

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8258

Thursday 2 July, 2015

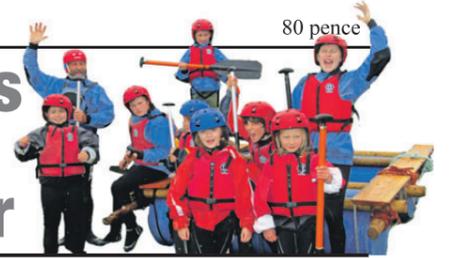
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### Lorne Highland Games

### School's out for summer



# Campaigners call a halt to car park hike

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PLANS to charge cash-strapped workers for parking in Oban town centre has been condemned by community campaigners.

And another council-driven scheme to charge tourists 'even more money' to park on Mull was described by the island's business community as 'simply unacceptable'.

The consultation plans from Argyll and Bute council for vehicle parking charges in Oban and Mull were rejected on Monday evening by Oban community council.

Chairwoman of the town's community council, Marri Malloy (pictured), said: 'It is a load of rubbish. We are penalising the people who get off their couches and work for a living.'

'Why on earth the council wants to put another tax on them is beyond me. Why are we taking away from the people who work?'

'If the council get their way on this, there will be no return. People need the free parking at Lochavullin and Atlantis. It might only be an extra couple of pounds for a morning or afternoon, but every single penny adds up. The council cannot get away with this.'

Community councillor, George Berry, who runs a van-driving business in Soroba, said: 'People are starting to talk very badly about parking in Oban. The reviews online make me feel very sad. Bringing in even harsher parking charges will only chase people away.'

Mr Berry continued: 'It is already really bad. One day I sat and watched the hospital car



park and I was alarmed at the number of people of high standing, park in the grounds and then walk down the road.'

'Hospital staff and patients cannot get into the car park because other people are taking the spaces.'

'The message we are giving to people is that they are not welcome here - if you drive.'

'We may as well put a sign at the top of the Bealach an Rìgh that says, "Oban is closed for business".'

'What sort of a way is that to make people welcome.'

Community councillor, Jessie MacFarlane, of Glencruitten, said: 'The money we pay doesn't even stay in the town or on the islands, as it is distributed throughout the entire Argyll and Bute council area.'

Islanders in Mull and on Iona are annoyed that the plans would discourage people from parking and spending the day in Fionnphort, Tobermory and on Iona.

A spokesman for businesses on Iona said: 'While we encourage responsible parking, charging for car parking in Fionnphort will make it even more expensive for people to come to Iona.'

'It is already expensive enough. The car park is not fit for purpose

anyway. Drivers will just find other places to park their cars where it is free because there is no one here to move them on.'

Senior Oban councillor, Elaine Robertson, who was the only elected member present at the community council meeting, said: 'We are encouraging everyone to have their say on the future of parking in Oban.'

Duncan Martin, community councillor, added: 'If we don't tell the council how strongly we feel about this - then they won't know.'

Chairman of the council's Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee, councillor Roddy McCuish, said: 'What we as a council are trying to do is improve the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area for both residents and visitors.'

'These proposals represent what we think is, within reason, a fair reflection of what people want.'

'We want to time limit at the Atlantis Leisure and Lochavullin car parks to restrict medium to long-term parking, creating a good turnover of spaces, rather than people leaving their cars there all day while they are at work.'

'We will also consider charging in the Lochavullin car park.'

'On Mull, with the introduction of the road equivalent tariff making it cheaper for visitors to go over on the ferry, we need to introduce a system to manage this increased traffic and ensure new visitors to the island park responsibly.'

'We are also hoping to extend the car park at Fionnphort, creating more spaces which we think will be needed.'

## Islay's cheers to the Prince



The Duke of Rothesay was 'Prince Charming' on Friday as he met workers at two Islay distilleries and a visitor centre on the island. Laphroaig distillery worker Bryony Boyd's crowning moment (above) came as she chatted to Prince Charles. See page four for a full round-up of the Royal visit

## ACHA to build 27 homes

TWENTY seven new homes are to be built by a social housing charity in Oban and Connel.

Argyll Community Housing Association, (ACHA), will build 17 homes at Glenshellach and 10 at St Oran's Place, Connel. Both developments are starting on site this month, bringing an investment of £4,145,000 for the projects.

Funding support for the social housing has come from

a £1.7million grant from the Scottish government, a contribution of £675,000 from Argyll and Bute council and £1.7 million from ACHA.

The new properties will range in size from one to four-bedrooms. Both developments will be built by M and K MacLeod Construction of Lochgilphead.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's chief executive, said: 'I am delighted that after a lot of hard work, the partnership between

the Scottish government, Argyll and Bute council and ACHA has brought this to bear.'

'This is good news for those who need an affordable home as well as being an important stimulus for jobs and the local economy.'

'We believe that the construction phase will sustain 69 full-time jobs over 15 months, of which five will be for apprentices.'

## TIMESLINE

### Lidl to start work on Oban premises

SUPERMARKET chain Lidl has now received planning permission for its new Oban store in the former Co-op site.

Lidl has appointed contractors, who are scheduled to start this Monday (July 6).

The first phase of work will see the demolition of the existing supermarket building on Soroba Road. Due to public safety concerns, the entire site will be closed off, including the existing car park area.

The new store is scheduled to open in early 2016.

### Get head start for town's raft race

THE Great Oban Raft Race, sponsored by George Street Fish and Chips restaurant, will take place this year on Saturday, August 8, on the town centre beach.

For entry forms and details of how to get involved, contact Brian Simmonds of Oban and Lorn Lions Club on 07712 667542 or 01631 570754.

### Tory urges voters to talk about EU

HIGHLANDS and Islands Tory MSP, Jamie McGrigor, is urging constituents to speak out about the proposed referendum on the UK's membership of the EU.

McGrigor made the call after the Scottish parliament's European and External Affairs committee discussed the issue.

### Rope tangled in yacht's propeller

THE Oban RNLI lifeboat was called out on Tuesday to assist a yacht which had a rope caught around its propeller.

There were two people on the yacht near the Sound of Luing. The rope was cut and the yacht skipper proceeded to Oban.



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## Flagging spirits over the Saltire

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A BID to have the Saltire flag flying throughout the heartland of the Highlands and Islands on most days of the year, was rejected by Argyll and Bute councillors at a meeting of the full council.

Last Thursday, beleaguered opposition leader, Sandy Taylor, was sent home for a second time to think again on flying the Scottish flag in Argyll.

Councillor Taylor, an SNP member, said he will 'try, try again' to have the national flag flown

throughout the council area - but was told he will have to wait six months.

Council guidelines permit the Saltire to be flown six days a year - with the union flag in place for a similar amount of time.

According to the council's own accounts, during the financial year 2014/15, it spent £977 on buying flags with the council's coat of arms emblazoned upon it, a Freedom of Information request has revealed.

This was almost double the next highest figure of any other local authority. The Saltire was flown

regularly in Argyll until 2013.

Councillor Taylor, from Mid Argyll, said: 'This is something that is not going to go away. There are constituents who want the Saltire, the county's flag to be flown.'

'At the council meeting there was no opportunity to discuss the matter as it was at the end of a very long meeting.'

'The council rules do not allow the matter to be discussed for a further six months. But as soon as I can, I will return with another plea to the full council.'

## Ferry union is 'disappointed'

A UNION boss is 'hugely disappointed' over claims that CalMac is unwilling to hold talks following last week's strike by ferry workers which led to three days of travel chaos.

RMT Scotland spokesman Gordon Martin said: 'Talks were cancelled on Monday by CalMac due to unforeseen circumstances. Since then I have left a number of messages to try to re-arrange. It is totally disrespectful that CalMac has not returned my calls.'

'We have a meeting scheduled for today (Thursday) to discuss pension proposals but, of course, we will take the opportunity to seek a resolution.'

'It's fair to say I'm hugely disappointed by the lack of response.'

See page two for full story.

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## High school's tunes of glory

OBAN high school took an 'amazing' fourth place at the European pipe band championships in Forres last weekend.

Dedicated pipers and drummers left the town at 3.45am in the wee small hours of Saturday morning to compete against hundreds of other contestants.

Pipers and drummers from far and wide, in over a hundred bands, competed to be European champions in their grade.

In the prestigious and biggest piping event of the year - the youngsters from Oban were graded in fourth place in the novice juvenile class.

## Dance record bid on hold

DUE to 'operational' problems, the third attempt on the Strip the Willow world record will not go ahead in Oban this Saturday as planned.

Organisers are now hoping the record attempt will take place at a later date.

Graeme Bass, chairman of organisers BID4Oban, said: 'Sadly, due to operational reasons, we are not able to host the Strip the Willow at this time.'

'We apologise for any inconvenience caused and hope everyone uses the extra time to be prepared to become record breakers in the near future.'

## Scotland hero to visit Oban

FORMER Rangers, Liverpool and Scotland international footballer, Graeme Souness, will open the newly refurbished Rockport hotel, Tweedale Street, Oban, on Tuesday July 7, at 6pm.

Souness, now a commentator for Sky Sports Television, is one of the most decorated players in the history of Scottish football, having won five championships as a midfielder with Liverpool and three European Cups. Souness, who was capped 54 times by his country, also led Rangers to three Scottish Premier League titles and four Scottish League Cups as a manager during a five-year spell at Ibrox.

## Praise indeed for town plan

WORKS and improvements on Stafford Street were praised by Oban community council.

Calling the newly installed glass feature 'beautiful', community councillors said the project had also the merit of coming in on budget.

Chairwoman Marri Malloy said: 'It is beautiful and I think it will add to the town of Oban.'

## Revitalisation of Ganavan Sands

A MEETING was held last night, Wednesday, in Oban's Corran Halls to discuss parking and plans for the regeneration of Ganavan Sands.

A business plan was presented to the meeting by the group set up to oppose parking charges at the popular Oban beauty spot.

The plan outlined ways in which the area could be revitalised. A survey completed by the group heard that only one person had said they thought the council did a 'very good job' at managing the beach and car park.

Community councillor Murdo MacKenzie said: 'The regeneration for the area is being led by two volunteers.'

'I have seen some of the early plans and they look very good. They are looking at having a café, an affordable area for the shinty teams to use as well as other things.'

'It will be paid for through leasing the area and the organisations that use it. I think it is a great idea to bring Ganavan back into full use.'

## Calls for port links to be improved

A CALL for the re-instatement of a regular passenger and vehicle ferry service between Dunoon and Gourrock has been made by Argyll and Bute council.

Councillors agreed at a meeting last week that the current Transport Scotland operated passenger ferry between the town centre ports is not suitable and needs to be enhanced. The contract for the service is due to go out to tender later this year.

# Volunteers help to stop the rot at Rockfield Centre

WORK has started on removing the dry rot in The Rockfield Centre in Oban.

Volunteer teams have been working with professionals to cut out and remove the former gym floor which has been ravaged with the fungus.

Treatment work is now starting on the surrounding rooms and walls since dry rot has spread extensively throughout the B-listed Victorian school building.

Contractors have volunteered in both helping to remove the rot and undertaking maintenance work to stop water coming in as the first step towards making the building wind and watertight.

Gordon McNab, chairman of Oban Communities Trust, which secured the building for the community, said: 'We are very grateful to everyone who has offered help and been involved in removing debris so far and to the Argyll Resources Group for providing skips for the waste material.'

'All help given is being noted and will be acknowledged within the building when it is finished.'

He added: 'We will shortly be contacting businesses in the area to ask for funding to help us reach our target of £100,000.'

'This is essential to complete the initial phase of working on the building.'

'The public has already been extremely generous and we are now turning to the business sector to do the same and help us get the building fit for purpose.'

Meanwhile, planning permission is in the final stages for refurbishment work on the huts.

Work will shortly be starting on general upgrading and to enable disabled access in preparation for letting to tenants.

Volunteers from The Salvation Army's Shed will be starting work on the railings surrounding the centre.

These will be rust-proofed and painted over the course of the next few months.



WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY: Project worker, Eleanor MacKinnon, shows off a hidden window at The Rockfield Centre in Oban

# Port in a storm: islanders and tourists cope with the ferry workers' strike

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IT was certainly a major inconvenience, but that's not something entirely unusual to hardy islanders who stoically coped with last week's CalMac ferry workers' strike.

Holidaymakers certainly had their plans disrupted, while islanders were forced to deal with three days of travel chaos following the RMT union's 24-hour walkout.

Two-thirds of state-owned CalMac's services were cancelled last Friday over a dispute that centres on the ferry routes being put out to tender due to EU laws. CalMac face competition from private firm, Serco, with concerns that both will undergo cost-cutting measures to win the tender.

Transport workers union, RMT, have demanded jobs, pensions and work conditions must remain unchanged regardless of who wins the £1-billion tender, CalMac or Serco.

RMT represent around half of CalMac's 1,400 workforce and their walkout meant Oban harbour had two ships side by side in port on Friday, with holidaymakers stranded and islanders' lives disrupted.

However, both showed degrees of forbearance even though ferry routes serving Mull, Islay, Bute, Arran, Coll and Tiree were affected for three days and the strike had



THIN RED LINE: the RMT union picket line in Oban harbour last Friday

an effect on all 49 of CalMac's ports, including its busiest hub at Oban.

Neil Brett, 50, a shop worker of Colchester, Essex, had to wait over 26 hours in Oban to catch his ferry to Barra, where he and his mother were holidaying.

Mr Brett said: 'We both love the outdoors and it is a bit annoying, but the staff in Oban at the CalMac ticket office couldn't have been more helpful. I don't know why the strike is going ahead, but we have been put up in a hotel and

although we were supposed to go at 1pm on Friday and won't be leaving until 3.30pm on Saturday we will just have to make the most of our holiday.'

Organisers of the 'Barrathon' half marathon were concerned their event would be severely affected.

But Katie MacNeil of Cas-

tebay said it went ahead, albeit with lower numbers.

'We lost about 40 runners but 214 still made the start line,' she said.

'It was a fantastic day and we can only thank those who made the effort. Our last sailing from Oban was on Wednesday as Thursday and Friday were cancelled and the next one was Saturday at 1.30am, so we put the race back an hour to 11.40am so runners could get a bit more sleep. We were very worried that B and Bs would be down on numbers, but thankfully the overwhelming majority of runners still made it.'

Retired psychologist, Anne Gray, from Paisley, said she noticed Islay, where she was holidaying, was quieter than usual on Friday.

'But the ferry workers are not putting people's lives at risk,'

she said. Alistair Wilkie, 69, who runs the Knap guesthouse in Tarbert, said: 'About a third of our business comes from the Kennacraig to Islay route, but thankfully no-one cancelled.'

Michael Mirley, 65, planned to travel to Mull on Friday with his wife, Dorothy, but the strike meant he stayed in Oban.

'I think CalMac do a great job and another company getting the contract would worry me,' he said.

The RMT official picket line was unchallenged throughout Friday, although one employee did reveal that CalMac had laid on an extra service to Barra at 1.30am on Saturday for the 'Barrathon,' meaning a sleepless night for many strikers.

At least they could have gone to work that night on a full stomach as Oban Steak House offered strikers 50 per cent off all meals.



DESERTED: the ferry terminal at Oban

# Dredging restriction move a 'brave and necessary' step

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A DREDGING ban on pockets of the west coast is the only way to save the destruction of the seabed.

That is the view of fishermen who support the Scottish government's attempt to restrict dredging and trawling for shellfish by 2016.

Hailed as a 'brave' announcement by Holyrood to limit dredging and trawling in areas around the west coast, shellfish divers, nets men and creel gatherers, have said it is the only way to prevent an environmental disaster.

Wildlife tour boat operator and marine biologist, David Ainsley from the Isle of Seil, said: 'If these proposals are adopted, it will be good news for wildlife tourism, scallop divers, creelers and anglers and could save the critically endangered common skate.'

'Of the 4,900 responses to the recent Holyrood consultation, the vast majority called for more ambitious proposals to protect the Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), and Marine Protection Area, (MPAs), from damaging fishing activities.'

'The Scottish government has listened to these responses and recognises that our seas are a commonly owned asset and must be managed for the good of all.'

'The government has stated that these measures could have "a major transformative effect on inshore habitat" and this would see the expansion of recreational activities such as diving, sea-angling and other tourism



“It will be good news for wildlife tourism”

David Ainsley (Pictured)

alongside sustainable methods of fishing. This would obviously create more jobs and improve the economies of coastal communities.'

David added: 'The Firth of Lorne SAC was closed to scallop dredging eight years ago and tangle netting 10 years ago.'

'I have been a diver, creel fisherman and charter skipper in the Firth of Lorne for 28 years

and have filmed the same areas of seabed before and after these activities were stopped.

'Seabed habitats are recovering and recorded porpoise sightings are up. This has become one of the best areas in Europe for porpoise which is great for wildlife tourism. There are now more scallop divers too.'

Last week, some fishermen argued that the introduction of

controls on dredging and trawling would seriously damage the financial viability of the shellfish industry. Mull councillor Mary-Jean Devon supported their case.

But recent figures produced by government agency, Marine Scotland, calculated that the loss would be minimal: 1.6 per cent for scallop dredgers and one per cent to trawlers.

David continued: 'Unlike our near neighbours in Norway where there is no dredging, Scotland's inshore fisheries have seen a rapid decline over the past couple of decades, becoming nearly completely reliant on just shellfish due to ineffective and poor fisheries management.'

Fisherman, Dave Stincoln, has fished and dived the waters around Tobermory for 40 years. In that time, he says the sea bed and sea life is no longer 'teeming' with fish the way it once was.

Dave explained the sea bed is 'common' and anyone can use it. He said: 'Sometimes this leads to difficult situations where trawlers lift creels from the sea bed. This can devastate the business of a creel man. I believe the Scottish government has taken a brave step - but one that is needed. The big problem is no-one can see what is happening on the sea bed. If this destruction was on a roadside verge - everyone would be up in arms.'

'The majority of people I know, who work in the creel industry for prawns, clams and other shellfish, agree with these proposals.'

'In the MPA around Easdale we have seen a real transformation of the sea bed. This legislation will protect the environment.'



COMMON GROUND: before and after effects on the sea bed

## MULL lines



GREATLY MISSED: Lachlan MacLean of Knock Farm

## 'A smile on his face and a sheep at his feet'

THE DEATH of one of the Mull's 'finest' hill farmers at the age of 55 has sent shockwaves around the farming community of the island and far beyond.

Lachlan MacLean of Knock Farm died very suddenly on Saturday morning at his family farm on the west coast of the island.

Mr MacLean was a member of the National Farmers Union Scotland, and at one time was its Argyll chairman.

He was also a member of the Blackface sheep society.

He was a passionate advocate for the island and for farming and was a very active member of the local committee of the NFU.

People from all over the island and beyond were mourning his loss.

He and his brother, Donald, were the third generation of their family to raise sheep on the faces of Ben Mor at Gruline.

Mull Councillor, Mary-Jean Devon, who had known 'Lan' since childhood, said: 'The whole island was stunned, he is one of Mull's finest.'

'It was a privilege to know him. It is tragic.'

'It was lovely to see pictures of him on Facebook just as he should be remembered, with a smile on his face and with a sheep at his feet. He cared for everyone.'

'He will be greatly missed by everyone.'

He leaves behind his wife, Nancy, and children, Catronia and Jamie. Many of his family live and work on the island and Lorn.

## Mother given last chance to complete her court order

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AN Oban mother has been warned she must complete unpaid community work within the next six months, or face a more severe punishment.

Emma Gillan, 24, of Miller Road, was told by Sheriff Ruth Anderson, QC, she was giving her one 'last chance' to comply with the court sentence for her part in hindering police in their search for a missing 15-year-old girl.

Gillan and her brother, Kevin, were ordered to complete unpaid work in the community after pleading guilty to resisting, obstructing or hindering two police officers in the execution of their duty 12 months ago.

At a hearing of Oban sheriff court last Wednesday, Gillan admitted that she had breached the court order, having completed less than a quarter of the community payback, 24 hours from a total of 100.

Defending solicitor, Gordon Seaton, said: 'She has completed 24 hours from a total of 100, leaving 76 still to be done.'

'The difficulty concerns an inability to cope and she has anxiety issues. She has been in my office in tears and is on anti-depressants. She has a three-year-old son who she cares for through the day. The father of the child was assisting her, but not any longer.'

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC, who ordered Gillan to complete the rest of her community work by December 15, said: 'This work will be completed by this time.'

'There is no use going to your solicitor's office weeping and wailing. It is not impossible. There are lots of people in your position who can do this and you will feel better about yourself. As a result you will be able to get along without the use of anti-depressants.'

'Do not get into a pattern of relying on medication. You have had one chance, but I'm giving you a second chance, a last chance, on this occasion.'

# Landmark town church left to 'rot'

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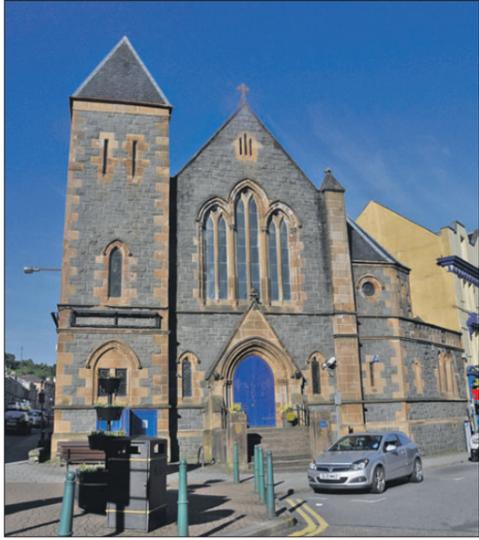
AN Oban town-centre building closed four years ago because of 'the risk of ceiling plaster falling on customers,' still remains shut to the public.

National tourism organisation, Visit Scotland, has confirmed it still didn't have an engineer's report outlining the work required to bring the Argyll Square former church back into use.

It is understood that a number of Oban organisations have approached the publicly-funded organisation about renting or leasing the building - but so far they've been told it is not on the market.

A maritime museum, a charity looking to store historical items and community groups including an Oban church have approached Visit Scotland about renting the building.

But their requests were met with a similar response from the tourism organisation, which said it was still waiting on a



STILL WAITING: The former church has been closed for four years

structural report before it could lease the building.

In May 2011, the Visit Scotland information centre housed in Oban's Argyll Square church, closed overnight with little explanation to the tourism businesses it supported.

A that time, Visit Scotland issued a statement: 'The decision to close was taken after structural damage to the ceiling was spotted.'

'Engineers are currently working to repair the damage.'

'Our paramount concern is to protect our staff, as well as our visitors and, as such, we will wait until the building is completely structurally sound before re-opening.'

In the meantime, Visit Scotland has leased another building on Oban's North Pier.

The tourism organisation stated this week that 'investigations are ongoing to assess the extent of repairs' required to make the Argyll Square building safe.

Visit Scotland's David Adams McGilp said: 'As we've previous-

ly advised the *Oban Times*, no decisions have as yet been taken on a future use for the church building which formerly housed our Visitor Information Centre. 'We have, however, had informal discussions with another local church about using the space at some stage in the future.'

'In the meantime, until the full extent of the repairs required is established, it won't be possible to formulate or take forward plans for the re-occupation of the building.'

Roy Caruthers, whose company approached Visit Scotland about taking the building over in 2011, said: 'The building is being left to rot.'

'It is becoming Oban's greatest eyesore. In four years, you'd think Visit Scotland could have had an engineer's report sorted out.'

'It has taken less time to build the second Forth Crossing and that is an engineering feat.'

The building is on Visit Scotland's asset register valued at £340,000.

## TIMESLINE

### Go-ahead for six Islay warehouses

CONTROVERSIAL planning permission for storage for a popular Islay whisky was given approval by Argyll and Bute council this week.

Bruichladdich distillery was granted permission to build six new bonded warehouses, together with a 'disgorging unit/filling store and welfare facilities'.

14 islanders had claimed the construction of the buildings and the increased traffic to and from the distillery would cause an accident.

Distillery manager Allan Logan said: 'The long-term and essentially passive nature of whisky maturation means that the amount of traffic movements from Bruichladdich to the new facility would be relatively limited.'

'Our current best estimate would be in the region of two additional return truck movements per day.'

### Bid to buy castle is no soft soap

AN OFFER is on the table from an Argyll businesswoman to buy Castle Toward.

Argyll and Bute council said the bid from Denise Purdie, of Purdie's Soaps, has the potential to turn the empty Cowal building into a visitor attraction and create local jobs.

The local authority spokesman went on to say that Ms Purdie's plan would provide income from the sale for investment in council services.

There is a Purdie's Soaps shop in Oban.

### Gaelic boss steps down from Bord

IAIN Campbell, the chief executive of Bord na Gàidhlig, the organisation that promotes the Gaelic language, has stepped down from his post due to personal reasons.

Chairman Allan MacDonald said: 'The Bòrd is extremely grateful to Iain for his work.'

## The proposal that was just plane sailing



HIGH EMOTION: Jane is overwhelmed by the uplifting proposal

IT is the marriage proposal that the villagers of Taynuilt are not going to forget for sometime.

Imagine the scene... the Celtic Society Cup on the village field. The match was well under way and the crowd was engrossed.

All of a sudden a light aircraft flew overhead and a banner unfurled. It read: 'Jane will you marry me, love James'

An unsuspecting Jane Thompson, from Taynuilt, was thrilled with the offer from boyfriend James McLaren of Dalmally.

Jane said of her big match: 'I said "yes" straight away. I had no idea that he was going to propose, but was absolutely delighted to accept.'



HAPPY COUPLE: Jane and James still on cloud nine

## Carrying dog bags 'must be in bylaw'

MEETINGS between council officials and volunteers have dried up over dog dirt - but 40 hotspots have been identified where fouling is worst.

Oban community council, which has supported the campaign, will now lead the charge for a special bylaw to ensure anyone out with dog must carry a dog bag.

Campaigner, Kenny MacLennan, from Pulpit Hill, said: 'Well the meetings between

ourselves and the council officers have slowed down. It seems like to me that they are treading water.'

'We have identified 40 hotspots where members of our group have told us there are specific problems. We were told posters would be distributed around the town. In fact they don't exist. We have now been told the supplier of the poster has put up its prices and the council

needs to go back out to tender to get another one. We feel a bit let down.'

Community councillor, Murdo MacKenzie, said: 'In some other places people walking their dogs have to have one bag with them. It should be that we insist the local bylaw is revised with regard to dog fouling. It should ensure dog walkers and owners are in possession of bags.'

The dog-fouling group had

been told by Argyll and Bute council officials that they were interviewing candidates to fill vacant positions in the dog warden's team.

Members of the community council noted the closing date for this and agreed to write to Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee to ask for a local bylaw to be considered.

Councillor Elaine Robertson said she would take the concerns back to the council.

## Fly-tipping fire: larger uplifts 'should be free'

A FIRE started deliberately to burn rubbish in Soroba could have spread to nearby homes in the Oban housing estate.

The town's community council heard on Monday that a fire in late June in one of the flat's bin areas happened because people cannot afford the £55 fee set by Argyll and Bute council to pick up larger items.

When Oban community fire fighters attended the scene, within three minutes of being alerted to the blaze, the flames were already on the rise. And it took them more than 20 minutes to extinguish the fire.

Members of the community council heard that people were dumping in Soroba because they did not have the means to remove large items of rubbish from the area.

Community councillor, George Berry, who works as a van driver, said he often picked stuff up lying around the estate and took it away.

Community council chairwoman, Marri Malloy said: 'Apparently if you send for the council it is £55. People are saying they cannot afford it. There should be free uplifts. You will get fly-tipping. The council should be realistic and pick this up with their normal rubbish if they can.'

A spokesman for Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, said: 'Fires involving rubbish and fly-tipped material risk lives and are taken extremely seriously.'

'A fire involving refuse materials could spread to homes and or businesses and have tragic consequences, but even a small fire will produce toxic smoke that endangers people in the vicinity.'

'People who have asthma and other respiratory problems are put at particular risk by these fires, as they generate a cocktail of toxic gases which affect local air quality.'

'While we are attending deliberate rubbish and refuse fires, at least one of our appliances and its crew would be unavailable to respond to a real emergency, like a house fire or a road traffic collision.'

'Anyone involved in starting such fires needs to know their criminal actions could cause a tragedy and our message is simple: fire-setting is an offence - don't accept it, report it.'

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## Care of elderly under spotlight

A TEAM of specialist inspectors have finished a review of health and social care services across Argyll and Bute.

The joint inspection focused on how well social care and healthcare services are working together to support older people. In particular, inspectors looked at how social work and NHS staff worked together.

Karen Reid, chief executive of Scotland's social care scrutiny and improvement body, the Care Inspectorate said: 'The number of older people across Scotland is growing and everyone deserves safe, high-quality, compassionate care.'

'Our inspectors looked at records, spoke to older people and their carers, visited services, and interviewed staff. We wanted to test how well social care services are working together with the health service.'

'No one should fall between the gaps, and these inspections are important in making sure that doesn't happen.'

Inspectors will now look at all the evidence gathered before publishing their report later this year.

## Campaign with a real bite to it

ROYAL Mail has unleashed a campaign to reduce the number of dog attacks on Argyll posties.

Around 15 postmen and women were attacked across the 'PA' postcode between April 2014 to April 2015, up 15 per cent on the previous year.

Mail bosses revealed recently that the number of attacks on postal workers rises on average by over a quarter during the school holidays.

Around eight postmen and women a day are attacked by dogs across the UK.

The campaign, called 'Dog Awareness Week', is already underway and finishes on Saturday, July 4.

Posters feature prominently in Royal Mail enquiry offices across the region giving guidance to dog owners on how they can help reduce the threat to posties by keeping their pets under control.

## Golf course for sporting estate

A WEST coast island is to get its first golf course.

Argyll and Bute council has approved plans for an 18-hole course on the Ardfin estate.

The Jura course will be for the exclusive use of visitors to the 14,000-acre sporting estate.

The state-of-the-art golf course is the brainchild of estate owner, Greg Coffey, an Australian financier worth an estimated £450 million.

The course, with its outstanding scenery, promises to be one of the most spectacular in the world with its wonderful sea views.

The owners hope it will attract some of the world's celebrities such as US basketball player, Michael Jordan, singers, Snoop Dog, and Celine Dion, and, of course, Prime Minister David Cameron, whose father-in-law, Lord Astor, has a neighbouring estate on the island.

Only paying guests to the sporting estate will be allowed to play on the course.

## Treble note for Skipinnish song

IF the last two single releases from west coast band, Skipinnish, are anything to go by, the music world is in for a treat when the group launches its latest single, 'The Island', later this month.

Skipinnish's first two singles made it into the official UK download charts within a year. Now the band is hoping it can record an incredible hat-trick of appearances.

Described as 'a summer festival hit waiting to happen', it reflects the vibrant atmosphere of the western Highlands and Islands during the festival season.

Last year, 'Walking on the Waves' hit number one in the iTunes world music charts in December, remaining on top spot for more than a week.

## Fundraising trio set to bow out

VOLUNTEERS for the Anthony Nolan Trust are stepping down after 21 years of helping the vital bone marrow register charity.

Volunteer Carol Turnbull said: 'There are only three of us in the committee and, after 21 years of fundraising, we have decided to stand down.'

'Hopefully, someone will come along and follow in our footsteps.'

'We retire at the end of September so hope to raise a few thousand pounds before that, and we are appealing for items for the shop.'

'We don't refuse anything, so local people can hand in items when the shop opens on July 5.'

The annual pop-up charity shop is due to open between July 5 to 11 in Oban Youth Cafe on George Street.

## IT'S A BROLLY GOOD SHOW AS PRINCE CHARLES ARRIVES ON ISLAY FOR AUTHENTIC TASTE OF ISLAND CULTURE



CAFE SOCIETY: Prince Charles chats to cafe staff at Ardbeg distillery 16\_t27hrhard7



FUN: Prince Charles shares a joke with Ardbeg workers and manager, Michael Heads 16\_t27hrhard1

# Sunshine on a rainy day: Prince in high spirits as he marks 200 years of whisky

STEVEN RAE  
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DESPITE heavy rainfall on Friday morning, spirits weren't dampened at two world-famous Islay distilleries, as Prince Charles paid a special visit to commemorate 200 years of whisky production at the sites.

