

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8259

Thursday 9 July, 2015

www.obantimes.co.uk

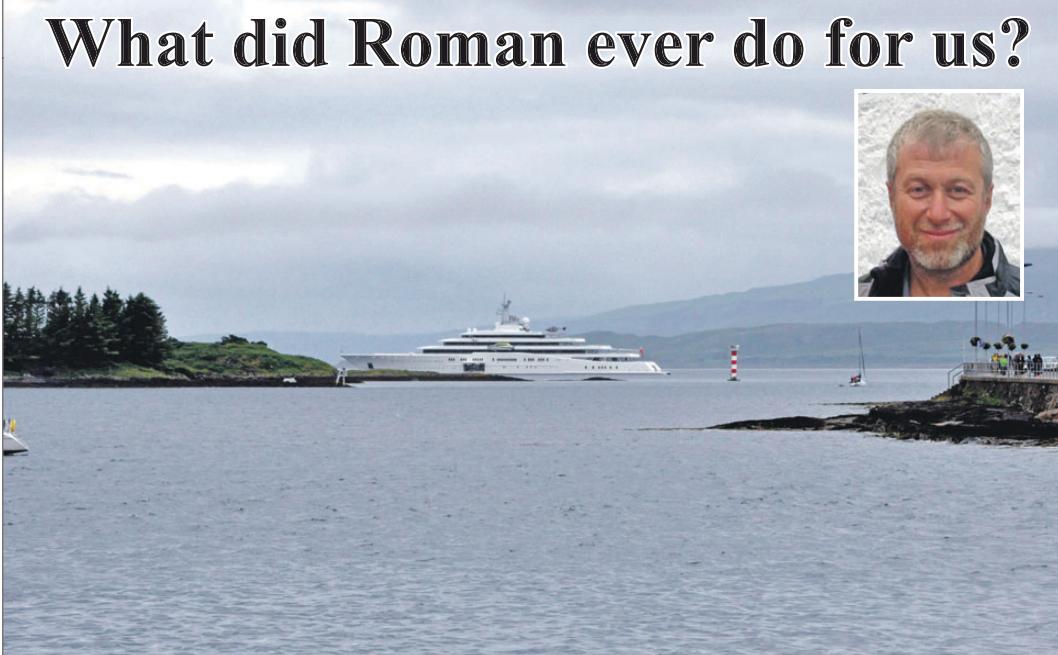
80 pence



Graeme Souness  
on the ball with  
the Oban Times



Top achievers make  
their mark at high  
school prizegiving



ROMAN IN THE GLOAMIN': billionaire Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich (inset above) toured the West Highlands this week, visiting Islay, Jura, Arran and Bute, before anchoring off Oban on Tuesday evening in his £1.5billion super yacht Eclipse - the second largest in the world at 557ft long. Turn to page seven for the full story

### FERRY CREWS STEP UP BATTLE TO SAVE JOBS WITH THREAT OF FRIDAY STRIKE

## More travel chaos on horizon for islanders

NIALL HICKMAN  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

MORE travel chaos in the peak of the summer season is expected this week as the latest CalMac ferry workers' strike is scheduled for tomorrow (Friday).

Talks between ferry operator CalMac and the transport workers union RMT were held yesterday, but with no breakthrough announced, the 24-hour strike looks likely to go ahead tomorrow, causing huge disruption to travel plans for holidaymakers and businesses.

CalMac workers held a one-day strike two weeks ago and a second 24-hour walkout is now set to take place.

They will also be joined by Argyll Ferries staff, who are employed on the Gourock to Dunoon route and also voted to strike tomorrow.

The dispute centres around the tendering process for the Clyde and Hebrides ferry services which takes place next year, with the £1billion contract up for grabs.

CalMac is hoping to retain the tender, but face stiff competition

from private firm, Serco, for the lucrative contract.

RMT members have voted for strike action as they say their jobs, pensions and work conditions are under threat.

The union's Scotland organiser, Gordon Martin, says industrial action is going ahead, unless there is a last ditch change of heart from CalMac executives.

Mr Martin said: "The last thing our members want to do is cause more disruption to the travelling public, especially at this time of year, but the fact is that we have jobs and pensions to protect and

that is why strike action is 100 per cent going ahead."

"We have met CalMac several times and we await a positive response to our demands for jobs, pensions and work conditions, which are under severe attack.

"I suppose the one glimmer of hope is the fact we are not getting a negative response either, but we have not reached an agreement."

Main ferry routes serving Mull, Islay, Bute, Arran, Coll, Tiree and Barra will be severely affected and the strike will hit all of CalMac's 49 ports, including its busiest hub, Oban.

### FLYING THE FLAG



FLYING HIGH: the Saltire rises above the council buildings in Oban's Albany Street 16\_t28saltirecoun01

THE Saltire was fluttering proudly above the municipal buildings in Oban last Friday after councillors unanimously backed the move to fly the national flag throughout the region.

Councillors supported the motion, raised by Mid Argyll member, Sandy Taylor, at a meeting of Argyll and Bute council on Thursday, June 25, to amend the local authority's policy on flying the Saltire.

As a result of the motion, it can now be flown on council flagpoles on all days other than those already laid down for the flying of the Union and council flags.

Last week, it was reported in this newspaper that the council had rejected Sandy Taylor's motion. This was incorrect and we apologise for any confusion this may have caused.

### TIMELINE

#### Cuts would have a devastating effect

FURTHER cuts to public transport services could decimate Scotland's rural communities.

The warning was issued before yesterday's Budget by rural services network chief executive, Graham Biggs.

He said: Any move to reduce funds would result in dire consequences for rural services.

'Abolishing the funds would be devastating for the wider rural economy. Even a reduction, especially following the 20 per cent cut in 2012, would have serious consequences.'

#### Masterclass from Dunbeg teenager

DUNBEG teenager, Murdo Masterson, wowed the crowds after winning four out of five under-19 events at the Forres Highland Games last Saturday.

Murdo, 16, of Lochnell Road, lifted the MacDonald Sinclair trophy as the best junior heavyweight after winning the hammer, shot putt and caber.

#### Bills to be slashed after price review

HIGHLAND energy bills will be slashed by £40 million after regulators agreed on Tuesday to review pricing.

The Competition and Markets Authority acted following criticism that people living in the Highlands and Islands pay 2p more per unit.

#### Tiree festival set to be biggest yet

FANS are gearing up for the sixth annual Tiree Music Festival next weekend. The festival has sold out every year and 2015 is set to be the biggest yet, with Skerryvore and the Fratellis headlining.



**CITY PLUMBING SUPPLIES**  
part of the Travis Perkins Group

**FOR ALL YOUR PLUMBING AND HEATING NEEDS**

Join Mark and the team in their new branch

**City Heating Spares**  
SPECIALISTS FOR THE TRADE

LOOK OUT FOR THE BATHROOM SHOWROOM

7e Glengallan Road, Oban  
Tel: 01631 567640

### Move to protect whisky heritage

IF it's good enough for the wine-growing regions of Champagne and Burgundy, it could soon be good enough for West Highland's whisky industry.

Last weekend, the Champagne and Burgundy regions of France were awarded world heritage status by Unesco after the United Nations' cultural arm decided that the vineyards and cellars where the famous bubbly and wine are produced were culturally significant.

Now Scotch whisky producers could soon follow suit in applying for world

heritage status, which means they would receive special protection and may also bring in extra financial aid and more tourism.

The Scotch Whisky Association (SWA), the industry's representative body, plus Diageo, owners of Oban Distillery, say they will investigate whether world heritage status is a possibility, in the light of the decisions to upgrade Champagne and Burgundy.

Diageo head of corporate relations, Ian Smith, said: 'Anything that promotes the prestige of Scotch whisky globally is worth

considering and we will work closely with the SWA in looking at any other ways which would help to project the industry across the world.'

Similarly, David Frost, SWA chief executive, said: 'It is worth considering the merits of this, and how it could be used to build on the phenomenal success of Scotch.'

Laphroaig distillery manager, John Campbell of Islay, added: 'We would entirely back the SWA if it seeks to secure world heritage status for Scotch whisky in the future.'

### A natural oasis free of people

AN ARGYLL businessman is hoping to establish Scotland's first Human Exclusion Area (HEA) in a group of islands off Mull's west coast.

Mull resident, Calum MacLachlann, wants the Treshnish Isles, along with half a mile of adjacent sea, to be untouched by humans, creating a nature sanctuary.

Calum said: 'Scotland's iconic Hebridean islands are blessed with nature's bounty and we must offer appropriate areas of total sanctuary back to nature.'

The Treshnish Isles would be ideally suited to establishing this sanctuary, an oasis apart from all humanity.'

The Treshnish Isles are made up of three land masses - Fladda, Lunga and Dutchman's Cap.

**B&M CENTRE**  
BMW AND MINI SPECIALISTS

**DEALERSHIP QUALITY AT HALF THE PRICE**

BMW TRAINED, 8 1/2 YEARS EXPERIENCE.  
DIAGNOSTICS, PROGRAMMING,  
SERVICING, RETROFITS,  
FREE VEHICLE HEALTH CHECK ON EVERY VISIT.

TEL - 0141 237 7654 M - 07707331046  
OPEN 8-5 MON-FRI SAT 8-12

Find us on Facebook: B & M centre, Glasgow

UNIT 28, NEW ALBION INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, HALLEY STREET, YOKER, G13 4DJ

### LORI

#### LORN & OBAN REUSE INITIATIVE

### Furniture Auction

Oban Livestock Centre  
Saturday 25 July 2015

Viewing for all furniture will take place from 9am—5pm on Friday 24 July.

Sale will commence at 10.00am on Saturday 25 July.

We offer a collection service for any items which are donated to Lori for this auction or for local people who wish to sell their items.

Please telephone 01631 569819 to arrange collections.

Charity No: SC 029154

## Modern way to learn skills on the job

YOUNG people and businesses in Argyll and Bute are benefiting from Modern Apprenticeships. Figures from Skills Development Scotland (SDS) show that there were 297 Modern Apprenticeships in the region last year.

A total of eight per cent of the 16 to 24-year-olds in employment in the local authority area are Modern Apprentices.

The figures show that there have been 101,000 new Modern Apprenticeship places in Scotland during the past four years, surpassing the Scottish government target of 25,000 each year.

SDS Head of Region for Argyll and Bute, Anthony Standing, said: 'Last year there were almost 300 new apprenticeship places in Argyll and Bute and more than 25,000 across the country.'

'It's a great testament to employers that they have continued to invest in Modern Apprenticeship opportunities right through the economic downturn.'

'It's also a great credit to the Modern Apprentices that so many have successfully completed or are on their way to completing their apprenticeship.'

The enduring appeal of Modern Apprenticeships is that they are driven by employer demand and for the individual they allow the apprentices to get a job and learn while they earn.

'Modern Apprenticeships provide young people with opportunities and support the local economy by anchoring skills and jobs in Argyll and Bute.'

Businesses can find out more about support for hiring Modern Apprentices at [www.ourskillsforce.co.uk](http://www.ourskillsforce.co.uk).

## Super chopper tour cut short

A BRAND new air ambulance helicopter broke down during a tour of the Highlands and islands aimed at showing off its technical capabilities.

Billed as the most advanced publicly-funded air ambulance helicopter, the state-of-the-art Airbus H145 was grounded because of 'technical difficulties' on Mull last Friday.

A tour to give islanders the chance to see how their feedback was incorporated into the aircraft design was subsequently cancelled.

The chopper, operated by Bond on behalf of the Scottish Air Ambulance service, is one of two due to replace the EC135 helicopters which have been in service since 2006.

Bond flew engineers to Glenforsa airfield on Mull to repair the problem, before the helicopter was flown back to Glasgow for Bond to undertake further repairs.

A spokesman for the Scottish Ambulance Service said: 'The helicopter suffered technical difficulties. The visits will be rescheduled.'



DOUBLE JOY: David Jackson



ARTISTIC FLAIR: Caz Neilson

## David's success set in stone

AN apprentice from Appin has carved his name with pride after winning a prestigious award for the second time, writes **Ann Henderson**.

Young stonemason, David Jackson, who will be fully qualified next year, is delighted by his double success at the City of Glasgow College awards.

David, who lives in the village, said: 'I won this award in my first year as an apprentice and then again in my third year.'

The twenty-one year old apprentice, who attended Strath of Appin primary school and Oban High, joined Rowan Stoneworks, also based in Appin, more than three years ago.

And, as part of his apprenticeship, he attended the City of Glasgow College on block release.

David received his latest award at a recent ceremony in Glasgow's Trades House. He was presented with a certificate and a set of tools.

'I received some chisels when I won the award in my first year, so I have quite a few tools now.'

He continued: 'I've always been interested in working out-

doors with natural materials so being a stonemason is the ideal job for me. It is also one of the oldest trades, if not the oldest.'

'We still use some of the traditional methods in our work. A mallet is what we use to hit the chisel with when we are cutting stone.'

'They all used to be made out of wood, but although most of the larger ones are nylon now, we still use smaller wooden ones.'

'We also use lime for the pointing between stones as this is what was originally used. Lime is more breathable. Cement is too hard and can crack. It can trap water, marking the stone and it causes dampness too,' he added.

David explained that some types of stone are easier to work with than others.

'Sandstone is easier to carve but it is a lot more difficult with hard stones such as slate and granite,' he said.

'You can also get clay pockets in stones and often find a surprise, like bits of trees, which have been there for ages.'

Caz joined the local firm from Historic Scotland where

she had been involved in Rowan Stoneworks' major restoration project on Lismore.

'We have been restoring and repairing ancient gravestones at Lismore church.'

'It is really interesting as some of the stones have wolves and stags carved on them, others have dragons and griffins.'

'Every job we do is different. That's why I enjoy it so much,' he explained.

And Colin Rowan, who started the firm, is delighted with his apprentice's success.

He said: 'The awards are decided by the stonemasonry department at the City of Glasgow College, so David has stood out with his skills.'

'His stonework is really good and he is very conscientious. I'm absolutely delighted that he has won this award for the second time.'

And Colin has great hopes too for the latest addition to his small but skilled and dedicated workforce - Caz Neilson - who is proof that stonemasonry is women's work too.

The talented young mason has

also been involved in Rowan Stoneworks' major restoration project on Lismore.

'We have been restoring and repairing ancient gravestones at Lismore church.'

'When I started my apprenticeship, there were only a couple of female stonemasons, and there are about five now which is great.'

But when the 33-year-old from Fort William left school, working with stone wasn't on her career agenda at all.

'I went to the Glasgow School of Art and studied painting and print-making,' explained Caz.

'When I left, I did a variety of different jobs in different places, then I started doing voluntary work with the National Trust for Scotland.'

And it was while she was working at Culzean Castle in Ayrshire, that a chance meeting completely changed her career trajectory.

Said Caz: 'A stonemason was working at the castle and we got chatting.'

'He explained what he was doing and about stonemasonry in general.'

'It sounded really interesting so I decided to find out more

about it. I applied to Historic Scotland for an apprenticeship and am now a fully qualified stonemason. I love the challenge of the job, the variety of the work and the fact that every day is different.'

Caz, who now lives in Taynuilt with her husband, Douglas, a custody officer based at Oban Police station, and their rescue Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Dex, said there is a huge variety of stone from different quarries.

'Most of the stone is from this country although some is brought in from abroad,' she explained.

'Architects always specify what type of stone they want to use in their buildings.'

'But older masons can tell just by the colour of the stone which quarries they came from.'

Caz said: 'You never stop learning in this job.'

Colin added: 'Female stonemasons are few and far between at the moment, and I'm delighted that Caz has joined us.'

'As she has an art degree, she is very hands-on especially when it comes to carving, which she particularly enjoys doing.'

## TIMELINE

### Councillors get up close and personal

COUNCILLORS in Oban, Lorn and the Isles are once again to hold an open forum with the public, without the support of council officers or solicitors.

Trialled in February, and heralded a success by the elected members, the eight councillors will be at the Corran Halls again on August 5, between 6.30 and 8.30pm, with no appointment necessary.

Senior Oban councillor Roddy McCuish said he hoped the public would take the opportunity to raise any issues they have with their elected members.

### Near perfection at Oban hospital

MORE than 99 per cent of attendances at the accident and emergency department of Lorn and Islands hospital in Oban were seen within the four-hour target during the last week of June.

Figures published on Tuesday show that in the week ending June 28, 99.2 percent of people at the Oban hospital were seen within four hours, compared with 98 per cent in the NHS Highland region, and 94.7 per cent overall in Scotland.

### Cafe society back on track in Oban

THE pedestrian area of Stafford Street was due to be handed over to Argyll and Bute council yesterday (Wednesday) by the contractor as the finishing touches were made to the development.

The local authority is hoping to bring a 'cafe culture' to the centre of the town, with seating and free WiFi to be provided for townsfolk and visitors.

However, it has been a moot point for some of the traders on the street, with the work due to be finished by the end of May, but running over by almost six extra weeks into the middle of the summer season.

### Islay distillery to double output

BRUICLADDICH distillery has revealed it is on track to more than double its output after being given the go-ahead to build six maturation warehouses on Islay.

The island's biggest private employer said the future of 70 jobs had been secured after Argyll and Bute council granted planning permission on July 2 for the project.

A distillery spokesman described the planning consent as 'brilliant', and said the company remained committed to maturing completely the whisky on Islay.

## Eye to eye with John Wallace

### Vision and Brain Injury

A few days ago I had the pleasure of attending a course on visual processing and visual memory. The course was led by one of the top North American experts in the field. His practice in San Diego specialises in treating patients with reading disorders and also patients with traumatic brain injuries (TBI). San Diego is a major US naval base so he treats many US service men and women who have suffered head trauma ranging from apparently minor innocuous knocks to the head to severe trauma from gunfire and explosions. What struck me was how a seemingly minor blow can have a profound effect on the ability to read and also on spatial awareness (how we make sense of our visual world and our position in space relative to surrounding objects).

The similarity in visual symptoms suffered by patients with TBI and those of patients with reading disorders is incredible. Problems



SALE OF THE CENTURIES: Kilchurn castle on the banks of Loch Awe

## For sale: four hotels, 16 tourist coaches and one grand piece of Scottish history

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

ONE of the most iconic castles in the West Highlands is up for sale, following a businessman's decision to sell.

Kilchurn castle, which sits on the banks of Loch Awe, is up for sale along with four hotels, following a decision by Highland Heritage owner Ian Cleaver to retire from the multimillion-pound tourism venture he has built up over 40 years.

However, with four hotels, a castle and a 16-vehicle coach operation valued at around £8million, this is not a purchase most first-time buyers will be able to consider.

Former merchant seaman Ian Cleaver started Highland Heritage in the mid-1970s when he bought the Royal hotel in

Tyndrum, and developed it into an enterprise with an estimated £8 million annual turnover. His fleet of liveried coaches carrying tourists into the West Highlands from across Scotland and the north of England were a common sight.

As the business grew, he also acquired Kilchurn castle, the 15th century seat of power of the Campbells of Glenorchy, which was abandoned during the 1700s.

The castle attracted the eye of the famous artist William Turner at the turn of the 19th century, with Turner depicting the castle in his 1802 watercolour, 'Mid-day'. The castle is the icing on the cake!

Kilchurn was built in the mid-1400s by Sir Colin Campbell, 1st Lord of Glenorchy. His descendants, the Campbells of Glenorchy, were the most powerful of the numerous branches of Clan Campbell, with Kilchurn remaining their seat of power for 500 years.

## MULL lines

### HEEPS of help with energy bills

#### NIALL HICKMAN

editor@obantimes.co.uk

A GROUP of engineers from power giants SSE have installed energy efficiency measures to a small group of homes situated in Ulva.

As part of a wider programme to install energy efficiency measures, such as new heating systems and wall insulation, the team of engineers had to think outside the box when figuring out how to actually get its equipment onto the remote island.

Alex Cranston, project manager from SSE, said: 'At SSE we're used to working in remote areas, its part of our heritage, so we see jobs like this as our bread and butter – even if they're far from simple.'

The island does not have a standard ferry so we had to charter a special boat to deliver the equipment.

'And we had to use local resources to transport it from the harbour to the homes.'

'It took a lot of planning, and thankfully it all went according to plan.'

'But we couldn't have managed it without the help of the local community so we would really like to thank the

homeowners and the local community for all their help with the installation,' Mr Cranston added.

Moray Finch from Mull and Iona Community Trust was full of praise for the work of the SSE team: 'We would like to thank the team from SSE for installing the equipment because it certainly wasn't a straight forward job.'

He continued: 'With the new energy efficiency measures in place, the homeowners on this island will see their bills drop and have more comfortable homes.'

The installations were part of a wider £60 million programme to help tackle fuel poverty in Scotland.

The scheme is designed to help improve energy efficiency and make homes warmer, more environmentally friendly and cheaper to heat.

SSE is working with 11 local authorities across Scotland to help roll out the programme.

The funding for the scheme comes from the Scottish government's Home Energy Efficiency Programme for Scotland (HEEPS) and SSE (also known as Scottish Hydro) under its Energy Company Obligations (ECO).

## TIMESLINE

## Police tackle store crime and drugs

AT NOON on Monday, a 36-year-old woman was arrested on suspicion of shoplifting at the Oban branch of the Tesco supermarket.

She has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

At 12.05am on Tuesday on the A85 near Achناclach, a 28-year-old man was stopped and the driver was found to be in possession of a Class B drug, namely cannabis.

On Sunday, at 9pm, a 35-year-old man was arrested at the Western Isles hotel, Tobermory, Mull, for refusing to leave a licensed premises while intoxicated.

At 11pm, on Saturday, at the MacDonald Arms, Main Street, Tobermory, Mull, a 72-year-old man was assaulted by a 46-year-old male but suffered no significant injuries.

A report of the incident has been sent to the procurator fiscal.

## Cliff fall man in a 'stable' condition

A 27-YEAR-OLD man is in a 'serious, but stable' condition in hospital after falling 150ft from cliffs near the Hydro in Oban on Friday night at 10.12pm.

The man was found at the foot of the cliffs in Combie Street in the town where paramedics treated him for substantial head and internal injuries.

An eye witness said: 'There was a huge police and ambulance presence and it was clear someone had fallen from the cliffs.'

The man was taken by ambulance to Lorn and Islands District General Hospital in the town.

He was later that evening transferred by air ambulance to Glasgow's Southern General hospital.

Police say there are no suspicious circumstances regarding the incident.

## Thefts could have left bridge unsafe

OBAN police are appealing for information regarding the theft of five yellow fibre boards covering a roadworks hole on the busy Connel bridge.

The bridge is the major link carrying traffic from the A85 over Loch Etive to the main A828 Fort William route.

The theft occurred between 7pm on Thursday and 9am on Friday and could have caused serious injury to pedestrians.

The boards have now been replaced and anyone with any information on the theft should contact Sergeant Gerry Welsh at Oban police station.

## Seventy years of wedded bliss and still going strong

STEVEN RAE  
srae@obantimes.co.uk

WHEN Mary from Glasgow met Jim from Oban during the Second World War, she was soon to become Mrs Mary Hill from Maryhill.

That was 70 years ago in 1945, and the happy couple who have spent their married life in Oban, will celebrate their incredible milestone platinum wedding anniversary on Sunday.

Jim first met Mary when she was in Oban for a day trip while Jim was home on leave from the navy. The couple soon fell in love after Jim travelled to Mary's native Maryhill to visit her, where she was working in a munitions factory at the time.

Jim, who was 92 last month, and an old boy of Oban high school, said: 'It was a rushed wedding because I was supposed to get a month's leave from the navy but only got 10 days.'

'So we managed to get married

in that time, then I was sent off to the Far East.'

After Jim returned home from the war, they set up home in Cruden Crescent in Dunollie, where Jim became a slater and plasterer, and Mary a homemaker.

Mary, who will be 93 in August, joked: 'Jim is my toy boy. We've agreed about most things and it's been a happy 70 years together.'

'We wouldn't be here otherwise. Oban has been a great place to raise our family too.'

With three children - Jim, Ruth and Moira, four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren - the couple are hoping to make this Sunday a real celebration for all the family.

**DEVOTED:**  
Jim and Mary Hill,  
who celebrate their  
70th wedding anniver-  
sary on Sunday.  
16.t28platinum01



## Police raise alarm over bogus callers and con men after OAP is targeted

NIALL HICKMAN  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

OBAN police have issued an urgent warning to residents after a pensioner was conned out of a substantial sum of money.

The cruel con on a vulnerable individual followed reports of a number of telephone scams and bogus callers operating in the area in recent weeks.

Sergeant Alan Moore of Oban has appealed for people to be extra vigilant as the police are about to launch a poster campaign. 'It has come to our attention that there has been a number of bogus callers operating in the area and there have also been reports of telephone scams,' said Sergeant Moore.

He went on: 'The advice is that no bank or passport details should be given over the phone. And you should not give any details about personal finances unless you are absolutely certain of who the caller is.'

'Reputable companies do not ask for bank details over the phone and neither do banks.'

'We are launching a poster campaign around the region raising awareness about the issues of phone scams and bogus callers. If people are in any doubts at all they should not give out any information, either on the phone or in person.'

## Baptists have faith in church move

STEVEN RAE  
srae@obantimes.co.uk

AN OBAN minister has said he believes that his parish can bring an old church building back into use.

Ian McFarlane came out of retirement 18 months ago to take on the role as minister of Oban Baptist Church, but revealed this week he is considering using the Argyll Square building to house his large congregation.

As reported last week in the *Oban Times*, the Argyll Square church, which has been closed for four years due to safety concerns, has garnered interest from different groups, including the Oban Baptist Church, which is on Albany Street.

At the moment, the Argyll

Square church's current owner, Visit Scotland, has said it is still waiting on the results of structural report on the building before it is possible to be leased.

Ian McFarlane said: 'At the moment, people are worried they might not get a seat at our church on Albany Street. We don't want that to put people off coming into church.'

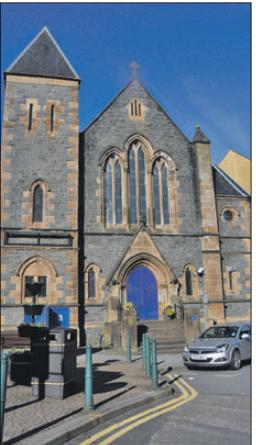
'We've been looking at the building for almost two years. Whether it's something we bring back to life isn't certain at the moment.'

The larger part of the church would suit our needs, but it needs a lot of work - it's a hard hat area at the moment, but we live in hope. At the moment it's not viable for us to start repairs.'

'If there was some way of

working in co-operation with Visit Scotland it might suit our purposes in the short term.'

'We're excited about the future, and, in a way, having too many people is a good problem to have, but going from something



POSSIBLE MOVE: (Above) Ian McFarlane and (left) the Argyll Square church

like a cottage to a castle is the challenge.'

'But I'm a man of faith and I remain optimistic that this will happen. Benefactors are obviously welcome.'

A Visit Scotland spokesman said: 'As we've previously advised the *Oban Times*, no decisions have as yet been taken on a future use for the church building, which formerly housed our visitor information centre.'

'We have, however, had formal discussions with another local church about using the space at some stage in the future.'

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

## Botched reconciliation ends in court

NIALL HICKMAN  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

A MULL tourist firm driver admitted assaulting his 80-year-old father and leaving him bruised and distressed following a family dispute stretching back over 20 years.

Alun Simpson, who is now of no fixed address, also pleaded guilty to using threatening and abusive language towards his father, James Simpson, at Struan Crescent, Tobermory, on June 15.

Oban sheriff court heard on Monday that Simpson, 51, returned to Scotland last year after two decades living in South

Africa, but his relationship with his aged father deteriorated and he was arrested in June after an incident at their shared accommodation.

Prosecutor fiscal Claire Martin

said: 'The accused was working as a driver for a tourist firm providing trips to the outlying islands of Mull when the incident happened on June 15 at 3.40pm.'

'The accused came to the back window of the property to gain his father's attention and asked to come in. Mr Simpson said he did not want him in. He said he was cold and hungry and asked for a cup of tea.'

A neighbour called police and the elderly father suffered bruising during the incident, with

I went to bed and I remember William being in the room and there was sick on the bed. I had been sick in my sleep. I started arguing saying it had been him who had made the mess. I was so drunk I didn't think I had done it.'

'I remember William going away and me ending up in the kitchen. I was shouting and bawling at William and blaming him. I was being aggressive and argumentative. He left.'

'I was hysterical. William had walked out and I said to a member of my family that we had been fighting. The police arrived. I'm not aware of what I

said to the police. The fact I said William had hit me is because I have a nasty streak in me when I'm drunk. I was drunk and an embarrassment. I'm totally evil with too much drink inside me.'

'William did not touch me at all and did not hit me. If anything, he tried to help me. I have not had a drink since and I don't intend to.'

Prosecutor fiscal Claire Martin

said to Lockhart: 'You are aware that lying to the police is a very serious matter?'

Lockhart replied: 'Yes, I know.'

Sheriff Colin McKay told Mr

Martin that he was found not guilty and 'free to leave the dock'.

Simpson arrested and taken to Tobermory police station.

Defence lawyer Laura McManus said: 'There were some family disagreements stretching back over 20 years ago.'

He (Alun Simpson) took the decision to return to Scotland as his parents were getting older and he wanted to see his father so he could re-build some bridges which had been broken.'

'There were some difficulties with his relationship with his father to do with the distant past.'

'On June 14, an incident

occurred in which Simpson was detained by the police and taken to Oban. He spent the night in the public area of the

police station, not the cells, due to inclement weather, which was rather unusual.'

'He was exhausted, cold, tired and hungry and wanted to persuade his father to let him in.'

'His belongings were there and he wanted to talk to his father. He was of no fixed address and his father did not want him back. He was at a loss to decide what to do next.'

'He hoped to stay at his father's and return to employment. As he was of no fixed address he was remanded in custody.'

Sheriff Colin McKay deferred sentence and released Simpson on bail on condition that he has no contact with his father.

## Drink-fuelled accusation about partner is a lie, woman tells trial

AN OBAN carer admitted she was 'disgustingly drunk' before falsely telling the police she had been assaulted by her partner, writes Niall Hickman.

William Martin, 46, of Hynish Crescent, Oban, was found not guilty of assaulting his partner, Gail Lockhart, on April 18 this year.

Lockhart, 43, a full-time carer, admitted she was 'totally evil' as a result of drinking too much wine following an all-day session in the town.

She told Oban sheriff court on Monday that, after being sick in her upstairs bedroom, she lied to police about the

alleged assault. The court heard mother-of-four Lockhart admit she could not recall telling the officers she had been assaulted as she was too drunk to remember events that evening.

Lockhart said: 'We had gone for lunch then went for a few drinks in pubs. I kept drinking wine after wine and I was drunk. I was totally incapable. I got home about 6.30pm and carried on drinking glasses of wine in the garden. William was fine as he can handle his drink. I can't. I was that drunk.'

'I went into the house and fell over. I was disgustingly drunk.'

I went to bed and I remember William being in the room and there was sick on the bed. I had been sick in my sleep. I started arguing saying it had been him who had made the mess. I was so drunk I didn't think I had done it.'

'I remember William going away and me ending up in the kitchen. I was shouting and bawling at William and blaming him. I was being aggressive and argumentative. He left.'

'I was hysterical. William had walked out and I said to a member of my family that we had been fighting. The police arrived. I'm not aware of what I

said to the police. The fact I said William had hit me is because I have a nasty streak in me when I'm drunk. I was drunk and an embarrassment. I'm totally evil with too much drink inside me.'

'William did not touch me at all and did not hit me. If anything, he tried to help me. I have not had a drink since and I don't intend to.'

Prosecutor fiscal Claire Martin

said to Lockhart: 'You are aware that lying to the police is a very serious matter?'

Lockhart replied: 'Yes, I know.'

Sheriff Colin McKay told Mr

Martin that he was found not guilty and 'free to leave the dock'.

with a date to be decided soon.

'We are also in discussions with a touring company to do a temporary production in the main building in November. This will be confined to a few rooms which will be ready by this stage.'

'However, we would like to hear how the community would like to use the space for events. It's their community space - what events would they like to see happening?'

Gordon McNab, chairman of OCT, added: 'We only have limited access to the main building until the dry rot areas are stabilised, but we are keen to get as much space up and running as possible.'

Eleanor MacKinnon, project facilitator for the trust, said: 'We will have a community room up and running when the huts are re-furbished. We have been asked to do some "messy space" sessions for children

'The community room in the huts is available now so people can come forward with any ideas for events they would like to see happening at the Rockfield Centre.'

## Tell us what you would like to see at Rockfield, urges trust

WORK on the grounds surrounding the Rockfield Centre in Oban starts in earnest this week.

Volunteers have been hard at work clearing scrub and weeds surrounding the building.

With work to treat dry rot in the former primary school making steady progress, interest in the use of the building is growing.

And while 'anchor' tenants across various areas of the arts have been found, owner of The Rockfield Centre, Oban Communities Trust (OCT), is keen to hear from the community what events they would like to see.

