

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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### Agenda:

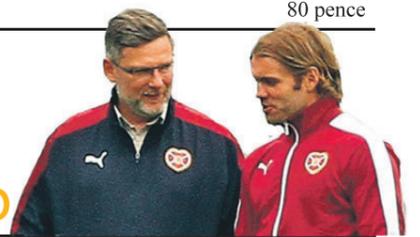
- the people
- the issues
- the back story



### THIS WEEK Alan Reid

"We were the only party to stand up against the war in Iraq and we were absolutely correct to do so"

### Scottish football's biggest stars gather in Oban for D&K Cup



# Action call on building that 'blights' town

**NIAL HICKMAN**  
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A DERELICT former bowling alley has been labelled a 'terrible blight' on the improving landscape of Oban town centre.

The rusting and boarded-up Harbour Bowl on Shore Street is covered in weeds and has lain idle for years, prompting a call from Oban councillor, Roddy McCuish, to demand action.

Councillor McCuish, chairman of the Oban, Lorn and Isles area committee, said great strides have been made in trying to improve Oban town centre's image, and yet for many bus, ferry and railway passengers the first sight of the town is the disused hulk.

At one time, the Harbour Bowl housed an eight-lane bowling alley, carpet bowls, a bar and

café. Last June, nationwide hotel chain, Premier Inn, confirmed it was interested in buying the site, but 13 months later, it has still not been sold and Councillor McCuish said the Harbour Bowl has now lain dormant for far too long.

"I think the owners have a responsibility to do something with their building as it is a terrible blight on the town," he continued. "This has now been going on for years and years and really, something needs to be done."

"The council is trying to improve the image of the town. We have spent £600,000 on improving Stafford Street, we are soon starting work on George Street and yet the first thing a lot of visitors see of Oban is a huge building in the very centre which has been left to deteriorate, with

weeds growing out of the top of the roof. It's not really good enough of the owners to sit there year after year and just do nothing. I think there should be some sort of planning requirement which imposes owners to pay charges, unless they are prepared to do something with their empty buildings."

He added: "It is not OK to just allow a prime centre site like this to lie unused for years, especially as we are woefully short of town centre parking and hotel rooms."

"It is a large site and so many things could be done. At the moment and for many years, nothing has been done."

Oban-based chartered surveyors and property consultants, Black and King, have a sign on the disused building saying enquiries should be directed to them.

In response to Councillor McCuish's criticisms, Gregor King said: "Everyone is entitled to their opinion. My client submitted a planning application for a change of use last year and we are currently in discussions with a variety of partners. Since 2008, commercial properties have been in recession. I am told by my client that the property remains on the market."

Mr King confirmed that the owners of Harbour Bowl are Manchester-based Chromedale Limited. The site, covering around one acre and adjacent to the railway, ferry and bus terminals on Shore Street, replaced a Victorian town centre railway station in the 1990s.

Councillor McCuish said: "It was quite an attractive station, but not any more. It is just an eyesore."



**BAD IMPRESSION:** Roddy McCuish says the derelict Harbour Bowl on Shore Road is an 'eyesore'

## Alistair's on the ball and he's got £2700 to prove it



**EYEBALLING:** Alistair keeps his eye on the ball a29winner03

LUCKY Lochgilhead strikes again!

The town at the end of Loch Fyne is doing...well, just fine, after yet another big cash win.

Only six weeks ago, the residents of the small but scenic Mid Argyllshire town celebrated in style as retired couple Geordie and Betty Rhodick became instant Euro millionaires after fishing their lottery ticket out of the recycling bin to claim their £1million prize.

But the now-famous Lochgilhead luck has struck again, this time as pensioner, Alistair

Johnson, has landed £2,700 with the Oban Times Spot the Shinty Ball competition.

There is clearly something in the air around Lochgilhead following the shinty and lottery winners' double whammy.

But whether it was luck or skill, Alistair, who played shinty as a boy growing up in Inveraray, scooped the jackpot and is now looking forward to putting his feet up on a richly deserved holiday with wife, Liz, and buying a few treats for his family.

The 74-year-old Shinty enthu-

siast said: "I've tried my luck on and off over the years, but the nearest I've come before now was winning £25 about ten years ago for being nearest the ball."

"You never think it's going to be you, but someone has got to win it. I didn't try this week as I thought someone else should get a chance."

So after two big jackpots will there be another lucky Lochgilhead winner on the way? The 2,300 residents of the town are waiting in anticipation for a happy hat-trick.

### TIMESLINE

#### Benefits made up workers' income

A STUDY has shown people in the West Highlands depend more on government benefits than anywhere else in Scotland.

The findings, from a study by the Scottish parliament information centre based on 2013 statistics, show that benefits made up 28 per cent of the disposal income of West Highlanders, which included OAPS.

The Scottish average was 21 per cent. The West Highlands was described as Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh, Arran and Cumbrae and Argyll and Bute.

#### Drive to catch the clubhouse thieves

IT'S certainly not a fair way to treat golfers, as Oban's hitters and hackers found out.

Instead of birdies and bunkers, Oban golf club on Glencruitten Road has boozed on the agenda following the theft of alcohol from the clubhouse on July 8. Contact PC McBeth at Oban police station with any information.

#### Healthy options at island adventure

THE newly opened £1.3million Atlantic Islands Centre on Luìng will host its first festival next week.

The Living Well on Luìng festival will feature seafood cookery and tasting, music, geology, poetry and walking from July 23-26, funded by the Health and Wellbeing Network.

#### Ex-Oban hostel set for development

A LANDMARK building in Oban will be converted into eight flats, with a further two properties to be built in the grounds, if planners agree.

For the full story, turn to page seven.



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## Poll reveals support for CalMac

A NEW poll shows Scots overwhelmingly support keeping CalMac in the public sector and back ferry workers in their recent industrial action.

An independent poll carried out by Survation revealed that almost two thirds (64 per cent) of Scottish voters think CalMac ferry services should remain in the public sector, while only one in ten (11 per cent) support privatising the service.

The poll also found that nearly six out of ten (58 per cent) of Scots supported

the right of CalMac workers to take industrial action to defend staffing levels, jobs and pensions from the threat of privatisation, while only one in five (20 per cent) oppose CalMac staff walkouts.

The poll was released just weeks before the start of the tendering process for the Clyde and Herbrides Ferry Services, with CalMac set to go head-to-head with privately-owned Serco for the £1 billion contract.

The ferry workers' union RMT has vowed to step up its campaign to keep CalMac in the public sector

and defend its members' jobs and conditions, while the 100-strong shore-based ticket office staff in the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association (TSSA) this week voted in favour of strike action.

RMT general secretary Mick Cash said: "The fact that nearly two thirds of Scottish voters support RMT's campaign to keep CalMac as a public service within the public sector is a massive boost for our fight to defend these lifeline ferry routes. The message from the general public could not be clearer."

## Island caught in grip of festfever

WITH T in the Park now a distant memory, revellers are preparing for a musical island extravaganza as the Tiree Music Festival gets under way tomorrow, Friday. With traditional and Gaelic performers, contemporary Scottish rock and indie artists, the festival is set to be the biggest yet, with more than 1,500 tickets sold.

In 2012 and 2013 it was named 'Best Small Festival' at the Scottish Events Awards, and with a line-up that includes Skerryvore, Skipinish and the Fratellis, this year's event looks to be even better.

Oban Times reporter, Steven Rae, will be at the festival giving live updates on Facebook and Twitter, as well as www.obantimes.co.uk.

**SCOTTISH SEA-LIFE SANCTUARY**

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50% off entry to the Scottish SEA LIFE Sanctuary in Barcaldine, Oban. Valid until 20th July 2015. Not valid with any other offer or online.

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**INVERARAY HIGHLAND GAMES**  
Winterton Park, Castle Grounds, Tuesday 21st July 2015, 9.00am-5.30pm

**SOLO PIPING, HIGHLAND DANCING, HEAVY, FIELD & TRACK EVENTS, CYCLING, WRESTLING (Incl WORLD CABER CHAMPIONSHIPS)**

Inveraray & District Pipe Band (Grade 1) will parade from Church Square led by His Grace The Duke of Argyll at 10.45am  
Trade Stalls, Side Shows, Children's Activity Tent [FREE], Full Catering Facilities

Adults £8.00: Seniors £5.00: Children £3.00 Family - £18.00 FREE PARKING  
For further details: Tel: 01499 302458 www.inveraray-games.co.uk

## Excellence award for Castaways

STAFF at MESS Island Castaways, part of the Mull and Iona Community Trust, have scooped the coveted Committed to Excellence award at the Scottish Awards for Business Excellence, organised by Quality Scotland.

At a ceremony held at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Glasgow, staff based at the An Roth Community Centre in Craignure picked up the award.

MESS Island Castaways secured its award for 'maintaining a consistently high level of 'best practice' quality procedures within the scope of its business excellence strategy.'

Hazel Cowe, from Mull and Iona Community Trust, said: 'This Committed to Excellence Award gives our staff recognition of just how important a role they play across the disparate communities on Mull and Iona. In the past year, we have seen not just some extraordinary work and outstanding achievements carried out by our staff, but a major shift in how the importance of the wider impact of what we do is appreciated by users of our facilities.'

Offering her congratulations, Claire Ford, chief executive officer of Quality Scotland said: 'MESS Island Castaways as part of The Mull and Iona Community Trust stands out as a prime example of how a commitment to sustaining business excellence can bring about transformational change to an organisation in relation to its staff development and best practice programmes.'

## Funds to help create safer school routes

SAFE walking paths group, SUS-TRANS Scotland, has announced £1.5 million in funding for 2015/16 for schemes to improve the safety of routes to school for children who walk, cycle, scooter or skate.

The charity has just published the application information for the 2015/16 Safer Routes to Schools Programme, which local authorities and statutory bodies can apply for directly.

John Lauder, national director of Sustrans Scotland, said: 'We're delighted to be launching another year of the Safer Routes to School Programme.'

'We're looking for schemes that tackle the school run by creating safe, attractive routes for children choosing to walk, cycle, scooter or skate to school. I'd encourage local authorities and statutory bodies to give early consideration to projects that achieve this.'

'Encouraging active travel from a young age means Scotland's children are more likely to develop good habits that will be continued later in life. Evidence shows that increased physical activity can help us lead healthier - and happier - lives.'



READY AND WAITING: the emergency services who, along with airport staff, took part in the staged accident

## Services tested in 'crash' at airport

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EMERGENCY services were put to the test at Oban airport on Saturday when a plane crash was staged at the Connel site.

Airport bosses hosted the exercise to test the responses of the emergency services.

The incident focused on how airport staff, Scottish Fire and Rescue, Police Scotland and Ambulance staff respond in an emergency situation at the airport, which is run by Argyll and Bute council.

In the staged accident, an aircraft collided with a stationary vehicle, with the car bursting into flames. Police, fire and ambulance staff then had to deal with the scenario, following communication and a chain of command including dealing with the fire, rescuing and accounting for casualties



MAJOR EXERCISE: the fire and rescue team quickly brought the blaze under control

and staff, and making the area safe.

Tom Eddleston, who is station manager of Oban airport, said: 'The idea is to test the response times with the different services, and test their co-operation when working together, in as real a situation as we can simulate. 'The communication between the different emergency services was excellent, as were

the response times, and all the casualties were accounted for and the fire was brought under control well.'

The exercise was conducted in compliance with the Civil Con-

tingencies Act and the council's Civil Aviation Authority licence to operate Oban airport, which specifies that a major exercise should be carried out every two years.

## HUGE FUNDRAISING EFFORT WILL BUY SPECIAL BRAIN SURGERY SCALPEL FOR HOSPITAL

# Thank you for saving me, says Janice

AMANDA CRAWFORD  
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SIX MONTHS after having a life-saving brain operation, Janice Beattie has presented a cheque for more than £20,000 to a Glasgow surgeon.

Grateful Kilmartin woman, Janice, 55, raised the cash to thank NHS staff who saved her life when she became seriously ill in January.

Janice had a brain tumour which was later found to have spread from a smaller tumour, the size of a pin-head, in her lung.

The grandmother of two has since undergone risky brain surgery, had part of her right lung removed, and also had a course of chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

With the support of husband, Willie, 55, the pair have raised a whopping £20,545 in just three months.

Janice said: 'I have just been taking all of this in my stride, you've got to. What else would



you do? I have been as busy as I can be. I still look after my wee grandson and grand-daughter as much as I can. It's tiredness that is the worst, but I don't mind as I like my bed.'

Willie took part in the Flying Scotsman Rally in April this year, where many of his fellow

vintage car fanatics donated to his cause.

He also auctioned off his own Harley Davidson motorbike in Perth, which raised £6,500 towards the sum.

The cash will purchase a Misonex bone scalpel - modern equipment used to cut and

remove bone precisely during brain surgery.

Family, friends, neighbours and strangers have supported the family's cause to donate the money to Southern General hospital's Institute of Neurological Sciences, where head of the unit and neurosurgeon, Nigel

VERY MUCH APPRECIATED: Dr Nigel Suttner receives the cheque from Janice and Willie Beattie

Suttner, operated on Janice.

According to the Mid Argyll couple, Dr Suttner has gone 'above and beyond his call of duty' to help Janice, which led to the pair wanting to fund state-of-the-art medical equipment.

Dr Suttner gave a special thanks to the couple when they presented him with a cheque at the Glasgow hospital last Thursday.

He added: 'I speak personally and on behalf of the whole of the neurosurgery team at the unit, when I say we very much appreciate all of your efforts.'

While Janice has remarkably pulled through life-threatening surgery she is set to receive further treatment.

The family remains hopeful that, in the months to come, they can put their ordeal behind them.

## Lighthouse ship hits rocks near Skerryvore

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AN ENQUIRY has begun to discover why a lighthouse maintenance ship was forced back to port in Oban after it hit rocks near the world-famous Skerryvore lighthouse.

The 85-metre long ship, the NLV Pharos, was approaching the unmanned Skerryvore lighthouse, near Tiree, on Saturday morning, when she hit rocks and suffered damage causing sea water to enter the vessel.

The Pharos, operated by the Northern Lighthouse Board, was on a routine maintenance trip to Skerryvore lighthouse, which lies 12 miles to the south west of Tiree.

Richard Bright, of Edinburgh-based PR firm Weber Shandwick, who represent the Northern Lighthouse Board, confirmed an enquiry is now taking place.

He said: 'There will be an enquiry and a full investigation into how this happened. It is a very unusual, very rare event.'

'The 22 employees on the Pharos were unhurt and the maritime and coastguard agency was informed. This was a routine maintenance journey to the Skerryvore lighthouse, to check that various things like the generator and batteries are in full and good working order. On the way to the lighthouse the incident happened where the Pharos hit a rock near the lighthouse, causing minor damage, which led to water ingress, which was contained within a sealed empty void space in the bottom of the ship.'

'The vessel returned to Oban under its own power and she left Oban on Monday for repair work, which will now go ahead in Greenock.'

The lighthouse at Skerryvore is the tallest in Scotland, measuring just over 80 metres.



MINOR DAMAGE: the Pharos had 22 people on board at the time of the accident on Saturday

## Finding egg cases will help endangered skate

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DESPITE their name, the common skate is now critically endangered and walkers, divers and fisherman in Argyll and Bute are being asked to do their bit to protect the nine foot long fish.

Sightings of common skate egg cases should be reported to Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) to learn more about where the huge fish are breeding.

The call for information comes

after a Marine Protected Area for common skate was instigated last year between Loch Sunart and the Sound of Jura.

The west coast of Scotland and Orkney appear to be the last strongholds for the critically endangered fish in the UK.

The common skate was once an important part of Scotland's commercial fishery, but their numbers have fallen dramatically around the UK.

They grow to up to nine feet in length, live for up to 100 years and weigh over 15 stone. They

are the largest species of skate in Europe and reproduce by laying tough, leathery egg cases on the seabed. Once the tiny fish has hatched, the egg case, also known as a mermaid's purse, often washes ashore on nearby beaches.

Oban-based Jane Dodd, SNH marine operations officer, said: 'We'd like everyone to look out for skate egg cases, particularly people going to the beach over the summer holidays.'

'If you are a diver and remember seeing them on a dive please

let us know where, when and how many you saw.

'Common skate egg cases are the largest egg cases you are likely to find - and the rarest.'

They are about the size of an A4 sheet of paper, with short slightly curved 'horns' at the corners, so they are easy to distinguish from other shark and ray egg cases which are much smaller.

'Newly-hatched egg cases are olive green and older ones are black, but if they have dried in the sand, which is probably the best place to look for them, they

can have a coating of brown, papery, bark-like material.

'Please take away any skate egg cases you find on the beach so they won't be reported again by someone else and email us at skate@snh.gov.uk with the location, date and time you found them.'

'You can also ring me at the SNH office in Oban on 0300 244 9360.'

Recent estimates suggest there are only between 100 and 400 common skates left in the Loch Sunart to Sound of Jura waters.

## MULL lines



EAGLE-EYED: The RSPB's John Clare and Rachel French of the Forestry Commission, are pictured in front of a life-sized replica of a white-tailed eagle nest

## Eagle Watch lifts excellence award

MULL Eagle Watch has been awarded a Tripadvisor 'Certificate of Excellence' for consistent reviews from visitors, as well as raising £60,000 for a variety of community projects.

The RSPB's John Clare will lead a walk at Ardalanish on Mull on Saturday, July 25, with all those wishing to attend asked to meet at 2pm in the beach car park. John will also give a talk on Mull wildlife at Buessan Hall at 7.30pm on July 28. Proceeds from the two events will go towards new environmental projects at the Tiroran Community Forest. Ring 01681 700022 for details.

## TIMESLINE

### Tough choices lie ahead on health

ARGYLL and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership is planning how it will deliver health and social care services.

The plan explains the integration of health and social care services, including the legal requirements.

Stephen Whiston, head of strategic planning and performance for the partnership, said: 'Our vision is that people in Argyll and Bute will live longer, healthier, happier, independent lives.'

'However, money is tight and we will have to make tough choices. We will make them in consultation with our communities in an open way.'

### A backwoodsman role for politician

LOCHABER MP Ian Blackford has joined the new all-party UK parliamentary group on forestry.

He said: 'A successful forestry and wood processing sector is vital for the economy, the environment, recreation and health.'

'I see investment in the forestry industry as playing a major role in future economic growth, creating many jobs in the traditional forestry industry, but also in activity tourism, in particular mountain bike trails and bush craft skills.'

### Inveraray games start next week

THE Duke of Argyll will open his family's fortress to the public for the Inveraray Highland games on Tuesday.

The games celebrate the rich Highland culture and heritage with field and track events, piping and Highland dancing competitions, as well as the heavy events, including the world championships for tossing the caber.

The games start with a pipe band parade at 10.45am from the town centre, with free parking at Winterton Park.

### App connects with young generation

ARGYLL and Bute Rape Crisis has launched a new app, providing information to young people about sexual harassment, bullying and abuse.

Manager Alison Black said: 'An online presence is essential to be able to communicate with young people.'

'They have concerns over anonymity and confidentiality and this app can provide a way to access support without identifying who they are. To access the app go to www.tessaproject.co.uk.'

## Mull binge-drinker can't stay on island

A 'BINGE-DRINKING' Mull delivery driver has been told he cannot live on the island while he awaits to be sentenced for using threatening and abusive language towards his 84-year-old mother, who suffers from dementia, writes Niall Hickman.

Last Wednesday, Oban sheriff court heard Callum MacDougall plead guilty to the charge, but his sentence was deferred until August 6 for background reports.

It is now the third time MacDougall has been convicted of threatening behaviour towards his mother, prompting Sheriff Colin McKay to warn the 48-year-old delivery driver, 'You clearly have a significant problem with alcohol.'

The incident took place outside his mother Dorothy MacDougall's house at Fountainhead, Bunnassan, Mull, on June 25.

Procurator fiscal Claire Martin told the court that PC Chalmers, a community police officer on Mull, who lives close to Mrs MacDougall, took a phone call from a social worker who was concerned that the accused, who had been drinking, was heading for his elderly mother's house.

Miss Martin said: 'PC Chalmers saw him charge down the

pathway towards his mother, shouting. He was aggressive.'

MacDougall, of Ardmearoch View, Bunnassan, was arrested and taken to Craignure police station. After sobering up, he told officers he could recall nothing of the incident.

Miss Martin asked for MacDougall to be banned from living on the island until sentence was passed, saying his mother should not be subject to his erratic behaviour.

'The police and social workers have been extensively involved. It would appear he has an alcohol addiction.'

Defending solicitor Laura McManus asked Sheriff McKay if her client, whom she described as a 'binge-drinker,' would be allowed to travel to Mull in the course of his employment as a delivery driver.

Sheriff McKay agreed to the dispensation, but at all other times MacDougall had to reside at a guest house in Oban until he was sentenced.

Sheriff McKay said: 'I see no reason why your mother, who is 84, should be subjected to this kind of behaviour.'

'You are properly addressing this problem you have with alcohol, but I am not prepared to let you back on the island unless it is in the course of your employment.'

## Sheriff requires reports on 'big lad'

AN OBAN offshore engineer has had his sentence deferred for background reports after he committed three unprovoked assaults.

Last Wednesday, Oban sheriff court heard Ian Macara plead guilty to three assaults and was told he has a serious drink problem.

Sheriff Colin McKay told the powerfully-built 33-year-old man: 'I am concerned about your alcohol consumption and violence towards three relative strangers. There is an underlying and serious problem here with alcohol. You are a big lad and if you drink too much and start hitting people, you can do a lot of damage.'

'Because I am concerned about the level of violence you have displayed when under the influence of alcohol, I shall require reports before passing sentence.'

Procurator fiscal Claire Martin said Macara, of Croft Road, Oban, lashed out at three men on January 29 following a drinking session. Miss Martin said: 'At the time, the three were drinking

alcohol and listening to music. They heard a knock at the door and when they opened it they found the accused. The accused started drinking wine with them and was in the flat for around 15 minutes when Macara punched one of the men on the side of the face for no apparent reason.

'The accused then started to punch and kick one of the other men, who curled up in a ball. The accused did this several times to the head and body. The man asked the accused why he was doing this?'

'The police were called and the accused initially refused to speak. They noticed he was heavily under the influence of alcohol. One man suffered a cut to the head and swelling around his left eye area, while another had marks to the right side of his face.'

Defence solicitor Laura McManus said: 'There were no difficulties between the accused and the others and he does not know what the mix-up was over.' Macara had his sentence deferred until August 5.

## DOGS ALLOWED TO FOUL CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS DESPITE TOWN CAMPAIGN



FOUL PLAY: From left, concerned mothers, Yvonne Bryce, Julie McKenzie, Sally Weaser, Ellie Day and Audrey Campbell, along with Sally's sons, Liam and Alfie 16\_t29dogfoul01

## Angry mums step up fight against 'disgusting' owners

STEVEN RAE  
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A GROUP of angry mothers are calling foul as yet more irresponsible dog owners are allowing their pets to mess where their children play.

The mums, who live in the Balvicar Road area, contacted the *Oban Times*.

Yvonne Bryce, who lives in Balvicar Road next to the small football pitch, and has two children who regularly play there, said: 'I'm totally fed up having to wash dirty clothes and trainers just because my kids want to go out to play on the grass.'

'It's disgusting,' Sally Weaser, who also lives in Balvicar Road, said the issue was becoming so bad she was at the point of telling her children not to play in the park next to her home.

She said: 'I shouldn't have to tell my kids not to play on the grass or worry about them walking to school without messing their shoes up, but it's coming to that stage.'

'It's absolutely awful the amount of mess around here.'

Audrey Campbell, who lives on Park Road, said: 'People put out their own bins for dog mess, but it's not their responsibility to be doing that.'

'It would be a delight if there were more dual purpose bins provided because it would give people somewhere to put their dog mess and their rubbish as well, and kill two birds with one stone.'

Oban community councillor, Julie McKenzie, who has previously raised the dog fouling issues with Argyll and Bute council, said: 'There's absolutely horrific levels of dog waste in this area and it's about time something was done about it.'

'The amount of parents and children I've spoken to who have issues with dog mess in this area really is horrifying.'

'It's not something children should have to worry about.'

'Despite the fact that there's a high profile campaign in Oban to stop dog fouling, it's really disheartening that irresponsible dog owners are continuing to allow their dogs to foul on public parks and footpaths and places where children play. However, it only strengthens our resolve more.'

Argyll and Bute council has agreed to employ a new amenity warden, part of whose remit will be to enforce dog fouling laws.

The authority is also to put up 40 posters where dog fouling 'hotspots' have been identified.

## TIMESLINE

### Appeal to public following assault

OBAN police are appealing for any information regarding the serious assault of a 35-year-old man between 11pm on Sunday and 1am the following morning.

The man was attacked on the footpath that joins Millpark Road and Lynn Road in Oban.

Police are carrying out enquiries into the assault, but anyone with further information should contact Det Con Stuart McNae at Oban police station.

### Thieves vandalise church on island

POLICE are seeking any information regarding the theft and vandalism at Coll church in Arinagour.

The theft and vandalism occurred between 12.30pm on July 5 and 10.30am on Sunday at the Church of Scotland building on the island.

A key was stolen and carpets were ripped up inside the church, the only one currently in use on the island, causing substantial damage.

### Men found with drugs at station

THREE men were arrested and detained under the Misuse of Drugs Act at 5.44pm on July 8 at Oban railway station.

The men were found in possession of Class B and Class A drugs, namely cannabis resin and ecstasy. A report has been sent to the procurator fiscal.

### Petrol station hit as door damaged

THE rear door of Oban filling station in Soroba Road was damaged between 10.30pm on July 8 and 7am the following day.

Anyone with information should contact PC Beth at Oban police station.

## Chef too drunk to appear in court

NIALL HICKMAN  
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A CHEF who failed to turn up in court on a charge of threatening and abusive behaviour spent a night in the cells last week.

Scott Duncan, 30, of Nelson Road, Oban, appeared at Oban sheriff court last Wednesday having failed to appear the previous day, admitting he had been drinking heavily instead.

Duncan admitted charges of threatening and abusive behaviour towards his former girlfriend and failing to appear

in court. Procurator fiscal Claire Martin told the court Duncan had been living with a former girlfriend for four months when a drinking session triggered a row.

Miss Martin said: 'Over a few days prior to this incident, the former girlfriend had been on a drinking binge with the accused.'

'This led to them arguing about the end of their relationship on the day of this incident.'

'At 4.23pm on June 11, the witness contacted the police stating saying that the accused was refusing to leave when asked. 'When the police arrived at the

house, the accused was in the process of packing his bags in the bedroom.'

'He told police he had refused to leave and said, "I did not act in a threatening manner towards her".'

Defending solicitor Laura McManus told the court Duncan works as a full-time chef, who now accepts the relationship with his former girlfriend is over.

She explained: 'This relationship had deteriorated. Simply put, they are bad for one another.'

'On the day of the incident, both had been drinking and there was an argument.'

'The argument went both ways and it was clear this relationship was coming to an end.'

'As the accused was packing his bags the police arrived and he told them he was waiting for a lift from his father.'

'The accused pleads guilty as the argument did take place.'

'He was very drunk and did not attend court. He should have sobered up and handed himself in, but he was arrested in Nelson Road in Oban.'

Sheriff Colin McKay admonished Duncan for threatening and abusive behaviour and fined

him £200 for failing to appear in court. Sheriff McKay said: 'Failing to appear in court has caused him a lot of problems. It is a serious matter because he was too drunk to appear.'

'Your father is no doubt not happy about being dragged to the court and not happy about your behaviour and you must address this problem.'

'You have to take this chance and you are a fortunate person. You have a trade and if you continue drinking you will end up back in court and eventually you will end up in prison.'

## Teenagers cause chain reaction

STEVEN RAE  
srae@obantimes.co.uk

SKATEBOARDERS and BMX riders are turning a recently refurbished pedestrian square into a bike park at night.

A retired Oban teacher and a senior councillor have condemned the actions of teenagers who gather in Oban's lavishly landscaped Stafford Street just one week after it was opened by the council as a stylish pedestrian zone.

The council had hoped to create a 'cafe culture' for townfolk and visitors, with outdoor tables for eating and drinking and the provision of free WiFi.

However, cyclists and skateboarders have been using the square as a bicycle park.

Eileen Colston, a former Oban school teacher from Seil, said: 'I think Stafford Street is beautiful now it's finished and have seen a lot of people enjoying it.'

'It seems, though, that some younger people want to turn it into a bicycle park. The tourists I saw looked appalled. This needs to be stopped, now.'

She was joined in her call for action by Councillor for Oban South and the Isles, Roddy McCuish, who said: 'I find it incredible that the young people of Oban are abusing this brand new facility in this way.'

'I have had reports from people sitting on the area that this is extremely intimidating and very dangerous, and I would plead with the youngsters to stop this at once before someone gets seriously hurt. Please have some civic pride in your town and consideration for others.'

'This facility is only a week old and this is not a problem I would



GEARED UP: the newly refurbished Stafford Street is attracting townfolk and visitors alike, but skateboarders and BMX bikers are using it in the evening as a bike park Photograph: courtesy of Dennis Hardley Photography

have foreseen. I expected more from our young people, most of whom are a great credit to our community.'

'This group is certainly not that and should be ashamed of themselves. Anyone witnessing this should contact the police.'

The Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 makes it illegal to cycle on a footway or footpath.

Generally, anyone cycling on a footway or footpath in Scotland is committing an offence under the provisions of Section 129(5) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984.

The Traffic act 1988 also makes it illegal to cycle dangerously, or in a careless or inconsiderate manner. Police use fixed penalty notices for most cycling offences, with children and young people liable to the legal restrictions.

However, the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010, Section 52, establishes that no-one aged under 12 can be prosecuted for an offence, effectively meaning that anyone aged under 12 can cycle freely, in a responsible manner, on the pavement.

### Taynuilt dancer steps to fame

A TAYNUILT dancer will tour Scotland after being selected for the prestigious YDance course, spending four weeks with top choreographers before dancing across the country.

Caitlin Taylor was chosen to work with YDance artistic director Anna Kenrick this summer, before going on tour in Greenock, Aberdeen and Stirling.

Anna said: 'This is a unique opportunity in Scotland for talented dancers aged between 16 to 21. This is a tremendous experience for any young dancer who is serious about their development and future career as a dancer.'

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## A chance for a £200 grant

COMMUNITY groups in Lochaber have the chance to receive grants from the area's housing association.

A total of 75 local organisations have already benefited from the Lochaber housing association (LHA) community fund scheme and the organisation is now inviting applications for its third round of grants.

Sports clubs, community councils, bands and residents' associations can all apply for a share of the £7,000 total, with grants of up to £200 available.

Blair Allan, chief executive of LHA, said: 'We are launching our community fund for the third year and asking folk to apply again.'

'This follows an enormous amount of interest from an extremely wide range of community groups in the two years since the fund was launched.

'Priority this time will be given to first time applicants, but we are happy to consider applications from organisations which have received grants in the past.'

The deadline for applications is Friday August 14. Applications are available from the LHA office on Fort William High Street or at www.lochaberhousing.org.uk.

## Last call for youth award

NOMINATIONS for the Argyll and Bute Youth Forum annual awards close tomorrow (Friday).

The forum is organising a red carpet-styled awards ceremony to celebrate the achievements of local young people and the positive impact they have in their communities.

People are being urged to nominate young people - aged 11-15 - for an award.

There are eight award categories: unsung hero, citizenship, youth entrepreneur, youth arts, volunteering, health and wellbeing, environment and youth sporting.

To nominate someone for a category, or for more information contact: Nona Thomas nona.thomas@argyll-bute.gov.uk 01631567902.

## Moth attracted to island living

A BRIGHTLY coloured moth has apparently travelled west for the summer holidays, after being spotted on an Inner Hebridean island for the first time.

The six-spot burnet moth is common across England, Wales and Ireland, but is rarely seen in Scotland.

A Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland team carrying out insect survey work on Tiree came across the moth, the first time the species has been spotted on the Hebridean island.

A spokesman for RSPB Scotland described the sighting on Tiree as 'an exciting find'.

**“**I would like to raise some money from it to give to a charity... but I would very much like the painting to go back to Oban**”**

Ann Allan (pictured with the painting of Oban)



# Widow's wish for bay scene

**NIAL HICKMAN**  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

THE WIDOW of a famous Scottish cricketer is hoping to find a new home for a beautiful 19th century painting of Oban Bay.

Ann Allan was married to James (Jimmy) Moffat Allan for many years and her husband had family connections with the Oban area, which is how she came to be in possession of the 19th century painting, by an unknown artist, which depicts the town centre as it was around a century and a half ago.

'It is a beautiful painting,' said Ann, who lives in Thurso. 'I know it was found when we were cleaning out the cupboards after my late husband's mother died.'

'It was really just lying around, but we liked it. There is a brass plate on the back which says it was given to a newly-ordained clergyman in Oban in 1877, so it clearly shows the town before that date.'

'When my husband's mother passed away we looked at several paintings and we decided to take this one, which is very pretty. I would like to raise

some money from it to give to a charity of my choice, but I would very much like the painting to go back to Oban.'

Ann's husband died aged 73 in 2005 in Wick and is regarded as a legendary figure in Scottish cricket.

Born in 1932, he played for Oxford University, Kent and Warwickshire and made 65 appearances for Scotland between 1954 and 1972.

In 2011, he was one of 12 players initially inducted into the Scottish Cricket Hall of Fame and the highlights of his career in the game included bowling

five maidens in a row to the great Len Hutton on his debut for Oxford University, plus taking the wicket of Australian all-rounder, Keith Miller, the following week.

Allan enjoyed a first class career which spanned 15 years and in 1971 he took 11 for 123 for Scotland in a match against Pakistan with his slow off spin bowling.

