the Kilmallie pitch was so waterlogged ducks were paddling in the puddles.

Manager Mark MacPherson said: 'We had a few call-offs because we had to travel, but we hadn't played in two weeks so we were dying for a game.'

'We played really well and it paid off so I'm happy with that.'

This weekend MacPherson's men will travel to Bute for the second round of the Balliemore cup, but at least four players will be missing from the line-up.

MacPherson said: 'This will be an interesting game and I think the boys can do it but I'm a bit worried that we won't have a full team.'

## Shinty

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**PREMIERSHIP** LOVAT had a free week and contrary to our report last week are at home on Saturday to Kinlochshiel in the premiership. The throw up is at 1pm.

The last time the two met Kinlochshiel won 2-0 in a free-flowing game after some initial scrapiness.

Lovat manager John MacRitchie said: 'Kinlochshiel are pretty sharp up front just now, but their loss on Saturday to Kilmallie was a strange result.'

'We are at home so it should go well for us. At training on Tuesday I'll decide who is in.'

'Many of the boys have been away, since Thursday last week, at a stag do in Poland, so if they are all back and in good shape they should be raring to go.'

Lovat need the win to get back on top of the league.

confirmed the Kilmallie win in the 85th.

'Shiel had plenty of possession but were unable to turn it into goals.'

'Shiel are away at Lovat on Saturday with an early throw up at 1pm.'

**LOCHABER** are slipping down the premiership league table after going down 4-0 to Newtonmore.

The Spean Bridge side were no match for the title-holders as goals from Fraser MacKintosh, Paul MacArthur and two from Glen MacKintosh hit the back of the net.

This weekend Ally Ferguson's men will welcome Kingussie for another premiership clash.

**INVERARAY'S** Macaulay Cup quarter final against Kyles Athletic was called off due to an unplayable field.

The dreadful weather that stopped the game had affected Tighnabraich as well and the match will be rescheduled.

Inveraray face Fort William at the Winterton in premiership action on Saturday with a 3pm throw up.

Last time the two sides met in April it was a draw due to a Fort William own goal.

There will be a feast of home action at the weekend as the reserves take on Aberdour earlier at noon.



ACTION: Oban Camanachd's James McMillan and Dougie Rankin from Inverness in action during last Saturday's SSE Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup second round tie which was switched to the Bught Park in Inverness after a pitch inspection found Oban's Mossfield Park to be unplayable after the heavy overnight rain. The long journey north didn't seem to bother the Oban side as they ran out comfortable 6-0 winners. Photo: Donald Cameron

**KYLES ATHLETIC'S** Macaulay Cup tie against Inveraray was called off due to heavy overnight rain on Friday.

Kyles now have two free weeks to prepare for their Celtic Cup final against Oban Camanachd on Saturday, June 27.

## National Division

**BALLACHULISH** travelled to Yoker to play a free flowing Glasgow Mid Argyll (GMA) side with reasonable hopes after running them close in the Jubilee.

It was the home side that raced into a four goal lead through Andy Mathie on six and 19 minutes and Lewis Miller 14 and 18 minutes.

Duncan MacDonald returned to the Balla' side after competing in the Scottish Six Day Trials event. He pulled one back for the visitors just before half-time.

Even more pain was heaped on in the second half when the home side scored again through Mark Bain on 81mins and Jack Berg just before full time to make the final score 6-1 to GMA.

Balla' travel down the road to the Mossfield for an evening Macaulay Cup tie on Saturday. Throw up is at 6pm.

## South Division One

**OBAN CELTIC'S** South Division One tie against Glenorchy was cancelled due to an unplayable field. The two teams meet again this Saturday at Ganavan Park.

Manager Davy Hamilton said: 'Hopefully the weather will be kind to us and we will get a game. We need to get the games played as time is marching on and we have 13 league matches to play.'

'We will not have a full complement but will be stronger than a week ago.'

**TAYNUILT** travelled to Aberdour and returned home with a share of the points in a 3-3 draw. Netting for Taynuilt were Mark Begeant, Stuart Scott and a Sam

Evans own goal. This Saturday they take on Kilmory at home. Referee is Graham Cameron

**STRACHUR'S** game against Bute was called off due to the weather as the Meadows was unplayable and the same applied at Strachurmore. Strachur had mustered a strong team for this local derby and hopefully it will be the same when they meet Lochside Rovers at home on Saturday. Throw up is at 2pm.

**LOCHSIDE'S** home game against Kyles was called off last week as Ganavan was declared unplayable after a pitch inspection. This Saturday the red and blacks travel to play Strachur.

**GLENORCHY** travel to Ganavan Park this Saturday after last week's match against Oban Celtic fell prey to the unseasonable weather.

**KILMORY'S** game against Inveraray reserves did not go ahead as MacRae Park was flooded.

On Saturday Kilmory travel to Taynuilt for a South Division One tie. They will be trying to reverse the result from May 2 when Taynuilt beat Kilmory 2-1.

**BUTES'** match against Strachur was another victim of the weekend weather. On Saturday they entertain national league side Kilmallie in a Balliemore Cup quarter final tie.

## South Division Two

**OBAN LORN'S** game against Bute reserves was postponed on Friday evening.

On Saturday Lorn travel to Paterson Park for a league tie with Glasgow Mid Argyll (GMA). In their April encounter Lorn battered GMA 5-1.

**INVERARAY** 2nds game was cancelled due to the weather. It was rescheduled for Tuesday and we will have the result next week.

On Saturday the reserves take on Aberdour at the Winterton. The throw up is at noon.

## Alzheimer Scotland fundraiser proves a great success

**OVER** £2,000 was raised by a group of shinty's former top players, numbering multiple Camanachd Cup winners and internationalists, who came together in a special veterans' charity challenge match at Caberfeidh on Saturday, June 6.

Alzheimer Scotland is the charity which will benefit from the sterling efforts of the veterans from Caberfeidh and throughout shinty's north area who proved at the weekend that, despite their advanced years, they were still able to offer a decent challenge.

Star man on the field was the redoubtable Ian Bartlett of home team Caberfeidh who took the field at the remarkable age of 75.

The Rest of the World Veterans' team (as they liked to be called) was managed by shinty legend, John Mackenzie of Newtonmore, who just happens to be Shinty's Ambassador for the Memories shinty club run by Alzheimer Scotland.

The match resulted in a 2-1 win for the Rest of the World.

## Fixtures

**Saturday 13 June**  
**RBS MacTavish Cup Final**  
Newtonmore v Glenurquhart  
Bught Park, Inverness  
Evan MacRae - 4pm

**Artemis Macaulay Cup quarter final**  
Oban Camanachd v Ballachulish  
Lachie Wood - 6pm

**Balliemore Cup - 2nd round**  
Bute v Kilmallie  
Robert Baxter

**Marine Harvest Premier Division**  
Lovat v Kinlochshiel  
Ron Kennedy - 1pm  
Lochaber v Kingussie  
Deek Cameron  
Inveraray v Fort William  
David Mitchell - 3pm

**North Division One**  
Kinlochshiel v Fort William  
Duncan Kelly

**South Division One**  
Inveraray v Aberdour  
Innes Wood - 12pm  
Strachur v Lochside Rovers  
Euan Pearson  
Taynuilt v Kilmory  
Graham Cameron  
Oban Celtic v Glenorchy  
Ronnie Campbell

**North Division Two**  
Caberfeidh v Lewis  
John Matheson  
Kilmallie v Lochaber  
Archie Ritchie

**South Division Two**  
Glenorchy v Col Glen  
Ewen MacDonald  
Aberdour v Tayforth  
Alan Harrison  
Ballachulish v Bute  
Scott McNeil  
Glasgow MA v Oban Lorn  
Jim Innes

Throw ups 2pm unless stated

## Results

**Friday 5 June**  
**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Kingussie 3 v 3 Newtonmore

**Saturday 6 June**  
**SSE Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup 2nd Round**  
Oban Camanachd 6 v 0 Inverness  
Game transferred to Inverness  
Skye 1 v 0 Beaulieu  
Match transferred to Beaulieu  
Kingussie 1 v 2 Fort William

