

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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# Workers' plea for jobs as consultants' bill tops £1m

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

WORKERS at Argyll and Bute Council say 'it feels like' the council has put the town centre regeneration ahead of jobs.

Claiming the 'severest cuts are yet to hit', the staff want more jobs to be found in-house, and less money to be spent on consultants.

In records on Scottish Government website Spotlight on Spend, the local authority paid out £1.256 million on consultants in the year to March 2015.

More than £800,000 of Argyll and Bute funding has been spent on external consultants since 2009 in order to deliver the CHORD project in Oban town centre.

Workers approached *The Oban Times* after internal consultations led them to believe even more jobs will be cut in 2017. They want the council to consider training staff to resource consultants instead of spending millions with companies not based in Argyll.

Councillor Roddy McCuish, area chairman, said that for the first time in years people in Oban were 'excited about the future'. He said the money spent on consultants was in line with cash spent elsewhere in the country.

A Freedom of Information request made by *The Oban Times*, in response to the workers' plea found that to date £814,852 has been spent on consultants on the CHORD project.

A further marina project is currently being assessed by consultants and is expected to

be finalised after a number of other consultations have taken place, including a wave study and seabed analysis.

These consultations are not yet in figures given to *The Oban Times* as they have still to be completed. Previous marine consultations have cost upwards of £150,000.

Outside consultants are employed by the council as it does not have marine and town-centre engineers on staff. The workers want to see that change.

The group of five workers, who did not want to be named for personal reasons, told *The Oban Times*: 'We understand that the council wants to develop new projects, but too much of our council's cash is not being spent on people who live and work in the area.'

'We think everyone wants the same thing - that is, more well-paid jobs in Oban.'

'It feels like the council has put town centre regeneration ahead of our jobs.'

'We have so much more to give to the area. We think the council should set up a training unit to redeploy staff into support services for consultancy.'

'We don't think that the investment in Oban will materialise in jobs that are equivalent to the jobs we are losing.'

'The severest cuts to staffing are yet to come.'

Revealing the extent spent on consultants, the local authority's Freedom of Information officer said: 'I would, firstly, comment that the council operates the standard public sector model for its capital projects and commissions specialist

external services as and when required, ensuring best value for the public purse.'

*The Oban Times* asked whether the council had prepared economic impact surveys prior to the work in the town centre being undertaken.

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said it was too early to make an assessment of the economic benefit of the CHORD programme.

'At this stage, with the regeneration programme still progressing, it is too early to give a definitive figure.'

'You carry out an economic impact assessment a minimum of a year, but generally two to three years, after the programme is finished, to allow sufficient time for the benefits to emerge.'

Councillor McCuish, Lorn and Islands area chairman, said: 'There is already anecdotal evidence of increased footfall in the town and increased economic activity.'

'People in Oban are excited about the future for the first time in years.'

'Our various regeneration projects are aimed at improving Oban.'

'These are exciting times for the town with public realm developments onsite and the transit berthing facility and visitor centre in the pipeline.'

'The town will see a real boost from these projects through increased confidence in the town's future, which is key in creating new job opportunities, new businesses and encouraging new people to move into the area.'

## Dynamic duo rally to call of the wild



Kay Simpson from Oban and her friend Anne MacAskill, from Skye, are about to take on one of the most daunting and intrepid challenges on the planet - the 10,000-mile Mongol Rally across Europe and Asia - in an old van. Full story, page three.

## New call for improved transport

A CALL by the West Coast's leading economic development agency has concluded that the entrances and exits to Oban need to be improved and train journey times need cutting.

A report published on Tuesday, June 28, calls for investment in the A85 Oban to Tyndrum, the A816 Oban to Lochgilphead and improvements on the Glasgow to Oban train line.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) commissioned eKosgen to carry out the Argyll and Bute Transport Connectivity and Economy Study last year.

After consulting more than 40 businesses and organisations, the report highlights transport and its effect on the economy in Argyll and Bute. It claims there is an urgent need for investment to increase the population and safeguard the area's financial future.

The report focused on times between the main population centres of Dunoon, Campbeltown, Lochgilphead, Oban and Rothesay, and from these onward to Glasgow.

The report suggests investment can play a significant role in encouraging population and economic growth. It concluded that, in addition to Scottish Government plans regarding the A82, A83, rail and ferry services, the following transport corridors should be given consideration: the A85, including access to Oban; the A816, to improve journey times on the Oban to Lochgilphead corridor; remove the constraints posed by the single-track sections of the Dunoon-Colintraive-Portavadie road (B836/A8003/B8000); and investment to reduce the West Coast railway journey times.



## Screen Machine Scotland's Mobile Cinema

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**The Jungle Book** (PG) 106 mins

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Adaptation of the best-selling tear-jerking novel.

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There's all-out war between Team Iron Man and Team Captain America.

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**Hamish** (PG) 89 mins

Documentary of a huge figure in Scottish culture: poet, soldier, intellectual, activist and song-writer.

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07/07 at 8.30pm

**Our Kind of Traitor** (15) 107 mins

Slick adaptation of John le Carré's novel.

"Our kind of thriller." Sky Movies

09/07 at 8.30pm, 10/07 at 8.30pm

Book now at: [www.screenmachine.co.uk](http://www.screenmachine.co.uk). Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings: Cash only, no cards. £7.50

Adults and £5.50 Concessions



## Police hunt for dangerous cyclist

OBAN police are searching for a 'dangerous cyclist' who absconded from officers on Sunday evening after behaving in a manner likely to cause harm to people on Stafford Street and George Street, writes Sandy Neil.

The man was seen cycling the wrong way along a one-way street into oncoming traffic before frightening pedestrians and clipping cars as he made his escape.

Police describe the man as having blond wavy hair and wearing a purple hoodie top. He is described as around 18 years old, and was riding

a black-framed BMX-type bicycle. Two police officers witnessed the man's behaviour. CCTV footage in relation to the incident was obscured by flags hung across George Street.

Concerns about dangerous cycling in the town were also raised at Oban Community Council on Monday evening.

Sympathies lay with young people who wanted to be out and about on their bicycles, but the extreme behaviour displayed by some youngsters is spoiling it for everyone else, the community council was told.

After the meeting, community council chairwoman Marri Malloy told *The Oban Times*: 'It is good the police are doing all they can to make the town safe.'

'We have been saying for some time that it is not children who have been causing concern at Stafford Street - instead it is older young people and adults.'

'This is borne out by this police investigation.'

'The community council's fear is that someone will be injured because of the speed of bikes as they fly through the town or that someone will slip on the wax that is being melted to make skateboards and bikes

go faster on the pedestrianised area.'

'Stafford Street was built for the whole town and we all want to respect that.'

'The community council is keen to work with the cyclists, Argyll and Bute councillors, staff from BID4Oban and the police to find a solution in finding out what young people want.'

In response to reports of adults cycling on pavements and causing injury to pedestrians, Mrs Malloy continued: 'Adults should know better. There is no need for them to cycle on pavements.'

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**TIMESLINE**

**Deadline looms for Gaelic consultation**

MEMBERS of the public have until July 29 to have their say on Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd's (CMAL) updated Gaelic Language Plan.

CMAL's Gaelic Language Plan has a three-year timetable of activity, including increasing the amount of Gaelic multimedia content on the corporate website, a Gaelic version of the complaints procedure and the availability of Gaelic speakers at public meetings.

CMAL already has in place a number of actions from its first Gaelic Language Plan, published in 2010. This includes a bilingual corporate logo and signage at its ports, harbours and offices, Gaelic translations in its annual report and Gaelic training for staff.

Written comments should be emailed to Susan.Williams@cmassets.co.uk.

**Iona is new head of woodlands plan**

A PARTNERSHIP aiming to plant 500 hectares of new woodland on crofts has appointed a project officer covering Argyll and Lochaber.

Iona Hyde is available to give free woodland management advice and help with funding applications across the area, including the Inner Hebrides.

The Croft Woodlands Project is a partnership between Point and Sandwick Trust, Forestry Commission Scotland, the Scottish Crofting Federation and Woodland Trust Scotland.

Iona can be contacted on 03437705460 or at IonaHyde@woodlandtrust.org.uk.

**Nick is unveiled as games chieftain**

ONE OF THE UK's most successful business figures has been unveiled as the honorary chieftain of this year's Cowal Highland Gathering.

Nick Ferguson CBE, who has lived in Argyll for many years, said he was honoured to be asked to be the ceremonial head of this year's gathering. Nick is chairman of Savills plc and former chairman of Sky plc and is chairman of the Argyll and Bute Economic Forum.

**Clarification**

IN A contributed obituary for Archie Gillies in last week's *Oban Times* it was stated that he was born in 1971. He was, in fact, born in 1970.

# Referendum vote condemned

**MARTIN LAING**

m.laing@obantimes.co.uk

THE electorate in Argyll and Bute followed the national trend across Scotland last week in voting strongly to remain part of the European Union (EU).

Across the area, 60.5 per cent of those who cast their votes backed the Remain campaign, with 39.4 per cent opting to leave.

A total of 29,494 people across Argyll and Bute wanted to stay in the EU, with 19,202 supporting the campaign to leave. The turnout was 73.13 per cent. Overall, that represented 44.3 per cent of the entire electorate voting remain while 28.8 per cent backed Brexit.

The UK-wide result, which saw a narrow victory for the Leave movement, was condemned by Argyll and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara. He said: 'Despite Scotland and the people of

Argyll and Bute voting emphatically to remain part of the European Union, we are facing the very real prospect of being dragged out of Europe against our will, due to the Brexit vote in the other parts of the United Kingdom.

'Not only will that be extremely bad for Argyll and Bute and Scotland but it is, I believe, profoundly undemocratic.

'I have never said that the European Union was perfect but it is overwhelmingly in our economic interest to be part of it. The Scotch whisky industry needs a European market, Scotland's farmers need the support of the EU and, for an area experiencing depopulation, we need the ability to attract people and families from other parts of the continent in order to help kick-start our local economy.

'But, above all, decades of close co-operation with our EU partners has kept the peace across a continent that has been at war with itself for



Brendan O'Hara MP

centuries, and working collaboratively with our EU partners, the UK has been able to provide assistance to democratic governments in Afghanistan, Ukraine and across Africa.

'Together as a European Union, we

were working to alleviate the refugee crisis in the Middle East and North Africa. All of that good work is undermined by Brexit and I fear our collective European security will be compromised as a result.

'Brexit has already been shown to be a slogan rather than a thought-out plan, and as a consequence of last Thursday's vote there is now a full-blown political crisis in the UK with both the Tories and Labour in absolute disarray - with sackings, resignations, plots and in-fighting on an unprecedented scale.

'Thankfully, we in Scotland continue to have a stable and competent government working hard to get us out of this mess and I fully support Nicola Sturgeon's attempts to have the democratically expressed wish of the Scottish people respected by both London and Brussels and have Scotland's position within the EU protected.

'I should also reiterate Nicola's word of support to those EU citizens living in Scotland and acknowledge the contribution they make to our national life, to assure them that they are welcome here and that they are greatly valued.

'I am as determined as she is to say that Argyll and Bute remains open for business, and people, regardless of their nationality, will be made welcome here.

'As our first minister said, in the days, weeks and months ahead, we will consider all of the available options to avoid Scotland being dragged out the EU. As Nicola said, nothing is off the table and neither should it be.

'The SNP government will work with anyone and everyone to ensure that Scotland's decision is respected and I urge the UK government and governments across Europe to take cognisance of what Scotland said on Thursday.'

## What the public thought of the shock outcome for Britain to leave the European Union

**Agata Lipniak, 27, Krakow (pic)**

'We've come from Poland today to work in Kintallen. A lot of people from Poland live in the UK, looking for a better life. It's the easiest way.'

**Zuzanna Koziarska, 27, Katowice (pic)**

'Maybe they will come to Poland and study instead. This is good for Scotland, maybe; they want to be independent. This is important for all of Europe. Is this the end of the EU? It's a mess.'

**Val Smith, 60, from Ardfern**

'I was completely shocked and saddened when Cameron said he was resigning. In my heart I wanted to leave, but in my head, for economic reasons, I chose to stay. I think immigration has a lot to do with it. But let's move on now. Let's not be doom and gloom.'

**Gillian Aitken, 45, from Ardrishaig**

'I was quite pleased with the way I voted [to leave], because of the overcrowding and immigration system. I was really undecided until the last minute. The arguments were all lies, so I just felt I had to go with my heart.'

**Andrew Masterman, 50, East Kilbride**

'I was a remain. It's a leap in the dark. Europe could have been reformed by staying in. I was surprised at the result, but I feel



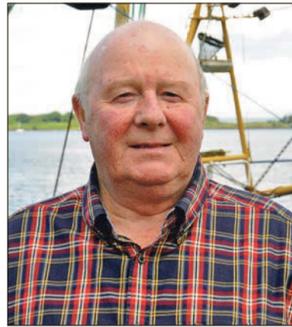
Continental friends: Agata Lipniak, left, and Zuzanna Koziarska, who work here but come from Poland.



Dario Molinari, Croatia.



Val Smith, Ardfern.



Chris Williams, Salford.

Europe has to reform itself. The euro is in crisis, and the Shengen Agreement isn't working. It needs to be sorted, otherwise there'll be riots on the streets. I'm not panicking, just shocked.'

**Dario Molinari, 33, from Croatia**

'I live in London, but I couldn't vote. I would have voted to remain, but I was very sceptical because of all the money going to the EU. £190 million a week is a lot. I have trust in British politicians. They wouldn't ask people to leave if they didn't have some sort of plan.'

**Anonymous from Oban**

'David Cameron would have won his point if he'd been stronger on immigration. It's the far-out European countries coming in and claiming benefits, some of them forming criminal gangs. We felt the safety of the community wasn't the same.'

**Chris Williams, 70, from Salford (pic)**

'We voted by post to remain. Because Scotland voted to remain, and England didn't, there will be a second referendum. It could be the break up of a great nation. The writing's on the wall: nationalism is on the rise. A lot of people are angry about immigration. If you ask them why, they can't answer: they just don't like to see foreign faces and hear foreign voices.'

## The view from Argyll and the Isles

**Mary-Jean Devon Argyll and Bute councillor and Children's Champion**

'It seems to me that almost unanimously older people have made a decision on a future that our children and young people, for the most part, don't agree with.

'I have been approached by many 16- and 17-year-olds who are asking why they got a vote in one referendum and in this one they didn't get to take part.

'The young people I have spoken to are exceptionally well informed.

'I also have had a number of emails and phone calls from European families who don't know what will happen now.

'I want to ensure that those European families know that they will always be welcome in our communities, as are the many other international families that come to live here.

'I hope there is a way through this situation that thinks about the future and what our children want.

'Under European legislation, the rights of children are comprehensively protected. I have no doubt that politicians will try their hardest to protect rights to a similar standard.

'I want people to think, not only how leaving the European Union affects themselves, but also what



Mary-Jean Devon.



Rhia Mills.

part they want the UK to play in the rights of children and young people in the future.'

**Martha Charrington, 15, Mull**

'I'm all for having your own opinions so I'm voicing mine ... also our country is at stake, so listen up.

'I think fellow young people will know how I feel when I say it's sad that our futures have been decided by people it might not even affect.

About 75 per cent of 18-24-year-olds voted for remain but the government will ignore that. People who

voted leave are regretting it because they didn't think it would actually happen, and how ridiculous is that?'

'It's terrifying to think that the pound is already dropping and Nigel Farage admitted that the £350 million he was going to give to the NHS was a lie, and that money might have been the reason some people voted to leave.

'Boris Johnson has said he doesn't think there's any rush to leave the EU but three days ago it was the most important thing to him and top of his to do list.

'There's so many petitions going

around about the referendum and the most popular I've seen has so many signatures the site crashed. It is calling for a second Brexit vote, now we've seen what our country could become. If this second vote does take place, I hope they will let 16- and 17-year-olds vote - not just so we can vote and feel grown up, but so I and my friends can have our voices heard.

'Don't tell us that this is it. Don't tell us that the people have spoken and to just let it be. Don't tell us we're bad losers when you've just messed up our futures.'

**Rhia Mills, nine, Oban**

'It is like being at school: if you are not here, you are absent (and no one remembers about you).

'I think we should have voted remain because now that we are leaving the EU that will effect our future.

'There are going to be many fewer jobs than there are at the moment. Say someone had a European office job: well, that will now be off the list. Any jobs connected with that will also be off the list.

'This will effect jobs and will effect young people's futures when they are older.'

## Mull prepares for the gathering of Clan Maclean

MULL will again be the venue next year for the Clan Maclean international gathering from June 20 to 25.

The gatherings are held every five years and this will be the seventh consecutive one. The gatherings are based in Tobermory, with clan members staying and exploring all parts of the island.

Next year we will mark the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Clan Maclean Association in 1892, and it will be themed around Event

Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology. Event Scotland has given a generous grant to help the Clan Maclean bring a gathering to Mull once more.

The Event Scotland theme is particularly apt as there is vital and ongoing work taking place at Duart Castle, ancestral home of the Clan Maclean, to preserve the building.

The past winter has shown the urgent need to undertake this most expensive project. Financial contributions from

the clan around the world are at present being sought, and the gathering will be a chance to see what has been achieved so far and what is still to be done.

The previous gathering was in 2012 when clansfolk travelled to Mull and were based for a week at Tobermory. They enjoyed, as usual, a warm welcome from the whole town.

Everyone who attended appreciated that shops and businesses were featuring the Clan Maclean. By the end of the week of activities around

the island, more than 1,000 Macleans gathered at Duart Castle for the centenary of the first great clan gathering in 1912, when 'Old Sir Fitzroy', having bought the ruins of Duart Castle, welcomed his clan 'home' and gave them somewhere to return to and gather for years to come.

Anne Maclean of Dochgarroch, chairwoman of the organising committee, said: 'I am sure that in 2017 the people of Tobermory and Mull will again give our clan a warm welcome.'

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS** **DON'T LOSE IT**

**DAB VJB**  
Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute  
Valuation Joint Board

### THE REGISTER OF ELECTORS ANNUAL CANVASS

**Electoral Registration Forms will be posted to every residential property in Argyll & Bute during the month of July, listing the registration details currently held by the Electoral Registration Officer. It is important that you respond to these forms, whether there are changes to be made or not.**

**Residents will be able to respond by using INTERNET, FREEPHONE and MOBILE PHONE TEXT MESSAGE to confirm or update their electoral roll details.**

**Details of how to do this will be on the Registration Forms.**

**All services will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, throughout the canvass period.**

**Alternatively the forms can be returned by POST in the pre-paid envelope provided.**

**Electoral Registration for Young People**

**Along with all adults in the household, you should also add to the form those who will be aged 15 years or older by 30 November 2016.**

**This is so they are on the register when they become old enough to vote.**

**It's important to provide the information requested; if you don't you could be fined £1,000**

**David C Thomson**  
**Electoral Registration Officer**

## Colleges' support staff set to strike

SCOTLAND'S college support staff are planning to take industrial action.

The union said the decision was taken 'after bosses failed to deliver a fair deal for support staff'.

Support staff, who deliver a range of services including finance, admissions, bursaries, libraries and IT, have been offered settlements of £230 in comparison with £450 being given to teaching staff.

National negotiations broke down on June 16 and Unison Scotland, the union for college support staff, is now to ballot members for strike action.

Chris Greenshields, chairman of Unison Scotland in further education, said: 'Our demand is simple and fair. As a minimum, our members should receive parity with our teaching colleagues in the EIS. There should be equality of treatment for workers in the same sector, within the same national bargaining machinery and with the same local employers.'

A spokesperson from the University of the Highlands and Islands added: 'Members have yet to be balloted, so it is too early to know the outcome. Where action is proposed, the university and our partners will work together to determine how it may affect us to ensure any disruption is minimised.'

## Luing is now mobile hotspot

THE Isle of Luing is now a mobile hotspot following the launch of Vodaphone's Rural Open Sure Signal. The Isle of Luing Community Trust has been working with Vodaphone for 18 months and the programme is part of a £2 billion initiative by the firm to provide mobile access to up to 100 rural communities.

## Julie enchants audience with performance at Iona Abbey



Julie Fowlis, left, joins pupils and teachers from Iona Primary School after giving a 'magical' performance in Iona Abbey on Monday. On the right is the school's Gaelic tutor Janet Campbell.

A LAST-MINUTE invitation to listen to one of the world's most influential Gaelic singers was Brave-ly taken up by Iona Primary School.

Monday morning saw children invited to Iona Abbey to hear Julie Fowlis's Gaelic songbook. Julie won a Traditional Music Award for her work on Disney film *Brave* in 2012.

Julie invited the children to join almost 200 tourists to listen to her work. She was on Iona as part of a National Geographic cruise around Europe.

Head teacher Stephen Glen-Lee said: 'Julie gave a magical performance. All the children had a great time with one of the most famous Gaelic singers on the planet.'

'After Julie's performance, the pupils chatted with her in Gaelic. I was very proud of them all.'

'Our Gaelic tutor, Janet Campbell, from Tobermory, just happened to be in school on Monday morning. Mrs Campbell could see for herself what a great job she has done teaching the children Gaelic.'

'The children have been rehearsing for their own debut this week. They will be headlining at the Iona Music Festival on Saturday. They're on the same billing as poet Liz Lochhead and then super group Idlewild.'

'Liz and Idlewild must be delighted that they are getting to share the stage with Iona Primary School pupils.'

## Motorists are urged to take extra care when passing horses on roads

OBAN police officers have asked motorists to remember to drive 'slow or dead slow' when they pass horses on the road.

Officers highlighted, in particular, the single-track road that leads from Benderloch to South Shian.

Inspector Julie McLeish at Oban police office said: 'More

than 60 per cent of incidents involving horses on the roads occur between 10am and 3pm, with June being the most common month.'

'The unclassified single-track road from Benderloch to South Shian sees a lot of horse traffic.'

'There are also long-established stables and a

disabled riding facility. This is also a well-used area by tourists due to the hotel, caravan sites and many self-catering and bed-and-breakfast properties.'

'And a recent survey has revealed that more than 400 cars alone, not counting commercial vehicles and caravans,

passed by in one day. As the season gets busier, this is leading to frustration between vehicle users and horse riders and the obvious dangers where the police have become involved.'

'If you see a horse being ridden or led-on, plan your driving carefully.'

'Slow down on the approach and pass it slowly and smoothly without revving your engine or making any undue noise.'

'If there is not room to pass safely, fall back to create distance and wait until there is.'

'You will usually find most riders will be very courteous if you do.'

## POLICE FILES

with Sergeant John Stobo

### Two men are held after drug is found

TWO men aged 44 and 50 from Soroba and Dunbeg have been detained by police in Oban on suspicion of carrying 1kg of amphetamine, a class-B drug. Commonly known as 'speed', the drug, if confirmed as such by specialists, was being carried in a quantity the police described as 'with intent to supply'.

Sergeant John Stobo of Oban Police Station said: 'This detection was thanks to officers who acted after people in Oban came forward with vital information.'

A report has been made to the procurator fiscal.

### Security warning

POLICE are calling for witnesses after a shed in Inveraray was broken into between June 20 and 23.

A silver and blue Norco Nitro mountain bike worth more than £125 was stolen from the property in Arkland.

Sergeant John Stobo said: 'It may invalidate your household insurance if you do not lock your property. This includes sheds and other outhouses as well as motor vehicles.'

### Cause for concern

POLICE are appealing for information after a number plate was stolen from a car parked outside Willow View in Oban. The '63-plate was removed from a Fiat 500 on June 22 between 1pm and 3pm.

Anyone with any information about any of these incidents is asked to call police on 101.

# Women rev up for rally to Mongolia

SANDY NEIL  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

TWO 'gallivanting quines' from Oban and Skye are about to set off on the 10,000-mile Mongol Rally, billed as 'the greatest motoring adventure on the planet'.

The daunting race will take the two pensioners across the mountains, desert and the steppes of Europe and Asia.

Kay Simpson, 70, from Oban and Anne MacAskill, 67, from Skye believe they are the oldest participants in the 300-vehicle race.

Kay told *The Oban Times*: 'We'll be the oldest for sure - but not the slowest.'

On July 16 the duo, nicknamed the gallivanting quines, will set off on their five-week route from Goodwood Motor Circuit through France, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Mongolia to Ulan-Ude in Siberia, Russia. Dring the trip, on July 29 - probably in Turkmenistan - Anne will celebrate her 68th birthday.

They will be driving Kay's 22-year-old, two-seater, 1,200cc Renault Express van, nicknamed the Green Machine.

'I bought the van in Holland,' the retired vet recalled. 'It had only done 100,000km and the engine was perfection. I love that vehicle.'

For the trip, the van will be decorated with a giant horned yak's skull called Genghis that Kay picked up in Mongolia on a rally with her late husband,



Anne MacAskill, left, and Kay Simpson will raise cash for charity.

Duncan Strachan: 'I brought it back on the plane in my luggage, and I wasn't found out,' Kay revealed.

Kay and Duncan set up Oban Rare Breeds Park in 1984, which they ran for 16 years, but in the off-season the couple loved exploring the world, driving from Oban to Cape Town, and, in an old ambulance, from Bolivia to South America's southernmost tip and back.

They planned to do the Mongol Rally to celebrate their 70th birthdays, but four years ago Duncan was tragically killed in an accident on their almond farm in Spain. 'After Duncan died, I said I wouldn't mind doing this to celebrate my birthday,' Kay explained. 'I want to do the things we were going to do together.'

Anne, the mother of Skye stunt cyclist Danny MacAskill, was asked to take Duncan's place. 'I couldn't refuse,' she said. 'My husband [Peter] thinks I am mad, but what are friends for? Anne, who lives and works in

Dunvegan and also helps run Skye's Colbost Folk Museum and Giant MacAskill Museum, added: 'I'm certainly not frightened to go off to new places. Everyone thinks I should be frightened about my Daniel on his bike, but I leave the worrying to my husband. He's very worried about timing belts, and what we'll use as a toilet.'

When younger, the old friends, who grew up on neighbouring farms in Fife and shared a flat as students in Edinburgh, equipped themselves with a bag of tatties for road trips through Europe and Africa. 'We were still speaking at the end of it,' said Anne.

They will sleep under an awning, filling the van with engine spares, clothes, a stash of wine and a Lilo for luxury. And, of course, food - but 'not noodles, I can't stand them', said Anne. 'It's like a camping trip, for about 10,000 miles.'

In Iran they have to pick up a guide 'for security, so we don't wander off and see something

we shouldn't', Kay explained.

'But where is he going to sit? 'Nothing bothers Anne,' she added. 'She's very game; she'll do anything. I'm not frightened at all. Be prepared to bribe, and Mongolians and Russians like vodka - that's how [Duncan and I] got through.'

Kay plans to build a traditional Mongolian 'ovoo' memorial for Duncan, where a bottle of vodka is placed under a pile of stones. 'It'll be an empty bottle,' she said.

'Mongolia was impossible - unless you like horsemeat. I'll eat anything. I don't know if Anne's a good cook. She'll look after me, and I'll look after the vehicle, because I'm not a bad mechanic. I'll put the awning up while she makes my tea,' Kay added.

Anne contributed: 'My weight helps: I can always stand on the spanner when we're trying to change a tyre. I picked up Dutch and German, and I've been trying to learn Russian, but we'll need to wave our arms a lot there. You can't teach an old dog new tricks.'

Anne is fundraising for two charities - Cancer Research UK and Wings for Life spinal research foundation - while Kay is raising money for Animals Asia. Recently they've raised £690 from stalls in Oban at Christmas and the recent Charities Day, and £1,786 from a bingo and chilli night in Dunvegan last Saturday. You can also donate and follow their progress via their Facebook page The Gallivanting Quines - Mongol Rally 2016.

## Traffic lights are blamed for rush-hour congestion

CONGESTED traffic on Soroba Road could be made worse by a second set of traffic lights, Oban Community Council heard on Monday.

In most rush hours, Oban's main access road is gridlocked with traffic going to or from work and school. Community councillor Kate Winton said: 'I was quicker in my wheelchair than a fire engine.'

Argyll and Bute Councillor Roddy McCuish blamed the traffic lights outside Oban high school. 'The traffic moved most freely when the lights weren't working,' he said. 'My personal opinion is to put a roundabout there, but you're talking £10 million to £12 million, which the council doesn't have.'

Oban North and Lorn Councillor Kieron

Green told the meeting: 'There's another set of traffic lights going in at McCull Terrace, at the entrance to the new high school.'

Marri Malloy, Oban Community Council's re-elected chairperson, commented: 'That'll back everything up.' Councillor Neil MacIntyre urged more drivers to share cars when commuting into town.

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## TIMESLINE



Councillor Norman Macleod and Cl Gordon Macleod with crushed generators.

## Warning over unsafe goods

UNSAFE goods have been destroyed by Western Isles Council's Trading Standards as part of a crackdown on door-to-door sellers.

Earlier this year generators and chainsaws being offered for sale by doorstep sellers in the islands were seized by police and Trading Standards in Uist and Barra.

The goods did not comply with safety regulations and, after being drained of oil products, the machinery has now been crushed. Unsafe hover boards purchased as Christmas presents from an online auction site were also destroyed.

To report doorstep sellers, contact Trading Standards on 01851822694 or police on 101.

## Argyll youngsters are doing well

NEW research shows 92.7 per cent of young people leaving school in Argyll and Bute are going on to work, training or study, new figures show.

The figures reveal 54.2 per cent of school-leavers in Argyll and Bute in 2014/15 went on to higher or further education, while 34.6 per cent found work. The combined number going on to positive destinations in Argyll and Bute is at a record high – and an increase from the 87 per cent in 2009/10.

## Balloons about to go up for Billy after shinty match success



The Shinty All Stars and Taynuilt/Kilmory Select pose with Yvonne MacHugh, Billy's fiancée, and their son William, at the match to raise funds for Billy's plight.

THE group campaigning to free Connel man Billy Irving from an Indian jail are appealing to supporters to release balloons on July 7, to mark the 1000th day since he was arrested and held in India beside five other former British soldiers.

Billy's family and friends announced on their campaign Facebook page Bring Billy Back: 'To mark this we want as many people from around the world to set Free a Balloon to represent setting Billy and the men free. All I ask is you take a picture or video of you, your friends, colleagues, family doing

this and upload to social media with the hashtag #freeourveterans.'

Three years ago, on July 7, 2013, Billy's boat protecting merchant seamen, the MV Seaman Guard Ohio, strayed into Indian territorial waters carrying weapons without permission.

On January 11, 2016, a court in Tamil Nadu, found the six men guilty of border and weapons violations, and sentenced them to five years, hard labour.

To raise cash for Billy's legal fees, and help bring him home, his former teammates at Taynuilt Shinty Club hosted charity match between a Taynuilt and

Kilmory select team, and an All Stars team from eight clubs, last Sunday at Taynuilt's sports field.

Organiser David Thomson, of Taynuilt Shinty Club, thanked all the players and spectators for helping to raise more than £1,500. The All Stars beat Taynuilt and Kilmory 4-2, and Billy's brother Colin scored the first goal.

'I've got too many to thank,' Mr Thomson said. 'It was a really good match: you had the youth and exuberance of Taynuilt against the experience of the All Stars.'

Billy's fiancée Yvonne MacHugh,

who presented 25 raffle donations to prize-winners, was extremely grateful to everyone. Yvonne said: 'We can't thank everyone who stood in the pouring rain to support Billy's benefit match: to all the organisers, to Taynuilt shinty team, to the All Stars, to everyone who baked, made tea or coffee, helped set up, helped clear the place, who donated prizes, thank you.'

'I cannot wait to send all the picture to Billy and tell him all about it when I see him in a few weeks. You have no idea how much today meant to us all. You're all incredible. I hope one day the three of us are back in Argyll.'

The Shinty All Stars who took part in the Billy Irving benefit match with Yvonne MacHugh and the couple's son William ahead of the old guns coming out on top by winning 4-2 at Taynuilt.



Shinty Allstar Victor Smith with Bruce Johnstone of the Taynuilt select.

## Brothers used fake £50 notes

TWO brothers caught passing counterfeit banknotes to Oban shopkeepers have been fined £500 each at Oban Sheriff Court.

John and Charlie McDonagh, both 21, pleaded guilty to passing fake Bank of England £50 notes at two George Street shops, Fancy That and Anglers' Corner, on February 2.

Hearing the men had failed to appear at an earlier date, and were on jobseekers' allowance, Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC said: 'They don't work, they don't turn up to court and they are trying to diddle honest shopkeepers.'

Eoin McGinty, procurator fiscal, told the court Charlie McDonagh had bought a £5 lighter at Fancy That with a fake £50 note, and received two £20 notes in his change.

At Anglers' Corner, John McDonagh had purchased slingshot ammo costing £8 with a counterfeit £50 note, getting back four £10 notes in his change. The shopkeeper then noticed something was suspicious about the note and called the police.

Officers traced the men via CCTV. After approaching them on George Street, they ran into MacPhee's Solicitors. Police later found four fake £10 notes and 11 fake £50 dumped in the hallway of the building.

The court heard the men, who live in Palmers Green, London, had no connection with Oban. Sheriff Anderson imposed on each a £500 fine.

'This sounds to me like a family business,' she said, and urged them to pay the fines so they do not need to appear again. 'Frankly we will be quite happy if you don't come back to Oban.'

A warrant was issued for a 17-year-old man living at a different address.

## Lack of ferries leaves Kerrera high and dry

DAVID MCPHEE  
dmcphree@obantimes.co.uk

A MEMBER of Kerrera's sailing community has vented his frustration over the lack of ferries and facilities provided by Oban Marina.

The last ferry to the island leaves Oban at 5pm and the Waypoint Bar and Grill, which was run by the marina, is no longer in operation.

These problems are proving to be an inconvenience for yacht owners who have to sail to and from Oban in order to eat out.

Oban Marina & Yacht Services Ltd was listed for sale in February and is currently on the market for £975,000.

Paul Wooddisse, who spends 13 weeks each year in the area, said: 'There are ferries, but they only seem to be running every two hours, so it's not good at all.'

'Tomorrow, for example, I have people arriving after 5pm, so I have to take my boat over and pick them up.'

'I have been at the marina since 2001, when it was atrocious. In 2004, new owners took over and brought it up to a good standard but it was taken over again.'

'When they [Oban Marina & Yacht Services Ltd] took over, I was looking forward to it, but they stagnated and it has gone downhill.'

Mr Wooddisse, who is from the Midlands, added: 'They closed the Waypoint Grill, which was open to people who stayed at the marina and had a lot of customers from Oban. It was always vibrant, but it closed, so we're really restricted and have to go to Oban for meals.'

'The staff who are there [at the marina] are absolutely fantastic and look after us

all, but it's the lack of ferries that is the problem.'

'It [the marina] needs new owners with a great interest in marinas. It also needs some money, not a large amount, about £200,000, to spend on improving the infrastructure and putting on a new ferry service.'