Ann, who is now in her 80s, said: 'My husband won four blues while he was at Oxford and he loved the game very much.'

'He was a wonderful player

and I have some marvellous memories of him playing the game at a first class level.'

Ann added: 'There is no doubt my husband would have wanted the painting to go back to Oban. If we can find a good home for it, like a museum or town hall, I would be delighted.'

'My husband died some years ago and we often looked at the painting and wondered how it got to us, via his mother.'

'It was in the family for a great many years, but it would be nice if we could send it back to Oban and help out a charity a little bit.'

# Blowing up a storm over subsidies

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

A HIGHLANDS and Islands politician is taking the battle to safeguard Scotland's onshore wind farms to Holyrood.

Mike Mackenzie, MSP, has lodged a motion in the Scottish parliament, condemning the recent announcement by the UK government to cut short subsidies to onshore wind farms next year.

He claims the move was taken without consulting the renewables industry or the Scottish government and would put an estimated 5,400 jobs and £3 billion in investment in green energy in danger.

Mike Mackenzie's move has been supported by two other MSPs, Liberal Democrat member for Orkney, Liam McArthur, and Independent, John Finnie.

It comes as statistics show



Mike MacKenzie

Scotland's wind turbines provided enough electricity last month to supply power equivalent to the average electrical needs of 1.7 million homes, an increase of 120 per cent from last year's figures.

Mr MacKenzie, who lives in Easdale, said: 'These outstanding new figures are a welcome

demonstration of the strength of Scotland's renewables industry, with a 120 per cent boost on the previous year's figure showing the incredible strides Scotland is making in producing clean, sustainable energy and showing the vital role green energy can play in meeting our energy needs.'

'This is exactly why the UK government's decision to cut onshore wind subsidies funded through the renewables obligation is so dangerous, which could see a loss of investment of up to £3 billion, put more than 5,000 jobs at risk.'

'There seems to be no appreciation on the part of the UK energy minister, Amber Rudd, that this hasty decision, taken without due consultation, will create devastating uncertainty across the country.'

'Scotland, in particular, will be badly affected because 70 per cent of all proposed wind

farms are situated here. It will have deleterious knock-on effects in all other renewable technologies.'

Mr MacKenzie added: 'The chief executive of Scottish Power Renewables has warned that cutting support for onshore wind - the cheapest form of renewable energy generation - is likely to cost customers dearly, as more expensive forms of energy generation will have to be accessed. Estimates of between £2 and £3 billion have been quoted.'

'Once again, nuclear power is being touted as an alternative although we still have no solution, after so many years, to the safe disposal of nuclear waste.'

'With the right level of investment, Scotland is ideally placed to be a world leader in the use of renewable energy capture. It would hugely benefit my constituents in the Highlands and Islands for this to continue.'

Environmental group WWF Scotland said June turned out to be 'astonishing' for wind power output, with turbines providing 620,144MWh of electricity to the National Grid.

WWF Scotland's director Lang Banks said: 'While much of the attention may have been focused on the welcome summer sunshine, June also turned out to be an astonishing month for wind power in Scotland.'

'Thanks to a combination of increased capacity and stronger winds, output from turbines more than doubled compared to the same period last year - supplying power equivalent to the electrical needs of 1.7 million homes.'

'These figures show just how much wind power has gone from strength to strength, and wind power in Scotland could be playing an even bigger role in reducing climate emissions from the power sector.'

## TIMESLINE

### Visitor centre is a powerful draw

CRUACHAN power station will celebrate 50 years in operation this year as ScottishPower has announced that the station's popular visitor centre has been awarded five stars by VisitScotland for the tenth year.

The award classified the visitor experience at the hydro station, nestled on the shores of Loch Awe, as 'exceptional.'

Manager, Sarah Cameron, said: 'It's so rewarding for us to be recognised by Scotland's national tourism body as a five star attraction. The visitor centre team take great pride in delivering exceptional customer care.'

### Youngsters have the Midas touch

FOUR youngsters from Argyll and Bute - Jamie Sinclair, Kerry Mackay, Emily Scott and Kirsty Campbell - achieved the Duke of Edinburgh gold award this year.

The award, which requires 12 months to complete, includes volunteering, physical skills and an expedition around the region.

The council's policy lead for community and culture, councillor Robin Currie, said: 'These young people are our future and I congratulate them for their determination and diligence in meeting the gold standard award.'

### Volunteer charity has status symbol

OLDER people's charity, the Royal Volunteer Service, (RVS) has retained its 'Investing in Volunteers' status, in recognition of the work of its 7,000-strong membership.

The charity, which provides support services for older people throughout Scotland, successfully kept its status.

RVS director, Margaret Paterson, said: 'This is a reflection of the quality of work our volunteers provide, allowing older people to stay happy, healthy and independent in their homes.'

### Grants on offer for underused spaces

UNDERUSED and derelict spaces across Argyll and Bute will receive grants of around £2,500 through the Stalled Spaces Scotland project.

The awards will help create a community garden with seating at the old Rockfield Centre in Oban, a community growing space within the grounds of Argyll and Bute Hospital, Lochgilphead, and landscaping with a marine and fishery theme next to the Guide Hall, McCallum Street, Campbeltown.

# Moderator joins 125th anniversary celebrations

**ANN HENDERSON**  
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APPIN Parish Church was packed on Sunday as local people gathered to celebrate 125 years of worship in the village kirk.

The service was led by Interim Moderator, the Rev Robert Brookes of Taynuilt, with a special reflection by the Right Rev Dr Angus Morrison, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Everyone was welcomed to the anniversary service, a joint one with Lismore, by session clerk, Mrs Jessie MacKenzie.

There were readings in both English and Gaelic, the Sunday school children sang a rousing 'Fishers of Men' and Aimee MacDonald performed 'Spirit of God unseen by the wind' beautifully.

Dr Morrison, a former pupil of Rockfield Primary and Oban High, spoke about his delight in returning to Argyll for this special occasion and chose the tenses - past, present and future - to look back at the life of the church over the last 125 years, how it is now, and hopes for the years ahead.

Dr Morrison also remarked that his sermons are not often given in front of one of his former teachers, as Mrs Mary MacKinnon, wife of lay reader, Donald, was in the congregation!

The Rev Walter Ritchie, a former minister of Appin Parish Church, gave the prayer of intercession and, following the benediction by Dr Morrison, the congregation retired to the village hall to enjoy a delicious lunch in honour of the occasion.

After the meal, Mrs Chrissie



DAY TO REMEMBER: The Right Rev Dr Angus Morrison, seated front row centre, right, with the Rev Robert Brookes and members of the Kirk Sessions in Appin and Lismore and the Congregational Board in Appin. Mrs Jessie MacKenzie, session clerk, is seated second left in the front row. (Right top) Some of the photographs on show at the flower festival, including the report in the Oban Times of the church's centenary. (Right) the agricultural club's floral display at the festival had the Appin Show as its theme

MacNeill presented Dr Morrison with a gift - a framed picture of the Port Appin lighthouse - on behalf of the congregation, while Sunday school teacher, Irene MacCorquodale, gave his wife, Marion, a posy of flowers.

The Rev Ken Ross, Moderator of the Presbytery of Argyll, gave a speech and thanked Dr Morrison and his wife for attending the 125th anniversary celebrations.

And the Rev Robert Brookes paid a special tribute to Mrs MacKenzie, who has been session clerk of Appin Parish Church for 25 years.

He thanked her for all the advice and guidance she has given to the four ministers who

have been in Appin during that time and Dr Morrison presented her with a gift on behalf of the church.

The afternoon ended with a vote of thanks to everyone involved in the anniversary celebrations by lay reader, Donald MacKinnon.

Dr Morrison said: 'I was de-

lighted to be able to take part in the anniversary service and it is a pleasure to be back in Argyll.'

'Appin Parish Church has a lively and engaged congregation which can look back at the past with gratitude and take a lot of hope forward into the future.'

Dr Morrison added that he has a busy year ahead in his role

as Moderator of the General Assembly.

'I will be doing quite a bit of travelling, but will be back visiting the presbytery of Argyll and Lochaber in September.'

As part of the 125th anniversary, a flower festival was held in the church last Thursday and Friday. On show were beautiful



floral arrangements depicting the different organisations and clubs in the community, and children in the Sunday school decorated the pews with posies. A display of old photographs also created a great deal of interest.

A Songs of Praise service was held in the church on Sunday evening to close the celebrations.

ADVERTORIAL



## Care bears' moon walk raises £6,000

A GROUP of Oban women have shown they care by doing a sponsored 'moonwalk' in aid of a breast cancer charity.

The Oban Care Bear group raised more than £6,000 as a

team by taking part in the Edinburgh moon walk, a 26.2-mile walk around Scotland's capital, organised by breast cancer charity, Walk the Walk. Other funds were raised with

cake sales, raffle, donations and sponsorships.

Pictured are the team, made up of medical staff from Lorn and Islands District General hospital and friends.

## Breathing fresh new life into the Rockfield project

THE RAILINGS surrounding The Rockfield Centre will soon be given a new lease of life as volunteers from the Shed in Oban plan to give them a fresh outlook, writes David McPhee.

It is hoped the weather will hold up to allow the volunteers, from The Salvation Army-run Shed drop-in centre, to roll up their sleeves and remove the rust.

Once the railings have been prepared, a fresh coat of paint will be applied. The car park at the former Oban town centre primary school was re-painted

earlier in the week. The work to the railings and grounds is part of the rejuvenation of the B-listed building, which owners Oban Community Trust (OCT) plan to transform into a cultural hub

Internal work is currently being carried out to remove dry rot from the Victorian building.

Gordon McNab, chairman of OCT said: 'We are extremely grateful to the volunteers from the Shed for all their hard work and to those who have been helping both in the grounds and inside the main building.'

'It's great to see parts of The Rockfield Centre coming to life again. In the main building this week the horrible stench of decay is disappearing. If the building could speak it would be saying: "Thank you for saving me!"' However, Gordon McNab said donations were still urgently needed to keep up 'the momentum'.

The Shed drop-in centre is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 12-4pm. Volunteers can use the Shed's tools for their own work or take part in community projects.

## Dunbeg leavers aim high for the next term



DUNBEG primary school's closing service and presentation of prizes was held on Friday, June 26 in Dunbeg church, conducted by Rev George Cringles.

Primary seven leavers were piped into the church by Innes Munro and prizes were presented by Dale Kupris, who has been involved with the schools for

ten years as an Active Schools co-ordinator.

Pictured are the primary seven leavers who go on to secondary school next term.

## Chance to view pictures at an exhibition

THE Appin Art Exhibition opened yesterday (Wednesday) at the Port Appin village hall and will run until Saturday, July 25, from 10.30am to 6pm.

The exhibition will not be open on Sunday, July 24, and closes at 4pm on the final day. Admission is free and there are refreshments and paintings for

sale. The Appin Art Group has regular sessions throughout the year and anyone interested in joining, should call Paul Hart on 01631 730639.

## Son admonished by sheriff over assault on father

A MULL man walked free from court last week after admitting bruising his 80-year-old father following a long-standing family dispute stretching back over 20 years, writes Niall Hickman.

Alun Simpson, 51, who is of no fixed address, admitted assaulting his father, James Simpson, at Struan Crescent, Tobermory, on June 15, but after spending three weeks on remand in prison he was freed by Sheriff Colin McKay at Oban sheriff court last Wednesday.

Simpson, who admitted seizing hold of his elderly father and forcing open a window to gain entry to his father's house, had been working as a driver for a tourist firm on Mull, but defence solicitor Laura McManus told

the court he has now lost his job. She said: 'This has been a very challenging few days for Mr Simpson and I understand he has now lost his employment. I have spoken to James Simpson and he does not welcome his son into his home.'

'However, the family would be looking for some sort of reconciliation in due course. Mr Simpson accepts his father's view over these matters and he does not intend to make any more trouble.'

Sheriff McKay said: 'I am taking into account the significant time you have spent in prison which must have been a fairly shocking and distressing experience. As a result I will admonish you on these charges.'

### Lifeboat recovers RIB in Oban Bay

THE OBAN lifeboat crew was called into action in the early hours of Sunday morning to recover an unmanned rigid inflatable boat (RIB) which was spotted drifting in Oban Bay.

The crew was alerted by Stornoway coastguard that the vessel was floating in the busy bay and was a potential hazard to other boats.

The volunteer crew quickly found the vessel, which had run aground because of the falling tide.

It is believed the RIB had broken free from a mooring the previous evening.

With the use of another smaller craft, the crew managed to attach a line, re-float the RIB and secure it to a mooring.

The crew then returned to the station, refuelled the lifeboat and were ready for service again by 6.30am.

## Cheaper to run and greener alternative to traditional heating systems

### What are heat pumps?

Heat pumps take heat energy from outside the home (from the air, the ground or even from water).

This heat energy is then concentrated to provide heat for your home at temperatures that can be used to power radiators, underfloor heating, warm air convectors and hot water. Heat pumps have some impact on the environment as they need electricity to run, but the heat they extract from the environment is constantly being renewed naturally.

How do they work?

An air source heat pump extracts heat from the outside air in the same way that a fridge extracts heat from its inside.

A fan helps to draw fresh air into the heat pump unit. It can get heat from the air even when the temperature is as low as -15°C. A ground source heat pump extracts heat from the ground via pipes, called a ground loop, buried in your garden. The ground stays at a fairly constant temperature under the surface all year round. The length of the ground loop depends on the size of your home and the amount of heat you need. Longer loops

can draw more heat from the ground, but need more space to be buried in. If space is limited, a vertical borehole can be drilled instead.

Heat from the air or ground is absorbed into a special material (a refrigerant) thus raising its temperature. The pump in the system compresses the refrigerant to raise its temperature even more and this useful heat is then transferred into your central heating system to warm your home and into your tank to heat your water.

### What do I need?

It is essential that your home is well insulated and draught-proofed for a heat pump system to be effective so plan energy efficiency improvements first. A well-insulated home with a lower demand for heat will also mean that the size of heat pump required will be smaller and, therefore, cheaper.

Unlike traditional boilers and electric storage heaters, heat pumps deliver heat at

lower temperatures over much longer periods. Heat pumps are most efficient when used with larger radiators or under-floor heating.

If you have standard radiators designed for a traditional boiler then your heat pump installer should tell you whether you are best to replace them with larger radiators to get a more efficient system that is cheaper to run.

We recommend you use an installer approved under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) and you get quotes from at least three installers to compare costs and services.

### How much do they cost?

A typical domestic air source heat pump system costs from £7,000 to £13,000 to install, or from £13,000 to £20,000 for a domestic ground source heat pump system.

Costs will depend on the system type, the property and the location.



## The benefits of heat pumps

### 1 A good alternative if you are off the gas grid

The system will pay for itself much more quickly if it's replacing heating systems like oil, coal, LPG and electric. Annual fuel savings examples\*

Existing heating systems	Air source heat pumps	Ground source heat pumps
Electric (old storage heaters)	£715-£1,295	£830-£1,465
LPG (Older non-condensing)	£1200-£1,805	£1,315-£1,975
Oil (Older non-condensing)	£360-£555	£475-£725
Coal	£525-£875	£645-£1,045

Running costs will also vary depending on a number of factors including the size of your home, how well insulated it is, what room temperatures you are aiming to achieve and how much hot water you use.

### 2 Financial support available to help with the cost

You may be eligible to receive payments from the UK Government's Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) for the heat you generate using a heat pump. For a four-bedroom detached house, you could receive payments of around £905 to £1,365 per year for an air source heat pump and £2,610 to £3,940 per year for a ground source heat pump. You'll receive these payments for 7 years and they can really help with covering the additional cost of replacing your existing heating system compared to a traditional heating system\*\*.

Even better, in Scotland interest-free loans of up to £10,000 from the Scottish Government are available to help with the initial cost of a heat pump.

### 3 A low-carbon alternative

Replacing a coal heating system with a ground source heat pump could save from 7,100 to 11,000 kg (11 tonnes) of CO2 per year – this is enough CO2 to fill up to 55 double decker buses.

### Further information

Visit [energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/domestic](http://energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/domestic) or call Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282 to find out more about how you can save energy and money. Book a free home renewables visit from a specialist to discuss what may work best for you.

\*These are the savings you might make every year when replacing an existing heating system in an average four-bedroom detached home with a typical air or ground source heat pump installation, as at February 2015.  
\*\*Based on an RHI tariff of 7.42p/kWh for air source heat pump and 19.10p/kWh for ground source heat pump, valid for installations made between 1 April and 30 Sept 2015.



# thinking about a heat pump for your home?

Beneath the surface Scotland is a warm place. However, is a heat pump the right option for you and your home?

We can give you free, impartial and in-depth advice on the best renewables options. We can also provide information on financial support available, including an interest free loan of up to £10,000 from the Scottish Government.

Speak to a renewables advisor at Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282.

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**Lochgilphead**

MILLIONAIRES from Lochgilphead have said their lottery win has not changed them as they get set to buy a new house.

Betty, 63, and Geordie Rhodick, 71, hit the Euromillion jackpot less than a month ago. The couple, who went on to host a successful armed forces day in the town two weeks later, have announced that they are in the process of buying a house in Lochgilphead.

The property will give their ten grandchildren security, while their six children will receive £25,000 each. It is the only big purchase the pair have on the cards. Betty hopes she and her army veteran hubby will move into the new house in October. She said: 'The money hasn't changed us. It never will. What it has given us is peace of mind and financial security.'

Betty is currently nursing a badly bruised wrist after taking a tumble over a tent rope on the front green at the armed forces day.

She said: 'We thought it was broken, but the doctor reckons the bone is just badly bruised. I am using a splint and tubular bandage for support. I think I have pulled all of the muscles in my arm too. I didn't feel it on the day, but the day after my wrist was so swollen and sore I had to go to hospital.'

Despite the ups and downs following the win, Betty recently joined the new Argyll and Bute and NHS Highland Integrated Care board as a public representative and will 'tell them how it is'. Betty said: 'I am never one to mess around, I just tell it like it is. The integrated care board is a great thing and very interesting I look forward to being involved and hope my input will help.'



IN THE MONEY: millionaires Betty and Geordie 'will never change' 08\_12810tt003

**Staffin**

MEMBERSHIP of Staffin community trust (SCT) has doubled in a year.

The trust, formed by local residents of the north Skye community to improve the area's economy, now has more than 60 people signed up.

Anyone living in Staffin or with ties to the area can join SCT to demonstrate support by contacting Hugh Ross via staffin.ldo@gmail.com.

The group hopes to have 100 members by Christmas.

**Small Isles**

PUPILS from the Small Isles visited the mainland for a week in preparation for high school after the summer.

Children in primaries five, six and seven from Eigg, Rum, Muck and Canna, spent the week in Mallaig, enjoying classes in chemistry, drama, art, history and music.

Primary sevens also had the opportunity to sleep in the high school hostel, where they will be living during school terms.

Meanwhile, the younger pupils of the small isles schools enjoyed 'fun week' while their older classmates visited the mainland, including visiting each other on the other islands and baking cookies.



READY FOR CHANGE: Children from the Small Isles visited the mainland in preparation for starting Mallaig high school in August

**RNLI chief enjoys Barra visit**



SPECIAL GUEST: crew from Barra RNLI meet Paul Boissier

ROYAL National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) chief executive, Paul Boissier, made a visit to the Barra RNLI lifeboat station recently.

Volunteer crew members, station officials and fundraisers welcomed Paul on Monday July 6 as he toured the station and learned about some of the various types of rescues that had been undertaken by the Barra Lifeboat.

Prior to joining the RNLI, Paul completed a prominent and successful career with the Royal Navy, serving as its deputy commander-in-chief.

He was eager to learn how the volunteers were served by the RNLI's headquarters in Poole to ensure adequate support was being provided across all its operations.

The chief executive also spoke of the possible future plans for upgrading the lifeboat station building in Castlebay.

**Ardnamurchan**

AWARDS were presented at Ardnamurchan high school for high-achieving students.

Headteacher, Chris Millar-Craig, welcomed parents and guests to the celebration of success event and outlined the key highlights of a 'year of incredible, change, challenge and progress'. Third year pupil, Kate Bradley, was presented with the prize for overall best in school, with second place going to fourth year, Charlie-Anne Fleming.

This year's awards: First year, joint Charlotte Adam Prosser, Janie Patterson and Alistair Tait; Second year, Niamh MacLellan; Third year, Kate Bradley; Fourth year, Charlie-Anne Fleming; Fifth year,

Sara MacKinnon; Sixth year, Jamie Begg; Rural excellence award, Rowan MacGillivray; Sgeulachd award for enterprise, Matthew Bradley; Lochaber housing association cup for academic achievement, Jamie Begg and Isabelle Tilling; Rotary club of Lochaber prize for endeavour, Jamie Begg; Ewan Gillespie memorial trophy, Thomas Rae; Community partnership award, Duke of Edinburgh team Elaine Jackson and Ali Connolly. Sport: Senior boys, Cameron Wilson; Junior boys, Christopher McCowan and Ross Shaw; Senior girls, Annie MacDonald; Junior girls, Janie Patterson; Swimming age 13-14 bronze medal, Lyall Morris.



Charlie-Anne Fleming and Kate Bradley won high achievers awards

**Small Isles**

THE PEOPLE of Colonsay were given a rare treat when the Lochaber high school ceilidh band visited to give a performance.

An enthusiastic and energetic audience danced to traditional music in the island's village hall, led by sixth year pupils, Innes Mackintosh on piano and Micahael MacLeod on button box. They were supported by Alec MacLean, also on button box and fiddlers, Claire Frances MacNeill and John Stewart-Stevenson, both third years. Chemistry teacher and Colonsay native, Jen MacNeill, who organises the band and arranged the trip, also joined in on fiddle.

It was a family affair for Lorna Linfield, S4, who played her clarsach accompanied by her father, Donald Linfield on guitar.

The visitors even fed and watered their audience by preparing and serving sandwiches during the interval.



ON TOUR: Lochaber high school ceilidh band enjoyed a trip to Colonsay

**Olympic games fun at Ballachulish**



FUN FOR ALL: Ballachulish nursery pupils enjoyed their annual Olympics at the end of term. The youngsters joined forces with St Brides nursery for a morning of sporting activities. Retiring headteacher, Sam Clark, presented the medals at the closing ceremony

**MORVERN lines**

**The man who saved a battleship**

THERE is no doubt about it, local knowledge is a wonderful thing as the following story well illustrates.

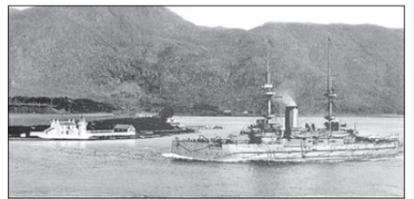
In September 1904, the Channel Fleet came into Loch Linnhe, ostensibly on exercise but, in reality, to allow its commander, Rear Admiral Francis Bridgeman, to call, for whatever reason, on the Earl of Morton who owned Conaglen Estate, a few miles north of the Corran Narrows.

Bridgeman, an important and experienced naval officer who became First Sea Lord, was about to go ashore from his flagship HMS Victorious, which was anchored at the mouth of the River Scaddell, when Captain John Kendall from Falmouth, who was in command of Lord Morton's 199 ton steam yacht 'Cressida', noticed that the 16,000 ton battleship was close to an uncharted rock.

With great presence of mind Kendall, whose 20 years' experience of these waters gave him perfect knowledge, boarded HMS Victorious and advised Bridgeman of the hidden danger. It was, apparently, only a matter of a few inches and the 421 ft ship would have been left high and dry on the rock as she swung round at anchor on the ebbing tide. Kendall's advice was quickly acted on and Victorious weighed anchor and moved out into deeper water, sparing both Bridgeman and the Admiralty from an embarrassing situation.

The incident eventually came to the attention of the Admiralty who presented Kendall with a handsome gold watch and a substantial cheque for his quick action. The watch was inscribed: 'Presented to Mr John Kendall by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty in acknowledgment of valuable services rendered to HMS Victorious in Loch Aber, 7th September 1904.'

Shortly afterwards, a naval vessel surveyed the area and the rock on which Victorious would have foundered, was entered into the Admiralty charts under the name 'Sgeir Mor' (Gaelic, 'the Big Rock') - a punning allusion most likely to the event rather than its size!



CLOSE CALL: HMS Victorious in the Corran Narrows after almost being wrecked

**West Highland Terriers**

WEST Highland white terriers have always been popular and since writing about them in these columns recently, I have received quite a number of comments and questions from readers who saw a photograph published here a few weeks ago of a group sitting on a rock which I believed had been taken on Skye. I was in error. These dogs belonged to an old Argyll family and were called 'the Poltalloch Eleven'.

The West Highland white terriers we know and admire today, are due to three people, George Douglas Campbell (1825-1900) 8th Duke of Argyll who bred what became known as the 'Roseneath Strain, when the Dukes of Argyll owned Roseneath Castle overlooking the Gare Loch, Col Edward Donald Malcolm (1837-1927) 16th Laird of Poltalloch, Kilmartin, Argyll and Mrs Christian Cameron-Head of Inverailort (1859-1941) on the Road to the Isles. According to a family tradition, the Poltalloch breed came into being when one of Col Malcolm's favourite reddish-brown terriers was mistaken for a fox and shot. Thereafter he decided to breed and work white terriers because they would be more visible. Mrs Cameron-Head, who had been brought up with Drynoch terriers from Skye, maintained they should be strong, small-boned, small enough to go to earth and strong enough to fight the quarry when they got there. Her dogs won many prizes at Crufts and, by 1916, she was being described in numerous publications as the foremost authority on the breed.



PRIDE: Mrs Cameron-Head of Inverailort with her prizewinning terriers

Not a great deal is known about the early Poltalloch Terriers and their pedigrees other than the Colonel insisted that they must be willing to attack their prey whether it be fox, marten, badger or otter. They had to be keen and strong enough to fight underground. Col Malcolm used to say, 'These terriers must be shown in working clothes. Only a bit tidied up, washed and brushed and in possession of their valuable undercoat'.

In the early days, light-coloured terriers existed in the Highlands. Thomas Bell, in his 'History of British Quadrupeds' (1837) described their coats as off-white. As white terriers were not popular then, they were usually destroyed at birth. The first Poltalloch Terriers were described as rough-haired with coats up to three inches long and yellow or sandy in shade, well boned with straight front legs, short muzzles, big noses, strong teeth and erect ears. By the time of their deaths, Col Malcolm, the Duke of Argyll and Mrs Cameron-Head of Inverailort witnessed the development of their breed not only as working dogs but international show-stoppers and popular pets worldwide, although what they would have thought of some of the excessively over-weight and over trimmed, pampered and coat-clad Westies being paraded along today's high streets, is perhaps best left to the imagination!

While our Highland forebears were breeding dogs to kill foxes others, according to an advertisement in an Inverness-shire newspaper of 1862, were in search of foxes for a different reason: 'To gamekeepers and others. A gentleman being desirous of procuring foxes for a hunting country, will give 15 shillings a-piece for old foxes and 10 shillings a-piece for cubs, besides paying their carriage by railroad or steamer. They must be delivered alive and uninjured to Mr John MacDonald, Newhaven Oyster-House, Glassford Street, Glasgow.'

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**SUCCESS:** Kinlochleven high school's leadership team, from left, Cameron Munday, Brittany Fordham, Stephen McGuire, Mikey Maclean, Craig McLaughlan, Sarah Campbell, Thomas Rowe, Esme Leitch, Laura McIntyre and Rebekah Gunn

**Leading the way at Kinlochleven**

SIXTH year pupils at Kinlochleven high school have enjoyed a new leadership programme.

Set up by headteacher, Rebecca Machin, the project has seen the teenagers take on roles as school captains, house captains and prefects to improve activities and the general work of the school. Esme Burn, one of two school captains, said: 'This system not only encourages the sixth years to take more responsibility within the school, but also allows us to increase the effectiveness of the prefect team.'

'The leadership team has only been in place for a few weeks, but so far has been a success.'

**Long-serving volunteers honoured**

COUNSELLORS and board members from Relationships Scotland Couple Counselling Argyll gathered in Oban for their annual general meeting.

The group then held an afternoon tea in appreciation of the dedication of some of their longer serving volunteers.

Board members, Jeanette Crerar, Isobel Mauchline, Henry Woodman, Elda Davidson Elda Sharp and Jean Denham and counsellors, Anne Hay and Sabine Ahlen, have served the community for more than 100 years between them.

The charity is actively seeking new members to join the management team from all parts of Argyll.

Anyone wishing more information should contact manager, Carol Collis, on [info@argyllcouplecounselling](mailto:info@argyllcouplecounselling) or call 03001 110031.

## Court case prompts exploitation concerns

CONCERNS have been raised about tourism workers being exploited after the former owner of a Lochaber hotel was found guilty of eight human trafficking offences.

Following a five-week sheriff and jury trial which ended last Friday (July 3), Shamsul Arefin, was found guilty of bringing four victims to the Stewart Hotel in Duror, which he then owned, with the intent to exploit them.

The people, brought to the Highlands from elsewhere in the UK and Bangladesh between 2008 and 2010, worked for the 47-year-old at the hotel. Arefin, now living at an address in Surrey, was found guilty by a majority verdict at Fort William sheriff court.

The charges involved bringing four people into the UK and arranging travel within the country, with the intent to exploit them, in breach of the Asylum and Immigration act.

Jamie McGrigor, MSP for the Highlands and Islands, called the situation 'alarming' and said he hopes it was an isolated incident. He said: 'It's worrying that things like this are happening here and it must be stopped. Anyone who comes to work here has the right to be treated and paid fairly and not to be exploited.'

'It's alarming that human trafficking has been going on in this part of the world and I hope nobody was put in any danger. I also worry about the impact this may have had on tourism in the area if people have been coming to Scotland and seeing people being exploited. I sincerely hope it was an isolated incident and the authorities are being vigilant to prevent this happening again.'

A further two charges against Arefin, who was remanded in custody, relating to threatening behaviour and assault of staff, were found not proven. Sentencing is scheduled for July 24.

# Inspiring Innes scales Ben to help children's charity

EMMA CRICHTON  
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A KIND-HEARTED Fort William boy with cerebral palsy has defeated all the odds by walking up Ben Nevis for charity. Innes Macdonald, eight, reached the top of Britain's highest mountain on Monday after telling his mother he wanted to help children worse off than him.

The Caol primary school pupil was five years old when he was



VICTORY: Innes as the highest person in Britain, with walking guide, John Seaman

diagnosed with mild diplegic cerebral palsy which affects co-ordination and movement.

At the time, doctors said he was likely to struggle with physical activity and probably wouldn't be able to swim without arms bands or cycle without stabilisers.

But the strong-willed youngster has proved everyone wrong over the last three years and took a step further when he walked 4,409 feet to the Ben summit and back, raising more than £500 for cerebral palsy therapy charity, Bobath Scotland.

Innes's mum Kara Gillespie said she is 'so proud' of her son. She said: 'He's always been such a determined wee boy. He's proved doctors wrong at every hurdle and I'm so proud of what he's achieved.'

'The idea came when we were walking through town and saw a wee girl in a wheelchair. Innes asked about her and I explained how there are other children with cerebral palsy who are much less fortunate than him and ever since then he's wanted to help children who can't do the things he can.'

'He's football mad and always out playing, so he said he wanted to do something for wee boys and girls who can't go out and run about like he can.'

Ms Gillespie had planned to walk Ben Nevis with her son, but discovered she is pregnant after they organised the challenge. Innes's gran, Angela Murray, went up in her place, along with walking guide, James Seaman.

Innes set a target of raising £500 for Bobath and has gone above his goal, with money still coming in.

Ms Gillespie said: 'Innes is so chuffed with what he raised and the walk hasn't phased him. He was dressed and ready to go out at 10 o'clock the morning after.'

'His main priority was to help other children and that's exactly what he has done.'

Mr Seaman, a former colleague of Ms Gillespie, called his young walking partner 'truly inspiring'.

He added: 'From the word go his attitude was positive, he was open-minded and energetic. He learned and engaged with the environment while walking up the mountain track and his high spirits continued all day even in the cold and rain.'

'Innes took on the mountain with caution and consideration, but with the commitment, determination and motivation to power through difficulties.'

Innes can still be sponsored via [www.justgiving.com/Kara-Gillespie](http://www.justgiving.com/Kara-Gillespie).



HIGH SPIRITS: eight-year-old Innes MacDonald walked up Ben Nevis to raise money for a cerebral palsy charity

## Paid staff member sacked from charity following investigation

A PAID member of staff at a Fort William-based charity has been sacked for failing to follow procedure following an investigation into an alleged financial discrepancy.

The matter has now been passed to the police after an allegation of a missing four-figure sum from Shopmobility Lochaber's charity account sparked the investigation earlier this year.

A spokeswoman for the charity confirmed the worker had been dismissed following the enquiries, but said all money was accounted for. She said:

'Allegations were made and an investigation was carried out by the charity commission. A member of staff has been dismissed, but all of Shopmobility's money is accounted for. The matter has now been passed on to the police.'

Further allegations of illegal tobacco sales from the charity's MacFarlane Way premises were not proven.

The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator declined to comment on the matter and Lochaber police were unavailable for comment as the Oban Times went to press.

## Excitement builds as Caol gears up for its first gala in a decade

A FORT William community will get together this weekend to celebrate its first gala day in a decade.

Caol gala day came to a halt ten years ago when local community groups disbanded. In 2014, village residents united to form Caol community council (CCC) and the resurrection of the gala day was one of its first projects.

Events kick off this Saturday with a parade from the local Co-op to Canal park at 12pm. Morgan Bissett, 14, will be crowned gala queen at the village parade, an original tradition of the

gala day. Morgan will be supported by attendants, Eva MacKay and Erica Peden, both from Caol.