Eleanor MacKinnon, project facilitator for the trust, said: 'We will have a community room up and running when the huts are re-furbished. We have been asked to do some "messy space" sessions for children



**Travel to Glasgow from Oban by express coach!**

**£23 APEX RETURN**

Must be booked at least two days in advance of travel.



## Almost £20k for one week

AN AGENCY doctor was paid £19,000 for just one week's work with NHS Western Isles, in what a Highland politician called 'a horrendous waste of money'.

The consultant psychiatrist only spent 40 hours working and the rest of the time on call, but this cost the health board £19,305.22, the equivalent of almost £500 per hour.

The agency doctor was required to cover staff sickness in the Hebrides in 2013 and the sky-high wage was discovered through the Freedom of Information Act.

NHS Western Isles also admitted spending on temporary agency consultants rose from £452,000 in 2012 to £1.2 million in 2014, but said the duration of locum placements 'varies considerably'.

Rhoda Grant, MSP for the Highlands and Islands, said: 'This is a horrendous waste of money, albeit the health board needs to provide cover. The Scottish government needs to ensure that such cover is available to small health boards at a reasonable cost.'

A spokeswoman from NHS Western Isles said: 'NHS Western Isles is committed to providing the best service possible for patients and although we cannot comment on specific cases, policy is that agency staff are only used when we have exhausted all other means of obtaining staff to maintain a safe service.'

## Services hit the buffers

TRAIN enthusiasts hoping to take a Sunday ride along the famous West Highland line will be disappointed as buses are operating due to a train driver shortage.

Trains to and from Glasgow and Mallaig have all been replaced by buses for the next few weeks because of the shortage, with no stops at Corrour or Rannoch.

Abellio bosses are reducing the number of trains that will run on Sundays across Scotland, because of a shortage of available drivers, with reduced timetables also coming into effect last weekend.

While services on Sunday are partly dependent on drivers volunteering to work, the number who are prepared to do so is said to have declined steeply in recent days as a result of ongoing pay negotiations.

The rail operator also plans to recruit up to 100 new train drivers in a bid to ensure that Sunday services in the future are not dependent on staff volunteering to work.

## Industry body to visit area

SEAFISH, the industry authority on seafood, will be visiting ports between Oban and Mallaig next week, at it launches its 11th economic survey.

Researchers will be speaking to vessel owners and skippers from all sectors of the industry to collect data on fishing and vessel costs.

By gathering this information, Seafish economists plan to build a current picture of the UK fleet's economic performance.

The results, to be published in 2016, are intended to guide industry and policy makers of the consequences of ongoing changes to fisheries management measures and the wider financial climate.

# Chairman pledges to heed public opinion before taking decision on parking charges

COUNCIL officials held face-to-face talks with the public last week over controversial proposals to introduce new parking charges in Oban and Mull, writes Steven Rae.

The meeting, which was held in Oban's Corran halls last week, was the start of a consultation exercise which will run until July 13, allowing the public to have their say on the proposed amendments.

The main changes planned by Argyll and Bute council include charging for Sunday parking in Oban after 12 midday, which is currently free all day; charging for the Lochavullin car park in

Oban which currently allows free, 24-hours parking, to a four-hour, no return policy; and introducing limited time slots at the Atlantis Centre car park.

There are also proposals to allow drivers to pay for parking in 15 minute increments, rather than paying for a minimum of one hour.

On Mull, suggestions include charging in the off-street car parks in Tobermory and Fionnphort and to extend the Fionnphort car park.

Across the region, there are proposals to issue parking permits for district nurses and carers.

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

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

'This is just a starting point. We are eager to get constructive feedback which is why we will be holding public drop-in events, requesting comments from community councils and hosting an online consultation on the council website.'

'The suggested change to 15 minute increments is self-explanatory – people should not have to pay for two hours if they will only be an hour and a half going about their business.'

'The new Sunday arrangements would let people go into Oban on a Saturday night and go for dinner or to the cinema then pick up the car mid-morning on the Sunday, not incurring parking costs.'

'We want to time limit the Atlantis Leisure and Lochavullin car parks to restrict medium to long term parking, creating a good turnover of spaces, rather than people leaving their cars

there all day while they are at work.'

'We will also consider charging at Lochavullin.'

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

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

'I can't emphasise enough that this is the beginning of the consultation. I fully understand

that not everyone can get along to the Corran halls for the drop-in meetings, but feedback forms are available from the council municipal buildings, as well as online.'

Aileen Simpson, traffic and development manager for the council said: 'The consultation needs local feedback. We will take everything on board. It will be calculated and formulated and then we can go back to the area committee with a report.'

For more information, and to give feedback, go to: [www.argoyle-bute.gov.uk/forms/oban-and-mull-parking-consultation](http://www.argoyle-bute.gov.uk/forms/oban-and-mull-parking-consultation)

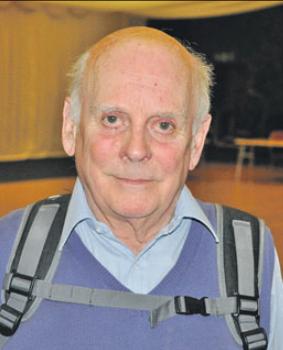
## LOCAL PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SAY ON THE ISSUE THAT'S DRIVING MANY OF THEM TO THE POINT OF DISTRACTION



CHURCH FEARS: Jenny McEvoy  
16\_t28parking02



GANAVAN CALL: Tommy and Muriel Barr  
16\_t28parking01



ANOTHER TAX: Steve Thomas  
16\_t28parking03



DRACONIAN: Ian McFarlane  
16\_t28parking04

## Fears that new costs will damage town's Sunday church attendances

with having to pay at Ganavan either, you should be allowed to go out there and sit.

'Tourists coming to the town must think it's terrible to have to park at a beach. You don't have to park at other beaches in the area, like Tralee, so it's making Ganavan and Oban's other public amenities less competitive. People want to take their kids there, and there's the shiny pitch as well. It should be more welcoming for its users.'

Jenny McEvoy is a retired nurse from Oban and thinks street charging on a Sunday will have a negative effect on people coming into the town for the day.

'We usually take the bus into town as finding a space can be a nightmare. Eventually no-one will be able to drive in the town.'

Tommy added: 'I don't agree

difficult for people coming in to church, with a lot of people coming from outwith Oban on a Sunday. They would be forced to spend money. Why should church-goers be penalised for being in the town every Sunday? Churches are losing members all the time, and this will have a very negative impact on congregations sizes.'

'It also seems Oban doesn't want visitors as people are not going to be able to do what they want. If you charge at the car parks that are currently free, it would mean visitors couldn't leave their cars and go to Mull for the day, for example.'

'Where is the ordinary visitor going to park if the free car parks are charged? I already know of quite a few people who use the hospital car park and

then take the bus into town, a 'park and ride' idea, but that affects hospital staff who can't park.'

Retired Connel man, Steve Thomas, having previously run Hebridean Pursuits, said: 'This will have a knock-on effect at the hospital car park as it is already hugely overstretched for people parking there and walking into the town to avoid paying.'

'I resent the level of parking charges. Part of it goes towards running the car parks, but the surplus is used for other purposes, so it's yet another tax.'

'The council needs to provide the same disabled provision at other parts of the town to allow drop-off for the elderly and infirm. It could apply to other areas, but in particular it is

needed at St John's Cathedral.'

'The changes are proposed to include the long stay parking. If you are working in the town or visiting the islands, where are you supposed to park? There needs to be more provision for these people who simply have to park all day.'

'At the moment the free parking on a Sunday is good for the pubs, hotels and B&Bs, but there could be an impact which is worth considering.'

Ian McFarlane is the minister at the Baptist church on Oban's Albany Street. He said: 'My concern is that by putting Sunday charges on, it will have an affect on all the churches as people may decide not to come into town. The cathedral I know does struggle as it has a very elderly congregation, and we

have quite a lot of older people ourselves, who find it harder to walk distances to the church. The Congregational Church is close to the doctors' surgery car park and the Co-op, but that is in the process of being closed.'

'I'm also concerned that the long-term parking looks to be limited, which will have an impact on people's decision to come here or not.'

'Part of the problem is that if Oban gets regarded as draconian then that will affect visitors coming here. It begs the question why no multi-storey car park has been built here, in some kind of joint development between the council and a private firm.'

'If you are here on holiday and get a £60 fine for being five minutes over the allotted time, it leaves a bad taste. Also, the revenue goes into a central pot so it's not like Oban gains financially.'

'If we knew there was a plan in place to get better parking, then we could live with the temporary inconvenience.'

## Residents set to benefit from a new online service

**NIALL HICKMAN**  
[nhickman@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:nhickman@obantimes.co.uk)

PEOPLE who receive housing benefit or a council tax reduction can now go online to tell Argyll and Bute council about changes in their circumstances.

The council has created a new online form designed to be easy to fill in and submitted with one click.

Councillor Gary Mulvaney, said: 'The council wishes to make it as easy as possible for our customers to tell us about changes which helps us make sure you get the right amount of benefit.'

'We understand fully that people on low incomes can ill-afford to repay overpayments so we want to help our customers lessen the chances of being in

this position. More and more of us are routinely using computers and have access to the internet both in our homes and on the move via mobile devices, so we are confident that these new ways of telling us about changes will be welcomed.'

The council will monitor how the new online form is working, both for customers and staff.

On contacting the council,

customers should expect to be reminded about their duty to give details of changes in circumstances, which is set out in the declaration signed by them when they fill in their claim form for housing benefit and council tax reduction.

To notify the council, use the new online form which can be found at [www.argoyle-bute.gov.uk/changes](http://www.argoyle-bute.gov.uk/changes).



University of the Highlands and Islands  
Argyll College

your local college

**Health, Child and Social Care**

From entry to advanced levels  
Courses starting September 2015

**Apply Now**

**01631 559 500** [www.argoyle-bute.gov.uk/tellmemore](http://www.argoyle-bute.gov.uk/tellmemore)

## Hugh Smith's letter from ISLAY

### An island which offered succour to early settlers also proved perilous to seafarers

#### Nave Island

**N**orth of Ardnave Point and close to the entrance to Loch Gruinart lies the now uninhabited Nave Island or holy isle.

It covers a land area of 99 acres and is bisected by a narrow chasm which runs northwest to southeast across the northern part of the island.

To the southwest lies a number of skerries and islets which include the Sgeirinn Leathann, Na Badagan Rocks and Eilean Beag. It was on the latter that the cargo ship 'Rothesay Castle', built by Harland and Wolff and owned by the Union Castle Line, founded on a reef on January 5, 1940.

She was on her way from New York to the Clyde and was carrying a cargo of foodstuffs, including a large selection of hams.

The ship's captain had managed to dodge the threat of the German submarines operating in the North Channel but a navigational miscalculation saw the vessel being grounded on the rocks.

The ship's crew were rescued by the Islay lifeboat shortly before the massive swell shattered the stricken vessel to pieces and she disappeared beneath the surface.

On Nave Island itself, the discovery of a fragment of a Celtic cross would suggest the presence in the area of organised Christianity at an early date.

The remains of a ruined chapel would confirm this claim and the earthen rampart which surrounds the chapel site would point to a monastic settlement.

During his 18th century, travelling throughout the Western Isles, Martin Martin listed Islay as having seven churches, including a chapel on Nave Island.

The island also played its part in the kelp industry and the ruined chapel contains a brick-built chimney along with traces of a furnace and kilns.

The removal of the tariffs on imported alkali in the 1830s saw the collapse of the kelp industry and those involved departing for other pastures. Conditions on Nave

Island today are a far cry from the description given by Dean Monroe in 1549 who wrote that 'it is fair land, inhabited and manured, good for fishing'.

#### Bowmore village hall

**T**he council is no longer operating the booking system for the use of the community-owned village hall. Potential users should contact [bowmore-hall@gmail.com](mailto:bowmore-hall@gmail.com) for information and availability.

The hall committee is now chaired by Tracey Hunter and among the improvements being carried out are the cleaning and sealing of all floors.

An open day will be held next month where people will have the opportunity to express their views on the use, administration and future plans for the venue.

The former council-owned building was handed over to the local community almost eight years ago.

It continues to be used regularly by local organisations and is also utilised by visiting theatre and musical

groups. But the bottom line is that the heyday of village halls is long gone.

#### Golden wedding

**H**earty congratulations to Bowmore residents, Judith and Alastair Ross, who are celebrating 50 years of happy marriage today.

Judy, nee Macarthur, and Alastair, a former Bowmore distillery manager and current chairman of Western Ferries, were married in the Thomas Coats Memorial Baptist Church in Paisley on July 9, 1965.

The couple's golden anniversary will not go unsung as family and friends, some from as far afield as New Zealand, are mounting a celebratory bash at Ardbeg distillery on Saturday night.

All wish Judy and Alastair many further happy years together. Sláinte!!

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

# Homeowner bristles over brush with graffiti vandal

NIALL HICKMAN  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

THE sparks certainly flew when retired electrician, William Madej, woke up one morning to find the side of his house covered in seven foot high graffiti.

William, 67, of Glencruitten Road, Oban, wasn't entirely enthused with the festival spirit when he awoke after thousands of music fans descended on the town for the sell-out Skerryvore tenth anniversary concert at Mossfield stadium in May.

William was all in favour of the event, but he was less than pleased when he discovered graffiti had been spray-painted on one of the walls of his house, on the corner of Quarry Road and Glencruitten Road.

He said: 'I thought the concert was great for the town, but it's fair to say when I woke up in the morning I was furious about



William Madej outside his graffiti-strewn home in Oban 15\_t28wall01

**Band heads up the charts as they take a 'header' off pier**

WEST coast band, Skipinnish, are celebrating chart success following the release of their latest single this week.

'The Island' made it to number 54 in the official UK download charts and number one in the world music downloads charts on Tuesday, sailing ahead of Taylor Swift, Kanye West and Ed Sheeran.

The band members found an unusual way to celebrate the achievement, when founding member Angus MacPhail jumped off a pier on his home island of Tiree, wearing only underwear, a sporran and wellies.

Mr MacPhail said: 'I'm a man of my word and it was worth it to mark this momentous moment in Skipinnish's history.'

'Tiree might be famous for windsurfing but I think I'll stick to the accordion if the temperature of the water today is anything to go by. We're delighted to see 'The Island' riding so high in the charts.'

# Argyll MSPs on opposing sides as the battle for land reform hots up

NIALL HICKMAN  
editor@obantimes.co.uk



Michael Russell

would suggest. The rural affairs committee will travel to Islay and Jura to see for themselves and they will report back to the rest of the Scottish parliament.

'There is no such thing as absolute land rights in this country and Scotland's land must be for the benefit of the many. I would like to see a democratically accountable and transparent system which will be fair to all.'

While Mr Russell is very much in favour of land reform, Highlands and Islands Conservative MSP Jamie McGrigor says the status quo should be maintained and has accused the Scottish government of 'playing to the gallery.'

Mr McGrigor said: 'The Scottish Conservatives believe that most of the Scottish government's land reform proposals are damaging, divisive, out of touch with the priorities of rural communities and ideologically-driven rather than evidence-based.

land reform is long overdue in Scotland.'

He said: 'This is a basic question regarding democracy and the narrow ownership of land is a problem in Scotland.'

'What concerns me and many other politicians is how little community input there is on the way land is used and occupied.'

'This is all about delivering much greater involvement with the community and will not be the "free for all" some detractors

contribution to rural tourism, local business and employment and the environment.'

Mr Russell said plans to develop a golf course on Jura puts the issue of land reform under sharp focus. Argyll and Bute council has approved plans for an 18-hole golf course on the Ardfin estate, owned by multi-millionaire Australian financier, Greg Coffey.

Mr Russell added: 'You have to ask yourself whether a golf course for the private use of visitors to Mr Coffey's estate is what the people of Jura want. The land where the golf course will be situated used to be a working farm. I would love to have a debate about the matter but Mr Coffey has, so far, shown no inclination to do so. Is that an environmentally sustained use of the land on Jura?'

A vote on the Land Reform Bill will take place in March and, if approved, will become law the following month.

## Teatime treat as lunch club celebrates a birthday



MEMBERS and helpers at the Lunch Club in Port Appin enjoyed a special treat last Thursday - afternoon tea at the Creagan Inn.

Everyone tucked in to sand-

wiches, scones with jam and cream, cakes and strawberry tarts, then sang happy birthday to member, Robbie Dunlop, (pictured standing far left) who was presented with a card and

a cup cake with a candle in it. Afterwards, they sat outside to enjoy a blether and the lovely sunshine.

Everybody voted the afternoon a great success and said

they would definitely be back.

The Lunch Club in Port Appin meets in the village hall once a month during the summer and every week starting in the autumn.

## Driver who refused to give sample banned for a year

AN UNEMPLOYED Mull man has been banned from driving for 12 months after failing to provide a breath specimen to police.

Peter Taylor also admitted a charge of failing to appear before Oban sheriff court following his arrest on July 27 last year, after officers spotted his car swerving on the road just before 4am.

Taylor spent two weeks in custody as he refused to co-operate with court officials, but Oban sheriff court heard on Monday that he admitted both charges.

Procurator fiscal Claire Martin told the court that police on Mull had spotted Taylor swerving as he drove his car on a single track road last July in the early hours of the morning. She continued: 'The driver stopped and police could smell a strong odour of alcohol.'

'They noted he was unsteady on his feet, his speech was slurred and his eyes glazed.'

'He was asked if he had been drinking and replied: "Why have you stopped me?"'

Taylor was arrested and taken to Craignure police station, placed in a cell and initially refused to provide his details.

The procurator fiscal continued: 'He was asked for a specimen but refused. He said: "I am not listening to anything until I get a pen and paper".'

Defence lawyer Fiona McManus said in mitigation: 'He denies he would have been over the limit and says he was swerving to avoid potholes in the road.'

'What he should have done is given a breath sample and he would not then have been charged.'

'He experienced a personality clash with the officers and he asked for their names and numbers.'

'The officers did not provide those details. As a result, he felt he was entitled to refuse

to comply with the breath test. He now realises the police were entitled to make that request and accordingly feels he should plead guilty.'

'He realises this is akin to drink driving and he will be banned.'

Taylor, 51, of Tigh An Seallagar, Lochdon, also pleaded guilty to failing to appear in court on June 10.

Fiona McManus said: 'He was taken into custody on June 23 as he would not enter a plea or go into the dock. In the last two weeks he has had time to reflect on that.'

Sheriff Colin McKay said: 'It was most unfortunate you spent two weeks in prison, which I am satisfied you did not enjoy.'

'The period in custody would have been a shock to the system for someone of your age, who had no previous convictions.'

Taylor was banned from driving for 12 months and ordered to pay a £250 fine at £5 a week.'

## Mull teenager admits assaults all on same day

A MULL teenager has admitted in court that he assaulted three other people on the same day, writes Niall Hickman.

Darren Clark, 18, of Millbrae, Bunessan, Mull, admitted three counts of assault and one charge of threatening and abusive behaviour.

Clark said that he assaulted his first victim at Airds Crescent, Oban on May 29.

On the same day at Stevenson Street, Oban, he also pleaded guilty to assaulting two other men.

Clark, who appeared at Oban sheriff court on Monday, also admitted using threatening and abusive language to one of his victims.

Sheriff Colin McKay deferred sentence on Clark until August 18 for background reports.

I thought the concert was great for the town, but it's fair to say when I woke up in the morning I was furious about it

William Madej

it. How would anyone like their house to be covered in graffiti?

The person who did it – the graffiti is tagged with the name 'Andrew' – has obviously gone around the town with a spray can as there are at least another two examples of his work.

'Mind you, they are a lot smaller than mine, as the graffiti on my house is huge.'

'The organisers of the concert, Bid4Oban, have said they will come along and remove it, which is good of them.'

'It's such a shame because by all accounts the concert went really well.'

'I'm annoyed about it though. It does look terrible and the sooner it gets cleaned off the better. I just don't know why people feel the need to do it?'

Bid4Oban organisers say they will be removing the graffiti on the side of Mr Madej's house in the very near future.

## Stress of break-in led to incident as police attempted to ask questions

AN OBAN wind turbine engineer has been fined £300 for assaulting police officers in a drunken row.

Nicholas Smith, 37, of Drummore Road, Oban, pleaded guilty to two charges for assaulting police officers on Tuesday at Oban sheriff court, following the incident last December.

Police followed Smith and his mother, Fiona Donn, to their shared address in Oban, where the row erupted.

Procurator fiscal Claire Martin said: 'The officers were carrying out motoring enquiries on the porch of the house.'

'Smith was heavily under the influence of alcohol and started to become disruptive, telling the officers they had no right to be there.'

'PC Iain Young attempted to explain to Smith why he wanted to speak to Ms Donn, but the accused became more obstructive. He started putting himself between Ms Donn and the police officers and was told he would be arrested for obstructing the officers.'

'The accused pushed PC Young, causing him to stumble and the accused then slammed the door shut and bolted it to keep the police out. He was later arrested and taken to Oban police station.'

Defence solicitor Laura McManus said: 'He works away from home for lengths of time and on this occasion he returned to find the home he shared with his mother had been broken into the night before. He was understandably upset about this. He accepts he was heavily intoxicated. He placed two fingers on PC Young and pushed him back.'

'It was never justified and he is very sorry about it. It was regrettable as it made matters much worse. He was under considerable stress and reacted badly due to intoxication.'

Sheriff Colin McKay fined Smith £100 for obstructing the police officers and £200 for assaulting PC Young and was given 28 days to pay the fine.

we are taking on new patients

mydentist is different to other dentists. We deliver a fantastic patient experience you'll be rushing to share with your friends and family.

We offer the full range of NHS dental services and private options including:

- Teeth Whitening
- Airflow Whitening
- Zoom Whitening
- Dental Implants
- Two hour crowns.

We also offer a great range of finance options:

- Interest free finance options (Medenta)
- Denplan Essentials
- Dental Plans.

We're even open evenings, weekends and provide on-site parking.

{my}dentist™  
helping the nation smile

www.mydentist.co.uk

Call us now on  
**01631  
563006**

Cawdor Place, Shore Street, Oban PA34 4LQ

**Caol**

MEMBERS of Caol community council have looked back on their first year at the annual general meeting.

Sandy Watson, chairman of the Fort William village's community council, stepped down at last week's meeting and was succeeded by John Gillespie, who will take on the role until the next elections in November.

The outgoing chairman thanked the group, Caol's first community council since 2008, for their hard work and dedication.

Mr Watson also outlined the team's achievements, including children's events in the village and helping residents raise concerns about new schools under construction in the area.

He said: "The past year has been a very interesting one with the community council being resurrected after being without one for the past seven years. It has also been one with a very steep learning curve for many of us who are entirely new to this."

"It has been an extremely busy year with two new schools being built, a new library, youth centre and community centre. It has also been a difficult year at times with some members leaving and many others struggling with ill health or trying to juggle work and family commitments."

"There are, of course, things we can improve on but these will all come in time and I think the community council has done a truly excellent job over the last year."

**Staffin**

FOUR sites have been proposed for affordable housing in north Skye.

The Staffin community trust (SCT) has submitted four sites to be considered in the West Highland and Islands local development plan and will be working closely with other groups to progress the project.

Stenscholl common grazing, just past Staffin school playing field, is the SCT's preferred location, although the group is keen to find as many housing sites as possible.

It is hoped this will reduce the area's population decline, which has fallen by seven per cent in the last decade.

**Arisaig**

IT WAS a cold and wet June in Arisaig, with high rainfall and low temperatures.

Amateur meteorologist, Ranald Coyne, recorded almost four inches of rain in the village last month, bringing the total for the year to 33 inches, both well above average.

The daily temperature ranged from 9°C to 15.2°C, both below the usual for this time of year.

The coldest night was 5°C and temperatures reached 25°C on the hottest day, June 30.

**Lochalsh**

LONG SERVICE: the Lochalsh branch of the British Legion met recently to honour three members for their long association with the group. From left: Alastair MacRae from Glenshiel and Ian MacDonald and Don MacDonell from Kyle of Lochalsh all received certificates for more than 50 years membership, presented by branch president Lieutenant Commander Andy Will BEM, second right.

## Oban music group celebrates



OBAN Musical Memories celebrated five years to the day since they started the weekly singing group, under the umbrella of Alzheimer Scotland, on Tuesday June 16.

Almost 100 people have benefited as members over the years and newcomers are always warmly welcomed at the Church Centre, Glencruitten Road, on Tuesday afternoons from 1.30 to 3pm.

The singing leader is Ali Barrow and musician, Peter Salmon, provides the accompaniment.

**ON SONG:** Councillor Elaine Robertson, centre, cutting the cake with helpers, left to right, Barbara Buchan, Irene Hannah, Sandra Clark and Frances Grant.

**Glenelg**

PUPILS at Glenelg primary school celebrated completing a creative story writing challenge.

The nationwide project, by recycling group REPIC, involved the children taking toy mascot R3P1C exploring in their village and writing about the adventures.

Modelled on household electrical products, R3P1C was designed to show youngsters and their families the importance of recycling old electricals.

Maggie Finlayson, teacher at Glenelg primary, said: "The children thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the creative writing challenge. R3P1C's many adventures included feeding lambs, climbing trees, cycling, trampolining, playing shiny, going in a tractor and going to a birthday party."



ADVENTURES: Glenelg primary pupils enjoyed a creative story writing challenge based on a robot called R3P1C

**Benbecula**

MUSICAL education in the Uists was celebrated with an end of year concert from Lewis Castle college UHI students.

The traditional music pupils from Benbecula campus wowed the audience with their talents at the Dark Island hotel and programme leader Anna-Wendy Stevenson said the 'unique' learning experience is proving more popular every year.

For more information contact Ms Stevenson on anna.stevenson@uhi.ac.uk.

She said: "Students are based in a beautiful and

inspiring environment in the Gaelic heartland with the room and support to grow as musicians and as individuals. Music-making is at the heart of what we do with regular concerts locally and on the mainland, teaching in local schools, and projects such as composing music for film soundtracks is part of what a music student coming to Uist can expect."

For more information contact Ms Stevenson on anna.stevenson@uhi.ac.uk.



FINALISTS: the Ballachulish primary school climate change team with Hazel Peat of Sgurr Energy, who helped with the project

**Ballachulish**

BALLACHULISH primary school pupils made it to the final of a national competition about reducing climate change.

The five Lochaber youngsters travelled to Stirling to present their drama 'Drive down

carbon dioxide, leave the car at home' as part of the Scotland Lights Up Malawi challenge.

Although the Ballachulish team didn't win, teacher Fiona McSorland said they 'thoroughly enjoyed the experience and learned a lot'.

**Plockton**

A GROUP of 40 Americans were treated to ceilidh in Plockton hall as part of their tour of Scotland.

Well-known dance band leader, Fergie MacDonald, and his daughter, Morven MacDonald, provided the music, which went down a storm with locals who remembered Mr MacDonald playing in Plockton in the 60s and 70s.

Charlie MacRae, master of ceremonies and chairman of Plockton community council, it was 'great' to see his old acquaintance playing again.



RIGHT NOTES: Fergie MacDonald played in Plockton hall with his daughter, Morven MacDonald, at a ceilidh for a group of visiting Americans



DAY TRIP: Nether Lochaber senior citizens association enjoyed a summer outing to Arisaig

## Senior citizens head west for lunch

MORE than 30 residents from North Ballachulish and Onich enjoyed a trip west for lunch at the Arisaig hotel.

Organised by Nether Lochaber senior citizens association, the group enjoyed a

chat and a meal thanks to the committee and volunteers. Anyone aged 70 or older living in Nether Lochaber who would like to join the group can contact Sheila MacDonald on 01855 821265.

## MORVERN lines

### Way of life and death on the hill

ALTHOUGH the annual red deer stag shooting season opened on July 1, many deer forest owners, stalkers and tenants will not start their culls for a few months yet.

It is a busy period preparing lodges, servicing all-terrain vehicles, engaging and training ghillies, mending paths, shoeing ponies and repairing bridges in the lead up to the arrival of clients who come from all over the world bringing with them an estimated £105 million a year to the Scottish economy.

Much of this unsubsidised sum will help sustain jobs, schools and other wildlife in some of the remotest places in the Highlands.

Deer stalking, which has been taking place in our hills for thousands of years, is a way of life and death for both man and beast. Its fascination is down to the romance of the hill.

That is the 'hill' as it is known only to those who love it and understand some of its mysteries.

Alone with nature at its most inspiring and elevating form, there is the ever-changing light in the corries and glens, the fascination of watching wild animals when they have no suspicion that they are being watched, the opportunities of seeing rare birds and finding wild plants.

All go to make up the attractions of something which is deep-rooted and uniquely Scottish, ably summed up by the poet Alfred Noyes (1880-1958) who wrote 'In yonder forest there's a little silver river and whosever drinks of it his youth shall never die'.

Not far from the Oban Times office in Fort William, there is a graveyard called 'The Craigs' where there is a headstone with a peculiar inscription.

It was erected in memory of Captain Patrick Campbell of the 42nd (Royal Highland) Regiment of Foot who died on December 13 1816, aged 83 and, according to the stone, was 'A true Highlander, a fine friend and the best deerstalker of his day'.

He was known locally, in Gaelic, as 'Padraig Mor Ardseal' (Big Patrick of Ardsheal) who often took his sport on the old, and extensive, Forest of Mamore between Glen Nevis and Loch Leven.

Mamore used to be a 'Royal Forest' and was granted by King James IV to Duncan Stewart, the Laird of Appin in 1502.



ON THE HILL: The deer shooting season has opened

Four hundred years later, King Edward V11 spent a day on it when he took part in a great deer drive. A large herd, which had been driven towards the Royal party, broke back with a sudden change in wind direction and none were killed. Seven years later, however, there was another drive and His Majesty shot nine stags.

John MacLennan, head-stalker of Fannich, near Lochluihart in Ross-shire, was not to enjoy such a long life as Big Patrick of Ardsheal.

In November 1890 he was on his way to a funeral at Achanal, about four or five miles across the hill, when he encountered a stag that he was in the habit of feeding during the winter. The beast, which was known to be dangerous having gored Peter Fraser, a neighbouring stalker some years previously, did not recognise him in his funeral clothes, and attacked and killed him.

John MacLennan is buried in the churchyard of Clachan, near the head of Loch Broom under a stone, now fallen, bearing a Latin inscription: 'Tot cervorum vicit non senectuti sed cervo cessit' (This man having killed many stags, succumbed to a stag himself - not to old age).



DEER DRIVE: King Edward V11, left, at Mamore in 1907

George Urquhart, stalker on Mar Lodge Estate in upper Deeside, was also to die in an unfortunate accident. In 1866 he took the tenant, Thomas Powell, stalking in Glen Geusachan. They stalked a stag which Powell wounded on the face of Cairntoul.

Taking the double-barrelled, muzzle-loading rifle, 30-year-old Urquhart and a ghillie, set off in hot pursuit to stop the stag going onto the neighbouring Glenfeshie Estate.

Two further shots were fired but neither were fatal. The stag, now weak with the loss of blood, turned and went downhill into a steep-sided burn. Urquhart reload and caught up with the beast which was still alive.

Realising that if he killed it where it was they would have difficulty retrieving the carcass, he tried to move it downstream by prodding it with the butt of the rifle.

It was a stupid mistake. The stag lashed out and hit one of the cocked hammers which caused the rifle to go off. The heavy bullet hit Urquhart in the shoulder and two and half hours later he was dead. Probably the only occasion on which a stalker was shot by the stag.

In 1932 William Douglas, son of the Earl of Morton, who owned Conaglen on the north shores of Loch Linne and part of the old Maclean of Ardguir estate, shot and wounded a stag during the rut which turned on him suddenly as he approached it and struck him on the leg inflicting a deep wound. He was taken to the Belford Hospital, Fort William, where he later died of blood poisoning.

Iain Thornber  
iain.thornber@btinternet.com

**subscribe to**

**The Oban Times**  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

DIGITAL OR PRINT  
And receive a

**FREE GIFT**

WORTH  
£22.00

tel: 01371 851868  
or visit: [www.obantimes.co.uk/subscribe](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/subscribe)  
QUOTE OT1214



courtesy  
of Arran  
Aromatics

ARRAN  
AROMATICS  
SCOTLAND

celebrating 25 years of gifting  
[www.arranaromatics.com](http://www.arranaromatics.com)

Terms and conditions apply. Minimum one year subscription costing £58.  
New subscribers only. Cancellation charges apply and no refunds can be given.  
UK subscribers only. While stocks last. Fragrances in this free gift may vary.

## TIMESLINE

## Developer wants KFC plan changed

FORT William's KFC, due to open this year, could be delayed as developers have requested a change to planning.

The fast food restaurant, to be built at North road, was approved in August last year but the company has remained tight-lipped about progress.

Hopes rose in May when the former Nevis Garden centre occupying the site was demolished, but KFC declined to provide an update.

And last week, Herbal Eastern Limited, acting on behalf of KFC, lodged an application with Highland council's planning department asking to extend and adjust the current drive-through and car park.