Peter Weir, managing director of Oban Marina & Yacht Services Ltd, responded: 'The yacht owners can request a ferry at any time, whereas before the ferries used to run on an hourly basis.'

'But this was when the Waypoint Grill was open and there's no point in running a ferry at 10pm if no-one will use it.'

'One of the problems we have had is looking for trained ferry drivers. We have two ferry drivers running from dawn to dusk, seven days a week, which is the best we can do. We would

take one [a trained driver] on tomorrow if we could get one.'

'We are struggling – we will admit that. We apologise to customers, but at the moment that's all we can run.'

Councillor for Oban South and the Isles, Roddy McCuish, said: 'I am extremely hopeful that the marina will be bought as soon as possible. It will be complementary to all the work Oban is doing to the north pier.'

Argyll and Bute Council is planning to upgrade the north pier to incorporate a visitor centre.

Mr McCuish added: 'The more facilities we have for marine tourism in Oban, the more the area will benefit.'

'I'm led to believe that there are several parties interested in the marina. We, as an area committee, will help as much as possible to facilitate a quick sale if we can.'

## Oban roadworks due to be concluded in weeks

COMPLAINTS about the length of time taken for Oban town centre improvements to be completed are being measured against the good work already done.

Councillor Roddy McCuish defended a few weeks' work on the project as a 'once in a lifetime opportunity' to get things done.

But bus passengers and vehicle drivers are frustrated at the extra strain the works are placing on journey times.

Comments on *The Oban Times* Facebook page show townsfolk were unaware of any delay to the project.

Community councillor George Berry said: 'This was supposed to be finished for July.'

'This was the official timeline. Let's watch this space ... [perhaps] not this summer.'

Fiona Barnett said: 'The work should have been finished by July 8.' While Facebook user Angus MacFadgen claimed the works should have been finished by June 21.

Mr McCuish defended the delay in the completion of the works.

He said: 'We have taken the opportunity to add a few things into the scheme. This is a once in a lifetime

opportunity; we have to make the most of it.'

He continued: 'The town looks fantastic, the best it has in years. It's giving Oban a new lease of life. People here are excited about their prospects. We hope to see new shops, offices and, more importantly, job opportunities in the future.'

'The council is focused on improving our area, bringing in new people, new businesses, new jobs. Schemes like this have a huge part to play.'

'We talked to local businesses, Bid4Oban, the disability forum and other key partners, and decided to add in a few extras on top of the original plans. It's sensible to take advantage of this opportunity and get the additional work done, all within our original budget.'

A council spokesman confirmed: 'By Tuesday July 5 Queen's Park Place will be completed [and] the road will be fully operational.'

The additional work is set to be completed by mid-July. It includes extra bus shelters, dropped kerbs to disabled parking bays, travel information display boards in all five bus stops and a large travel information board for Station Square.

## SAMS at the forefront of Atlantic research project

A DUNSTAFFNAGE science facility is at the forefront of a major new research project in the North Atlantic.

The Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) has a key role to play in the ATLAS (a transatlantic assessment) initiative by carrying out modelling work to help calculate currents, salinity and temperature across parts of the ocean.

SAMS staff will also be taking water samples to study nutrients and how they are varying, as little is known about the subject.

The ATLAS project is also taking advantage of SAMS moorings sited across the sub-polar North Atlantic and SAMS is contributing oceanographic expertise and Seaglider autonomous underwater vehicles.

ATLAS, which began earlier this month and has nine million euros in funding, is the largest and most ambitious assessment of deep-sea Atlantic ecosystems ever undertaken.

The launch of ATLAS marks the beginning of a series of expeditions involving at least 25 research cruises and hundreds of scientists from 10 European countries, the USA and Canada, working collaboratively over the next four years.

ATLAS project coordinator Professor J Murray Roberts, from Heriot-Watt University, said: 'The North Atlantic was the birthplace of deep-sea biology and the cradle of oceanography. It's the place we should know best, but it's only over the past 20 years that we've uncovered just how varied and vulnerable the Atlantic's deep-sea habitats really are.'

ATLAS will strive to improve understanding of the complexity of deep-sea ecosystems and to predict future shifts and vulnerabilities of these ecosystems and their associated species, including those that are new to science. To do this requires a multi-disciplinary team of scientists and an integrated approach to tackling the problem.

ATLAS also intends to perform outreach activities to raise awareness of the importance and vulnerability of the Atlantic ecosystem and the impact humans are having on the ocean environment. This will contribute to a major international effort for 'ocean literacy' to make all European citizens aware of the importance of the oceans on everyday life across the planet and what actions they can take to help protect them.'

## Business Gateway workshops

**Business Start-up** - 20 July; 7/8 Sept - Oban; 26/27 July - Lochgilphead - A workshop incorporating: business planning, finance, marketing and market research.

**WorldHost™ Principles of Customer Service** - 27 July - Oban Train your front line staff to deliver a great customer experience that will have your customers wanting to return. The workshop will give your staff the skills and knowledge to deliver excellent customer service that will give your business a great reputation.

**Introduction to Trading Online** - 28 July - Inveraray A workshop that will focus on some of the basics required for trading online, and will look at the various tools, platforms and payment options available to everyone and will include some information of the legal requirements.

**Practical Basic Book-keeping** - 23 August - Lochgilphead A half day workshop shows how book-keeping is used to generate the financial information needed for Income Tax, VAT, Corporation Tax, PAYE and National Insurance contributions.

**Introduction to Social Media** - 24 August, Ardrishaig Are you very new to or still sceptical about the idea of using social media for your business? Gain a basic understanding of what social media is, how to start using it and what benefits there may be in using it for business.

**Doing more with Social Media** - 25 August, Ardrishaig Are you already using social media for your business? Do you want to use it more effectively and find out how to link to your marketing strategy to promote and grow your business?

**Managing and Developing Staff** - 15 September, Ardrishaig A workshop to help businesses recruit, induct, manage and develop staff. Focusing on the skills and processes required to get the best out of staff, rather than the legal aspects and be able to create a plan for managing and developing staff.

**Selling with Confidence** - 21 September, Inveraray A half day workshop to help you feel confident selling and promoting your business. Learn top selling tips, how to identify customer needs. Find out why people buy, features and benefits of your products or service, how to overcome customer objections and identify buying signals.

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# Grass-cutting at cemeteries is earmarked for the chop



Alastair Redman suggests cuts to executives' salaries.

**DAVID MCPHEE**  
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk

CEMETERIES on Islay are getting cut ... from the council's grass-cutting schedule.

As a way to save money, Argyll and Bute Council is reducing the number of times it cuts the grass to once a year.

The council budget states that grass-cutting will be carried out once, either in October or November, with some areas returned to meadow or natural growth, and hedges will be maintained in winter only with one cut per year.

Alastair Redman, who runs the post office on Islay, said: 'I was very unhappy to hear

that our council may stop cutting grass at the cemeteries on Islay.

'While I understand savings must be made somewhere and that the pool of money the council has gets smaller every year due to the council tax freeze, front-line services should be the last to be hit and the council should look at reducing the pay-packets of some of its well-paid managers - such as Argyll and Bute's chief executive who receives £118,251 per year.

'Many local residents have been voicing their anger about the maintenance cuts to our cemeteries to me and I would implore our elected officials

to reconsider this move.' A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'This is a time of unprecedented challenge for local government.

'Drastically reduced funding means we have to save more than £10 million in 2016/17 alone. This means we can't do everything we would like to do for our communities.

'We have reduced grass-cutting at old cemeteries on Islay, which are full.

'By reducing grass-cutting, we can keep our environmental warden service, keep public conveniences open, keep hanging baskets and annual bedding displays - things our communities told us were important to them.'

Councillor for Oban South and the Isles, Roddy McCuish, echoed the council's sentiment and added: 'It's regrettable that we are at this position, and hopefully in the future this will change, but, unfortunately, reduced funding means reduced services.

'I will be asking for the schedules to come back to the area committee to see if we can prioritise or change the way we do this but still make the same savings.'

A spokesman for Taxpayer Scotland, an advocacy group for Scottish taxpayers, said: 'Argyll and Bute appears from its policy to be minimising what it spends on looking after these

cemeteries. No doubt other needs take precedence and it is more than likely right about that.

'What is now needed is some imagination on how to resolve the issue if local people are concerned.

'There are numerous community-based voluntary approaches to this that would cost taxpayers nothing. These should be explored by the community and its council.

'Scots must stop always assuming that the public sector will pay for everything. It can't. As the saying goes, "there is no more money" to be taken from taxpayers without making everyone poorer.'

## TIMESLINE

### Funding continues for veterans' help

ARGYLL and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau said it was delighted with the recent announcement that funding for its Armed Services Advice Project is to continue for a further three years.

The project, funded by Poppy Scotland and Royal British Legion, began in October 2014 and has helped armed services personnel, their families and veterans from all over Argyll and Bute.

Project adviser Sandra Staniland said she had seen a steady increase in referrals to assist clients with immediate advice on benefits, housing and debt, and making referrals to other organisations for specific help.

### Water project on Iona completed

RESIDENTS and holidaymakers on Iona are benefiting from improved security of the water supply following the completion of a £1.4 million project to install a new mains pipe.

Work by Scottish Water started in April to replace ageing pipework with a new 0.8-mile pipe under the Sound of Iona, linking with the network on Mull. The work has been completed on time.

### Countdown to Oban raft race

THERE are only seven weeks left for crews to enter this year's Oban and Lorn Lions Club's Great Oban Bay Raft Race.

The fun-filled event will be held on Saturday August 13, starting from the beach at George Street.

The only rules are that crews must be at least two people, all rafts have to be hand-built and powered only by hand-held paddles, and those taking part must sit on and not in their rafts.

Entry forms are available from Webster's Photographic in George Street, Hannah's Newsagent in Stevenson Street and Mathieson Furniture on Soroba Road. For more information, call 07880 535550.

## New school takes a major step forward

THE development of Oban's new £35 million school took a groundbreaking step forward on Monday.

Councillor Roddy McCuish was the first to pierce the soil at the sod-cutting ceremony, which celebrated the first day of construction of the new Oban high school.

Argyll and Bute Council has appointed Hub North Scotland to build the school, which will accommodate 1,300 pupils.

Angus MacFarlane, chief executive of Hub North Scotland, is hopeful that it will be ready to open in March 2018. The current high school will remain open throughout the building process.

The head teacher of Oban high school, Peter Bain, gave a speech at the ceremony alongside Angus MacFarlane and Mr McCuish.

Oban's youngest high school pupil, Chloe Hamilton, head boy Stephen Povey, and Oban high school's pipe band joined them.



Oban high school pipers joined pupils Chloe Hamilton and Stephen Povey, head teacher Peter Bain and Councillor Roddy McCuish at the ceremony.

## Options outlined to fix waste plant

SCOTTISH WATER has unveiled alternative options to its controversial plan to fix the failing Clachan Seil Waste Water Works at a public meeting in Seil Island Community Hall.

Scottish Water's £11 million membrane plant, unable to separate run-off from heavy rain, has been causing untreated human waste to overflow into Balvicar Bay.

Its £1.8 million solution was to pump sewage from Clachan over a hill into a septic tank at Seaview Terrace near Ellena-beich, and then out into a marine conservation area, which some islanders deemed 'cheap', 'nasty' and 'inept'.

At the meeting, Scottish Water acknowledged the leaking plant between Balvicar and Clachan had led to a breakdown

in trust with the community, but it hoped to rebuild it by being transparent about the evidence when deciding between the options.

'We're keen to make the right decision, rather than make a decision in haste,' said Alan Thomson, Scottish Water's head of corporate relations. But he added that it would be very difficult to please everyone with the preferred option.

Billboards at Monday's session last week promised 'to provide transparent information on potential options', and to listen to the community and record feedback about the three options on display, which could be altered or added to.

The first two options gave Seaview Terrace a standalone septic tank, and proposed

replacing Clachan's small plant with either a larger 135m x 50m plant, including above-ground SAF and final settlement tanks, or a greener but even larger 200m x 40m reed-bed plant. Both these options would also require septic tanks, and finally UV treatment, before the waste is discharged into the sea.

The third option remained as before. All the options, SW stated, are subject to planning consent, land availability, environmental consents, technical considerations and cost.

A stakeholder group chaired by Michael Russell MSP, composed of Scottish Water, SEPA, independent consultant Ian Clifforde and local councillors and community council representatives, is due to meet next in mid-August.

## Woman charged over rare car crime

A DAY of good fun and sportsmanship ended in police being called when a young woman from Iona was cautioned for allegedly taking a car without the permission and crashing it into another car causing damage.

It is the first crime of its type on the holy island that anyone *The Oban Times* spoke to can remember. Police Scotland confirmed it had no knowledge of any previous car crime on the island.

Police Scotland said a luxury pick-up car was taken from the top of the jetty, in the village centre, and was found close to where it had been parked, with the damage visible on the car.

Police were called and witness statements were taken on the island.

A 23-year-old woman was cautioned and charged by police officers on Tuesday June 28.

She has been reported to the procurator fiscal on three charges - taking the car without the consent of the owner, driving a motor vehicle without insurance and failing to report the incident to police.

The incident happened overnight between June 18 and 19 on the day of the annual Iona football competition.

## Hunt is on to find wise guys for new BBC TV series

THE BBC is making a new TV series that looks at bringing traditional wisdom into the lives of ordinary people.

Producers are casting for local characters with significant life experience who could provide advice and insight to others.

They are looking for groups and individuals who could help

someone going through a pivotal time in their lives - whether it's becoming a parent, getting married or changing careers or something else.

The series is inspired by the idea that in our hectic lives many individuals find themselves out of touch with wisdom that has helped others for centuries.

People are more likely to turn to Google with problems than ask a grandparent, religious leader or community member.

The casting team are looking for great characters who can be positive role models with their own opinions and insight.

To take part, email wise-words@bbc.co.uk.

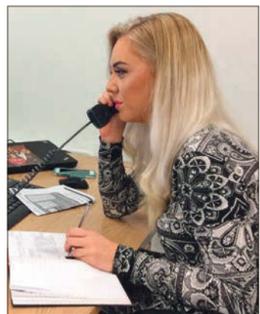
## Demi honoured for saving weddings

SEVEN newlywed couples had CalMac employee Demi Wylie to thank for saving their big days - and she's now been recognised for her efforts at the Scottish Transport Awards.

Demi, 23, won the Frontline Employee of the Year title for her tireless work rescuing seven island weddings that were in danger of serious disruption due to industrial action last summer.

Demi and her team took it upon themselves to become the single liaison point for all those involved and worked with the couples to make sure their special days weren't derailed.

Demi's creative efforts in finding alternative travel plans resulted in more than 600 guests successfully reaching their destinations and ensured



Demi hard at work for CalMac.

standing their issues. On the top of sorting out their logistical problems, she and her team even found time to source extra special gifts for each couple with handmade products from the island they had chosen for their wedding.

Demi said: 'It was real surprise to get nominated and an even bigger one to have won. It really was a team effort and I'm just glad that we were all able to help out. A wedding should be a day to remember for all the right reasons. The last thing couples need among all the other things to think about is having half the guests stranded and unable to attend.'

The weddings were spread over CalMac's network of 24 islands and remote destinations.

## MP supports MND campaign

ARGYLL and Bute MP Brendan O'Hara is appealing to his constituents to help Cure MND (Motor Neurone Disease). Funding MND research is a key priority for MND Scotland which needs more donations. Text CUREMND to 70660 to donate £5.

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## Plockton

PLOCKTON High School students will be joining forces with Scotland's local heroes to mark the opening of the fifth session of the Scottish Parliament.

All 129 MSPs have nominated one of their constituents, in recognition of the work they do to help others in the community, as a local hero and these chosen heroes have been invited to join in the day's events.

This Saturday, July 2, six of the school's music pupils will take part in the historic Riding procession down the Edinburgh Royal Mile, alongside around 2,000 others who will be taking part in the day's events.

Dougie Pincock, director of Sgoil Chiuil Na Gàidhealtachd (Plockton High School) said: 'It's a real honour to be recognised by the Scottish Parliament for the work we do on such an historic day.'

'We are tremendously excited to join so many performers and community groups from the length and breadth of Scotland, all working to make a positive difference, and it'll be a great opportunity for the students involved.'

Her Majesty The Queen will be addressing MSPs in the chamber, after which the gardens of the parliament will be open to everyone to explore and participate in a full programme of events, including a mini-Highland games, music and dance, science and nature and art activities.

## Western Isles

THE NUMBER of school leavers in the Western Isles going on to positive destinations of work, training or study is higher than any other local authority area in Scotland.

Alasdair Allan, SNP MSP for Na h'Eileanan an Iar, has welcomed new figures showing that 97 per cent of students in the Western Isles moved on to employment or further training or education in 2014/15.

This is an improvement on the figure for 2010/2011 which was still high at 92 per cent.

Mr Allan commented: 'It's fantastic news that 97 per cent of young people in the islands are going on to a positive destination after leaving school - with most continuing in education or training.'

'With record numbers of young people across Scotland in positive destinations, the Western Isles have set the marker for the rest of the country by having the highest proportion of our young people leaving school for positive destinations.'

## Glencoe and Duror

GLENCOE and Duror primary schools have achieved their fourth Green Flag Award to maintain their eco school status.

Eco school assessors praised the amount of work that went into achieving and retaining Green Flag status in both schools.

The wide range of projects included the Scotland Lights Up Malawi initiative, the Owl Energy Monitor Project, Fairtrade, Big School Birdwatch and the vegetable taster day, prepared by school staff using produce from the school vegetable garden and served to families and community members.

Last term Glencoe Primary School secured £1,500 from the local Co-op Fund to help buy a polytunnel for the school.

The polytunnel was put up by parents and now has a variety of vegetables growing inside ready for the Glencoe and District Flower Show and the vegetable taster in August.

Marilyn Macdonald, cluster head teacher, said: 'I wish to express my thanks to all the local communities and organisations who gave their time and skills in allowing the children to grow in confidence and expertise and become responsible citizens.'



Glencoe and Duror primary school pupils and staff with their latest green flag.



MIKEY CLIFFORD met North Connel Beavers to talk about staying safe around water.

## Beavers enjoy water safety talk

YOUNGSTERS from North Connel have been shown how to stay safe around water.

As part of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's commitment to water safety, crew manager Mikey Clifford, from Oban community fire station, delivered the safety session and equipment display to North Connel Beavers on Monday June 20.

As part of their safety badge, and to tie in with National Drowning Prevention Week, 20 six and seven-

### North Connel

year-old Beavers got a close-up look at some of the latest equipment Oban firefighters have at their disposal. The youngsters also received advice about how to stay safe while having fun in or around water.

Oban fire station manager Derek Wilson said: 'There are around 400 drownings a year across the UK and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

wants to raise awareness of the dangers associated with water and to give people guidance on how to enjoy themselves safely in and around our rivers, lochs and sea shore.'

Safety information for adults and children, including the Royal Life Saving Society's SAFE code cartoon for children, schools and community resources, and reservoir precautions, is available via links on the website [www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/water-safety](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/water-safety).



Craig Murray and Stuart Inglis demonstrate how to use a Killin Mountain Rescue Team stretcher with help from Kayleigh MacNab.

## Crianlarich

A RUBBER duck racing and community stalls helped raise £1,750 for Crianlarich Primary School and nursery.

The event, on Saturday June 4, was organised by The Parent Partnership.

Theresa Elliot, a parent partnership member, said: 'The duck race was eventful as the river water was low with little current, but we managed to get the ducks flowing upstream with the wind.'

'The Parent Partnership would like to thank everyone involved: teachers, staff, sponsors, businesses, Matt and Eddie for launching and supervising ducks, everyone who supported us and most of all our husbands who were volunteered

for all the heavy stuff and they didn't even know it.'

All the raffle prizes were donated by local businesses and the event was sponsored by: Rural Stirling Housing Association, The Green Welly, Rod and Reel, Strathfillan Community Development Trust, Tyndrum Inn, Londis Crianlarich Store, Glengarry House, West Highland Lodge and Real Food Café.

Some of the money went towards funding a school trip last week, which allowed the children to see Horrible Histories - Groovy Greeks at the Theatre Royal in Glasgow, which ties in with this term's school topic Ancient Greeks.



Left to right: Caitlin Higgins, Kayleigh MacNab, Theresa Elliot and Kate Lilly at the Rural Stirling Housing Association stall.



Archie, Alison, Kirstin and Jane Stewart were the winners of the guess the weight of the cake competition, donated by Artisan Cafe, Tyndrum.

## MORVERN

lines

### A visit to Rum

OF THE inhabited islands of the Inner Hebrides, Rum is my favourite - not that I would want to live there full-time.

The problem about small islands is getting off and on them at will and having to depend on expensive and unreliable ferries, or taking ill and being a nuisance to the emergency services.

Then there are the social problems. Many folk, usually from the inner cities, dream of the communal way of life but the reality, especially during the winter months, when the broadband connection fails and 'cabin-fever' kicks in, is something else. A good example is the 'the back-stabbers' ball', a term once used by locals to describe the remote Knoydart Peninsula's annual estate dance.

I revisited Rum not long ago and was delighted to find no diminution in the seabird colonies along the precipitous west coast or, after a long uphill slog, the rare Norwegian (or Arctic) sandwort on the south-west slopes of Ruinsival.

The old burial ground at Kilmory was in good order following repairs to its perimeter wall a few years ago, approved by Historic Scotland, financed by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and completed by ace dyke-builder Donald Kennedy from Doirnamairt, Morvern.

I was puzzled, though, to find the wreck of the 151ft French trawler, Jack

Abry II, which went ashore on January 31, 2011, still lying aground on the coastline between Guirdil Bay and Kilmory with her superstructure more or less intact. Her crew of 14 had to be lifted off by helicopter and the skipper was subsequently fined £3,000 for failing to keep a proper lookout. For a number of years afterwards oil leaked from her hull and could be seen floating on the surface all the way up to Loch Scorsort. A strange sight in a National Scenic Area, a Special Protection Area for Birds and a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Her scrap value, even now, would surely put a slate or two on the roof of the crumbling Kinloch Castle which, under the terms of the 1957 sale agreement, SNH has to maintain as it had been in its Edwardian heyday.

Shortly before she died in 1967, aged 98, Lady Bullough offered the entire island, including the magnificent castle and all its contents, to the father of a friend of mine for £18,000. He pleaded with his father to buy it but was told that although the stalking would be second to none, the cost of maintaining the castle would beggar them. The trustees did slightly better with Nature Conservancy which gave them £23,000.

In 2006, Great Glen House in Inverness was opened as the new £15 million corporate building for SNH when it was forced to move out of Edinburgh. Given that SNH constantly complains it has no funds to maintain Kinloch Castle, I can't help thinking this massive sum of money could have been used for its restoration and all the SNH staff relocated to Rum. After all, it was acquired as a field centre.

To justify the purchase at the time, Nature Conservancy said: 'Rum is an island which has been put to work, to effect not only its own salvation but also that of other islands.' Three years ago, Scottish government officials looked into the possibility of selling Great Glen House. Perhaps there is hope yet for Kinloch Castle's salvation.

If SNH was to establish its headquarters permanently on Rum, just imagine the benefits it would bring to the Small Isles transport system and the long-term economic advantages for Arisaig, Mallaig and the West Highland railway line.

For all its beauty, there is an atmosphere of sadness on Rum which is almost palpable. Doubtless this goes back to 1826 and 1828 when the landowner, Alexander Maclean, 14th laird of Coll, forced 350 men, women and children onboard three ships bound for Nova Scotia, leaving only one family, who were joined by a handful of men from Skye brought in to look after the 8,000 blackface sheep that replaced them.

John MacMaster, a shepherd on Rum at the time of these evictions, told Evelyn Waugh (1817-1890) the great English poet who visited the island in 1882, that 'the wild outcries of the men, and the heart-breaking wails of the women and their children, filled all the air between the mountainous shores of the bay; and that the whole scene was of such a distressful description that he should never be able to forget it to his dying day'.



Bloodstone Hill, Rum, where deer and wild goats were once plentiful.

If the human population is expanding, the same cannot be said of the red deer or the herds of wild goats which used to be common around Bloodstone Hill, Harris and elsewhere along the coast. I was struck by the scarcity of both species everywhere I went.

Rum was well-known throughout the Highlands and Islands for the quantity and quality of its deer but successive seasons of constant, commercial shooting has brought their numbers down to an all-time low. Long ago deer were so numerous on Rum that huge stone deer traps were built into which they were driven and killed.

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## Club's annual show of classic cars

Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club held its annual Father's Day show at Corachie Clematis Garden Centre, Bridge of Awe, on Sunday June 19. The 44 cars on show attracted visitors throughout the day. The winning car was a Lagonda owned by Peter Weir from Ledaig, which won the Iain Campbell Memorial Trophy, closely followed in second place by George O'Hare from Lochgilphead with his Mini.

### Portree

SIX PORTEE High School pupils joined dozens of other Gaelic-speaking students from across Scotland to work towards their John Muir Award courses and to celebrate the link between the language, the land and the natural world.

Holly Tait, Gemma Taylor, Charlie Anderson, Emma McPherson, Seumas Tinney and Ewan Jeffrey focused on Scorybreac Wood where they set up a trail camera to film wildlife, including an otter.

The event, held in Tomintoul, was organised by Comunn na Gàidhlig, which for the past five years has worked in partnership with the John Muir Trust to deliver hundreds of Duais Iain Muir courses to

Gaelic medium pupils (from S1 upwards).

At a ceremony in Richmond Memorial Hall, conducted in Gaelic, the students delivered presentations demonstrating the hard work they have put towards achieving this prestigious environmental award.

Advanced Gaelic-learner Christie Moore from the John Muir Trust then presented certificates to the students. She said: 'We're really pleased that, five years on, the appetite for Gaelic students to use the John Muir Award to help their learning continues to go from strength to strength. The John Muir Trust is extremely proud of our partnership with Comunn na Gàidhlig.'

## Glen Nevis teddy toddle raises £1,000 for Harris campaign

IF YOU went down to the woods last Saturday you might have been in for a surprise as more than 30 children and families took part in a 'teddy toddle' in Glen Nevis.

Starting at Braveheart Car Park, the children were led on a walk to find teddies and then invited to make dens for the bears.

Tanya Ross said: 'We are delighted to say that STAR for Harris's first Bear Hunt Teddy Toddle was an incredible success and though we still have some money to come in, it looks like it will have raised just under £1,000 towards our 'Reach for the Ward 2 Stars!' campaign.

'We were, as always, overwhelmed by the incredible support given by our wonderful community with more than 30 children and their families taking part. Thankfully, the weather held out and the sun shone on us all

as we toddled along the 2km route stopping halfway in the woods to hunt for the bears, have a snack and build dens for our teddies. The adults were just as enthusiastic in creating fantastic dens.'

STAR for Harris aims to support the treatment of childhood cancer and raise awareness of the reality of childhood cancer. The money raised will be added to a fund for a playroom, garden area and family waiting area in the oncology ward at the new Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh.

Ms Ross added: 'We can't thank everyone enough for their support and would like to give a special thank you to Ruari Watt from the Forestry Commission who set up the bear hunt and led us on our route.

'He was just fantastic in giving us advice on organising this event.'



All ready to set off on a teddy bear hunt in Glen Nevis and to raise funds for Star for Harris. Photograph by Anthony MacMillan

## TIMESLINE

### Court clears trio of theft charges

THREE men charged with entering the local shinty club and stealing alcohol have been cleared.

Adam Ramsey, James Fraser and Frederic Dobinson appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court last Wednesday (June 22) in relation to an incident on August 23, 2015. The men stood accused of dishonestly entering Fort William Shinty Club and stealing alcohol but were found not guilty after trial.

### Results add up for high school pupils

LOCHABER high school pupils achieved great results at this year's UK Mathematics Trust's Junior Maths Challenge.

The young students achieved two gold, nine silver and 12 bronze awards.

Gregory Woodward S1 and Kyle Dignan S2 won best in year certificates and £50.

Kyle also received the trophy for the highest score in Lochaber High, kindly donated by Lochaber Housing Association.

### Anti-litter poster brought to life

AN ANTI-LITTER campaign by Lochaber students has been brought to life.

A poster by Kinlochleven High School pupils won the Coca Cola European Partners real business challenge in March and was displayed on a van travelling around the local area last Thursday.



# Family facing deportation fight for more time to sell business

MONICA GIBSON  
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A FAMILY who have spent the last two years building up a business in Laggan are being forced to close up shop after losing their right to stay in the UK.

The Zielsdorf family arrived in Scotland in 2008 and were accepted for an entrepreneurial visa. They set up home with their five children in Laggan, opening the area's only store.

Originally from Canada, the family have invested more than £200,000 of their

own cash to build up the business which operates as a coffee shop, general store and holiday let. However, they have had to put it up for sale as their request for a visa extension was refused leaving them classed as 'over-stayers'.

Jason Zielsdorf described the situation as a fiasco and says it's been an emotional few months for the family.

He added: 'We have been back and forth with the Home Office and are now being told our extension failed due to not hiring a second full time member of staff for a year.'

Following the extension refusal, the Zielsdorfs were given four months to sell up and leave the UK. Mr Zielsdorf said: 'Three weeks into that process our driving licences were taken away. Even someone who is sent to jail doesn't have that happen to them.'

The family's case is being championed by Drew Hendry MP.

Mr Zielsdorf further explained: 'The Prime Minister had said he would help with our case but didn't so Mr Hendry got in touch with

James Brokenshire from the Home Office and asked for a meeting in lieu of that promise. We don't believe they are going to change their minds but at least the deadline might be extended.'

He added: 'We are hoping we can have enough time to stay and ensure the business is sold. I fully understand the Home Office can legally ask us to leave, but I don't agree that our children should be robbed of the chance to have a good future. My youngest child was born here and my oldest has spent half his life here, playing

shinty and being immersed in the Scottish way of life. I guess by default we will have to return to Canada but it certainly wasn't the plan.'

Drew Hendry told *The Oban Times*: 'I am pleased I was finally granted a meeting with the Minister, however, as it is so very late in the process, the challenges are much greater.'

'That said, I remain hopeful that he listened to the strong arguments for Jason and Christy's case. As they are under threat of immediate expulsion the primary objective for the family, from the meeting,

was to win more time and to get some of their documents, such as their driving licences returned, to allow them to live normally whilst their case continues. I am still awaiting the minister's full response but have written to him again asking for an urgent update.'

Mr Hendry continued: 'I have been inundated with support for the family. It has been uplifting to see how the community has united behind them. I know that all these kind thoughts and messages mean a lot to the Zielsdorf family.'

# Living on the Loch – Tarbert's Heart and Soul



TARBERT in north Kintyre is a thriving community with many facets. A beautiful harbour, plethora of hotels, restaurants, independent gift shops and an army of strong characters making things happen.

Tarbert is renowned for its superb seafood, with the legendary Tarbert fishing fleet landing some of the best fish and shellfish in the world. Fishing runs deep in the Loch Fyne-side village of Tarbert.

At the heart of the industry are fishing families, with generations behind them of people who have felt the pull of the sea. There are few around Tarbert these days with wider experience of fishing than Kenny MacNab, who went to sea after leaving school in 1971, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather before him.

The Argyllshire Advertiser met Kenny for a chat about the importance of seafood to the region and to him as a fisherman.

He started on his family boat, the Girl Seona, and by 1974 - at the age of 19 - he was a skipper.



Kenny MacNab, left, with Sean Connolly, a crew member on the Caledonia, and some freshly caught Loch Fyne prawns ready for backing before export to Spain.

'Fishing is not a job, it is a way of life and it is also Tarbert's heritage,' says Kenny. 'It was fishing that built this village, and any business owner in the area will tell you how important it is, particularly during the long winter months.'

In 1983, Kenny bought his own boat, a bigger trawler called the Peaceful Waters and, after the sad loss of his father in 1988, worked alongside his brother James on the boat. In time James moved on and Kenny purchased the Flying Fish, a 55-ft trawler. He and his wife, Liz, an English teacher, set up a shellfish business called Flying Fish.

Buying from local boats, they processed scallops and prawns for sale to the UK restaurant trade and to European markets. The company even took on a couple of boats to meet the hand-dived scallop market.

Kenny understands fishing and is putting that knowledge to good use as he serves on his third stint as chairman of the Clyde Fishermen's Association.

With around 15 to 20 boats (Kenny counts them in his head, trying to reconcile those away in other ports, the boats at sea and those in harbour) left in Tarbert, the industry remains

the village's heart and soul. These days, Kenny has sold the Flying Fish business, but retains his interest in the fishing industry with a one-third share in the Frigate Bird, skippered by David McArthur.

As passionate as ever about his industry, Kenny said: 'We have some of the best seafood in the world right on our doorstep and this should be celebrated.'

'The Tarbert Seafood Festival is all about celebrating the quality of our fish and shellfish, and I hope the festival demonstrates just how important fishing is to this area.'

Today the fishing industry and harbour are still at the heart of the community and you can sample some of the loch's freshly landed delicacies in the many eateries around the harbour.

Tarbert's famous seafood festival takes place this weekend. The event is a highlight of Argyll's festival season, appealing to visitors of all ages. There will be music, food stalls, children's activities, cookery demonstrations, street entertainment and much more. Go along for two days of marvellous food drink and good craic.

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# Lochnell Primary youngsters show what good sports they are



**THROWING CHALLENGE:** children were split into clan groups to take part in a number of skill challenges around the school.



**ON THE BALL:** skill and determination helps this lad score a basket.



**WELLY WINGING:** Youngsters concentrate on the rules of welly throwing before they take their shot.



**TRALEE TIGERS:** These kids were full of energy for their summer sports day and were delighted to be taking part.



**BLACK CASTLE PANTHERS:** smooth operators in the panthers managed to have fun and take part in the very successful sports day.



**GIRL POWER:** The female of the species simply picks up the welly and wangs it.



**BEN LORA BEARS:** youngsters cheer on their friends and class mates as they take on the school running and assault course challenges.



**LOCHNELL LIONS:** Giving out a huge roar of applause these lion cubs had a superb day at the sports event on Monday afternoon.



## Argyll's only boarding school opens doors to interested families

"At all stages of the school, children and young people are highly motivated and actively involved in their learning. They are respectful, hard-working and respond very well to the overall high-quality learning experiences." Education Scotland

### KEY FACTS

- High academic attainment
- Broad-ranging curriculum
- Extensive programme of extra-curricular and outdoor learning
- Strong focus on art, music and drama
- Purpose-built, modern facilities
- Flexi boarding e.g. weekly boarding
- Excellent transport links to the West Highlands

Argyll's only boarding school is inviting families to come and see for themselves what makes Lomond so unique.

Located in the picturesque coastal town of Helensburgh with its safe community environment and excellent transport links, Lomond School has a long tradition of boarders from the West Highlands and Islands.