**Artemis Macaulay Cup 1st Round**  
Kilmallie 4 v 1 Kinlochshiel  
Game transferred to Drumadrochit

**Artemis Macaulay Cup Quarter Final (South)**  
Inveraray v Kyles Athletic  
Postponed - pitch unplayable

**Marine Harvest Premiership**  
Newtonmore 4 v 0 Lochaber

**Marine Harvest National Division**  
Glasgow MA 6 v 1 Ballachulish

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Fort William v Strathglass  
Postponed - pitch unplayable  
Lovat 1 v 3 Glenurquhart

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Aberdour 3 v 2 Taynuilt  
Bute v Strachur  
Postponed - pitch unplayable  
Glenorchy v Oban Celtic  
Postponed - pitch unplayable  
Kilmory v Inveraray  
Postponed - pitch unplayable  
Lochside Rovers v Kyles Athletic  
Postponed - pitch unplayable

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Lewis 4 v 1 Inverness  
Lochaber v Kilmallie  
Postponed - pitch unplayable  
Skye v Boleskine  
Postponed - pitch unplayable  
Strathspey 1 v 4 Aberdeen Uni

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Ballachulish v Tayforth  
Postponed - pitch unplayable  
Bute v Oban Lorn  
Postponed - pitch unplayable  
Glasgow MA 2 v 2 Col Glen  
Glenorchy v Aberdour  
Postponed - pitch unplayable

## Joe Toal Sixes

**IN** 1982 Joe Toal was playing for Lochaber Camanachd against Fort William when he suddenly died during the game at the age of just 22.

Each year, Lochaber Camanachd Club holds a six-a-side tournament to honour his memory and his dedication to the club.

Lochaber invite all clubs to put forward a team or two for the 2015 tournament, which will take place at Lochaber shinty pitch, Spean Bridge on Sunday, July 19 at 12 noon.

For more information contact Aeleen Campbell at aeleen-campbell@hotmail.co.uk or 07760 155313.



Lochaber high school under 14s retained the MacPherson cup for a record 15th year in a row. The team is pictured with school coach, Donald MacLean



Lochaber high school girls retained the Donella Crawford cup

# Double success for Lochaber high school shinty teams

**LOCHABER** high school's under 14s shinty team have won the MacPherson cup for a record 15th consecutive year.

No players in the defending team were born when the run of victories started,

but played relentlessly to retain the title in a 2-1 final against Portree.

A goalless first half put added pressure on both teams but Victor Smith scored the opener 10 minutes into the second

half. Niall MacPhee soon equalised for the islanders and the game looked set to go to extra time

But Lochaber debutante Johnny Forster struck a powerful shot into the

Portree net in a last-minute goal. Not to be outdone by the boys, Lochaber high school's female team also retained the Donella Crawford cup after a seven-team tournament in Kingussie.

The Lochaber side won the final 2-0 against Ardnamurchan and were only defeated once in the tournament in a 1-0 loss against Kingussie early in the day.

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TAKING PART: Rotary Club of Oban members and some of the participants pictured at the AmAm on Sunday

## Rotary AmAm raises £10,000 for local good causes

### Camanachd 'B' team come out on top



CHIPPER: Alfie MacKenzie chipping at the fourth hole.

OBAN Camanachd B were the winners of the Rotary Club of Oban Am Am held at Glencruitten Golf Club on Sunday with a score of 92 points. In second place were Simply Shredding with a score of 89 points and Homebase third with 88 points.

Results: First team prize and the Bank of Scotland Trophy - Oban Camanachd B - 92 points - Andrew McCuish, Scott MacMillan, Garry Lord, James Macmillan. Second team prize and the Allan McDougall Trophy - Simply Shredding 89 points - Travis Smith, Garry McEwan, Callum MacPhee, David Ross. Third place and Angus Simpson Memorial Trophy - Homebase - 88 points - John Plunkett, Rab Blair, Kenny Devine, David Devine.

#### Golf

Leading Visiting Team - Lochaber Rotary All Stars - 85 points - Vincent Duncan, Brian O'Neill, Stewart Duncan, Brian A Stewart.

Coloured Ball Competition - Oban Express with a net score of 59 - Gavin Owens, Cameron Milne, Craig McKenzie.

Forty one teams took part in the competition which is held annually at Glencruitten and raised in excess of £10,000 for local good causes.



WELL DONE: Winners of the Rotary Club of Oban Am Am held at Glencruitten golf club on Sunday - Andrew McCuish, Scott MacMillan, Garry Lord, James MacMillan

## Saints announce pre-season games and tournaments

### Football

OBAN Saints senior team have announced the following dates for pre-season friendlies and tournaments.

Saturday July 11 - D & K Lafferty Tournament Mossfield Stadium and Glencruitten - Hearts first team, Dundee United under 20s, Hamilton Accies first team, St Johnstone under 20s Alloa Athletic first team and Oban Saints.

Saturday July 18 - Vale of Leven Juniors at Glencruitten.

Saturday July 25 - East Kilbride at Glencruitten.

Saturday August 1 - Rhu Tournament - Rhu Amateurs, Greenock HSFP, Dumbarton Academy and Oban Saints.

Saturday August 8 - Argyll and Bute Cup Tournament in Lochgilphead - Campbeltown Pupils, Oban Saints, Lochgilphead Red Star, Tarbert, Dunoon Amateurs, Dunoon Athletic, Rothesay Brandane and Oban Athletic.

## Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

### Youth football

LAST weekend's results: Kilpatrick 0, Under 13s 5. Saints scorers were Aaron MacKay (2), Jamie Forgive (2) and Aidan MacPhee. Under 14s 7, Whitecraigs 0. On target for Saints were Rory Dowd (3), Cameron Kerr (2), Thomas White and Keir MacLean. League Cup final - Ardencaple 2, Under 15s 2 after extra time. Scoring for Saints were Martin Rennie and Lewis Buchanan. Saints won 2-0 on penalties. Penalty scorers were Daniel MacCuish and Daniel MacMillan.

## Oban Otters celebrate 40 years

### Swimming

OBAN Otters is celebrating 40 years of Learn to Swim and Competitive Swimming.

And at this year's annual swimming gala, on Sunday June 14, there will be balloons, cake and lots of swimming!

The group would like to hear from anyone who has taught or has swum for Oban Otters over the last 40 years.

They want to commemorate this event by having a 40-year wall showing the group over its history. To share stories or photos please e-mail them to obanotters@gmail.com

Oban Otters more recently organised a sponsored swim raising the grand total of £2,440. This money will go towards pool hire, teaching and training costs.

## Town regatta

### Sailing

OBAN Sailing Club's annual town regatta takes place this weekend with the event open to all keelboats. Racing starts on Saturday afternoon with the fleet normally sailing outwith Oban Bay on a longer inshore race.

A barbecue will be laid on for everyone after the race finishes.

On Sunday there will be two races within the bay with the best viewing from Duggallan Parks. There will be classes for fast and slow handicap yachts with soup and sandwiches at the clubhouse on Sunday after the first race.

Further information is available from Colin Cupris, sailing secretary colin@ckupris.com

## Blind paddleboarder's remarkable feat as he circumnavigates Kerrera

DEAN Dunbar, accompanied by Cathy Winterton of Oban, has made a rare, if not the first, circumnavigation of Kerrera on a SUP, a stand up paddleboard.

With water temperatures hovering between 8 and 10 degrees and with persistent winds, a paddleboard is hardly the mode of transport of choice in these parts as a swim is as inevitable as the next wave.

It is a sport that requires strength, skill and the balance of a tightrope walker. Consider that Dean is blind and his achievement takes on a new level.

Having started at Oban Yacht Club on May 30, it took almost three hours battling against a headwind to clear the southern end of the Sound of Kerrera.

Both paddlers admitted they wouldn't have got this far without the pressure of letting the other down.

'It was tough,' said Dean, 'three hours against wind, waves and tide meant three hours without rest.'