Prince Charles, who used his official Scottish titles of Duke of Rothesay and Lord of the Isles, visited the Ardbeg and Laphroaig distilleries, which celebrate their 200th anniversaries this year.

Dressed in Lord of the Isles tartan throughout the day, the heir to the throne's third engagement was a trip to the Finlaggan visitor centre and burial site, by which time the sun had come out, allowing Prince Charles the chance to ditch his umbrella and take in the stunning Islay scenery and give the centre the royal seal of approval.

Master distiller, Dr Bill Lumsden, Mickey Heads, distillery manager, and CEO of Glenmorangie, Marc Hollinger, provided a guided tour of Ardbeg distillery.

Guests included past and present employees at the site, as well as local residents.

Islay high school pupils, Lucy McNiven, and Rachel MacKinnon, both 15, piped the prince on his arrival at Ardbeg.

Lucy said: 'It was really nerve-wracking but also exciting.' Rachel added: 'He joked and said, "at least your pipes didn't fill up with water," and said we could thank him for getting us the day off school.'

After sampling a dram on the pier outside Ardbeg, sheltering from the pouring rain under an umbrella, the Prince moved down the road to Laphroaig distillery, the only single malt Scotch whisky to bear a Royal Warrant, a mark of recognition to those who supply goods or services to the royal households.

His host was John Campbell, distillery manager of Laphroaig, and Patrick Loudon McInnes Stewart, Lord-Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute.

The Prince tried his hand at banking one of the distillery fires, throwing on a shovel-full of peat to stoke it.

Bryony Boyd, visitor centre assistant, said: 'He asked all about the people we meet, and I told him that, through the Islay rowing club, I met his sister, Princess Anne, at the St Ayle's Skiffs world championships in 2013 in Ullapool.'

'He seem genuinely interested in meeting us all and finding out about us.'

The Prince signed an ex-bourbon cask, which will now be



LEFT: HRH braves the elements. RIGHT: Pipers, Lucy McNiven and Rachel MacKinnon 16\_t27hrhard3/4



CHEERS: Bill Lumsden and Marc Hollinger's royal toast 16\_t27hrhard2

auctioned for charity, and unveiled a plaque in the Friends of Laphroaig's field to open a cairn commemorating the 200th anniversary.

He received a special pair of wellington boots and a bottle of 15-year-old Laphroaig whisky.

The final duty of the day was in glorious sunshine at Finlaggan.

Prince Charles was greeted by Donald Bell, chairman of the Finlaggan trust, which maintains the site and visitors' centre.

Finlaggan is an island settle-

ment on the secluded loch that bears the same name in the north east corner of Islay, and is an ancient burial site.

Archaeological excavations revealed that Finlaggan has been occupied since very early times.

But it achieved most fame in the 14th and 15th centuries under the MacDonalds, Lords of the Isles.

Donald said: 'He asked about the site and was impressed that we had 6,000 visitors in six months last year.'

Donald also jokingly asked Prince Charles if he had any whisky from his Ardbeg distillery visit, at which point one of the Prince's staff took a miniature from his vehicle and the two shared an impromptu dram together in the visitors' centre.



MARKER: the Prince and Laphroaig manager, John Campbell 16\_t27hrhap2



HIGH SPIRITS: Laphroaig workers enjoy a joke with the Prince 16\_t27hrhap6



SEAL: David Livingstone watches as HRH signs a cask 16\_t27hrhap5



HEAD-TO-HEAD: Laphroaig's Gareth Brown and Emma Boyle meet the Prince 16\_t27hrhap4



SUNNY DISPOSITION: Prince Charles and Donald Bell 16\_t27hrhfin6



LEAD ROLE: HRH on his way to Finlaggan 16\_t27hrhfin3



HISTORIC: Donald Bell tells the story of Finlaggan to HRH 16\_t27hrhfin5

**Town centre work will be put on hold when Mòd arrives, councillor assures**

CONCERNS about major roadworks taking place while Oban hosts the Royal National Mòd in October were raised at the town's community council on Monday.

Plans given to the community council by Argyll and Bute council prior to its meeting on Monday evening, outlined the programme of work for phase two of the town centre 'remodelling', which is scheduled to start in September.

Community councillor, George Berry, said: 'There are some people and businesses very worried that the same upheaval we have had with the Stafford Street works, will continue into the main works throughout the town.'

'It seems ridiculous to me that anyone would think of dismantling the town at the busiest time when the Royal National Mòd is here. 'We need an assurance that the work won't be getting done until the Mòd is finished.'

Elaine Robertson, independent councillor for Oban, north and Lorn said: 'I can confirm the major works will not be taking place during the Mòd. There is lots of preparatory work to be done at the start of the project.'

Meanwhile, works on the Stafford Street pedestrianisation project initially scheduled to finish in May, will soon be completed, the council have said.

Councillor Roddy McCuish, said: 'We appreciate people's patience during the construction work. Public realm work is, by its very nature, disruptive, but we are approaching the finish line with this project now and we have already had hugely positive feedback from the majority of traders and residents on how good the new Stafford Street looks.'

# Oban campaigners call for a fair deal over rail concession prices

LOUISE GLEN  
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COMMUNITY councillors are threatening to march on the Dutch headquarters of train operator Abellio because of 'stupid pricing rules' on morning services from Oban.

The ScotRail West Highland rail franchise was awarded by the Scottish government to Abellio this year.

The Dutch rail operator classifies the 8.57am train from Oban to Glasgow as a 'rush hour' service and therefore refuses to issue concession discount fares.

Oban community council heard it described as 'the only place in the world where you can't get a split ticket'.

It was discovered that even if customers bought tickets from Oban to Connel, they would not be allowed to purchase concession tickets for their onward journey - although the train arrived after 9am.

Duncan Martin, Oban community councillor, said: 'The timing rules are a nonsense and the rules about not buying two tickets would allow you to buy a ticket to Connel and then use the ticket.'

Transport community councillor, David Gallant, said: 'You can not use any card before 12.11pm - all the ones before are classed as a rush hour train.'

'It seems as though staff in the station have been instructed not to sell the tickets, and especially



RAIL-ROADED: community councillors are threatening to lobby Abellio's Dutch headquarters

not as split tickets. I would consider this to be illegal.

'People should be allowed to pay full price to Connel and then be able to use a concession ticket from there on.'

'I think we should take our concerns to Abellio's head office in Amsterdam. Maybe they will listen to us then.'

Community council chairwoman Marri Malloy said: 'You can't

get two tickets in Oban. It must be the only place in the world where you can't purchase a split ticket.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson suggested someone from Abellio should come to the community council to explain the pricing tariff.

She said: 'Why don't you invite someone from Abellio to discuss all these issues?'

'Abellio came up to see the chair of the disability forum and was very helpful.'

A spokeswoman for Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee (SPT), which oversees the pricing structure for the West Highland line, explained: 'The conditions set by SPT do not allow customers with concession cards to purchase a combination of tickets

to complete their journey. SPT has stipulated that concession card holders who wish to travel from Oban to Glasgow should purchase one ticket.'

'They would be charged a half priced fare.'

'SPT concession cards may only be used before 09:00 when customers are travelling to a hospital appointment, and where proof of appointment is provided.'

## Handmade chaos over closed road to popular Oban caravan park

HANDMADE signs to tell tourists they can no longer take caravans along the top road to a long-established Oban holiday park are 'not good enough'.

Oban community council told councillor, Elaine Robertson, at their meeting on Monday that planning permission was granted

'years ago' so there was enough time to make proper signs.

George Berry, from Soroba, a long-standing community councillor, said: 'I've not seen chaos like it. I met two distressed pensioners at the boulders on the top Gallanach Road. They asked me how on earth they could turn

their caravan to get back to the holiday park.'

'I ended up having to take them back through the town. It took a long time to turn their caravan round.'

'The fact you have to take holiday makers through the town and back is an absolute disgrace.'

'A lot of people complained and people feel they weren't heard.'

Stuart McIvor, community councillor from Glenshellach, said: 'It was the stupidest idea to take caravans through an area with speed bumps. I mean children play on those roads and now we have caravans coming

through day and night.' Chairwoman Marri Malloy added: 'All the signs are homemade.'

Councillor Robertson said: 'The signs for the caravan park are the brown tourist signs and they take longer to get because they have to go through Visit Scotland.'

## Midgies are real gems for Seil couple

MIDGIES may have had a later than usual start to the season, but they have certainly made up for lost time with people complaining of worse-than-ever bites.

The midgie is due to become the focus of a national scientific research programme to measure the level of activity in Scotland's worst areas.

In Argyll, people have come up with innovative ways of dealing with plague after plague of midgies.

Ronnie Robinson, of The Midge Factory, which is based on the Isle of Seil, said business was booming.

He said: 'Having carefully selected the good-looking midgies after they arrive in the post from our "midge donors", they are embedded in an acrylic mould and made into earrings, necklaces, cufflinks, rings and keyrings.'

'Many people see the pretty jewellery and then scream with delight when they realise that real midgies are inside the piece. 'They are bought as attractive



NET GAIN: Liam Griffin protected by his midgie net

fun jewellery, or as a must-have to remind them of the midgies and as a talisman to maybe warn our summer friends to stay clear.

'Midgeonite has now travelled all over the world and is popular in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Germany.'

Midgeonite is part of a recycling scheme for midgies as they can be turned into jewellery or Midge Pecker bird food at The Midge Factory by Hamish, the head midgeteer and his wife, Myrtle, who will always welcome potential midgie donors with midgie catching machines to join the scheme.

Liam Griffin of Lerags is not deterred by the troublesome insects, wearing his midgie net when he walks his dogs.

Liam said: 'When I wear the net, it doesn't impair my vision at all. I can barely tell it's there. It works so well that after my wife used mine, she bought one for herself.'

He said it was the 'top end' model for about £8 and it was a 'great investment.'

## Grass roots drive for female foresters

YOUNG women are being targeted as prime recruits for Forestry Commission Scotland.

The organisation is putting its money where its mouth is by spending £300,000 in forestry training for young women.

It has taken this step 'to help ensure that the sector is able to draw from the widest pool of talent', it said this week.

Holyrood's environment minister, Dr Aileen McLeod,

MSP, said: 'It is clear that women can and should be participating in this dynamic and growing sector and it's great to see more women now reaching the top of the profession.'

'However, women should be more involved at every level of the sector and the additional £300,000 funding is a welcome boost in encouraging more young women at grassroots level to view forestry as a rewarding career.'



Amanda Bryan, forestry commissioner, Dr Aileen McLeod, Jo O'Hara, head of Forestry Commission Scotland, and Bridget Campbell, director of the Scottish government's environment and forestry directorate

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## TIMESLINE

### Slings the lead ends in police call

POLICE are appealing for any information over the theft of £400 worth of lead from an exhibition centre on Tieve.

PC Tanner of Tieve police station reported that between April 1 and June 5 this year, thieves are believed to have stolen £400 worth of lead flashing from an unlocked storage room at the Hynish Centre.

The three pieces of lead, each measuring around 1.5metres long, had fallen off the roof of the centre and were being stored.

Anyone with information regarding the theft should contact PC Tanner.

### Motorists clock up 90mph at Arrivain

A DRIVER was stopped for clocking up 91mph on the A85 near Arrivain.

He had been caught exceeding the speed limit by more than 30mph by police on June 27.

And on the following day, on the same stretch of road, a 52-year-old man was also stopped by police for speeding. He was one mile slower at 90mph.

### Dangerous driver stopped by police

A 31-year-old man was arrested on Tuesday on suspicion of drink driving on the A82 near the Bridge of Orchy.

And a 35-year-old man was arrested on Tuesday on suspicion of dangerous driving on the A85 near the Halfway Filling Station.

### Pontoon experts to get £45,000

PLANS for a short-term solution for a pontoon facility in Oban's town centre have taken a step forward as Argyll and Bute councillors recommended a £45,000 draw down of funding.

A council committee said it was prepared to pay for consultants to develop the temporary strategy.

### Play safe alert for Argyll swimmers

THE Royal Life Saving Society has issued a warning after approximately 400 people drowned in open water last year in the UK.

Society director Mike Dunn, said: 'Last year, we saw a tragic amount of preventable deaths in sites not suitable for swimming. Rivers and lakes look so inviting, but can be deadly.'

### Sharing problems a road to recovery

RESEARCH by Samaritans say a third of people in the UK do not like to burden others with their problems.

Samaritans deputy chief executive, Fiona Malcolm, said: 'The benefit of sharing with others can be absolutely huge.'

'It can be the start of the healing process.'

**Arisaig**

ABRIDGED minutes of the Arisaig and district community council May meeting:  
 Community emergency plan: Maps have been produced to show Back of Keppoch and Arisaig village and how they may be covered by the plan. Applications for the resilient communities fund are due by July 31.  
 Christmas lights: Mallaig community council is also looking into buying new lights. Maureen McColl will get in touch with them with a view to working together on an order.  
 Local development plan - The community council looked at the previous development plan, noting that the only main development which was noted there and has taken place was the building of Canon Gilles place. A notice will be placed on the noticeboard to anyone who may be interested in possible developments in the area. Core paths need to be flagged up again.  
 Elections: A notice will be put up on the noticeboard to encourage people to think about standing for the community council in November.  
 Following a summer break, the next meeting will be held on September 21 at Astley hall.

**Western isles**

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles council) is to consider investing its pension funds in affordable homes.  
 Independent MSP John Finnie has persuaded the council to explore the possibility of investing a portion of its pension fund to build affordable housing.  
 Mr Finnie's proposal was triggered by Falkirk council, whose pension fund has invested £30million in the Housing Fund for Scotland, (HFS) a move which will help build over 300 new homes.  
 The HFS aims to raise a total of £150m, in order to build over 1,000 new houses.  
 Mr Finnie said: 'I'm delighted that the Western Isles and Highland council will be considering investing for community benefit. The Highlands and Islands are in urgent need of high quality affordable and social housing.'  
 WESTERN Isles council is currently reviewing its corporate strategy for the period 2012-2017 and considers that this is an opportune time (at the mid-term point) to review, internally and externally, the Corporate Strategy's progress against objectives.  
 Therefore, the Comhairle is seeking the views of the public as an important part of this review.  
 Please respond via the Comhairle's website: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cnes-corp-strategy>

**Kilmelford**

THE MATTER of an 'ill-positioned' large brown tourist sign in Kilmelford was raised at the community council, last month.  
 Particular concern was that it appeared with no consultation and was incredibly large for the middle of the Nether Lorn village.  
 The matter was first raised in February 2014 after visitors to the area headed down the wrong road on a regular basis.  
 Councillor Elaine Robertson undertook to speak to Argyll and Bute council's roads department to find out if it can be moved.

**Tiree**

A WHALE calf has been found, washed up on a beach on the island by a local resident.  
 The pilot whale calf is thought to have been stillborn and is possibly related to the group of whales that became stranded in Skye earlier this month.  
 A local resident alerted RSPB Scotland after discovering the calf on Tuesday, June 13.

**Highlands and islands**

SCOTTISH Conservative Highlands and Islands MSP Mary Scanlon has announced she will stand down at next year's Holyrood election.  
 Mrs Scanlon, 68, who is the party's education spokeswoman, said she was retiring to spend more time with her family.  
 The Inverness-based politician, who hosts surgeries throughout the constituency, was amongst the first intake of MSPs when the Scottish Parliament was formed in 1999.  
 EMPTY homes in the region can be reported to a free national helpline from today, Thursday.  
 Launched by the Scottish Empty Homes Partnership, the helpline will record empty homes to bring them back into use.  
 The number to call is 0344 515 1941



**Youngsters enjoy mainland trip**

Kyleakin primary school pupils enjoyed a trip over the Skye bridge for a day on the mainland. The islanders visited Balmacara, Lochalsh woodland park, to carry out cross country and orienteering activities from skills they had learned over the last term. Children from primary one to seven enjoyed the day out, despite the rain and midges

**CalMac crew sail off with award**

RELIEF efforts undertaken by the crew of MV Finlaggan in Harris this year have been honoured at the Scottish Transport Awards.  
 Nominated in the Frontline Employee of the Year category, the entire crew was highly commended at the awards ceremony in Glasgow for its community efforts.  
 The story takes us back to the early days of 2015 when Scotland was being blasted by hurricane force winds, freezing temperatures, torrential rain and snow.  
 There was significant weather disruption to transport services throughout the country, unavoidably interrupting delivery of services - with many of the islands worst affected. In addition, energy supplies began to fail through the sheer force of the elements.  
 Caledonian MacBrayne's ferries throughout the network battled day after day to keep moving in the severe weather, delivering the usual lifeline services, as well as carrying electricity engineers to areas where power had failed.  
 Eventually, though, the conditions became too



EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR:(left to right) MV Finlaggan crew members, Steward John McKinlay, captain Barry Scott and chief officer, Lee McDowell, with the ship's certificate.

severe and many were then forced to remain in port. Battered by winds of up to 113mph, Harris was not alone in its suffering with essential supplies disrupted and power out. But, with the MV Finlaggan confined to the island's Tarbert Harbour due to the continuing storms and freezing temperatures, CalMac's staff realised that,

even if they couldn't sail, they could still make a difference. Although the ship's own supplies were running low, they decided to share what they had to make life a little more comfortable for local people, inviting them to come on board for showers, warm food and drinks, as well as providing electricity to recharge electronic devices.  
 They also provided takeaway supplies for villagers to deliver to islanders who were unable to get to the ship.  
 Meanwhile, the ship's chief and second engineers left the boat to help the local hotel install a generator in sub-zero conditions, so that it, too, could join in with the community relief effort.  
 The crew was invited to join host and broadcaster, Grant Stott, on the stage at the glittering ceremony to receive a certificate and a bottle of fizz in recognition of their support to this remote community in its hour of need.  
 MV Finlaggan usually plies the route from Kennacraig to Islay, but does also cover the Skye, Harris, North Uist triangle on occasion.

**Surprise guest at Lochnell's end of term concert**

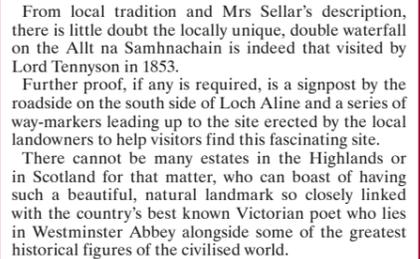
PUPILS and parents at an end of term concert in Lochnell primary school had a surprise guest among the artistes performing.  
 As part of the Lochnell Extravaganza on Friday June 19, jointly organised by the Benderloch school and Lochnell School Parent Council, children gave parents the chance to see performances learned for the Festival of the Sea in Oban in May and for a Viking project in the school.  
 A small traditional music group, which competed at

the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival is supported by Oban Gaelic Choir conductor and the traditional music tutor, Sileas Sinclair, also performed.  
 To the delight of the youngsters, headteacher, Shirley Matheson, then announced Gary Innes from Scottish folk rock band, Manran, would be joining them for a couple of tunes.  
 When the concert finished, parents and children took part in a challenge which involved clues lead-

ing them to different stalls along the cycle path in Benderloch where they had to carrying out a number of tasks to receive stars.  
 Tasks included balancing 12 sugar cubes on a lollipop stick within a minute and balancing a biscuit on the forehead and getting it into the mouth without using hands. A final clue led the teams to the beach where a barbecue had been set up and their stars bought them a burger, a drink and as a much home-baking, provided by various parents, as they could eat. A member of the parent council said: 'It was a fantastic evening, not only with the children showing what a talented bunch they are but their - and the parents' - delight at Gary Innes as a special guest was obvious.  
 'Special thanks have to go to the school for organising the concert and to parent council member, Heather MacPherson, for being the driving force behind the challenges and barbecue.'  
 Lochnell school choir also sang at the concert.

**MORVERN lines**

NOT LONG ago, I wrote in this column about a piece of land above Loch Aline called 'The Field of the Hawthorn Trees' which was reclaimed from the surrounding hillside at the time of the Highland clearances by starving men, women and children in return for a few handfuls of meal.  
 It and Morvern's empty landscape speak volumes of 'man's inhumanity to man', as Robert Burns so aptly put it. This week I am writing about another landmark on the same side of Loch Aline called 'Tennyson's Waterfall' made famous throughout the Highlands for its association with the Poet Laureate, Alfred Lord Tennyson. In the summer of 1853, Tennyson paid a four-day visit to Morvern and stayed at Ardtornish as a guest of the Sellar family.  
 Mrs Eleanor Sellar, his hostess and daughter-in-law of estate owner and the 'improver' Patrick Sellar, during his short stay at Ardtornish, gives an interesting account of the visit in her book 'Recollections and Impressions' (1907): 'I can see him, as distinctly as if it had been yesterday, sitting by the clear river side - the River Aline below Acharn - beside a beautiful avenue of lime trees, planted by a cousin of Flora MacDonald's, and repeating 'Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Doon,' saying no more simple or beautiful love song had ever been written'.  
 On Sunday he attended Kiel church where the Rev Dr John Macleod preached and of whom the poet remarked 'What a well-borne head!'  
 Tennyson planned to use Morvern as a stepping stone to Skye but was prevented by poor weather and greatly taken by the landscape and the association with Sir Walter Scott's setting for his epic poem, 'The Lord of the Isles', he decided to stay on at Ardtornish. His disappointment was not very heart-breaking to judge from the following playful lines:  
 If he did not see Loch Coruisk  
 He ought to be forgiven;  
 For though he miss'd a day in Skye,  
 He spent a day in Heaven!  
 One fine day, Tennyson and a party set off for a walk on the hills between Old Ardtornish and the head of Loch Aline. Mrs Sellar recorded that they ended up at a waterfall that fell over a cliff, hollowed out 'under which we were able to creep; and we sat with the water falling before us like a silver veil. Mr Tennyson said it was a great pity we had not brought food with us, and so need not have hurried home; and then, almost immediately, he chanted:  
 We had smoke, but we hadna wine,  
 And we had nothing whereon to dine;  
 But there was Denninstoun's daughter;  
 And Crosskin sang a song of mine  
 Behind the falling water.'  
 From local tradition and Mrs Sellar's description, there is little doubt the locally unique, double waterfall on the Allt na Samhachain is indeed that visited by Lord Tennyson in 1853.  
 Further proof, if any is required, is a signpost by the roadside on the south side of Loch Aline and a series of way-markers leading up to the site erected by the local landowners to help visitors find this fascinating site.  
 There cannot be many estates in the Highlands or in Scotland for that matter, who can boast of having such a beautiful, natural landmark so closely linked with the country's best known Victorian poet who lies in Westminster Abbey alongside some of the greatest historical figures of the civilised world.



LANDMARK: Tennyson's famous waterfall above Loch Aline



Ensign Donald Cameron of Lochiel. Reproduced by kind permission of Donald Cameron of Lochiel

TWO WEEKS ago, I wrote about the quality of the commissioned and non-commissioned officers of two Highland regiments who took part in the Battle of Waterloo.  
 I omitted to mention, in addition to Colonel John Cameron of Fassiefern and Major General Sir Alexander Cameron of Inverailort, Ensign Donald Cameron Ygr of Lochiel who fought with the Grenadier Guards and succeeded his father as 23rd Chief in 1832.  
 There is a telling account of the state of lawlessness that prevailed in Lochaber in the mid 19th century, when an old clansman, on hearing that Lochiel was returning to Achnacarry after many years absence, said in Gaelic, 'Our own great God of the Camerons is coming home, and the theft will begin again, as it always was before'.  
 It is worth recalling that in the peninsular war Skye alone produced no fewer than 21 lieutenant-generals and major-generals, 48 lieutenant colonels, 600 non-commissioned officers, 10,000 foot-soldiers, four governors of British colonies, one governor-general, one adjutant-general, one chief baron of England and one judge of the supreme court of Scotland.  
 In Mull and Morvern, during the same period, more than 100 local men held commissions, many of whom became distinguished, rose to high rank and prospered in peace time. I wonder if so many Scotsmen from humble backgrounds would have done so well throughout the Empire had there not been a United Britain?  
 Iain Thornber  
 iain.thornber@btinternet.com



Oban's Dave Keys, right, gives the thumbs up after finishing the tough course

**Oban man not daunted by gruelling charity run and cycle challenge**

SADDLE sore Oban man, Dave Keys, insisted it was worth the pain as he completed a daunting 55-mile run and cycle in the 10th annual Rob Roy Challenge.  
 Mr Keys was one of over 400 finishers who took part in the challenge, watched by Commonwealth Games gold medalist swimmer, Ross Murdoch.  
 The local man said: 'The 16 mile walk was tough and the 39 mile cycle was tougher and I've got sore bits that I didn't know existed. But it was all worth it to raise funds that will benefit children in Scotland and throughout the world. What a great experience!'  
 The Rob Roy Challenge, which has raised £2.7 million for charities since its

launch in 2006, is a 55-mile hike and bike through Scotland's countryside, starting at Drymen and ending in Kenmore, where the event was topped off with a memorable night of food, dancing and celebrations. Money raised from this year's event was donated to the Martin Currie Charitable Foundation and Barnardo's Scotland.  
 Dunbartonshire swimmer, Ross, was on hand to award all participants with their medals at the finish line and has championed the race this year, saying: 'It is truly inspiring to see so many people challenge themselves to an event like this. I loved watching the satisfaction of each and every one crossing the finish line, a feeling which is so gratifying knowing you've helped a great cause.'

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# NHS names date number eight for home to re-open

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

A MALLAIG care home which was controversially shut down last year will re-open by the end of July, according to NHS bosses.

The Mackintosh centre closed in July last year amid allegations of poor practice and, at the time, the health board said it would reopen in four to six weeks, but has not re-opened since, with residents moved to Fort William's Invernevis House.

However, at the Lochaber District Partnership meeting on Tuesday, area manager for west NHS Highland, Tracey Ligema, said the care home would be open by the end of July, with Jackie Hodges, a service improvement lead in older people's residential care for NHS Highland, to take the role as registered manager.

Mary Purdon, whose mother was moved from the Mackintosh Centre when it closed, said she 'couldn't believe' the date of July 31 as her mother has been let down so many times.

Mary's mother, also called Mary, suffers from dementia, and was living only minutes away from her husband Lewis, 86, who is also seriously ill. The couple now only see each other once a week.

Talking about her mother's situation, Mary said: 'It just seems to be getting pushed back further and further. I won't be satisfied

with what they tell me until it's actually done.

'My dad is very ill with heart failure and a kidney disorder. They've been married 60 years and when she moved there, the idea was he could visit her every day, but now it's once a week.

'She has dementia and she was forgetting who he was. That may have happened anyway, but this certainly hasn't helped.

'He has said until something happens he can't get excited about it - this is the eighth time a date has been announced.

'The worst thing has been the staff not getting in touch though. We were having to hear about things by reading the Oban Times, or if staff had been to a meeting we might hear something. We should have been the first to know.'

Some staff members were suspended pending investigations of alleged poor practice at the home last year.

That investigation has since been completed, but re-opening was delayed when newly recruited staff resigned due to daily commutes of 100 miles for training in Fort William.

Tracey Ligema, said that after re-opening, NHS Highland would engage in a six month service improvement consultation, asking stakeholders, local GPs and elected members how they thought the service could continue to improve at the home.

## New budget committee

A NEW Highland council committee has been set up to review the budget.

As the local authority's new administration, the Independents, were in opposition when the budget was decided last year, the new group will scrutinise previous consultations to 'review priorities' in plugging a potential £46 million funding gap.

Caol and Mallaig councillor, Ben Thompson, is among the committee members, along with councillors Bill Fernie, Alistair Mackinnon and Matthew Reiss. Councillor Fernie, committee chairman, said: 'The £46 million budget gap we potentially face is unprecedented and will leave us with difficult and unpalatable choices.'



## Crowds flock to Fort for sheep race

Visitors to Lochaber enjoyed an unusual site on Saturday as the Fort William sheep race took place for the second year in a row. Sheep with teddy bear jockeys raced down the High Street at the charity event, organised by Lochaber Rural Education trust.

## Young people get a say on project cash

YOUNG people will have a say on how money in Lochaber is spent as part of a new Highland council project.

Lochaber councillors have earmarked £10,000 to be spent on groups, clubs and projects for people aged between 11 and 25 years-old and want the young people to decide where the money goes.

Councillor Thomas MacLennan, leader of Lochaber area committee, said: 'Whether you are involved in a club that needs a bit of extra cash to do something new, or are struggling to raise funds to keep a vital service going, this could be your chance to get a share of the money.'

More information and application forms can be accessed via [www.highland.gov.uk/YouthPB](http://www.highland.gov.uk/YouthPB).



## Diamond couple celebrate

A WELL-KNOWN couple in Fort William have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary.

Colin and Mary Clark married in Selkirk 60 years ago before moving to the town and are best known for running the former D.E. shoe shop on the high street for almost 50 years.

The happy couple celebrated the anniversary with family from all over the UK

## TIMESLINE

### Minister takes to HGV for A82 trip

TRANSPORT minister, Derek Mackay, will travel along a stretch of the A82 in an HGV next week, it has been confirmed.

Mr Mackay was invited by the A82 Partnership, an umbrella organisation for individuals, businesses and organisations who support the upgrade of the A82, and was initially going to make the journey on May 13, but had to cancel because of business commitments.

Stewart MacLean, partnership chairman, said: 'We are very pleased the minister has agreed to take part in the journey as it will let him see first hand what HGV drivers on the route have to deal with, every day of their lives.'

Mr Mackay will leave from Tyndrum on July 7. The Tyndrum to Tarbert section of the A82 was listed as the third most dangerous Scottish road in an AA study in 2002.

### Wood fuels in new study spotlight

A NEW study has been set up to find the best way to make the most of Lochaber's wood fuels.

The project by Lochaber environmental group (LEG) aims to improve supply and demand of firewood in the area by finding out how many homes are heated by wood. Go to [www.lochaber-enviro.org.uk](http://www.lochaber-enviro.org.uk)

### Young driver dies in A80 road crash

A YOUNG driver who was involved in an accident on the A80 near Mallaig on Saturday has died.

Police Scotland said Liam Brown, 18, was from the Mallaig area. The crash happened at about 3.30am, with the road closed for around eight hours.

No-one else was involved in the accident.



TASTY CATCH :Steve Jarrod with a haul of seaweed

## 'Weed' on the menu for Holyrood's elite

**NIALL HICKMAN**  
nhickman@obantimes.co.uk

IT sounds a bit fishy, but a side order of seaweed could soon be coming to Holyrood.

Green-fingered scientists at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) have started this week to harvest seaweed from the institute's own farm near Oban, with the aim of one day serving it up as a tasty treat for MSPs at Holyrood.

The seaweed farm, off Kerrera, is the first of its kind in the UK and SAMS scientists are using it to develop their seaweed-growing techniques, in the hope that it will be served up as a healthy, crispy snack, sparking interest among Scotland's political elite.

Seaweed is a hugely versatile product and can be used as a bio-fuel, food, fertiliser, pharmaceutical and is also a vital ingredient in many leading cosmetics.

SAMS researcher Dr Phil Kerrison, who has helped to develop the underwater farm since it was first sowed in 2013, reckons the future is not orange, but green and predicts seaweed could soon be the 'must-have' food of the future across the UK.

Dr Kerrison said: 'I became

interested in seaweed because of its potential as a biofuel, but it has real economic potential in high value food products too.

'We have an ambition to serve crisps made out of seaweed to MSPs to show them what potential it has as a product.

'There is a huge opportunity to have a sizeable sustainable seaweed industry around the Scottish coast, but compared to Asia, we have nothing at the moment.

'There is great opportunity for people who are prepared to take the plunge. It's about changing people's mindsets to see the potential of seaweed.'

The global seaweed farming industry produces tens of millions of tonnes every year across 44 countries. Scotland has a long history of seaweed harvesting, dating back to the late 17th century, mainly as a natural fertiliser and alginates are commonly used as a thickener in ice cream and other food.