As the top performing school in Argyll, Lomond offers a wide-ranging curriculum including eight National Fives at S3/S4 and the traditional five Highers in S5. The curriculum has been enhanced further with recent additions such as drama, health and food technology as well as the appointment of a head of adventure and service and head of digital strategy.

Extra-curricular activities include hockey, rugby, sailing, skiing and canoeing. In 2015 Lomond School was the top performing school in Scotland for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. The school also has a long-standing history of traditional Scottish music.

Boarders at Lomond benefit from excellent facilities, with the new Burnbrae boarding house built in 2003 offering comfortable lounges, a gym and mostly twin en-suite study bedrooms. Lomond is unique in Scotland in that it allows male and female siblings to live together in the same boarding house. Families are also offered the flexibility of weekly boarding.

Lomond School principal Johanna Urquhart said: "Here at Lomond, we pride ourselves on taking an individual approach to the education and care of each and every pupil. Boarding provides a particularly rewarding experience thanks to our family ethos, excellent facilities and professional, dedicated staff. We are also very proud of our long-standing links to the West of Scotland and would welcome any families interested in boarding to come and see us."

S6 pupil Kaitlin said: "Boarding has helped me develop my self-confidence. I've made friends for life from around the world and I've really benefited from the personalised approach to my whole Lomond experience." Families interested in boarding at Lomond are invited to a no obligation visit or free trial stay. To find out more please contact Janet Dixon at admissions on 01436 672476 or j.dixon@lomondschoo.com.

## Jobless number falls once more

THE number of people out of work in Argyll and Bute has continued to fall, according to the latest figures.

And the news was welcomed by both SNP and Tory politicians this week.

Data just released by the Department for Work and Pensions show the claimant count in the area for May this year to have fallen by two per cent over the corresponding period in 2015.

And the picture is brighter still for young people aged 18 to 24, where the number out of work fell by 18 per cent.

The claimant count includes those who are on Jobseekers' Allowance (JSA) and Universal Credit.

The total number of people out of work in Argyll and Bute in May was 840, down from 860 in 2015, while there were 30 fewer people aged 18 to 24 looking for a job.

Argyll and Bute SNP MP Brendan O'Hara welcomed the news. He

said: 'I'm delighted to see that unemployment across Argyll and Bute has fallen once again.'

"We cannot afford to be complacent as, despite these very welcome statistics, we continue to face some extremely serious economic challenges here. An ageing and declining population, a low-wage economy and a lack of reliable mobile and broadband connectivity are still significant barriers we have to overcome."

"But we also have some fantastic advantages in Argyll and Bute, particularly in tourism, food and drink and the renewable energy sector."

And Tory MSP Donald Cameron added: 'It is always good news when more and more people are able to move into employment and these claimant count figures show an encouraging trend. It is especially important that younger people are able to find work.'

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# Support funds stable but concern remains

**ELLIE FORBES**  
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THE HIGHLAND Council has confirmed it will sustain its current funding for Additional Support Needs (ASN) in primary and secondary schools, but some parents are still concerned.

Despite taking measures to address a £40m budget gap, the council has said funding for the 2016/17 school year will remain unchanged.

In February this year the council said it would make savings from voluntary redundancies and a spokesman said: 'Voluntary redundancies have been agreed with managers in additional support services. The allocation to schools will continue at the current level and there will be no reduction in the overall number of pupil support assistants.'

A council statement did however reveal there will be

changes in the level of staffing to a number of schools, saying: 'The resourcing model ensures that funding is allocated where the need is identified, and therefore additional support in each school can change year on year, as needs within the school also changes.'

For schools and parents this will mean that where ASN has increased, so will the number of pupil support assistants, and where ASN has fallen, schools will see a reduction in the number of support workers.

Concerned mother, Marie Macpherson, whose son has additional support needs, is extremely worried by the current situation.

A week ago she launched the petition Don't Reduce Additional Support Needs In Schools In Highland Region which has already received more than 1,200 signatures.

Ms Macpherson told *The Oban Times*: 'The council

announcement is good in theory but there will still be restructuring. For example, if one or two schools get a higher intake of additional support needs then another school will lose support.'

'And if there is an increase in pupils who need level 1/2 support then kids with level three support will still lose out. I am going to be affected as my son is level 2/3 ASN in a local school and will lose out if another school has a higher intake this year.'

'The schools and the parents were kept in the dark about this situation and it shows us that decisions being made by the council are undemocratic.'

Ms Macpherson says she will continue to campaign during the summer as, like a lot of parents around Lochaber, she won't know how her family will be affected until after the summer.

She added: 'I will also hold a public meeting on these

cuts before the schools return.' But Highland Council Leader Councillor Margaret Davidson said: 'The council administration gave a commitment that we would sustain and not reduce the allocation of Additional Support services to schools.'

'I am delighted we will deliver on that commitment. I know how important these services are to families and communities.'

'There has been a lot of parental concern about the ASN budget, to which we have listened, and I am very pleased to make this announcement.'

Councillor Drew Millar, chairman of the Education, Children and Adult Services Committee, said: 'In order to meet local needs, we will continue to make adjustments to ensure children get the appropriate level of support, while also looking at transitional arrangements in areas that face the greatest challenges.'



Councillor Thomas MacLennan, left, presents Colin Neilson with the Freedom of Lochaber.

## Unstinting dedication earns Freedom award

A WELL-KNOWN and respected Lochaber resident has received a prestigious award after 40 years serving his community.

Colin Neilson was presented with the Freedom of Lochaber award last Sunday in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the community.

Elected to Fort William Town Council in 1971, Mr Neilson juggled this with his role as a life-appointed Justice of the Peace and as a member, and subsequently chairman, of the local health council. He also helped establish the Fort William Football Club, becoming its first chairman.

In 1975 Mr Neilson became an elected member of the new Lochaber District Council, becoming chairman of the leisure and recreation committee and then chairman of the district council from 1982 to 1988. Between 1981 and 1991 Mr Neilson was a board member and

subsequently chairman of Alcoholics Anonymous for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as chairman of Alcoholics Anonymous European Services Committee. In 1988 he was appointed to the Highland Health Board becoming its vice chairman in 1999.

Presenting the award at a small gathering of family and friends, Highland Council Lochaber Leader Councillor Thomas MacLennan paid tribute to Mr Neilson.

'Colin is well-known and respected in Fort William. His unstinting enthusiasm and dedication have contributed greatly to local government, health care and sport in Lochaber and beyond. Not many people can claim to have served their community for more than 40 years and it is in recognition of this service that the Highland Council is pleased and honoured to confer the Freedom of Lochaber to Colin Neilson.'

## Holocaust survivor shares experiences with pupils



Harry Bibring with pupils Katie Laidlaw and Lewis Ross and teacher Jacqi Hume.

HOLOCAUST survivor Harry Bibring visited Lochaber High School last week to give a presentation about his experiences.

The visit was the final part of sixth year pupils' Lewis Ross and Katie Laidlaw's 'Next Steps' project in the Lessons from Auschwitz initiative, organised by the Holocaust Education Trust (HET).

This involved the students going to Poland for a day, along with pairs from other schools across the UK, to visit Auschwitz I and Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps.

The pupils then carried out the 'Next Steps' project, informing fellow pupils and their communities about what they learned. Lewis and Katie created posters

featuring quotes from Holocaust survivors which they displayed around the school and wrote articles about their experience.

They also gave presentations to second-year pupils on the week of Holocaust Memorial Day (January 27).

They arranged Mr Bibring's visit through the HET's outreach programme.

Mr Bibring gave his presentation to the second-year students and prominent people in the community. He told them about how he was separated from his family and taken to Britain as part of the Kindertransport scheme.

Lewis described the event as an 'excellent chance to learn about one of the darkest periods of humanity's history first-hand'.

## POLICE FILES

Between 8.30pm on Friday June 17 and 4pm on Sunday June 19, a snowboard was stolen from a grass bank beside a camper van parked in Glencoe Mountain Resort car park.

**Between 9.30pm on Sunday June 19 and 3am on June 20, two bikes, one child and one adult, were removed from a close beside a house in Abrach Road, Inverlochty.**

On Tuesday June 21 between 5.30pm and 7.30pm, a mirror on a car parked in Inverlochty car park was damaged.

**Sometime between June 6 and June 23, a quantity of electrical cable was removed from works at Claggan Football pitch, Fort William.**

On June 23, damage and graffiti was discovered at Alt Na Reigh, beside the A82 at Glencoe.

**Police are investigating an incident at the VisitScotland premises in Strontian on Sunday June 26.**

**They are keen to speak to anyone in the vicinity around 2.15pm who saw a man acting suspiciously. He is described as approximately 60 years of age with ginger hair and a white moustache wearing light-coloured clothing.**

## Pupils rewarded for achievement

CAOL Primary School recently marked the achievements of three pupils at a trophy presentation. Winners were: Bethan Watson who won the Catherine MacKenzie Cup for commitment, effort and behaviour; Ben MacKinnon, Sports Personality of the Year, and Elle Bissett, Confident Individual.

## EUROPEAN REFERENDUM REACTION FROM ACROSS WEST HIGHLANDS



Richard Dixon.



Allan Bowie.



John Hutchison.

## 'Shock' and 'disappointment' at result

'SHOCK' and 'disappointment' are words used by some highlanders to describe their reaction to the referendum vote which could see the UK leave the European Union.

According to the Highland Council, the total number of ballot papers counted was 125,728. The total number of votes cast in favour to remain a member of the European Union was 70,308, while the total number of votes cast in favour of 'leave' was 55,349.

*The Oban Times* spoke to representatives from organisations both local and farther afield and asked their reaction to the surprise vote.

Tom Bryan Brown, Chief Executive Officer of Mallaig and North West Fishermen's Association said: 'I am probably as shocked as most people about the result.'

'I really thought it would go the other way but, hey ho, this is the situation that we are in. We will meet with the SFF at the end of June and discuss the implications for the Scottish fishing industry.'

'Our first major concern is that the fishing industry might be treated just as when the UK joined the EU - and that the fishing would become a negotiating tool in any future negotiations with the EU.'

'The next major issue is whether this would trigger 'Indy Ref 2' and the im-

plications that would have with regards to allocation of quota from the EU. Generally speaking, most people I have spoken to are in favour of Brexit and did vote to leave - not many fishermen are enamoured with the EU and the current frame work.'

'But we are currently in a state of uncertainty that is no doubt going to bring challenges as well as opportunities.'

Allan Bowie, President, National Farmers Union Scotland, commented from the Royal Highland Show in Inverlorn.

He said: 'The dramatic events of the past few hours will mark a period of great uncertainty for Scotland's farmers and crofters. What is also clear is that the role of the union in representing our members' views and protecting their interests will rarely have been more important in our 103-year history.'

Ian Blackford, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber said: 'I am pleased that Scotland has voted to stay within Europe. We cannot be dragged out against our will. Where do we go from here? Scotland must pull together in our national interest. We have talked about what might trigger a future independence referendum. This is potentially a trigger, there is no secret that the SNP stands for independence for Scotland. It needs to be clear that the people see their future,

Scotland's future as an independent nation in Europe. None of us can look forward to see politics and the future of government in Westminster. If the result tells us anything, it is that Scotland and England are different countries.'

'Time for us to accept our own responsibilities.'

John Hutchison chairman of Lochaber Common Weal said: 'While it is not surprising, my personal view is that it is not the right decision.'

'I do think there will be another referendum when the time is right. Scotland has had links with the EU for thousands of years and it is really peculiar that we don't have that right now.'

Reacting to the vote, Dr Richard Dixon, Director of Friends of the Earth Scotland, said: 'The vote to leave the EU is a huge challenge to decades of progress on improving the environment and tackling climate change.'

'Many of the politicians backing the leave vote are climate sceptics and against renewable energy, and much of the 'red tape' they complain about are the laws that have given us cleaner air and water, and forced companies to reduce pollution.'

'In the 1980s our environmental record had us known as the 'dirty man of Europe'. The fight is on to stop us slipping back to the bad old days.'



May Dream found itself in trouble. Photograph by Kyle RNLI.

## Lifeboat to rescue of yacht

KYLE Lifeboat, *Spirit of Fred Olsen*, launched at 4.05am on Monday at the request of Stornoway Coastguard, after the yacht *May Dream* broke its mooring and ran aground in Plockton bay.

The lifeboat arrived on scene at 4.15am to find the 36-foot yacht, with two people on board, aground and listing heavily.

Once the lifeboat crew were satisfied the yachtsmen were safe

and in no danger, Kyle lifeboat returned to station at 7.20am.

The crew launched again at 8.20am to return to the scene and make sure the yacht was not taking on any water or leaking fuel as it refloated on the incoming tide. Once the yacht had refloated and was in deeper water, the lifeboat escorted it to a safe mooring before returning to Kyle at 10.30am.



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## Viewpoint

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB  
email: editor@obantimes.co.ukThe Oban Times  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Argyll is full of generous people willing to go the extra mile for charity, but the two pensioners in our story on page three have to be two of the most adventurous, and possibly courageous, fundraisers in the region.

Kay Simpson, 70, from Oban, and Anne MacAskill, 67, from Skye, are taking part in the 10,000-mile Mongol Rally, which takes place across the mountains, desert and the steppes of Europe and Asia.

But, while some people might call the women foolhardy, we salute them.

In a week when the media is full of Brexit and the uncertainty of what lies ahead, the story about Kay and Anne's adventure is uplifting and an inspiration, not just because of the money it will raise for charity, but because it is indicative of the people who live and work in our communities, and the lengths they will go to help others less fortunate.



## Days gone by – Oban's Grasshoppers Football Club – 1958/59

This week's flashback photograph was submitted by Bobby McLuckie of Oban and features Grasshoppers Football Club in 1958/59. Bobby is pictured back row, second right. Jackie Balfour was the manager. Digital versions of flashback photos for *The Oban Times* can be sent to editor@obantimes.co.uk or prints sent to The Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Anyone who wishes a print returned should include a stamped, addressed envelope.

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

THA LETH leabhar thiogaidean airson drochaid an Eilein Sgitheanaich agam air a ghleidheadh an àiteigin agus tha lèine-T le ainm usal SKAT (Skye and Kyle Against Tolls) agam cuideachd!

Bha daoine ceart a ràdh gun atharraicheadh an t-Eilean Sgitheanaich gu tur ri linn na drochaid fosgladh san Dàmhair 1995, ach thug e còrr air naoi bliadhna mun d' fhuaras saorsa bho na cisean peanasach a bha ri phàigheadh gus a cleachdadh.

Tha ainmean mhòran cheatharnach airidh air a bhith clàraichte airson an cuid strì an aghaidh ana-ceartas nan cisean sin, agus nuair a chaidh cur às dhaibh mu dheireadh thall air 21 den Dùbhlachd 2004 b' e latha eachdraidheil eile a bh' ann dhan choimhearsnachd.

Ach tha e iongantach cho luath 's a thèid tachartasan à cuimhne agus cuiridh mi geall gur e glè bheag de na tha a' cleachdadh drochaid an Eilean Sgitheanaich an-diugh aig am bheil mothachadh air a h-eachdraidh.

Thàinig na cuimhneachain a th' agam co-cheangailte ris an drochaid nam inntinn nuair a bha mi a' beach-

dachadh air cuid den bhuaidh a bhios aig buil na reifreann air ballrachd Bhreatainn san Aonadh Eòrpach.

Mar a bha fìor dha milleanan eile ann an Alba, bhòt mise gus ballrachd a ghleidheadh san Aonadh Eòrpach, oir ged nach eil an siostam gun choire tha e air mòran feum a dhèanamh le leasachaidhean eaconamach, soisèalta, agus cultarach nach robh air tachairt mur a b' e sgeamaichean maoinèachaidh Eòrpach.

Chan eil mòran taic ionmhais air tighinn dìreach gu leithid leasachadh na Gàidhlig, ach le milleanan feadh an Aonadh Eòrpach a' cleachdadh mion-chànain tha an aithne a tha na coimhearsnachdan cànan sin a' faotainn air cuideachadh mòr a thoirt dha inbhe na Gàidhlig, Cuimris, agus Gaeilge ann am Breatainn.

Le cho beag diù 's a th' air a bhith aig na pàrtaidhean poiliteagach againn air fad a thaobh leasachadh na Gàidhlig, cha b' iongnadh dhuinn a bhith car draghail mun t-saoghal romhainn. Tha iomadach rud dol a dh'atharrachadh ri linn toradh na bhòt agus mar a bha fìor dhan Eilean Sgitheanaich ann an 1995, cha bhì Breatainn an

aon rud tuilleadh! 'S e cead-siubhail Eòrpach fear de na cuimhneachain a bhios mòran againn a' gleidheadh nuair a thèid an sgaradh aig Breatainn a dhaingneachadh.

Bhiodh e fìor mhath mura biodh cus aithne no cuimhne air an tachartas mhòr seo an ceann fichead bliadhna oir bhiodh sin a' ciallachadh gun do shoirbhich Breatainn anns an t-suidheachadh ùr. Feumaidh sinn uile a bhith beò an dòchas!

MY PART-USED book of Skye Bridge tickets and a SKAT T-shirt remind me of when and how Skye changed between 1995 and 2004, but although these events were comparatively recent I suspect few of those using that bridge now have any knowledge of, or interest in, its history.

Twenty years from now my European Union passport will be another reminder of major change, and hopefully memories of Brexit will be equally vague signifying that Britain is prospering outside of the European Union.

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

## A modern-day marine Highland Clearance

Sir,  
It would appear the Highland Clearances are not over.

Bringing a boat back across the Atlantic from Greenland for some maintenance, it was amazing to hear the owners of the Marine Resource Centre were intending to sell the centre.

This would be fine if some accommodation for boats was still to remain – the plant is there and the centre was apparently making a profit – but suddenly, like the tenants of old, 180 to 200 boat owners are to be thrown out onto an already overcrowded west coast and all the moorings removed.

Why? So, it would appear, that the landowners can make more money.

It is shameful we have a marine Highland Clearance in our own times.

Rev Bob Shepton,  
Appin and the Arctic.

## Urgent need to heat up Scotland's homes

Sir,  
The SNP's pledge to introduce a warm homes bill to tackle fuel poverty and increase energy efficiency during this parliament has been heralded as a bold move but there are reasons why its minority administration needs to pull out the stops to deliver this for the people of Oban sooner rather than later.

In 2002, the Scottish Government committed to eradicating fuel poverty

as far as is reasonably practicable by November 2016. As this target is impossible to meet, Scotland now needs a comprehensive and realistic new strategy to improve domestic energy efficiency to eliminate fuel poverty and eradicate Scotland's scourge of cold homes.

In April, the Existing Homes Alliance compiled data which revealed more than three-quarters of households (78 per cent) in Argyll and Bute live in a cold home – that is, one with energy performance certificates ranging between D to F ratings. That equates to an estimated 22,800 cold homes in Argyll and Bute. As a result of these cold homes, more than half of households in Argyll and Bute (59 per cent) were estimated to be living in fuel poverty.

While the definition of a cold home is complex one, the need to tackle fuel poverty and improve the energy efficiency of Scotland's homes is beyond doubt.

Earlier this month a lot of attention was paid to a combined lobby of MSPs, WWF Scotland and Edinburgh University which called for greater investment in district heating.

While we applaud the call for investment in greener ways of using and generating energy such as wind farms and district heating, we should not forget that Scotland would be even greener and Scottish households even better off if they did not need to turn their heating on in the first place. The cheapest energy and lowest carbon energy is that which we do not use.

Better insulated homes reduce the need to heat them – and the planet – unnecessarily.

One element of the research from the alliance was clear: rural and remote communities in Scotland have a larger problem with energy-inefficient homes. With cold, energy-inefficient homes a problem the length and breadth of Scotland, retrofit should be considered as much of a national infrastructure priority as the new Queensferry crossing or providing superfast broadband and 4G mobile phone coverage to Argyll and Bute.

We need organisations like the Existing Homes Alliance to keep up the pressure on the SNP to make sure Scotland's homes get warmer sooner rather than later.

Sean McLaughlin,  
managing director, Matilda's Planet.

## Tourist had a great time on Mull

Sir,  
In mid-May I got a lift outside Tobermory on Mull from a helpful young couple.

We talked about Iona and John McPhee's book *The Crofter and the Laird*. I believe they were tourists.

Hopefully, they may read this letter or someone who thinks they know them will see it and tell them that I would like to send them a greeting. I have written a review of McPhee's book on www.goodreads.com and can be contacted via that website.

I had a very enjoyable holiday on Mull and Iona. They are beautiful places with fascinating history and the sun shone when I was there.

Trond Ellefsen,  
Billeveien 7, Veiar 3172, Norway.

## Glasgow Letter

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

## Mull and Iona Association committee reshuffle

THE MULL and Iona Association last week saw some significant changes in its committee.

I always love the Mull and Iona evenings and have huge respect for the work of the last committee – particularly Charlie Kirkpatrick, who always steered the evenings with the best of craic.

That said, I believe the new members who have come in are the

perfect people to take the wonderful history of the association forward, which is very exciting.

New president Ross Wilson made the following statement after an extraordinary general meeting: 'The continuation of the Mull and Iona Association's annual general meeting was held last Thursday, June 23, in An Leanag, Glasgow.

'The meeting was very well attended with many new faces enrolling in the association and elected on to the committee.

'After many years of service to the association, the committee also said goodbye and a huge thank you to a few people.

'We'd like to thank, in particular, Charlie Kirkpatrick for his overwhelming commitment to the association as president. Charlie's enthusiasm for the association was always visible at the annual gathering and many of the other association gatherings throughout the year.

'Thankfully, Charlie has decided to stay on the committee as a director, as well as Elizabeth Graham, who also took a step back from her position as secretary.

'We'd like to welcome a large list of new committee members including: Alasdair MacKellar, treasurer; Alasdair Whyte, director; Catriona Currie, secretary; and Kirsty MacKinnon, director.

'Lastly, I'd like to thank the committee for appointing me as the new president, all the past committee members and all the present committee members for their time and commitment to the association.

'Tradition, music, Gaelic, Mull, Iona and Glasgow are all things close to my heart and it's great to be part of an association designed to

showcase and nurture these things and everything good about our islands.

'It's nice to see the association continuing and we look forward to planning the annual gathering to be held in February – date to be decided. Hope to see a lot of you there.

## Commemoration service was humbling and emotional

THE CLYDEBANK Association has been supporting Erskine care home for UK war veterans for 25 years.

The association president and secretary attended the commemoration service in Glasgow Cathedral on June 7 in the presence of the Princess Royal.

As part of the order of service, testimonies for Erskine were delivered by former Scots Guard William MacDowall, now resident in Erskine, and two pupils from Clydebank High School, Chloe Cunningham and Mirren Coull.

Although a humbling and emotional experience, both president and secretary found it a pleasure to represent the association at this event, recognising 100 years of caring for these very special people.

## Pub scene

**Park Bar:** Friday July 1: Robert Nairn. Saturday July 2: Dodgy Ground. Sunday July 3: Nicky McMichean.  
**Islay Inn:** Friday July 1: Crooked Reel. Saturday July 2: Penny Dogs. Wednesday July 6: quiz night.

## 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.



Rainbow Childcare Oban is coming soon and will offer a fantastic setting for babies, toddlers and pre-school children within a caring, professional and safe environment. The centre will offer full time, part time and government funded early learning and childcare provision for children aged 0-5 years. This will provide parents with the option of flexible childcare in line with current government legislation. We will offer a friendly, reliable, nurturing and a fun environment

for all children to develop and learn. Rainbow Childcare has been delivering high quality early learning and childcare for over 23 years in their home town of Kilwinning in Ayrshire and have now expanded to Oban in The White Church situated on the Corran Esplanade. Rainbow Childcare is ideally located within Oban town centre central to all transport links. The premises has currently undergone a renovation programme to ensure that the building is bright with plenty of natural light

spilling through the windows, whilst designated playrooms have been created to ensure that they're age appropriate and designed to suit the developmental needs of each individual age group. The building still maintains original features and the full renovation has taken into account the beautiful architecture of the white church. The breath taking views of the bay from our outdoor play areas provide the children with an abundance of opportunities to expand on their learning.

Rainbow Childcare currently employs 25 Early Years Practitioners and a highly experienced and dedicated management team who are now on the search for an enthusiastic and highly motivated staff team to deliver high quality early learning and childcare within our Oban Centre. We are also looking for a manager to lead the centre and carry forward our vision "To provide the highest quality of Early Learning and Childcare in a nurturing, inspiring and creative environment where everyone is valued." hello@rainbowchildcare.me



# Something for everyone as community gets behind Caol Gala Day events



The Highland Dancers from Nevis Dancing School who gave a display at the Caol Gala Day.

THERE was something for everyone at this year's Caol Gala.

Making use of the new Gaelic school grounds, community groups got together to support the event.

There were performances by Lochaber Judo Club and cheerleading group Ben Nevis Allstars as well as a bonnie baby competition, raffles, strong man and kids competition and appearances by the gala queen.

Kirsty Kyle who helped organise the event said: 'I'm exhausted but when you see everyone turn up and how they enjoy themselves it really does make it worth while. The money we raised will go towards next year's event. The strong man and the cheerleaders were

new this year and they were really good. The whole thing just came together really well.

'A lot of families don't have the opportunity to spend a day out together so we try to subsidise the day as much as possible, keep things as local as possible and provide a day that's fun for the whole family.'

Many attendees took to Facebook to congratulate the organisers and share their enjoyment of the event.

Noreen MacGillivray posted: 'What a really absolutely fabulous day at Caol Gala Day. Kirsty, girls and boys you did a wonderful job. Roll on the next one.' Leann Stewart Duncan said: 'Big well done to everyone involved in making the gala day happen. It was really good for families.'



Caol Gala Queen Laurin MacDonald, 12, and her attendants Millie Nixon, 10, left, and Sara Carmichael, 6. Photographs by Anthony MacMillan Photography.

## TIMESLINE

### Youngster wins burger challenge

AN ISLE of Lewis youngster has been crowned The Nicolson Institute's 'burger king'.

Callum MacRie, 12, won top prize in a school challenge run by Quality Meat Scotland, attracting around 250 entries.

Callum, whose recipe was inspired by the Isle of Lewis' native language, created his Gaelic Big Marag Burger using pork and Stornoway black pudding.

### Visitor attraction climbs to success

AN INNOVATIVE new visitor attraction is climbing in popularity.

Three Wise Monkeys Climbing recently opened in a renovated church in Fassifern Road, Fort William.

Scott Armstrong, VisitScotland, said: 'This business has only been open for months and is already proving popular. This project is a perfect fit for 2016, Scotland's Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design, as it has brought a derelict old church with architectural gems back to life, with clever and innovative design. People may come to Scotland for the history, but they leave inspired by the modern and contemporary.'

### Local decision making vital

NA H-EILEANAN an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan is urging community groups in the Western Isles to apply for a share of a new £2 million fund to help local communities have a greater say in decision-making.

The Scottish Government's Community Choices Fund allows community groups to have a say on how and where money is spent in their area.

A fund spokesman said: 'We want to see more decision making handed to local people.'

## Last look round Caol Primary School

CAOL Primary School opened its doors to the public for the last time on Thursday June 23.

More than 450 former pupils and staff and community members joined the current staff and pupils to say goodbye to the school as it prepares to close after 64 years.

The pupils were involved in various projects for the open day, including staff profiles and old photographs of classes and staff throughout the years, and comparisons of uniforms, school dinners and technology over the years.

Primary seven pupils interviewed primary one teacher Margaret Stewart who will retire at the end of term.



Primary six and seven pupils with the school building models created by primary two/three.

One highlight was the creation of Caol tapestry, with pupils, staff and the wider community all contributing designs for individual squares.

Room 13 was also included on the tour. The art studio will be moving to Caol Community Centre when the school closes. Other highlights included

models of the original, current and new school buildings created by primary two/three, with help from Room 13 artist Richard Bracken.

Head teacher Steven Hamilton said: 'We've had a great day with staff, parents, pupils and the wider community sharing stories, memories and laughs.

It's been a lovely atmosphere with people catching up and enjoying a last look around the old Caol School.

'We're very proud of the achievements of everyone and delighted to show off our school but looking forward to a new one opening up in September.'



Some Lochaber Judo Club members at Caol Gala.



Caol Gala disabled scooters lead the parade, with Gala Chieftain James Russell, right, followed by the Gala Queen and her attendants.

## Former pupil 'touched' by invite to formally open new Lundavra

FORMER pupils, parents and councillors gathered for the official opening of Lundavra Primary School.

Located on Lundavra Road, Fort William, with panoramic views over Loch Linnhe, the school replaced Upper Achintore and Fort William Primary Schools.

Dr Finlay Wild was given the task last Friday of unveiling a plaque at the new school.

He said he was very touched to be asked to participate in the ceremony and added: 'As a former pupil of Fort William Primary School, I was delighted to be invited to meet the pupils of the new Lundavra primary. As a runner and GP it was great to speak to the kids about running and keeping active, and to join them in their Daily Mile run.'



Former pupil Dr Finlay Wild joins head teacher Nick Thomson to officially open the new school.

The ceremony was opened and closed to the sound of bagpipes, with Dr Wild and Bill Alexander, Highland Council's Director of Care and Learning, addressing guests.

During the opening ceremony, pupils sang the school song, *Give it all you've got*.

The school has been operating successfully for many months after opening its doors to pupils following the

autumn break on October 28, 2015.

Some of the groups using the school include health visitors running the Stepping Stones project for toddlers and parents, a baby massage class, High Life Highland sports groups and the parent-led weekly youth club.

Gary Holmes, Regional Director at GRAHAM Construction who managed the build, said: 'It has been a privilege to deliver the new Lundavra Primary School on behalf of The Highland Council.'

'Our team has especially enjoyed working in such a scenic location for the duration of this project and we hope pupils, staff, parents and wider Fort William community are pleased with the end result.'



Above: Racing in pairs at the Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar sports day. Below: a skipping race.

Photographs by Anthony MacMillan Photography.



## Primary pupils enjoy sports day in the sun

RESILIENCE and determination were to the fore at the Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar sports day.

Children received bands instead of medals for being successful in their events as they competed for the ultimate prize - the house trophy.

John Joseph MacNeill, head teacher, said: 'There were six mini events, short and long distance races, sack race, mother and fathers' races and relay races. All the scores will be totted up along with results from football, shinty and basketball games, which are still to be played, and the winning house will be crowned at the leavers' assembly today (Thursday).

'The rain started just around the second mini event but then the sun came out and it stayed all day so we really were blessed with the weather.'

'It is a great day for children. They are keeping fit and healthy, enjoying themselves and learning lessons of resilience when perhaps results don't go their way. They are working as part of a team and achieving that competitive edge. A bit of competition never did anyone any harm.'

Mr MacNeill admitted he did not participate in any of the events last Friday as the staff race was cancelled due to health concerns but promised for it to return next year.

He added: 'Oh yes, the staff race will be back next year. I will start training early so I'm fighting fit for it - I think I will need it.'

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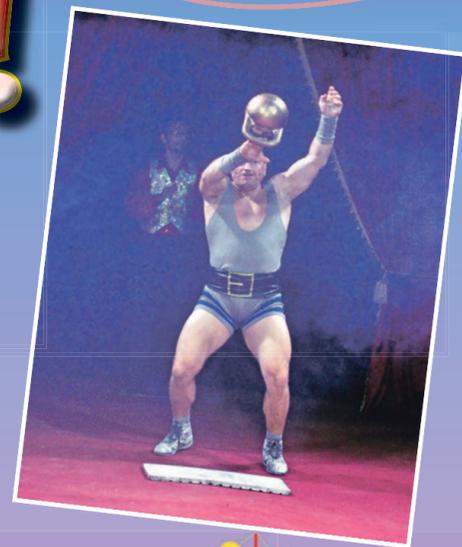
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# Arena THE CIRCUS COMES TO TOWN!

cinema, radio and what's on listings



## Note perfect: Killin welcomes the return of popular music festival

THE much-acclaimed Killin Music Festival returned this month after a break of 14 years – and what a fantastic event it turned out to be.

On the Friday, there were many local stars performing backed up by artists such as Rachel Sermanni, Whisky Kiss and headlined by Skippinish.

The Saturday saw fringe

events in a number of locations throughout the village and workshops with many of the artists.

The main stage event started in late afternoon and carried on throughout the evening with artists such as the Donald Black Band, Jenn Butterworth and Laura-Beth Salter, Trail West, Have Mercy Las Vegas,

and headed up by the Scott Wood Band. Have Mercy Las Vegas were particularly popular and were called back for two encores.

On the Sunday, Comrie Pipe Band marched through the village and played outside the McLarren Hall, after which there was an open stage event for up-and-coming bands to

show off their talents. Every person in the audience over the three days would like to express their thanks to Gregor Mackenzie, Siobhan Anderson and the rest of the committee and helpers for putting on a very high quality and enjoyable festival.

Everyone is now looking forward to next year.



Have Mercy Las Vegas wowed the crowds at the Killin Music Festival.

## Music with Jonathan Rimmer

OBAN rapper Rory O'B is set for a busy summer after announcing the release of his new EP, *Quit Rapping*, and a number of gigs and festivals. He's set to release the project on an undisclosed date after his performance at King Tut's Wah Wah Hut on July 18.

Although Rory invited notable hip hop producers to help engineer the final product, the record sees him rapping over live instrumentation that he recorded himself, including guitar, bass and cajon. Rory believes this makes for a more

'folky, local sound'. Rory says: 'It's important for hip hop emcees to talk about their surroundings. Oban might not have the shock factor or be particularly dangerous, but it's the place that affected me and there's plenty of potential for humour too.'

'There's no point saying you grew up in the slums if you didn't. It's your stories. I think people from rural towns could relate to the stuff I rap about more than urban hip hop because it's closer to home.'

Rory first started rapping in

his teens after performing in a string of local rock bands. He conveys these various influences through an expressive and heavily accented vocal delivery when he raps.

'My first real exposure to hip hop was actually off a punk label compilation,' says Rory. 'From there I heard emcees from other countries and realised that people could rap in their own accent. I got into the Scottish scene from there.'

'I didn't tell people originally because I was nervous about it, even when I moved to

Greenock for college. I thought folk from Oban would laugh at it. I remember performing one show in The Waterfront and everyone just stared at me. I just wanted it to end.'

However, people's reactions changed when he released the song, *She Says*, with established Oban rapper K9 Kev in 2010. The catchy track became a favourite at open mic nights and gig showcases, encouraging Rory to pursue hip hop more intently.

'It made me think I could do it,' says Rory. 'I think people

in the local area and Scotland as a whole are becoming more open-minded about hip hop. There are young people in town taking up rapping and making beats. There's still a novelty factor for some people but it's getting much better.'

The six tracks on Rory's EP present humorous observations on Oban and growing up, as well as broader social commentary. He's looking forward to unveiling the tracks in Glasgow where he has built up a small but loyal fanbase.

'I'm planning an album

launch party in Glasgow,' says Rory. 'I'm also going to be playing at Kelburn Garden Party, King Tut's Summer Nights Festival and Audio Soup Festival.'