When asked by The Oban Times if this meant progress, amid local speculation the development won't go ahead, a KFC spokeswoman declined to comment.

## Fort 'altercation' sparks manhunt

POLICE in Fort William are looking for a man involved in an incident with three schoolchildren.

On Thursday June 25, at Blackparks road, Inverlochy, the male driver of a silver car stopped his vehicle at the entrance to Soldiers Bridge. He then made his way to Blackparks road where he had what police described as an 'altercation' with three youths. The man is described as between 40 and 50 years old, five feet five inches in height, bald and of medium build. He speaks with a local accent.

Police are looking to identify this individual and another man who they believe spoke to the children.

Anyone with information should contact local police by calling 101.

Find us on  
Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/obantimes](http://www.facebook.com/obantimes)

# Fort changing room fire a 'devastating blow' for club

EMMA CRICHTON  
[emmcrichton@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:emmcrichton@obantimes.co.uk)

A FIRE which ripped through Fort William football club's changing rooms has been a 'devastating blow' for the club.

The blaze consumed most of the Claggan park structure on Monday night, causing serious damage to the roof.

The quick work of firefighters saved the building from irreversible damage, although the changing rooms and some equipment could be destroyed.

Four fire crews attended the scene at 8.40pm, two from Fort William fire station and one each from Kinlochleven and Fort Augustus, who worked tirelessly until after midnight to control the blaze. The cause of the fire was unknown when the Oban Times went to press and investigations are ongoing.

The park had been used by children's summer football club, Lochaber Street League, earlier on the Monday evening, but a committee member said the changing rooms, which are next to the kitchen, had not been used.

Fort William FC are due to play at home in just over two

weeks, with their first game of this season's Highland league scheduled for Saturday, July 25.

David MacDonald, vice chairman of Fort William FC, said: 'It's a devastating blow, but thankfully nobody was hurt.'

'We're due to play at home in a fortnight and we're hoping a short-term solution can be found because after the team doing so well last season, we were really looking forward to starting again. If it wasn't for bad luck we would have no luck at all.'

Mr MacDonald added the fire could have caused problems outdoors as the grounds' floodlights and other electrical equipment is run from the mains inside the building. The Fort William FC committee were due to meet on Tuesday night to discuss the situation.

Claggan park is owned by Highland council and High Life Highland, the leisure branch of the local authority, is working to find a solution in time for the Fort's upcoming home game.

A High Life Highland spokesman said on Tuesday:

'We are in discussion with Fort William football club with regards to the use of alternative changing facilities for their game

on July 25. At this stage we do not have a list of the remedial work required to this facility following the fire, however High Life Highland is working with Highland council to obtain this information.'

Pat McElhinney, Scottish Fire and Rescue's group manager for Lochaber, thanked the fire crews who managed to save the building from further damage.

He added: 'It was evident that we had a very large, well-developed fire when we arrived. We secured water, set up cordon and proceeded to fight the fire from the outside for crew safety, as there was a danger of backdraught explosions.'

'The roof structure of the building also became very unstable which hampered progress, but all crews worked extremely hard to save this vital community building.'

'Although the roof was damaged and some rooms have been affected by the fire, we have managed to save the majority of the building and that is down to the speed of operational crews to attack and fight the fire in a safe, ordered and systematic way.'

'Thankfully no one was harmed as a result of the fire.'



BATTLE: firefighters spent hours tackling the blaze

## Cech it out as billionaire poses with fans on Islay

STEVEN RAE  
[srae@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:srae@obantimes.co.uk)

THE Romans are coming! Or, to be more precise, Roman, as the Chelsea Football Club owner and billionaire Roman Abramovic has been touring the region on his superyacht, 'Ecclipe'.

Braving the wind and rain, Abramovic landed on Islay on Monday and cycled from Port Ellen to Bowmore and back, a distance of around 20 miles.

He then visited Laphroaig distillery for a special whisky tasting where he was greeted by two passionate Chelsea fans, James Morris, 20, and Lewis Rawlinson, who both work at the Islay Hotel as head barman and head chef.

Lewis, 27, who could barely believe his eyes when one of the richest men in the world turned

up in Port Ellen, said: 'It's not every day you meet a Russian billionaire in Islay.'

'We didn't want to annoy him as he was doing a whisky tour but I grabbed my Chelsea shirt and James got hold of his Petr Cech goalkeeping jersey,' complete with the headguard and we went searching for him.

'He laughed when he saw what James was wearing and was only too happy to have his photo taken. He found it funny and even asked if he could take a photo of us.'

'He was friendly and we tried to be polite by not bothering him too much. He couldn't really converse in English but we said good luck and thanks and he clearly understood that.'

Lewis, who moved to Islay from Cheltenham a year ago, added: 'I'm following my dad who was a

fan and that's why it was such a thrill to meet the owner.'

The Islay visit was part of a tour of the West Coast for the Russian business magnate over the past few days. He was seen on Arran with a group of five wealthy friends on Tuesday afternoon, attracting attention as they strolled through the streets of Lochranza with bodyguards, and Abramovich's pet corgi.

The billionaire's yacht was anchored off the sound of Kerrera on Tuesday evening, before returning to Arran, where it remained on Wednesday morning.

**RIGHT TO ROME:**  
The billionaire posed with James Morris and Lewis Rawlinson as he strolled around Islay on Tuesday during a distillery tour in Port Ellen





SABHAL  
MÒR OSTAIG



DANNSA-CEUM / STEP DANCING  
WITH SOPHIE STEPHENSON  
17 - 21/08/15

## CURSAICHEAN GOIRID - SHORT COURSES 2015



ÓRAIN GÀIDHLIG / GAELIC SONGS  
WITH MÀIRI MACINNES  
24 - 28/08/15



CURSA FLÒDAIGEARRAIDH  
FLODIGARRY COMMUNITY COURSE  
31/08 - 04/09/15

## Police hunt bike thieves

POLICE in Lochaber are appealing for information about the following crimes in the area: A child's Innis Orr Hot Rock bike in black, yellow and white was taken from a garden in Montrose Square, Inverlochy, sometime between 3am and 2pm on Saturday, July 4.

Sometime between 11pm on Friday July 3, and 7am the following day, a window was smashed at an address on Shaw Place, Plantation.

During the early hours of Tuesday June 30, battery packs for temporary traffic lights were stolen from the A82 at the gorge, Glencoe.

Sometime between June 18 and June 24, a men's mountain bike was stolen from outside Morrisons supermarket, Fort William. The bike was secured at the bicycle stand, but the padlock was tampered with.

Sometime between 4pm on June 26 and 8am the following day, a red, diesel power washer was taken from site two, Green-gates GlenHydro construction site, Lochielside.

Sometime between 10.30pm on Saturday July 4 and 9am the following morning, entry was gained to the Boathouse Restaurant, Fort Augustus, and a three figure sum of cash was taken.

Anyone with information regarding these incidents is asked to contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously via 0800 555111 or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

## Photography in the frame

BUDGING photographers in the Highlands have been invited to take part in a competition to show what they are passionate about in the region.

From scenery to local culture and sport, Highland council is on the hunt for photos outlining what makes northern communities great.

There are two categories, a children's competition and an adult contest for over 16s.

Anyone living in the Highland council region can enter and a panel of judges will choose a winner and runner-up for each category.

Winners will be announced at the launch of the Scottish mental health arts and film festival Highland on Thursday, October 1, and the photos will be displayed in a free public exhibition at Eden Court in Inverness for two weeks.

Entries can be emailed to policy6@highland.gov.uk with the subject heading SMHAFF photography competition. The closing date is August 31.

## Reducing gas levels

MEASURES to reduce levels of radioactive gas in a Lochaber school are continuing.

Wall cracks and voids at Ardgour primary school will be sealed as part of remedial measures to bring down radon levels in the building. This comes after it was revealed the gas was higher than the action level of 400 becquerels per cubic metre (Bq/m<sup>3</sup>).

The average level of radon in UK homes is just 20 Bq/m<sup>3</sup> but Highland council has described the risk to pupils and staff as 'very low'.

Ardgour school will now be subject to a further 90 days of monitoring, along with two other Highland schools.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas, present everywhere in low levels, but exposure to high levels can increase the risk of lung cancer.

# Staff crisis casts doubt over future of nursery

EMMA CRICHTON

ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

THE FUTURE of a Gaelic nursery on Skye is at risk as it has been left with just one full-time staff member.

Fas Mòr, the childcare facility on the Sleat peninsula, faces closure if new workers can't be found before August.

Members of the management team have already stepped down and other staff are set to leave for various reasons, leaving just one full-time worker by mid-August.

Neil Stephen, chairman of Fas Mòr, said the group has been supported by the care inspectorate, Highland council and the care and learning alliance, but closure

can only be avoided if new recruits are found.

He said: 'We have been advertising for new recruits, but so far we have had no applications. Our hope is that we can attract new people to the facility, but also former staff who have experience and qualifications in the childcare profession. We have a great facility and wonderful children and we hope it is a very rewarding place to work.'

At a meeting this week, parents turned out in force, demonstrating their support for the nursery and the need for childcare provision on Sleat.

Plans were discussed about changing the management structure and holding

a consultation on childcare provision on the peninsula, but Mr Stephen said the 'short term future' must be the focus.

He added: 'We have had a great commitment from our current staff and board members over these difficult weeks to keep Fas Mòr open and to provide a secure and stimulating environment for our children.'

'Nobody wants to see Fas Mòr close, not just because it is a huge help to working parents, but because it provides a tremendous environment for learning Gaelic from a young age. It is only now because it is under threat that we can really get a sense of how important Fas Mòr is to our community.'



SUCCESS: two Lochaber women were among 16 in the Highlands to graduate in primary teaching through a distance learning course. Caroline Haines from Fort William is back, second from right, and Lindsay Forster of Glencoe is back right

## Delight as teachers go the distance

TWO LOCHABER women are among 16 students from across the Highlands graduating as teachers through a distance learning course.

Caroline Haines, from Fort William, and Lindsay Forster of Glencoe, completed the 18-month diploma in primary

teaching through a joint programme between Highland council and the university of Aberdeen. The graduates studied at home through online learning and face-to-face sessions with Highland teachers. They will now go on to complete a probation year

in Highland primary schools. Elaine Kirkham, Highland council's quality improvement officer for care and learning, praised the students' success: 'This is a great achievement for all the students graduating today. The interest this course continues to generate

is remarkable and we hope to continue this method of teacher training in the future.'

'It allows people to study from home, while employed, which is proving a very popular avenue of learning for people thinking of a career change.'



RESPECT: Armed Forces Day was marked with a parade through Ballachulish



## Sponsorship boost for Fort army cadets

ARMY cadets from Fort William will stand out from the crowd when attending a national training camp this summer thanks to new purple t-shirts donated by a local business. James Standen, left, of the Fort William detachment received the tops from sponsor John Standen of Central Garage in the town



THANKS: children and parents of Gaelic playgroup, Croileagan Grianach, gather to say goodbye to Margaret Bruce as she retires after more than 20 years

## Children and parents bid fond farewell to long-serving Gaelic playgroup leader

THE LEADER of a Gaelic playgroup in Fort William has retired after more than 20 years.

Margaret Bruce ran Croileagan Grianach in Caoil and Upper Achintore for two decades, giving young children their first introduction to Gaelic through songs, stories and play.

A spokeswoman for the group thanked Ms Bruce for her dedication over the years.

She said: 'Many children who have come through the group have gone on to find employment in the Gaelic world and that is testament to the enjoyable experiences they had learning the language. As Margaret leaves Croileagan Grianach, the parents, children and committee wish her a happy retirement and an invitation to come back to visit any time.'



Young pipers from Lochaber and North Connel were among a pipe band who are now European champions. Brothers Sandy, right, and Finlay Cameron from Roy Bridge, are members of the Dollar Academy pipe band who were crowned winners at the final in Forres last weekend, along with fellow band member Cameron Bennett from North Connel, not pictured. They are holding the European trophy with Anna King, left, and Lucy Ferguson, also of the band



Den building just the ticket

A rainy Saturday morning in Fort William was brightened up with a den building activity for the town's children. Caoil-based art charity, Room 13, teamed up with Bright Productions to host the activity in the town's Cameron Square at the weekend.

Once inside the den, the youngsters enjoyed storytelling and games sheltered from the rain

# Furious business owners slam BT for internet repair delays

EMMA CRICHTON

FURIOUS business owners on a remote Lochaber peninsula have slammed BT for delays in repairing the already problematic internet in the area, saying it is 'catastrophic' for the local economy.

Members of the Glenborrodale community on the Ardnamurchan peninsula, the most westerly point of Great Britain, say the outdated broadband in the area is costing local businesses thousands of pounds every day, after they were told a breakdown last week would take at least two weeks to be repaired.

**Compassionate island air fares**

IT WILL soon cost less for people to fly to Scottish islands for funerals, thanks to a grassroots campaign for cheaper flights.

Airline company, Loganair plans to introduce a 'compassionate fares' discount scheme following a 15,000 strong Facebook campaign fighting against 'exorbitant' prices for flights to and from Scottish islands.

Alasdair Allan, MSP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar, welcomed the news: 'People who have suffered the loss of a loved one and then need to fly home to be with their family should not be the target of exorbitant air fares.'

'I have raised this issue with

Sarah MacKinnon, manager of Glenborrodale Castle hotel, said constant problems with the internet are damaging her new business: 'We've just spent tens of thousands of pounds refurbishing the castle and opened earlier this year.'

'In the few months we've been going, business has boomed, generating several thousands of pounds worth of new income every week but now our broadband has packed up yet again which is preventing us from accessing our on-line booking system.'

'This has been an ongoing problem.'

'Our local exchange is an ancient, steam-driven five

gigabyte affair which gives us a pathetic speed but at least we can control our bookings.'

'It died in May, and BT, after several denials that anything

was wrong, got it going again, but it went down again on Thursday and we're told there's no hope of it being mended for two weeks.'

'Two weeks in summer is catastrophic both for our income and our reputation.'

'Almost all our bookings are online, but without broadband we have no idea who has booked and there is the awful danger of over or double-booking and having people turn up to find we've no room.'

The problem has been highlighted by the West Ardnamurchan community development company who recently discovered Glenborrodale will not benefit

from new superfast broadband scheduled for next year, despite the cable being run through the area.

John Polak, who runs the nearby Nadurra visitor centre, has also experienced problems. 'The service is so terrible we can't make payments or send orders and at times can't even download our emails, so we don't know when groups are arriving,' he said.

'At times I despair of running a business here, yet I know it's vital for local employment and the economy of this remote area. Even when it [broadband] is mended, sending things by a tortoise would work faster than our broadband.'

Highlands and Islands MSP, Rhoda Grant, said it is an 'outrageous' problem all over the region: 'I continually hear from businesses and individuals throughout the Highlands and Islands who are totally frustrated by the fact they still have a second rate service. In this day and age, it is outrageous that people still struggle to get connections.'

A BT spokesman said: 'We're investigating these complaints.'

## TIMELINE

### Teams rescue two Lochaber climbers

A MAN had to be airlifted to hospital after sustaining injuries on a mountainside in rural Lochaber.

Emergency services were alerted to the incident in Ardgour at 2pm on Monday, when a Royal Navy helicopter from HMS Gannet at Prestwick assisted Glencoe mountain rescue team in taking the man off the hill and transporting the casualty to Belford hospital in Fort William. The extent of his injuries are unknown.

This comes after Lochaber mountain rescue team had to lift a female who fell descending Ben Nevis on Friday night. The woman had a bad cut on her leg, but rescue helicopter HMS Gannet 177 was unable to land at the location. Rescue volunteers had to be transported to near the summit of Ben Nevis via a winch and walk down to reach the injured female.

### Toxins found in Loch Roag, Lewis

TOXINS have been found in a loch on Lewis following monitoring work.

Food Standards Scotland have found raised levels of shellfish toxins in several areas of Loch Roag.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has warned that eating cockles, mussels, scallops or razor fish from these areas could pose a risk to human health. Harvesters in these areas have been notified.



### Nevis Bank nursery youngsters graduate

MOVING ON: children of Nevis Bank nursery celebrated their graduation as they prepare for primary school after the summer holidays. This was also the final leaving event at the Belford road premises as the nursery will move to Inverlochy later this year. For more photographs of the final days of term in Lochaber, see page 13



TOURISTS climbing Ben Nevis may have believed they had stumbled on to a film set when they met a Stormtrooper on the summit.

Ashley Broomhall climbed Britain's tallest peak on June 23, dressed as the Star Wars character in aid of Cancer Research.

The 27-year-old from Hampshire said the 4,409 foot climb in his armour was 'very hard going'.

## Community council objects to office plan



An artist's impression of the controversial council offices, complete with 'dire' extension

PLANS to transform a former Fort William secondary school into council offices have been slammed by the town's community council.

The listed historical building on Achintore Road was formerly Fort William high school and the local authority has applied to renovate the building into a 'civic hub', including a service point and council chambers.

Bur Fort William community council submitted an objection to the planning application at the weekend, saying a proposed extension to the building

would be 'overbearing' to neighbouring properties and result in a loss of privacy for nearby hotel guests. It also said the 'architectural significance' of the Victorian building will be diminished and the visual impact caused by concrete panels and aluminium timber clad windows will be 'dire' and 'more in keeping with an agricultural shed'.

Neil Clark, community council chairman, said: 'We welcome the proposed renovation of the existing building and also the principle of the provision of new office space, registrars, service point, council chambers and committee rooms. However, we strongly object to the position, design and materials proposed.'

The objection letter went on: 'The proposed extension is in close proximity to a small hotel which would overlook those premises and cause loss of privacy for residents there. The proposed extension, crammed into the north corner of the site, represents massing and overbearing on the neighbouring hotel.'

'This proposal diminishes

the architectural significance and aesthetic appearance. The materials proposed are more in keeping with an agricultural shed than an office facility attached to a B-listed building at the southern gateway to the town. The visual impact from any direction, but particularly from the A82, will be dire.'

The application's report states: 'The siting of the new extension on the development site has been carefully considered in respect of the existing building and also the neighbouring community context.'



### Banavie school marks 50 top class years

BANAVIE primary school celebrated its 50th anniversary, with former pupils and staff gathering to mark the milestone last week.

Headteacher Maxean Dunham said: 'We had a really great day and with lots of people, including many former pupils, coming in for a visit.'

'We had a bouncy castle, messy play and t-shirts made to remember the day.'

Pictured, left, are some of the pupils with the 50th birthday cakes to celebrate the half century since the school opened. 21\_f28cake01

## OBAN STOVE CENTRE



TRADE SALES AVAILABLE HETAS

Old Crofters Yard, Soroba Rd, Oban, Argyll, PA344HU  
Tel: 01631564790 Fax: 01631562919  
info@obanstovcentre.co.uk

## Council could power islands says energy regulator Ofgem

TALKS are continuing about the possibility of a community and council group providing electricity in the Outer Hebrides to cut costs in the fuel poverty-stricken area.

Energy regulators Ofgem told the Western Isles councillors there are 'no fundamental barriers' to a local authority supplying electricity, meaning it would be possible for Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to become an energy provider and offer a better price than the current market.

Consumers in the Highlands and Islands currently pay a surcharge

of two pence more per unit than elsewhere in the UK.

Eilean Siar councillor Gordon Murray said: 'We are in a situation where we have the worst fuel poverty levels in Western Europe with 71 per cent of homes in fuel poverty, yet we have the best renewable energy on the planet.'

'Surely our council can meet the needs of the local economy which is suffering due to the high energy prices. We will continue to press for cost-price electricity and ensure this addresses our shocking fuel poverty issues.'



Sell your unwanted items under £100 for FREE in our west coast classifieds

**It couldn't be easier!**

Call 01631 568000 or visit [www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk](http://www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk) to place your ad.

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL TRADE LOCAL SWAP LOCAL

like us on facebook  
[www.facebook.com/obantimes](https://www.facebook.com/obantimes)

Newsdesk  
01397 703003

# Viewpoint

## The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8216

**T**here can few things more enduring and uplifting than partners who can survive the travails of life for seventy years - and still keep smiling.

Yet Oban couple Jim and Mary Hill, who celebrate their platinum wedding anniversary this Sunday, are living proof that patience, perseverance, consideration and devotion can bring rich rewards in later life.

Their married life has spanned world wars, international disasters, national scandals and umpteen

Scotland exits from the World Cup. And as most of us would testify, in moments of candour, married life is no walk in the park.

Yet despite all this, Jim and Mary have survived the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune with good-natured determination and no small measure of humour.

As their extended family gathers in celebration this weekend, we join them in raising a glass to a remarkable family unit - Jim and Mary Hill.



## Days gone by - Oban lodge presents cheque to hospital minibus appeal

This week we turn the clock back to July 1994 as Robert MacDonald hands over a £300 cheque on behalf of Oban Commercial Lodge to Mrs White, chairman of Friends of Dalintart and McKelvie hospitals, Oban. The money went towards the former Oban hospitals' minibus appeal. Also pictured are Anne Mossman, Tam Pearson and staff and patients of Dalintart hospital. Digital versions of flashback photos for The Oban Times can be sent to editor@obantimes.co.uk or prints sent in to Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB. Anyone who wishes a print returned should include a stamped addressed envelope.

### New Rockfield centre will tell tower story

Sir,  
Regards your article on the lack of information on McCaig's Tower, Oban, I would like to draw readers' attention to plans to provide such information in the Rockfield Centre when it is up and running.

The extensive consultation carried out by Oban Communities Trust prior to the community acquisition of the Rockfield Centre identified a lack of information about the heritage of the town.

Amongst many other facets, exhibitions about McCaig's Tower, the Hydrotherapy and the history and timeline of the town from its earliest days is planned alongside other exciting projects.

Oban has an amazing history, part of which is told through the excellent War and Peace Museum with Dunollie outlining the historical overview of the castle and its important house, gardens and collections.

The Rockfield Centre provision will expand in other areas to complement the information on offer and build a unique visitor experience in the heart of Oban.

This provision for visitors and locals will provide a dynamic and interesting facet for those visiting Oban and hopefully ensure more

time is spent in the town providing a significant economic boost for everyone.

Gordon McNab,  
Oban Communities Trust.

### Inquiry into proposed EU referendum

Sir,  
The Scottish parliament's European and external affairs committee, on which I sit, has just launched an inquiry into the UK government's proposed referendum on the UK's membership of the EU and its EU reform agenda.

The committee has issued a call for evidence and I hope constituents and business people who have an interest or view on these issues will give us their input.

The future of the UK's relationship with the EU is extremely important. The Prime Minister has been very clear he plans to negotiate, get a deal that is in Britain's interest and then recommend Britain stays in it.

I have consistently supported the UK's membership of the EU, but agree with the UK government that significant reforms are needed to allow it to be more flexible and a partnership of nations that looks outwards and helps Europe meet the economic challenges of global competition.

More details can be found on

the webpage of the European and External Affairs Committee and views can be expressed via EUREformreferendum@scottish.parliament.uk

Jamie McGregor,  
MSP Highlands and Islands.

### Do the right thing by Scottish children

Sir,  
At age eight, a child in Scotland is legally responsible for his or her actions.

At this tender age it is possible to be given a criminal record.

In the rest of the UK it is set at 10 years, still far too young in my view, for a child to have the capacity to make decisions or understand the full consequences of their actions.

The UN Commission on the Rights of the Child sets the 'absolute minimum' age at 12 years old.

It is time to revisit this outdated law of the age of criminal responsibility and for all Scottish MSPs to vote to amend the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill as proposed by Alison McInnes.

If you believe the law is outdated, please contact your local MSPs and ask them to support the age recommended by the UN.

Let's do the right thing by our young people.

Ursula Craig, Cove.



A MORNING downpour stopped in time for this year's games on Saturday, giving organisers the blessing of a dry day.

But many had been put off by the bad weather, resulting in lower turn out than previous years, and the ones who did brave it to Glengarry shinty field had to contend with hordes of midges, reported to be the worst in 18 years.

Games secretary, Alison Donald, said: 'Despite a reduced attendance, due to the poor weather in the morning, those that braved the midges seemed to enjoy the day, and helped to make it a fun event for all.'

'I've been doing this for 18 years and I've never known the midges to be this bad. They were terrible.'

In the heavies, visiting Stuart Anderson from Killin, Perthshire swept the board, taking first prize in every event. Mr Anderson also set a new record for the 28lb weight for distance, throwing the weight 76 feet and two inches. Craig Nicolson from Oban also did well, taking second place overall in the heavies, followed by Andrew Johnstone, also of Oban, who shared third with Peter Whitehead of Fort William.

Billy Gibson set a new record for the traditional Glengarry hill race, finishing the route in 24 minutes and 22 seconds. Invergarry teen Rebecca Johnstone was first lady home, finishing in 29 minutes and 41 seconds.



Andrew Johnstone of Oban 21\_f28games09



Ernie Weir of Arran 21\_f28games06



Stuart Anderson of Killin, Pethshire, took first place in every heavy event 21\_f28games07



Rickard Didiir travelled from Switzerland to take part 21\_f28games08



The field set off on the traditional Glengarry hill race 21\_f28games15



Rebecca Johnstone toughs out the last lap of the hill race 21\_f28games21



Ilsa Ross and Lexy MacLeod, both eight, in the intermediate category 21\_f28games05



Kathryn Beaton and Emma MacKenzie, adult category 21\_f28games04



Emma MacLennan, 15, premier 21\_f28games03



Nicola MacAulay and Katie MacPherson, both 15, competing in the premier Highland dancing category 21\_f28games02

## RESULTS

Heavy results: Hammer: 1 Stuart Anderson, 2 Craig Nicolson, 3 Andrew Johnstone; Shott Putt: 1 Stuart Anderson, 2 Richard Didier, 3 Craig Nicolson; Weight over the Bar: 1 Stewart Anderson, 2 Peter Whitehead, 3 Craig Nicolson; Caber: 1 Stewart Anderson, Peter Whitehead, 3 Craig Nicolson; Weight for Distance 28lb: 1 Stuart Anderson - new record, 2 Craig Nicolson, 3 Ernie Weir; Weight for Distance

56lb: 1 Stuart Anderson, 2 Craig Nicolson, 3 Andrew Johnstone, First Thre: 1 Stuart Anderson, 2 Craig Nicolson, 3 Andrew Johnstone and Peter Whitehead.

Children's Race Results: Under 5 Flat Race: 1 Brook Henderson, 2 Holly Fraser, 3 Scott Cameron; Second Race: 1 Brook Henderson, 2 Finlay Davis, 3 Aaron Hutchison;

Flat Race: Girls 5-7: 1 Lucy Bloom, 2 Lexy Cameron; Flat Race: Boys 5-7: 1 Murray Donald, 2 Freddie Blakey, 3 Alex Henderson; Flat Race: Mixed 8-11: 1 Cameron

Fraser, 2=Finlay Fraser/ Emma Rowe, 3=Lily Bloom/Ferguson Donald; Flat Race: Girls 12-15: 1 Rebecca Johnstone, 2 Cally Rodgers, 3 Josie Bloom; Sack Race: Mixed 5-7: 1 Lucy Bloom, 2 Lexy Cameron, 3 Alex Henderson; Sack Race: Girls: 8-11: 1 Emma Rowe, 2 Lucy Bloom; Sack Race: Boys: 8-11: 1 Finlay Fraser, 2 Cameron Fraser, 3 Fergus Donald; Sack Race: Girls: 12-15: 1 Rebecca Johnstone, 2 Josie Bloom, 3 Cally Rodgers; Sack Race: Boys: 12-15: 1 Mungo Blakey, 2 Ben Johnstone, 3 Ruthven Hamilton; Three

Legged Race: Mixed 5-7: Lucy Bloom/ Atholl Hamilton, 2 Murray Donald/Freddie Blakey, 3 Ben Carruthers/Sine Grant; Three Legged Race: Boys: 8-11: 1 Finlay/Cameron Fraser, Fergus Donald/Ronan Blakey; Three Legged Race: Girls: 8-11: 1 Josie/Lily Bloom, 2 Rebecca Johnstone/Cally Rodgers; Three Legged Race: Boys: 12-15: 1 Ben Johnstone/Mungo Blakey, 2 Fergus Fraser/Ruthven Hamilton; Egg and Spoon: Mixed: 5-7: 1 Lucy Bloom, 2 Freddie Blakey, 3 Lexy Cameron; Egg and Spoon: Boys:

8-11: 1 Cameron Fraser, Fergus Donald, 3 Finlay Fraser; Egg and Spoon: Girls: 12-15: 1 Josie Bloom, 2 Rebecca Johnstone, 3 Cally Rodgers; Egg and Spoon: Boys: 12-15: 1 Mungo Blakey, 2 Ruthven Hamilton, 3 Ben Johnstone.

Mini Highland Games Results: Hammer: 5-7: 1 Lucy Bloom, 2 Freddie Blakey; Hammer: 8-11: 1 Ronan Blakey, 2 Lily Bloom; Caber: 5-7: 1 Freddie Blakey, 2 Lucy Bloom; 8-11: 1 Ronan Blakey, 2 Lily Bloom; Shott: 1 Lucy bloom, 2 Freddie Blakey; Shott: 8-11: 1 Ronan Blakey, 2 Lucy Bloom; Weight for Distance: 5-7: 1 Lucy Bloom, 2 Freddie Blakey; Weight for Distance: 8-11: 1 Ronan Blakey, 2 Lucy Bloom.

Adult Results: Ladies Three Legged/Egg and Spoon: 1 Fiona Dee/Rachel Dee, 2 Sophie MacLennan/Megan Stewart, 3 Irene Rodgers/Kirsty Bloom; Ladies Sack Race: 1 Sophie MacLennan, 2 Megan Stewart, 3 Irene Rodgers; 100 Metre Mens: 1 Mungo Blakey, 2 George Henderson, 3 Jonny Belford; 200 Metres Ladies: 1 Fiona Gibson, 3 Billy Gibson; 1500 Metres Mens: 1 Mungo Blakey; Hill Race: Ladies: 1 Rebecca Johnstone, 2 Kate Tier, 3 Vespa; Hill Race Mens: 1 Billy Gibson - new record, 2 Lindsey Sandford, 3 Archie Johnstone; Junior Hill Race: Boys: 1 Ben Johnstone, 2 Mungo Blakey, 3 Paddy MacInnes.

# Lochaber has it all

# JEWSON

The UK's leading chain of builders merchants

Tool Hire to the Trade and Public available from our Fort William Branch

Building Materials, Timber, Windows, Doors, Joinery, Ironmongery & Fixings, Decorating, Plumbing & Heating and excellent range of Tools for Hire from Drills to Mini Excavators

Open Weekdays  
7.30am - 5pm; Sat 8am - 12pm

North Road, Fort William, PH33 6TQ  
01397 700744 and for Hire 01397 701086

**LOCHABER** - The Outdoor Capital of the UK - offers visitors and locals alike a wide variety of activities for all ages on your doorstep.

For those who prefer a more sedate but equally spectacular journey, the tranquillity of Glen Nevis and the historic and atmospheric Glencoe are close by.

But Lochaber also offers all the services, shops and amenities one might expect in the central belt.

Local workmen and companies offer first class services at reasonable rates, whether you are looking to improve you home inside and out, or just wanting to reduce your

energy bills as the nights start to get shorter. Numerous cafes, bars and restaurants serving everything from international cuisine, to renowned seafood and locally-baked home goods are dotted across the area.

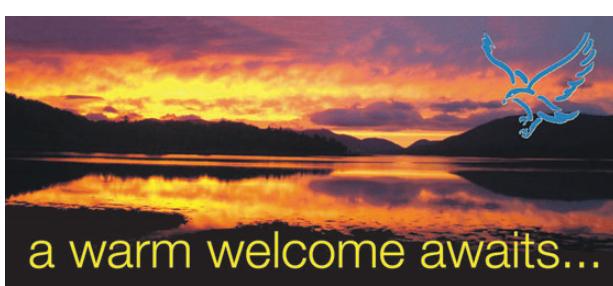
Glenfinnan is home to one of the country's finest railway viaducts, as well as the monument which marks the spot where Bonnie Prince Charlie raised the standard before the 1745 Jacobite revolution.

Meanwhile, one of modern Scotland's

greatest engineering feats, the Caledonian Canal, starts at Neptune's Staircase at Banavie and meanders up the Great Glen through Lochs Lochy and Ness.

Anyone wanting a bit of sporting fun will not be at a loss in Lochaber, with mountain biking, golf, snow sports, angling and a range of water-sports all freely available.

With such a wide range of places to visit, stay, eat out and enjoy, Lochaber truly has it all.