At Canal park there will be bonnie baby and gala granny competitions, games including beat the goalie, gladiator and family tug 'o' war and a fun fair. Chairman of CCC John Gillespie said: 'It will be great to get the community together again. We are expecting to see at least a few hundred people on the day. It used to be such a big event here.'

A dance will be held in Caol community centre on Saturday evening.

# Former landmark hostel may yet again provide shelter in the town

STEVEN RAE  
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A LANDMARK Oban building is to be turned into eight flats, if council planners give developers the go-ahead.

It is proposed by developers, Michael Gilmour Associates of Aberdeen to convert Kilbowie House, situated on Galannach Road, into apartments, with another two houses to be built in the property grounds.

The category B-listed building has been owned by Argyll and Bute council since 1996, when local government was reorganised in Scotland.

The building had previously been owned by Strathclyde regional council. The price of the sale has not yet been disclosed.

Argyll and Bute council recently used the building as offices for staff employed within the roads department, however, it has remained empty for more than four years.

In the past, the building was used as a school hostel for pupils attending Oban high school, who lived on the outlying islands.

Interest was shown in Kilbowie House, which was built in the 19th century, back in December last year, when the building was thought to require substantial remedial work to ceilings to make it wind and watertight.

But, the fact-finding mission by the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee found the building was in good order.

One objection has been

submitted on Argyll and Bute council's website for the recent application.

Mrs Rae Boyd, of Dungallan Terrace, who is an immediate neighbour, voiced concerns about the increase in traffic, saying she thought it was 'merely a matter of time before someone is seriously injured.'

Despite her objection, she thought it was good to see the building renovated and utilised after years of lying derelict.

The only immediate neighbouring property is the Kilbowie Outdoor Centre, which is operated by North Lanarkshire Leisure. It provides outdoor activities and pursuits.

Ian Murdoch, business development director for North Lanarkshire Leisure, said: 'The building has obviously been lying derelict for some time now, and I don't see the development having any negative impact at all on our operations.'

'I welcome anything that will be positive and personally think it will enhance the area.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'It's not appropriate to comment on the price of the building, in view of the fact the transaction has not yet been settled.'

'A decision will be made regarding the application in due course.'

'This application will be considered by Argyll and Bute council in exactly the same way as any other, in the context of our local development plan and any other



material planning considerations such as Scottish planning policy.'

With regards to the objection about traffic safety raised by Mrs Boyd, the spokesman added: 'Any representations are

considered through the formal planning process. The comments will then be reflected on in the report of handling.'

'The council will then take a view on the application in its en-

tirety and either grant or refuse planning permission.'

Nobody from Michael Gilmour Associates was available for comment at the time of going to press.

# LOCHLAN AIMS HIGH FOR CHARITY

TEENAGER Lochlan Carr has set Argyll residents the challenge of climbing to the top of Ben Nevis to raise money for the National Autistic Society.

Lochlan, from Denny in Falkirk, was diagnosed with autism when he was nine. He enjoys walking and decided to take on the UK's highest mountain - with an ascent of 4,389ft - to raise vital funds for the leading charity for people affected by autism.

Now Lochlan is calling for Argyll folk to join his 'Big Ben' challenge.

He said: 'I have never climbed a mountain before, so I am really getting excited now. I want the people from Argyll to join me and my mum on our challenge and help us to raise money for people with autism.'

The National Autistic Society has helped Lochlan and his mum, Ruth, to organise the challenge.

It will take place on August 16 and mountain guides with a knowledge and understanding of autism have been specially selected to ensure the hike and its spectacular views can be enjoyed by people with the condition.

Jenny Paterson, director of the National Autistic Society Scotland, said: 'Lochlan is an inspiration. I hope keen and fledgling walkers alike from Argyll join his 'Big Ben' challenge and help him

I want the people from Argyll to join me

Lochlan Carr ('Big Ben' challenge)

to raise funds for people who are affected by autism.

'If the weather is good, the views will be spectacular. And if the weather isn't good, as is often the case, climbing the UK's highest mountain is a huge achievement and something to really be proud of.'

Participants are asked to pay a registration fee of £25 and raise £200 through sponsorship. The National Autistic Society will

provide training and fundraising support, a T-shirt, a certificate of completion and a celebration meal.

To find out more and join the challenge, email [events@nas.org.uk](mailto:events@nas.org.uk) or phone 0207 903 3589.

To sponsor Lochlan and Ruth, visit [justgiving.com/Ruth-Allison1/](http://justgiving.com/Ruth-Allison1/). To follow his journey, visit [journey.facebook.com/pages/Lochlan-Nevis-Challenge/850145365047455](http://journey.facebook.com/pages/Lochlan-Nevis-Challenge/850145365047455)

## Sino-SAMs link-up could lead to more exchanges between Oban and Far East

CHINA'S oldest university may soon be linking up with one of the UK's newest, as a marine science degree is planned to bring Asian students to Scotland.

Delegates from Tianjin University, China, including the university's vice chancellor Yan Xueynan, visited the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), near Oban, to explore collaborative links between their institution and the University of the Highlands and Islands, which is a partner of SAMS.

In the short term, the universities hope to sign a Memorandum of Understanding that will lead to collaborative developments on undergraduate marine science teaching, with SAMS UHI staff providing guest lectures in China and Chinese students spending part or all of the final year of their marine science undergraduate degree at SAMS UHI in Oban.

The partnership could also pave the way for the two universities to explore international research opportunities.

Staff from SAMS UHI will visit Tianjin this autumn, proposing for a course to begin in autumn 2016, with the first Tianjin students arriving at SAMS as early as 2019.

Professor Keith Davidson of SAMS, who will be representing SAMS UHI on the return trip, said: 'Marine science is of considerable importance in both Scotland and China, with many shared challenges.'

'The proposed collaborative developments between SAMS UHI and Tianjin will potentially provide excellent opportunities for teaching, research and cultural exchange.'

## Bike theft from car

A BIKE was stolen from Scalpay Terrace, Soroba, Oban, between 1pm on July 6 and 5pm the same day. The BMX-styled bike is described as black and white.

## Rucksack vanishes

A BLACK rucksack was stolen from a car parked in Balvicar Road, Oban, between 10am and 10.15am on July 10.

Any information about both one or both thefts, contact Oban police station.

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# Visit the inner Hebrides

## Magical Mull, intriguing Islay and glorious Gigha

FROM Mull's mountain splendours through Islay's isolated beaches to Gigha's glowing gardens, the Inner Hebridean islands have something for everyone.

Mull's Munro - a mountain more than 3,000ft high, Ben More at 3,169ft (966m) - is the highest island peak outside Skye and is just one of a range of rugged mountains defining the southern end of the island.

Ben More dwarfs Duart Castle, but the perfectly preserved 13th century stronghold of the Clan MacLean, more than makes up for it in the arresting views from its battlements across the Firth of Lorn and Loch Linnhe.

A picnic on the grassy shore is as much a delight as studying the clan history in the castle's impressive exhibition. Regular readings by an seanachaidh (traditional clan storyteller) are a regular simple feature of summer castle life.

Duart is just 1.5 miles from the ferry port at Craignure making a day trip easy from Oban.

Mull is the fourth largest island surrounding Great Britain, and it has one whisky distillery in the jaw-droppingly beautiful port of Tobermory, best reached by ferry from Kilchoan on the Ardnamurchan peninsula.

There's only one departure a day, but it is well worth the drive and you might spot one of Mull's white tailed sea eagles during the voyage.

For many, Mull means one thing; access to the Iona crossing at Fionnphort and a chance to visit its abbey, one of the most important religious centres in Western Europe.

'The Queen of the Hebrides' as Islay is known, has underrated beauty, stunning sandy beaches on which to bask in the sun or paddle in pearl green water.

It has eight distilleries and, with abundant peat covering this Atlantic outpost, produces some of the peatiest malts in the world.

Recently, Russian billionaire, Roman Abramovich, toured its Laphroaig distillery following hot in the footsteps of Lord of the Isles, the future heir to the throne, Prince Charles, who celebrated its bi-centenary.

Whisky may offer myriad tastes, but the island's wildlife more than matches it for variety, with more than 250 species of birds of which 100 breed on the island.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has a hide at the head of Loch Gruinart enabling pleasant birdwatching even on inclement days.

Otters are a frequent sight on all three islands, but observing them requires patience. It is normally best to look for their 'spraints' - that's otter droppings, during the day and return at dusk or dawn to spot the elusive creatures.

A 25-minute ferry journey from Tayinloan in Kintyre reveals another world - the Island of Gigha. It is only seven miles long and a mile and a half wide and offers

a refreshingly distinct atmosphere from the mainland. In summer, the waters are clear, the sands golden and inviting; the weather is as unique as the landscape, enjoying above average sunshine for the year, with a distinct microclimate.

Heading inland, visitors will be amazed by the wonderful semi-tropical flora on display at Achamore Gardens, including a splendid collection of Horlick Rhododendrons.

There are even some exotic birds in the form of the spectacular peacock - whose unmistakable calls you might hear before you see them.

Gigha is a Hebridean island with unique charm; warm and welcoming as the Gulf Stream winds that create its climate, with the same power to inspire as the vast archipelago to its north.



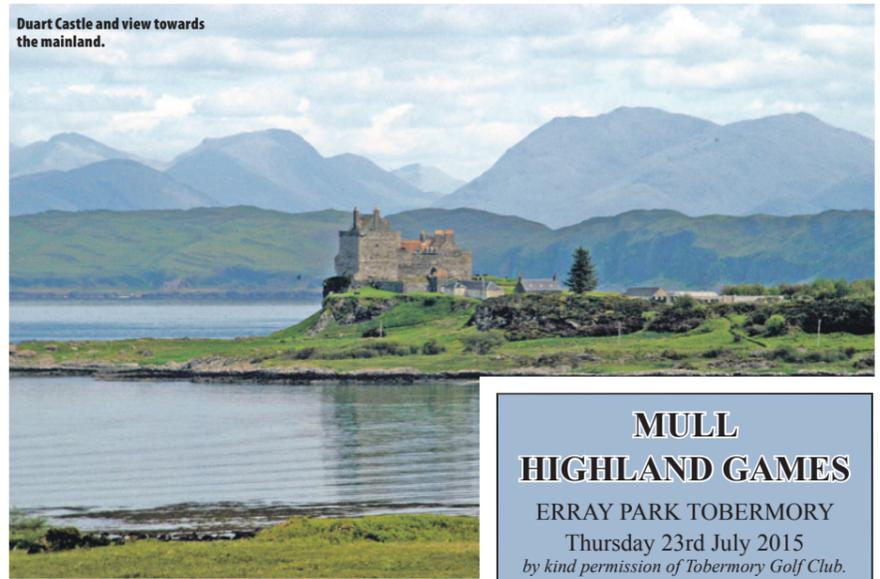
Sunset over Gigha with Jura to the right.



View across Tobermory harbour.



Looking towards Ben More on a Mull evening.



Duart Castle and view towards the mainland.



Islay sunset.



The Atlantic ocean off Iona.

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## Double club trauma won't delay kick-off

FORT William football club will be able to start their Highland league season, despite a fire at the clubhouse and the manager resigning in the same week.

In what was described as a 'traumatic week', a blaze ripped through the Claggan park changing rooms last Monday, putting them out of use ahead of the club's first league game of the season, scheduled for Saturday July 25. But Fort FC committee members breathed a sigh of relief when High Life Highland, which is responsible for leisure facilities in the area, arranged for portable changing rooms to be put in place. It is hoped these will be available in time for the game, but if not, players can change at Lochaber high school.

In a second blow for the club, manager Calum MacLean announced his resignation just three days later, stepping down due to work and family commitments.

Gerald McIntyre, director of Fort William FC, said: 'It certainly has been a traumatic week, but the board and committee are determined the club will come back even stronger in the coming season.'

The cause of the fire is still unknown and investigations are ongoing.

For more on Mr MacLean's resignation, see page 26.

## Focus on future of health care

HEALTH professionals and patient groups in the Highlands have given their views on primary care and out of hours services.

The engagement event last week is part of a national review on the best way to provide these services in light of the area's ageing population and integration of health and social services.

Gill McVicar, director of operations for NHS Highland north and west, said: 'Highland has specific challenges because of the vast areas and distances and the ability to recruit and retain staff in remote areas. We need to be thinking differently about how we build for the future. We also discussed the need for continued focus on improving reliable broadband and mobile phone use across all our areas.'

Findings of the review will be published later this year.

# Friends get ready to party to top up cancer care fund

EMMA CRICHTON  
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TREATMENT: Kelly MacDonald

FRIENDS of a Fort William woman suffering from cancer have raised almost £4,000 to help with treatment and hope to take a massive leap further with their campaign this weekend.

Kelly MacDonald found a mole last year, which was removed, but during a routine screening this May, doctors discovered the cancer had spread to her liver.

The 29-year-old is currently undergoing treatment so wasn't able to speak to the Oban Times.

Meanwhile, friends and family have started a campaign to help with any travelling costs or private healthcare which may

be required if the illness isn't cured with the next two rounds of medication. The fundraising continues with a garden party at An Aird this Sunday (July 19).

Susan Bell, who co-owns Unique hair and beauty salon in Fort William with Miss MacDonald, raised £1,700 through a coffee morning last month, with the help of their colleagues.

The team's fundraiser, Kelly's Klumb, has raised almost £4,000 so far.

Ms Bell said: 'Kelly is going to London to see a specialist and that's paid for, but she has to take someone with her so if we can help with travel and accommodation costs that would be brilliant.'

'We're also thinking about if she ever has to go private or elsewhere in Europe if the treatment she's currently getting doesn't work. We really all hope Kelly never has to use this money, but it puts us at ease knowing it's there and we can help if she needs it. Raising the amount we have so far has been brilliant, people have been mega kind and we can't thank them enough.'

But there's still a long way to go for the girls at Unique, who hope this weekend's garden party will further boost the fund.

Ms Bell said: 'We've got loads going on, prosecco, sandwiches, cake, crisps and juice for the children and we've also got a bouncy castle and face painting. 'It's going to be a really good

day and hopefully it'll stay dry, but if not we'll go inside, we won't let that stop us.'

Tickets for the garden party are £10 and are available from Unique salon on High Street or are available at An Aird on the day. The event starts at 2pm.

It doesn't stop there for the Kelly's Klumb girls, as Ms Bell and her colleagues, Rebecca Grant and Leanne Kelly, plan to walk up Ben Nevis on August 30 and are inviting anyone who wants to help to join in.

Ms Bell added: 'We're welcoming friends, family and clients, anyone who wants to come up with us. You can raise your own sponsorship money or just come on the walk. Anything people can do to help is great.'

# Community delighted as £250,000 playpark is opened in Plantation

A PLAYPARK costing almost £250,000 was officially opened in the most deprived area of Fort William at the weekend.

The facility in the Plantation area of the town, which also features outdoor fitness equipment, a mountain bike track and walking route, was created by Plantation community association (PCA) and is the result of four years of hard work and fundraising, boosted by £247,000 from the Big Lottery.

Pine Grove park was officially opened by Highland councillor, Brian Murphy, on Saturday and the occasion was marked with a fun day allowing the community to enjoy the facilities.

Helen MacKenzie, chairwoman of the PCA, said: 'The community has really come together behind this project, and it's great to see everyone enjoying the park now

It's great to see everyone enjoying it now it's open'

Helen MacKenzie  
PCA chairwoman

it's open. The whole community has been involved in planning this park for well over four years now and we've worked with local people to make sure that the facilities here are what they will use and enjoy.

'Highland council's ward discretionary fund and tenant participation service have also helped us over the years both with donations and advice.'

'By working together, we've managed to give the community a great new facility and increased confidence in seeing what we can all achieve.'

Opening the event, councillor Murphy welcomed the completion of a 'real community project'.

He said: 'Along with my fellow Highland councillors for the Fort William and Ardnurchan ward, we welcome the completion of this significant development. This was a real community



OFFICIALLY OPEN: Highland councillor, Brian Murphy, opens Fort William's new £250,000 playpark. From left: Cara Elder, Lesley-Ann Boath, Helen MacKenzie - all Plantation community association - councillors Thomas MacLennan and Brian Murphy and Ian Williamson, also of the PCA

project in every sense of the term, from its conception, to developing the designs, applying for the funding, coping with the problems thrown up during the planning process, tackling the difficult issues which came up during the work, to the final delivery.

'It's been the community through their very committed community association committee which has driven it forward. They have had a lot of help along the way but ultimately it wouldn't have happened had it not been for the enthusiasm, dedication and hard work of the community.'



FUN AND GAMES: Jamie MacMaster, Rebeka MacMaster and Armia Balterunas at Pine Grove park



ALL SMILES: Jac Currie, 11, enjoys the new park

## TIMESLINE

### Warning: lottery letter is a scam

LOCAL authorities are warning people in Lochaber of lottery con letters currently circulating around households.

As part of the crackdown on internet, doorstep and caller scams, Highland council's trading standards team are highlighting issues in the region.

A spokeswoman for Highland council trading standards said: 'A letter sent to residents across the Highlands claiming they have won a "postcode lottery" is a scam.'

Scam awareness month began on July 1 and has a different theme each week.

The spokeswoman said: 'Online dating fraud is also on the increase with around 52 per cent of victims reporting suffering ill health as a consequence.'

To find out more go to www.cas.org.uk/stopscams or call Citizens Advice on 03454 040506.

### Dismay at wait for Uist connections

AN ISLAND business has complained to BT as it has had no phone or broadband since March.

Angus MacNeil, MP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar, has contacted the director of BT Scotland on behalf of the constituent from Uist.

The businessman ordered a phone line and internet four months ago, but it has yet to be delivered, said Mr MacNeil. The MP also reported a constituent on Lewis requested the redirection of his phone line in May, which has yet to be done. A BT spokesman said the delays have been caused as the van used to service the Western Isles is under repair and the driver is on an annual leave.

Mr MacNeil said: 'It is disappointing to hear BT customers are experiencing this level of service. These issues have been going on for far too long and BT customers are becoming increasingly frustrated. I am surprised only one vehicle is available to service all of the Western Isles and that no other arrangements can be put in place when breakdowns occur.'

### National orchestra place for Anthony

A LOCHABER high school pupil was one of a select group of students picked to perform as part of the National Youth Orchestra.

Tuba player, Anthony Hook, was one of six Highland students to perform at an event in Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh, on Saturday July 11.

## Hundreds back online campaign to keep Glen Roy a nature reserve

HUNDREDS of people have backed a campaign to keep a west Highland tourist attraction as a nature reserve.

Glen Roy, near Roy Bridge in Lochaber, is famed for its 'parallel roads', visited by Charles Darwin in the 19th century, and has been a natural nature reserve (NNR) since the 1950s. But landowners Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) could 'de-designate' the area of its NNR status at a meeting to be held next month.

The fragile mountainside imprints of the parallel roads of Glen Roy were carved by ancient glacial lakes as water repeatedly froze and melted on the hill, giving the appearance of roads. The iconic landscape attracts visitors from all over the world.

Lochaber Geopark, the founders of a 700-strong campaign against the plan, said this could lead to SNH selling off parts of Glen Roy, but a spokesman for SNH said there are 'no plans' to sell the land. Glen Roy is also protected by being named a site of special scientific interest (SSSI) in 1986.

A spokesman from Lochaber Geopark said: 'The Scottish government's policies

on land reform aim to strengthen local communities. Any potential to sell off this national treasure appears to contradict this initiative, and is equivalent to "selling the family silver". Keeping the Glen Roy national nature reserve as a nationally owned asset would assure local people and visitors that Scotland's treasured countryside is safe with SNH.'

An online petition to protect Glen Roy has gathered more than 700 signatures in a week.

Nigel Smith, SNH's principal advisor on protected area effectiveness, said: 'We recognise the importance of the parallel roads of Lochaber. It's a beautiful and historic part of the Highlands and is also of significant scientific interest, and will continue to be protected. At the moment, 90 per cent of the area is owned by a number of private owners and is protected legally as a SSSI. We own the remaining 10 per cent of the SSSI. The de-designation will not change how well the area is protected, as it is also safeguarded as a SSSI under domestic legislation. We have no plans to sell our land in the SSSI.'

## Council appeals school ruling

HIGHLAND council is to appeal a Scottish government decision after its plan to close four schools on Skye was overturned.

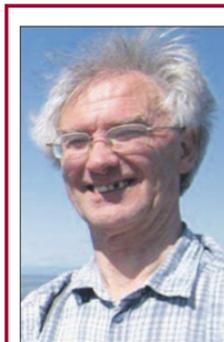
The local authority wants to close Dunvegan, Struan, Knockbreck and Edinbane primary schools in the north west of the island, replacing them with a new build in Dunvegan.

But the school closure review panel (SCRPP) refused consent earlier this month, stating the council had not fulfilled legal obligations during the consultation process.

Highland council has now lodged a summary application with Portree sheriff court seeking an appeal against the decision. Drew Millar, Skye councillor and chairman of the local authority's

education, children and adult services committee, said: 'The council appreciates that, while this appeal is ongoing, there will be a period of uncertainty for the community of north west Skye. However, we strongly believe the proposed new community school would deliver considerable educational and community benefits, and that the consultation process was thorough and correct in arriving at this conclusion. In pursuing this appeal, the council believes it is in the best interests of the community, to provide new, state of the art facilities that will deliver first class, sustainable education into the future.'

Parents of pupils at the schools facing closure had previously objected to the plans as their children would face lengthy journeys to and from school.



Tom Brown



Eric Cyl

## Search continues for glen walkers

A RESCUE team searching for a missing hill walker in Glen Nevis has confirmed the past seven months have been its 'busiest ever'.

Lochaber mountain rescue team (LMRT) has been searching for Lanarkshire man Tom Brown, 65, for a week and he is the second person to have gone missing recently.

Englishman Eric Cyl, 62, went missing on May 31 and has not yet been found.

The lifesaving team has been sent out on operations 73 times this year.

A spokesman from LMRT said: 'This is by far our busiest first half to a year ever.'

The seven-day search for Tom covered an area more than 70kms square and more than 700 hours on five

deployments. The search will continue, but has been scaled down.

Walkers on Ben Nevis, Mamores, Grey Corries and Aonach Beag areas are being urged to keep looking and report to police anything which might lead LMRT to recovering either of the men.

Mr Brown was last seen leaving his Lanarkshire home on Wednesday July 1. He is described as 5 feet 10 inches in height, of stocky build with grey/brown bushy hair and eyebrows.

His rucksack and contents were found about 1km east of Steall Falls in the Glen Nevis area.

Both men were believed to be walking in the upper Glen Nevis and Ring of Steall.

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# Viewpoint

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB  
email: editor@obantimes.co.uk

## The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8216

When it comes to organising top flight football competitions there can be fewer better than Davie Buchanan and his dedicated team at Oban Saints.

Even a cursory glance at the cast list for last week's twenty second challenge cup tournament will show just how successful and prestigious this annual sporting occasion has become: a former Scotland supreme, a football club owner, the current manager of Hearts, a

number of SPL and Championship squads and a host of former players all graced Mossfield.

Approximately 1,000 hardy souls braved the elements to watch Oban Saints finish in second place to high-flying Hearts, even though the home town boys recorded a remarkable 2-1 victory over the Edinburgh giants.

Former Scotland boss Craig Levein and Hearts manager Robbie Neilson were full of praise for the tournament. A great result for Oban Saints and the town.



## Days gone by - Oban High School first year pupils, circa 1947/1948

Reader Maurice Tindall submitted this week's flashback photograph which features first year Oban high school pupils, circa 1947/48. Included in the line-up are, back row, W McMurchie, fourth left, K Campbell, fifth left, D Sutherland, sixth left, I Weir, fifth right, I Campbell, third right, S Jackson, second right and K MacKenzie, right. Third row, left, M Banks, J MacDonald, sixth right and Miss Speed, teacher. Front row, A Buchanan, left, and I Gabriel, second right. 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.

### Wonderful memories of Banavie primary

Sir,  
Happy birthday and congratulations to Banavie primary school on reaching 50 years since its opening.

We have wonderful memories of our time there - 1972 to 1978 - as headteacher, pupil and parent.

Alistair, Fiona and Jane MacNeill, North Berwick.

### Amazement over lack of Fort police action

Sir,  
The presence of the new traffic police unit in Fort William is both highly visible and at times highly active.

But claims of the postman being fined £100 and given three penalty points for leaving his van unattended whilst delivering mail; a local woman asked to get out of her car and being told she looked like someone from Maryhill or the local worker pulled over and fined for having a loose battery terminal, are doing nothing to help their image.

As I drove through Fort William recently, there was an obvious convoy of Dutch nationals taking part in a rally called the 'Garbage Run.'

Old vehicles were decorated and some were made out to look like police cars and ambulances with flashing blue lights and sirens - all of which were very distracting.

In amazement I passed not one but three police cars and, guess what, not one of the cars taking part in the 'Garbage run' was pulled over

despite their obvious infringements for impersonating emergency vehicles. Do the police have one rule for locals and another for people from outwith the area?

Rory Maclean,  
Longsdale Road, Oban.

### Benefits of continued EU membership

Sir,  
The record results from Scottish Development International, which show an increase in both projects and jobs created or safeguarded in Scotland through inward investment, highlights the considerable benefits of our continued membership of the European Union.

This also reinforces the findings of the Ernst & Young Attractiveness Survey published earlier this year, which named Scotland as the most attractive place in the UK to invest outside London.

Over 2,000 companies already call Scotland home and many of these companies are coming here, in part, to access the considerable advantages being part of the EU Single Market, the largest in the world and amounting to over 500 million people, brings.

With nearly half of Scotland's international exports to the EU and with over 300,000 jobs dependent on such exports, it would be folly for us to remove ourselves from the EU and the many clear advantages of membership

Derek Hammersley, chairman, The European Movement in Scotland, 12B Cumberland Street, SE Lane, Edinburgh.

### Notify local authority of private fostering

Sir,  
Are you looking after a child who isn't a close relative?

If so you may be a private foster carer. Private fostering is an arrangement lasting 28 days or more where someone other than a grandparent, aunt or uncle or other close relative cares for someone else's child.

By law, the local authority must be notified of such arrangements to ensure the child is safe and well. The local authority can also offer advice and support to the carer and the child's family. So if you or someone you know is privately fostering a child please notify your local authority.

Caroline Selkirk, Chief Executive, the British Association for Adoption and Fostering, London.

### Survey will help shape Meningitis Now's future

Sir,  
If you are aged 16 or over and have either had meningitis yourself or a family member or close friend has, Meningitis Now would like to hear from you

By taking part in our Meningitis and Me survey, you will be making an important contribution to our work.

As a charity it's vital we succeed because we make a real difference to people's lives - telling us how we can do this better will play a big part in shaping our future.

Visit www.MeningitisNow.org to take part.

Sue Davie, Meningitis Now.

### Glasgow Letter

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

### Uist and Barra AGM

GLASGOW Uist and Barra association held its annual general meeting recently, when members expressed concern about the future of the association.

A statement from the committee read: 'Poor attendance at the ceilidh dances are sadly decreasing every year and financially they are not viable. We would be so grateful if the island people of all generations, living in Glasgow and all other areas, could come along and support the association.'

'You are all so very welcome. Come along and please do not let this wonderful association fade away. Thank you.'

The AGM saw Julia Mac Isaac re-elected as president for the fifth year.

And there was no change in the committee management.

John MacLean requested that he be allowed to take a few years away from committee involvement, but said he would continue to attend all the functions.

The committee agreed that John would be greatly missed as he has been an active member for more than 30 years.

The association will continue to have its monthly ceilidh dances from October to April and their piping competition in March.

Let's hope that those are all well attended and that the committee will soon be looking forward again to a bright future for the association.

### The Island

LAST week, I sat in my flat in Partick and watched in total disbelief as our new Skipinnish single, The Island, climbed up the Official UK download charts to number 51 ahead of pop superstars including Ed Sheeran, Kanye West and Taylor Swift.

The very next day, I watched with even more disbelief as a video we had recorded of a pop cover managed almost as many views as the music video for the single itself.

We had recorded our version of Taylor Swift's 'Shake It Off' as a bit of a joke when we overtook her in the charts.

At the end of the video, I jokingly asked her out for a curry if she was ever passing through Glasgow.

Little did I know my proposal to 'Swift' would get more attention from the national press than our single release did in the first place, which should maybe tell us something about our music.

Seriously, on behalf of the other Skipinnish boys, we'd like to thank everyone who bought the single or shared it on social media.

If Taylor Swift accepts my dinner offer, I'll be sure to document the whole date in the Glasgow Letter.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Gareth Hale and Marion MacInnes who were married in Kilmarnock Parish Church, Gartnocharn. Congratulations also to Alisdair and Fiona MacInnes, Bearsden, on the arrival of their daughter, Skye, and to Graham and Louise MacLennan, Glasgow, on the arrival of their son, James Rhuiraidh.

### Glasgow bands at Tiree music festival

THIS year's line-up at the Tiree music festival includes a phenomenal number of Glasgow-based acts.

Skerryvore, Manran, Gunna Sound, Skipinnish, Trail West, Cherrygrove, the Urban Teuchters, and The League of Highland Gentlemen are all acts who have brought Highland music down to Glasgow. And they will all be taking the stage on the sunny island of Tiree this weekend. It's going to be some show!

### Pub scene

Park Bar: Thursday July 16: Session.  
Friday July 17: Nicky Memichan.  
Saturday July 18: Eriskay Lilt.  
Sunday July 19: Nicky Memichan.  
Islay Inn: Friday July 17: The Penny Dogs. Saturday July 18: Blind Panic.  
Wednesday July 23: quiz night.



There will be a great contingent of Glasgow-based, Highland bands at Tiree music festival this year.

### Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
allan@obantimes.co.uk

Ailean Caimbeul

THA SEIRBHEISEAN AISEIG a tha air a ruith gu soirbheachail 's gu gnòthachail nam bunaid do na coimhearsnachdan iomallach, cugallach air feadh Ghàidhealtachd is eileanan na h-Alba.

Briathran Chathraiche ChalMac ann an aithisg bhliadhnail na buidhne 2014, agus chan eil duine a tha an eisimeil leithid seo de sheirbheisean nach aontaicheadh leis.

Tha mòran deasbaid a' leantainn co-dhùnadh Riaghaltas na h-Alba seirbheisean aiseag Chluaidh agus Innse Gall a chur a-mach gu farpais.

Ged a tha an Riaghaltas ag ràdh gum feum e gèilleadh ri riaghailtean Eòrpach, tha feadhainn den beachd nach eil na riaghailtean sin a' buntainn ri prìomh sheirbheisean còmhdaidh a' bhith air an comharrachadh mar sheirbheisean deatamach.

Chan ionndrainn thu sochair chun an toirear bhuaie, agus saoilidh mi nach tuig duine bho thaobh a-mach nan eileanan an ire gum bheil beòshlaint nan coimhearsnachdan sin an urra ri ìre agus earbsachd nan aiseagan.

Thar iomadh bliadhna tha luchd-obrach, a bhuneas sa mhòr-chuid dha na coimhearsnachdan a tha iad a' seirbheiseachadh, air clùì a

chosnadh dha Caledonian Mac a' Bhriuthainn a' frithealadh oirthre-an agus eileanan taobh an iar Alba.

'S e faisteach air leth cudromach a th' ann an CalMac agus cha bheag an t-iongnadh ged a bhiodh iomagain ann gum faodadh an eachdraidh mhath seo crìochnachadh.

Tuigidh daoine cuideachd carson a bhiodh luchd-obrach ChalMac draghail mu shochair peinnsean is mar sin air adhart, ach tha amharas agam nach eil na daoine a tha an urra ris na h-aiseagan idir cho soilleir mun amas aig aonaidhean a tha a' bagairt tuilleadh stailcean a nì uimhir de chron air eaconamaidh agus beatha nan coimhearsnachdan aca.

'S e an trioblaid le stailc gur iad slugh neòichiontach aig nach eil cothrom buaidh a thoirt air cùisean a bhios a' fulang, seach luchd-fastaidh nam feadhna a th' air stailc.

Tuigear cuideachd aig àm sam bheil ionmhas poblach cho teann gum bheil e tarraingeach dhan riaghaltas feuchainn ri cosgais leithid seirbheisean Chluaidh is Innse Gall dhan sporan phoblach a lùghdachadh.

Dh'iarramaid a bhith furasta dèiligeadh rinn, adhartach nar sealadh is a' cur air dòigh àrainneachd

dhoigheil dhan luchd-obrach againn, cho math ri bhith aithnichte mar chompanaidh a tha a' leasachadh eaconamaidh is a' libhrigeadh sàr sheirbheise do ar luchd-cleachdaidh is na coimhearsnachdan a tha sinn a' frithealadh.

Tha gach neach a tha an urra ris an t-seirbheise an dòchas gun tèid aig CalMac air amasan a' Chathraiche a choileanadh!

ONE REASON for CalMac's success has been that its lifeline services were staffed largely by workers belonging to the dependent communities.

Equally, strike action by ferry crews causes disruption and economic damage to these communities.

Those who depend on the services will hope that the CalMac chairman's aspirations in the company's 2014 annual report can be realised:

'We want to be easy to engage with, forward-looking and provide our employees with a great place to work, as well as being recognised as economic enablers and leading providers to our customers and the communities we serve.'

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

### Press policy

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

We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

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

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

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

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

We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

### Your letters

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

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

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

Anonymous letters or those supplied without a

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

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**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**

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## Bringing faster internet to north Skye

WORK is ongoing to bring faster internet to a rural north Skye community.

The Glendale trust has published the results of a consultation on the 'inadequacy' of current broadband in the area, as BT's superfast broadband roll-out will not be available.

To prevent the communities of Glendale, Watnish and Duntulm on Skye missing out, the trust has suggested they take matters into their own hands and hope to set up a body to take forward a broadband project.