'I might come back to Oban and do something as well. K9 Kev's charity gig in February was a massive success – it shows that there's a real growing interest in hip hop in Oban.'

Rory O'B will play King Tut's on July 18. Photograph: Martin Windebank



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- Across
- 7 Top (6)
  - 8 As a sheep (6)
  - 9 Hit (4)
  - 10 Removal of excess (8)
  - 11 Puzzle (7)
  - 13 Cute name for a domestic pet (5)
  - 15 Overgrown (5)
  - 17 Correctly (7)
  - 20 Found in the tarsus of the foot (8)
  - 21 Withdraw gradually (4)
  - 22 Flat (6)
  - 23 Bliss (6)

- Down
- 1 Miserable (6)
  - 2 Score nothing (4)
  - 3 Gathering to wish well when one is leaving (4-3)
  - 4 Promise (5)
  - 5 Not quite old (8)
  - 6 Land... (6)
  - 12 ...between low and high water (8)
  - 14 Revolving (7)
  - 16 Calmly (6)
  - 18 Introduction (4-2)
  - 19 Snake (5)
  - 21 Golf club (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

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| 10 | S | E | C | R | E | T | E | R | I | B | E |   |   |
| 11 | I | E | S | S | I | N | L |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 12 | T | E | R | M | S | S | U | C | C | E | E | D |   |



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Friday 1 - Thu 7 July

**ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS | PG | 133 MIN**

**MIN**  
Sat: 15:00, Sun: 13:30  
Alice Kingsleigh has spent the past few years following in her father's footsteps and sailing the high seas. Upon her return to London, she comes across a magical looking glass and returns to the fantastical realm of Underland and her friends the White Rabbit, Absolem, the Cheshire Cat and the Mad Hatter, who is not himself.

**ICE AGE: COLLISION COURSE | U | 120 MIN**

Sat: 12:00, 17:15, 17:30, Sun: 17:30, 18:15, Mon: 15:00, 16:45, Tue: 15:00, 16:30, Wed: 16:15, 17:15, Thu: 13:00, 17:15  
Scratt's epic pursuit of the elusive acorn catapults him into the universe where he accidentally sets off a series of cosmic events that transform and threaten the Ice Age World. To save themselves, Sid, Manny, Diego, and the rest of the herd must leave their home and embark on a quest full of comedy and adventure, travelling to exotic new lands and encountering a host of colourful new characters.

**INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE | 12A | 120 MIN**

Fri: 12:00, 14:30, 18:00, Sat: 14:15, 19:30, Sun: 14:45, 19:45, Mon, Tue: 12:00, 17:15, 19:00, Wed: 13:30, 14:30, 18:45, Thu: 14:30, 15:15  
Parent and Baby screening Tue: 11:30  
We always knew they were coming back. After 'Independence Day' redefined the event movie genre, the next epic chapter delivers global spectacle on an unimaginable scale.

**KIDS CLUB: THE ARISTOCATS | U | 87 MIN**

Sat: 11:00  
Children's Classic. With the help of a smooth talking tomcat, a family of Parisian felines set to inherit a fortune from their owner try to make it back home after a jealous butler kidnaps them and leaves them in the country.

**LOVE & FRIENDSHIP | U | 113 MIN**

Fri: 20:00, Sun: 16:00, Wed: 19:30  
Lady Susan Vernon takes up temporary residence at her in-laws' estate and, while there, is determined to be a matchmaker for her daughter Frederica -- and herself too, naturally.

**ME BEFORE YOU | 12A | 130 MIN**

Fri: 17:30, Sat: 19:45, Mon: 20:15, Tue: 20:00, Thu: 19:30  
Louisa "Lou" Clark (Clarke) lives in a quaint town in the English countryside. With no clear direction in her life, the quirky and creative 26-year-old goes from one job to the next in order to help her tight-knit family make ends meet. Her normally cheery outlook is put to the test, however, when she faces her newest career challenge.

**ROMEO AND JULIET | 210 MIN**

Thu: 19:00  
Reuniting the stars of his celebrated film of Cinderella, Kenneth Branagh directs Richard Madden and Lily James as Romeo and Juliet and Derek Jacobi as Mercutio, in Shakespeare's heartbreaking tale of forbidden love.

**THE BOSS | 15 | 119 MIN**

Silver Screening - Mon: 14:30  
A titan of industry is sent to prison after she's caught for insider trading. When she emerges ready to rebrand herself as America's latest sweetheart, not everyone she screwed over is so quick to forgive and forget.

**THE NICE GUYS | 15 | 136 MIN**

Fri: 19:00  
Set in 1970s Los Angeles, down-on-his-luck private eye Holland March and hired enforcer Jackson Healy must work together to solve the case of a missing girl and the seemingly unrelated death of a porn star. During their investigation, they uncover a shocking conspiracy that reaches up to the highest circles of power.

**TOP CAT BEGINS | U | 109 MIN**

Fri: 12:30, Sat: 13:00, Sun: 11:30, Mon: 12:30, Tue: 14:15, Wed: 12:30, Thu: 12:30  
Top Cat has arrived to charm his way into your hearts. Ever wonder how this scheming feline got his start? Well Top Cat Begins reveals the origins of everything you know and love about this classic comedy hero.

**WARCRAFT: THE BEGINNING | 12A | 143 MIN**

Fri: 15:15, Sun: 12:00  
The peaceful realm of Azeroth stands on the brink of war as its civilization faces a fearsome race of invaders: orc warriors fleeing their dying home to colonize another. As a portal opens to connect the two worlds, one army faces destruction and the other faces extinction.



## Mark saddles up for Argyll challenge

NOT MANY people can claim to be an ultra endurance adventurer and get away with it, but Mark Beaumont, who has spent the past decade breaking world records and achieving world firsts, will take on his latest challenge right here in Argyll.

Mark, who first found fame in 2008 when he broke the world record for cycling round the world in 194 days, will spend 12 gruelling days making his way round Argyll and the Isles.

Mark's Wild about Argyll challenge will see him follow a continuous trail

that takes in every corner of the region. To complete the adventurous route, he will have to incorporate various sports such as sailing, open water swimming, kayaking, road and mountain biking and running.

He will also tackle some of the most exhilarating activities, including quad biking, off-road motor biking and horse riding.

And the grand finale will be a non-stop run across Colonsay's MacPhies, which is a 20-mile route that contains 22 peaks that are all more than 300ft high.

Starting in Oban on July 24, Mark will explore the Inner Hebrides, then the Highland peaks and freshwater lochs before arriving back in Oban on August 3, where he will host *Around the World and Back to Argyll* at the Corran Halls - an evening of adventure, sharing short films and photography from around the world and his latest adventures here in Argyll.

Mark said: 'My earliest memories are of living in Argyll, and I have always known that the Isles and mainland Argyll are a mecca for

adventure sports, so I can't wait to explore.

'This will be a seriously tough challenge, but I don't think that I am going to get much sympathy as it's a dream journey to attempt.

'I also look forward to sharing loads of media, so encourage everyone to follow me online, ask any questions and give comments. And, I have to admit, it is a few years since I have been on a horse, so that may be a new type of saddle sore.'

To view Mark's schedule, visit [www.exploreargyll.co.uk](http://www.exploreargyll.co.uk).



Mark Beaumont.

What's on at **The Nevis Centre**

**Superbowl**  
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**Mendelssohn ON MULL FESTIVAL**

Artistic Director: **Levon Chilingirian**  
Monday July 4th - Saturday July 9th

Now in its 28th year, a festival of classical music to celebrate the visit of the composer Felix Mendelssohn to these islands.

World-class professionals work with emerging stars in the most beautiful and atmospheric venues to create performances of unforgettable electricity.

A dozen concerts of chamber music all around Mull and Iona including Duart Castle and Iona Abbey. And a final concert in St John's Cathedral, Oban, at 7.30 pm on Saturday July 9th.

All concerts admission free.

For details see [mendelssohnonmull.com](http://mendelssohnonmull.com) or ring 07889 277078

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MONDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1700 Drivetime With Marcus, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McLuckie's Show, 2100 David Cullen

TUESDAY: 0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are Made of This with Ken Hunter, 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, 1900 Country Meets Rock with Len & Ken, 2100 Gordon's Grooves

THURSDAY: 0800 Morning show, 1100 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drivetime with Stephen, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's Ceilidh, 2200 Margo Till Midnight

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

SATURDAY: 0800 Breakfast Show, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crosner, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis

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

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# Arena

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## Choir bids a fond farewell to director with rousing concert

THE KILMALLIE Singers said farewell to their musical director/conductor with a concert and pudding party on Thursday, June 16.

Andrew Simpson has been with the choir for a total of 21 years, starting as a tenor and taking over as musical director and conductor following the loss of Heather Moore in 2006.

He is now moving to near Stratford-upon-Avon with his wife Angela to be closer to family.

The concert, conducted by choir chairwoman Ruth Stewart, consisted of an eclectic mix of musical styles, reflecting the range of performances the choir has put on under Mr Simpson's directorship.

There were pieces by Mozart, Simon and Garfunkel, and some from musical theatre such as Les Miserables.

There was also a rendition of ABBA's Thank you for the Music – and Andrew was given the chance to

conduct the choir one last time as they sang an excerpt from Benjamin Britten's Saint Nicholas which the choir performed at the gala concert at this year's Loch Shiel Festival in April.

Choir member John Hutchison provided some nostalgia by looking back over Mr Simpson's time with the choir and he read a poem in Scots that he had written for Mr Simpson.

Speaking afterwards about his time with the choir, Mr Simpson

said: 'You've given me a tremendous amount of pleasure and I move from here with great regret. It's probably the hardest decision we've ever made but I shall take with me many great memories of making great music and leave behind, I hope, a legacy.'

There is now a vacancy for director/conductor for when the choir resumes in the autumn and anyone interested in taking over the role is encouraged to get in touch via any choir member.



Andrew conducts one last time: Andrew Simpson taking one final turn at conducting the Kilmallie Singers before he leaves the choir.

21\_F26 Kilmallie singers party 01

## Last chance to be entered for Mòd

ENTRIES for Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail (Royal National Mòd) 2016 have been flowing in thick and fast, but competitors entering online are reminded that the closing date is today, June 30.

The 2016 Mòd will be held in the Western Isles, for the sixth time in its history.

Janet MacDonald, Royal National Mòd director, said: 'We hope that competitors will take full advantage of the extended closing date and get their entries in to us on time.'

'The new, recently developed, online entry system has proved popular and has been used by many competitors already, with many more expected before the June 30 deadline. If competitors experience any problems with entering, we'd ask them to contact An Comunn Gàidhealach for guidance.'

'The gold medal final will again be broadcast live on BBC Alba and Radio nan Gàidheal on the Wednesday evening of Mòd week, following the success of a similar move for the Seann Nòs final a few years ago.'

'This change has been very much welcomed by competitors and audiences alike and we're delighted that a larger audience has the opportunity to watch these competitions now.'

The return of Gaeldom's premier cultural festival was welcomed by the convener of the local organising committee, Norman MacDonald. He

said: 'It is highly appropriate that the Mòd should return to the Western Isles as the whole ethos and thrust of the Mòd is to showcase and celebrate our rich language and culture.'

'Gaelic is still the community language of the islands and Mòd attendees are assured of a genuine Hebridean welcome in the Western Isles this year.'

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar are also looking forward to the Mòd returning to the Western Isles, which is always a popular location with participants and audiences.

Policy officer for Gaelic at the comhairle, Doileag MacLeod, said: 'Comhairle nan Eilean Siar is delighted to support the event this year and we are looking forward to welcoming competitors and visitors to the event.'

'The comhairle has been, and continues to be, very supportive of the Gaelic language in all of its operations.'

'We have taken the lead on the promotion and use of Gaelic and it is therefore appropriate that the premier Gaelic festival is being held in the Western Isles in October.'

Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail will be held in the Western Isles between October 14 and 22. For any further information regarding Am Mòd Nàiseanta Rìoghail, go to www.ancomunn.co.uk or www.modna-neileansiar2016.com.

# Bodach

In this series, *The Oban Times'* resident Bodach (Gaelic: old man and, by experience, often a storyteller) looks through archive material for articles and pictures that preserve moments from the past. There is always a back story – and sometimes a future one.

Get in touch with your stories at [bodach@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:bodach@obantimes.co.uk)

## Scotland and Europe

THE GOVERNMENT of the United Kingdom has held 13 referendums since 1973.

The majority have been associated with devolution in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales; and three UK-wide votes on continued membership of the European Economic Community (1975), the alternative vote system (2011), and last week's on continued membership of the European Union. A majority of the electorate 51.9 per cent voted to leave the EU, with the greatest support for an exit demonstrated by England and Wales.

The results in Scotland and Northern Ireland were quite different – an overall majority voted to remain. The British Overseas Territory of Gibraltar returned a vote of 96 per cent in favour of remaining in the European Union, immediately triggering a renewed Spanish claim for joint territorial control.

Closer to home, the division immediately precipitated questions on Scotland's future within Europe and the United Kingdom.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon articulated her intention to enter discussions with the remaining member states, and made it clear that Scotland's 62 per cent vote in favour of remaining in the EU will likely lead to another referendum on independence.

In 1975, the only constituencies to return majority votes against remaining in the (then) EEC were in

Scotland – Shetland and the Western Isles. This referendum was conducted against a background of changes to local government implemented by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. Traditional units of administration – counties, burghs and districts – were replaced with a two-tier system of regional and district councils, except island councils which became unitary authorities (Orkney, Shetland, Western Isles). Of course, regional councils were abolished in 1996 along with 53 districts and replaced with 32 single-tier authorities in an effort to improve efficiency, cohesion, accountability and effectiveness.

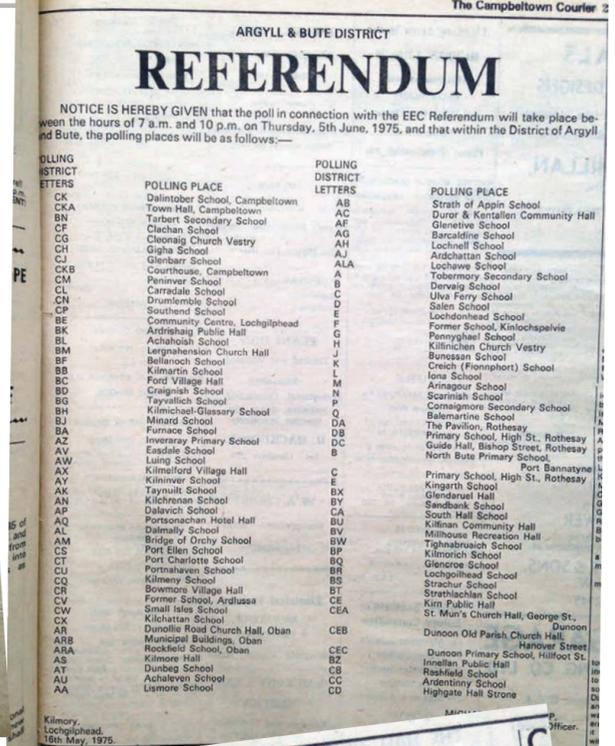
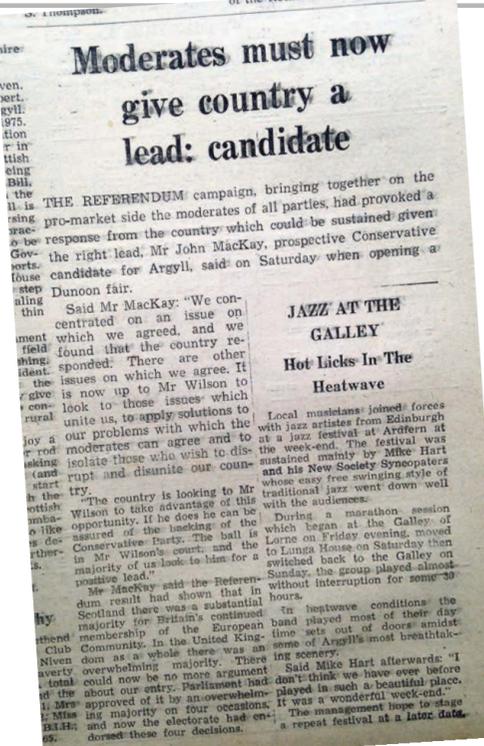
The 2016 EU referendum result appeared to surprise even leading figures from both Leave and Remain campaigns. Certainly an atmosphere of unpreparedness prevails a week later: resignations, votes of no confidence, demands by devolved administrations and other member states, financial market uncertainty and currency devaluation, and the distinct absence of any exit strategy makes the United Kingdom look like it had very little clue about the immediate consequences and longer-term implications of such a decision.

Some people argue that the European Union was a bit of an experiment, and one that no longer suits the majority of its citizens. As a preventative measure against territorial expansionism and

cultural intolerance it has been remarkably successful, and the encouragement of a closer community of states created a single market to protect the free movement of people, goods, services and currency.

The Treaties of Amsterdam and Maastricht defined union-wide defence and environmental policies, and the Schengen Agreement encouraged thousands of people to work and study in other countries, improving communications and cultural understanding. Inevitably bureaucratic, the structure and legislature are by no means perfect – laws, regulations and directives exist to protect the environment and the majority of people most of the time and will periodically upset minority interests. The population of the European Union is about 500 million. The population of the UK is 64.1 million, which at less than 10 per cent did not feel like a minority until last week.

The British government will now have to invoke Article 50 of the Treaty of the European Union, but it may be the case that under the terms of the Scotland Act 1998 the Scottish Parliament must consent to a process to repeal EU legislation in Scotland. If Westminster has the legal power to over-ride Holyrood on this matter, then deeper and more pressing questions will be raised about Scotland's future in the United Kingdom.



### COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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June 18 - July 3  
10am - 5pm  
Talks/tours/walks/teas/exhibitions  
[www.stconanskirk.org.uk](http://www.stconanskirk.org.uk)

**Great Western Crafters and Producers Market**  
Saturday 2nd July  
11am - 4.30pm  
Collection for Oban Playpark and Coffee Morning

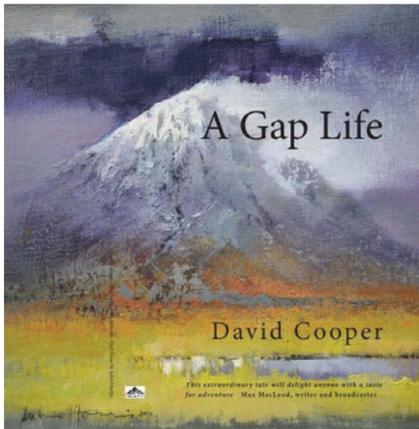
AnComunn Gàidhealach  
**CRUACHAN BRANCH SUMMER CEILIDHS**  
begin Thursday 7th July  
Taynuilt Village Hall at 7.30pm  
Admission £4, Members £3, Children (5-16 yrs) £2

**Oban & Lorn Lions Club**  
Great Oban Bay Raft Race  
Saturday 13th August  
For details contact [bill.coutts@btinternet.com](mailto:bill.coutts@btinternet.com)

**Oban U3A**  
Tuesday 5th July 2016 at 10.30am  
Studio Theatre and café area, Corran Halls, Oban  
This is our monthly meeting. Do come for a cup of coffee and a chat. If you are interested in joining this is a good opportunity to meet some members and find out about the U3A.

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## Businessman has book published

GLENCOE businessman David Cooper has this week published a book he has written.

David, who owns Crafts & Things in Glencoe, said of his book, entitled *A Gap Life*: 'Capturing the spirit of the 1960s, this is the story of one man's physical and spiritual journey through those extraordinary years.'

'Starting in Aberdeen, finishing in Glencoe, I travel across Europe, North America and Asia. From a commune in California to the rooftops of Istanbul,

traversing the deserts of Iran and Afghanistan, crossing the Karakoram on foot, staying in Tibetan monasteries and remote Sumatran tribal villages, travelling alone, I encounter many iconic 1960s figures.

'From R D Laing, John Lennon, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi and Allen Ginsberg, the acknowledged founder of the Beat Generation, my travels and meetings give us a unique insight into a fascinating era, one that changed the world.'

## Project brings the past to life for school kids

EASDALE Primary School displayed a 'past project' on Wednesday last week, which looked at the Seil school's 139-year history, and took all 28 pupils six months to make.

Fifty parents and curious islanders came to the open day in Ellenabeich to see the exhibition. Mairi Livingstone, class teacher, explained: 'We wanted to find out where past pupils were now and what they were doing, so the children from this school could go on to do what they wanted, where they wanted. We took the idea and it just escalated. They got 95 responses from 1943 to 2000.'

Children also learned about the world of work, with placements at Ardmaddy Gardens, the Easdale ferry, Glensanda quarry and even with a petroleum geologist, and guest speakers from the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust to the Oban Chocolate Company.

'We just grabbed the postman,' Mairi said. 'Not many people got through the door without getting roped in.'

Pupils also recreated old black-and-white school year photographs, and plumbed Lochgilhead archives for log books dating from 1909, picking out dramatic handwritten entries such as the violent storm on January 28, 1927, which blew the school's windows in.

One pupil told us: 'We've done so much work. I wonder how much Blu-tack we've used.'

Acting head teacher Sheena Nisbet agreed: 'It's been a terrific amount of work they've

all done, with the support of the community.' She also praised the work of two teachers who mostly organised it: Ms Livingstone and principal teacher Adriana MacDougall.

Summing up the whole project, the kids scripted and filmed a 30-minute documentary, premiered in a classroom with a red carpet and popcorn. 'I found out something horrible,' one boy told the camera. 'In 1940, the children had to go to school on a Saturday.'



The Easdale Primary School past project got a healthy response.

## Line-up announced for Fèis na Mara

ORGANISERS of Fèis na Mara have released the line-up for this year's event.

The Fèis will be held in Mallaig on October 7 and 8 and will feature a range of bands and musicians from Scotland's Celtic music scene.

Skye-based Celtic electronic fusion band Niteworks will be performing along with special guests, including Ellen MacDonald on vocals, Fiona MacAskill on fiddle and Andrew

MacPherson on percussion. Also on the bill are the tweed-clad League of Gentleman who will play contemporary Scottish music along with some experimental ceòl – dealain (lightening music).

Federation of the Disco Pimp will be performing their usual mix of jazz, psychedelic, disco and funk.

The Scott Wood Band will bring their own Scottish composition to life with jazz, pop,

rock and world influences.

Lochyside (Fort William) resident Hannah MacRae, who was a finalist in this year's BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year, will be playing the fiddle along with guitarist Charlie Galloway, who studies with her at the Royal Conservatoire.

The Mischa MacPherson Trio, who are all graduates of the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music in

Plockton, will be performing Gaelic soul music.

The Hector Henderson Quartet from Skye are returning to the Fèis after last year's performance.

Resident Gaelic super group Dàimh will also be on the bill, along with local heroes Fras.

Tickets will go on sale later in the year and they will be available from the Cornerstone Restaurant, the Steam Inn and the West Highland Hotel.

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## Uncertain times ahead for farming

Attending last week's Royal Highland Show, Argyll's farmers were just as shocked as everyone else when dawn broke on Friday with the news that the UK had narrowly voted to leave the EU.

The referendum result was still sinking in when *The Oban Times* spoke to a few Argyll folk at Scotland's biggest outdoor event.



Allan MacKellar – 'a brave decision'.

Taking in the bluefaced Leicester judging, Allan MacKellar from Benderloch said: 'It was quite a surprise. I was for leaving the EU, and I believe we should give it a go.'

'If you look back around 40 years we weren't in the EU and we did alright. I think it was quite a brave decision, but after a year or two things will settle down.'



Keith Campbell is concerned about the impact on workers.

Keith Campbell of Lochgoilhead is a director in the Argyll Holidays business as well as being a sheep farmer. He took time out from stewarding duties at the Highland Show to offer his thoughts on the EU referendum decision. 'I was really surprised at the result,' said Mr Campbell, 'and I just don't know what is going to happen now and how this will affect our holiday or farming business.'

'We have a lot of eastern European workers, and they are good staff. We've already had some on the phone asking how this will affect them, and the result was only announced a few hours ago.'

He added: 'But I do think it will encourage another Scottish independence referendum.'



Davy Jackson from Pole Farm, left, with son Jock and daughter-in-law Natalie.

Thursday's blackface sheep judge was Davy Jackson of Pole Farm in Lochgoilhead.

Relaxing at the show as a spectator on Friday he said: 'It's a bit of a shock. 'The CAP system was going to

change in 2020 anyway, so by the time an exit goes through we'll be just about there.'

'But you wouldn't know whether it's going to be a good thing or a bad thing.'



Could be 'a disaster' if union does not act quickly, says Angus MacFadyen.

NFU Scotland stalwart Angus MacFadyen farms at Bragleenmore near Kilninver.

He believes that the UK might have made a big mistake.

'This referendum decision could end up being a disaster for farming,' he said.

Mr MacFadyen, who chairs the

NFUS environment and land use committee, added: 'We have to look ahead. In my opinion Westminster and the UK government are not interested in farming.'

'The NFUS has got to get into discussions with the Scottish Government as quickly as possible, and that is what we are doing.'



From Brechoille Farm, Furnace, left to right, are Rhona, Caitlin, Izzy, Duncan and Brodie Crawford along with Rhona's big brother, Brian Cocker.

All the way from Furnace, Duncan Crawford was at the show with his family.

Duncan, who farms at Brechoille near Auchindrain, said: 'There are a lot of unknowns after this vote.'

'People say that if Scotland votes

for independence we could apply to rejoin the EU, but what kind of EU will it be by that time, if other countries decide they want a vote on membership?'

Duncan's wife, Rhona, added: 'It's scary times ahead.'



John Semple – 'look ahead positively'.

Southend man John Semple, who manages Ellary Estate, Achahoish, said: 'I wasn't expecting that result.'

Mr Semple, who stood down earlier this year as the NFUS chair for Argyll and the Islands, continued: 'But the

only thing we can do is look forward positively.'

'I can see a bigger role for the NFUS in negotiating with the Scottish Government in years to come, and that will be very important.'

## TV farming series recognised by sheep industry

THE BBC is this year's recipient of the National Sheep Association Scotland Silver Salver, awarded annually in recognition of an outstanding contribution to the Scottish sheep industry.

BBC TV's *This Farming Life* proved to be a huge hit with the non-farming public who were given a taste of the highs and lows experienced by the five farming families who took part.

The award was presented on the Saturday afternoon in the NSA Scotland marquee at the Royal Highland Show to Samantha MacPhee and Alison Pinkney from the production team at the BBC.

Sybil and George MacPherson and Martin and Mel Irvine, stars of *This Farming Life* present the award to, front left, Sam Machee and, front middle, Alison Pinkney from the BBC production team.

a27\_rhbbc01no



Farming with her husband Alistair and family among the Cowal hills, Jill Campbell of Succoth Farm also expressed shock as the result sank in. 'I don't know what's ahead of us,' she said. 'No country has ever voted to come out before.'

'I still can't quite believe it; it's a massive thing and we're heading for

interesting times, that's for sure.'

In spite of her shock, Mrs Campbell still found time for a chuckle as she clutched her rather fetching, half-price broly purchased at the show.

'Let's just say I maybe haven't spent as much at the show today as I might have done yesterday,' she joked.

## The official NFU Scotland response to the EU referendum result

NFU Scotland branch chair for Argyll and the Islands, John Dickson, who farms on Bute, said: 'The EU referendum vote moves farmers and crofters into uncharted territory but NFU Scotland has wasted no time in mapping out the road ahead.'

'Following the vote, our president met with Scottish Government officials at the Highland Show and the union's board of directors has already participated in a teleconference to discuss the implications of the Brexit vote.'

'Scottish farmers and crofters are resilient and will adapt to changing circumstances as details emerge in the coming months and years. NFU Scotland will be at the centre of those discussions, seeking the best deal possible for Scottish farming.'

He added: 'These are uncertain times, but if members want to dis-

cuss what might lie ahead, please get in touch with myself on 01700 505115, or regional manager Lucy Sumsion on 07787 434104.'



NFU branch chairman, John Dickson. 06\_a27rhddickson01

# New act will enable greater public ownership of land

THE FIRST parts of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act began on Tuesday, June 28.

Changes to the use of common good land, business rates for shooting and deerstalking, and deer management have come into force.

Other parts including those on agricultural holdings and landowners engaging with communities will begin later in the parliamentary session.

The provisions that have come into place at present will end the exemptions from business rates for shooting and deerstalking, meaning these will now be subject to the same arrangement as other Scottish businesses from April 2017.

Local authorities will now have the power to change the use of some types of common good land (land that used to belong to one of Scotland's burghs) if they apply for court consent.

There will also be new powers awarded on the management of deer populations.

Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Roseanna Cunningham said: 'I am pleased to note the first parts of this act come into force.'

'The Land Reform Act builds on the foundations of this government's wider programme of reform across urban and rural Scotland. The act will enable communities and individuals to own and use land to realise their full potential.'

'Today marks a vital next step in a wider and ongoing programme of reform across Scotland. A land rights and responsibilities statement and a Scottish Land Commission will follow.'

'We will also support landowners to better engage with communities and will shortly begin to implement the act's agricultural holdings provisions.'

'Implementing the act is not the end of our land reform journey but an important step in ensuring that land in Scotland delivers benefit for everyone.'

# Argyll's farmers make major contribution to Scotland's showcase



This is just one class in a large entry of Beltex sheep. 06\_a27rht17

ACCLAIMED as one of the best days out in Scotland, the Royal Highland Show has once again done the business.

There was plenty of business done over the four days of the event, held at the Ingliston showground between Thursday and Sunday June 23 and 26 – but the emphasis was on competition and fun for most of the 188,810 people who went along.

Argyll and the Isles were well represented across many aspects of this huge show, and the region's sheep farmers were making their presence felt in the busy show rings.

Argyll hill farmer Davie Jackson performed judging duties among the blackface breed, and he awarded the MacGregor family of the

Dyke, Milton of Campsie, the blackface championship for their aged tup.

Travelling from Iona, Andrew Prentice was placed first with his tup lamb, while J&J MacPherson, Balliemanoich, Loch Awe, also featured, securing sixth place for their own tup lamb.

The MacPhersons' unshorn ewe with lamb at foot was placed fourth in her class. The ewe, off a £6,000 Connachan sire, was a winner at last year's Lorn, Mid Argyll and Dalmally shows.

In sixth place in this class was a ewe shown by Andrew Campbell from Lochgoilhead.

The judge said: 'A lot of people have said it was the strongest show of blackies

seen here for a number of years, and I would agree.'

'Overall the standard was very good and pretty level and it was quite difficult to decide, but the champion tup from the Dyke had a great conformation and was very correct.'

Shown by farm manager John MacLachlan, traditional type bluefaced Leicesters from J&M Turner, Kildalloig, Campbeltown, performed very well.

Mr MacLachlan was delighted to come away with first prize for his ewe lamb, which was later awarded the overall reserve female champion title. The Kildalloig team also won fourth for their tup and sixth for a ewe.

Among the crossing type

bluefaced Leicesters, powerful two-shear tup Midlock Knight Rider was placed first. Co-owned by Andrew Campbell from Lochgoilhead and Drymen's Jamie Pirie, the tup is off Midlock Mustang.

Great supporters of the show are the MacLean family from Heylipol Farm on the Isle of Tiree. Among a huge entry of Beltex sheep, in which Maybole farmer John Barclay had the unenviable task of placing the winners, Alasdair MacLean achieved a fifth place rosette with his ewe lamb in a 48-strong field. The winning lamb is by Callacrag Wise Crack out of Tiree Sophie.

Across the showground, the Highland cattle lines saw some familiar Argyll faces.

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Catherine McKechnie with her champion young bull, Dochie 1st of Gartocharn. 06\_a27rht22



Duncan McPhail of Skernish Clydesdales preparing Davie the Clydesdale's harness for his step-granddaughter, Leigh Smith, 18. 25\_c27rht04\_duncanmcpail



Grant MacPherson, Balliemanoich, with the fourth-placed blackface rough ewe. 06\_a27rht19



Fraser Boyd with Highland pony Peggy of Combebank in the show ring. a27\_rhtboyd02



With winning bluefaced Leicester lamb, Kildalloig manager John MacLachlan. 06\_a27rht15



Andrew Campbell with his co-owned winning tup, Midlock Knight Rider. 06\_a27rhs06

Willie MacLean from West Ferlochan, Benderloch, was there with daughter Lynne showing cattle from Michael Poland's Mottistone fold. Lynne proudly led two-year-old bull Eoin Mhor 15th of Mottistone – an animal that was male champion at both Stirling and the Doune and Dunblane show in 2015 – to a third prize in his class.

There was another Argyll connection among the prize winners. Catherine MacKechnie, originally from Kilfinan but now farming at Gartocharn, had show success with her Highlanders. Among a clutch of rosettes, Mrs MacKechnie won the young bull class with Dochie 1st of Gartocharn, also deemed best junior Highlander.

Among the horses, Fraser and Lorna Boyd from Ardentiny are show regulars. With their Highland pony mare Peggy of Combebank, they secured fourth in the yeld mare in-hand class.

Since her supreme championship at Drymen this year she has been nursery novice ridden champion and reserve novice ridden champion in the Picton finals at the National Pony Society show at Strathallan Castle, qualifying for the finals at Malvern in August.

David and Callum MacPhail, the Moy, Campbell-ton, won a first prize in the Clydesdales for their mare Garcal-fra Sweet Chloe with foal at foot, with their foal – by Dillars Top Gun – also

winning the reserve female champion title.

Duncan McPhail of Skernish, Glenbarr, was also there with Clydesdale horses in harness, competing in the harness and driving open single cart class among had a field of 24, said to be the largest assembled in Britain.

There was much more for Argyll to be proud of at the Highland Show – including a recruitment first prize for the Argyll district young farmers; a woodland award for Kilfinan community forest and some fantastic food exhibits.

Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland chairman Willie Gill said: 'Once again the Royal Highland Show has proven that, along with being the coun-

try's premier exhibition for the finest livestock, it is one of Scotland's favourite days out. It is also a great stage on which to do business, and we know that a number of deals have been struck over the four days, which is great to hear.

'A lot of planning goes into this event and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our exhibitors, sponsors, staff and visitors, without whom the show wouldn't be able happen, and who enable RHASS to carry out its charitable remit of promoting and protecting the interests of land-based industries here in Scotland.

'We are looking forward to seeing everyone back here in 2017 for what will be the 177th Royal Highland Show.'

## Fiunary fish farm manager awarded top title at show



Scottish Sea Farms' Victoria McDowell and Andrew MacLeannan with their certificates.

A FISH farm manager from Fiunary was crowned as Young Producer of the Year in the prestigious M&S Farming for the Future awards at the Royal Highland Show last week.

Andrew MacLeannan, who works for Scottish Sea Farms near Oban, has been recognised for his outstanding contribution to sustainable farming.