In the last few years, the potential of seaweed as a source of biofuel has re-awakened the commercial interest in seaweed, as it can be fermented into ethanol, which can be mixed with petrol.

At the Kerrera site, SAMS grow a variety of seaweed: Alaria esculenta, commonly known as dabberlocks or badderlocks, is already a high-value food worldwide; sugar kelp; and dulse (Palmaria palmata). The scientists have also started growing Porphyra - more commonly known as laver or nori - which is regarded as the most valuable seaweed in the world because it is used to wrap sushi. In Japan, the annual production value of nori amounts to around £1.3billion.

Dr Kerrison also revealed this week plans to create a new seaweed farm on the site of a previous trial farm at Port a' Bhuiltin, off the Isle of Lismore.

He said: 'At capacity, the new farm could produce around 25 tonnes of seaweed, which is big enough for someone to start a commercial farm for high value food products.'

Dr Adam Hughes, senior lecturer in sustainable aquaculture at SAMS, said the sky is the limit for seaweed, even though it grows in the sea.

'Seaweed is such an important source for food supply and bio-fuels, yet Europe is far behind other continents in terms of developing the industry.'

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# Even the sun came out as crowds flocked to the ga



Highland dancers put on an outstanding display. 16\_t27games17

IT WAS the games day that everyone has hoped for, warm, on the most part dry and midgie free.

Lorne Highland Games pulled it out the bag with a day to be remembered, not least for the beautiful bright sunlight in an otherwise miserable summer so far.

Highlights of the day included one of the best heavy weight fields seen in an Argyll games for some time.

The event included an athletics field that saw people from all over the world taking part on the day.

Paul Brown, an Australian health and fitness millionaire, attended the games

with his family wife, Jacqui, and nine-year-old son, Ben, as part of their attempt to compete in 50 events in 50 weeks.

Paul said: 'I have had the best time at the games, as has my family. It has been an incredible day. In fact, it has probably been the best event that we have attended in the

whole of our trip.' Games chieftain was Lewis MacLeod, and he proved himself to be great fun speaking in a number of different voices including Postman Pat and Barack Obama.

The day belonged to the people who came out from Dunbeg, Oban, Texas, Italy and much further afield.

Chairman, Duncan MacIntyre, of Ardfern, said: 'It took a leap of faith to stay with the plan of holding the day and it turned out very, very well.'

'I would like to thank the team of volunteers who turn out all through the year to make sure the games take place.'



Paul Brown and personal trainer for the week Andrew Johnston from Appin 16\_t27games24

Jessie MacFarlane collecting on behalf of Cancer Research 16\_t27games6 Oban Lorne rugby players and coaches with 16\_t27games17



The rugby team were on a short-lived winning streak 16\_t27games58



Lewis MacLeod, centre, voice actor with his children, Tilly and Maisie. 16\_t27games21



MacLeod twins, Shauna and Lauren, with big sis, Rhona, and their Nana Harvey. 16\_t27games44



Hannah Crowe who came first in the painting competition and second in the cake-making competition. 16\_t27games30



A tug of war where this mixture of Obanites and Frenchmen was very quickly rumbled. 16\_t27games59



Entrants in the under 16s floral arrangement. 16\_t27games29



Ready, set, go - local boys show how it's done. 16\_t27games49



It was a mad dash to the finish line for these competitors. 16\_t27games28



Sprinting around the field. 16\_t27games56



The wonderful Cancer Research fundraisers 16\_t27games13



Fiona MacPhee and Kay MacDonald of the 'rural' 16\_t27games5

mes



Piper, Angus MacColl, entertained the crowds 16\_127highland15

commentator, Roddy McCuish

Andrew Johnston throwing the 28lb weight 16\_127games17

Matthew Keary, 7, and his new dog 16\_127games4

Fraser Inglis jumped very well 16\_127games40



Brian Robin from the Isle of Seil makes the Caber look very light. 16\_127games54



Lucas Venta from Scotland, via Poland, showed off his strength. 16\_127games32



Vittorio Visentin from Italy enjoyed taking part in the games. 16\_127games43



Morgan Gemmel, Oban competed in the athletics 16\_127games46



Murd Masterton was the young star of the show. 16\_127games4



Torrán enjoyed a good view on his dad Daniel Freytag's shoulders 16\_127games42



Giving the field a wide berth 16\_127games55



Roni MacDonald chainsaw artist with his Highland coo 16\_127games12



# Viewpoint

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB  
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## The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8216

It was a tremendous fillip to the doughty, resourceful inhabitants of Islay that the Duke of Rothesay took time out of his hectic Scotland tour last week to visit the island.  
Prince Charles savoured the best of island culture: 200 hundred years of distilling arguably the world's finest malt whisky, combined with a visit to the ancient burial site at Finlaggan, which has resonated through the ages with the powerful echoes of west coast and Scottish history.

It was plain to see the pride and pleasure etched on the eager and enthusiastic faces of the workers as they welcomed Prince Charles to the Ardbeg and Laphroaig distilleries. Donald Bell's humorous yet knowledgeable tutelage on Finlaggan clearly impressed the prince.  
The royal visit filled everyone involved with a real sense of occasion and no doubt lifted the spirits of the next in line to the throne.  
Cheers to Islay and the prince!



## Days gone by: All change at Graham's

This week we turn the clock back to November 1994 when Josephine Marshall bought Graham's Grocers, Taynuilt, from Jim Graham, right. Also pictured in this photograph from the files of The Oban Times, is shop manager, Iain Campbell. 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.

## Dunollie road eyesore needs to be cleared

Sir,  
Last year I was so disappointed and annoyed to see the awful pallets and ropes cordoning off ground on Dunollie Road, Oban.

Oban relies heavily on the tourist trade and I cannot imagine what they think on their way into our beautiful town.

I thought this eyesore would be temporary but now, more than a year on, it is still the same.

Those who are responsible for this should re-think their actions.

Would it have been too much to allow people to park there, even if they had charged rental to locals for an agreed time?

Please remove this mess as soon as possible.

Anne Ferguson, Oban.

## Favourite newspaper of proud 'Obanite'

Sir,  
All the way to Glasgow I read my favourite newspaper, the Oban Times.

There I read: George Street will be closed so that - we hope - 2015 people can dance the biggest strip-the-willow in the world;

'My' Ganavan sands can be given back to the community;

Senior pupils at Oban high school are piloting a 'phone-free Wednesday' as part of a study of communication;

A shared winner of an award for volunteers is known as 'Toots'. I want

to meet her. She looks like a Toots!; Children and a teacher of a Fort William school were pictured wildly waving ukuleles and other youngsters were doing a scary animal dance;

A couple facing increasing disability sold their house to 'go a-wandering' who knows where. They say they were most warmly welcomed in ....? you've guessed it;

Winners at sports and music, music music on every page. 'Burach' is a great name for a choir.

As I reached Buchanan Street bus station, I was humming the tune 'To be a Pilgrim'.

Lorna Cammock, proud Obanite.

## Way off track on first day of school holidays

Sir,  
Saturday June 27, was one of the busiest days for rail travel because it was the first day of the school holidays.

Despite this, the 5.20am train from Glasgow Queen Street to Oban terminated at Ardlui and the 5.21am from Oban to Glasgow Queen Street started from Ardlui.

This meant the 8.57am from Oban to Glasgow Queen Street was likely to be badly overcrowded because the train that is normally used for the 5.21am from Oban would have been used for the 8.57am and it is normally a two-carriage train.

But the 5.20am from Glasgow Queen Street, which returns from Oban at 8.57am is usually a four-carriage train.

Even those with ad-

vance reservations possibly didn't get a seat.

David Gallant, by email

## More women needed in engineering

Sir,  
In the UK, women represent just six per cent of engineers, one of the lowest percentages in Europe.

This is a significant problem, contributing to skills shortages which damage the economy. It also means women are missing out on interesting and rewarding career opportunities and industry is missing out on the innovation that comes with greater diversity in the workforce.

Why is it proving so difficult attracting women into engineering?

I think it's down to a combination of many things, including the image of engineers within the UK, careers advice girls are given in schools and the lack of inspirational engineering role models for girls.

That is why the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), along with other organisations, invest a great deal of time and resource into attracting more women into engineering and celebrating those women who do work in the industry.

But the industry must be proactive too, especially in marketing their jobs to women. Addressing the gender imbalance in engineering also needs to remain high on the government's agenda. I want other women to enjoy the excitement and prospects that a career in engineering brings.

Naomi Climer, Institution of Engineering and Technology, London.

## Glasgow Letter

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

## New musical storm brewing in the city

A NEW musical storm is brewing in Glasgow.

The League of Highland Gentlemen is a team of three boys taking traditional music to new heights with the help of pipes, whistles, fiddles, jew's harp, a synthesizer and looping software - an unorthodox blend of instruments if ever you've heard one.

Ewen Henderson from Lochaber, Seonaidh MacIntyre from South Uist and Ross Wilson from Mull are all based in Glasgow and came up with the idea while playing tunes in Ross's flat one afternoon.

They created a unique sound by looping different tracks from each of the instruments, got dressed up from head to toe in tweed, shot a video of the process and within a week they had reached 15,000 views on Facebook.

Stunned at the popularity of the

idea, the boys decided to do some more looping. They have now released two videos and are due to play their first gig on the Sunday afternoon of the T'ree music festival later this month. They have also been booked to play a slot at Glasgow University freshers' week - proof that the boys' sound is the perfect way to bring traditional music to a young, non-Highland audience. The boys find looping an excellent way to experiment with Highland tunes.

Ross plays keyboard, synthesizer and jew's harp with the band and is also responsible for much of the looping. He explained that the idea came about because of the popularity of looping in this era of music. 'It's the trend just now in modern music,' he said.

'It's also particularly handy for ourselves because it helps us create a big sound even although there are only the three of us. By looping everything we can kind of double up on the sound.'



The League of Highland Gentlemen: A bit of good craic has turned into a musical force to be reckoned with!

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

RINN sinn uile, air Ghàidhealtachd co-dhiù, gairdeachas ri tiormachd agus beagan grèine Disathairne seo chaidh an deidh ùine cho fada de dhroch shìde agus a' feitheamh ri samhradh nach eil air nochdadh ceart fhathast.

Bha an aimsir gu sònraichte fàbharach dha Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis (BSGI) is Latha-Fèille aig an sgoil. Cothrom spòrs is dibhearsain dhan chloinn, cothrom coinneachaidh agus ùrachadh eòlais dha na h-inbhich, agus cothrom mòran airgid a thogail dhan sgoil.

Agus saoilidh mi gun d' rinn iad sin gun teagamh! Bha e air leth cuideachail dhan sgoil gun robh farpais ball-coise bun-sgoile a' gabhail àite aig BSGI Disathairne agus ri linn na bha an làthair airson sin chan fhacas riann uimhir de shluagh aig Latha-Fèille BSGI. Gum meal iad an naidheachd, agus dh'iarraimaid uile gum bi soirbheachas agus toileachas aig a h-uile neach a tha an lùib na sgoile ann a bhith a' cur an airgid sin gu feum.

Bha e math cuideachd a' chiad ceannard a bh' air an sgoil fhacinn air ais air an làrach agus ogha dhith gu bhith a' toiseachadh san sgoil san fhoghar seo tighinn. Tha ceannard ùr gu bhith a' gabhail thairis air an sgoil cuideachd, agus bha ise cuideachd an làthair Disathairne, a' toirt misneachadh dhan a h-uile pàrant is neach-taice a th' aig BSGI.

Ross also mentioned the logistical difficulties of the band considering all three members play regularly with other bands on the west coast scene: Ewen with Manran, Seonaidh with Trail West and Ross with Skipinnish.

'It's a bit of a challenge to gig this line-up live,' he laughed, 'but we've been rehearsing for T'ree and we're looking forward to that.'

No-one has ever heard this unique sound live before, so their gig at T'ree music festival is just as exciting an unknown for their followers as it is for the boys themselves.

All we can be sure of is that the set will be brilliantly lively and that we will hear plenty of their slogan: 'We are The League of Highland Gentlemen and we'll see you at the ceilidh.'

## Jokes in the Park

THE RELEASE of Donnie Maroot's latest charity joke book was on Friday June 26.

The Park Bar was mobbed with people who came along to hear Donnie read a selection of jokes from 'Even More Awful Jokes' and then to dance to the music of Ceòl an Aire. Donnie raised more than £700 for care homes in the Western Isles during an incredibly successful night.

'A few people at the back said they couldn't really hear me,' said Donnie, 'so they obviously enjoyed their night more than everyone else!'

## Pub scene

Park Bar: Thursday July 2: Session. Friday July 3: Nicky Mcmichan and Martin Pottinger. Saturday July 4: Gunna Sound. Sunday July 5: Nicky Mcmichan and Martin Pottinger.

Islay Inn: Friday July 3: The Keelies. Saturday July 4: Cow Pat Kickers. Wednesday July 8: Quiz Night.

Ailean Caimbeul

## Press policy

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

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

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

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

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## Your letters

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

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

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

Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not

be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

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**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**

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**TIMESLINE**

**Faster broadband cash up for grabs**

BUSINESSES in the Highlands have the opportunity to apply for grants of up to £3,000 to boost their internet speeds.

The scheme, administered by Highland council on behalf of the super connected cities initiative, works via vouchers and could see businesses benefit from faster broadband to help with technology needs.

Eight companies in the region have already been given the grant, which is available until April next year.

Margaret Davidson, leader of Highland council, said: 'We know how important a fast broadband connection is for businesses to grow and with up to £3,000 worth of installation costs available, this is a great chance to get assistance and open up new or improved ways to do business.'

'The scheme is all about enhancing how businesses communicate with customers and deliver their services efficiently and effectively. I wish the successful businesses all the best as they explore new opportunities and I encourage more Highland based businesses to apply.'

To apply go to <http://www.connectionvouchers.co.uk>

**Pledge of £2.3m road repair cash**

MORE than £2 million is to be invested in repairing Highland roads.

'It will not repair every pothole', councillors admitted at the full Highland council meeting last Thursday, but the sum of £2.36 million will 'go a long way' to repairs in this year and next.

Allan Henderson, councillor for Caol and Mallaig and chairman of the resources committee, welcomed the decision: 'We have the longest road network of any local authority in Scotland, with well over 6,000 kilometres of roads.'

'While it will not repair every pothole, it is a significant sum which will go a long way towards giving us some real improvements.'

**Public thanked as walker is found**

MISSING walker Stephen Russell has been traced.

The 43-year-old had been missing for two weeks and was thought to be travelling through Lochaber, but was found in the Bridge of Oich area last Thursday (June 25).

Police thanked the public for their assistance in the search.



ALL CHANGE: the former Belhaven ward, which will be made into 13 homes if plans are approved 21\_27/belhaven01

**Affordable homes plan for former Fort hospital ward**

STEVEN RAE  
srae@obantimes.co.uk

PLANS are in place to turn a former hospital building in Fort William into 13 affordable homes.

A planning application has been made on behalf of Highland council to turn the Belhaven ward building, formerly part of Bedford hospital, into eight houses and five flats.

Highland council purchased the building, which shut down in 2013, from NHS Highland last year, for £200,000.

The Belford Road property

originally housed 23 beds for assessment, stroke and rehabilitation services, mainly catering for the frail and elderly.

In 2010 the unit was transformed from an in-patient unit into a base for outpatient physiotherapy and occupational therapy services, with the in-patient services moved to the main Belford hospital.

The building was declared surplus to requirements by NHS Highland in March 2013, following relocation of out-patient services to other NHS units in the town.

There was some controversy

when the building was placed on the local market later in 2013, without consultation with the Lochaber District partnership.

However, an arrangement was made in August 2014, and the building was sold to the local authority for £200,000.

The funding was created by the Landbank Fund, which is used to enable affordable housing to be delivered either through loans and grants to housing organisations or directly to part-fund the provision of new council housing.

The fund was originally set up using a £5million grant from the Scottish government and £5mil-

lion from housing land sales, and is supplemented each year through income from council tax revenue earned from second and holiday homes.

It is a condition of both the original grant from the Scottish government and the council tax income that the funds must be used to provide additional affordable housing directly or indirectly.

As there are more than 1,000 people on the waiting list in Lochaber, the 13 homes planned will go a short way to addressing that need, if the application is approved.

**Landslip caused by tree felling**

A LANDSLIDE which left almost 60 people trapped for five hours was a result of tree felling by Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) a report has found.

The slips in October last year caused no injuries, but left a number of vehicles blocked in a half-mile stretch of the A82, five miles south of Fort William. Motorists faced a diversion of 161 miles as the Fort William to Glasgow trunk road remained closed for more than 24 hours.

And a Transport Scotland report has called on the Forestry Commission to review its practices after its report showed timber from felling at Corrychurachan had been left lying on the hillside, which then slipped during heavy rainfall.

The report also calls for improvements in communications as the on-call representative of Transport Scotland was not notified of the incident and BEAR Scotland was only made aware of trapped motorists two hours after the landslips.

But a spokesman for Forestry Commission Scotland said the report 'recognised collabora-

tion to get the road reopened as quickly as possible'.

He said: 'The report indicates that the initial response and assessment went well and recognises the good collaboration between Forestry Commission Scotland and BEAR Scotland to get the road re-opened as quickly as possible while maintaining public safety.'

'There are some learning points highlighted, mainly around communications, which we have incorporated into our planning for future A82 operations.'

The spokesman added: 'In addition, the report makes reference to the precautionary tree felling that was carried out as a result of the severe weather warnings and confirms that, prior to the event, FCS was not aware of any incidents of felled trees being mobilised during high rainfall.'

'We will now undertake additional site-based assessments when we receive future weather warnings. These assessments will establish if any additional steps are needed to further minimise the risk of a similar incident occurring again.'



CHAOS: felled trees left on the hillside combined with heavy rain caused last year's landslips on the A82, a report has shown

**Award winning Czech choir helps boost rotary groups**

AN AWARD winning choir from the Czech republic has included Fort William in its UK tour as part of a fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Lochaber.

The 50-strong Janacek choir will perform at Duncansburgh Mackintosh church hall this Tuesday (July 7), with all proceeds going to organisations supported by the Rotary.

John Harvey, president of Lochaber Rotary, said: 'I would urge the public to support the event and raise funds for local charities.'

Tickets are available from any member of the Rotary or at reception in the Alexandra hotel.

**More materials can now be recycled in Highland area**

MORE materials can now be recycled in the Highland council area.

Aerosols, cardboard-based food and drink cartons can now be put into blue bins.

Spray cans should be empty and cartons must be drained, rinsed and have tops removed. Plastic windows should also be removed from envelopes. Councillor Allan Henderson, chairman of the council's community services committee, said: 'Last year in Highland around 16,000 tonnes of recycling was collected in the blue bins and I am sure that the improved service will be welcomed by residents who have proved themselves to be keen recyclers.'



TRAVELS: Laura Byrne, left, and Hannah MacRae performed for the Rotary club of Lochaber as thanks for funding help with a trip to London. They are pictured with rotarian Margaret Boyd

**Rotary girls tune in to thank club**

TWO TEENAGE musicians from Lochaber have completed a social leadership programme, ending in a trip to London.

Laura Byrne and Hannah MacRae took on the Active Citizens project which saw them spend five days working with people from different backgrounds to promote social development.

The girls then travelled to London to visit the Shoreditch Trust, a charity working to reduce poverty, inequality and isolation, with help from funding from the rotary club of Lochaber.

To thank to rotary, the young musicians performed traditional music at the club's monthly lunch meeting on June 24.

Miss Byrne said: 'I've gained so much from meeting the fantastic people of the Shoreditch Trust. The experience has been a positive inspiration to me', while Miss MacRae called the trip 'enlightening'.

John Harvey, president of Lochaber rotary, said: 'We were delighted to support the travel costs of these two enterprising local girls. We're pleased that they gained so much from their visit.'

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SONGS OF THE SCOTTISH SEA:

## Songs of the

A THOUGHT-provoking and entertaining series of short films about the sea, accompanied by live music, wowed a sell-out audience at Oban Phoenix Cinema.

The unique format to Songs of the Scottish Sea saw films created by Andy Crabb, resident film-maker at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), projected to a large screen while renowned traditional musicians, Chris Stout and Catriona McKay, performed a live musical score.

The three films: Food of the Sea, Shape of the Sea and Power of the Sea were shown as the finale to a concert that featured a set from fiddle player, Chris, and clarsach player, Catriona, as well as songs

from Oban Gaelic Choir and MC for the evening, Joy Dunlop.

The event was part of this year's Festival of the Sea, organised by SAMS, and was the result of Andy's two-year residency project there, funded by Creative Scotland.

Andy, who lives in North Connell, said: 'Creating these films has been a great voyage of discovery but it could not have been done without the support of Creative Scotland, SAMS and the exceptional talents of Chris and Catriona.'

'For a community that lives by the sea and relies on it for our prosperity, we don't know a lot about it.'

'I wanted to engage people, but also challenge their perceptions and highlight the importance of the sea

## Perfecting picnic places

LOCAL charity Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust (ACT) and Food from Argyll are giving an incentive to local people to enjoy a picnic outdoors this summer by offering them a chance to win £100 to spend on enhancing their favourite picnic spot plus a hamper filled with local produce.

A large part of the work which ACT does encourages local people to enjoy the outdoors and the charity strives to come up with interesting ways to motivate the public to take ownership of the coast and countryside of Argyll and the Isles. 'The money is to be spent on making a positive differ-

ence to a place people love in Argyll,' explained Julie Young, development officer for ACT. 'Whether it's to arrange a litter-pick, repair a bench or provide a bird table - we don't mind as long as it enhances the area. We will be awarding twenty prizes of up to £100 to the people who give us the best suggestions and we're really looking forward to hearing what people come up with.'

Food from Argyll is providing the ultimate prize - a picnic hamper filled with local produce from businesses in Argyll and the Isles.

'They'll also be providing plenty of picnic tips via online channels including the

best spots to visit and the best local food treats to enjoy along the way.'

Katie Ritchie, from Food from Argyll, commented: 'We were really keen to get involved in this project - not only is it such a positive cause, but it also supports our main aim which is to encourage local people to enjoy local produce.'

The perfect picnic will run throughout the months of June, July and August. More information can be found at [www.act-now.org.uk](http://www.act-now.org.uk)



## A blooming start to celebrations

JULY is a special month for the people of Appin.

For the parish church celebrates its 125th anniversary. And locals in the parish of Appin and Lismore will be marking this milestone with a series of special events.

On Thursday and Friday, July 9 and 10, a flower festival

will be held in the church with colourful displays by all the organisations in the community.

The festival is open from 10-4 on both days, entry is by donation, and there will be a welcome cuppa for all the visitors. Booklets giving the history of the church will also be on sale.

On Sunday, July 12, a joint service with Lismore will be held in the church at 11 am with the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison. This will be followed by lunch in the Village Hall, then a Songs of Praise will be held in the church at 7 pm.

## Choir's fundraiser at St Conan's is a great success

ST CONAN'S Kirk was alive with the sound of music on Saturday as it welcomed the Madrigals choir for a live performance.

The group was formed in 2000 by directors, Katy Cooper and Catriona Hutchinson, and consists of around 32 female undergraduates, postgraduates, alumni and friends of the University of Glasgow.

Fifteen of its members made the journey to Loch Awe on Saturday evening to perform at the kirk, along with accompanying male musicians and vocalists.

The concert was in aid of kirk funds, with around £1,000,000 needed to fully restore the late 19th century church.

David Price, a member of the

fundraising group Friends of St Conan's Kirk, said: 'It was a great night of entertainment, and it really shows the potential St Conan's has as a venue for events like this. Hopefully fundraisers will see that events like this create a compelling case for the preservation of such a beautiful building.'

Katy said: 'David saw us back in February and thought we would be ideal for the kirk so invited us to come and perform. "We immediately said "yes" as we saw it as a way to help save a beloved building like St Conan's.'

'This was also our first performance in Argyll and I think it really is one of the most beautiful parts of Scotland.'

The group performed a

selection of folk, traditional and sacred harmonial, a cappella songs, from as far back as the

12 century, interspersed with readings and some musical accompaniment.



The Madrigals choir at St Conan's on Saturday. 15\_126chair01

## Orchestra wel



A NEW conductor has been appointed for the Highland regional youth orchestra (HRYO).

Christopher George, who has previously lead the Scottish chamber orchestra, will step up to his new

Christopher George, Highland regional youth orchestra's new conductor

## Cantilena

JULY is the month when Islay welcomes the chamber group, Cantilena, to the island to perform a series of concerts under the banner of the Cantilena Festival.

Professional players in the group include Scott Mitchell, who is on the staff of Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and teaches piano and accompaniment. Scott also has a busy career as soloist, chamber music player and also accompanist.

Angus Ramsay leads the second violins in the Scottish Opera Orchestra and also teaches in Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Sarah Harrington plays cello in the Scottish Opera Orchestra, Stephen Shakeshaft enjoys a career as a freelance viola player and Paul Marrion, who was principal bass player in the London Symphony Orchestra and then the BBC Symphony Orchestra, but now

## 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?  
**Tiroran House Hotel**

What do they do and where can I find them?  
**Tiroran House is a luxury Isle of Mull Hotel 35 minutes from the hustle and bustle of the Craignure ferry**

Tiroran House Hotel & Restaurant on the Isle of Mull is the jewel in the crown of the island's great culinary tradition. With 3 AA Rosettes, the restaurant proffers the best produce with an emphasis on local and fresh, including seafood straight from the pier, fine Scottish meats and ingredients picked fresh from their own gardens.

Award-winning chef Craig Ferguson, sous chef Alex Dashwood-Baker and junior sous Angus MacNeil are renowned for their contemporary and exciting take on classical Scottish cuisine.

Craig sees to all the details himself, sourcing only the best seasonal produce and overseeing the kitchen gardens.

The dining room at Tiroran House is as elegant as the fare - and the beautiful view over Loch Scridain adds a scenic touch to the outstanding dining experience. Dinners are priced at £48 per person and the menu includes canapés, 6 courses and after dinner coffee with homemade petit fours. Every dinner is always a special occasion, served in a stylish, relaxed atmosphere, with the warm hospitality for which Tiroran House is well known.

Those with dietary requirements can be accommodated for and children who enjoy dining out are most welcome.

With its beautiful, secluded setting and award winning cuisine, Tiroran House Hotel & Restaurant is perfect for special occasions and romantic celebrations. For reservations, call 01681 705232

Tiroran House Hotel original recipe

### Salt caramel tart with double cream ice cream and chervil liquid gel

#### PASTRY

450g plain flour  
113g castor sugar  
250g butter  
2 medium eggs  
Rub butter into flour and sugar, once at a bread crumb stage add the beaten egg and bring together - rest for 20 minutes.  
Roll out the pastry and line a tart case, blind bake at 160c for 20 - 30 minutes until light brown.

#### SALT CARAMEL FILLING

280g castor sugar  
1ltr double cream  
70g light brown sugar  
270g egg yolk  
8g sea salt  
Make caramel and deglaze with the double cream (add salt).  
In a separate bowl whisk the egg yolk and brown sugar then combine the caramel and egg mix together. Pour the mix into the tart case and bake at 120c for 20 - 30 minutes.

#### DOUBLE CREAM ICE CREAM

600ml double cream  
90g egg yolk  
170g castor sugar  
1 tablespoon glucose  
Bring the double cream and glucose to the boil and then whisk the egg yolk and



sugar together until pale and fluffy. Combine the 2 together. Place the mix in an ice cream machine and churn to the manufacturers recommendation. Ideally the ice cream should be frozen for 10 hours or overnight.

#### CHERVIL GEL

1 generous bunch of chervil  
300 ml stock syrup  
3g agar  
Combine the agar and stock syrup together (stock syrup needs to be chilled).  
Leave for 5 minutes to allow the agar to swell.  
Place in a pan and bring to the boil and then cool and leave in the fridge to set.  
Blanch the chervil in boiling water (10 seconds) and refresh in cold water. Using a liquidiser combine the chervil and the set gel together - this can be spooned or piped onto your plate.

## Calling all young creatives in Argyll and The Isles

Fancy seeing your design used as the logo promoting Scotland's 2016 Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design?

As Scotland looks to its Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design in 2016, Visit Scotland, Scotland's national tourism organisation, is putting young design talent at the heart of plans and is inviting young people all over Scotland to design the official logo used to promote the year.

The designer whose logo is selected will win up to £3,000 towards materials, tools or

activity to support their own professional development in the design sector.

From textiles to technology, architecture to fashion and design, the year-long programme of events, festivals, business conferences and exhibitions aimed at attracting participation and engagement from visitors and locals, will shine the spotlight on Scotland's greatest assets and icons, as well as some of our unique hidden gems.

The judging panel, consisting of experts from across the themed year sectors, will look for a contemporary, eye-catching, practical

design that can be used across a variety of different channels and alongside partner logos.

Entries to the competition must be from individuals aged between 16 and 25 years of age, who are resident in Scotland.

Visit <http://www.eventscotland.org/funding/year-of-innovation-architecture-and-design-2016/logo-competition/> to download an entry form. Designs should be submitted via email to [communications@eventscotland.org](mailto:communications@eventscotland.org). The closing date for entries is Sunday 12 July 2015 (at midnight). The winning design will be announced shortly afterwards.

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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**07712667542 / 01631570754**  
OBAN AND LORN LIONS CLUB

**Oban U3A**  
Tuesday 7 July 2015 at 10.30am  
Studio Theatre and café area, Corran Halls, Oban  
A warm welcome to members new and old for our monthly coffee and chat meeting.

**An Comunn Gàidhealach CRUACHAN BRANCH 1st SUMMER CEILIDH**  
Thursday 2nd July Taymull Village Hall at 7.30pm  
Admission £4, Members £3, Children (5-16 yrs) £2

**GREAT WESTERN CRAFTERS AND PRODUCERS MARKET**  
**SATURDAY 4th JULY 10.30AM - 4PM**  
Collection for Oban Playpark



**As The Crow Flies**  
Rona Wilkie, Marit Fält, Maja Toresen and Nina Fjeldet

**Easdale Island Community Hall**  
**Saturday 11 July**  
8.15pm, doors 7.30 pm, late return ferry

[easdaleislandhall.org](http://easdaleislandhall.org)

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To advertise in our community noticeboard call 01631 568000



'An outstanding performance.'

# Scottish Sea

within our environment. Projects like this show how the arts can be used in an educational and science context, as well as in performance. An audience of 150 enjoyed three very different films, beginning with a fun and creative look at the ocean environment with the help of budding actors and animators from Lochnell Primary School in Food of the Sea. Shape of the Sea gave an insightful look into the fieldwork conducted by SAMS scientists. This involved Andy filming on board a research vessel during a month at sea. Power of the Sea looked at the Corryvreckan and featured Chris and Catriona, who were inspired to compose and perform a piece of

music from the back of a boat during a visit to the whirlpool. Scott Donaldson of Creative Scotland was among the audience in Oban. He said: 'Andy and the project collaborators: SAMS, Chris and Catriona and everyone else, have worked together to produce something marvellous here. 'The Songs of the Scottish Sea evening at Oban Phoenix Cinema was a splendid celebration of that collaboration. 'Film education is a particular interest of mine, so I especially enjoyed the Food of the Sea film with the animation work produced by the children from Lochnell Primary School. This contained some truly beautiful work.'

# comes Christopher

role with the north's only full-size youth symphony orchestra to help the group work towards their upcoming concerts in November. Norma Bolton, Highland council's music development officer, said: 'This is an exciting time for HRYO which has gone through a number of changes over

the past few years. Part of the remit of all the Highland young musicians' groups is to expose the talented young people to the best possible opportunities, and to be able to work with someone as experienced as Christopher allows us to broaden the musical experiences of all the players.'

# Festival on Islay

enjoys retirement back in Scotland. Angus and Scott are the Artistic Directors of the Cantilena Festival on Islay which they founded in 2001 along with Adrian Shepherd. The professional players will be joined by five senior or post-graduate students of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

These students are not paid, but are given their accommodation, food and subsistence and the opportunity to rehearse and perform in an atmosphere quite different to the confines of a Conservatoire. This week long experience helps prepare them for their future as professional musicians.