Elgar Finlay, development officer for the Glendale trust, said: 'The trust set up its superfast broadband project to explore the provision of adequate internet connectivity to communities in Glendale, not just for technical convenience, but to try to safeguard communities across north Skye from the otherwise inevitable consequences of becoming second-class citizens in the information age.'

'Education, employment, health care, leisure - every aspect of our daily lives is increasingly dependent on what has become the 'third utility' and when commercial broadband suppliers decide not to provide that service in rural communities, self help is an attractive option.'

This 'self help' will begin with a working group meeting on Wednesday (July 22) in Glendale hall. Anyone interested in joining the group to take forward the project is welcome to attend at 7.30pm and can contact Mr Finlay via [Elgar.finlay@theglendaletrust.org](mailto:Elgar.finlay@theglendaletrust.org)

## Apprenticeships prove successful

MORE than 1,000 modern apprenticeships were carried out in the Highlands in the last year, figures have shown.

The report from Skills Development Scotland also shows that 11 per cent of 16 to 24-year-olds in employment in the region were apprentices.

There have been 25,000 new modern apprenticeship places in Scotland during the last year, with 1,269 of them in the Highlands.

Anthony Standing, Skills Development Scotland's head of region for the Highlands, said: '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 apprentices that so many have successfully completed or are on their way to completing their apprenticeship.'

# Fellowship honour for doctor Sen

A PRESTIGIOUS award has been given to retired Fort William doctor, Su Sen.

The general practitioner was awarded the Paul Harris fellowship by the Rotary club of Lochaber, the highest accolade of the organisation, for service in the community.

In the Lochaber rotary's 65 years of existence less than a dozen of these fellowships have been awarded.

Dr Sen has already been awarded a MBE for his community work, during which he founded both the original Lochaber Medical and Lochaber Nurses societies, set up the first local endoscopy service in the mid 1970s, started the hospital's first medical library, founded the Lochaber Council on Alcohol and served as a counsellor until as recently as 2012.

He was a director of the citizens' advice bureau, a founder member and chair for 10 years on the Lochaber Disability Access panel, and set up and chaired Lochaber Action on Disability.

The popular GP practiced in Fort William for more than 40 years, but also found time to volunteer for community projects including Kilmallie Gardens, Claggan Greenfingers, Caol in Bloom, Corpach Marina and the



**HONOURED:** a prestigious rotary award was presented to retired doctor, Su Sen, for his community work. From left: Su Sen, his wife Shirley, rotary district governor, Andy Lees, and Dr Sen's son, Robin.

**“**  
We are proud to have promoted this mark of international recognition.  
**”**

**Terry Lee**  
president, Lochaber Rotary

Caol Regeneration Group. Dr Sen also put his medical skills to good use, working with the Red Cross, the St John's Ambulance Service, Lochaber Deaf Care and many sporting events including the Lochaber Marathon.

Terry Lee, president of Lochaber rotary, said: 'Su has been a member of our club for 45 years. His list of achievements and community projects has been enormous and we are proud to have promoted this mark of international recognition.'

## Transport minister hears air fare group's demands

A CAMPAIGN for cheaper flights to and from Scottish islands has gone national as the group met with the transport minister.

Members of 'Islands Against Flybe and Loganair's excessive prices', which has almost 15,000 online supporters, met with Derek Mackay, the Scottish government's minister for transport and the islands, in Glasgow to find out what he could do to bring down 'crushing' air fares. The group previously met with representatives from the airlines.

Scott Preston, campaign founder, said: 'We specifically addressed what the Scottish government could do to assist us in bringing down fares that are crushing island economies and pulling apart families and Mr Mackay was interested to hear

some of the real life experiences from individuals who had been in touch. The minister was keen to stress that he and his team were committed to finding a long-term sustainable way to lower costs for air travel to and from the islands which was a very positive outcome. It is clearly a particularly complex issue because of the numbers of people and organisations involved, so there is no short term fix which means solutions won't happen immediately. But it appears all parties are keen to work together to find a way forward.'

Mr Preston added the next step is to secure further meetings with Highlands and Islands Airports Limited to explain the impact of costs on island communities and with the UK government to address the issue of air passenger duty.

## Controversial Glen Affric wind farm plan rejected

A CONTROVERSIAL wind farm proposal for one of Scotland's most scenic landscapes has been rejected.

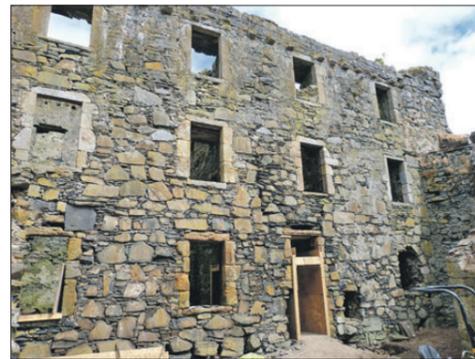
The project by German developers, WPD, which involved erecting six 400-foot turbines on the edge of Glen Affric, near Strathglass, sparked outrage from the John Muir Trust, hillwalkers, community groups and tourists. A campaign to stop the development raised the support of more than 1,000 people and, this week, a Scottish government reporter refused planning permission.

Glen Affric is hugely popular with tourists, which the surrounding communities rely on to sustain their fragile economy, and this was considered in a 38-page report by the Scottish government, rejecting the development.

Campaign group, Friends of Glen Affric Say No, expressed delight at the decision, after more than a year of fighting against the wind farm.

A spokesman for the group said: 'This was always the wrong place for a wind farm and the decision is a triumph for common sense and people power. Many thanks to each and every one of our members for their support and for their contribution to achieving this result.'

Helen McDade, head of policy for the John Muir Trust, added: 'We warmly welcome this decision, which is a victory not just for those local communities who have campaigned strongly against the proposal, but also those of us who believe Scotland's wild land is a precious national asset worthy of protection.'



**CLOSE TO COLLAPSE:** the castle before the restoration project.

Photograph by Jon Haylett



**TRANSFORMED:** the project is nearing completion.

Photograph by Jon Haylett

## Ruined castle transformed into luxury holiday retreat

A RUINED castle in the Highlands has almost been fully restored after two years of extensive work.

Mingary Castle, near Kilchoan, was close to collapse after it lay derelict for 150 years, but it will now be turned in to a holiday retreat.

Donald Houston, estate owner, was granted permission to restore the ruin by Mingary Castle Preservation Trust in 2013.

Local historian, Jon Haylett, has been blogging about the work. He said: 'Although the work has been done in a short space of time it is of the best quality.'

The 700-year-old ruin is already a prominent a tourist attraction in Lochaber. It will be used as a holiday letting house and is expected to be open for business next month.

## TIMESLINE

### Delight as salmon firm is revived

A HEBRIDEAN salmon smoke-house is to re-open under a well-known name after closing earlier this year.

The South Uist business had been sold by owner, Loch Duart salmon and smoking, but will resume this month with the former 'Salar' brand being revived.

New proprietor, Iain MacRury, said: 'We plan to foster local trade and home delivery customers. Local sales have traditionally been very strong and there are home delivery customers ready to order. This will allow us to build on a solid base for the future.'

'I would like to thank Loch Duart for two things. Firstly, helping me to bring this deal to completion and, secondly, for turning away other offers enabling this iconic business to be retained locally within the community.'

### Travellers welcome at new way hostel

A LOCHABER hotel has been converted into a hostel for those travelling the Great Glen way.

The Saddle Mountain hostel in Invergarry, on the Fort William to Inverness long-distance path, has been converted from hotel to hostel for walkers, cyclists and other visitors to the Highlands.

Helen Cunningham, who runs the hostel with her partner, Gregor Barclay, said: 'We've done a lot of travelling and always thought that we'd eventually like to do something within the sector. When the site became available we decided the time was right to make the move.'

### SNP picks its man to fight election

ALASDAIR Allan will stand in the Scottish government elections for a third time next May, it has been confirmed.

The Na h-Eileanan an Iar MSP has represented the Western Isles at Holyrood since the SNP won the seat from Labour in 2009 and was unanimously chosen by SNP Western Isles at the weekend.

Mr Allan said: 'It has been a real honour to do this job and if the people of the islands wish me to, I will be honoured to do it again. Working with Angus MacNeil MP and the SNP's council group, I intend to make sure the islands have the strong voice they need on issues as varied as transport links, tackling fuel poverty and creating jobs.'



**CHOSEN:** Alasdair Allan

### Highland games kicks off gala week

THE COMMUNITY of Morvern is busy preparing for its annual games and gala week which kicks off with Highland games in Lochaline this Saturday, July 18.

The event features sport for children and adults as well as heavy lifting competitions at Knock park from 10am, running through to evening entertainment in Lochaline social club.

Lochaline primary school's parent council is to host a duck race at Ardnornish from 10am on Sunday, followed by a raft race and clay pigeon shooting from 1pm.

Later in the week, there will be a table tennis tournament, zumba, indoor bowls and walks, den building and football. Participants can cool down after these activities with a craft and produce sale in Lochaline village hall from 10am on Thursday July 23, with refreshments and home baking. As the week draws to a close there are fishing competitions and snorkelling sessions, finishing off with a children's crab-catching contest and ladies game of rounders on Sunday July 26.

For more information contact 07557 511161, 07779 467394 or see the Morvern games and gala week Facebook page.



**SUCCESS:** Conan won overall best pedigree at Lochaber companion dog show. He is pictured with owner, Kayleigh Buchanan

## Record turnout at annual dog show

A SHOW celebrating man's best friend saw dog owners from all over the west Highlands raise more than £500 for the Skye retired greyhound trust.

Lochaber and district canine society's annual companion dog show saw a record turnout of more than 40 dogs at the Nevis Centre last week.

With prizes for best veteran to waggiest tail, organisers reported a great event.

Morag Mackell, secretary of the canine society, said: 'It was lovely to have people aged from seven to 70 and from as far away as Crianlarich who all came together with their dogs and had a good evening and were incredibly generous. Thanks to everyone.'

Prizewinners:  
Novelty category, judged by Mark Leggat of Crown Vets: Veteran, Fiona Ford

with Hamish; Crossbreed, Mr Dunlop with Baxter; Condition, Stephen Purdon with Toby; Waggiest tail, Shannon McCallum with Buttons; Junior handler, Adi Lev with Spot; Prettiest bitch, Penny Watt with Poppy; Handsomest dog, Bill Clifford with Magnus; Overall best in novelty, Penny Watt with Poppy.

Pedigree category, judged by Arleen Walker: Puppy, Jacquie Christie with Dazzle; Junior, Bill Clifford with Magnus; Terrier and hound, Catherine Putman with Freya; Gundog, Catherine Putman with Floss; Toy and utility, Nan MacLeod with Mia; Working and pastoral, Kayleigh Buchanan with Conan; Best in open, Jackie MacDonald with Suri; Overall best in pedigree, Kayleigh Buchan with Conan.

## Witness appeal and security reminder

POLICE are appealing for witnesses or information in relation to the following crimes:

During the night of Sunday July 5, a water pump was removed from a touring caravan parked in the West End car park in Fort William. On Friday July

20, the lock on a dwelling house was vandalised. The incident is thought to have taken place between the hours of 3.50pm and 6.05pm on Righ street in Onich.

An adhesive substance was smeared onto the lock on the

door, which caused damage. Police are reminding members of the public to secure their properties and valuables and to lock all outhouses, sheds and parked vehicles.

Lochaber police also request assistance from the community

in the timely reporting of any suspicious persons, vehicles or activity.

Reports can be made to police on 101 or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 or online at <http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/>

## Fort residents dig deep for Children in Need funds

THE PEOPLE of Fort William have helped to raise more than £1,800 for Children in Need with the town's Bank of Scotland branch.

The bank marked a year-long sponsorship of the charity with

an open day last week and with a raffle, tombola, face painting and collection raised £930.

Bank of Scotland have pledged to match what was raised on the day, bringing the total amount to £1,860.



**Money Matters**  
with Iain Cairns

**The importance of good financial advice**

Good financial advice is always important, particularly in a constantly changing financial and legal environment. Last week's "emergency" Budget, as with all Budgets, was a mix of measures affecting the national finances and measures affecting our household finances.

Included in the new rules announced was a package of welfare reforms, a living wage set at £9 an hour to be introduced by 2020 and an overhaul of business taxation. George Osborne also announced that from April next year, the amount you can earn before you start paying income tax will be set at £11,000 (currently £10,500) and the amount you can earn before you can start paying the higher rate will be £43,000.

At the moment, if you have a buy-to-let mortgage you can offset the interest you pay on that mortgage against your income tax and that can be worth 45% for the highest earners. From 2017 however, the amount of tax relief you can claim will be limited to 20%. The Chancellor also announced a change to inheritance tax which is levied when people die and in many cases pass their home to the next generation. An increasing number of

properties are being caught within the inheritance tax net, but the Chancellor has introduced a series of measures that will mean homes valued up to £1m could be potentially tax free. These are only a few of the changes that will have a real impact on individual finances in the next year and beyond. Argyll Financial Services limited help many individuals and businesses throughout Argyll on issues ranging from Investment and Pension advice to Residential and Buy to Let mortgage planning. Contact us on 01369706198 or info@argyllfinancial.co.uk to help us secure your financial future.

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# Finance & Legal matters

FINANCE and law are complex matters and it is becoming increasingly difficult to navigate today's legislation and regulations.

This is why you should always consult professional advice with all matters in your financial life.

There is no escaping the fact that times are hard and money is tight.

The chancellor, George Osborne, presented a budget which, although presenting a new, 'living wage', was still expected to leave some people worse off than last year.

But if you think you simply don't have as much money in your pocket to spend,

you shouldn't worry, as savings can be made in many aspects of life.

And, it's not all doom and gloom. In 2014, real disposable income increased by 2.3 per cent, the fastest rate of annual growth since 2010, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

However, despite a small deficit reduction after a rise in exports in the last three months of 2014, the UK's current account deficit for last year as a whole widened to £97.9billion, from £76.7billion in 2013. The ONS say it now equates to 5.5 per cent of GDP, the largest in percentage terms since annual records began in 1948.

So making every penny count is vital, and with the Oban Times finance and legal matters feature, we hope to offer some of the best financial advice available.

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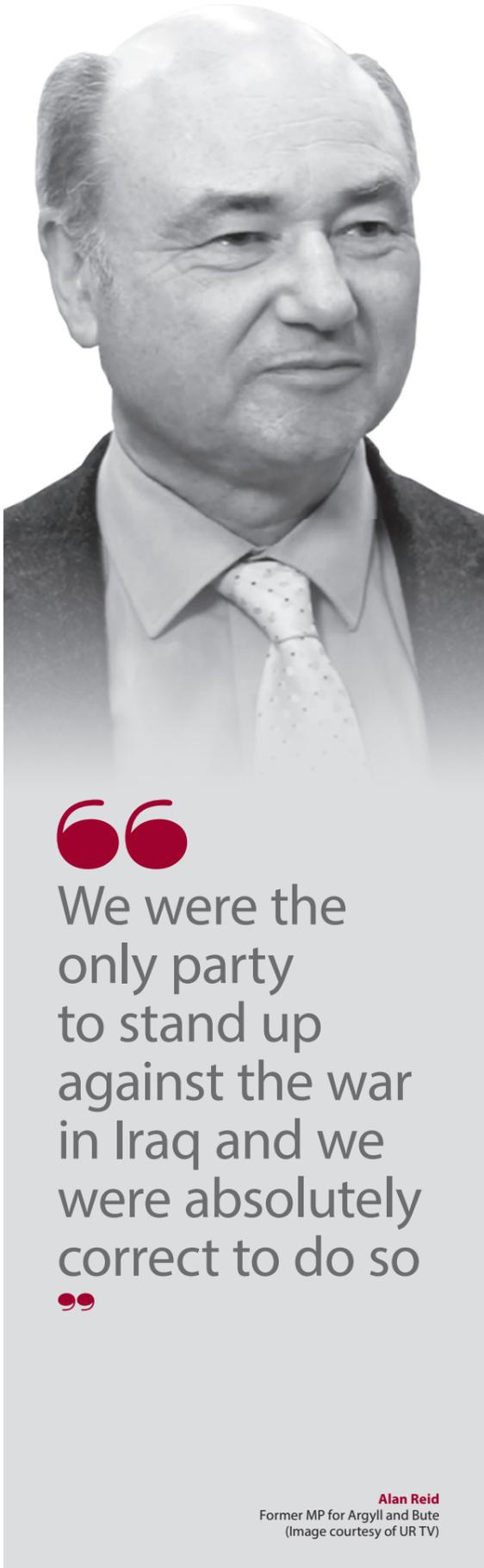
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Agenda: the people ● the issues ● the back story



We were the only party to stand up against the war in Iraq and we were absolutely correct to do so



**Alan Reid**  
Former MP for Argyll and Bute  
(Image courtesy of UR TV)

# Defeated MP still believes it was right to sign up to a coalition with the Tories

THEY say a week is a long time in politics, so what about 14 years? That came to an abrupt end on May 7 for Alan Reid as he lost his Argyll and Bute seat in the Westminster election to the SNP. Here he reveals the highs and lows of his political career. A highly-skilled exponent of the game of chess, does he have any surprising moves for the future? **Niall Hickman** reports

Last week, Alan Reid finally wound up his parliamentary office in Dunoon, having served his constituents since June 2001 and he did so with a mixture of sadness and satisfaction.

'The computers have gone last week and that was it,' said the 60-year-old Ayrshire-born Reid. 'It is obviously somewhat sad and since the general election I have certainly been catching up on my sleep.'

'The life of a Westminster politician is certainly a very enjoyable and rewarding one, but it is also extremely hard work. Mind you, gone are the days when MPs used to debate important matters of state at 2am. Having said that, there were many, many late nights and lots of travelling. That part I won't miss.'

'I was very disappointed to lose my seat, but I thoroughly enjoyed my 14 years, apart from the last bit. It was satisfying and exhausting and I made a lot of friends in what is a very interesting constituency.'

'I was at the heart of some hugely important events, none more so than the vote which sent us into the Iraq war under Tony Blair.'

'Being involved when momentous events in history are being made is significant and it is re-assuring to know that the LibDems, as a party, were right about it, as history has proved. We were the only party to stand up against the war in Iraq and we were absolutely correct to do so.'

'At least Tony Blair debated the matter in parliament, whereas Margaret Thatcher simply told the nation she was sending a task force to the Falkland Islands.'

As for matters closer to hand, Reid says one issue above all others fills him with a genuine sense of achievement. 'I was one of five LibDem MPs, including Danny Alexander, who got the five pence discount on fuel duty for islanders, which has now been extended to many parts of the mainland. We had pushed for it for years and it was only when we became junior members of a coalition government that we could finally get it through. I'd say that was a highlight for me because it did make a change, for the better.'

As for the election, Reid is adamant it was the voting system, the so-called 'first past the post,' which unceremoniously booted his party out of Scotland. It underlined how

politics can be the cruellest cut of all as the LibDems were left with one seat north of the border. Which begs the question, why?

He said: 'Scottish politics is now dominated by one issue, independence, which means when the SNP collected around 50 per cent of the votes and the other three pro-union parties were all splitting their share, the SNP won everywhere.'

'The Labour vote collapsed and most of those voters went over to the SNP. Mind you, I must have been one of the few who stood for Westminster and actually got more votes in May than in 2010 and still lost. The fact is though, my gains were simply smaller than the SNPs.'

'Of those voters I met on the doorstep, very few were anti-LibDem. It was just that this was an election with one over-riding issue and that severely damaged us.'

'Were we right as a party to go into coalition with the Conservatives? Yes, I think we were. At the time Greece and the Euro currency was

in meltdown and what was needed for Britain was a strong hand on the tiller. We helped to provide that. We could not have allowed months of uncertainty to drag on.'

'Obviously as the junior members of a coalition, we suffered when it came to the election, while the Tories reaped the benefits of an improving economy.'

So what now for Reid who, prior to his election to the House of Commons, was a computer project manager at Glasgow University, having gained a degree in maths from neighbouring Strathclyde University.

'I was a computer programmer for 23 years, but it's fair to say I think my knowledge would be a bit archaic now. I genuinely don't know what I am going to do next. I may stay in politics and there are the Scottish parliamentary elections coming up next year which many friends and colleagues have suggested I should stand for,' he said.

'I am hoping to stay in the area, but I have an open mind about the

future. We shall see what turns up. For weeks I have been concentrating on winding up the office, but once that is done I will have to look around and see what the future holds. And that could mean staying in politics in some shape or form.'

Reid had ambitions to become a chess grand master in his younger years and his talent was evident as the future MP represented Scotland and once even drew with world champion, Nigel Short.

'But he was about ten at the time' said Reid, rather disarmingly. 'Of course, I took the game very seriously, but I haven't played now for about five or six years. A bit like with other sports such as golf, you don't get a lot of time being an MP, so chess went by the wayside. Maybe I will start playing again soon. I'd like to.'

The endgame is now in Reid's hands.

'Yes, they say in the first year of retirement you can do all the things you always wanted to. I shall try.'



ENDGAME: Alan Reid accepts the inevitable as he loses his seat in the tidal wave of nationalism that swept across Scotland during the general election in May

AN award-winning poet and author from Mull published her second novel this week, enticingly described as a 'mildly erotic archaeological romance'.

Yvonne Marjot works during the day as a clerical assistant at Tobermory high school, but in her spare time she writes both poetry and novels and her second tome is a follow-up to her hugely successful 'The Calgary Chessman'.

That was based on her love for Calgary Bay in Mull, an unspoilt golden-sanded beach, which Yvonne admits could land her in hot water with the locals.

She said: 'I bump into people on the island and they keep telling me to stay quiet about how beautiful Calgary Bay is so it stays that way. I can't help it I'm afraid. It is my favourite place and it's fair to say it was the inspiration behind my writing. I love nature and I love archaeology and there is so much beauty and intrigue on an island like Mull.'

Yvonne published 'The Book of Lismore' this week, the second in a trilogy, which she insists is very much a labour of love.

'I'm not writing to make money at all, but because I enjoy it so much,' said the 53-year-old mother of three. 'I have always written, ever since I was a girl growing up in New Zealand. I was forever making up stories, even when I was very little.'

Yvonne was born in Kent but moved to the southern hemisphere in her childhood, before returning



# Romancing the bones

to Britain in 1996. She married an Irishman, whose passion for Mull was such that the pair made the island their home and although that marriage faltered, her adoration for the region has not.

Yvonne said: 'This is my spiritual home and I can't imagine being anywhere else. It is such a glorious place to live, even in the depths of winter.'

In 2012, Yvonne won the prestigious BritWriters Poetry Prize and two years later, her debut novel became an Amazon books bestseller.

'I was surprised by how well it did, surprised but delighted,' she said. 'The book is still selling well and hopefully people who liked it will move on to The Book of Lismore.'

So where did Yvonne get the inspiration for her second novel, which she temptingly describes as a mildly erotic archaeological romance?

'Now that would be telling,' she said. 'All I can say is, read it and I hope you enjoy!'

'I've already finished the third and final book in the trilogy and that should be published next year. Then I've got a lot more writing to do as it is my passion, so I'm looking around for new ideas.'

GOOD READ:  
Author Yvonne Marjot pictured in front of her beloved Calgary Bay in Mull

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## Taynuilt and Mull set for Highland Games

The next big events on the games calendar are the Taynuilt and Mull Highland Games. The Taynuilt games will be held on Saturday, July 18, at the sports field, while the Mull games will take place at Erray Park in Tobermory on Thursday, July 23.

The Taynuilt games are renowned for thrilling traditional athletics, dance and piping in a beautiful rural setting. In addition to the usual events such as caber tossing, shot put and track, novelty events bring an element of silliness to the day's proceedings. A pillow fight, three-legged race and sack race have the villagers out showing their dexterity, but the highlight is the pole climb - a bottle of whisky at the top is the incentive.

The dancing events start at 11am. Admission is £6 for adults, £3 concession, with free parking. With a picture perfect backdrop of the Sound of Mull, Morvern and Ardnamurchan, the Mull Games are always a good time. Locals and visitors from around the world will compete in the traditional hill run, hammer throw and the ever popular tug o' war. Oban High and Isle of Mull Pipe bands and Scottish country dancers will entertain the crowds and stalls will offer refreshments, beverages and goodies. The MacLean Association will have a marquee on the field, and clan members from around the world are invited.

The fun kicks off at 10.30am with the Grand March departing Ledaig. Entries for all competi-

titions must be on the field by 11am. Admission is £6, £4 for children and £18 for families. For more information, visit www.tobermory.co.uk.



## Fun for the whole family at Lismore Sports and Raft Race



Residents of the Isle of Lismore are gearing up for the annual Sports and Raft Race to be held on July 25 at Salen Bay. Billed as a 'fun filled day for all the family,' the day kicks off with the raft race at 12.30. Participants are invited to build their own rafts. There will be children's races and heavy events including the hammer,

sheaf, shot and discus. The event concludes with a tug o' war between the north and south island residents. Trophies and cash prizes are up for grabs. Refreshments and a barbecue will be available all day and a dance in the public hall will be held afterwards. All events are free and open to everyone.



**Fort William hosts 'best art' event**

A NEW exhibition will open in Fort William this weekend, featuring some of the best art in Scotland.

'A Window to the West' will be in the Lime Tree Gallery from Saturday (July 18) until August 30 and will showcase collections from the Royal Scottish Academy (RSA) in Edinburgh. The exhibition celebrates the inspirational landscape of the West Highlands through paintings and sketches from some of Scotland's best loved artists, featuring the work of William Beattie Brown, Sir William Gillies, Frances Walker and Alex Boyd.

## Artist collective avant garde Highland

CALLING all Highlanders and Islanders! 'Anywhere But the Cities' is set to hit Oban, Achaphubuil and Mull as it tours the roads less travelled in Scotland with its unique blend of literature, music and poetry. Sporting the tagline 'Art is for everyone,' the team of artists behind the collective Neu! Reekie! look to create a 'cultural map' of Scotland with this tour of its more remote areas.

'We're bringing a Mercury Prize nominated musician with number one albums under his belt, a best selling novelist with a major feature film on the way and one of Scotland's most exciting writers and live performers,' said Neu! Reekie! co-founder and cast member Michael Pedersen, an award-winning poet and playwright.

The Oban area leg of the tour features a diverse group of artists. Novelist, performer and playwright, Alan Bisset of Falkirk, counts the Glenfiddich Spirit of Scotland Writer of the Year among his many awards. His one-man shows have seen him performing as several species of spider, a wasp, the feminist campaigner, Andrea Dworkin, and Moira, the hardest woman in Falkirk.

Jenni Fagan is a Scottish novelist best known for The Panopticon published in 2012. In 2013, Fagan was named in the Granta list of Best Young British Novelists.

Kevin Williamson is a poet, publisher and activist hailing from Caithnes. He is a co-founder of Neu! Reekie! and founder of the internationally celebrated cult publishers, Rebel Inc.

FOUND is a BAFTA winning band and arts collective, having released records through the Fence Collective and Chemikal Underground. Members Ziggy Campbell and Kev Sim have been shortlisted for Scottish Album of the Year and have performed in Europe, the United States, China and Japan.

Bill Ryder-Jones & Company is best known as guitarist for internationally renowned band, The Coral. His discography includes everything from writing and performing soundtracks and film scores to releasing his own material. For this event, Bill is joined by a member of his touring band.

'We'll be swapping stories for whisky and visiting faces and places - the whole affair will be captured for broadcast and beyond.'

## A brush with success: Gwenan wins young artist of the year

THE TALENT of youth in Lochaber was celebrated with the rotary club awards for young artist of the year.

Gwenan Kirk of Lochaber high school won first prize and received a trophy along with a £100 voucher for art supplies.

Margaret Boyd, youth activities convener for the rotary club of Lochaber, named Maddie Lennon, also of Lochaber high, and Lucia Pereiro, of Caol primary, as runners-up.

This year's four highly commended artists were Emma Cameron, Ardnamurchan high, Florianna Lawrence, Lochaline primary, Sharlene Campbell and Arianne Chambers, both Lochaber high.

Terry Lee, president of the rotary club of Lochaber, said: 'Once again we see a wealth of talent in our youngsters in Lochaber.'



TALENTED: Gwenan year from rotarian left, and Lucia Pereiro

## Youngsters take centre stage at ceilidh



The Mid Argyll group at last Thursday's ceilidh in Taynuilt

THERE was a youthful theme at last Thursday's ceilidh in Taynuilt with all the performers aged between 12 and 16.

Pipers, Abbie Williams and Alastair MacLean, both members of Mid Argyll Pipe Band, showed their versatility by singing solos as well as playing rousing pipe tunes.

There were excellent solo and duet performances from Inveraray pair, Cara Blyth and Holly Renton, while Tiegan Holroyd from Lochgilphead gave impressive performances on her flute and 12-year-old Calum MacDonald performed well on the accordion.

Ailie Munro from the Isla Sinclair Dancers gave her usual first class exhibition of Highland dancing.

Fear an Taighe for the evening was Davy Paterson.

# Michael Pedersen brings the show to the Islands and Islands



Michael Pedersen is one of the artists performing in *Anywhere But the Cities*.

Michael said. Oban Chocolate Company will host *Anywhere But the Cities* at 6pm tomorrow (Friday).

"The show is free, and each audience member will be offered a complimentary nip of a fine single malt that's being taste matched to a chocolate," added Michael.

The *Achaphubuil* show is also free, and will be held at The Lengths on Saturday, July 18 at 7pm. It will be at An Tober on Tobermory, Mull, on Wednesday, July 22 at 8.30pm. Entry for the Mull show is £10/£8 concession.

The tour is sponsored by Dewar's, Neu! Reekie! and FOUND. "Lots and lots of whisky will complement these events, after all, (Dewar's) brand ambassador, Stephen Marshall, has been described as a philanthropic whisky guru," Michael said.



an Kirk receives the prize for the Lochaber rotary young artist of the year, Margaret Boyd. Also pictured are runners-up, Maddie Lennon, Maire, front, with highly commended Arienne Chambers

A FORMER Rockfield primary school pupil has been selected for the UK finals of the prestigious Miss International and Miss Intercontinental contest.

Emily MacLachlan, a fashion design student at Heriot Watt University, is hoping she can win the competition as she is representing Argyll.

She is also aiming to have the added prestige of winning while wearing outfits she has designed personally. Emily, 22, who also studied at Strathallan school in Perthshire, explained: "This competition will provide an exciting opportunity to represent Argyll and promote the area. I will also be able to showcase one of my own dress designs. While travelling in Indonesia last month, the traditional fabrics and intricate beading detail provided inspiration for my main evening dress piece."

"It was a great opportunity to select fabric and work with the highly skilled dressmakers in this part of the world."

Aside from her chosen career of fashion, Emily enjoys a variety of hobbies.

"With Glencoe and Aonach Mor ski resorts on our doorstep, I spent many weekends skiing. After school and a few months working as a waitress at Eeusk, I went to Courchevel in the French Alps and attained my BASI one and two ski instructor qualifications before teaching skiing in Italy."

"I also enjoy sailing and am looking forward again to West Highland Week in early August. I attained my day skipper licence a few years ago and hope to build on my experience again this year. West Highland Week is always an action-packed fun week."



Emily MacLachlan, who will be entering the Miss International and Miss Intercontinental competitions.

Also a former member of North Argyll Pony Club, Emily said she learnt much about horse care on the camps and rallies with the club. Before going to university, she worked for a year riding and grooming horses for Olympic eventing medallist, Karen Dixon.

The Grand Final of the competition will be held on July 19.

There will be four winners crowned at the event - Miss International United Kingdom, and Miss Intercontinental England, Scotland and Wales.

## Will MacLean returns to An Lanntair

A RELATIONSHIP between an artist and exhibition spanning 30 years will continue next year as Will MacLean returns to An Lanntair.

Mr MacLean's latest work, 'A Fiaradh Gun Iar: Veering Westerly' will be shown in the Lewis art centre from August 7.

The powerful exhibition from the Inverness-born artists will include drawings, constructions, sculptures and even poetry.

Mr MacLean was involved with An Lanntair since it's opening programme in 1985 and has

hosted numerous shows there in the years since.

Malcolm MacLean, board member of An Lanntair, said: "No other visual artist has contributed more to the promotion and resurgence of 21st century Gaelic culture."

"His work has ranged across all of Gaeldom's big subjects, from his early homage to the Ring Net fishing tradition to renewal of the Scottish Irish connect."

A public opening with Mr MacLean will take place at An Lanntair at 5pm on August 7.

## Czech this - choir raises the roof and charity cash



More than 200 people attended a concert at the Duncansburgh Mackintosh church hall, performed by the Janacek Choir, from the Czech Republic

MORE THAN 200 people piled into Fort William's Duncansburgh Mackintosh church hall to listen to a choir from the Czech Republic.

The Janacek Choir, of Bohemia, stopped in the town on July 7 as part of their whistle-stop tour of the West Highlands, for a performance sponsored by the Rotary club of Lochaber.

Former Rotary president, John Hutchison, welcomed the group in their own language before the Janacek Choir treated the audience to 18 songs from soft melodic numbers to hall-bursting, full-voiced, folk songs.

Earlier in the day, Janacek members had visited

Arisaig to see the memorial for the Czech and Slovakian soldiers who had trained at Traigh. As well as an evening of entertainment, the event raised almost £900 for rotary causes.

Lochaber rotary president, Terry Lee, said: "It's not often I'm lost for words. The concert far exceeded all that I was expecting. The choir completely blew me away with its world class performance and I cannot thank them enough."

"Thanks to them, and to the public who supported the event, charities will benefit to the tune of nearly £900."