Ceannt Latha	Date	Altòr	Venue	Tachartas	Uair	Time
Fri 17 July			Ballachulish Hall	Family Ceilidh / Dance		8pm-11pm
Sat 18 July			Fèis nan Garbh Criochnach Acharacle	Fèis concert		Daytime
Sat 18 July			Caol Gaoil Day	Daytime performance		Daytime
Sun 19 July			Glenfinnan House Hotel	Session		3pm - 6pm
Sun 19 July			Rorybridge Hotel Bar	Session		8.30pm
Wed 22 July			Ben Nevis Inn - Achintee	Session		8pm
Thurs 23 July			Isle of Muck	Family Ceilidh / Dance		7pm
Fri 24 July			Kilmallie Hall Corpach	Family Ceilidh / Dance		7.30pm
Sun 26 July			Glenfinnan House Hotel	Session		3pm-6pm
Sun 26 July			Clachaig Inn Glencoe	Session		9pm
Mon 27 July			Astley Hall, Arisaig	Family Ceilidh / Dance		7.30pm
Thurs 30 July			Ben Nevis Inn, Achintee	Session		8pm
Fri 31 July			Glenug Hall	Family Ceilidh / Dance		8pm
Sat 1 August			Bridge Cafe Spean Bridge	Session		8pm
Sun 2 August			Tradewinds	Session		4pm-7pm
Sun 2 August			Clachaig Inn Glencoe	Session		

Tuilleadh fiosrachaidh [www.feisean.org/ceilidh](http://www.feisean.org/ceilidh) for further information

**Abbeyfield**  
Making time for older people

A centre of excellence for adult care which provides a range of services to the wider community in the Lochaber area.

We currently have vacancies for our independent living with extra care. This is made up of 1 or 2 bedroom, high quality, self contained apartments.

Should you require any additional information please contact:  
The Manager, Abbeyfield Ballachulish Society Ltd,  
Park Road, Ballachulish, PH49 4JS  
Telephone 01855 812950 Email- [abb.ballachulish@btconnect.com](mailto:abb.ballachulish@btconnect.com)

Dram, fine, splendid.  
Need we say more!!!

**Ben Nevis Distillery**

[www.bennevisdistillery.com](http://www.bennevisdistillery.com)

BEN NEVIS DISTILLERY (FORT WILLIAM) LTD,

Lochy Bridge, Fort William, PH33 6TJ

T: 01397 702476 • F: 01397 702768 • E: [collin@bennevisdistillery.com](mailto:collin@bennevisdistillery.com)

To advertise in the Oban Times  
call our sales team on 01631 568000

**The Oban Times**  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

**a warm welcome awaits...**

**Luxury Caravans**  
Double glazed option.  
Book stunning views.  
Sleeps up to 6 people  
Full short or short breaks.

**Linnhe Lochside Holidays**  
Corpach, Fort William, PH33 7NL  
Tel: 01397 772376  
[www.linnhe-lochside-holidays.co.uk](http://www.linnhe-lochside-holidays.co.uk)

**Luxury Chalets**  
Full week or short breaks.  
All heating, linen and towels included.  
Sleeps 4.5 or 6 people.

**Touring & Camping**  
Terraced touring area.  
Heated facilities.  
Full size bath.  
RV service point.  
Friendly Atmosphere.

**Park Facilities**  
Licensed shop, bakery,  
laundry, drying room,  
2 play parks, Private  
beach & slipway.

**BEAUTIFUL GARDENS - STUNNING VIEWS OF LOCH EIL & BEN NEVIS - PET FRIENDLY OPTION - 5 MILES FROM FORT WILLIAM - FREE FISHING - WELL PLACED FOR DAY TRIPS - BROCHURE SENT WITH PLEASURE - OPEN 15TH DECEMBER TO 31ST OCTOBER**

Accredited by: Green Tourism, Scottish Quality Food, Scottish Family Parks, Green Tourism, AA

Fraserburgh, Facebook, Scottish Quality Food, Scottish Family Parks, Green Tourism, AA

HIE Highlands and Islands Enterprise, AA, AA Awards, The Highland Council, VisitScotland

# SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER!



Pupils of Fort William primary school took on their parents and carers for a football match at the King George V park 21\_f28schoolsspread04



Inverlochy primary sevens enjoyed their last day before high school. The pupils also presented departing headteacher, Ainsley Burns, with flowers as she takes on a new job after 22 years at Inverlochy 21\_f28schoolsspread13



Sixth year pupils from Kinlochleven enjoyed their final school days in Switzerland. The 18 pupils and four staff members visited Geneva's botanical gardens, old town, the beach and sailed across Lac Leman



Three staff members at Ballachulish primary and nursery bade fond farewells to their pupils on the last day of term. Pupil support assistant, Janice Lear (back left) and early years practitioner, Maisie Dennison, (back right) are retiring while Kerry Mitchell, also an early years practitioner, is moving to a new nursery



Past and present pupils and staff of Upper Achintore primary school enjoyed a ceilidh to mark the school's closure this year as part of a merger with Fort William primary. The two schools will move into the new Lundavra primary in October 21\_f28schoolsspread02



Lochaber high school pupils learned about culture in other countries during a trip to Paris. The teenagers visited a number of sites in France and stopped off in Belgium both on the way and the return trip



Sam Clark, headteacher of Ballachulish primary, enjoyed a retirement party after more than 30 years at the school. Pupils and parents gave him a cake and Ferrari-themed gifts and wished him a happy retirement



A map of Lochaber showing journeys from mountains to coastlines was made by the pupils of three Fort William schools. Children from Caol, Inverlochy and Banavie designed the 'sea to summit' map which will be on display in the West Highland museum until the end of the summer holidays



Lochside R.C primary seven pupils received certificates and trophies for endeavour, citizenship, sport and attendance at the school's end of term ceremony 21\_f28schoolsspread05



Elise Thomson, left, was named winner of the confident individual award at the Caol primary annual prizegiving. Alfie Duncan won sports personality of the year and the Catherine Mackenzie memorial cup went to Anna MacDonald for outstanding citizenship throughout her seven years at Caol primary



The last ever primary sevens of Fort William R.C school enjoyed a leavers ceremony before heading to Lochaber high school. Fort William R.C will merge with Lochside R.C after the summer break. Two pupils, Robert Wszelaki and Konrad Mikulak, are missing from the photo. From left: Madison Campbell, Michaela MacPhee, Karol Ziemska, Cameron Welsh and Hamish Shaw 21\_f28schoolsspread03

**DKD**  
D KELLY DESIGN  
Architectural Technologist

Planning & Warrant Applications  
Self Build Advice & Guidance  
Domestic, Commercial & Industrial

**Tel: 01397 700999 Fax: 01397 700888**  
Email: admin@dkellydesign.co.uk 111 High St, Fort William PH33 6DG www.dkellydesign.co.uk

**Lochaber Rural Education Trust**  
charity number - SC032111

**AHA Summer Options for disabled children**

Every Wednesday and Thursday  
in the Rural Education Centre, Fort William

**Also Children's Holiday Clubs for ages 4-8 years**

For more information telephone 01397 703819/708642

**Beautiful Boutique HAIR & BEAUTY**

Kirsty and Leanne formerly of New Image have moved to Unit 2 Glenly Street, Caol Shopping Centre, Caol.

We are now open Ashleigh Mackinnon will be full time doing beauty treatments. Spray tanning is available by Leanne Mackay Tue - Sat. Donna Macleod will be barbering every Friday from 4.30-6.30pm.

Call for appointment, early/late appointments available.  
**Tel: 01397 703383**

**O.P.I**  
WELLA  
The World Leader in Professional Nail Care

# Arena

> cinema, radio and what's on listings > leisure ideas > local events

## food and drink

As part of the Year of Food and Drink Scotland, the Oban Times has teamed up with local businesses to celebrate the wealth of variety, quality and talent in this booming industry.

Over the coming months, the paper will be promoting a selection of events, stories, restaurants, pubs and producers from the west coast.

Each week, one business from the sector will be the focus of this exciting new column, along with a delicious recipe, so keep an eye out and allow the Oban Times to provide a taste of the fantastic food and drink available in the area.

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



### This week...

Who is it? Creagan Inn



Creagan Inn, nestled between the A828 and Loch Creran is one of Argyll's most iconic hosteries. This is the first season under the experienced husband and wife team of Isobel and Duncan MacCorquodale and they are pleased to welcome passing visitors and locals alike with a contemporary approach to traditional Highland hospitality.

Travelling by car, Creagan can be reached from Oban in 25 minutes or in 40 minutes from Fort William. No matter what the Argyllshire summer has in store you, Creagan can provide light bites or bigger plates to keep everyone happy at lunch; with a warming bowl of soup in our fireside lounge or a summer salad on the lochside deck.

There's delicious home baking and desserts as well as freshly ground coffee and speciality teas if you find yourself in need of a caffeine and sugar fix to help you on your way.

Recently achieving VisitScotland's Taste Our Best award, Creagan Inn has demonstrated a commitment to using seasonal, Scottish produce from a number of prestigious West Highland suppliers. The lunch and evening menus feature a wide variety of pub favourites such as fish and chips, steak and ale pie and the not-for-the-faint-hearted Route 78 burger; a Scottish twist on the American classic named after the Route 78 cycle path which passes Creagan Inn. There's also local steaks and seafood to tempt every palate and a bar well-stocked with a great range of Scottish beers, guest ales and the finest single malt scotch whiskies.

For more information or to book call 01631 730250 or visit creaganinn.co.uk.

*Creagan Inn original recipe  
West Highland Style  
Mussels*



**Ingredients:**  
500g Mussels; washed and de-bearded  
200g Scottish Smoked Haddock, flaked  
1 Medium Leek, roughly chopped  
Knob of Butter  
150ml Scotch Whisky  
250ml Double Cream  
50g Fresh Parsley, finely chopped  
Salt and Black Pepper to Season

**Method:**  
1. Fry the leeks and smoked haddock in the butter over a medium heat  
2. Add the mussels and cover. Steam for 1 minute until the shells open.  
3. Add the cream, parsley, salt and ground black pepper taste. Reduce until the sauce has thickened  
4. Serve with good, fresh crusty bread and a lemon wedge.

If you would like your business to feature in our weekly Food & Drink column call us on 01631 568000



## Fibre Fun day in Benderloch

A celebration of all thing woolly will be held Thursday, July 16, at Victory Hall in Benderloch as Woolfeis 2015 presents Fibre Fun Community Day.

'This year's event is all about people coming together, sharing their projects, their skills and having fun with fibre for the day,' said organiser, Jill Bowis. 'There is nothing like sharing the pleasures of fluff, yarns, and equipment with others.'

Everyone is invited to join the fun during this informal event, whether to share skills and projects, or simply to watch. Hobby and business crafters are welcome, and applications are still being taken for stalls and workshops. 'You can bring your needles, your wheel, your loom, your spindle and indulge in a day of crafting with others,' said Jill.

'You can come along to try out various weaving looms a spinning wheel, a spindle, or any of the other equipment. See what you can learn or help to introduce someone else to a new skill.'

'Reduced resources means we have just the one day this year, but Woolfeis organisers, Local Origins Rural Network (LORN) have got plans for the full three-day programme for 2016 brewing nicely,' Jill added.

There will be yarn, roving, fleece and equipment for sale. Doors open from 10.30 to 4.30 and the Salvation Army will be providing refreshments all day. For more information or to book a stall or workshop, contact Jill at [woolfeis15@lorn.org.uk](mailto:woolfeis15@lorn.org.uk), phone 01631 720223 or visit [www.lorn.org.uk/woolfeis](http://www.lorn.org.uk/woolfeis)



Sophie Campbell and Ann Barlow pictured playing at the first Taynuilt Ceilidh of the summer last Wednesday in the local Community Hall.

## Wide range of stalls and a friendly atmosphere at new local market

Eager shoppers gathered at the Bay Great Western Hotel on Saturday for Oban's newest market.

Held monthly throughout the summer and during holidays, the Great Western Crafters & Producers Market features from 10 to over 20 stalls offering a wide range of baubles and edibles made by locals.

'Argyll has so many fantastic crafters and producers and I don't think people realise the quality that is out there,' said market organiser, Oriana Lopez.

'We have a vast array of jewellery-makers using everything from colourful beads and wire to semi-precious gemstones, polymer clay, charms and children's jewellery.'

'Visitors can find gorgeous jams, chutneys and home baking - you can even paint your own silk scarf.'

Oriana added: 'I love meeting people and chatting to them - everyone from our wonderful crafters to the general public.'

The next market will be held on August 8 from 10.30am to 4pm.

Vendors include Candle Cups by



Dorothy Womack, Oban Creations 4 Occasions, Oriana's Jewellery, Hand-made Toys Oban, Charmed Again, All Things Beautiful and Paradise Kitchen.

For more information, contact Oriana at 07876 142808 or through the Facebook page.

## Outlander star launched Gaelic leaners website

GAEILIC learner and star of Outlander, Gary Lewis, was present in Glasgow recently to launch the new-look Gaelic learners' website, LearnGaelic.scot.

Glasgow born actor, Gary, who has starred on the big screen in films such as Billy Elliot and Gangs of New York as well as TV programmes including Silent Witness, had to learn Gaelic for his part as Colum McKenzie, the Laird and Chief of Clan McKenzie, in the TV series, Outlander.

Gary was also a guest presenter of MG ALBA's FilmG award

ceremony last year and has family connections in North Uist where his wife hails from.

Outlander's Gaelic coach, Adhamh Ó Broin, also endorsed the new-look website and outlined the importance of the Gaelic language in the broadcasting industry.

LearnGaelic.scot provides a one-stop-shop for anyone interested in learning Gaelic with an emphasis on adult learners.

The website is a collaboration between Bòrd na Gàidhlig, MG ALBA, the BBC, Bòrd na Ceilte (Alba) and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.



## Milestone for Fèis nan Garbh Chrioschan

A WEEK-LONG fèis is to be held this month, to celebrate 25 years of the festival in west Lochaber.

Fèis nan Garbh Chrioschan will run from Monday, July 13, until Sunday, July 19, to mark the milestone, with ceilidhs, concerts, Gaelic story-telling and a fun day as well as the usual fèis competitions.

Most events will be held at Acharacle primary school, with fringe activities at the Loch Shiel hotel.

Evening entertainment includes a concert by tutors past and present and performances from Lochaber ceilidh trail and Ardnish ceilidh band.

For more information contact Amie MacMaster via [amie\\_3lizabeth@live.co.uk](mailto:amie_3lizabeth@live.co.uk) or see the Fèis nan Garbh Chrioschan Facebook page.

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

To advertise in our community noticeboard call 01631 568000

Advertise in the Community Noticeboard for just £16.21 (plus VAT)

This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number.

All AGMs will be placed on the Public Notice Page.

Please ask for details

An Comunn Gàidhealach CRUACHAN BRANCH  
**SUMMER CEILIDH**  
Thursday 9th July  
Taynuilt Village Hall  
at 7.30pm  
Admission £4, Members £3,  
Children (5-16 yrs) £2

## MID ARGYLL ART SOCIETY 48th ANNUAL EXHIBITION

(In conjunction with Mid-Argyll Camera Club)

Monday 3rd August - Saturday 8th August 2015

LOCHGILPHEAD DRILL HALL

Times of opening: Monday - Friday 10am - 8pm

Saturday 10am - 2pm

Handing in: Saturday 1st August, 10am - 4pm at Lochgilphead Drill Hall.

Entry Fee - £3.00 per painting, up to 5 works.

All paintings must be ready to hang and have name, address, title and price (if for sale) on the back. Only original paintings and drawings may be exhibited (not computer generated).

If submissions exceed hanging space, the hanging committee will undertake the final decision.

Enquiries to:

Angus MacNeill: 01546 603074

Vicky Lyon: 01546 603281

David Murray: 01546 605284



# LOOK!

your customers do

this advert could be seen by over 35,000 people every week\*

\*source: JICREG data 01/04/2014

promote your business with

**The Oban Times**

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

call our sales team today

01631 568000



Scotland and her nearest northern neighbour. Ranging from fast reels, to slow waltzes, Gaelic song and puirt a beul - do come along!

For such a small island, Easdale Hall has hosted more than its fair share of world class musicians. 'Half of As The Crow Flies - Rona and Marit - played there as a duo in 2012, and Rona added some fiddle pyrotechnics to Mike Maran's play, 'Indian Peter' here last year,' said Steve Brown, arts co-coordinator for Eilean Eisdeal, the island's community development group. 'I couldn't tell you how many events have been held in Easdale Island Hall since it was renovated in 2003, but it is well into the hundreds. We have hosted Lau, Bert Jansch, Michael Marra, John Renbourn, Shooglefinty, Dougie Maclean, Blazin' Fiddles, The Waterboys and Dick Gaughan, to name just a few.'

The fun continues through the summer at this popular island venue. Easdale Island Folk Museum's Festival will run on the weekend of July 25 and 26. The following weekend, July, 31 and August 1 and 2 is the Summer Arts festival, featuring a ceilidh by Argyll Ceilidh Trail. August 8 is the annual 'Atlantic Adventure Day' with plenty of wet, splashy fun in the harbour and a dance in the hall in the evening featuring DJMC. On August 29, the venue will host banjo player extraordinaire, Cara Impala, and her band, The New Prohibition from Flagstaff, Arizona. Mull Theatre will present their comedy, 'Stones in his Pockets' on September 18.

The doors and bar open at 7.30 pm for As the Crow Flies, and the concert begins at 8.15. There is always a late return ferry after events. For more information and tickets, visit [easdaleislandhall.org](http://easdaleislandhall.org)

## Mòd Shop opens in town in preparation for the big event

OBAN'S very own Mòd shop has been launched on George Street as the town counts down to the start of the national competition in October.

Taking up residence in the former 'Yes' shop building, the premises will be used to display Mòd memorabilia and to sell donated goods in aid of event funds, as well as being an information hub and meeting place for entrants.

The shop will run by volunteers in the run-up to, and during, the Royal National Mòd, which will be held in Oban between October 9 and 17, the 16th time it has been hosted in the town.

Speaking at Saturday's launch, stewarding convener Moira Dunlop explained: 'We've had a steady stream of people come into the shop today which is encouraging.'

'As well as the memorabilia and donated

goods, we're hoping people will come along and play too, really creating a proper Mòd atmosphere.'

Ishbel Banks, who is volunteering at the shop, added: 'A big thank you goes to Graeme MacQueen at the MacQueen Brothers Charitable trust, for donating furniture for sale. If anyone else would like to donate, we are accepting everything apart from clothing and electrical goods, with all the proceeds going to mod funds.'

The committee is keen to stress they are also looking for volunteers at the shop, as well as donations.

For more information, or if anyone wishes to donate but doesn't have transport, call Ishbel on 01631 562 850, to arrange a collection.



Offering a diverse selection of fine foods and health products in the heart of Argyll.

11 Argyll Street, Lochgilphead PA31 8LZ  
01546 606 292

**Woolfeis 2015 : Fibre Crafts Community Fun Day**  
Thursday 16th July 10.30 to 4.30  
Victory Hall, Benderloch  
Bring your crafts and share  
Come & learn new skills  
Stalls & demonstrations (stalls welcome)  
Refreshments all day  
[lorn.org.uk/woolfeis](http://lorn.org.uk/woolfeis) 01631 720223

**53%**  
of decision-makers  
buy vehicles locally  
Regional press is the relevant choice  
for motors advertising.

competition time!

**WIN!**  
A Watercolour Workshop with *Clare Robinson*

Discover the beauty of vintage peonies, roses and hydrangeas and other seasonal flowers with luscious petals and sumptuous colours. Learn a loose style of watercolour

painting to explore the "wet into wet" technique, crisp and faded edges, brushwork, colour and composition. This course will be about being expressive and creative.

August 22nd and 23rd, at Gloagburn Farm Shop (Function Room), 9.30am - 4.30pm. Includes a lunch of homemade soup/sandwich and coffee/tea & shortbread

For your chance to win a Watercolour Workshop with Clare Robinson, simply answer this easy question, complete the coupon and post it to The Oban Times, Watercolour Workshop, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by 14 July 2015.

**Question:** What kind of workshop is it? a) Pastel b) Watercolour c) Guache?

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

Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entry coupons will not be accepted. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvern Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyvern Media and associated company employees and their families. Winners will be notified by Tuesday 14 July 2015.

## Entertainment Guide

### Cinema

Oban Phoenix Cinema,  
community-owned and run  
Tel: 01631 562905 [www.obanphoenix.com](http://www.obanphoenix.com)

**10 JULY 2015 - 16 JULY 2015**

**JURASSIC WORLD (12A)**

Fri: 11:15, 13:05, 13:20; Sat: 11:50, 13:05; Sun: 11:15, 13:05; Mon, Tue: 13:05, 13:30;  
Wed: 15:10; Thu: 11:30, 13:20

**JURASSIC WORLD 3D (12A)**

Wed: 15:15

**MAGIC MIKE XXL (15)**

Fri: 21:10; Sat: 20:00; Sun, Tue: 20:20

Mon: 20:30; Wed: 17:50; Thu: 19:10

**MINIONS (PG)**

Fri: 11:00; Sat: 11:00, 15:35; Sun: 11:00, 15:45

Mon, Tue: 11:00, 11:15, 15:45

Wed: 13:00, 13:05; Thu: 14:10

**MINIONS 3D (PG)**

Fri, Sun: 14:00; Sat: 14:30; Mon, Tue: 16:15; Thu: 11:00

**NT LIVE: EVERYMAN (TBC)**

Thu: 19:00

**SPOOKS (15)**

Fri, Sun: 16:10; Sat: 19:30, 22:30

**TED 2 (15)**

Fri: 18:40, 21:30; Sat: 17:50, 21:45

Sun, Mon: 17:50, 21:15; Tue: 17:50, 21:30

Wed: 20:20, 21:00; Thu: 16:00

**THE LONGEST RIDE (12A)**

Fri: 15:45, 18:35; Sat: 16:50; Sun: 18:35

Mon, Tue: 18:30; Wed: 18:00; Thu: 16:15

**UP (PG)**

Sat: 10:00

**FILM SYNOPSIS**

**TED 2**

Hilarious racy comedy from the creator of Family Guy. Life has changed drastically for thunder buddies John (Mark Wahlberg), now a bachelor, and best pal Ted (Seth MacFarlane), now married to the woman (Jessica Barth) of his dreams. Problems arise when the couple decide to adopt a child, but the law declares Ted to be property and not a person. Angry and dejected, the lovably foulmouthed teddy bear must seek legal help from a young lawyer (Amanda Seyfried) and a legendary, civil-rights attorney (Morgan Freeman) to get the justice he deserves.

**SPOOKS**

Electrifying espionage big screen outing for the popular TV drama. Terrorist Adam Qasim escapes from MI5 custody during a handover to the head of counter-terrorism of MI5 Harry Pearce. When Harry disappears soon after, his protégé Will Crombie (Kit Harrington) is tasked with finding out what happened.

**THE LONGEST RIDE**

Stirring romantic drama spanning the ages. Former bull-riding champion Luke (Scott Eastwood) and college student Sophia (Britt Robertson) are in love, but conflicting paths and ideals threaten to tear them apart: Luke hopes to make a comeback on the rodeo circuit, and Sophia is about to embark on her dream job in New York's art world. As the couple ponder their romantic future, they find inspiration in *Alain Alda*, an elderly man whose decades-long romance with his beloved wife withstood the test of time.

**COMING SOON**

**ANDRE RIEUS MAASTRICHT CONCERT**

18/07/2015 The concerts are performed in front of thousands of fans and are set amongst the beautiful medieval backdrop of his beautiful home town of Maastricht. As always, André is joined by his famous Johann Strauss Orchestra, his sopranos, tenors and some very...

### Radio

Oban FM

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

### THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS

**MONDAY:**

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

**TUESDAY:**

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

**WEDNESDAY:**

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

**THURSDAY:**

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

**FRIDAY:**

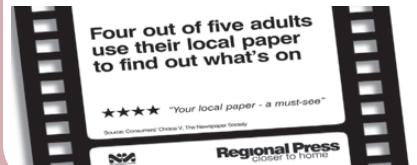
0800 AM on FM, 1000 Teeny and Tiny Show, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Weekend Warmup with Ian Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 1845 Sports View, 1900 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig, 2000 Friday Night with Innes, 2100 TFI Friday with Jim Law

**SATURDAY:**

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

**SUNDAY:**

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



# DON'T BUY IT HIRE IT



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

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

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

In all these activities, the hiring of equipment and tools can mean a job becomes an economically viable activity. It means the average, hard-pressed householder can afford to improve his home or garden without having to buy expensive tools and equipment which may only ever be used once or twice. Jobs can be safely executed simply

because hired tools and equipment are in first class order, well maintained and safe.

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

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

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

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



**McFADYENS CONTRACTORS**  
(CAMPBELTOWN) LIMITED

Civil Engineering, Drainage Contractors  
Plant Hirers and Quarry Masters

Tel: 01586 552961/2 Fax: 01586 553733

Operated and Non Operated Plant Hire:  
 • Crane Hire  
 • Tippers / Low Loader  
 • 1.8t to 30t Excavators  
 • 3-30t Dump Trucks and Rollers

[www.mcfadyenscontractors.co.uk](http://www.mcfadyenscontractors.co.uk)  
 E-Mail: info@mcfadyenscontractors.co.uk  
 Glebe Street, Campbeltown, PA28 6LR


The Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban

**The perfect wedding venue!**

- \* Full Catering Service
- \* Seat 250 guests \* Dance 400 guests
- \* Full bar facilities with draft beer
- \* Wedding Hall hire \* Wedding Dance hire
- \* Outside venue dressing is available

All prices on request

For full details contact Amanda  
 e: [enquiries@argyllshiregathering.com](mailto:enquiries@argyllshiregathering.com) or tel: 01631 569407



**JOHN UNDERWOOD**  
**PLANT HIRE**  
Errigal, Dalmally, Argyll, PA33 1AS



Tel: 01838 200357  
 Mobile: 07785 592140

**JEWSON**

**Don't dig deep for TOOL HIRE**

**For all your tool hire visit Jewson today!**

Access equipment - Power tools  
 Earth moving  
 Mixing  
 Floor preparation  
 Site equipment  
 Landscaping  
 and much more...



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

North Rd, Fort William PH33 6TQ Tel: 01397 701086  
 Sinclair Dr, Oban PA34 4DR Tel: 01631 562208  
 Bishopton Rd, Lochgilphead PA31 8PY Tel: 01546 602821

**CAMPBELL PLANT HIRE (LOCHABER) LTD**

**Plant & Tool Hire for Lochaber**

- DIGGERS • DUMPERS • ROLLERS • MIXERS • POWER TOOLS • ACCESS PLATFORMS
- WOODCHIPPERS • SCAFFOLD TOWERS • TRAILERS
- Hydraulic Hoses supplied & fitted
- Storage containers can be delivered to site

Unit 6, Annat Industrial Estate, Corpach, Fort William, PH33 7NA

Tel: 01397 772 333  
[www.campbellplant.co.uk](http://www.campbellplant.co.uk)  
 info@campbellplant.co.uk



**THE HIRE CENTRE (FORT WILLIAM) LTD.**

**YOUR ONE STOP LOCAL BUSINESS FOR ALL HIRE EQUIPMENT**

- PLANT & TOOL HIRE
- DIY/GARDEN TOOLS & EQUIPMENT
- DIGGERS/DUMPERS
- ROLLERS/MIXERS
- POWERTOOLS
- PRESSURE WASHERS
- CARPET CLEANERS
- ALLOY TOWER SCAFFOLDING & LADDERS
- TRAILERS
- SMALL PLANT SERVICE & REPAIRS
- DELIVERY SERVICE
- SPECIAL WEEKEND RATES AVAILABLE

**CONTACT US**  
 Website: [www.hirecentreltd.com](http://www.hirecentreltd.com)  
 Email: [info@hirecentreltd.com](mailto:info@hirecentreltd.com)  
 TEL: 01397 700077 FAX: 01397 701664  
 Unit 32, Ben Nevis Ind Estate, Fort William PH33 6PR  
 Open Mon - Fri 0730 - 1700

**WEST COAST**  
**Removals & Deliveries**

Removals • Deliveries • Home/Garden Clearance

Competitive rates  
 Nationwide Coverage Including West Coast Islands



Call James: 07983 691962

**HIRE and SUPPLIES**

**For all your Hire requirements**  
**For the DIY or the Trade**

Whether it's a Lawnmower or a 16 ton digger  
 Call for a friendly local service.  
 Call Mary-Ann 01631 566306

**Mull Hire Tools & Plant**  
 01680 300422

From foundation to fireplace tools and plant for your DIY.

Diggers, dumpers, drills, access equipment, pumps, garden equipment and more.  
 Mull Hire & Chainsaw Service

Salen Aros, Isle of Mull. Tel: 01680 300422

# Business

## Perfect way to go wild in Argyll

**A**n adventure and eco tour company is hoping to attract kayakakers from across the world to explore the natural and cultural heritage of Argyll.

Wild Argyll, which is run by Will Self, (pictured right) and a team consisting of artists, a photographer and a BAFTA winning cameraman, provides bespoke guided adventures by sea kayak and on foot to explore the depth and diversity of the Argyll landscape.

The company, which has had support from Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway, was set up in 2014 and is centrally placed on the new Argyll Sea Kayak Trail and Scottish Sea Kayak Trail.

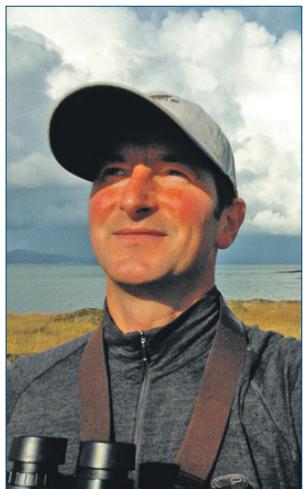
Will said: 'The sheer beauty of the place is obvious, but there is more to discover and when people go home after one of our trips, they will have been shown some overlooked gems.'

'The best way to get about is by sea and kayaks are perfect as they immediately open up the opportunity to explore tiny lost harbours with old tracks leading to ancient hermit cells, standing stones, monasteries or water mills.'

'Wild Argyll is a mix of myself, a rural development consultant, Mark Smith, a wildlife cameraman who has worked on some of the BBC's most ambitious programmes, zoologist and artist Jane Smith, painter Caroline Hunter and wildlife photographer Philip Price.'

'Together we specialise in bringing people closer to nature using our variety of skills and knowledge. So far, we have had a lot of enthusiasm and the feedback from clients is that they want to come back for even longer and they are spreading the word to friends.'

Wild Argyll, based in Knapdale,



offers a range of tours and it is hopeful its new website and social media platforms will attract more customers this summer season.

Will added: 'The plan for the future is to make sure people know about us and that we offer fun and inspiring trips to get a really good feel for the nature and culture of the Argyll landscape. I want to attract people here who will also use the many other excellent businesses and resources. Tourism is increasingly important to Argyll and we feel there is lots of scope to encourage more people to visit in winter.'

'Business Gateway's free courses in websites and social media have been very useful and allowed us to make



READY TO EXPLORE: Guided adventures in kayaks bring people closer to nature

[www.explorewildargyll.com](http://www.explorewildargyll.com) live. Having an adviser has also been of great support; the friendly ear and experience of Donald Melville has been a big advantage especially as we develop and diversify.'

Donald Melville, Business Adviser,

Business Gateway said: 'Will knew that a web presence for the company would promote it to a wider audience and he attended our website development course as well as two social media workshops. This training has helped Will to get Wild Argyll online properly

and attract customers who want to experience our region.'

To find out more about how Business Gateway can help you set up and develop your own business, call 01546 808 363 or visit [www.bgateway.com/argyll-and-bute](http://www.bgateway.com/argyll-and-bute)

## Shop window display is contest's jewel in the crown

**S**COTTISH Islands Jewellery is celebrating its first summer in Oban as the winner of the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival Best Shop Window Display, along with their new line of 'Love Oban' jewellery and accessories.

Shirley K. Lloyd Home and Richard Home have been making their signature island-shaped jewellery since 2001.

But Shirley's experience goes back to 1995, and she holds degrees in jewellery, silversmithing and metalwork.

From their home workshop on the Isle of Bute, their love for, and intimate knowledge of, the Hebrides, inspired an entire line of unique charms shaped like the various isles. They opened a shop on Bute in 2013, but at the end of 2014, they moved their home, two children and business to Oban.

Their eye-catching signage and artfully arranged window displays have made a fine addition to Argyll Square, and it's this window dressing that earned the couple the top slot in the competition sponsored by the Highland Fling committee, the fringe element of the Festival.

Kirsty Duncan, chairwoman of the Highland Fling, said: 'We wanted to encourage local businesses to become involved in the Festival. In keeping with the Scotland Year of Food and Drink, our theme was "Food, Drink, Music and Dance."

'Scottish Island Jewellery's display of musical instruments and notes complemented our theme perfectly.'

A delighted Shirley said: 'We really love to work on our displays, so we were happy to participate in the contest.'

Their latest line is the 'Love Oban' series, featuring pendants, brooches,



CLEAR WINNERS:  
Shirley and Richard  
Home with their  
award-winning  
window display and  
above a sample from  
their 'Love Oban' range  
[16\\_T28window02](#)

cufflinks and key rings. 'The range is made entirely in silver, except for the key ring,' Shirley said. 'It features the Love Oban logo with a heart and McCaig's Tower. It's really an iconic image of Oban.'