Forty five minutes later they passed Bach Island and finally had assistance from all three

elements. The complete circumnavigation took just under six hours.

Dean suffers from rod and cone dystrophy, a progressive disease that currently leaves him with only a blurred ring of light around the outside of his field of vision. Despite this he has tried and succeeded in a multitude of extreme sports. He picks a sport, finds a guide and then comes up with challenging but irresistible ideas.

He swam the Gulf of Corryvreckan, kayaked to Mingulay, skimmed the Alps on a miniature paraglider and attempted to swim the channel.

All these require an assistant's expertise and full support from his GP wife, Rhona.

But the ma-

### Paddleboarding

majority of his hundreds of hours of training is done alone once the venue has been memorised and orientation systems developed.

His next outing on a SUP is under wraps but it will be bold and won't involve hugging the coastline of a Scottish island. Check out www.extremedreams.co.uk



## Penalty shoot-out win for Saints under 15s

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS: Oban Saints Under 15s travelled to Millburn Park, Alexandria, last Saturday to take on Ardencaple in the final of the Michael McGinley Shield. Both teams should take credit for playing some good football in horrendous weather conditions. The game finished 2-2 after extra time with Saints' goals coming from Martin Rennie and Lewis Buchanan. The game then went to a penalty shoot-out with Saints' keeper, Cammy MacMillan, being the hero saving four Ardencaple penalties. Daniel MacCuish and Craig MacMillan netted from the spot to win the shield for the Oban youngsters much to the delight of the hardy band of Saints' supporters who travelled to watch the final.



BRAVE MAN: Dean Dunbar with his assistant Cathy Winterton

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**WEATHER**

**Thursday** Cloudy  
Winds light westerly  
Temperatures 8°C to 13°C.

**Friday** Cloudy with light rain showers  
Winds light north westerly  
Temperatures 8°C to 13°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Cloudy on Saturday  
Cloudy on Sunday  
Winds light north westerly  
Temperatures 7°C to 12°C.

**TIDAL INFORMATION**

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, June 11, 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 | 00.37 | 3.3 | 06.58 | 1.3 | 13.15 | 3.0 | 19.21   | 1.3 |
| Fri  | 02.00 | 3.3 | 08.07 | 1.2 | 14.30 | 3.1 | 20.32   | 1.2 |
| Sat  | 03.03 | 3.5 | 09.09 | 1.1 | 15.24 | 3.3 | 21.37   | 1.1 |
| Sun  | 03.56 | 3.6 | 10.02 | 1.0 | 16.09 | 3.5 | 22.32   | 0.9 |
| Mon  | 04.42 | 3.7 | 10.49 | 0.9 | 16.51 | 3.7 | 23.22   | 0.9 |
| Tues | 05.24 | 3.8 | 11.32 | 0.8 | 17.30 | 3.8 | ** ** * | **  |
| Wed  | 00.08 | 0.8 | 06.02 | 3.8 | 12.14 | 0.7 | 18.09   | 3.9 |

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 |

# The Oban Times

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## UCI Mountain Bike World Cup



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COTTAGES

# Council could break eight-year tax freeze

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

HIGHLAND council could be the first local authority in Scotland to break the eight-year council tax freeze as a new party takes the helm today (Thursday).

The Independent party is expected to form a minority administration at a full council meeting, leaving the SNP in opposition, along with Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

And party leader, Margaret Davidson, said she will be 'looking closely' at raising the tax as a way to fund investment in roads and health services.

During last year's budget cuts the Independent party, then the opposition, backed calls to end the freeze, implemented by the Scottish government, to boost council funds.

Councillor Davidson will be named council leader at the meeting today.

She said: 'Nothing will be completely confirmed until after the meeting. We're going to form a full budget team who will be looking at a number of things, including a potential council tax rise.

'During the budget consultation last year, we got a clear message that the public would rather pay more if it meant protecting front line services,

including education, so we will be looking closely at tax.'

But Alec McConachie, manager of Lochaber food bank, is worried that asking for more money from low income families could push them into poverty. He said: 'I think that would make everything worse. Every week I deal with families on the minimum wage and they can't afford to eat properly.'

'To ask them to put their hands in their pockets and pay more every month would put them in a real struggle.'

As the council tax freeze is Scotland-wide, if Highland council votes through the rise it may have to repay up to £3.5 million received for carrying out aspects of Scottish government policy. But parliament is currently reviewing the situation and may abolish the eight-year freeze.

Councillor Davidson said:

**“To ask them to pay more every month would put them in a real struggle”**

**Alec McConachie**  
Lochaber food bank

'None of us want to implement cuts to more front line services. But the government makes it very difficult for us to bring money in.' As a minority, the

Independents will rely on support from non-aligned members and parties such as the five-member Highland Alliance to carry out its plans.

The Aird and Loch Ness member also said she wants to see the council working 'cross party and cross chamber' to improve life for Highland constituents.

Thomas MacLennan, member of Highland Alliance and Lochaber area leader, said: 'I will be looking to work alongside the Independents and support them, but I won't be taking up a key role. I will vote with them on the issues I support and I will vote against them when I don't agree with what they're trying to do.'

Skye member Drew Millar, also of Highland Alliance, said: 'We haven't discussed our party stance on council tax yet, but it seems it could be up for discussion soon so we will be taking a stance soon.'

SNP group leader Maxine Smith said the position regarding council tax is 'unclear'.

She said: 'We don't know yet what the party position is nationally or whether the Independents have any set plans to suggest an increase.'

'It's all unclear at the moment, but when we know the situation we will discuss it as a group and take a position.'

## Nominations for top posts

**NOMINATIONS for senior council posts will be made at today's meeting.**

**Councillor Margaret Davidson is expected to be named local authority leader, Caol and Mallaig member Allan Henderson is likely to chair the community services committee and it is thought Bill Fernie of Wick will be nominated as chairman of the resources committee. Other chairmanships up for grabs are education, children and adult services, planning development and infrastructure, licensing and community safety, public engagement and equalities.**

# Walker still missing after two weeks

A MOUNTAIN rescue leader has appealed for 'any clue at all' about the whereabouts of a walker who has been missing for almost two weeks.

Eric Cyl was last sighted setting off for Mamore mountain range, near Fort William, on the morning of Saturday, May 30, and has yet to be found, despite extensive searches.

The 62-year-old is an expe-

rienced hillwalker and it is thought he was heading to the ring of Steall area.

An initial search involved Lochaber and Glencoe mountain rescue teams, assisted by search and rescue dogs and a HM coastguard helicopter and a more extensive search involving more than 60 personnel was carried out the following Monday, but with no success.

John Stevenson, leader of Lochaber mountain rescue team, said: 'We're really struggling now because it's such a vast area and we don't have any idea where he was. If anyone remembers anything or has any information at all, please get in touch. Any clue you can give us would be a start. We're now looking at the whole Steall area.'

Mr Stevenson added that as his team are volunteers they haven't been able to search as often as they would like, but will be back on the hunt as soon as possible.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police on 101.

Mr Cyl was last seen wearing a light grey jacket and dark trousers. He has a stocky build and short grey hair.



**REMARKABLE:** Rene celebrated her 109th birthday with her nephew, Clive Chapman and his wife, Lesley

## Rene, 109, celebrates landmark birthday

GOOD food, strong faith, family and a sense of humour are the ingredients for a long and happy life.

This is the advice of Irene 'Rene' Chapman, Scotland's oldest person, who celebrated her 109th birthday this week.

Friends and family joined the pensioner to celebrate the landmark event in the Telford centre care home, Fort Augustus, where she is a resident.

Dog-loving Miss Chapman enjoyed a specially made birthday cake in the shape of a Pekinese, her favourite breed.

Miss Chapman never married and spent much of her life as a carer, looking after her aunt and parents and was a keen organist and chorister.

She became the oldest person in March this year following the death of Jessie Gallan from Aberdeen, who celebrated her 109th birthday in January.