Andrew, 27, was shortlisted for the award for his role in managing the supply of Lochmuir salmon to M&S, as well as for his ongoing commitment to preserving the local environment.

Scottish Sea Farms has also won the Rural Communities Award for its Heart of the Community Trust (HCT) set up in 2011, which helps support local charitable and community initiatives. To date the HCT has distributed in excess of £500,000 to a variety of different causes and has benefited around 27,000 people living in largely rural, coastal communities.

Andrew started working for Scottish Sea Farms four years ago as a trainee in fish husbandry and has also collaborated with other farm managers in the area and a specialist net company to secure the production of a uniquely designed net and weighting system, which enables them to be cleaned easily and thoroughly.

Despite the challenging location of the farm and

potential biological threats posed by other sea species in the area, the judges of the awards were impressed with Andrew's strong understanding of fish biology and were impressed with his passion for the industry.

M&S Farming for the Future is a programme of initiatives which champions sustainability and innovation. The programme is designed to help farmers identify opportunities for improvement, increase their profitability and provide a sustainable supply chain that can continue to deliver quality and innovation for the long term.

Steve Mclean, M&S head of agriculture and fisheries, said: 'We are delighted to honour Andrew as one of this year's Farming for the Future award winners. Every year it becomes even harder to choose the winners, as each individual on our shortlist has gone the extra mile to set them apart from the competition.'

'I'd like to congratulate Andrew and his team for the forward-thinking approach and dedication to farming excellence. His proactive attitude and leadership skills make him a deserving winner.'

'The commitment to innovation, best practice and future-proof farming is incredibly impressive and is testament to the effort and drive he has shown.'



TV celebrity and Dalmally farmer Sybil MacPherson, centre, pictured with John and Deirdre Burton, Cononish, Tyndrum. 06\_a27rhs18



Lynne MacLean with Highland bull Eoin Mhor 15th of Mottistone, a third prize winner. 06\_a27rhs24



From Tiree, Alasdair MacLean and his Beltex ewe lamb that came an excellent fifth in a competitive class. 06\_a27rhs20

## Shear charity madness for celebrity farming couple

THINGS might be hairy after the EU referendum, but a TV celebrity farming couple from Dalmally sorted that out in front of a big crowd at the Highland Show.

Just as featured in highly-acclaimed BBC series *This Farming Life*, Sybil MacPherson clipped her husband George's lambing-time beard.

George's majestic beard took around five minutes to remove last Sunday afternoon, with Sybil starting her task using traditional hand-held shears be-

fore moving to electric clippers for the closer work.

Radio and TV presenter Bryan Burnett provided a commentary during the clipping, while sheep steward Jimmy Warnock explained the various positions and techniques Sybil used during the shearing process.

The couple have managed to raise more than £4,000 for far for Macmillan Cancer Care with their shearing extravaganza.

Sybil, who is also chairman of the

National Sheep Association Scotland, said shearing George was substantially more challenging than shearing a sheep for many reasons, not least his ability to voice his opinion on her technique.

Undaunted by his very public clipping, the now clean-shaven George is already planning to let his beard grow even longer next year before he lets Sybil get her clippers near it.

If you would like to support their charity efforts, visit the Justgiving website entitled 'The Clipping of George'.



A hirsute George. a27rhsbeard01no



Sybil gets to work. a27rhsbeard02no



And a wee peck to finish. a27rhsbeard03no

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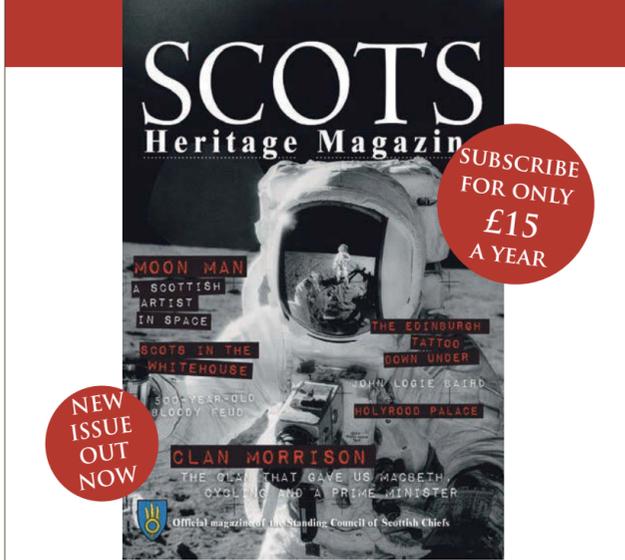
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# West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

✔ LETTINGS ✔ COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ✔ SALE ✔ PROPERTY REVIEWS ✔ PROPERTY NEWS ✔ LOCAL ESTATE AGENTS

## Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors responds to the result of the EU referendum

THE RESULT of the referendum draws a line under the campaigns of the last few months. The British people have decided the UK should leave the EU. There now follows a vote in parliament and a detailed negotiation for the UK's exit.

Whatever their previous political differences, ministers must now focus on providing a stable government. The Prime Minister has pledged to 'steady the ship' before stepping down and the resulting leadership race should not distract from working towards an orderly transition.

Uncertainty over the re-negotiation and the UK's future relationship with the EU must be minimised by laying out a clear timeline and set of ambitions. The Chancellor's proposed 'Brexit Budget' must be careful to reassure property markets. First Ministers in the devolved nations are expected to play their part in providing this reassurance.

There are questions around the impact on access to a skilled workforce to meet the country's construction and infrastructure needs. We need reassurance that workforce migration will be addressed as a priority and it must not be allowed to impact on the attractiveness of the UK for investment, or as a place where major corporate and

industrial occupiers want to do business. Given their role in the economy, property and construction require stability, clarity and certainty. With regards to our relationship with the EU, we need to ensure investment into UK property and infrastructure continues.

While Whitehall focuses energies into the exit negotiation, Britain must meet the housing supply and infrastructure challenges it continues to face. Projects or property transactions which were delayed, shelved or postponed due to the uncertainty surrounding the referendum must be given the confidence and security to begin to move again.

### What this means for Scotland

First Ministers in the devolved nations are expected to play their part in providing reassurance. Therefore, despite talk of a future referendum for Scotland, we must

adopt a collaborative UK approach when detailing the strategy for the UK's exit.

While Holyrood focuses energy on this exit negotiation, the UK must meet the housing supply and infrastructure challenges it continues to face.



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**Rental market tipped to stay strong, even after 'Brexit'**

The British rental market is so strong at the moment that even the vote to leave the EU in the June 23 referendum should have little to no effect on its overall health.

According to a survey released by the Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA), the majority of those operating in the sector believe the three main factors that contribute to sector health - supply, demand and pricing - will remain unaffected, allowing the market to continue its growth moving forward.

In the survey, 65 per cent of respondents said they feel the levels of supply across the nation will be affected, with landlords still likely to invest when the UK leaves the EU. This compared to just 22 per cent of letting agents who said they believe the 'Brexit' vote will mean fewer rental homes becoming available.

As well as this, demand should remain steady, the majority

believe, with as many as 55 per cent saying there will be little to no negative impact of the 'Brexit' vote on the number of tenants in the market. On the flipside, 31 per cent believe the UK becoming less of an attractive prospect for relocation would mean a fall in demand.

And when it comes to what tenants are having to pay to live in rented homes, letting agents also believe there will be only negligible changes, with as few as 19 per cent predicting any significant upwards pressure on pricing for landlords in the wake of the 'leave' vote.

It's important to put this into perspective and not get carried away in a zeitgeist. The lettings market hosts a large number of non-UK born citizens and any change in migration policy is likely to have an impact down the line, especially in places such as London.

However, the immediacy of this effect is likely to be minimal.

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t: 01631 569 466 (Oban)  
t: 01397 747 123 (Fort William)

**Properties for sale and let**

|  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p><b>Uisken, Bunessan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extended Traditional Grade B Listed Cottage</li> <li>Beautifully restored cottage</li> <li>3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms</li> <li>0.25 acres private garden</li> <li>Remote situation with village amenities close by</li> <li>EPC Rating - D67</li> </ul> <p><b>OIRO £255,000</b></p> <p>Braigh - Offers a rare opportunity to purchase a lovingly restored traditional Grade B Listed cottage with modern annex. The cottage was originally thatched and formed part of the historic settlement of Knocknafenaig, the ruined remains of which can be seen surrounding Braigh.</p> | <p><b>Strongarbh Park, Tobermory</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detached House</li> <li>4 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms</li> <li>Elevated position</li> <li>Stunning views over Tobermory Bay</li> <li>Large decking</li> <li>EPC Rating - D (62)</li> </ul> <p><b>OIRO £255,000</b></p> <p>Callivoll - A detached 4 bedroom house in an elevated position above the town of Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. Currently run as a small B&amp;B Callivoll comprises a large lounge/diner, separate lounge, kitchen, family bathroom and two double bedrooms on the ground floor. Upstairs are two further bedrooms and a shower room.</p> | <p><b>Burnsall, North Connel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spacious Detached House with Annex</li> <li>6 Bedrooms / 5 Bathrooms / Gym</li> <li>Stunning views of Loch Etive</li> <li>Large Private Garden</li> <li>Driveway parking for multiple vehicles</li> <li>Highly sought after location</li> <li>EPC - E52</li> </ul> <p><b>OIRO £480,000</b></p> <p>Burnsall offers a rare opportunity to purchase a magnificent family home in a stunning and most desirable position. With around 3,000 square feet of accommodation, generous living rooms, five bedrooms, four bathrooms and an annex with separate living room, dining kitchen, bedroom and wet-room, Burnsall offers any purchaser a high degree of flexibility.</p> | <p><b>Moorcroft, North Connel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detached 5 bedroom house with holiday rental</li> <li>Set in approx. 0.9 acres</li> <li>Highly sought-after location</li> <li>Additional 1.5 acre paddock/possible plot</li> <li>Spectacular loch and mountain views</li> <li>EPC Rating - F(34)</li> </ul> <p><b>OIRO £440,000</b></p> <p>Moorcroft is a truly exceptional detached home occupying an enviable position in the highly sought-after settlement of North Connel. With spectacular views down Loch Etive towards Ben Cruachan, the original early 19th Century cottage has been comprehensively upgraded and sympathetically extended, whilst still retaining a host of original features.</p> |
| <p><b>4 Stevenson Street, Oban</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One bedroom flat</li> <li>Located Centrally in Oban</li> <li>Unfurnished</li> <li>White goods included</li> <li>Council Tax Band A</li> <li>EPC - D</li> <li>Landlord Reg: 91986/130/31040</li> <li>Deposit and References required</li> </ul> <p><b>£375 Per Calendar Month</b></p> <p><b>AVAILABLE OBAN TOWN CENTRE</b></p> <p>Four, well presented 1 bedroom flats available in Oban town centre. Each bright flat comprises of lounge/kitchen area, bedroom and bathroom.</p>  | <p><b>25 Stevenson Street, Oban</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One bedroom flat</li> <li>Located Centrally in Oban</li> <li>Unfurnished First Floor</li> <li>Council Tax Band A</li> <li>EPC - B(84)</li> <li>Landlord Reg: 342259/130/31461</li> <li>Deposit and References required</li> </ul> <p><b>£460 Per Calendar Month</b></p> <p><b>3 FLATS AVAILABLE SOON</b></p> <p>One bedroom flat located centrally in Oban. Open plan living room and modern kitchen with spacious double bedroom and shower bathroom.</p>   | <p><b>Hawthorn, Appin</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Bedrooms</li> <li>1 En-suite</li> <li>Private Garden</li> <li>Parking</li> <li>Newly Refurbished</li> <li>Stunning views over Appin</li> <li>Bright &amp; Airy</li> <li>Landlord Registration: 466844/130/18521</li> <li>EPC: D (60)</li> </ul> <p><b>£575 Per Calendar Month</b></p> <p><b>AVAILABLE IN APPIN</b></p> <p>Spacious 2 bedroom semi-detached bungalow. This property has been recently renovated throughout and is finished to a high standard. The accommodation comprises of a large lounge, kitchen, family bathroom and 2 bedrooms, one with an en suite shower room.</p>   | <p><b>Now managing properties in Fort William!</b></p> <p><b>Call our office for a free appraisal today.</b></p>  |

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Marine Harvest Scotland is the largest producer of Atlantic salmon in Scotland. The Company employs a workforce of over 600 throughout the Highlands and Islands and produces over 50,000 tonnes of salmon annually. Our farming operations are based in Fort William and the Company prides itself in being a major employer of skilled people and strives to produce high quality, healthy and nutritious seafood in the most sustainable way.

Over the coming years Marine Harvest has announced plans to invest over £100 million to integrate and grow its farming and fish feed production business in Scotland. We are proud of our 50 year heritage in the Scottish Highlands and Islands and the support we have from local communities and our dedicated workforce.

This year has marked the arrival of new non chemical methods in lice treatment. We currently operate 2 Hydrolicing machines. A further 3 systems, including a Thermolicer, are due to be in operation before October.

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If you have the drive, commitment and enthusiastic personality that is required for this interesting, important and novel role, coupled with the relevant experience, please apply in writing, no later than Thursday 14th July, stating your reasons for applying and your relevant skills and experiences to: Vicky Ferguson, HR Manager, Marine Harvest Scotland, Stob Ban House, Glen Nevis Business Park, Fort William, PH33 6RX

Informal enquires can be addressed to David MacGillivray, Seawater Manager, Marine Harvest Scotland, Stob Ban House, Glen Nevis Business Park, Fort William, PH33 6RX

E-mail: [david.macgillivray@marineharvest.com](mailto:david.macgillivray@marineharvest.com)

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The successful applicant will be given the rare opportunity to work with both juvenile Salmon and Rainbow trout and would be suited to someone who is looking to develop an exciting career in aquaculture.

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Salary dependent on experience, skills and knowledge.

Please send your CV with qualifications and accompanying letter to:-

**Jean Haslam**

**Kames Fish Farming Limited**

**Kilmelford, Oban PA34 4XA**

**fish@kames.co.uk**

**Tel: 01852 200286**

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Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors

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R A Clement Associates have a vacancy in our very busy office for an office assistant. The position will entail carrying files between the 2 Oban offices, running errands and various administrative duties.

Please reply by mail, including your C.V. to: **Mrs Helen Clark, Office Manager,**

**R A Clement Associates,**

**5 Argyll Square, Oban,**

**Argyll PA34 4AZ**



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For more information and to apply, please visit our website at [www.calmac.co.uk/careers/careers-at-calmac](http://www.calmac.co.uk/careers/careers-at-calmac) no later than 15 July 2016.

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Email cv to [susan@argyllresources.co.uk](mailto:susan@argyllresources.co.uk) or post to **Argyll Resources, John MacLachlan Ltd Head Office, Torran gorm Industrial Estate, Oban PA34 4PL. Tel 01631 566370**

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## GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Oilfast Ltd trading as Oilfast Ltd of Nethan Street, Motherwell, ML1 3TF is applying for a licence to use former Road's Depot Site, Oban Airport, North Connel, by Oban PA37 1SW as an operating centre for 4 goods vehicles and 0 trailers. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioners's office.

## GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

D&J Campbell Limited of 1 Black Crofts, North Connel, Argyll, PA37 1QX is applying to change an existing licence as follows  
To keep an extra 2 goods vehicles and 4 trailers at the operating centre at 1 Black Crofts, North Connel, Argyll, PA37 1QX  
Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

## APPOINTMENT OF GRAZINGS COMMITTEE

**SANDAY ISLAND COMMON GRAZING**  
A meeting of shareholders for the above common grazings will be held for the purpose of electing a new Grazings Committee.  
Venue. Canna Community Shop  
Date. 4 July 2016. Time 6pm  
G mackinnon. Grazings Clerk

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 online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link [https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a\\_to\\_z](https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z)

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  |
|------------------|---|---|
| 16/02607/FUL     | Croft 5 & 6 Cullcheanna, Onich                            | Erection of house   |
| 16/02654/FUL     | Land 70M East of Aonach Beag, Upper Inverroy, Roy Bridge  | Erection of 1 3/4 storey dwelling   |
| 16/02673/FUL     | 1 Laragain Cottages, Banavie, Fort William                | Deletion of condition to permit long-term rental or permanent residence                 |
| 16/02680/FUL     | Plot 1 Land 25M East of Matenderere, Ormsaigbeg, Kilchoan | Erection of 2 no. Dwelling Houses   |
| 16/02697/FUL     | The Gathering, Inverie, Knoydart, Mallaig                 | Erection of lounge and cafe extension (reapplication)                                   |
| 16/02704/FUL     | Land 100M SW of River Coe Lodge, Glencoe                  | Change of use of land for siting of caravan for holiday use and associated ground works |

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)

**Benderloch & North Connel Drama Club**

**AGM**  
Thursday 28th July 2016, 7.30pm  
Club Hut, Keil Farm, Benderloch  
All welcome

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**First Registration of a Croft**

Mrs Christina MacLachlan has registered their croft 138 Kilmory, Ardnamurchan and Sunart on the Scottish Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 03 March 2017. 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 C2759.

**First Registration of a Croft**

Mr Andrew Henderson has registered the croft 6 Mallaig Vaig (Mallaig Bheag), Glenelg, 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 19/08/2016. 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 C2004.

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## CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

Mr & Mrs I MacEachen 2 Toigal, Arisaig & Moidart 0.118 ha - Site for a dwelling house 67559

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)

Applications marked with an asterisk - Interest can be expressed in obtaining the tenancy of the croft subject to the application.

## DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

I Carmichael 20 & 21 Badabrie, Kilmallie 0.215 ha - Site for a dwelling house 4.86.62801  
Conditions: 1, 2, 3b, 4, 7

L Hegarty 19 Airds Bay, Ardchattan & Muckairn 0.091 ha - Croft house site and garden ground 64969  
Conditions: 3a, 4, 8

I M Fyfe 3 Stronaba, Kilmonivaig 0.769 ha - Site for a dwelling house 4.86.59425  
Conditions: 2, 3b, 4

## Conditions

- (1) Acquisition of area within 5 years of the date of direction and notification made to Commission within 3 months of acquisition.
- (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.
- (7) An application for registration of the making of the Direction is submitted to the Crofting Commission for forwarding to the Keeper of the Registers of Scotland within the 5 year period
- (8) The Direction will expire 3 months from the date of the Direction unless an application for registration of the making of the Direction is submitted before the expiry of that period.

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.

## Oban Times 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 between 09:00-12:30 - 13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead 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)

## TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

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

| Ref. No.     | Proposal  | Site Address  | Location of Plans           |
|--------------|---|---|-----------------------------|
| 16/01734/PP  | Renewal of planning permission reference 13/00025/PP (Erection of 5 dwellinghouses, 5 self-catering holiday cottages and the formation of vehicular accesses) | Tigh Na Sith North Connel Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1RW                                 | Sub Post Office Connel      |
| 16/01370/PP  | Construction of run-of-river hydro scheme   | Ballygrant Quarry Ballygrant Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute                              | Sub Post Office Port Askaig |
| 16/01528/PP  | Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access  | Land North East Of Barran Brae Barranrioch Glencruitten Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 40B   | Oban Area Office            |
| 16/01699/PP  | Installation of DSLAM telecommunications cabinet  | Land North Of Telephone Exchange Crown Street Portnahaven Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute | Sub Post Office Portnahaven |
| 16/01434/PP  | Erection of dwellinghouse, including demolition of existing ruins and installation of private drainage system   | Traigh Chrionaig 5 Ruaig Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6TR                         | Tree Area Office            |
| 16/01698/PPP | Site for the erection of dwellinghouse  | Garden Ground Of Moorcroft North Connel Oban PA37 1QZ                                   | Sub Post Office Connel      |
| 16/01572/PP  | Erection of dwellinghouse   | Land To The Rear Of 15 Keills Cottage Keills Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA46 7RG     | Sub Post Office Port Askaig |
| 16/01768/PPP | Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 13/01003/PPP (Site for the erection of 3 dwellinghouses)  | Site East Of Sonachan Farm Portsonachan Argyll And Bute                                 | Sub Post Office Dalmally    |
| 16/01712/PPP | Site for the erection of 5 dwellinghouses   | Land South Of Woodend Glencruitten Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4PU                   | Oban Area Office            |
| 16/00893/PP  | Formation of vehicular access   | Land South West Of Home Farm Barcalidne Argyll And Bute                                 | Sub Post Office Connel      |
| 16/01626/PPP | Site for the erection of 5 dwellinghouses   | Land North West Of Ach-Na-Craobh Erray Road Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute      | Tobermory Area Office       |
| 16/01652/PP  | Erection of dwellinghouse   | Land South Of Dugarro Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1HY                                 | Sub Post Office Taynuilt    |
| 16/01666/PP  | Renewal of planning permission 13/00033/PP (Erection of a dwellinghouse, installation of a septic tank and the removal of a caravan)                          | Croft 1 Land North West Of Dunmore Airds Bay Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1JR          | Sub Post Office Taynuilt    |

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. 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. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

## COUNCILLOR'S SURGERIES

**Councillor Roddy McCuish (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)**  
Councillor McCuish will be holding a surgery on Friday 1st July 2016 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 1.30pm - 4.00pm.  
He can be contacted by email - [Roderick.McCuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Roderick.McCuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk) and by telephone 01631 567854.

**Councillor Kieron Green (E.W. 5 Oban North and Lorn)**  
Councillor Green will be holding a surgery on Friday 15th July 2016 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm - 4.00pm.  
He can be contacted by email - [Kieron.Green@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Kieron.Green@argyll-bute.gov.uk) and by telephone 01631 562444.

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

## TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

### THE A828 TRUNK ROAD (CREAGAN TO PORTNACROISH) (40MPH AND 50MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2016

The Scottish Ministers hereby give notice that they have made the above Order under section 84(1)(a) and 124(1)(d) of, and paragraph 27 of Schedule 9 to, the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984(a). The effect of the Order is as described in Oban Times and West Highland Times dated 26 November 2015, and the Edinburgh Gazette Issue Number 27645 dated 27 November 2015. The Order comes into force on Monday 4 July 2016.

A copy of the Order as made, the relevant plan and the Revoked Orders may be inspected free of charge until 3 August 2016 during normal business hours at the offices of Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow, G4 0HF and Port Appin Post Office, Port Appin Community Co-op, Port Appin, Argyll, PA38 4DE.

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <http://www.transport.gov.scot/road/road-and-traffic-orders/north-west-traffic-orders>

**S R LEES**  
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers  
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House,  
58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF

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To find out more about Juniper and Jane's fabrics, gifts and home accessories visit: [www.juniperandjane.co.uk](http://www.juniperandjane.co.uk)

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10 The alien wildlife invading Scotland  
CASTAWAY - Dispersed on an island in the Hebrides

## Sunart Sea Farm Limited Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 The Marine Licensing (pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

Notice is hereby given that Sunart Sea Farm Limited, (company registration number SC 207184), Salen, Acharacle, Argyll, PH36 4JN) plans to hold a pre-application consultation event regarding a proposed licensable marine activity at South Shore of Loch Sunart opposite Salen, central grid reference NM 1713E 7628N. The activity consists of formation and operation of algal farm. Further information can be obtained concerning the proposed formation and operation of algal farm from:

Sunart Sea Farm Limited, Salen, Acharacle, Argyll, PH36 4JN

The pre-application consultation event will be held between 2pm and 7pm on 13/8/2016 at @ Salen Public Hall, Salen, Acharacle, Argyll  
Persons wishing to provide comments on the proposed formation and operation of Algal Farm can do so by writing to the prospective applicant at @ by email to [rodneynxgeorge@gmail.com](mailto:rodneynxgeorge@gmail.com), Or by post to Sunart Sea Farm Limited, Salen, Acharacle, Argyll, PH36 4JN not later than 27/8/2016

Comments should be dated and should clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email or postal address of those making comment. Comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the Scottish Ministers. If Sunart Sea Farm Limited submits an application for a marine licence to Scottish Ministers, an opportunity will be given for representations to be made to the Scottish Ministers on the application

## First Registration of a Croft

Colin Campbell and Anne Campbell have registered their croft, 64 & 65 Banavie, Kilmallie on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by March 26, 2017.

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 C2644.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Mrs Linda Hegarty, Mr Kenneth Alexander MacGregor and Mr John MacCall MacGregor have registered the croft 19 Airds Bay, Ardchattan & Muckairn in 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 3 February 2017.

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 C2675.

## CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD RECTIFICATION OF FIRST REGISTRATION OF COMMON GRAZINGS

The Crofting Commission have submitted a rectification since the registration of the following Common Grazings on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

West End Iona, Kilfinichen and Kilvickeon  
Registration Number: CG335

Reason for rectification: To allow for the correct mapping of an apportionment to Sihtean, Maol

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may appeal to the Scottish Land Court. The appeal must be brought within 9 months from the date of this advert and should be made directly to the Land Court.

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home)

## PUBLIC NOTICES

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DEATHS

**MACBRIDE** - Peacefully, at home, with his sons by his side on Monday June 27, 2016, Donald Iain MacBride, aged 69 years. Loving husband of the late Margaret, much loved dad of James and Connal, a very special papa of Finlay, also a dearly loved brother of George and Neil. Funeral ceremony will be held on Monday July 4, 2016 at 10.30am in the Railway Club, Inverloch; thereafter a private committal will be held at Inverness Crematorium. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Macmillan Nurses and Marie Curie Nurses can be given at the door. All friends are welcome to attend. Enquires to John McLellan Funeral Directors, Tel. 01397 702128

**CRAWFORD** - Cath. Suddenly but very peacefully on Tuesday June 21, 2016, in ward 26 of the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, following a short illness. Cath, aged 86 years, beloved wife of the late Tom, devoted mum to Elizabeth, loving mother-in-law to Malcolm and dotting grandma to Alison and Clare. Funeral service, to which all friends are invited, at The Round Church, Bowmore, Islay, on Friday July 1 at 2pm.

**HILL (MACDONALD)** - Very suddenly while on holiday in Barcelona, Aileen Anne aged 40 years. Dearly loved daughter of Dougie and Anne, beloved wife of Stephen, dear sister and sister-in-law to Graeme and Dasha and proud Auntie to Caitlyn. A friend to many, sorely missed. 11 North Corran, Ardgour.

**MACDONALD** - Finlay. Peacefully in St Margaret's of Scotland Hospice, Clydebank on Thursday June 23, 2016, Finlay, (South Uist and Glasgow) aged 84, much loved husband of Catherine, loving father of Rona and Allan, loving grandad and great-grandad, passed away. Fortified by rites of Holy Church RIP. Received into St Peter's RC Church, Partick at 6pm on Thursday June 30. Funeral Mass at 10am on Friday July 1, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. There will be an opportunity to donate to St Margaret's Hospice in Finlay's memory at St Peter's.

**WHITE** - Peacefully at Eadar Glinn Care Home, Oban, on June 23, 2016, in his 83rd year, Ronald Brendan White (Ronnie), surrounded by his loving family, a much loved dad to Nadia, Ronnie and

Graeme, precious papa to Shannara, Sole, Chloe and Reece, and dear brother to Esther, uncle and great-uncle. He'll be forever in our hearts.

**WHITE** - Peacefully at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on June 18, 2016, in his 80th year, Denis Albert Paul, a dear brother to Esther & Ronnie, uncle, great-uncle, wee pal to Rachael and friend to many. Dennis will be sorely missed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**GALBRAITH** - Jane, Dougie, Jamie, Ruairidh, Calum and Cameron wish to thank most sincerely all family and friends for their help and support, cards, calls, flowers and visits after their very sad loss of Stuart. Heartfelt thanks to Taynuilt Medical Practice and Lorn and Islands Hospital, especially Ward A, where Stuart spent such a lot of time. Thank you also to Rev. Robert Brookes for his comforting service and to Ian at D & A Munn's for his guidance and professionalism. Thank you to the ladies who provided the lovely tea and to all who attended from near and far. The wonderful sum of £1332.75 was raised for Cancer Research UK.

**GILLIES** - I would like to thank everyone for their love and support they've shown over the last fortnight and thank them for the donations they made to the brain tumour charity which raised £1835.95. Thanks from Eilidh, Fern, Alisha and Archie Jr.

**MACINTYRE** - Catherine and Helen and their families would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for the cards, calls, flowers and kind expressions of sympathy following the loss of their mother Sarah. Sincere thanks to Dr Emma Boyle and her medical colleagues, Betty Graham, District Nurses, Occupational Therapists and Podiatrists. Special thanks to all the carers from Careplus who enabled mum to stay at home. Thank you to Rev James Beaton and Angus Smith for a comforting and personal service, to Ian MacInnes of D & A Munn for efficient arrangements and to the Rowantree Hotel. Finally thank you to those who came to pay their last respects at the church and Pennyfuir.

MEMORIAMS

**BILLIMORE** - In loving memory of Bali, who was taken from us on July 1, 2005. No tomorrows for us to share. But yesterday's memories will always be there - Love Sheena and family x

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**BROWN** - Remembering with love my dear mam and gran Annie and my dad and grandpa Lachlan, died at The Bungalow, Crossapol, Tieve. In a place deep within our hearts we keep a memory box which makes us smile or shed a tear each time that it unlocks. - Inserted by their daughter Christina and grandchildren Alison and Ewan, Dunoon, Devon and USA.

**CAMERON** - In loving memory of our dear mum and nana, Annette (Annie), passed away June 30, 2013 and our dad and papa Ian, on April 2, 1997. Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts. - Maire, John and families

**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 is a beautiful memory Your absence a silent grief Missing you both more than words can say, Till we meet again, Gad Chaidh agus Gad ionndrainn - Margaret, Alasdair, Kerry, Diane, John and Laura

**HAMILL** - In loving memory of Frank Hamill who passed away on June 30, 2010. As time unfolds another year Memories keep you ever near

Loved and missed always - Isobel, Nicholas and Ryan.

**MACALLISTER** - In loving memory of our dear mother and grandmother Morag, who died on July 1, 2013. Sadly missed and always will be. - From the MacAllister family

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of Raymond, a dear brother and friend. There is a link death cannot sever. Love and remembrance last forever. - Earle, Ann, Norma, Russell

**MACINNES** - Precious memories of my loving husband Eoghan (formerly of Isle of Luing), died July 2, 2006. It is sad to walk the road alone instead of side by side But to all there comes a moment when the ways of life divide And although you can't be here with me we are truly not apart Until the final breath I take you will be living in my heart - Maire, Strollamus.

**MACLEAN** - In loving memory of my dear son and our brother, Ronnie, who died July 6, 1984. Always in our thoughts - Grace and family, Tobermory and Wilma and Tam, Orkney

**REID** - In loving memory of my beloved husband, Alasdair who passed away June 27, 2009. Always in my thoughts, forever in my heart. - Ann



Alastair Hall - Retirement

DR ALASTAIR HALL, who is the educational psychologist for Oban, Lorn and the Islands, is to step down the end of the school term after 27 years in the role.

His first educational psychology position was in Aberdeenshire, where he spent six months before moving to Oban in April 1989 and where he has remained in post for the past 27 years.

Alastair's service was briefly interrupted mid-career when he undertook a two-year research secondment to Glasgow University, where he was appointed honorary research fellow in the Public Health Research Unit. The focus of his research was the development of low birthweight, premature babies and, in particular, their cognitive and motor development.

Alastair's research gained international recognition and he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by Glasgow University in 2001.

In the latter part of his career, Alastair developed an interest in therapeutic approaches for offering emotional support to children and young people - taking a post-graduate diploma in cognitive behaviour therapy at Dundee University.

Aside from his work, Alastair is often to be seen out running in and around Oban, usually accompanied by his dog. He has been a long-distance runner for more than 30 years (anything from 10k to marathon) and he said it is his ambition to run a half-marathon in under 90 minutes while in possession of his over-60s bus pass.

Obituary - Abdul Suleman Muslim, 1954 - 2016



FAMILY: From left, Abdul's son Abdul junior who is a waiter at the restaurant, Abdul, and his nephew Alam Khan, who is also a waiter. 15\_t27indian01.

ABDUL Suleman Muslim, who opened the first Indian restaurant in Oban, sadly passed away last week aged 62.

Mr Muslim was born in 1954. He grew up in Bangladesh, before moving to the UK in 1969.

He first worked in a factory in Bradford and the soon-to-be Oban man also held jobs in Manchester, Bolton, Wigan and Windsor.

It wasn't until he moved to London that he began working in the catering industry. He worked in a restaurant with his cousin for a few years before making the move to Scotland in 1976.

The 62-year-old originally moved to Aberdeen, then

Glasgow, before, finally, moving to Oban in 1984 when he opened the first Indian restaurant in the town - The Light of India.

After moving, Mr Muslim offered his services to the Oban community by providing night school cooking classes out of Oban high school.

He also helped the people of Sylhet in Bangladesh as much as he could by hosting charity lunches in order to raise money.

The cash raised from his well-attended lunches and charity boxes was used to help flood victims and also to provide shelter for homeless families in Bangladesh. More than 100 huts are

currently being used to provide shelter for vulnerable people in the area thanks to Mr Muslim.

He was very passionate about providing medical care in his home city of Sylhet and although he couldn't afford to build a hospital, he regularly donated medical supplies.

Mr Muslim's son will carry on the family business and also keep up the charity lunches and donations. His family would like to thank everyone who contacted them with cards and flowers. A memorial lunch will be held in the near future at the Light of India restaurant to commemorate Abdul Suleman Muslim.

Thought for the week

'MAY you live in interesting times' is supposedly a Chinese proverb, sometimes described as a curse.

Whatever the truth about the expression, perhaps after last Thursday's European Union referendum, some might wish for a return to the same old, same old, while others might be excited at what they hope will be a better future. No-one really knows but it will be different.

The United Kingdom sounds rather ironic with evident disunity between

nations, ages, and urban and rural areas. No wonder our political elite and the media have gone into meltdown amid frenzied activity.

It may be stating the obvious but it is a huge reminder of the uncertainty of our lives. James, one of the New Testament writers, warned against an arrogance that made presumptions about the future.

'You do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.'

One of the Old Testament songs also warns against putting our ultimate trust in mortal men but rather to trust in the Creator and Saviour God, now revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

Surely we all need a good dose of humility, and the grace to admit our inherent frailty, and that none of us has a monopoly on wisdom. And if ever our leaders needed our prayers, surely it is in these uncertain times.

James Beaton, Oban Free Church.

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# Platinum award for Suzanne and Salsa Caramel

By Suzanne Taylor

AS MOST of us enter the new year with new ideas, it's also a clean slate for us endurance riders. Last year had its ups and downs, after elimination or two, but in early May/June it was time out and lots of physio for Caramel. Slowly bringing him back over the course of the second half seemed to pay dividends.

Coming into 2016, I have Seacliff on my mind. For those who haven't ridden this course, once you have, it will be on your mind.

In 2014 we entered the elevator, hoping for our platinum, but as the day progressed with company of Liz Booth and Zahlah, brilliant crew and encouragement we achieved 160km.