The Love Oban range joins the popular island-shaped lines that have

become Shirley's trademark. She makes pendants, cufflinks, earrings, tie tacks and bracelets in the shape of islands, including Skye, Barra, Orkney, Shetland and others. In addition, the shop features a wide range of beautiful jewellery and they offer custom work and all the services expected of a qual-

ity jewellers, including commissions, cleaning, repairs, remodels and ring sizing. Out-of-date pieces can also be turned into new favourites.

Richard said: 'We have an open plan shop, so visitors and customers can see us at work. We do all of our work here in the store.'

Scottish Islands Jewellery can offer wedding rings, both standard and custom made. Their inventory changes regularly, so there is always something fresh to browse.

The shop is at 23 Argyll Square, or online at [scottishislandjewellery.co.uk](http://scottishislandjewellery.co.uk), or ring 07760297957.

## Taking on and managing staff: advisers give advice and support

**W**ith the summer season underway, many Argyll businesses, particularly those in the tourism sector, are taking on temporary workers to help them manage their busiest time of year. However, any small business taking on staff, even for a short period, should be aware of their responsibilities as an employer with regard to staff working hours.

Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway is on hand to help local businesses understand these legal obligations, by providing support from business advisers as well as a range of practical guides relating to taking on and managing staff.

This includes sample offer letters and contracts of employment. To request guides, templates or to meet a Business Adviser, contact the Business Gateway office on 01546 604 555. Anyone taking on staff is advised to check out the legislation that applies to their specific businesses, but here is a summary of some of the key information relevant to working hours:

Unless the worker has signed an opt-out agreement, normally workers aged 18 or over cannot be forced to work for more than 48 hours per week on average. However, by signing a written agreement, most can agree to work longer than

the 48 hour limit. They can cancel this agreement whenever they want as long as they give their employer at least seven days' notice.

Workers are entitled to regular breaks in the working day. Those aged 18 or over should be offered a minimum 20 minute break for every shift lasting more than six hours.

An employer can decide when staff take their breaks, but it cannot be at the beginning or end of a shift and breaks needed as a result of any health condition or disability must be allowed.

Staff are entitled to rest periods between working days. For those aged 18 and over there should be

at least 11 hours rest between each working day and no more than six days in every seven, or 12 days in every 14, should be worked. Exceptions can be made for busy periods, emergencies and people working away from home. In these cases, rest periods can be compensated for and taken later.

Young workers aged 16 and 17 cannot normally work more than 8 hours per day or 40 hours a week. There is no opt-out for young workers, so they can't work longer hours even if they want to. Younger workers are usually entitled to a 30 minute rest break if they work more than four and a half hours, and two days off

every week. All workers have the same basic employment protection rights regardless of whether they work full or part-time. Part-time workers must be treated equally to comparable full-time workers who work for the same employers and do similar work under the same type of employment contract.

A change to a worker's working hours amounts to a change in their terms and conditions of employment and, as such, an employer needs them to agree to it.

More information on taking on staff is available at [www.bgateway.com/business-guides/employing-people](http://www.bgateway.com/business-guides/employing-people)

editor@obantimes.co.uk

01631 568000

West is best in shortlist for food awards

WEST Highland businesses have proved they are among the best around as a number have been shortlisted for the Highlands and Islands food and drink awards.

From hotels and restaurants to farm shops and seafood bars, it seems west is best as businesses in Argyll, Lochaber, Kyle and Skye have all been recognised for their commitment to providing the best possible produce as they have been shortlisted in a number of categories.

Among a record-breaking 100 entries this year, West Highland restaurants make up half of those shortlisted in the restaurant of the year category. The Whitehouse restaurant in Lochaline, the Flodigarry hotel on Skye and the Isle of Eriska restaurant in Argyll are among the finalists.

This is not the first taste of success for Sarah Jones, co-founder and co-director of the Whitehouse, as the restaurant won the category in 2012 and was shortlisted last year.

Ms Jones said: 'We are all delighted to be nominated for the shortlist, particularly in this, the Scotland year of food and drink. This award champions the use of local food and drink - the reason why we at the Whitehouse exist.'

'Lochaber has an amazing local larder and we want as many people to know about it as possible. Being shortlisted will help us to get the word out.'

As well as restaurant of the year, the Isle of Eriska has also been shortlisted in the environment award category, while Hector MacLeod, bar team leader at the Flodigarry hotel picked up the second nomination for his workplace when he was shortlisted in the young shining star category.

But it is not only the restaurants hoping for success, the Great Glen charcuterie in Lochaber and the Skye Farm shop have both been shortlisted for two awards each.

Purveyors of 'yummy bits'

COCKLES in Lochgilphead is under new ownership and is now trading as Marmalade Deli.

But it will be selling much of the same stock, featuring fine foods with a focus on local and organic.

'Marmalade Deli is a fine foods shop, but we prefer to think of ourselves as purveyors of yummy bits,' owner Jennifer Jaime said.

'We have a broad selection of gourmet foods not typically found in the supermarkets, with an obvious emphasis on organic, sustainably sourced, healthy items. We also carry a generous range of gluten-free products and the complete Ecover range.'

Shoppers can find a range of locally produced cheese, smoked meats and fish at Marmalade Deli.

'We plan on increasing our range of locally produced goods as the shop grows,' said Jennifer.

She went on: 'At the moment, we are excited to get our feet on the ground and meet the community.'

'It's the everyday buying decisions of people supporting local shops like this that will shape the content and feel of what we provide.'

Marmalade Deli is located at 11 Argyll Street.

69%  
of the business community  
read the regional press

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society

Regional Press  
closer to home

Start a business. Grow a business.  
Business Gateway is here to help.

Free, practical advice and support for your business. Call your local office on 01546 605 459 or visit [www.bgateway.com/argyllandbute](http://www.bgateway.com/argyllandbute)

business gateway  
slighe gnothachais

# Television's favourite antiques experts To visit Oban and the Isle of Mull

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND, Two of Television's favourite antiques experts are returning to Oban this July and will be visiting the Isle of Mull for the first time.

The dealers, well known from their many appearances on daytime television, will be appearing at The Regent Hotel in Oban on Wednesday 15th July before heading to the Western Isles Hotel on the Isle of Mull on Thursday 16th and Friday 17th July. The dealers are inviting people to come along and meet them and will be offering top prices for antiques, gold and silver.

Simon Schneider and Tim Hogarth regularly appear on television and are highly trusted and respected for their knowledge and expertise. With almost 60 years' experience of buying and selling antiques, gold and silver between them, Simon and Tim joined forces to offer the public an opportunity to sell their heirlooms direct.

Simon Schneider said: "Tim and I receive so many enquiries from people asking us to value and buy their antiques, gold and silver that we have set up a series of venues and frequently visit Scotland. We had a great response last time we came to Oban and we are very excited to

be visiting the Isle of Mull for the first time. We have met some very interesting people and unearthed many unusual items and we hope people in Oban and of Mull will search their cupboards and bring along their unwanted antiques and forgotten treasures."

Tim Hogarth commented: "Although we're rivals on television Simon and I get on really well and the venues are great fun. Simon and I have our own specialities and together we cover all aspects of the antiques business. This means we can ensure we are able to offer the very best prices for those items we want to buy."

The dealers hope the venues will prove popular and promise no-one will have to wait long.

Simon Schneider explained: "Tim and I aim to see everyone who wants to meet us as quickly as possible. We guarantee no queues and no appointments are necessary however we are always happy to do home visits if anyone is unable to come along during the day or has something too large to bring in, in which case please phone or email us to make an appointment."

Simon Schneider and Tim Hogarth deal extensively in general antiques and are inviting people



Simon Schneider



Tim Hogarth

to bring along their antiques and forgotten treasures and take this opportunity to turn them into cash.

Simon Schneider is very well known and respected for his knowledge of 20th Century Decorative Arts. He specialises in Art Nouveau and Art Deco but also deals extensively in Silver and Oriental antiques and has a passion for fine ceramics.

Simon said: "The market for early 20th Century ceramics is particularly strong at the moment so this is a good time to realise their value. We are always very keen to purchase Moorcroft, Clarice Cliff and Royal Worces-

ter and the market for Oriental ceramics and antiques is very buoyant. I also hope we'll be able to buy some quality antique silver items, especially Scottish Silver. Gold and silver remains very strong and I'm sure we'll be able to tempt the public with our prices!"

Tim Hogarth specialises in gold, silver and antique jewellery. He is an experienced dealer and an expert in valuing diamonds and precious stones. He also has an extensive knowledge and experience of dealing in gold and silver, medals and vintage wrist watches.

Tim said "I'm hoping we'll find

some lovely antique jewellery and I'm keen to buy whatever the condition. Diamond jewellery is particularly sought after at the moment and we we'll be offering top prices for quality examples. Good quality amber and coral beads are also very wanted and we are always keen to purchase vintage wrist watches, especially Rolex, Cartier, Omega and Patek Phillippe. We'll be offering top cash prices to anyone who wants a deal and I'm sure we will discover some interesting and valuable items."

The dealers will be appearing at:

## The Regent Hotel,

Corran Esplanade,  
Oban, PA34 5PZ  
on  
Wednesday 15th July 2015  
from 10am to 7pm.

AND

## The Western Isles Hotel,

Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6PR  
on Thursday 16th July 2015  
from 10am to 5pm  
and Friday 17th July 2015  
from 10am to 4pm.

We asked the dealers for their wish list of the items they would particularly like to purchase. They came up with the following, so go check your cupboards now!

- Gold and silver
- Gold Jewellery and Pocket and Vintage Wrist Watches - in any condition
- Diamond Rings, Pendants, Earrings and Brooches etc.
- Silver Tea Sets, Trays, Caddies and Trophies
- Amber Beads and Coral Beads
- Medals
- Antique Scent Bottles and Snuff Boxes
- Oriental Ceramics and Lacquer Items
- Bronzes and Ivories
- Wedgwood, Royal Worcester, Clarice Cliff, Shelley and Moorcroft
- Art Nouveau and Art Deco Items
- Lalique and Galle Glass
- Enamelled Boxes and Card Cases
- Victorian Paintings
- Unusual walking sticks
- High quality and unusual decorative items

For more information please contact:  
Simon Schneider Telephone 07801 474331  
Email info@simonschneiderantiques.co.uk

## COME AND GET A GREAT DEAL WITH TV'S FAVOURITE ANTIQUES EXPERTS



Tim Hogarth



Simon Schneider

## TOP CASH PRICES PAID

FOR

## GOLD & SILVER

(Regardless of Condition)

## JEWELLERY & ANTIQUES

COME AND MEET US IN

## OBAN

THE REGENT HOTEL, CORRAN ESPLANADE, OBAN, PA34 5PZ

Wednesday 15th July 2015 – 10am to 7pm

AND

## ISLE OF MULL

THE WESTERN ISLES HOTEL, TOBERMORY, ISLE OF MULL, PA75 6PR

Thursday 16th July 2015 - 10am to 5pm AND Friday 17th July 2015 - 10am to 4pm

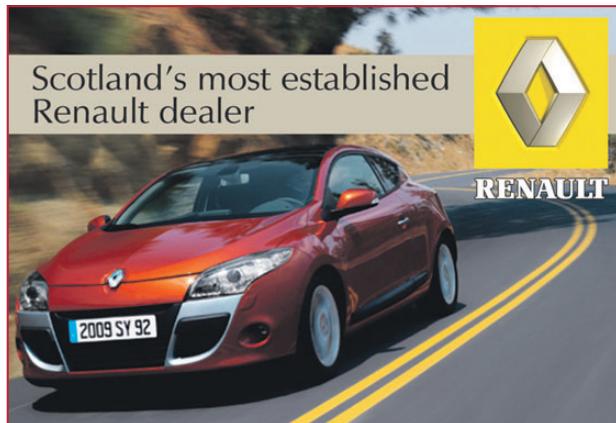
**Come along to CASH IN on your unwanted items!**

For more information please contact 07801474331 - email info@simonschneiderantiques.co.uk



# West Coast MOTORING TIMES

DRIVETIMES  SAILING TIMES  GARAGES  CAR DEALERSHIPS  MOTORING NEWS



Scotland's most established Renault dealer



New and Pre-Reg Renaults ready for immediate delivery

These are just a small selection of cars currently in our showrooms  
USED CARS

64 Dacia Logan Lauréate DCi estate, black, delivery mileage	£10,850
64 Dacia Duster Ambiance, DCi 4x4, Grey, 150 miles	£13,750
64 Dacia Sandero Laureate, 5 Dr HB, black 120 miles	£9,650
14 Renault Captur Dyn Medianav, DCi 1.5 Ivol, Delivery Mileage	£15,250
14 Renault Clio MedNav 1.5DCi, 5Dr blue, 12,400 Miles	£11,500
14 Skoda Fabia Elegance, 1.6TDI CR, Estate, Silver, 14,000 Miles,	£10,450
14 Ford Ka, Plain Red, 6600 miles	£6,700
63 Skoda Octavia S, TDI Estate Silver 14,000 miles	£13,950
13 Dacia Duster 4x4 Laureate, silver, 11,000 miles	£12,750
13 Peugeot 107 Allure, 5dr, blue, 12,000 miles	£6,250
62/13 Renault Megan dyn, 1.6, coupe, silver, 13,000 miles	£9,450
62 Citroen C3 Picasso, vtr + hdi, green, 12,000 miles	£8,500
62 Renault Clio dyn t/m, 1.2, 5dr white, 17,000 Miles	£6,950
61 Renault Wind roaster, GT line 1.6 convertible, black, 58,000 miles	£5,750
11 Renault Scenic, 1.6 DYN, Tom Tom, bronze, 40,000 miles,	£6,950
59 Suzuki Grand Vitara SZ4, 2.3 grey 58,000 miles	£6,750
08 Landrover Freelander TD4 2.2 Diesel, Silver	£8,750
56 Citroen Picasso 1.6DCi, silver, 44,000 miles	£3,000
06 BMW 3.8 ES, 2ltr Silver	£5,250

COMMERCIALS

64 Renault Kangoo Van, ML19 DCi 75, 100miles	£8,950+VAT
11 Vauxhall Combo 1700 cdti, white, 61,000 miles	£4,650+VAT
60 Vauxhall Vivaro DCI Van	£8,000 plus VAT
09 Ford Transit 85 T260, white, 65,000 miles	£5,250+VAT
08 Renault Master SWB, White	£8,000+VAT

New Dacia range available for test drive today!  
CAR AND VAN HIRE FROM BOTH BRANCHES [FIND US](#)

**W.D. Semple**

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE TO VIEW A MORE  
COMPREHENSIVE RANGE OF VEHICLES ON OFFER

Approved Renault Dealer  
[www.wdsemple.com](http://www.wdsemple.com)

**Motability**

Inveraray - Shore Street. Tel: 01499 302150 Fax: 01499 302281

Lochgilphead - Highbank Park. Tel: 01546 606767 Fax: 01546 606272

**NEW DACIA DUSTER AND SANDERO NOW IN STOCK**



NOW AVAILABLE

The New Dacia Range from £5,995\*



WHAT CAR?  
Car of the  
Year 2014

Best supermini  
under £12,000



Dacia Sandero Stepway = from £8,395\*



Dacia Duster = from £9,495\*



Logan MCV Estate = from £6,995

Sandero shown is a Laureate 1.2 16V 75 from £7,995.

sandero Stepway shown is a Laureate TCE 90 from £9,795.

Metallic paint optional on Sandero/Duster at £470.

## DRIVETIMES

### Vauxhall Corsa Van 1.3 CDTI

Sportive fully loaded registered 08, silver, only 34k, very good condition.

£4000 ono

Tel: 01967 402300

### FORD CONNECT 2.0L TURBO DIESEL

53 reg, 9 months MOT, wood lined, 4 good tyres, lots of new parts, very good mechanically, good condition for year.

£1,550 o.n.o.

Tel: 07928 888128

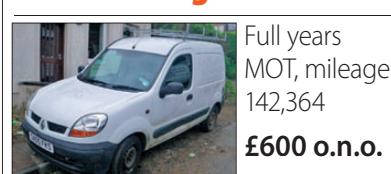
### Ford transit connect van



Iwb 90t230 trend, first reg 28 dec 2012, 4 new tyres, tow bar 17,400 miles.

£8600 no vat

### Renault Kangoo Van 2005



Full years MOT, mileage 142,364

£600 o.n.o.

Tel: 01770 600242

### Land Rover Range Rover Sport



2.7 TD V6 HSE 5dr, 86k miles, 2006, 1 years MOT, Just serviced at Morrison's Land Rover with full Land Rover service history, Dynamic pack, 20" alloys, privacy glass, side steps, ebony leather, refined and luxurious

£13,400

Tel: 01360 661001 or 07801 052 007

## SAILING TIMES

### 18' Shetland Cruiser

2 berth, 40hp engine.  
£1600.

Tel: 01586 551286

### Wayfarer MK1 composite



Sale includes overboom cover (new 2010), sails (main new condition, new Oct 2011, used once), 2 oars, floatation sacs. Used infrequently due to ill health, ready to sail. Launching trailer available separately. REDUCED PRICE  
£750 o.n.o.

Tel: 01770 600662

### 2.5 Yamaha, 4 stroke



8ft long Yamaha

inflatable

(4 person) 250T

£420 o.n.o.

Tel: 01852 300191

### 'Wanderer' sailing dinghy



Built by Anglo Marine in 1985. Length 14ft. With trailer and outboard motor fitment. This is a robust, safe and versatile dinghy. Onshore near Lochgair.

£1350

Call Jim on 07768 760622 or 01546 602852

## WANTED

### WANTED

All types of 4 x 4 vehicles, Landrovers, Toyotas, Nissan, any 4x4 considered non-runners, failures, single or double cab and accident damaged, MOT failure, genuine people to deal with.

Telephone: 01250 884306  
or mobile 07885 203020

### URGENTLY WANTED

All British & foreign scrap cars, MOT failures, 4x4s, vans, pick-ups & light commercials  
Top prices for the right vehicles  
We cover all of Argyll.

For prompt attention phone  
07845 462755 or 07887 868325

### WANTED

Wanted all 4 x 4s, old or new Toyota Hilux, land cruiser, all pickups single or double cabs, any condition, runner or not, high miles no problem.

Telephone: 07703490572  
ask for Robert

### WANTED

4 x 4's, all makes and models, Toyota, Landrover, Mitsubishi, high miles no problem, MOT or not, instant decision, same day payment. Also light commercials, vans and pick-ups bought.

Contact William 07730 130284 or 07716 200394  
or email [wlmotorhomes@outlook.com](mailto:wlmotorhomes@outlook.com)

### WANTED

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

Telephone 07546 788945

### MAPLE COMMERCIALS WANTED

MOT Failures, Scrap Cars, Vans, 4x4s and all types of Lorries, Wanted, Good or Bad.

Tel: 07867 583580

### WANTED

All types of motor homes & caravanettes. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards.

Telephone: 01250 884306  
or mobile 07885 203020

### WANTED

Motor homes, caravanettes and camper vans, all makes or models considered. Also touring caravans and statics, instant decision, same day payment.

Contact William 07730 130284 or 07716 200394  
or email [wlmotorhomes@outlook.com](mailto:wlmotorhomes@outlook.com)



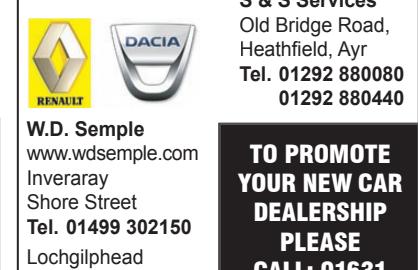
**OUT NOW!**  
Scotland's newest and best equestrian magazine

Dressage  
Eventing  
Carriage driving  
Show jumping  
Breeding  
Polo  
Paralympics  
Equestrian art  
Great hacks

Ponies  
Endurance  
Vaulting  
Top products  
Fashion  
Leisure riding  
Books  
Events



Blazing  
Available from  
all WH Smiths, all  
good independent  
newsagents or online  
[www.eqymagazine.co.uk](http://www.eqymagazine.co.uk)



**DRIVETIMES  
NOW ONLY**

**£31**

IF UNSOLD  
AFTER 1ST  
WEEK JUST  
CALL BEFORE  
TUESDAY 3PM  
TO GET YOUR  
SECOND WEEK  
FREE

Tel: 01631  
568000



like us on  
facebook  
[www.facebook.com/obantimes](http://www.facebook.com/obantimes)

## west coast recruitment

## ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT



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

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

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

A full current driving licence is essential.

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



CalMac Ferries Limited has a requirement for:

## Seasonal Port Assistant

Rate of Pay £9.24 per hour

Permanent position

40 hours per week

Oban Ferry Terminal

Applications are invited for the position of Seasonal Port Assistant based at the Oban Ferry Terminal.

Reporting to the Port Manager, you will need a flexible approach to your day-to-day responsibilities. Your duties will include mooring operations, customer enquiries, sales of passenger/vehicle tickets, cash handling and control of passengers and vehicles embarking and disembarking from vessels.

You must be computer literate, with excellent verbal and written communication skills. You are expected to have a flexible approach to working as shift and weekend work will be involved.

You must be customer focused, have a clear understanding of the customer interface and have a proactive approach to customer care.

The successful candidate must be able to commute to the Oban Ferry Terminal on a daily basis.

If you are interested in this position, please respond by emailing your CV quoting reference number 742-SB no later 17 July 2015 to: vacancies@davidmacbraynehr.co.uk, or mail to:

**David MacBrayne HR (UK) Limited**  
Ferry Terminal, Gourock, PA19 1QP  
t: 01475 650144

Caledonian MacBrayne Crewing (Guernsey) Limited is an equal opportunities employer.



CalMac Ferries Limited has a requirement for:

## Seasonal Port Assistant

Rate of Pay £9.24 per hour

20 hours per week

Position available until 31 October 2015

Kennacraig

Applications are invited for the position of Port Assistant based at the Kennacraig Ferry Terminal.

Reporting to the Port Manager, you will need a flexible approach to your day-to-day responsibilities. Your duties will include mooring operations, customer enquiries, sales of passenger/vehicle tickets, cash handling and control of passengers and vehicles embarking and disembarking from vessels.

You must be computer literate, with excellent verbal and written communication skills. You are expected to have a flexible approach to working as shift and weekend work will be involved.

You must be customer focused, have a clear understanding of the customer interface and have a proactive approach to customer care.

The successful candidate must be able to commute to the Kennacraig Ferry Terminal on a daily basis. Driving license preferred.

If you are interested in this position, please respond by sending your CV quoting reference number 735-SB no later than 17 July 2015 to: e-mail: vacancies@davidmacbraynehr.co.uk, or

**David MacBrayne HR (UK) Limited**  
Ferry Terminal, Gourock, PA19 1QP  
t: 01475 650144

Caledonian MacBrayne Crewing (Guernsey) Limited is an equal opportunities employer.



## WE ARE HIRING IN YOUR AREA

Due to our continual expansion, we now have vacancies for the following personnel:

- Heating Engineers • Plumbers
- Joiners • Builders
- Site Foreman • Electricians
- Labourers • Carpet Fitter
- Biomass Service Engineers

## Interested?

Please contact 01738 445222 or e-mail your CV to recruitment@mcdermottgroup.co.uk

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**  
**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

**CROFTING COMMISSION COIMSEAN NA CROTEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION**  
D McAllister  
1/2 Claddach, Kilchoman  
4.86.49674

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper.

Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

**First Registration Of A Croft**  
Mrs Janetta Tindal has registered her crofts at Clachanach & Calva, Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon 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 30th March 2016

Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts/ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts/ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number are, Calva A0724 & Clachanach A0728

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**  
**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence**  
TSL Contractors Ltd trading as TSL Contractors Ltd of Craignure, Isle Of Mull, Argyll, PA65 6AY, is applying to add an Operating Centre to keep 12 vehicles and 12 trailers at Mull Commercial Marine Facility, Fishnish, Isle Of Mull, Argyll, PA65 6BA. 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 Hilcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

69%  
of the business community  
read the regional press

YOUR LOCAL PAPER

# Regional & local press advertising gets the job done.

Source: Recruitment Choice, The Newspaper Society 2005

Regional Press closer to home

## NHS Highland CARE AT HOME WORKERS

£16,680 - £18,797 pro rata  
(Weekend enhancements where appropriate)

Lochaber District

The post is responsible for supporting the provision of a Care at Home Service for vulnerable people. To provide assistance with key tasks which maintain and promote the independence for people in their own home? For further information please refer to the job specification.

HSC/15/155: Mallaig area, 14 hours per week

HSC/15/217: Mallaig area, 17.5 hours per week

**Informal enquiries can be made to Sarah Madden, Care at Home Officer, 01397 709826**

Application Forms and Job Descriptions are available from and should be returned to the Admin and Personnel Team, Kinnlyies Building, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NN - 01463 703547 or by emailing your name and address to nhshighland.recruitment@nhs.net

Please quote an above reference number(s) in the subject line of your email

**Closing date for completed applications:**  
Monday 20th July 2015

## ALIENERGY Argyll, Lomond &amp; the Islands Energy Agency

## Administrator

You will work with our Administrator to deliver all office functions for our small team.

21 hours per week; £7.41/hour; 12 month contract, may be extended.

Closing date: Monday 13th July

Further information or job packs:  
[www.alienergy.org.uk](http://www.alienergy.org.uk) ; 01631 565183 or michelle@alienergy.org



## Zero Waste - Volunteer Project Coordinator

**Salary £21k full time**

To recruit, support and retain volunteers for an exciting new project to promote recycling, upcycling and prevention of food waste. Funded by Zero Waste Scotland.

**Senior Admin and Finance Manager**

**Salary £19 – 21k pro rata 16 hours.**

To provide support to InspirAlba, for delivery of our services by ensuring effective office systems in place, providing support for financial projections and overseeing employed trainees.

For Further Information e-mail: [aclark@inspiralba.org.uk](mailto:aclark@inspiralba.org.uk)

Closing date: Friday 24th July.

## WTS Wind Towers (Scotland) Ltd

Due to a period of sustained growth within the UK's fastest growing industry Wind Towers Scotland are looking to employ key personnel in our Fabrication, Surface Treatment and Internal Fitting departments

**Key Skills:**

Good work ethic

Adaptability

Self-motivated

Good communications skills

Work smartly and efficiently

Flexibility, team & shift work

To apply for this position please send your CV and covering letter to: [hr@windtowersscotland.com](mailto:hr@windtowersscotland.com) or post to: HR Manager, Wind Towers (Scotland) Ltd, PO Box 9263, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6WA.

Closing date: Sunday 19th July 2015

## Ferguson Transport &amp; Shipping

ARE RECRUITING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITION

## Temporary DPA

A temporary maternity cover post based in Corpach, Fort William. The ideal candidate would be an experienced Master or Chief Mate with shore-based management experience to act as Designated Person Ashore.

The successful applicant will have responsibility for the day to day marine management of the crew and for managing the SMS on the company's self-discharge bulk coastal vessel and workboats. Good IT and organisational skills are essential.

If you would like to apply for this position please contact Human Resources:

Integrated Freight Facility, Annat, Corpach, PH33 7NN  
T: 01397 773840 E: [hr@fergusontransport.co.uk](mailto:hr@fergusontransport.co.uk)

## public notices

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)



## TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

## PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

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

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

**Reference Number Development Address Proposal Description**

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
15/02406/FUL	Nevis Square, North Road, Fort William		Extension to consented drive through car parking area (14/01402/FUL) and adjustments to existing consented drive through layout
15/02415/FUL	Land 115m SE of Woodlands, Roy Bridge		Erection of house
15/02480/FUL	Caorunn, Glenacross, Morar, Mallaig		Erection of replacement dwelling
15/02481/FUL	Monadh Dubh, Ardgour, Fort William		Erection of garage/apartment (amended design 14/0477/FUL - retrospective)
15/02482/FUL	Allt Aird Eachaid Burn, Achnacarry, Spean Bridge		Construction of a micro hydro scheme on the Allt Aird Eachaid Burn

Time period for comments is 14 days  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

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

Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



## PLANNING

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

## TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/01448/PP	Conversion of Kilbowie House to form 8 residential flats, erection of 2 dwellinghouses, installation of 3 sewage treatment plants and associated works	Kilbowie House, Gallanach Road, Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4PF	Oban Area Office
15/01604/PP	Change of use of existing shed to form farm shop (retrospective)	Lagganbuie House, Stronmichan Dalmally	

# State-of-the-art care brings thousands to {my}dentist Oban

MYDENTIST in Oban is urging people to register for dental treatment after the British Dental Health Foundation revealed that people who visit the dentist every year reduce their risk of tooth decay by 60 per cent.

The practice, which currently treats more than 22,000 NHS and private patients from Oban and the Inner Hebrides, has invested in a state-of-the-art dental practice on Shore Street in Oban to offer more people access to the very best dental treatment.

Practice manager, Eileen McKay, said: 'We see the impact on patients' teeth if they don't visit the dentist regularly and we have places available so there is no

reason for people not to register and receive regular treatment. I think people have a perception of a dentist's surgery as being a cold sterile place smelling of disinfectant. This is no longer the case. Our practice is professional, but that doesn't mean we can't be friendly and welcoming too.'

'Our waiting room is decorated in warm greys and teal greens and is scented with jasmine to put people at ease when they visit us. Our approach is simple. We think that a visit to the dentist should be a pleasant experience and that maintaining dental health should be easily accessible to everyone.'

The practice offers a full range of NHS treatments in addition to advanced private options including tooth whitening, endodontics, dental veneers, dental implants, denture excellence and hygienist appointments.

The practice is one of the few in Scotland to offer state-of-the-art services, which can precision make and fit a crown in under two hours, and the only facility in the area to offer access to a holistic dental specialist.

Eileen added: 'Both of these treatment options are unique in the Oban area and have been developed in response to listening to our patients' needs. Because of this we not only treat the local

community but also those from most of the Inner Hebridean islands. Our two hour crowns service has already proved to be a big hit with our patients. We use the latest technology and everything is done in-practice so it's incredibly precise and it means people can have treatment quickly and conveniently.'

The practice is open five days a week with late evening appointments available on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Weekend appointments are also available on request.

For more information visit [www.mydentist.co.uk](http://www.mydentist.co.uk) or call the practice at Cawdor Place, Shore Street on 01631 563006.



**Sponsored by NFU Mutual**  
Oban, call Euan Warnock  
and Donna MacDougall  
on 01631 567 036 for  
your insurance needs.  
Agent of The National Farmers Union  
Mutual Insurance Society Limited.



## Farming

### Colin's the new convener of Crofting Commission

COLL man, Colin Kennedy, has been elected the new convener of the Crofting Commission.

The vacancy arose following the abrupt departure of the previous incumbent, Susan Walker, who resigned following an alleged vote of no confidence.

Mr Kennedy was previously elected as commissioner for the South West Highlands back in 2012, having been a crofter on Coll all his life.

Mr Kennedy said: 'It's a great honour, on this historic occasion, to be elected by my fellow crofting commissioners as the convener of the commission.

'I'd like to thank the people who have just voted for me, and those who voted for me in 2012. I am looking forward to working with the board and staff in delivering the express will of parliament contained in crofting legislation and effec-

tively regulating crofting.'

Scottish environment minister Dr Aileen MacLeod took the decision to break from the usual ministerial appointment of the convener, and leave it up to the nine commissioners themselves to fill the post.

Crofting Federation vice-chairman, Russell Smith, said:

'Following a long period of silence since the early departure of Susan Walker from the leadership of the Crofting Commission, we are pleased to see that something is being done to get the commission back on to a road to recovery. Electing a replacement convener will at least allow the commissioners to get on with their job.'

'Crofters welcomed the fact that the new Commission had a majority of elected commissioners when it took over the regulation of crofting in 2012. So, it is even more disappointing that the fracas that led to

Ms Walker's resignation was allowed to happen.'

'The fact that there have been no reasons given for the alleged vote of no confidence leaves a bad smell.'

'There are, understandably, questions still about how the commission operates. It is for the new convener to rectify this.'

Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor, who is convenor of Holyrood's cross party crofting group, said: 'I warmly congratulate Colin Kennedy on his election. His extensive practical experience as a crofter and lobster fisherman on Coll and passion for crofting will be big assets to the sector in his role as chairman.'

'I also welcome the fact that the Minister Aileen McLeod allowed the crofting commissioners themselves to elect their chairman rather than making a Ministerial appointment.'

'This is a positive move and I hope Scottish Governments will aim to repeat this for future appointments.'

Commissioners also elected Skye crofter, Ian George MacDonald, who serves as commissioner for the West Highlands, to the role of vice-convener.



Colin Kennedy

### Farmers to speak out about their accidents to highlight dangers

THE third annual Farm Safety Week has been launched with NFU Scotland voicing its support for farmers and those within the industry to make safety and the safety of those around them a priority.