Caroline Gunn, manager of the Telford centre, said Miss Chapman's memory remains sharp, but she has lost her sight and is hard of hearing. She added: 'We try to ensure

that she gets what she wants and to make today different from yesterday for Rene. She likes Shreddies for breakfast and toast and marmalade for high tea. She used to be very keen on sucking Fishermans Friends at night but now she likes Polo mints. She's also quite particular about her clothes - she likes everything to be just so. Rene used to enjoy listening to audio books, but was irritated by the American accents they often featured.'

Miss Chapman's nephew, Clive, travelled from Dorset for the birthday with his wife, Lesley. He said: 'Rene is a very special person. She has a very caring nature, is very family-orientated, has a lovely sense of humour and her memory is amazing.'

'She loves chatting to people and loves to get news about her family - she has five nieces and nephews, 11 great-nieces and nephews and nine great-great-nieces and nephews. She has said she attributes her long life to good food, strong faith, a loving family and a good sense of humour.'

## TIMESLINE

### Men banned from standing for SNP

MEN HAVE been banned from standing as SNP candidates for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch in next year's Scottish government elections when current MSP Dave Thompson steps down.

It is hoped the one-off rule from the nationalists will boost the number of female politicians at Holyrood.

Seven SNP MSPs are expected to give up their place ahead of the election and the party's constituency association has made a ruling stating only women can stand. Mr Thompson said it is part of a plan to bring the party's female representation to 50 per cent.

### Have your say on radio's big debate

**BBC RADIO Scotland's Big Debate will be broadcast from Duncansburgh Macintosh church hall, Fort William, next Friday (June 19).**

**Members of the public are invited to join host Gordon Brewer to discuss topical issues. Places can be booked via bigdebate@bbc.co.uk. Questions can be sent to the same address.**

### Time for tea and vital fundraising

MARIE Curie nurses are appealing to communities to host fundraising tea parties between June 20 and 29.

Last year, similar events in the Highlands and islands raised £12,000 which paid for 600 hours of nursing care for people with terminal illnesses.

Nicola Cawthorpe, senior Marie Curie nurse for north west Scotland, said: 'I see first-hand how vital this hands-on care and emotional support is.'

To sign up and receive a free party pack, go to www.mariecurie.org.uk/teatime



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## Artistic youngsters skate off with prizes



**AWARDS:** this year's Lochaber artistic roller skating club prizewinners 20\_24skating01

FORT William's Nevis centre was taken over by music, dancing and brightly coloured costumes as Lochaber artistic roller skating club held its annual grading and prizegiving.

As well as the gradings, seven special awards were given out to skaters of all ages, for endeavour, talent and achievement.

Prizewinners: Carol Laird memorial award, Layne McManus; Victoria Alexander dance award, Caitlin Young; Alexander cup, Ty-Leigh Kitson; Lochaber artistic roller skating club achievement award, Alice Gray; Acharacle artistic roller skating achievement award, Lorja Haldenby; Ashley McKerracher endeavour award,

Eilidh Mulvey; Frieda Alexander medal, Karolina Bertelje. Grading results: Minor tots 1 Heather MacFarlane; 2 Isabella Pererio; 3 Preya Haldenby. Elementary 1 Layne McManus; 2 Adi Lev; 3 Zuzanna Matuszczak. Intermediate one 1 Karolina Bertelje; 2 Alex MacMaster; 3 Hannah Olah. Intermediate two 1 Mia MacPherson; 2 Anna Gray; 3 Ty-Leigh Kitson. Advanced one 1 Rebekah Fleming; 2 Amy Rydings; 3 Thea Fraser. Advanced two 1 Caitlin Young; 2 Hazel Currie; 3 Cara Lees. Olympic foxtrot dance 1 Amy Rydings; 2 Scarlett McNeil; 3 Alex Souter. Carlos Tango dance 1 Caitlin Young; 2 Hazel Currie; 3 Ami Robertson.

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# Treat alcoholism as an illness

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

ALCOHOLISM should be viewed and treated as a serious illness to reduce the number of people dying as a result of excessive drinking, a Highland politician has said.

Dave Thompson, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, highlighted the issue following the announcement that Charles Kennedy's death last week was a result of his on-going battle with alcoholism.

He said anyone who admits to a drinking problem should be 'applauded' and revealed he made the decision to become teetotal 15 years ago, following his own excessive drinking.

On Friday, a statement was released by the family of Charles Kennedy, former MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, confirming his death at his Lochside home last Monday was caused by a major haemorrhage, a 'consequence of his battle with alcoholism'. Mr Kennedy was an MP in the Highlands for more than 30 years and served as Liberal Democrat leader until 2006, when he announced he had a drink problem.

Mr Thompson said: 'I think people realise more and more that it's an illness which has to be treated the same as any other illness. Alcoholism affects people right across the board,



**PROBLEMS:** Highland MSP Dave Thompson spoke out about his previous problems with alcohol

from all walks of life. The fact that Charles' family has been so open about what caused his death is a good thing, because the more we can bring this issue into the open, the better chance we have of showing people it is an illness we need to come to terms with.

'I'm happy that people are starting to take alcohol addiction more seriously, but we still have a way to go.

'For example, when someone admits they have a problem they should be applauded for having the courage to tell

people and it should be treated as a serious illness.

'In politics or other workplaces, opponents will cling to anything deemed a weakness and try to use it against you.

'Many people who have had a drink problem worry it will be held against them when it comes to things like promotion, even if they haven't touched a drop for years.'

The statement from Mr Kennedy's family said: 'We have now been informed by the office of the procurator fiscal of the findings of the post mortem. Charles' death was caused by a major haemorrhage and the report makes clear this was a consequence of his battle with alcoholism.

'We are grateful to the many friends and also medical experts who sought to help



**BATTLE:** Charles Kennedy died of a major haemorrhage, caused by his battle with alcoholism 20\_14charles01

down the years, but ultimately this was an illness Charles could not conquer, despite the efforts he and others made.'

Mr Thompson said there needs to be a clearer understanding of excessive drinking, particularly when it is not in its most obvious form.

And he used his own experience to highlight this: 'When I was drinking, it wasn't like I couldn't get up in the morning without a dram. In fact, I rarely drank during the week, but at the weekend I would drink an awful lot and it became a problem.

'Many people will have a few glasses of wine every night and think they're fine, but they would find it really hard if someone asked them to stop.

'They would actually find they have a problem.'

Charles was found dead last Monday (June 1) at his home in Lochside, near Fort William.

His former campaign manager, Conn O'Neill, said alcoholism 'should not be trivialised'.

He said: 'For just a year, I had the great honour of knowing Charles Kennedy. Through the most tumultuous times in Scottish politics, it was a pleasure to be by his side and to share in his insight.

'The revelation that his death is related to alcohol in no way diminishes the great tragedy of his loss. Charles' long suffering from a terrible illness should not be trivialised as a problem or 'his demons'.

'The legacy of Charles Kennedy is far greater, let us continue to reflect upon the positive impact he has had on the lives of so many.'

## TIMESLINE

### Carloway biker, 42, dies in island crash

A MAN from Lewis has died on the island after he crashed his motorbike on Saturday.

The accident happened in the Carloway area of Lewis at around 1.30pm and a police spokesman later announced Angus Chisholm, 42, had died.

No other vehicles were involved in the incident, which occurred on the A858 Stornoway to Barvas road near the Brue junction.

The road was closed in both directions while an investigation was carried out.

The police spokesman said: 'Police Scotland can confirm that the person who died in the one vehicle road traffic collision on the Isle of Lewis yesterday was 42-year-old Angus Chisholm. Mr Chisholm, who was from the Carloway area on the island, was riding a motorcycle at the time of the incident. A report will be sent to the Procurator Fiscal, as is the usual procedure in fatal road traffic collisions.'

### Police need help to catch town thieves

**POLICE in Lochaber are appealing for information following a number of thefts in the area.**

Sometime between Tuesday May 26 and Wednesday June 3, a black, adult mountain bike was stolen from an insecure garage in Hillside estate, Fort William.