This year I entered with 'platinum' ringing in my ears. The boy had done as much as 2014 beforehand in terms of training and competitions leading up to it, so his fitness was not going to concern me. Like most endurance riders, it starts with a pleasure, then 30km speed category three, then a bit faster, then a bit bigger and so on. The only way I can enter this distance is not to think about the actual distance. One loop at a time, the vets will let us know how we are actually doing on the day.

Failing to prepare is preparing to fail, so I doubled up on my

crew. With luck, I had Nicky Bertham for the first part of the year at competitions. Joining us on the day at Seacliff was, of course, Jamie Craig. In March I made a conscious decision regarding what I was eating and stuck to it trying to also prepare myself the best I can.

With three combinations entered into the class I thought it made sense to ask Tilly Hepburn Wright if she would like company. It's a long way to go on your own. We started at 5am. The day before had been really wet, so the tracks were slippery underfoot. We took the first loop steady. Crew were unimpressed and informed me we need to pick up the pace. But when you hurry a horse you usually get to the wrong place faster. On the second white loop of 35km we made up 45 minutes and were just about on 12kph at 70km. Sadly, Tilly was out at this stage so we had a new dilemma – asking Caramel to now continue without his friend.

By luck, Sue Higgins was also just about to depart onto the orange loop 31km, so we rode together and managed to pick up a little more momentum. All being well, we would continue onto the pink loop of 28km.

Sitting in the vet gate at 101km, things feel a bit serious. Crews were on top form offering

## Endurance riding

everything to both myself and Caramel. All feeling good, off we went back out to catch Sue out on the course. We did and rode together again on the pink loop with a cooling river crossing.

The map was great but rarely used – that's how good the marking was.

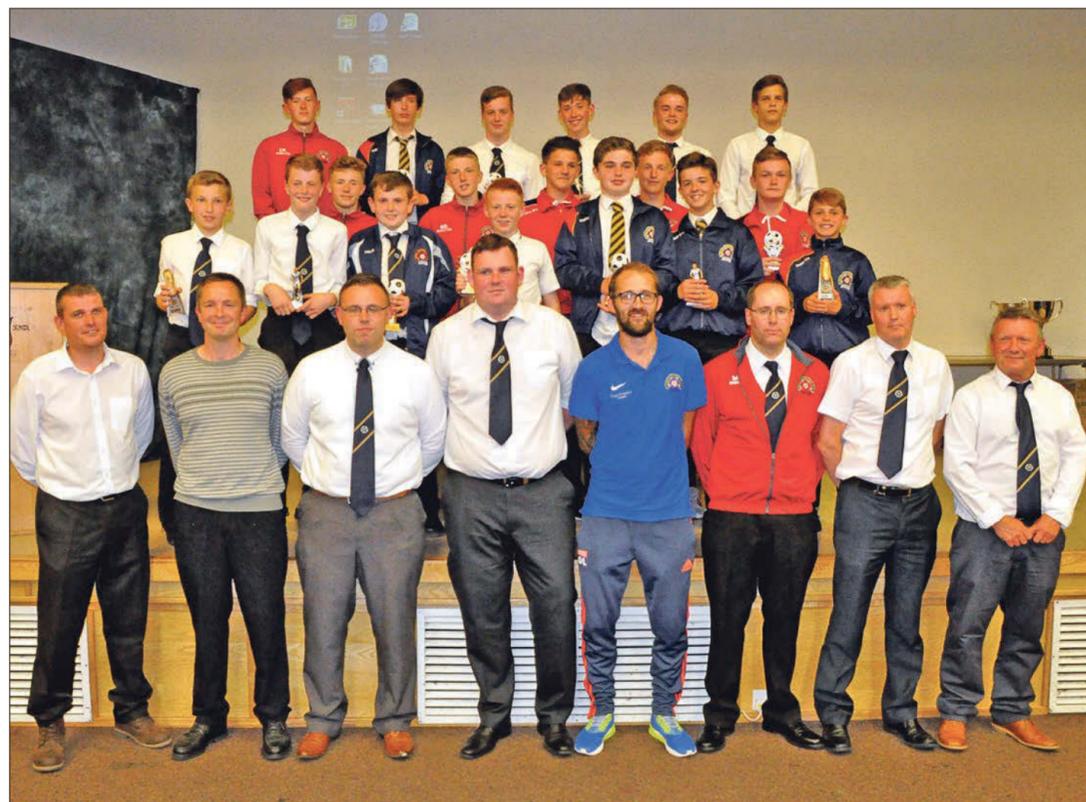
Arriving back at the venue, my crew had different ideas initially. Nicky was advising stopping at 120km for our platinum award, Jamie was happy to go for 160km. In my heart I would be delighted with a platinum so we decided to stop at 129km. Delighted to say, Caramel passed with straight As. Definitely the right decision.

Everyone says just enjoy it. Well, we did. It's the sort of ride you don't want to end – flat grassy endrings, beach, lovely woodland. A day of perfect weather as the sun was shining, with a cool breeze. Super hog roast to finish the day with a cocktail bar and lots of socialising.

What's not to like about trying to achieve your next goal? We now have our bronze, silver, gold, platinum and diamond awards. The full set. Incredibly proud of my wonderful horse and so grateful for my excellent crew, who know what to do.



Suzanne Taylor and Salsa Caramel. Photo: Kris Clay



The Oban Saints Youth team prize-winners pictured along with the various club coaches.

## Oban Saints youths hold annual awards night at high school

OBAN Saints Youths celebrated a successful 2015/16 season at their annual awards night held at Oban High School recently.

With a large crowd of players, parents and supporters in attendance, the evening was expertly hosted by Donald Black, standing in for Oban Saints Youths newly appointed chairman Robbie Johnston, who was called away at the last minute on work duties. Robbie has taken over as chairman from Alan MacLeod, who stood down after four years at the helm.

Peter Bain, head teacher of Oban High School, gave an informative brief talk on the Oban High School/Oban Saints YFC partnership agreement, before presenting the under-13s, -14s, -15s, -16s and 19s winners of the coveted annual Ryan MacPhail Memorial Trophy.

Darin Bryars, representing Scottish Sea Farms, who came on board during the season as a major sponsor, presented the

### Youth football

under-16s with their Dunbartonshire Development League winning medals.

All the teams were then presented with their individual awards for top scorer, players' player of the year and coaches' player of the year.

A general vote of thanks was given to all the teams' valued sponsors whose generosity assisted the club fulfilling their fixtures after another costly season.

Donald Black stated that Oban Saints would not be able to give the youths the opportunity to play competitive organised football without the continued support of the local business community.

Finally, all players, parents, supporters, sponsors and coaches were thanked for their tremendous efforts over a long season and were encouraged to come back fit and refreshed for season 2016/17.

## Oban Saints senior team restart training

### Football

AFTER only a short three week break, Oban Saints senior team restarted training on Wednesday night with a light session. The more serious pre-season training will start next week.

Any new players wishing to come along to the sessions will be made more than welcome.

The club have arranged three top class friendlies and will play in two tournaments before the start of the season in August.

Saturday July 2 – D & K Lafferty Cup tournament; Saturday July 16 – Vale of Leven Juniors, Glencruitten; Saturday July 23 – St Anthony's Juniors, Glencruitten; Saturday July 30 – East Kilbride, Central Scottish Premier Division, Glencruitten; Saturday August 6 – Argyll and Bute tournament, Lochgilphead.

Manager Alex Craik said: 'We haven't had much of a break but I'm sure the boys will be raring to go and hopefully we can emulate the cup success we had last season and show a lot more consistency in the league.'

**MMA**  
OBAN BJJ classes are starting to focus on training towards the ADCC (Abu Dhabi Combat Club) tournament to be held in the SECC Glasgow. This competition will have a nations format, and individual points will go to your country as well as your team. On Tuesdays at 8pm, the club have been doing a conditioning class to get cardio up for the competition.



Sara MacIntyre.

## MARTIAL ARTS WITH IAIN RODGER

Friday's beginners class is open to anyone looking to start and is a great way to get going, knowing that everyone there is at the same level.

For information, contact coo giepots@gmail.com.

### Shukokai Karate

Classes continue as normal in Oban and Inveraray. Anyone wanting more information should contact Kenny Gray at kenni.gray@btinternet.com.

### Kickboxing

**Fighter profile**  
Name – Sara MacIntyre.  
Age – 12.  
Height – 144cm.  
Weight – 36.2kg.  
Years training – five.  
Grade – junior black belt.  
Favourite technique – scissor kick (front and round).  
Favourite combination – kick to thigh followed by kick to head.  
Best tournament result to date – coming second in my section at the So-Kyokushin full contact open in Glasgow at the beginning of April this year.  
Ambitions – to win a full contact tournament and to pass my first dan black belt when I'm old enough to sit for it (there is a

minimum age of 16 for this).

Training continues as normal through the school holidays, with sessions on Wednesdays at 6.30pm for juniors and 7.30pm for seniors. Also Sundays at 11am for juniors, noon for seniors.

For information contact shi hanwill@gmail.com.

### Kyokushinkai Karate

Grading tests were held on Saturday and Sunday, June 18 and 19, in Oban and Lochgilphead respectively.

On the Saturday in Oban, local club member Drew MacKinnon successfully passed his first kyu grade, one step from the coveted black belt. Drew is pictured with some Stirling club members who attained the same grade.

On the Sunday, Jodie Robertson, aged 14 of the Lochgilphead club, achieved her junior black belt.

Jodie came through a challenging test very strongly which included 15 fights to finish off the four-hour session.

Classes continue through the school summer holidays with new starters welcome between now and the end of September.

For information contact iain@ikku.co.uk.



Left to right: Drew MacKinnon, Artur Aniolowski, Dave Sellick, Brian Sellick.



Jodie Robertson.

## Kingussie win Strathdearn under-17s six-a-sides

TEN teams entered in the competition were Inverness, Caberfeidh, Kinlochshiel, Beaully, Fort William, Strathglass, Kilmallie, Lovat, Glenurquhart and Kingussie. The teams were drawn into two leagues and each played out respective round robins.

Kingussie and Beaully progressed from league one, with Fort William going out on goal difference, while Glenurquhart and Kilmallie secured a semi-final spot from league two.

The semi-finals took place with Kingussie overcoming Kilmallie 4-0 and Glenurquhart putting out holders Beaully, 3-0.

This set up what promised to be an exciting final, with both

### Youth shinty

teams unbeaten all evening and neither club having conceded a goal.

Kingussie struck first, going 1-0 up early on. Glenurquhart didn't let that dishearten them though and came back into the match, scoring at the end of the first half to make it 1-1.

In the last couple of minutes, Ruaridh Anderson, who had been excellent all evening, scored the winning goal for Kingussie.

Referees Martin McLean and Neil Ferguson presented the cup to Kingussie and the player of the tournament trophy to a very deserving Ruaridh Anderson.



Strathdearn six-a-side winners Kingussie.

# John McPhee just fails to finish in the points at Assen Grand Prix

**CONNEL'S** John McPhee missed out on a championship-scoring points finish after being outspurred to the chequered flag at the FIM Moto3 Championship round at Assen.

Having started from 21st position, the Racing Steps Foundation-backed rider gradually made his way up the order, aided by riders ahead retiring.

A further retiree was McPhee's Peugeot Saxoprint Racing team-mate Alexis Masbou with 10 laps remaining following a turn one incident with fellow Mahindra rider Tatsuki Suzuki (CIP-Unicom Starker).

**Tussle**  
McPhee soon began to tussle within a pack which included Czech rider Jakob Kornfeil, the Mahindra of Darryn Binder, and familiar season-long foes Marria Herrera and Livio Loi.

With two laps remaining, a mistake and brief excursion from Binder put the Red Bull Ajo/KTM rider out of contention.

But on the final lap, riding in 14th place, McPhee exited the final corner in a straight line sprint to the flag with Herrera and Loi. The trio went

## Moto3

three-wide across the line with McPhee dropping out of the final points scoring positions, ending the race in 16th position.

The World Championship will take a three-week break before race action returns at the Sachsenring in mid-July.

After the race, John said: 'I'm angry because I felt that we should have been in the points today but I think the main problem came from the qualifying because we started so far back it was difficult in the first laps to get to the front group, but then a gap opened and I was stuck in the second group.'

'However, it was a positive weekend overall as we made a big step forward, not only in terms of my lap times, which were really good, but also due to the improved confidence with the bike.'

'We still have a technical issue but we have some new parts coming for the Sachsenring round. In general, things are more positive and I'm already looking forward to the Sachsenring race.'



John McPhee, number 17, in action during the Moto3 Grand Prix in Assen.



## Dalmally

DALMALLY Golf Club will host a men's open this Sunday, with the first round of golfers teeing off at 9am.

Anyone wishing to play can do so by entering via the club website [www.dalmallygolfclub.co.uk](http://www.dalmallygolfclub.co.uk).

Golfers should indicate their preference for either an early/late morning or an early/late afternoon tee-off time. The closing time is 8pm on Thursday June 30.

Gents medal qualifier – 1 Martin O'Keefe 64 (17); 2 Billy McKay 66 (8); 3 Gary Wilson 68 (18).

Ladies spring meeting and medal: net results – 1 Alisson Livingstone 65; 2 Ann McLaren 67; 3 Sheila Tollan 68.

## Isle of Seil

ISLE of Seil Golf Club held the Highland Arts Texas Scramble golf tournament on Sunday June 26 sponsored for the 15th year by Highland Arts.

Results: 1 John Taylor, Isabelle Smith and Ian Gallaway 67.5. 2 Dougie Hill, Bill Clark and David Moody 69.3. 3 Mary Phillips, David Nathan and Ron Hetherington and Kieran McLarty 71.35.

Longest drive – Dougie Hill; ladies longest drive – Donna Campbell

The after-match refreshments were prepared by Moira Taylor.

## Islay

CLUB Championship played Saturday and Sunday June 25 and 26 – 1 N MacDonald 146; 2 S Johnston 150; 3 A MacFarlane 151.

## Millennium Trophy

### Bowls

THE game was held in damp conditions but, with 10 triples taking part, it didn't stop them bowling.

With two sections of five it was very tight in both halves right up to the end. With Gilbert Mullen, Richard and Gordon playing well, they won four out of four games and there was no stopping them.

They won the semi-final and completed a great day by winning the final against Hugh MacCorquodale's team.

The presentation took place in the clubhouse where Gilbert's team were presented with the cup and prizes. Hugh did not go away empty-handed. He won the main raffle – a case of wine.

Well done, Hugh, in your last year at 89, not bad.

## International honours for Oban bowler

### Bowls

OBAN'S Helen MacLean made her international debut for Scotland last week, having been selected to play in the home international series at Sighthill. She enjoyed every moment of it, especially as Scotland had one of their very best results, defeating England, Wales, Ireland and Jersey over the two-day event.

Regardless of whether Helen becomes an established team member or not, Oban Bowling Club can be rightly proud to have fostered two Scottish internationalists, with Helen following the late Billy Hay onto the select list of players to achieve this top honour.



Oban Bowling Club's Helen MacLean in action during the home international series.



Donna MacLean, Helen MacLean and Anne Campbell from Oban Bowling Club won the District 11 final to qualify for the National Championships at Northfield Ayr in July.

## Sports charity calls on Argyll and Bute's business community to lend their support

THE Sport for Change charity, Sported, is calling on Argyll and Bute's business community to get behind local community sport groups by lending its time, knowledge and expertise.

Sported is a UK-wide charity that specialises in supporting community groups which use sport to transform the lives of disadvantaged young people.

One of the main ways it does this is through its volunteer programme, which pairs professionals, current and retired, with local sport groups to provide assistance in business areas where they traditionally lack experience or expertise. For example, developing business/marketing plans, financial management and fundraising.

The charity is currently experiencing a volunteer shortage in

the Argyll and Bute area and is urgently looking for passionate and experienced professionals to support its growing membership base of community sport clubs.

Campbell Roy, Scotland manager at Sported, said: 'Many professionals possess the skills and experience that could make a massive difference to community sport groups, yet take them for granted or do not realise that these same skill sets can be utilised outside the daily nine-to-five.'

'Our members are crying out for support with business-related tasks, whether it's pulling together a business plan or applying for funding.'

'So if you have a business background and want to leave a lasting legacy in your local community, get in touch and

### Sports charity

become a Sported volunteer.'

Sported has a range of flexible volunteering opportunities available in the area and across Scotland, ranging from extended mentoring placements to short-term support, requiring just one to three hours of your time. The charity is looking for people with a range of experience including: business planning, marketing, fundraising, financial management and governance.

If you have professional experience and are interested in becoming a Sported volunteer, visit <http://sported.org.uk/become-a-volunteer> or email [volunteer@sported.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@sported.org.uk) for more information.



## Walking footballers in national competition

Oban Atlantis took part in the national walking football tournament at Ainslie Park in Edinburgh recently. The team took part in several games and were very evenly matched throughout. Unfortunately the team did not make it beyond the group stages but a great day out was had by all.

# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

## THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £3000

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

G Lamont  
Longdale Cres  
Oban

J MacDonald  
Shuna Terrace  
Oban

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

**Easy to enter**  
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. 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, mislaid 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

game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company. In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

**Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses.** The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB



Please tape your £1 coin here

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Tel No. ....



# SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

## Four in a row as Kyles lift Celtic Cup

### Gregor Cameron Consultancy Glasgow Celtic Society Cup – final

**Inveraray 1  
Kyles Athletic 3**  
Kyles Athletic retained the Gregor Cameron Consultancy Glasgow Celtic Society Cup with a 3-1 win over Inveraray at Taynuilt Sports Field.

The players were piped onto a superb playing surface and once formalities were complete, it was down to action with Kyles starting with the wind in their favour.

Kyles, just as they did against Oban Camanachd in last year's final, went ahead in the opening minute.

Roddy MacDonald picked up a clearance out of the Inveraray defence and played the ball into the middle from the Kyles' right. Andrew McMurdo missed the cross but Dunkie Kerr slotted the ball low past helpless keeper Scott MacLachlan from the back of the 'D'.

Dunkie Kerr then twice tested the Inveraray keeper; first with a lofted ball from the left which MacLachlan kept out with his caman followed by a low drive which the goalie saved with his feet.

It would have been easy for

Inveraray to have buckled at this stage, but they hung in and weathered the Kyles' storm. A Garry MacPherson ball was taken down by Lewis Montgomery and although his snap-shot was deflected for a corner, it gave Inveraray encouragement.

More was to follow as Garry MacPherson turned along the by-line after collecting a corner from the right.

He cut the ball back to Lewis Montgomery who slammed a shot over keeper John Whyte's left shoulder to make it 1-1 with 17 minutes played.

Allan MacDonald was spoken to by the referee after a wild swing which caught Roddy MacDonald, the Inveraray man having taken a blow to the thumb moments earlier.

It was a much more even contest as the game moved into the final 15 minutes of the first half.

Inveraray made the first change of the match on 34 minutes when David MacPherson replaced Lewis MacNicol at wing centre.

A late David Robertson challenge with his foot caught Grant Irvine on the knee and left the Kyles man writhing in pain.

The incident was missed by referee Deek Cameron who was following play but, after consultation with fourth official Lachie Wood, he yellow-carded

Robertson. With a couple of first half minutes remaining, another Inveraray change saw Grant Griffin taking over from David Robertson with Kyles replacing Innes MacDonald with Rupert Williamson.

With just seconds of the first 45 minutes to go, Kyles went back in front.

Inveraray defender Ally Munro was harshly punished for a shoulder to shoulder challenge on Sandy MacKenzie giving Kyles a free-hit in a central position around 20 yards from goal.

The set-piece from Gordon Whyte was slightly over-hit but Dunkie Kerr kept the ball in play on the Kyles' right and his low cross deflected off Douglas Dando and was turned into the net by a gleeful Sandy MacKenzie meaning the Tighnabraich men took a 2-1 lead into the break.

Grant Irvine surged forward from midfield in the opening minute of the second half but his low shot went just past Scott MacLachlan's right post.

Inveraray made another change as Lewis MacNicol and David Robertson both returned to the field at the expense of Garry MacPherson and Fraser Watt as the final approached the hour mark.

As play switched to the other end, a good run and bouncing shot from Sandy MacKenzie



The victorious Kyles Athletic team celebrate after winning the Gregor Cameron Consultancy Glasgow Celtic Society Cup at Taynuilt last Saturday. Photograph by Neil Paterson.

was well dealt with by Scott MacLachlan and, shortly after, a nice Kyles passing move ended with Gordon Whyte shooting past the post. Kyles were next to make a switch as Martin MacFadyen took over from a limping Rupert Williamson.

A brilliant Scott MacLachlan save, high above his head, kept out a fierce Sandy MacKenzie drive from the right.

Fraser Watt came back on with David MacPherson taking a break as both teams continued to combat the humid conditions by taking advantage of the rolling substitutions.

Fourth official Lachie Wood was having a busy afternoon with Garry MacPherson coming back on to join the Inveraray attack in place of Lewis Montgomery as the match moved into the final 15 minutes.

Dunkie Kerr just missed a Gordon Whyte free-hit to the back post as Kyles continued to press, pinning their opponents

back. The Kyles' pressure paid off on 82 minutes when a Dunkie Kerr ball into the 'D' from the Kyles right was taken down by Thomas Whyte. Scot MacLachlan came off his line and blocked Whyte's first attempt with his foot but the Kyles man forced the rebound just over the line to make it 3-1.

Another brilliant MacLachlan saved, this time just under his crossbar, kept out a Dunkie Kerr piledriver.

With four minutes remaining, there was a scuffle following a late Andrew McMurdo swing which caught Dunkie Kerr across the legs.

McMurdo was shown a straight red card by referee Cameron, probably for his role in the aftermath rather than the initial challenge.

Sandy MacKenzie came off for Kyles as the final moved into the closing stages and his side safely saw out the closing minutes to give Kyles Athletic their fourth

successive Gregor Cameron Consultancy Glasgow Celtic Society Cup success, a feat they last achieved between 1920 and 1923. Mairi MacNiven presented the Donald J MacNiven Memorial Medal for man of the match to young Inveraray goalie Scott MacLachlan; a deserved accolade for one of shinty's brightest prospects who produced a number of fine saves during the game.

A delighted Kyles Athletic captain John Whyte lifted the famous trophy and the celebrations began.

The referee at Saturday's final was presented with the Jack Asher Memorial Medal. Jack was a director of the Glasgow Celtic Society for 50 years and a foremost referee for more than 40 years, officiating at three Camanachd Cup finals and three Glasgow Celtic Society Cup finals.

Appropriately the memorial medal is an inscribed silver Acme

Thunderer referee's whistle - and the first recipient was one of shinty's most respected officials, Deek Cameron of Fort William.

John MacLeod, president of the Glasgow Celtic Society, said: 'Jack Asher was passionate about shinty as a player and referee.'

'He served the Glasgow Celtic Society with distinction for more than 50 years. His fellow directors decided to recognise his contribution to the society and to refereeing by making an annual award to the cup final referee.'



The Jack Asher Memorial Whistle.

### Artemis Macaulay Cup – quarter finals

#### Skye Camanachd 3 Kinlochshiel 4

Kinlochshiel reached the Artemis Macaulay Cup semi-finals with a 4-3 win over Skye Camanachd in their 3pm throw up at Paire nan Laoch, Portree.

Skye started well but it was 'Shiel who went in front on 10 minutes when John MacRae forced the ball home from close range.

James Pringle drew Skye level on 18 minutes with a smart shot across the keeper from the Skye left.

John MacRae netted his second from a corner on 28 minutes to put 'Shiel back in front. The goal came against the run of play and seemed to knock Skye.

The visitors took advantage and a superb half-volley from Jordan Fraser flew into the top corner of the net making it 3-1 on 37 minutes and it stayed that way until the break.

Skye's James Pringle made it 3-2 with an opportunist finish from inside the 'D' on 52 minutes but a firm Oliver MacRae drive made it 4-2 on 59 minutes.

When 'Shiel defender Mark MacDonald turned a cross from the left into his own net,

under pressure from Jordan Murchison, it made it 4-3 with 66 minutes played.

It took a great Scott Kennedy save at the death to deny Danny Morrison - who had hit the post in the first half - to keep the visitors in front. They meet Lovat in the semi-finals.

#### Newtonmore 1 Lovat 2

(after extra-time)  
Lovat will play Kinlochshiel in the Artemis Macaulay Cup semi-finals after they beat Newtonmore 2-1 after extra-time at the Eilan.

The first real threat on goal came on 23 minutes when a 25-yard Conor Jones drive from the 'More right was expertly dealt with by Lovat keeper Stuart MacDonald who got his body behind the ball.

Newtonmore took defender Andy MacKintosh off on 28 minutes as he had a tight hamstring. It was a precautionary measure and Iain Richardson came on in his place.

Stuart MacDonald was called into action again on 32 minutes when he saved a powerful Evan Menzies shot just under the bar.

Lovat came close on 25 minutes when Greg Matheson swiped at the ball in the air but his effort was deflected for a corner.

Newtonmore lost forward Evan Menzies with a hand

injury on 36 minutes and Chris Sellar came on as a replacement.

The first half was end-to-end but with a lack of goalmouth action. Newtonmore just edged proceedings, getting closer to their opponents goal than Lovat managed.

Lovat replaced Euan Ferguson with Calum MacAulay at half-time.

Newtonmore were now dominating the centre line but the Lovat defence, in which Danny Kelly shone, was excellent. Daniel Grieve also caught the eye, initially marking Norman Campbell and then Steven MacDonald.

Newtonmore took the lead on 75 minutes. Conor Jones got a touch to a high ball into the goal area and Jones steered the ball into the net ahead of an on-rushing Stuart MacDonald.

Newtonmore brought Neil Stewart on for Iain Robinson a minute later.

A blistering Graeme MacMillan shot was well saved with his hand by 'More goalie Owen Fraser on 81 minutes.

Lovat equalised a minute later. There was a scramble at the edge of the 'More 'D' and the ball broke to Greg Matheson who crashed the ball through a ruck of players, past an unsuspecting Owen Fraser into the net to make it 1-1.

With no further scoring, refer-

ee Graham Cameron took the tie into extra time.

The game's decisive goal came on 104 minutes. Lovat's Lorne MacKay shielded the ball and held it up until Greg Matheson was in position and Matheson sent a terrific 30-yard drive from wide on the right into the net to make it 2-1.

Newtonmore made changes a couple of minutes later. Full back Steven MacDonald and full forward Norman Campbell swapped positions, whilst Evan Menzies and Iain Robinson came back on.

With a lot of bunching and compact, frantic play, another goal seemed unlikely. 'More probably missed Glen MacKintosh's composure, although Lovat will point to the fact they were minus the threat of Kevin Bartlett.

So Lovat go through to the Artemis Macaulay Cup semi-finals where they will face Kinlochshiel with the tie likely taking place at Braeview Park, Beaulieu.

### Marine Harvest Premiership

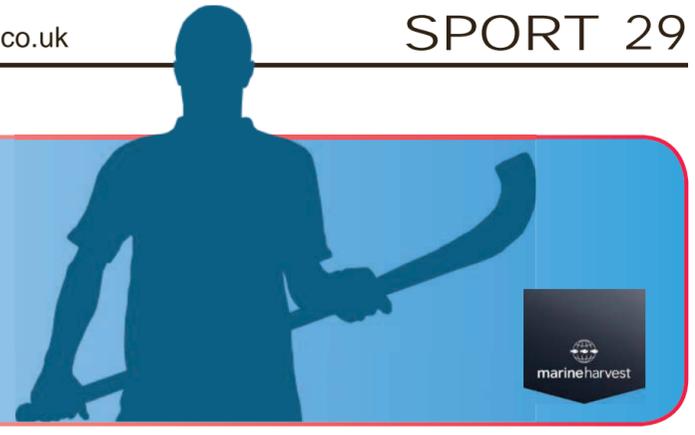
#### Lochaber 1 Oban Camanachd 1

Oban Camanachd sit at the top of the Premiership after a hard-fought draw at Spean Bridge.

Lochaber boss Ally Ferguson



A big crowd watched the Celtic Society Cup final last weekend. Photograph by Stephen Lawson.



# Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

# Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup

## Marine Harvest North Division 1

**Strathglass 4  
Beaully 4**  
Strathglass go top of the table on goal difference after they drew 4-4 with Beaully's second team at Cannich.

Darren Reid put Strathglass in the lead on nine minutes but Beaully's Marc MacLachlan levelled three minutes before the break.

Marc MacLachlan went on to complete a quick-fire hat-trick with an early second half double on 47 and 49 minutes.

Steven Hyslop scored on 52 and 66 minutes to level the contest at 3-3.

Scott Douglas put the home side in front with a goal on 70 minutes, only for Marc MacLachlan to cap a fine individual display with his fourth goal of the afternoon on 79 minutes to make it 4-4.

## Kinlochshiel 2 Glenurquhart 3

The visitors took the points with two late goals in the clash between the Kinlochshiel and Glenurquhart reserve teams at Kirkton.

Kinlochshiel's Colin MacDiarmid was free of suspension.

The first half ended goal-less but James MacPherson put the 'Glen' ahead a minute after the restart.

Scott MacLean on 59 minutes and Duncan 'Ach' MacRae on 65 minutes turned the match around and had 'Shiel 2-1 ahead.

Two late goals gave the 'Glen' the points though as Calum Miller struck on 84 minutes with James MacPherson getting his second a minute later to take the points.

It's tight at the bottom of the division, with four reserve teams only separated by a couple of points. Glenurquhart are on five points, Skye and Lovat have four points and Kinlochshiel are on three points.

## Fort William 1 Lovat 0

The Fort William colts edged out the Lovat colts with a 1-0 win in their 11am throw up at An Aird.

The only goal of the game came after 36 minutes when Fort youngster Victor Smith scored. A brilliant close-range double-save at the start of the second half from Lovat keeper Ronan MacMillan, who was outstanding throughout, prevented Fort William from doubling their advantage.

Lovat, who travelled with just 12 players, pushed player/manager Martin Bell forward and they had a few half chances to nick a point. Fort William held on though and stay fifth in the league.

## Newtonmore P Kingussie P

There was disappointment for the gathering support when the reserve team derby between Newtonmore and Kingussie was postponed just ahead of the 7pm throw up on Friday June 24.

Heavy rain in Badenoch on the Friday afternoon left the pitch unplayable so the match will be rescheduled for a later date.

## Marine Harvest South Division 1

### Glenorchy 2 Oban Celtic 1

Oban Celtic stay in third place in the league after losing 2-1 to Glenorchy in their 1pm throw up at Mark Park.

Glenorchy had huge selection problems and they were minus almost a full team. Duncan Smith started a two-match ban following his sending off against Aberdour a week earlier. John Sartain, Conor Sartain, Kieran McKay, James Livingstone, Kieran Gallagher, Alec MacPherson, Iain Livingstone, Martin McKillop, Duncan Buchanan and Andy McLean were also unavailable.

Oban Celtic had nine players missing with David MacInnes, Rory Bruce, Ewan MacCorquodale, David Graham, Allan Mckie, Gerry Kilmurray, Kieran Carnie, Scott Burnett and Fraser MacMillan all missing.

Manager Kenny Wotherspoon still had 15 players to choose from though.

There was debate as to whether the match would go ahead because of the length of the grass at the Mart Park but referee Willie MacDonald started the game and Oban Celtic forced a number of saves from Glenorchy keeper MacNulty.

Glenorchy never really threatened the Celtic goal in the first half and the encounter was goalless at the break.

The length of the grass made it difficult for both teams. Each struggled to adapt to the pitch and it was impossible to play any clever shinty.

Glenorchy opened the scoring against the run of play when a ball floated over the Celtic defence fell to young Celtic keeper Scott Mossman who wasn't able to get the ball away.

Glenorchy forward Graham Morrice was left with a tap-in to make it 1-0 with 58 minutes played.

Celtic tried to get back into the game but found the experienced Allan MacKechnie in fine form in the Glenorchy defence and when the visitors did get shots on target, keeper MacNulty was on hand to deal with them.

The match was settled on 80 minutes with a goal similar to the opener when Calum Kirsop

made it 2-0 from close range. Ally McKerracher pulled a goal back on the stroke of full time, but it was too late.

Celtic forward Daniel MacMillan took the full force of a swinging caman to the throat in stoppage time and a hospital visit was required but thankfully he was released from hospital late on Saturday night.

The win lifts Glenorchy to sixth in the table, only behind fifth-placed Taynuilt on goal difference.

After the match, Oban Celtic manager Kenny Wotherspoon's first thoughts were with his injured player.

He said: 'I'm glad to hear Daniel was ok. He took a bad one and we were all concerned about him.'

'As for the match, we took a sore one today. All the boys are disappointed. We will have pretty much a full team for the away trip to Aberdour which is good and I'll make sure our boys are fired right up for this one.'

## Marine Harvest North Division 2

### Lewis Camanachd 1 Aberdeen University 6

Aberdeen University beat Lewis Camanachd 6-1 in their 1pm throw up at Braeview Park.

Lewis Camanachd welcomed former Lochbroom stand-out Seumas Charity back into their squad, whilst Paddy Sinclair also returned.

The free-scoring Aberdeen side has a potent strike force and they were evident again in this encounter.

There were some good saves at both ends before Robbie MacDonald and Ewen Fraser gave the Granite City side a 2-0 interval lead.

Lewis Camanachd's Stuart Campbell missed from the penalty spot before second half braces from Stuart Cameron and Alex Duncan counted for the students.

Lewis got some consolation from a fine strike by youngster Scott MacLeod.

Jamie Beaton's Aberdeen University side have a perfect 11 wins from their opening 11 fixtures.

They lead second place Lochcarron by four points, although the Battery Park side has a game in hand. The sides meet in Aberdeen this coming Saturday.

## Caberfeidh 3 Glengarry 0

The Caberfeidh colts scored three times in the second half to beat Glengarry 3-0 at Castle Leod.

Cabers were without the suspended Paddy Wilson who started a two-game ban.

A hard, low Neil Rose drive from around 30 yards put Cabers ahead on 47 minutes and another good strike from David Mellis added a second a couple of minutes later.

Colin MacLennan rounded off the 3-0 win with a goal on 70 minutes with a low shot from distance and Cabers remain in fourth spot.

## Strathspey Camanachd 0 Kilmallie 8

The Kilmallie second team recorded another win, their fourth in a row, when they beat Strathspey Camanachd 8-0 at Grantown Grammar School.

The game was only a couple of minutes old when Aaron Sandison gave the visitors the lead. Ross MacKenzie made it 2-0 on 20 minutes and that was the end of the first half scoring.

The goals flowed in the second half, with Ross MacKenzie getting his second on 55 minutes.

Calum MacDougall on 65 minutes and Bryan MacKay just three minutes later made it 5-0.

Ross MacKenzie completed his hat-trick on 76 minutes. Bryan MacKay got his second on 78 minutes before Kyle Michie completed the 8-0 win just eight minutes from time.

The Kilmallie colts climb to fifth spot in the league and they have games in hand on the teams above them.



Andrew McMurdo, Inveraray, and Innes MacDonald, Kyles, in action during the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup final at Taynuilt on Saturday. Photograph by Kevin McGlynn.

## Lochcarron W/O v Inverness

Second-placed Lochcarron were awarded the points when the Inverness second team were unable to field a team for their encounter at Battery Park.

## Lochaber W/O v Boleskine

The Lochaber second team remain third in the division after they were awarded the points when Boleskine were unable to raise a team for their 3pm throw up at Spean Bridge.

## Marine Harvest South Division 2

### Dunoon Camanachd 3 Bute 0

Dunoon Camanachd recorded their second league win of the season when they beat the Bute second team 3-0 at Dunoon Stadium.

Dunoon's Jonathon Black started a four-match ban following his sending off against

| Marine Harvest Premiership |    |   |   |   |    |    |     |
|----------------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
|                            | P  | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
| Oban Camanachd             | 9  | 6 | 2 | 1 | 16 | 8  | 14  |
| Newtonmore                 | 7  | 6 | 1 | 0 | 25 | 6  | 13  |
| Kinlochshiel               | 11 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 22 | 14 | 13  |
| Kyles Athletic             | 8  | 5 | 2 | 1 | 25 | 11 | 12  |
| Kingussie                  | 11 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 20 | 18 | 12  |
| Lovat                      | 11 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 23 | 26 | 11  |
| Lochaber                   | 11 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 15 | 28 | 7   |
| Skye                       | 6  | 0 | 5 | 1 | 4  | 6  | 5   |
| Glenurquhart               | 9  | 2 | 0 | 7 | 13 | 28 | 4   |
| Fort William               | 9  | 0 | 1 | 8 | 7  | 25 | 1   |

Oban Lorn in his team's last outing. Neil-Bo Finlayson put Dunoon ahead on 22 minutes and Thomas Duncan doubled their advantage three minutes later.

Jamie Morrison added a third goal with five minutes remaining. The win lifts Dunoon off the bottom of the table.

## Aberdour 1 Tayforth 2

It was top versus bottom at Silver Sands where Tayforth had to work all the way to beat the Aberdour second team 2-0.

Aberdour made the better start but as Tayforth settled into the game, Finlay Stark gave them the lead on 29 minutes.

David Arnott made it 2-0 on 32 minutes following a corner.

Aberdour halved the deficit on the hour mark when Kieran Burns finished off a good passing move. Tayforth had the ball in the net for a third time but the effort was ruled out for offside by referee David Mitchell.

This was Tayforth's game in hand over Kilmory and they go top of the table, two points clean of their MacRae Park title rivals.



Oban Camanachd Under 17s with the MacQuiston Cup after their comprehensive win over Inveraray.

## MacQuiston Cup Final (Under 17s)

### Oban Camanachd 9 Inveraray District 0

WITH home advantage, Oban Camanachd's talented under 17 team proved too strong for a plucky Inveraray outfit.

Team captain Daniel MacVicar was in terrific form scoring six times, with further goals from Lewis Buchanan, Daniel MacCuish and Craig MacMillan ensuring a comprehensive victory for the home side. The trophy was presented to man of the match Daniel MacVicar by the chief operating officer of the Camanachd Association Torquil MacLeod on a day that must have pleased team coaches David MacCuish, Scott Buchanan and George Easton.

## Ken MacMaster Trophy (Under 14s)

### Oban Camanachd 14 Aberdour 0

THE CLUB'S Under 14 development group completed a successful weekend for Oban Camanachd with a convincing win to reach the semi-final of the MacMaster Cup.

Goals were scored by Lennon Campbell (4), Daniel Sloss, Louie MacFarlane (2), Jamie MacGillivray (3), Ross Campbell (3) and sub Matthew Sloss.

Taking in the game was South Development Officer Euan MacMurdo and chief operating officer for the Camanachd Association Torquil MacLeod who commented on the good work by the respective team coaches.

## Fixtures



### Saturday July 2 Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup Semi Final

Tayforth v Newtonmore  
Ross Brown - 1pm  
at Aberdour  
Glenurquhart v Kingussie  
John Wood  
at Bught Park

### Artemis Macaulay Cup Quarter Final

Kyles Athletic v Glasgow MA  
Robert Baxter

### Marine Harvest Premiership

Fort William v Skye  
Graham Cameron - 3pm  
Kinlochshiel v Kingussie  
Deek Cameron  
Lovat v Glenurquhart  
Innes Wood  
Newtonmore v Lochaber  
David Mitchell

### Marine Harvest National Division

Ballachulish v Inveraray  
Lachie Wood  
Beaully v Bute  
Calum Girvan - 1pm  
Kilmallie v Inverness  
Martin Maclean

### Marine Harvest North Division 1

Skye v Strathglass  
John Matheson  
Fort William v Kinlochshiel  
John Angus Gillies - noon

### Marine Harvest South Division 1

Aberdour v Oban Celtic  
Alan Harrison - 4pm  
Taynuilt v Lochside Rovers  
Archie Ritchie  
Col Glen v Kyles Athletic  
Iain Kennedy  
Glenorchy v Inveraray  
Ronnie Campbell

### Marine Harvest North Division 2

Aberdeen Uni v Lochcarron  
Neil Ferguson  
Caberfeidh v Kilmallie  
Brian MacKay  
Lewis v Lochaber  
Willie MacDonald  
Strathspey v Boleskine  
Andy MacLean  
at Kintraig

### Marine Harvest South Division 2

Dunoon v Glasgow Mid Argyll  
Euan Pearson  
Oban Lorn v Kilmory  
Scot McNeil

Throw ups 2.30pm unless stated.

## Results

### Friday June 24

**North Division 1**  
Newtonmore v Kingussie  
Postponed - unplayable field

### Saturday June 25

**Celtic Society Cup Final**  
Inveraray 1-3 Kyles Athletic

### Macaulay Cup quarter final

Skye 3-4 Kinlochshiel  
Newtonmore 1-2 Lovat

### Premiership

Fort William 0-3 Kingussie  
Lochaber 1-1 Oban Camanachd

### National Division

Inverness 1-2 Caberfeidh

### North Division 1

Fort William 1-0 Lovat  
Kinlochshiel 2-3 Glenurquhart  
Strathglass 4-4 Beaully

### South Division 1

Glenorchy 2-1 Oban Celtic

### North Division 2

Caberfeidh 3-0 Glengarry  
Lewis 1-6 Aberdeen University  
Lochaber P-P Boleskine  
Boleskine unable to raise a team, points to Lochaber  
Lochcarron P-P Inverness  
Inverness unable to raise a team, points to Lochcarron  
Strathspey 0-8 Kilmallie

### South Division 2

Aberdour 1-2 Tayforth  
Dunoon 3-0 Bute



Caberfeidh's Ben MacDonald gets his block in just before Daniel Palombo of Inverness clears the ball during last Saturday's National Division game at Bught Park which Cabers won by the odd goal in three. Photograph by Donald Cameron.

## All systems go for D & K Lafferty Cup tournament



Jon Daly will be in charge of the Hearts squad.

OBAN SAINTS Football Club secretary David Buchanan reports that arrangements are all in order for their 23rd annual football tournament, again kindly sponsored by D & K Lafferty Contractors, which takes place on Saturday.

Unfortunately, St Johnstone have pulled out this season so there will only be five teams instead of six taking part.

The competing clubs are Heart of Midlothian, Hamilton Accies, Dundee United, Alloa

Athletic and Oban Saints.

The competition, held at Mossfield Stadium and Glencruitten Park, starts at 11am and is played on a round robin basis with the teams taking on each other in short, sharp 40-minute games.

Hearts coach Jon Daly, the former Dundee United and Rangers striker, said: 'This is a great tournament, ideal for pre-season match fitness.

It allows the coaches to give all their squad plenty of game

time. They could field four different teams on the day if they wanted to.

'I actually captained the Dundee United team that won the tournament back in 2010 and I'm looking forward to making another trip to Oban.'

The Hearts squad will be staying in Oban on the Friday evening before the competition.

Former Scotland international and Dundee United coach Dave Bowman added: 'I've

been coming to this tournament for years and the format is excellent.

'It's always a great day out and our fans love coming to Oban.'

Tournament fixtures:  
Dundee United v Hamilton Accies, Mossfield; Hearts v Alloa Athletic, Glencruitten. Both games kick-off at 11am.

Oban Saints v Alloa Athletic, Mossfield; Hamilton Accies v Hearts, Glencruitten. Games kick off at noon.

### Football

Oban Saints v Hearts, Mossfield; Dundee United v Alloa Athletic, Glencruitten. Games kick off at 1pm.

Hearts v Dundee United, Mossfield; Oban Saints v Hamilton Accies, Glencruitten. Games kick-off at 2pm.

Hamilton Accies v Alloa Athletic, Mossfield; Dundee United v Oban Saints, Glencruitten. Games kick off at 3pm.



Dundee United coach Dave Bowman.

# Connor to further his football career in the USA

SPORTING Futures USA is delighted to announce that Connor Howe, of the class of 2016, has committed his future to top National Junior College Athletic Association Ancilla College in Indiana.

Oban's Connor is a pacey forward with a real eye for goal. He can operate on either the left or the right of midfield or as a forward and is sure to bring an attacking edge to Ancilla College Charger's team.

Connor was originally picked after being seen in action with Dumbarton FC's youth academy. The Oban youngster now plays for Oban Saints under-19s.

Interestingly, football isn't Connor's only passion. He is a top shinty player and is one of the star performers with Oban Camanachd and has represented Scotland at the sport.

Ancilla College head coach David Jacobs is excited to bring Connor to Indiana and was quoted as saying: 'I have been

### Football

impressed by all the reports that I have had on Connor and, having spoken with him about his plans to play in the United States, I feel that we can offer him a platform to progress his career here at Ancilla College. We are looking forward to getting Connor over here and to seeing him in a Chargers jersey.'

Sporting Futures USA's David Binnie added: 'We would like to take this opportunity to wish Connor all the very best ahead of his big move. We can say with some confidence that he will thrive over there in the United States and we are looking forward to watching him succeed in his new environment.'

Connor is hoping to fly out in the first week of August, as pre-season starts on August 3. However, the Oban man can't book his flights until he has his I-20 [certificate of eligibility for



Oban's Connor Howe will travel to America later this year to continue his studies on a football scholarship at Ancilla College in Indiana.

non-immigrant student status], which he will hopefully receive next month when he attends an interview in Belfast.

Connor's dad, Robert, said:

'I think it will be great. It's a fantastic opportunity for him. It can't get any better than studying in the States and playing a game you love.

'On the other hand, it's quite hard for them to leave their families and he will miss his shinty, especially with Camanachd having the possibility of getting

to the Scottish Cup final. He would be gutted to miss that.

'The only worry is a lot of people get homesick, but I think he will be OK. He loves his football.'

## Camanachd Association area consultation meetings

### Shinty

IN LINE with the agreed Strategic Plan for Shinty 2015-2017, the Camanachd Association will carry out a series of local area consultation meetings with members during the coming weeks.

The purpose of these meetings is to provide members with the opportunity to discuss relevant matters with board representatives and key staff. It also provides an opportunity for the Camanachd Association to update members on recent developments and future plans within the sport, including possible submissions to the 2016 Camanachd Association AGM in November.

Dates and locations are as follows: Wednesday July 6, 7pm-9pm, Caberfeidh Shinty Club, Strathpeffer. Wednesday July 13, 7pm-9pm, the sports pavilion (tbc), Tainuill. Wednesday July 20, 7pm-9pm, Fort William Shinty Club.

## League formation

### Football

OBAN Saints and Campbeltown Pupils will compete in the SAFL Premier Division, Lochgilhead Red Star in Premier Division 2A and Tarbert will play in Premier Division 2B.



Sun, fun and football at the Tesco Bank Challenge.

## Fun in the sun at Tesco Bank Football Challenge

MORE THAN 200 children in Oban swapped the classroom for a day of sun, fun and football last Thursday.

The primary school kids made their way to Mossfield Stadium to take part in the Tesco Bank Football Challenge, organised by Argyll and Bute Council.

The event is the end product of six weeks of coaching and aims to encourage primary two and three children to become more active.

Football development manager Martin Rae visited the primary schools once per week to train the kids for the big day.

### Youth football

Boys and girls were separated and split in two teams of four to play in small-sided games throughout the day.

Martin said: 'This is an event for them to come together and play football. It's absolutely brilliant and the weather makes it great also.'

There was no winner in the end as the programme challenges the 'win at all costs' mentality and instead focuses on providing opportunities to take part and the benefits of living an active life.



Primary school children got a chance to show of their football skills at the Tesco Bank Challenge.

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### WEATHER

Thursday Heavy rain  
Winds moderate south westerly  
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.

Friday Heavy rain showers  
Winds moderate west south westerly  
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.

Weekend Heavy rain showers on Saturday  
Outlook Light rain showers on Sunday  
Winds light west north westerly  
Temperatures 10°C to 14°C.



**Stop Press:** New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

### TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday June 30, 2016 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

| Date | am                                      | pm                    |           |       |
|------|---|-----------------------|-----------|-------|
| Thur | 01.47 3.3 07.57 1.3 14.13 3.2 20.22 1.3 | Ardrishaig -5.35      | Mallaig   | +0.25 |
| Fri  | 02.58 3.5 09.01 1.1 15.17 3.4 21.31 1.1 | Campbeltown -5.30     | Portree   | +0.55 |
| Sat  | 03.55 3.6 09.57 1.0 16.08 3.6 22.31 0.9 | Crinan -0.47          | Tobermory | +0.16 |
| Sun  | 04.45 3.8 10.48 0.8 16.54 3.8 23.24 0.8 | Islay Port Ellen 2.00 | Dover     | +5.30 |
| Mon  | 05.30 3.8 11.35 0.7 17.37 3.9 *** **    | Lochboisdale +0.30    |           |       |
| Tues | 00.13 0.7 06.12 3.9 12.20 0.6 18.18 4.0 |                       |           |       |
| Wed  | 00.59 0.7 06.52 3.8 13.02 0.6 18.58 4.0 |                       |           |       |

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

### Ferry Crossings/Sea States

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Oban to Barra/South Uist | Moderate |
| Oban to Coll/Tiree       | Moderate |
| Kennacraig to Islay      | Moderate |

# The Oban Times

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### Glen Nevis teddy toddle raises £1,000 for Harris campaign

IF YOU went down to the woods last Saturday you might have been in for a surprise as more than 30 children and families took part in a 'teddy toddle' in Glen Nevis.

Starting at Braveheart Car Park, the children were led on a walk to find teddies and then invited to make dens for the bears.

Tanya Ross said: 'We are delighted to say that STAR for Harris's first Bear Hunt Teddy Toddle was an incredible success and though we still have some money to come in, it looks like it will have raised just under £1,000 towards our 'Reach for the Ward 2 Stars!' campaign.

'We were, as always, overwhelmed by the incredible support given by our wonderful community with more than 30 children and their families taking part. Thankfully, the weather held out and the sun shone on us all

as we toddled along the 2km route stopping halfway in the woods to hunt for the bears, have a snack and build dens for our teddies. The adults were just as enthusiastic in creating fantastic dens.'

STAR for Harris aims to support the treatment of childhood cancer and raise awareness of the reality of childhood cancer. The money raised will be added to a fund for a playroom, garden area and family waiting area in the oncology ward at the new Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh.

Ms Ross added: 'We can't thank everyone enough for their support and would like to give a special thank you to Ruari Watt from the Forestry Commission who set up the bear hunt and led us on our route.'

'He was just fantastic in giving us advice on organising this event.'



All ready to set off on a teddy bear hunt in Glen Nevis and to raise funds for Star for Harris. Photograph by Anthony MacMillan Photography.

### TIMESLINE

#### Court clears trio of theft charges

THREE men charged with entering the local shinty club and stealing alcohol have been cleared.

Adam Ramsey, James Fraser and Frederic Dobinson appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court last Wednesday (June 22) in relation to an incident on August 23, 2015. The men stood accused of dishonestly entering Fort William Shinty Club and stealing alcohol but were found not guilty after trial.

#### Results add up for high school pupils

LOCHABER high school pupils achieved great results at this year's UK Mathematics Trust's Junior Maths Challenge.

The young students achieved two gold, nine silver and 12 bronze awards. Gregory Woodward S1 and Kyle Dignan S2 won best in year certificates and £50.

Kyle also received the trophy for the highest score in Lochaber High, kindly donated by Lochaber Housing Association.

#### Anti-litter poster brought to life

AN ANTI-LITTER campaign by Lochaber students has been brought to life.

A poster by Kinlochleven High School pupils won the Coca Cola European Partners real business challenge in March and was displayed on a van travelling around the local area last Thursday.



# Family facing deportation fight for more time to sell business

MONICA GIBSON  
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

A FAMILY who have spent the last two years building up a business in Laggan are being forced to close up shop after losing their right to stay in the UK.

The Zielsdorf family arrived in Scotland in 2008 and were accepted for an entrepreneurial visa. They set up home with their five children in Laggan, opening the area's only store.

Originally from Canada, the family have invested more than £200,000 of their

own cash to build up the business which operates as a coffee shop, general store and holiday let. However, they have had to put it up for sale as their request for a visa extension was refused leaving them classed as 'over-stayers'.

Jason Zielsdorf described the situation as a fiasco and says it's been an emotional few months for the family. He added: 'We have been back and forth with the Home Office and are now being told our extension failed due to not hiring a second full time member of staff for a year.'

Following the extension refusal, the Zielsdorfs were given four months to sell up and leave the UK. Mr Zielsdorf said: 'Three weeks into that process our driving licences were taken away. Even someone who is sent to jail doesn't have that happen to them.'

The family's case is being championed by Drew Hendry MP.

Mr Zielsdorf further explained: 'The Prime Minister had said he would help with our case but didn't so Mr Hendry got in touch with

James Brokenshire from the Home Office and asked for a meeting in lieu of that promise. We don't believe they are going to change their minds but at least the deadline might be extended.'

He added: 'We are hoping we can have enough time to stay and ensure the business is sold. I fully understand the Home Office can legally ask us to leave, but I don't agree that our children should be robbed of the chance to have a good future. My youngest child was born here and my oldest has spent half his life here, playing

shinty and being immersed in the Scottish way of life. I guess by default we will have to return to Canada but it certainly wasn't the plan.'

Drew Hendry told *The Oban Times*: 'I am pleased I was finally granted a meeting with the Minister, however, as it is so very late in the process, the challenges are much greater.'

'That said, I remain hopeful that he listened to the strong arguments for Jason and Christy's case. As they are under threat of immediate expulsion the primary objective for the family, from the meeting,

was to win more time and to get some of their documents, such as their driving licences returned, to allow them to live normally whilst their case continues. I am still awaiting the minister's full response but have written to him again asking for an urgent update.'

Mr Hendry continued: 'I have been inundated with support for the family. It has been uplifting to see how the community has united behind them. I know that all these kind thoughts and messages mean a lot to the Zielsdorf family.'

## New Glen Nevis youth hostel plan

ONE OF Fort William's busiest youth hostels could be demolished and replaced with a state-of-the-art facility.

An application was submitted to the Highland Council on June 8 to demolish the popular Glen Nevis youth hostel and build a new one on land south of the existing building. The site of the current building would be used for car parking.

Situated at the foot of Ben Nevis, the youth hostel has been hosting hill walkers and climbers for 83 years. But the Scottish Youth Hostel Association (SYHA) revealed plans to demolish the property, whose path leads directly to the Ben's summit, after it was deemed no longer fit for purpose.

An initial inspection of the hostel

was undertaken in May 2014, which established options available to SYHA for improving the premises. A report submitted alongside the planning application said: 'When viewed [the hostel] against current legislation there are clearly a number of shortcomings.'

The building was constructed in 1938 and underwent renovation in 1970. Since then it has remained largely unchanged and was described in the report as 'basic but functional'.

The review highlighted the need for rooms with wheelchair/disabled access smaller double rooms, or family rooms, with ensuite facilities.

The structure of the building is 'generally sound' but the exterior was described as having 'a number of main-

tenance issues'. It was therefore noted that significant investment would be needed to modernise the electrical and maintenance standards.

The report concluded that the new proposal would provide a hostel in Glen Nevis 'with a commercial sustainable future'.

A spokesperson for SYHA Hostelling Scotland said: 'SYHA Hostelling Scotland has been in Glen Nevis for 83 years and has made a planning application with a view to replacing our existing youth hostel with a new state-of-the-art building.'

'We are very excited by this project which has been largely driven by customer feedback and our desire to modernise hostelling in Scotland.'

**FRED MACAULAY**  
{Life}

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# Support funds stable but concern remains

**ELLIE FORBES**  
eforb@obantimes.co.uk

THE HIGHLAND Council has confirmed it will sustain its current funding for Additional Support Needs (ASN) in primary and secondary schools, but some parents are still concerned.

Despite taking measures to address a £40m budget gap, the council has said funding for the 2016/17 school year will remain unchanged.

In February this year the council said it would make savings from voluntary redundancies and a spokesman said: 'Voluntary redundancies have been agreed with managers in additional support services. The allocation to schools will continue at the current level and there will be no reduction in the overall number of pupil support assistants.'

A council statement did however reveal there will be

changes in the level of staffing to a number of schools, saying: 'The resourcing model ensures that funding is allocated where the need is identified, and therefore additional support in each school can change year on year, as needs within the school also changes.'

For schools and parents this will mean that where ASN has increased, so will the number of pupil support assistants, and where ASN has fallen, schools will see a reduction in the number of support workers.

Concerned mother, Marie Macpherson, whose son has additional support needs, is extremely worried by the current situation.

A week ago she launched the petition Don't Reduce Additional Support Needs In Schools In Highland Region which has already received more than 1,200 signatures.

Ms Macpherson told *The Oban Times*: 'The council

announcement is good in theory but there will be still be restructuring. For example, if one or two schools get a higher intake of additional support needs then another school will lose support.'

'And if there is an increase in pupils who need level 1/2 support then kids with level three support will still lose out. I am going to be affected as my son is level 2/3 ASN in a local school and will lose out if another school has a higher intake this year.'

'The schools and the parents were kept in the dark about this situation and it shows us that decisions being made by the council are undemocratic.'

Ms Macpherson says she will continue to campaign during the summer as, like a lot of parents around Lochaber, she won't know how her family will be affected until after the summer.

She added: 'I will also hold a public meeting on these

cuts before the schools return.' But Highland Council Leader Councillor Margaret Davidson said: 'The council administration gave a commitment that we would sustain and not reduce the allocation of Additional Support services to schools.'

'I am delighted we will deliver on that commitment. I know how important these services are to families and communities.'

'There has been a lot of parental concern about the ASN budget, to which we have listened, and I am very pleased to make this announcement.'

Councillor Drew Millar, chairman of the Education, Children and Adult Services Committee, said: 'In order to meet local needs, we will continue to make adjustments to ensure children get the appropriate level of support, while also looking at transitional arrangements in areas that face the greatest challenges.'

## POLICE FILES

Between 8.30pm on Friday June 17 and 4pm on Sunday June 19, a snowboard was stolen from a grass bank beside a camper van parked in Glencoe Mountain Resort car park.

**Between 9.30pm on Sunday June 19 and 3am on June 20, two bikes, one child and one adult, were removed from a close beside a house in Abrach Road, Inverlochty.**

On Tuesday June 21 between 5.30pm and 7.30pm, a mirror on a car parked in Inverlochty car park was damaged.

**Sometime between June 6 and June 23, a quantity of electrical cable was removed from works at Claggan Football pitch, Fort William.**

On June 23, damage and graffiti was discovered at Alt Na Reigh, beside the A82 at Glencoe.

**Police are investigating an incident at the VisitScotland premises in Strontian on Sunday June 26.**

**They are keen to speak to anyone in the vicinity around 2.15pm who saw a man acting suspiciously. He is described as approximately 60 years of age with ginger hair and a white moustache wearing light-coloured clothing.**

## Pupils rewarded for achievement

CAOL Primary School recently marked the achievements of three pupils at a trophy presentation. Winners were: Bethan Watson who won the Catherine MacKenzie Cup for commitment, effort and behaviour; Ben MacKinnon, Sports Personality of the Year, and Elle Bissett, Confident Individual.



Councillor Thomas MacLennan, left, presents Colin Neilson with the Freedom of Lochaber.

## Unstinting dedication earns Freedom award

A WELL-KNOWN and respected Lochaber resident has received a prestigious award after 40 years serving his community.

Colin Neilson was presented with the Freedom of Lochaber award last Sunday in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the community.

Elected to Fort William Town Council in 1971, Mr Neilson juggled this with his role as a life-appointed Justice of the Peace and as a member, and subsequently chairman, of the local health council. He also helped establish the Fort William Football Club, becoming its first chairman.

In 1975 Mr Neilson became an elected member of the new Lochaber District Council, becoming chairman of the leisure and recreation committee and then chairman of the district council from 1982 to 1988. Between 1981 and 1991 Mr Neilson was a board member and

subsequently chairman of Alcoholics Anonymous for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as chairman of Alcoholics Anonymous European Services Committee. In 1988 he was appointed to the Highland Health Board becoming its vice chairman in 1999.

Presenting the award at a small gathering of family and friends, Highland Council Lochaber Leader Councillor Thomas MacLennan paid tribute to Mr Neilson.

'Colin is well-known and respected in Fort William His unstinting enthusiasm and dedication have contributed greatly to local government, health care and sport in Lochaber and beyond. Not many people can claim to have served their community for more than 40 years and it is in recognition of this service that the Highland Council is pleased and honoured to confer the Freedom of Lochaber to Colin Neilson.'

## Holocaust survivor shares experiences with pupils



Harry Bibring with pupils Katie Laidlaw and Lewis Ross and teacher Jacqi Hume.

HOLOCAUST survivor Harry Bibring visited Lochaber High School last week to give a presentation about his experiences.

The visit was the final part of sixth year pupils' Lewis Ross and Katie Laidlaw's 'Next Steps' project in the Lessons from Auschwitz initiative, organised by the Holocaust Education Trust (HET).

This involved the students going to Poland for a day, along with pairs from other schools across the UK, to visit Auschwitz I and Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps.

The pupils then carried out the 'Next Steps' project, informing fellow pupils and their communities about what they learned. Lewis and Katie created posters

featuring quotes from Holocaust survivors which they displayed around the school and wrote articles about their experience.

They also gave presentations to second-year pupils on the week of Holocaust Memorial Day (January 27).

They arranged Mr Bibring's visit through the HET's outreach programme.

Mr Bibring gave his presentation to the second-year students and prominent people in the community. He told them about how he was separated from his family and taken to Britain as part of the Kindertransport scheme.

Lewis described the event as an 'excellent chance to learn about one of the darkest periods of humanity's history first-hand'.

## EUROPEAN REFERENDUM REACTION FROM ACROSS WEST HIGHLANDS



Richard Dixon.



Allan Bowie.



John Hutchison.

## 'Shock' and 'disappointment' at result

'SHOCK' and 'disappointment' are words used by some highlanders to describe their reaction to the referendum vote which could see the UK leave the European Union.

According to the Highland Council, the total number of ballot papers counted was 125,728. The total number of votes cast in favour to remain a member of the European Union was 70,308, while the total number of votes cast in favour of 'leave' was 55,349.

*The Oban Times* spoke to representatives from organisations both local and farther afield and asked their reaction to the surprise vote.

Tom Bryan Brown, Chief Executive Officer of Mallaig and North West Fishermen's Association said: 'I am probably as shocked as most people about the result.'

'I really thought it would go the other way but, hey ho, this is the situation that we are in. We will meet with the SFF at the end of June and discuss the implications for the Scottish fishing industry.'

'Our first major concern is that the fishing industry might be treated just as when the UK joined the EU - and that the fishing would become a negotiating tool in any future negotiations with the EU.'

'The next major issue is whether this would trigger 'Indy Ref 2' and the im-

plications that would have with regards to allocation of quota from the EU. Generally speaking, most people I have spoken to are in favour of Brexit and did vote to leave - not many fishermen are enamoured with the EU and the current frame work.

'But we are currently in a state of uncertainty that is no doubt going to bring challenges as well as opportunities.'

Allan Bowie, President, National Farmers Union Scotland, commented from the Royal Highland Show in Inverlorn.

He said: 'The dramatic events of the past few hours will mark a period of great uncertainty for Scotland's farmers and crofters. What is also clear is that the role of the union in representing our members' views and protecting their interests will rarely have been more important in our 103-year history.'

Ian Blackford, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber said: 'I am pleased that Scotland has voted to stay within Europe. We cannot be dragged out against our will. Where do we go from here? Scotland must pull together in our national interest. We have talked about what might trigger a future independence referendum. This is potentially a trigger, there is no secret that the SNP stands for independence for Scotland. It needs to be clear that the people see their future,

Scotland's future as an independent nation in Europe. None of us can look forward to see politics and the future of government in Westminster. If the result tells us anything, it is that Scotland and England are different countries.'

'Time for us to accept our own responsibilities.'

John Hutchison chairman of Lochaber Common Weal said: 'While it is not surprising, my personal view is that it is not the right decision.'

'I do think there will be another referendum when the time is right. Scotland has had links with the EU for thousands of years and it is really peculiar that we don't have that right now.'

Reacting to the vote, Dr Richard Dixon, Director of Friends of the Earth Scotland, said: 'The vote to leave the EU is a huge challenge to decades of progress on improving the environment and tackling climate change.'

'Many of the politicians backing the leave vote are climate sceptics and against renewable energy, and much of the 'red tape' they complain about are the laws that have given us cleaner air and water, and forced companies to reduce pollution.'

'In the 1980s our environmental record had us known as the 'dirty man of Europe'. The fight is on to stop us slipping back to the bad old days.'



May Dream found itself in trouble. Photograph by Kyle RNLI.

## Lifeboat to rescue of yacht

KYLE Lifeboat, *Spirit of Fred Olsen*, launched at 4.05am on Monday at the request of Stornoway Coastguard, after the yacht *May Dream* broke its mooring and ran aground in Plockton bay.

The lifeboat arrived on scene at 4.15am to find the 36-foot yacht, with two people on board, aground and listing heavily.

Once the lifeboat crew were satisfied the yachtsmen were safe

and in no danger, Kyle lifeboat returned to station at 7.20am.

The crew launched again at 8.20am to return to the scene and make sure the yacht was not taking on any water or leaking fuel as it refloated on the incoming tide. Once the yacht had refloated and was in deeper water, the lifeboat escorted it to a safe mooring before returning to Kyle at 10.30am.

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# Something for everyone as community gets behind Caol Gala Day events



The Highland Dancers from Nevis Dancing School who gave a display at the Caol Gala Day.

THERE was something for everyone at this year's Caol Gala.

Making use of the new Gaelic school grounds, community groups got together to support the event.

There were performances by Lochaber Judo Club and cheerleading group Ben Nevis Allstars as well as a bonnie baby competition, raffles, strong man and kids competition and appearances by the gala queen.

Kirsty Kyle who helped organise the event said: 'I'm exhausted but when you see everyone turn up and how they enjoy themselves it really does make it worth while. The money we raised will go towards next year's event. The strong man and the cheerleaders were

new this year and they were really good. The whole thing just came together really well.

'A lot of families don't have the opportunity to spend a day out together so we try to subsidise the day as much as possible, keep things as local as possible and provide a day that's fun for the whole family.'

Many attendees took to Facebook to congratulate the organisers and share their enjoyment of the event.

Noreen MacGillivray posted: 'What a really absolutely fabulous day at Caol Gala Day. Kirsty, girls and boys you did a wonderful job. Roll on the next one.' Leann Stewart Duncan said: 'Big well done to everyone involved in making the gala day happen. It was really good for families.'



Caol Gala Queen Laurin MacDonald, 12, and her attendants Millie Nixon, 10, left, and Sara Carmichael, 6. Photographs by Anthony MacMillan Photography.

## TIMESLINE

### Youngster wins burger challenge

AN ISLE of Lewis youngster has been crowned The Nicolson Institute's 'burger king'.

Callum MacRichie, 12, won top prize in a school challenge run by Quality Meat Scotland, attracting around 250 entries.

Callum, whose recipe was inspired by the Isle of Lewis' native language, created his Gaelic Big Marag Burger using pork and Stornoway black pudding.

### Visitor attraction climbs to success

AN INNOVATIVE new visitor attraction is climbing in popularity.

Three Wise Monkeys Climbing recently opened in a renovated church in Fassifern Road, Fort William.

Scott Armstrong, VisitScotland, said: 'This business has only been open for months and is already proving popular. This project is a perfect fit for 2016, Scotland's Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design, as it has brought a derelict old church with architectural gems back to life, with clever and innovative design. People may come to Scotland for the history, but they leave inspired by the modern and contemporary.'

### Local decision making vital

NA H-EILEANAN an Iar SNP MSP Alasdair Allan is urging community groups in the Western Isles to apply for a share of a new £2 million fund to help local communities have a greater say in decision-making.

The Scottish Government's Community Choices Fund allows community groups to have a say on how and where money is spent in their area.

A fund spokesman said: 'We want to see more decision making handed to local people.'

## Last look round Caol Primary School

CAOL Primary School opened its doors to the public for the last time on Thursday June 23.

More than 450 former pupils and staff and community members joined the current staff and pupils to say goodbye to the school as it prepares to close after 64 years.

The pupils were involved in various projects for the open day, including staff profiles and old photographs of classes and staff throughout the years, and comparisons of uniforms, school dinners and technology over the years.

Primary seven pupils interviewed primary one teacher Margaret Stewart who will retire at the end of term.



Primary six and seven pupils with the school building models created by primary two/three.

One highlight was the creation of Caol tapestry, with pupils, staff and the wider community all contributing designs for individual squares.

Room 13 was also included on the tour. The art studio will be moving to Caol Community Centre when the school closes. Other highlights included

models of the original, current and new school buildings created by primary two/three, with help from Room 13 artist Richard Bracken.

Head teacher Steven Hamilton said: 'We've had a great day with staff, parents, pupils and the wider community sharing stories, memories and laughs.

It's been a lovely atmosphere with people catching up and enjoying a last look around the old Caol School.

'We're very proud of the achievements of everyone and delighted to show off our school but looking forward to a new one opening up in September.'



Some Lochaber Judo Club members at Caol Gala.



Caol Gala disabled scooters lead the parade, with Gala Chieftain James Russell, right, followed by the Gala Queen and her attendants.

## Former pupil 'touched' by invite to formally open new Lundavra

FORMER pupils, parents and councillors gathered for the official opening of Lundavra Primary School.

Located on Lundavra Road, Fort William, with panoramic views over Loch Linnhe, the school replaced Upper Achintore and Fort William Primary Schools.

Dr Finlay Wild was given the task last Friday of unveiling a plaque at the new school.