Over the course of the week, the union will detail personal stories from well-known farmers from across Scotland who have had an

accident on their farm, the impact it had on them and how their practices changed as a result.

Each of the main causes of death or injury on a farm will be featured – falls, livestock, machinery and transport – rounding off the week with a special message on child safety.

The overall theme is 'Don't learn safety by accident.'

The focus is on falls from heights, with 13 people dying on Scotland's farms in the past decade because they failed to take proper precautions when working at height.

The top safety tips are:

- Never walk on fragile materials, e.g. roof lights or glass
- Use proprietary access equipment or other measures when

working at height

- Take account of environmental conditions, e.g. wind and rain
- Make sure everyone knows the precautions to be followed
- Roof ladders or crawling boards must span at least three purlins
- Roof ladders must be securely placed. Do not rely on gutters, ridge caps or tiles for support.

The top safety tips are:

- Never walk on fragile materials, e.g. roof lights or glass
- Use proprietary access equipment or other measures when

working at height

• Take account of environmental conditions, e.g. wind and rain

• Make sure everyone knows the precautions to be followed

• Roof ladders or crawling boards must span at least three purlins

• Roof ladders must be securely placed. Do not rely on gutters, ridge caps or tiles for support.

The report, which was based on research including a round table session, a sector sounding board, survey

### Land used for organic farming falls throughout country

THE percentage of agricultural land used for organic farming has fallen by eight per cent to 136,000 hectares, or 2.4 per cent of agricultural land, according to new figures published by Scotland's chief statistician.

The fall in area was seen in grassland and rough grazing (down eight per cent), cereals (down nine per cent), but increases in sheep (two per cent) and poultry (15 per cent). However, there was an increase in the number of licensed

vegetables (down 15 per cent) producers and processors, up from 551 in 2013 to 576 in 2014.

There was also a fall in the area of organic farmland in the UK as a whole, with 3.2 per cent of land now organic. In Europe organic production is increasing, with the latest available data, for 2012, showing six per cent of agricultural land used for organic farming.

### MSP calls for government support over fluctuating milk prices

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor is urging the Scottish government to do everything possible to support dairy farmers in Argyll and Bute.

Supplying First Milk in Argyll and Bute will be receiving between 14 and 16.5 pence per litre for their milk.

He has written to the cabinet secretary for rural affairs, Richard Lochhead, outgoing First Milk chairman Sir James Paice, and raised the issue at last week's meeting of the Parliament's European

and external affairs committee.

Mr McGrigor said: 'First Milk's most recent price cut has heaped yet more pressure on Argyll and Bute's dairy farmers.'

The Scottish and UK governments must do everything they can to support our dairy farmers through this crisis, caused by these fluctuating milk prices.'

### Funds threat if UK leaves Europe

RURAL Affairs Secretary Richard Lochhead has criticised Liz Truss over her failure to confirm how farm funding will be affected if the UK leaves Europe.

Defra secretary of state Ms Truss faced tough questions at the recent Royal Highland Show, but farmers were left frustrated.

Mr Lochhead said: 'We now have the clearest indication from a senior UK minister that leaving Europe means an end to agricultural funding in Scotland and the UK. This will set alarm bells ringing on every farm and croft across the country.'

'Clearly without the £500 million of direct payments Scotland receives each year from the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), many sectors of Scottish farming would implode - especially in our more remote areas.'

'It is my belief that the UK Government is determined to stop farm payments. The Defra Secretary's refusal to commit to such a key pertinent issue that she knew was going to be asked not only shows there's no plan B, but suggests that there is likely to be a plan A to cut a lifeline to Scottish agriculture.'

### COVENTRY for FENCING

**Scotland's No. 1**  
WIRE, STOCK FENCING,  
BARBED, HIGH TENSILE,  
MILD STEEL **BEST PRICES**

**TIMBER DIRECT FROM OUR SAWMILL**  
Depots throughout Scotland • Delivery available  
For a competitive quote please call 01631 566866



### Car, Bike, Home and Van Insurance with Adrian Flux



### Great Insurance deals for your Car, Bike, Home and Van

Adrian Flux Insurance Services offer a range of policies which reflect the low risk nature of highland life. We can offer you great insurance deals on your car, bike, home and van. Call us today for a free no obligation quote.

0800 081 8989  
[adrianflux.co.uk](http://adrianflux.co.uk)



Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

## West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

LETTINGS COMMERCIAL PROPERTY SALES PROPERTY REVIEWS PROPERTY NEWS LOCAL ESTATE AGENTS

### Scottish social housing sector should develop its own value for money strategy says new report

Social landlords in Scotland should consider future tenants when analysing the value for money of what they do according to a new report.

'How do you know if you are providing value for money?' was launched recently by the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) Scotland, Wheatley Group and HouseMark Scotland at Housing 2015, CIH's annual conference in Manchester.

A further launch event took place at the Scottish National Gallery in Edinburgh.

It aims to get the sector thinking about what value for money (VFM) should look like in Scotland and provide social landlords with practical guidance on how to define, manage and demonstrate it.

The report, which was based on research including a round table session, a sector sounding board, survey

and interview work, recommends that: The Scottish social housing sector develops its own VFM strategy, which expands the focus of VFM to include tenants, future tenants and local communities;

The Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) should broaden its VFM focus in a similar manner;

Instead of requiring more data to be collected for the Annual Return on the Charter (ARC), the SHR should encourage social landlords to voluntarily collect data to evidence how they are providing VFM.

The report also encourages tenants to be 'demanding and determined' in securing transparency on value for money and landlords to focus on communicating as well as achieving it. Landlords need to make the relationship between service costs and service levels clear so that tenants can 'follow the money' and understand what is driving the rent and whether value for money is being achieved.

CIH Scotland, Wheatley and HouseMark Scotland said value for money will mean different things for different landlords, adding that organisations should be able to select from and adapt its recommendations.

Annie Mauger, director of CIH's national business units, said: 'Value for money is about doing the right things and doing those things right in the pursuit of social objectives. This is reflected in the expectations set out by the Scottish Housing Regulator, which focus quite rightly on rent affordability and what tenants get for their money.'

'But there is a significant opportunity for social landlords to work with their tenants and other partners to define what value for money means locally in practice - we hope this report will help organisations realise this opportunity.'

### WANTED

2 bdrm cottage or sim for long term let, prof woman  
Ph 07746 817803 or  
sarah@plum.net.nz

### Property Classifieds

#### Woodburning Stoves



## PAINTING CONTRACTORS

**H.C.MUNTON**  
Painting Contractors  
The Old Inn, Easdale  
Argyll, PA34 4RF  
Tel: 01852 300177 Fax: 01852 300088  
E-mail : hcmunton@yahoo.co.uk

## BLINDS

**Chris Craft**  
window blinds  
FORT WILLIAM  
0800 371250      OBAN  
01852 300174  
**50% SALE** ON SELECTED ROLLER /VERTICAL FABRICS  
Customer Reviews - www.chriscraft.co.uk

## MOBILITY

**Tower Mobility**  
we supply a wide range of mobility products from walking sticks to scooters  
Matheson's, Tweedmill, Soroba Road, Oban.  
Tel: 01631 565195    www.towermobility.co.uk

## OBAN BLINDS

**Oban-Blinds**  
Vertical Blinds • Roller Blinds  
Blackout Blinds • Venetian Blinds  
**Free Measuring and Estimating Service**  
Vast range of Domestic and Commercial blinds  
Telephone: Donald Cameron 07979 826614  
Email: oban.blinds@hotmail.co.uk

## PERSONAL NOTICES

Congratulations to May & Jimmy Hill on their platinum wedding anniversary, 70 years!  
With love from all the family

Look who's 21!  
Happy birthday Karina  
Love Nana & Papa

## AUDIO EQUIPMENT

## BABY EQUIPMENT

## BUILDING / DIY

## DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

## CAR ACCESSORIES

## CARAVAN EQUIPMENT

## CARS AND CAR PARTS UNDER £250

## CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

## DOMESTIC PETS

## FURNITURE

## GENERATORS

## HIGHLAND DRESS

## HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

## HOME FURNISHINGS

## INSTRUMENTS

## LAWN CARE

## MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIRS

## OFFICE EQUIPMENT

## OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT

## PETS

## RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT

## ROOFING

## SAFETY EQUIPMENT

## SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

## SOFT FURNISHINGS

## STORAGE

## TOYS AND GAMES

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WEBSITE DESIGN

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## WINTER EQUIPMENT

## WIRING

## WORK EQUIPMENT

## WATER EQUIPMENT

## WHEELCHAIRS

## ENGAGEMENTS

**FINLAY - BLAIR** - Mr and Mrs James Finlay of 1 Millpark Avenue, Oban, Argyll, take much pleasure in announcing the engagement of their son Kevin, grandson of the late Mary Blue, to Miss Jillian Blair of Dundonald, Ayrshire.

## DEATHS

**CLARK** - Peacefully, on Friday July 3, 2015, shortly after celebrating 60 wonderful years of marriage, Colin Clark (retired manager of D.E Shoes), a loving husband of Mary and a much loved father, grandfather and great-grandfather. A service to celebrate his life was held yesterday (Wednesday) July 8, 2015 in the Duncansburgh-MacIntosh Parish Church.

**LAMONT** - Calum. Peacefully at home on June 30, 2015, age 95, beloved husband of the late Katie, dear father of Mairi, Morag and Ishbel, father-in-law to Donald and Jim and the late Eoghan and devoted papa to Louise. Service at Church of Scotland, Kyleakin, Isle of Skye at 2.00pm on Friday, July 10, interment at Broadford Cemetery.

**MACARTHUR** - Suddenly and tragically at the RAH Paisley, on June 27, 2015, with his beloved family at his bedside, Hugh MacArthur (Joiner), in his 67th year, of Balliemore Cottage, Castleton, by Lochgilphead. Much loved and devoted husband of Katrina. Cherished dad of James, David and Karen. Adored and adoring Papa to Rachel, Alex, Cameron, Aria and Ethan. A loving father in law to Kirsty and Paul. A dear uncle, cousin, friend and neighbour. Will be sorely missed. Funeral service will be held in Lochgilphead Parish Church on Friday July 10, 2015, at 12 noon, thereafter to Achnahreac Cemetery. A retiral collection will be offered for the Mid Argyll Athletics Club.

**MACLEAN** - It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Lachlan Alexander MacLean suddenly at Knock Farm, Isle of Mull on Saturday June 27, 2015, aged 55 years. Devoted husband of Nancy, adoring Dad of Jamie and Katrina. Cherished brother of Mairi and Donald, much loved by Norman, Jodi and Euan, beloved uncle, brother in-law and dear friend to many. Funeral service will take place in Salen Parish Church, Mull at 11.30am on Monday July 13, followed by interment at Pennygown Cemetery. Family flowers only.

**POTTER** - At the Lorn and Islands Hospital on July 6, 2015. Iain, beloved husband of Katrina. Dad to Tommy, Coogie, Carol and the late Jennifer. Grandpa to Conner, Cavan, Millie and Raina. Will be sorely missed.

**SLOSS** - Peacefully at home on July 6, 2015, Alexander, age 71. Beloved father, grandfather, brother and uncle. Sadly missed.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**JOHNSTON** - Duncan and family would like to thank relatives, friends, neighbours and everyone who helped during the sad loss of Margaret, a much loved wife, mother and grandmother. Special thanks to our neighbour Lindsay MacKchnie and the staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital for their care; to Catriona and staff of Hamish Hoey and Son for unfailing support and guidance. Heartfelt thanks to Mr. James MacNeil for his constant kindness from Margaret's death to the deeply spiritual and dignified Requiem Mass with beautiful music led by organist Norman Nicholson. Floral tributes and messages of sympathy have come from many quarters - the world is full of caring people. The sum of £500 has gone to Mary's Meals in Margaret's memory.

**THOMSON** - Isa's family would like to thank all relations, friends, and neighbours for the sympathy and kindness shown on the passing of their Mum. Very special thanks go to everyone involved in her later years, the team of wonderful carers who looked after her for over 20 years in Acharacle, the doctors, nurses and staff at Acharacle Medical Practice, the compassionate care at the Lynn of Lorne Care Home, who had organised her 100th birthday party and to Iain Thorburn who had organised a card from the Queen, but it wasn't to be. Finally to the staff on Ward B at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban. Thanks also to Rev. Fiona Ogg and Rev. David Kirk for a lovely service, to Ellen our Organist and to Scott Greenlee for his endless patience and his colleagues, past and present of John McLellan Funeral Directors for their excellent care and to Jill and staff at Ardshealach Lodge for the refreshments. Finally, thanks to everyone who attended the Church and graveside, the retiring collection for Acharacle Free Church and Acharacle Parish Church raised £510.

**WATSON** - The family of the late Nancy Watson (née Kearney) would like to make a special thanks to relatives and friends for attending funeral service at St Mary's RC Church, also for flowers and kind donations to Cancer Research (£200). Thanks also to Father MacKinnon for a lovely service and to Catriona for the reading. Also to the West End Hotel for catering.

## MEMORIALS

**BROWN** - Remembering with love a very dear mum, gran and great-gran, Annie, who passed away July 4, 2002. Also my dear father Lachlan, passed away July 2, 1972. Our thoughts today are of a lonely grave. Of parents I loved but could not save. Where hearts of gold are laid to rest. God bless you both you were the best.

- Inserted by their loving son Lachie, daughter-in-law Sandra and family.

**BUCHANAN** - In loving memory of Peter, 2005 - 2015.

Remembering you is easy I do it every day Missing you is the heartache that never goes away. Love always.

- All at Glasdrum Andrew and family

**CAMPBELL** - In loving memory of my dear mum, May, who passed away July 6, 1998.

I think of you in silence I often speak your name but all I have are memories and a picture in a frame. My heart still aches with sadness and secret tears still flow For what it meant to lose you mum know one will ever know. - Your loving daughter Kay, Lochgoilhead

**CAMPBELL** - In loving memory of our dear gran, May, who passed away on July 6, 1998. Memories of you are fondly kept Someone too special to ever forget.

- Your loving grandchildren Duncan and Caroline

**CROSSLAND** - Richard MacPherson Crossland (Richie), July 8, 2011. Prayer is the key to heaven But faith opens the door 'Til forever again.

- Mum Cona, Gary, Will, Orla and Jade.

**GILLIES** - Remembering our dear parents Rachel, died July 11, 2014 and Ian, died July 13, 2003. Also dear sister Joan MacKillop, died August 12, 2000. We cherish still the memories of the ones we loved so dear. - Jessie, Alastair and family, Donnie and Margaret.

**MACKINNON** - Treasured memories of our dear parents, mother Mary, died July 11, 1995, father John, died October 4, 1975, our beloved brother Donald John, died July 6, 1994 also remembering our dear brothers-in-law, Norman, died August 30, 1995, Angus, died December 24, 2006. Year may pass and fade away But silent thoughts and memories stay

- Inserted by the family at West Kilbride and away.

**MCEWAN** - Cherished memories of Eddie, a dearly loved husband, father, father-in-law and "Pop", taken from us so suddenly on July 6, 2001.

No matter how our lives have changed No matter what we do We'll never forget those precious years The ones we shared with you. Loved always.

- Jean and all the family

**STEWART** - Iain, July 12, 2002. Happy thoughts of times together Hold memories that last forever.

- Love Dunriona and family.

**STODDART** - In loving memory of Fiona, passed away July 8, 2014.

- Donnie and the family, Fort William and Skye.

## MEMORIALS

**OBAN MEMORIALS**  
A & D MacLean  
Master Sculptors  
Glenalma, Soroba Road, Oban  
Design and prices on request  
LETTERING AND RENOVATING  
DONE IN MOST CEMETERIES  
TEL: 01631 563123 / 07765815982

**Oban Times**  
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS  
**Oban Times**  
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS  
**Oban Times**

## Obituary: George Knight

(Died June 25, 2015)

The name of George Knight, who has died aged 90 at his home in Elgin, will bring a smile and nothing but the fondest memories to many in Argyll and the Isles. In farming circles he was best known as the foreman at Corsons in the 1960s before United Auctions took over the Oban Mart. With annual sales in most of the islands the work entailed shipping anxious livestock to Oban without the benefit of cattle-floats and walking them through the town, usually at night, to pens located where Tesco's now stands. The hours could be long but, in George's company, they could never be described as unsociable.

As horses went out of fashion it was in the handling of cattle that he excelled. Arriving in Oban with Kathy a year after their marriage, the big man in the boiler-suit and the flat cap became the mart's most kenspeckle figure. The mix of patience, agility and determination essential to handling stock were second nature to him. It was said by one of his nieces that, when on the dance floor with George, 'you knew you were being danced with'. Just so

A pair of Clydesdales with an intimate knowledge of the back-roads of Morayshire could be depended on to deliver George and his loads with no more prompting than was required to get George himself to off-load his repertoire about them. Like the Clydesdales, he combined a formidable presence with a strong personality. He was his own man, principled, unflustered, intensely loyal (sometimes to the point of embarrassing those so favoured) and the very best of company.

These skills were revealed to a 'Nationwide' audience in his unlikely role as a media star. In 1981 he proved the perfect man to move 30 Highland cattle, three dogs, two Highland ponies, half a dozen inexperienced drovers and the occasional fellow-traveller from Loch Harport on the west coast of Skye to Crieff in Perthshire.

Dubbed the Famous Highland Drove (after its Famous Grouse sponsor) this exercise in researching the driving tradition took six weeks, was filmed by the BBC and chronicled in a book. But George was the star. He handled the BBC as adeptly as he did the beasts and lent to the enterprise a credibility that was not otherwise obvious, not to mention an enthusiasm that six weeks of incessant rain failed to quench. The cattle arrived in better condition

than they had started - than which there can be no greater driving testimonial - and were sold at a modest profit in Stirling.

Transferring to Dalmally and then Cairndow, George and Kathy adjusted to new challenges. For the stalking George had ponies and acquired a little Ferguson tractor that seemed even smaller than it was with the driver bolt upright above the wheel. Never one to conform if there was a better way of doing things, his approach to fishing was decidedly unconventional. The fly and even the worm he despised in the belief that only a prawn, however unfresh, provided it was dyed in indigo, was irresistible to passing salmon. It was a secret that he rarely divulged to paying anglers and whose efficacy remains unproven.

Resourcefulness being the hallmark of the drover, George could turn his hand to almost any task. At Ardkinglas he kept pigs, grew the finest potatoes and honed his skills as a woodsman and

groundsmen. The ability to solve problems without recourse to the retail trade was perhaps typical of his generation but George elevated it into an art. To Mrs Elizabeth Noble and especially her son Johnny ('S.J.', as he called him) he and Kathy were indispensable and became more family friends than employees.

Returning to Elgin after 35 years in Argyll, the Knights resumed old friendships and could hardly be described as retired. George's notion of creature comforts was anyway limited. Home-baking, a good run by Aberdeen FC and anything introduced by Robbie Shepherd sufficed, though a dram or several helped. He could sleep in a cloud of midges and hold forth in the teeth of a gale. Nothing was ever too much trouble. His like was rare and is now almost extinct. He will be missed by many but by none as much as Kathy, his fiancee for 14 years, his wife for 55 years and his lodestar throughout.

John Keay

## The Oban Times

## &amp; West Highland Times

THE REGIONAL  
NEWSPAPER FOR THE  
WEST HIGHLANDS,  
ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsagents every week

Lochavullin Industrial Estate,  
Crannog Lane, Oban,  
PA34 4HB  
Tel: 01631 568000  
Fax: 01631 568001  
www.obantimes.co.uk

## Editorial

Reporter  
Emma Crichton  
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter  
Louise Glen  
lgl@obantimes.co.uk

Reporter  
Steven Rae  
srae@obantimes.co.uk

Newdesk  
Oban 01631 568060  
Fort William 01397 703003  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

## Advertising

Advertising Executive  
Rhona McKillip  
adverts@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Executive  
Nadine Ross  
nross@obantimes.co.uk

Advertising Executive  
Stephanie Dunstaffnage  
sdunstaffnage@obantimes.co.uk

## Branch Offices

Fort William  
Tel 01397 703003  
Lochgilphead  
Tel 01546 602345  
Campbeltown  
Tel 01586 554646  
Arran  
Tel 01770 302142

## subscribe to

## The Oban Times

## &amp; WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Subscribe from £22\*

Call subscriptions on  
01371 851868  
or subscribe online at  
www.obantimes.co.uk/  
subscribe



Subscribers should note that to keep down the cost of postage, some issues of supplements, maps etc. on occasions, be excluded from the subscribers edition of the paper. £22 for 3 month UK subscription.

## Obituary: Donald Scobie

MANY people in Argyll will have cause to remember Mr Donald J. Scobie, Consultant General Surgeon in Oban from 1986 to 2012, with gratitude; he passed away in June 2015 after much too short a retirement.

After an extensive and varied surgical training in the west of Scotland and specialist units further afield, he was initially appointed to the West Highland Hospital (as the only Surgeon until the appointment of colleague Mr Yadav) where he transformed the range and complexity of surgical services offered to the local population. He was an exceptionally skilled surgeon and accurate diagnostician, and the range of surgery he offered, performed to a very high standard and with few complications, was very unusual in a hospital of this size; it obviated the need for many patients to travel to Glasgow for major surgery. He frequently worked very long hours, which were not always universally appreciated by his nursing and medical colleagues, but usually tolerated with good humour as it was clear he

had the patients' interests at heart. He recognised he was fortunate in the particularly high standard of nursing in the West Highland, which continued in the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, without which his working life would have been much harder. Universally known as Mr. Scobie - the staff and he would have been uncomfortable with Donald - the vast majority of the hospital staff with whom he worked for many years - particularly nursing, clerical and radiography - held him in great affection and respect, despite his variable time-keeping and occasional irascibility. This did not usually last long, and he would absorb the "local news" from staff whilst appearing not to be too interested, along with any new jokes, which he could never remember. Very careful with money - both his own and the health service's - he was quite unmaterialistic; the hospital car park was latterly host to a succession of ageing cars in various states of serviceability.

Teaching, albeit somewhat unstructured, was an important part of his work - many junior doctors gained unusually wide experience with him, particularly if they had a sense of humour. Regular medical student attachments from Dundee and Glasgow Universities were also established. Despite onerous clinical commitments, including being on-call every second weekend for many years, he found time during his tenure at the West Highland Hospital for charitable fundraising via a Trust Fund overseen by local solicitors; he initiated a Scanner Appeal which

raised enough money to buy Oban's first ultrasound machine. The fund-raising continued, and in large part due to the generosity of the North British Hotels Trust, secured funds for the purchase of the CT Scanner (which the Health Board (whom he referred cases to) currently in use in LIDGH and now regarded as a basic requirement in most hospitals.

He had many interests outside medicine including classical music, literature, art, climbing, sailing, skiing and cycling which he had too little time to enjoy whilst working, and sadly also in retirement.

Much to many people's surprise however he did become more IT literate in retirement. Although he did not enjoy west coast winters and looked forward to holidays in sunshine, he took great enjoyment from being on his croft in Benderloch where he was surrounded by the nature and the wildlife in which he took such an interest.

He will be remembered as an excellent, dedicated surgeon with great humanity, to whom many people in Argyll owe their lives.

Dr Emma Beveridge

## Destination Oban for Minerva cruise ship

Oban on June 30 and July 1, having left Portsmouth on June 23.

The ship called at Chatham, Rosyth, Invergordon, Scrabster and



The Minerva, moored at Oban Bay last Wednesday. t28minerva01

## GRADUATION



Congratulations to Seonaid Anne Henning who graduated from Edinburgh University with a Master of Arts (Honours) in History and Archaeology. Seonaid is the daughter of Flora and Gordon, Edinburgh and the grand-daughter of the late Ian and Josie MacCormac, Oban and the late Tom and Kathleen Henning, Irvine.

## CHARITY DONATIONS

## CANCER RESEARCH UK Scotland

Fighting Cancer on all fronts...  
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation  
Commitment of over £15 million each year  
Cancer Research UK  
Angel Building  
407 St John Street  
London EC1V 4AD

# Thrilling finish sees McPhee secure 10th place in Assen

'I just hope we can keep the bike like it is now and make further progress from here'

CONNEL'S John McPhee secured 10th place on the final lap of a thrilling Assen TT Moto3 race on June 27 to cap off a spirited fight through the pack from the back of the grid.

The RSF-backed SAXO-PRINT-RTC rider - who had struggled to overcome long-running set up woes in final free practice and qualifying yesterday - produced one of the best rides of his Grand Prix career to climb from 23rd at the start to join a frenetic eight-rider fight for eighth.

The Scot held the place briefly as early as lap six after which his race became a corner-by-corner scrap for position as the group traded places with the regularity of a metronome.

By that stage the lead group of seven, led by Ajo's Miguel Oliveira, had gapped McPhee's squabbling pack by three seconds to set up a two-tier race at the front of the field all the way to the finish.

The Portuguese spent the race locked in a similar battle, with the lead changing hands in the same hectic fashion.

But in the end it was Oliveira who timed his dash to the flag to perfection to secure the win by just over six-hundredths of a second from Estrella Galicia 0,0's Grand Prix rookie Fabio Quartararo.

Championship leader, Danny Kent, claimed the final podium place a further five-hundredths of a second behind.

McPhee pipped Mapfre Aspar's Francesc Bagnaia to 10th just under two-tenths behind.

It was the Connell rider's first points-paying finish since round four of the Championship at Jerez at the beginning of May.

By the finish the group was separated by 1.1 seconds.

McPhee said: 'It's nice to be back up there in the points again. It's certainly been a more promising weekend than the last few we've had, that's for sure.'

## Motorcycling

'For whatever reason today - it could be because the track temperature's been a little bit cooler or whatever - I had absolutely none of the chatter at the rear that's been troubling us so much in previous races.'

'I still had the turning issue that we've had from the word go, but without the chatter it's been possible to ride around that. So I was able to push on through to the front quite quickly. And then when I did drop back, I was able to make my way back through again and put up a good fight.'

'So that was a lot more satisfying than usual. I just hope we can keep the bike like it is now and make further progress from here.'

McPhee is next in action this weekend when he takes part in the German Grand Prix at the Sachsenring racing circuit near Chemnitz in Saxony



ACTION MAN: John McPhee in action during the Dutch Grand Prix in Assen. Photo: Bonnie Lane



TOP GUN: John Gilchrist. Photo: Kevin McGlynn



BIG SHOT: Pool trap winner, Steve Wilson. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

## Charity shoot raises over £1,000

Lorn Gun Club held a charity shoot last Saturday at the club's Moss Road site where £1,050 was raised for Riding for the Disabled. Our photographs show John Gilchrist from Campbeltown who was top gun on the day and Steve Wilson on his way to winning the pool trap competition after a shoot-off against Colin Rowan and John Gilchrist.

## Shinty news in brief

### Joe Toal Sixes

LOCHABER Camanachd Club will hold the Joe Toal Sixes this year on Sunday, July 19.

In 1982, Joe Toal was playing for Lochaber Camanachd against Fort William when he suddenly died during the game at the age of just 22.

Each year, Lochaber Camanachd Club hold a six aside tournament in honour of his memory and dedication to the club.

Lochaber invite all clubs to put forward a team or two for the 2015 tournament, which will take place at Lochaber shinty pitch at 12 noon on the day.

For more information and to enter a team please contact Aleene Campbell at aleene.campbell@hotmail.co.uk or on 077601 55313.

Closing date for entries is Wednesday, July 15.

### Jock Paul Mackintosh Sixes

THE ANNUAL Jock Paul Mackintosh veterans 6-a-side tournament takes place on Saturday the 5th September, at The Eilan, Newtonmore, starting at 10am.

There is a maximum of eight players per squad, and all must be 40 years or older on the day to be eligible to compete. Clubs can enter as many teams as they like and the organisers will also accept entries from teams which aren't affiliated to a club.

To enter or for any information, please contact Paul MacArthur on 07851 808643 or at pmacarthur@hotmail.co.uk

### International dates

THE Scotland senior and U21 men's squads will compete against their Irish counterparts in the annual Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling International at Bught Park, Inverness on Saturday, October 24. Also on the day, the Scotland Senior women will contest the Marine Harvest Shinty/Camogie Challenge Match. The Scotland senior men will then travel to Dublin a month later to play a second international

match against the Irish at Croke Park on Saturday, November 21.

### Sutherland final

THE 2015 Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final between Newtonmore and Lochside Rovers will take place at The Jubilee, Ballachulish on Saturday, August 8, with a 1.30pm throw up.

The date has been changed as the original date of August 1 was the requested free Saturday of Newtonmore.

## Leisure centre staff gain new instructor qualifications

### Leisure centre

and knowledge in general fitness and gym-based exercise.

Aleksands Derbenovs (left), Steven Martin (middle) and Donald Lamont (right) all gained the qualification, along with Douglas Holland (not pictured).



### Dalmally

THE Taynuilt golf club team of Calum Munro, Duncan Campbell and Mark Hendrickson, claimed top prize at Dalmally golf club's open team Stableford competition on Sunday.

Calum's 42 points - joint top score of the day - made the difference, complementing a pair of fine 36s by his playing partners.

In second place was the home team of John MacKie, Davy McLeod and Tommy Gibson, who posted 108 points, followed by Dalmally's 'SAS' - Scott Livingstone, Andrew Smith and Steven Turner.

Joining Calum Munro on 42 individual points were Davy McLeod and Dalmally's Billy McKay.

In the nearest pin competition, G MacKie came first.

### Islay

ISLAY Golf Club results for their club championship played in June 27 and 28 were as follows: 1 D Muir 70+71=141; 2 N Carmichael 74+71=145; 3 S Johnston 72+77=149.

Summer League played Wednesday July 1 were: 1 A MacAuley 39 pts; 2 N Johnston 38 pts; 3 D Holyoake 38 pts. Css 70.

### Fort William

VERSUS par competition, played on Saturday, June 27: 1 Willie Duncan, four up; 2 Scott Lawrie, three up (bih); 3 Graham Worsdall three up.

July medal, played on Saturday, July 4: Section one 1 James Duncan 72 (85-13) bih; 2 Nicholas Hough 72 (83-11); 3 Willie Duncan 76 (88-12). Section two 1 Jason Wallace 65 (86-21); 2 Alastair Matheson 69 (84-15); 3 Graham Worsdall 71 (91-20).

Senior July Medal, played on Sunday, July 5: 1 Ian Mackie 63 (82-19); 2 Rusty Duncan 67 (78-11); 3 Ronald MacDonald 68 (82-14).

Ladies annual outing at Grantown-on-Spey on Friday, June 26, for the West Highland oil tray: 1 Theresa Smith 32pts; 2 Iona Cameron 28pts bih; 3 Rosemary MacIntyre 28pts.

Ladies medal eclectic competition, played on Saturday, July 5: 1 Rosemary MacIntyre 68 (79-11); 2 Iona Cameron 76 (94-18); 3 Kay Jerram 79 (103-24).

### Isle of Skye

STABLEFORD played on Wednesday July 1: 1 Stewart Johnston 43pts; 2 Dave MacVicar 38pts (bih); 3 John Finlayson 38pts (bih); 4 John Marshall 38pts.

Seniors monthly Stableford, played on Thursday July 2: 1 Chris MacKinnon 41pts; 2 Donald Johnston 39pts; 3 Martin Bird 38pts.

### Glencruitten

THE WINNER of the George Huntly tournament at Glencruitten golf club on Saturday was Finlay MacKay with a score of 82 - 18 = 64.

Runners-up were Cameron Milne, Neil Carmichael and Phillip Murphy with net scores of 65.

The Hospital Quaich was played for on Sunday and the winners were Finlay MacKay and Kirsty MacKenzie with a score of 89 - 25 = 64.

In the junior section, the Treasury and Bridgend trophies were played for on Sunday, with Steven Murphy winning with a score of 67 - 6 = 61.

This weekend, the second round of the handicap championship and senior championship will take place on Saturday, July 11, and then on Sunday, the Glencruitten mixed open will be held.

## SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

**£2750 JACKPOT WINNER**

We have a winner!  
Details will be announced in next week's paper.

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



**THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £500**

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 competition.

Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

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 Wyvern Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition.



Please tape your £1 coin here  
Name .....  
Address .....  
Tel No. ....

# Camanachd Cup quarter finals ties take place this weekend



## Camanachd Cup

**OBAN CAMANACHD** manager, Gussie Campbell, is adamant his depleted Oban Camanachd squad will give a good account of themselves in the SSE Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup on Saturday at home to Newtonmore.

League leaders Newtonmore beat Kyles Athletic last weekend to move further ahead of the chasing pack in the Marine Harvest Premiership, while Oban drew at home to Inveraray at Mossfield stadium, leaving them still rooted at the foot of the table.

But of more concern to Campbell is the fact that he will lose four of his regular first team for this Saturday's home clash against Newtonmore in the Camanachd Cup third round.

Campbell said: 'We have lost Lorne Dickie, who suffered a broken elbow in the second half against Inveraray and Craig Macmillan, who chipped a bone in his shin. It was not a dirty game. It was fair but physical, but then shinty is a contact game and it is supposed to be physical.'