On Sunday June 7, between 2.45pm and 4.30pm, two high-value adult mountain bikes were stolen from a venue tent at the mountain bike event at Aonach Mor, Fort William.

One is red and black with black suspension forks and the other is black with blue and yellow stripes.

Sometime between Friday May 1 and Monday May 18, a black Suzuki outboard motor was removed from a boat in the Gairloch area.

If you can help contact Lochaber police on 101.

## Family 'touched beyond measure'

THE FAMILY of Charles Kennedy said they were 'touched beyond measure' at the tributes that flowed in from all over the UK.

A statement was released ahead of his funeral, to be held tomorrow (Friday).

It said: 'Charles' family would first like to thank the public and politicians who have been so warm in their tributes to him and so sincere in their concern for us. We have been touched beyond measure by the

outpouring of warmth for a man whose loss we will feel deeply forever. The pain we feel has been at least eased somewhat by the reaction of so many people and how many lives he touched.

'We were grateful that his young son, Donald, was able to attend the Commons session where so many MPs spoke so warmly about his father. The words and images of that day, and of so many other tributes, will be there for us to look back

on with pride in Charles, and Donald will always know what a special father he had.

'We would also like to thank all the public authorities and emergency services who have dealt with the aftermath of Charles' death with such courtesy, kindness and efficiency.'

Mr Kennedy's funeral will be held in St John's RC church in Caol tomorrow (Friday). Memorial services will also be held in Glasgow and London at a later date.

## Consider others when parking at hospital

POOR parking at Raigmore hospital has been highlighted by staff following reports from patients about being blocked in and cars obstructing access roads.

Crawford Howat, hotel services manager at the Inverness hospital, said: 'The car park is very busy and we recognise it can be difficult trying to find a space when you are coming in for an appointment or to visit a patient.'

'We know that a hospital environment for some can be a stressful experience and a busy car park can add to that.

'But we have examples of cars being blocked in, access roads being blocked and the disabled bays at the front of the car park being used by those who do not have blue badges displayed on their car.'

'What we are asking is that everyone takes responsibility for how they use our car park.'

'Leave enough time to find a space if you are coming in for an appointment.'

'Please don't block cars in or block any of our access roads and please be considerate of others when driving round and parking on our site.'



**CHEERY:** brightly coloured bikes marking out a new walking route have cheered up Fort William

## Bright bikes light up Fort

FOR MANY it has felt like summer was never coming to Fort William as dark and gloomy weather hung over the town.

But that changed with the arrival of 13 colourful bicycles popping up around the town centre and brightening up the grey days.

The bikes mark out a short walking route through the Fort and each stands beside a signpost displaying a different tip about recycling as part of

a new project by Fort William town team and Lochaber environmental group (LEG).

It is hoped this will reduce the waste of common household items as well as encouraging both visitors and locals to walk or cycle more.

The route takes in the High street, the waterfront and the Old Fort, ending at the West End roundabout.

Lewis Fyfe, zero waste project manager of LEG, said: 'There are many barriers to recycling,

one of which is the confusion about what can or can't be recycled.

'This recycle route will hopefully bring light to some of these confusions while creating a colourful attraction for the town and promoting walking as an alternative to car travel for short journeys.'

Even the bikes have been recycled by the Bike Station, a social enterprise based in Perth, which collects and repairs old bicycles.



## Delivering a glimpse of the past

**BACK IN THE DAY:** visitors to Roy Bridge could easily have believed they had travelled back in time when horse-drawn carriages made their way through the village. The unusual sight was a fundraising trip from Kingussie to mark 100 years since the last run of the old mail coach. The delivery service regularly travelled the 74 miles west with the post until it was replaced by a motor vehicle in 1915. The event raised more than £4,000 for the Cairngorms riding for the disabled association. Photo Gillies Campbell



Lochaber high school sixth years, Fiona MacEachan and Oskar Wineberg, welcomed Holocaust survivor Joanna Millan, second left, after visiting Auschwitz last year with drama teacher, Jacqi Hume

## Holocaust survivor enlightens pupils

A HOLOCAUST survivor visited Lochaber high school last week to help pupils understand about life during Nazi Germany.

Local people joined the third year pupils to hear from Joanna Millan, born in Berlin in 1942. Ms Millan, a Jew, gave a presentation as part of the visit organised by the Holocaust educational trust before answering questions.

Sixth year pupils, Oskar Wineberg and Fiona MacEachan, were particularly fascinated after visiting Auschwitz last year and passed on their experiences to younger children at the school.

Jim Sutherland, head teacher at Lochaber high, said: 'It was a privilege for us to welcome Joanna Millan to our school and her testimony will remain a powerful reminder of the horrors so many experienced.'

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# Disgraced PC lied over his brutal attack on passenger

COURT TOLD ARGUMENT OVER OPEN WINDOW CAUSED EX-OFFICER TO 'FLIP'

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

A BATON-wielding Oban police officer who launched a brutal assault on a man involved in a taxi fare row was sentenced to 24 months behind bars.

Disgraced former Police Scotland constable, Ronald John MacBrayne, 44, appeared at Oban sheriff court on Tuesday to be sentenced for the unprovoked attack and lying about the incident.

He had previously admitted hitting a man with his baton and causing injury to his legs and head, as well as falsifying a crime report at a hearing in Oban sheriff court on May 13.

The victim, and three of his friends, had been 'offered' a lift from Taynuilt to Oban by police officers in the early hours of October 27, 2013 to pay a taxi fare they had failed to settle earlier in the evening.

An argument over an open window in the police car, caused MacBrayne, who lived in Benderloch at the time, to 'flip'.

He attacked one of the men by seizing him, pulling him from the police vehicle and striking him on the legs and body with a police baton.

Later on in the journey to Oban, MacBrayne got into the back seat beside the victim and struck his head against the door

**“ This was a protracted assault in two parts with the use of your police baton as a weapon. This was reprehensible behaviour. You then went on to write a report that would have drawn your fellow officers to pervert the course of justice ”**

SHERIFF RUTH ANDERSON QC

frame of the car. At the hearing, Oban sheriff court heard that MacBrayne had to be pulled off his victim by a fellow officer.

MacBrayne 'fictionalised' the incident when he handed over his written report to senior officers. He claimed the victim was abusive, aggressive, and violent and had tried to escape. He also stated that the man had tried to bite him.

He admitted he had tried to pervert the course of justice

with the false report. Defence lawyer, Ian Moir, claimed that MacBrayne had been suffering from stress at work and had tried to raise the matter with senior colleagues.

After the incident, MacBrayne moved to Puerto Ventura in the Canary Islands with his wife and two children, but came back to stay with his father for the hearing.

Mr Moir said: 'Mr MacBrayne has had a long history of exem-

plary service. His family have given generations of service to the police. He is ashamed of his behaviour and is entirely clear of the gravity of the situation.'

While Mr Moir said he did not want to blame one person in the Oban police office for not taking MacBrayne's mental ill health seriously, he said the accused 'should have been offered help'.

'When he went for help from senior officers, it was dismissed,' he claimed.

Addressing MacBrayne, Sheriff Ruth Anderson, QC, said: 'You recognise the seriousness of this case.'

'This was a protracted assault in two parts with the use of your police baton as a weapon.'

'This was reprehensible behaviour. You then went on to write a report that would have drawn your fellow officers to pervert the course of justice.'

Sheriff Anderson continued: 'The public must have the confidence in the police. Especially in an area like this where police officers live and their families belong and where they are known personally by those people who know the law and those who don't.'

As Sheriff Anderson told MacBrayne he would be 'imprisoned from today', the court watched in silence as he was handcuffed and taken from the courtroom.



SHAMED: John MacBrayne arriving at Oban sheriff court

## TIMESLINE

### NY tea for two has the aroma of Mull

TEA grown in Mull was served at a high-powered meeting in New York yesterday between US president Barack Obama and Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon.

Chai, a stem tea grown by Liz and Martin Gibson from Lochdon, was on the menu at the five-star Lowell Hotel in New York's Upper East side.