## Film-making prize up for grabs

A COMMUNITY filmmaking competition has been launched as part of a Gaelic music and dance festival. FilmG offers an award for best community film during South Uist's Ceòlas. A prize of £1,000 will be given to the winning community, to be used for a local event or to purchase film-making equipment. Floraidh Forrest, FilmG's project manager, said: "Over the years, we've had some fantastic films entered into the competition and it's great to be able to show them at this fantastic festival that

brings the whole community together. "We hope to get greater participation from communities in places like Uist who have a wealth of interesting stories that would make great documentaries or dramas. And you don't need to be Stephen Spielberg to enter, as long as the film tells a good story, is watchable and includes plenty of Gaelic." The competition is open for entries until December 16 and this year's theme is "Clìù", which translates as fame, prestige or reputation. All films must be in Scottish Gaelic. For more information contact ffo@filmg.co.uk.

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## Entertainment Guide

### Cinema

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17 JULY 2015 - 23 JULY 2015

#### MINIONS (U)

Fri: 11:00, 14:00 (3D); Sat: 11:00; Sun: 11:00, 14:00 (3D); Mon: 11:00, 14:00 (3D), Tue: 11:00, 14:45, Thurs: 11:00, 14:00 (3D)

#### ANT MAN (12A)

Fri: 11:15, 13:00, 16:15 (3D), 18:30, 22:00 (3D); Sat: 12:30 (3D), 13:00, 15:15, 18:30; Sun: 11:15, 13:00, 16:15 (3D), 19:15; Mon: 11:15, 13:00, 16:15 (3D), 18:30, 22:00 (3D); Tue: 12:00, 13:00, 18:30, 19:45 (3D); Wed: 12:00 (3D), 12:45, 14:45, 18:30; Thurs: 11:15, 13:00, 16:15 (3D), 18:30, 22:00 (3D)

#### TED 2 (15)

Fri: 19:15, 21:00; Sat: 21:00; Sun: 18:30; Mon: 19:15, 21:00; Tue: 17:00, 21:00; Wed: 21:00; Thurs: 19:15, 21:00

#### AGE OF ADALINE (12A)

Fri: 16:00; Sat: 16:00; Sun: 16:00; Mon: 16:00; Tue: 16:00; Wed: 15:15; Thurs: 16:00

#### KIDS CLUB

Sat: 10:00 - Showing Anastasia

#### ANDRE RIEU

Sat: 19:00

#### RSC MERCHANT OF VENICE

Wed: 19:00

### FILM SYNOPSIS

#### ANT-MAN SYNOPSIS

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#### AGE OF ADALINE SYNOPSIS

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### THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS

#### MONDAY:

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

#### TUESDAY:

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

#### WEDNESDAY:

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

#### THURSDAY:

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

#### FRIDAY:

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

#### SATURDAY:

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

#### SUNDAY:

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

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## Union warns against 'reckless' species introductions

Faced with a number of calls for large scale predators including bears, wolves and lynx to be introduced to the Scottish countryside, the National Farmers' Union of Scotland (NFUS) is looking to Scotland's politicians and the lead agency, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), to show stronger leadership in this area.

The union will meet Scotland's environment minister, Aileen McLeod, in the coming weeks to discuss species management.

The Minister is currently deciding on the introduction of beavers to Scotland – something which NFUS Scotland has consistently opposed.

NFUS vice president, Andrew McCormick, said: 'The landscape of modern-day Scotland is a rich mosaic. Although agriculture is the biggest single land use, our countryside provides food, forestry, tourism, renewables, field sports and environmental goods.'

'The Scottish public value the contribution that farmers and land managers make and the access that they have to that beautiful, managed environment across the whole of Scotland.'

'However, recent history has taught us that any species introduction – whether legal or illegal – can have an impact on the many benefits that the Scottish countryside currently delivers.'

'There are now farmers and crofters in some of Scotland's more remote areas losing lambs on a regular basis to sea eagles.'

'With a ministerial decision

on beavers pending, there are farmers on Tayside producing food on some of Scotland's most productive land, but seeing their efforts literally undermined by beaver damage to long-established drainage systems and waterways.'

Mr McCormick continued: 'The route to licensing species introductions, and the stakeholder consultation that would take place around such a plan, is in the hands of Scottish Natural Heritage. As part of the National Species Reintroduction Forum, our members can be reassured that NFUS will have a voice in that.'

'While we appreciate that there is an application process and a code around species

introduction to be followed, we feel that now is the time for both the Scottish Government and SNH to step out of the shadows on this debate and give a clear steer to farmers, crofters and land managers of where their thoughts lie on the possibility of species like wolves, bears and lynx being released here.'

'Farmers are justifiably concerned at what the introduction of predators could mean for their livestock, particularly the many thousands of sheep kept on Scotland's hills and uplands.'

'However, new species will also affect Scotland's existing biodiversity and ecosystems. Many farmers and land managers are already working with other Scottish stakeholders on priority

Scottish species such as wildcats, capercaillie and red squirrel and protecting and managing existing wildlife habitats.'

He added: 'I genuinely believe that Scotland's biodiversity is in good health, and farmers are at the heart of delivering that. Scotland's focus must be on integrating land use and the environment in a balanced way through the conservation of the species that we have.'

'That message must not be lost in headline-grabbing calls to create an imaginary Scottish landscape that hasn't properly existed for many centuries. Such moves could be very damaging – economically and ecologically – to Scotland's already flourishing environment.'

## DSC feedback 'extremely important'

THE final day for submitting feedback to Scotland's Rural College's (SRUC) consultation on the future of veterinary disease surveillance in Scotland was on Friday, July 10.

The consultation was launched at the start of June to gather views on proposals for potential changes involving Disease Surveillance Centres (DSCs) in Scotland.

It follows the 2011 Kinnaird Review of Veterinary Surveillance commissioned by the Scottish Government. Farmers, vets and other stakeholders throughout Scotland have voiced their opinion on the proposals. Staff of SRUC and its division SAC Consulting are also involved in the process. SRUC will shortly submit a report to the independent Strategic Management Board set up in the wake of the Kinnaird Review. SRUC will then liaise with the Scottish Government to finalise plans.

Brian Hosie, Head of SRUC's Veterinary Services said: 'The feedback gathered from around Scotland will be extremely important in shaping final decisions about the future of Scotland's Vet-

erinary Disease Surveillance system and we thank all those who have so far taken part in the consultation.' Final decisions will be made public in due course – timescales are dependent on discussions with the Strategic Management Board and the Scottish Government.



A trial reintroduction of European beavers to Knapdale was started in 2009 - the results are currently being assessed.

## Farmers and crofters present at sustainable food event

FARMERS from all sectors of the food industry were hosted in the UK parliament by Western Isles MP, Angus Brendan MacNeil.

This was part of an exhibition on sustainable food and farming and allowed the countrymen to demonstrate how their land is economically viable, productive and efficient.

The Scottish Crofting Federation was also represented at the London event.

Mr MacNeil, who represents the Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency, said: 'I was delighted to be able to attend this event and hear about how we can make our system of food and farming more sustainable.'

'It was also good to be able to meet with representatives from the Scottish Crofting Federation who are making their voice heard and putting crofting on the map in this type of arena.'

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**Market reports**

**STIRLING**

CALEDONIAN MARTS LTD, Tuesday, July 7, sold 1104 Prime Lambs, Hoggets, Cast Ewes and Tupps. Prime Lambs (847) sold to a SQQ average of 160.89p per kilo with a top price of £89 for a pen of Texels from J B Guthrie, Cultburn Farm, Muthill. Leading Prices Lambs, £ per head & p per kg: Tex - 207p or £89 Cultburn; Tex - 198p or £85 Killernie; Tex x - 178p Meikle Seggie or £80 Killernie; Cont - 176p Meikle Seggie or £79 Hilly and Golland; Cont x - 176p Golland, £79 Craigend; Suff - 165p Golland or £79 Collinson; Suff x - 164p Lower Tarr or £76 Craigend; Belt - 170p or £75 Cultburn. Also included in today's sale was the Show and Sale of Texel Lambs which was kindly judged by Alistair Beaton from A Gray (Butchers), Upper Craigs, Stirling. The show was held on behalf of the Scottish Texel Sheep Breeders Club and was sponsored by NFU Stirling. The awards were as follows - Pens of 3: Champion - Cultburn, 43kgs, 207p, £89; Reserve Champion - Martnaham Mains, 40kgs, 193p, £77; Class 1 - Texel x Scotch Mule (up to 42kgs) 1st - Auchenvivoch, 42kgs - 171p, £72; 2nd - Tullygarth, 40.5kgs - 160p, £64.50; 3rd - Golland - 39kgs - 164p, £64; Class 2 - Texel x Scotch Mule (42.1kgs plus) 1st - Easter Manual - 50kgs, 155p, £77.50; 2nd - Dollarbank - 44kgs, 150p, £66; 3rd - Tullygarth - 45.5kgs, 152p, £69; Class 3 - Texel x Any other breed (up to 42kgs) 1st - Martnaham Mains - 40kgs, 193p, £77; 2nd - Martnaham Mains - 41kgs, 161p, £66; 3rd - Meikle Seggie - 40kgs, 178p, £71; Class 4 - Texel x Any other breed (42.1kg plus) 1st - Cultburn - 43kgs, 207p, £89; 2nd - Killernie - 43kgs, 198p, £85; 3rd - Martnaham Mains - 45kgs, 169p, £72. Also forward were 257 Cast Ewes & Tupps which averaged £63.46 per head. Heavy and over fat ewes were cheaper by £5 on the week whilst leaner ewes met a marvellous trade. Leading Prices - Export Ewes: BF - £49 Culcreuch; BF - £42 Standingfauld; Chev - £74 Topps; Cross - £76 Tillyrie; Mule £76 Roseneath; £75 Dougal Estate; £72 Topps; Heavy Ewes Tex - £98 Easter Ochtermuthill and Easter Gormy; Cont - £96 Dougal Estate; Beltex - £86 Meikle Seggie; Suff - £84 Pett; BF1 - Mains of Burnbank; Tups BF - £78 Mains of Burnbank; Tex - £96 Cultburn; Beltex - £96 Cultburn.

Heifers averaged 230p per kilo selling to 248p per kilo for a 540kg Limousin from A & M Barr, Easter Buchlyvie, Crossgates and to £1589.28 for a 688kg Limousin from Mains of Culmalundie. Bulls averaged 198p per kilo selling to 226p per kilo for a 644kg Limousin from JH & NT Turnbull, Meadowend, Clackmannan and to £1743.56 for a 958kg Simmental from G L Clark, Broombrae, Auchtermuchty. Leading Prices: Bullocks: 240p - Nether Myres; 237p - Kinneil Mill, Brockwoodles, Easterton (Owen) and Moorfield; 236p - Dullomuir and Moorfield; 235p - Easterton, Moorfield and Balquharrage; 234p - Learielaw; Heifers: 247p - Meadowend, Brockwoodles and Classlochie; 246p - Mains of Culmalundie; 243p Hilton of Beath, Meadowend and Balquharrage; 245p - Brockwoodles; 242p - Hilton of Beath; 241p & 240p - Meadowend, Brockwoodles, Classlochie and Dullomuir; 239p - Hilton of Beath & Easter Buchlyvie; 238p - Learielaw; 237p Cander Mains: OTM Heifers sold to 216p per kilo for a Limousin from W Thomson & Son, Hilton of Beath, Kelly. Beef cows averaged 128p per kilo selling to 158p per kilo for a 630kg Luig from A Forrester, Bandominnie, Castleyard and to £1400 gross for a 878kg Limousin from T Hamilton, No. 7 Pardovan Holding, Linlithgow. Dairy cows averaged 103p per kilo (with a few shockers through them) selling to 134p per kilo from J Gilvear & Sons, Graystale, Stirling and to £910 from W Hamilton & Sons, Meldrum, Blairdrummond. Leading prices: Beef Cows 157p & 149p - Bandominnie; 145p - Gartfair; 141p - No. 7 Pardovan; Dairy Cows 127p - Inchgall; 121p - Meldrum; 118p - Aitkenhead; 112p - Carniel. A stronger show of 45 calves, met a very strong trade with a full ringside of buyers left wanting. Many more could have been sold to the vendor's advantage. Dairy Bull Calves (38) averaged £141.84 and sold to £320 & £285 from G Reade, Sgriob Ruadh Dairy, Tobermory. Beef Bull Calves (5) sold to £260 & £200 from G Reade, Sgriob Ruadh Dairy, Tobermory and Muirhead Dairy, Overton Farm, Alexandria. An AA Heifer sold to £160 from Overton Farm, Alexandria.

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United Auctions (Thursday 9th July 2015) sold 4061 Prime Sheep including 2556 spring lambs averaging 157.4p/kg 1505 ewes and rams. Spring Lambs (1399) - Nether Falla (Tex) £87.00; Lochran (Suff) £83.00; Woodhead of Aberdalgie (BTex) £79.50; Gateside of Broomhill (Zwart) £77.00; Shanry (Char) £70.00; Farden (Mule) £66.00; Little Drumquhar (BF) £51.50. Spring Lambs (1399) - West Park (BTex) 178p; Nether Falla (Tex) 172p; Touch Est (Mules) 170p; Wester Ochtermuthill (Suff) 166p; Shanry (Char) 166p; Muirpark (BF) 164p; Gateside of Broomhill (Zwart) 128p. Ewes (1454) - Walton (Tex) £119.50; Merryhill (Suff) £106.50; Easter Greenhill (X) £87.50; Halkerston (HB) £80.50; Blairmore (Mule) £72.50; Cherryfield, Glenrath & rashiehill (BF) £62.50. Rams (51) - Gathercauld (Tex) £147.00; West Lundie (BTex) £139.00; Overton (BFL) £134.00; Gathercauld (Suff) £119.00; Drackernburn (Cont) £101.00; Upper Kidston (BF) £89.50. Caledonian Marts Ltd's sale on Thursday, July 9 2015 sold 155 cattle comprising 100 Prime Bullocks, Heifers and Young Bulls, 55 Cast Cows and Bulls, 45 Sticks and Young Calves. A wonderful show of cattle for quality with all classes again dearer on the week and many more could have been sold. Bullocks averaged 224.5p per kilo selling to 261p per kilo for a 534kg Limousin from J Caldwell & Son, Moorfield, Kilmarnock and to £1775.14 gross for a 782kg Limousin from A S Hay, Mains of Culmalundie, Perth.

Caledonian Marts Ltd (Monday 13th July) sold 235 Store Cattle. Bullocks (132) averaged 233p per kg selling to 289p per kg for 265kg Simmentals from W Colquhoun & Son, Bumbrae, Gartocham and to £1290 for a 600kg Limousin from M Campbell, Glenstockdale, Stranraer. Heifers (92) averaged 232p per kg selling to 265p per kg for 300kg Charolais from Messrs Harrower, Craigievern, Ballfron Station and to £1250 for 575kg Simmentals from JG & K Graham, Easterton, Doune. Black & White Bullocks (11) averaged 171p per kg selling to 191p per kg for 390kg from G Aitken, Wester Whitefield, Dunfermline and to £745 from the same home. Leading Prices - Bullocks - £ per head £1205 Glenstockdale; £1190 & £1180 Muirmeal; £1175 Grahamsfield; £1170 Benloch & Glenstockdale; £1165 Graystale; £1160 & £1140 Glenstockdale; £1120 Ardgate & Graystale; £1105 No.5 Tomiaig (Campbeltown). Leading Prices - Heifers - £ per head £1140 Benloch; £1060 Glenstockdale; £1000 Rhoin (Campbeltown); £970 Braeside Dairy; £945 Graystale; £940 Giral; £930 Camreggan. Leading prices Bullocks p per kilo 273p Bumbrae; 270p Fearnoch (Lochgillp-head); 265p Craigievern; 258p Rhoin; 257p Glenstockdale; 251p & 250p Camreggan & Glenstockdale; 248p Aucharua (Campbeltown). Leading Prices - Heifers - p per kilo 261p Bumbrae; 256 Kilchamaig (Tarbert); 254p Bumbrae; 246p Kilchamaig; 245p Camreggan & Rhoin; 242p Camreggan & Kilchamaig.

ADVERTORIAL

# 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'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 Philippe. 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."

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
- Wemyss, 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

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.

For more information please contact:  
Simon Schneider Telephone 07801 474331  
Email info@simonschneiderantiques.co.uk

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## TV'S FAVOURITE ANTIQUES EXPERTS



Tim Hogarth



Simon Schneider

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FOR

### GOLD & SILVER

(Regardless of Condition)

### JEWELLERY & ANTIQUES

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### 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 recruitment

**Dunstaffnage Marina require part-time labourer to assist with general day-to-day jobs.**

Must have experience with boats, ropes, tying knots, using power tools  
Driving licence • Someone who is reliable  
Can swim • Used garden machinery  
Has customer service experience

**Advantages;**  
Has First Aid certificates  
Driven large machinery/boat travel hoists  
Has technical knowledge with boats

Apply by sending CV to Ranulph McLaughlan either by email or post  
**info@dunstaffnagemarina.com**  
**Dunstaffnage Marina, Dunbeg, Oban, PA37 1PX**

**R A Clement Associates**  
Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors

**JOB 1 - Trainee Accountant.** The candidate should be a college leaver or graduate with a desire to train as an accountant.

**JOB 2 - Qualified/Part Qualified Accountant** or person experienced in accounting procedures to work in our expanding Oban office.

Please apply by email to dg@raclement.co.uk, attaching your C.V. or in writing to Mr. Duncan Grout, R A Clement Associates, 5 Argyll Square, OBAN PA34 4AZ.  
**www.raclement.co.uk**

North Argyll Eventide Home Association Limited  
**NORTH ARGYLL HOUSE**  
Bealach an Rìgh, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG  
Tel. 01631 562168

**Domestic Vacancy**  
6 month contract 30hrs £7.46 per hr.

For an application form contact  
Manager Morag Telfer 01631 562168

**ALIENERGY**  
Argyll, Lomond & 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: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July  
Further information or job packs:  
**www.alienergy.org.uk**; 01631 565183 or **michelle@alienergy.org**

**Mid Argyll Community Pool**  
**Relief Duty Manager £11-12K 30Hrs/week**

Outgoing and enthusiastic person to be responsible for lifeguarding duties (training provided) and to assist in day-to-day running of the business. Experience within leisure industry or customer-focused role preferred.

Closing Date: **Friday 31 July 2015.**  
Application packs from  
**www.macpool.org.uk/recruitment**  
Charity Number: SC020084 • Company Number: 137229/1992

**Atlas Copco Construction and Mining**  
**Field Service Engineer**

Atlas Copco are currently looking for a Field Service Engineer to cover Northern Scotland to carry out servicing and maintenance on customer machines. We are looking for someone with experience of servicing mining and construction that is self-motivated with the ability to work individually and as part of a team. The successful candidate would receive a comprehensive career offer.

To apply please send you CV quoting reference PHAW-9XSCFX to **human.resources@uk.atlascopco.com** or Human Resources, Atlas Copco, Swallowdale Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP2 7EA.  
**Atlas Copco** Closing Date: 31st July 2015

**Ferguson Transport & 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**

**DunOllie**  
www.dunollie.org

**Community Engagement Officer**

We need a great communicator to coordinate our busy volunteer activities and to engage with the community with development of a wide range of heritage learning, volunteering and social inclusion opportunities at Dunollie Museum, Castle & Grounds.

£22,000 pro-rata - 25 hours/week  
For further information/job description contact Jane Isaacson  
Tel: 01631570550 **jane@dunollie.org**  
Or visit our website **www.dunollie.org**  
Closing Date for applications **Tuesday 21st July**

**Donald McLean Contractors**  
**360° OPERATOR, GROUNDWORKER & APPRENTICE**

Donald McLean Contractors require one experienced 360° operator, one experienced groundworker and one apprentice roads and streetworks operative to work predominantly in and around South Argyll.

Apply in writing only to **mcleandonald@btconnect.com** to receive more information on terms and conditions.

**InspirAlba**

**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**  
Closing date: Friday 24th July.

**Forestry Supervisor, West Highland - Argyll**

UPM Tilhill has an exciting opportunity for a Forestry Supervisor in the West Highlands area. This role involves the management and supervision of in forest operations to a high standard.

We seek applicants with land based operational experience, good commercial acumen and very good personal relationship management. Candidates must be highly motivated and possess good organisation, communication, supervisory skills and have a good level of IT competence. You will be working in a thriving commercially driven business. Driving licence is essential.

In return we offer an attractive salary and benefits together with personal and career development opportunities.

Closing date: Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> July

To apply, please visit the careers section of our website at: **www.upm-tilhill.com**. For all other enquiries please email: **contacthr.uk@upm.com** or call 01723 502550.

**www.upm-tilhill.com** UPM TILHILL  
UPM Tilhill is an Equal Opportunities Employer

**Site Supervisor (Lochaber)**

Salary: £ attractive; generous bonus scheme; fully expensed company vehicle; pension

Reporting to the Regional Construction Manager for TSL North, you will be a high calibre Site Supervisor, who will have responsibility for professionally supervising projects throughout Lochaber and surrounding areas. Preferably with experience of civils work, you should be able to demonstrate a proven track record in overseeing all types of construction projects, and knowledge of excavations, formwork, concrete and pipework installation is especially relevant.

You will have experience of delivering a quality product to the client; liaising with them, and having a good understanding of the importance and management of Health & Safety, being used to effectively co-ordinating sub-contractors and forward-planning materials ordering, and have a great approach to paperwork and following site procedures. You must also have good people management skills including a collaborative approach to communicating with your team.

If you are interested in this position and you believe you have the necessary skills and experience, please send your CV, quoting the reference **TSLN/01/0715** either by email to **d.feeneey@tslcontractors.co.uk** or by post to: D.Feeneey, TSL Contractors Limited, Unit 6, McLeod Buildings, Lochavullin Road, Oban, PA34 4PL.

Closing date 31st July 2015.

Find us on Facebook  
**www.facebook.com/obantimes**

**Argyll College UHI**  
Argyll College UHI Ltd provides access to a range of educational opportunities.

We are looking for a highly motivated and well-organised HR Manager to lead and develop the Human Resource function providing advice, guidance and support to College management and to ensure the effective and friendly support of all staff supported by the small HR team.

You should be professionally qualified with excellent communication and organisational skills and a strong operational track record of leading change and delivering highly successful HR services. You will develop HR strategy as well as effective organisational policies and procedures to enable the wider strategic development and direction of this ambitious and dynamic organisation.

The successful applicant will be subject to an application to join Disclosure Scotland Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme.

An application form and job description can be found on the vacancies section of our website **www.argyllcollege.ac.uk**  
All applications must be made on the Argyll College application form. Please send/email completed application form by **Friday 7th August** to:  
**Lorna McDonald, Argyll College UHI Ltd, Glenshellach Business Park, Oban PA34 4RY** or e-mail **lorna.mcdonald@uhi.ac.uk**

**Assistant Development Worker (Bank)**  
£16,880 - £18,424 (pro rata) Oban/Mull Ref: CMA00129  
Hours to be worked on an as and when required basis

**Senior Social Care Worker**  
£27,301 - £30,750 (pro rata) Ardrishaig Ref: CMA00455  
Night Duty - 33.5 hours per week

**Catering Assistant**  
£15,433 - £16,340 (pro rata) Ardrishaig Ref: CMA00570  
22 hours per week

**Driver/Escort (Term Time)**  
£15,433 - £16,340 (pro rata) Isle of Mull Ref: CTF00936  
22.5 hours per week. Tobermory to Salen Primary School

**Driver/Escort (Term Time)**  
£15,433 - £16,340 (pro rata) Isle of Mull Ref: CTF01152  
10 hours per week. Tobermory to Ulva Primary School

**Cleaner**  
£12,501 - £13,292 (pro rata) Tobermory High School Ref: CTF00523  
Two part time posts available (one for 12 hours and one for 10 hours per week) on a temporary basis to cover maternity leave.  
The Council applies the Living Wage of £7.85 per hour to this post.

01546 604334

Closing date for all posts: 31 July 2015.  
To apply visit our website **www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs**

**ELECTRICIANS**

Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd currently has vacancies for multi skilled and self-motivated Maintenance Electricians within our Seawater Production areas covering Argyll, South Highland, Skye and the Western Isles.

Working in a seawater environment you will be in an autonomous role where you will carry out all planned preventative and reactive electrical work and ensure that all plant and equipment is maintained to the highest possible efficiencies. In addition you will be required to install, test, and maintain underwater lighting, feed systems and other plant equipment required both on and off shore, investigate all possible areas for improved plant utilisation and output and be required to undertake specific industry training on feed systems and other key equipment.

Applicants must be effective communicators and be able to work productively as part of a small team in a challenging environment. While the role is predominately that of an electrician, multi skilled disciplines would be seen as advantageous.

We are seeking applications from individuals who hold the following qualifications and skills profile:

- IEE 17th Edition
- Inspection, Testing and Certification of Electrical Installations (desirable)
- Experience of working PLC's, Diesel generator sets (desirable)
- Practical knowledge of computerised feeding systems (desirable)
- Ability to read and understand Schematic diagrams
- SJIB registration desirable

It is also a requirement to have a high degree of computer literacy together with a strong understanding of breakdown cover, fault finding, and repairs on motors, control systems and feeding systems.

This is a very challenging role in a difficult environment and in return we will offer a salary of £30,000 plus a maximum of 8% overtime with a requirement to work an average of 16 hours overtime per month. In addition there is a generous bonus scheme.

If you feel you have the necessary skills for this challenging role, please submit an application in writing with details of relevant experience, by the closing date of 31st August 2015 to: Gillian Dempster, Human Resources Advisor, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Stob Ban House, Glen Nevis Business Park, Fort William, PH33 6RX

Informal enquires can be addressed to Donald MacKenzie Mobile: 07713 068448 or E-mail: **electrician.south@marineharvest.com**

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LOCHGILPHEAD - Ref HSC/15/107B  
OBAN - Ref HSC/15/177

Starting Salary £18,213. Band B pay range £18,213 to £20,973.  
These are permanent full time pensionable posts.

Apply on-line by visiting our website at **www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/jobs**  
For a hard copy application pack please contact fiona.reid@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, or telephone 01786 450000 or write to Fiona Reid, Argyll's Lodging, Castle Wynd, Stirling, FK8 1EG quoting the reference number. Closing date for completed applications is 31st July.

Historic Scotland is an Executive Agency of the Scottish Ministers and is an equal opportunities employer. We operate a Guaranteed Job Interview Scheme.

**Local newspapers & their websites are the number one choice for local jobs.**

Source: Recruitment Choice, The Newspaper Society 2005

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# West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

✔ LETTINGS ✔ COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ✔ SALES ✔ PROPERTY REVIEWS ✔ PROPERTY NEWS ✔ LOCAL ESTATE AGENTS

## Construction scheme boosting job opportunities and apprenticeships

An innovative approach to getting new construction projects under way is supporting nearly 7,500 jobs across the industry, it has been revealed.

The hub programme brings together community planners and private-sector development partners to build new community facilities in Scotland.

Figures from the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT), which manages the scheme, reveal it has provided more than 7,300 jobs for people in several areas of the building industry.

They also show the hub programme to be booming, with the value of projects being built rising 78% over the past six months from £342 million to £610 million.

The success means business leaders can invest in apprenticeships and in creating new employment opportunities.

David MacDonald, hub programme director at SFT, said the surge in project value showed the benefits of the hub approach, adding that the future is looking bright for the scheme.

He said: 'We see this momentum continuing as there's well over £900m of community projects still in the early stages of development which are due to start on site in the next 12 to 24 months

through our ever-growing pipeline of work.'

There are currently five hub companies, known as hubCos, operating in Scotland, building health centres, schools and community facilities.

Of the work already under way, the 19 schools projects are the most valuable and are worth more than £424 million.

This is followed by six projects being built in the health sector, valued at £111 million, and the 15 community facilities, worth £74 million.



**E. Thornton & Co.**  
SOLICITORS NOTARIES AND ESTATE AGENTS

Visit our website at [www.ethornton.co.uk](http://www.ethornton.co.uk)

**First floor flat**  
29 High Street, Oban, PA34 4BG

This 1 bedroom first floor flat is conveniently situated in Oban town centre and within walking distance of all public transport links and local amenities.

- One double bedroom
- Shared garden/drying green
- Shower room
- Newly fitted kitchen

**Offers in the region of £73,000**

17/19 LOCHSIDE STREET, OBAN, ARGYLL, PA34 4HP  
☎ (01631) 566771 info@ethornton.co.uk

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

ARE YOU A LANDLORD?  
DO YOU HAVE AN EMPTY PROPERTY?  
WOULD YOU LIKE SOMEONE TO TAKE CARE OF THE TENANCY MANAGEMENT?

Have you considered renting to Argyll and Bute Council, we can offer a guaranteed monthly income and look after your property at no extra cost?  
Housing Services are looking to secure all types and sizes of properties in the Oban area. Please contact Ailsa Kelly on 01631 567976 or via email [ailsa.kelly@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:ailsa.kelly@argyll-bute.gov.uk) for further information.

**WANTED**

**WANTED**

2 bdrm cottage or sim for long term let, prof woman

Ph 07746 817803  
or [sarah@plum.net.nz](mailto:sarah@plum.net.nz)

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01631 730180/07841 253852  
[jane.morrison@wynvr.co.uk](mailto:jane.morrison@wynvr.co.uk)

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**LNGroup OVERSEAS PROPERTY**  
[www.lnmanagement.com](http://www.lnmanagement.com)

**Sunny Beach, Bulgaria**

Amazing new build apartments from only £15,800!  
Gated complex, with 9 swimming pools, water slides, shops, bars.  
Massage, relax zone, restaurants, 15 hole putting green, church.  
Beach and mountain ski properties also available.

Want us to call and see you at home?  
**Call now for an appointment**  
07808 170 280 UK or 00359 878 121136 BG

**TO LET**

**Large detached new build house to let in Kilmore.**

5 double bedrooms, 4 bathrooms (2 en-suite), oil fired underfloor heating, double sided wood burning stove, large fenced garden. Unfurnished with fresh carpets. Rent £900 pcm. Available mid Aug.  
Call 07766 918 810 or email [cejhodge@gmail.com](mailto:cejhodge@gmail.com)  
EPC: Band C  
LL Reg: 07538/130/19470

**FOR SALE**

**Taynuilt Sub Post Office**

Excellent business opportunity.  
Community Post Office with salary approx. £18,000pa  
Also newsagent/stationers/gift shop.

2 bedroom house and garden attached, situated in heart of thriving local community.

**OIRO £230,000**  
Phone 0131 4776060 ref 42790 to arrange viewing

Modern detached 3 bedroom bungalow, unfurnished, central heating, available August for long let in Barcaldine area.

**Telephone**  
01631 562649  
Landlord registration 101781/130/29430

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

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

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## public notices

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid**

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

**PLANNING**

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AH, 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
15/01850/PP	Change of use from dwellinghouse to veterinary surgery.	The Bungalow Annex Crosspool Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute PA77 6LP	Tiree Area Office
15/01868/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of new vehicular access.	Land East of Blaircree House Bonawe Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Connel
15/01946/PP	Renewal of planning permission in principle 12/01241/PPP (Site for the erection of dwellinghouse and removal of existing chalet and sheds).	Garden Ground Of Pennyfuir Cottage Dumbeg Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1PX	Sub Post Office Dumbeg

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Marse Lochgilphead Brae PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
15/01024/PP	Demolition of derelict farmhouse and erection of dwellinghouse	Land North West of Ballimory Cottage Portnahaven Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Portnahaven

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Marse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

**First Registration Of A Croft**

Mrs Janet Tindal has registered her crofts at Clachanach and Calva, Kiltinnich & Kilvickeen 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.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number are, Calva A0724 & Clachanach A0728

**First Registration Of A Croft**

John MacLean has registered their croft at 7 Treslaig, Ardgor on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by February 2016. Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is A0128.

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)

**The Highland Council Comhairle an Gàidhealtachd**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

**PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30am - 4.30pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
15/02455/FUL	Glencoe Visitor Centre Inverigan Glencoe Ballachulish		Upgrade existing Biomass Boiler with like for like replacement and Biomass Fuel Store which will be timber clad with tin roof to match the rest of the buildings.
15/02479/FUL	Land 110M NE of Tigh A Chladaich Glenmalie Road Caol, Fort William		Erection of house
15/02555/PIP	Land 25M North West of Rigsden Achnabobane Spean Bridge		Erection of house, access, parking and turning
15/02566/FUL	Land 40M East of Pier Head Onich		Erection of house
15/02645/FUL	Land 230M N E of Daingean Invergarry		Amendment to Planning Permission 11/04465/FUL for erection of house; provision of sewage treatment plant & land soakaway; form new access onto public road
15/02658/FUL	Land 50M North of Aldersyde Gairloch Spean Bridge		Proposed dwelling house and detached garage

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)

**Ian Blackford MP**  
A Strong Voice For Ross, Skye & Lochaber

**Contact Details**  
E-mail [ian.blackford.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:ian.blackford.mp@parliament.uk)

Write to  
Ian Blackford MP  
Office 4  
Thorfin House  
Bridgend Business Park  
Dingwall  
IV15 9SL

For Future dates and venues check [www.ianblackford.com](http://www.ianblackford.com)

**Advice Surgery**  
18th July at 11am  
Morrisons Supermarket An Aird Road  
Fort William  
Highlands

**Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence**

North West Mull Community Woodlands Company Limited trading as Island Wood-fuels of Penmore Mill, Dervaig, Isle Of Mull, PA75 6QS, is applying for a licence to use Woodfuel Processing Centre, West Arduh, Dervaig, Isle Of Mull, PA75 6QR as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle. 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.