Musicians and Gaels celebrate the launch of the 11th Blas festival. From left: Donna Macrae, Blas festival director, Neil Ross, HIE, councillor Hamish Fraser chairman of Highland council's Gaelic implementation group, Gary Innes, Mànan, Arthur Cormack, chief executive, Fèisean nan Gàidheal, Eilidh Mackenzie, Gaelic singer and Sean Cousin and Lucy Doogan, both of Hò-rò

MILESTONES and memories will be the hallmark of the 11th Blas festival of music and Gaelic language. Now entering its second decade, this year's Blas was launched in Inverness last week ahead of a number of events across the Highlands and Argyll in September. Hundreds of workshops and concerts will be held between September 4 and 12, in venues stretching from Lochaber, Skye and Plockton to Islay and Campbeltown. Speaking at the launch event, Blas festival director, Donna Macrae, said: 'This year's programme is packed with a notable series of events marking special anniversaries and milestones enhanced by a 'blas' of Scottish produce this year celebrating food and drink. Fèisean

nan Gàidheal, which delivers Blas, will see some of its own members in that category. Fèis Spè celebrates its 25th anniversary as do the Kiltarn Fiddlers, established under the auspices of Fèis Rois. World-renowned band, Shooenlifty, will mark its own 25th anniversary at The Ironworks in Inverness on September 5th with Hò-ro and Niteworks. Hamish Fraser, chairman of Highland council's Gaelic implementation group, added: 'We are very proud of the Blas festival which was originally initiated by the council 11 years ago. 'Since 2005 it has developed to become bigger and better, but has still managed to maintain, at its heart, the original charm and uniqueness which sees internationally acclaimed artists share the stage with home-grown young musical talent.'

YETI again, the Oban Times gets to places no other paper can. Ewan Rutherford, 19, from Coll, took a break from his work in Nepal with Project Trust, where he has been teaching English and information technology, to catch up with all the news in the West Highlands and Islands. Ewan, a former pupil of Arinagour primary and Oban high school, is coming to the end of his year's volunteering with the trust.

Postcard from... *Nepal*

Ewan is pictured in the north west foothills of the Himalayas, where he has been living.

# Entertainment Guide

## Cinema

Oban Phoenix Cinema, community-owned and run  
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03 JULY 2015 - 09 JULY 2015

### MAGIC MIKE XXL (15)

Fri: 17:15, 17:20, 19:45; Sat: 17:00, 18:40, 19:45; Sun: 17:00, 19:50  
Mon: 17:20, 17:30, 20:15; Tue: 17:20, 19:45; Wed: 17:20, 20:00  
Thu: 15:00, 17:35, 20:00

### MINIONS (PG)

Fri: 10:30, 13:00, 15:10; Sat: 10:20, 12:00, 14:50, 16:30  
Sun: 10:30, 10:40, 12:50, 14:50; Mon: 10:30, 10:40, 15:20  
Tue: 10:30, 10:40, 12:50, 15:10; Wed: 12:50, 15:10, 17:30  
Thu: 10:40, 12:55, 15:10

### MINIONS 3D (U)

Fri, Mon: 12:45; Sat: 14:20; Sun: 12:40;  
Tue: 15:00; Wed: 10:40; Thu: 10:30

### MR. HOLMES (PG)

Fri: 10:40, 14:50, 20:00; Sat: 12:30, 21:20; Sun: 15:00, 17:30, 19:40  
Mon: 12:50, 14:50, 20:00; Tue: 12:40, 17:15, 20:00  
Wed: 15:00, 19:40; Thu: 12:40, 17:20, 20:15

### PRIVATE SCREENING (15)

Wed: 10:30

### ROH: GUILLAUME TELL (12A)

Sun: 14:40

### WRECK IT RALPH (PG)

Sat: 10:00

### FILM SYNOPSIS

#### MAGIC MIKE XXL

Exciting sequel to the outrageous smash hit. It's been three years since Mike Lane's (Channing Tatum) retirement from stripping, but the former dancer misses the excitement and feeling of being on stage. Most of all, though, he misses the best friends that he ever had, the crew known as the Kings of Tampa. Opportunity comes knocking when the guys look him up as they travel to Myrtle Beach, S.C., for a stripper convention. With the promise of fun, a reinvigorated Mike can't resist the chance to jump in and take it all off again.

#### MR HOLMES

A return to the world of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous detective. Long-retired and near the end of his life, Sherlock Holmes (Ian McKellen) grapples with an unreliable memory and must rely on his housekeeper's son as he revisits the still-unsolved case that led to his retirement.

#### WRECK-IT RALPH

Arcade-game character Wreck-It Ralph (John C. Reilly) is tired of always being the "bad guy" and losing to his "good guy" opponent, Fix-It Felix (Jack McBrayer). Finally, after decades of seeing all the glory go to Felix, Ralph decides to take matters into his own hands. He sets off on a game-hopping trip to prove that he has what it takes to be a hero.

### COMING SOON

#### NT LIVE: EVERYMAN (TBC) 16/07/2015

BAFTA winner and Academy Award® nominee Chiwetel Ejiofor (12 Years a Slave) takes the title role in this dynamic new production of one of English drama's oldest plays, directed by the National Theatre's new Director Rufus Norris (Broken, London Road)....

#### TED 2 (15) 10/07/2015

Newlywed couple Ted and Tami-Lynn want to have a baby, but in order to qualify to be a parent, Ted will have to prove he's a person in a court of law.

# Radio

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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 McCluckie's Show, 2100 David Cullen, 2200 American Jukebox with Michelle

#### TUESDAY:

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

#### WEDNESDAY:

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

#### THURSDAY:

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

#### FRIDAY:

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

#### SATURDAY:

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

#### SUNDAY:

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

# competition time!

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### A Watercolour Workshop with Clare Robinson

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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 Wysex Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wysex Media and associated company employees and their families. Winners will be notified by Tuesday 14 July 2015.

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**Luing primary school**



Children at Luing primary school were delighted to be awarded their fourth Eco Schools green flag. A wonderful day was had by all children from the school, on their summer picnic to Ganavan Sands. They had lots of fun working together digging holes and creating bridges and tunnels. Helen McNeill from SAMS also came to Luing to share her knowledge of seaweed. The children were amazed at the different sizes and colours. Most of them enjoyed feeling each piece and were not too happy, when Helen told them seaweed is used in lots of food and toiletries. Ukulele Luing gave a wonderful performance at the opening of The Atlantic Islands centre on Luing.



Primary seven leavers from Luing Fergus Ritchie and Kyle Sutherland



Seaweed with Helen MacNeil from SAMS at Luing primary school

**Dalmally primary school**



Pictured are some of the pupils from Dalmally primary school's 'Tuff Mudder' event that was held last week. Older pupils designed two courses - a 'mini mudder' for the younger children and then a 5K course through the forest for the older class. Pictured are some of the children on completion of the course with their trophies



The Dalmally's Got Talent show which the pupils organised



Samba drumming at Dalmally primary school

**Easdale primary school**



Easdale primary earned its first Eco Flag



Beach clean: Lily, Isabella and Rachel help clean up Dunearn Beach. The school were kindly helped by Grab Trust who donated bin bags, grabbers and gloves.



Outgoing P7s; Clara Knox, John MacFadyen and Eve Campbell



**Rotary junior speakers competition**

Right: Freya MacKenzie from Lochnell Primary school who gave an inspirational talk on the voting rights of 16 and 17 year olds.

Left: Giving voice to their ideas and attitudes were pupils from schools throughout Lorn.



**Bunessan primary school**



Children from Bunessan primary school enjoyed end of year trips last week. The pre-5 and P1 pupils had a great day out to Tobermory where they were delighted by a performance of 'The Edibles' followed by a picnic at Aros Park. P6s and P7s went to Inchree with Stramash and had a wonderful week of challenging outdoor activities with children from Lismore, Coll, Colonsay and Iona. This week, P2s-P5s went for an overnight visit to Camas Outdoor Activity centre on the Ross of Mull, and were thrilled with the chance to abseil and build dens and rafts. Other recent highlights included a successful, but very wet, day at the Island Sports Day at Garmony, followed by a Samba concert for parents

**St. Columba's primary school**



ST. COLUMBA'S primary school ended their school year with an incredible achievement. For the previous few weeks, children had been running their Mary's Meals backpack appeal hoping as many people as possible in the town would also get involved. The parent council had proposed the idea after reading about the project in a magazine they had picked up from their local Mary's Meal shop in Oban. They felt that at the end of the school year when many children's school bags, pencil cases and other school utensils may become redundant and with their parents buying new ones for the following year, it was the perfect time to run their appeal. On Thursday, June 25, the last full day of school, all the children in the school were delighted to welcome guest speaker Bill Clifford from Mary's Meals to the school. He talked to the children about the charity and the different countries and people they helped. They discussed many of the reasons children did not go to school in these countries and the difference one meal a day can make to them. Once the children are in school getting an education and a hot meal, he then explained the difference to a child's life it makes when they receive a bag. They were shown a video of the children receiving the bags and the happiness for people involved in the experience. They also got the chance at the end of the talk to join in the celebration dancing. With all the donations and bags that came in from the school and wider community, alongside the 15 school bags the parent council donated to help the appeal, they were able to make up an astonishing 63 full bags all ready for the long journey to transform 63 very grateful children's lives.

The school, parent council and children expressed their thanks and overwhelming gratitude to everyone who got involved in supporting the school's efforts to help this wonderful project. They themselves were amazed as the weeks rolled on as to how kind and generous so many people had been no matter how much they could contribute. They were also very proud of how kind and considerate all the children had been in regards to helping others less fortunate than themselves. The children not only learned about the charity, other children and other countries, they also learnt in more depth how important being a good global citizen is. Taking part in Oban charities day on Saturday, June 6, the children had a stall and took part in the parade with the theme 'fairy tales'. Despite the wind and rain they decorated their stall and went ahead with their plans, raising £375. The 'guess the square' board was particularly well received as it had 26 prizes including an all-inclusive short break to the Isle of Iona worth £470, which was won by local couple Janet and John MacInnes. The school were also very happy to win, for a second year in a row, the best in the parade shield. At St. Columba's family ceilidh on Friday, June 12, the children had a piper, live music, prize bingo, children's entertainment, music and dance along with a buffet and free drinks. The prize bingo was especially popular with three small prizes and three large prizes to be won. The prizes included vouchers, a bottle and other items made up in to Highland hamper which raised £450. The school said a special thank you to all the donations or prizes and bottle, entertainers and staff and parents for making it all come together.



**Barcaldine primary school**



The children relaxing after a long and hot day at the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival. They took part in the ensemble, the folk group and the recorder group.



Pupils and staff from Achaleven, Barcaldine, Kilchrenan, Lismore and Strath of Appin got together for two health and well-being days. Day two was spent over in Sutherland's Grove, where children decorated a piece of bunting. They wrote a message and design of what was important to them.



The children received a lovely plaque for taking part in Sustran's Big Pedal. The Big Pedal is a virtual tour around the UK and children, family members, supporters and staff receive points every time they cycle to school. Barcaldine primary school pupils cycled as much as they could, to achieve joint first in the 10-day challenge in the UK, with one primary seven cycling every day

**Rockfield primary school**



The Generation Science tour came to Rockfield primary



Primary 6 and 7 pupils took a trip to Stirling castle last week

**Park primary school**



Park primary school were proud winners of the Mackay Cup

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Lismore primary school



Primary sevens take their leave of Lismore primary school.



Lismore primary school at their Danish dancing party



Lismore primary school dancing partners

Oban High



Exchange students from Laurinburg

Dunbeg primary school



Dunbeg primary sevens enjoy the limousine before their dance

Iona primary school



Children from Iona primary school took part in the Mull and Iona island games. The children had a great time at Garmony making friends from all over Mull and joining in fun athletics and mini games. One of the primary sevens, Sean Poynter, did particularly well, winning the 100m, 200m, and the long jump. Sean also set a new island record for the 200m, U13 boys. Sean is pictured above with his Grandpa, Gordon Grant.



A cheque for £10,000 from Crerar Hotels was presented to Friends of Oban Play Park to help the group with their incredible fundraising efforts

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Achaleven



Top left: Achaleven primary are very proud to have published authors in their midst. Over the past year they have had five pupils published in three different books, through the Young Writers creative writing programme.

Top right: For the past three years the playgroup, which caters for children from birth - five, has been based at Achaleven Primary School. The playgroup will resume after the summer holidays back at Connel Church Hall.

Right: Oban Phoenix Cinema manager Jennie Larney with pupils who won the school's eco competition.

Left: Svalbard in Norway was one of the topics being studied during the school last term



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h School



Ulva Ferry primary school



Children at Ulva Ferry primary school were presented with end of term awards

Taynuilt primary school



A Safari round Africa - In Taynuilt

Salen primary school



Pupils climbed Ben More as part of their induction



The long-jump at Salen primary's sports day



Graduation night for the pupils who go on to high school after the summer



All smiles at the graduation dinner

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The Barnardo's Big Toddle



The Big Toddle is the UK's biggest charity event for under-5s, with proceeds from the sponsored walk going to the children's charity. Pictured are some of those who took part at Ganavan beach at the start of June.



Luining primary school were keen to get involved



Easdale primary school in their pirate costumes



Taynuilt nursery enjoyed the sand



Dunbeg nursery pupils were dressed for the occasion



Lochnell nursery had a great day in the sun

# Lorne Highland Games 2015 Results

Piping events: under 18 solo piping: 1 Alexander Anderson, 2 Alastair MacLean, 3 Gregor MacDonald.  
Track events: 90m: Open HC: 1 William Bates, 2 Liam Halliday, 3 Rory Muir; 200m: 1 Rory Muir, 2 Laura McCracken, 3 Liam Halliday; 400m: 1 Ewan Bradley, 2 Craig Robertson, 3 William Bates; 800m: 1 Ewan Bradley, 2 Rory Muir, 3 Craig Robertson; 1600m: 1 Rory Muir, 2 Craig Robertson, 3 William Bates; Hill Race: Men: 1 Michael Bossard, 2 Alasdair MacMillan, 3 Craig Robertson; Hill Race: Women: 1 Eilidh Shearer, 2 Jacqui Brown, 3 Paula Laidler. Field events: Long Jump: Open: 1 Ewan Bradley, 2 Joey Ziarko, 3 Craig Robertson; Triple Jump: 1 Kieran Halliday, 2 Ewan Bradley, 3 Rory Muir; High Jump: 1 Ewan Bradley, 2 Rory Muir, 3 Liam Halliday; Jumps champion: 1 Ewan Bradley, 2 Rory Muir, 3 Kieran Halliday. Heavy events: Light Hammer: Open: 1 Kyle Randalls, 2 Lorne Coulthart, 3 Craig Sinclair; Women: 1 Julie Campbell, 2 Corrie Robertson, 3 Ethel Johnston; Local: 1 Murdo Masterton, 2 Craig Nicholson, 3 Andrew Johnston; Shot Putt 16lb: 1 Lucas Wentta, 2 Lorne Coulthart, 3 Sinclair Patience; Women: 1 Julie Campbell, 2 Donna Smith, 3 Corrie Robertson; Local: 1 M Masterton, 2 Craig Nicholson, 3 A Johnston; Shot Putt 22lb: 1 Lucas Wentta,

2 Lorne Coulthart, 3 Sinclair Patience; Caber: 1 Lorne Coulthart, 2 Lucas Wentta, 3 Craig Sinclair; Tug o' War: Open: 1 Heavies; Women: 1 Oban and Lorne Rugby Club, 2 Visitors; 28lb Weight for Distance: 1 Sinclair Patience, 2 Lucas Wentta, 3 Lorne Coulthart; Women: 1 Ethel Johnston, 2 Corrie Robertson, 3 Julie Campbell; Local: 1 Craig Nicholson, 2 Murdo Masterton, 3 Andrew Johnston; 56lb weight over bar 1 Lucas Wentta, 2= Sinclair Patience, Craig Sinclair, Heisi Geirmundsson and Lorne Coulthart; 56lb weight for distance: 1 Craig Sinclair, 2 Lorne Coulthart, 3 Sinclair Patience; Heavies champions: 1 Lucas Wentta, 2 Lorne Coulthart, 3 Sinclair Patience; Women: 1 Julie Campbell; Local: 1 Murdo Masterton, 2 Craig Nicholson, 3 Andrew Johnston.  
Junior events: 90m Youth HC: 1 Paddy Dunne, 2 Kieran Halliday, 3 Finbar Dunne; Boys: 1 Kieran Halliday, 2 Paddy Dunne, 3 Stewart Inglis; Girls: 1 Eilidh Shearer, 2 Grace Thompson; 200m Youth HC: 1 Paddy Dunne, 2 Grace Thompson, 3 Kieran Halliday; 400m Youth: 1 Finbar Dunne, 2 Stewart Inglis, 3 Eilidh Shearer; 800m Youth: 1 Ethan Wilson, 2 Sean Bates, 3 Kieran Halliday; 1600m Youth: 1 Sean Bates, 2 Eilidh Shearer, 3 Grace Thompson; Hill race: Boys:

Paddy Dunne; Girls: 1 Eilidh Shearer; Mixed youth relay: 1 Sean Bates team, 2 Ben Brown's team, 3 Ross Higgin's team; Long Jump: Boys 1 Kieran Halliday, 2 Stewart Inglis, 3 Finbar Dunne; Long Jump: Girls: 1 Grace Thompson; High Jump: Boys: 1 Kieran Halliday, 2 Stewart Inglis, 3 Finbar Dunne; High Jump: Girls: 1 Rachel MacDonald, 2 Grace Thompson, 3 Eilidh Shearer; 16lb hammer Youth: 1 Ewan Shearer, 2 Finbar Dunne, 3 Grace Thompson; 16lb Shot Putt Youth: Boys: 1 Paddy Dunne, 2 Finbar Dunne, 3 Ewan Shearer; Girls: 1 Grace Thompson, 2 Eilidh Shearer; Weight for distance Youth: 1 Finbar Dunne, 2 Ewan Shearer, 3 Grace Thompson; Heavy Champion Youth: 1= Finbar Dunne, Ewan Shearer and Grace Thompson. Primary events: 90m primary: 1 Sean Bates, 2 Ross Higgin, 3 Steven Bates; 200m Primary: 1 Morgan Gemmell, 2 Marcus Keith, 3 Lauren MacLeod; 400m primary: 1 Abbie Cato, 2 Morgan Gemmell, 3 Finlay MacLean.  
Dancing: Primary: Highland Fling: 1 Gabriella Birkmyre; Sword Dance: 1 Gabriella Birkmyre; 16 Pas-De-Basque: 1 Gabriella Birkmyre, 2 Katy Mackay; Pas-De-Basque and high cuts: 1 Gabriella Birkmyre, 2 Katy Mackay. Beginners: Highland Fling: 1 Daniel Craik, 2 Niamh Cameron, 3 Claudia

Graham; Sword Dance: 1 Niamh Cameron, 2 Claudia Graham, 3 Katie Russell; Sean Truibhas: 1 Claudia Graham, 2 Niamh Cameron, 3 Katie Russell; Hullachan: 1 Niamh Cameron, 2 Claudia Graham, 3 Heather Egan; Flora: 1 Claudia Graham, 2 Daniel Craik, 3 Niamh Cameron; Lilt: 1 Claudia Graham, 2 Niamh Cameron, 3 Daniel Craik; Highland Trophy: Niamh Cameron; National Trophy: Claudia Graham; Novice: Highland Fling: 1 Daisy Carter, 2 Lauren Devlin, 3 Isla Taylor; Sword Dance: 1 Chelsea Macaulay, 2 Hannah Graham, 3 Daisy Carter; Sean Truibhas: 1 Chelsea Macaulay, 2 Hannah Graham, 3 Isla Buchanan; Hullachan: 1 Hannah Graham, 3 Isla Buchanan, 3 Isla Taylor; Flora: 1 Chelsea Macaulay, 2 Daisy Carter, 3 Hannah Graham; Lilt: 1 Isla Taylor, 2 Hannah Graham, 3 Chelsea Macaulay; Highland Trophy: Hannah Graham; National Trophy: Chelsea Macaulay; Intermediate: Highland Fling: 1 Solana McMurchy, 2 Amy Laidlow, 3 Corah MacLeod; Sword Dance: 1 Amy Laidlow, 2 Solana McMurchy, 3 Eilidh MacAulay; Hullachan: 1 Solana McMurchy, 2 Amy Laidlow, 3 Ann Broadhurst; Hornpipe: 1 Eilidh MacAulay, 2 Solana McMurchy, 3 Corah MacLeod; Jig: 1 Amy Laidlow, 2 Eilidh MacAulay, 3 Corah MacLeod; Highland Trophy: Solana McMurchy; National Trophy: Eilidh MacAulay; Premier: Highland Fling: 1 Courtney Lowdon, 2 Kirsty MxGillivray, 3 Jenny Pollock; Sword Dance: 1 Jenny Pollock, 2 Kirsty MxGillivray, 3 Courtney Lowdon; Sean Truibhas: 1 Courtney Lowdon, 2 Jenny Pollock, 3 Kirsty MxGillivray; Hullachan: 1 Courtney Lowdon, 2 Jenny Pollock, 3 Kirsty MxGillivray; Sailor's Hornpipe: 1 Courtney Lowdon, 2 Jenny Pollock, 3 Kirsty MxGillivray; Irish Jig: 1 Courtney Lowdon, 2 Jenny Pollock, 3 Kirsty MxGillivray.  
Dog show: Golden Oldie (over 7yr old): 1 Molly, 2 Bella; Waggiest tail: 1 Bella, 2 Ollie, 3 Poppy; Prettiest Bitch: 1 Mayra, 2 Mindie, 3 Molly; Most fabulous fellow: 1 Fergus, 2 Ollie, 3 Seoras; Most resembles owner: 1 Lilli Likes, 2 Bella, 3 Mayra; Best junior handler: 1 Maggie, 2 Beau, 3 Lulu; Best trick: 1 Mayra, 2 Seoras, 3 Lilli Likes; Best treat catcher: 1 Molly, 2 Mayra, 3 Lilli Likes; Dog judges would like to take home: 1 Fergus, 2 Reggie, 3 Molly; Best rescue 1 Molly.  
Produce & Crafts: Baking: 3 pancakes: 1 Jennifer Millar, 4 squares of tablet: 1 Donna MacInnes, 2 Kay McDuff, 3 Jennifer McClure; Preserves:



# Magical Mid-Argyll



JUST down the road from Oban is a land steeped in history and stunning landscapes, where visitors follow in the footsteps of ancient kings and epic legends come alive in the very waters- magical Mid Argyll.  
Mid Argyll was once home to the Picts, a primeval civilization that held mysterious rituals here and erected impressive stone circles and cairns. Kilmartin Glen is the site of one of the most important Neolithic and Bronze Age landscapes in Scotland. Walking among these stones is an awe inspiring experience.  
Later, the area was called Dál Riata, centre of a powerful kingdom that straddled Ireland and Scotland. The very rocks here hold secrets of the past. Kings were anointed here, as, according to legend, each stepped into a footprint carved in stone on a rock at the top of Dunadd fort. Visitors today can stand in that very footprint.  
The power of Dál Riata declined when the Vikings invaded. Mid Argyll and the Inner Hebrides fell under control of the Norse. This era is echoed in a legend that survives today, that of the Corryvreckan Whirlpool, the third largest in the world, which lies offshore here between the islands of Jura and Scarba. In Norse mythology, a king named Breacan moored his boat near the whirlpool to woo an Argyll princess, but was swept in. Today, visitors can safely visit the whirlpool by boat trip to see this natural wonder up close- it's a must do on any bucket list.  
Castle hunters won't want to miss Carnaserie Castle, north of Kilmartin Glen, a ruined 16th century tower house built by reformation Bishop John Carswell. It is an excellent and rare example of the architecture of the day and is very well preserved. In summer the site is open and free for visitors, who can explore the keep and the mansion, including a climb to the upper floors and on up to the top via a narrow spiral staircase- only for the vertigo free.  
Mid Argyll's political importance continued into the 17th century, when Inveraray was chosen as the seat of the Clan Campbell. Along Loch Fyne lies this lovely whitewashed town, built by the 3rd Duke of Argyll in the 1700s. The town's biggest attraction is Inveraray Castle, the splendid seat of the Dukes of Argyll. Add to that delightful shops, services, lodging and cafés, and Inveraray is an enjoyable day trip or stopover.  
Lochgilthead, on the shores of Loch Gilp, an arm of Loch Fyne, is Argyll and Bute's administrative centre. Lochgilthead was laid out as a planned town in the 18th century after the road from Inveraray to Campbeltown was built. With a range of facilities, excellent lodging, restaurants and pubs and appealing shops, Lochgilthead is an ideal base from which to explore the area.  
Perfect for a day trip or a longer break, whether with the kids or as a romantic road trip, Mid Argyll is a wonderful getaway from the ordinary- with all the shops, cafés, hotels and services one needs, but all the beauty and tranquillity that one desires.

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## Farmers advised on benefits of forestry



HILL farmers have been urged to consider diversifying their operations by planting woodland. New figures have shown a significant increase in the relative benefits of forestry to farming in the Southern Uplands of Scotland. An updated version of a report by SAC Consulting, covering 20,000 hectares (around 50,000 acres) in the Eskdalemuir area of Dumfries and Galloway, indicated that, once established, productive conifer forestry is delivering an annual surplus of more than £4 million - up from just under

£3million from the original study, based on figures from 2011 and 2012. By comparison, the new figures indicate that if hill farming continued on the same area of land, a loss of £930,000 would be expected before subsidy, more than double the deficit of £438,000 recorded in the earlier report. Stuart Goodall, of Confor, who commissioned the report, said: 'This updated research by SAC Consulting reinforces and enhances the initial findings that productive softwood forestry is a very significant economic activity in rural Scotland - and a real economic

opportunity for Scotland's sheep farmers. 'It provides an opportunity for farmers to successfully diversify their businesses, deliver more for the environment, create shelter belts for livestock and reduce their reliance on public subsidy in the longer term.' The report also showed that the annual output per hectare is £549.61 before subsidy for forestry (up from £495.15 in the initial study) compared to £117.33 for upland sheep farming (£196.19 with subsidy), down from £154.27. Mr Goodall emphasised that

the report was not a call to return to the blanket afforestation practices of 30 or 40 years ago. He said: 'What it does demonstrate is that forestry is an even better economic opportunity in Scotland than we previously believed - and we would, therefore, encourage more hill farmers to consider the economic opportunity of diversifying their operations by planting trees on part of their land.' He added: 'The report also provides compelling social and economic evidence to support the ambitions of the Scottish

Government and the forestry sector to create a further 50,000 hectares of productive woodland in the decade to 2022.' The report has been published immediately after a survey showed that the vast majority of people in Scotland support further substantial planting. The Forestry Commission Scotland study last week revealed that 83 per cent of those surveyed want to see a lot more trees planted. Mr Goodall said: 'Planting more trees can deliver for Scotland's environment,

society and economy - and that includes offering a great opportunity to diversify for hard-pressed hill farmers. 'Confor is always happy to talk to farmers and their representatives about the potential range of benefits on offer.' The statistics in the new report reflect a strong timber market, with prices for standing timber up by more than 20 per cent between 2012 and 2014. At the same time, sheep prices fell at a time of rising costs, while agricultural subsidy payments are expected to fall until 2019. The updated report was

produced by the same author who wrote the initial study report for SAC Consulting, based on detailed statistical analysis and research in the Eskdalemuir area. The report says of the updated statistics: 'Taken together, these changes [since the initial report] significantly improve the financial performance of forestry relative to farming in this area.' Andrew Heald, Technical Adviser to Confor, also stated recently how modern, multi-purpose forestry can deliver an enormous range of benefits for rural Scotland.

## Retailers must back UK products says president

UNITED farming union presidents are warning of 'deep concern' about the current market situation that UK farmers are facing. The presidents met in Birmingham ahead of the NFU Mutual AGM in order to discuss areas of joint concern, especially the pressures of price volatility. This situation is causing farmers concern and low prices are being experienced across all sectors. NFU Scotland president, Allan Bowie, said: 'We recognise that commodity prices across all sectors are under severe pressure and we are presently in a trough of extreme volatility. It is essential, therefore, that all within the supply chain recognise this and act responsibly in order to support the British supply base which provides the safe, affordable and quality

food that the consumer wants to see on supermarket shelves. 'As farming union presidents, we are calling on the major retailers to act responsibly at this difficult time and back up their commitments to British agriculture. Now is the time to deliver on the promises.' He continued: 'We find it incomprehensible that with lamb, for example, we are still seeing significant volumes of New Zealand lamb on retail shelves when we are in the peak season for British supply. 'We urgently need retailers to get behind British producers and provide significant shelf space for in-season products. 'As a result of these concerns, the UK presidents have agreed to work more closely and co-ordinate activities and discussions with the major retailers to ensure consistency of messages

and key asks from the supply chain.' The presidents also discussed the challenges and concerns around cash flow and the importance of timely single farm payments this year. Mr Bowie added: 'Cash flow is under severe pressure and nowhere is this most striking than with the dairy industry at present and the latest news about the Russian trade embargoes being extended for a further year only increases the pressure on this hard-pressed sector. 'It is therefore essential that UK farmers receive their Single Farm Payment (SFP) at the earliest opportunity within the payment window. We recognise that each part of the UK has its own paying regime, but the message to all governments is the same: farmers must receive their SFP payment in December

when the payment window opens.' Summing up the meeting, Mr Bowie said: 'It clear that the market challenges are the same for farmers across the UK and while we recognise that volatility is a problem facing farmers across the globe, we know that there are measures that all within the supply chain and the government can do to help farmers get through this present situation. 'What is clear is that consumers want to see British food produced by our farmers on the shelf and, as such, we need to see that everyone does all in their power to help safeguard and ensure the future of British farming. 'We, as the four unions, will be working closely in the coming weeks and months to ensure that all play their part.'

## Police give advice on rural crime prevention

POLICE Scotland in Stirlingshire are working together to promote crime prevention to the region's rural communities. Local officers already have an excellent relationship with landowners and farm workers, but utilised a day of action this week to promote further engagement and provide vital information on safeguarding properties and equipment. Working alongside the National Farmers Union for Scotland and Scottish Land and Estates, police attended the United Auctions mart at the Stirling Agriculture Centre yesterday, Wednesday. And those who attended were offered a range of useful advice aimed at ensuring farms and farming equipment are not easy targets for criminals. Inspector Gerry McMenemy said: 'The typical incidents of

rural crime we see within Stirlingshire are the theft of quad bikes and other farming vehicles. 'However, given the remote locations of some farm properties, we also regularly receive reports relating to the theft of metal from roofs and utility power lines, as well as the theft of other items that are found on farmland. 'It is essential therefore, that we provide the public with all the necessary information they require to ensure they have appropriate security in place throughout.' The inspector added: 'We were delighted to speak with members of the rural community at the mart and we also demonstrated a number of relatively easy steps they can take to protect their homes and businesses. 'I am really grateful to our key partners who joined us.

'With so many people in attendance, I know our crime prevention advice will have reached a much larger audience than just to those who live within the Stirlingshire area.' Lisa Roberts, Forth and Clyde Regional Manager for NFU Scotland added: 'Rural crime is on the rise and it is vital that our members are furnished with the full knowledge on how to protect themselves and their businesses.' Judith Hogg, Central and North East regional manager for Scottish Land and Estates said: 'Raising awareness and reporting crimes is increasing important to the farming community. 'By collectively working together, I hope that the amount of crimes reported will increase with positive outcomes for both the police and our members,' she added.

## Crofters face crisis due to weather

THE Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) has alerted the Scottish government to the plight of crofters' livestock due to the lack of grazing and has asked for emergency payments to be made. Crofters in the Highlands and Islands are facing crisis due to the lack of grazing due to severe weather and low temperatures. Joyce Wilkinson, a director of the SCF and a crofter herself said: 'Those of us who live on the west coast and islands are now reaching breaking point with the extreme weather conditions.

'I know of many crofters and farmers who cannot get their cattle out due to no growth in the grass and extreme weather. Hay and straw are running out and many cannot afford to get in another load.' The SCF has written to the Cabinet Secretary for Agriculture, Richard Lochhead, bringing the situation to his attention and asking for emergency payments to be made before it is too late and animals are sent away. Ms Wilkinson said: 'Bulls can't be put out with cows and the cows, having lost so much

weight if they were out this winter, are not bulling. 'Grass, if any, has low sugar due to lack of sunlight, compounding the crisis by low weight gains on stores at the end of the season.' She said: 'Tourism is suffering too due to weather conditions so there is no money coming in from that to buy the extra hay and feed necessary. Everywhere I go I see and hear of near crisis conditions. 'We brought it up with government officials and were told that the CAP 'rebate' was to be paid this week and that could

be considered an emergency payment to help with the crisis. But the rebate is based on a percentage of the producer's claim, excluding the first £2000 - which of course means some small producers will receive very low payments, if any.' Ms Wilkinson concluded: 'SCF is convinced that a real emergency payment needs to be made as soon as possible to avoid catastrophe for many small producers, who are the source of calves for the Scottish beef system, which in turn will face problems if something is not done now.'

## Save vital Highland service

A VITAL veterinary disease surveillance service should be retained in the Highlands, said MSP John Finnie. Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) is currently consulting on closing the Inverness Disease Surveillance Centre, operated by its Scottish Agricultural College consulting division. Mr Finnie said: 'Such a closure would leave the Highlands and Islands farmers with only the disease surveillance centre (DSC) in Thurso, which is not equipped to handle post-mortems on large carcasses. 'This would mean animals would have to be transported to

other DSCs, some of which do not have microbiology laboratories, meaning further delays in detecting infectious diseases.' Mr Finnie met with senior SRUC staff to discuss the future of the Inverness DSC. Mr Finnie said: 'It is clear that the removal of this vital service from the Highlands will ultimately cause far more damage than any short-term profits that may be accrued through its closure. 'Without this service, a very high proportion of Scotland's holdings will be serviced by only one centre, a centre which is not equipped to carry out post-mortem on large carcasses, such as

cattle or horses. This means additional delays to the possible detection of infectious diseases which may be spreading across the Highlands. 'The removal of this service will also impact upon rural vets who often rely on the expertise and skill of those based at the Inverness DSC to fulfil their role as practitioners much more effectively. 'This loss of expertise will impact far more widely on the Highlands than is being currently stated. We will also see greater difficulties and delays in both animal welfare legal and wildlife crime legal cases.'

### MARKET REPORTS

**Caledonian Marts**  
Caledonian Marts Ltd (Thursday 25th June 2015) sold 140 live cattle at their weekly Primestock Sale, comprising of 83 Bullocks and Heifers, 15 Young Bulls, 24 Cast Cows and 18 Calves. All classes of Prime Cattle short of buyers requirement and more could have been sold to sellers advantage with Heifers an electric trade being 19ppk up on the week. Bullocks 41Cont Bullocks sold to 244ppk for a 640kg Lim from R Cook, Kinneil Mill, purchased by J Johnston, Quality Butcher, Falkirk and averaged 223.83ppk. 7 Frie Bullocks sold to 157ppk for a 506kg from T S Thomson & Son, Kirkton and averaged 123.7ppk. Top price per head went to J T Wainwright & Sons, Todhall for a fetching a last bid of 227ppk, £1852.22. Heifers 30 Cont Heifers averaged 237ppk selling to 254ppk for an outstanding 536kg Lim from JH & NT Turnbull, Meadowland Farm, purchased by John Stark, Torrance, and to £1668.50 for a 710kg BB x from J T Wainwright & Son, Todhall, Cupar. 3 Native bred heifers sold to 205kg for a AA x from J T Owen, Easterton. Bulls 6 Cont Bulls averaged 211.5ppk selling to 222ppk for a 596kg Lim x from J Lindsay & Son, Easter Frew and to £1560.78 also for a Lim from W Dick & Sons, Mains of Throsk, Stirling. 9 Frie Bulls averaged 132ppk selling to 146ppk from A Scott, North Mains, Johnstone and to £828 from J K Logan & Son, Hillend, Alloa.

A feature of the sale was a consignment of 11 BB x Bullocks and Heifers from J T Wainwright & Sons, Todhall, Cupar, selling to £1852.32 and averaging £1747.09. Leading prices: Bullocks: Char - 247p Easter Meadowend; 239p Easter Buchlyvie; 239p Faskine; 239p Bankhead; 236p Mawcarse; BB - 235p Mawcarse; Lim - 233p Kinneil Mill; Char - 232p Mains of Cultmalundie; Heifers: Lim - 252p Mains of Cultmalundie; 251p, 250p, 248p Easter Buchlyvie; 248p Moorfield; OTM - 247p Easter Buchlyvie; Lim - 246p Bankhead & Classloch; 243p Faskine, Mains of Cultmalundie, Classloch; Cont - 240p Faskine; 8DA - 240p Blair; Lim - 221p Easter Frew; 209p & 207p Mains of Throsk; 206p South Hourat; 204p Mains of Burnbank; Frie - 144p & 139p North Mains; 139p Hillend; OTM Cattle sold to 218ppk (£1443) for a Lim from J Caldwell & Son, Moorfield, Kilmarnock. Cows A smaller show for numbers met a similar trade to last week selling to 174ppk for a Lim x from D McLaren, Classloch, Kinross and to £1260 for a AA x from J McMaster, Westside,

Airdrie. Leading prices: per head: BB - £1170 Moorfield; Lim - £1160 Gartfinnan; Lim x - £1020 Classloch; Sim - £950 Busses; Frie - £790 Blairmains; Jer - £590 AirthreyKerse; P per kg: BB - 153p Moorfield; Lim - 149p Gartfinnan; AA - 145p Westside; Lim x - 142p Classloch; Cont - 141p Giffordland; AA x - 140p Gartfain; Sim x - 140p Busses; Frie - 117p Blairmains; Jer - 114p AirthreyKerse; Calves (18) forward to a full ringside of buyers. Frie Bull Calves (10) averaged £111.50 and sold to £185 & £150 from Gallamuir and £110 from Plean Farm. Ayrshire Bull Calves (7) averaged £42.86 and sold to £75 from Gallamuir & £145 from Badenhead. A Simmental Heifer Calf from McKenzie, Ardgate also sold for £100.

**Dingwall & Highland Marts Ltd**  
DINGWALL, Dingwall & Highland Marts Ltd, (June, 24th) sold 150 store cattle, 93 adult head of breeding cattle and 117 OTM cattle. Bullocks (73) averaged 224p and sold to 363.6p per kg for a 110kg Limousin cross from 1 Kilbride, Isle of Skye, and £1,250 gross for a pen of 637kg Aberdeen Angus crosses from Stonehouse, Brora. Heifers (74) averaged 217.4p

and sold to 285.7p per kg and £1,500 gross for a pair of 525kg Simmentals from Blackford Farm, Croy. Young bulls (3) sold to 208p per kg for a 250kg Limousin from Midburn, Muir of Ord, and £850 gross for a 535kg Aberdeen Angus cross from 153 Aultrie, West Clyde. In-calf heifers (6) sold to £1,780 gross for a Simmental cross from Balloan, Conon Bridge. In-calf cows (6) sold to £1,220 gross twice for Simmental crosses from Kilmaluag House, Duntulm, and Bogburn Farm, Duncanson. Heifers with male calves at foot (one) sold to £820 gross for a Limousin cross from Tote, Isle of Skye. Cows with heifer calves at foot (31) sold to £2,300 gross twice for a Simmental cross cow with Simmental calf from the reduction of the Proncy Farm herd, Dornoch, and a Saler cross cow with Simmental cross calf from the dispersal of the Fornightly herd, Lethen. Cows with male calves at foot (44) sold to £2,600 gross for a Simmental cross with Simmental calf from Proncy Farm. Cows with twin calves (3) sold to £2,250 gross for a Saler cross cow with Simmental cross calves from Fornightly. Bulls (2) sold to £1,500 gross for a Shorthorn from Smallburn Farms, Duffus. OTM prime & feeding cows (110) averaged 133.6p and sold to 187.5p per kg for a 560kg Limousin cross from Kinchely Farm,

Scanport, and £1,430 gross for a 870kg Charolais cross from Shoreton Farms, Culboick. OTM bullocks (one) sold to 178p per kg and £1,050 gross for a 590kg Hereford cross from 23 Arabella, Nigg. OTM bulls (6) sold to 140p per kg for a 650kg Luig from Welbeck Scottish Farms, Ousdale, and £1,390 gross for an 1160kg Simmental from Drummond Farm, Evanton. Other leading prices per head and per kg: - 201-250kg - to 200kg - 1 Kilbride, £400, Proncy, 250p; 201-250kg - Tote, £570, 253.3p; 251-300kg - Blarmore, Achen-toul, £740, 264.3p; 301-350kg - Balblair, Croy, £890, 185 Migdale, Bonar Bridge, 264.6p; 351-400kg - Pairc A Chaptain, Isle of Skye, £950, Bogburn Farm, 252.1p; 401-450kg - Easter Craggach, Kirkhill, £1050, 250p; 451-500kg - Tomchrasky, £1060, 212p; 501-550kg - 72 Camaghael, Fort William, £1140, 227.1p; 551-600kg - Pairc A Chaptain, Isle of Skye, £1190, 72 Mortlach, Kiltality, 210.7p; 601-650kg - Stonehouse, 196.2p. Heifers up to 200kg - Pairc A Chaptain, £440, 225.6p; 201-250kg - 15 Achnair, £520, 226.1p; 251-300kg - Midburn, Lochussie, £740, 248.3p; 301-350kg - Balmaclaster Farm, £860, 270.4p; 351-400kg - Blackpark, Nairn, £900, 235.6p; 401-450kg - 185 Migdale, £1050, 236p; 451-500kg - 72 Camaghael, £830, 169.4p; 501-550kg - 15 Achnair, Shinness, £1190, 234.3p; 551-600kg - Mortlach, Kiltality, £1180, 200p; 601-650kg - 72

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## Mortgage affordability improves as market rates fall



Keeping up with monthly mortgage repayments is becoming less of a problem for people wanting to buy a home, the Building Societies Association's (BSA) Property Tracker has revealed.

Just one third (33 per cent) of consumers think that this monthly commitment is a barrier to buying a property - the lowest since 2009. Affordability has improved over the past twelve months when monthly mortgage repayments were thought to be a barrier for almost half (49 per cent) of consumers.

This corresponds with average mortgage rates falling from 3.73 per cent in June 2014 to 3.19 per cent today. Lack of job security has also fallen as a

barrier, while raising a deposit - the biggest challenge, remains steady (59 per cent).

With the economic outlook improving, over half (56 per cent) of people also think house prices will rise over the coming year. Only 12 per cent said they didn't think now was a good time to buy a property - the lowest on record since Property Tracker began in 2008.

Commenting on the results, Paul Broadhead, Head of Mortgage Policy at the BSA, said: 'While it is good news that optimism has risen in the housing market, we are still seeing some uncertainty. The number of people who believe now is a good time to buy a property has fallen by a

few percentage points in the past quarter - possibly a result of the prospective bank rate rise towards the end of this year, or early next.

That said, with competition returning to the market it is pleasing to hear that prospective buyers now have more options when they do take steps to owning their own home. Just last week, data from Moneyfacts revealed that building societies were winning the mortgage war when it comes to rates. The average building society rate is 2.98 per cent, 0.21 percentage points lower than the market. We encourage everyone to shop around if they are looking to get a mortgage. If they do, they are more likely to get a better deal.'

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

Hi, my name is Nicola MacPhail and I run West Property. You might have seen our purple "W" boards around Argyll. I set up West Property four years ago. We started off offering lettings and property management services, but now we have a successful estate agency too. We have clients from all over the world who trust us to look after and sell their homes across Argyll, Lochaber and the islands.



## Here comes the summer sun!

It's hard to believe summer is here already and we are midway through 2015! So far this year things appear to be picking up slowly. A combination of improving economic conditions, rising consumer confidence and better mortgage availability has encouraged buyers back to the market. Additionally, since the banks began requesting large deposits, those that have been saving finally have their deposits and are in a position to buy. My team and myself are looking forward to the busy summer season ahead and have some great properties available for let and sale - but we always have demand for more listings! Therefore, we have some great July offers for those of you looking to sell or let your property this summer:



**TO LET**  
01631 569 466  
[westlettings.co.uk](http://westlettings.co.uk)



### Renting?

Rental demand continues to outstrip supply in Argyll. We are always inundated with applications for each of our rental listings and urgently need more rental properties for our overflowing tenant waiting list. Demand continues to increase through the summer months and so we have a fantastic offer for new Landlords who sign up in July.

Sign up with West Property in July and enjoy 2 Months FREE Management

### Selling?

At West Property we pride ourselves on our excellent communication and proactive approach to selling property. As a result we have achieved quick sales for many of our clients. If you are thinking of selling your property this year you can take advantage of our exciting July listing offer:



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West

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## FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE

Craigenyarry, Acha, Isle of Seil

- Semi-detached cottage
- 2 Bedrooms
- Quiet cul-de-sac
- Electric heating & Double Glazing
- EPC Rating - E (52)

**UNDER OFFER IN UNDER A WEEK**

£120,000

1 Ellenabeich, Isle of Seil, Nr Oban

- End of terrace slate miners cottage
- 1 Bedroom / 1 Bathroom
- Situated on the beautiful Isle of Seil
- Private walled garden
- Traditional slate miners cottage with many original features
- EPC Rating F (21)

OIRO  
£140,000

Barrichbeyan House, Craobh Haven

- Detached Traditional Farmhouse
- 3/4 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- Elevated position above Craobh Haven
- Approx. 1 acre garden
- Fantastic renovation project
- EPC Rating F (29)

OIRO  
£195,000

Carraig, Clachan, Seil, Nr Oban

- Detached bungalow
- 4 Bedroom
- 2 Bathrooms
- EPC Rating F (21)

**SOLD**

OIEO  
£230,000

23 Lorn Road, Dunbeg, Argyll

- Semi-detached cottage
- 2 Bedrooms
- Private garden & detached garage
- Excellent family home or rental investment
- EPC Rating - E (39)

**UNDER OFFER IN UNDER 24 HOURS**

£135,000

The Cairns, North Connel, Nr Oban

- ONLY 3 REMAINING!!
- New development of 2 & 3 Bedroom Apartments
- Sought after location
- Loch views towards Connel Bridge
- Communal garden & allocated parking
- VIEWINGS AVAILABLE

OIRO  
£225,000

Searidge, Corran Esplanade, Oban

- Detached bungalow with unobstructed sea views
- 3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- Situated on Corran Esplanade, a short walk from Oban town centre
- Stunning unobstructed sea views
- EPC Rating D (48)

OIEO  
£325,000

Loch side Plot, North Connel, Nr Oban

- Rarely available 1.53 acre site on the shores of Loch Etive
- Unobstructed views
- Ben Cruachan in distance
- Fishing

**UNDER OFFER IN UNDER 3 WEEKS**

OIEO  
£150,000





Get your sunglasses on and your car keys at the ready for this year's summer motoring special. Highlighting the best dealerships the west coast has to offer with advice on how to keep cool and safe in the summer sun.

**UK'S LARGEST SELECTION OF SUBARU AND ISUZU VEHICLES IN STOCK**



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ISUZU



Great Wall



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ADVERTORIAL

**Customer service, the number one priority for S & S Services**



**S & S SERVICES is a family run business supporting the residents of Argyll with sales and service of four-wheel drive vehicles for over 35 years.** Three generations of the Spicer family, Brian, John and Matthew, personally take care of Argyll's four wheel drive needs from their base in Ayr. 'We make regular visits to Argyll for sales,' John said. 'And if a customer can't come to us, we can come to them. We aim to meet each customer's individual needs.' S & S is one of the longest serving Subaru dealers in the UK and are proud to feature this iconic brand. From the Forester to the Outback, from the Impreza to the WRX STI, S & S has the UK's largest selection of new and used Subarus. In fact, they have been awarded the UK Subaru Dealer of the Year from 2007 to the present.

S & S Services is also proud to represent Isuzu and Great Wall brands, having been awarded Dealer of the Year for both of these great ranges. At S & S, award-winning service doesn't stop with the sale. With a modern workshop and factory trained technicians, they offer first class service on each vehicle. All new Subaru and Isuzu vehicles come with the benefit of a five years / 100,000 mile comprehensive warranty and road side assistance. With competitive prices and finance options, S & S makes it easy to get into a four-wheel drive vehicle. 'Look for us at regular road shows and at area agricultural shows,' John said. For more information or to arrange a home visit, call Brian, John, Matthew or Mark at 01292 880080 or 01292 880440, or visit [sandsservices.co.uk](http://sandsservices.co.uk).



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To find out more about the NFU Vehicle Discounts Scheme call John Spicer at S&S Services on 07831 808702 or 01292 880080



# SUMMER MOTORING

## Summer Motoring checklist



IT'S SUMMER motoring season, time to get in the car and head to where the fun is, whether for a day trip or a long journey. And while vehicle owners know that winter weather puts strain on the car, summer can also be challenging to deal with, especially since the car will see more miles. So while ticking off the summer holiday checklist, it's important to put car care at the top.

There are some checks that car owners can make themselves. This includes checking the tyres. Incorrect tyre pressure affects performance and leads to uneven wear and reduced fuel economy. Look for cracks and uneven wear, as well as tread depth. The minimum legal depth is 1.6mm, so if it seems close, take the car to the garage to make certain new tyres may be needed

before heading off. In fact, a visit to the garage for a tyre check never goes amiss - unroadworthy tyres will result in a £2,500 fine and three points on the drivers licence per tyre - four new tyres cost a fraction of this. Potential tyre problems don't stop after the journey begins - they can lose pressure along the way so take another look before heading homeward. Also remember if driving out of the UK, other countries have different laws about tread depths and summer versus winter tyres, so check before you go.

If towing a caravan, check its tyres too, as well as the brakes. Increased loads need higher tyre pressure, and these can be found in the car's handbook.

Examine the jack and wheel brace to make sure the

wheel nuts are fitted and the locking key is safely stowed in the vehicle. It never hurts to practise changing the spare tyre. A tyre repair kit also comes in handy so make sure there is one in the boot.

And speaking of supplies in the boot, make sure the following items are up to date: a first aid kit, a warning triangle, a high visibility jacket, a fire extinguisher, an empty fuel can, extra oil and water, a light bulb kit, a spare key and a car phone charger.

When it comes to a regular check up, a garage can best make certain the family car is safe and road worthy. They will check oil and coolant levels, brakes, cooling system, wiper blades, windscreen washer fluid level, fan belt and lights - there are so many things that can go

wrong with the car at the worst possible time, so don't risk getting stranded at the beach. Get the peace of mind that only a professional servicing can offer.

If the car isn't up to the task, summer is the perfect time to consider a new addition to the family. Shoppers can often find bargains on both new and used cars in summer, before the new models come in for the fall or the registration plates change in September. If a four-wheel drive is on the cards, summer is the time to buy - they are in higher demand in winter.

Before heading out into the wild blue yonder to find adventure with the family, make sure the family car is up to the task with the help of Oban's friendly and professional garages and vehicle dealers.

Scotland's most established Renault dealer




RENAULT

New and Pre-Reg Renaults ready for immediate delivery

These are just a small selection of cars currently in our showrooms  
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64 Dacia Duster Ambiance, DCi 4x4, Grey, 150 miles	£13,750
64 Dacia Sandero Laureate, 5 Dr HB, black 120 miles	£9,650
14 Renault Captur Dyn Mediane, DCi 1.5 Ivor, Delivery Mileage	£15,250
14 Skoda Fabia Elegance, 1.6TDI CR, Estate, Silver, 14,000 Miles	£10,450
14 Ford Ka, Plain Red, 6600 miles	£6,700
63 Skoda Octavia S, TDI Estate Silver 14,000 miles	£13,950
13 Dacia Duster 4x4 Laureate, silver, 11,000 miles	£12,750
13 Peugeot 107 Allure, 5dr, blue, 12,000 miles	£6,250
62/13 Renault Megane dyn, 1.6, coupe, silver, 13,000 miles	£9,450
62 Citroen C3 Picasso, vtr + hdi, green, 12,000 miles	£8,500
61 Renault Wind roadster, GT line 1.6 convertible, black, 58,000 miles	£5,750
11 Renault Scenic, 1.6 DYN, Tom Tom, bronze, 40,000 miles	£6,950
09 Renault Kangoo Car 1.2, Blue, 44,000 miles	£3,950
59 Suzuki Grande Vitara SZ4, 2.3 grey 58,000 miles	£6,750
08 Renault Clio f/way, 1.2, 3dr, blue, 46,500 miles	£2,950
56 Citroen Picasso 1.6DCi, silver, 44,000 miles	£3,000

**COMMERCIALS**

64 Renault Kangoo Van, ML19 DCi 75, 100miles	£8,950+VAT
11 Vauxhall Combo 1700 cdti, white, 61,000 miles	£4,650+VAT
60 Vauxhall Vivaro DCi Van	£8,000 plus VAT
09 Ford Transit 85 t260, white, 65,000 miles	£4,800+vat
08 Renault Master SWB, White	£8,000+VAT

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Logan MCV Estate = from £6,995

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.



## Subaru confirms new Levorg Sport Tourer for the UK



Subaru has confirmed the new Levorg sport tourer will go on sale in the UK in September. The new model, which made its European debut at the Geneva Motor Show in March, will be called Levorg GT in the UK, having been launched to widespread acclaim in its Japanese home market last year.

The new Levorg GT is being seen as the spiritual successor to the fourth generation Legacy Tourer (2003 - 2008) which became a firm favourite among Subaru owners the

world over. The packaging of the new Levorg means that while it has similar exterior dimensions to the Legacy, it will have much more interior space.

Subaru's trade-mark Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive will of course feature, along with an all new 170 PS 1.6 litre DIT Boxer petrol engine. The new engine will be combined with the latest version of Subaru's highly advanced 6-speed Lineartronic transmission.

The Subaru Levorg GT will also feature some of the latest passive and active

safety technology, including blind spot detection and rear vehicle alert. Engineers are promising that the Levorg GT will be one of the most refined Subaru's yet, while the cabin will benefit from the brand's latest factory-fit infotainment system, bespoke sports seats and premium materials.

The first customer cars are expected to arrive in the UK in September. Further details on the Levorg GT, including pricing and full specifications will be announced closer to launch.

### SAILING TIMES

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# Guild of Experienced Motorists issues advice to help drivers keep cool in the predicted heatwave

FORECASTERS ARE predicting high temperatures in the coming days, and GEM Motoring Assist is taking the opportunity to offer advice that will help keep drivers cool and calm, even when it's sweltering outside.

GEM chief executive, David Williams MBE, says: 'Making long journeys in hot weather can be stressful, especially if traffic is heavy and you're stuck for any length of time. We recommend good preparation and sensible jour-

ney planning to help you cope with the worst of the heat.'

**GEM has issued the following simple tips to assist drivers and their passengers when the weather is hot:**

Drink plenty of water. Take a good supply of drinking water with you, preferably in a cool bag. Staying hydrated helps keep you in good physical condition during times of high temperature.

Check your engine before you set off;

in particular make sure your oil and coolant levels are correct.

Do not leave children (or pets) in the car, even for short periods. In hot weather, it's simply cruel and negligent. Besides, distress, dehydration and heatstroke can occur very quickly.



If you do get stuck in traffic, keep an eye on the temperature gauge for signs of overheating. If necessary, find somewhere safe to pull over and let the car cool down for half an hour.

If it's not safe to pull over, turning on the

heater may help take some heat off the engine, although it won't be very pleasant for you!

If you're likely to be stationary for a long time, switch off the engine to prevent the car overheating.

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Mon - Fri 9am - 6pm  
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Sunday 12pm - 5pm



MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. Official fuel consumption figures for the Subaru Outback range in mpg (l/100km): Urban from 32.5 (8.70) - 40.9 (6.90). Extra Urban from 47.1 (6.00) - 58.9 (4.80). Combined from 40.4 (7.00) - 50.4 (5.60). CO2 emissions 161 - 145 (g/km). For model specific figures please contact your nearest dealership or visit www.subaru.co.uk. \*Every vehicle marketed by Subaru (UK) Ltd, excluding WRX STI, is covered by a 5 Year/100,000 mile (whichever comes sooner) Limited Warranty which comprises of a standard 3 Year / 60,000 mile (whichever is sooner) Manufacturer's Warranty (bumper to bumper, excluding clutch driven plate) and an Extended Warranty (applies to powertrain only) provided by the importer. Price shown is for the Subaru Outback 2.0D SE. OTR price £27,995.00. OTR price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months road fund licence and first registration fee. Model shown Subaru Outback 2.0D SE Premium Lineartronic, manufacturer's OTR price £33,495.00, with optional special paint finish. Without special paint finish £32,995.00. EyeSight® and X-Mode with Hill Descent Control is only available in Lineartronic models of Subaru Outback. Subaru Outback 2.0D SE Lineartronic not available in Tungsten metallic.

ADVERTORIAL

### Helensburgh Subaru

We are proud to be an independent company serving Argyll & Bute and Dunbartonshire. We are delighted to now support Subaru customers for all their needs. Our facilities provide new and used cars sales, servicing, parts and body repairs in our BSI Kitemark Accident Repair Centre.

We have held the Toyota franchise for 38 years - one of the longest in the UK - and for the past seven years have consistently been the Number 1 dealer for Customer Care in Scotland. That is not a judgement we make of ourselves, that is what our customers say.

Building relationships with our customers is fundamentally what makes the difference and with high staff retention and a friendly atmosphere, our garage is a welcoming place to be. Every car owner needs to get their car serviced, repaired or MoT'd at some point, but they have a choice of who does that work. They make a positive choice to use Helensburgh Motor Sales because they trust us.

#### There's more to us than just selling cars!

But there is more to business than the next sale or service, and essential part of who we are is being a good corporate citizen in our community.

2015 - we raised over £4,700 for Comic Relief Red Nose Day

2015 - we raised £750 for the Children's Hospice (CHAS)

2014 - we sponsored big attraction Roller Rink at Helensburgh Summer Festival

2013 - local girl, Charlie Sutherland, won a trip to Japan with her parents to the ceremony of the Dream Car Competition.

2012 - we raised over £5,200 for Help for Heroes - a charity that supports our brave soldiers.

We are proud to play our part - YOUR COMMUNITY, OUR COMMUNITY

Scottish Garage of the Year 2012,

Helensburgh Motor Sales, Toyota Franchise - "we'd never consider taking our car anywhere else" - was typical and this quote appeared in WHATCART Magazine.



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

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# West coast recruitment

## ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT



A vacancy currently exists in our Oban office for a full time Administrative Assistant.

Excellent communication skills, computer literacy, enthusiasm, proficiency in spelling and grammar are all essential attributes for this position.

In addition to salary, we offer group personal pension plan, life and medical insurance.

A full current driving licence is essential.

If you feel the above is you, please email your CV and a letter of application to Alison Arden, Wyvex Media Ltd, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB or email: [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)

## THE GLENCOE INN & GATHERING

The Glencoe Inn and Gathering in Glencoe Village is located just a few miles off the West Highland Way. The Inn is already a well-established, popular accommodation venue and its standalone Gathering restaurant has a growing reputation as a great place to eat, listen to great live music and socialise. The Inn and restaurant has grown a busy and vibrant trade and is therefore looking for new talent to join the friendly team...

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A focussed individual with a passion in customer care and proficiency in general administration is required.

Salary: £20,000 | Negotiable subject to experience

### HEAD CHEF

We are seeking a passionate talented and motivated individual to manage a team of kitchen staff, play a lead part in the restaurant's development and contribute to the business management.

Salary: Attractive package dependant on experience

To apply please send your CV and covering letter to: Jim & Laura Ross, General Manager's c/o Michelle Robertson at [micheller@crerarhotels.com](mailto:micheller@crerarhotels.com)

Crerar Hotels are interested in people who will take pride in their work and have an eye for attention to detail. We require confident employees with flair, friendly personality and great customer service skills, if this sounds like you:

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## Dynamic individuals required to take forward ACT Argyll

ACT Argyll is a new company owned by the charity Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust. ACT Argyll delivers environmental contracts for a range of partners whilst offering a progressive structure for training and skills.

Improving our environment Investing in our workforce

### Skills and Contracts Manager

Required to lead and manage our teams in Oban and Helensburgh, to secure ongoing contract work and co-ordinate the teams' training programme. This is a full time position, salary £30,000.

### Chargehands

Required to manage, encourage, and deliver effective teams onsite (one post in Helensburgh, one in Oban). These are full time positions, salary £17,759.

### Administrative Officer

To support the work of ACT charity, and ACT Argyll teams. Based in Lochgilphead. Part time position (15 hours per week) Salary £ 17,759 pro rata.

For full details and application form, please visit ACT's website <http://act-now.org.uk/en/our-teams> or email [info@act-now.org.uk](mailto:info@act-now.org.uk)  
Closing date Monday 13th July 2015

## 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 and Fort William depots  
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)



## 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: Mull (Loch Na Keal) MO/06/15  
Salary – Dependant on experience

We are seeking a Marine Operative within our site on Mull. Candidates will be enthusiastic, self-motivated and be able to demonstrate prior experience in working within small, focused teams. Day to day duties will include fish welfare, sampling, grading and moving of the fish, site maintenance, net changing and boat handling. Previous aquaculture experience is desirable for this post; the company can offer further development and training opportunities through in-house training and also by external training providers. Preference will also be given to those candidates who can offer transferable, related skills and qualifications.

In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package including entry into the Company pension scheme. **A full, clean driving licence is also essential.**

For an application form and job description, please contact:  
Angela Gibson HR Officer,  
The Scottish Salmon Company,  
Arkinglas Estate, Cairndow,  
Argyll, PA26 8BH.  
Tel. No. 01499 600 430  
Email: [angela.gibson@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:angela.gibson@scottishsalmon.com)  
Closing date for applications: 5pm Wednesday 8th July 2015  
Visit our website at [www.scottishsalmon.com](http://www.scottishsalmon.com)

## Campbeltown Picture House

### Assistant Accountant

Responsible for accounting, bookkeeping and financial reporting during the redevelopment of the Picture House. Experience in Sage Line 50 is required and knowledge of Charity accounting would be an advantage. This is a freelance contract for 21 months averaging 7hrs/wk. £11 - £13 per hr depending on experience.  
Deadline: 10 July at 12:00pm.

### Heritage Activities Co-ordinator

Responsible for delivering the three year Activity Plan developed as part of the successful Heritage Lottery Fund bid for the restoration of the historic Picture House. Experience managing creative and/or heritage projects and the ability to enthuse a wide range of people is important. Knowledge of cinema, and experience of working with archives would be an advantage.  
Freelance, 0.5 f.t.e., 36 month contract. £23,500 p.a. pro-rata.  
Deadline: 24 July at 12:00pm

For more information and details of how to apply, please email The Centenary Project Manager: [ron.inglis@craigmount.org](mailto:ron.inglis@craigmount.org).



### Investment Assistant

Lochgilphead  
Salary £20,322 - £22,472  
35 hours per week

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 10th July 2015

Interviews will be held in Lochgilphead on Thursday 23rd July 2015

For further details and to apply visit our website at [www.acha.co.uk/recruitment](http://www.acha.co.uk/recruitment)

If you are unable to access the website contact the Recruitment Team:

Tel 01546 605917 or  
email [recruitment@acha.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@acha.co.uk)



### Vacancy: 1 x Full Time Freshwater Operative

Location: Ardtaraig Hatchery, Loch Striven, Dunoon

Cooke Aquaculture Scotland is a leading company in the Scottish Salmon Industry producing exceptionally high quality products for an increasingly demanding market. We have operations throughout Scotland, Cumbria and the Northern Isles of Orkney and Shetland, together; we pledge a strong dedication to achieving a sustainable aquaculture industry.

We are currently seeking candidates to take on the position of Freshwater Operative at our Ardtaraig Hatchery, Argyll. As part of a small team, they will assist their colleagues in building strong key relationships and ensuring a safe working environment for all.

#### The Role:

The successful candidate will find themselves reportable to the Freshwater Manager for Ardtaraig.

Qualifications/Skills required but not essential as full training can be given:

- 2 years' experience working in a Freshwater Hatchery environment
- Ability to participate in an 'Alarm Duty' rota system
- Good understanding of the aquaculture industry
- Candidate must be flexible with regard to hours worked, weekend working will be required
- Be a good team player but have the ability to work alone when required
- Inter-personal and excellent communication skills
- Clean UK driving licence

The ideal candidate will be committed to achieving the best results in a challenging environment and delivering the highest standards of performance possible. In return, we offer a highly competitive salary, employer pension contribution, company bonus scheme and salary sacrifice programmes.

If you feel you have the necessary attributes to successfully fulfil this position and contribute to a progressive, results orientated company, then please send your covering letter and CV to [vicci.laird@cookeaqua.comby](mailto:vicci.laird@cookeaqua.comby) 10 July 2015.



Due to the award of several long term contracts OES Ltd requires the following personnel:

Apprentice Electricians

Electricians

Trainee Contracts Surveyor

Excellent opportunity for the right candidate, Electrical background preferred, all training provided.

All applications including a copy of your current CV to

Angus MacPherson, Managing Director,  
OES Ltd, 19 Stevenson street, Oban, PA34 4RX  
[amacpherson@oes-group.co.uk](mailto:amacpherson@oes-group.co.uk)

## Advertising Sales

OBAN FULL/PART TIME

Primarily telephone based sales selling to new and existing local clients into our well established publications.

Experience is not essential as training will be given.

Apply with C.V. and covering letter to [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)



### Reception and office support

Up to 25 hours per week  
We require an individual with a pleasant and professional manner to be the first point of contact for our clients and undertake word processing and general office duties. Knowledge of Microsoft packages would be of advantage but full training will be given. Salary offered will depend on level of experience.

Please send CV and a covering letter by 8 July to:

The Staff Partner at  
Albany Chambers, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AL  
or by e mail to [mail@simmers.co.uk](mailto:mail@simmers.co.uk)  
[www.simmers.co.uk](http://www.simmers.co.uk)



### Accounts Persons Required

Part qualified accountant and an accounts assistant required for our Oban office. Training given as required. Salary dependant on experience & qualifications.

This is an opportunity to join an expanding, busy general practice with clients from all over Argyll, the Highlands and Isles, the appropriate candidates will be able to work on their own initiative and be able to have a good relationship with clients and other staff.

Please email CV to Jean Ainsley CA at [jean@ainsleysmith.co.uk](mailto:jean@ainsleysmith.co.uk)



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# West coast recruitment



**WTS**  
Wind Towers (Scotland)  
Tair Ghaoithe (Alba)

Due to a period of sustained growth within the UK's fastest growing industry Wind Towers Scotland are looking to employ key personnel in our Fabrication, Surface Treatment and Internal Fitting departments

**Key Skills:**  
Good work ethic  
Adaptability  
Self-motivated  
Good communications skills  
Work smartly and efficiently  
Flexibility, team & shift work

To apply for this position please send your CV and covering letter to: hr@windtowerscotland.com or post to: HR Manager, Wind Towers (Scotland) Ltd, PO Box 9263, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6WA.

**Closing date: Sunday 19th July 2015**

**Driver/Loader**  
£16,880 - £18,424  
37 hours per week  
Closing date: 10 July 2015.

**Property Officer/Clerk of Works**  
£24,198 - £26,443  
35 hours per week  
Campbeltown Ref: CTF00978

**Driver/Pupil Escort (Temporary)**  
£15,433 - £16,340 pro rata  
175 hours per week, term time  
Lochgilthead Ref: CTF01149

**Driver/Pupil Escort**  
£15,433 - £16,340 pro rata  
15 hours per week, term time  
Closing date for the above 3 posts: 17 July 2015.  
01546 604334

Oban Ref: DVR00749  
Oban Ref: CTF00638

**Argyll Bute COUNCIL**

To apply visit our website  
[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs)

**ACHA** **Argyllhomes**  
FOR ALL

**Painters** **Locations: Helensburgh & Campbeltown**  
Salary £21,837 to £24,055 Permanent and Temporary posts available

Argyll Homes for All are seeking to recruit a number of qualified, time-served painters to deliver a high quality painter work contract to ACHA tenants.

Based in Helensburgh and Campbeltown, the successful candidates will work as part of an in-house maintenance team covering all areas of Argyll and the islands.

The majority of this work is of a seasonal nature running annually from April to November. There may be some limited opportunities to carry out multi trade work during the winter months, so experience of other trades would be an advantage as would experience in the supervision and training of other staff.

A full driving licence is essential for the Painter posts. In addition, the successful candidates will be subject to a basic Disclosure Scotland check.

**Closing Date for all posts: 12 noon on Friday 10th July 2015**

For further information about these posts or for an informal chat please contact John Forbes, Managing Director on 01546 605899 or email John.Forbes@ahfa.co.uk

For full details and to apply visit our website at [www.acha.co.uk/recruitment](http://www.acha.co.uk/recruitment) if you are unable to access the website contact the Recruitment Team: Tel 01546 605917 or email [recruitment@acha.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@acha.co.uk)

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**STAFF REQUIRED**  
P/T or F/T Bar and Reception  
F/T House  
Please call  
**01631 562587**  
between 9am - 4pm

**Hope Kitchen SCIO, Oban**  
(A Christian-led organisation)

**Service Manager**  
28 hours per week  
£24,000 Pro Rata (£19,200) per annum

This post entails the management and development of the service in line with the ethos and aims of the organisation (see [www.hopekitchen.org.uk](http://www.hopekitchen.org.uk))

The post is a fixed term contract for one year (52 weeks) with renewal dependent on funding.

Closing date for applications: Thursday 23 July 2015

For more information or to request a recruitment pack and application form please contact:  
[elliott.morrison@hotmail.com](mailto:elliott.morrison@hotmail.com)  
or write to:  
The Secretary, Hope Kitchen SCIO,  
2 Argyll Street, Oban PA34 5SG

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KILMELFORD

**Chef/cook required**  
Hours and pay negotiable according to experience  
Please send CV to Yvonne, Cuilfail Hotel, Kilmelford, Oban, Argyll PA34 4XA or [mail@cuilfail.co.uk](mailto:mail@cuilfail.co.uk)  
Tel: 01852 200 274

**Roddy's Garage**  
15 Mill Lane, Oban

Have vacancies for  
**1 time served mechanic**  
**1 workshop assistant**

Must be able to work to a high standard in a busy workshop, repairing cars & light commercials. Consideration will be given to all applicants.  
**Apply in confidence to [rmacisac06@aol.com](mailto:rmacisac06@aol.com) or 07500 831900**

Oban Times RECRUITMENT  
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## public notices

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

**Argyll Bute COUNCIL**

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

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

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/01621/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Land South East of Fininn (Plot 3) Glencruitten Road Oban Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office
15/01651/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage.	Plot 5 Nant Park Tairnuilt Argyll and Bute PA35 1JH	Sub Post Office Tairnuilt
15/01668/PP	Change of use from 1 detached dwellinghouse to farm 2 semi-detached dwellinghouses and formation of vehicular access	1 Hayfield Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4PJ	Oban Area Office
15/01761/PP	Erection of agricultural shed	Land North West of The White House Aros Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA72 6LS	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
15/01805/PP	Renewal of planning permission 12/00834/PP - Erection of dwellinghouse	Land South of Heatherfield Albert Road Oban Argyll and Bute	Oban Area Office

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

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

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/01035/PP	Demolition of existing dwellinghouse and erection of replacement dwellinghouse	Fasgadh Craighouse Isle of Jura Argyll and Bute PA60 7XR	Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura
15/01602/PP	Installation of 5 antennas and 7 microwave transmission dishes on existing telecommunications mast, erection of cabinet and associated works	Lower Cragabus Television Station The Oa Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Port Ellen
15/01645/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Bun-an-uisg Bowmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA43 7LL	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay

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

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/01364/PP	Conversion of outbuilding to form playground including erection of timber decking	Temperance House Main Street Port Charlotte Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA48 7TX	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
15/01365/LIB	Conversion of outbuilding to form playground including erection of timber decking	Temperance House Main Street Port Charlotte Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA48 7TX	Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

Argyll and Bute Council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://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, Lochgilthead PA31 8RD.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

**COUNCILLOR'S SURGERY**  
Councillor Roddy McCuish (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)  
Councillor McCuish will be holding a surgery on Friday 3rd July 2015 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 3:00pm - 5:00pm.  
He can be contacted by email - [Roddy.McCuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Roddy.McCuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk) and by telephone 01631 567854

**Jamie McGrigor, Highlands & Islands MSP**

will be available for consultation with constituents on Saturday 11th July from 10.30am to 12 noon at An Talla, TIRRE.

All welcome and no appointment is necessary but for any further information please call Jamie's office on 0131 348 5616 or email [jamie.mcgrigor.msp@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:jamie.mcgrigor.msp@scottish.parliament.uk)

**Forestry Commission Scotland**  
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

**NATIONAL FOREST LAND SCHEME**  
Forestry Commission Scotland wishes to notify Community and Environmental groups that it is proposing sale of the following property:

Type of Property: Surplus Building & Site  
Name: Former Deer Larder at Barcaldine  
Area: Approx. 0.05 ha.  
Grid ref.: NM 959 410  
Location: Barcaldine, Argyll, PA37 1SF

**Enquiries to Forestry Commission Scotland at - [ronnie.lee@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ronnie.lee@forestry.gsi.gov.uk). Full details are being sent to the relevant Community Council and Non Government Organisations.**

[www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk)

**First Registration of a Croft**  
Donald Cameron MacKinnon has registered his croft 9 Upper Scotstoun, Upper Scotstoun, Ardnarmurchan & 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.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C1147.

**FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT**  
Mr Richard Buttrick has registered the croft 3B Uragraig, Isle of Colonsay on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by the 16th March 2016.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C 1226.

**CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATIONS**

Mr & Mrs K C Tindal Sandbank, Kilfinichen & Kilviceon 0.022 ha - For alterations and extension to existing dwelling house 4.86.57235

J A MacDonald 2 Portnaluchaig, Arisaig & Moirdart 0.023 ha - Being the site of an existing holiday cottage 4.86.58166

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper.

Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or [info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

**DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED**

Mrs J M Hastings 14,15,16 Inverroy, Kilmornaivaig 0.108 ha - Site for a dwelling house 4.86.51252  
Conditions: 2, 3(b) & 4

Mr and Mrs B D Smith 1A Hynish (West), Tirie 0.175 ha - Croft house site and garden ground 4.85.55473  
Conditions: 3(a) & 4

Mr and Mrs B D Smith 1A Hynish (West), Tirie 0.222 ha - Existing house site and builders yard 4.86.56801  
Conditions: 3(a) & 4

**Conditions:**  
(2) To provide a site for a dwellinghouse  
(3) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of:  
(a) the date of the direction  
(b) the proposed development completion  
(4) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)

The Highland Council  
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

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

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

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
15/01725/FUL	Land 570M SE of Camus Na Gualainn Roshven Glenluig	Installation of a small run of river hydro scheme including iron intake, pipeline 1200m long & turbine house, small discharge pipe & connection to the national grid
15/02279/PIP	Land 40M East of 2 Toigal Morar	Site for a dwelling house
15/02284/PIP	Land 50M South of Tulach Gorm Glencoe	Proposed site for a dwelling house
15/02350/FUL	Belhaven Ward Belford Road Fort William	Demolish existing building and erect 13 dwellings (5 houses & 8 flats) with associated works
15/02388/FUL	Land 2080M West of Ranachan Cottage Lochalort	Run-of-river hydro power scheme

Time period for comments is 14 days  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

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

**Argyll Bute COUNCIL**

**CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982**  
APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF A KNIFE DEALER'S LICENCE

Notice is hereby given that Dave Bleazard has applied for renewal of a Knife Dealer's licence for the premises known as Outside Edge, 6 McGregor Court, Oban, PA34 4DJ to trade Monday to Saturday from 9:00am to 5:30pm.

Any person wishing to object or make representation regarding this application must do so in writing specifying the objection or nature of the representation, giving the name and address of the person making it and signed by that person to the undersigned by no later than 28 days from 2nd July 2015. The Licensing Authority may entertain an objection/representation received after the 28 days before they make a final decision if satisfied there is a good reason why not made within 28 days.

CHARLES G REPPKE, Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilthead PA31 8RT  
25th June 2015

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**MIKE MACKENZIE MSP**  
Highlands and Islands

**Surgery in Parliamentary Office**  
31 Combie Street,  
Oban, PA34 4HS  
Wednesday 8 July 2015  
3 - 4.30 pm  
no appointment necessary  
Tel: 01631 571359  
[mike.mackenzie.msp@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:mike.mackenzie.msp@scottish.parliament.uk)  
[www.mikemackenzie.org](http://www.mikemackenzie.org)

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Fox Fitzgerald Whisky Trading Ltd are always looking to purchase casks of whisky from Islay or elsewhere; friendly and reliable service with best prices paid for whisky of all ages.

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E-mail: [hcmunton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hcmunton@yahoo.co.uk)

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# Obituary: Graham Ellis

Born August 23 1924 Wilmslow Cheshire  
Died June 17, 2015 Oban Argyll

Graham Ellis was one of the unsung heroes of the heritage movement, a man whose influence was great but whose modesty even greater. He was one of the founders of the railway preservation movement, a force that has grown to be a major part of the UK's tourism industry. He created the much loved and missed Mull Narrow Gauge Railway and, in his 80s, helped save the historic steamship, Sir Walter Scott, from the scrapheap.

Graham was born in Wilmslow Cheshire, the son of Dorothy Elliot and Thomas Ellis, a director of the family's estate agency, Ellis and Sons. He said his love of trains began in his pram.

In 1938, Graham went to Malvern College, Worcestershire. When war broke out, the school was relocated to Harrow, despite reservations from Graham and his fellow pupils that this was a bit too near the air raids on London. When common-sense prevailed the school moved to Blenheim Palace near Oxford.

They may have been sleeping under gold-leaf, but the dorms were cramped and cold and during their lessons, in converted Nissen huts, icicles fell from the roof impaling desks and pupils alike. Graham had seven bouts of pneumonia during this time and when, after his 18th birthday, he applied to join the navy, he was turned down on health grounds.

Cravens, the Stockport crane manufacturers was another family business and the 16 year-old Graham could have joined the

firm. The chairman Joseph Greenwood told him 'We can make you into a bloody good engineer but can you invent ow?' That was too daunting for him and but, in time, the engineering genes would come to the fore.

Graham contributed to the war effort by helping his cousin, Dorothy Campbell, run the family's farm near Beaulieu in Hampshire. He was in his element as tractors and farm machinery fired his latent love of engineering.

He also joined the Home Guard, the inspiration for the TV series Dad's Army. Graham said that Captain Mainwaring was not just a work of fiction; their platoon was commanded by Mainwaring's alter-ego. One day they were travelling by train to take part in a major exercise. The officer lined his men up on the station platform and told them when the train arrived they would allow the civilians to board first. When he gave the signal, they would join the train. The other passengers were safely in their seats when he commanded the men to board by blowing his whistle. The train promptly chugged out of the station leaving the men still lined up on the platform.

After the war, Graham joined the family estate agency and one of his jobs was collecting rents in Manchester.

He said it developed his ability to weigh up people and not 'judge a book by its cover'. He worked during the day and studied at night to become a chartered

surveyor, proudly adding FRICS to his name.

His concern for others was evident even at this stage and he became a prison visitor at Strangeways in Manchester. Once he drove through the night from Manchester to Dundee to help a former inmate.

At this stage it was cars that inspired. Along with his good friend, John Blaney, he raced a Manchester built Belsizecar. It was replaced by a faster Vauxhall 30-98 which was raced at Oulton Park circuit.

Graham was in his mid-thirties and marriage had eluded him, but fate was soon to change that. Before the war, as a 13 year-old, he'd gone on holiday with his mother and father to the Cregduh Hotel at Onich, north of Oban.

In the late 50s he drove his parents back there and spotted Elisabeth, the daughter of the owners, Betty and Jackie Shields. They married and Libby, as she was known, was to become the bedrock and inspiration for Graham's life. He realised he'd met his in-laws nearly twenty years before he met his wife.

They moved to Buglawton near Congleton in Cheshire and in 1964 their son, Gavin joined them.

In 1966, on a trip back home, they saw the Smiddy House for sale at Aros on Mull. It was bought at first as a holiday home, but Libby had a plan.

It was around this time that another grand passion was developing a head of steam, quite literally. Every day steam on Britain's rail-

ways was coming to an end and by 1968 was only to be found in North West England a chance meeting with a Morecambe GP Dr Peter Beet led to them buying a Stanier Black Five, 44781, direct from service with British Rail. That friendship grew and Graham supported Peter, as along with Joe Greenwood, he developed the former motive power depot at Carnforth into the Steamtown centre. It was an inspired move because although the steam engines themselves were being saved the infrastructure of steam, coaling towers, ash pits and water columns were being bulldozed to the ground. Even through it's no longer open routinely to the public the now rare trappings of steam have been preserved.

Despite his busy schedule, Graham still found time for others, helping the Outward Bound Trust, and a charity supporting young managers along with a whole posse of friends who relied on his sage advice.

In 1972 the family moved permanently to Mull even through Graham continued to work two weeks a month with his cousin Michael Campbell for the Ellis-Campbell group, developing property all over the North West.

In 1974 Graham and Libby started the Smiddy gift shop.

The following year the Puffer Ground Restaurant opened, taking its name from the fabled Clyde coastal Puffer steam boats.

But steam was never far from Graham's thoughts and the idea came to him for a railway on Mull linking the

ferry terminal at Craignure with Torosay Castle 1.4 miles away.

In 1982, after much debate and persuasion, the 10 1/4 inch gauge Mull and West Highland Narrow-gauge Railway was opened. It was a big success and carried over 20,000 passengers a year.

He put his heart and soul into the railway. He didn't know the meaning of an eight hour day. Often, after a hard shift immersed in the grease and soot of a steam railway, he presented himself to Libby for the evening restaurant service.

Her wrath was only slightly softened when he donned white gloves to hide the coal-black hands.

Graham supported his son Gavin as they took over the Knockhovie Hotel in Forres in 1987, transforming it into an award winning enterprise.

Ten years later, in 1997, he faced his biggest challenge. While he was away in Wales Libby died suddenly leaving Graham devastated. It was then that his friends far away and on Mull rallied round to ensure his welfare without ever challenging his independence.

In 2004, when most 80 years-olds would be thinking of a quieter life, Graham took on another major challenge.

The historic steamship the SS Sir Walter Scott, on Loch Katrine, faced an uncertain future. Graham rallied support and along with his fellow trustees raised the money for the ship's overhaul, preserving the steam engines. His fellow trustee, Peter Cook, was quite cer-



Graham Ellis puts on a brave face as the last train on the Isle of Mull Railway prepares to leave headed by his locomotive Lady of the Isles on December 4, 2011. (Photo Nick Dodson)

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BIRTHS

STEUART FOTHRINGHAM - On June 13, 2015, to Sophia (née MacCarthy-Morrogh) and Charles, a son, William Alexander Worth, a brother for Cecilia and Georgina.

DEATHS

CAMERON - Peacefully at her home, 8, Balesvullin, Tieve, Mary MacPhail, beloved widow of Lachlan Cameron and dear mother of Margaret. Sadly missed.

DUNLOP - William passed away at home on Friday, June 26, 2015 after a long illness, bravely fought. Willie Dunlop, beloved husband of Elsie, much loved dad of Izzy, William, Colin, Michelle and father-in-law of Murray and Brian. A loving granda to Daniel, Bethany, Jamie and Dylan. Who will be sadly missed by all. The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to the Macmillan and district nurses, a special thanks to Hilary and Shirley who helped with his care.

JOHNSTON - Suddenly at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on June 26, 2015. Margaret Rose (née Lockhart) dearly loved wife of Duncan, much loved mother of Kathleen and Andrew and mother-in-law of Douglas and Louise and beloved grandmother of Fiona, Alasdair, Mairi, Katy, Joseph and Sarah. May her good soul Rest in Peace.

MACDONALD - Peacefully at Uist and Barra Hospital on June 5, 2015, Peter, aged 64yrs of South Uist and Oban. A much loved dad to Craig, brother, brother-in-law and uncle.

NOON - Peacefully at home on June 22, 2015, Hazel Noon, Aros, Isle of Mull. Loving wife of George, devoted mother of Calum, dear nana of Sarah and Rhona. Funeral service was held at Salen Parish Church on Wednesday, July 1, 2015. Thereafter to Pennygown Cemetery.

PEARSON - Peacefully, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on June 25, 2015, in his 67th year, Colin Cowan, 30 Torosay Court, Oban, dearly loved brother, brother-in-law and uncle. Sadly missed.

SMITH - It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Eric Morris Smith, 18 Dunmar Court, Oban, taken suddenly but peacefully at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on June 30, 2015, in his 71st year. Beloved husband to Margaret, much loved dad to Jamie & Erica, an amazing grandpa and very proud great grandpa. Loved by many.

TOSH - FREDERICK MACMILLAN - Peacefully, at St Margaret of Scotland Hospice, Clydebank, on Thursday, June 25, 2015, Fred, dearly loved husband of Reena (née MacCallum), much loved father of Donald, loved father-in-law of Janet and loving grandfather of Cara and Jemma. For funeral arrangements please contact S. Sim and Son, Glasgow on 0141 959 0004.

TYE - Peacefully at home on June 24, 2015, in his 87th year, David Tye, was the much loved husband of the late Marion, dear father to Sally and Mike, father-in-law to John, treasured grandfather to David and Susie, but more than that he was a figurehead whose inspiration reverberates through the generations. Stoic to the end, he led by example. Funeral will take place at Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban on Tuesday, July 7 at 11.00 am. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only, please. Retiring collection/donations, if desired for Oban Hospice Ltd.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS  
KENNEDY - The family of the late Charles Kennedy would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness and sympathy.

Your love and support has been such a source of strength to the family at this time. Thank you to Msgr James McNeil, Canon Pat Brown, Fr Stephen Dunn and Fr Roddy McAuley who celebrated the Requiem Mass and the parishioners of St John's Church, Caol who helped with preparation. Thanks to readers Paul Kennedy and Ronald MacEachen and Brian McBride, who spoke a heartfelt eulogy. Thank you to the musicians, led by John Cameron, who played such beautiful music and hymns, the children of Lochside Primary School and piper Moira Robertson. Thank you also to MacDonald Bros for the beautiful flowers. Sincere thanks to Funeral Director Mike McFall and his staff for their caring and dignified funeral arrangements. John Haggarty for the sound system and Donald Cameron of Lochiel for assistance at Clunes. We are grateful to Fort William Police for their organization and also the ambulance service for their assistance. Thanks to the ladies of Caol Community Centre for refreshments. The sum of £1,650 was collected at the church and has been donated to St John's.

MACDONALD - The family would like to extend heartfelt thanks for their support over the recent death of Peter, thank you for your cards, flowers and phone calls which were appreciated. Special thanks to doctors, nurses and other staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban and Uist and Barra Hospital, Benbecula for their excellent care. Rev. Ishie MacDonald for conducting the service, Neil MacIntyre for funeral arrangements, also gravediggers. Borrodale Hotel for their hospitality. The sum of £550.00 was raised for Macmillan Nurses and Hallan Cemetery.

MACDOUGALL - The family of the late May MacDougall would like to thank all family and friends

who paid their respects at the Church and graveside and sent cards and flowers. A special thanks to Rev John Sheddson for his personal and comforting service. Kirsty for the beautiful floral arrangement, Ian MacInnes of D&A Munns for their efficient service. Thanks also to Graeme and committee at Dalmlach Community Hall for a superb buffet. The sum of £423.60 collected for RNLI and Guide Dogs Scotland. Thank you all.

McLAUGHLIN - Patrick. At Stirling Community Hospital on June 27, 2015, Pat aged 86 years, (of Dunipace, formerly Taynuilt and Islay). Beloved husband of the late Margaret, dearly loved dad of Catriona and the late Ellen, father-in-law of Wayne and a devoted granddad of Torran. Funeral service will be held at Dunipace Parish Church on Saturday, July 4, 2015 at 10.15 am to which all friends are respectfully invited followed by committal at Falkirk Crematorium at 11.15 am.

BARRIE - In loving memory of my dear husband Clelland, passed away July 2, 2012. This day is remembered and lovingly kept.

YOUR LOVING WIFE ANN.

BILLIMORE - In loving memory of Bali, who was taken from us on July 1, 2005. Precious memories silently kept. Of one we loved and never forget.

LOVE SHEENA AND FAMILY X

BROWN - Treasured memories of a special mam and granny Annie, died July 4, 2002. Also remembering my dad Lachlan, died July 2, 1972. Resting where no shadows fall. Loved and remembered by us all.

Inserted by daughter Christina, grandchildren Alison and Ewan, Dunoon, Devon and USA.

CAMERON - In loving memory of a dear mum and dad, nana and papa, taken from us Annette (Annie), June 30, 2013, John (Ian), April 2, 1997. Your life a beautiful memory Your absence a silent grief Missing you both more than words can say. Till we meet again. Gad Chaoidh agus Gad ionndrainn.

Margaret, Alasdair, Kerry, Diane, John and Laura.

CAMERON - In loving memory of our dear mother and nana, Annie, who passed away on June 30, 2013 and our father and papa Ian, on April 2, 1997. Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts.

Mairi, John and families

EDWARDS - In loving memory of my dear husband, George Edwards, who died July 6, 2003, a dear dad and granddad. Forever in our thoughts.

Mary Anne and family, Kinlochleven and Ireland.

LLOYD - Cherished memories of Graham our much loved husband, dad and son-in-law, who died July 1, 2005, aged 45 years. Loved always and never forgotten.

Anne, Clara-Jane, Arienne and Jean.

MACALLISTER - In loving memory of our dear mum and granny Morag, taken from us suddenly on July 1, 2013. Sadly missed.

From the MacAllister family.

MACCREEVY - In loving memory of my beloved daughter Eileen (Gunn), who died on July 7, 2012. Always in my thoughts Forever in my heart.

Mam.

MACINNES - Precious memories of my loving husband Eoghan (formerly of Isle of Luing), died July 2, 2006. Though your smile has gone forever and your hand I cannot touch I still have so many memories of the one I loved so much. Your memory is my keepsake with which I'll never part. God has you in his keeping. I have you in my heart.

Inserted by Mairi, Strollamus, Skye.

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of my dear mother Mary Ann MacEachen, who passed away June 25, 1988, RIP. The years pass by but memories stay. Loved and remembered always.

Inserted by her loving daughter Flora.

MACKAY - In loving memory of our dear mother and grandmother Annie, died July 6, 1998. Always in our thoughts.

Family Inveraray and Canada.

MACLEAN - 05.07.07 Treasured memories of Donald a loving father and grandfather, sadly missed. Deep in our hearts you'll always stay. Loved and remembered every day.

Alastair, Cathanne, Jamie, Stuart and Ruairaidh xx

MACLEAN - Treasured memories of a dear father and grandfather Donald, who passed away July 5, 2007. Sadly missed.

John, May, Shaun and Shannon.

MACLEAN - In loving memory of my beloved son and our brother Ronnie, who died July 6, 1984. Loved and remembered always.

Inserted by Grace and family, Tobermory and Wilma and family, Orkney.

SORLEY - Treasured memories of Jean, our loving mum, gran and great-grand, who fell asleep on July 1, 2013. Dearly loved and sorely missed.

Lorna, Gilly and families.

TURNER - Treasured memories of Dennis, a beloved husband and dad, who died on July 3, 1993. We miss you more than words can say. Loved and remembered every day.

Elizabeth, Julie and Steven, Dalmlach.

TURNER - Fondest memories of my dear son-in-law Dennis, who died on July 3, 1993. Always in my thoughts and sadly missed.

Angus Grant, Dalmlach.

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WEDDINGS



HOLLAND - GILOGLEY  
Nicola Holland and Stuart Gilgoley were married in Cyprus on the 16th May 2015. However the two families and friends also celebrated with a massive party in the Argyllshire Gatherings, Oban on the 20th June 2015. Photograph by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



MCPHERSON - SHAW  
Liz McPherson and Neil Shaw from Roseisle, Elgin were married on 5th June 2015 at Balcaldie Castle. The couple were married by civil ceremony in the company of their close family. Photographer: Highland Photos

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# 'Wimbledon' in West Highlands



Children enjoying the tennis at Oban's own 'Wimbledon' ©27tennis03no

Oban's answer to Wimbledon, the West Highland Tennis Tournament, now in its 44th year, is this year attracting players from as far afield as the United States and Spain.

Events started earlier this week and have been well supported by both junior and senior players and the new Oban Tennis and Squash Club Junior Academy, which has been incredibly successful, with many young players sure to take part in future championships.

This Friday (tomorrow) sees the start of the main events and last year's men's champion, Alan MacDonald, is returning to defend his singles title. He will have to play at his best to defend his trophy as high-quality opposition will be provided by coach, Bruno Argudo, and his Spanish squad. This is the Spanish team's first visit to Oban and they will be joined by John Newcombe's Texas squad, who have been coming to the tournament for 12 years with their coaches, Chris Jacques and Esther Delgado.

Lisa Munro, top seed in the ladies competition, plays at the Broomhill club in Glasgow, but has close Benderloch connections. The tournament has also attracted highly-rated players from other regions of the UK which should result in exciting and competitive matches. The matches take place from Friday to Sunday (Finals Day) at the Atlantis Leisure tennis courts in Oban and spectators are very welcome.

# Saints' youths hold presentation evening



OBAN Saints youth football club held their presentation evening in Oban high school on Tuesday June 23. The event was very well attended and the new 2003 squad, who will be competing in the Dunbartonshire Football Development League, were introduced to the audience. Our picture above shows Jason MacPhail presenting the Ryan MacPhail memorial trophy for most improved player at various age groups.

From left to right: under 14 - Jordan MacKay; under 13 - Blair MacFarlane; under 15 - Cooper Munt; under 16 - Patrick Murphy (award collected by u16 Captain James MacIntyre of behalf of Patrick). Saints youths now enter a well deserved close season break and will return to training in August. A grateful thank you was offered to all sponsors, parents and players without whom there would be no club. Saints look forward to the valued ongoing support for the new season ahead.

## Golf

THE Isle of Seil Golf Club held the Highland Arts Annual Texas Scramble last Sunday and near perfect conditions ensured some very strong results.

First: John Taylor, Ian Galloway and Dave Mudie 67 - 6 = 71.

Second: Neil McCorkindale, Liz Mudie, George McColl and George Fleming 71 - 6.9 = 64.1.

Third: David Nathan, Bill Clark and Ron Hetherington 77 - 6.8 = 70.2.

Nearest the pin on the 8th hole - Neil McCorkindale.

Longest drive gents - Gordon McColl.

Longest drive ladies - Liz Mudie.

After game refreshments were organised by Moira Taylor.

RAIN late in the day did little to dampen the spirits of the winners at Dalmally Golf Club's annual Ladies Open Triam held last Saturday.

1st - Colleen Brown, Janet Buchanan and Ann Hay (all Dalmally GC) 127

2nd - Barbara Robertson, Gina Coleman and Betty Davin (all Dumbarton) 132

3rd - Alice MacCalman, Ann MacCalman and Carol MacLarty (all Taynuilt) 132

Nearest the Pin Silver: Colleen Brown, Dalmally

Nearest the Pin Bronze: Sally Thompson, Taynuilt

Best Outward 9: Alison Livingston, Anne Munro and Ann MacLaren (all Dalmally)

Best Inward 9: Liz MacLean, Ann Shanks and Josephine Monaghan (Dumbarton)

Magic 2s Karen Haggerty, Dumbarton; Marj Clark, Dalmally

## Rugby

RUGBY coaches from Oban Lorne, Etive Vikings, Campbeltown and Aberfeldy attended the recent UKCC Level 2 Course hosted by Oban Lorne and Oban High School.

Coaches were taken through the Level 2 content by course tutor Chris Reid and coach educator Allan Wright.

The benefits of attending the three day course will have an impact on the quality of coaching sessions delivered for all age groups throughout the area.

The course content focused heavily on the tactical and technical side of the game with coaches encouraged to put forward their own ideas throughout their own coaching.

Local coaches, Murray Hamilton, Matt Corns, Tommy Sutherland, Walter Speirs, Corrie Louw and Andrew Johnston attended the course.

## Squash

OBAN Tennis and Squash Club wish to congratulate the following players for winning their respective squash leagues.

League 1 - Michael Kelly.  
League 2 - Tony Kersley.  
League 3 - Grant Addison.  
League 4 - Nicola Morgan.  
League 5 - Peter McMillan.  
League 6 - Mark MacQueen.

## Cricket

OBAN hosted their local Argyll rivals Carradale last Sunday and lost a tight contest by just 14 runs at Taynuilt.

Andrew Leach took an early wicket for Oban, but Chris Marriott passed his half century as Carradale's total moved beyond the three-figure mark.

In reply, Oban began soundly, but the regular loss of wickets at crucial stages was to prove their downfall and Oban needed 15 runs from the final over to win the game. This proved a step too far as Kelly was stranded on 52 not out and Oban ended their chase 14 runs short of the target.

Carradale 175-7 (Marriott 86) Oban 161 all out (Kelly 52no)

# Walking football takes off

FOOTBALLERS can join in the newest craze in Oban as 'walking football' is starting to take off.

Maggie Dougal, of Argyll Voluntary Action, has helped organise a weekly kickabout and she insists it's not just for the elder statesmen of the game.

Maggie said: 'I know walking football is making a big name for itself in other parts of the UK as it allows players of all ages to take part in something they enjoy.'

'We have been going for three months now and it has been very enjoyable.'

'We would like to invite anyone who fancies a game to come along to the Atlantis Leisure Centre at 2pm on Mondays and they can play, regardless of how adept they are.'

'Walking football is exactly what it says. You are not allowed to run. If you do, the ball gets passed to the opposition.'

'Last Friday we invited several councillors to come down and I'm happy to say a fair number did and they really enjoyed it.'

'It allows you to play football regardless of your fitness levels and is great for meeting people who also still want to play the game,' she added.



Walking footballers at the Atlantis Leisure Centre



Left: Billy Martin was in striking form until he was tackled by a certain local dignitary. Billy has since been seen with his arm in a sling.

## Kyokushinkai Karate

Caledonia Kyokushin held a grading test on Sunday 21 June at Lochgilphead Community Centre. Members of clubs from Oban, Lochgilphead and Stirling attended and, although a hard day for everyone, for most of the students it was a good one. Thirty four students attended with twenty nine passing the test.

Kyokushinkai grading tests are notoriously hard and you have

to be on top form to achieve your goals, turning up and going through the motions is simply not good enough. The test started with fitness/strength exercises, depending on the grade, up to 100 push-ups, 100 sit-ups and 150 squats. That is followed by the technical part of the grading and then finishing up with fights. Candidates going for dan grades (black belts) also have to demonstrate their ability to

# MARTIAL ARTS WITH IAIN RODGER

break boards and their ability to withstand attacks from multiple opponents.

The grades before black belt are known as 'kyu grades', the first grade being 10<sup>th</sup> kyu rising to 1<sup>st</sup> kyu. The following is the list of successful students with their new grades: 10<sup>th</sup> kyu: Mirren Angus, Andrew Crawford, Stuart Phillips & Donald Robertson; 9<sup>th</sup> kyu: Karen Crawford, Fiona McClean & Darcy Curran; 8<sup>th</sup> kyu: Alice Adair, Amy-Jean Craik, Hollie Darroch, Adam Robertson, Jamie Wardrop & Teresa Rennie; 7<sup>th</sup> kyu: Iva Bursikova & Ailsa Wilson; 6<sup>th</sup> kyu: Charlie McLaughlin & Oliver Twynham; 5<sup>th</sup> kyu: Jilly Lefebvre; 4<sup>th</sup> kyu: Darryl McLaughlin & Alix Nelson; 3<sup>rd</sup> kyu: Iain Rennie, Niamh Brady, Chloe Twynham, Drew MacKinnon, David Sellick & Brian Sellick; 2<sup>nd</sup> kyu: Paul Mackay; 1<sup>st</sup> kyu: Erin Downie & Jodie Robertson.

Those obtaining 1<sup>st</sup> kyu now have a minimum wait of 1 year before being allowed to attempt the coveted 1<sup>st</sup> dan black belt.

The clubs have three fighters entered in the British Open at the K2 Arena in Crawley on October 17, Katie MacDonald from Tarbert, along with Amy Campbell and Mark Welsh, both from Oban. Extra fight training classes will be held over the next few months for these competitors to ensure they are ready for the challenge.

Classes continue throughout the school summer holidays. For info: iain@ikku.co.uk

## Kick Boxing

Senshi Do Kickboxing held a grading test on Sunday June 28, a full report will be in the next column in two weeks.

A full report on Ruaraidh and Ricky's fights from June 27 at the Headhunters show will also be in the next column.

Classes will continue as normal during the school summer holidays. For info: shihanwill@gmail.com

## Mixed Martial Arts

Oban MMA's new timetable has



Junior members of Kyokushinkai Karate who passed their kyu grading test.

started and the Tuesday MMA session proved popular incorporating wrestling into its striking class. The conditioning class on Fridays is open to all and we encourage anyone to come and try.

Coach Coogie Potter received his blue belt in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu through Pasha Stolyar and Vicente Cavalcante, two high-level black belts whom he trained under when in Australia. This is a great achievement, and a testa-

ment to Coogie's hard work and time spent with his own training and coaching others. For info: coogiepots@gmail.com

## Shukokai Karate

A reminder that Dalmally club has closed for the summer holidays and for students to attend Inveraray during this period.

For info: kenni.gray@btinternet.com



The successful members of Kyokushinkai Karate with their certificates

# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

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### 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

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

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Marine Harvest Premiership

**LOCHABER** Lochaber enjoyed a 2-0 home success over Fort William last weekend in a derby contest which leaves the Spean Bridge side just three points behind league leaders Newtonmore.

Lochaber coach, Ally Ferguson, praised Fort William, but said the score line was a fair reflection of the match.

Ferguson said: 'The derby game does add a little bit of extra spice to matters and there was a decent crowd watching, so hopefully they went home having seen an entertaining match.'

'I think the score was about right and we are really pleased because Fort William are in roughly the same position as us in the league. There is not a lot between the two teams and that showed. I just felt we edged it on the day and now we have got a free weekend before we play at home next against Kinlochshiel, who have the same number of points as us. That will also be a vital match.'

**OBAN CAMANACHD** manager, Gus Campbell, can't wait to get back to league business as his bottom of the table side take on Inveraray at Mossfield Stadium on Saturday.

Campbell said: 'We are a very young side and we will have gained a lot of experience from last weekend's final. We have to use that to our advantage and to start getting a few wins under our belts.'

The home clash with Inveraray will only be Oban Camanachd's second league game since early May and is a chance for Campbell's side to leapfrog over their opponents, who have also won only once in the league this season. Campbell said: 'We badly need a win and our performance against Kyles Athletic in the cup shows we have the players to do very well.'

Saturday's game throws-up at 2.30pm at Mossfield Stadium.

**LOVAT** Lovat have a fixture-free weekend, giving John MacRitchie a chance to rest his players before their big Camanachd Cup tie on July 11.

The third round tie with Fort William will decide which team advances to the semi-finals, to be played in August, with Glasgow Mid Argyll, Inveraray, Kyles, Skye, Oban Camanachd and Newtonmore also still in the tournament.

Lovat are also still in contention for the Premiership this season, sitting second, but with top team Newtonmore sitting pretty, with three games in hand and Kyles with five in hand, it will take some favourable results for Lovat to take the trophy.

The Fort William tie throws up at 2.30pm at Balmage Park.

**FORT WILLIAM** Travel to Kirkton Park on Saturday for league duty against Kinlochshiel. Victor Smith's men will be keen to pick up the points after a disappointing 2-0 defeat against local rivals, Lochaber, on Saturday at Spean Bridge, with goals from Stuart Callison and Ben Delaney making the difference. With seven league ties still to play, and with Fort sitting mid-table, they look odds-on to stay in the Marine Harvest Premiership this season. Kinlochshiel are one of the side's closest rivals this season, so Saturday's result could make a big difference to both teams' eventual league position. This will be their first meeting of the season, after the original fixture was postponed back in March. Saturday's tie throws-up at 2.30pm.

**NEWTONMORE** will travel to face Premiership rivals, Kyles Athletic, on Saturday, in a match that could decide the final outcome of the league.

Both sides have lost only once this season, with Newtonmore sitting top of the table with seven wins from eight games, whereas Kyles are in sixth place, with six wins from four.

**KYLES ATHLETIC** took the biggest prize in shinty, the Celtic Society Cup, back to Tighnabraich for the third year in succession and the 32nd time, after beating Oban Camanachd 4-2.

Donald Irvine scored the decisive penalty in 2013 and was instrumental in Kyles first goal last Saturday, scored by Roddy MacDonald in the first minute.

In less than five minutes, a second MacDonald strike from a goalmouth scramble handed Kyles a two-goal cushion.

Kyles coach, James Perlich, said: 'Our two early goals really helped. It was not our best showing, but a great result. Oban played really well but they lacked goals.'

Kyles faced danger after 15 minutes but their goalie, John Whyte, saved a penalty shot from Scott MacMillan with his feet and he made another good save in the 24th minute, again denying Oban.

On the half hour, Kyles' Dunkie Kerr scored their third. Lorne Dickie netted Oban's only goal of the half despite being surrounded by three Kyles defenders.

After the break, Thomas Whyte aided by Dunkie Kerr scored Kyles fourth with a shot high into the net. Kyles' goalie Whyte was kept busy with repeated Oban attacks around the hour and only Andrew MacCuish found the net with his 68th minute shot. Whyte saved another strike from the same player minutes later.

Kyles missed an 87th minute penalty when Gordon Whyte sent the ball straight to the keeper.

In the Premiership, Kyles have two games in hand over league leaders Newtonmore, who they play at home on Saturday.

Perlich said: 'We have a full squad. More performance in the MacTavish has given them a wake-up call. They have pipped us in the past, so we will have to get the goals.'

**KINGUSSIE** are out of the Macaulay Cup after going down 2-3 to Lovat at home. Last week manager, Russell Jones, warned that Kingussie had not beaten Lovat all season and on Saturday they tried, but came up short.

Lovat's Greg Matheson scored a hat-trick, the first from a penalty in the 31st minute. Kingussie lost their goalie, Greg Dawson, to his work at the break and he was replaced by Rory MacGregor.

Matheson hit a great shot from 25 yards in the 53rd minute to score his second and volleyed a shot into the net 10 minutes later to complete his triple.

In the dying stages, Savio Genini brought Kingussie back into the game with goals in the 81st and 84th minute but it was too late. On Saturday, Kingussie entertain Glenurquhart for the first time this season.

**INVERARAY** found Kinlochshiel's soggy pitch a trial as they lost 3-4 to the west coast team.

The surface would not have looked out of place in March or November.

'Aray's Chris Crawford started the action with a fifth minute shot that 'Shiel' goalie Scott Kennedy could do nothing about.

The play flowed between both ends until 'Shiel's Keith MacRae put one past Graham MacPherson from five yards. 'Aray captain Garry MacPherson scored their second and last on the 29th minute.

'Shiel equalised on the stroke of half-time through Jordan Fraser who repeated it in the 89th minute with Oliver MacRae finishing it off a minute later.

'Aray take on Oban Camanachd at Mossfield on Saturday. This will be the first time this season the two teams have met as unplayable fields have led to two cancellations.

**GLENURQUHART** had a free week and should be raring to go next week when they take on Kingussie. Buoyed by beating Newtonmore in the MacTavish two weeks ago, they shattered Kinlochshiel last week which bodes well for their tie with Kingussie, who are just one place higher in the league.

**KINLOCHSHIEL** made the most of the west coast weather which reduced Kirton to a muddy quagmire and perhaps helped their 4-2 win against Inveraray.

Seven goals - but what a slog



The winning Inveraray Under 17 team. a27macQuisten01no

MacQuisten Cup

Inveraray U17 4  
Kyles Athletic U17 3



Inveraray captain Lewis Montgomery. a27lewis01no

HEAVY ground and surface water slowed the flow of action in the MacQuisten Cup final.

Winners Inveraray Under 17s (U17) fought a local derby against Kyles Athletic U17 at Strachurmore last Sunday.

Overnight rain on Saturday gave the groundstaff a tough job to try to drain surface water from the pitch and the start was delayed by an hour.

Right away, Inveraray made their mark with Lewis Montgomery scoring his first in the fourth minute.

As 'Aray continued to press forward, Montgomery scored a second giving the royal

burgh a useful lead. Kyles did not let it trouble them and stuck to their game plan and Kyle McMartin replied with a lovely strike past Scott MacLachlan to reduce the Kyles arrears.

Although Inveraray enjoyed the majority of pressure, Kyles always looked dangerous. But with the pitch heavy and some surface water laying, it was difficult for either team to get into a rhythm.

With half-time approaching, 12 year old Campbell Watt scored for Inveraray with his bigger brother, Fraser, scoring two minutes later to give

Inveraray what seemed an unassailable lead.

Into the second half and again both teams found it hard to stamp their authority on the game.

With more frustration creeping into the game, it was Kyles who found themselves in the ascendancy when Inveraray seemed to become disjointed with enforced changes and not being able to add to their tally.

As Kyles do though, they came on strong late in the game and Scott MacVicar, 13, scored his fifth goal in two Under 17 ties in the 69th minute.

Then in the 86th minute, Kyle McMartin scored his second of the game to make it 4-3 to Inveraray.

Kyles had one more chance before the final whistle, but failed to hit the target and,

with that, their chances of staging a remarkable comeback had extinguished.

It was Lewis Montgomery, Inveraray captain, who received the trophy from Camanachd Association Chieftan, Jock Turner, at the end of the match before heading to the Creggan Inn for the post-match meal.

This was a great advert for youth shinty with both teams able to take great plaudits for how they performed on the day in what is a major final for their age group.

Thanks must go to Moira and Janice who provided teas and coffees throughout the day, the ground staff for the tremendous effort in getting the game on and, of course, the match official, Lachie Wood, who handled the game well from start to finish.

'Shiel, smarting from a five goal defeat at the hands of Glenurquhart the previous week, were determined and twice came from behind on their way to victory.

Chris Crawford scored the first for 'Aray, Keith MacRae equalised, Garry MacPherson again added one for 'Aray with Jordan Fraser bringing 'Shiel back in. Fraser added a third and Oliver MacRae scored the decider.

Kinlochshiel have already given Fort William a 3-0 beating this season so Saturday's game should go their way.

National Division

**BALLACHULISH** had a free week to recover from their 12-0 thrashing by Skye. We mistakenly reported that they travelled to Inverness last Saturday. That game is this weekend when the national side will try to turn round the 3-0 loss the city team inflicted on them last month.

**SKYE** will travel to Braevie to take on Beaully this Saturday in the league, as they push to overtake Glasgow Mid Argyll into top spot in the Marine Harvest National division.

Skye and Beaully were due to face off on Saturday in Skye, but the game was postponed due to a bereavement. Skye's last game was on June 20, a 12-0 thrashing of Ballachulish, who are yet to win a point in the division this season. Saturday's tie will throw up at 2.30pm.

**KILMALLIE** - Kilmallie host Caberfeidh this Saturday and will be keen to keep their 100 per cent league record alive. Mark MacPherson's side had a tough task on Saturday as they faced arguably the top team in the country, Premiership league

leaders, Newtonmore, in the Macaulay Cup, losing 12-0.

As the only undefeated league side in the National Division this season, with games in hand against Skye and league-leaders Glasgow Mid Argyll, there is every chance Kilmallie could seal promotion to the Premiership. Saturday's tie against Caberfeidh throws-up at 2.30pm at Canal Park.

South Division One

**TAYNUILT** - Taynuilt are at home to Inveraray this Saturday having hosted the Gregor Cameron Consultancy Celtic Society Cup final last weekend. Taynuilt have won only twice this season and face an uphill task to beat Inveraray, who are second in the league, on the same number of points as league leaders Oban Celtic.

**LOCHSIDE ROVERS** Manager Gareth Evans celebrated his side's Sutherland Cup semi-final win over Fort William's second team on June 20, but came back down to earth with a bang as his players lost for the first time in the league this season, 2-3 at home to Oban Celtic last Saturday. Rovers travel to Glenorchy this weekend and are tucked just a point behind leaders Oban Celtic and Inveraray.

**GLENORCHY** drew 1-1 with Oban Celtic in their mid-week game on Tuesday June 23.

It was Glenorchy's second best result of the season against third in the table Celtic. Glen keeper Andrew Smith proved his worth and stopped Celtic in their tracks a number of times.

Kieran MacKay scored for Glen and Lee Askev equalised for Celtic all in the first half.

Last Saturday's game against Strachur also resulted in a

division of the spoils through a 0-0 draw.

Glen entertain Lochside Rovers this Saturday at the Mart Park. The sides have not met this season as their previous match was cancelled due to an unplayable field.

**INVERARAY** reserves were due to play Oban Celtic at Ganavan Park on Tuesday evening and we will have the result next week. At the weekend 'Aray have a local derby with Taynuilt.

**KILMORY** endured a mediocre trip to Bute as they were hammered 5-0, a re-run of the previous week at home. David Whitelaw put Bute on top after eight minutes with Gordon MacMillan adding a second on 20 minutes. There were no more goals until Robert Walker's first in the 51st minute and his second after 70 minutes. James Craig wrapped it up with the fifth. Kilmory have won and drawn one game this season out of nine played, but are just above Strachur on goal difference.

**OBAN CELTIC'S** 1-1 draw in mid-week against Glenorchy helped to lift them in the table and a good 3-2 victory over Lochside Rovers on Saturday sees them sitting top of the league.

In that game, the spoils were shared by Neil Carmichael opening the scoring in the 16th minute and 60 seconds later Donald Cameron added a second.

There was a long spell without a goal before Craig MacDougall brought Rovers back and Scott Dempster gave them hope with an equaliser on 79 minutes.

Two minutes from the end, Daniel Madej's solo effort clinched the points with a well deserved goal. Celtic played Inveraray on Tuesday and we will have the result next week. On

Saturday Celtic travel to Bute.

**BUTE** bashed Kilmory with a five goal thrashing, making it 10 goals they had taken off the Lochgilphead side in eight days. David Whitelaw opened the scoring, followed by Gordon MacMillan. A pair from Robert Walker and another strike from James Craig wrapped up the scoring.

Bute entertain Oban Celtic, at the Meadows, for the first time this season on Saturday.

**STRACHUR** have had an abysmal season so far but managed to hold Glenorchy to a 0-0 draw on Saturday, thus gaining a valuable point.

Their only win in the league from nine games was against Aberdour back in the middle of May. Strachur travel to MacRae Park for a league tie with Kilmory on Saturday.

North Division Two

**GLENGARRY** Glengarry travelled to Lewis last weekend and returned home having enjoyed a 5-1 thumping victory. The win leaves the Glengarry Men, who do not play this weekend, just a point behind league leaders Caberfeidh, but with two games in hand.

South Division Two

**OBAN LORN** Oban Lorn badly need a morale-boosting win following a mediocre run of results. They are at home to Ballachulish this Saturday having lost their previous three matches 5-0, 6-0 and 7-0 to Col Glen, Tayforth and Glasgow Mid Argyll respectively. Earlier this season, Oban Lorn travelled to Ballachulish and won 5-0, but their form has deserted them in recent weeks.



Fixtures

**Saturday July 4**  
**Marine Harvest Premiership**  
Kingussie v Glenurquhart  
Innes Wood  
Kinlochshiel v Fort William  
Evan MacRae  
Kyles Athletic v Newtonmore  
Lachie Wood  
Oban Camanachd v Inveraray  
Deek Cameron

**Marine Harvest National Division**  
Beaully v Skye  
Graham Cameron  
Inverness v Ballachulish  
John Angus Gillies  
Kilmallie v Caberfeidh  
Billy Wotherspoon

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Fort William v Kinlochshiel  
John Matheson  
Glenurquhart v Lochcarron  
Scott McNeil  
Lovat v Strathglass  
Martin MacLean  
Newtonmore v Beaully  
Archie Ritchie

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Aberdour v Kyles Athletic  
Ron Kennedy  
Bute v Oban Celtic  
Robert Baxter  
Glenorchy v Lochside Rovers  
David Mitchell  
Kilmory v Strachur  
John MacGregor  
Taynuilt v Inveraray  
Willie MacDonald

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Aberdeen University v Kilmallie  
Callum Duff  
Caberfeidh v Boleskine  
John Wood  
Lewis v Skye  
Calum Girvan  
Lochaber v Strathspye  
Jim Barr

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Glenorchy v Bute  
Ewen MacDonald  
Oban Lorn v Ballachulish  
Jim Innes  
Tayforth v Glasgow Mid Argyll  
John Gallagher  
Throw ups 2.30 unless stated.

Results

**Tuesday 23 June**  
**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Glenorchy 1 - 1 Oban Celtic

**Saturday June 27**  
**Gregor Cameron Consultancy Celtic Society Cup Final**  
Oban Caman 2 - 4 Kyles Athletic

Artemis Macaulay Cup Quarter Final (North)  
Kilmallie 0 - 12 Newtonmore  
Kingussie 2 - 3 Lovat

**Bullough Cup 2nd Round**  
Aberdour 3 - 2 Col Glen

**Marine Harvest Premiership**  
Kinlochshiel 4 - 2 Inveraray  
Lochaber 2 - 0 Fort William

**Marine Harvest National Division**  
Caberfeidh 2 - 2 Inverness  
Skye P - P Beaully  
Due to Bereavement

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Glenurquhart 5 - 1 Fort William  
Kingussie 4 - 3 Beaully  
Newtonmore 11 - 0 Kinlochshiel  
Strathglass 7 - 3 Lochcarron

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Bute 5 - 0 Kilmory  
Glenorchy 0 - 0 Strachur  
Lochside Rvs 2 - 3 Oban Celtic

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Boleskine 4 - 1 Lochaber  
Inverness 2 - 1 Strathspye  
Kilmallie 5 - 2 Caberfeidh  
Lewis 1 - 5 Glengarry  
Skye 2 - 1 Aberdeen University.



Shinty girls talking a good game in Gaelic

SPECIAL shinty training for women will be held in Fort William on Saturday, July 25, at Lochaber High School and will be open to speakers and learners of Gaelic from the age of 13 to adults.

The training will be run through the medium of Gaelic and it is hoped that it will encourage the use of Gaelic among female shinty players.

Iomain nam Ban is also being run with the hope that many of those training will be involved in the international shinty-hurling for Irish and Scots Gaelic speakers - Iomain Cholmille(Alba).

Although Iomain Cholmille has held youth events as part of its competitions since its founding in 2007, this is the first time that a women's competition

will be involved. Catriona Gibb who plays for Skye Camanachd, a team with a good number of Gaelic speakers, said: 'My friend Kirstie and I were thinking one night about the number of Gaelic speaking women players there were and we saw the success the men were having with Iomain Cholmille and we thought it would be great for us to have a team too.'

'You don't need to be amazingly fluent to be involved, just willing to speak Gaelic and have fun.'

Eòghan Stewart, co-ordinator of Iomain Cholmille, welcomed the new initiative, saying: 'Cholmille has provided us with funding to set up a women's team and that has been a big help.'

'This project has previously

been a big confidence-builder for many young men in using their Gaelic and we felt that there was a big gap for this in women's sport.'

'It's astonishing the effort and initiative that women show with regards to shinty.'

'I'm sure we will see the exact same thing when it comes to Gaelic.'

'Iomain Cholmille is a volun-

tary group and therefore with Catriona Gibb and Kirstie MacLeod came to us with the idea of a women's team we were very happy to support it.'

If there is anybody who cannot attend but would like to be involved in the project in future please email iomaincholmille@gmail.com or contact Catriona on 07833452847 or Eòghan on 07815183841.

## Oban boss praises his side in cup clash but Kyles make it three in a row



TRIUMPHANT: Kyles Athletic players after winning the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup at Taynuilt on Saturday. Photograph by Kevin McGlynn t27shiny01no

### Pre-season going will get tough says Saints' boss

OBAN Saints' new boss, Alex Craik, has promised his players a "pre-season from hell" as his side prepare to face the might of the Scottish Premier League. Craik's team start pre-season training this week in readiness for the prestigious D and K Lafferty tournament, to be held in Oban on Saturday July 11. The tournament features six sides, four of whom, Hearts, Dundee United, St Johnstone and Hamilton Academical, play at the highest level of football in Scotland. They will be joined by Scottish First Division side, Alloa Athletic, plus Craik's Oban Saints. Craik is determined his team will put up a decent showing against their illustrious opponents and says his players are in for a tough time in training. He said: "Getting back to playing football after a summer break is never easy. I should know that better than most as I've done it on so many occasions, but I think this could be the pre-season from hell for them! We have got very good reputation and we want to enhance that with a really strong

showing in the tournament. "We are very fortunate to have such big name sides coming to Oban and we don't want to let ourselves down, so there will be a lot of running up and down hills and sprint work before July 11. We have some really talented players here, so we need to be up to speed fitness-wise in order to give a good account of ourselves." Craik has taken over from Iain Jackson, who guided Saints to third place in the Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division last season. Craik's assistant will be Donnie Campbell, with added support from team skipper Marc MacCullum. Craik said: "We have a new fitness team at Saints, Peter MacCullum, Keith Millar, Jamie Graham, and the plan is to try and get the players on the pitch as prepared as they can be. Fitness is so important these days. Football is becoming a lot more athletic, whereas when I first started, it played a lesser role. In order to succeed in the game now, you have to have athletic ability. "Some players find pre-season

training more gruelling than others, but it is a case of, it has to be done, especially when we are soon to face some of the very best players in Scottish football. We are playing against first team players in Scotland's highest division so we know how tough and demanding it is going to be." Saints fan Craik said: "The season proper starts on August 15 and we have a lot of hard work before it kicks off. Hearts and Hamilton are both sending their first teams to the Lafferty tournament, so we know what we are up against."

### Celtic Society Cup final Oban Camanachd 2 Kyles Athletic 4

OBAN Camanachd boss, Gus Campbell, praised his side's 'character and resolve' after Kyles Athletic defeated his team 4-2 in last Saturday's Glasgow Celtic Society Cup final. Campbell insists the best side won the oldest trophy in the sport, as two early goals by Kyles was enough to ensure their third Celtic Cup success in a row. "It was a terrific match played in the right way, but we suffered from five minutes at the start of the game when everything went out of the window," said Campbell. "We had a setback before kick-off as our regular keeper

had to pull out after a member of his family was taken ill, so we had a keeper who had not played in goal for three years. "But fair play to Gavin Stoddart, it takes a lot of guts to do what he did and he stuck at it, even saving a penalty in the second half. "We played well enough, not our best, but we can't have any complaints. You can't go two goals down to a quality side and expect to win, so the poor start cost us. But we did well and showed plenty of character and resolve after such an early setback. We are disappointed because to gift Kyles two goals

was not exactly in the game plan, but we bounced back. "We have to look on the bright side. There is so much of the season still left to play for, so as a very young side we have to build on this experience and use it to try to improve," he added. The final, held for the first time in its 111-year history at Taynuilt, started disastrously for Oban as two early errors allowed Kyles' Roddy Macdonald to score twice. Bad became worse for Oban as Kyles' keeper, John Whyte, saved a Scott Macmillan penalty and Dunky Kerr then made it 3-0. Oban were handed a lifeline

before half-time as Lorne Dickie made it 3-1, but straight after the break, Thomas Whyte restored Kyles' three-goal advantage. Despite the scoreline, Oban continued to press forward and they finally breached Whyte's goal after a period of sustained pressure when Daniel Cameron teed up captain Andrew MacCuish. It was too little too late for Oban and although Stoddart even saved a late penalty, Kyles Athletic were deserved winners, taking the trophy back to Tighnabruich, a cup the club first won back in 1901.



WINNERS: Sponsor Gregor Cameron of Gregor Cameron Consultancy presents the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup to Kyles captain Calum Millar. Photograph by Kevin McGlynn



CLEARANCE: Oban Camanachd's Gary McKerracher clears the ball out of defence. Photograph by Stephen Lawson

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**WEATHER**

<b>Thursday</b>	Cloudy start with sunshine and showers Light breezes Temperatures 13°C to 18°C.
<b>Friday</b>	Light rain early on soon dying out Winds light south south westerly Temperatures 16°C to 21°C.
<b>Weekend Outlook</b>	Mixture of sunshine and showers Sunshine and showers to continue throughout the next week



**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, July 2, 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	05.42 3.7 11.56 0.8 18.06 3.9	** ** *		
Fri	00.16 0.7 06.19 3.8 12.36 0.6 18.43 4.0			
Sat	01.02 0.7 06.57 3.8 13.18 0.6 19.23 4.0			
Sun	01.48 0.6 07.37 3.7 14.02 0.2 20.05 3.9			
Mon	02.35 0.7 08.21 3.6 14.49 0.7 20.51 3.8			
Tues	03.25 0.8 09.08 3.4 15.40 0.8 21.42 3.6			
Wed	04.19 1.0 10.01 3.2 16.36 1.0 22.42 3.4			

Ardriishaig	-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

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)



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# NHS names date number eight for home to re-open

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

A MALLAIG care home which was controversially shut down last year will re-open by the end of July, according to NHS bosses. The Mackintosh centre closed in July last year amid allegations of poor practice and, at the time, the health board said it would reopen in four to six weeks, but has not re-opened since, with residents moved to Fort William's Invernevis House.

However, at the Lochaber District Partnership meeting on Tuesday, area manager for west NHS Highland, Tracey Ligema, said the care home would be open by the end of July, with Jackie Hodges, a service improvement lead in older people's residential care for NHS Highland, to take the role as registered manager. Mary Purdon, whose mother was moved from the Mackintosh Centre when it closed, said she 'couldn't believe' the date of July 31 as her mother has been let down so many times.

Mary's mother, also called Mary, suffers from dementia, and was living only minutes away from her husband Lewis, 86, who is also seriously ill. The couple now only see each other once a week.

Talking about her mother's situation, Mary said: 'It just seems to be getting pushed back further and further. I won't be satisfied

with what they tell me until it's actually done.

'My dad is very ill with heart failure and a kidney disorder. They've been married 60 years and when she moved there, the idea was he could visit her every day, but now it's once a week.

'She has dementia and she was forgetting who he was. That may have happened anyway, but this certainly hasn't helped.

'He has said until something happens he can't get excited about it - this is the eighth time a date has been announced.

'The worst thing has been the staff not getting in touch though. We were having to hear about things by reading the Oban Times, or if staff had been to a meeting we might hear something. We should have been the first to know.'

Some staff members were suspended pending investigations of alleged poor practice at the home last year.

That investigation has since been completed, but re-opening was delayed when newly recruited staff resigned due to daily commutes of 100 miles for training in Fort William.

Tracey Ligema, said that after re-opening, NHS Highland would engage in a six month service improvement consultation, asking stakeholders, local GPs and elected members how they thought the service could continue to improve at the home.



## Crowds flock to Fort for sheep race

Visitors to Lochaber enjoyed an unusual site on Saturday as the Fort William sheep race took place for the second year in a row. Sheep with teddy bear jockeys raced down the High Street at the charity event, organised by Lochaber Rural Education trust.

## Young people get a say on project cash

YOUNG people will have a say on how money in Lochaber is spent as part of a new Highland council project.

Lochaber councillors have earmarked £10,000 to be spent on groups, clubs and projects for people aged between 11 and 25 years-old and want the young people to decide where the money goes.

Councillor Thomas MacLennan, leader of Lochaber area committee, said: 'Whether you are involved in a club that needs a bit of extra cash to do something new, or are struggling to raise funds to keep a vital service going, this could be your chance to get a share of the money.'

More information and application forms can be accessed via [www.highland.gov.uk/YouthPB](http://www.highland.gov.uk/YouthPB).



## Diamond couple celebrate

A WELL-KNOWN couple in Fort William have celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary.

Colin and Mary Clark married in Selkirk 60 years ago before moving to the town and are best known for running the former D.E. shoe shop on the high street for almost 50 years.

The happy couple celebrated the anniversary with family from all over the UK

## New budget committee

A NEW Highland council committee has been set up to review the budget.

As the local authority's new administration, the Independents, were in opposition when the budget was decided last year, the new group will scrutinise previous consultations to 'review priorities' in plugging a potential £46 million funding gap.

Caol and Mallaig councillor, Ben Thompson, is among the committee members, along with councillors Bill Fernie, Alistair Mackinnon and Matthew Reiss. Councillor Fernie, committee chairman, said: 'The £46 million budget gap we potentially face is unprecedented and will leave us with difficult and unpalatable choices.'

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## Ruling to close four Skye schools thrown out by Scottish ministers

THE DECISION to close four Skye primary schools has been overturned in a first-time ruling by the Scottish government.

Highland Council had wanted to close Edinbane, Dunvegan, Knockbreck and Struan primaries and construct a new, purpose-built school at Dunvegan on Skye. However, the School Closure Review Panel (SCRPR) decided on Saturday that the council had not fulfilled its legal obligations, after Scottish ministers called in the proposal in May.

This is the first time the SCRPR has made a ruling of this kind since it was set up as part of the Children and Young

People (Scotland) act, 2014. But Skye-based councillor Drew Millar said he was disappointed with the decision.

'We undertook an extensive consultation, taking account of the ideas and aspirations expressed by all of those involved,' he said.

'We listened to parents when we came to our decision, and we sought to accommodate the range of views. Many parents will share our disappointment, and we shall now take stock and consider the options, including whether the council will lodge an appeal.'

The council had argued there would be educational and community benefits

as well as cost savings, however some parents objected to the closures, saying their children faced lengthy journeys to and from school. The panel can't overturn a council's decision because it agrees with the concerns of opponents of a closure or feels a wrong decision was made. It can only overrule if it believes the process followed by the council was in some way flawed, such as if incorrect procedures were followed. In particular, the panel decided that the council had not fulfilled its obligations under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. The council now has 14 days to lodge an appeal.

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**TIMESLINE**

**Faster broadband cash up for grabs**

BUSINESSES in the Highlands have the opportunity to apply for grants of up to £3,000 to boost their internet speeds.

The scheme, administered by Highland council on behalf of the super connected cities initiative, works via vouchers and could see businesses benefit from faster broadband to help with technology needs.

Eight companies in the region have already been given the grant, which is available until April next year.

Margaret Davidson, leader of Highland council, said: 'We know how important a fast broadband connection is for businesses to grow and with up to £3,000 worth of installation costs available, this is a great chance to get assistance and open up new or improved ways to do business.'

'The scheme is all about enhancing how businesses communicate with customers and deliver their services efficiently and effectively. I wish the successful businesses all the best as they explore new opportunities and I encourage more Highland based businesses to apply.'

To apply go to <http://www.connectionvouchers.co.uk>

**Pledge of £2.3m road repair cash**

MORE than £2 million is to be invested in repairing Highland roads.

'It will not repair every pothole', councillors admitted at the full Highland council meeting last Thursday, but the sum of £2.36 million will 'go a long way' to repairs in this year and next.

Allan Henderson, councillor for Caol and Mallaig and chairman of the resources committee, welcomed the decision: 'We have the longest road network of any local authority in Scotland, with well over 6,000 kilometres of roads.'

'While it will not repair every pothole, it is a significant sum which will go a long way towards giving us some real improvements.'

**Public thanked as walker is found**

MISSING walker Stephen Russell has been traced.

The 43-year-old had been missing for two weeks and was thought to be travelling through Lochaber, but was found in the Bridge of Oich area last Thursday (June 25).

Police thanked the public for their assistance in the search.



ALL CHANGE: the former Belhaven ward, which will be made into 13 homes if plans are approved 21\_27/belhave01

**Affordable homes plan for former Fort hospital ward**

STEVEN RAE  
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PLANS are in place to turn a former hospital building in Fort William into 13 affordable homes.

A planning application has been made on behalf of Highland council to turn the Belhaven ward building, formerly part of Bedford hospital, into eight houses and five flats.

Highland council purchased the building, which shut down in 2013, from NHS Highland last year, for £200,000.

The Belford Road property

originally housed 23 beds for assessment, stroke and rehabilitation services, mainly catering for the frail and elderly.

In 2010 the unit was transformed from an in-patient unit into a base for outpatient physiotherapy and occupational therapy services, with the in-patient services moved to the main Belford hospital.

The building was declared surplus to requirements by NHS Highland in March 2013, following relocation of out-patient services to other NHS units in the town.

There was some controversy

when the building was placed on the local market later in 2013, without consultation with the Lochaber District partnership.

However, an arrangement was made in August 2014, and the building was sold to the local authority for £200,000.

The funding was created by the Landbank Fund, which is used to enable affordable housing to be delivered either through loans and grants to housing organisations or directly to part-fund the provision of new council housing.

The fund was originally set up using a £5million grant from the Scottish government and £5mil-

lion from housing land sales, and is supplemented each year through income from council tax revenue earned from second and holiday homes.

It is a condition of both the original grant from the Scottish government and the council tax income that the funds must be used to provide additional affordable housing directly or indirectly.

As there are more than 1,000 people on the waiting list in Lochaber, the 13 homes planned will go a long way to addressing that need, if the application is approved.

**Landslip caused by tree felling**

A LANDSLIDE which left almost 60 people trapped for five hours was a result of tree felling by Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) a report has found.

The slips in October last year caused no injuries, but left a number of vehicles blocked in a half-mile stretch of the A82, five miles south of Fort William. Motorists faced a diversion of 161 miles as the Fort William to Glasgow trunk road remained closed for more than 24 hours.

And a Transport Scotland report has called on the Forestry Commission to review its practices after its report showed timber from felling at Corrychurachan had been left lying on the hillside, which then slipped during heavy rainfall.

The report also calls for improvements in communications as the on-call representative of Transport Scotland was not notified of the incident and BEAR Scotland was only made aware of trapped motorists two hours after the landslips.

But a spokesman for Forestry Commission Scotland said the report 'recognised collabora-

tion to get the road reopened as quickly as possible'.

He said: 'The report indicates that the initial response and assessment went well and recognises the good collaboration between Forestry Commission Scotland and BEAR Scotland to get the road re-opened as quickly as possible while maintaining public safety.'

'There are some learning points highlighted, mainly around communications, which we have incorporated into our planning for future A82 operations.'

The spokesman added: 'In addition, the report makes reference to the precautionary tree felling that was carried out as a result of the severe weather warnings and confirms that, prior to the event, FCS was not aware of any incidents of felled trees being mobilised during high rainfall.'

'We will now undertake additional site-based assessments when we receive future weather warnings. These assessments will establish if any additional steps are needed to further minimise the risk of a similar incident occurring again.'



CHAOS: felled trees left on the hillside combined with heavy rain caused last year's landslips on the A82, a report has shown

**Award winning Czech choir helps boost rotary groups**

AN AWARD winning choir from the Czech republic has included Fort William in its UK tour as part of a fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Lochaber.

The 50-strong Janacek choir will perform at Duncansburgh Mackintosh church hall this Tuesday (July 7), with all proceeds going to organisations supported by the Rotary.

John Harvey, president of Lochaber Rotary, said: 'I would urge the public to support the event and raise funds for local charities.'

Tickets are available from any member of the Rotary or at reception in the Alexandra hotel.

**More materials can now be recycled in Highland area**

MORE materials can now be recycled in the Highland council area.

Aerosols, cardboard-based food and drink cartons can now be put into blue bins.

Spray cans should be empty and cartons must be drained, rinsed and have tops removed. Plastic windows should also be removed from envelopes. Councillor Allan Henderson, chairman of the council's community services committee, said: 'Last year in Highland around 16,000 tonnes of recycling was collected in the blue bins and I am sure that the improved service will be welcomed by residents who have proved themselves to be keen recyclers.'



TRAVELS: Laura Byrne, left, and Hannah MacRae performed for the Rotary club of Lochaber as thanks for funding help with a trip to London. They are pictured with rotarian Margaret Boyd

**Rotary girls tune in to thank club**

TWO TEENAGE musicians from Lochaber have completed a social leadership programme, ending in a trip to London.

Laura Byrne and Hannah MacRae took on the Active Citizens project which saw them spend five days working with people from different backgrounds to promote social development.

The girls then travelled to London to visit the Shoreditch Trust, a charity working to reduce poverty, inequality and isolation, with help from funding from the rotary club of Lochaber.

To thank to rotary, the young musicians performed traditional music at the club's monthly lunch meeting on June 24.

Miss Byrne said: 'I've gained so much from meeting the fantastic people of the Shoreditch Trust. The experience has been a positive inspiration to me', while Miss MacRae called the trip 'enlightening'.

John Harvey, president of Lochaber rotary, said: 'We were delighted to support the travel costs of these two enterprising local girls. We're pleased that they gained so much from their visit.'

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# Campaigners call a halt to car park hike

LOUISE GLEN  
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PLANS to charge cash-strapped workers for parking in Oban town centre has been condemned by community campaigners.

And another council-driven scheme to charge tourists 'even more money' to park on Mull was described by the island's business community as 'simply unacceptable'.

The consultation plans from Argyll and Bute council for vehicle parking charges in Oban and Mull were rejected on Monday evening by Oban community council.

Chairwoman of the town's community council, Marri Malloy (pictured), said: 'It is a load of rubbish. We are penalising the people who get off their couches and work for a living.'

'Why on earth the council wants to put another tax on them is beyond me. Why are we taking away from the people who work?'

'If the council get their way on this, there will be no return. People need the free parking at Lochavullin and Atlantis. It might only be an extra couple of pounds for a morning or afternoon, but every single penny adds up. The council cannot get away with this.'

Community councillor, George Berry, who runs a van-driving business in Soroba, said: 'People are starting to talk very badly about parking in Oban. The reviews online make me feel very sad. Bringing in even harsher parking charges will only chase people away.'

Mr Berry continued: 'It is already really bad. One day I sat and watched the hospital car



park and I was alarmed at the number of people of high standing, park in the grounds and then walk down the road.

'Hospital staff and patients cannot get into the car park because other people are taking the spaces.'

'The message we are giving to people is that they are not welcome here - if you drive.'

'We may as well put a sign at the top of the Bealach an Rìgh that says, "Oban is closed for business".'

'What sort of a way is that to make people welcome.'

Community councillor, Jessie MacFarlane, of Glencruitten, said: 'The money we pay doesn't even stay in the town or on the islands, as it is distributed throughout the entire Argyll and Bute council area.'

Islanders in Mull and on Iona are annoyed that the plans would discourage people from parking and spending the day in Fionnphort, Tobermory and on Iona.

A spokesman for businesses on Iona said: 'While we encourage responsible parking, charging for car parking in Fionnphort will make it even more expensive for people to come to Iona.'

'It is already expensive enough. The car park is not fit for purpose

anyway. Drivers will just find other places to park their cars where it is free because there is no one here to move them on.'

Senior Oban councillor, Elaine Robertson, who was the only elected member present at the community council meeting, said: 'We are encouraging everyone to have their say on the future of parking in Oban.'

Duncan Martin, community councillor, added: 'If we don't tell the council how strongly we feel about this - then they won't know.'

Chairman of the council's Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee, councillor Roddy McCuish, said: 'What we as a council are trying to do is improve the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area for both residents and visitors.'

'These proposals represent what we think is, within reason, a fair reflection of what people want.'

'We want to time limit at the Atlantis Leisure and Lochavullin car parks to restrict medium to long-term parking, creating a good turnover of spaces, rather than people leaving their cars there all day while they are at work.'

'We will also consider charging in the Lochavullin car park.'

'On Mull, with the introduction of the road equivalent tariff making it cheaper for visitors to go over on the ferry, we need to introduce a system to manage this increased traffic and ensure new visitors to the island park responsibly.'

'We are also hoping to extend the car park at Fionnphort, creating more spaces which we think will be needed.'

## Islay's cheers to the Prince



The Duke of Rothesay was 'Prince Charming' on Friday as he met workers at two Islay distilleries and a visitor centre on the island. Laphroaig distillery worker Bryony Boyd's crowning moment (above) came as she chatted to Prince Charles. See page four for a full round-up of the Royal visit

## ACHA to build 27 homes

TWENTY seven new homes are to be built by a social housing charity in Oban and Connel.

Argyll Community Housing Association, (ACHA), will build 17 homes at Glenshellach and 10 at St Oran's Place, Connel. Both developments are starting on site this month, bringing an investment of £4,145,000 for the projects.

Funding support for the social housing has come from

a £1.7million grant from the Scottish government, a contribution of £675,000 from Argyll and Bute council and £1.7 million from ACHA.

The new properties will range in size from one to four-bedrooms. Both developments will be built by M and K MacLeod Construction of Lochgilphead.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's chief executive, said: 'I am delighted that after a lot of hard work, the partnership between

the Scottish government, Argyll and Bute council and ACHA has brought this to bear.'

'This is good news for those who need an affordable home as well as being an important stimulus for jobs and the local economy.'

'We believe that the construction phase will sustain 69 full-time jobs over 15 months, of which five will be for apprentices.'

## TIMESLINE

### Lidl to start work on Oban premises

SUPERMARKET chain Lidl has now received planning permission for its new Oban store in the former Co-op site.

Lidl has appointed contractors, who are scheduled to start this Monday (July 6).

The first phase of work will see the demolition of the existing supermarket building on Soroba Road. Due to public safety concerns, the entire site will be closed off, including the existing car park area.

The new store is scheduled to open in early 2016.

### Get head start for town's raft race

THE Great Oban Raft Race, sponsored by George Street Fish and Chips restaurant, will take place this year on Saturday, August 8, on the town centre beach.

For entry forms and details of how to get involved, contact Brian Simmonds of Oban and Lorn Lions Club on 07712 667542 or 01631 570754.

### Tory urges voters to talk about EU

HIGHLANDS and Islands Tory MSP, Jamie McGrigor, is urging constituents to speak out about the proposed referendum on the UK's membership of the EU.

McGrigor made the call after the Scottish parliament's European and External Affairs committee discussed the issue.

### Rope tangled in yacht's propeller

THE Oban RNLI lifeboat was called out on Tuesday to assist a yacht which had a rope caught around its propeller.

There were two people on the yacht near the Sound of Luing. The rope was cut and the yacht skipper proceeded to Oban.

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TASTY CATCH :Steve Jarrod with a haul of seaweed

## 'Weed' on the menu for Holyrood's elite

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IT sounds a bit fishy, but a side order of seaweed could soon be coming to Holyrood.

Green-fingered scientists at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) have started this week to harvest seaweed from the institute's own farm near Oban, with the aim of one day serving it up as a tasty treat for MSPs at Holyrood.

The seaweed farm, off Kerrera, is the first of its kind in the UK and SAMS scientists are using it to develop their seaweed-growing techniques, in the hope that it will be served up as a healthy, crispy snack, sparking interest among Scotland's political elite.

Seaweed is a hugely versatile product and can be used as a bio-fuel, food, fertiliser, pharmaceutical and is also a vital ingredient in many leading cosmetics.

SAMS researcher Dr Phil Kerrison, who has helped to develop the underwater farm since it was first sowed in 2013, reckons the future is not orange, but green and predicts seaweed could soon be the 'must-have' food of the future across the UK.

Dr Kerrison said: 'I became

interested in seaweed because of its potential as a biofuel, but it has real economic potential in high value food products too.'

'We have an ambition to serve crisps made out of seaweed to MSPs to show them what potential it has as a product.'

'There is a huge opportunity to have a sizeable sustainable seaweed industry around the Scottish coast, but compared to Asia, we have nothing at the moment.'

'There is great opportunity for people who are prepared to take the plunge. It's about changing people's mindsets to see the potential of seaweed.'

The global seaweed farming industry produces tens of millions of tonnes every year across 44 countries. Scotland has a long history of seaweed harvesting, dating back to the late 17th century, mainly as a natural fertiliser and alginates are commonly used as a thickener in ice cream and other food.

In the last few years, the potential of seaweed as a source of biofuel has re-awakened the commercial interest in seaweed, as it can be fermented into ethanol, which can be mixed with petrol.

At the Kerrera site, SAMS grow a variety of seaweed: Alaria esculenta, commonly known as dabberlocks or badderlocks, is already a high-value food worldwide; sugar kelp; and dulse (Palmaria palmata). The scientists have also started growing Porphyra - more commonly known as laver or nori - which is regarded as the most valuable seaweed in the world because it is used to wrap sushi. In Japan, the annual production value of nori amounts to around £1.3billion.

Dr Kerrison also revealed this week plans to create a new seaweed farm on the site of a previous trial farm at Port a' Bhuiltin, off the Isle of Lismore.

He said: 'At capacity, the new farm could produce around 25 tonnes of seaweed, which is big enough for someone to start a commercial farm for high value food products.'

Dr Adam Hughes, senior lecturer in sustainable aquaculture at SAMS, said the sky is the limit for seaweed, even though it grows in the sea.

'Seaweed is such an important source for food supply and bio-fuels, yet Europe is far behind other continents in terms of developing the industry.'

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## Mother given last chance to complete her court order

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AN Oban mother has been warned she must complete unpaid community work within the next six months, or face a more severe punishment.

Emma Gillan, 24, of Miller Road, was told by Sheriff Ruth Anderson, QC, she was giving her one 'last chance' to comply with the court sentence for her part in hindering police in their search for a missing 15-year-old girl.

Gillan and her brother, Kevin, were ordered to complete unpaid work in the community after pleading guilty to resisting, obstructing or hindering two police officers in the execution of their duty 12 months ago.

At a hearing of Oban sheriff court last Wednesday, Gillan admitted that she had breached the court order, having completed less than a quarter of the community payback, 24 hours from a total of 100.

Defending solicitor, Gordon Seaton, said: 'She has completed 24 hours from a total of 100, leaving 76 still to be done.'

'The difficulty concerns an inability to cope and she has anxiety issues.'

'She has been in my office in tears and is on anti-depressants.'

'She has a three-year-old son who she cares for through the day. The father of the child was assisting her, but not any longer.'

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC, who ordered Gillan to complete the rest of her community work by December 15, said: 'This work will be completed by this time.'

'There is no use going to your solicitor's office weeping and wailing. It is not impossible.'

'There are lots of people in your position who can do this and you will feel better about yourself.'

'As a result you will be able to get along without the use of anti-depressants.'

'Do not get into a pattern of relying on medication.'

'You have had one chance, but I'm giving you a second chance, a last chance, on this occasion.'

# Landmark town church left to 'rot'

**LOUISE GLEN**  
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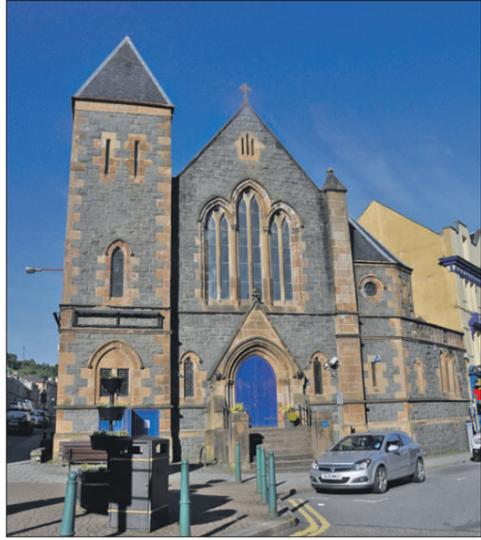
AN Oban town-centre building closed four years ago because of 'the risk of ceiling plaster falling on customers,' still remains shut to the public.

National tourism organisation, Visit Scotland, has confirmed it still didn't have an engineer's report outlining the work required to bring the Argyll Square former church back into use.

It is understood that a number of Oban organisations have approached the publicly-funded organisation about renting or leasing the building - but so far they've been told it is not on the market.

A maritime museum, a charity looking to store historical items and community groups including an Oban church have approached Visit Scotland about renting the building.

But their requests were met with a similar response from the tourism organisation, which said it was still waiting on a



STILL WAITING: The former church has been closed for four years

structural report before it could lease the building.

In May 2011, the Visit Scotland information centre housed in Oban's Argyll Square church, closed overnight with little explanation to the tourism businesses it supported.

A that time, Visit Scotland issued a statement: 'The decision to close was taken after structural damage to the ceiling was spotted.'

'Engineers are currently working to repair the damage.'

'Our paramount concern is to protect our staff, as well as our visitors and, as such, we will wait until the building is completely structurally sound before re-opening.'

In the meantime, Visit Scotland has leased another building on Oban's North Pier.

The tourism organisation stated this week that 'investigations are ongoing to assess the extent of repairs' required to make the Argyll Square building safe.

Visit Scotland's David Adams McGilp said: 'As we've previous-

ly advised the *Oban Times*, no decisions have as yet been taken on a future use for the church building which formerly housed our Visitor Information Centre.

'We have, however, had informal discussions with another local church about using the space at some stage in the future.'

'In the meantime, until the full extent of the repairs required is established, it won't be possible to formulate or take forward plans for the re-occupation of the building.'

Roy Caruthers, whose company approached Visit Scotland about taking the building over in 2011, said: 'The building is being left to rot.'

'It is becoming Oban's greatest eyesore. In four years, you'd think Visit Scotland could have had an engineer's report sorted out.'

'It has taken less time to build the second Forth Crossing and that is an engineering feat.'

The building is on Visit Scotland's asset register valued at £340,000.

## TIMESLINE

### Go-ahead for six Islay warehouses

CONTROVERSIAL planning permission for storage for a popular Islay whisky was given approval by Argyll and Bute council this week.

Bruichladdich distillery was granted permission to build six new bonded warehouses, together with a 'disgorging unit/filling store and welfare facilities'.

14 islanders had claimed the construction of the buildings and the increased traffic to and from the distillery would cause an accident.

Distillery manager Allan Logan said: 'The long-term and essentially passive nature of whisky maturation means that the amount of traffic movements from Bruichladdich to the new facility would be relatively limited.'

'Our current best estimate would be in the region of two additional return truck movements per day.'

### Bid to buy castle is no soft soap

AN OFFER is on the table from an Argyll businesswoman to buy Castle Toward.

Argyll and Bute council said the bid from Denise Purdie, of Purdie's Soaps, has the potential to turn the empty Cowal building into a visitor attraction and create local jobs.

The local authority spokesman went on to say that Ms Purdie's plan would provide income from the sale for investment in council services.

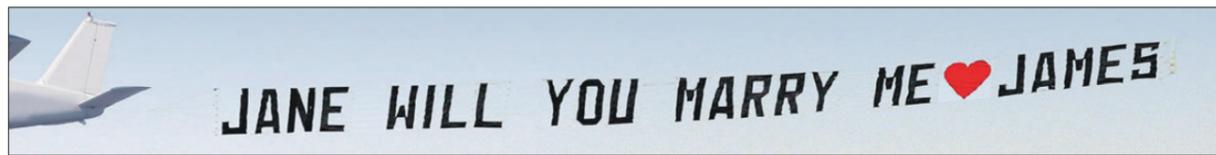
There is a Purdie's Soaps shop in Oban.

### Gaelic boss steps down from Bord

IAIN Campbell, the chief executive of Bord na Gàidhlig, the organisation that promotes the Gaelic language, has stepped down from his post due to personal reasons.

Chairman Allan MacDonald said: 'The Bòrd is extremely grateful to Iain for his work.'

## The proposal that was just plane sailing



HIGH EMOTION: Jane is overwhelmed by the uplifting proposal

IT is the marriage proposal that the villagers of Taynuilt are not going to forget for sometime.

Imagine the scene... the Celtic Society Cup on the village field. The match was well under way and the crowd was engrossed.

All of a sudden a light aircraft flew overhead and a banner unfurled. It read: 'Jane will you marry me, love James'

An unsuspecting Jane Thompson, from Taynuilt, was thrilled with the offer from boyfriend James McLaren of Dalmally.

Jane said of her big match: 'I said "yes" straight away. I had no idea that he was going to propose, but was absolutely delighted to accept.'



HAPPY COUPLE: Jane and James still on cloud nine

## Carrying dog bags 'must be in bylaw'

MEETINGS between council officials and volunteers have dried up over dog dirt - but 40 hotspots have been identified where fouling is worst.

Oban community council, which has supported the campaign, will now lead the charge for a special bylaw to ensure anyone out with dog must carry a dog bag.

Campaigner, Kenny MacLennan, from Pulpit Hill, said: 'Well the meetings between

ourselves and the council officers have slowed down.

'It seems like to me that they are treading water.'

'We have identified 40 hotspots where members of our group have told us there are specific problems.'

'We were told posters would be distributed around the town. In fact they don't exist. We have now been told the supplier of the poster has put up its prices and the council

needs to go back out to tender to get another one. We feel a bit let down.'

Community councillor, Murdo MacKenzie, said: 'In some other places people walking their dogs have to have one bag with them. It should be that we insist the local bylaw is revised with regard to dog fouling. It should ensure dog walkers and owners are in possession of bags.'

The dog-fouling group had

been told by Argyll and Bute council officials that they were interviewing candidates to fill vacant positions in the dog warden's team.

Members of the community council noted the closing date for this and agreed to write to Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee to ask for a local bylaw to be considered.

Councillor Elaine Robertson said she would take the concerns back to the council.

## Fly-tipping fire: larger uplifts 'should be free'

A FIRE started deliberately to burn rubbish in Soroba could have spread to nearby homes in the Oban housing estate.

The town's community council heard on Monday that a fire in late June in one of the flat's bin areas happened because people cannot afford the £55 fee set by Argyll and Bute council to pick up larger items.

When Oban community fire fighters attended the scene, within three minutes of being alerted to the blaze, the flames were already on the rise. And it took them more than 20 minutes to extinguish the fire.

Members of the community council heard that people were dumping in Soroba because they did not have the means to remove large items of rubbish from the area.

Community councillor, George Berry, who works as a van driver, said he often picked stuff up lying around the estate and took it away.

Community council chairwoman, Marri Malloy said: 'Apparently if you send for the council it is £55. People are saying they cannot afford it. There should be free uplifts. You will get fly-tipping. The council should be realistic and pick this up with their normal rubbish if they can.'

A spokesman for Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, said: 'Fires involving rubbish and fly-tipped material risk lives and are taken extremely seriously.'

'A fire involving refuse materials could spread to homes and or businesses and have tragic consequences, but even a small fire will produce toxic smoke that endangers people in the vicinity.'

'People who have asthma and other respiratory problems are put at particular risk by these fires, as they generate a cocktail of toxic gases which affect local air quality.'

'While we are attending deliberate rubbish and refuse fires, at least one of our appliances and its crew would be unavailable to respond to a real emergency, like a house fire or a road traffic collision.'

'Anyone involved in starting such fires needs to know their criminal actions could cause a tragedy and our message is simple: fire-setting is an offence - don't accept it, report it.'

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## Fraser MacPhee memorial shinty shield



UP FOR THE CUP: Nine teams of young shinty players took part in the Fraser MacPhee memorial shield on Sunday at An Aird. Kingussie were the winners of the tournament, now in its 13th year, beating Lochaber in the final. Pictured are the players from Portree, Kingussie, Newtonmore, Ballachulish, Lochaber, Inverloch, Caol, Banavie and Oban, who took part on Sunday Photograph by Iain Ferguson.

### Golf

#### Eric takes the top honours at Fort

THE FORT William open golf tournament, sponsored by Bowmans Skip Hire, was held on Sunday June 28.

Men's results:  
Gross - winner - Eric Wallace, 70. Runner-up - Duncan Rodger, 71. Third - Keith Duncan, 72.  
Net - winner - Patrick Cassidy, net 61 (75 - 14). Runner-up - David MacDonald, net 62 (76 - 14). Third - Henry MacDonald, net 63 (76 - 13).

Ladies results:  
Gross - winner - Rosemary Macintyre, 84. Runner-up - Kathleen Leitch, 94.  
Net - winner - Iona Cameron, net 73 (91 - 18). Runner-up - Ann Lovatt, net 74 (100 - 26).

The nearest to the pin at third hole was James Livingstone, at the sixth hole was Patrick Cassidy, at the 12th hole was Neil Feggans and the 16th hole was Derek Laing.

The longest drive for men was won by Padraig MacNeil, on the second hole. Helen Brian had the longest drive for ladies, at the fifth hole.

#### Skye golfers busy with competitions

RESULTS from the Skye golf championship, held on Wednesday, June 17:

Category one (0-12) - 1 - Murdo Gordon 65/65 = 130, 2 - Jamie Beaton 62/72 = 134.

Category two (13-28) - 1 - Kenny Macpherson 67/68 = 135, 2 - Chris Hanley 69/67 = 136.

Results from the Northern Counties ladies golf association Skye county open, played at the Isle of Skye golf course on Thursday June 18, were as follows: 1 - Carol O'Keefe (Forres) 33, 2 - Ank Carins (Lochcarron) 32, 3 - Morag Simpson (Nairn Dunbar) 31.

Results from the Strath cup, round three, held on Wednesday 24th June: 1 - Chris Hanley 44, 2 - Gillies Nicolson 40, 3 - Dave Macvicar 36.

Skye club championship, final qualifiers, held on Sunday, June 28: 1 - Murdo Gordon, 71+70 = 141, 2 - Stewart Johnston, 71+77=148, 3 - Sandy Ross, 76+73 = 149 and 4 - Alex Munro, 81+70 = 151.



## Goal rush as Caol United retain John Baird memorial cup against Mallaig

FIVE goals in a blistering 20-minute spell saw Caol United retain the John Baird Memorial cup on Friday evening against Mallaig.

Michael Ellis opened the scoring in 14 minutes before Martin Munro, Andy MacLean, Ian MacLellan and Ellis again made it 5-0 inside 35 minutes.

Mallaig, in the second half, were a much improved side and narrowed the gap with an Andy Cunningham goal before a late own goal was turned past the impressive young Mallaig goalkeeper, Mark Johnston, leaving the final score 6-1.

Captain Michael Ellis accepted the cup from Welfare league chairman, Stirling Cairns.

The clubs would like to thank Allan Robertson from Kinlochleven for refereeing.



CELEBRATIONS: Caol United, who won the John Baird Memorial cup on Friday

## Young rugby stars lift annual prizes



Lochaber RFC held its end of season youth rugby awards on Saturday. Above, from left, back row: Callum MacDonald, vice captain, William Stewart, captain, Alistair MacKinnon, president. Middle row: Josh Farr, P4/5 player of the year, Hamish Kelly, P6/7 most improved player, Freddy Fulford, P6/7 player of the year, Nathan Johnston best attendance P6/7. Front row: Rainers Graubergs, best attendance P4/5, and Zacharius Alexander, most improved player P4/5.



Greg Hedrie, left, players' player of the year for S3/4 and Ben Fulford, players' player for S1/2



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**TIDAL INFORMATION**  
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, July 2, 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	05.42	3.7	11.56	0.8	18.06	3.9
Fri	00.16	0.7	06.19	3.8	12.36	0.6
Sat	01.02	0.7	06.57	3.8	13.18	0.6
Sun	01.48	0.6	07.37	3.7	14.02	0.2
Mon	02.35	0.7	08.21	3.6	14.49	0.7
Tues	03.25	0.8	09.08	3.4	15.40	0.8
Wed	04.19	1.0	10.01	3.2	16.36	1.0

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrisaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

**WEATHER**

**Thursday** Cloudy start with sunshine and showers  
Light breezes  
Temperatures 13°C to 18°C.

**Friday** Light rain early on soon dying out  
Winds light south south westerly  
Temperatures 16°C to 21°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Mixture of sunshine and showers  
Sunshine and showers to continue throughout the next week

FRIDAY