'Those two out is bad enough, but then Keith Macmillan cannot play as he will be at sea working on one of the ferries and Gary McKerracher is away abroad at a wedding.'

'Despite the fact we are playing the top team in the league, we will do everything we can to give Newtonmore a really solid test. They are a very good side, but we will give it a really good shot.'

As for last weekend, Campbell said the 1-1 draw was a fair reflection of the game. 'Inveraray had chances and so did we and although I felt we had the bulk of the play, we both created opportunities. Malcolm Clark scored a really good goal and they equalised midway through the second half. It was important not to lose, but it was more important to win as it was a chance to leap above Inveraray.'

**NEWTONMORE** pulled three points clear of their leading contenders for the Marine Harvest Premiership with a gutsy come-from-behind 3-2 victory at Kyles Athletic last Saturday. Scott Chisholm gave Newtonmore an early lead at the Playing Field, before a double strike by Thomas Whyte handed Kyles the advantage. The league leaders left it until late, but goals from Glen Mackintosh and Chris Sellar handed the points to the Eilan Park side, who are now strong favourites to win the title, having lost only once this season in nine matches.

Newtonmore travel to Oban Camanachd this Saturday in the Camanachd Cup third round on the back of 13 wins from their last 14 matches. Earlier this season, in April, they beat the Oban team 2-1 at home.

**LOVAT** are in cup action this Saturday as they play hosts to Fort William in the quarter final of the Camanachd cup.

Manager, John MacRitchie, feels the league is probably now outwith his side's grasp, and focussing on the Camanachd and Macaulay cups could lead to some silverware this season.

'I'd say this is probably the biggest game of the season,' said MacRitchie.

'It'll be difficult, and the last time we played them, in Fort William, they beat us.'

'Hopefully we'll have a full squad for the first time this season, so here's hoping we can get the result.'

Discussing the league, where

## Shinty

Lovat sit third behind Newtonmore and Kinlochshiel, MacRitchie said: 'Newtonmore have only dropped points once, and we've still to play them twice, as well as Kyles once.'

'I think if we could get to the semis of the Camanachd cup, with us already being in the semis of the Macaulay, that gives us something to aim for.'

'Then, if we can finish third in the league, I think we'll have had a decent season in all.'

Saturday's tie throws up at 2.30pm at Balgate Park.

A 'horrific' first half in **FORT WILLIAM'S** away clash against Kinlochshiel left them too far gone to take a share of the points.

Victor Smith, co-manager for the An Aird side said his men's performance in the second half could have earned them a draw if they had taken their chances, but instead the host team won 3-1.

Smith said: 'The first 35 minutes were horrific then they pulled it back a bit. In the second half they were playing more like Fort William. There was enough chances to make it a draw, but we didn't take them.'

This weekend Fort William will travel north to face Lovat in the third round of the Camanachd Cup.

Smith said: 'There's no doubt we're the underdogs in this one, but we're looking forward to playing. We've been away the last couple of weeks so we're used to that.'

Fort William will be without Alexander MacMillan this weekend, who is off to T in the Park.

**KYLES ATHLETIC** were brought back to earth after their Celtic Cup win, going down 3-2 at home to Newtonmore, who move three points clear at the head of the table.

Scott Chisholm put 'More in the lead on nine minutes but Thomas Whyte equalised for Kyles four minutes later.

Early in the second half, Whyte scored a second to give Kyles a 2-1 lead for the next 24 minutes.

Two goals in the next three minutes by 'More's Glen MacKintosh



DETERMINATION: Oban Camanachd's Andrew 'Papa' McCuish and Inveraray's David MacPherson in a race for the ball during last Saturday's Marine Harvest Premiership match at Mossfield Stadium. An enthralling match ended in a 1-1 draw. Photo: Stephen Lawson

2-1 on Saturday. Manager John MacLeod said: 'We know fine this is going to be a hard game so we just have to go and perform. All we can do is go down there, give it a good go and see where it takes us.'

'It was a hard game against Beauly last week, but we managed to clinch that so you never know.'

**INVERARAY'S** first game against Oban Camanachd this season ended in a 1-1 draw. Inveraray are still in danger one place up from bottom and five points adrift of the eighth placed Kingussie. Oban's Malcolm Clark opened their account in the seventh minute and for more than 50 minutes that is how it stayed.

Euan McMurdo equalised on the hour and after that neither side was able to get the upper hand.

**GLENURQUHART** travelled to the Dell and beat Kingussie 2-1 to go seventh in the league.

Glen were strong in the first half and Neale Reid made the breakthrough just before the whistle. A moment into the second half, Jake MacPherson brought Kingussie back in.

Euan Lloyd played the winner on 62 minutes, but then Glen became defensive and were saved from further goals by keeper, Stuart MacKintosh.

Next weekend, Glen have home advantage when Kingussie travel north to Blairbeg.

**LOCHABER** will be well rested after a free weekend in time to take on Kinlochshiel in the premiership on Saturday.

The Spean Bridge side are just two points below Lochside Rovers and Oban Celtic have two games in hand and 14 and 13 points respectively.

Lochaber manager, Ally Ferguson, called the game 'a vital match'.

extended to three with a shot off the post.

Fort's Duncan Rodger missed a penalty awarded after a scuffle in the goalmouth. It was left to Daniel Stewart to score the consolation goal for the Fort.

The win puts 'Shiel third in the league. Next Saturday they travel to Lochaber and will be looking for better than their April 0-0 draw.

**STRACHUR** fired four past Kilmorey on a MacRae Park which resembled a duck pond at times on Saturday with large pools of standing water.

Alex Cunningham gave Kilmorey an early lead, but a hat-trick from Duncan Smart lifted the visitors and Alastair Mirles provided the icing on the cake lifting Strachur up to ninth for just their second win of the season.

Strachur have a league tie against Glenorchy at home on Saturday and a chance to better the two sides' goalless draw from three weeks ago.

**INVERARAY** seconds 3-2 win at Oban Celtic helped propel them to the top of South Division One despite a 2-1 loss to Taynuilt last Saturday. Lewis Montgomery scored first for 'Aray, but Taynuilt's Lorne Gillies equalised and Willie Neilson struck the second half winner.

'Aray have 15 points, but the two teams below Lochside Rovers and Oban Celtic have two games in hand and 14 and 13 points respectively.

As the Oban Times went to press, 'Aray were due to play Glenorchy and on Saturday face Oban Lorn at home.

**GLENORCHY** suffered a five goal rout by Lochside Rovers in what should have been a home game on Saturday, but ended up at Ganavan after Mart Park was judged unplayable.

After the 4pm throw up, Scott Dempster and Daniel MacMillan scored two each with the fifth coming from Craig MacDougall.

On Tuesday July 7, Glenorchy

## National League

### BALLACHULISH'S

2-2 draw with Inverness in their sixth league match of the season gave them their first point. So far this season they have conceded 35 goals.

Pat MacLean took Balla into the lead for three minutes until Dougie Rankin equalised.

Inverness went 2-1 up through Michael Price. Not to be denied, Balla' stuck at it for Lewis Bryson to score the important equaliser.

Balla' entertain Beauly at home on Saturday. When the two sides met in March the Invernesshire side inflicted a 4-0 defeat.

A win for **KILMALLIE** this weekend could see them take the top spot in the national division.

The Caol side are currently just one point behind Skye with a game in hand, to be played at home against Inverness on Saturday.

Manager, Mark MacPherson, is feeling optimistic after last week's 5-2 win against Caberfeidh kept them undefeated in the league so far, despite being unsuccessful in their cup campaigns.

Kingussie have not won a game since they beat Kyles more than a month ago and slip to eighth in the league.

They will have another chance when they meet Glenurquhart again next weekend away at Blairbeg.

**KINLOCHSHIEL** made further inroads into Fort William with a second three goal win, this time though the Fort gained a goal of their own.

A combined effort from four players gave Jordan Fraser the first goal for 'Shiel after six minutes. Keith MacCrae put another away to give 'Shiel a two goal lead which Gordie MacDonald

## Marine Harvest Premiership

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	9	8	0	1	34	9	16
Kinlochshiel	11	5	3	3	21	20	13
Lovat	11	5	2	4	27	24	12
Lochaber	11	4	3	4	16	26	11
Fort William	12	4	2	6	18	23	10
Kyles Athletic	7	4	1	2	20	10	9
Glenurquhart	8	4	1	3	15	14	9
Kingussie	10	3	3	4	15	20	9
Inveraray	9	1	2	6	9	21	4
Oban Camanachd	8	1	1	6	8	16	3



Caberfeidh's Gavin MacDonald and Kilmallie's John Stewart go in for a tackle during last Saturday's National Division match. The Lochaber side won 5-2. Photo: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image

## Fixtures

### Saturday 11th July 2015

#### SSE Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup 3rd Round

Lovat v Fort William  
John Angus Gillies  
Glasgow MA v Inveraray  
David Mitchell  
Oban Caman v Newtonmore  
Lachie Wood  
Kyles Athletic v Skye  
Robert Baxter

#### Strathdearn Cup 2nd Round

Glengarry v Lovat  
Archie Ritchie  
Beauly v Newtonmore  
Evan MacRae  
Kingussie v Kinlochshiel  
John Matheson  
Aberdeen Uni v Fort William  
Martin MacLean

#### Bullough Cup 2nd Round

Inveraray v Oban Lorn  
John Wood  
Lochside Rovers v Kyles Athletic  
Scot McNeil

#### Marine Harvest Premiership

Glenurquhart v Kingussie  
Deek Cameron  
Lochaber v Kinlochshiel  
Billy Wotherspoon

#### Marine Harvest National Division

Ballachulish v Beauly  
Calum Girvan  
Kilmallie v Inverness  
John MacGregor

#### Marine Harvest North Division 1

Strathglass v Glenurquhart  
Ron Kennedy

#### Marine Harvest South Division 1

Strachur v Glenorchy  
Innes Wood

#### Taynuilt v Bute

Euan Pearson

#### Marine Harvest North Division 2

Inverness v Lewis  
Ronnie Campbell

#### Marine Harvest South Division 2

Glenorchy v Aberdour  
Jon Gallagher

Throw ups 2.30 unless stated

## Results

### Tuesday June 30

#### Marine Harvest South Division 1

Oban Celtic 2 - 3 Inveraray

### Wednesday July 1

#### Marine Harvest North Division 1

Lochcarron 3 - 4 Beauly

### Saturday July 4

#### Marine Harvest Premiership

Kingussie 1 - 2 Glenurquhart  
Kinlochshiel 3 - 1 Fort William

Kyles Athletic 2 - 3 Newtonmore

Oban Camanachd 1 - 1 Inveraray

#### Marine



## SPL teams ready to compete for D&K Lafferty Cup glory

NIALL HICKMAN  
nhickman@obantimes.co.uk

IT WILL be a strange and slightly surreal Saturday afternoon for Iain Jackson as the former Oban Saints boss moves from the dugout to pitchside.

Jackson has spent the last 20 years as Saints manager, but stood down this summer to make way for Alex Craik. Although he is no longer in charge of Oban's first team, he will be watching from the sidelines as Saints prepare to take on Scottish Premier League opposition in Saturday's prestigious D & K Lafferty tournament.

Four SPL sides will be taking part in the tournament – newly-promoted Hearts, Dundee United, St Johnstone and Hamilton Academical, while Mossfield stadium and Glencruitten park will also host Scottish First Division outfit Alloa Athletic.

Saints are certainly up against it as Hearts and Hamilton are bringing their first team squads, while United, St Johnstone and Alloa will be mostly fielding under-20s players, strengthened by several first teamers.

For Jackson, it will be the first time in two decades he will be attending a Saints game without the stress and strain of management and he is looking forward to it.

'It was time I did something else on my Saturdays and yet I wouldn't miss this tournament for anything as there will be some high quality football played,' said Jackson.



**SIDELINES:** Former Oban Saints manager, Iain Jackson, will be an interested spectator on Saturday.

'It's not every day Premier League players come to Oban and this tournament has progressed amazingly since it was first started. We are now getting some of the biggest and best supported clubs in Scotland, which is great for the town as a lot of the fans come up and stay in Oban for the weekend.'

'I know the Oban boys will do well. We have some very capable players and all of them will want to show the professionals what they can do.'

Jackson's daughter has moved to Dumfries and Galloway and he plans to use his Saturdays in order to catch up on matches in Glasgow.

'I want to see more of her at the weekends and I will definitely take in more games in Glasgow purely as a fan, as I've missed that. What I won't miss is my blood pressure going through the ceiling! The job of being a manager is very enjoyable but it is time-consuming as we would often leave before 9am and not be back until 12 hours later and it is also stressful. On Saturday, I will have to bite my tongue if things aren't going the way we want them as it is no longer my job.'

His highlights as Saints boss are many and varied, but one game sticks out among all others.

'About 15 years ago the pitch was flooded, so we rang our pals in the fire service and they sucked up all the water with their hoses allowing the tournament to go ahead! Then the sun came out and it was a glorious afternoon.'

Saints new manager Alex Craik has picked a squad of 21 for the competition. He said: 'The boys are looking forward to pitting their wits against the professionals and so am I. Unfortunately, we have three or four senior players missing through injury and holidays, but it will give me a chance to see how the younger boys perform in a pressure situation.'

Tournament organiser David Buchanan said: 'Hearts are taking a party of 34 to the tournament - 24 first team players and ten staff and are staying in an Oban Hotel on the Friday night.'

'The other teams will be arriving on the morning of the competition ready for an 11am start.'

The fans from all the clubs mix well together as they have been coming to the tournament for years and they seem to have a good day out watching the football in a relaxed atmosphere.'

Hearts director of football Craig Levein said: 'For an amateur club, Oban Saints run a great wee tournament which is ideal for pre-season match fitness. The round-robin format is excellent and it gives all the players involved a good work-out in a game situation.'



TOP MAN: Graeme Souness signs a Rangers top which will be used to help raise funds for Oban Saints youths

## Souness signs for Oban Saints

LEGENDARY ex-Scotland, Liverpool and Rangers star, Graeme Souness, dropped into Oban to see an old pal on Tuesday at the official launch of the new Rockport Hotel.

Souness, a lifelong friend of Rockport Hotel owner, Gerry Ritchie, was the special guest on Tuesday evening and mixed with invited locals, while signing a variety of football memorabilia.

Souness, who played over 50 times for Scotland and won the European Cup three times for Liverpool, said he was delighted to meet his old friend.

'We grew up together in Edinburgh and I've known Gerry ever since I was a kid. When Gerry asked if I could come up to Oban and open his new restaurant and hotel I said I'd be very happy to do so. We have had some great times together and he is the same now as he was when we were kids. I wish him all the very best in his new venture.'

### Hard work

Gerry and his partner, Cherie, have spent a significant sum in renovating the Rockport Hotel in Tweedale Street, formerly the Woodside Hotel. Gerry said: 'It has

been very hard work, but I think it looks incredible. For Graeme to take the time and trouble to come up to Oban is typical of him. He is that sort of person and I've known him most of my life.'

Souness was delighted to sign a Rangers top which will be used to raise funds for Oban Saints youths.

Alan MacLeod, chairman of the Saints' youth set-up was delighted that one of his footballing heroes signed the shirt.

The club would like to thank Billy Thomson of Oban Sports Shop for donating the strip for Souness to sign.

## Former Scotland rugby captains to visit Oban Lorne Rugby

OBAN Lorne are to welcome two former Scotland captains and British Lions stars to the club.

Rugby legends, Chris Paterson and Jason White, will both hold training sessions at Oban Lorne later this month and the club says they could not be prouder to have two such illustrious names coming to the town.

Paterson will be at the club on Thursday July 23 with White in attendance from Friday July 31.

Coach Tommy Sutherland said: 'We are very fortunate as Chris and Jason are both huge names in the sport. Chris is coming to do a training session with the first XI and some of the kids and Jason is here for a whole weekend, so I am sure we will keep him very busy. To have two former Scotland skippers and British Lions players coming to Oban is fantastic for the club. I know the players here are really looking forward to it.'

Paterson played 109 times for Scotland between 1999-2011 at either full back, fly half or on the wing and performed for Glasgow, Edinburgh and Gloucester in club rugby.

Paterson, who now works as a coach and ambassador for the Scottish Rugby Union, also held the record for the most number of successful kicks in test rugby, 36 consecutive goals between August 2007 and June 2008. He was awarded the MBE in 2012 for his services to Scottish rugby.

White won 77 caps for Scotland and played his club rugby for Watsonians, Glasgow, Sale Sharks and Clermont Auvergne and was even named in a 'World XV of the Year' by the New Zealand Herald newspaper.

White, who captained Scotland 19 times, played as a lock, flanker or No 8.

## Oban Athletic back in training

### Football

OBAN ATHLETIC will start their pre-season training on July 14 at Glen 3, the pitch next to the rugby pitch starting at 6.45pm.

Due to the season just finishing the team are still looking for a team to play on July 18.

Pre-season fixtures confirmed July 25 v Dumbarton Harp, rugby pitch, 3pm kick-off; August 1 v Westwood Rovers, rugby pitch, 3pm kick-off.

The club are also playing in the Argyll and Bute 8-team tournament in Lochgilphead on August 8. The first fixture for Athletic in the West of Scotland League will be played on August 15.

The club are looking for old or new players to contribute to the season ahead, so if you think you can help take the club forward please come along to training.

## World Island Games record broken

### Swimming

A STORNOWAY woman has broken the World Island Games record, and in the process become the tenth fastest British swimmer of all time in the 50m breaststroke.

Kara Hanlon swam the distance in 31.33 seconds, less than a second off the British record of 30.56s in the heats of the competition on June 29.

This year's event was held in Jersey with 3,000 competitors from 24 islands or island groups taking part.

**SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES**  
**NORTH WEST MARINE**  
DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS

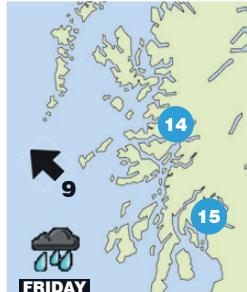
7 E Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG  
T: 01631 565740 F: 01631 565780 M: 07836 366419  
Em: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk Web: www.northwestmarine.co.uk



Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

### WEATHER

**Thursday** Cloudy with light rain showers  
Winds moderate west north westerly  
Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.  
  
**Friday** Heavy rain  
Winds moderate south easterly  
Temperatures 13°C to 15°C.  
  
**Weekend Outlook** Heavy rain showers on Saturday  
Heavy rain on Sunday  
Winds moderate south westerly  
Temperatures 12°C to 15°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, July 9, 2015 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	Ardrishaig	Mallaig
Thur	05.20	1.2	11.07	-5.35
Fri	00.02	3.2	06.26	-5.30
Sat	01.35	3.2	07.36	-0.47
Sun	02.49	3.2	08.45	2.00
Mon	03.49	3.3	09.44	5.30
Tues	04.36	3.5	10.34	5.30
Wed	05.16	3.6	11.17	5.30

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 & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

FORT WILLIAM & LOCHABER EDITION

Established 1861 No 8259

Thursday 9 July, 2015

www.obantimes.co.uk

80 pence



## Glengarry Highland Games



School's out for summer!

# Fort changing room fire a 'devastating blow' for club

EMMA CRICHTON

ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

A FIRE which ripped through Fort William football club's changing rooms has been a 'devastating blow' for the club.

The blaze consumed most of the Claggan park structure on Monday night, causing serious damage to the roof.

The quick work of firefighters saved the building from irreversible damage, although the changing rooms and some equipment could be destroyed.

Four fire crews attended the scene at 8.40pm, two from Fort William fire station and one each from Kinlochleven and Fort Augustus, who worked tirelessly until after midnight to control the blaze. The cause of the fire was unknown when the Oban Times went to press and investigations are ongoing.

The park had been used by children's summer football club, Lochaber Street League, earlier on the Monday evening, but a committee member said the changing rooms, which are next to the kitchen, had not been used.

Fort William FC are due to play at home in just over two

weeks, with their first game of this season's Highland league scheduled for Saturday, July 25.

David MacDonald, vice chairman of Fort William FC, said: 'It's a devastating blow, but thankfully nobody was hurt.'

'We're due to play at home in a fortnight and we're hoping a short-term solution can be found because after the team doing so well last season, we were really looking forward to starting again. If it wasn't for bad luck we would have no luck at all.'

Mr MacDonald added the fire could have caused problems outdoors as the grounds' floodlights and other electrical equipment is run from the mains inside the building. The Fort William FC committee were due to meet on Tuesday night to discuss the situation.

Claggan park is owned by Highland council and High Life Highland, the leisure branch of the local authority, is working to find a solution in time for the Fort's upcoming home game.

A High Life Highland spokesman said on Tuesday: 'We are in discussion with Fort William football club with regards to the use of alternative changing facilities for their game

on July 25. At this stage we do not have a list of the remedial work required to this facility following the fire, however High Life Highland is working with Highland council to obtain this information.'

Pat McElhinney, Scottish Fire and Rescue's group manager for Lochaber, thanked the fire crews who managed to save the building from further damage.

He added: 'It was evident that we had a very large, well-developed fire when we arrived. We secured water, set up cordon and proceeded to fight the fire from the outside for crew safety, as there was a danger of backdraught explosions.'

'The roof structure of the building also became very unstable which hampered progress, but all crews worked extremely hard to save this vital community building.'

'Although the roof was damaged and some rooms have been affected by the fire, we have managed to save the majority of the building and that is down to the speed of operational crews to attack and fight the fire in a safe, ordered and systematic way.'

'Thankfully no one was harmed as a result of the fire.'



BATTLE: firefighters spent hours tackling the blaze



COMBINED SUCCESS: Teachers, councillors and construction staff came together to celebrate new headteacher, John Joseph MacNeil (middle), receiving the keys to Lochaber's new Gaelic primary school. From left: Councillor Brian Murphy, Allan Macleod, projects director of Robertson Northern, Violet Smith, acting headteacher of Fort William and Lochside RC schools, new headteacher John Joseph MacNeil, Bill Alexander, Highland council's director of care and learning, and councillor Bill Clark

## Countdown to opening of new Gaelic primary

THE headteacher of Fort William's new Gaelic primary school received the keys to the building ahead of the official opening next month.

John Joseph MacNeil, who will take up the post in Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar, Lochaber's first purpose-built Gaelic school, in August, said he was 'delighted and excited' to start.

'I am extremely delighted and excited to receive these keys to the new school within which I am looking forward to working with pupils,

staff, parents and the wider community as we move forward together into our fantastic new community school,' he said.

Drew Millar, chairman of Highland council's education, children and adult services committee, added: 'I am delighted that the Gaelic school in Fort William has now been handed into the care of the headteacher. This will be a superb learning environment for bilingual education in Lochaber and I wish the staff and pupils all success for the future.'

## TIMELINE

### Developer wants KFC plan changed

FORT William's KFC, due to open this year, could be delayed as developers have requested a change to planning.

The fast food restaurant, to be built at North road, was approved in August last year but the company has remained tight-lipped about progress.

Hopes rose in May when the former Nevis Garden centre occupying the site was demolished, but KFC declined to provide an update.

And last week, Herbal Eastern Limited, acting on behalf of KFC, lodged an application with Highland council's planning department asking to extend and adjust the current drive-through and car park.

When asked by the Oban Times if this meant progress, amid local speculation the development won't go ahead, a KFC spokeswoman declined to comment.

### Fort 'altercation' sparks manhunt

POLICE in Fort William are looking for a man involved in an incident with three schoolchildren.

On Thursday June 25, at Blackparks road, Inverlochy, the male driver of a silver car stopped his vehicle at the entrance to Soldiers Bridge. He then made his way to Blackparks road where he had what police described as an 'altercation' with three youths. The man is described as between 40 and 50 years old, five feet five inches in height, bald and of medium build. He speaks with a local accent.

Police are looking to identify this individual and another man who they believe spoke to the children.

Anyone with information should contact local police by calling 101.



28>

## Mallaig mourns young crash victim

THE FUNERAL of a Mallaig teenager who died in a road accident was held on Tuesday (July 7).

Liam Brown, 18, was killed when his car went off the A830 near Arisaig in the early hours of Saturday June 27. No other vehicles were involved.

Tributes were paid to the young apprentice ahead of the funeral, with Mr Brown's aunt, Rebecca Whitten, calling him 'a beautiful young man'.

The death also sparked a plea from Highland police, urging drivers to stay safe as the teen was one of five people to die in a week on northern roads.

In a spate of serious and fatal accidents in the Highlands, women aged 29, 72 and 66 and a 23-year-old male Royal Marine were killed in collisions in the same week.

Police Scotland's divisional road policing inspector, Gus Stewart, warned drivers not to ignore the risks.

He said: 'The majority of road users across the Highlands and Islands are safe and respectful of others. I would urge all road users to be mindful of other drivers and riders throughout the summer months when the area sees an increase of traffic especially

who are unfamiliar with the region. It is easy to ignore the risks when we are driving and pretend that bad things only happen to other people.'

'It doesn't matter how long you've been driving, how safe you think your driving is, or whatever else you tell yourself to justify using your phone or not wearing a seat belt, the reality is people are hurt every day in collisions.'

Mr Stewart also outlined the importance of wearing a seatbelt, maintaining safe stopping distances, taking regular breaks and only overtaking when it is safe to do so.



SAD LOSS: the funeral for Mallaig's Liam Brown, 18, was held on Tuesday



### DIOPLOMÀ ANNS NA MEADHANAN GÀIDHLIG

Tha an cursa seo a' tort cothrom air leth do dh'oileannach eolas a chur air farsaingeachd de dhreuchdan craolaidh.

Gheibh thu taic is cuideachadh bho eòlaichean craolaidh an lùib a' chùrsa agus cothrom air na goireasan craolaidh aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig a chleachadh. Tha ire fastaich fir àrd aig luchdeuma an Dioplòma, le corr is 70% dhiubh a' faighinn cosnáidh ann an gniomhachas nam meadhanan.

Tha an Dioplòma làn-uine thar dà bhliadhna agus a' chuid bliadhna (30 seachdainean) stèidhichte aig a' Chòlais. A bharrachd air na h-aonadan riatachan tha sàr-chlasaichean mar phàirt den bhliadhna coliste cuideachd a' cur gu mòr ris an eòlas ionnsachaidh.

Anns an dàrna bliadhna tha cothrom sònraichte aig an luchd-tréanadh is iad a cur 10 miosan seachad air greis-obrach cuide ri craoladair stèidhichte no compaidean roichdachaidh neo-eisimeileach.

Airson foirm-iarratais curiagh fios gu: 01471 888336 | cni.smo@uhi.ac.uk WWW.SMO.UHI.AC.UK

**B&M CENTRE**

BMW AND MINI SPECIALISTS

DEALERSHIP QUALITY AT HALF THE PRICE

**• BMW trained • 8 years experience • Diagnostics**

**• Programming • Servicing • Retrofits**

**• FREE Vehicle Health Check On Every Visit**

**• FREE collection and delivery service**

**Tel: 0141 237 7654**

**Mob: 07707 331 046**

[bmwminispecialistsglasgow.co.uk](http://bmwminispecialistsglasgow.co.uk)

**OPEN: Mon-Fri: 8am-5pm • Sat: 8am-12pm**

B&M Centre, Glasgow, Unit 28, New Albion Ind Est, Halley Street, Yoker G13 4DJ

# Furious business owners slam BT for internet repair delays

EMMA CRICHTON

FURIOUS business owners on a remote Lochaber peninsula have slammed BT for delays in repairing the already problematic internet in the area, saying it is 'catastrophic' for the local economy.

Members of the Glenborrodale community on the Ardnamurchan peninsula, the most westerly point of Great Britain, say the outdated broadband in the area is costing local businesses thousands of pounds every day, after they were told a breakdown last week would take at least two weeks to be repaired.

Sarah MacKinnon, manager of Glenborrodale Castle hotel, said constant problems with the internet are damaging her new business: 'We've just spent tens of thousands of pounds refurbishing the castle and opened earlier this year.'

'In the few months we've been going, business has boomed, generating several thousands of pounds worth of new income every week but now our broadband has packed up yet again which is preventing us from accessing our on-line booking system.'

'This has been an ongoing problem.'

'Our local exchange is an ancient, steam-driven five

**“This has been an ongoing problem”**

Sarah MacKinnon  
Glenborrodale Castle  
hotel manager

was wrong, got it going again, but it went down again on Thursday and we're told there's no hope of it being mended for two weeks.'

'Two weeks in summer is catastrophic both for our income and our reputation.'

'Almost all our bookings are online, but without broadband we have no idea who has booked and there is the awful danger of over or double-booking and having people turn up to find we've no room.'

The problem has been highlighted by the West Ardnamurchan community development company who recently discovered Glenborrodale will not benefit

from new superfast broadband scheduled for next year, despite the cable being run through the area.

John Polak, who runs the nearby Nadurra visitor centre, has also experienced problems. 'The service is so terrible we can't make payments or send orders and at times can't even download our emails, so we don't know when groups are arriving,' he said.

'At times I despair of running a business here, yet I know it's vital for local employment and the economy of this remote area. Even when it [broadband] is mended, sending things by a tortoise would work faster than our broadband.'

Highlands and Islands MSP, Rhoda Grant, said it is an 'outrageous' problem all over the region: 'I continually hear from businesses and individuals throughout the Highlands and Islands who are totally frustrated by the fact they still have a second rate service. In this day and age, it is outrageous that people still struggle to get connections.'

A BT spokesman said: 'We're investigating these complaints.'

## TIMELINE

### Teams rescue two Lochaber climbers

A MAN had to be airlifted to hospital after sustaining injuries on a mountainside in rural Lochaber.

Emergency services were alerted to the incident in Ardgour at 2pm on Monday, when a Royal Navy helicopter from HMS Gannet at Prestwick assisted Glencoe mountain rescue team in taking the man off the hill and transporting the casualty to Belford hospital in Fort William. The extent of his injuries are unknown.

This comes after Lochaber mountain rescue team had to lift a female who fell descending Ben Nevis on Friday night. The woman had a bad cut on her leg, but rescue helicopter HMS Gannet 177 was unable to land at the location. Rescue volunteers had to be transported to near the summit of Ben Nevis via a winch and walk down to reach the injured female.

### Toxins found in Loch Roag, Lewis

TOXINS have been found in a loch on Lewis following monitoring work.

Food Standards Scotland have found raised levels of shellfish toxins in several areas of Loch Roag.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has warned that eating cockles, mussels, scallops or razor fish from these areas could pose a risk to human health. Harvesters in these areas have been notified.



TOURISTS climbing Ben Nevis may have believed they had stumbled on to a film set when they met a Stormtrooper on the summit.

Ashley Broomhall climbed Britain's tallest peak on June 23, dressed as the Star Wars character in aid of Cancer Research.

The 27-year-old from Hampshire said the 4,409 foot climb in his armour was 'very hard going'.

## Compassionate island air fares

IT WILL soon cost less for people to fly to Scottish islands for funerals, thanks to a grassroots campaign for cheaper flights.

Airline company, Loganair plans to introduce a 'compassionate fares' discount scheme following a 15,000 strong Facebook campaign fighting against 'exorbitant' prices for flights to and from Scottish islands.

Alasdair Allan, MSP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar, welcomed the news: 'People who have suffered the loss of a loved one and then need to fly home to be with their family should not be the target of exorbitant air fares.'

'I have raised this issue with

Loganair on a number of occasions over the years, and will be interested to see more details of how the proposed scheme will work.'

'I would also like to congratulate all those involved in the campaign for the hard work they have done in harnessing people power and getting this vital concession from Loganair.'

Members of the campaign group, Islanders against Flybe and Loganair's excessive prices, were due to meet Derek Mackay, the Scottish government's minister for transport and islands, in Glasgow on Tuesday to find out what he can do to help reduce air fares.



## Nevis Bank nursery youngsters graduate

MOVING ON: children of Nevis Bank nursery celebrated their graduation as they prepare for primary school after the summer holidays. This was also the final leaving event at the Belford road premises as the nursery will move to Inverlochy later this year. For more photographs of the final days of term in Lochaber, see page 13

## Community council objects to office plan



An artist's impression of the controversial council offices, complete with 'dire' extension

PLANS to transform a former Fort William secondary school into council offices have been slammed by the town's community council.

The listed historical building on Achintore Road was formerly Fort William high school and the local authority has applied to renovate the building into a 'civic hub', including a service point and council chambers.

Bute Fort William community council submitted an objection to the planning application at the weekend, saying a proposed extension to the building

would be 'overbearing' to neighbouring properties and result in a loss of privacy for nearby hotel guests. It also said the 'architectural significance' of the Victorian building will be diminished and the visual impact caused by concrete panels and aluminium timber clad windows will be 'dire' and 'more in keeping with an agricultural shed'.

Neil Clark, community council chairman, said: 'We welcome the proposed renovation of the existing building and also the principle of the provision of new office space, registrars, service point, council chambers and committee rooms. However, we strongly object to the position, design and materials proposed.'