**As part of the Marine Scotland marine licence application procedure, Mull and Iona Community Trust announce that a consultation event will take place on Thursday 27th August at Ulva School at 7.30pm to discuss the proposed pontoon at Ulva Ferry.**

Details of the proposed development can be obtained from the Ulva Ferry Local Development Office, Torloisk, Mull, PA74 6NH, tel 01688 500 056, Cally Fleming, Local Development Officer [cfleming@mict.co.uk](mailto:cfleming@mict.co.uk) or on the USCA website [www.uscamull.org.uk](http://www.uscamull.org.uk)

Please forward any comments to Cally Fleming by Friday 4 September.

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# West Coast **MOTORING TIMES**

✔ DRIVETIMES ✔ SAILING TIMES ✔ GARAGES ✔ CAR DEALERSHIPS ✔ MOTORING NEWS

## GEM encourages motorcyclists to put safety first this summer

ROAD SAFETY and breakdown organisation, GEM Motoring Assist, has issued a list of seven simple tips to help motorcyclists put safety first on journeys this summer.

GEM chief executive David Williams MBE commented: "Most motorcyclists show high levels of anticipation and observation; these are vital for staying safe. But we

all have to take responsibility for our own actions, and we have a duty to drive or ride within the laws."

Follow GEM's simple 'lifesaver' safety tips and reduce the risk of being involved in a collision:

Check your motorcycle before riding. In particular pay attention to tyre pressures, tread depth, chain (if fitted) tension and lubrication and make sure all controls move freely and - where possible - are adjusted to suit you.

Make sure you are wearing appropriate safety clothing manufactured to a recognised standard. The law only covers the crash helmet, but nowadays both leather and textile garments come with protection for vulnerable areas. Remember, there is no such thing as a cold wet motorcyclist, only a badly prepared one!

Take time to warm up, especially if you are not a regular rider and not 'bike fit'. Ease into the ride and make sure everything is working as it should and the tyres have warmed up before you start increasing your speed and lean angles.

Make use of all your senses when riding. You are not cocooned in a tin box, so you can smell diesel and

mown grass, and you can hear approaching sirens. Because you are sitting higher than most cars you can see things well in advance, giving you more time to react.

Motorcycles have a small silhouette, so always try and position yourself so you can see into the mirrors of the vehicle ahead. If you can see the driver they can (hopefully) see you, but never assume. Trust only your senses and skill.

A motorcycle is very manoeuvrable and nimble so can filter through and past stationary and slow traffic. But do so at an appropriate speed and give yourself time to react and stop if a car suddenly turns. A rider with real skill filters slowly rather than at speed.

Remember your journey only finishes when you turn off the engine and place the machine on its stand. Make sure the ground is safe for the bike and it will not roll off the stand, causing damage or injury. Also, consider machine security to ensure it is still there when you next want to use it.

(Tips compiled by GEM's motorcycle safety advisor, Ian Kerr MBE)



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**ENGAGEMENTS**

**LAMONT - EDGAR** - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Catriona, daughter of Douglas and Sheila Lamont of Eaglesham, to James, son of Paul and Beth Edgar, Portadown, Northern Ireland.

**DEATHS**

**BAKER** - Peacefully at Campsie View care home, Kirkintilloch on June 28, 2015, Peggy Baker, née Mackinnon, aged 94 years. Formerly of Bunnassan and Tobermory, Isle of Mull. Funeral service was held at Bunnassan church on Tuesday, July 14, 2015 thereafter to Suidhe cemetery.

**CARMICHAEL** - At Inverclyde Royal Hospital on Wednesday July 8, 2015, after a long illness bravely borne, Stewart, (formerly of Lochailort Inn), beloved husband of Anne, dearly loved dad of Lindsay and Sandy and a much loved grandpa. He'll be sadly missed by all his family and friends. The funeral service will be held in St John's Parish Church, Dunoon, on Friday July 17, at 1.00pm. and thereafter to Greenock Crematorium at 3.00pm., to which all are respectfully invited.

**GILL** - Alan John. At Ward I, Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban after a very short illness, Alan passed away on Saturday, July 11. Funeral service to be held on Thursday, July 16 at 1.00pm at Appin parish Church. Interment to be held at Glendale cemetery, Isle of Skye on Friday, July 17 at 2pm. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired to Stroke Foundation and Oban Hospice. Alan leaves behind Janette, Annie, Omaidh, Katie (Cyprus) and Jamie (Australia).

**GOODMAN** - Peacefully at Inverclyde Royal Hospital on Sunday, July 12, 2015, Jeanie (Shiona) née MacLachlan, beloved wife of the late Peter, much loved mum of David and the late Catriona, loving granny to Colin, Sarah and Lloyd and great granny to Lewis, Isla, Olivia and Miley. Will be sorely missed by all family and friends. The funeral service will be held in St. John's Church, Dunoon on Tuesday July 21, 2015 at 11.00am. and thereafter to Greenock Crematorium at 1.00pm., to which all are respectfully invited. No flowers please but donations, if desired, to The British Heart Foundation.

**GRANT** - Peacefully in Belford Hospital on July 10, 2015, Alistair aged 84 years. Loving husband of the late Jean Merson. Brother of Betty, Jessie, Anne and Lucy. Funeral service at Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church on Thursday July 16, at 2.00pm. All friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to Ward 1, Belford Hospital.

**LAMONT** - Mary Flora (née MacDonald) wife of the late John of Croish, Kilmouga, Isle of Tiree, died peacefully at home on June 30, 2015, aged 91 years.

**MACDONALD** - Peacefully on Sunday, July 5, 2015 aged 83 years, after a short illness, William John MacDonald (Willie), beloved husband of the late Margaret, dear father of Mary and William, much loved brother, grandfather and great grandfather. Will be sorely missed by all.

**MILLS** - Peacefully at his home, Bransdale, Kilduksland Drive, Ardrishaig, on July 8, 2015, Alan George Mills, aged 76 years (formerly of Argyll and Bute Council), beloved husband of Doreen and loving dad of Stephen, Catherine and Teresa, a much respected father-in-law of Gillian, Billy and Iain and adored grandpa of Jack, Freya, Connor, Murran, Maia and Keira. A good neighbour, dear friend and former work colleague to many. A memorial service will take place at Lorne Street Funeral Parlour, Lochgilphead, on Monday, July 20 at 11.30am. A retiral collection will be offered for Macmillan Nurses and Marie Curie Nurses, Mid Argyll. All friends are respectfully invited to attend.

**SCOBIE** - Morag, passed away peacefully at home in Kinlochleven on July 12, 2015. Wife of the late Roy Scobie, a dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral service will take place in Church of Scotland, Kinlochleven on Saturday, July 18 at 12 noon. Donations if desired in lieu of flowers to Macmillan nurses, Belford Hospital and Crossroads.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**MACDONALD** - Mary, William and family would like to thank friends and neighbours for the sympathy and kindness shown on the passing of their dad Willie. Special thanks to Dr Morag Calder and all the nursing staff of Belford Hospital for the care shown to their dad, thanks to Rev Anne Winning for her spiritual comfort and lovely service and also Mike McFall funeral directors for their unflinching support and guidance. To Frank and his staff at the Ballachulish Hotel for catering and refreshments and finally thanks to all who attended the church and graveside. The retiring collection for St Mundas Parish Church raised the sum of £852.

**PEARSON** - The family of the late Colin wish to thank all relatives and friends for kind expressions of sympathy received during their recent sad loss. Special thanks are due to the staff of ward A and ward B at Lorn and Islands hospital, carers and staff at Torosay Court for all care and kindness shown to Colin. To Rev. Chris Fulcher for a comforting service and Duncan Forgive for his eulogy, to all who attended the service, Ian of D & A Munn for support and guidance and Royal Hotel for refreshments. The sum of £417.32 was shared between ABCD and Diabetes UK Local Branch.

**MEMORIAMS**

**DOHERTY** - In loving memory of Gerry who sadly passed away on July 20, 2014. Close in our hearts you will always stay loved and remembered every day. You left a place no one can fill. We miss you Gerry and always will.

- From Mary and Robert xx  
**DOHERTY** - In loving memory of Gerry who passed away on July 20, 2014. A special person a special face. Someone we love and can't replace. Never selfish always kind. These are the memories he left behind.

- From Laura x  
**DOHERTY** - In ever loving memory of my dear friend Gerry who passed away July 20, 2014. No words nor verse could ever say how much I miss you every day. A loving thought, a silent tear. Just wishing that you were here.

- Mary, **DOHERTY** - Very fond memories of Gerry, who passed away July 20, 2014. Sadly missed.

- From Margaret, Davie and family, **DOHERTY** - In loving memory of Gerry, passed away July 20, 2014. Every day in some small way we miss you more than words can say. In our hearts you will always stay loved and remembered every day.

- Robert, Leah and Adam, **MACBRIDE** - Treasured memories of a dear Auntie, Mary, who died on July 13, 1995. Always in our thoughts.

- Rosemary, Ewen and family, Spean Bridge, **MACINTYRE** - In loving memory of a dear nephew and cousin Iain (Slippers), who died July 22, 2014. Quietly remembered every day.

- Auntie Teenie, Uncle Peter and Uncle John, Always in our thoughts.

- Fraser, Fiona, Kevin, Kyle and Summer, **MACKENZIE** - In loving memory of Sandra, who died July 14, 2010. Always in our thoughts.

- Allan and family, Tobermory, Glasgow and Islay.

**MACLEAN** - In loving memory of Duncan, a dear husband, father, father-in-law and granda, who died July 16, 2014. Loved and remembered always.

- Inserted by Margaret and family, **MACRAE** - It broke our hearts to lose our lovely young daughter, Mairi Anne MacRae on July 17, 2014. We miss her sorely every day.

- Katie Mary and family, Ballygowan, **MACRAE** - Remembering our dear friend Mairi, who passed away on July 17, 2014. We can't have old days back. When we were all together. But happy memories will be with us forever.

- Angus and Jen, Billy and Ann, Donald and Fiona, Donnie Carmichael, Ivor and Jean, Ivor Lloyd, Johnny and Teen, Colonsay, Kilchoan, Lochaline and Tobermory, **PROSSER** - In loving memory of George, dearly loved dad, grandad and great-grandad, who died July 13, 2002.

Remembered with love and missed by all of us.

- Betty and the family, **TRAYNOR** - Treasured memories of our beloved parents mother Jessie, who passed away July 16, 2013 and father John who passed away November 22, 1994.

Always and forever in our hearts and thoughts.

- Violet, Iain, Janette, Jennifer and families.

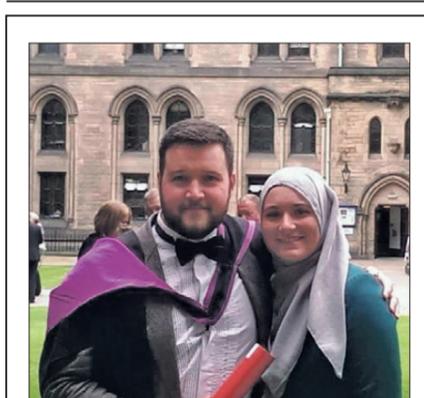
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**GRADUATION**



**Lovely son David Duncan graduated MA Hons Moral Philosophy and Religious education, Glasgow University in June 2015. David is pictured with his beautiful wife Sophie. Amazing.**



**Kenneth David Irwin graduated from Glasgow Caledonian University with a BA (Hons) in International Business. Son of David and Anne, brother of Heather. Kenneth is a former pupil of Troon Primary, Rockfield and Oban High School. Kenneth will shortly take up a graduate post for Enterprise.**

**WEDDING**



**SLOAN - HUNT** David Hunt and Gemma Sloan were married at Skipness Parish Church on the 6th June 2015. A happy day.

**Fiona pushes Yazidi fundraising cause all the way to Westminster**



**Fiona Bennett with MSP Michael Russell 16\_t29fnaa01**

AN ARDCHATTAN woman has met with Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell, to highlight the plight of Yazidi people. Fiona Bennett, 37, became involved in fundraising efforts to help those targeted by the terrorist group Daesh, more commonly known as ISIS, due to their Christian beliefs. Fiona said: 'One night I read an article. It was an interview with a young girl who has experienced such

awful things she now has a lifetime of recovery ahead of her. Not only does she have to try and recover from brutal physical attacks but she has lost her father, mother and siblings as a result of an attack on her people, because of their religion. This little girl is a Yazidi, one of Iraq's oldest minorities. This girl is one of many thousands who have and are suffering horrifically at the hands of a group.'

Mr Russell has since contacted MP for Argyll and Bute, Brendan O'Hara, to raise the issue at Westminster. He has also asked Humza Yousaf, Holyrood minister for Europe and international development, how the Scottish government can help the Yazidi people. To find out more, or to donate to Fiona's cause, which has already raised more than £1,300, visit: www.gofundme.com/w6c3kx4k

**Thought for the Week - The Power of Friendship**

It is a tough time for international relations - whether we think of the migrant crisis, the threatened 'Grexit', the rise of ISIS or the wars of recent times. There are less headlines when something good happens but the relationship between Scotland and Malawi is something to celebrate. Though the two nations are thousands of miles apart and very different from one another, they have forged a distinctive friendship and have been described as "sister na-

tions". Argyll has played its part. It all began in 1859 with David Livingstone whose family came from Ulva. It continued through people like Donald Fraser, the Lochgilphead man who became a legend in Malawi a century ago. And the work of Mary's Meals in Malawi has caught the imagination of many in Argyll today. Not to mention the many church, school and community links that unite the two peoples. The writers of the New Testament were gripped by

a vision of barriers being broken down and long-divided peoples coming together through their shared faith in Christ. What would they make of our world today, apparently becoming more and more fragmented and divided? Yet there are signs of hope. Scotland and Malawi making common cause is one of them. Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

Kenneth Ross  
Parish Minister,  
Netherlorn

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# Newtonmore made to battle for Camanachd Cup victory

## Camanachd Cup

**OBAN CAMANACHD** boss, Gussie Campbell, felt his injury-stricken side performed well in the Camanachd Cup quarter-final before eventually going down 3-1 to Newtonmore. Campbell was without four leading first teamers due to injury and family commitments and drafted in three juniors to make up the numbers against the league leaders.

Campbell said: 'The problems we had before kick-off are there for all to see, but I feel the players did the very best they could against strong opponents. We went in at 0-0 at half-time and I think even their supporters would accept we had the better of the half. Then two defensive mistakes in a couple of minutes let Newtonmore in and before we knew it we were two goals down.'

'That shows the quality they have, because when they get chances, they take them. Malcolm Clark pulled one back for us straight away and it was really close at 2-1. They scored with a few minutes to go to finish us off, but bearing in mind the team we had out on the pitch, the players did as well as anyone could expect.'

Campbell's side will not play this weekend as he has six players attending the T'ree Music Festival and his request for a postponement to the Marine Harvest Premiership was granted.

**NEWTONMORE** The Marine Harvest Premiership leaders booked their place in the last four of the Camanachd Cup with a solid 3-1 victory away at Oban Camanachd. Goals from Glen Mackintosh and Cameron Binnie handed Newtonmore a two-goal advantage which was quickly halved by Oban's Malcolm Clark, but a late Mackintosh strike secured a semi-final berth for PJ Mackintosh's side where they will play Kyles Athletic.

Newtonmore return to league action this Saturday at home to second-placed Kinlochshiel, who are three points behind the leaders.

Newtonmore boss Mackintosh said: 'It's a big game this weekend but then every match is. The players have been there before and they know what it takes to win.'

Newtonmore have three games in hand on their nearest rivals and have lost only once in nine league matches this season.

**LOVAT** John MacRitchie's team have it all to do again as they drew 2-2 with Fort William in the Camanachd Cup quarter-final at Balgait Park last Saturday, despite leading twice.

MacRitchie said: 'It was a fair result from a really good game for the neutral but when you are ahead twice in a match you really want your team to go ahead and finish off the opposition. We didn't do that, although Fort William defended very well and limited us to only a few chances.'

'We replay again this Saturday and we know the winners get to play Inveraray in the last four, which is a real incentive as I think everyone wanted to avoid Newtonmore. As for the game against Fort William, Kevin Bartlett and Lewis Tawse scored two very good goals, but we conceded twice and we have it all to do again.'

## Shinty

**INVERARAY** beat Glasgow Mid Argyll (GMA) 4-1 away at Yoker in the 3rd round of the Camanachd Cup.

Fraser Watt got 'A'ray going in the seventh minute with Garry MacPherson adding a second 10 minutes later.

A penalty goal from Mark Bain brought GMA back in after 38 minutes but it was to be their only goal.

Lewis MacNicol scored the next just on the hour and Neil Shaw put the fourth nail into GMA.

On Saturday 'A'ray take on Kyles for the third time this season, so far the honours are level.

**KYLES ATHLETIC** entertained Skye in a 3rd round Camanachd Cup tie and netted five from the Hebrides team in a six goal score line.

Within the first minute, Roddy MacDonald had scored his first of four. Dunkie Kerr followed his lead to give Kyles a two goal lead.

MacDonald added another two before the break and his fourth in the 68th minute. Will Cowie took a goal back for Skye on 70 minutes.

Next week, Kyles will be looking to beat Inveraray in the Premiership. The last time the two sides met 'A'ray won 3-2.

**FORT WILLIAM** will be replaying their Camanachd Cup clash against Lovat at home this weekend, after a 2-2 draw on Saturday.

The An Aird side fought hard against a strong side with goals from Gordie MacKinnon and Duncan Roger and were 'delighted' with a draw, but manager Victor Smith, hopes his men can up their game and get the win in front of a home crowd.

He said: 'The boys played really well at the weekend and Lovat are a really tough side to beat so we were delighted to draw with them. It was a hard game but we need to do it all again this weekend and hopefully this time go one better and beat them.'

The Fort will be without Niall MacPhee but will have Alexander MacMillan back after he was missing from the first game.

**SKYE** are licking their wounds after going down 5-1 to Kyles in the Camanachd Cup at the weekend.

A first-minute goal by Kyles' Roddy MacDonald put the islanders at a disadvantage early on and the host team wasted no time in widening their lead.

Skye manager, John MacLeod, said: 'We lost a goal in the first minute then before we got a chance to settle they got another one in the ninth minute, after that the game was lost.'

This Saturday, Skye will visit Lochaber to take on Ballachulish in the league, but will be without Steven Morrison who is injured.

MacLeod added: 'This will be a hard game and not having Steven will be a loss, but we've got plenty of others who can step up and play.'

## Premiership

**KINGUSSIE** suffered another defeat at Glenurquhart last Saturday going down 3-1.

Manager Russell Jones said:



Newtonmore's Cameron Binnie and Oban Camanachd's Daniel Cameron in action during last Saturday's Camanachd Cup quarter final. The Badenoch side won a thrilling encounter 3-1. Photo: Stephen Lawson

'To be honest we were 14 players short between the 1st and 2nd teams on Saturday, so we were just glad to field a team.'

'We had a lot of young players and they did well, but Glenurquhart deserved the win.'

The only ray of light for Kingussie was Chris Holly-Song's goal in the 80th minute.

Next week, Kingussie are hosting the Balliemore Cup final between Glasgow Mid Argyll and Beaulys Ists.

Jones said: 'By the time we play Fort William in two weeks' time we will be back to full strength, so that should go better.'

**KINLOCHSHIEL** found Lochaber a tough call losing 5-1 last Saturday. Oliver MacRae scored 'Shiel's only goal in the 12th minute.

Manager Colin Fraser said: 'Oliver and Keith MacRae were the two players you could pick out. It was a super dry day so we can't blame the weather.'

Findlay MacDonald scored a hat-trick for Lochaber, putting his first away within a minute, another deep in the second half and his third from a penalty two minutes from the end.

Pat Toal and Stuart Callison added the other two. Next weekend in the Premiership 'Shiel take on Newtonmore looking to better their 6-1 defeat back in May.

Fraser said: 'Newtonmore are always a hard team to beat, but we are back to a full team.'

**GLENURQUHART'S** 3-1 victory against Kingussie gave them another two points. Like league leaders Newtonmore, they have only played nine games, two less than Lovat, a place above them in the league, and three fewer than Kinlochshiel and Lochaber.

It was more than 30 minutes before Ewan Brady scored the first to see Glen going into the break on top. Fraser Heath tapped the second away, followed two minutes later by Neale Reid.

The next two weeks are all about Lochaber who have not played Glen yet this season.

## Camanachd Cup semi final draw

THE draw for the semi-finals of the SSE Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup was made at the start of the week at the Scottish Football Museum in Hampden Park.

Inveraray are set to play the winner of Fort William/Lovat and the semi-final will take place on Saturday, August 8, while Newtonmore meet Kyles Athletic on Saturday August, 15.

The cup final will take place at Mossfield Stadium in Oban on September, 19.

Both semi-final matches will be televised live on BBC Alba with a 4pm throw-up. The venues are to be confirmed shortly.

The SSE Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup is considered to be shinty's great prize and one of Scotland's oldest and most iconic sporting trophies.

A win might see Glen jump up the league.

**LOCHABER** have jumped to third place in the Premiership after a 5-1 victory against Kinlochshiel on Saturday.

The Spean Bridge side had home advantage and benefited from a hat-trick from Findlay MacDonald, as well as goals from Pat Toal and Stuart Callison.

This took Ally Ferguson's side to 13 points, along with rivals 'Shiel, but the visiting side remain ahead on goal difference. This weekend Lochaber will travel to Glenurquhart in the Premiership, where a win could see them leapfrog to second place.

## National Division

**KILMALLIE** have taken the top spot in the national league after a 4-1 win against Inverness at the weekend.

Playing on their home ground, Canal park, two goals each from Ryan Stewart and Liam MacDonald gave the host team the two points they needed to overtake Skye.

This Saturday, Mark MacPherson's men will travel north to play middle of the table, Caberfeidh, meaning Kilmallie shouldn't need to work too hard to retain their place at the top of the league.

**BALLACHULISH** have now let Beaulys batter eight goals past them in the league this season and a further seven in the Bailliemore

Cup for just one back.

In last Saturday's 4-0 loss, Connor Ross gave Beaulys a two goal lead going into the break, with Jack MacDonald and Sandy Elrick adding two more in the second half.

Balla', who have not won a game all season, face Skye on Saturday. Last time the two teams met it was a 12-0 demolition.

## South Division One

**KILMORY** had a free week last weekend which was lucky as one of their main players, Alistair MacArthur, was up to his elbows in grease during the Mach Rally rain as he tried to keep his Sun-beam in tip-top shape.

Next Saturday, they take on Inveraray at home in the league and will be hoping to do better than in April.

**STRACHUR'S** Duncan MacNichol scored a hat trick against Glenorchy in a 4-1 victory which sees the Cowal side gain some valuable points and lifts them to eighth in the league.

Steven Bulloch netted the fourth with Martin MacKillop giving Glenorchy their consolation goal. Strachur have a couple of free weeks until they take on Taynuilt at home.

**INVERARAY** reserves played a great match in the quarter finals of the Bullough Cup to beat Oban Lorn by six goals in an 8-2

scoreline.

Neil Campbell took four, in the fourth, 10th, 51st and 76th minute. Andy Stewart collected a hat-trick, again spread throughout the match in the 14th, 65th and 83rd minute with Campbell Watt joining the feast for a single.

They did not have it all their own way as Sandy MacLeod's goal for Lorn saw them going into the break 3-1 down. Daniel MacKinnon scored Lorn's other goal.

'A'ray have a local league derby with Kilmory at MacRae Park on Saturday and will be wanting to better their April score when they beat the Lochgilphead boys 2-1.

**BALLACHULISH** 2nds take on Tayforth at Jubilee Park this Saturday and will be trying to better their 5-0 score line from March.

**BUTE** will be hoping to get back on the winning trail when they play host to Kyles Athletic at the Meadows this Saturday. Throw-up 2.30pm

For the second week running **OBAN CELTIC** have no fixture.

**GLENORCHY**, smarting from a 4-1 defeat away to Strachur last weekend will be hoping to get back on the winning trail this Saturday when they take on Aberdour at Mar park.

**TAYNUILT** drew 2-2 at home to Bue last Saturday thanks to a double from Willie Neilson. They have no game on Saturday.

## Bullough Cup

**LOCHSIDE ROVERS** have a free week this weekend, having suffered disappointment as they exited the Bullough cup on Saturday.

A Daniel Macvicar goal 10 minutes from time wasn't enough as Kyles Athletic knocked Gareth Evans' side out of the tournament by 2 goals to 1, booking their place in the semi-final.

The defeat was only Rovers' second loss of the season in all competitions.

Evans said: 'We had around six regulars missing, meaning we played nine players who were under-17 in a 15-man squad, which tested us.'

'A few of the boys were called up to play for Camanachd, and that's what being a feeder team is all about. Credit to some of the lads too.'

'I thought Lewis Buchanan, who is only 15, equipped himself very well.'

Rovers are next in action on July 25 at Ganavan against Bute in a league fixture, in a game Evans is confident his team can take something from if he fields a full squad.

## Strathdearn Cup

**GLENGARRY** had an impressive 7-2 home win over Lovat in the second round of the Strathdearn Cup last weekend.

This Sunday they play host to Caberfeidh in a North division two match.

## Fixtures

**Friday July 17**  
**Marine Harvest**  
**North Division 1**  
Newtonmore v Kingussie

**Saturday July 18**  
**SSE Scottish Hydro**  
**Camanachd Cup**  
**3rd Round Replay**  
Fort William v Lovat  
John Angus Gillies - 3pm

**Balliemore Cup Final**  
Glasgow MA v Beaulys  
John MacGregor  
(at The Dell Kingussie)

**Marine Harvest Premiership**  
Glenurquhart v Lochaber  
Graham Cameron  
Kyles Athletic v Inveraray  
Billy Wotherspoon  
Newtonmore v Kinlochshiel  
Deek Cameron - 12pm

**Marine Harvest National Division**  
Ballachulish v Skye  
Innes Wood - 3pm  
Caberfeidh v Kilmallie  
Evan MacRae

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Fort William v Glenurquhart  
John Matheson - 12pm  
Kinlochshiel v Strathglass

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Bute v Kyles Athletic  
Lachie Wood - 3pm  
Glenorchy v Aberdour  
Robert Baxter  
Kilmory v Inveraray  
Duncan Kelly

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Aberdeen Uni v Boleskine  
Andy MacLean  
Glenarry v Caberfeidh  
Ronnie Campbell  
Kilmallie v Inverness  
Jim Innes  
Lochaber v Skye  
Jon Gallagher

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Aberdour v Oban Lorn  
Ewen MacDonald  
Ballachulish v Tayforth  
Innes Wood - 12pm  
Bute v Col Glen  
TBA - 12pm

All throw-ups 2.30 unless stated

## Results

**Tuesday July 7 2015**  
**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Inveraray 5 - 0 Glenorchy

**Wednesday July 8**  
**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Lochaber 4 - 0 Strathspey

**Saturday July 11**  
**SSE Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup 3rd Round**  
Lovat 2 - 2 Fort William  
Glasgow MA 1 - 4 Inveraray/Oban  
Caman 1 - 3 Newtonmore  
Kyles Athletic 5 - 1 Skye

**Strathdearn Cup 2nd Round**  
Aberdeen Uni 1 - 4 Fort William  
Beaulys 1 - 6 Newtonmore  
(after extra time)  
Glenarry 7 - 2 Lovat  
Kingussie 2 - 3 Kinlochshiel

**Bullough Cup 2nd Round**  
Inveraray 8 - 2 Oban Lorn  
Lochside 1 - 2 Kyles Athletic

**Marine Harvest Premiership**  
Glenurquhart 3 - 1 Kingussie  
Lochaber 5 - 1 Kinlochshiel

**Marine Harvest National Division**  
Ballachulish 0 - 4 Beaulys  
Kilmallie 4 - 1 Inverness

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Strathglass 3 - 5 Glenurquhart

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Strachur 4 - 1 Glenorchy  
Taynuilt 2 - 2 Bute

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Inverness 0 - 3 Lewis  
Skye P - P Strathspey  
Strathspey unable to field a team, points to Skye

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Glenorchy P - P Aberdour  
Unplayable Field

# SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

## THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £550

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

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We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

### Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

### Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mistaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

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Sainthood goalkeeper Thomas McCulloch made several great saves against Hamilton Accies



Hearts captain Blazej Augustyn with the D&K Lafferty Cup



A jubilant Hearts squad celebrate winning the D&K Lafferty Cup



Player of the tournament was Hearts central defender Jordan McGhee seen here clearing his lines during the game against Accies.

# Tight at the top as H

## Oban Saints impress against SPL opp

HEART of Midlothian edged out holders Hamilton Academical and hosts Oban Saints to win this year's D&K Lafferty Challenge Cup tournament after an entertaining day's football at Mossfield Sports Complex last Saturday.

Saints kicked off proceedings at Mossfield (pitch 1) against a St Johnstone development team and fell behind to a Connor McLaren strike in the seventh minute when the St Johnstone striker capitalised on some slack defensive work by Saints.

Donald Campbell brought Saints level in the tenth minute with a crisp strike from the edge of the box after a good run and cross on the right wing from Lewis Cameron.

The Perth Saints struck in the third minute of the second half when George Hunter punished another mix-up in the Saints rear-guard. Saints battled well for the remaining twelve minutes but failed to break down a determined and well organised St Johnstone side containing a number of players about to go out on loan to clubs in Leagues 1 and 2 of the Scottish Professional Football League.

### Shaky start

Over on Glencruitten 1 (pitch 2) holders Hamilton Academical got their defence of the trophy off to a shaky start falling behind in the first half to a Jordan Muir goal for Dundee United's development team. Accies recovered in the second half and earned a draw thanks to a late Steven Boyd strike.

Dundee United remained on pitch 2 where they and hosts Oban Saints served up an entertaining and evenly matched contest with the only goal of the match coming from United's eye-catching Justin Johnson.

The pacy winger eagerly pounced on a moment of hesitation from Paul Kerr to race in on the Saints goal. With Saints Daniel Cassells advancing to narrow the angle the United wide man skilfully lobbed the big keeper to give United the three points.

Back on pitch 1 Alloa Athletic and Heart of Midlothian opened their respective accounts with last season's SAFL Championship winners proving too strong for a very youthful Wasps development team. Player of the tournament Jordan McGhee opened the scoring slotting home from 12 yards after a short corner routine on the left.

McGhee had a hand in Hearts' second, from another corner on the left the big defender was quickest to react to a near post flick on to stab the ball goalwards from where striker Gary Oliver was able to force the ball over the line from close range.

Gary Oliver with a neat left foot finish over the advancing Wasps keeper after cutting in from the left.

The punishment for the Alloa youngsters continued on pitch 1 where SPFL Premiership side Hamilton Academical recorded the biggest win of the day in an emphatic 4-0 romp. On the score sheet for Accies were Jesus Garcia Tena, Chris Turner and that man of many clubs Trialist.

On pitch 2 the St Johnstone coaching staff got a good look at what their first team will face on the opening day of the SPFL Premiership season when the Perth Saints development team took on the might of the Hearts first team.

Jaunma Delgado opened the scoring for the Jam Tarts racing through the middle to tuck a neat left foot finish past the keeper from eight yards out. For their second goal Hearts pressurised the young St Johnstone defence into a mistake as they attempted to play their way out of defence. Gary Oliver's shot from the edge of the D was charged down on the penalty spot but the rebound fell kindly for the Hearts striker allowing him to slot the ball easily past the wrong footed keeper.

St Johnstone notched a consolation goal thanks to a mistake by Hearts keeper Neil Alexander. The Scotland international keeper misjudged the flight of a throw in from full back Callum Paterson allowing the ball to bounce up and over his head. Despite the keeper getting a slight touch on the ball with his head he couldn't prevent St Johnstone striker George Hunter from slotting the ball into

the empty net to make the final score 2-1 to Hearts.

After sitting out the last round of games Saints returned to action on pitch 1 against Hamilton Academical where the hosts shocked the holders by securing the three points.

Even more unexpected than the scoreline was the identity of the goalscorer! Predominantly right sided defender Jamie Graham, deputising at left back for injured brother Douglas,

each half from Darian McKinnon and Daniel Armstrong gave Hamilton Academical all three points against St Johnstone whose Development League side continued to give a good account of themselves against their more experienced opponents.

On pitch 1 Dundee United edged out Alloa Athletic by two goals to nil in an all Development League tie of put the

the day and notch up their first three points.

On pitch 2 Alloa Athletic recovered from their baptism of fire against Hearts and Accies to steady the ship slightly in a Development League battle against St Johnstone. In a much closer contest the Perth Saints edged out the young Wasps 1-0.

Dundee United and Hearts returned to action on pitch 1 with the Jam Tarts Premiership side

surprisingly dropping points to the Arabs Development League team. Hearts opened the scoring in the first half from a Callum Paterson twenty five yard piledriver into the top left hand corner of the net. United levelled in the second half successful pressurising the Hearts defence into a mistake as they attempted to play their way out from the back. A slack back pass was pounced upon by United striker Jordan Muir who slotted the ball home past the despairing dive of the Hearts keeper to make the final score 1-1.

On pitch 2 a goal in

fired in a right foot cross come shot from the left wing which completely deceived Darren Hill in the Accies goal and nestled in the bottom corner of the net much to the delight of the home support.

Saints fully deserved their half time lead but were made to battle all the way in the second half as the full timers set about levelling the score. A sustained onslaught from Accies found the Saints defence a tough nut to crack and keeper Thomas McCulloch in no mood to be beaten. The big Saints keeper pulled off three tremendous saves to keep Saints first clean sheet of

Arabs on the seven point mark.

Back on pitch 2 Saints Manager Alex Craik handed himself a starting place joining fellow Hearts fans Craig MacEwan and Dean Smith in facing their boyhood heroes. Saints had the first opportunity of the match in the fourth minute when a delightful pass from Donald Campbell picked out Lewis Cameron on the corner of the six yard box unfortunately Lewis, under pressure from a Hearts defender, was unable to get his shot on target sending it inches wide of the keeper's left hand post.