The couple started growing tea last year in their sea-level garden. Liz, who is a Church of Scotland minister, said: 'It is all very exciting.'

### Still walking tall after mixed result

OBAN walking football team had a day of mixed results at last weekend's Scottish championships held in Edinburgh.

Team captain Maggie Dougal, from Argyll Voluntary Action, said: 'We won one and lost the rest.'

'However, it was a great day.'

### Work in progress on seafront plan

STAFFORD Street pedestrianisation in Oban is running behind schedule.

The £1.5 million 'enhancement' works were due to be finished by May.

But the council was unable to confirm when the project would be completed.

### Parking charges back on agenda

A PETITION was handed to Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee yesterday, Wednesday, asking the local authority to scrap parking charges at Ganavan Sands.

Councillors said they would consider the request.

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## More staff plea to tackle foul problem

A GROUP set up to tackle the problem of dog fouling in Oban town centre is demanding more council staff to deal with the problem.

The Community Action on Dog Fouling group is holding a meeting on the foul matter with

Argyll and Bute council officials, housing associations and local councillors in Oban's Corran Halls today, Thursday.

Community councillor, Julie MacKenzie, said: 'The whole community needs to support us by making sure they are record-

ing any fouling problems with the local authority.'

'It is a simple matter of making sure that the people who are offending by letting their dogs foul, are fined.'

'The council needs more staff to do that.'

## Mail sale 'threatens island deliveries'

PLANS to sell off the UK government's remaining stake in Royal Mail will cause huge problems to people who live in rural areas, says the MP for the Western Isles (Na h-Eileanan an Iar), Angus MacNeil.

The Western Isles politician

has condemned the plans to privatise the remaining 30 per cent stake in the mail service.

Mr MacNeil said: 'The move further threatens postal deliveries to the Highlands and Islands under the terms of the Universal Service Obligation (USO).

'The USO safeguards postal services and deliveries in rural areas such as the Highlands and islands.'

He questioned the legitimacy of the government move, as they made no reference to it in the run up to the general election.

## Lifeboat rescues research craft

KYLE lifeboat was called out to assist a 54-foot research craft at the weekend.

Stornoway coastguard shouted the volunteer royal national lifeboat institution (RNLI) team when the whale and dolphin research boat ran into difficulty in the Ratagan area of Loch Duich on Saturday afternoon.

The Spirit of Fred Olsen launched at 4.48pm to rescue the RV Silurian when it began dragging anchor and the three crew on board were unable to start the engine.

The Silurian had come close to grounding on the shore so a tow was established to carry the vessel to deeper water before a temporary repair was carried out so the engine could be started.

One member of the RNLI crew said: 'Luckily one of our volunteers who was on the crew for this callout was the lifeboat mechanic and he was able to make a temporary repair to the vessel's engine.'

'The location and size of the vessel along with the changeable, squally weather conditions closer to Kyle meant it would have been a tricky tow back if the engines could not have been started.'



THINK SAFE: children were asked to pick a safe stopping distance for a car and placed a dummy there. The car hit the dummy every time

## Think safe is the message to pupils

ALMOST 200 primary seven pupils from across Lochaber gathered in Fort William to learn about looking after themselves and each other.

The children looked at bullying, safety online and on the road as well as hazards including house fires, electricals, water and alcohol abuse.

Interactive sessions on each area were delivered from Highland council and police, fire, coastguard and ambulance personnel at Safe High-

lander day, held at the Nevis centre on Monday. Thomas MacLennan, Lochaber area leader for Highland council, said: 'This is an important event for the safety of our children as they move from primary school to secondary and the sudden freedom they start to enjoy. That freedom opens up more risk and it is essential we raise the awareness of our children to the different dangers that may exist. Safe Highlander does this in a fun and non-threatening way.'

## Owners warned to keep buildings in good repair

DANGEROUS buildings in Argyll and Bute council area must be regularly repaired.

In a press release from the local authority, a spokesman told council taxpayers the 'ultimate responsibility for the maintenance of a property lies with the owner'.

He went on to say: 'The council will take action against buildings considered to be an imminent danger to public safety.'

'The main role of the council's building standards service is to maintain public safety in and around buildings.'

'It is their responsibility, on behalf of the council, to ensure

that any risk to the public caused by dangerous buildings is removed.'

Formal notices may require the immediate evacuation of the dangerous building.

Argyll and Bute council's planning spokesman, councillor David Kinniburgh, said: 'The general upkeep of a building is the responsibility of the owner. Our buildings standards team will only intervene when a building is imminently dangerous to public safety. Regular routine repairs will ensure buildings retain their value.'

To report a dangerous building phone 01546 605514 during office hours.



LITTER PROBLEM: Nicole Clark and Calum MacMillan holding an old mattress which they found in Dunollie woods

## Park school project unearths litter problem in woods

MATTRESS and fly tipping, the focus of Park primary pupils' most recent project, have helped the youngsters realise just how important the area is to residents.

The students have been learning about Dunollie Woods in Oban as part of a project to help understand the variety of species of plants and animals in the area.

The children created a survey for Dunollie residents to find out what they thought about the woods.

The response from the residents highlighted the importance of the woodland in the local community but also brought some problems to the fore. The major problem was litter.

The children decided to do a litter pick up to tidy up this popular part of the town and they were astounded to see how much litter there was.

## Extra funding for children's charity helping abuse victims in Argyll

CHILDREN in Argyll who have suffered from trauma and abuse will have extra services provided for them.

National charity Children 1st has been awarded £30,000 from the RS Macdonald trust and £1,500 from the Sylvia Aitken charitable trust.

Director of fundraising for Children 1st Kate Smith said: 'We are really grateful for this support which will help sustain vital local services.'

The support we provide to young people who have suffered abuse can ensure those experiences do not cloud the rest of their lives.'

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**Ferry special deal is sweet music to Tiree festival and volunteers alike**

**STAFF REPORTER**  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

FERRY operator Caledonian MacBrayne, a long-term backer of the Tiree Music Festival, has announced extra support for this year's event, which will take place between July 17 - 19.

The additional sponsorship will be used to meet the travelling costs of the ever-increasing army of unpaid volunteers as they make their way from Oban to help at the multi award-winning festival.

The one-off commitment from CalMac follows in the wake of the hugely popular 10th anniversary Skerryvore concert staged at Oban's Mossfield park at the beginning of the month.

Skerryvore band member Daniel Gillespie, together with friend, Stewart MacLennan, both Tiree islanders, founded the festival in 2010.

The event has steadily grown in popularity and won the accolade of best small music festival in the UK last year.

The additional support will also strengthen the growing relationship between the festival organisers and CalMac.

Stewart, the Tiree Music Festival director, said: 'We would like to thank CalMac for their sponsorship over the years.'

'As the festival has grown both in size and duration over the past six years, their support has been immeasurable.'

'We are delighted that they have been able to offer additional sponsorship this year which will be used to reduce the travelling expenses of our much needed volunteers from Oban to the island.'

'This year is set to be our best yet, with plenty of local foodie produce, family fun and a stellar line up including The Fratellis, Funbox, Skerryvore, Manran and Calmac Culture Music winner, Little Fire to name a few.'

# Play group charts its course for a spectacular autumn adventure

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

A PLAY park fit for all the children of Oban and far beyond will soon get under way, thanks to the 'incredible' fundraising power of townfolk.

There will be something for everyone at the park, based near Atlantis Leisure, with basket swings, inclusive swings, flat seats, rope end swings, zip wires, wide slides, fly mobile spinners and climbing rocks, not to mention a galleon with pole sliders and tunnels.

Friends of Oban Community Playpark said they were 'delighted' to announce the contract to build the five-to-15-year-old play park has been awarded to Northamptonshire-based Wickstead Playspaces.

It is scheduled to be up and running by autumn this year.

The group said the winning design included a ship with a six-metre high climbing tower, fireman's pole, scramble nets

and climbing rocks. The play park will have an easy access wide slide, rocking surf board and colourful 'eco-tumble' resin-bound flooring, which will allow buggies and wheelchairs to move around easily.