The objection letter went on: 'The proposed extension is in close proximity to a small hotel which would overlook those premises and cause loss of privacy for residents there. The proposed extension, crammed into the north corner of the site, represents massing and overbearing on the neighbouring hotel.'

'This proposal diminishes

the architectural significance and aesthetic appearance. The materials proposed are more in keeping with an agricultural shed than an office facility attached to a B-listed building at the southern gateway to the town. The visual impact from any direction, but particularly from the A82, will be dire.'

The application's report states: 'The siting of the new extension on the development site has been carefully considered in respect of the existing building and also the neighbouring community context.'



## Banavie school marks 50 top class years

BANAVIE primary school celebrated its 50th anniversary, with former pupils and staff gathering to mark the milestone last week.

Headteacher Maxean Dunham said: 'We had a really great day and with lots of people, including many former pupils, coming in for a visit.'

'We had a bouncy castle, messy play and t-shirts made to remember the day.'

Pictured, left, are some of the pupils with the 50th birthday cakes to celebrate the half century since the school opened. 21\_f28cake01



**Travel to Glasgow from Oban by express coach!**

**£23 APEX RETURN**

Must be booked at least two days in advance of travel.



Buy tickets in advance online, by phone or from Scottish Citylink approved agents.

**citylink** 0871 266 3333  
www.citylink.co.uk

Calls cost 10p/min from BT landlines. Charges from other providers or mobiles may vary.

**FLOORSHOP**

**Rolling out marvellous deals at Floorshop**

For a top quality service from start to finish

Free measuring service

Telephone: 01631 563316 • Unit 12, Mill Lane, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HA

Telephone: 01397 701998 • The Old Cinema, Cameron Square, Fort William

## Council could power islands says energy regulator Ofgem

TALKS are continuing about the possibility of a community and council group providing electricity in the Outer Hebrides to cut costs in the fuel poverty-stricken area.

Energy regulators Ofgem told the Western Isles councillors there are 'no fundamental barriers' to a local authority supplying electricity, meaning it would be possible for Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to become an energy provider and offer a better price than the current market.

Consumers in the Highlands and Islands currently pay a surcharge

of two pence more per unit than elsewhere in the UK.

Eilean Siar councillor Gordon Murray said: 'We are in a situation where we have the worst fuel poverty levels in Western Europe with 71 per cent of homes in fuel poverty, yet we have the best renewable energy on the planet.'

'Surely our council can meet the needs of the local economy which is suffering due to the high energy prices. We will continue to press for cost-price electricity and ensure this addresses our shocking fuel poverty issues.'

Newsdesk  
01397 703003

## TIMELINE

Cuts would have a devastating effect

FURTHER cuts to public transport services could decimate Scotland's rural communities.

The warning was issued before yesterday's Budget by rural services network chief executive, Graham Biggs.

He said: Any move to reduce funds would result in dire consequences for rural services.

'Abolishing the funds would be devastating for the wider rural economy. Even a reduction, especially following the 20 per cent cut in 2012, would have serious consequences.'

### Masterclass from Dunbeg teenager

DUNBEG teenager, Murdo Masterson, wowed the crowds after winning four out of five under-19 events at the Forres Highland Games last Saturday.

Murdo, 16, of Lochneil Road, lifted the MacDonald Sinclair trophy as the best junior heavyweight after winning the hammer, shot putt and caber.

### Bills to be slashed after price review

HIGHLAND energy bills will be slashed by £40 million after regulators agreed on Tuesday to review pricing.

The Competition and Markets Authority acted following criticism that people living in the Highlands and Islands pay 2p more per unit.

### Tiree festival set to be biggest yet

FANS are gearing up for the sixth annual Tiree Music Festival next weekend. The festival has sold out every year and 2015 is set to be the biggest yet, with Skerryvore and the Fratellis headlining.

 Find us on Facebook  
www.facebook.com/obantimes

## What did Roman ever do for us?



ROMAN IN THE GLOAMIN': billionaire Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich (inset above) toured the West Highlands this week, visiting Islay, Jura, Arran and Bute, before anchoring off Oban on Tuesday evening in his £1.5billion super yacht Eclipse - the second largest in the world at 557ft long.

### FERRY CREWS STEP UP BATTLE TO SAVE JOBS WITH THREAT OF FRIDAY STRIKE

# More travel chaos on horizon for islanders

NIALL HICKMAN  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

MORE travel chaos in the peak of the summer season is expected this week as the latest CalMac ferry workers' strike is scheduled for tomorrow (Friday).

Talks between ferry operator CalMac and the transport workers union RMT were held yesterday, but with no breakthrough announced, the 24-hour strike looks likely to go ahead tomorrow, causing huge disruption to travel plans for holidaymakers and businesses.

CalMac workers held a one-day strike two weeks ago and a second 24-hour walkout is now set to take place.

They will also be joined by Argyll Ferries staff, who are employed on the Gourock to Dunoon route and also voted to strike tomorrow.

The dispute centres around the tendering process for the Clyde and Hebrides ferry services which takes place next year, with the £1billion contract up for grabs.

CalMac is hoping to retain the tender, but face stiff competition

from private firm, Serco, for the lucrative contract.

RMT members have voted for strike action as they say their jobs, pensions and work conditions are under threat. The union's Scotland organiser, Gordon Martin, says industrial action is going ahead, unless there is a last ditch change of heart from CalMac executives.

Mr Martin said: 'The last thing our members want to do is cause more disruption to the travelling public, especially at this time of year, but the fact is that we have jobs and pensions to protect and

that is why strike action is 100 per cent going ahead.'

'We have met CalMac several times and we await a positive response to our demands for jobs, pensions and work conditions, which are under severe attack.'

'I suppose the one glimmer of hope is the fact we are not getting a negative response either, but we have not reached an agreement.'

Main ferry routes serving Mull, Islay, Bute, Arran, Coll, Tiree and Barra will be severely affected and the strike will hit all of CalMac's 49 ports, including its busiest hub, Oban.

## FLYING THE FLAG



FLYING HIGH: the Saltire rises above the council buildings in Oban's Albany Street

THE Saltire was fluttering proudly above the municipal buildings in Oban last Friday after councillors unanimously backed the move to fly the national flag throughout the region.

Councillors supported the motion, raised by Mid Argyll member, Sandy Taylor, at a meeting of Argyll and Bute council on Thursday, June 25, to amend the local authority's policy on flying the Saltire.

As a result of the motion, it can now be flown on council flagpoles on all days other than those already laid down for the flying of the Union and council flags.

Povost of Argyll and Bute, councillor, Len Scouller, explained: 'In the run up to

the independence referendum in September 2014, it was felt that it would be prudent to fly the council flag as a matter of course on the basis that this had no connection with either side of the referendum campaign.'

Councillor for Oban South and the Isles, Roddy McCuish, said: 'I'm delighted by my fellow councillors decision to fly the Scottish flag on the council buildings. I've been receiving very positive comments from everyone in Oban regarding this.'

Last week, it was reported in this newspaper that the council had rejected Sandy Taylor's motion. This was incorrect and we apologise for any confusion this may have caused.

## Cech it out as billionaire poses with fans on Islay

STEVEN RAE  
srae@obantimes.co.uk

THE Romans are coming! Or, to be more precise, Roman, as the Chelsea Football Club owner and billionaire Roman Abramovic has been touring the region on his superyacht, 'Eclipse'.

Braving the wind and rain, Abramovic landed on Islay on Monday and cycled from Port Ellen to Bowmore and back, a distance of around 20 miles.

He then visited Laphroaig distillery for a special whisky tasting where he was greeted by two passionate Chelsea fans, James Morris, 20, and Lewis Rawlinson, who both work at the Islay Hotel as head barman and head chef.

Lewis, 27, who could barely believe his eyes when one of the richest men in the world turned

up in Port Ellen, said: 'It's not every day you meet a Russian billionaire in Islay.'

'We didn't want to annoy him as he was doing a whisky tour but I grabbed my Chelsea shirt and James got hold of his Petr Cech goalkeeping jersey, complete with the headguard and we went searching for him.'

'He laughed when he saw what James was wearing and was only too happy to have his photo taken. He found it funny and even asked if he could take a photo of us.'

'He was friendly and we tried to be polite by not bothering him too much. He couldn't really converse in English but we said good luck and thanks and he clearly understood that.'

Lewis, who moved to Islay from Cheltenham a year ago, added: 'I'm following my dad who was a

fan and that's why it was such a thrill to meet the owner.'

The Islay visit was part of a tour of the West Coast for the Russian business magnate over the past few days. He was seen on Arran with a group of five wealthy friends on Tuesday afternoon, attracting attention as they strolled through the streets of Lochranza with bodyguards, and Abramovic's pet corgi.

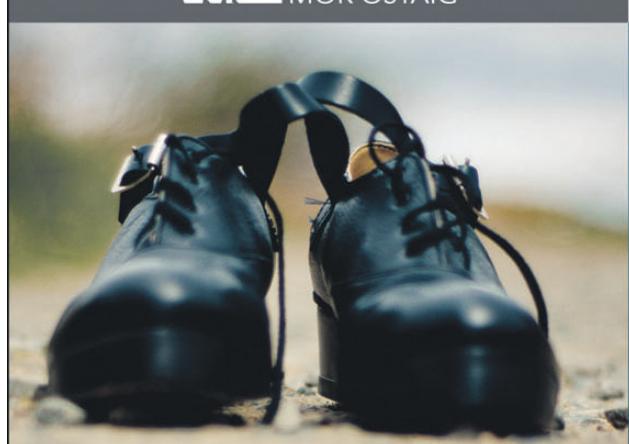
The billionaire's yacht was anchored off the sound of Kerrera on Tuesday evening, before returning to Arran, where it remained on Wednesday morning.

**RIGHT TO ROME:**  
The billionaire posed with James Morris and Lewis Rawlinson as he strolled around Islay on Tuesday during a distillery tour in Port Ellen



## CURSAICHEAN GOIRID - SHORT COURSES 2015

 SABHAL MÒR OSTAIG



**DANNSA-CEUM / STEP DANCING**  
WITH SOPHIE STEPHENSON  
17 - 21/08/15



**ÓRAIN GÀIDHLIG / GAELIC SONGS**  
WITH MÀIRI MACINNES  
24 - 28/08/15



**CURSA FLÒDAIGEARRAIDH**  
FLODIGARRY COMMUNITY COURSE  
31/08 - 04/09/15

## Seventy years of wedded bliss and still going strong

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

WHEN Mary from Glasgow met Jim from Oban during the Second World War, she was soon to become Mrs Mary Hill from Maryhill.

That was 70 years ago in 1945, and the happy couple who have spent their married life in Oban, will celebrate their incredible milestone platinum wedding anniversary on Sunday.

Jim first met Mary when she was in Oban for a day trip while Jim was home on leave from the navy. The couple soon fell in love after Jim travelled to Mary's native Maryhill to visit her, where she was working in a munitions factory at the time.

Jim, who was 92 last month, and an old boy of Oban high school, said: 'It was a rushed wedding because I was supposed to get a month's leave from the navy but only got 10 days.'

'So we managed to get married

in that time, then I was sent off to the Far East.'

After Jim returned home from the war, they set up home in Cruchen Crescent in Dunollie, where Jim became a slater and plasterer, and Mary a homemaker.

Mary, who will be 93 in August, joked: 'Jim is my toy boy. We've agreed about most things and it's been a happy 70 years together.'

'We wouldn't be here otherwise. Oban has been a great place to raise our family too.'

With three children - Jim, Ruth and Moira, four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren - the couple are hoping to make this Sunday a real celebration for all the family.

**DEVOTED:**  
Jim and Mary Hill,  
who celebrate their  
70th wedding anniver-  
sary on Sunday.  
16.t28platinum01



## Police raise alarm over bogus callers and con men after OAP is targeted

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

**OBAN police have issued an urgent warning to residents after a pensioner was conned out of a substantial sum of money.**

**The cruel con on a vulnerable individual followed reports of a number of telephone scams and bogus callers operating in the area in recent weeks.**

**Sergeant Alan Moore of Oban has appealed for people to be extra vigilant as the police are about to launch a poster campaign. 'It has come to our attention that there has been a number of bogus callers operating in the area and there have also been reports of telephone scams,' said Sergeant Moore.**

**He went on: 'The advice is that no bank or passport details should be given over the phone. And you should not give any details about personal finances unless you are absolutely certain of who the caller is.'**

**'Reputable companies do not ask for bank details over the phone and neither do banks.'**

**'We are launching a poster campaign around the region raising awareness about the issues of phone scams and bogus callers. If people are in any doubts at all they should not give out any information, either on the phone or in person.'**

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

**AN OBAN minister has said he believes that his parish can bring an old church building back into use.**

Ian McFarlane came out of retirement 18 months ago to take on the role as minister of Oban Baptist Church, but revealed this week he is considering using the Argyll Square building to house his large congregation.

As reported last week in the *Oban Times*, the Argyll Square church, which has been closed for four years due to safety concerns, has garnered interest from different groups, including the Oban Baptist Church, which is on Albany Street.

At the moment, the Argyll

Square church's current owner, Visit Scotland, has said it is still waiting on the results of structural report on the building before it is possible to be leased.

Ian McFarlane said: 'At the moment, people are worried they might not get a seat at our church on Albany Street. We don't want that to put people off coming into church.'

'We've been looking at the building for almost two years. Whether it's something we bring back to life isn't certain at the moment.'

The larger part of the church would suit our needs, but it needs a lot of work - it's a hard hat area at the moment, but we live in hope. At the moment it's not viable for us to start repairs.'

'If there was some way of



**POSSIBLE MOVE: (Above) Ian McFarlane and (left) the Argyll Square church**

working in co-operation with Visit Scotland it might suit our purposes in the short term.'

'We're excited about the future, and, in a way, having too many people is a good problem to have, but going from something

like a cottage to a castle is the challenge.'

'But I'm a man of faith and I remain optimistic that this will happen. Benefactors are obviously welcome.'

A Visit Scotland spokesman said: 'As we've previously advised the *Oban Times*, no decisions have as yet been taken on a future use for the church building, which formerly housed our visitor information centre.'

'We have, however, had formal discussions with another local church about using the space at some stage in the future.'

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

## TIMELINE

### Police tackle store crime and drugs

AT NOON on Monday, a 36-year-old woman was arrested on suspicion of shoplifting at the Oban branch of the Tesco supermarket.

She has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

At 12.05am on Tuesday on the A85 near Achnacloich, a 28-year-old man was stopped and the driver was found to be in possession of a Class B drug, namely cannabis.

On Sunday, at 9pm, a 35-year-old man was arrested at the Western Isles hotel, Tobermory, Mull, for refusing to leave a licensed premises while intoxicated.

At 11pm, on Saturday, at the MacDonald Arms, Main Street, Tobermory, Mull, a 72-year-old man was assaulted by a 46-year-old male but suffered no significant injuries.

A report of the incident has been sent to the procurator fiscal.

### Cliff fall man in a 'stable' condition

A 27-YEAR-OLD man is in a 'serious, but stable' condition in hospital after falling 150ft from cliffs near the Hydro in Oban on Friday night at 10.12pm.

The man was found at the foot of the cliffs in Combie Street in the town where paramedics treated him for substantial head and internal injuries.

An eye witness said: 'There was a huge police and ambulance presence and it was clear someone had fallen from the cliffs.'

The man was taken by ambulance to Lorn and Islands District General Hospital in the town.

He was later that evening transferred by air ambulance to Glasgow's Southern General hospital.

Police say there are no suspicious circumstances regarding the incident.

### Thefts could have left bridge unsafe

OBAN police are appealing for information regarding the theft of five yellow fibre boards covering a roadworks hole on the busy Connel bridge.

The bridge is the major link carrying traffic from the A85 over Loch Etive to the main A828 Fort William route.

The theft occurred between 7pm on Thursday and 9am on Friday and could have caused serious injury to pedestrians.

The boards have now been replaced and anyone with any information on the theft should contact Sergeant Gerry Welsh at Oban police station.

## Baptists have faith in church move

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

**AN OBAN minister has said he believes that his parish can bring an old church building back into use.**

Ian McFarlane came out of retirement 18 months ago to take on the role as minister of Oban Baptist Church, but revealed this week he is considering using the Argyll Square building to house his large congregation.

'We've been looking at the building for almost two years. Whether it's something we bring back to life isn't certain at the moment.'

The larger part of the church would suit our needs, but it needs a lot of work - it's a hard hat area at the moment, but we live in hope. At the moment it's not viable for us to start repairs.'

'If there was some way of

the kettle on and called social services for advice as there had been matters the previous day in which the police had been called.

'Mr Simpson finished calling social services and tried to pass the tea through the kitchen window. There was not enough room so he unlocked a security latch and the accused started to climb into the property.

'Mr Simpson tried to stop the accused, who raised his left arm. He used Mr Simpson as a lever to pull himself into the house. This overwhelmed them and they both fell to the ground.'

A neighbour called police and the elderly father suffered bruising during the incident, with

Simpson arrested and taken to Tobermory police station.

Defence lawyer Laura McManus said: 'There were some family disagreements stretching back over 20 years ago.'

He (Alun Simpson) took the decision to return to Scotland as his parents were getting older and he wanted to see his father so he could re-build some bridges which had been broken.

'There were some difficulties with his relationship with his father to do with the distant past.'

'On June 14, an incident occurred in which Simpson was detained by the police and taken to Oban. He spent the night in the public area of the

police station, not the cells, due to inclement weather, which was rather unusual.'

'He was exhausted, cold, tired and hungry and wanted to persuade his father to let him in.'

'His belongings were there and he wanted to talk to his father. He was of no fixed address and his father did not want him back. He was at a loss to decide what to do next.'

'He hoped to stay at his father's and return to employment. As he was of no fixed address he was remanded in custody.'

Sheriff Colin McKay deferred sentence and released Simpson on bail on condition that he has no contact with his father.

## Botched reconciliation ends in court

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

**A MULL tourist firm driver admitted assaulting his 80-year-old father and leaving him bruised and distressed following a family dispute stretching back over 20 years.**

Alun Simpson, who is now of no fixed address, also pleaded guilty to using threatening and abusive language towards his father, James Simpson, at Struan Crescent, Tobermory, on June 15.

Oban sheriff court heard on Monday that Simpson, 51, returned to Scotland last year after two decades living in South

Africa, but his relationship with his aged father deteriorated and he was arrested in June after an incident at their shared accommodation.

Prosecutor fiscal Claire Martin said: 'The accused was working as a driver for a tourist firm providing trips to the outlying islands of Mull when the incident happened on June 15 at 3.40pm.'

'The accused came to the back window of the property to gain his father's attention and asked to come in. Mr Simpson said he did not want him in. He said he was cold and hungry and asked for a cup of tea.'

'His father told him to drink it outside. Mr Simpson put

I went to bed and I remember William being in the room and there was sick on the bed. I had been sick in my sleep. I started arguing saying it had been him who had made the mess. I was so drunk I didn't think I had done it.'

'I remember William going away and me ending up in the kitchen. I was shouting and bawling at William and blaming him. I was being aggressive and argumentative. He left.'

'I was hysterical. William had walked out and I said to a member of my family that we had been fighting. The police arrived. I'm not aware of what I

said to the police. The fact I said William had hit me is because I have a nasty streak in me when I'm drunk. I was drunk and an embarrassment. I'm totally evil with too much drink inside me.'

'William did not touch me at all and did not hit me. If anything, he tried to help me. I have not had a drink since and I don't intend to.'

Prosecutor fiscal Claire Martin said to Lockhart: 'You are aware that lying to the police is a very serious matter?' Lockhart replied: 'Yes, I know.'

Sheriff Colin McKay told Mr Martin that he was found not guilty and 'free to leave the dock'.

### West Coast staff happy

A RECENT survey has revealed that Scotland's most contented workforce comes from the Highlands and Islands.

The Bank of Scotland's 'happiness index' asked people about job satisfaction, working hours and daily commute.

The research found people in the Highlands and Islands scored the highest, followed by those who lived in Fife.

Aberdeen, Glasgow and mid Scotland scored the lowest on the index.

### It couldn't be easier!

Call 01631 568000 or visit [www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk](http://www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk) to place your ad.

**BUY LOCAL** **SELL LOCAL** **TRADE LOCAL** **SWAP LOCAL**

## Drink-fuelled accusation about partner is a lie, woman tells trial

**AN OBAN carer admitted she was 'disgustingly drunk' before falsely telling the police she had been assaulted by her partner, writes Niall Hickman.**

William Martin, 46, of Hynish Crescent, Oban, was found not guilty of assaulting his partner, Gail Lockhart, on April 18 this year.

Lockhart, 43, a full-time carer, admitted she was 'totally evil' as a result of drinking too much wine following an all-day session in the town.

She told Oban sheriff court on Monday that, after being sick in her upstairs bedroom, she lied to police about the

alleged assault. The court heard mother-of-four Lockhart admit she could not recall telling the officers she had been assaulted as she was too drunk to remember events of that evening.

Lockhart said: 'We had gone for lunch then went for a few drinks in pubs. I kept drinking wine after wine and I was drunk. I was totally incapable.'

'I got home about 6.30pm and carried on drinking glasses of wine in the garden. William was fine as he can handle his drink. I can't. I was that drunk.'

'I went into the house and fell over. I was disgustingly drunk.'

I went to bed and I remember William being in the room and there was sick on the bed. I had been sick in my sleep. I started arguing saying it had been him who had made the mess. I was so drunk I didn't think I had done it.'

'I remember William going away and me ending up in the kitchen. I was shouting and bawling at William and blaming him. I was being aggressive and argumentative. He left.'

'I was hysterical. William had walked out and I said to a member of my family that we had been fighting. The police arrived. I'm not aware of what I

said to the police. The fact I said William had hit me is because I have a nasty streak in me when I'm drunk. I was drunk and an embarrassment. I'm totally evil with too much drink inside me.'

'William did not touch me at all and did not hit me. If anything, he tried to help me. I have not had a drink since and I don't intend to.'

Three out of three for Finlay in triple hirple

## Athletics

**FINLAY** Wild stormed this year's Lochaber athletic club's triple hirple, taking first place in all three races.

The general practitioner made light work of the events, held from June 27-29, flying ahead of nearest competitor, Calum Fraser, who came second in the three races.

Wild of Lochaber athletic club (LAC), finished the Graham Brooks memorial hill race in 28 minutes and 50 seconds, almost three minutes ahead of Fraser, also of LAC.

The next day, a field of more than 70 runners took on the Half Ben but again were no match for Wild, who crossed the finish in 54 minutes and 21 seconds, more than three minutes ahead of Fraser's impressive 57 minutes and 43 seconds.

In the final event, the Cow Hill race, the margin was narrower with Wild finishing in 17 minutes and 51 seconds. Second-place Fraser completed the route in 18 minutes and 37 seconds. Gary MacDonald, who won two of the three races last year, took third place in the Cow Hill race, finishing in 19 minutes and 16 seconds.

Top five finishers, LAC unless otherwise stated. Graham Brooks' memorial: 1 Finlay Wild 28:50; 2 Calum Fraser 31:31; 3 Luke Taylor (Highland hill runners) 32:22; 4 Steve MacDonald 33:49; 5 Alan Smith (Deeside runners) 34:10.

Half Ben: 1 Finlay Wild 54:21; 2 Calum Fraser 57:43; 3 Ben Bardley (Borrowdale fell runners) 59:11; 4 Steve MacDonald 59:52; 5 Andrew Barrington 1:00:13.

Cow Hill: 1 Finlay Wild 17:51; 2 Calum Fraser 18:37; 3 Gary MacDonald 19:16; 4 Luke Taylor (Highland hill runners) 19:21; 5 Michael Bossard 19:24.

## Tour de France road bike on offer

## Cycling

AS WORLD-RENNED cycling event, Tour de France, is underway the people of the Highlands have been invited to join in on the action.

Leisure centre providers, High Life Highland, are holding an indoor cycling challenge, with the chance to win an official Tour de France road bike.

Anyone who attends an indoor cycling class between now and July 26 at participating gyms, including Lochaber Leisure centre, will be entered into a prize draw and the challenge is free to all High Life Highland Members.

## Glenfinnan gun club big shots

## Shooting

RESULTS from the Glenfinnan gun club shoot on Saturday, June 20.

Angus the Gate quaich; Gordon Mathewson, Kilmacolm. A Mackellaig shield; Gordon Shankland, Acharcle. MacCracken cup; Willie Wilson, Whitebridge. J MacLeod cup; Gordon Shankland, Acharcle. Under 18s; Michael MacPhereson, Fort William.

# Great games medal haul for Western Isles athletes

ATHLETES from the Western Isles have been applauded for 'inspiring' performances at this year's NatWest Island Games.

Held in Jersey, the Western Isles team picked up 18 medals, including seven golds, to take ninth place against 24 teams from neighbouring Shetland to as far away as Bermuda. This is the best haul in the team's Island Games history.

The Western Isles team took third place overall for cycling, with four golds and two silvers in this category thanks to sister act, Kerry and Kirsty MacPhee.

The Uist siblings picked up all six medals between them, with two golds going to Kerry and two silver for Kirsty, as well as another two golds for paired events.

Kara Hanlon from Lewis broke the record for swimming when she completed the women's 200 metre breaststroke in two minutes and 28 seconds and then won silver in the 50 metre breaststroke in 31 seconds. This contributed to the four medals collected by Hanlon, one gold and three silver. Fellow Western Isles swimmer Kathryn Offer set a new record for the 50 metre backstroke, finishing in 28 seconds.

Angus Brendan MacNeil, MP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar, congratulated the team: 'It is truly inspiring to see athletes from the Western Isles do so well at the Island Games. Massive congratulations to all the athletes involved.'

I appreciate that a lot of hard work is done behind the scenes to organise such an event and I would also like to congratulate the organising committee for the tremendous amount of work that they have put in to ensure



INSPIRING: From left, Kirsty MacPhee, Kara Hanlon and Kerry MacPhee picked up 10 medals for the Western Isles at this year's Island Games in Jersey

that a team from the Western Isles could participate in the Island Games. It is a huge boost for the sporting community in the Western Isles when our athletes can compete with the very best from all the other islands in the world.'

The convener of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, councillor Norman A MacDonald, also paid tribute: 'On behalf of the Comhairle, I want to congratulate all the athletes in the Western Isles team. A medal haul of 18, including 7

gold, shows that their dedication and commitment have been rewarded and it also means that this is the most successful team we have sent to the Island Games.

'They are fantastic ambassadors for our islands and have now proved that they can mix it with the best. Credit must also go to all the trainers, coaches and managers for all their hard work in preparing the athletes over the past two years. Well done to them all.'

Host team Jersey were overall

winners of the event, clocking up a total of 133 medals, including 50 golds.

### Western Isles Medals

Gold - Donald MacLeod: 800 metre track. Kerry MacPhee: individual mountain bike cross country; individual mountain bike criterium. Kara Hanlon: 50 metre breaststroke; 100 metre breaststroke; 100 metre individual medley.

Bronze - Donald MacLeod: 400 metre track. Connor MacLean: 1,500 metre track. Eve Carrington: 400 metre hurdles; shot putt. Western Isles men's athletics team: 4x400 metre relay.

## Island Games

Silver - Eilidh Mackenzie: 1,500 metre track. Kirsty MacPhee:

individual mountain bike cross country; individual mountain bike criterium. Kara Hanlon: 50 metre breaststroke; 100 metre breaststroke; 100 metre individual medley.

Gold - Donald MacLeod: 800 metre track. Kerry MacPhee: individual mountain bike cross country; individual mountain bike criterium. Kara Hanlon: 50 metre breaststroke. Kathryn Offer: 50 metre backstroke.

## Concerns over welfare league Football

CONCERNS have been raised about the future of the Marine Harvest Lochaber welfare league as teams have been struggling to field players. Just two of the five games scheduled for last week went ahead due to lack of bodies, with most of summer still stretching ahead.

Ballachulish and Caol United picked up an easy three points each when Lochaber failed to field a team for both of the fixtures last week and Mallaig took a walkover from Lundavra when they pulled out with too few players.

In the games that did go ahead, Nevis Range celebrated their first game of the season with an impressive 9-0 victory against Ballachulish and Caol United increased their lead at the top of the table with a 6-2 win against the Volley.

League secretary, Ronald Wegner, said he is concerned about the unplayed games: 'One worries for the future of welfare football in Lochaber if there are not enough players who want to play. But congratulations to Nevis Range for their first win of the season and well done to a weakened Ballachulish team for at least turning up to play the game.'

This week, Ballachulish v Caol United and Lundavra v Lochaber were both scheduled for Monday night, the Volley were due to play Mallaig on Tuesday and Ballachulish faced Lundavra last night (Wednesday).

A scheduled break for T in the Park means there are no more games until Tuesday (July 14) when the Uisdean MacDonald memorial cup will start.

Next week's fixtures: Ballachulish v Mallaig Tues July 14 (UMD cup), Lundavra v the Volley Wed July 15 (UMD cup), Nevis Range v Mallaig Thurs July 16 (league), Lochaber v Caol United Fri July 17 (UMD cup).

	P	Pts
Caol Utd	9	27
Mallaig	7	18
Lochaber	10	15
Lundavra	8	12
The Volley	8	9
Ballachulish	9	9
Nevis Range	11	3

## Progress being made on new gym

### Gymnasium

PROGRESS is being made for a new gym in north Skye, with tendering now underway.

It is hoped the attic in Staffin community hall can be converted into exercise space and plans are with Highland council for approval.

In the meantime, the Staffin hall association has been citing quotes for the construction work.

Martin Perry, chairman of the association, said: 'We're awaiting Highland council building control to approve our plans, but with the gym being upstairs, it has been much more difficult to comply with building control than we originally thought.'

The process should take about six weeks, and once this is done we can start the building works. In the meantime, quotes are being sought for the work.'

## Lochaber victorious Youth shinty

LOCHABER under 12s were crowned winners of this year's Tyler Murphy six-a-side tournament, held in Ballachulish. Max Campbell was named player of the tournament.

## Cameron comes home with silver medal from Dublin

### Boxing

improve constantly. If he carries on in the same vein, then this could only be the start of something very big indeed. Hopefully seeing the success Cameron has achieved will encourage and rub off on the other talented boxers we have at the club.'



Cameron Whyte.

## Pre-season draw for Fort William against Caley Thistle youth team

FORT William football club is appealing for sponsors ahead of the upcoming season, following its most successful league campaign in a quarter of a century.

The Lochaber club finished 13th in the Highland league last season and are keen to bolster funds to continue the success this year.

Operating costs at Claggan currently exceed £70,000 a year, largely raised by gate income, advertising, events and sponsorship. Stewart MacLean, director at Fort William FC, explained the importance of sponsorship: 'Fort William Football Club is the only team from the West Highlands and Islands competing in the Scottish Highland League and this makes it an important element in the economic and social life of the area. We have seen over the last season that, with a significant amount of effort on and off the field, and the financial support of the community, we can bring footballing success to the area. This success has also encouraged youth football with all age groups now being actively involved in development.'

Sponsorship can start from as little as £50 per year but we also have marketing opportunities for businesses wishing exposure across the Highlands and the North East.'

Find out more by contacting stewart@stewartmac.com.

second half made it 3-1 to Caley. The Fort pulled back in the 76th minute when Darren Quigg scored from the spot then, with just five minutes left, new signing Scott White fired the final goal of the game past Inverness keeper, Daniel Hoban.

Fort William's first league game of the season will be at home to Strathspey Thistle on Saturday July 25. This comes after an away game against Rothes in the North of Scotland cup on Saturday July 18.



BATTLE: Fort's Calum Browatt battles with Caley's Blair MacLennan

## Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

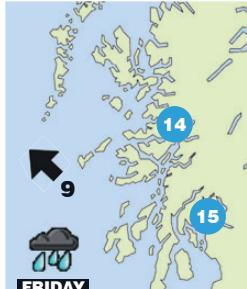
### NORTH WEST MARINE DIVING & MARINE SPECIALISTS

SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES  
7 E Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG  
T: 01631 565740 F: 01631 565780 M: 07836 366419  
Em: enquiries@northwestmarine.co.uk Web: www.northwestmarine.co.uk



### WEATHER

**Thursday** Cloudy with light rain showers. Winds moderate west north westerly. Temperatures 10°C to 13°C.  
**Friday** Heavy rain. Winds moderate south easterly. Temperatures 13°C to 15°C.  
**Weekend Outlook** Heavy rain showers on Saturday. Heavy rain on Sunday. Winds moderate south westerly. Temperatures 12°C to 15°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, July 9, 2015 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	Ardriishaig	Mallaig
Thur	05.20	1.2	-5.35	+0.25
Fri	00.02	3.2	-5.30	+0.55
Sat	01.35	3.2	-0.47	+0.16
Sun	02.49	3.2	2.00	Dover
Mon	03.49	3.3	22.25	+5.30
Tues	04.36	3.5	23.15	
Wed	05.16	3.6	23.58	

### Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate  
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)