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Arabs on the seven point mark.



Action from the Dundee United v St Johnstone match



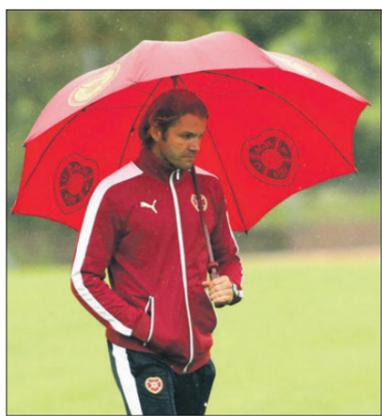
High fives as Kevin McHattie congratulates Sam Nicholson, No 11, who scored what proved to be tournament winning goal against Hamilton



Hearts season ticket holder Dean Smith is mobbed by his teammates after netting the second goal for Saints against his heroes 16\_129@saints06



Oban Hearts fans Mike Wood and John Rutherford pictured with Jambos skipper Blazej Augustyn



A dejected Robbie Neilson leaves the pitch after watching his team go down 2-1 to Oban Saints



Dundee United coach Dave Bowman gives last minute instructions to his players.

**Craig Levein** (Hearts director of football): 'The standard of football has been excellent. It's a good format for getting the players fit, pre-season.'

'It's always really well organised but it's just a pity the weather isn't better.'

'It's usually the same teams that come every year so you know what to expect and it's always a great day out to come up to Oban. Everyone is very welcoming and it's professionally run.'



**Steve Crawford**, (Hearts assistant manager): 'I really enjoyed the day.'

'We got well looked after at the Royal hotel on Friday night.'

'It's my first time here, but I'm really impressed as it's a well-run competition. The format is great, the five games of 30 minutes are fantastic for the fitness levels.'

'It's been a great day and I'd definitely like to come back in the future.'

**Dave Bowman**, (Dundee United development

squad assistant manager) said: 'It's such a good format for the players. It's the first football after our pre-season training and with the games being short, the players know they can give it their all, have a rest and then play another game later.'

'We've been coming here for years - I even remember about 12 years ago I had to play myself because of injuries!'

'It's mainly under-20s we've brought with us but we've managed to give a couple of our under-15s a run about which is good.'

**Ronnie MacDonald** (Hamilton Accies director): 'I've brought teams to the tournament for years, different clubs I've been involved in over the years, including Maryhill Juniors, Clyde, and now Hamilton. All three teams have won the tournament.'

'The day's gone very well, we always have a good time up here. It's a good level of opposition and the standard of football is top class.'



arty Cup. The Jambos have now won the trophy four times



Former Scotland head coach Craig Levein, now director of football at Hearts has a chat with manager Robbie Neilson



Saints captain Marc MacCallum in action against Hamilton Accies

# Hearts win D&K Cup

## Position as they finish in second place

Two minutes later a solo wonder goal from Hearts striker Sam Nicholson gave the Jambos the lead. Picking the ball up wide on the left in his own half Nicholson jinked his way past Donald Campbell and Jamie Graham on the half-way line before driving straight at the heart of the Saints defence. With the Saints midfield trailing in his wake Nicholson unleashed an unstoppable

yard line. Lewis cut into the box but found his path to goal blocked by three Hearts defenders. Lewis retained possession and laid the ball off to Craig MacEwan on the left of the box who evaded one despairing Hearts lunge before being brought down inside the six yard box. Referee Tim Woodcock was in no doubt about the Saints appeals and immediately pointed to the

combined well on the Saints left for Craig to slip in Donald on the left of the box. Donald's right foot shot across the keeper was beaten out but only as far as Dean Smith twelve yards out who sent a crashing shot into the Hearts net off the underside of the crossbar. Saints were well worthy of their lead and comfortably kept their professional counterparts at bay having one slight scare to

ferred little going forward and seemed content to sit in and wind the clock down on what had been a difficult day for them against some vastly more experienced opponents. On the other hand Saints could sense that a further three points were theirs for the taking if they could apply themselves properly. Alloa had an early opportunity when Willie Gemmell misjudged an attempted header back to Daniel Cassells in the Saints goal allowing an Alloa attacker to nip in and head goalwards. The big keeper made a good stop and Willie redeemed himself by recovering to mop up the loose ball and clear the danger.

Saints took the lead in the eighth minute when a Lewis Cameron cross from the right picked out Donald Campbell in the box. Ten yards from goal Donald held off his marker to drill a shot into the bottom corner of the net past the keeper's left hand. The Oban side upped the pressure in the second half and came agonising close to increasing their advantage on two occasions.



2-1 win over Hearts Photos: Kevin McGlynn

twenty five strike which flew past Daniel Cassells right into the postage stamp corner. Despite this setback Saints kept plugging away and came close again before half time. Myles McAuley made a typically powerful run through the Hearts midfield and fed Donald Campbell on the edge of the box. Donald's right foot shot was well held by Jack Hamilton in the Hearts goal. Saints were back on level terms shortly after the restart, Donald Campbell rolled a free kick about thirty yards out and wide on the left into Lewis Cameron on the eighteen

spot. Much to the surprise of the Saints faithful on the sidelines Dean Smith picked up the ball and placed it on the penalty spot. The Saints fans had no cause for alarm as the Hearts daft striker kept his cool and slammed his penalty kick high into the net giving Jack Hamilton no chance. Hearts had a chance to restore their advantage from a long range free kick but the low effort went wide of the post with Daniel Cassells looking to have his angles spot on. Saints took the lead in the twenty third minute when Craig MacEwan and Donald Campbell

endure when Soufian El Hassnaoui headed a corner kick goalwards only to see it thumped to safety by Paul Kerr standing on the goal line guarding the post. Over on pitch 1 Dundee United and St Johnstone closed their accounts for the day with the Perth Saints edging out the Arabs by one goal to nil leaving St Johnstone on nine points their best ever points tally in eleven tournament appearances. After recording an unexpected victory over Hearts Saints remained on pitch 2 for their final match against Alloa Athletic. The young Wasps of

Four minutes after the restart Lewis Cameron turned the Wasps defence inside out before delivering a pin-point cross into the six yard box. Colin Carswell made a great run from right back but unfortunately couldn't force the ball over the line and the danger was cleared. With two minutes remaining Saints had one last chance to score and once again Lewis Cameron was the Architect. Lewis swung over a testing in swinging corner kick from the Saints left which the Alloa keeper was unable to collect

cleanly. The Wasps keeper dropped the ball at the feet of PJ Sinclair barely one yard out but the Saints man somehow managed to squeeze the ball wide of the post when it seemed easier to score. The stage was then set for a winner takes all final match on pitch 1 between ante-post joint favourites Heart of Midlothian and Hamilton Academical. However, after some head scratching and checking of goal differences, it became apparent that a draw in the final match would bring Saints and St Johnstone back into contention and hand an unlikely tournament victory to the hosts by one goal over St Johnstone. Hearts took the lead in the sixth minute when Accies keeper Darren Hill failed to hold a Billy King shot from the edge of the box spilling the ball to Sam Nicholson for the Hearts striker to force home from eight yards. The notorious Oban summer weather eventually delivered the anticipated heavy rain but it failed to dampen the spirits of the large crowd who remained enthralled to the end of the closest tournament finish for many years.



Hearts full back Callum Paterson is congratulated by Kevin McHattie after his wonder strike against Dundee United



Saints goalkeeper Daniel Cassells shows his delight after Jamie Graham scores against Hamilton.



Action from the Alloa Athletic v Dundee United match which the Arabs won 2-0 thanks to two goals from Aaron Duke



New Saints manager Alex Craik and coach Peter MacCallum look delighted as Saints defeat Hamilton while Accies boss Martin Canning looks non-plussed

**ROBBIE NEILSON** (Hearts manager): 'It was a great day and a good test for the boys. It was a really hard tournament, with five 30 minute games. 'It's good to get the win but at the end of the day it's all about the fitness. Getting game-time for a lot of players was pleasing. 'It was a good day all round. 'I was able to utilise the whole squad that had travelled to Oban' 'I thought Jordan McGhee played very well and he was voted player of the tournament, which is not bad for a centre-half.'



	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hearts	5	3	0	1	8	4	10
Oban Saints	5	3	0	2	5	4	9
St Johnstone	5	3	0	2	5	5	9
Dundee United	5	2	2	0	5	3	8
Hamilton Accies	5	2	1	2	7	3	7
Alloa Athletic	5	0	0	5	0	11	0



**David Buchanan** (Tournament organiser and Saints secretary): 'It was a great day with a big crowd of spectators. 'I must thank Hearts and Accies for sending their first team squads, also to our sponsors D&K Lafferty without whose help we wouldn't be able to run the tournament. 'I must congratulate my own players who I thought were excellent and didn't look out of place against their professional counterparts.'



Craig MacEwan wins this header against Accies



Oban Saints under 15 striker Lewis Buchanan pictured with Hearts front man Sam Nicholson



Hearts owner Ann Budge with Hamilton Accies fans Stephen Donnachie and Dougie Bryden

Referee Gary Logan decided he had seen enough and blew for full time giving Hearts a record breaking fourth tournament victory and sending their far travelled supporters (and the Oban Jambos) home happy. At the end of the final game tournament organiser David Buchanan thanked the teams for coming, Archie MacDougall for manning the gate, the Argyll and Bute groundstaff for preparing two excellent pitches and the nine match officials before inviting Kathleen Lafferty from club sponsors D&K Lafferty Contractors who handed over the handsome trophy and medals to the winning Hearts squad.

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## Glenruitten

THE winner of the George Huntly competition at Glenruitten 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 Saturday the second round of the Handicap championship and Senior championship will take place, and on Sunday the Glenruitten mixed open.

## Tobermory

MENS' Section: July Medal - 1 William MacCrone 65-06-59; 2 Robert Dunning 88-28-60; 3 Tom Nunn 73-11-62.

Highland games cup - 1 Ewan MacCrone 33 points; 2 William MacCrone 32 points; 3 Robert Dunning 32 points.

Junior section - Summer challenge round one - 1 Aaron Paterson 106-40-66; 2 Ross MacCrone 78-12-66; 3 Lewis Brown 69-03-66. Second round - 1 Scott Paterson 76-19-57; 2 Lewis Brown 67-04-63; 3 Ross MacCrone 78-13-65.

## Islay

JULY medal played Sunday July 5 - 1 N Johnston 79-9=70; 2 A Livingstone 83-11=72; K MacDonald 79-6=73. C.S. 72.

S.P. Morrison played Friday 10 and Sunday July 12 - 1 I MacCuag 69 + 67 = 136; 2 S Johnston 70 + 73 = 143; 3 S Walsh 69 + 74 = 143.

## Isle of Skye

ROUND four of the Strath cup, played on Wednesday July 8 - 1 Kenny Gallon 40pts; 2 Gillies Nicolson 37pts. Overall Strath cup winners: 1 Gillies Nicolson 113pts; 2 Alasdair Grant 103pts.

Sligachan Scramble, played on Saturday July 11 winners: George Neill, Martin Bird, Bill Barney and John Marshall.

## Paddy picked to represent Scotland Motorcycling

OBAN High School teenager, Paddy Dunne, has been selected for the Scottish national team at the finals of the schools international competition on Saturday at Grangemouth. Paddy will be competing in the Under-17s javelin competition after winning bronze in the Scottish Schools Championships in June.



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West Highland Tennis Tournament prizewinners and organisers

# West Highland Wimbledon proves to be another success

TENNIS fever gripped the nation with events at Wimbledon, but closer to home the action was just as exciting in the West Highland Tennis Tournament.

The championships started successfully with primary and secondary competitions, designed to encourage players from outside Oban to participate. Both singles and doubles were won by Oban-based players with Kenny Drummond taking both titles, partnered by David MacPherson in the doubles.

Each evening a variety of competitive formats took place, the 'Davis Cup' team event, handicap singles and a mix and match timed event. The gents handicap singles was won by Roheel Arshad and the mix and match winner was Eddy Kenny.

The senior championship events started on Friday with a large entry of the highest quality as Oban now attracts entries from as far afield as Texas and Spain, as well as throughout Scotland and England.

With an entry of over 70 players,

tournament referee, Mary McLean, had her work cut out to play 145 matches over the weekend, but this was successfully achieved thanks to the co-operation of players and Atlantis Leisure staff.

The good weather on Friday allowed over 50 matches to be completed and excellent play was enjoyed by a large audience. This high quality of play continued on Saturday despite very challenging conditions, but with the rain clearing, play carried on until 10.30pm.

The gents semi-finals produced some excellent tennis as Bruno Argudo (Spain) and Tim Weir (St Andrews) contested every point.

Argudo was the eventual winner after a match of protracted rallies, while in the other semi-final Arron Hepburn (Nairn), a young and upcoming player, tested the No 1 seed, Alan MacDonald (Edinburgh) but the latter had the variety of shots and power to come through in two sets.

In the final, it was clear the

Oban court surface suited Alan's game and he gave a masterful performance, playing deep, positioning the ball effectively and then moving quickly to finish the point. Argudo countered with excellent cross court and down the line play but met an opponent in top form.

The ladies final involved Lisa Munro (Nairn), a former winner, and newcomer to the tournament, Sophie Williamson. This was a closely contested match with Lisa's driving ground shots and good serving allowing her to take the first set, but Sophie fought back by gaining a real rhythm to her play to take the second set.

In the tie-break, both players gave their all, but Sophie managed to execute a couple of winners at vital points to take her first Oban title.

The gents and ladies doubles were finely contested with the top seeds in both coming through to win the titles.

The social programme is an important part of the tournament and players enjoyed a BBQ and

quiz on Friday evening and a meal, hosted by Argyll and Bute Council, on Saturday evening.

The tournament would not be possible without the generous support of many organisations and, at the prize-giving ceremony, chairman Hugh McLean thanked Scottish Sea Farms, who sponsored the event for a second year, local businesses, Atlantis Leisure, Argyll and Bute Council, Oban Tennis and Squash Club for their continued support.

Results: McArthur Legal gents championship singles - A MacDonald; RA Clement Associates ladies championship singles - S Williamson;

Argyll Kitchen Design boys under 18 singles - A Hepburn; Sinclair Plant girls under 18 singles - J McLelland;

Mathesons Furnishings gents championship doubles - A MacDonald and C Severin; Caley Fisheries ladies championship doubles - L Munro and S Williamson;

Gents singles - K Drummond;



Mens doubles champions Alan MacDonald and Craig Severin

## Tennis

Gents doubles - K Keen and D MacPherson; Gents Handicap singles - R Arshad;

'Davis Cup' team night - L Oxland, A Hill, K Keen, D MacPherson;

Mix and match event - E Kenny. Junior Events sponsored by Esplanade Court: primary event - Sean Drummond; secondary event junior boys - Angus Neil; senior boys - Felix Buchting; girls - Grace Thomson.

## Oban Athletic back in training Football

OBAN Athletic started their pre-season training on Tuesday night with Martin Rae putting the boys through their paces. Training will continue on Glen 3 every Tuesday at 6.30pm and at Energie Fitness on a Thursday night at 7pm.

Athletic have arranged pre-season games starting on Saturday against Carradale, kick-off 3pm on Glen 1; Saturday July 25 against Dumbarton Harp also on Glen 1 - 3pm kick-off and Saturday August 1 against Westwood Rovers again on Glen 1 with a 3pm kick-off.

They then travel to play in the Argyll and Bute cup on Saturday August 8 before the league programme starts on the August 15.

## Saints take on Vale of Leven Juniors Football

AFTER their successful showing in the D&K Cup tournament, Oban Saints take on Junior side Vale of Leven this Saturday. Vale play in the Central League division two.

The game will be played on Glen 1 with a 1.30pm kick-off. Referee in charge is John Scott.

## McPhee has to settle for 17th Motorcycling

CONNEL rider, John McPhee, ended the German Grand Prix Moto3 race at the Sachsenring outside the points as he was placed 17th.

He had a poor qualifying performance - coupled with a three-place grid drop to 23rd for riding too slowly close to the racing line. A late rally realised 16th, but that too was snatched from his grasp on the penultimate lap by Jules Danilo leaving McPhee to settle for 17th.



Shukokai karate students with their awards

## Shukokai Karate

Argyll Martial Arts held their annual Student of the year awards. The overall winner was Zoe McKillop. The female runners-up were Iona McCulloch and Anook Clarke-Masseau and the male runners-up were Angus MacAskill and Archie McColl-Smith. Winning the shield for most improved student was Molly Blyth. The trophies were presented by Mr A. Buchanan of Buildbase, Oban, the club's main sponsor.

## Kick Boxing

Ruaraidh Neish from Oban's Senshi Do Kickboxing fought Callum Dlodlo of Headhunters Martial Arts at the Headhunters Fighting Championship show on June 27 in Falkirk. It was a close-fought bout with both fighters working well and looking for the KO. But neither was able to stop the other and, after 3 hard-fought rounds, it went to the judges' decision which, as expected with local judges, went to the local fighter.

The club also held a grading in Oban on June 28, resulting in the following promotions: Junior Grades - Yellow Belt (9th Kyu); David Gowdie, Innes McKinney, Arran Budge, Aiden Denholm, Ayden Campbell.

Orange Belt (8th Kyu); Conner MacLean. Green Belt (7th Kyu); Harry Needham, Andrew Woods, Calum MacAllister, Marco MacGregor.



Blue Belt (6th Kyu); Saul Walton, Hamish Martin. Purple Belt (5th Kyu); Phoebe Duffy, Jodie Duffy, Calum Russell, Mathew Keary.

Red Belt (4th Kyu); Conner Beattie, Logan Galbraith. Brown Belt (3rd Kyu); Daniel MacInnes.

Eight members of the Women Only class also graded. They did themselves and Sempai Sharon Dickson proud by gaining the following grades: Orange Belt (8th Kyu); Wilma Wardrop, Ann-Marie Cameron. Green Belt (7th Kyu); Gillian Munro, Kerrie Galbraith, Sandie Duffy, Kimberley Duffy. Blue Belt (6th Kyu); Mirka Stefanikova. Red Belt (4th Kyu); Iva Bursikova.

A special mention must go to Iva Bursikova who passed her second grading test within a week having graded with the Kyokushin karate club the previous Sunday.

Angus Files and Robbie Bratton have each, through their hard work and dedication, earned the position of Junior Assistant Instructor. This is the highest honour available to a junior member of the club until they turn 16 and are able to attempt their senior 1st Dan Black Belt.



Angus Files demonstrates the tornado turning kick



Sharon Dickson, Damien Williamson and Megan Williamson at the Kyokushin karate 'back-up' grading

Classes for juniors and seniors continue throughout the summer holidays on Wednesdays 6.30pm to 7.30pm and Sundays at 11pm for juniors. Seniors are 7.30pm to 9pm on Wednesdays and 12noon on Sundays with the Women Only Classes on Sundays at 2pm.

For any information on the kick boxing classes contact Wullie Rodger on shihanwill@gmail.com

## MMA

The MMA classes are continuing as normal through the summer with classes to suit all levels of fitness and ability. Anyone wishing to join should contact Iain "coogie" Potter on coogiepots@gmail.com

## Kyokushin Karate

Caledonia Kyokushin held a 'back-up' grading in Oban on Saturday 4 July for some students who were unable to make the previous test.

Three students attended and all were successful in reaching their next grades: Sharon Dickson 3rd kyu, Megan Williamson 3rd kyu and Damien Williamson 2nd kyu.

Twelve members from the Scottish clubs travelled to Derby on July 10 to attend a national training camp, and a report will be in the next column.

A special thanks too, to Wellpark House for their kind donation towards Mark & Iain's Japan trip next year.

For any information about the Kyokushin clubs, contact Iain Rodger on 07584 166542 or iain@ikku.co.uk

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**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 16, 2015 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm		
Thur	05.53 3.7 11.58 0.9 17.56 3.9 ** **	** **		
Fri	00.38 1.0 06.27 3.8 12.37 0.8 18.32 3.9			
Sat	01.17 1.1 07.01 3.8 13.15 0.8 19.07 3.9			
Sun	01.53 1.1 07.34 3.7 13.51 0.9 19.41 3.9			
Mon	02.29 1.3 08.07 3.6 14.26 1.1 20.14 3.7			
Tues	03.04 1.4 08.41 3.5 15.02 1.2 20.48 3.6			
Wed	03.41 1.6 09.16 3.3 15.40 1.4 21.22 3.4			

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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### Fellowship honour for doctor Sen

"We are proud to have promoted this mark of international recognition."

### Community delighted as £250,000 playpark is opened in Plantation



### Court case prompts exploitation concerns

CONCERNS have been raised about tourism workers being exploited after the former owner of a Lochaber hotel was found guilty of eight human trafficking offences.

Following a five-week sheriff and jury trial which ended last Friday (July 3), Shamsul Arefin, was found guilty of bringing four victims to the Stewart Hotel in Duror, which he then owned, with the intent to exploit them.

The people, brought to the Highlands from elsewhere in the UK and Bangladesh between 2008 and 2010, worked for the 47-year-old at the hotel. Arefin, now living at an address in Surrey, was found guilty by a majority verdict at Fort William sheriff court.

The charges involved bringing four people into the UK and arranging travel within the country, with the intent to exploit them, in breach of the Asylum and Immigration act.

Jamie McGrigor, MSP for the Highlands and Islands, called the situation 'alarming' and said he hopes it was an isolated incident. He said: 'It's worrying that things like this are happening here and it must be stopped. Anyone who comes to work here has the right to be treated and paid fairly and not to be exploited.'

'It's alarming that human trafficking has been going on in this part of the world and I hope nobody was put in any danger. I also worry about the impact this may have had on tourism in the area if people have been coming to Scotland and seeing people being exploited. I sincerely hope it was an isolated incident and the authorities are being vigilant to prevent this happening again.'

A further two charges against Arefin, who was remanded in custody, relating to threatening behaviour and assault of staff, were found not proven. Sentencing is scheduled for July 24.

# Inspiring Innes scales Ben to help children's charity

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

A KIND-HEARTED Fort William boy with cerebral palsy has defeated all the odds by walking up Ben Nevis for charity.

Innes Macdonald, eight, reached the top of Britain's highest mountain on Monday after telling his mother he wanted to help children worse off than him.

The Caol primary school pupil was five years old when he was



VICTORY: Innes as the highest person in Britain, with walking guide, John Seaman

diagnosed with mild diplegic cerebral palsy which affects co-ordination and movement.

At the time, doctors said he was likely to struggle with physical activity and probably wouldn't be able to swim without arms bands or cycle without stabilisers.

But the strong-willed youngster has proved everyone wrong over the last three years and took a step further when he walked 4,409 feet to the Ben summit and back, raising more than £500 for cerebral palsy therapy charity, Bobath Scotland.

Innes' mum Kara Gillespie said she is 'so proud' of her son.

She said: 'He's always been such a determined wee boy. He's proved doctors wrong at every hurdle and I'm so proud of what he's achieved.'

'The idea came when we were walking through town and saw a wee girl in a wheelchair. Innes asked about her and I explained how there are other children with cerebral palsy who are much less fortunate than him and ever since then he's wanted to help children who can't do the things he can.'

'He's football mad and always out playing, so he said he wanted to do something for wee boys and girls who can't go out and run about like he can.'

Ms Gillespie had planned to walk Ben Nevis with her son, but discovered she is pregnant after they organised the challenge. Innes' gran, Angela Murray, went up in her place, along with walking guide, James Seaman.

Innes set a target of raising £500 for Bobath and has gone above his goal, with money still coming in.

Ms Gillespie said: 'Innes is so chuffed with what he raised and the walk hasn't phased him. He was dressed and ready to go out at 10 o'clock the morning after.'

'His main priority was to help other children and that's exactly what he has done.'

Mr Seaman, a former colleague of Ms Gillespie, called his young walking partner 'truly inspiring'.

He added: 'From the word go his attitude was positive, he was open-minded and energetic. He learned and engaged with the environment while walking up the mountain track and his high spirits continued all day even in the cold and rain.'

'Innes took on the mountain with caution and consideration, but with the commitment, determination and motivation to power through difficulties.'

Innes can still be sponsored via [www.justgiving.com/Kara-Gillespie](http://www.justgiving.com/Kara-Gillespie).



HIGH SPIRITS: eight-year-old Innes MacDonald walked up Ben Nevis to raise money for a cerebral palsy charity

### Paid staff member sacked from charity following investigation

A PAID member of staff at a Fort William-based charity has been sacked following an investigation into an alleged financial discrepancy.

The matter has now been passed to the police after an allegation of a missing four-figure sum from Shopmobility Lochaber's charity account sparked the investigation earlier this year.

A spokeswoman for the charity confirmed the worker had been dismissed following the enquiries, but said all money was accounted for. She said:

'Allegations were made and an investigation was carried out by the charity commission. A member of staff has been dismissed, but all of Shopmobility's money is accounted for. The matter has now been passed on to the police.'

Further allegations of illegal tobacco sales from the charity's MacFarlane Way premises were not proven.

The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator declined to comment on the matter and Lochaber police were unavailable for comment as the Oban Times went to press.

### Excitement builds as Caol gears up for its first gala in a decade

A FORT William community will get together this weekend to celebrate its first gala day in a decade.

Caol gala day came to a halt ten years ago when local community groups disbanded. In 2014, village residents united to form Caol community council (CCC) and the resurrection of the gala day was one of its first projects.

Events kick off this Saturday with a parade from the local Co-op to Canal park at 12pm. Morgan Bissett, 14, will be crowned gala queen at the village parade, an original tradition of the

gala day. Morgan will be supported by attendants, Eva MacKay and Erica Peden, both from Caol.

At Canal park there will be bonnie baby and gala granny competitions, games including beat the goalie, gladiator and family tug 'o' war and a fun fair. Chairman of CCC John Gillespie said: 'It will be great to get the community together again. We are expecting to see at least a few hundred people on the day. It used to be such a big event here.'

A dance will be held in Caol community centre on Saturday evening.

### TIMESLINE

#### Woman found dead in Glenuig

A WOMAN in her 50s has been found dead in the Glenuig area of Lochaber.

Emergency services attended the scene, near Lochallort, following a report of a sudden death at 3.55pm on Tuesday July 14.

Fire crews were called to the scene as initial reports received by police suggested there may be harmful chemicals in the area but this was found not to be the case.

A police spokesman said: 'Emergency services attended following a report of a sudden death of a woman in her 50s.'

'A report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.'

#### Alarm raised over motorhome man

POLICE are hunting for a man who stopped in a white motorhome to speak to two young girls, near to Banff Crescent in Upper Achintore, Fort William on Friday July 10 at 2.40pm.

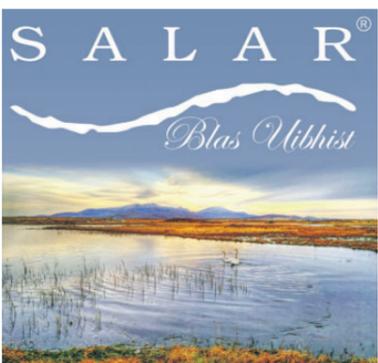
It is believed the two schoolgirls raised the alarm themselves.

Anyone with any information regarding the incident should call the police on their non emergency telephone number 101.

#### Police issue fake ticket warning

PEOPLE buying tickets to the Belladrum Tartan Heart festival have been warned to be on guard following reports of fakes.

Highlands and Islands police have issued guidance for those still to buy tickets for the popular Beaulieu-based event next month and further information is available on the Belladrum website.



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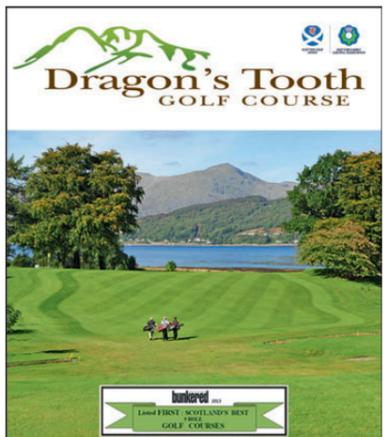
### Italians dive in for training

FORT William's award winning Underwater Centre has yet again supported the training of international rescue teams.

Three members of the Italian Air Force search and rescue team spent three days at the centre last week to undergo advanced and intensive training.

The renowned centre provides training to rescue teams from around the world and, just last year, a group of 10 members of the Finnish coastguard completed advanced diver training at the centre.

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS: From left: Beniamino Panduccio, David Padula, and Massimiliano Lai



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## Double club trauma won't delay kick-off

FORT William football club will be able to start their Highland league season, despite a fire at the clubhouse and the manager resigning in the same week.

In what was described as a 'traumatic week', a blaze ripped through the Claggan park changing rooms last Monday, putting them out of use ahead of the club's first league game of the season, scheduled for Saturday July 25. But Fort FC committee members breathed a sigh of relief when High Life Highland, which is responsible for leisure facilities in the area, arranged for portable changing rooms to be put in place. It is hoped these will be available in time for the game, but if not, players can change at Lochaber high school.

In a second blow for the club, manager Calum MacLean announced his resignation just three days later, stepping down due to work and family commitments.

Gerald McIntyre, director of Fort William FC, said: 'It certainly has been a traumatic week, but the board and committee are determined the club will come back even stronger in the coming season.'

The cause of the fire is still unknown and investigations are ongoing.

For more on Mr MacLean's resignation, see page 26.

## Focus on future of health care

HEALTH professionals and patient groups in the Highlands have given their views on primary care and out of hours services.

The engagement event last week is part of a national review on the best way to provide these services in light of the area's ageing population and integration of health and social services.

Gill McVicar, director of operations for NHS Highland north and west, said: 'Highland has specific challenges because of the vast areas and distances and the ability to recruit and retain staff in remote areas. We need to be thinking differently about how we build for the future. We also discussed the need for continued focus on improving reliable broadband and mobile phone use across all our areas.'

Findings of the review will be published later this year.

# Friends get ready to party to top up cancer care fund

EMMA CRICHTON  
erichton@obantimes.co.uk

FRIENDS of a Fort William woman suffering from cancer have raised almost £4,000 to help with treatment and hope to take a massive leap further with their campaign this weekend.

Kelly MacDonald found a mole last year, which was removed, but during a routine screening this May, doctors discovered the cancer had spread to her liver.

The 29-year-old is currently undergoing treatment so wasn't able to speak to the Oban Times.

Meanwhile, friends and family have started a campaign to help with any travelling costs or private healthcare which may



TREATMENT: Kelly MacDonald

be required if the illness isn't cured with the next two rounds of medication. The fundraising continues with a garden party at An Aird this Sunday (July 19).

Susan Bell, who co-owns Unique hair and beauty salon in Fort William with Miss MacDonald, raised £1,700 through a coffee morning last month, with the help of their colleagues.

The team's fundraiser, Kelly's Klimb, has raised almost £4,000 so far.

Ms Bell said: 'Kelly is going to London to see a specialist and that's paid for, but she has to take someone with her so if we can help with travel and accommodation costs that would be brilliant.'

'We're also thinking about if she ever has to go private or elsewhere in Europe if the treatment she's currently getting doesn't work. We really all hope Kelly never has to use this money, but it puts us at ease knowing it's there and we can help if she needs it. Raising the amount we have so far has been brilliant, people have been mega kind and we can't thank them enough.'

But there's still a long way to go for the girls at Unique, who hope this weekend's garden party will further boost the fund.

Ms Bell said: 'We've got loads going on, prosecco, sandwiches, cake, crisps and juice for the children and we've also got a bouncy castle and face painting. 'It's going to be a really good

day and hopefully it'll stay dry, but if not we'll go inside, we won't let that stop us.'

Tickets for the garden party are £10 and are available from Unique salon on High Street or are available at An Aird on the day. The event starts at 2pm.

It doesn't stop there for the Kelly's Klimb girls, as Ms Bell and her colleagues, Rebecca Grant and Leanne Kelly, plan to walk up Ben Nevis on August 30 and are inviting anyone who wants to help to join in.

Ms Bell added: 'We're welcoming friends, family and clients, anyone who wants to come up with us. You can raise your own sponsorship money or just come on the walk. Anything people can do to help is great.'

# Community delighted as £250,000 playpark is opened in Plantation

A PLAYPARK costing almost £250,000 was officially opened in the most deprived area of Fort William at the weekend.

The facility in the Plantation area of the town, which also features outdoor fitness equipment, a mountain bike track and walking route, was created by Plantation community association (PCA) and is the result of four years of hard work and fundraising, boosted by £247,000 from the Big Lottery.

Pine Grove park was officially opened by Highland councillor, Brian Murphy, on Saturday and the occasion was marked with a fun day allowing the community to enjoy the facilities.

Helen MacKenzie, chairwoman of the PCA, said: 'The community has really come together behind this project, and it's great to see everyone enjoying the park now

It's great to see everyone enjoying it now it's open'

Helen MacKenzie  
PCA chairwoman

it's open. The whole community has been involved in planning this park for well over four years now and we've worked with local people to make sure that the facilities here are what they will use and enjoy.

'Highland council's ward discretionary fund and tenant participation service have also helped us over the years both with donations and advice.'

'By working together, we've managed to give the community a great new facility and increased confidence in seeing what we can all achieve.'

Opening the event, councillor Murphy welcomed the completion of a 'real community project'.

He said: 'Along with my fellow Highland councillors for the Fort William and Ardnurchan ward, we welcome the completion of this significant development. This was a real community



OFFICIALLY OPEN: Highland councillor, Brian Murphy, opens Fort William's new £250,000 playpark. From left: Cara Elder, Lesley-Ann Boath, Helen MacKenzie - all Plantation community association - councillors Thomas MacLennan and Brian Murphy and Ian Williamson, also of the PCA

project in every sense of the term, from its conception, to developing the designs, applying for the funding, coping with the problems thrown up during the planning process, tackling the difficult issues which came up during the work, to the final delivery.