The special surface will also minimise the impact of the inevitable trips and falls as children explore the park and test their abilities.

Ground preparations, including drainage on-site, will ensure the park can cope with the ever-changeable Argyll weather.

There will even be a wooden shelter to keep off sun and rain, with open sides to discourage after-hours use.

The £172,000 contract has been funded by Sport Scotland, Scottish Sea Farms, The Robertson Trust, Crerar Hotels Trust, plus many donations from local groups including MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust, ABCD, the Lions club, Health and Wellbeing Network, Oban Rotary club and the Oban Common

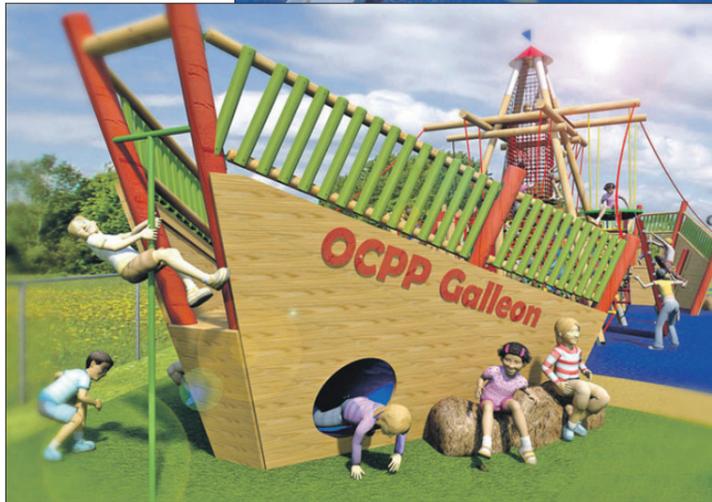
Good Fund. Local businesses and individuals have made up the rest of the funding, with donations pouring in since the play park's closure in February 2014.

Lyndsay Elliott, of the play park group, said: 'Without the incredible support of our community, Argyll and Bute council and Atlantis Leisure's help, we would simply not be in the position we are today, and we look forward to a big party for everyone when the park is opened in the autumn.'

The play park group is still working hard with ongoing fund-raising to upgrade the path in the garden area and provide multi-sensory play equipment.

It also plans to build a new play park for under fives, on the site of the old play park, where temporary swings have recently been put up for use in the meantime.

**SWASHBUCKLING:** (right) a six-metre high climbing tower and (below) a galleon are just some of the attractions awaiting Oban's children when the new play park opens in the autumn



**PLAYTIME:** play park playmates Alex, Liam (centre) and Alfie with their trusted friend 'Socktopus'

**TIMESLINE**

**Heartless theft of graveside light**

CRUEL thieves who stole a solar light from a 17-year-old teenager's graveside have been branded 'heartless' by a grieving mum.

Tracey Goldie, of Oban, who lost her son Scott to a rare infection in April 2014, was horrified when she visited Pennyfuir graveyard last week to discover the expensive lights had been stolen.

Tracey said: 'I never wanted the light to go out on Scott.'

'We have had various solar lights at his graveside and none of them have lasted very long.'

'We paid a fair bit of money for the one that was stolen.'

'I could not believe it when some heartless individual had taken it. Why would anyone do anything like this?'

Anyone who has any information about the incident should contact the police by phoning 101.

**A sad ending to a happy experience**

CHILDREN who attended Happy House in Oban are invited to a commemorative garden party as the preschool prepares to close.

Anyone who had a connection with the Albany street nursery over the 20 years since it opened is invited to attend this Saturday (June 13).

Beryl Carmichael, a member of the Happy House management board, said: 'After 20 years we're closing at the end of June. It's really sad to see it go so hopefully a lot of people can come along from 1pm to say goodbye.'

**Centre waiting on a flood of visitors**

THE ATLANTIC Islands centre on Luing will have its official opening this Saturday, June 13 from 11am.

The centre hosts a historical museum, art gallery, restaurant and work spaces for small business.

## Party with Rocky as trust celebrates

AN OPEN invitation to a party celebrating the purchase of school in Oban has been issued to townfolk.

The celebration at The Rockfield Centre this Saturday will see music, dancing, Gaelic and art activities on the agenda as well as some delicious cup cakes.

The event takes place in the building's car park and huts area with burgers and refreshments on hand throughout the day.

Everyone is being asked to bring along a cup cake to build a giant celebration Rockfield Centre cake.

Gordon McNab, chairman of Oban Communities Trust, said: 'A warm welcome is extended to everyone to our celebration party this Saturday.'

'The community has achieved so much to date. If you just want to know what is going on, then come along. This is your community project, get involved and see the change begin.'

The event takes place in the building's car park and huts area starting at 11am and continuing until 3pm.



**PARTY TIME:** a colourful and conspicuous invitation to Rockfield

## Expenses claims fall as the belt tightens at Kilmory Castle

FIGURES released from council headquarters at Kilmory Castle show that councillors' expenses fell in the last year by more than £40,000.

The total bill for Argyll and Bute's 36 councillors was reduced from £864,844 in 2013/14 to £824,076 in 2014/15 for salaries, mileage and accommodation.

The wage bill for last year cost £681,653 with an extra £142,423 spent on mileage, the provost's car, accommodation, meals and ferry travel.

In Oban, Lorn and the Isles, the highest claim was made by Mull councillor, Alistair MacDougall, who spent £7,719. His bill included £3,426 on mileage, £1,853 on accommodation and £441 on meals on top of his enhanced salary of £21,538.64.

The lowest spender was Oban councillor, Neil MacIntyre, who claimed £106 on mileage and £193 on accommodation, in addition to his salary of £13,508. The highest overall expenses claim was recorded by Islay councillor, Robin Currie. Mr Currie spent £19,353 on his expenses, including £9,161.05 on accommodation and £5,695 on mileage. The Islay councillor also earns a salary of £23,630.

Council leader Dick Walsh's salary and expenses bill was £42,669. Helensburgh-based deputy leader Ellen Morton's bill was £33,884, spending £8,166.30 for the provost's car. While salary costs remained almost static for last year, expenses fell by some £39,873.



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## Trotternish Bridge race shortened

### Athletics



**EDGED:** Skye runner Donnie Campbell edged the competition to take first place in this year's Trotternish ridge race

STRONG winds and the prospect of heavy rain on the Isle of Skye forced organisers to shorten this year's Trotternish ridge race from 17 to 12 miles.

Only 44 of the 75 runners signed up were hardy enough to show up on the day and it was Skye man Donnie Campbell who finished first in one hour, 50 minutes and 49 seconds.

From the start point at Flodigarry, competitors enjoyed the sheltered opening miles before being exposed to gale force winds as they battled along seven miles of the Trotternish ridge before descending from Bealach na Leacach to finish in Glen Hinnisdal.

The conditions didn't stop the race being hotly contested and Campbell only edged ahead of second Konrad Rawlik on the final descent. First lady and fourth overall was Jasmin Paris, of Carnethy, who finished in 1:59:44.

Top 10 finishers: 1 Donnie Campbell 1:50:49; 2 Konrad Rawlik 1:51:03; 3 Alex Glasgow 1:51:36; 4 Jasmin Paris 1:59:44; 5 Jon Gay 2:00:15; 6 Alex McVey 2:05:33; 7 Huw Oliver 2:09:17; 8 Dave Cummins 2:09:22; 9 Niall Till 2:15:08; 10 Anthony Hemmings 2:16:51.

## No dinghies in dinghy race

### One peak race



**PEAKED:** Gary MacDonald finishes the Lochaber dinghy one peak race in record time

GARY MacDonald showed he is a man of many sporting talents when he came first in the Lochaber dinghy one peak race.

The annual event came with a twist this year, there were no dinghies. Poor weather meant the sailing element involved carrying the competitors across Loch Linnhe in rigid inflatable boats.

Kinlochleven biker MacDonald showed he can also take on sailing and hill running, completing the three kilometre route in 29 minutes and 22 seconds. Organisers said this was the fastest since the current format began six years ago.

Best female went to Marie Meldrum who finished in 40 minutes and 27 seconds.

Top five finishers: 1 Gary MacDonald 29:22; 2 Ewan Thorburn 31:47; 3 Pawel Cymbalista 34:27; 4 Niall MacBeath 39:37; 5 Marie Meldrum 40:27.

# Cowan bowls them all over

GARY Cowan swept the board in this year's Lochaber ten pin bowling singles league.

On the final night of the competition, Cowan was named overall scratch league winner with 181 points, winner of the men's scratch competition with 95 points and overall handicap leader on 173 points. Cowan also took first place in the men's handicap competition and just missed out on the Nevis Radio high pin trophy, won by Pam Weller who rolled 4152, just one pin more than second place Cowan.

Weller also had success in the ladies scratch competition, winning with 35 points, and took second place in the overall scratch league with 174 points.

Rossamy Wareing's 27 points won her the ladies handicap competition, followed by Mo Mason with 24 points.

Results: Scratch league 1 Gary Cowan, 181 pts; 2 Pam Weller, 174 pts; 3 Darren Duncan, 162 pts. Men's scratch competition 1 Gary Cowan, 95 pts; 2 Darren Duncan, 79 pts; 3 Brian Stewart, 78 pts. Ladies scratch competition 1 Pam Weller, 35 pts; 2 Rossamy Wareing, 29 pts; 3 Jean Fisher, 17 pts. Handicap league 1 Gary Cowan, 173 pts; 2 Darren Duncan, 154 pts; 3 Ben Weller 153 pts. Men's handicap competition 1 Gary Cowan, 88 pts; 2 James Porter 73 pts; 3 Ben Weller 72 pts. Ladies handicap 1 Rossamy Wareing, 27 pts; 2 Mo Mason, 24 pts; 3 Jean Fisher, 23 pts. Nevis Radio high pin trophy: 1 Pam Weller, 4152 pins; 2 Gary Cowan, 4151 pins; 3 Darren Duncan, 3976 pins.



**BOWLED OVER:** Winners of the Lochaber ten pin bowling singles league. Gary Cowan is second from the left. f24bowling1no



## Crook is crowned Lochaber table tennis champion

STEVEN Crook was crowned winner of this year's Lochaber table tennis league, division one.

Monte Bleasdale took second place in the top set and Jonathon Ewers was winner for division two, closely followed by Stuart Steele.

Brothers Frederik and Jonathon Ewers were champions of the doubles competition, followed by Monte Bleasdale and Jim Hinchley.

After two second-place awards, Bleasdale finally came top of a contest, taking first place in

**WINNERS:** Prize winners from this season's Lochaber table tennis league. From left: Jim Hinchley, Jonathon Ewers, Monte Bleasdale, Aileen McFadzean and Stuart Steele

### Table tennis

the straight singles, followed by Richard Blakey.

Young Jonathon Ewers took the trophy for handicap singles, his sibling Frederik Ewers close behind.

Frederik Ewers also won most improved player after joining the club at the start of this season and the award for most committed player went to Aileen McFadzean.

The 205-16 season is due to start on Monday October 5 in the Nevis centre. The club is open to members of all experience levels.

For more information email enquiries@tabletennisfortwilliam.org.uk or see www.tabletennisfortwilliam.org.uk

## Fort William youth footballers celebrate successful season

FORT William youth football club celebrated the end of a successful season after entering the Moray Firth under 13s league.

Originally an under 10s team, coaches Mark Rydings, David McDonald and

Stevie Pearson, took over at the end of last year and expanded to include older children. This allowed them to enter the Firth league and in February they played their first home game in three years.

The boys have played in three tourna-

ments this season and won one and have only lost one of the six games they have played.

After just six months, two players, Eathan Cairns and Jamie McConnell, have been taken on by Inverness Caldo-

### Youth football

nian Thistle. Another two players travel to Fort William from Achacrae up to three times a week to take part in training and games.



**SUCCESSFUL SEASON:** Fort William youth football club enjoyed their first season as an under 13s club 20. f24football01

## Fort on the lookout for new players as six decide to leave

### Football

FORT William manager, Calum MacLean, will have his eyes peeled for new players after six of his men announced the end of their time at Claggan Park.

Last season's player of the year Callum MacLean (no relation) Andrew Hardwick, Kenny MacKenzie, Andreas Broomfield, Willie Gemmell and James Whyte have all put an end to their time at the Fort.

Club vice chairman, David MacDonald, said: 'As disappointing as this is, football is a game that is always evolving, and we, as a football club, will move on. We have become a victim of our own success and, as painful as that is, it now gives opportunities for new players to come in and stamp their authority on the team.'

Many current and new players have put pen to paper, as young player of the year, Robin Harvey, signed a new contract, along with teammate Barna Tot, trialist Andrew MacPherson and Duncan Lamont, who played a brief spell with Fort Mechanics last season. They join the six current players who extended their contracts the previous week.

## Cool top Lochaber welfare league

### Welfare football

CAOL United have leaptfrogged to the top of the Marine Harvest welfare league with two strong wins.

The Fort William team beat the Volley 7-1 last Tuesday before thrashing Lundavra 13-2 on Thursday, taking the top spot with 12 points in four games.

Behind them are Mallaig who also have 12 points after winning 3-1 against Lochaber, but are a game ahead of Caol. Mallaig's second game of the week against the Volley was cancelled due to a waterlogged pitch.

Also in the league, Ballachulish picked up their first points with a 3-1 victory against Nevis Range.

This week Lundavra were due to play Mallaig on Monday, Caol United were up against Ballachulish on Tuesday. Last night Lundavra were due to play their second game of the week, this time against Nevis Range, while the Volley and Ballachulish prepare for tonight's (Thursday) clash. Tomorrow, Lochaber will take on top of the league, Caol United.

League table (as of June 8)

| Team         | P | Pts |
|--------------|---|-----|
| Caol United  | 4 | 12  |
| Mallaig      | 5 | 12  |
| Lochaber     | 4 | 9   |
| Lundavra     | 5 | 9   |
| Ballachulish | 4 | 3   |
| The Volley   | 4 | 3   |
| Nevis Range  | 6 | 0   |

## Top award for Portree primary

### Physical education

A SKYE school has won a prestigious award for delivering top class physical education.

Portree primary school was awarded gold status by Sports Scotland for providing opportunities for all pupils to take part in sport and other fitness activities, including extra curricular events.

The island school is the first in the Highland region to receive gold status and is one of just 82 across Scotland.

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**WEATHER**

**Thursday** Cloudy  
Winds light westerly  
Temperatures 8°C to 13°C.

**Friday** Cloudy with light rain showers  
Winds light north westerly  
Temperatures 8°C to 13°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Cloudy on Saturday  
Cloudy on Sunday  
Winds light north westerly  
Temperatures 7°C to 12°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, June 11, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

| Date | am                                      | pm | Ardrishaig | Mallaig |
|------|---|----|------------|---------|
| Thur | 00.37 3.3 06.58 1.3 13.15 3.0 19.21 1.3 |    | -5.35      | +0.25   |
| Fri  | 02.00 3.3 08.07 1.2 14.30 3.1 20.32 1.2 |    | -5.30      | +0.55   |
| Sat  | 03.03 3.5 09.09 1.1 15.24 3.3 21.37 1.1 |    | -0.47      | +0.16   |
| Sun  | 03.56 3.6 10.02 1.0 16.09 3.5 22.32 0.9 |    | 2.00       | +5.30   |
| Mon  | 04.42 3.7 10.49 0.9 16.51 3.7 23.22 0.9 |    |            |         |
| Tues | 05.24 3.8 11.32 0.8 17.30 3.8 ** ** *   |    |            |         |
| Wed  | 00.08 0.8 06.02 3.8 12.14 0.7 18.09 3.9 |    |            |         |

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Oban to Barra/South Uist | Moderate |
| Oban to Coll/Tiree       | Moderate |
| Kennacraig to Islay      | Moderate |