He said he was very touched to be asked to participate in the ceremony and added: 'As a former pupil of Fort William Primary School, I was delighted to be invited to meet the pupils of the new Lundavra primary. As a runner and GP it was great to speak to the kids about running and keeping active, and to join them in their Daily Mile run.'



Former pupil Dr Finlay Wild joins head teacher Nick Thomson to officially open the new school.

The ceremony was opened and closed to the sound of bagpipes, with Dr Wild and Bill Alexander, Highland Council's Director of Care and Learning, addressing guests.

During the opening ceremony, pupils sang the school song, *Give it all you've got*.

The school has been operating successfully for many months after opening its doors to pupils following the

autumn break on October 28, 2015.

Some of the groups using the school include health visitors running the Stepping Stones project for toddlers and parents, a baby massage class, High Life Highland sports groups and the parent-led weekly youth club.

Gary Holmes, Regional Director at GRAHAM Construction who managed the build, said: 'It has been a privilege to deliver the new Lundavra Primary School on behalf of The Highland Council.'

'Our team has especially enjoyed working in such a scenic location for the duration of this project and we hope pupils, staff, parents and wider Fort William community are pleased with the end result.'



Above: Racing in pairs at the Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar sports day. Below: a skipping race.

Photographs by Anthony MacMillan Photography.



## Primary pupils enjoy sports day in the sun

RESILIENCE and determination were to the fore at the Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar sports day.

Children received bands instead of medals for being successful in their events as they competed for the ultimate prize - the house trophy.

John Joseph MacNeill, head teacher, said: 'There were six mini events, short and long distance races, sack race, mother and fathers' races and relay races. All the scores will be totted up along with results from football, shinty and basketball games, which are still to be played, and the winning house will be crowned at the leavers' assembly today (Thursday).

'The rain started just around the second mini event but then the sun came out and it stayed all day so we really were blessed with the weather.'

'It is a great day for children. They are keeping fit and healthy, enjoying themselves and learning lessons of resilience when perhaps results don't go their way. They are working as part of a team and achieving that competitive edge. A bit of competition never did anyone any harm.'

Mr MacNeill admitted he did not participate in any of the events last Friday as the staff race was cancelled due to health concerns but promised for it to return next year.

He added: 'Oh yes, the staff race will be back next year. I will start training early so I'm fighting fit for it - I think I will need it.'

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# Workers' plea for jobs as consultants' bill tops £1m

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WORKERS at Argyll and Bute Council say 'it feels like' the council has put the town centre regeneration ahead of jobs.

Claiming the 'severest cuts are yet to hit', the staff want more jobs to be found in-house, and less money to be spent on consultants.

In records on Scottish Government website Spotlight on Spend, the local authority paid out £1.256 million on consultants in the year to March 2015.

More than £800,000 of Argyll and Bute funding has been spent on external consultants since 2009 in order to deliver the CHORD project in Oban town centre.

Workers approached *The Oban Times* after internal consultations led them to believe even more jobs will be cut in 2017. They want the council to consider training staff to resource consultations instead of spending millions with companies not based in Argyll.

Councillor Roddy McCuish, area chairman, said that for the first time in years people in Oban were 'excited about the future'. He said the money spent on consultants was in line with cash spent elsewhere in the country.

A Freedom of Information request made by *The Oban Times*, in response to the workers' plea found that to date £814,852 has been spent on consultants on the CHORD project.

A further marina project is currently being assessed by consultants and is expected to

be finalised after a number of other consultations have taken place, including a wave study and seabed analysis.

These consultations are not yet in figures given to *The Oban Times* as they have still to be completed. Previous marine consultations have cost upwards of £150,000.

Outside consultants are employed by the council as it does not have marine and town-centre engineers on staff. The workers want to see that change.

The group of five workers, who did not want to be named for personal reasons, told *The Oban Times*: 'We understand that the council wants to develop new projects, but too much of our council's cash is not being spent on people who live and work in the area.'

'We think everyone wants the same thing - that is, more well-paid jobs in Oban.'

'It feels like the council has put town centre regeneration ahead of our jobs.'

'We have so much more to give to the area. We think the council should set up a training unit to redeploy staff into support services for consultancy.'

'We don't think that the investment in Oban will materialise in jobs that are equivalent to the jobs we are losing.'

'The severest cuts to staffing are yet to come.'

Revealing the extent spent on consultants, the local authority's Freedom of Information officer said: 'I would, firstly, comment that the council operates the standard public sector model for its capital projects and commissions specialist

external services as and when required, ensuring best value for the public purse.'

*The Oban Times* asked whether the council had prepared economic impact surveys prior to the work in the town centre being undertaken.

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said it was too early to make an assessment of the economic benefit of the CHORD programme.

'At this stage, with the regeneration programme still progressing, it is too early to give a definitive figure.'

'You carry out an economic impact assessment a minimum of a year, but generally two to three years, after the programme is finished, to allow sufficient time for the benefits to emerge.'

Councillor McCuish, Lorn and Islands area chairman, said: 'There is already anecdotal evidence of increased footfall in the town and increased economic activity.'

'People in Oban are excited about the future for the first time in years.'

'Our various regeneration projects are aimed at improving Oban.'

'These are exciting times for the town with public realm developments onsite and the transit berthing facility and visitor centre in the pipeline.'

'The town will see a real boost from these projects through increased confidence in the town's future, which is key in creating new job opportunities, new businesses and encouraging new people to move into the area.'

## Dynamic duo rally to call of the wild



Kay Simpson from Oban and her friend Anne MacAskill, from Skye, are about to take on one of the most daunting and intrepid challenges on the planet - the 10,000-mile Mongol Rally across Europe and Asia - in an old van. Full story, page nine.

## New call for improved transport

A CALL by the West Coast's leading economic development agency has concluded that the entrances and exits to Oban need to be improved and train journey times need cutting.

A report published on Tuesday, June 28, calls for investment in the A85 Oban to Tyndrum, the A816 Oban to Lochgilphead and improvements on the Glasgow to Oban train line.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) commissioned ekosgen to carry out the Argyll and Bute Transport Connectivity and Economy Study last year.

After consulting with 40 businesses and organisations, the report highlights transport and its effect on the economy in Argyll and Bute. It claims there is an urgent need for investment to increase the population and safeguard the area's financial future.

The report focused on times between the main population centres of Dunoon, Campbeltown, Lochgilphead, Oban and Rothesay, and from these onward to Glasgow.

The report suggests investment can play a significant role in encouraging population and economic growth. It concluded that, in addition to Scottish Government plans regarding the A82, A83, rail and ferry services, the following transport corridors should be given consideration: the A85, including access to Oban; the A816, to improve journey times on the Oban to Lochgilphead corridor; remove the constraints posed by the single-track sections of the Dunoon-Colintraive-Portavadie road (B836/A8003/B8000); and investment to reduce the West Coast railway journey times.

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# Living on the Loch - Tarbert's Heart and Soul



TARBERT in north Kintyre is a thriving community with many facets. A beautiful harbour, plethora of hotels, restaurants, independent gift shops and an army of strong characters making things happen.

Tarbert is renowned for its superb seafood, with the legendary Tarbert fishing fleet landing some of the best fish and shellfish in the world. Fishing runs deep in the Loch Fyne-side village of Tarbert.

At the heart of the industry are fishing families, with generations behind them of people who have felt the pull of the sea. There are few around Tarbert these days with wider experience of fishing than Kenny MacNab, who went to sea after leaving school in 1971, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather before him.

The Argyllshire Advertiser met Kenny for a chat about the importance of seafood to the region and to him as a fisherman.

He started on his family boat, the *Girl Seona*, and by 1974 - at the age of 19 - he was a skipper.



Kenny MacNab, left, with Sean Connolly, a crew member on the *Caledonia*, and some freshly caught Loch Fyne prawns ready for backing before export to Spain.

'Fishing is not a job, it is a way of life and it is also Tarbert's heritage,' says Kenny. 'It was fishing that built this village, and any business owner in the area will tell you how important it is, particularly during the long winter months.'

In 1983, Kenny bought his own boat, a bigger trawler called the *Peaceful Waters* and, after the sad loss of his father in 1988, worked alongside his brother James on the boat. In time James moved on and Kenny purchased the *Flying Fish*, a 55-ft trawler. He and his wife, Liz, an English teacher, set up a shellfish business called *Flying Fish*.

Buying from local boats, they processed scallops and prawns for sale to the UK restaurant trade and to European markets. The company even took on a couple of boats to meet the hand-dived scallop market.

Kenny understands fishing and is putting that knowledge to good use as he serves on his third stint as chairman of the Clyde Fishermen's Association.

With around 15 to 20 boats (Kenny counts them in his head, trying to reconcile those away in other ports, the boats at sea and those in harbour) left in Tarbert, the industry remains

the village's heart and soul. These days, Kenny has sold the *Flying Fish* business, but retains his interest in the fishing industry with a one-third share in the *Frigate Bird*, skippered by David McArthur.

As passionate as ever about his industry, Kenny said: 'We have some of the best seafood in the world right on our doorstep and this should be celebrated.'

'The Tarbert Seafood Festival is all about celebrating the quality of our fish and shellfish, and I hope the festival demonstrates just how important fishing is to this area.'

Today the fishing industry and harbour are still at the heart of the community and you can sample some of the loch's freshly landed delicacies in the many eateries around the harbour.

Tarbert's famous seafood festival takes place this weekend. The event is a highlight of Argyll's festival season, appealing to visitors of all ages. There will be music, food stalls, children's activities, cookery demonstrations, street entertainment and much more. Go along for two days of marvellous food drink and good craic.

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## Colleges' support staff set to strike

SCOTLAND'S college support staff are planning to take industrial action.

The union said the decision was taken 'after bosses failed to deliver a fair deal for support staff.'

Support staff, who deliver a range of services including finance, admissions, bursaries, libraries and IT, have been offered settlements of £230 in comparison with £450 being given to teaching staff.

National negotiations broke down on June 16 and Unison Scotland, the union for college support staff, is now to ballot members for strike action.

Chris Greenshields, chairman of Unison Scotland in further education, said: 'Our demand is simple and fair. As a minimum, our members should receive parity with our teaching colleagues in the EIS. There should be equality of treatment for workers in the same sector, within the same national bargaining machinery and with the same local employers.'

A spokesperson from the University of the Highlands and Islands added: 'Members have yet to be balloted, so it is too early to know the outcome. Where action is proposed, the university and our partners will work together to determine how it may affect us to ensure any disruption is minimised.'

## Luing is now mobile hotspot

THE Isle of Luing is now a mobile hotspot following the launch of Vodaphone's Rural Open Sure Signal. The Isle of Luing Community Trust has been working with Vodaphone for 18 months and the programme is part of a £2 billion initiative by the firm to provide mobile access to up to 100 rural communities.

## Julie enchants audience with performance at Iona Abbey



Julie Fowlis, left, joins pupils and teachers from Iona Primary School after giving a 'magical' performance in Iona Abbey on Monday. On the right is the school's Gaelic tutor Janet Campbell.

A LAST-MINUTE invitation to listen to one of the world's most influential Gaelic singers was Brave-ly taken up by Iona Primary School.

Monday morning saw children invited to Iona Abbey to hear Julie Fowlis's Gaelic songbook. Julie won a Traditional Music Award for her work on Disney film *Brave* in 2012.

Julie invited the children to join almost 200 tourists to listen to her work. She was on Iona as part of a National Geographic cruise around Europe.

Head teacher Stephen Glen-Lee said: 'Julie gave a magical performance. All the children had a great time with one of the most famous Gaelic singers on the planet.'

'After Julie's performance, the pupils chatted with her in Gaelic. I was very proud of them all.'

'Our Gaelic tutor, Janet Campbell, from Tobermory, just happened to be in school on Monday morning. Mrs Campbell could see for herself what a great job she has done teaching the children Gaelic.'

'The children have been rehearsing for their own debut this week. They will be headlining at the Iona Music Festival on Saturday. They're on the same billing as poet Liz Lochhead and then super group Idlewild.'

'Liz and Idlewild must be delighted that they are getting to share the stage with Iona Primary School pupils.'

## Motorists are urged to take extra care when passing horses on roads

OBAN police officers have asked motorists to remember to drive 'slow or dead slow' when they pass horses on the road.

Officers highlighted, in particular, the single-track road that leads from Benderloch to South Shian.

Inspector Julie McLeish at Oban police office said: 'More

than 60 per cent of incidents involving horses on the roads occur between 10am and 3pm, with June being the most common month.'

'The unclassified single-track road from Benderloch to South Shian sees a lot of horse traffic.'

'There are also long-established stables and a

disabled riding facility. This is also a well-used area by tourists due to the hotel, caravan sites and many self-catering and bed-and-breakfast properties.'

'And a recent survey has revealed that more than 400 cars alone, not counting commercial vehicles and caravans,

passed by in one day. As the season gets busier, this is leading to frustration between vehicle users and horse riders and the obvious dangers where the police have become involved.'

'If you see a horse being ridden or led-on, plan your driving carefully.'

'Slow down on the approach and pass it slowly and smoothly without revving your engine or making any undue noise.'

'If there is not room to pass safely, fall back to create distance and wait until there is.'

'You will usually find most riders will be very courteous if you do.'

## POLICE FILES

with Sergeant John Stobo

### Two men are held after drug is found

TWO men aged 44 and 50 from Soroba and Dunbeg have been detained by police in Oban on suspicion of carrying 1kg of amphetamine, a class-B drug. Commonly known as 'speed', the drug, if confirmed as such by specialists, was being carried in a quantity the police described as 'with intent to supply'.

Sergeant John Stobo of Oban Police Station said: 'This detection was thanks to officers who acted after people in Oban came forward with vital information.'

A report has been made to the procurator fiscal.

### Security warning

POLICE are calling for witnesses after a shed in Inveraray was broken into between June 20 and 23.

A silver and blue Norco Nitro mountain bike worth more than £125 was stolen from the property in Arkland.

Sergeant John Stobo said: 'It may invalidate your household insurance if you do not lock your property. This includes sheds and other outhouses as well as motor vehicles.'

### Cause for concern

POLICE are appealing for information after a number plate was stolen from a car parked outside Willow View in Oban. The '63-plate was removed from a Fiat 500 on June 22 between 1pm and 3pm.

Anyone with any information about any of these incidents is asked to call police on 101.

# Women rev up for rally to Mongolia

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TWO 'gallivanting quines' from Oban and Skye are about to set off on the 10,000-mile Mongol Rally, billed as 'the greatest motoring adventure on the planet'.

The daunting race will take the two pensioners across the mountains, desert and the steppes of Europe and Asia.

Kay Simpson, 70, from Oban and Anne MacAskill, 67, from Skye believe they are the oldest participants in the 300-vehicle race.

Kay told *The Oban Times*: 'We'll be the oldest for sure - but not the slowest.'

On July 16 the duo, nicknamed the gallivanting quines, will set off on their five-week route from Goodwood Motor Circuit through France, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Mongolia to Ulan-Ude in Siberia, Russia. Dring the trip, on July 29 - probably in Turkmenistan - Anne will celebrate her 68th birthday.

They will be driving Kay's 22-year-old, two-seater, 1,200cc Renault Express van, nicknamed the Green Machine.

'I bought the van in Holland,' the retired vet recalled. 'It had only done 100,000km and the engine was perfection. I love that vehicle.'

For the trip, the van will be decorated with a giant horned yak's skull called Genghis that Kay picked up in Mongolia on a rally with her late husband,



Anne MacAskill, left, and Kay Simpson will raise cash for charity.

Duncan Strachan: 'I brought it back on the plane in my luggage, and I wasn't found out,' Kay revealed.

Kay and Duncan set up Oban Rare Breeds Park in 1984, which they ran for 16 years, but in the off-season the couple loved exploring the world, driving from Oban to Cape Town, and, in an old ambulance, from Bolivia to South America's southernmost tip and back.

They planned to do the Mongol Rally to celebrate their 70th birthdays, but four years ago Duncan was tragically killed in an accident on their almond farm in Spain. 'After Duncan died, I said I wouldn't mind doing this to celebrate my birthday,' Kay explained. 'I want to do the things we were going to do together.'

Anne, the mother of Skye stunt cyclist Danny MacAskill, was asked to take Duncan's place. 'I couldn't refuse,' she said. 'My husband [Peter] thinks I am mad, but what are friends for? Anne, who lives and works in

Dunvegan and also helps run Skye's Colbost Folk Museum and Giant MacAskill Museum, added: 'I'm certainly not frightened to go off to new places. Everyone thinks I should be frightened about my Daniel on his bike, but I leave the worrying to my husband. He's very worried about timing belts, and what we'll use as a toilet.'

When younger, the old friends, who grew up on neighbouring farms in Fife and shared a flat as students in Edinburgh, equipped themselves with a bag of tatties for road trips through Europe and Africa. 'We were still speaking at the end of it,' said Anne.

They will sleep under an awning, filling the van with engine spares, clothes, a stash of wine and a Lilo for luxury. And, of course, food - but 'not noodles, I can't stand them', said Anne. 'It's like a camping trip, for about 10,000 miles.'

In Iran they have to pick up a guide 'for security, so we don't wander off and see something

we shouldn't', Kay explained. 'But where is he going to sit?'

'Nothing bothers Anne,' she added. 'She's very game; she'll do anything. I'm not frightened at all. Be prepared to bribe, and Mongolians and Russians like vodka - that's how [Duncan and I] got through.'

Kay plans to build a traditional Mongolian 'ovoo' memorial for Duncan, where a bottle of vodka is placed under a pile of stones. 'It'll be an empty bottle,' she said.

'Mongolia was impossible - unless you like horsemeat. I'll eat anything. I don't know if Anne will. Anne's a good cook. She'll look after me, and I'll look after the vehicle, because I'm not a bad mechanic. I'll put the awning up while she makes my tea,' Kay added.

Anne contributed: 'My weight helps: I can always stand on the spanner when we're trying to change a tyre. I picked up Dutch and German, and I've been trying to learn Russian, but we'll need to wave our arms a lot there. You can't teach an old dog new tricks.'

Anne is fundraising for two charities - Cancer Research UK and Wings for Life spinal research foundation - while Kay is raising money for Animals Asia. Recently they've raised £690 from stalls in Oban at Christmas and the recent Charities Day, and £1,786 from a bingo and chilli night in Dunvegan last Saturday. You can also donate and follow their progress via their Facebook page The Gallivanting Quines - Mongol Rally 2016.

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## Traffic lights are blamed for rush-hour congestion

CONGESTED traffic on Soroba Road could be made worse by a second set of traffic lights, Oban Community Council heard on Monday.

In most rush hours, Oban's main access road is gridlocked with traffic going to or from work and school. Community councillor Kate Winton said: 'I was quicker in my wheelchair than a fire engine.'

Argyll and Bute Councillor Roddy McCuish blamed the traffic lights outside Oban high school. 'The traffic moved most freely when the lights weren't working,' he said. 'My personal opinion is to put a roundabout there, but you're talking £10 million to £12 million, which the council doesn't have.'

Oban North and Lorn Councillor Kieron

Green told the meeting: 'There's another set of traffic lights going in at McCall Terrace, at the entrance to the new high school.'

Marri Malloy, Oban Community Council's re-elected chairperson, commented: 'That'll back everything up.' Councillor Neil MacIntyre urged more drivers to share cars when commuting into town.

# Grass-cutting at cemeteries is earmarked for the chop



Alastair Redman suggests cuts to executives' salaries.

**DAVID MCPHEE**  
dmcph@obantimes.co.uk

CEMETERIES on Islay are getting cut ... from the council's grass-cutting schedule.

As a way to save money, Argyll and Bute Council is reducing the number of times it cuts the grass to once a year.

The council budget states that grass-cutting will be carried out once, either in October or November, with some areas returned to meadow or natural growth, and hedges will be maintained in winter only with one cut per year.

Alastair Redman, who runs the post office on Islay, said: 'I was very unhappy to hear

that our council may stop cutting grass at the cemeteries on Islay.

'While I understand savings must be made somewhere and that the pool of money the council has gets smaller every year due to the council tax freeze, front-line services should be the last to be hit and the council should look at reducing the pay-packets of some of its well-paid managers - such as Argyll and Bute's chief executive who receives £118,251 per year.

'Many local residents have been voicing their anger about the maintenance cuts to our cemeteries to me and I would implore our elected officials

to reconsider this move.' A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'This is a time of unprecedented challenge for local government.

'Drastically reduced funding means we have to save more than £10 million in 2016/17 alone. This means we can't do everything we would like to do for our communities.

'We have reduced grass-cutting at old cemeteries on Islay, which are full.

'By reducing grass-cutting, we can keep our environmental warden service, keep public conveniences open, keep hanging baskets and annual bedding displays - things our communities told us were important to them.'

Councillor for Oban South and the Isles, Roddy McCuish, echoed the council's sentiment and added: 'It's regrettable that we are at this position, and hopefully in the future this will change, but, unfortunately, reduced funding means reduced services.

'I will be asking for the schedules to come back to the area committee to see if we can prioritise or change the way we do this but still make the same savings.'

A spokesman for Taxpayer Scotland, an advocacy group for Scottish taxpayers, said: 'Argyll and Bute appears from its policy to be minimising what it spends on looking after these

cemeteries. No doubt other needs take precedence and it is more than likely right about that.

'What is now needed is some imagination on how to resolve the issue if local people are concerned.

'There are numerous community-based voluntary approaches to this that would cost taxpayers nothing. These should be explored by the community and its council.

'Scots must stop always assuming that the public sector will pay for everything. It can't. As the saying goes, "there is no more money" to be taken from taxpayers without making everyone poorer.'

## TIMESLINE

### Funding continues for veterans' help

ARGYLL and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau said it was delighted with the recent announcement that funding for its Armed Services Advice Project is to continue for a further three years.

The project, funded by Poppy Scotland and Royal British Legion, began in October 2014 and has helped armed services personnel, their families and veterans from all over Argyll and Bute.

Project adviser Sandra Staniland said she had seen a steady increase in referrals to assist clients with immediate advice on benefits, housing and debt, and making referrals to other organisations for specific help.

### Water project on Iona completed

RESIDENTS and holidaymakers on Iona are benefiting from improved security of the water supply following the completion of a £1.4 million project to install a new mains pipe.

Work by Scottish Water started in April to replace ageing pipework with a new 0.8-metre pipe under the Sound of Iona, linking with the network on Mull. The work has been completed on time.

### Countdown to Oban raft race

THERE are only seven weeks left for crews to enter this year's Oban and Lorn Lions Club's Great Oban Bay Raft Race.

The fun-filled event will be held on Saturday August 13, starting from the beach at George Street.

The only rules are that crews must be at least two people, all rafts have to be hand-built and powered only by hand-held paddles, and those taking part must sit on and not in their rafts.

Entry forms are available from Webster's Photographic in George Street, Hannah's Newsagent in Stevenson Street and Mathieson Furniture on Soroba Road. For more information, call 07880 535550.

## New school takes a major step forward

THE development of Oban's new £35 million school took a groundbreaking step forward on Monday.

Councillor Roddy McCuish was the first to pierce the soil at the sod-cutting ceremony, which celebrated the first day of construction of the new Oban high school.

Argyll and Bute Council has appointed Hub North Scotland to build the school, which will accommodate 1,300 pupils.

Angus MacFarlane, chief executive of Hub North Scotland, is hopeful that it will be ready to open in March 2018. The current high school will remain open throughout the building process.

The head teacher of Oban high school, Peter Bain, gave a speech at the ceremony alongside Angus MacFarlane and Mr McCuish.

Oban's youngest high school pupil, Chloe Hamilton, head boy Stephen Povey, and Oban high school's pipe band joined them.



Oban high school pipers joined pupils Chloe Hamilton and Stephen Povey, head teacher Peter Bain and Councillor Roddy McCuish at the ceremony.

## Options outlined to fix waste plant

SCOTTISH WATER has unveiled alternative options to its controversial plan to fix the failing Clachan Seil Waste Water Works at a public meeting in Seil Island Community Hall.

Scottish Water's £11 million membrane plant, unable to separate run-off from heavy rain, has been causing untreated human waste to overflow into Balvicar Bay.

Its £1.8 million solution was to pump sewage from Clachan over a hill into a septic tank at Seaview Terrace near Ellena-beich, and then out into a marine conservation area, which some islanders deemed 'cheap', 'nasty' and 'inept'.

At the meeting, Scottish Water acknowledged the leaking plant between Balvicar and Clachan had led to a breakdown

in trust with the community, but it hoped to rebuild it by being transparent about the evidence when deciding between the options.

'We're keen to make the right decision, rather than make a decision in haste,' said Alan Thomson, Scottish Water's head of corporate relations. But he added that it would be very difficult to please everyone with the preferred option.

Billboards at Monday's session last week promised 'to provide transparent information on potential options', and to listen to the community and record feedback about the three options on display, which could be altered or added to.

The first two options gave Seaview Terrace a standalone septic tank, and proposed

replacing Clachan's small plant with either a larger 135m x 50m plant, including above-ground SAF and final settlement tanks, or a greener but even larger 200m x 40m reed-bed plant. Both these options would also require septic tanks, and finally UV treatment, before the waste is discharged into the sea.

The third option remained as before. All the options, SW stated, are subject to planning consent, land availability, environmental consents, technical considerations and cost.

A stakeholder group chaired by Michael Russell MSP, composed of Scottish Water, SEPA, independent consultant Ian Clifforde and local councillors and community council representatives, is due to meet next in mid-August.

## Woman charged over rare car crime

A DAY of good fun and sportsmanship ended in police being called when a young woman from Iona was cautioned for allegedly taking a car without the permission and crashing it into another car causing damage.

It is the first crime of its type on the holy island that anyone *The Oban Times* spoke to can remember. Police Scotland confirmed it had no knowledge of any previous car crime on the island.

Police Scotland said a luxury pick-up car was taken from the top of the jetty, in the village centre, and was found close to where it had been parked, with the damage visible on the car.

Police were called and witness statements were taken on the island.

A 23-year-old woman was cautioned and charged by police officers on Tuesday June 28.

She has been reported to the procurator fiscal on three charges - taking the car without the consent of the owner, driving a motor vehicle without insurance and failing to report the incident to police.

The incident happened overnight between June 18 and 19 on the day of the annual Iona football competition.

## Hunt is on to find wise guys for new BBC TV series

THE BBC is making a new TV series that looks at bringing traditional wisdom into the lives of ordinary people.

Producers are casting for local characters with significant life experience who could provide advice and insight to others.

They are looking for groups and individuals who could help

someone going through a pivotal time in their lives - whether it's becoming a parent, getting married or changing careers or something else.

The series is inspired by the idea that in our hectic lives many individuals find themselves out of touch with wisdom that has helped others for centuries.

People are more likely to turn to Google with problems than ask a grandparent, religious leader or community member.

The casting team are looking for great characters who can be positive role models with their own opinions and insight.

To take part, email wise-words@bbc.co.uk.

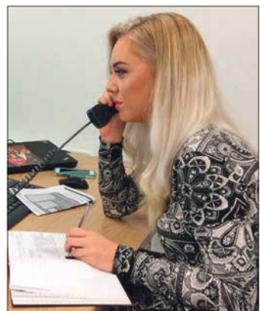
## Demi honoured for saving weddings

SEVEN newlywed couples had CalMac employee Demi Wylie to thank for saving their big days - and she's now been recognised for her efforts at the Scottish Transport Awards.

Demi, 23, won the Frontline Employee of the Year title for her tireless work rescuing seven island weddings that were in danger of serious disruption due to industrial action last summer.

Demi and her team took it upon themselves to become the single liaison point for all those involved and worked with the couples to make sure their special days weren't derailed.

Demi's creative efforts in finding alternative travel plans resulted in more than 600 guests successfully reaching their destinations and ensured



Demi hard at work for CalMac.

standing their issues. On the top of sorting out their logistical problems, she and her team even found time to source extra special gifts for each couple with handmade products from the island they had chosen for their wedding.

Demi said: 'It was real surprise to get nominated and an even bigger one to have won. It really was a team effort and I'm just glad that we were all able to help out. A wedding should be a day to remember for all the right reasons. The last thing couples need among all the other things to think about is having half the guests stranded and unable to attend.'

The weddings were spread over CalMac's network of 24 islands and remote destinations.

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## Fort William impress in pre-season game at Alloa

### Trip to East Kilbride this Saturday for Fort faithful

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Alloa Athletic      | 3 |
| Fort William        | 0 |
| Pre-season friendly |   |

FORT William travelled to the Indodrill Stadium to take on Alloa Athletic in the first ever fixture between the clubs as they started their pre-season action.

The home side showed their intent right from the kick-off and were 3-0 ahead inside the first 20 minutes.

Isaac Layne looked particularly sharp, firstly winning a penalty when he was fouled after catching the defence hesitating. Iain Flannigan took the kick, although Layne looked keen to step forward.

Three minutes later it was 2-0 when Layne again burst into the box and fired confidently

past the Fort William keeper.

The third goal came after more Alloa pressure resulted in another corner. Flannigan's cross was met by Andy Graham, who knocked the ball home at the second attempt after the keeper had saved his first effort.

Although Alloa debutant keeper Neil Parry was not troubled, the visitors did have an opportunity to pull a goal back when Barna Tot broke clear but then blasted over the bar.

Alloa could have increased their lead before the end of the first half but Jim Goodwin's header came back off the crossbar and another debutant, Jon Robertson, struck a free kick which came back off the post.

Alloa continued to press and attacked down both wings,

### Football

creating numerous chances, but credit to Fort William and their keeper Douglas MacLennan, who pulled off numerous saves to keep the score down.

This was a decent performance from the Fort against a very impressive Alloa side.

Fort William are on their travels again this Saturday when they take on Lowland League side East Kilbride FC at K-Park Training Academy

The Lochaber side began their pre-season against Port Tywyn AFC at Lochaber High School, winning 10-0 with goals from Liam Taylor (four), Farquhar MacRae (two) and one each for Martin Munro, Barna Tot, Glen Fell and Ronan Cameron.



Fort William captain Iain Foggo and Alloa skipper Iain Flannigan exchange pennants before Saturday's match at the Indodrill Stadium.



Fort William Railway Bowling Club's first evening competition of the season was held on Thursday night at their Green in Inverlochty. The winners of the Alistair Young pairs balloted competition were David Weir (left) and Peter Black who received their prize from Liz Kennedy, the runners up were Gogs Hamilton and Eddie Downs. Photo: Anthony MacMillan

## Henry wins Fort William Open

THE Fort William Golf Club Open, sponsored by Bowman's Skip Hire, was played on Sunday

June 26. The results were as follows:

### Golf

Men: gross - 1 Lorne Ross 67,

2 David Matheson 68, 3 Scott Lawrie 73.

Net - 1 Henry MacDonald 60 (72-12), 2 Alistair Smith 62 (82-20), 3 Neil Young 64 (75-11).

Ladies: gross - 1 Rosemary Macintyre 84, 2 Kirsty Livingstone (Kintore) 85.

Net - 1 Iona Cameron 69 (88-19), 2 Kathleen Leitch 82 (98-16).

Nearest the pin at third hole - Ian Robertson; nearest the pin at sixth hole - N Patterson; nearest the pin at 12th hole - Neil Young; nearest the pin at 16th hole - Stuart Reid.

Longest drive for men at 11th hole - Lorne Ross; longest drive for ladies at fifth hole - Kirsty Livingstone.



Henry MacDonald won Fort William Golf Club's Bowman's Skip Hire open competition held on Sunday. Photo: Anthony MacMillan

## Primary schools netball tournament

LAST Tuesday saw the annual Fort William primary schools netball tournament run by the Fort William Falcons, supported by Active Schools.

Six primary schools - Banavie, Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar, Caol, Lochyside, Lundavra and a combined team from Roy Bridge and Spean Bridge - entered the event, their first ever time to enter this long-standing tournament.

After the group stages, a play-off between Lochyside's second team and Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar gave the final four teams.

The semi-final between Banavie and Lochyside was hard fought and ended in a draw. Five shots on goal were given to each team to decide the match, with Lochyside just beating Banavie. The second semi-final saw Caol beating Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar for a chance to take on Lochyside.

This turned into a very close, nail-biting final. At full-time, with no score, the match went into extra time, with Lochyside emerging victorious.

The tournament is the culmination of a year of training with schools competing during the spring term in a netball league.

The 2016 league was taken by Caol, beating last year's winners Lochyside into second place. Third place went to Bun-Sgoil Ghaidhlig Loch Abar.

The inter-schools netball competitions were organised by Active Schools but would not be possible without considerable

help. Thanks go to all the volunteers from Fort William Falcons netball club who helped on the day, and in particular to Carol, for her ongoing commitment to junior netball in Fort William. Huge thanks also to the pupils from Lochaber High School who helped with umpiring, tim-

### Netball

ing, score-keeping and running warm-up drills, to the coaches, teachers and parents who support and coach the teams through the year and to all the girls for taking part.



Some of the teams who took part in the netball tournament.

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**WEATHER**

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Thursday        | Heavy rain<br>Winds moderate south westerly<br>Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.   |
| Friday          | Heavy rain showers<br>Winds moderate west south westerly<br>Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.  |
| Weekend Outlook | Heavy rain showers on Saturday<br>Light rain showers on Sunday<br>Winds light west north westerly<br>Temperatures 10°C to 14°C. |

**Stop Press:** New pontoons recently installed by North West Marine at Kyle Lochboisdale for visiting yachts

**TIDAL INFORMATION**  
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday June 30, 2016** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

| Date | am    |     |       |     | pm    |     |       |     |                                   |                     |           |          |
|------|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|----------|
| Thur | 01.47 | 3.3 | 07.57 | 1.3 | 14.13 | 3.2 | 20.22 | 1.3 | Ardrishaig                        | -5.35               | Mallaig   | +0.25    |
| Fri  | 02.58 | 3.5 | 09.01 | 1.1 | 15.17 | 3.4 | 21.31 | 1.1 | Campbeltown                       | -5.30               | Portree   | +0.55    |
| Sat  | 03.55 | 3.6 | 09.57 | 1.0 | 16.08 | 3.6 | 22.31 | 0.9 | Crinan                            | -0.47               | Tobermory | +0.16    |
| Sun  | 04.45 | 3.8 | 10.48 | 0.8 | 16.54 | 3.8 | 23.24 | 0.8 | Islay Port Ellen                  | 2.00                | Dover     | +5.30    |
| Mon  | 05.30 | 3.8 | 11.35 | 0.7 | 17.37 | 3.9 | ***   | **  | Lochboisdale                      | +0.30               |           |          |
| Tues | 00.13 | 0.7 | 06.12 | 3.9 | 12.20 | 0.6 | 18.18 | 4.0 | <b>Ferry Crossings/Sea States</b> |                     |           |          |
| Wed  | 00.59 | 0.7 | 06.52 | 3.8 | 13.02 | 0.6 | 18.58 | 4.0 | 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)