'It's been the community through their very committed community association committee which has driven it forward. They have had a lot of help along the way but ultimately it wouldn't have happened had it not been for the enthusiasm, dedication and hard work of the community.'



FUN AND GAMES: Jamie MacMaster, Rebeka MacMaster and Armia Balterunas at Pine Grove park

## TIMESLINE

### Warning: lottery letter is a scam

LOCAL authorities are warning people in Lochaber of lottery con letters currently circulating around households.

As part of the crackdown on internet, doorstep and caller scams, Highland council's trading standards team are highlighting issues in the region.

A spokeswoman for Highland council trading standards said: 'A letter sent to residents across the Highlands claiming they have won a "postcode lottery" is a scam.'

Scam awareness month began on July 1 and has a different theme each week.

The spokeswoman said: 'Online dating fraud is also on the increase with around 52 per cent of victims reporting suffering ill health as a consequence.'

To find out more go to www.cas.org.uk/stopscams or call Citizens Advice on 03454 040506.

### Dismay at wait for Uist connections

AN ISLAND business has complained to BT as it has had no phone or broadband since March.

Angus MacNeil, MP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar, has contacted the director of BT Scotland on behalf of the constituent from Uist.

The businessman ordered a phone line and internet four months ago, but it has yet to be delivered, said Mr MacNeil. The MP also reported a constituent on Lewis requested the redirection of his phone line in May, which has yet to be done. A BT spokesman said the delays have been caused as the van used to service the Western Isles is under repair and the driver is on annual leave.

Mr MacNeil said: 'It is disappointing to hear BT customers are experiencing this level of service. These issues have been going on for far too long and BT customers are becoming increasingly frustrated. I am surprised only one vehicle is available to service all of the Western Isles and that no other arrangements can be put in place when breakdowns occur.'

### National orchestra place for Anthony

A LOCHABER high school pupil was one of a select group of students picked to perform as part of the National Youth Orchestra.

Tuba player, Anthony Hook, was one of six Highland students to perform at an event in Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh, on Saturday July 11.



Tom Brown

Eric Cyl

## Search continues for glen walkers

A RESCUE team searching for a missing hill walker in Glen Nevis has confirmed the past seven months have been its 'busiest ever'.

Lochaber mountain rescue team (LMRT) has been searching for Lanarkshire man Tom Brown, 65, for a week and he is the second person to have gone missing recently.

Englishman Eric Cyl, 62, went missing on May 31 and has not yet been found.

The lifesaving team has been sent out on operations 73 times this year.

A spokesman from LMRT said: 'This is by far our busiest first half to a year ever.'

The seven-day search for Tom covered an area more than 70kms square++ in more than 700 hours on five

deployments. The search will continue, but has been scaled down.

Walkers on Ben Nevis, Mamores, Grey Corries and Aonach Beag areas are being urged to keep looking and report to police anything which might lead LMRT to recovering either of the men.

Mr Brown was last seen leaving his Lanarkshire home on Wednesday July 1. He is described as 5 feet 10 inches in height, of stocky build with grey/brown bushy hair and eyebrows.

His rucksack and contents were found about 1km east of Steall Falls in the Glen Nevis area.

Both men were believed to be walking in the upper Glen Nevis and Ring of Steall.

## Hundreds back online campaign to keep Glen Roy a nature reserve

HUNDREDS of people have backed a campaign to keep a west Highland tourist attraction as a nature reserve.

Glen Roy, near Roy Bridge in Lochaber, is famed for its 'parallel roads', visited by Charles Darwin in the 19th century, and has been a natural nature reserve (NNR) since the 1950s. But landowners Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) could 'de-designate' the area of its NNR status at a meeting to be held next month.

The fragile mountainside imprints of the parallel roads of Glen Roy were carved by ancient glacial lakes as water repeatedly froze and melted on the hill, giving the appearance of roads. The iconic landscape attracts visitors from all over the world.

Lochaber Geopark, the founders of a 700-strong campaign against the plan, said this could lead to SNH selling off parts of Glen Roy, but a spokesman for SNH said there are 'no plans' to sell the land. Glen Roy is also protected by being named a site of special scientific interest (SSSI) in 1986.

A spokesman from Lochaber Geopark said: 'The Scottish government's policies

on land reform aim to strengthen local communities. Any potential to sell off this national treasure appears to contradict this initiative, and is equivalent to "selling the family silver". Keeping the Glen Roy national nature reserve as a nationally owned asset would assure local people and visitors that Scotland's treasured countryside is safe with SNH.'

An online petition to protect Glen Roy has gathered more than 700 signatures in a week.

Nigel Smith, SNH's principal advisor on protected area effectiveness, said: 'We recognise the importance of the parallel roads of Lochaber. It's a beautiful and historic part of the Highlands and is also of significant scientific interest, and will continue to be protected. At the moment, 90 per cent of the area is owned by a number of private owners and is protected legally as a SSSI. We own the remaining 10 per cent of the SSSI. The de-designation will not change how well the area is protected, as it is also safeguarded as a SSSI under domestic legislation. We have no plans to sell our land in the SSSI.'

## Council appeals school ruling

HIGHLAND council is to appeal a Scottish government decision after its plan to close four schools on Skye was overturned.

The local authority wants to close Dunvegan, Struan, Knockbreck and Edinbane primary schools in the north west of the island, replacing them with a new build in Dunvegan.

But the school closure review panel (SCRPP) refused consent earlier this month, stating the council had not fulfilled legal obligations during the consultation process.

Highland council has now lodged a summary application with Portree sheriff court seeking an appeal against the decision. Drew Millar, Skye councillor and chairman of the local authority's

education, children and adult services committee, said: 'The council appreciates that, while this appeal is ongoing, there will be a period of uncertainty for the community of north west Skye. However, we strongly believe the proposed new community school would deliver considerable educational and community benefits, and that the consultation process was thorough and correct in arriving at this conclusion. In pursuing this appeal, the council believes it is in the best interests of the community, to provide new, state of the art facilities that will deliver first class, sustainable education into the future.'

Parents of pupils at the schools facing closure had previously objected to the plans as their children would face lengthy journeys to and from school.

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# Action call on building that 'blights' town

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

A DERELICT former bowling alley has been labelled a 'terrible blight' on the improving landscape of Oban town centre.

The rusting and boarded-up Harbour Bowl on Shore Street is covered in weeds and has lain idle for years, prompting a call from Oban councillor, Roddy McCuish, to demand action.

Councillor McCuish, chairman of the Oban, Lorn and Isles area committee, said great strides have been made in trying to improve Oban town centre's image, and yet for many bus, ferry and railway passengers the first sight of the town is the disused hulk.

At one time, the Harbour Bowl housed an eight-lane bowling

alley, carpet bowls, a bar and café. Last June, nationwide hotel chain, Premier Inn, confirmed it was interested in buying the site, but 13 months later, it has still not been sold and Councillor McCuish said the Harbour Bowl has now lain dormant for far too long.

'I think the owners have a responsibility to do something with their building as it is a terrible blight on the town,' he continued. 'This has now been going on for years and years and really, something needs to be done.'

'The council is trying to improve the image of the town. We have spent £600,000 on improving Stafford Street, we are soon starting work on George Street and yet the first thing a lot of visitors see of Oban is a huge building in the very centre which

has been left to deteriorate, with weeds growing out of the top of the roof. It's not really good enough of the owners to sit there year after year and just do nothing. I think there should be some sort of planning requirement which imposes owners to pay charges, unless they are prepared to do something with their empty buildings.'

He added: 'It is not OK to just allow a prime centre site like this to lie unused for years, especially as we are woefully short of town centre parking and hotel rooms. 'It is a large site and so many things could be done. At the moment and for many years, nothing has been done.'

Oban-based chartered surveyors and property consultants, Black and King, have a sign on the disused building saying enquiries should be directed to them.

In response to Councillor McCuish's criticisms, Gregor King said: 'Everyone is entitled to their opinion. My client submitted a planning application for a change of use last year and we are currently in discussions with a variety of partners. Since 2008, commercial properties have been in recession. I am told by my client that the property remains on the market.'

Mr King confirmed that the owners of Harbour Bowl are Manchester-based Chromedale Limited. The site, covering around one acre and adjacent to the railway, ferry and bus terminals on Shore Street, replaced a Victorian town centre railway station in the 1990s.

Councillor McCuish said: 'It was quite an attractive station, but not any more. It is just an eyesore.'



**BAD IMPRESSION:** Roddy McCuish says the derelict Harbour Bowl on Shore Road is an 'eyesore'

## Alistair's on the ball and he's got £2700 to prove it



**EYEBALLING:** Alistair keeps his eye on the ball a29winner03

LUCKY Lochgilphead strikes again!

The town at the end of Loch Fyne is doing...well, just fine, after yet another big cash win.

Only six weeks ago, the residents of the small but scenic Mid Argyllshire town celebrated in style as retired couple Geordie and Betty Rhodick became instant Euro millionaires after fishing their lottery ticket out of the recycling bin to claim their £1million prize.

But the now-famous Lochgilphead luck has struck again, this time as pensioner, Alistair

Johnson, has landed £2,700 with the *Oban Times* Spot the Shinty Ball competition.

There is clearly something in the air around Lochgilphead following the shinty and lottery winners' double whammy.

But whether it was luck or skill, Alistair, who played shinty as a boy growing up in Inveraray, scooped the jackpot and is now looking forward to putting his feet up on a richly deserved holiday with wife, Liz, and buying a few treats for his family.

The 74-year-old Shinty enthu-

siast said: 'I've tried my luck on and off over the years, but the nearest I've come before now was winning £25 about ten years ago for being nearest the ball.'

'You never think it's going to be you, but someone has got to win it. I didn't try this week as I thought someone else should get a chance.'

So after two big jackpots will there be another lucky Lochgilphead winner on the way? The 2,300 residents of the town are waiting in anticipation for a happy hat-trick.

# Former landmark hostel may yet again provide shelter in the town

**STEVEN RAE**  
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A LANDMARK Oban building is to be turned into eight flats, if council planners give developers the go-ahead.

It is proposed by developers, Michael Gilmour Associates of Aberdeen to convert Kilbowie House, situated on Galannach Road, into apartments, with another two houses to be built in the property grounds.

The category B-listed building has been owned by Argyll and Bute council since 1996, when local government was reorganised in Scotland.

The building had previously been owned by Strathclyde regional council. The price of the sale has not yet been disclosed.

Argyll and Bute council most recently used the building as offices for staff employed within the roads department, however, it has remained empty for more than four years.

In the past, the building was used as a school hostel for pupils attending Oban high school, who lived on the outlying islands.

Interest was shown in Kilbowie House, which was built in the 19th century, back in December last year, when the building was thought to require substantial remedial work to ceilings to make it wind and watertight.

But, the fact-finding mission by the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee found the building was in good order.

One objection has been

submitted on Argyll and Bute council's website for the recent application.

Mrs Rae Boyd, of Dungallan Terrace, who is an immediate neighbour, voiced concerns about the increase in traffic, saying she thought it was 'merely a matter of time before someone is seriously injured.'

Despite her objection, she thought it was good to see the building renovated and utilised after years of lying derelict.

The only immediate neighbouring property is the Kilbowie Outdoor Centre, which is operated by North Lanarkshire Leisure. It provides outdoor activities and pursuits.

Ian Murdoch, business development director for North Lanarkshire Leisure, said: 'The building has obviously been lying derelict for some time now, and I don't see the development having any negative impact at all on our operations.'

'I welcome anything that will be positive and personally think it will enhance the area.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'It's not appropriate to comment on the price of the building, in view of the fact the transaction has not yet been settled.'

'A decision will be made regarding the application in due course.'

'This application will be considered by Argyll and Bute council in exactly the same way as any other, in the context of our local development plan and any other



material planning considerations such as Scottish planning policy.'

With regards to the objection about traffic safety raised by Mrs Boyd, the spokesman added: 'Any representations are

considered through the formal planning process. The comments will then be reflected on in the report of handling.'

'The council will then take a view on the application in its en-

**WELL KNOWN LANDMARK:** Kilbowie House, a one time hostel for pupils attending Oban high school from the islands, is the subject of a planning application

tirety and either grant or refuse planning permission.'

Nobody from Michael Gilmour Associates was available for comment at the time of going to press.

# LOCHLAN AIMS HIGH FOR CHARITY

TEENAGER Lochlan Carr has set Argyll residents the challenge of climbing to the top of Ben Nevis to raise money for the National Autistic Society.

Lochlan, from Denny in Falkirk, was diagnosed with autism when he was nine. He enjoys walking and decided to take on the UK's highest mountain - with an ascent of 4,389ft - to raise vital funds for the leading charity for people affected by autism.

Now Lochlan is calling for Argyll folk to join his 'Big Ben' challenge.

He said: 'I have never climbed a mountain before, so I am really getting excited now. I want the people from Argyll to join me and my mum on our challenge and help us to raise money for people with autism.'

The National Autistic Society has helped Lochlan and his mum, Ruth, to organise the challenge.

It will take place on August 16 and mountain guides with a knowledge and understanding of autism have been specially selected to ensure the hike and its spectacular views can be enjoyed by people with the condition.

Jenny Paterson, director of the National Autistic Society Scotland, said: 'Lochlan is an inspiration. I hope keen and fledgling walkers alike from Argyll join his 'Big Ben' challenge and help him

**I want the people from Argyll to join me**

**Lochlan Carr**  
(‘Big Ben’ challenge)

to raise funds for people who are affected by autism.

'If the weather is good, the views will be spectacular. And if the weather isn't good, as is often the case, climbing the UK's highest mountain is a huge achievement and something to really be proud of.'

Participants are asked to pay a registration fee of £25 and raise £200 through sponsorship. The National Autistic Society will

provide training and fundraising support, a T-shirt, a certificate of completion and a celebration meal.

To find out more and join the challenge, email events@nas.org.uk or phone 0207 903 3589.

To sponsor Lochlan and Ruth, visit [justgiving.com/Ruth-Allison1/](http://justgiving.com/Ruth-Allison1/). To follow his journey, visit [journey.facebook.com/pages/Lochlans-Nevis-Challenge/850145365047455](http://journey.facebook.com/pages/Lochlans-Nevis-Challenge/850145365047455)

## Sino-SAMs link-up could lead to more exchanges between Oban and Far East

CHINA'S oldest university may soon be linking up with one of the UK's newest, as a marine science degree is planning to bring Asian students to Scotland.

Delegates from Tianjin University, China, including the university's vice chancellor Yan Xueyan, visited the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), near Oban, to explore collaborative links between their institution and the University of the Highlands and Islands, which is a partner of SAMS.

In the short term, the universities hope to sign a Memorandum of Understanding that will lead to collaborative developments on undergraduate marine science teaching, with SAMS UHI staff providing guest lectures in China and Chinese students spending part or all of the final year of their marine science undergraduate degree at SAMS UHI in Oban.

The partnership could also pave the way for the two universities to explore international research opportunities.

Staff from SAMS UHI will visit Tianjin this autumn, proposing for a course to begin in autumn 2016, with the first Tianjin students arriving at SAMS as early as 2019.

Professor Keith Davidson of SAMS, who will be representing SAMS UHI on the return trip, said: 'Marine science is of considerable importance in both Scotland and China, with many shared challenges.'

'The proposed collaborative developments between SAMS UHI and Tianjin will potentially provide excellent opportunities for teaching, research and cultural exchange.'

## Bike theft from car

A BIKE was stolen from Scalpay Terrace, Soroba, Oban, between 1pm on July 6 and 5pm the same day. The BMX-styled bike is described as black and white.

## Rucksack vanishes

A BLACK rucksack was stolen from a car parked in Balvicar Road, Oban, between 10am and 10.15am on July 10.

Any information about both one or both thefts, contact Oban police station.

## Mull binge-drinker can't stay on island

A 'BINGE-DRINKING' Mull delivery driver has been told he cannot live on the island while he awaits to be sentenced for using threatening and abusive language towards his 84-year-old mother, who suffers from dementia, writes Niall Hickman.

Last Wednesday, Oban sheriff court heard Callum MacDougall plead guilty to the charge, but his sentence was deferred until August 6 for background reports.

It is now the third time MacDougall has been convicted of threatening behaviour towards his mother, prompting Sheriff Colin McKay to warn the 48-year-old delivery driver, 'You clearly have a significant problem with alcohol.'

The incident took place outside his mother Dorothy MacDougall's house at Fountainhead, Bunessan, Mull, on June 25.

Procurator fiscal Claire Martin told the court that PC Chalmers, a community police officer on Mull, who lives close to Mrs MacDougall, took a phone call from a social worker who was concerned that the accused, who had been drinking, was heading for his elderly mother's house.

Miss Martin said: 'PC Chalmers saw him charge down the

pathway towards his mother, shouting. He was aggressive.'

MacDougall, of Ardmearoch View, Bunessan, was arrested and taken to Craignure police station. After sobering up, he told officers he could recall nothing of the incident.

Miss Martin asked for MacDougall to be banned from living on the island until sentence was passed, saying his mother should not be subject to his erratic behaviour.

'The police and social workers have been extensively involved. It would appear he has an alcohol addiction.'

Defending solicitor Laura McManus asked Sheriff McKay if her client, whom she described as a 'binge-drinker,' would be allowed to travel to Mull in the course of his employment as a delivery driver.

Sheriff McKay agreed to the dispensation, but at all other times MacDougall had to reside at a guest house in Oban until he was sentenced.

Sheriff McKay said: 'I see no reason why your mother, who is 84, should be subjected to this kind of behaviour.'

'You are properly addressing this problem you have with alcohol, but I am not prepared to let you back on the island unless it is in the course of your employment.'

## Sheriff requires reports on 'big lad'

AN OBAN offshore engineer has had his sentence deferred for background reports after he committed three unprovoked assaults.

Last Wednesday, Oban sheriff court heard Ian Macara plead guilty to three assaults and was told he has a serious drink problem.

Sheriff Colin McKay told the powerfully-built 33-year-old man: 'I am concerned about your alcohol consumption and violence towards three relative strangers. There is an underlying and serious problem here with alcohol. You are a big lad and if you drink too much and start hitting people, you can do a lot of damage.'

'Because I am concerned about the level of violence you have displayed when under the influence of alcohol, I shall require reports before passing sentence.'

Procurator fiscal Claire Martin said Macara, of Croft Road, Oban, lashed out at three men on January 29 following a drinking session. Miss Martin said: 'At the time, the three were drinking

alcohol and listening to music. They heard a knock at the door and when they opened it they found the accused. The accused started drinking wine with them and was in the flat for around 15 minutes when Macara punched one of the men on the side of the face for no apparent reason.

'The accused then started to punch and kick one of the other men, who curled up in a ball. The accused did this several times to the head and body. The man asked the accused why he was doing this?'

'The police were called and the accused initially refused to speak. They noticed he was heavily under the influence of alcohol. One man suffered a cut to the head and swelling around his left eye area, while another had marks to the right side of his face.'

Defence solicitor Laura McManus said: 'There were no difficulties between the accused and the others and he does not know what the mix-up was over.' Macara had his sentence deferred until August 5.

## DOGS ALLOWED TO FOUL CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS DESPITE TOWN CAMPAIGN



FOUL PLAY: From left, concerned mothers, Yvonne Bryce, Julie McKenzie, Sally Weaser, Ellie Day and Audrey Campbell, along with Sally's sons, Liam and Alfie 16\_t29dogfoul01

## Angry mums step up fight against 'disgusting' owners

STEVEN RAE  
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A GROUP of angry mothers are calling foul as yet more irresponsible dog owners are allowing their pets to mess where their children play.

The mums, who live in the Balvicar Road area, contacted the *Oban Times*.

Yvonne Bryce, who lives in Balvicar Road next to the small football pitch, and has two children who regularly play there, said: 'I'm totally fed up having to wash dirty clothes and trainers just because my kids want to go out to play on the grass.'

'It's disgusting,' Sally Weaser, who also lives in Balvicar Road, said the issue was becoming so bad she was at the point of telling her children not to play in the park next to her home.

She said: 'I shouldn't have to tell my kids not to play on the grass or worry about them walking to school without messing their shoes up, but it's coming to that stage.'

'It's absolutely awful the amount of mess around here.'

Audrey Campbell, who lives on Park Road, said: 'People put out their own bins for dog mess, but it's not their responsibility to be doing that.'

'It would be a delight if there were more dual purpose bins provided because it would give people somewhere to put their dog mess and their rubbish as well, and kill two birds with one stone.'

Oban community councillor, Julie McKenzie, who has previously raised the dog fouling issues with Argyll and Bute council, said: 'There's absolutely horrific levels of dog waste in this area and it's about time something was done about it.'

'The amount of parents and children I've spoken to who have issues with dog mess in this area really is horrifying.'

'It's not something children should have to worry about.'

'Despite the fact that there's a high profile campaign in Oban to stop dog fouling, it's really disheartening that irresponsible dog owners are continuing to allow their dogs to foul on public parks and footpaths and places where children play. However, it only strengthens our resolve more.'

Argyll and Bute council has agreed to employ a new amenity warden, part of whose remit will be to enforce dog fouling laws.

The authority is also to put up 40 posters where dog fouling 'hotspots' have been identified.

## Chef too drunk to appear in court

NIALL HICKMAN  
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A CHEF who failed to turn up in court on a charge of threatening and abusive behaviour spent a night in the cells last week.

Scott Duncan, 30, of Nelson Road, Oban, appeared at Oban sheriff court last Wednesday having failed to appear the previous day, admitting he had been drinking heavily instead.

Duncan admitted charges of threatening and abusive behaviour towards his former girlfriend and failing to appear

in court. Procurator fiscal Claire Martin told the court Duncan had been living with a former girlfriend for four months when a drinking session triggered a row.

Miss Martin said: 'Over a few days prior to this incident, the former girlfriend had been on a drinking binge with the accused.'

'This led to them arguing about the end of their relationship on the day of this incident.'

'At 4.23pm on June 11, the witness contacted the police stating saying that the accused was refusing to leave when asked. 'When the police arrived at the

house, the accused was in the process of packing his bags in the bedroom.'

'He told police he had refused to leave and said, "I did not act in a threatening manner towards her".'

Defending solicitor Laura McManus told the court Duncan works as a full-time chef, who now accepts the relationship with his former girlfriend is over.

She explained: 'This relationship had deteriorated. Simply put, they are bad for one another.'

'On the day of the incident, both had been drinking and there was an argument.'

'The argument went both ways and it was clear this relationship was coming to an end.'

'As the accused was packing his bags the police arrived and he told them he was waiting for a lift from his father.'

'The accused pleads guilty as the argument did take place.'

'He was very drunk and did not attend court. He should have sobered up and handed himself in, but he was arrested in Nelson Road in Oban.'

Sheriff Colin McKay admonished Duncan for threatening and abusive behaviour and fined

him £200 for failing to appear in court. Sheriff McKay said: 'Failing to appear in court has caused him a lot of problems. It is a serious matter because he was too drunk to appear.'

'Your father is no doubt not happy about being dragged to the court and not happy about your behaviour and you must address this problem.'

'You have to take this chance and you are a fortunate person. You have a trade and if you continue drinking you will end up back in court and eventually you will end up in prison.'

## Teenagers cause chain reaction

STEVEN RAE  
srae@obantimes.co.uk

SKATEBOARDERS and BMX riders are turning a recently refurbished pedestrian square into a bike park at night.

A retired Oban teacher and a senior councillor have condemned the actions of teenagers who gather in Oban's lavishly landscaped Stafford Street just one week after it was opened by the council as a stylish pedestrian zone.

The council had hoped to create a 'cafe culture' for townfolk and visitors, with outdoor tables for eating and drinking and the provision of free WiFi.

However, cyclists and skateboarders have been using the square as a bicycle park.

Eileen Colston, a former Oban school teacher from Seil, said: 'I think Stafford Street is beautiful now it's finished and have seen a lot of people enjoying it.'

'It seems, though, that some younger people want to turn it into a bicycle park. The tourists I saw looked appalled. This needs to be stopped, now.'

She was joined in her call for action by Councillor for Oban South and the Isles, Roddy McCuish, who said: 'I find it incredible that the young people of Oban are abusing this brand new facility in this way.'

'I have had reports from people sitting on the area that this is extremely intimidating and very dangerous, and I would plead with the youngsters to stop this at once before someone gets seriously hurt. Please have some civic pride in your town and consideration for others.'

'This facility is only a week old and this is not a problem I would



GEARED UP: the newly refurbished Stafford Street is attracting townfolk and visitors alike, but skateboarders and BMX bikers are using it in the evening as a bike park Photograph: courtesy of Dennis Hardley Photography

have foreseen. I expected more from our young people, most of whom are a great credit to our community.'

'This group is certainly not that and should be ashamed of themselves. Anyone witnessing this should contact the police.'

The Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 makes it illegal to cycle on a footway or footpath.

Generally, anyone cycling on a footway or footpath in Scotland is committing an offence under the provisions of Section 129(5) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984.

The Traffic act 1988 also makes it illegal to cycle dangerously, or in a careless or inconsiderate manner. Police use fixed penalty notices for most cycling offences, with children and young people liable to the legal restrictions.

However, the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010, Section 52, establishes that no-one aged under 12 can be prosecuted for an offence, effectively meaning that anyone aged under 12 can cycle freely, in a responsible manner, on the pavement.

### Taynuilt dancer steps to fame

A TAYNUILT dancer will tour Scotland after being selected for the prestigious YDance course, spending four weeks with top choreographers before dancing across the country.

Caitlin Taylor was chosen to work with YDance artistic director Anna Kenrick this summer, before going on tour in Greenock, Aberdeen and Stirling.

Anna said: 'This is a unique opportunity in Scotland for talented dancers aged between 16 to 21. This is a tremendous experience for any young dancer who is serious about their development and future career as a dancer.'

## TIMESLINE

### Appeal to public following assault

OBAN police are appealing for any information regarding the serious assault of a 35-year-old man between 11pm on Sunday and 1am the following morning.

The man was attacked on the footpath that joins Millpark Road and Lynn Road in Oban.

Police are carrying out enquiries into the assault, but anyone with further information should contact Det Con Stuart McNae at Oban police station.

### Thieves vandalise church on island

POLICE are seeking any information regarding the theft and vandalism at Coll church in Arinagour.

The theft and vandalism occurred between 12.30pm on July 5 and 10.30am on Sunday at the Church of Scotland building on the island.

A key was stolen and carpets were ripped up inside the church, the only one currently in use on the island, causing substantial damage.

### Men found with drugs at station

THREE men were arrested and detained under the Misuse of Drugs Act at 5.44pm on July 8 at Oban railway station.

The men were found in possession of Class B and Class A drugs, namely cannabis resin and ecstasy. A report has been sent to the procurator fiscal.

### Petrol station hit as door damaged

THE rear door of Oban filling station in Soroba Road was damaged between 10.30pm on July 8 and 7am the following day.

Anyone with information should contact PC Beth at Oban police station.

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## 'Bolt out of the blue' as Fort William manager resigns

'A combination of family and work commitments have brought me to this decision'

FORT William football club will start the season this weekend without manager, Calum MacLean, who has announced his resignation.

MacLean returned to Claggan park for his second term in management in April last year and took the Fort to their highest position in the Highland league

for a quarter of a century last season.

Assistant manager, Ally Ewen, has taken over the role and will lead his team to their first game of the season on Saturday, when they travel to Rothes for the first game of the North of Scotland cup.

MacLean, who has been involved with the club since his days on the pitch more than 25 years ago, said: 'I have enjoyed every minute of my time at Fort William football club but I believe that it is now time to hand on this very privileged position. 'A combination of family and work commitments have brought me to this decision. I am extremely proud of the achievements of last season and I wish the team every success in the new season.'

**'Highest regard'**  
Gerald McIntyre, Fort FC director, said MacLean leaves with the 'highest regard': 'Calum's resignation has come as a bolt out of the blue to the club, especially after our successful season just finished, but he has explained his reasons to the board and we respect these. He leaves the club with nothing but our highest regard and best wishes. 'With the start of the new season only days away, we have had to move quickly to secure a replacement, and we have offered

### Football

the post to our assistant manager, Ally Ewen.'

Ewen has been assistant manager at Claggan for almost a year after joining from Muir of Ord in 2014.

He said: 'I am absolutely delighted to be appointed manager. 'It has always been my ambition to manage in the Highland league and I am thrilled that the board believe enough in my abilities to make this appointment. 'However, it will be a big ask to emulate the great work that Calum MacLean has done at this club. He's a legend, having been a magnificent player and manager for the club. 'Having built up a tremendous working relationship and friendship, we pulled together one of the best sides Fort William FC have seen in a long time and I think Calum deserves all the plaudits, the dugout certainly won't be the same without him. 'I inherit a great squad and coaching team, I know we have lost a number of players over the summer, but we have been working extremely hard to bring in new players to complement the squad we already have. I feel the football club is in an excellent position to move forward.'



MOVING UP: Assistant manager Ally Ewen will now take on the manager's role 21\_f29calum02



STEPPING DOWN: Calum MacLean has resigned as manager of Fort William football club 21\_f29calum01

## Lochaber archers make the arrows fly

A KINLOCHLEVEN pupil has become the youngest archery coach in the Highlands, according to her superiors.

Lorna MacCorquodale, 12, was recently awarded a Certificate of Competence in Archery, Level 1, which makes her eligible to coach juniors in the sport.

Lorna has been going to archery classes at the South Lochaber Junior Bowmen club based at the Leven Centre since it was launched five years ago.

Lorna was supported by her coach, Keiron Thompson, to complete a coaching course last year and is now the youngest coach in the region.

Proud mum, Gayle MacCorquodale, said: 'Keiron is the coach who takes the Junior Archery Class every week. He

### Archery

has been an inspiration not just for Lorna, but for all the kids.

At a ceremony on June 30 held at the Leven Centre, president of South Lochaber Bowmen, Dubh Irbhinn, and president of Highland Archery, Allan Thompson, presented the dedicated schoolgirl with the certificate.

During the presentation Mr Irbhinn said that Lorna was the youngest coach in the Highlands and commended her achievement.

Lorna qualified at the same time as fellow member, Karina Reid, from Fort William.

Both Lorna and Karina aim to complete a Level 2 Coaching course in the future.



Back from left: Dubh Irbhinn, Allan Thomson, and senior coach, Keiron Thomson. Front from left: Newly qualified coaches, Lorna MacCorquodale and Karina Reid



Lochaber youngsters braved rain and midgies for the first night of Street League football 21\_f29streetleague01

## Summer street league back up and running

LOCHABER'S junior summer football club, Street League, is back after concerns there wouldn't be enough volunteers.

The future of the group looked uncertain when key committee members stepped down earlier this year, but parents have come together to keep the popular event running.

The commitment of volunteers proved worthwhile on the first night of Street League last Monday, when 90 children turned out to play, despite heavy rain and midgies.

But it seemed the club might be over before it even began when last week's fire at Fort William football club left the children with

### Youth football

nowhere to train but it has been confirmed it will now be held at Lochaber high school on Monday and Thursday evenings for the rest of the summer holidays.

## Successful season for young shinty players

### Youth shinty

THE YOUNGSTERS of Lochaber shinty club's junior team are celebrating a successful season after winning four tournaments this year. The Spean Bridge youth team were also runners-up at another four events and have travelled all over the Highlands to compete.

Lochaber under 12s won the RBS qualifiers north section, the Tyler Murphy tournament, shinty world cup and the Ben Race tournament. They came second in the north Tulloch league, Oban sixes, Fraser MacPhee tournament and Kingussie sixes.

Max Campbell of the club was also named player of the tournament at two of these events.

Lochaber under 12s shinty team won four tournaments this season and came second in another four



## Uisdean MacDonald Cup ties take place

### Welfare football

MARINE HARVEST welfare league leaders, Caol United, picked up an easy three points when Ballachulish failed to field a team last week.

Lochaber won 4-3 against Lundavra, but the losing side redeemed themselves by beating Ballachulish 4-1 later in the week.

The scheduled game between Mallaig and the Volley was postponed for a funeral in Mallaig.

This week marked the start of the Uisdean MacDonald memorial cup. Ballachulish and Mallaig were due to kick off the cup on Tuesday night, continuing with Lundavra versus the Volley last night (Wednesday) and Lochaber take on Caol united tomorrow night.

Next week's fixtures (all league): The Volley v Lundavra Mon July 20, Lochaber v Mallaig Tues July 21, Ballachulish v the Volley and Lundavra v Caol united, both Wed July 22, Caol united v Mallaig, Fri July 24.

League table, as of Monday July 13

	P	Pts
Caol United	10	30
Mallaig	7	18
Lochaber	11	18
Lundavra	10	15
The Volley	8	9
Ballachulish	11	9
Nevis Range	11	3

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**WEATHER**

**Thursday** Light rain  
Winds light south easterly  
Temperatures 13°C to 16°C.

**Friday** Heavy rain showers  
Winds moderate southerly  
Temperatures 11°C to 16°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Heavy rain showers on Saturday  
Heavy rain showers on Sunday  
Winds strong westerly  
Temperatures 10°C to 13°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 16, 2015** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	05.53 3.7 11.58 0.9 17.56 3.9	** ** *
Fri	00.38 1.0 06.27 3.8 12.37 0.8 18.32 3.9	
Sat	01.17 1.1 07.01 3.8 13.15 0.8 19.07 3.9	
Sun	01.53 1.1 07.34 3.7 13.51 0.9 19.41 3.9	
Mon	02.29 1.3 08.07 3.6 14.26 1.1 20.14 3.7	
Tues	03.04 1.4 08.41 3.5 15.02 1.2 20.48 3.6	
Wed	03.41 1.6 09.16 3.3 15.40 1.4 21.22 3.4	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate