

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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### Scott takes title at Inveraray

Scott Rider celebrates with the ground staff after winning the gold medal in the world championship for caber tossing at Inveraray Highland Games on Tuesday.

The Kent-based heavyweight athlete saw off a strong field competing in the grounds of Inveraray Castle on a day blessed with hot temperatures and plenty of sunshine – unlike recent times which have seen Argyll deluged with persistent rain.

The heavyweight events were the highlight of the games, with the caber world championship as the focal point, but with much attention on the piping, dancing, athletics and cycling.

Scott is no stranger to sports fans north of the border, having represented England in the shot put competition at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014.

■ Don't miss next week's *Oban Times* for a full report and picture special.



Photograph: Kevin McGlynn

### TIMESLINE

#### Friends take the plunge for charity

TWO FRIENDS will raise money for charity by swimming from Mull to Oban this Saturday.

Gemma Stewart and Gill Spink will take the plunge on behalf of the Roses Charitable Trust, which each year takes groups of young people from disadvantaged areas on residential breaks.

Gemma, who hopes her swim will raise awareness of the charity, said: 'It offers young people amazing opportunities for adventures and challenges, that they otherwise wouldn't be able to access.'

To sponsor them, visit [www.cafdonatemobile.cafonline.org](http://www.cafdonatemobile.cafonline.org).

#### Electrical storm strikes over Oban

AN ELECTRICAL storm lit up the skies of Oban in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

The ferocious sounds of thunder and flashes of lightning could be seen and heard throughout the night.

This came after Tuesday was recorded as being the hottest day of the year in Scotland.

A number of people braved the conditions to capture the event on camera and inundated social media with pictures and videos.

#### Jetskiers are given warning by police

JETSKIERS in Oban were advised by police to slow down after causing concerns on Tuesday evening.

The warm weather had brought the thrillseekers to Ganavan and residents were worried their speeds of 'up to 100mph' would end in an accident.

# Jobs threat at Oban hospital

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

ELEVEN clinical staff posts at Lorn and Islands Hospital are set to go in a bid to cut costs at the area's largest infirmary.

Hospital bosses say there will be no redundancies, but insiders say there is a 'tangible reduction [through 'natural wastage'] in staff numbers' that will make the delivery of the 'high level' of clinical care at the hospital 'even more difficult to maintain'.

A hospital practitioner, who did not want to be named, spoke to *The Oban Times* in bid to 'do the job NHS Highland isn't', in telling the community the truth about the 'mass reduction' in staff.

He also revealed plans to re-

duce the number of beds in the hospital and create a medical reception area for patients 'in order to send people home rather than admit them'.

It was something, he said, that will 'fundamentally mean that the burden of care of seriously-ill patients will be on a dwindling community staff, and therefore onto family members ill-equipped to deal with the situation'.

The man added: 'Do not be misled by the florid talk of the hospital managers.

'This hospital is at serious risk from all the many reductions in staff.'

The longstanding staff member said: 'It has become ridiculous. We no longer have the time to do our jobs.

'The fact is plain and simple, we are bearing the brunt of the

overspend in other areas. We need people to stop complaining about the hospital and to start getting active about making as much noise as possible to save what we have.'

Discussions on the future of the hospital have alarmed members of the integrated joint board – the organisation set up to merge health care and NHS Highland in Argyll.

In public and private, numerous board members say the health board is making sweeping changes while governance for the new board has still not been finalised.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon, the former chairwoman of the integrated joint board, said: 'Any job losses in the health service would be a major concern to me because, as it is, the staff are getting thinner and

thinner on the ground and if they make it any thinner again we will be going to the cities for everything.

'We cannot afford to lose any more services from Oban.

'I would encourage everyone to get behind the staff of the hospital.

'Perhaps in the meantime everyone who has to travel to another hospital should be claiming expenses to show just how much it costs for people from this area to go elsewhere.'

A spokesman for NHS Highland said: 'Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership's strategic plan for 2016/17 to 2018/19 has identified six areas of focus, one of which is to reduce the number of avoidable emergency admissions to hospital.

'Within Lorn and Islands Hospital, work is currently under way to redesign the two medical wards and create a medical assessment unit.

'This is all part of a move to shifting the balance of care away from acute hospital settings and towards treating people in their own homes whenever possible.

'The creation of assessment beds will improve the patient pathway within the hospital.

'Following patient assessment in the [medical assessment] unit, a decision will be made to either discharge the patient directly home or admit them to the ward for further treatment.

'Close links with the multi-disciplinary teams, including physiotherapist, occupational

therapist and social worker, together with the support of the local extended community care team, will help speed up patient discharge or transfer from the assessment unit.'

Confirming the cutting of beds at the hospital, the spokesman continued: 'A reduction of eight inpatient medical beds will take place by October 2016 and a trial of four assessment beds is due to take place in August.

'Work is currently under way looking at the appropriate workforce levels for the unit in conjunction with staff.

'We are looking forward to working in partnership with the third sector and voluntary organisations to ensure patients receiving our services have a positive experience.'

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## Community Charity Shop closes

A COMMUNITY shop that has raised more than £500,000 in the seven years it has been in operation will close its doors for the last time next week.

MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust's Community Charity Shop has been given until July 29 to vacate the premises on Oban's North Pier.

This is so the pier can be upgraded to include pontoons and various public facilities.

Graham MacQueen, one of the directors of MacQueen Bros, said: 'We are very grateful to Argyll and Bute Council for giving us this place free of charge.

'It's been a hugely powerful partnership with MacQueen Bros, Argyll and Bute Council and the volunteers.

'It's a great service for the community and the shop will be sadly missed by people from Lewis to Iona and all the spaces in between.

'It's been a great asset to people wanting to furnish their house for a lost cost.'

Anne MacDonald, a volunteer at the shop, said: 'I am very sad.

'We are all going to miss it very much.

'I loved working in the shop. There were 16 of us working there and we all worked well together.'

MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust will continue to raise money for the community through the sale of furniture from the MacQueen's warehouse on Glengallan Road.

Some of the volunteers and Graham MacQueen gather for a photograph outside of the well-known charity shop.

Best Western

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## Campers causing chaos

A COMMUNITY warden is urgently needed for the island of Mull for residents who are finding it difficult to find parking places because of campervans.

Last week's community council meeting heard that reduced ferry fares are bringing small campervans to the island in droves.

But instead of booking into official campsites, they are stopping overnight in car parks and lay-bys.

Community council chairman Billy MacClymont said: 'There are now a number of issues that would merit having a community warden on the island.'

'They've got them in Oban and I am sure they are meant to cover this area as well. We were meant to see them at the time of the Mull Music Festival [in April] but I don't think anyone managed to come over in the end.'

The community council discussed a number of other issues that could be within the remit of the warden, such as parking in passing places, driver education and giving dog fouling fixed penalty notices.

The community council agreed to seek the support of the island's councillors and to write to Argyll and Bute Council for an allocation of its budget.

## Library-users kept waiting

BOOK readers on Mull and Iona are waiting for an Argyll and Bute Council officer to tell them what suggestions they have about the future of their library service.

Plans are being made to retain the mobile library bus as an asset maintained by the community.

Last February's budget meeting agreed funding for the island library van would be removed and the council entered into negotiations with the community.

One plan was to keep the school library in Tobermory but those on the Ross of Mull said they would then be without a service. Ross of Mull residents say they would like to keep the library van.

Mull Community Council heard last Tuesday (July 8) that no proposals have been put

# Spirited defence of Mull following scathing attack

A COMMUNITY activist on Mull has hit back at criticism of the island.

*Oban Times* reader Barry Turner launched a scathing attack on the island, its infrastructure and people in a searing letter to the editor (July 14).

But Steve Willis, secretary of Mull Community Council, has hit back.

Mr Willis said: 'I will begin by correcting the inaccuracies in Mr Turner's letter so that I am better placed to answer other points he makes.'

'As regards the road surfaces on Mull, these recently received the services of a machine known as a 'Jetpatcher', which was here

for a number of weeks, correcting potholes and other minor issues, leaving our roads in the best condition they have been in many years. This fact was commented on at June's community council meeting where it was agreed that I write to the roads department to thank them for a job well done.

'The comment that "there is no visitor centre on Mull" beggars belief as the very first building any visitor would see on arriving at Craignure is a visitor centre.

'It is well-stocked with every conceivable necessity such as maps and guide books and staffed by the most friendly and

helpful staff. As regards public toilets, there are several which he has chosen to exclude from his list. He omits those at Aros Hall in Tobermory, Ulva Ferry and Fionnphort. Those in Dervaig will shortly be taken over by the North West Mull Woodland Management Company and those at Salen closed because of essential repairs which have now been completed (this was not down to public pressure as he implies).

'Parking in passing places always has been and remains a road traffic offence and therefore seeing a police notice to that effect is simply to remind visitors of that fact. Perhaps

the scenario whereby an emergency vehicle cannot proceed as its route is blocked by an unlawfully parked vehicle with the oncoming car not having anywhere to quickly get out of the way is not one with which he is familiar.

'What Mr Turner fails to see is the fact that Mull is a huge island with a very low population count (2,800 or thereabouts) and he is comparing here with places such as Lismore and Raasay. Spend £500,000 on roads and infrastructure there and you would indeed have world-class facilities. Spend that on Mull and no-one would notice.

'He mentions viewpoints and

— speaking as one who sat on the committee looking into this problem — the figure we were looking at some years back was in excess of £1 million. This was to install new and refurbish existing viewpoints. Perhaps Derbyshire is fortunate and can attract this level of funding for whatever projects it sees fit. Sadly, this is not the case here.

'Now, more than ever, large-scale funding is particularly difficult, and Argyll and Bute Council cannot be expected to finance non-statutory schemes so it is not that it is "ignoring" Mull, as he puts it but simply there is not the money available.'

## Effort to buy land launched

TOBERMORY Harbour Association (THA) has applied to the National Forest Land Scheme (NFLS) to purchase 1.19 hectares of land at Aros Pier.

The area applied for includes the derelict pier, slipway and two ruined buildings, formerly a boathouse and sawmill.

Administered by Forestry Commission Scotland, the NFLS lets communities bid to buy or lease national forest land on the basis that this would provide increased public benefits.

Renowned for its scenery, wildlife, flora and fauna as well as its peaceful setting, Aros Park has long been the main public outdoor recreation space for the people of Tobermory and the wider island.

The THA intends to maintain Aros Park's unique attractions but also sensitively to restore the dilapidated pier and adjacent buildings, developing this corner of the park for the benefit of existing visitors and attracting new visitors to the island.

A 28-day open consultation period is required by the scheme and public comments on any aspect of the proposal are welcome.

Details of the application can be viewed on line at [www.forestry.gov.uk/nfls](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/nfls) and all comments on the proposals detailed in the application must be submitted by August 10, 2016.

Responses and comments should be addressed to Malcolm Wield, Forestry Commission Scotland, Highland Conservancy, Woodlands, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, Ross-shire, IV15 9XB or to [malcolm.wield@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:malcolm.wield@forestry.gsi.gov.uk).

## Home violence a major problem

A POLICE report to Mull Community Council heard domestic incidents are still the most reported crimes on the islands of Mull and Iona.

There were 37 incidents reported in the previous month of violence at home on the islands.

Other crimes included a man in Tobermory buying alcohol for children, theft of money from a caravan, two minor road accidents, and the theft of a car in a hit and run accident on Iona.

## New Ulva Ferry pontoons are now open for boats to berth

An innovative community project is now open for business after the handover of pontoons to Ulva Ferry Community Association (USCA).

The community pontoons are the next development in Ulva Ferry's plans to rejuvenate the rural area on the isle of Mull. Moray Finch, far right, of Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT), said: 'After a week of snagging, the pontoon has been officially handed over from contractors Gael Force Engineering to MICT for the community. 'The pontoon is now open for business.'

Shortly after its opening on Sunday July 17, its first yacht, Eala Bhan from Ardfern, sailed in from the Ross of Mull and berthed for two nights.

The crew of five took advantage of the courtesy service from Ballygown Restaurant. Local tour boat Lady Jane also used the pontoon for the first time for its trips.

The pontoon team would like to thank the Ulva Ferry community for their help — and patience — with the development of the pontoon, not least the Leitch family, and local residents and businesses, while the construction took place.

Visitors are now welcome — and prices and facilities will be listed on the Facebook page and MICT website over the coming days.



## Hugh Smith's letter from Islay

### Distilleries' path commended

MEMBERS of the Islay Community Access Group have a spring in their step after being awarded the Transport Scotland highly commended accolade marking the innovation and success of the Three Distilleries' Path which links Port Ellen with Ardbeg Distillery.

The award-winning path provides a traffic-free and well-surfaced walking and cycling provision between the villages and borders some of the most scenically pleasing areas on the island's east coast.

The presentation, hosted by comedian and broadcaster Fred MacAulay, was held in Glasgow and attended by Garry MacLean and Pat McGrann, current chairman of the access group. The chairman said

that he was delighted to receive the award and was highly encouraged by the increasing use of the facility by both pedestrians and cyclists. He also praised the group members who had punched well above their weight to secure this provision and gave full credit to planner and surveyor Iain Henderson for his professional assistance.

### Cath Crawford

WE WERE all saddened to learn of the death on June 21 of Bowmore resident Cath Crawford who was well known in Gaelic singing circles and where Highland choral voices were raised in unison. She was 86 years of age and died at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley following major surgery from which she appeared to be making a good recovery.

Cath was born in August 1929

and brought up in Clydebank to Islay parents whose roots were firmly embedded in the Conespie district of the Rhinns. As a teenager, she joined the Clydebank Gaelic Choir which was then under the direction of conductor Tom Crawford, a young schoolteacher who also had a strong Argyll background through his family connections with Dunoon.

Among the octaves, amore blossomed and Cath and Tom were married in 1953. A year later they moved to Islay when Tom became headmaster of the then Bowmore junior secondary school.

The musical and choral activities continued following their move to the island, with Tom taking over the baton for the Bowmore senior Gaelic choir and Cath assisting with the junior chorists.

The Crawfords' joy was complete when daughter Elizabeth, their only



Cath Crawford was the moving force behind the local Mòd.

child, arrived on the scene in 1964.

Cath was involved in a number of local and national charities. She

was school secretary for a number of years and was active in the Girl Guides, eventually being appointed as the organisation's district commissioner. She and Tom, a fine lyric tenor, were also the moving force behind the local Mòd for a number of years in the 1960s.

Sadly, Tom died in 1978 and Cath continued to live on her own in her home at the Glebe in Bowmore. There she continued to train and tutor both junior and senior competitors for both the local and national Mòds, events at which she was a regular attender and supporter. She certainly kept her pupils' noses to the grindstone and would take no prisoners. And all this was done as a labour of love and she looked for no personal gain but delighted in her pupils' successes.

Despite advancing years and increasing frailty, she remained feisty

and determined, enjoyed lunching with friends, was a regular presence on the local ceilidh scene and was still driving before her final illness struck.

Her funeral service, attended by close on 200 mourners, was held at the Round Church on July 1 and she was interred alongside Tom in the Bowmore cemetery.

She leaves daughter Elizabeth, son-in-law Malcolm and her beloved grand-daughters Alison and Clare. On July 8 Alison married fiancé Jamie O'Neill at Dumfries and we can be assured that Cath was there in spirit.

Condolences go to all who mourn Cath's passing and especially to those who knew her best and love her most.

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**POLICE FILES**

STAFF inside the Lorne Hotel were shocked when a large, heavy police cone and a wooden block came flying through the window after closing time last Wednesday.

The incident at 12.05am is being investigated by police in Oban.

A large window was damaged during the incident.

Police Constable Fraser Anderson, who is in charge of the investigation, would like anyone with information to come forward.

A man, who was seen running away from the scene by staff, is described as wearing a white hooded top and dark trousers.

**TWO MEN at the Tiree Music Festival were given fixed penalties for public order offences during the event last weekend.**

**Police said the festival was, on the whole, good-humoured.**

A 45-YEAR-OLD man has been reported to the procurator fiscal after being found in possession of herbal cannabis last Thursday July 14. The man had the class-B drug on the street on Station Square, Oban, shortly after 3pm.

**AN OPEN day is to be held at Oban Police Station to allow access for the public.**

**On Thursday August 4, between 10am and 4pm, police officers will be on hand to show members of the public and children around the station.**

**Members of staff from the community investigation unit, uniformed police, road policing officers and others will be on hand to meet people at the Albany Street premises.**

**Police cars, cells and, of course, handcuffs will be available for members of the public to try.**

**Gaelic book is translated**

A RENOWNED Gaelic book that outlines what it was like growing up on Barra and Vatersay has been translated into English.

*Air Mo Chuairt* was written by Ealasaid Chaimbeul and gives an account of growing up as a child on Barra after the First World War, the impact of the Second World War and then returning to work as a school-teacher on Barra and Vatersay.

Another Barra schoolteacher, Mary Flora Galbraith, translated the Gaelic original, which was first published by Acair in 1982.

**Threatening behaviour**

AN OBAN man has pleaded guilty to behaving in threatening or abusive manner at his home.

Joshua Straub, 18, admitted causing fear and alarm by shouting and swearing at 53 Creag Bhan Village on April 23, Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday.

Sheriff Valerie Johnston continued bail and deferred sentencing until August 16 to await medical reports.

**Dancers set new record**

A RECORD number of Highland dancers have signed up for next month's Cowal Highland Gathering.

The event is set to welcome 684 dancers, an increase of around 40 from last year.

This year's event will take place from Thursday August 25 until Saturday August 27.

The dancing competitions will start on Thursday with the Scottish National Highland Dancing Championships.

**Scottish Affairs Committee inquiry**

THE SCOTTISH Affairs Committee has launched a new inquiry on Scotland's place in Europe following the EU referendum, in which a clear majority of people in Scotland voted to remain.

The inquiry will look at available options for retaining Scotland's EU membership and focus on how Scotland can best be represented in future negotiations.

**Calls for action to avert town centre traffic chaos**

**LOUISE GLEN**  
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CALLS for a bypass around Oban are being made as travel times through the town are becoming chaotic.

The clogged roads are causing concern not only to residents but also to those trying to make their way to the ferry terminal.

Some say it is the town centre works delaying vehicles, while others say it is the hourly ferry service to Mull but, whatever it is, residents on both sides of the water want the problem solved.

Mary MacLeod, a grandmother of three who lives on George Street, said that for the

first time ever, the traffic during school holiday period is as bad as when her grandchildren are in school.

Mrs MacLeod said: 'Oban is like a rat run with people trying to find quicker ways around the town.'

'Let's face it, there are no quicker ways now. Oban is grid-locked most of the time.'

'We need a ring road. Without it Oban is just one big car park.'

At last week's Mull Community Council there were reports from business owners that hotel guests and staff were finding it almost impossible to make it through Oban in time for the book-in period for the ferry.

A woman who did not want to be named said: 'The congestion on Soroba Road is due to the over-development of housing along Glengallon Road and to the industrial estate beyond, as well as the new school campus, the fire station and Lorn and the Isles Hospital.'

'Congestion is also caused by the CHORD development in the town centre, the traffic lights at the high school junction and also the layout in Argyll Square.'

'Traffic coming from the south of Oban also adds to the congestion.'

Reader Bill Gray said: 'Long-term planning?

'What's that? Is there ANY plan anywhere? I suggest it's a long time past starting a plan. ASAP please.'

Another reader, who did not want to be named, said that a trip to see a seriously-ill relative last Saturday turned sour when she turned onto Alma Crescent, the nearest street to the ferry terminal.

The woman said: 'There was a real bottleneck that made it almost impossible for me to get along the road. I don't know what would have happened if there was an ambulance or a fire tender. I think they would have been stuck.'

'Something needs to be done.'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Previously the council has said a development road is on the plans for the future development of the town.'

'However, there are no plans in place to fund the development road at present.'

MSP Humza Yousaf, the Scottish transport minister said he was mindful of the congestion in the town following a visit last week.

He told *The Oban Times* that he would be working closely with Argyll and Bute Council to find a long-term solution for the 'difficult situation in the town'.

**HAVE YOUR SAY** on solutions to worsening traffic disruption in Oban



**Marion Evans, 53, from Oban,** said: 'I have come from behind the hospital today and there were no problems with traffic, but I have noticed that the car park is very busy today. I had to circle round twice. Sometimes when you are coming out of here you almost meet cars as the lights change quickly. The lights create a bottleneck at peak times.'



**Mr Twigg, 63, from Oban,** said: 'The only complaint I have is with what used to be a round about at the station. All it takes is a bus to go passed and there's no room.'



**Margaret Wilson,** who is from Glasgow, but comes up to Oban all the time, said: 'I think the difficult thing with Oban is you only have one way in and out. If there was another road it might help - a road that bypassed the front and led to the shops and Tesco.'



**Stuart Kerrane, 52, from Swindon,** said: 'It's quite busy today. When we got in to Oban that's when we hit the traffic. It was pretty bad. It took us about 30 minutes to get through town and to get parked. You can't really do much in a town to fix it. It's just the way it's built.'



**Campbell Files, 49, from Oban,** said: 'The traffic is rubbish. It's congested all the time. I think if they put two more roundabouts that would help. If they took away the car park next to the factory shop and made a roundabout and if they also put one at the high school. The money spend on the pavements could have been better spent and put towards the roads.'

**TIMESLINE**



**SSF to sponsor Oban fireworks**

SCOTTISH Sea Farms (SSF) has again sponsored the annual Oban fireworks display with a £5,000 contribution.

Bid4Oban chief executive Derek Connery, pictured, confirmed the donation from SSF's Heart of the Community fund is significantly more than they provided last year.

Mr Connery said: 'Once again the Heart of the Community Fund has lived up to its name in recognising this free-to-all event is for the benefit of the population of Oban and the surrounding areas.'

He added that he hopes to make this the 'biggest Heart of the Community fireworks ever.'

**Jump off a crane to raise charity funds**

A NIGHTTIME abseil will take place on World Stroke Day to raise money to help those suffering from the condition.

The abseil will be at the Titan Crane in Clydebank, West Dunbartonshire, on Saturday October 29 and registration is still open for Obanites to attend. Registration costs £15 and fundraisers are asked to raise a minimum of £100 in sponsorship.

The money raised will go towards the Stroke Association's work supporting people who have had a stroke in Scotland.

For more information or to register for the event call 0131 555 7251 or email [nightfallabseil@stroke.org.uk](mailto:nightfallabseil@stroke.org.uk).

**Sign up for superfast broadband – but be quick**

RESIDENTS in Taynuilt and Oban who want to sign up to superfast broadband better act quickly after BT confirmed the state-of-the-art service is limited by connections available at the exchange, writes Louise Glen.

The news comes as the service went online in the village of Taynuilt but, with no notification from the telecoms provider, many customers are still unaware of what is now available.

Alan Canning, who lives in the PA35 postcode, said: 'Only those looking for a new internet connection would be alerted to the fact the service was now available.'

'It seems a bit daft to me that not everyone can benefit from it at the same time.'

'The person I was speaking to at BT said there was only limited availability to the new connection and that I was lucky I had phoned that day.'

It is understood the majority of residents with a PA35 1JW postcode can benefit from faster broadband, but not all homes can be connected at the moment.

A BT spokesman could not guarantee that those homes which have missed out this time will get a connection in future. He said that connections 'may' come with future roll-outs.

A second postcode in Taynuilt, PA35 1JG, went live in the past fortnight and so all the homes in that postcode are able to connect to fibre broadband.

A spokesman for BT said: 'In Taynuilt, as part of the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband (DSSB) programme, more than 300 homes and businesses have been connected to faster fibre broadband services.'

'Local people can place an order to upgrade to the faster speeds available by contacting their service provider.'

'More coverage is planned in the coming months as part of the programme which runs in the area until the end of 2016.'

The spokesman continued: 'In Oban, a combination of BT's commercial fibre deployment and work by the DSSB programme means that more than 4,300 premises can benefit from the faster speeds available.'

'Further coverage is planned as work in the area continues.'

'Around one in five homes have already upgraded and we would encourage more to do so to benefit from the faster speeds available.'

'People can check coverage at [www.hic.co.uk/digital](http://www.hic.co.uk/digital).'

Committee chairman Pete Wishart MP said: 'In the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU, 62 per cent of Scotland's population voted to remain.'

'We have launched this inquiry to look at what options are available to Scotland to continue to secure a relationship with the EU, including examining whether Scotland can continue its membership of the EU.'

'As Brexit proposals start to

emerge we will also examine what role Scotland should play in these discussions and what Brexit would mean for Scotland.'

'As a Westminster committee charged with looking at Scottish Affairs, it is important that we explore all the issues and we hope to secure evidence from sectoral interests, constitutional experts, representatives of international institutions and Government in Westminster and Edinburgh.'

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## Beyoncé rumours scotched

**SANDY NEIL**  
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A SUPERYACHT moored at Islay and Oban sparked rumours that global singing star Beyoncé was on a visit to the Scottish islands while on her Formation world tour.

Mystery still surrounds the VIPs behind the smoked glass of the glamorous 60m (195ft) *Jamaica Bay*, which had been spotted in ports close to Beyoncé's tour venues.

The luxury yacht, which was flying the flag of the Marshall Islands, berthed at Oban's North Pier last week after visiting Port Ellen, Belfast and Liverpool, where the rumours first started.

The arrival of the 1,100-tonne yacht in Liverpool coincided with the singer performing at the Emirates in Manchester on the same day, July 5.

Liverpool is the nearest major port to Manchester, and passers-by wondered if 'Queen Bey' and her rapper husband Jay Z, apparently 2016's highest-earning celebrity couple, had parked at Liverpool's Cruise Liner Terminal.

Rumours continued on social media when, on July 7, the ship appeared in Belfast on the banks of the river Lagan, when the Texan star was due to sing at Glasgow's Hampden Park, and later at Croke Park in Dublin on July 9.

The yacht was then spotted off Kilnaughton Bay, and rumours were rife that Beyoncé was visiting Islay. The *Jamaica Bay* drew curious crowds when it moored in Oban on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, looking more suited to the Caribbean than the Firth of Lorn. But the singer was performing in Germany on July 12 and Switzerland on July 14.

Coming ashore, a discreet and tanned crew member refused to name those on board, but denied it was Beyoncé. 'You wouldn't recognise their faces,' he said. No-one reported seeing Beyoncé on or disembarking from the *Jamaica Bay*.

The boat, built in 2010 and registered in Bikini in the Marshall Islands, can accommodate 12 guests and 15 crew, and features six staterooms, teak decks, mahogany panelling, marble bathrooms, a gym, library and sundeck jacuzzi.

# Museum director Sharon is honoured by the Queen

A DIRECTOR at Kilmartin Museum was honoured by the Queen at a formal ceremony at Holyrood Palace.

Dr Sharon Webb was awarded an MBE for services to heritage and archaeology at an investiture ceremony.

She said: 'I was delighted to accept the honour from the Queen and think it is fantastic that Argyll's heritage and archaeology is recognised as being so important to Scotland.'

The staff and trustees at Kilmartin Museum said they were all very proud of this achievement.

Chairman of the trustees Gordon Gray Stephens said: 'Since she joined the Kilmartin Museum team 13 years ago Sharon has been making a real difference, winning the respect and support of the many different people and organisations who are associated with the

running of the museum. At the moment this is most evident in her leadership of our redevelopment programme. But this is just one of the many things that warrant Sharon's award, which recognises the achievements of extraordinary people.'

Kilmartin Museum's website says it believes it is the only museum in Scotland that can both excavate and displays the artefacts that it finds.

The website says: 'We continue to carry out archaeological surveys and excavations as there is more to be found and uncovered and more to learn about the people who were here before us.'

'Kilmartin Glen is home to more than 800 internationally significant prehistoric and early historic sites and monuments dating back over 5,000 years, making it mainland Scotland's most important archaeological

landscape. Visitors are able to enjoy and learn about these artefacts in the museum gallery and step outside into the landscape to discover the sites and monuments where they were uncovered.'

Sir Tony Robinson, who presents Time Team on television, praised Kilmartin after he visited the museum. He said: 'How many museums can you go to where you can examine a Bronze Age pot and look out of the window and see the burial mound where it came from?'

Many of the artefacts found in Kilmartin Glen and surrounding areas, and displayed in the museum, are of international significance, including rare jet necklaces and some of the earliest beaker pots in Britain.

The museum continues to carry out archaeological surveys and its excavations are uncovering new artefacts.



Sharon Webb from Kilmartin Museum shows her MBE.

## New boat will boost capacity

THE Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) has announced a new well-boat contract as part of its long-term focus on increasing harvest capacity.

The new, live-haul well-boat includes the latest on-board equipment and will be introduced to the company's South region, which covers the Argyll and Bute area. It comes as part of a partnership with Norwegian-based company Sølvtans, which is the world's largest well-boat company for the transport of live salmon and trout.

The 1,800-tonne boat, which has been named the *Ronja Supporter*, is currently being fitted out by Sølvtans and will be operational by the beginning of 2017 on a long-term lease. It will join its sister vessel, the *Ronja Viking*, which supports SSC's harvesting processes in the company's north region across the Hebrides.

The *Ronja Supporter* has been built specifically to operate in the southern region. It is almost double the size of its sister vessel, offering state-of-the-art technology, including an on-board fish grading system and high-speed counting scanner.

The new vessel allows the company to have three ships continually at sea from next year.

## Ban lifted on fishing quotas

A BAN on the overseas trading of skate and ray quotas has been lifted by the UK government, to help the Scottish industry manage its fishing activity.

The industry had been lobbying for the change to permit it to trade quotas with Belgium to allow increased catching of monkfish.

The decision comes after a meeting of the Marine Management Organisation last week, and it is based on the uptake of the ray and skate quotas being lower this year than last. Up to 25 tonnes of skate and ray can now be traded internationally. The position will be reviewed later in the year.

'The Scottish fishing industry has been pressing for this change,' Secretary of State for Scotland David Mundell said. 'This is good news for the Scottish fishing industry, and I am really pleased that the UK government has been able to push this forward.'

Fisheries, aquaculture and fish processing contribute £1.63 billion to the UK economy and employ 34,600 people across the UK.

## Youngsters challenged to build their own virtual beaches

This summer the RNLI is launching its second Beach Builder Challenge using the interactive video game Minecraft, which allows children to create and build virtual worlds. The Beach Builder Challenge, available to play from August 1, has been created by the RNLI to teach children about beach and water safety at a time when many young people will be visiting the coast during holidays. The RNLI has expanded the virtual world to include a Beach Island Adventure, which means youngsters can create epic beaches, and complete four levels in the Beach Island Adventure. The four levels are based on the charity's Stay SAFE acronym: spot the dangers, take advice, stay close to a friend or family member, and learn what to do in an emergency. RNLI's community safety product manager Bridie Appleby-Gunnill said: 'This is a fun and interactive game for seven to 14-year-olds to play during the summer holidays.'



## Calum has designs on top national gaming award

ARDRISHAIG teen Calum McCartan is one of 20 youngsters shortlisted in a nationwide game design competition for 10- to 18-year-olds.

The 17-year-old has been chosen as a finalist for the Game Making Award category in the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Young Game Designers (YGD) com-

petition with his game, Space Drifter. This is an adventure game where players can pilot a spaceship through an asteroid field, combating waves of attacking enemies.

The winners of awards for game making and game concept across two age categories will be announced at a special award ceremony at the

headquarters of BAFTA in London on July 23.

Winners will receive a host of prizes, including having their game further developed by industry experts.

BAFTA will also be presenting a YGD Hero Award for support for young games designers by an industry professional or development team.

This year it will be received by Media Molecule, makers of games such as LittleBigPlanet.

There will also be a YGD Mentor Award presented to an individual who has been nominated by the public for involvement with education of young game designers. The winner of this will be announced at the award ceremony.

## Easy, healthy lunches for the holidays.



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Cucumber

37p each

Baby Spinach

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## Villagers in bid to buy forestry land

A LOCH Awe village is bidding to buy six acres of forestry land for the benefit of residents.

The Dalavich Improvement Group (DIG), which 'exists to acquire and maintain assets on behalf of and for the benefit of the community and visitors to the area', has applied to the National Forest Land Scheme (NFLS) to purchase four areas of land around Dalavich and Kilmun.

Administered by Forestry Commission Scotland, the NFLS allows communities to bid to buy or lease national forest land on the basis that this would provide increased public benefits.

The four parcels of land, which amount to 15.32 hectares, are all within DIG's operating area and have historically been used for agricultural purposes.

However, none has been actively managed for a very long time and DIG's ambition is to bring the land back to a usable state so it can be managed in a variety of ways to support the local community's long-term social and economic sustainability.

A 28-day open consultation period is required by the scheme and public comments on any aspect of the proposal are welcome.

Details of the application can be viewed online at [www.forestry.gov.uk/nfls](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/nfls) and all comments on the proposals detailed in the application must be submitted by August 10, 2016.



[www.facebook.com/obantimes](http://www.facebook.com/obantimes)

# Pupils are given a healthy exposure to careers in medicine

NHS Highland has welcomed the first two groups of secondary school pupils for this year's Doctors at Work programme.

The programme, which has been running for five years, gives pupils an invaluable insight into their chosen career and an understanding of the realities of working in a hospital.

The programme is going from strength to strength and with a record number of applicants it will now be running five times across the year.

Dr Emma Watson, director of medical education for NHS Highland, said the programme

has been a success and has also increased the number of students from Highland being accepted into medical schools.

She said: 'The programme is a five-day work placement for pupils who are intending to apply for medicine. This year we have 40 students over the five weeks,

most of whom are from the Highland Council region but we have also welcomed students from the Western Isles.

'Those taking part get to experience a variety of clinical settings, including wards, theatres and clinics across a whole range of specialities such as surgical,

orthopaedics, diagnostics and medicine.

'The students also have the opportunity to talk to medical students who are working in the hospital and can give them an insight on what their medical school life will be like.'

Historically, Highland pupils

have been at a disadvantage when competing for places in medicine and healthcare careers but this trend is beginning to change. Since 2012, 63 per cent of pupils who have taken part in this programme and then applied for medical school have been successful.

## TIMESLINE

### Mundell keeps cabinet position

SECRETARY OF State for Scotland David Mundell kept his position in new Prime Minister Theresa May's recent cabinet reshuffle.

Mr Mundell, who visited Argyll earlier in the year, has vowed to work with the Scottish Parliament to get the best deal for the Scotland as part of Brexit.

Mr Mundell welcomed the news of his appointment. He said: 'I am delighted to be reappointed as Secretary of State for Scotland, and to have the opportunity to build on my work over the past year.'

'The Prime Minister has made it clear we need to unite the country and work for the best interests of everyone in Britain.'

### Community fund cash is available

A MULTI-MILLION-POUND fund to allow Scottish communities to buy, manage or develop buildings or land is now available.

Between now and 2020 up to £45 million of Big Lottery Fund cash will be available through Community Assets to support community-led projects to develop or build assets for their public use.

Groups can apply for grants of between £10,000 and £1 million and, where needed, will receive professional technical support and advice from Community Asset mentors to turn project ideas into reality.

The Big Lottery Fund in Scotland has £250 million to support people and communities dealing with challenging circumstances.

For more details, log onto the Big Lottery Fund website.

### Volunteers wanted for veterans' cause

OBANITES may be recruited to volunteer for Help for Heroes, when two charity workers visit the town next month.

Ailsa Alcock and Yvonne Beattie will be at the North Pier, in Stafford Street, Oban, on Tuesday August 9, from 10am-5pm to recruit volunteers in the local area.

Help for Heroes aims to provide better facilities for British servicemen and women who have been wounded or injured in the line of duty.

The charity was founded in 2007 and offers grants to individuals and specialist third sector partners, as well as providing services through a network of recovery centres.



## Happy 100th

PICTURED with her daughters, former Oban resident Janet Eveline Reid celebrated her 100th birthday on July 11.

Eveline spent much of her life in Oban with her husband Jack and two daughters, Eveline and Alison. Eveline took an active part in the community and played the piano for the Sunday school at Christ Church on the Esplanade for more than 20 years.

When Jack retired from his career in the Department of Agriculture in Albany Street, they moved to Tillicoultry to be nearer their family. Eveline lives in Canmore Lodge, Dunfermline.

## Thousands raised for charities

Thousands of pounds raised at a charity concert in April have been handed over to Cancer Research UK and Marie Curie Cancer Care. Neil 'Nonny' MacInnes and his wife Karen, landlords of Coasters in Oban, raised £14,000 from their third charity concert, We'll Walk This Road Together, in the Corran Halls. The line-up featured Manran, Skippinish, Trail West, and local band Ceol An Aire, and 100 per cent of the 750 ticket sales were donated to the charities. Two cheques worth £6,000 were presented each to Cancer Research UK and Marie Curie Cancer Care at Coasters last Friday, and a third cheque for £2,000 will be given to Oban Hospice. The couple set up the DMI Cancer Trust, having seen members of their family struggle with the disease. Nonny thanked everybody who contributed.



# Police chief pays tribute to heroes of toddlers tragedy

LOUISE GLEN  
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SCOTLAND'S most senior police officer paid a visit to Argyll in the wake of the recent tragic incident in which two toddlers died.

Chief Constable Philip Gormley paid tribute to the police officers and others who were called to the scene, which happened after the car the children were travelling in left the A816 and entered Loch nan Druimnean, near Kilmelford.

Speaking during a visit to Lochgilphead police office on Monday, the chief constable



Chief Constable Philip Gormley, fourth from right, beside commander Marlene Baillie and Inspector Mark Stephen, and local officers.

said: 'I wanted to come to Argyll and thank people for what they did on that tragic day.'

'This is a very unusual kind of incident and the professional manner in which our officers and

those from other agencies dealt with it deserves great credit.'

The area commander, Chief Inspector Marlene Baillie, spoke after the meeting. She said: 'The chief constable's visit was warmly

received by staff. Following the terrible tragedy the other week it was a welcome boost.

'The work of the officers involved and that of our partners, particularly in Scottish Fire and Rescue, the Scottish Ambulance Service, NHS Highland and HM Coastguard, was extremely difficult and will have a lasting effect.'

She added: 'The bravery of members of the public who were at the scene is also deserving of praise as they, without hesitation, put their own lives at risk.'

'Our thoughts and condolences remain very much with the family at this sad time.'

## New electric points power Argyll's green machines



The electric vehicle charging points in Lochgilphead and, inset, Campbeltown.

ELECTRIC cars in Argyll and Bute can recharge at nine new plug points.

EvoIt's network of seven rapid and two fast chargers is Argyll and Bute Council's first publicly available electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, funded by Transport Scotland to promote

the use of greener cars in Scotland. Seven of the rapid chargers can efficiently charge two EVs to 80 per cent of their battery life within 30 minutes through a 50Kw AC and 43Kw DC outlet. These are supplemented by two 22kW fast chargers for quick 'top-ups', and have AC and DC capability,

taking one hour to simultaneously charge two EVs. The chargers are located at the Columbia Centre Car Park, Fionnphort, and Ledaig Car Park, Tobermory, both on Mull, and at car parks in Lochgilphead, Arrochar, Inveraray, Campbeltown, Dunoon, Helensburgh, and Rothesay.

## Islands MSP warns of dangers from EU departure

BREXIT should set alarm bells ringing in the Highlands and Islands, a Holyrood shadow minister has warned.

Scottish Labour's shadow minister for environment, climate change and land reform, David Stewart, said leaving the European Union, as Prime Minister Theresa May's new UK government is committed to do, presents a huge risk for farmers, infrastructure and exports such as Scottish salmon.

Mr Stewart, a list MSP for the Highlands and Islands, said on a fact-find-

ing visit to Oban's Jobcentre: 'It's clear the remit of the Tory government is to exit. There are clouds on the horizon that will affect everyone in Argyll and Bute. This affects every party and every individual.'

'Farming is crucial for the people of Argyll and Bute. Some farmers I speak to have 90 per cent of their income from single farm payments [also known as CAP funding]. CAP is funded by Europe. What will happen? No-one knows.'

European structural funds for roads, bridges, causeways, harbours and ferries are also at risk, he said. 'While the UK is a net contributor to the EU, the Highlands and Islands was a crucial area for spend, because the EU rightly has a policy of convergence: bringing up poorer areas of the EU to the average, and we were at 75 per cent of average GDP.'

'The figures for spend are phenomenal, around £2 billion. How is that going to be replaced? [Structural funds]

helped fund the UHI, the Mallaig Road, the Kessock Bridge and just about every causeway in the Western Isles. They're there to stimulate economic development - that's why I'm so concerned about exit.'

'It will be a rash man or woman who predicts there will be a single market, or that we will have unified CAP payments. The negotiation takes place with 27 countries versus the one. Alarm bells are ringing with me on all these issues.'

### Wildfires Guidance

Advice from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Join Scotland's Fight Against Fire and dispose of smoking materials responsibly in rural areas

Photo courtesy of Rob Ware

Wildfires are very dangerous, spreading fast, changing direction, threatening wildlife, livestock, domestic animals, environment, property and people.

If you see a fire, however small, CALL 999 IMMEDIATELY

Fire setting is an offence, don't accept it, report it!

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**Western Isles**

COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar has welcomed the UK Government's decision to extend the contract for one emergency towing vessel (ETV) based in the Northern Isles.

The council is, however, pushing with other neighbouring local authorities for a second ETV to be based in the west of Scotland.

Comhairle leader Angus Campbell said: 'The extension of the north-based ETV contract clearly demonstrates that the government also realises the dangers and, therefore, it is absolutely essential that we also have an additional ETV based on the west coast so we have adequate

safety measures in place to respond swiftly to incidents, to protect lives and minimise the risk of environmental damage.

'There have been several occasions over the years, when the north-based tug has not been used for incidents off the west coast, which contradicts what had previously been agreed on the service and poses the question of whether it is to be used for incidents off the west coast.'

He added: 'We remain very concerned, as do colleagues in neighbouring councils, about the current situation which increases the risks for mariners and the environment.'

**Portree**



Elgin Hostel in Portree that used to be home to boys attending the high school.

FORMER pupils of Portree high school who resided in Elgin Hostel are being invited back to the building that they once called home.

On Saturday August 13 former residents will gather to see what was the boys' hostel for those attending the high school.

The hostel has undergone major refurbishment and is now about to reopen as a mixed girls and boys hostel for the school.

Former pupil Murdo Beaton said: 'Although the building looks the same from the outside, inside it is very different indeed, but

former pupils will surely find it sufficient to trigger many nostalgic memories.

'This will be a unique, and really a final opportunity, for those who knew the original building to visit, to reminisce, to say farewell to what was, and to welcome what is new.'

There will be short interviews conducted with anyone who wants to share anecdotes and memories for a Radio nan Gaidheal programme.

Visitors will have an opportunity to take a tour of the refurbished building and view a display of archive material and photographs.

**Broadford**



AN ORPHANED otter cub has been rescued and brought to the International Otter Survival Fund (IOSF) specialist unit in Broadford, Skye.

Found by Munloch Animal Aid near Inverness, the 10-week old cub will stay at the centre till he is one-year-old, which is when they normally leave their mothers, and he will then be released into the wild.

Grace Yoxon, of IOSF,

said: 'The cub is only about 10 weeks old and has probably only just ventured out of its hole. We don't know how it became separated from mum but thank goodness it ended up with Iona Nicol at Munloch. We have had cubs from her in the past and so know that she will always look after them properly. Otter cubs have to be given special milk and so it can be very dangerous for them to be given cow's milk.'

**Oban**



OBAN and Lorn Horticultural Society has donated the proceeds from its flower show last year to three worthwhile charities. The committee presented three cheques worth £175 each to Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease, the Hope Kitchen and the Oban Mountain Rescue Team at Glencruitten Road Church Hall on Thursday last week. Traditionally money raised from their annual flower show, and the auction of the produce, is given to local causes - in total £5,725 over the past 20 years. This year's flower show takes place from midday to 4pm on Saturday August 20 at Glencruitten Road Church Hall in Oban.

**South Uist**



Those who attended a Ceòlas summer school entertained with a musical concert.

CEÒLAS Uibhist is appealing for votes as it strives for nationwide acclaim on BBC One in this year's National Lottery Awards.

The project beat off competition from more than 600 organisations to reach the public voting stage in this year's awards which is searching for the UK's favourite lottery-funded projects.

South Uist-based Ceòlas is competing against six other projects to be crowned the winner of the Heritage category.

The winner of the category receives a £3,000 cash prize

to spend on their project, as well as a national lottery trophy and the chance to attend a star-studded awards ceremony in London, which is broadcast on BBC One in September.

Ceòlas Uibhist is an annual week-long music and dance school which celebrates Gaelic heritage in South Uist.

Mary Schmoller, from Ceòlas, said: 'We have applied for the lottery fund several times and haven't been successful, but this year we hit a positive.

'If we get the money it would help to improve the

quality of what we offer on our summer course. We would like for a professional to run our sound system for the week and have more money to advertise what we do. We are up against serious competition but they are all very different to us, so we are hoping we can win it.'

Iain MacDonald, artistic director of Ceòlas Uibhist, added: 'We're delighted to have reached the finals of the national lottery awards. Lottery money has really helped us to run our summer school each July. It's easy to vote, so we're hoping people support us.'

Voting closed yesterday, July 20, and Ms Schmoller said they should hear in August if they have won.

■ CEÒLAS Uibhist's annual symposium celebrating significant South Uist people, places, events and traditions will take place at the end of the month.

This year's event, *Tir tha Tainneach*, will run from July 24-26 and will focus on the villages of Howbeg, Howmore and Snishival.

There will be a whole host of activities and events such as walks, talks, concerts and ceilidhs, spinning demonstration and song classes.

**Mallaig**



Author and chairwoman of a Write Highland Hoolie, Polly Pullar.

A NEW book festival is set to take place in Mallaig this year.

Author Polly Pullar joined forces with the West Highland hotel manager Sine Davis, to discuss the idea of a literary event.

A Write Highland Hoolie is now to be held in October this year.

Ms Pullar, whose books include *Fauna Scotica*, *Animals and People in Scotland*, and *A Drop in the Ocean*,

Lawrence MacEwen and the *Island of Muck*, said: 'When Sine and I first discussed this, I did not expect to hear any more about it.

'We know there is much to do to make this a success, but are all extremely enthusiastic, and have a great line-up of authors, and we hope something to suit all ages and tastes.'

Organisers want to get as much community involvement as possible, with a

variety of workshops for children.

The line up includes, Jim Crumley, Camille Dressler, Debi Gliori, Sue Lawrence, John Love, Angus MacDonald, Donald S. Murray, Stuart Murray, Alasdair Roberts, Michael F. Russell, and Jess Smith.

Musicians Elsa Jean McTaggart, and husband Gary Lister will be entertaining attendees of the event.

**Stornoway**

STORNOWAY-BASED publishers Acair are to launch a new book on July 30.

*Rhenigidale* by Kenneth Mackay tells the story of the Village of the same

name on the Isle of Harris. Mr Mackay describes the hardships faced by the villagers due to the village being cut off from the rest of the island, and how he led the fight to have a road

built to reconnect them. He and some guest speakers will share reminiscences and reflections of this journey at the launch which will take place in the Harris Hotel in Tarbert.

**MORVERN**  
lines

**An unusual case at Oban Sheriff Court - but is it fact or fiction?**

WHEN I was looking through some old Oban Sheriff Court references recently, I found a report of a case that supposedly came before Sheriff MacTavish on November 18, 1896. It was an action for damages of £12 brought against a local distillery by John Turner, Laggan Farm, for injury to his ducks and hens by the distillery company for allowing intoxicating material to be discharged into the Laggan Burn.

This material, it was alleged, caused drunkenness among Mr Turner's fowls, making them of little or no value. Mr Turner, who was represented by John Scott, a local solicitor, maintained that for some years he had made a reasonable living keeping poultry but since the distillery opened, his business had dwindled to almost nothing. His hens and ducks, he told the court, were drunk every day of the week except on Sundays, when the distillery was not working.

Mr Turner thought it was a hen he had bought in Fort William which made the discovery first and that she had led the rest astray. Cross-examined by Mr William Smith, solicitor for the distillery company, Mr Turner was asked: 'Have you ever seen gapes [a small red worm which lodges in the windpipe of chickens], in hens?'

'Yes.'

'Do you not consider that your hens are suffering from them?'

'Yes, whisky gapes [laughter].'

'Did you know anything about the Fort William hen before you bought her?'

'Nothing whatever.'

Mr Scott at this point asked if he could produce an article referring to a similar case. Mr Smith objected as the author was not present and the objection was sustained. Mr Moss, the bar officer, was then asked by Mr Scott to place on the bench beside the sheriff a large wicker cage containing the Fort William hen.

Mr Scott asked Mr Turner: 'Is this the Fort William hen?'

'It is.'

'Is it sober?'

'It is not.'

A fact established because it was sitting on the bottom of the cage with its neck through the bars looking sideways at the ceiling, crooning to itself in what Mr Turner described as a 'maudin style' which always happened when she was 'far gone'.

At this point it was recorded that the hen made some forcible remarks in the direction of Sheriff MacTavish, which resulted in her ejection from the court house. The examination continued: 'Was this hen in the distillery burn this morning?'

'Anyone could see that [laughter].'

'How are the other hens today?'

'Worse than this one.'

'Was this the only one you could take to court?'

'Yes.'

'Why?'

'The rest were too drunk.'

'So that on the whole the Fort William hen is not the worst?'

'That is so.'

'How do you account for that?'

'She can stand it better.'

Cross-examined: 'What do the hens do when they return from the burn?'

'Sleep.'

'Anything else?'

'After a sleep they generally fight.'

'Have you no sober hens at all?'

'Yes, but the drunk ones break their eggs.'

For the pursuer (John Scott), it was contended that he had made out he was entitled to damages. In an able speech for the defence, Mr Smith submitted that the contention had not been proved and that the condition of the pursuer's hen might be due to influenza.

The sheriff stated that as the case was a peculiar one, he would delay giving a decision that day. The court was crowded and the Fort William hen became the object of much interest afterwards when a thoughtful individual put some whisky in front of her which she drank. This, it was said, revived her considerably and she began cackling loudly to the enjoyment of the onlookers.

This story seems absurd yet it was carried in several national newspapers up and down the country.

Fact or fiction? A search of the wonderful *Oban Times* archive should confirm it because I don't imagine the editor at the time would have been party to such a leg-pull, even on April Fools' Day, if that indeed is what it was.

**A well travelled ewe**

LONG before the railway and livestock floats came to the Highlands, the Ardtornish shepherds used to set off walking every September to the Falkirk Tryst with a drove of cast ewes and widders.

One year, after swimming them across the Corran and Ballachulish narrows and somewhere between Glencoe and Bridge of Orchy, they missed a black-face ewe which they knew well. They never expected to see her again but she arrived back at Ardtornish in November having travelled round the head of Loch Leven and Loch Eil.

The following year the same ewe was sent away again. This time the shepherds managed to get her into the parks at Stenhousemuir near Falkirk the night before the sale. Next morning she was missing. 'Ah well,' thought the shepherds, 'that's a pity after getting her here but that will be the last of her, she'll never make Morvern of it from here.'

In May, the following year, she arrived back on her home hirsle on Ardtornish with two cross lambs at foot.



A hardy Morvern ewe.

Iain Thornber  
iain.thornber@btinternet.com



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# Strontian benefit cheat fined £1,500 for £24,000 false claim

## He ain't heavy, he's my brother...



Athletes who took part in heavy events at this year's Morvern Highland Games, at Knock Park, Lochaline, united for a team photograph. At the games last Saturday, Craig Nicholson, of Oban - middle - won throwing the hammer, putting the shot, and the David MacBrayne Centenary Cup, open heavyweight, jointly with Scott Clark, second right. Scott, from Arran, also secured first place in tossing the caber and weight over the bar. Turn to page 12 for Morvern Games picture special.

## Sheriff court continues drink drive and knife case against retired Fort judge

THE CASE continues against a retired judge from Fort William who is charged with drink driving and possession of a knife.

Richard Twining Sidgwick, 71, from Mileston Hill House, first appeared in Fort William sheriff court on May 12 after

registering 110 milligrams of alcohol in a 100mg breath sample at his home the previous evening. The legal limit in Scotland is 22.

Sidgwick was also charged with failing to identify the driver of the vehicle when requested to do so at 8.30pm

at his house on May 11 and being in possession of the knife at Fort William Police Office the same day.

His case was presented again in Fort William on Tuesday (July 19) and Sidgwick is next due to appear in court on Monday August 15.

A BENEFIT cheat who falsely claimed almost £25,000 has been ordered to pay £1,500 as punishment.

Charles Wright, of Larch Cottage, Monument Park, Strontian, gave false information to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in March 2008.

The 73-year-old claimed he had only £4,000 of savings and owned no other properties. This allowed Wright to fraudulently claim benefits of £24,340.52 between March 2008 and June 2012.

Wright eventually pleaded guilty to the charge in 2015. Last month he presented a cheque for £16,000 to cover the remaining amount owed and on Tuesday he appeared in Fort William Sheriff Court for sentencing.

Sheriff William Taylor presided over the case, during which it was heard the fraudulent claims were made by Wright during a phone call and because of the nature of the conversation and the fact he was in his own home, Wright had taken a more 'cavalier' approach to his finances.

Defence lawyer Hamish Melrose also confirmed Wright's cheques had cleared and that he had actually paid slightly in excess of what was owed.

When explaining Wright's current situation, Mr Melrose said a social background report was conducted a year ago and since then his circumstances have not materially changed but that Mr Wright now qualifies for benefits.



Charles Wright leaves Fort William Court in disguise on Tuesday.

Photograph by Anthony MacMillan Photography.

The court also heard it was decided there was no need for a proceeds of crime application to be made as long as full reimbursement was made to the DWP.

Sheriff Taylor interjected, raising the point that this was a 'continued crime' which took place over many years and where a man who had claimed more than £24,340 in pension credit was believed to have nearly half a million pounds worth of assets.

With regards to the figures Mr Melrose replied: 'That is disputed.'

Mr Melrose added: 'Mr Wright receives £120 per week and that is the sole income for both he and his wife and he has no assets.'

The Sheriff questioned Mr Melrose's statement that Wright has no assets.

When informed the prop-

erty he currently lives in is now owned by his daughter, Sheriff Taylor said to Wright: 'It seems to me that that was an attempt to divest yourself of assets in order to prevent any money being obtained.'

Mr Melrose defended Wright and said the false claims had been made in relation to inheritance tax but since then the correct information has been submitted.

He also said: 'Irrespective of the assets, Mr Wright believed he was entitled to that money because of his age.'

Sheriff Taylor replied: 'It seems to me that you are a person who is a stranger to the truth.'

'You defrauded the public purse and expected to be patted on head and the sent away. Custody is a real option here.'

Mr Melrose replied: 'Mr Wright is aware of that.'

He told the court Wright had attended court regularly and he had discussed this with his client but he urged for the seriousness of Wright's crimes to be mitigated by his age, the fact the money had been reimbursed and that he has no previous convictions and hoped an alternative route may be available.

The Sheriff replied that the route he found attractive was a financial one.

He added: 'Given the facts that are available to me, I think a financial penalty is appropriate.'

After discussing the fine with his lawyer, it was agreed Wright would pay £1,500 in £100 instalments on a monthly basis.

## TIMESLINE

### Kilmallie centre celebrates award

KILMALLIE Community Centre is to be presented with a Keystone Award.

This award recognises the work of the community centre, which is managed by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO).

The award will be presented at a celebration event at the community centre on Friday July 29 at noon.

### New UHI college courses on offer

WEST Highland College (WHC UHI) is offering new half-day and one-day workshops.

Courses include photography, local history and genealogy. Events will be running in WHC UHI centres at Mallaig, Kilchoan, Portree and Broadford, as well as Lochaber College.

### Tourism entries up on last year

MORE than 200 entries have been received for the Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards (HITA) this year - a rise of more than 15 per cent on last year's figure.

Judging has now started to determine the winners in 15 categories, with the best places to stay, eat and drink and enjoy the area's sporting and musical culture among those to be honoured.

A shortlist will be announced in September with the grand final at the Kingsmills Hotel, Inverness, on November 4.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2014



The team delivering the innovative Biker Down course.

## Firefighters deliver innovative course to reduce biker deaths on Argyll roads

FIREFIGHTERS are working with bikers to reduce the number of motorcyclists killed or injured on Argyll's roads.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) crews regularly respond to serious collisions knowing those on two wheels are by far the most likely to be involved in a tragedy.

As many riders travel in pairs or groups, a fellow biker is often the first person on scene following an incident involving a motorcycle.

In a pilot project, firefighters in Argyll and Bute, Edinburgh and North Lanarkshire are running Biker Down courses, giving riders potentially life-saving skills to help them

make the scene of a collision safe and protect a casualty.

The initiative first came to Scotland in 2015 when firefighter John Branney of North Lanarkshire's Cumbernauld Community Fire Station sought permission to replicate the Kent Fire and Rescue Service project.

His team of volunteers - all firefighters and members of the SFRS bikers section - has delivered numerous courses over the past year.

Their efforts have been bolstered with crews at Oban and South Queensferry also now delivering the courses.

Dozens of motorcyclists from across Scotland have taken part,

with the firefighters sharing their experience of attending serious road traffic collisions to make them aware of the dangers that face casualties and those coming to their aid.

Courses are currently scheduled to run in Motherwell on Saturday August 13 and in Oban on two Sundays, August 14 and 28.

Anyone interested in taking part in a course should contact the teams operating in the west and east of Scotland by email to bikerdownscotland@firescotland.gov.uk.

More information on the courses is available by visiting the Biker Down Scotland Facebook page.

## Outdoor challenge prize fund £10,000

OUTDOOR goods retailer Mountain Warehouse, which opened a store in Oban this summer, is offering £10,000 to the winner of its fourth charity challenge.

The annual initiative encourages the public to set themselves daring outdoor challenges to raise money for the charity of their choice.

The UK's largest outdoor retailer has named TV adventurer and author Simon Reeve as its ambassador and this year's prize also includes the chance to meet Simon and take part in his charity challenge.

Entries close on Sunday July 31. The winner will be based on public voting over two rounds. The final winner will be announced on Monday September 19.



Simon Reeve.

## Wildlife trust hosts summer fair in Oban

THE ARGYLL and Lochaber Group of the Scottish Wildlife Trust will be holding its summer fair on Saturday August 6, in partnership with Dunollie Museum, Castle and grounds, the seat and ancestral home of the Clan MacDougall.

Visitors should expect to find plenty of refreshments, a variety of activities for adults and children and arts and crafts.

Entry includes the museum, castle and grounds so visitors will also be able to walk up to the newly-consolidated Dunollie Castle for stunning views across Oban bay.

'Come and have a great family day out while you support our work to protect Scotland's wildlife and wild places,' said Tony Mitchell-Jones, chairman of the Argyll and Lochaber Group.

'We expect to have miniature railway rides, Splat the Rat, chainsaw art, local musicians, a tombola and lucky dip and, of course, plenty to eat and drink.'

The Scottish Wildlife Trust, champion of Scotland's wildlife since 1964, manages 120 wildlife reserves across the country and works to protect all wildlife and wild places. The Argyll and Lochaber Group, part of a network of more than 1000 volunteers, supports the work of the trust and helps look after local reserves.

Argyll and the West Coast is particularly important for the internationally-scarce Celtic rainforest, as rich in species as tropical rainforest.

Shian Wood, on the shores of the picturesque and internationally protected Loch Creran, is a

small but impressive example of ancient woodland, with wonderful displays of wildflowers and butterflies.

Ballachuan Hazelwood, on the beautiful Isle of Seil, is a stunning example of Atlantic hazel woodland, rich in insects and lichens and also a great place for spotting otters; certainly the most magical place for a walk.

Further south, Knapdale, near Crinan, is the site of the first trial reintroduction of beavers to Britain.

The beavers are hard to spot, but the trust organises regular walks to look for them and signs of their tree-felling and dam-building activities. See [www.scottishbeavers.org.uk/visit-knapdale/](http://www.scottishbeavers.org.uk/visit-knapdale/) for details.

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# 'Stranded' volunteers start a new life on Ardnamurchan

MONICA GIBSON  
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

TWENTY-THREE people have settled on Ardnamurchan as part of a new TV show.

The group of volunteers, aged 24 to 55, will have to survive for 365 days in what Channel 4 describes as a remote corner of the UK – or 'left after Acharacle' to others.

The concept of the programme, entitled *Eden*, is to allow the group to start from scratch: build shelter, cultivate the land and form a society among themselves away from mobile phones, politics and the internet.

Supposedly stranded on a 600-acre site, contestants will be captured by 45 cameras, filming 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The first episode aired on Monday night and, while filming is expected to continue throughout the year, the initial onslaught showed the first three or so weeks since the group arrived.

On seeing his new home for the year, Anton, a rowing coach, said: 'It's absolutely gorgeous. My job is to survive for 365 days.'

Yoga instructor Jasmine, 24, showed the cameras a toilet created by the campers.

The facilities didn't seem quite to her usual standard. However, she said: 'But I have this view and there's nowhere else I'd rather be.'

The series is being produced by London-based KEO films whose application in 2015 to remove public right of access in the Ardnamurchan Estate caused controversy.

Some people who live in the area were unconvinced they were as 'isolated' as programme-makers would like audiences to believe, while others were concerned about the environmental impact.

The application was approved by the Scottish Government and restrictions on the area will continue until spring 2017 but Brian Murphy, who is councillor for the area, believes most people have now come to terms with the idea.

Mr Murphy said: 'At the time there were a few people who were unhappy about it but that was mainly due to the restrictions. I think the majority who live in the area are quite happy about it now. It brings employment before the programme began and during and the hope is it sparks interest in the area and causes an influx for tourism.'

When asked if he could see himself living 'Eden style' he said laughing: 'Nope. Absolutely not.'

The show caused a reaction online with both locals and foreigners having their say.

On *The Oban Times* Facebook page Niall Gordan admitted: 'Personally I detest this kind of programme ... never mind.'

Sylvia McKay said the show is described as another *Castaway* – the programme filmed in the Hebrides 17 years ago and which brought fame for Ben Fogle.

On the *Eden* page, Dan Kirton commented: 'Stunning part of the world!'

Carlo Ruggiero asked where in Scotland was this set – and he received dozens of replies, including one from Neil Mac-



The strangers from all over the UK have to learn to live together for a year.

Lennan who explained: 'A few miles from a baker's, hotel, doctor's surgery, loads of holiday homes and a road full of tourists in campervans, about 15 miles from where I live.'

He added: 'Turn left after Acharacle.'

Sue Brown, who runs a tea room close to the set, said: 'I didn't realise they were already in when I was there at Easter. Just thought the set was being completed. I did marvel at the fence. Whoever got that contract was laughing.'

**“** The hope is it sparks interest in the area and causes an influx for tourism **”**

Brian Murphy  
councillor



Supposedly stranded in Ardnamurchan, above, the contestants were given tools, seeds and livestock to start them off.

## TIMESLINE

### School honours pupils' success

A CELEBRATION of success was held at Ardnamurchan High School.

Teachers and students gathered and spoke of achievements by the student body, including Emma Cameron, who received Highland Young Musician of the Year award.

Head teacher Christopher Millar-Craig spoke of the uncertainty for young people over the recent referendum on EU membership but outlined the strong position the school is in for the year ahead.

In keeping with the school's Gaelic ethos, the event, at the end of last month, closed with the young people's Film G entry which was nominated for Best Mobile Phone Production, Mnathan, Ghasigich na h-Alba.



Aaron Hartley is congratulated by Ian Love.

### Aaron wins top student award

A FIRST-YEAR mechanical engineering apprentice at Rio Tinto has been named Inverness College student of the year.

Aaron Hartley, who has been employed at the smelter in Fort William for 11 months, was presented with the award at the end of his 38-week course.

He received his certificate at the recent college prizegiving and was also congratulated on his return to the Lochaber smelter by owner and maintenance superintendent Ian Love.



Project manager Jim Sandeman with community liaison manager Kelly Scott and environmental project manager Simon Hall at the public meeting last week.

## Energy firm unveils plans for power improvements

PLANS for improvements to Fort William's electricity infrastructure were unveiled at a public meeting last week.

Details of the upgrade to the existing substation at Achintee Road were laid out by Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) last Tuesday (July 12).

The project, to be carried out by Scottish Hydro Electric (SHE), involves replacing 45-year-old transformers with two new ones. This will enable new generation connections and improve the security of supply in the area.

The company will also be closing off the existing entrance to the substation, to avoid traffic congestion

outside houses at the site, and opening a new one away from neighbouring houses.

One resident, who lives in the house directly across from the existing substation entrance, appeared unfazed by the work.

He said: 'I have never been bothered by any traffic outside. The substation has been here longer than me, so I am used to it.'

SHE will be submitting a planning application to the Highland Council in August, and will be taking feedback it received from the meeting last week into consideration when putting its proposal together.

Jim Sandeman, project manager, said: 'We want to do what

we can to improve things for residents on the limited budget we have. We are in detailed discussions with the landowner and the initial feedback is good.'

Work is due to start on April 1, 2017, and be finished by October 31, 2018.

Kelly Scott, community liaison manager, told *The Oban Times*: 'The new transmitters will be much quieter. In the next few weeks we will be carrying out noise surveys.'

The new transmitters will be bigger, by around half a metre, but Mr Sandeman said their carbon footprint would be the same.

Talking after the meeting Ms Scott said: 'We wanted to come into the community to address any concerns there might be, and make sure we are keeping people as involved as possible. People's main concern is they are kept informed, so we want to continue this.'

With pedestrian access towards Ben Nevis nearby, Ms Scott said: 'We are not planning to block off any walking access to Ben Nevis during construction.'



The Fort William substation on Achintee road that is to be upgraded.

## LOCH FYNE SEAFOOD HITS THE ROAD

Award winning Loch Fyne Oysters, dedicated to providing the world with Scotland's finest seafood has launched a special delivery service covering the whole of the Argyll region with the opportunity to expand in the future.

Hotels, restaurants, Guest Houses, B&Bs, and delicatessens will now be able to have fresh chilled internationally renowned Loch Fyne produce delivered to their door in this new high-quality service with knowledgeable staff.

The produce offered as part of the service includes fresh salmon and the full smoked salmon range, fresh oysters, fresh rope grown mussels, queen scallops, king scallops, langoustines and smoked mussels. For customers with retail facilities the packaged smoked salmon range, smoked mussels, Loch Fyne kippers, marinated herring and smoked haddock and kippers will be available also.

Cameron Brown, Managing Director at Loch Fyne Oysters Ltd said:

**“** We are excited to launch this new delivery service in response to local demand. Hotels and restaurants in the area will now be able to serve their customers our award-winning produce from across our whole range of seafood and shellfish. More and more people can now enjoy our product lines not just at the Loch Fyne Oyster Bar and Restaurant or by ordering online, but also businesses can have our fresh produce delivered to their door as part of our growing range of bespoke services. **”**

Andy MacLugash, Samphire Restaurant, Inveraray, Argyll who is one of the first businesses to use the new delivery service added:

**“** I have used Loch Fyne produce for a number of years and have always found it to be of the highest quality and flavour. I'm delighted by the introduction of the Loch Fyne delivery service to Argyll and having fresh produce delivered to my door on a regular basis. **”**



Loch Fyne Oysters Ltd

Clachan, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BL

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## Viewpoint

The Oban Times  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

This week's news that Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban is to lose eight inpatient beds which will result in a reduction of trained staff at the infirmary through 'natural wastage' – no doubt because contracts will not be renewed – will shock many. While there is definitely a case for people to be treated in their own homes where possible, there is a feeling in our communities that the health service in Argyll and

Bute is being eroded in a bid to centralise and save cash. The number of people already having to travel to Glasgow, for example, to see specialists or for treatment at a time when they are ill, under stress and extremely vulnerable is already too high. So enough is enough. It's time we stood up for our hospital, our healthcare professionals and our right to healthcare delivered through our local hospital.



## Days gone by – Soroba Road

Iain Macdonald from Albany Street in Oban sent this photo. Iain said: 'During the early- to mid-1980s (I may be out with the date), the steeple on the parish church needed repairs. I was acquainted with the members of the scaffolding company who were working there and was allowed to climb to the top to take photos. This picture shows Soroba Road looking south towards Oban High School. It pre-dates the building of the Co-op as the memorial works on the corner of Soroba Lane can be seen. There's no Lorn Medical Centre and the old high school building can be seen at the top. This area of Oban has seen many changes over the years since.'

## Glasgow Letter

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



I SPENT last weekend at the Three Music Festival which, although many miles from Glasgow, is much spoken about in the city – not least because the Skerryvore boys (who put so much work into the organisation of it every year) reside down here.

There are also, as I wrote last week, many Glasgow-based bands that play at the festival. This is also the case with Hebeclt on the island of Lewis. I heard from the Skipinnish boys, some of whom arrived a little the worse for wear after feeling the effects of a fairly rough crossing from Lewis, that it was a fantastic weekend.

The weather in Tìree certainly didn't reach the sunny heights of the glorious and unforgettable TMF 2013, and the rain unfortunately forced the closure of the outdoor stage but, in true West Coast fashion, the party went on regardless in the Big Top tent – which saw some truly wonderful music over the course of the weekend and produced an incredible atmosphere.

A big moment was Trail West's album launch on the Saturday night. It's not always an easy thing to perform brand new material to a massive crowd, but Trail West had so much

energy and, from start to finish, the boys had the crowd going bananas.

Nestled in among their set was the famous song from their debut album, *Island Boy*, and the crowd's enthusiasm to this remained right up until they finished off with their most recent hit *Close to Home* – a release that I wrote about in previous weeks.

Heron Valley, a young band from Strachur, rocked the Big Top tent the following day with a highly dynamic set.

Both Trail West and Heron Valley are playing in the Park Bar this weekend which is a chance for those in Glasgow who didn't make it up to TMF to experience a glimpse of what they missed.

Dùn Mòr and Gunna Sound were two other bands who regularly appear in the Park Bar who performed brilliantly at TMF.

Ceilidh King Fergie MacDonald's set for dancing was another highlight, as was the Scott Wood Band, who were characteristically high-octane.

The Sunday of the festival was a memorable day for me personally, as my new band Tide Lines was launched. The atmosphere in the tent that day

was electric due to the cracking bands that had played, and the crowd made our first ever gig a complete joy.

We all really enjoyed ourselves – particularly once our slot was over, and we could relax and enjoy the excellent Blazin' Fiddles, the Red Hot Chili Pipers and my good friends the Skipinnish boys – who finished the whole festival off perfectly.

It's back to Glasgow for me (and many others) this week, where things are beginning to return to normal: the students will soon be back and the football has started.

In the coming months, there will be plenty of great events in Glasgow, and I cannot wait.

## Pub scene

**Park Bar**  
Friday July 22: Deoch 'n' Dorus.  
Saturday July 23: Heron Valley.  
Sunday July 24: Trail West.

**Islay Inn**  
Friday July 22: Parting Glass.  
Saturday July 23: Banned Name.  
Wednesday July 27: quiz night.



**Niall Gordan** posted: 'Well, I already know (and am known in Ireland as this in Gaelige) I am Niall of the Nine Pints!' **Linda Simpson** lamented: 'They missed Buchanan and dont think I saw Carmichael, McDougall, MacCall, McGillivray or Livingstone anywhere on here.'

**Laura Cook** said: 'I wasn't even looking at the names, Lismore just doesn't feature at all.'

**There was also much comment on the hot rumour last week that pop star Beyoncé was aboard a luxury yacht tied up at the North Pier in Oban.**

**Sine Macfarlane** suggested: 'Hear it

is Beyoncé who has chartered it and she will be in Oban on Sunday.'

**Michelle Mac** disagreed: 'Its not! Boho Brow & Beauty bar had 'someone' in for treatments connected to yacht (client confidentiality) however its 100% not Beyoncé & Jay-Z thats on that boat.'

**Emma Telfer** said: 'Beyoncé has been in Germany doing a concert this week ... pretty sure it's not her ... no security or anything around boat!'

**Alistair Ogilvie** concurred: 'Was on the Pier on Thursday at the Gang plank with my Van & there was no security so you can be sure she isn't aboard...!'

**Colline Mackiggan** quipped: 'Has she a concert in the Corran Halls.'

**Kenny MacNeil** responded: 'Na you've got to be really famous to do the halls.'

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](mailto: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.

## Ask the public for cost-saving ideas

Sir,  
I am surprised that it has taken so long for the residents of Argyll and Bute, including the Oban area, to discover that a three-weekly general waste collection service is to be implemented by the council (*The Oban Times*, July 7).

I have known since March 16 and had a letter published in the *Ileach* (Islay community newspaper) on March 19. Surprisingly, none of the *Ileach* readers passed a comment in its next edition.

There are numerous ways Argyll and Bute councillors can save money such as switching off the street lights, apart from the main roads, from midnight until 5am.

Councillors could also greatly reduce their expenses if their meetings were held by video conferencing, which large private companies have used for years. There is no need to clean public toilets at the weekends, especially outwith the main holiday season.

What we need are brain-storming meetings throughout the whole of Argyll and Bute at which members of the public (councillors excluded) can put forward suggestions to save money.

Incidentally, the residents of East Kintyre are still receiving a weekly uplift of their general waste bins and, in my opinion, should paying a surcharge on their council tax for this superior service.

**Douglas W Tott,**  
Stoneyburn, Bruchladdich,  
Isle of Islay.

## Despairing over bin collection proposal

Sir,  
I read of complaints to Edinburgh City Council about refuse collections or the lack of them. Edinburgh City Council is not alone.

Not for the first time this year, our green waste bin, along with our next-door neighbour's, has not been uplifted this week and now council is talking of three-weekly uplifts when they can't even uplift ours after two weeks.

I despair.

**Moirra Lang,**  
Shennachie,  
Albany Street, Oban.

## Pointless to impose new speed limit

Sir,  
With regard to the 50mph speed limit about to be posted between Ballachulish and Fort William, I respectfully submit that it's a waste of time, money and materials.

First, it's going to cut down overtaking opportunities for drivers trying to pass slow-moving caravans and other vehicles.

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



CHAN IONGNADH GUM BHEIL an co-dhùnadh aig a' Phrìomhaire ùr Theresa May gus Boris Johnson a stèidheachadh mar Rùnaire Dhùthchannan Cèin air uimhir de dh'ùpraid adhbharachadh ann am meadhanan an t-saoghail.

Thuille seo tha Boris Johnson air cliù a chosnadh mar bhuamastair a' falbh le theanga air a' ghualainn 's gun smaointinn na faicell aige air na tha e air a bhith ag ràdh neo cò air a tha e a' dèanamh tàire.

Gu dearbh bho chionn greise bha cuid a' nochdadh bheachdan anns na meadhanan gur e cùis-eagail eadar-nàiseanta a bhiodh ann nam biodh Boris Johnson na Phrìomhaire am Breatann agus Dòmhnall Trump na Cheann-suidhe air na Stàitean Aonaichte.

Chaidh ar gleidheadh bhon trom-laighe sin gu ìre leis gur i May a fhuair dreuchd Prìomhaire, ach ann am beachd mhòran feadh an t-saoghail chan eil giùlan Johnson gu ruige seo co-dhùil ga uidheamachadh airson dreuchd a tha cho cudromach agus a tha ag iarraidh sàr gilean uaisleachd agus dioplòmasaidh.

'S gann a bha May air tòiseachadh

When you overtake, you want to do it quickly so you have more time to get back to your own side of the road.

Secondly, it's going to slow down the tourists even more, and we don't need that.

And, thirdly, there are very few places on that particular piece of road where one can safely exceed 50 anyway, so what's the point?

**Davie Kerr,**  
Onich.

## Thanks for kindness from shop worker

Sir,  
Among my shopping at Tesco yesterday was a pack of six 1.5l bottles of water which, of course, is heavy.

Now, I've reached the age when I admit that I look as old as I am – 77 – and the young man checking me out endorsed this by glancing at me and lifting the pack of water, carrying it round the end of the conveyor belt and placing it in my trolley.

Never has this happened before – it was such kindness and courtesy.

We have holidayed in Oban two or three times annually for many years and have to say that the young man's attention typifies the cheerful, helpful and friendly service we invariably experience.

All the woollen mill shops, the shoe shop, Benderloch's pink shop and the shop at Port Appin particularly come to mind.

We Yorkshire folk like to think of ourselves as friendly, but bravo Oban.

**Roy Bramwell,**  
**St Ian's Croft, Addingham,**  
Ilkley, West Yorks.

## Some justice for Willie Lawrie's fine music

Sir,  
I was most interested to read Dr Lorn MacIntyre's fine article about Pipe Major Willie Lawrie (*The Oban Times*, July 7).

In both the Scots Guards Settings of Pipe Music Volume 1 and the Queen's Own Highlanders Standard Settings of Pipe Music, *The Battle of the Somme* appears in the retreat marches section but is unattributed to any composer.

Some justice is done, however, to Pipe Major Lawrie in the Scots Guards Setting Volume 2, where no fewer than five tunes are included and attributed to him, including *The 8th Argyll's Farewell to the 116th Regiment de Ligne* and *Mrs H L MacDonald of Dunach*.

**C Stewart Winter,**  
Shellachan, Kilchrenan.

## Tribute to hero piper would be fitting

Sir,  
In my article on Willie Lawrie in *The Oban Times* of July 7, I wrote that Mrs Macdonald of Dunach was from Tros on Skye. She was actually a Macdon-

ald from Ord on the Sleat peninsula on Skye.

It would be a fitting tribute if a memorial to Pipe Major Willie Lawrie, in the form of a trophy to be competed for annually in one of the piping competitions at the Argyllshire Gathering, could be awarded in Willie's memory to mark his unrivalled contribution to pipe composition in peace and war.

**Dr Lorn MacIntyre,**  
St Andrews, Fife.

## Faith will bring an end to our confusion

Sir,  
At this time of continuing confusion and hysteria across the country, it seems the Brexit vote has left many people disheartened, depressed, disgruntled and utterly demoralised.

Their little utopian dream world, namely the European Union, has in one night fallen apart before their very eyes and they are perplexed and numbed.

Having lost their battle, these very people have no-one they can quickly turn to or look up to for pressing answers to their many financial, economic, immigration and so on questions.

The disarray and disunity among politicians is also having a catastrophic rippling effect, adding to the misery they never envisaged, and which they can now hardly cope with.

And how can they when their hero, and worldly, EU god – in whom they inexplicably trusted – is alas no more?

A majority vote under the hand of the living God has seen to that. His wise counsel to us, as a nation, at such a time as this is very timely: 'Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help.' He then tells us who we should place our trust in: 'It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.'

As one sits back and reflects on all that is happening throughout Europe, in the light of the Brexit vote, we see many miserable faces: Jean-Claude Juncker, Donald Tusk, Martin Schulz, Angela Merkel, David Cameron, Mark Carney, Nicola Sturgeon ... the list is endless. Their earthly kingdoms, domains and realms shake and shiver in a day: then in an instant all their hopes, aspirations and ambitions are dashed. Believing only in the things that 'are seen', they are all to be pitied. How very different if their trust, by faith, was in God.

While we may have turned our backs on the EU, surely now is the time for our nation, people and politicians to turn back to God and His word. He is where our real hope is found, not in our leaders, not in our economy, not in the condition of our nation today, or any other day.

Our hope comes from the Lord. When we turn to Him, we can be assured that blessing will follow: 'Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord ... and whose hope the Lord is.' Our future then will be as bright as His promises.

**Donald J Morrison,**  
85 Old Edinburgh Road, Inverness.

Ailean Caimbeul

## Social media

**A new interactive map that purports to show clan areas at the beginning of the 17th century has come in for criticism, particularly in the Oban area.**

**Willie Reid** wrote: 'Strictly for the tourists I'm afraid. Clan tartans as we know them are a fairly recent invention, the only difference in colours would have been the vegetable dyes available in certain areas. The map is also doubtful as different clans would merge together in certain areas. Harmless if used as a bit of fun but, a serious aid to genealogy? No. Most of North Lorne is missing.' **Laura Cook** commented: 'We don't exist on this map, the Liosaich must have a rebel stronghold!'

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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](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk).

## What the man and woman in the street think of the traffic disruption



**Ronny Wilson, 52,** said: 'Fort William is a traffic-sensitive area. Anything that could create gridlock on the road should be done in the evening or during the night. We only have one road, and once that's closed or backlogged, we are done for, especially in the height of summer.'



**Morag Forsyth, 66,** said: 'I was trying to come out of the town when it was coming through, and it took me over an hour to get back to Caol from the centre.'



**Kate MacLellan, 67,** said: 'Bringing an abnormal load through the town in the middle of the day is absolutely shocking. Surely it's common sense that they should have been given a specific time when it wouldn't be a traffic issue.'



**Angus Francis, 27,** said: 'I don't think it's such a big deal. Welcome to Scotland. Being stuck in traffic is normal round here. People have to run their businesses, so if the lorry needed through, then it needed through.'

# Carrying a load of controversy

**ELLIE FORBES**  
eforb@obantimes.co.uk

'ABSOLUTLY shocking' – those were the words of one Fort William resident when asked about the timing of an abnormal load-carrying lorry that travelled through the town last Tuesday.

The lorry, which caused mayhem in Fort William on July 12, was said to be carrying a replacement part for a wind turbine on the Isle of Skye.

Brian Murphy, councillor for Fort William and Ardnarmurchan, said: 'A wide load came through [Fort William] carrying a wind turbine and it took up both lanes of the road. It caused a long tailback on its way up to Skye.'

Speaking to *The Oban Times* last week, Mr Murphy said: 'To allow a load like that to go through the town in the middle of the day, in the middle of the week and in middle of July just seems incredible.'

'Fort William is a bottleneck at the best of times. There are no diversions. For there to be something like that going through, I can't imagine the cost – commercial vehicles being held up, what it's costing the public in terms of time and fuel, a large cost to buses and taxis ... all timetables will be really messed up.'

'I will be writing to Transport Scotland, to the police, all the MSPs and anyone I can get a hold of really because this just



The lorry carrying a wide load caused major traffic disruption across Lochaber last week.

cannot happen, especially in the height of the season. They must realise we are putting people off the area and making it a nightmare for those who live here.'

Mr Murphy contacted Police Scotland's traffic division immediately to express his concern about the load returning to Fort William on its journey from Skye the following day (July 13). He said: 'The police traffic

agreed that the load should be told to come down the A9.

'It said it was going to contact the haulage company to instruct them to go back down the A9, and as far as I'm aware that's what it did.'

'I made the point that these lorries should be travelling at night, but I was informed that they are not allowed to go out when it is dark. However, at this time of year, they could

still be moving in the very early hours when it is light but there is less traffic. I understand in the winter it's different, but the roads are much quieter then.'

Mr Murphy added: 'In the long term, I would like to see an acknowledgement from Police Scotland and Traffic Scotland that abnormal loads should not be going through Fort William at this time of year during the day.'

A spokesperson for BEAR Scotland responded: 'Haulage companies are required to inform us of their intended movements and we are required to advise them of the safest and most suitable route to take, as well as pointing out any roadwork restrictions.'

'The vehicle travelling on the A82 on July 12 was one of 73 noted on that route along this month and, as it is not re-

quired, we were not specifically notified of the timing of the movement.'

'We have no power to dictate the timing of movements although most companies choose to do so offpeak.'

'When notified by the haulier or an affiliated party, there is usually a certain window of time given by the applicant as to when the abnormal load will run, sometimes spanning months rather than providing a specific date and time.'

A Police Scotland spokeswoman said: 'Police escorted the wide load through Fort William and onto Invergarry.'

One woman told *The Oban Times*: 'I saw a police bike with the blue lights on passing the golf club in Fort William. That then signalled for the lorry to slow down/stop. Then about three minutes later a police car with blue lights went past and maybe one minute later the lorry went past.'

Stewart MacLean from the A82 partnership said: 'This journey should have been undertaken in offpeak times, and the haulier should have been encouraged to use the A9 where possible when transferring goods to the West Coast.'

'The A82 is hardly suitable for normal traffic without this increased burden. I think there was a significant breakdown in communications between national and local agencies, as it seems no-one locally was advised of what was happening.'

## TIMESLINE

### Affordable flats to be ready in March

NEW flats on Fort William's High Street are starting to take shape.

Noticeable progress is being made on the 22 Tweeddale flats that will be available for affordable rent by the council next year.

A Highland Council spokeswoman said: 'The completion date is due to be March 2017.'

'The flats will be a mixture of one and two bedrooms and we have not yet made any allocations. Anyone interested needs to make sure they are on the Highland Housing Register.'

'We will be starting to allocate the homes just before the completion date so people will be able to move in as soon as possible after the work is completed.'

### Plans submitted for holiday pods

A PLANNING application to turn vacant land in Invergarry into an area for all-year-round camping and holiday pods has been submitted to the Highland Council.

The application, which was lodged on Friday July 8, is requesting permission to change the use of the 6,000 square metre site in Mandally.

### Appointments at sports association

NEW appointments were made at the recent annual general meeting of the Lochaber Sports Association (LSA).

Jane Blanchard stepped down as chairwoman but remains on the board as a director, while Helen Smith and Tom Cameron were welcomed as new directors.

A new chairperson is to be appointed at the next board meeting.

LSA is also looking for a new accountant or financial adviser.

John Mortimer was elected onto the grants and awards committee as treasurer.

### Missing tourist is safe and well

POLICE in Fort William can confirm that a missing man from Dorset has been traced safe and well.

Jonathon Bates, 32, from Highcliffe, went missing on March 16 and was last seen in the Ben Nevis area of Lochaber on April 23.

Police said they would like to thank the media and members of the public for their assistance.

# Isabel is a natural-born helper

**MONICA GIBSON**  
mgibson@obantimes.co.uk

A WIDOW who has no children of her own has been fundraising and donating clothes for babies because it's 'what she's always wanted to do'.

Isabel MacPhee, 72, is a keen knitter and an active community member from Caol who has previously helped young families by providing comfort packages and even pledged to keep a family's triplets in nappies for a year.

Recently, Mrs MacPhee has been influential in getting cuddle cots installed in the local hospital and funeral parlours to help families come to terms with losing children at birth.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'At the moment I am getting involved with the cuddle cots at the hospital and the undertaker to help families who have been through tough times.'

'It's not much but I think it can help some people.'

'And in September I will be going out with my hamper and selling tickets for St John's church.'

'It's not my church but I do it every year for Father Roddy. I try to raise about £500 towards their ceilidh,



Isabel MacPhee, standing, also helps with the lunch club at the Caol Community Centre, where up to 30 people enjoy hot meals on weekdays.

which is something many folk around here look forward to.'

Mrs MacPhee added: 'The hamper is filled with some baked bits and lots of lovely things – and a nice bottle

of malt. I put nice ribbons around it and then sell tickets.'

'I get a lot of support from people in the area and, you know, I don't think there's anyone who has let me down

when it comes to donations.'

Mrs MacPhee's enjoyment of being part of the community has been reflected in the jobs she has taken.

She worked as a 'clippy' on the MacBrayne's buses and on the check-out in Safeway for 13 years, but even then she knew how she wanted to keep herself busy after her last shift.

She said: 'I just always wanted to help people.'

'I don't have a family myself and so I always said when I was retired I would fundraise and I would try to help this one and that one, and that's what I've done. It keeps me out and about rather than sitting about the house.'

'I sponsored the triplets before and now I have twins who live nearby who are about 15 months old and I enjoy knitting wee bits and dropping nappies and stuff into the grannies – just to help out.'

Apart from knitting, fundraising, sponsoring families and helping the local community, Mrs MacPhee enjoys listening to the radio in her free time.

She said: 'I put Morag on the radio every morning. I don't have much Gaelic but I enjoy listening to it and I have my music playing and that keeps me in good spirits.'

# Port officer is honoured at meeting with the Queen



John MacDonald met the Queen.

A CALMAC port assistant was invited to join Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at an exclusive gathering at the start of the month.

John MacDonald, who has worked for CalMac for 10 years and is based at Lochmaddy Port Office, was one of just 30 Scots invited to the reception at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in recognition of his work to bring together an archive of David MacBrayne artefacts and memorabilia.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh spent time chatting with each of the invitees about their individual achievements.

Mr MacDonald said: 'I spoke to both the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh individually.'

'The Queen was very nice and interested in what I had done.'

'The Duke of Edinburgh was very chatty and had a great sense of humour.'

He went on: 'It was a real surprise. I

hadn't known anything about it until about a week before.'

'The day I got home to find the invitation – which is now part of the exhibition at the port office – I felt honoured and really proud that the archive and exhibition had caught someone's attention to the extent that they nominated me as a CalMac representative.'

'It was a real day to remember and I'm humbled to have had the opportunity' he added.

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# Arena

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



Chieftain of the games, Peter Lawson with piper Graham Buchanan and new games committee chairman Kenny McLaughlin.



Competitors in the heavy-weight event, putting the shot.

## Rain fails to stop play at a wild, wet and wonderful Morvern Highland Games



Highland competitors, from Lochaline, Arran, Iona, Glasgow, who competed in the games' heavyweight events throughout the day.



Sunart, Ardnamurchan, Moidart and Morvern Beekeepers Association's (SAMMBA), where secretary Kate Atchley and new member Annemie Shanks sold jam and had a display of bees which all the children enjoyed looking at.



Morvern community development officer, Lilia Dobrokhodova, and husband Ivan Woolley at their stall where they were serving up curry and local produce from the Lochaline allotment garden.



Highland competitors throwing the hammer.



THE annual Morvern Highland Games battled torrential rain and gale-force winds at the weekend but nothing could faze Lochaline's community spirit and the day was a resounding success, writes *Ellie Forbes*.

The games took place on Saturday (July 16) at Knock Park in Lochaline, welcoming visitors from far and wide. Peter Lawson, from Northern Ireland, was chieftain of the games. Opening the games, he said: 'This is my first year as chieftain although I have been attending the games for more than 12 years.'

'My family has a farm in Ireland and one at Loch Teacuis, and we travel by boat between the two all summer.'

The day started with children's sports, and all the youngsters enjoyed the classic wheelbarrow race, the high jump and the long jump.

Putting the shot, throwing the hammer and tossing the caber, were just a few of the heavyweight events that took place in the afternoon.

Lots of Lochaber locals got involved on the day, with many having stalls selling food or providing entertainment for those who attended.

Sunart, Ardnamurchan, Moidart and Morvern Beekeepers Association's (SAMMBA) manned a stall, where secretary Kate Atchley and new member Annemie Shanks had a display of bees for everyone to check out,

and a selection of jams for sale.

Scottish Sea Farms was on hand too, serving up wraps made with local salmon caught fresh the day before.

Organiser and vice-chairwoman of the games committee Janette Mowat said: 'I came to the games as a child and I have been vice chairwoman for three years now. This is a community-run event close to our hearts and we have competitors come for all over to take part.'

The games committee consists of five other members: Kenny McLaughlin, who is the chairman; his wife Kathryn, who is the treasurer; Linda Martin, secretary; and Gemma Ryan and Seamus Wilson, who are committee members.

Ms Mowat continued: 'The day was a great success. Despite the weather, everyone seemed to have a fantastic time.'

'It was great to have Inspired Falconry with us, where everyone got the opportunity to learn about and pet a barn owl and an eagle owl.'

'We also had Mulligans Ices from Fort William with us on the day, which was a real treat, and thanks to Jonny Chainsaw for attending the games again with his fantastic chainsaw carving display.'

'I would finally like to thank all of the locals who helped on the run-up to the day and each and every person and stall-holder who wrapped up and braved the weather to support us.'

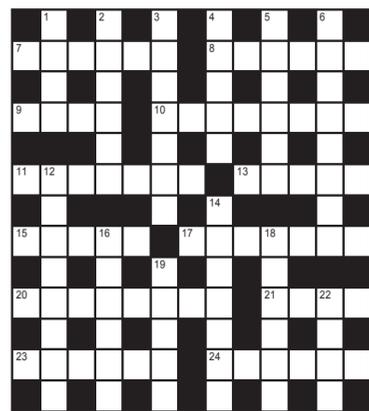
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COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD MID ARGYLL ART SOCIETY 49th ANNUAL EXHIBITION (In conjunction with Mid-Argyll Camera Club) Monday 15th August - Saturday 20th August 2016 LOCHGILPHEAD DRILL HALL Times of opening: Monday - Friday 10am - 8pm Saturday 10am - 2pm Handing in: Saturday 13th August, 10am - 4pm at Lochgilphead Drill Hall. Entry Fee - £3.00 per painting, up to 5 works. All paintings must be ready to hang and have name, address, title and price (if for sale) on the back. Only original paintings and drawings may be exhibited (not computer generated). If submissions exceed hanging space, the hanging committee will undertake the final decision. Enquiries to: Angus MacNeill 01546 603074 Vicky Lyon 01546 603281 David Murray 01546 605284 Archchattan Priory Fete Sunday 31st July 12 - 4pm Entry £4.00 adults, Free under 16s Lunches & Teas, Children's Activities, Stalls and games and Live Music Like us on facebook www.facebook.com/obantimes

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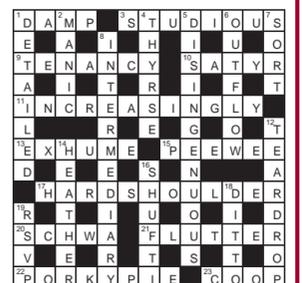
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- Across  
7 Deficient in pigmentation (6)  
8 Equally old (6)  
9 Curve (4)  
10 Compass housing (8)  
11 Where to sit after swearing! (4,3)  
13 Worship (5)  
15 Fire remnant (5)  
17 When the centre of a word is missing (7)  
20 Trespass (8)  
21 Fruit not named for it's looks (4)  
23 Frequent fliers (3,3)  
24 Dig (6)

- Down  
1 Bond (4)  
2 Gently (6)  
3 Uncultivated person (7)  
4 Cake topper (5)  
5 Announce (6)  
6 Letter chute in USA (8)  
12 No-one around (8)  
14 Disease with fever (7)  
16 Exit (6)  
18 All thumbs (6)  
19 Dispatch (5)  
22 Valley flower (4)

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



# Bodach

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



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

## Celebrating nearly two centuries of selfless bravery at sea

SINCE it was founded in 1824, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution has had a long and courageous association with the Highlands and Islands. From early open lifeboats powered by volunteer oarsmen through self-righting hulls and unsinkable craft, lifesaving crews have rescued hundreds of vessels and thousands of people. The debt owed by those rescued over the past 192 years is incalculable, as is the value of saved vessels and cargoes assisted to port.

Today the RNLI remains a voluntary organisation dedicated to saving lives, and is dependent on donations for its funds. In addition to 24-hour search and rescue and lifeguard services, the RNLI relies on public support to meet the costs of research, development and building of boats, fuel and equipment; and engineering and administrative personnel. In 2014, running costs were approximately £150 million.

In Argyll and the Isles we are lucky to have RNLI stations in Campbeltown, Rhu, Port Askaig, Oban, Tighnabruaich and Tobermory. The combined patch includes international shipping lanes and some of the busiest and most popular recreational boating areas in the world – a coastline measured in thousands of miles.

RNLI missions have been launched from Campbeltown Harbour since 1872. The navigation around the Mull of Kintyre continues to challenge all craft, and hazards and weather have claimed millions of tonnes of shipping and hundreds of lives in the past 200 years.

That these tolls would have been greater if the RNLI had not responded to distress calls is incontrovertible, and the waters around Kintyre are nowadays afforded the protection of lifeboat crews with a distinguished record.

RNLI inshore lifeboat stations are operational at Rhu on the Clyde and Tighnabruaich in the Kyles of Bute. With 80 years of service between the stations, modern B-class Atlantic 75 inshore lifeboats (ILBs) are designed for very fast response.

They are rigid-hulled inflatable boats (RIBs), crewed by three volunteers and capable of 32 knots (around 37 miles per hour) in very shallow water. These boats are equipped with up-to-date communications and electronic navigation aids, searchlights and night-vision equipment. Gas-activated self-righting bags ensure the lifeboats recover from capsizing in seconds.

An RNLI lifeboat has been stationed at Port Askaig on Islay for more than 70 years. Tobermory lifeboat station opened in 1938, closed in 1947 and was recommissioned in 1990. Both stations are home to Severn-class all-weather lifeboats (ALBs) – fully automatic self-righting vessels requiring crews of seven and capable of 25 knots (approximately 29 miles per hour).

In addition to state-of-the-art electronics, the Severn-class vessels carry full first aid equipment, a portable salvage pump and a small boat that can be deployed for rescue operations in places the mothership cannot reach.

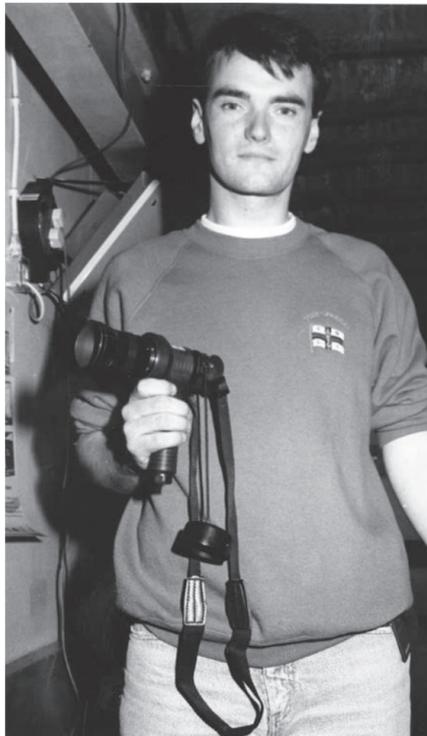
Severn-class lifeboats can accommodate 124 survivors.

Oban lifeboat station was established in 1972. An 18ft McLachlan inshore lifeboat was intended to provide safety cover from March to November only. Six years later a Watson-class ALB entered service and covered the patch with distinction until an intermediate Brede-class was introduced in 1982. Fifteen years later the Brede-class was replaced with the new Trent-class ALB. In 2000, this particular vessel and crew distinguished themselves as the first all-weather lifeboat in the British Isles to launch on more than 100 services. Eleven years later, RNLB *Mora Edith MacDonald* entered a new record when the first boy was born aboard.

As a region with an ancient seafaring history in an island nation, the volunteer services and heroic actions of the RNLI cannot be overlooked or overstated. People often ask why this essential service is not funded by government.

If it was, it would be a potential victim of partisan imperatives and ruthless political point-scoring. If it was, the RNLI would be subject to unhelpful financial decisions and unnecessary operational interference. It would become depressingly bureaucratic and hopelessly inefficient.

Long may the lifeboats and their selfless crews be driven by the fundamental human desire to save lives; and to assist people in difficulty without regard for personal safety. It works, and it works for everybody.



Alick MacLellan, from Oban lifeboat, demonstrates night-vision equipment.

Right: Willie Dunn, Alastair Barker, Annette Joubert, Tom Johnstone and D McDonald from Islay.



Far right: Mull residents gather to pose for the camera at a charitable donation to Tobermory lifeboat.



### MacPhail's MUSIC

## Dolphins, music, pontoons and fine people – chapter one

Music festivals are a staple in the gig diet of most bands these days and last weekend we were lucky to experience two of the best. It is unfortunate that the timing of HebCelt and Tíre Music Festival (TMF) mean these two major Hebridean events happen on the same weekend. The double dose of fest-fever, however, gave Skipinnish three of the most enjoyable gigs we have ever had and a weekend to remember.

We left *The Oban Times* slip on the Corran Esplanade on Thursday afternoon and had a lovely steam up the Sound of Mull, north-westward across the Sea of the Hebrides and into Lochboisdale on South Uist where we were leaving the boat till Sunday.

A few miles south-west of Hysker lighthouse, a pod of well over 50 harbour dolphins joined us like an Uibhisteach welcome party. The feeling of joy that seeing these beautiful creatures at close quarters gave was a sign of the amazing weekend we were all going to have.

Making new acquaintances is one of the most enjoyable aspects of life and our night on the pontoons

at Lochboisdale gave two such experiences.

First, when just after mooring up a relaxed looking chap strolled down the walkway and after a quick hello, immediately offered us a lift to the Borrodale Hotel to get dinner.

This unquestioned welcome of strangers is a rich gift to experience and it also allowed us to get to food just in time. (We reckoned this was the guy who sent the dolphins out until he told us he was a surgeon in Aberdeen and just home on holiday).

New acquaintance number two was similarly enjoyable, but it began with what I thought was going to be a humble apology and a possible confrontation.

We had arrived back aboard the boat around 11.30pm after being well fed at the Borrodale, and just to relax after a long day we decided the very thing to do was to have a glass of wine and a quiet tune – on the bagpipes.

This didn't begin well. As young Kyle led us in a fine rendition of *Chi M'n Tìr*, with accordion and mass choir accompaniment, the accommodation light of the neighbouring yacht

came on, the curtains were aggressively opened and a face like an angry bagpipe stared across the pontoon at us.

We immediately cut the music (after another seven verses). We then discovered that the marine tool-kit that Andrew had installed didn't include a corkscrew.

So across to the freshly disturbed elderly couple I bravely went, partly to apologise and, if that went as planned, then to ask for a corkscrew.

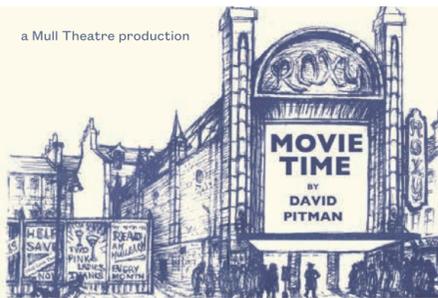
As I approached the stern I was expecting a shrill complaining voice telling me that the police had been called, a complaint had gone to Stornoway Coastguard and the MCA had been sent a report of disturbance on the high seas.

No sooner could I utter my polite and sheepish: 'Ahoj there' than the grumpy-looking skipper loudly and forcefully said in a strong Danish accent: 'Why the hell you stop? I just got beer from the fridge so I set and leesten to bagpipe.'

So Karlson and his wife were immediately invited aboard and a night of very good fun ensued. To be continued.

A bittersweet, light romantic comedy of love and loss set in the projection booth of a Glasgow cinema, during the Second World War

a Mull Theatre production



## MOVIE TIME

Mull & Argyll Tour!

- 15 July - Mull Theatre 7.30pm, Tickets 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 19 July - Tarbert Village Hall 7.30pm, 01880 820310/comar.co.uk
- 20 July - Carradale Village Hall 8pm, Tickets 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 21 July - Gigha Village Hall 8pm, Tickets 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 23 July - Scalasaig Village Hall 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 26 July - Ballachulish Village Hall 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 27 July - North Connel Hall 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 28 July - Iona Hall 8pm, Tickets 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 29 July - Mull Theatre 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk

- 1 Aug - Mull Theatre 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 12 Aug - Mull Theatre 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 15 Aug - Mull Theatre 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 16 Aug - Bunessan Hall 8pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 17 Aug - Astley Hall, Arisaig 8pm, Tickets from Post Office/01687 450263
- 18 Aug - Muck Hall, Isle of Muck, 7.30pm Tickets on the door
- 22 Aug - Atlantic Islands Centre, Luig, 7.45pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 23 Aug - Appin Village Hall, 8pm, from 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 24 Aug - Sunart Centre, Strontian, 8pm, 01397 709228/sunartcentre.org
- 25 Aug - Mull Theatre 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk
- 26 Aug - Mull Theatre 7.30pm, 01688 302211/comar.co.uk

01688 302211/COMAR.CO.UK



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Friday 22 - Thursday 28 July

### ANDRÉ RIEU'S 2016 MAASTRICHT CONCERT |

180 MIN

Sat: 19:00

Known to millions as 'The King of Waltz', André Rieu is one of the world's most popular music artists. His legendary annual Maastricht concert is the most eagerly anticipated cinema event of the year, last year setting new box office records in several countries. Set against the stunning medieval backdrop of the town square in André's Dutch hometown, the spectacular Maastricht concert features the maestro in his element, along with his world-famous 60-piece Johann Strauss Orchestra, sopranos, tenors and very special guests. André promises, and delivers, an unforgettable musical experience full of humour, fun and emotion for all ages. Commenting on this year's event, André Rieu said: "Every year we find ways to make my hometown concerts a unique experience for our audiences in the square, as well as those who watch us in the cinemas. We put a lot of time, energy and love into creating something special, some Maastricht magic". CinemaLive's presentation of André Rieu's 2016 Maastricht Concert in Cinemas features host Charlotte Hawkins, who introduces the show and conducts an interview with André Rieu the moment he steps off stage, exclusively for cinema audiences. André Rieu's 2016 Maastricht Concert is shaping up to be his biggest and most spectacular concert ever to screen in cinemas! The concert is approximately three hours, including a 15-minute intermission.

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

Fri: 12:30, Sat: 15:30, Sun: 16:45, Mon: 12:30, Tue: 14:00, Wed: 12:30, Thu: 12:30

Scrat's epic pursuit of the elusive acorn catapults him into the universe where he accidentally sets off a series of cosmic events that transform and threaten the Ice Age World. To save themselves, Sid, Manny, Diego, and the rest of the herd must leave their home and embark on a quest full of comedy and adventure, travelling to exotic new lands and encountering a host of colourful new characters.

### KIDS CLUB: FINDING NEMO | U | 106 MIN

Sat: 11:00

Children Classic. After his son is captured in the Great Barrier Reef and taken to Sydney, a timid clownfish sets out on a journey to bring him home.

### MAGGIE'S PLAN | 15 | 120 MIN

Fri: 19:30, Sat: 20:15, Mon: 19:30, Tue: 21:00, Wed: 19:30, Thu: 19:30

Maggie's plan to have a baby on her own is derailed when she falls in love with John, a married man, destroying his volatile marriage to the brilliant and impossible Georgette. But one daughter and three years later, Maggie is out of love and in a quandary: what do you do when you suspect your man and his ex wife are actually perfect for each other?

### THE BFG | 137 MIN

Fri: 15:30, 20:30, Sat: 14:00, Sun: 14:30, 19:30, Mon: Tue: 15:30, 20:30, Wed: 16:00, Thu: 15:30, 20:30

3D: Fri: 13:00, 18:00 Sat: 11:30, 16:30 Sun: 12:00, 17:00 Mon, Tue: 13:00, 18:00, Wed: 13:00, 18:30, Thu: 13:00, 18:00

Parent and Baby Screening: Tue: 11:30

A girl named Sophie encounters the Big Friendly Giant who, despite his intimidating appearance, turns out to be a kindhearted soul who is considered an outcast by the other giants because unlike his peers refuses to eat boys and girls. Based on the novel by Roald Dahl. Film directed by Steven Spielberg Stars Mark Rylance, Rebecca Hall, Bill Hader.

### THE LEGEND OF TARZAN | 12A | 130 MIN

Fri: 17:00, Sat: 17:45, Sun: 19:00, Mon: 17:00, Tue: 18:30, Wed: 17:00, Thu: 17:00

Tarzan, having acclimated to life in London, is called back to his former home in the jungle to investigate the activities at a mining encampment.

### THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS | U | 120 MIN

Fri: 14:45, Sat: 13:15, Sun: 12:00, Mon: 14:45, Tue: 16:15, Wed: 14:45, Thu: 14:45

Taking place in a Manhattan apartment building, Max's life as a favourite pet is turned upside down, when his owner brings home a sloppy mongrel named Duke. They have to put their quarrels behind when they find out that an adorable white bunny named Snowball is building an army of abandoned pets determined to take revenge on all happy-owned pets and their owners.

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For requests, competitions or questions please email: [studio@obanfm.com](mailto:studio@obanfm.com) or call us on 01631 570057

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Arena

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

## Festival celebrates all that's best from Scottish and Gaelic musical traditions

THE SOLD-OUT Tiree Music Festival (TMF) saw fans gather on the Hebridean island from Friday until Sunday, July 15 to 17, for an event featuring the best in Scottish and folk music.

Flook and Skerryvore opened the festival ahead of weekend headliners including the Levellers, Skipinnish and Trail West.

TMF takes place on the white sand banks of Crossapol beach and is a firm favourite with families and music fans alike.

The island sees its population treble over the three-day festival, with revellers coming from far and wide, including America, South Korea and Switzerland.

Daniel Gillespie, festival director, said: 'This is our seventh TMF and there has been an incredible atmosphere on-site with our festival-goers

enjoying the music, food and family-friendly activities on offer.

'The Scottish weather didn't dampen revellers' spirits as they enjoyed cracking sets from the likes of the Red Hot Chilli Pipers, Sharon Shannon, Breabach and Trail West over the three days.

'We would like to thank all of our sponsors – including Cairn Capital, CalMac and FlyBe – and attendees from near and far for helping to make Tiree Music Festival such a success.'



The Levellers headline a colourful set on the Saturday night of Tiree Music Festival.



Skerryvore in the TMF Big Top.



Tide Lines, with lead singer Robert Robertson, in the TMF Big Top.



James Edwyn and The Borrowed Band in the CalMac Live Lounge at Tiree Music Festival.



Tiree Music Festival starting them young as Alwin, two, drums up enthusiasm at the multi-award-winning family festival.



Dougie McCance from Red Hot Chilli Pipers in the TMF Big Top at TMF.



Above and left: Family fun with Eden Court Creative at TMF.



Socks in the Frying Pan, or should we say crowd, set up an impromptu interactive gig with festival-goers at Tiree Music Festival.



TMF Flash Mob.



Findlay Napier in CalMac Live Lounge.

## Chilli Pipers are the red hot ticket for Blas Festival

THIS year's Blas Festival will celebrate the music of the Highland bagpipes with leading solo performers, traditional groups and an act which brings the music of the pipes to a worldwide audience – with a twist.

The Red Hot Chilli Pipers return to Blas with a performance at the Nevis Centre in Fort William on Friday September 2. With a summer of festivals and European touring, the band will be in fine fettle as they bring their bagpipes with attitude to a Lochaber audience.

There will be a warm Blas welcome for Cape Breton band Nuallan, who make their first trip to the festival. The group, who were formed in 2012, feature leading Canadian pipers Keith MacDonald, Kevin Dugas and Kenneth MacKenzie, who represent and promote the Gaelic style of piping brought to Cape Breton, mainland Nova Scotia and further afield from the Highlands and Islands

of Scotland some 200 years ago. Their festival schedule will take them to a host of venues across the Highlands and Argyll.

Piping features strongly throughout the programme, with multi-award-winner Angus MacColl, Trail West, Kilda, Radio 2 Young Folk Award Winner 2016 Brighde Chaimbeul, Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band and many more appearing at events throughout the festival.

There will be a set or two on the pipes at the 80th birthday celebrations of Rona Lightfoot in Inverness Cathedral on the opening night of the festival, Friday September 2. Rona enjoyed much success as a competition piper and will be joined by Glenuig brothers, Iain and Allan MacDonald, Allan Henderson, Iain MacFarlane and singers Margaret Stewart, Mairi Macinnes and Paul McCallum at her special birthday bash.

The Blas Festival will take place from September 2 to 10, and full

details of all events and how to buy tickets can be found at [www.blas-festival.com](http://www.blas-festival.com).



Nuallan.



Above: Red Hot Chilli Pipers.



Below: Brighde Chaimbeul.



Rona Lightfoot.

# Red Dots show the way

ARTISTS from throughout Argyll came together last week for the launch of the 2016 Artmap open studios directory – the definitive guide to the Red Dot Studio Trail.

Now in its ninth year, Artmap's open studio event is one of the highlights of the Argyll art-lover's year, also drawing in and engaging many of those who are simply curious.

Chairman of the Artmap board Christopher Cox said: 'Our vision is to ensure that Argyll is recognised as a vibrant, creative hub.'

'Our annual Red Dot Studio Trail is Argyll's premier visual arts event and last year we had more than 5,600 studio visits resulting in £47,000 worth of sales – providing a huge boost to the local economy.'

To showcase the 48 Argyll artists involved in the event, Artmap has produced a 72-page colour brochure with artists' statements, contact details and detailed directions to their studios. The directories are available free from many local venues.

Christopher added: 'Whether your interests focus on painting, sculpture, glass, digital art, textiles, wood or willow, you could do no better than to



Artmap launches its 2016 guide to all things arty in Argyll. ©artmap16

beat a path to open doors where you will be assured of a warm welcome and rich experience within each unique space.'

The Artmap open studios event will run for four days from August 26-29.

For more information: [www.artmapargyll.co.uk](http://www.artmapargyll.co.uk).

# Island exhibition puts Gigha in the frame

FOUR Ayrshire artists are holding an exhibition of their work on Gigha next month.

Sandra Ratcliffe, Gillian Park, Bridget Hunter and Irene Walker spent a week last summer painting on the island, and their work is returning with them for the opening of the two-month exhibition on August 6.

Around 30 oil, watercolour and acrylic paintings will reflect the beauty of Gigha – the white beaches, turquoise waters and stunning wild plant life.

Rothsay-born Sandra Ratcliffe, who has had two solo exhibitions on the island, said: 'I love Gigha and have painted there for several years. I raved about it so much to the others that we decided to go and paint as a group last summer. We were lucky with the weather and the island is so inspirational.'

Sandra has also held solo exhibitions in Spain and – two years ago – in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates to raise funds for Syrian refugees

in memory of her brother, James Ratcliffe, who tragically died after being a hostage as part of Saddam Hussein's infamous 'human shield' in 1990.

Gillian Park graduated as a graphic designer from Glasgow School of Art in 1993 and, after working in the industry for 11 years, started her own design business. She said: 'The need to paint became too much and in the summer of 2000 I picked up a paintbrush for the first time in almost 20 years, and haven't stopped since.'

She is now a full-time artist working at her studio at Irvine Harbour.

Landscape artist Bridget Hunter added: 'Paint is the language I use to record the environment around me. I loved our painting week on Gigha and am very excited about our exhibition.'

Irene Walker studied at Gray's School of Art, Aberdeen, before embarking on a teaching career for 37 years. Since her retirement in 2010, she has been painting in her Ayr studio.

The Gigha Girls exhibition opens on Saturday August 6 at 2pm at the Gigha Gallery and runs until October 4.



Left to right, Sandra Ratcliffe, Gillian Park and Bridget Hunter, holding works inspired by Gigha.

# Cash donation has future for pipe band's younger players in the bag



The band put their new pipe bags and chanters to good use at the recent European Championships at Forres.

OBAN Pipe Band has been given £2,000 by Scottish Sea Farms' Heart of the Community Trust to buy new sheepskin pipe bags and chanters.

The cash gift has also enabled the 96-year-old band to equip eight new young members from Oban High School, and a further two from Benbecula and Ardgour.

Jim Gallagher, managing director of Scottish Sea Farms, said: 'The pipers give the whole area something

to be proud of and we are delighted to be able to help them develop their distinctive sound with new pipes and chanters, and we look forward to hearing both the music and news of further competitive success.'

Arthur Gillies, Oban Pipe Band president, added: 'We have had a lot of success in recent years which brings publicity and recognition for the Oban and Lorn area, and we are all really looking forward to this summer.'

## ADVERTORIAL

# Get ready to follow Mark Beaumont's Wild About Argyll adventure online

ULTRA adventurer Mark Beaumont's latest challenge – Wild About Argyll – is just days away and you can follow all the action online through the GPS tracker and social media.

Mark said: 'The bags are packed and I am set for the widest variety of adventure sports that I have ever tried in just 12 days. Travelling on land and water through the islands and mainland of Argyll, I just can't wait to get started. Adventures close to home always gain the biggest public support and I am looking forward to people joining me on the road and online, to share the whole journey in as big a way as possible.'

The Wild About Argyll challenge, which has been masterminded by Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative (AITC), will see Mark undertake 12 disciplines from cycling to running and wild swimming to kayaking across the region. This would be a tough test already, but AITC has thrown down the gauntlet and added an 'epic adventure' on every day of the challenge. And when the AITC team say epic, they mean it.

Mark will start his consecutive 12-day challenge with cycling part of the Caledonia Way, to the north of Oban. Later in the challenge, he'll pick it up again along the Crinan Canal and as he heads through Kintyre.

The Caledonia Way, which stretches for 237 miles from Campbeltown to Inverness, has been influenced by the geography of Scotland and Mark can expect to travel through some of the most stunning scenery



Argyll and the Isles has to offer.

He will also cycle the 87-mile Mull Sportive and run the Three half-marathon routes, as well as kayaking 30km of Argyll's Sea Kayak Trail. Mark also intends to conquer the Paps of Jura as he fell-runs his way across the island, and large sections of Argyll's long-distance routes, including the Kintyre Way, Cowal Way, the West Island Way on Bute and the Three Lochs Way. He will reprise part of his 2013 STV appeal, which saw him run and swim across Scotland in just 10 days, with a wild swim in Loch Lomond, before possibly his biggest epic adventure, bagging all 22 of Colonsay's McPhies in one day.

AITC director Calum Ross is looking forward to the start of the challenge, saying: 'Argyll and the

Isles has so many opportunities for visitors seeking an adventure. We're absolutely delighted to have the chance to put one of the world's best-known endurance athletes to the Argyll and the Isles test, and we hope Mark enjoys the challenge as much as we're looking forward to welcoming him to the region.'

If you are gripped by this superhuman feat of endurance, you can join in too. Follow Mark via his tracker at [www.markbeaumontonline.com](http://www.markbeaumontonline.com) or [www.exploreargyll.co.uk](http://www.exploreargyll.co.uk) or you can tweet Mark @MrMarkBeaumont or the AITC team @ExploreArgyll.

AITC is grateful for the funding and support provided by Argyll and Bute Council, Sustrans, Caledonian MacBrayne, ScotRail, Oban Airport, Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Canals, HIE, VisitScotland and to the many businesses and organisations supporting each day's activities.



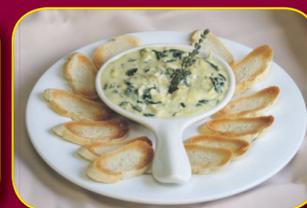
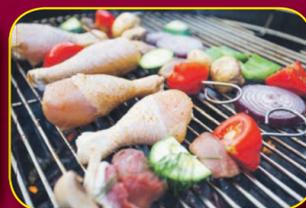
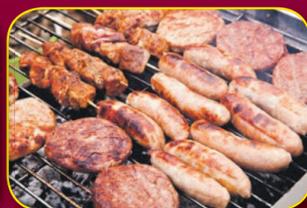
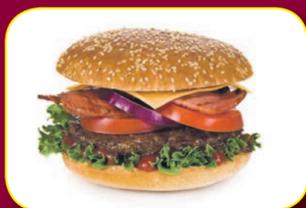
# MARK BEAUMONT AROUND THE WORLD AND BACK TO ARGYLL

Corran Halls, Oban  
3rd August 2016, 7pm for 7.30pm

He cycled the world. He cycled the Americas. He cycled Africa. And on 3rd August, straight after a 10-day epic adventure across Argyll & The Isles, Mark will be hosting an evening of short films, photography and stories.

Tickets £15 (concession £13) available from the Corran Halls Box Office. 01631 567333 or [Corranhallsargyll-bute.gov.uk](http://Corranhallsargyll-bute.gov.uk)

# Summer dining



# Summer dining at Dolce Vita



Dolce Vita, a favourite spot for locals and visitors alike, is now featuring a delicious summer evening menu. On these long and lazy nights, why cook dinner when you can let Morven Summers and her team feed the entire family? Pastas and burgers are in the spotlight, featuring Dolce Vita's famous lasagne, along with other mouthwatering dishes, including carbonara and

pomodoro styles, and tried and true macaroni and cheese, made with creamy local cheese. Or try a burger made with Scottish beef and loaded with your choice of toppings. Breakfast and lunch are served from an extensive menu influenced by Italian cuisine with a Scottish twist – freshly prepared using locally sourced ingredients. Start your day with a full Scottish

breakfast, a roll or pastry, and, for lunch, choose from exciting salads, baked potatoes, soups, pizzas, paninis and more to suit every taste and appetite. As always, Dolce Vita serves up a wide variety of luscious handmade baking and cold treats made with Porrelli ice-cream. Look for daily specials such as mint chocolate chip or caramel short-

cakes milkshakes, or peruse the cake display for traditional Victoria sponges and shortbreads, fresh fruit roulades, pies, cakes and scones. Stop in for an Azzurro coffee and take in the gorgeous view over Oban Bay from the stylish and comfortable dining area.

Dolce Vita is open 8am to 8pm for summer. Eat in or takeaway, and ask about their catering service. Drop in at 62 George Street or ring 01631 571221, and visit them on Facebook for news and daily specials.

**Dolce Vita**

Breakfasts include everything from fruit bowls to porridge and full Scottish breakfasts using local produce.

Lunches from light bites soup and sandwiches, paninis to pizzas, burgers and salads.

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Two Course £15.75  
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Check our official website [www.widemouthedfrogofficialsite.co.uk](http://www.widemouthedfrogofficialsite.co.uk)

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## There is no disputing success



Laura Cook decorates her bottle of rose petal infused gin with twine.



Judging the sheep was a serious business.



Rosemary MacCormick won the prize for the top cloutie dumpling.



An excited canine cup-winner.



The thumb's up is a clear sign of the show's success.

**Sunart & District Agricultural Society Show & Family Fun Day Out**  
Saturday 13th August 2016  
Strontian Showfield  
Judging Commences 9.30am

Sheep, Cattle, Poultry and Dog Show  
Local Crafts, Highland Dancing, Forging Display, return of the Horse show and so much more  
Pipe band commencing at 12.30pm  
Adults: £5, Child: £2  
Family: £12, Concession: £3



James MacCormick holds aloft 'the big fish' after his heifer calf won overall champion.



Rowen Carr of Coll, left, and Katie Cook of Lismore selling 'A Piece of Lismore just for you'.



Geoff Hawkes of Lismore Shellfish shucks oysters from Port Ramsay.

**WHITEBRED SHORTHORN ASSOCIATION OPEN DAY – 28th JULY 2016**  
Starting 11am,  
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LISMORE Agricultural Show results were:  
Blackface sheep.  
Ewe in milk: 1 John Carmichael, 2 Donald MacColl, 3 Willie Kelly. Gimmer: 1 John Carmichael, 2 Jim Mitchell, 3 John Carmichael. Ewe lamb: 1, 2, 3 John Carmichael. Blackface champion and reserve: John Carmichael.  
Cross sheep.  
Ewe in milk: 1 Donald MacCormick, 2 Tamsin McVean, 3 James MacCormick. Gimmer: 1 Jim Mitchell, 2 Neil Carmichael, 3 Neil Carmichael. Ewe lamb: 1

John Carmichael, 2 John Carmichael, 3 Tamsin McVean. Cross sheep champion and reserve: John Carmichael.  
Purebred sheep.  
Purebred male: 1 Tamsin McVean, 2 Donald MacCormick, 3 Donald MacCormick. Purebred tup lamb: 1 Donald MacColl, 2 Calum MacGillivray. Ewe in milk: 1 Calum MacGillivray, 2 Donald MacColl, 3 Calum MacGillivray. Gimmer: 1 Donald MacColl, 2 Donald MacColl, 3 Calum MacGillivray. Ewe lamb: 1 Calum MacGillivray, 2 Donald MacColl,

3 Donald MacColl. Champion: Tamsin McVean. Reserve: Calum MacGillivray. Overall sheep champion: John Carmichael with blackface ewe lamb.  
Cattle.  
Autumn-born bull calf: 1 Donald MacCormick. Spring-born bull calf: 1 Donald MacCormick, 2 Donald MacCormick, 3 Archie MacGillivray. Spring-born quey calf: 1 James MacCormick, 2 John Carmichael, 3 Archie Macgillivray.

Junior cattle champion: James MacCormick. Reserve: Donald MacCormick. Senior cattle.  
Heifer suitable for breeding: 1 John Carmichael, 2 Archie MacGillivray, 3 John Carmichael. Cow in milk: 1 Archie MacGillivray, 2 Archie MacGillivray, 3 Donald MacCormick. Senior cattle Champion: John Carmichael. Reserve: Archie MacGillivray.  
Overall show champion: James MacCormick's calf. Reserve: John Carmichael's blackface ewe lamb.  
Collie dog: 1 Rosie Dairon, 2 James MacColl, 3 Ewen Livingston. Pet dog: 1 Gilly Dixon-Spain,

2 Sue Campbell, 3 Alison Bell. Champion dog: Gilly Dixon-Spain. Flowers best exhibit: Memory Mcdonald. Adult baking most points and best exhibit: Marie Carmichael. Cloutie dumpling: Rosemary MacCormick. Junior baking most points and best exhibit: Elaisaid Maclean Fleming. Veg most points: Duncan Ferguson. Adult handicrafts most points: Sarah McDonald. Best handicraft exhibit: Marie Carmichael. Junior handicraft 0-7: Ruairidh Maclean Fleming. Most points junior handicrafts 7+: Elaisaid Maclean Fleming.

# FARMING NEWS

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## of Lismore Agricultural Show

### Rain cannot dampen enthusiasm for island's first show in 78 years

**SANDY NEIL**  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk

LISMORE'S first agricultural show in 78 years was hailed a success on Saturday, and organisers promise a second one next year.

Farmers on the Isle of Lismore, which means 'great garden' in Gaelic, held their last show in 1938 when, depending on who you ask, it was ended by the Second World War or by an argument. 'There was a fight last time,' explained Anne Morton, a visitor to the island since childhood. 'That's why they stopped it – or that's the story anyway.'

'I think it was over cloutie dumplings or horses,' added Mary Walker of Achanduin. 'Even the women were pulling the buns out of each other's hair, apparently.'

Three generations later, the best behaviour was on show, thanks partly to the UN peace-keeping hat worn by Anne's husband Harry, who was handed a megaphone that morning and told to be MC.

Sporadic showers on Saturday failed to dampen the spirits of 200 folk who gathered on the same field at Craiganich, still owned by the Carmichael clan.

The effort was evident. In one tent, oysters grown by Lismore Shellfish at Port Ramsay slipped down gulleets oiled by injections of tequila or Cointreau.

Nearby, Lismore Primary School teacher Laura Cook infused gin with rose petals from her granny's garden, tying bottles prettily with binder twine.

Other stalls included Lismore loaves made by the Heritage Centre's baker Julia Fayngruen, and an 'inter-island enterprise' started by Katie Cook, 12, of Lismore, helped by 11-year-old Rowen Carr of Coll, who collected stones from St Moluag's Bay for necklaces and keyrings, to give people 'a piece of Lismore' to take home.

Manhandling the farmyard animals into pens in the morning took 'a lot of cursing', John Carmichael said. His son Neil, a chef in Glasgow, had been organising the show long-distance since January.

'It's been challenging,' he said. 'There were a lot of late nights. I thought Lismore needed it. With the turnout today, it shows there's a need. Except for the weather, everyone's enjoyed it, and helped out.'

With perfect timing, a hooded islander gave a thumbs-up in the rain. 'It's a grand show. Well done.'

Neil thanked his 81-year-old grandmother Cathy, who owns the land. 'I didn't think there would be as many,' she told *The Oban Times*. 'It's so nice seeing people I haven't seen for years.'

Others, including Anne Morton, were just as complimentary. 'Neil has

done a wonderful job,' she said. 'The amount of work, getting everyone organised, each person allocated a job – he's done all this. And he's done it with great passion and he's still smiling. The farmers are smiling too – that's good.'

Some farmers, however, looked very serious when Drew Brown was judging their sheep and cattle, before full-blown merriment took over as Archie MacColl of Balnagown presented the prizes.

A solo female farmer on Lismore, Tamsin McVean, won a cup for her tup and her pet lamb. The 46-year-old acupuncturist, who moved from Sussex 12 years ago, was proud of her and sheepdog Maude's achievement.

'All these guys have families to help them – I haven't had this. It's been really tough as a woman without backup, and it's important to show another gentler way of handling of livestock.'

James MacCormick's heifer calf won overall show champion, with reserve going to John Carmichael's blackface ewe, which also won overall sheep champion. 'I wasn't expecting that at all,' James said. 'I'm highly delighted to win the first of the new shows. It was an astounding show: both the cattle and sheep did Argyll proud.'

So, no disputes. Will there be another Lismore show next year? 'Definitely,' Neil said.



An impressive display of trophies.



The drinks tent offered respite from the rain as well as refreshments.



Julia Fayngruen and Iris Piers with Hannah.



John and Neil Carmichael, with the blackface champion.



Tamsin McVean won a cup for her tup and her pet lamb.



Neil Carmichael with his grandmother Cathy.



Revellers enjoyed the variety of drinks available, including fizz.

Advertising feature

### Heading for the shows

IT'S SHOWTIME again and it's all systems go at the Hamilton Brothers depots this week as the team just can't wait to show off what they consider to be the cream of this year's machinery crop at the Argyll and Islands shows.

Kicking off in Tiree this Friday, the guys start their 'nine in a row' with a blockbusting array of machinery – the star of the show coming in the shape of the crowd-pulling multi-award winning Massey Ferguson 5713 SL. All eyes will definitely

be on this top-of-the-range 130hp tractor that will eventually replace Massey's immensely popular 5600 series. Having already scooped the Best Utility Tractor of the year award at Agritechnica and the Technical Innovation award at the Royal Highland Show, odds on this is the new ultimate loader tractor for west of Scotland farmers, so not to be missed.

Also worth checking out is the Valtra's N174, the big daddy of the award-winning new N series, a Herbst low loader, the fantastic

Foster versatile bale handler, the Foster 6ft livestock transport box and the top-selling Teagle Tomahawk 7100 feeder/bedder, and much more.

The firm's Argyllshire agricultural sales manager, Alastair Dixon, will be there to answer any questions and book demonstrations, but if you can't make it to the show and you want to find out more, simply give Alastair a call on 07771 577889 or contact our Bishopton Depot on 01505 862010 or Campbeltown on 01586 553031.

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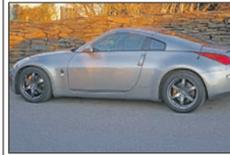
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# This tiny 70s British electric vehicle smashes world speed record

**A TINY British electric vehicle from the 1970s has become the world's quickest street legal EV in the hands of motoring journalist and serial car modifier Jonny Smith.**

The Enfield 8000, a forgotten city car built on the Isle of Wight in the oil crisis era, stormed through the quarter-mile sprint at Santa Pod on Saturday in a record-smashing 9.86 seconds at an average 121mph.

Originally boasting just 8hp, the car dubbed the Flux Capacitor now packs more than 800bhp, 1,200lbft of torque and quietly rockets to 113mph in six seconds.

To put that in perspective, it outpaces modern supercars like the Lamborghini Aventador, McLaren's 650S, a Porsche 911 Turbo S, Nissan GT-R and even Tesla's incredibly capable P90D electric car.

Jonny snatched the world record, which stood at 10.25 seconds, from the car that inspired him in the first place – an electric converted old Datsun owned by John Wayland from Portland, Oregon.

'I'm in awe of what this little yellow thing can cope with,' said Jonny, who has presented TV's *Fifth Gear* since 2006 and approached Adrian Flux to sponsor his dream four years ago.

'Despite so many racers telling me that a 68-inch wheelbase car could never safely go as fast as we wanted, the Enfield has proved them wrong.

'Originally the car was designed to drive up to speeds of 40mph. Now it triples the speed within quarter of a mile without any aerodynamic alterations – which is testament to the original design.

'The original designer, John Ackroyd, spent a lot of budget on the aerodynamics and went on to work with Richard Noble on Thrust 2.

'The car never feels like it is out of its comfort zone. To be honest, I have disconnected the speedo, and just drive it by feel. You quickly forget how small it is when the lights go green. The instant electric torque delivery is something I have never experienced in over 15 years of driving and testing sports cars.

'I set out to build a British electric hot rod. I hope I've achieved something

left-field enough to prove that David certainly can beat Goliath. I'm deeply thankful to all of the positive support from my sponsors, without which I couldn't have achieved this at all – Adrian Flux insurance, Hyperdrive, Gas It, Vintage VDB watches, Castor Vali global risk management and Andriaki Shipping company.'

Jonny rescued the Enfield, then a flood-damaged write-off, four years ago, and restored the car before adding 21st century electric technology.

The car is powered by 188 lithium-ion battery cells built into enclosures under the bonnet and boot, generating 2000 amps and 400 volts to a pair of DC nine-inch motors to drive the back wheels.

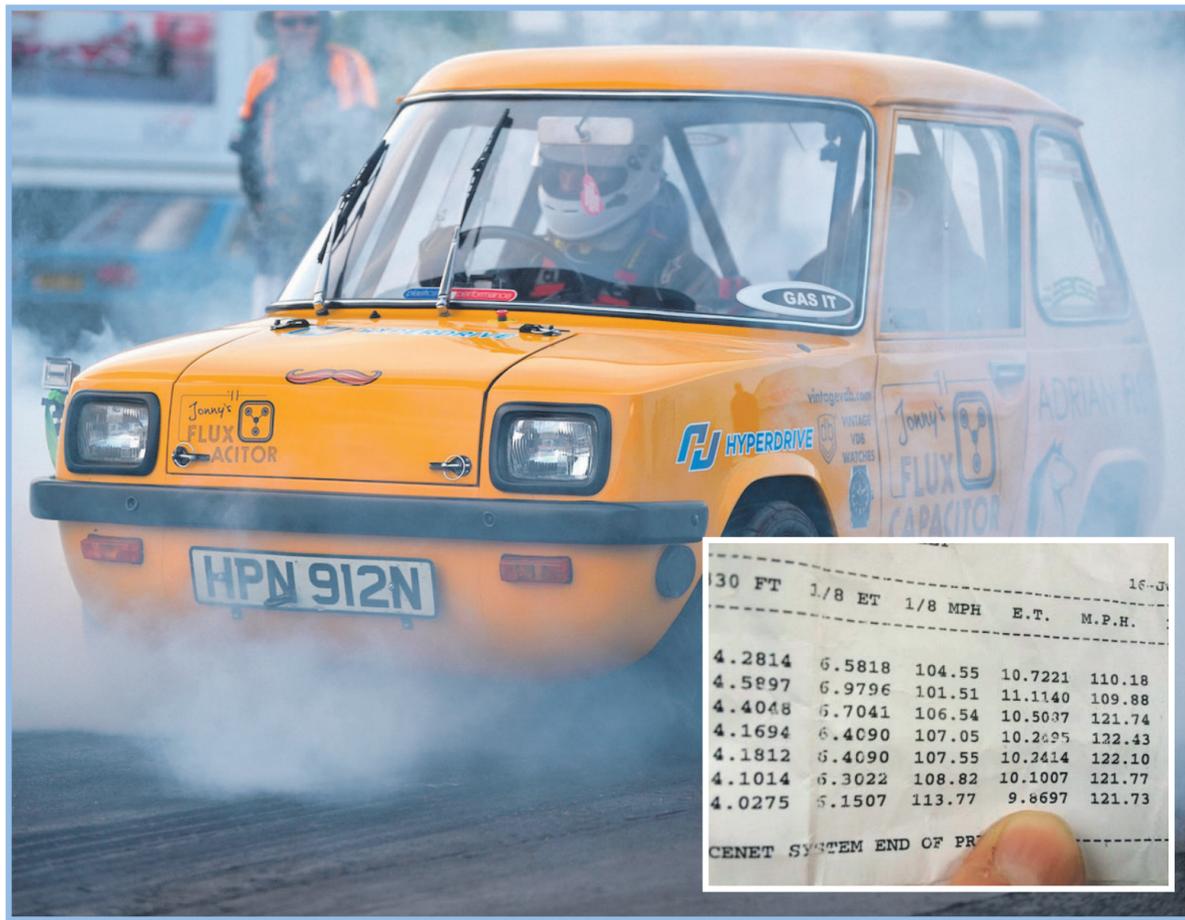
These batteries are normally seen running the miniguns and starting the engines of a Bell Super Cobra attack helicopter, but built for the car by Hyperdrive Innovations in Sunderland.

Despite reaching 100mph in under six seconds and only being 112 inches (2.8 metres) long, Jonny's Enfield is still road legal, tax exempt and London congestion charge exempt.

As part of the drag racing series he competes in, the Street Eliminator entrants must prove their roadworthiness as part of the qualifying process by way of a mandatory 26-mile cruise around Northamptonshire.

Being road legal means the car has to run treaded tyres, and no wheelie bars, which might help the 68-inch (1.7-metre) wheelbase to stay straight under full acceleration.

But even without them, the Flux Capacitor runs straight and true – and very, very fast.



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## They've only gone and won it again

### Dealership drives away with top award

A CAR dealership that has been supporting the people of Argyll for more than 30 years has driven off with a top national award.

S&S Services has been acclaimed as Subaru's dealer of the year – for the 10th time.

S & S Services landed their award from Subaru UK as part of a nationwide search for the most passionate dealer within the brand's network.

Established in 1978, the family-owned business has seen a 15 per cent year on year increase in the number of Subarus it sold in 2015.

They were presented the award at the Lochgreen House Hotel in Troon by managing director of Subaru UK, Paul Tunnicliffe, who said: 'S&S Services continuously goes above and beyond for its customers.

'Dealers have to demonstrate their ability to satisfy customers in every part of their business – from new and used car sales, to after sales and ongoing customer care – and S&S Services is a consistently strong performer.

'This is the 10th time that S&S Services has received this award, and we couldn't be more proud of the team.'



John Spicer of S&S and Paul Tunnicliffe of Subaru

The delighted dealer principle, John Spicer, at S&S Services, said: 'We're immensely proud to be recognised once again in this way and it's a very special feeling to reach double figures with our tally of wins.'

The award is just one more reason to buy from S&S Services, whose HQ is at Old Bridge Road, Ayr. Give them a call to discuss your needs today on 01292 880080 or 07831 808702.

## Isuzu D-Max Arctic Trucks AT35:

S & S are one of only 36 dealers in the UK to be appointed an Arctic Truck dealer

Isuzu is launching the most extreme D-Max to bolster its already comprehensive model line-up. The new Isuzu D-Max Arctic Trucks AT35 is engineered to excel in the most arduous terrain, whether in the wilds of the British countryside or on building sites in the city. Available in either double-cab or extended-cab configurations, the AT35 is the most extraordinarily capable pick-up that Isuzu UK has ever put on sale. It is priced from £30,995.

Standing out from the crowd in terms of both its unprecedented off-road capabilities as well its aesthetics, the AT35 builds on the strong and durable platform of the multi-award winning D-Max. In addition to the high levels of standard equipment, a comprehensive accessories list allows customers to spec their AT35 according to their unique requirements.

Arctic Trucks is a vehicle engineering specialist, developing and building 4x4 vehicles able to conquer the most

challenging conditions for over 25 years. The Isuzu D-Max Arctic Trucks AT35 will be the first Arctic Trucks pick-up in the UK that can be ordered directly from a vehicle manufacturer's dealer network.

The AT35 retains the impressive one-tonne payload and 3.5-tonne towing (braked) capacities that have helped keep the Isuzu D-Max one of the most popular pick-ups for those seeking an exceptional workhorse with low running costs.



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## Gleaner

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Or by e-mail to: [hr@gleaner.co.uk](mailto:hr@gleaner.co.uk)

WEST HIGHLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION

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- Customer Service
- Housing and Planning

The Board are responsible for a business with an annual turnover of £3.5m, a loan portfolio of almost £16m, 15 staff and around 1000 customers within the Oban, Lorn and islands. The Association is developing new housing in Islay and Benderloch with a number of other potential rural schemes.

The work load involves meeting on a 6 weekly cycle and there are training and development opportunities. The work is not remunerated but expenses are paid.

We are part of the Link Group which is one of the largest Housing organisations in Scotland.

If you are interested then please contact Oriana Lopez by email – [Oriana@westhighlandha.co.uk](mailto:Oriana@westhighlandha.co.uk)

Or by phone via the office  
01631 566451.

We will send you a short application form to complete and further details on the organisation.



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## De-licing Systems Manager

(Salary will be matched to experience)

Marine Harvest Scotland is the largest producer of Atlantic salmon in Scotland. The Company employs a workforce of over 600 throughout the Highlands and Islands and produces over 50,000 tonnes of salmon annually. Our farming operations are based in Fort William and the Company prides itself in being a major employer of skilled people and strives to produce high quality, healthy and nutritious seafood in the most sustainable way.

Over the coming years Marine Harvest has announced plans to invest over £100 million to integrate and grow its farming and fish feed production business in Scotland. We are proud of our 50 year heritage in the Scottish Highlands and Islands and the support we have from local communities and our dedicated workforce.

This year has marked the arrival of new non chemical methods in lice treatment. We currently operate 2 Hydrolicing machines. A further 3 systems, including a Thermolicer, are due to be in operation before October.

These machines are proving highly effective for the non chemical removal and capture of sea lice. Operating 16hrs every day each system has a dedicated crew of 4 who are further supported by farm staff.

We are currently looking to recruit a suitably qualified, experienced and highly motivated individual to pioneer and establish this major new and specialised area of farming in Scotland. Reporting to the Seawater Manager this role will be responsible for the co-ordination, man management, performance improvement and technical development of this specialist service operation.

Applicants, who must already be experienced within the salmonid industry, must have a demonstrable proven track record of having installed and developed new techniques into farming operations. Strong interpersonal, communication and first class organisation and planning skills as well as the ability to problem solve and motivate and achieve results through the success of others are some of the key attributes required for this post. In addition, applicants should have a full driving license and be prepared to undertake significant travel as required.

In return the successful candidate will benefit from a salary matched to experience, a specific performance incentive bonus scheme, company vehicle and the opportunity to develop their career through this exciting new and pioneering role.

If you have the drive, commitment and enthusiastic personality that is required for this interesting, important and novel role, coupled with the relevant experience, please apply in writing, no later than Thursday 11th August, stating your reasons for applying and your relevant skills and experiences to: Vicky Ferguson, HR Manager, Marine Harvest Scotland, Stob Ban House, Glen Nevis Business Park, Fort William, PH33 6RX

Informal enquires can be addressed to David MacGillivray, Seawater Manager, Marine Harvest Scotland, Stob Ban House, Glen Nevis Business Park, Fort William, PH33 6RX

E-mail: [david.macgillivray@marineharvest.com](mailto:david.macgillivray@marineharvest.com)



## Farming Administrator

Loch Etive, Taynuilt, Argyll

Dawnfresh Farming Ltd, part of the Dawnfresh Seafoods Group, is the largest Trout Farming Company operating in the UK. Our Marine and Freshwater farms are located throughout Scotland and Ireland.

A vacancy has arisen for an Administrator to join the team based at our Loch Etive Trout Farm. You will support the work of the farm staff in providing friendly and office based services, including being the first point of contact of the farm for all visitors and callers. You should have excellent office administration skills along with expertise in Microsoft Office.

Key accountabilities of the role include:-

- Input data on to Meractus software programme giving farming control, monitoring and planning;
- Maintain a rolling 6 month staff rota showing holidays, absence, etc;
- Keep employee records up to date and monitor and track absence;
- Learn and maintain knowledge of Codes of Good Practice on finfish farming, Freedom Food, quality Trout UK & Global Gap standards;
- Maintain visitor site PPE clothing is fit for purpose & ready for use;
- Support and assist the Farm Managers with administrative tasks.

If you are interested in applying for this position please send your CV to:-

Jane McCusker, HR Department, Dawnfresh Seafoods Ltd, Bothwellpark Industrial Estate, Uddingston, G71 6LS. Office: 01698 810008, E-mail: [hr@dawnfresh.co.uk](mailto:hr@dawnfresh.co.uk)

Closing date: 26th July



## Regeneration Officer

35 hours per week  
Salary: £27,087 - £31,867

## Lochgilthead

Permanent  
Interview date 31st August 2016

## Trainee Regeneration Officer

35 hours per week  
Salary: £23,397 - £27,526

## Lochgilthead

Fixed term to 31st August 2019  
Interview date 1st September 2016

## Modern Apprentice

35 hours per week  
Salary: £10,694 - £15,865  
(depending on age)

## Lochgilthead

Fixed term to 31st August 2019  
Interview date 23rd August 2016

## Finance Assistants (3 posts)

35 hours per week  
Salary £16,281 - £19,153

## Lochgilthead

2 x Fixed Term to 30th June 2017  
1 x Fixed Term to 31st December 2016  
Interview date 22nd August 2016

For further details and to apply visit our website at [www.acha.co.uk/recruitment](http://www.acha.co.uk/recruitment)  
If you are unable to access the website contact the Recruitment Team:  
Tel 01546 605917 or email [recruitment@acha.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@acha.co.uk)

Closing Date for all posts: 12 noon on Friday 5th August 2016



## CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENT/ DELIVERY DRIVERS

Vacancies based at: Oban, Lochgilthead,  
Fort William, Mull and Campbeltown

Responsible and interesting position for enthusiastic person who enjoys a combination of outdoor yard and driving duties delivering bottled gas cylinders, is able to undertake some computerised office administrative duties and has customer care skills for dealing with telephone enquiries and counter sales. 7.5 T licence, forklift experience and ADR preferable. Flexible working hours considered.

Please email cv stating which depot vacancy you are applying for to [susan@argyllresources.co.uk](mailto:susan@argyllresources.co.uk) or post to Argyll Resources, John MacLachlan Ltd Head Office, Torrangorm Industrial Estate, Oban, PA34 4PL. Tel 01631 566370



## Farm Technicians Carradale

Salary £18,485 to £23,451 plus overtime

We currently have vacancies for Farm Technicians at our seawater site at Carradale. The positions are offered on a full time, permanent basis.

The successful applicants will be required to carry out a variety of duties including feeding, net changing and other general farm tasks, and be willing to work flexibly to meet the demands of the job. The positions will require working a 40 hour week on any five out of seven days.

Applications are invited from individuals who have a positive approach to this type of work and who are competent swimmers. Experience is certainly an advantage although training will be provided. A current driving licence is essential.

If you are interested in applying for these vacancies please submit an application in writing, by the closing date of Friday 29th July 2016 to: Gillian Dempster,

Human Resources Advisor, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Stob Ban House, Glen Nevis Business Park, Fort William, PH33 6RX.

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## New drive offers employers support with work-based learning

A DRIVE to help more employers benefit from work-based learning is underway.

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) is contacting more than 200 companies as part of a campaign to support employers to make the most of apprenticeships.

Head of employer services at SDS Marion Beattie said: 'Having listened to employers, a recurring message is that more emphasis on work-based learning will support skills an innovative, inclusive and growing economy.'

'Apprenticeships are the key product supporting work-based learning, enabling people to earn a wage and gain industry-recognised qualifications.'

### Growing family

Already, more than 15,000 employers support more than 25,000 new apprenticeship places each year. However, the apprenticeship

family in Scotland is growing.

SDS is committed to work-based learning and supporting Scottish Government increased targets for modern apprenticeships from 25,000 each year to 30,000 each year by 2020.

New foundation apprenticeships allow pupils to complete elements of an apprenticeship while still at school.

And graduate level apprenticeships provide work-based learning opportunities for employees up to Masters-level.

### Ongoing support

To ensure employers benefit fully from the range of skills development and apprenticeships available, SDS's employer engagement team is contacting more than 200 companies.

Marion said: 'During the coming weeks and months, SDS colleagues will offer help to compa-

nies to ensure they are what we are calling "work-based learning ready".

'Support will be provided on an ongoing basis and offered to further companies following the initial 200.'

'The initial 200 represent a range of companies in terms of sectors and geographic locations across Scotland, who will all be significantly impacted by the apprenticeship levy.'

'However, the evolving demands of employers, the rising expectations of young people and the introduction of the apprenticeship levy makes this a key time to support employers through the changing work-based learning landscape.'

You can find out more about apprenticeships at [www.apprenticeships.scot](http://www.apprenticeships.scot)



# PUBLIC NOTICES

Call now to place an ad in our Public Notice section. Tel: 01631 568000

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)



### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link [https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a\\_to\\_z](https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z)

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development	Address	Proposal Description
16/01941/FUL	Land 2600M East of Glenshellach, Onich		100kW hydro scheme located on the Allt Meurach burn in Glen Righ
16/02342/FUL	Braeroy Estate, Roy Bridge		Renewal of consent 12/03841/FUL
16/02966/FUL	Site 140M North West of 1 Torr An Eas, Glenfinnan		Erection of house, formation of vehicular access, installation of septic tank and soakaway
16/03016/FUL	22 High Street, Fort William		Change of use from Class 1 (retail) to class 2 (office)
16/03023/FUL	Plot 1 to rear of Former Filling Station, Onich		Erection of proposed dwelling house
16/03024/FUL	Plot 2 to rear of Former Filling Station, Onich		Erection of dwelling house
16/03029/FUL	Plot 3 to rear of Former Filling Station, Onich		Erection of house, formation of vehicular access
16/03031/FUL	Narrach Bridge, Kinlochleven		Proposed demolition of house, erection of replacement house and holiday let cottage
16/03033/FUL	Land 125M NW of Downey Birch House, Arisaig		Proposed house
16/03065/FUL	Land 90M North of Old Byre, Wester Mandally, Invergarry		Change of use of land to allow all year round camping in holiday pods, installation of septic tank and soakaway

Time period for comments is 14 days, 16/01960/LBC is 21 days  
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

**Proposed Let of a Croft**  
Mrs Gillian Barton is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft at Ichrachan No1, Taynult to Mrs Sharon Reid of 1 Strathview, Taynult, Argyll, PA35 1JF.

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail: [info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk)) within 28 days from the date of publication of this advert. Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

### First Registration of a Croft

Shelagh Munro has registered their croft 2 Torcastle & Mount Alexander (Share), Kilmalle, on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by March 29, 2017. Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C2850.

### CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

Applications marked with an asterisk - Interest can be expressed in obtaining the tenancy of the croft subject to the application.

### DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

E M L Boyd  
2 Blaich, Ardgor  
0.21 ha - Site for a dwelling house  
4.86.61191  
Conditions: 2, 3b, 4  
D MacKinnon  
9 Vaul, Tiree  
0.025 ha - Croft house site and garden ground  
69783  
Conditions: 3a, 4, 8  
T & H Glen  
Whitstone, Saddell & Skipness  
0.185 ha - Site for a dwelling house  
66937  
Conditions: 2, 3b, 4 & 8  
C MacLennan  
30 Airds Bay, Ardchattan & Skipness  
0.114ha - Existing house site  
66917  
Conditions: 3b, 4  
N A Black  
4 Achosragan, Lismore & Appin  
0.0889ha - Site for a dwelling house  
67566  
Conditions: 2, 3b, 4  
K Hughes  
17 Balevullin, Tiree  
0.070ha - Site for a dwelling house  
66359  
Conditions: 2, 3b, 4, 8  
A Urwin  
Larach Bhan, Glenorchy & Innishail  
0.347ha - Croft house site and garden ground  
67015  
Conditions: 1, 3c, 4, 6

**Conditions**  
(1) Acquisition of area within 5 years of the date of direction and notification made to Commission within 3 months of acquisition.  
(2) To provide a site for a dwellinghouse  
(3) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of:  
(a) the date of the direction  
(b) the proposed development completion  
(c) acquisition  
(4) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.  
(6) The crofter must notify the Commission within 3 months of acquisition.  
(8) The Direction will expire 3 months from the date of the Direction unless an application for registration of the making of the Direction is submitted before the expiry of that period.  
Any person with an interest in the application may appeal against a decision to the Scottish Land Court within 42 days of the date of this advert.

### First Registration of a Croft

Christine MacLennan has registered their croft 30 Airds Bay, Airds Bay, Archattan and Muckcain, on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by March 27, 2017. Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is A0026.

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**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

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Scottish textile design studio Juniper and Jane is based in West Kilbride, Ayrshire. Much of their time is spent roaming Scotland's wild places from which they draw inspiration for their printed patterns.

Textile Artist, Jane Hunter and designer, Sam Kilday venture off the beaten track in a bid to find those quiet, remote locations in which to absorb the natural surroundings. Travels take the pair from craggy coastlines, hearing only the sound of inquisitive seals to lonely mountain corries in the hidden north, long since abandoned by ice and man.

Juniper and Jane's textile patterns evoke the true character of Scotland's wilderness in a contemporary, illustrative style.

The mountain bothy cushion on offer is printed on 100% natural, unbleached cotton and comes complete with a plump feather pad.

To find out more about Juniper and Jane's fabrics, gifts and home accessories visit: [www.juniperandjane.co.uk](http://www.juniperandjane.co.uk)

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\*Price includes P&P



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**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

### PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00-12:30 - 13:30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
16/01071/PP	Installation of telecommunications cabinet	Land Outside Port Appin Surgery Shuna View Port Appin Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Port Appin
16/01895/PPP	Site for the erection of black bee project workshop and dwellinghouse	Land North of Ballard Isle of Coll Argyll and Bute PA78 6TB	Sub Post Office Isle of Coll
16/01970/PP	Renewal of planning permission 13/00470/PP (Erection of dwellinghouse, formation of vehicular access and installation of septic tank)	Land South East of Sunipol Calgary Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Tobermory Area Office
16/01529/PPP	Erection of extensions to dwellinghouse, erection of detached garden shed and repositioning oil tank and culvert (part retrospective)	Glenrigh Cottage Corran Esplanade Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5AQ	Oban Area Office
16/01874/PP	Erection of 2 semi-detached dwellinghouses, installation of air source heat pumps and formation of vehicular access (amended design relative to planning permission 15/00564/PP)	Land South of Arinagour Primary School Carnan Road Arinagour Isle of Coll Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Isle of Coll
16/01882/PP	Installation of a DSLAM (Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer) cabinet	Land Outside 17 King Street Portnahaven Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Portnahaven
16/01593/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Plot 1 Land South West of Craig Lora Benderloch Oban Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Connel
16/01667/PP	Installation of a new DSLAM (digital subscriber line access multiplexer) cabinet	Land Outside Sunset Tynribbie Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Connel
16/01718/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Lettershuna Croft 1 Appin Argyll and Bute PA38 4BN	Sub Post Office Port Appin
16/01860/PP	Erection of replacement dwellinghouse	Stable Cottage Bowmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA43 7JF	Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay
16/01941/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	No 3 Ardbeg Farm Corraigbeg Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute PA27 6UZ	Tiree Area Office
16/01827/PP	Erection of 15 metres high lattice telecommunications tower and associated works	Tart AMhill Portnahaven Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Portnahaven

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Councils website.

Anne Catherine M E McLaren has registered the croft at 19 & 20 North Ballachulish, Kilmallie, PH33 6RZ 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 4th February 2017. Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C2678

**Proposed Assignment a Croft Tenancy**

Mrs Rosemary MacLachlan Curtis is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the croft at 120 Achnaha, Ardnarmurchan & Sunart to Mrs Morag MacLachlan Doherty, c/o MacLachlan, Caalmojo, Kilmory, By Acharacle, Argyll, PH36 4LG.

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township or if the Commission consider that you have a direct interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail: [info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk](mailto:info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk)) within 28 days from the date of publication of this advert.

Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

# West Coast PROPERTY GUIDE

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## Property valuations increased across UK in June – despite EU referendum

THE pace of property valuations conducted in June 2016 in the UK increased both an annual basis and month on month, according to the latest research.

The total number of valuations carried out in June rose by four per cent compared to June 2015, and 24 per cent compared to the previous month, the report covering the month of the European Union referendum from Connells Survey and Valuation shows.

John Bagshaw, corporate services director of Connells Survey and Valuation, pointed out that the background to the figures is one of uncertainty and shock in the days after the UK decided to leave the EU, yet the property landscape appears surprisingly stable which he believes is encouraging.

*'Initial solidity from the post-Brexit housing market may not be enough to answer all the new legal and financial questions in light of the vote or to offset a likely blow to confidence on the near horizon. But this should bring such fears into perspective. Life will go on and the property market will continue to function,'* he said.

Leading the June housing market, activity from first-time buyers accelerated last month, making up for a considerable slowdown in buy-to-let valuations. Numbers taking their first step onto the property ladder rose 23 per cent year on year, whereas buy to let valuations decreased by 40 per cent over the same period.

This is on the back of 27 per cent month on month growth for first-time buyer valuations, ahead of the general seasonal pick-up in total activity, while buy-to-let valuations increased by 17 per cent since May, considerably slower than the overall picture.

*'First-time buyers continue to drive activity in the housing market, an emerging trend since the start of the year and now reaching a new peak. Government schemes such as Help to Buy continue to be significant. But now a slowdown in the buy-to-let sector may be adding an extra short-term boost for new buyers, as competition from landlords diminishes a little, easing the hunt for a home for sale,'* Bagshaw explained.

Remortgaging has also seen a significant boost in valuation activity in June. The number of valuations carried out in June for those looking to remortgage rose by 18 per cent on a 12-month basis and 19 per cent month on month.

Home movers were more cautious. Valuations for existing home-owners looking to move to a new property decreased by seven per cent on an annual basis since June 2015. However, the number of such home owner valuations rose by 29 per cent since May.

'Home movers have once again had a stable month, and this section of the market has enjoyed the strongest seasonal acceleration from May. Meanwhile, remortgaging is the other major winner from a time of

consistently low mortgage rates and a possibility of even lower borrowing costs over the summer,' Bagshaw pointed out.

'As seen in recent months, many people are taking advantage of these rates and switching to better mortgage deals. While the coming months are far from certain, so long as lenders remain financially healthy there's a good chance that expected lower interest rates could feed through to even better mortgage rates and a further wave of remortgaging activity,' he added.



### PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

Bell Ingram, Boswell House, Argyll Square, PA34 4BD  
01631 566122  
oban@bellingram.co.uk

#### Scarbh House, Ardfern, PA31 8JA

Scarbh House is a well presented three bedroom house situated in a private yet convenient location only a short walk from the renowned Ardfern Yacht Centre. The property is presented in immaculate walk-in condition throughout, with accommodation on split levels.

At lower ground floor level is a sitting room, conservatory and store. On the upper ground floor are a kitchen with vaulted living area, three bedrooms and family bathroom.

Ardfern village is located at the head of Loch Craignish and is in an area of great natural beauty. A popular tourist destination, Ardfern provides all the usual village amenities including an excellent village store, pub, hotel and craft/coffee shop 'The Crafty Kitchen' as well as the popular Ardfern Yacht Centre which provides marina facilities for local and visiting yachts wishing to explore the excellent sailing waters. As well as having a thriving local community, Ardfern can also offer outdoor pursuits such as walking, horse riding, cycling and golf.



- Distant views to the water
- Vaulted living space and kitchen
- Well presented accommodation
- Immaculately presented throughout
- Area of great natural beauty
- Excellent sailing waters
- EPC D62



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**KOMANI, AROS, ISLE OF MULL**  
Guide Price £350,000 EPC-D58  
A fantastically situated detached family home with flexible and well-presented accommodation and wonderful views.

### Possible post Brexit interest rates cut expected to benefit 5m mortgage borrowers

Mark Carney, the governor of the Bank of England, has indicated that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) would vote to cut rates in July or August. Experts have indicated the probable reduction could be 0.5% to 0.25% in a bid to boost the UK economy. A cut would be good news for borrowers, saving £26 a month on a £200,000, 25-year repayment mortgage, according to the Council of Mortgage Lenders

A cut in the Bank of England base rate will see monthly mortgage payments fall for around 5m mortgage borrowers on floating rates and trigger more competition on fixed-rate deals. Roughly half of Britain's 11m borrowers are on fixed-rate mortgages, with the other half on variable rates. Financial markets put the probability of the rates cut at about 80%. Surveys for both the services sector and the construction industry have pointed to a downturn as uncertainty keeps global markets shaky and investors wary. Since Brexit the Bank has relaxed rules to let banks lend as much as an additional £150bn. Interest rates have been unchanged since the Bank cut them to a record low of 0.5% in March 2009 at the height of the financial crisis. Some economists believe that rates could even be cut to zero as soon as August. But Mr Carney has said he did not favour rates falling any lower than 0.25% – or below zero.

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### Properties for sale and let

**Forestry Cottages, Duror**

- Spacious Semi-Detached House
- 3 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom
- Beautiful Rural Location
- Large Garden
- EPC - E51

**NEW TO MARKET OIRO £160,000**

2 Forestry Cottages A spacious 3 bedroom semi-detached house with large garden located in a rural situation near the village of Duror. The property is well-proportioned and plentiful windows make this a bright and airy home. Heating is provided via an oil boiler and large multi-fuel stove with back boiler in the lounge. The property is presented move in condition and must be viewed to be appreciated.

**Combie Street, Oban**

- Top Floor Flat
- 1 Bedroom / Shower Room
- Central location
- Excellent rental investment
- EPC Rating - F (33)

**OIRO £63,000**

33 Combie Street- A compact 1 bedroom top floor flat close to Oban town centre. This flat comprises a lounge, small bedroom, kitchen and shower room. The property is decorated in neutral colours and benefits from double glazing throughout. Rental potential, achieving annual rent of £4,200 in recent years. The property is in move in condition.

**Glenmore Road, Oban**

- Detached house
- 3 Bedrooms / 2 Bathrooms
- Quiet location
- Lovely views over Oban
- Well maintained property
- EPC Rating - F (33)

**OIEO £200,000**

Whinfield is a detached 3 bedroom property situated in an elevated position overlooking Oban. The house would make an ideal family home with its excellent location on Pulpit Hill, great layout and well proportioned rooms. The property has been well maintained throughout its 55 years and the extension on to the rear of the property.

**Polfearn House, Taynuilt**

- First Floor Flat
- 1 Bedroom / 1 Bathroom
- Lovely views
- Rural, quiet location
- EPC Rating - C (68)

**OIRO £75,000**

No. 6 Polfearn House - A well proportioned one bedroom flat which enjoys views of Loch Etive. The lounge and kitchen boast large windows where you can enjoy views over fields to Loch Etive and the hills beyond. The property is entirely double glazed and heating is provided via electric panel and storage heaters. This cosy flat would make an excellent first time buyer home.

**Struan Crescent, Tobermory**

- Semi detached bungalow
- 2 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom
- Modern property
- Popular residential area
- Large gardens with driveway parking
- EPC Rating - D65

**OIRO £155,000**

2 Struan Crescent - A deceptively spacious 2 bedroom semi-detached bungalow close to Tobermory town centre. Built 5 years ago, property boasts well proportioned rooms, driveway parking and generous gardens front and accommodation comprises porch area with large storage room, hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, family bathroom and 2 double bedrooms with built in storage.

**Erray Road, Tobermory**

- Spacious detached bungalow
- 4 Bedrooms / 1 Bathrooms
- Quiet and private situation
- Sheltered private garden
- Excellent family home
- Potential holiday rental
- EPC Rating C (70)

**OIRO £215,000**

Achalltunn offers an opportunity to purchase a spacious family home in a popular residential area in Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. Situated in a generous plot the property comprises a bright and spacious lounge, dining area, kitchen, 4 bedrooms and a bathroom (with separate shower and bath). The property benefits from double glazing and an oil fired central heating system.

**Plot At Lochdon, Isle Of Mull**

- Previous planning permission
- 0.25 acre plot
- Shore frontage
- Services close by
- Sea views

**OIRO £40,000**

A rare occasion to purchase a sizable plot with enviable views over Loch don on the Isle of Mull. The plot, approx. 0.25 acre, has previously been granted planning permission in principle for a single story 3 bedroom dwelling house and it is understood this would be granted again following reapplication for a similar design of house. The plot has been partially levelled ready for development.

**Albert Street, Tobermory**

- Mid Terrace House
- 5 Bedrooms/2 Bathrooms
- Detached Workshop
- Central location
- Walking distance to amenities
- EPC Rating - F(35)

**OIRO £240,000**

Glenelg - A deceptively spacious 5 bedroom mid-terrace house in Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. The property comprises a small porch which leads to a spacious lounge dining room on the ground floor with the kitchen and family bathroom at the rear. Upstairs there are 5 bedrooms with 1 ensuite shower room. This property benefits from having a sizeable detached workshop at the rear of the garden.

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**BIRTHS**

**HARRISON** - Robbie and Marie are delighted to announce the arrival of a daughter, Iduu Kjaer, on June 27. A grand-daughter for Janice and Donald Harrison, Hazelbank, Tainui.

**DEATHS**

**AIKMAN** - Peacefully, on Sunday, July 17, 2016, Christian W.H. Aikman, aged 93 years. (Retired teacher, School of Agricultural, Aberdeen) A very dear friend and neighbour. Funeral Service will be held on Wednesday, July 27 2016 at 2 pm in Ardoug Parish Church; thereafter to Ardoug Churchyard. Flowers welcome. Donations, if desired, to Abbeyfield Nursing Home can be given at the Church door or forwarded to John McLellan Funeral Directors, Dudley Road, Fort William. All friends are welcome to attend. Special thanks to Abbeyfield Nursing Home and Dr John Wallace for the excellent care they gave to Christian which allowed her to remain in her own home and live independently.

**FRASER** - Dorothy. Peacefully on Sunday July 10, 2016 at Forth Valley Royal Hospital after a short illness, Dorothy (née Durham). Dearly beloved wife of the late Douglas (Dugg), dear mother to Isobel, Graham and Sine, mother-in-law to Tom and David, loving gran of Tommy and a dear friend to many. Funeral service on Thursday July 21 at Alloa Ludgate Parish Church at 2.00pm, and thereafter to Falkirk Crematorium for 3.15pm, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please.

**MACDONALD** - After an illness bravely borne on July 11, 2016, Andrew MacDonald, Uisken, Isle of Mull, aged 56 years. Son of June and the late Alexander MacDonald, much loved brother and uncle. Sadly missed. Funeral was held at Bunnassan Church on Tuesday July 19, 2016 thereafter to Suidhe Cemetery.

**McCABE** - Peacefully at home on July 10, 2016, Alexandrina (Lexy) McCabe, aged 96 years, loving wife of the late John. Dear sister and aunt. Funeral service to be held at Tobermory Parish Church on Friday July 21, 2016 thereafter to Tobermory Top Cemetery.

**SPEIRS** - George Pattison. Passed away peacefully in the arms of his beloved family on Tuesday July 19, 2016. Darling beloved husband of Liz, adored and most deeply respected Dad of David, Gail and Cameron. Wonderful papa to Ashleigh and Ross, and darling father-in-law to Barbara and Elaine. Good friend to John and David. A gentleman and gentle man. Ae Fond Kiss. Funeral Service will be held on Tuesday July 26, 2016 at 10 am in Kilmallie Parish Church, Corpach; thereafter

to Inverness Crematorium, arriving 2 pm. Family flowers only please. All friends are respectfully invited. Enquiries to John McLellan Funeral Directors Tel. 01397 702128

**SUMMERS** - Peacefully, at home, with her stepdaughter and her friend by her side on Saturday, July 16, 2016, Barbara Laura Summers, aged 90 years, formerly of Kingairloch and Acharacle, latterly of Ballachulish. Beloved wife of the late Bill Summers, much loved by Katharine and Rick her stepchildren and their partners Peter and Sue. Also a dearly loved friend to many. Funeral Service will be held on Monday, July 25, 2016 at 2 pm in Inverness Crematorium. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Water Aid can be given at the door or forwarded to John McLellan Funeral Directors, Dudley Road, Fort William. All friends are welcome to attend. Transport will be provided from Acharacle, Salen and Fort William, please contact the funeral directors on 01397 702128 for details.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**MACDONALD** - The family of the late Muriel sincerely thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness and support received, personally, by cards, flowers, telephone calls, and home-baking following their sad loss. Special thanks to the wonderful staff at Hamewith, District Nurses, the team of carers, the Day Care Team, Dr. Shanks, Alford and the medical staff at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary for all their care and attention over the years. Grateful thanks to Rev. Dr. John Cook for his comforting service, Duncan & McCombie for the caring and supportive handling of funeral arrangements, Country Flavours of Alford for their delicious refreshments. Finally to all those who paid their last respects and donated in excess of £400.00 for Macmillan Cancer Support. We will be sorely missed but we are sustained by your help and support and our many, many warm memories.

**MCLEOD** - Alick and Sarah McLeod and their respective families would like to extend their warmest thanks and appreciation to dear friends and family for the wonderful expressions of sympathy and understanding following the sad death of their much loved mum Joan. Grateful thanks is also extended to the Nursing and Medical Staff at Ward 1 Belford Hospital, Fort William for the wonderfully kind, caring and professional support Joan received prior to her death. Also grateful thanks

to Dr. Mark Taylor, Kingsmills Medical Practice, Inverness for his understanding and support over many years and to Community East Nursing Team for their compassion and professionalism whilst providing nursing support to Joan. Thanks also to Laura Gillespie, Celebrant, Humanist Society Scotland for leading the funeral service and delivering a wonderful and moving tribute to Joan. Warmest thanks to all those who attended the service and donated to Joan's favoured charities - £278 was raised. Finally most grateful thanks to Vicki Fraser and Garry MacDonald and their team at John Fraser & Son, Chapel Street, Inverness, for their kindness, compassion and understanding with the funeral arrangements.

**STEVENSON** - Moira's family would like to thank everyone for cards, phone calls and floral tributes received at this sad time and also everyone who attended the funeral service at St Oran's Church and the interment at Pennyfuir. Special thanks to the Rev Cringles for a comforting service and Ian MacInnes for professional services. Thanks also to the Falls of Lora Hotel for efficient catering. The sum of £260 from the Retiral Collection has been passed to the North Argyll Home.

**MEMORIAL SERVICES**

**MEPHAM** - Kathleen MacIntyre formerly of Tighphuirst, Glencoe, passed away on February 4, 2016. A memorial service will be held on July 28 at St Mary's Church, Glencoe at 2pm. Her smile and laughter touched the hearts of many.

**MEMORIAMS**

**CAMPBELL** - In loving memory of Hector, who passed away July 27, 2015. Much loved and sorely missed husband, dad and papa. - Mairi and all the family.

**DOHERTY** - Remembering with love my dear friend Gerry, who passed away July 20, 2014. It's a lonely life without you And sad has been each day For life and home are not the same Since you were called away. - Mary.

**DONALDSON** - In loving memory of our Mum, Lexy, who passed away July 27, 1989. Your life was a blessing your memory a treasure, you are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure. - Iain and Maria.

**FENTON** - Jean. Happy memories of a dear aunt, who fell asleep on July 24, 2015. - The Black family.

**HAMILL** - In loving memory of Margaret Hamill, who passed away July 23, 2014. Till the roses lose their petals Till the heather has lost it's dew Till the end of time dear mother We will love and miss you. - Isobel, Nicholas and Ryan.

**KERR** - Lovely memories of our dear mother, mother-in-law and granny Flora, who died July 26, 2004. - Love John, Morag and family.

**MACDONALD** - Remembering Caroline, passed away July 20, 2015. Your life is a beautiful memory. Your absence a silent grief - Ken, daughter Iona and grand-daughter Catherine.

**MACKICHAN** - In loving memory of my much beloved and adored husband Cameron, who passed away July 24, 2014. Dearly loved father, step-father and grand-dad. Time has not healed my heartache Or stopped my falling tears I cherish still the memory Of the one I loved so dear. - Your loving wife Ann.

**MACRAE** - It broke our hearts to lose our lovely young daughter, Mairi Anne MacRae on July 18, 2014. We miss her sorely every day. - Katie Mary and family, Ballygowan.

**PAGAN** - Remembering the life of George Hair Pagan from Cupar, Fife. Volunteered the day after the First World War was declared. Killed during the battle of the Somme on July 30, 1916. May he be always remembered. - Inserted by Graeme H Pagan, Gillies H Pagan and George H Pagan, all now in Oban.

**SIMPSON** - In loving memory of a devoted husband and father Archie, who died July 18, 2006. You left a place no-one can fill I miss you now and always will. - Your loving son Archie.

**Oban Times BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS**

**Moderator sends condolences to French following Nice massacre**

THE Moderator of the General Assembly, Rt Rev Dr Russell Barr, has written to Emmanuel Cocher, the French Consul General in Edinburgh, to express his condolences following the attack in Nice. It is just a few short months since Mr Cocher attended a service at St Giles Cathedral where the victims of the attacks in Paris last November were remembered. Dr Barr said: 'I write to express shock and sadness

on behalf of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to you and your compatriots. Like many others listening to the news this morning and hearing of the terrible events in Nice, I am appalled at this further dreadful attack faced by the people of France in recent months. 'A joyful occasion of celebration was turned into a scene of horror. Please be assured of my own prayers and those of the members

of the Church of Scotland at this very sad time for France.'

On Facebook, Rev Jonathan Fleming from Erskine, who created a well-received social media campaign for peace following the Paris attacks last November, said: 'How much more can this country take? Thoughts and prayers for the people of Nice, as well as all affected by mindless acts of violence.'

**Oban Jehovah's Witnesses join convention of 8000**

FORTY-FIVE Jehovah's Witnesses from the Oban congregation in Dunbeg will be attending a three-day convention at the Hydro, Glasgow, from Friday to Sunday, July 22 to 24. Approximately 8000 delegates from all over Scotland, including the islands will be gathered for their annual regional convention.

The official press release can be found at: www.jw.org where a full programme and video trailers can be viewed. Of particular interest will be the public presentation on Sunday 'When Will Loyal Love Triumph Over Hatred?' Admission is free and no collections are taken.

**Christian Aid Scotland launch emergency appeal for Malawi**

CHRISTIAN Aid Scotland has launched an emergency appeal to help support communities in Malawi through a devastating drought that has left 6.5 million people - around a third of the country's population - without access to enough food.

'As part of our on-going role in addressing global challenges, the Scottish Government is committed to assisting the people of Malawi in this time of need. 'We will match fund, up to £70,000, every pound raised by Christian Aid's public appeal until October 31.

Minister for International Development and Europe Dr Alasdair Allan MSP said: 'Worsening food shortages in Malawi caused by a severe drought mean 6.5 million people are now not expected to be able to meet their food needs in the coming months.

'I would encourage people the length and breadth of Scotland to consider supporting fundraising efforts to assist Malawi at this critical time.' To donate to the appeal, visit www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/malawi-food-crisis.

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**Thought for the week**

Philippians 4: 6-7

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

THIS year has had so many tragedies and many of us have been in prayer remembering others. We are told to be anxious for nothing - carefulness and prayer cannot stand together. In everything, great and small, let your requests be made known to God. It is not always proper to disclose them to men. By supplication, which is the enlarging upon and pressing our prayer. With thanksgiving, the surest mark of a soul free from care, and of prayer joined with true resignation. This is always followed by peace. Peace and thanksgiving are both coupled together. The peace of God - that calm, heavenly repose, that tranquillity of spirit, which God only can give. Which surpasseth all understanding - which none can comprehend, save they that receive it. Shall keep guard, as a garrison does a city. Your hearts, your affections, your minds, your understandings, and all the various workings of them; through the Spirit and power of Christ Jesus, in the knowledge and love of God. Without a guard set on these likewise, the purity and vigour of our affections cannot long be preserved. Dear friends, persist in prayer hold the world and its people in your clasped hands.

**GRADUATION**

**Rebecca Louise Fraser**  
Rebecca has recently graduated with both her Law Degree and Diploma in Professional Practice. During her studies Rebecca was awarded the Family Law Association's award for Dundee University Family Law Student of the Year. Rebecca is delighted to have moved back to her hometown of Fort William where she has joined the team at MacPhee and Partners as a trainee solicitor. Rebecca is the daughter of Christine and Gary Dobbie and granddaughter of Alexander and Dorothy Fraser.

**Hannah May Gunnell**  
Graduated from the University of Glasgow on June 24, 2016 with a B Ed Hons in Primary Education. Hannah is the daughter of the late Carl Gunnell, Strontian and Johanna Gunnell. Hannah is a former pupil of Strontian Primary School and Ardnarmurchan High School.

**Amy Lorna Healy**  
Graduated from Arts - University of Bournemouth on 1st June 2016 with a BA (Hons) Degree in Costume and Performance Design. Daughter of Tim and Helen Healy, formally of Ardmaddy, Glenkinglass, Tainui. Amy is a former pupil of Tainui Primary and Oban High School.

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## Dunne brothers pick up bronze medals

### Athletics



Finbar Dunne

TWO BROTHERS from Oban have both had international success in the world of athletics.

Paddy and Finbar Dunne attended the world youth games in Gothenburg, Sweden, and younger brother Finbar picked up a bronze medal in the under 15s boys discus event. He was up against 30 competitors from all over the world, but in the end fellow Scot and club mate, Andrew Boucher from Inverness, won the event, earning Scotland a gold and bronze medal.

Upon returning from Gothenburg, for the second year in a row, older brother Paddy was selected to represent Scotland at an international school competition in Ashford in Kent.

Paddy made the journey to Kent last weekend and secured a bronze medal for his country in the under 17s men's javelin event.

## Six-month project for visually impaired children Disability sport

A SCOTTISH charity is seeking visually impaired children to take part in a project that aims to improve health and fitness.

First Steps, a British Blind Sport initiative supported by Scottish Disability Sport for visually impaired children, is looking for 120 kids aged five to 15 to take part in the six-month project.

The children who take part in the project will receive a free activity pack to help them maintain an active lifestyle.

Scottish Disability Sport said that the risk of inactivity and obesity is even higher for visually impaired children, who face additional barriers to participation such as a lack of inclusive PE teaching in mainstream schools, bullying and lower family income.

If you have a visually impaired child and would like to be involved in the First Steps Project, contact Scottish Disability Sport by telephoning 0131 317 1130 or alternatively email [admin@scottishdisabilitysport.com](mailto:admin@scottishdisabilitysport.com).

# Oban Saints field young side in pre-season friendly

Oban Saints	1
Vale of Leven Juniors	1
Pre-season friendly	

LOBBYISTS for summer football received a stark reminder that the Scottish weather is no respecter of seasons as Saints and Vale of Leven Juniors played out an entertaining friendly match in foul weather conditions at Glencruitten last Saturday. As was the case when Vale came visiting last year, heavy rain on the eve of the match necessitated an early morning pitch inspection which Glencruitten 1, normally reserved for matches with the oval ball, passed with flying colours with the immaculately prepared surface holding up well during the match.

Injuries and holiday commitments, including those of manager Alex Craik, gave the Saints line-up an unfamiliar look, particularly on the bench, where in charge for the day assistant manager Donald Campbell named youngsters Jay Cooper, Daniel Croarkin, Fraser MacFarlane and 15-year-old Lewis Buchanan alongside experienced trio Graham Douglas, Sean Ford and Elliot Dougal.

Despite the absence of eight or nine key players, the starting XI was a strong one and included welcome returns from long injury lay-offs for Martin Bonar and Myles McAuley. The versatile Martin slotted in at right full back, making up the back four alongside Jamie Graham, Willie Gemmell and Scott Maitland. Myles took up his usual position in the middle of the park, with Paul Kerr and young Matthew Kelly for company. Captain for the day Donald Campbell joined Ross Maitland and Dean Smith in attack with goalkeeper Thomas McCulloch completing the starting XI.

Saints settled quickly into their stride with Donald Campbell and Dean Smith combining well on the left to carve out an opportunity for Ross Maitland who sliced an excellent chance horribly wide from just inside the Vale box.

The visitors took the lead in the sixth minute from an



Young Daniel Croarkin played well on his debut.



Willie Gemmell and Dean Smith appeal for a penalty in the first half but referee Jimmy Lister, who had a good game, wasn't interested. Match report and photos: Derek Black

innocuous looking deep cross from the right wing by Adam Monaghan. Thomas McCulloch elected to stay on his line allowing Monaghan's cross to reach Scott Cowan who out-jumped Jamie Graham at the back post to head the ball back across goal for Craig Cowan to nod into the net from three yards out.



15-year-old Lewis Buchanan and Fraser MacFarlane in action.

Despite the early reverse Saints continued to impress against their semi-professional opponents and presented Vale keeper Scott Morrison, who played for Arbroath last season, with his first test of the afternoon in the ninth minute.

Scott Maitland made good progress on the left wing but, finding his path blocked by full back Devine, cut the ball back to Paul Kerr. Paul picked out Ross Maitland, who shifted the ball to his right opening up the angle for a low shot from 22 yards which Morrison at full stretch tipped round his left hand post for a corner.

Ross took the kick from the right and found the head of Martin Bonar who was unable to repeat his scoring feat from last year's fixture, with Scott Morrison initially parrying Martin's effort before gathering safely at the second attempt.

### Football

The movement of the Saints front three was keeping the Vale defence on their toes with Donald Campbell producing good work on the left in the 25th minute to set up a chance for Ross Maitland. Unfortunately Ross couldn't get the ball under control on the edge of the six-yard box with the loose ball breaking towards Dean Smith who could only turn a very difficult opportunity wide of Morrison's right hand post.

Morrison made a fantastic double save three minutes later to deny Donald Campbell and Dean Smith. Donald made a powerful run at the heart of the Vale defence before unleashing a shot which Morrison saved low down to his right. Dean Smith was first to the loose ball but the big keeper was quickly back on his feet to block Dean's effort at his near post at the expense of a corner kick.

Ross Maitland once again found the head of Martin Bonar from the corner flag whose knock down fell kindly for Donald Campbell who unfortunately couldn't keep his shot down, sending the ball soaring high over the crossbar from 10 yards out.

The Oban side eventually got their reward for their first half exertions deservedly drawing level five minutes before the break. Myles McAuley threaded a perfectly weighted through ball for Donald Campbell's run through the inside left channel. Last season's top scorer made no mistake, calmly passing the ball into the bottom corner of the net past the Vale keeper's despairing left hand.

McAuley was involved again at the other end when he was penalised by referee Lister 28 yards from his own goal. Lee McGeachy curled the free kick around the Saints' wall drawing an excellent save from Thomas McCulloch diving full length to his left to send the teams into the half-time interval on level terms.

With manager Alex Craik on holiday, team affairs were in



Martin Bonar clears the ball from Vale of Leven goalscorer Craig Cowan. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

the hands of assistant manager Donald Campbell who used the second half to give his entire bench a good run out. Graham Douglas came on to replace Thomas McCulloch in goal and continued the good form he showed in the D&K Lafferty Cup two weeks previously.

Notwithstanding the raft of changes made by both sides and the worsening weather conditions, the second half maintained the high tempo of the first 45.

The hour mark was the signal for Saints to make five changes, withdrawing Martin Bonar, Matthew Kelly, Paul Kerr, Myles McAuley and Dean Smith and introducing a mixed bag of youth and experience consisting of Jay Cooper and Fraser MacFarlane, who had featured in the D&K Lafferty Cup, debutant Daniel Croarkin, Sean Ford and Elliot Dougal.

With 20 minutes remaining Saints made their final change introducing 15-year-old Lewis Buchanan for his first-team debut replacing Ross Maitland



Saints' keeper Thomas McCulloch makes a great save diving low to his left hand side.

## Golf News

### Glencruitten

DAVID McCuish leads the second round of the club championship with scores of 64, 66 = 130, followed by Cameron Milne with scores of 64, 70 = 134 and Phillip Murphy with scores of 68, 67 = 135. In the George Smith second round Cameron Milne leads with net scores of 61, 68 = 129, Phillip Murphy has scores of 66, 67 = 133 and Gavin Owens follows with scores of 64, 70 = 134.

On Saturday the third round of the handicap championship takes place and also a monthly medal.

### Islay

RESULT of the 19th Challenge played Sunday July 17: 1 B Davies 39 pts; 2 C Holyoake 37 pts; 3 R Quail 36 pts.

### Dalmally

CHILDREN from Dalmally Golf Club took part in a fun-filled hour of free golf last week.

Kids were able to play fun golf, croquet and try tennis style putting.

Hannah, left, and her brother Tom Richards and Ben Smith, right, snapped up free T-shirts at the event.



Hannah, Tom and Ben with their free T-shirts.

## Draw made for Argyll and Bute tournament Football

THE annual Argyll and Bute Cup tournament will take place in Lochgilphead on Saturday August 6.

Cup holders Oban Saints have been drawn in section two alongside Glasgow Islay, Dunoon and Tarbert.

Section one comprises host club Lochgilphead Red Star, Rothesay Brandane, Kilchoman Islay and Carradale.

The tournament gets under way at 10am with games being played at the Ropework Park and on the 3G pitch at Lochgilphead Joint Campus.

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**Easy to enter**  
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You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition rules**  
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.  
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**Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses.** The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

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# SHINTY

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

## Kilmallie hit Caberfeidh for six in convincing Balliemore Cup win

### Balliemore Cup final

**Kilmallie 6  
Caberfeidh 0**  
KILMALLIE won the 2016 Balliemore Cup with a 6-0 victory over Caberfeidh in the final at Blairbeg.

The Balliemore Cup was first played for as an intermediate championship in 1985 and Kilmallie had won it on two previous occasions – 1992 and 1993. Kilmallie's last appearance in the final was in 2008 when they lost 3-1 to Skye Camanachd at Braeview Park.

Mark MacPherson's side had only previously lost twice this season; both against Marine Harvest Premier Division sides – Skye Camanachd and Oban Camanachd – and both times by the odd goal in seven. They were also in great goal-scoring form going into the final, netting 26 goals in their last six matches.

Caberfeidh boss Lee Nicol knew that victory would make his side record Balliemore Cup winners; they were currently level with Bute at five victories apiece. The Caberfeidh triumphs came in 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 2000. They made the final in 2011 when they lost 2-1 to Bute at Pàirc nan Laoch, Portree. Cabers only trailed Kilmallie by a point in the Marine Harvest National Division.

Kilmallie and Caberfeidh had met twice before in the Balliemore Cup Final – in 1995 and 1997 – with Cabers winning on both occasions but this was to be Kilmallie's day. Both teams took bus-loads of supporters to this year's final.

Kilmallie's Innes Blackhall was free to play but he will miss his team's next match against Bute in the league as his booking against Oban Camanachd a week earlier takes him through the disciplinary points threshold. Bryan MacKay, who played his part in the run to the cup final, missed out as he was abroad.

Caberfeidh had a familiar-looking line-up, although



The victorious Kilmallie team. Photographs by Neil Paterson.



Kilmallie captain Martin Stewart with the Balliemore Cup.

they had to do without Ally MacLennan and Paddy Wilson.

Cabers made a bright start to the final and a Craig Morrison drive rose just the wrong side of Shane Gillies' post early in the match.

It was Kilmallie who took the lead after five minutes. Cabers' keeper Ewan Pilcher saved a Duncan Rodger shot and Mark Graham held off his marker to

force the rebound home from inside the 'D'.

Two goals late in the first half put Kilmallie in control. Michael Rodger made it 2-0 at 42 minutes with a rocket-shot from 25 yards into the top corner of the net. A minute before the break, Mark Graham lofted the ball goalwards from the middle of the park and scored to make it 3-0 at the break.

Kilmallie went on to dominate after the re-start and a Liam MacDonald hat-trick early in the second half put them out of sight. First, the Scotland forward crashed the ball high into the net from just past the penalty spot to make it 4-0 on 50 minutes. Then, a minute later, MacDonald netted from just outside the 'D' before sending the ball home from close-in on the hour to make it 6-0.

Caberfeidh never gave up, but they did have to thank goalie Ewan Pilcher for a number of good saves during the game.

Kilmallie emerged deserved winners and their captain Martin Stewart was presented with the trophy by Camanachd Association Chieftain Jock Turner, with president Jim Barr also in attendance.

Martin MacLean was the match referee.

Kilmallie manager Mark MacPherson was still on a high the day after the final.

He said: 'I just can't say how happy I am sitting here looking at the trophy.'

'However, this isn't about me. This win is dedicated to everyone at the club: the board which runs the club, the supporters and all the great players we've had in the past who never got

to experience an occasion like this. For example, our secretary Linda Campbell puts in a power of work at the club and there are others, too, behind the scenes.'

'I only have to pick up the phone and I get support from them all. We're all working together for the benefit of the club and that's the way it should be.'

'This victory has been a long time coming as we last won the Balliemore Cup in 1993. We want to use this win to help us get into the premiership and I have an eye on this Saturday's league game against Bute already.'

'It's really competitive in the National Division with five teams going for two promotion places.'

The Kilmallie squad made an emotional tribute to president and sponsor Ewen Bowman who passed away at the start of the season.

MacPherson said: 'The players arranged to have the Ewen Bowman company logo emblazoned on the back of the team shirts.'

'It was a mark of respect to someone who was a hugely important figure at our club and the logo will be displayed on all Kilmallie tops from now on.'



First of his hat-trick – Kilmallie's Liam Macdonald turns away from a despairing Blair Morrison of Caberfeidh.



Kilmallie's Mark Graham gets the ball ahead of Cabers' keeper Ewan Pilcher to score the first goal of the game.

KILMALLIE lifted the Balliemore Cup, Lochaber and Kinlochshiel are through to the Camanachd Cup semi-finals, Skye Camanachd reached the last four of the Strathdearn Cup and Kilmory will contest the Bullough Cup Final following the shinty action on Saturday July 16.

### Strathdearn Cup – quarter-final

#### Skye Camanachd 1 Kinlochshiel 0

SKYE Camanachd's second team reached the Strathdearn Cup semi-finals after edging out Kinlochshiel's second team 1-0 in their noon throw up at Pàirc nan Laoch, Portree.

Skye Camanachd second team manager Davie Pringle made four changes to the squad which beat the Beauly second team in the league a week earlier. DJ Gilpin, Calum Gibb, Martin Pringle and Sam MacPhee weren't included. Captain David Grant returned at full back, whilst there were also starting places for Ally 'Cleod' MacLeod, James Pringle and Neil John Campbell.

Kinlochshiel second team manager Willie MacRae continued with veteran Graham Kennedy in goal, while Scotland U17 player Jonnie MacAskill starred in midfield alongside Fraser MacVicar

and Ronan Taylor. Ruairidh MacLeod and Iain MacLellan went close for Skye in the first half with Scott MacLean twice shooting wide of target for 'Shiel.

Ruairidh MacLeod came off injured for Skye in the first period but he returned midway through the second half and made the difference on 73 minutes when he cut in from the Skye right and smashed a great strike over the shoulder of 'Shiel keeper Graham Kennedy to make it 1-0.

'Shiel pressed for a leveller but the Skye defence was strong, with Allan MacLeod superb at buckshee back.

Skye finished the match on the attack and now look forward to a semi final tie against the winners of this coming weekend's quarter final meeting between Kilmallie's second team and Lochcarron.

Kinlochshiel defender Duncan Campbell was sent off by referee John Wood for two yellow cards.

### Bullough Cup – semi-finals

#### Aberdour 0 Kilmory 18

KILMORY cruised into the Bullough Cup Final with an 18-0 victory over Aberdour's second team at Silver Sands.

Kilmory top Marine Har-

vest South Division 2, with Aberdour in bottom spot, so Kilmory were always going to be favourites. Aberdour, who fielded a very young side, did well to reach the last four of this area competition.

Hal Jones was Kilmory's top scorer with four goals, Alex Cunningham and Rhys Williams both grabbed hat-tricks, John Strachan, Ally Cunningham and Craig Taylor all bagged doubles, with David MacAllister and Duncan MacBrayne getting the others.

Alan Harrison was the match referee.

#### Glasgow Mid Argyll P Tayforth P

THE TIE between the Glasgow Mid Argyll second team and Tayforth at Yoker was postponed following a bereavement.

The tie will be rescheduled with the winners facing Kilmory in the Bullough Cup Final.

### Marine Harvest Premiership

#### Skye Camanachd 0 Newtonmore 5

A POWERFUL first half performance helped Newtonmore to a 5-0 win over Skye Camanachd in their 3pm throw up at Pàirc nan Laoch, Portree.

Skye Camanachd first team John MacLeod made two

changes to the squad which lost 4-2 to Newtonmore in their Camanachd Cup quarter final tie at the Eilan a week earlier. Iain Murray was on holiday, whilst Steven Morrison was a late call-off through injury. Gillesbuig MacDonald and David MacInnes returned after missing the previous weekend's match, whilst Chris MacLennan was back from injury. Allan MacKinnon and Shockie MacLennan remained on the injury list.

Newtonmore manager Paul John MacKintosh's main concern was Fraser MacKintosh who has now missed his team's last three outings through injury. Michael Ritchie took over from Owen Fraser in goal, whilst Andy MacKintosh, Jamie Robinson, Drew MacDonald and Craig Ritchie were also unavailable. Iain Richardson started in defence, Norman Campbell took over at full centre and there was a place on the bench for Ackie MacRae after a spell in Australia.

The visitors attacked from the start and Glen MacKintosh tucked the ball into the net from a tight angle on the left following a Paul MacArthur shy from the left on 10 minutes.

Evan Menzies played in Glen MacKintosh who flicked the ball into the net to make 2-0 on 16 minutes.

The 'More forwards reversed roles on 31 minutes when a Glen MacKintosh cross from

the left found Evan Menzies who slotted the ball home. Menzies then scored the goal of the match on 34 minutes when he crashed a David Fraser corner from the right into the roof of the net to make it 4-0 at the break.

MacKintosh completed his hat-trick four minutes after the restart when he struck the ball low into the net following a David Fraser shy from the right.

Skye came more into the game but they had to defend well towards the end of the match to prevent 'More adding to their tally.

Newtonmore, now half-way through their league programme, are currently two points ahead of second-placed Kinlochshiel and they also have three games in hand.

Next up for Skye is a crucial league meeting with Glenurquhart in Portree, whilst Newtonmore travel to An Aird to play Fort William.

#### Kingussie 1 Oban Camanachd 0

KINGUSSIE upset Oban Camanachd's title bid when a late Roddy Young goal gave them a 1-0 win in their 3.30pm throw up at the Dell.

Kingussie had a number of absentees as Robert Mabon, Darren Hanlon, Ryan MacWilliam, Jake MacPherson, Savio Genini and Rory MacGregor were all on holiday. Ryan Borthwick and Fraser Munro,

now free of suspension, were both injured. They were able to call on Louis Munro though as the PE teacher was home for the school holidays and he proved to be a class act at buckshee back.

Oban Camanachd were without youngsters Daniel MacVicar and Ross MacMillan.

The Dell was in terrific condition which helped the players serve up a really entertaining match for the supporters.

Oban Camanachd, with Lorne Dickie excellent at full centre, played some good shinty and they had the better chances overall. Daniel Cameron missed the target on a couple of occasions and home goalie Craig Dawson had to twice sprint from his line to clear the ball following dangerous attacks, while Calum Grant and Rory MacKeachan did well in the wing back positions.

The story of the day was the Kingussie 15-year-olds. Alexander Michie played the whole game at wing centre and turned in a fine performance. Then, with their fathers – Kingussie stalwarts Davie Anderson and Roddy Young.

The young guns combined to conjure up the winning goal just a minute from time. Young had already twice gone close and caused the visiting defence problems with his strong run-

ning. With the clock ticking down, Anderson threaded the ball forward. Young broke through the Oban Camanachd defence to get to the ball just ahead of the advancing Oban keeper Gavin Stobart and the youngster steered the ball into the net for his first senior goal.

There was an acknowledgement from the proud fathers who know just a thing or two about notching winning goals.

The win means Kingussie climb to fourth in the league. They only trail third-placed Oban Camanachd on goal difference although they have played three games more.

Kingussie are not back in action until Friday August 5 when they play Newtonmore in the league at the Dell, which will be shown live on BBC Alba. Next up for Oban Camanachd is a league meeting with Lochaber at Mossfield this Saturday.

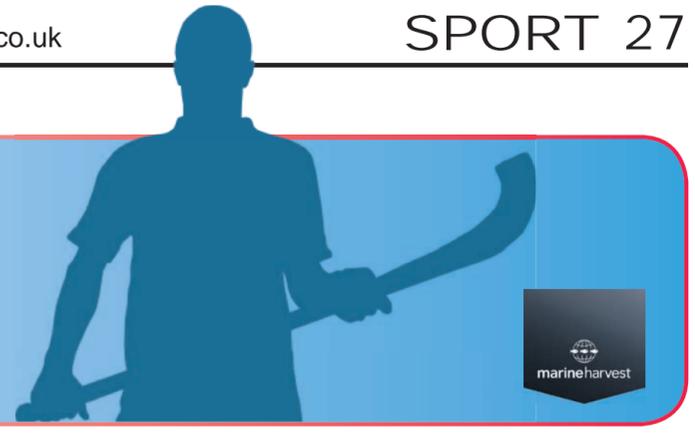
**Fort William 1  
Lovat 2**  
LOVAT go fifth in the league after they beat Fort William 2-1 at An Aird.

Fort William were without Mark Grant who served a one match ban for exceeding the disciplinary points threshold. Bryan Simpson and Stevie Stewart were absent, but Graham Campbell returned.

Lovat were without Daniel Grieve, Martin Mainland, Lorne MacKay and Ryan Ferguson. Fort William started

# Camanachd Cup Macaulay Cup MacTavish Cup Celtic Society Cup

# Sutherland Cup Balliemore Cup Strathdearn Cup Bullough Cup



with the wind at their backs and were the better team during a largely uneventful first half, despite having to overcome a couple of early injury set-backs.

Despite all Fort William's pressure, they weren't able to seriously test Stuart MacDonald in the Lovat goal.

It took 20 minutes for Lovat to threaten the home goal. Lewis Tawse and Calum MacAulay exchanged passes before MacAulay slipped the ball to Kevin Bartlett, but his shot went wide.

When Lovat took the lead on 42 minutes, it was against the run of play. Greg Matheson won the ball and cut in from the right, across the penalty spot. Matheson looked to have hit the ball just too far ahead of him but Callum Cruden allowed the ball to run and Matheson hit a strike across the keeper, high into the net, to give the Balgait side a 1-0 lead at the break.

Referee Evan MacRae awarded Lovat a penalty on 59 minutes. Tawse went on a long run with the ball down the Lovat left. Tawse cut across the 'D' and was chopped down just inside of the area. Matheson sent a superbly struck spot-hit to the keeper's left to make it 2-0.

Lovat were now playing some nice shinty, using the full width of the pitch. They came close to increasing their lead on 66 minutes when Kevin Bartlett picked up a MacAulay corner and beat his man before flicking the ball past an advancing Paul MacKay in the Fort goal. The ball went just past the post though.

Bartlett went neatly round his marker on 70 minutes and sent a fierce, low shot past the keeper's left post.

Bartlett again got past his opponent on 73 minutes and played a great ball to Matheson whose sweetly struck shot produced a super save from keeper Paul MacKay. The rebound fell for Bailey MacKay, who had come on for Graeme MacMillan four minutes earlier, but again the Fort William custodian completed a good double-stop.

Fort William reduced the deficit on 84 minutes when they scored against the run of play. An Alexander MacMillan shot from distance was saved with his feet by Stuart MacDonald, but Graham Campbell was smartly in to tuck home the rebound with the Lovat defenders claiming for offside.

Lovat had to defend at the end with Mark Kelly, always clam under pressure, outstanding throughout at the back whilst goalie Paul MacKay was best for Fort William.

## Marine Harvest North Division 1

### Newtonmore P Fort William P

THE MATCH between the Newtonmore and Fort William second teams at the Eilan was postponed on Friday afternoon as Fort William were unable to raise a team. Fort William have been deducted two points and the match will be rescheduled.

## Marine Harvest South Division 1

### Kyles Athletic 1 Aberdour 0

Kyles Athletic's second team put a dent in Aberdour's title chances when they emerged 1-0 victors in their meeting at Tighnabruaich.

The Kyles seconds benefited from having senior players returning to their first team squad, whilst Aberdour were understrength. Finlay Williamson served the second match of a two game suspension whilst Angus Thorburn, John Martin Philips, Craig Grant and Adam Leask were also out.

The only goal of the game came on 43 minutes when Finlay Williamson scored, with the visitors claiming the ball hadn't

crossed the line. It was a below par performance from Aberdour who had a goal ruled out for offside by referee Calum Girvan. The win means Kyles Athletic go fourth in the league and only trail Oban Celtic by a couple of points, with both teams having played eight matches. Aberdour stay in second spot, two points ahead of Oban Celtic who have a game in hand, and a point behind leaders Lochside Rovers who have played two games more.

### Inveraray 4 Glenorchy 0

Bottom side Inveraray seconds notched just their second league win of the season when they beat Glenorchy 4-0 at the Winterton.

With no first team match, the home side included youngster Fraser Watt, whilst Duncan Smith was still banned for the visitors.

All the goals came in the first half. Allan Cameron was credited with the Inveraray opener after 20 minutes. Lewis Montgomery played a free-hit to Fraser Watt. His shot was saved by the keeper and the ball went into the air but the keeper, under pressure, turned the ball into the roof of his own net while trying to clear the danger.

Fraser Watt added a second five minutes later. The ball was squared back to Watt at the penalty spot and the Scotland U17 player took a touch and shot goalwards. Although the keeper got a slight touch on the ball, he couldn't prevent it from going into the net.

Lewis Montgomery scored twice on 28 and 45 minutes to make it 4-0 at the break. First, Montgomery turned in-between the penalty spot and the 'D' and he fired the ball home with a well-struck shot. He then took advantage when the Glenorchy defence missed a couple of chances to clear a ball crossed into the danger area and Montgomery sent a neat finish into the corner of the net.

There was no further scoring and Inveraray remain bottom of the league, although they have now narrowed the gap on second bottom Glenorchy to just two points and both teams have just four games to go.

The sides meet again this coming weekend at Mart Park.

## Marine Harvest North Division 2

### Strathspey Camanachd P Glengarry P

THE MATCH between Strathspey Camanachd and Glengarry was postponed as the pitch at Kincaig was unplayable. The game has been rescheduled for this coming weekend.

## Hebridean Celtic Festival Inter-Island Cup

LEWIS Camanachd lifted the 2016 Hebridean Celtic Festival Inter-Island Cup after a 6-0 win over Uist Camanachd in their 2pm throw up at the Smith Avenue astro pitch.

There was a change of venue for this tenth inter-island cup clash when Bayhead, Stornoway, was ruled unplayable earlier in the week.

Lewis got off to a super start when Donald Lamont put them in front after three minutes. Scott MacLeod made it 2-0 on 13 minutes and Lamont got his second on 26 minutes. MacLeod got his second on 45 minutes so Lewis took a 4-0 lead into the break.

Lewis continued to dominate after the break and Donald Lamont took his tally to four goals with strikes on 57 and 71 minutes.

The win gives Lewis a fourth successive triumph with Uist last winning the trophy in 2012. Fort William player Sean Cameron was the match referee.

## Camanachd Cup quarter-final replays

### Beaully 1 Kinlochshiel 2

KINLOCHSHIEL eventually saw off the challenge from Beaully with a narrow 2-1 win in their Camanachd Cup quarter final replay at Braeview Park.

Beaully had Scotland U17 player Sandy Elrick back in their side as he has recovered from a hand injury.

Kinlochshiel were without defender Calum MacLean and forward Oliver MacRae, but Mark MacDonald returned at the back.

The teams drew 1-1 at Kirkton a week earlier and this one was to prove equally close.

Beaully had a strong wind in their favour in the first half but it was Gordie MacDonald who gave Kinlochshiel the lead with a goal on 19 minutes. Home goalie Josh Grant saved a shot on goal and the ball broke out to the 'Shiel left where MacDonald turned and shot into the bottom corner of the net.

John MacRae made it 2-0 four minutes later. A 'Shiel shy was stopped in the air by Beaully defender David MacLean but the ball fell nicely for MacRae who found the back of the net on the half-volley.

Kinlochshiel continued to have most of the play but, just like a week earlier, they were

unable to turn their pressure into more goals.

Beaully forward Marc MacLachlan set up an exciting finish when he beat 'Shiel goalie Scott Kennedy with a 20-yard strike with 15 minutes remaining.

It was 'Shiel who had the better chances in the closing stages though and they stayed in front. They will play Newtonmore in the Camanachd Cup semi finals.

### Lochaber 2 Kyles Athletic 1

LOCHABER reached the Camanachd Cup semi finals with a hard-fought 2-1 win over Kyles Athletic at Spean Bridge.

Lochaber were without Zandz Ferguson, Kevin Ferguson and Jack Dignan, but Brennan MacDonald took a place in the squad after suffering an elbow injury when the sides met at Tighnabruaich the previous weekend. Kyles twice came from behind in that game to draw 2-2.

Kyles Athletic had Donald Irvine back after a spell abroad but Cammy Keith was missing. Scott MacDonald was on the bench after recovering from injury.

Both teams enjoyed periods of pressure in the first half without having a serious attempt on goal.

Kyles' full centre Grant Irvine took a knock to the hand on 35 minutes which sidelined him for the rest of the match.

The Tighnabruaich side went in front within a minute of the

restart. They won possession from the throw-up and played the ball up the left wing. Kyles substitute Scott MacDonald fought his way past Lachlan Campbell and although he was pushed in the back, referee John Angus Gillies played advantage and young MacDonald slotted the ball past a helpless Callum MacDonald in the Lochaber goal to make it 1-0.

The tie came alive with shots from both teams producing good saves from Callum MacDonald and John Whyte in their respective goals.

Lochaber equalised on 72 minutes when Pat Toal caught out the Kyles back line with a 30-yard shot which took a wicked bounce and then swerved to beat John Whyte at his right hand post to make it 1-1.

Lochaber now seemed to be the stronger team and they pressured the Kyles defence. They went in front for the first time on 77 minutes when Ben Delaney turned his marker and his 20-yard shot was going straight at the keeper before the ball took a bounce and beat Whyte on his left hand side to make it 2-1.

Kyles pushed Roddy MacDonald forward for the closing stages but it was to be Lochaber's day and they now play Oban Camanachd in the Camanachd Cup semi-finals. Coincidentally, the sides meet on league duty at Mossfield, Oban, this coming Saturday.

Lochaber deserved the win and they were stronger over

the final 30 minutes of the tie. Captain Brian MacDonald was outstanding in defence, while Pat Toal worked tirelessly in midfield. The experience of Neil MacDonald in the forward line was a great help to the Spean Bridge side's cause.

Kyles played well in spells and Robbie MacLeod was the pick of their players. It was a keenly fought match but there were no bookings.

After the match, Lochaber boss Ally Ferguson said: 'I'm just delighted for the boys. After a fairly even first half, we lost a goal right at the start of the second half and we hoped that wasn't going to be the goal that would determine the tie. We dug deep though and showed tremendous team spirit to go on and win the game. The goals came at the right time for us, when our defence and midfield were on top. Kyles threw everything at us at the end but our defence stayed strong. It was tight and it could have gone either way but, over the two games, I think Lochaber did just enough to deserve to be in the semi finals.

'We have the utmost respect for Kyles.

'They are a great side with some great players and we are delighted to have won the tie. Lochaber will grow in confidence and belief on the back of reaching the Camanachd Cup semi-finals and we now look forward to taking on another very good side in Oban Camanachd.'

## Fixtures

### Saturday July 23 Artemis Macaulay Cup semi final

Kinlochshiel v Lovat Innes Wood, at Braeview, Beaully. Kyles Athletic v Inveraray Lachie Wood, at Mossfield Park, Oban, 1.30pm.

### Strathdearn Cup third round

Kilmallie v Lochcarron Brian MacKay. Glenurquhart v Fort William Andy MacLean. Aberdeen Uni v Kingussie Calum Girvan.

### Marine Harvest Premiership

Fort William v Newtonmore Archie Ritchie. Skye v Glenurquhart Evan MacRae, 3pm. Oban Camanachd v Lochaber Robert Baxter, 4pm.

### Marine Harvest National Division

Bute v Kilmallie David Mitchell. Caberfeidh v Ballachulish John Angus Gillies.

### Marine Harvest North Division 1

Newtonmore v Strathglass Graham Cameron. Kinlochshiel v Beaully Neil Ferguson. Skye v Lovat Ronnie Campbell, noon.

### Marine Harvest South Division 1

Oban Celtic v Taynuilt Willie MacDonald, 3pm. Glenorchy v Inveraray Scott McNeil. Kyles Athletic v Col Glen John Wood. Lochside Rovers v Aberdour Ross Brown, noon.

### Marine Harvest North Division 2

Inverness v Caberfeidh Iain Kennedy. Lewis v Boleskine John Matheson. Strathspey v Glengarry Martin MacLean.

### Marine Harvest South Division 2

Aberdour v Bute Euan Pearson.

Throw ups 2.30pm, unless stated.

## Results

Saturday July 16 Balliemore Cup Final Kilmallie 6 - 0 Caberfeidh

### Camanachd Cup third round replay

Beaully 1 - 2 Kinlochshiel Lochaber 2 - 1 Kyles Athletic Strathdearn Cup third round Skye 1 - 0 Kinlochshiel

### Bullough Cup semi final

Glasgow Mid Argyll P - P Tayforth Postponed due to bereavement. Kilmory 18 - 0 Aberdour

### Marine Harvest Premiership

Kingussie 1 - 0 Oban Camanachd Fort William 1 - 2 Lovat Skye 0 - 5 Newtonmore

### Marine Harvest North Division 1

Newtonmore P - P Fort William Fort William unable to field a team. To be rescheduled.

### Marine Harvest South Division 1

Inveraray 4 - 0 Glenorchy Kyles Athletic 1 - 0 Aberdour

### Marine Harvest North Division 2

Strathspey P - P Glengarry Unplayable field

### Heb Celt Cup Final

Lewis 6 - 0 Uist



Former Beaully player Conor Cormack, right, was made to work hard by barrie MacDonald in his return to Braeview in Kinlochshiel colours. Photographs by Donald Cameron.



Beaully goal scorer Marc MacLachlan, front, holds off a challenge from Kinlochshiel's David Falconer.



Kinlochshiel's John MacKenzie, left, and Beaully's Calum Morrison in action on Saturday.

## John McPhee storms to sixth place in German Grand Prix at Sachsenring

'I've got to be happy with that result. It's been a good weekend and a big step forward'

CONNEL'S John McPhee produced an excellent display to score a season-best finish of sixth place in round nine of the Moto3 World Championship at a soaking wet Sachsenring in Germany.

Having already produced his best qualifying performance of the year the previous day to start from eighth place on the grid, McPhee, equipped with a new gearbox produced by British manufacturer Nova Racing Transmissions, made an excellent getaway.

The Racing Steps Foundation-backed rider moved into the top four places at the first turn and went as far as taking a brief lead on the fourth tour.

Honda Team Asia rider Khairul Idham Pawi, who won the early season wet race in Argentina, had made a similarly storming start from 20th place on the grid, and soon took the lead from McPhee before making a charge away from the pack.

With Pawi and his team-mate, Japanese Hiroki Ono, pulling away, McPhee was forced to make a brief defence from the Leopard Racing/KTM of

### Moto3

Andrea Locatelli and with Ono later out of the race, McPhee lost third place to pole sitter Enea Bastianini (Gresini Racing/Honda) on lap 13.

With McPhee and Bastianini tussling, the pair were being caught by Czech rider Jakob Kornfeil, the Drive M7 SIC/Honda rider demoting both soon after.

It was at this point that McPhee deliberately slowed his charge, with six laps remaining due to the weather conditions, slipping further behind Bastianini's team-mate Fabio Di Giannantonio and the Estrella Galicia 0,0/Honda of Jorge Navarro.

But in the final two laps, McPhee, having judged the conditions to be improving, made a second attack, making his way back up to fifth place on the penultimate lap, before losing out to Di Giannantonio in the final couple of corners.

Pawi scored another impressive wet weather victory, taking the flag 11 seconds clear of Locatelli with Bastianini third.

'I felt very confident and

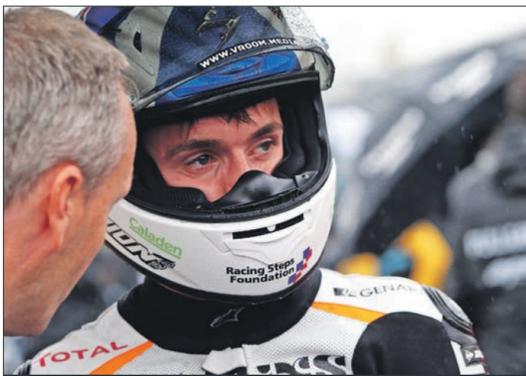


comfortable at the start of the race,' McPhee said. 'The first few laps were the worst, and could catch you out, but I wasn't sure of where the limit was in the middle stages. I almost lost the bike a number of times so took it down a notch.

'I needed to move my body position to get the rear working better and things moved in the right direction.

'I realised that I had to up my pace in the final laps. I've got to be happy with that result. It's been a good weekend and a big step forward. We can now go into the summer break and look forward to the second half of the season with much more confidence.'

John McPhee, number 17, in action during a very wet German Grand Prix at Sachsenring. Photos: Bonnie Lane



John listens intently to some instructions.



The victorious Oban triples team receive their trophy from Anne Marie Sullivan, president of the West of Scotland Women's Bowling Association.

## Oban ladies pick up the silverware

LADIES from Oban Bowling Club won the pairs and triples at the Argyll and Bute finals which were played in Rothesay on Saturday July 16.

The pairs were lead Janet Campbell and skip Anne MacDougall, who beat a team from Kirm and Hunter's Quay in the semi-final then defeated a team from Campbeltown Argyll Green in the final.

The triples were lead Kirsty Gargan, second Emma Gargan and skip Marian Carr. They beat

### Bowls

a team from Upper Cowal in the semi-final and then defeated a team from Campbeltown Bowling Club in the final.

Both Oban teams now go on to represent Argyll and Bute in the county top 10 team next year.

The prizes were presented by Anne Marie Sullivan who is president of West of Scotland Women's Bowling Association, who was a guest at the finals.



Anne MacDougall and Janet Campbell receive the pairs shield.

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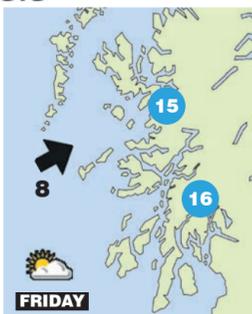
Chain, shackles, buoys all available to purchase in Oban

### WEATHER

Thursday Cloudy with rain showers  
Winds moderate south south westerly  
Temperatures 14°C to 17°C.

Friday Sunny  
Winds light west south westerly  
Temperatures 12°C to 16°C.

Weekend Cloudy on Saturday  
Light rain on Sunday  
Winds light south 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 21, 2016 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST)

Date	am	pm		
Thur	00.29 0.9 06.30 3.8 12.45 0.8 18.52 4.0		Ardrishaig	-5.35 Mallaig +0.25
Fri	01.09 0.8 07.02 3.8 13.21 0.7 19.27 4.0		Campbeltown	-5.30 Portree +0.55
Sat	01.49 0.8 07.37 3.7 14.00 0.7 20.04 3.9		Crinan	-0.47 Tobermory +0.16
Sun	02.30 0.8 08.15 3.6 14.42 0.8 20.46 3.8		Islay Port Ellen	2.00 Dover +5.30
Mon	03.15 0.9 08.59 3.4 15.29 0.9 21.33 3.6		Lochboisdale	+0.30
Tues	04.07 1.1 09.49 3.3 16.23 1.1 22.29 3.4			
Wed	05.08 1.3 10.50 3.1 17.30 1.3 23.44 3.2			

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

### Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

# The Oban Times

**FORT WILLIAM & LOCHABER EDITION**

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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# Strontian benefit cheat fined £1,500 for £24,000 false claim

## He ain't heavy, he's my brother...



Athletes who took part in heavy events at this year's Morvern Highland Games, at Knock Park, Lochaline, united for a team photograph. At the games last Saturday, Craig Nicholson, of Oban - middle - won throwing the hammer, putting the shot, and the David MacBrayne Centenary Cup, open heavyweight, jointly with Scott Clark, second right. Scott, from Arran, also secured first place in tossing the caber and weight over the bar. Turn to page 12 for Morvern Games picture special.

A BENEFIT cheat who falsely claimed almost £25,000 has been ordered to pay £1,500 as punishment.

Charles Wright, of Larch Cottage, Monument Park, Strontian, gave false information to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in March 2008.

The 73-year-old claimed he had only £4,000 of savings and owned no other properties. This allowed Wright to fraudulently claim benefits of £24,340.52 between March 2008 and June 2012.

Wright eventually pleaded guilty to the charge in 2015. Last month he presented a cheque for £16,000 to cover the remaining amount owed and on Tuesday he appeared in Fort William Sheriff Court for sentencing.

Sheriff William Taylor presided over the case, during which it was heard the fraudulent claims were made by Wright during a phone call and because of the nature of the conversation and the fact he was in his own home, Wright had taken a more 'cavalier' approach to his finances.

Defence lawyer Hamish Melrose also confirmed Wright's cheques had cleared and that he had actually paid slightly in excess of what was owed.

When explaining Wright's current situation, Mr Melrose said a social background report was conducted a year ago and since then his circumstances have not materially changed but that Mr Wright now qualifies for benefits.



Charles Wright leaves Fort William Court in disguise on Tuesday.

Photograph by Anthony MacMillan Photography.

The court also heard it was decided there was no need for a proceeds of crime application to be made as long as full reimbursement was made to the DWP.

Sheriff Taylor interjected, raising the point that this was a 'continued crime' which took place over many years and where a man who had claimed more than £24,340 in pension credit was believed to have nearly half a million pounds worth of assets.

With regards to the figures Mr Melrose replied: 'That is disputed.'

Mr Melrose added: 'Mr Wright receives £120 per week and that is the sole income for both he and his wife and he has no assets.'

The Sheriff questioned Mr Melrose's statement that Wright has no assets.

When informed the prop-

erty he currently lives in is now owned by his daughter, Sheriff Taylor said to Wright: 'It seems to me that that was an attempt to divest yourself of assets in order to prevent any money being obtained.'

Mr Melrose defended Wright and said the false claims had been made in relation to inheritance tax but since then the correct information has been submitted.

He also said: 'Irrespective of the assets, Mr Wright believed he was entitled to that money because of his age.'

Sheriff Taylor replied: 'It seems to me that you are a person who is a stranger to the truth.'

'You defrauded the public purse and expected to be patted on head and the sent away. Custody is a real option here.'

Mr Melrose replied: 'Mr Wright is aware of that.'

He told the court Wright had attended court regularly and he had discussed this with his client but he urged for the seriousness of Wright's crimes to be mitigated by his age, the fact the money had been reimbursed and that he has no previous convictions and hoped an alternative route may be available.

The Sheriff replied that the route he found attractive was a financial one.

He added: 'Given the facts that are available to me, I think a financial penalty is appropriate.'

After discussing the fine with his lawyer, it was agreed Wright would pay £1,500 in £100 instalments on a monthly basis.

## TIMESLINE

### Kilmallie centre celebrates award

KILMALLIE Community Centre is to be presented with a Keystone Award.

This award recognises the work of the community centre, which is managed by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO).

The award will be presented at a celebration event at the community centre on Friday July 29 at noon.

### Elderly couple are injured in attack

TWO elderly people have been injured in a disturbance in Fort William. A 49-year-old man has been detained. A man in his 70s has been taken to Glasgow Royal Infirmary in a critical condition and a woman in her 60s was released from Belford hospital following treatment.

### Tourism entries up on last year

MORE than 200 entries have been received for the Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards (HITA) this year - a rise of more than 15 per cent on last year's figure.

Judging has now started to determine the winners in 15 categories, with the best places to stay, eat and drink and enjoy the area's sporting and musical culture among those to be honoured.

A shortlist will be announced in September with the grand final at the Kingsmills Hotel, Inverness, on November 4.



## Sheriff court continues drink drive and knife case against retired Fort judge

THE CASE continues against a retired judge from Fort William who is charged with drink driving and possession of a knife.

Richard Twining Sidwick, 71, from Mileston Hill House, first appeared in Fort William sheriff court on May 12 after

registering 110 milligrams of alcohol in a 100mg breath sample at his home the previous evening. The legal limit in Scotland is 22.

Sidwick was also charged with failing to identify the driver of the vehicle when requested to do so at 8.30pm

at his house on May 11 and being in possession of the knife at Fort William Police Office the same day.

His case was presented again in Fort William on Tuesday (July 19) and Sidwick is next due to appear in court on Monday August 15.

## Timetable talks prompt debate

A FERRY operator's appeal for views on next year's timetable is being seen by some as an effort to avoid 'another fiasco'.

CalMac contacted transport forums and other groups on July 12 asking members to take part in a consultation period before deciding on a timetable for summer 2017.

To ensure a consensus view, groups were asked to submit a single response voicing the overall opinion of that body before July 25.

In an email, CalMac wrote: 'We would be grateful if you could consult with your members and advise of the aspirations for the forthcoming summer 2017 season. Please note that unless there is a compelling reason the time-

table will remain as per summer 2016.' A CalMac spokesman told *The Oban Times*: 'Comments will be collated and passed on to Transport Scotland allowing them to make a full and considered decision on final timetable arrangements for next summer.'

The correspondence follows months of uncertainty regarding the fate of *MV Coruisk* after it was moved from the Mallaig to Armdale route to serve Mull. Rob Ware, Sleaf Transport Forum secretary, still wants to know why that decision was made and remains unconvinced by CalMac's attempts to reach out.

He said: 'To be contacted by CalMac and given such a short time as a supposed consultation period gives the

impression CalMac wants to act like those who don't get in touch before the deadline are happy with the situation, which is obviously not the case. What it is really doing is trying to avoid another fiasco like this year.'

He added: 'The biggest worry is what happens next year. I have already heard of one company which has said it will be cancelling its package next year. They said they might run a few tours but not to the same extent as this year because the service was just too unreliable and the cancellations cost them dearly.'

'That is just one of, I'm sure, many tangible examples where companies are having to pay the price due to inconvenience caused by this whole process. It could have been avoided.'

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Are Your Eyelids Crusty or Inflamed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do Your Eyes Feel Dry or Uncomfortable Using A Computer?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have You Been Told You Have Dry Eyes or Blepharitis?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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# 'Stranded' volunteers start a new life on Ardnamurchan

MONICA GIBSON  
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TWENTY-THREE people have settled on Ardnamurchan as part of a new TV show.

The group of volunteers, aged 24 to 55, will have to survive for 365 days in what Channel 4 describes as a remote corner of the UK – or 'left after Acharacle' to others.

The concept of the programme, entitled *Eden*, is to allow the group to start from scratch: build shelter, cultivate the land and form a society among themselves away from mobile phones, politics and the internet.

Supposedly stranded on a 600-acre site, contestants will be captured by 45 cameras, filming 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The first episode aired on Monday night and, while filming is expected to continue throughout the year, the initial onslaught showed the first three or so weeks since the group arrived.

On seeing his new home for the year, Anton, a rowing coach, said: 'It's absolutely gorgeous. My job is to survive for 365 days.'

Yoga instructor Jasmine, 24, showed the cameras a toilet created by the campers.

The facilities didn't seem quite to her usual standard. However, she said: 'But I have this view and there's nowhere else I'd rather be.'

The series is being produced by London-based KEO films whose application in 2015 to remove public right of access in the Ardnamurchan Estate caused controversy.

Some people who live in the area were unconvinced they were as 'isolated' as programme-makers would like audiences to believe, while others were concerned about the environmental impact.

The application was approved by the Scottish Government and restrictions on the area will continue until spring 2017 but Brian Murphy, who is councillor for the area, believes most people have now come to terms with the idea.

Mr Murphy said: 'At the time there were a few people who were unhappy about it but that was mainly due to the restrictions. I think the majority who live in the area are quite happy about it now. It brings employment before the programme began and during and the hope is it sparks interest in the area and causes an influx for tourism.'

When asked if he could see himself living 'Eden style' he said laughing: 'Nope. Absolutely not.'

The show caused a reaction online with both locals and foreigners having their say.

On *The Oban Times* Facebook page Niall Gordan admitted: 'Personally I detest this kind of programme ... never mind.'

Sylvia McKay said the show is described as another *Castaway* – the programme filmed in the Hebrides 17 years ago and which brought fame for Ben Fogle.

On the *Eden* page, Dan Kirton commented: 'Stunning part of the world!'

Carlo Ruggiero asked where in Scotland was this set – and he received dozens of replies, including one from Neil Mac-



The strangers from all over the UK have to learn to live together for a year.

Lennan who explained: 'A few miles from a baker's, hotel, doctor's surgery, loads of holiday homes and a road full of tourists in campervans, about 15 miles from where I live.'

He added: 'Turn left after Acharacle.'

Sue Brown, who runs a tea room close to the set, said: 'I didn't realise they were already in when I was there at Easter. Just thought the set was being completed. I did marvel at the fence. Whoever got that contract was laughing.'

“ The hope is it sparks interest in the area and causes an influx for tourism ”

Brian Murphy councillor



Supposedly stranded in Ardnamurchan, above, the contestants were given tools, seeds and livestock to start them off.

## TIMESLINE

### School honours pupils' success

A CELEBRATION of success was held at Ardnamurchan High School.

Teachers and students gathered and spoke of achievements by the student body, including Emma Cameron, who received Highland Young Musician of the Year award.

Head teacher Christopher Millar-Craig spoke of the uncertainty for young people over the recent referendum on EU membership but outlined the strong position the school is in for the year ahead.

In keeping with the school's Gaelic ethos, the event, at the end of last month, closed with the young people's Film G entry which was nominated for Best Mobile Phone Production, Mnathan, Ghasigich na h-Alba.



Aaron Hartley is congratulated by Ian Love.

### Aaron wins top student award

A FIRST-YEAR mechanical engineering apprentice at Rio Tinto has been named Inverness College student of the year.

Aaron Hartley, who has been employed at the smelter in Fort William for 11 months, was presented with the award at the end of his 38-week course.

He received his certificate at the recent college prizegiving and was also congratulated on his return to the Lochaber smelter by owner and maintenance superintendent Ian Love.



Project manager Jim Sandeman with community liaison manager Kelly Scott and environmental project manager Simon Hall at the public meeting last week.

## Energy firm unveils plans for power improvements

PLANS for improvements to Fort William's electricity infrastructure were unveiled at a public meeting last week.

Details of the upgrade to the existing substation at Achintee Road were laid out by Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) last Tuesday (July 12).

The project, to be carried out by Scottish Hydro Electric (SHE), involves replacing 45-year-old transformers with two new ones. This will enable new generation connections and improve the security of supply in the area.

The company will also be closing off the existing entrance to the substation, to avoid traffic congestion

outside houses at the site, and opening a new one away from neighbouring houses.

One resident, who lives in the house directly across from the existing substation entrance, appeared unfazed by the work.

He said: 'I have never been bothered by any traffic outside. The substation has been here longer than me, so I am used to it.'

SHE will be submitting a planning application to the Highland Council in August, and will be taking feedback it received from the meeting last week into consideration when putting its proposal together.

Jim Sandeman, project manager, said: 'We want to do what

we can to improve things for residents on the limited budget we have. We are in detailed discussions with the landowner and the initial feedback is good.'

Work is due to start on April 1, 2017, and be finished by October 31, 2018.

Kelly Scott, community liaison manager, told *The Oban Times*: 'The new transmitters will be much quieter. In the next few weeks we will be carrying out noise surveys.'

The new transmitters will be bigger, by around half a metre, but Mr Sandeman said their carbon footprint would be the same.

Talking after the meeting Ms Scott said: 'We wanted to come into the community to address any concerns there might be, and make sure we are keeping people as involved as possible. People's main concern is they are kept informed, so we want to continue this.'

With pedestrian access towards Ben Nevis nearby, Ms Scott said: 'We are not planning to block off any walking access to Ben Nevis during construction.'



The Fort William substation on Achintee road that is to be upgraded.



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## What the man and woman in the street think of the traffic disruption



**Ronny Wilson, 52,** said: 'Fort William is a traffic-sensitive area. Anything that could create gridlock on the road should be done in the evening or during the night. We only have one road, and once that's closed or backlogged, we are done for, especially in the height of summer.'



**Morag Forsyth, 66,** said: 'I was trying to come out of the town when it was coming through, and it took me over an hour to get back to Caol from the centre.'



**Kate MacLellan, 67,** said: 'Bringing an abnormal load through the town in the middle of the day is absolutely shocking. Surely it's common sense that they should have been given a specific time when it wouldn't be a traffic issue.'



**Angus Francis, 27,** said: 'I don't think it's such a big deal. Welcome to Scotland. Being stuck in traffic is normal round here. People have to run their businesses, so if the lorry needed through, then it needed through.'

# Carrying a load of controversy

ELLIE FORBES

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'ABSOLUTLY shocking' – those were the words of one Fort William resident when asked about the timing of an abnormal load-carrying lorry that travelled through the town last Tuesday.

The lorry, which caused mayhem in Fort William on July 12, was said to be carrying a replacement part for a wind turbine on the Isle of Skye.

Brian Murphy, councillor for Fort William and Ardnarmurchan, said: 'A wide load came through [Fort William] carrying a wind turbine and it took up both lanes of the road. It caused a long tailback on its way up to Skye.'

Speaking to *The Oban Times* last week, Mr Murphy said: 'To allow a load like that to go through the town in the middle of the day, in the middle of the week and in middle of July just seems incredible.'

'Fort William is a bottleneck at the best of times. There are no diversions. For there to be something like that going through, I can't imagine the cost – commercial vehicles being held up, what it's costing the public in terms of time and fuel, a large cost to buses and taxis ... all timetables will be really messed up.'

'I will be writing to Transport Scotland, to the police, all the MSPs and anyone I can get a hold of really because this just



The lorry carrying a wide load caused major traffic disruption across Lochaber last week.

cannot happen, especially in the height of the season. They must realise we are putting people off the area and making it a nightmare for those who live here.'

Mr Murphy contacted Police Scotland's traffic division immediately to express his concern about the load returning to Fort William on its journey from Skye the following day (July 13). He said: 'The police traffic

agreed that the load should be told to come down the A9.

'It said it was going to contact the haulage company to instruct them to go back down the A9, and as far as I'm aware that's what it did.'

'I made the point that these lorries should be travelling at night, but I was informed that they are not allowed to go out when it is dark. However, at this time of year, they could

still be moving in the very early hours when it is light but there is less traffic. I understand in the winter it's different, but the roads are much quieter then.'

Mr Murphy added: 'In the long term, I would like to see an acknowledgement from Police Scotland and Traffic Scotland that abnormal loads should not be going through Fort William at this time of year during the day.'

A spokesperson for BEAR Scotland responded: 'Haulage companies are required to inform us of their intended movements and we are required to advise them of the safest and most suitable route to take, as well as pointing out any roadwork restrictions.'

'The vehicle travelling on the A82 on July 12 was one of 73 noted on that route along this month and, as it is not re-

quired, we were not specifically notified of the timing of the movement.'

'We have no power to dictate the timing of movements although most companies choose to do so offpeak.'

'When notified by the haulier or an affiliated party, there is usually a certain window of time given by the applicant as to when the abnormal load will run, sometimes spanning months rather than providing a specific date and time.'

A Police Scotland spokeswoman said: 'Police escorted the wide load through Fort William and onto Invergarry.'

One woman told *The Oban Times*: 'I saw a police bike with the blue lights on passing the golf club in Fort William. That then signalled for the lorry to slow down/stop. Then about three minutes later a police car with blue lights went past and maybe one minute later the lorry went past.'

Stewart MacLean from the A82 partnership said: 'This journey should have been undertaken in offpeak times, and the haulier should have been encouraged to use the A9 where possible when transferring goods to the West Coast.'

'The A82 is hardly suitable for normal traffic without this increased burden. I think there was a significant breakdown in communications between national and local agencies, as it seems no-one locally was advised of what was happening.'

## TIMESLINE

### Affordable flats to be ready in March

NEW flats on Fort William's High Street are starting to take shape.

Noticeable progress is being made on the 22 Tweedale flats that will be available for affordable rent by the council next year.

A Highland Council spokeswoman said: 'The completion date is due to be March 2017.'

'The flats will be a mixture of one and two bedrooms and we have not yet made any allocations. Anyone interested needs to make sure they are on the Highland Housing Register.'

'We will be starting to allocate the homes just before the completion date so people will be able to move in as soon as possible after the work is completed.'

### Plans submitted for holiday pods

A PLANNING application to turn vacant land in Invergarry into an area for all-year-round camping and holiday pods has been submitted to the Highland Council.

The application, which was lodged on Friday July 8, is requesting permission to change the use of the 6,000 square metre site in Mandally.

### Appointments at sports association

NEW appointments were made at the recent annual general meeting of the Lochaber Sports Association (LSA).

Jane Blanchard stepped down as chairwoman but remains on the board as a director, while Helen Smith and Tom Cameron were welcomed as new directors.

A new chairperson is to be appointed at the next board meeting.

LSA is also looking for a new accountant or financial adviser.

John Mortimer was elected onto the grants and awards committee as treasurer.

### Missing tourist is safe and well

POLICE in Fort William can confirm that a missing man from Dorset has been traced safe and well.

Jonathon Bates, 32, from Highcliffe, went missing on March 16 and was last seen in the Ben Nevis area of Lochaber on April 23.

Police said they would like to thank the media and members of the public for their assistance.

# Isabel is a natural-born helper

MONICA GIBSON

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A WIDOW who has no children of her own has been fundraising and donating clothes for babies because it's 'what she's always wanted to do'.

Isabel MacPhee, 72, is a keen knitter and an active community member from Caol who has previously helped young families by providing comfort packages and even pledged to keep a family's triplets in nappies for a year.

Recently, Mrs MacPhee has been influential in getting cuddle cots installed in the local hospital and funeral parlours to help families come to terms with losing children at birth.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'At the moment I am getting involved with the cuddle cots at the hospital and the undertaker to help families who have been through tough times.'

'It's not much but I think it can help some people.'

'And in September I will be going out with my hamper and selling tickets for St John's church.'

'It's not my church but I do it every year for Father Roddy. I try to raise about £500 towards their ceilidh,



Isabel MacPhee, standing, also helps with the lunch club at the Caol Community Centre, where up to 30 people enjoy hot meals on weekdays.

which is something many folk around here look forward to.'

Mrs MacPhee added: 'The hamper is filled with some baked bits and lots of lovely things – and a nice bottle

of malt. I put nice ribbons around it and then sell tickets.'

'I get a lot of support from people in the area and, you know, I don't think there's anyone who has let me down

when it comes to donations.'

Mrs MacPhee's enjoyment of being part of the community has been reflected in the jobs she has taken.

She worked as a 'clippy' on the MacBrayne's buses and on the check-out in Safeway for 13 years, but even then she knew how she wanted to keep herself busy after her last shift.

She said: 'I just always wanted to help people.'

'I don't have a family myself and so I always said when I was retired I would fundraise and I would try to help this one and that one, and that's what I've done. It keeps me out and about rather than sitting about the house.'

'I sponsored the triplets before and now I have twins who live nearby who are about 15 months old and I enjoy knitting wee bits and dropping nappies and stuff into the grannies – just to help out.'

Apart from knitting, fundraising, sponsoring families and helping the local community, Mrs MacPhee enjoys listening to the radio in her free time.

She said: 'I put Morag on the radio every morning. I don't have much Gaelic but I enjoy listening to it and I have my music playing and that keeps me in good spirits.'

# Port officer is honoured at meeting with the Queen



John MacDonald met the Queen.

A CALMAC port assistant was invited to join Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at an exclusive gathering at the start of the month.

John MacDonald, who has worked for CalMac for 10 years and is based at Lochmaddy Port Office, was one of just 30 Scots invited to the reception at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in recognition of his work to bring together an archive of David MacBrayne artefacts and memorabilia.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh spent time chatting with each of the invitees about their individual achievements.

Mr MacDonald said: 'I spoke to both the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh individually.'

'The Queen was very nice and interested in what I had done.'

'The Duke of Edinburgh was very chatty and had a great sense of humour.'

He went on: 'It was a real surprise. I

hadn't known anything about it until about a week before.'

'The day I got home to find the invitation – which is now part of the exhibition at the port office – I felt honoured and really proud that the archive and exhibition had caught someone's attention to the extent that they nominated me as a CalMac representative.'

'It was a real day to remember and I'm humbled to have had the opportunity' he added.

## Wildfires Guidance

Advice from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

**Join Scotland's Fight Against Fire and dispose of smoking materials responsibly in rural areas**

(Photo courtesy of Rob Wain)

Wildfires are very dangerous, spreading fast, changing direction, threatening wildlife, livestock, domestic animals, environment, property and people.

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## Scott takes title at Inveraray

Scott Rider celebrates with the ground staff after winning the gold medal in the world championship for caber tossing at Inveraray Highland Games on Tuesday.

The Kent-based heavyweight athlete saw off a strong field competing in the grounds of Inveraray Castle on a day blessed with hot temperatures and plenty of sunshine – unlike recent times which have seen Argyll deluged with persistent rain.

The heavyweight events were the highlight of the games, with the caber world championship as the focal point, but with much attention on the piping, dancing, athletics and cycling.

Scott is no stranger to sports fans north of the border, having represented England in the shot put competition at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014.

■ Don't miss next week's *Oban Times* for a full report and picture special.

Photograph: Kevin McGlynn



## TIMESLINE

### Friends take the plunge for charity

TWO FRIENDS will raise money for charity by swimming from Mull to Oban this Saturday.

Gemma Stewart and Gill Spink will take the plunge on behalf of the Roses Charitable Trust, which each year takes groups of young people from disadvantaged areas on residential breaks.

Gemma, who hopes her swim will raise awareness of the charity, said: 'It offers young people amazing opportunities for adventures and challenges, that they otherwise wouldn't be able to access.'

To sponsor them, visit [www.cafdonatmobile.cafonline.org](http://www.cafdonatmobile.cafonline.org).

### Electrical storm strikes over Oban

AN ELECTRICAL storm lit up the skies of Oban in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

The ferocious sounds of thunder and flashes of lightning could be seen and heard throughout the night.

This came after Tuesday was recorded as being the hottest day of the year in Scotland.

A number of people braved the conditions to capture the event on camera and inundated social media with pictures and videos.

### Jetskiers are given warning by police

JETSKIERS in Oban were advised by police to slow down after causing concerns on Tuesday evening.

The warm weather had brought the thrillseekers to Ganavan and residents were worried their speeds of 'up to 100mph' would end in an accident.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING



# Jobs threat at Oban hospital

LOUISE GLEN

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ELEVEN clinical staff posts at Lorn and Islands Hospital are set to go in a bid to cut costs at the area's largest infirmary.

Hospital bosses say there will be no redundancies, but insiders say there is a 'tangible reduction [through 'natural wastage'] in staff numbers' that will make the delivery of the 'high level' of clinical care at the hospital 'even more difficult to maintain'.

A hospital practitioner, who did not want to be named, spoke to *The Oban Times* in bid to 'do the job NHS Highland isn't', in telling the community the truth about the 'mass reduction' in staff.

He also revealed plans to

reduce the number of beds in the hospital and create a medical reception area for patients 'in order to send people home rather than admit them'.

It was something, he said, that will 'fundamentally mean that the burden of care of seriously-ill patients will be on a dwindling community staff, and therefore onto family members ill-equipped to deal with the situation'.

The man added: 'Do not be misled by the florid talk of the hospital managers.'

'This hospital is at serious risk from all the many reductions in staff.'

The longstanding staff member said: 'It has become ridiculous. We no longer have the time to do our jobs.'

'The fact is plain and simple, we are bearing the brunt of the

overspend in other areas. We need people to stop complaining about the hospital and to start getting active about making as much noise as possible to save what we have.'

Discussions on the future of the hospital have alarmed members of the integrated joint board – the organisation set up to merge health care and NHS Highland in Argyll.

In public and private, numerous board members say the health board is making sweeping changes while governance for the new board has still not been finalised.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon, the former chairwoman of the integrated joint board, said: 'Any job losses in the health service would be a major concern to me because, as it is, the staff are getting thinner and

thinner on the ground and if they make it any thinner again we will be going to the cities for everything.'

'We cannot afford to lose any more services from Oban.'

'I would encourage everyone to get behind the staff of the hospital.'

'Perhaps in the meantime everyone who has to travel to another hospital should be claiming expenses to show just how much it costs for people from this area to go elsewhere.'

A spokesman for NHS Highland said: 'Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership's strategic plan for 2016/17 to 2018/19 has identified six areas of focus, one of which is to reduce the number of avoidable emergency admissions to hospital.

'Within Lorn and Islands Hospital, work is currently under way to redesign the two medical wards and create a medical assessment unit.'

'This is all part of a move to shifting the balance of care away from acute hospital settings and towards treating people in their own homes whenever possible.'

'The creation of assessment beds will improve the patient pathway within the hospital.'

'Following patient assessment in the [medical assessment] unit, a decision will be made to either discharge the patient directly home or admit them to the ward for further treatment.'

'Close links with the multi-disciplinary teams, including physiotherapist, occupational therapist and social worker,

together with the support of the local extended community care team, will help speed up patient discharge or transfer from the assessment unit.'

Confirming the cutting of beds at the hospital, the spokesman continued: 'A reduction of eight inpatient medical beds will take place by October 2016 and a trial of four assessment beds is due to take place in August.'

'Work is currently under way looking at the appropriate workforce levels for the unit in conjunction with staff.'

'We are looking forward to working in partnership with the third sector and voluntary organisations to ensure patients receiving our services have a positive experience.'



The team delivering the innovative Biker Down course.

## Firefighters deliver innovative course to reduce biker deaths on Argyll roads

FIREFIGHTERS are working to reduce the number of motorcyclists killed or injured on Argyll's roads.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) crews regularly respond to serious collisions knowing those on two wheels are by far the most likely to be involved in a tragedy.

As many riders travel in pairs or groups, a fellow biker is often the first person on scene following an incident involving a motorcycle.

In a pilot project, firefighters in Argyll and Bute, Edinburgh and North Lanarkshire are running Biker Down courses, giving riders potentially life-saving skills to help them

make the scene of a collision safe and protect a casualty.

The initiative first came to Scotland in 2015 when firefighter John Branney of North Lanarkshire's Cumbernauld Community Fire Station sought permission to replicate the Kent Fire and Rescue Service project.

His team of volunteers – all firefighters and members of the SFRS bikers section – has delivered numerous courses over the past year.

Their efforts have been bolstered with crews at Oban and South Queensferry also now delivering the courses.

Dozens of motorcyclists from across Scotland have taken part,

with the firefighters sharing their experience of attending serious road traffic collisions to make them aware of the dangers that face casualties and those coming to their aid.

Courses are currently scheduled to run in Motherwell on Saturday August 13 and in Oban on two Sundays, August 14 and 28.

Anyone interested in taking part in a course should contact the teams operating in the west and east of Scotland by email to [bikerdownscotland@firescotland.gov.uk](mailto:bikerdownscotland@firescotland.gov.uk).

More information on the courses is available by visiting the Biker Down Scotland Facebook page.

## Outdoor challenge prize fund £10,000

OUTDOOR goods retailer Mountain Warehouse, which opened a store in Oban this summer, is offering £10,000 to the winner of its fourth charity challenge.

The annual initiative encourages the public to set themselves daring outdoor challenges to raise money for the charity of their choice.

The UK's largest outdoor retailer has named TV adventurer and author Simon Reeve as its ambassador and this year's prize also includes the chance to meet Simon and take part in his charity challenge.

Entries close on Sunday July 31. The winner will be based on public voting over two rounds. The final winner will be announced on Monday September 19.



Simon Reeve.

## Wildlife trust hosts summer fair in Oban

THE ARGYLL and Lochaber Group of the Scottish Wildlife Trust will be holding its summer fair on Saturday August 6, in partnership with Dunollie Museum, Castle and grounds, the seat and ancestral home of the Clan MacDougall.

Visitors should expect to find plenty of refreshments, a variety of activities for adults and children and arts and crafts.

Entry includes the museum, castle and grounds so visitors will also be able to walk up to the newly-consolidated Dunollie Castle for stunning views across Oban bay.

'Come and have a great family day out while you support our work to protect Scotland's wildlife and wild places,' said Tony Mitchell-Jones, chairman of the Argyll and Lochaber Group.

'We expect to have miniature railway rides, Splat the Rat, chainsaw art, local musicians, a tombola and lucky dip and, of course, plenty to eat and drink.'

The Scottish Wildlife Trust, champion of Scotland's wildlife since 1964, manages 120 wildlife reserves across the country and works to protect all wildlife and wild places. The Argyll and Lochaber Group, part of a network of more than 1000 volunteers, supports the work of the trust and helps look after local reserves.

Argyll and the West Coast is particularly important for the internationally-scarce Celtic rainforest, as rich in species as tropical rainforest.

Shian Wood, on the shores of the picturesque and internationally protected Loch Creran, is a

small but impressive example of ancient woodland, with wonderful displays of wildflowers and butterflies.

Ballachuan Hazelwood, on the beautiful Isle of Seil, is a stunning example of Atlantic hazel woodland, rich in insects and lichens and also a great place for spotting otters; certainly the most magical place for a walk.

Further south, Knapdale, near Crinan, is the site of the first trial reintroduction of beavers to Britain.

The beavers are hard to spot, but the trust organises regular walks to look for them and signs of their tree-felling and dam-building activities. See [www.scottishbeavers.org.uk/visit-knapdale/](http://www.scottishbeavers.org.uk/visit-knapdale/) for details.

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## POLICE FILES

STAFF inside the Lorne Hotel were shocked when a large, heavy police cone and a wooden block came flying through the window after closing time last Wednesday.

The incident at 12.05am is being investigated by police in Oban.

A large window was damaged during the incident.

Police Constable Fraser Anderson, who is in charge of the investigation, would like anyone with information to come forward.

A man, who was seen running away from the scene by staff, is described as wearing a white hooded top and dark trousers.

**TWO MEN at the Tiree Music Festival were given fixed penalties for public order offences during the event last weekend.**

**Police said the festival was, on the whole, good-humoured.**

A 45-YEAR-OLD man has been reported to the procurator fiscal after being found in possession of herbal cannabis last Thursday July 14. The man had the class-B drug on the street on Station Square, Oban, shortly after 3pm.

**AN OPEN day is to be held at Oban Police Station to allow access for the public.**

**On Thursday August 4, between 10am and 4pm, police officers will be on hand to show members of the public and children around the station.**

**Members of staff from the community investigation unit, uniformed police, road policing officers and others will be on hand to meet people at the Albany Street premises.**

**Police cars, cells and, of course, handcuffs will be available for members of the public to try.**

## Gaelic book is translated

A RENOWNED Gaelic book that outlines what it was like growing up on Barra and Vatersay has been translated into English.

*Air Mo Chuairt* was written by Ealasaid Chaimbeul and gives an account of growing up as a child on Barra after the First World War, the impact of the Second World War and then returning to work as a school teacher on Barra and Vatersay.

Another Barra schoolteacher, Mary Flora Galbraith, translated the Gaelic original, which was first published by Acair in 1982.

## Threatening behaviour

AN OBAN man has pleaded guilty to behaving in threatening or abusive manner at his home.

Joshua Straub, 18, admitted causing fear and alarm by shouting and swearing at 53 Creag Bhan Village on April 23, Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday.

Sheriff Valerie Johnston continued bail and deferred sentencing until August 16 to await medical reports.

## Dancers set new record

A RECORD number of Highland dancers have signed up for next month's Cowal Highland Gathering.

The event is set to welcome 684 dancers, an increase of around 40 from last year.

This year's event will take place from Thursday August 25 until Saturday August 27.

The dancing competitions will start on Thursday with the Scottish National Highland Dancing Championships.

## Scottish Affairs Committee inquiry

THE SCOTTISH Affairs Committee has launched a new inquiry on Scotland's place in Europe following the EU referendum, in which a clear majority of people in Scotland voted to remain.

The inquiry will look at available options for retaining Scotland's EU membership and focus on how Scotland can best be represented in future negotiations.

# Calls for action to avert town centre traffic chaos

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

CALLS for a bypass around Oban are being made as travel times through the town are becoming chaotic.

The clogged roads are causing concern not only to residents but also to those trying to make their way to the ferry terminal.

Some say it is the town centre works delaying vehicles, while others say it is the hourly ferry service to Mull but, whatever it is, residents on both sides of the water want the problem solved.

Mary MacLeod, a grandmother of three who lives on George Street, said that for the

first time ever, the traffic during school holiday period is as bad as when her grandchildren are in school.

Mrs MacLeod said: 'Oban is like a rat run with people trying to find quicker ways around the town.'

'Let's face it, there are no quicker ways now. Oban is gridlocked most of the time.'

'We need a ring road. Without it Oban is just one big car park.'

At last week's Mull Community Council there were reports from business owners that hotel guests and staff were finding it almost impossible to make it through Oban in time for the book-in period for the ferry.

A woman who did not want to be named said: 'The congestion on Soroba Road is due to the over-development of housing along Glengallon Road and to the industrial estate beyond, as well as the new school campus, the fire station and Lorn and the Isles Hospital.'

'Congestion is also caused by the CHORD development in the town centre, the traffic lights at the high school junction and also the layout in Argyll Square.'

'Traffic coming from the south of Oban also adds to the congestion.'

Reader Bill Gray said: 'Long-term planning?

'What's that? Is there ANY plan anywhere? I suggest it's a long time past starting a plan. ASAP please.'

Another reader, who did not want to be named, said that a trip to see a seriously-ill relative last Saturday turned sour when she turned onto Alma Crescent, the nearest street to the ferry terminal.

The woman said: 'There was a real bottleneck that made it almost impossible for me to get along the road. I don't know what would have happened if there was an ambulance or a fire tender. I think they would have been stuck.'

'Something needs to be done.'

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Previously the council has said a development road is on the plans for the future development of the town.'

'However, there are no plans in place to fund the development road at present.'

MSP Humza Yousaf, the Scottish transport minister said he was mindful of the congestion in the town following a visit last week.

He told *The Oban Times* that he would be working closely with Argyll and Bute Council to find a long-term solution for the 'difficult situation in the town'.

## HAVE YOUR SAY on solutions to worsening traffic disruption in Oban



**Marion Evans, 53, from Oban,** said: 'I have come from behind the hospital today and there were no problems with traffic, but I have noticed that the car park is very busy today. I had to circle round twice. Sometimes when you are coming out of here you almost meet cars as the lights change quickly. The lights create a bottleneck at peak times.'



**Mr Twigg, 63, from Oban,** said: 'The only complaint I have is with what used to be a round about at the station. All it takes is a bus to go passed and there's no room.'



**Margaret Wilson,** who is from Glasgow, but comes up to Oban all the time, said: 'I think the difficult thing with Oban is you only have one way in and out. If there was another road it might help - a road that bypassed the front and led to the shops and Tesco.'



**Stuart Kerrane, 52, from Swindon,** said: 'It's quite busy today. When we got in to Oban that's when we hit the traffic. It was pretty bad. It took us about 30 minutes to get through town and to get parked. You can't really do much in a town to fix it. It's just the way it's built.'



**Campbell Files, 49, from Oban,** said: 'The traffic is rubbish. It's congested all the time. I think if they put two more roundabouts that would help. If they took away the car park next to the factory shop and made a roundabout and if they also put one at the high school. The money spend on the pavements could have been better spent and put towards the roads.'

## TIMESLINE



### SSF to sponsor Oban fireworks

SCOTTISH Sea Farms (SSF) has again sponsored the annual Oban fireworks display with a £5,000 contribution.

Bid4Oban chief executive Derek Connery, pictured, confirmed the donation from SSF's Heart of the Community fund is significantly more than they provided last year.

Mr Connery said: 'Once again the Heart of the Community Fund has lived up to its name in recognising this free-to-all event is for the benefit of the population of Oban and the surrounding areas.'

He added that he hopes to make this the 'biggest Heart of the Community fireworks ever.'

### Jump off a crane to raise charity funds

A NIGHTTIME abseil will take place on World Stroke Day to raise money to help those suffering from the condition.

The abseil will be at the Titan Crane in Clydebank, West Dunbartonshire, on Saturday October 29 and registration is still open for Obanites to attend. Registration costs £15 and fundraisers are asked to raise a minimum of £100 in sponsorship.

The money raised will go towards the Stroke Association's work supporting people who have had a stroke in Scotland.

For more information or to register for the event call 0131 555 7251 or email nightfallabseil@stroke.org.uk.

# Sign up for superfast broadband – but be quick

RESIDENTS in Taynuilt and Oban who want to sign up to superfast broadband better act quickly after BT confirmed the state-of-the-art service is limited by connections available at the exchange, writes Louise Glen.

The news comes as the service went online in the village of Taynuilt but, with no notification from the telecoms provider, many customers are still unaware of what is now available.

Alan Canning, who lives in the PA35 postcode, said: 'Only those looking for a new internet connection would be alerted to the fact the service was now available.'

'It seems a bit daft to me that not everyone can benefit from it at the same time.'

'The person I was speaking to at BT said there was only limited availability to the new connection and that I was lucky I had phoned that day.'

It is understood the majority of residents with a PA35 1JW postcode can benefit from faster broadband, but not all homes can be connected at the moment.

A BT spokesman could not guarantee that those homes which have missed out this time will get a connection in future. He said that connections 'may' come with future roll-outs.

A second postcode in Taynuilt, PA35 1JG, went live in the past fortnight and so all the homes in that postcode are able to connect to fibre broadband.

A spokesman for BT said: 'In Taynuilt, as part of the Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband (DSSB) programme, more than 300 homes and businesses have been connected to faster fibre broadband services.'

'Local people can place an order to upgrade to the faster speeds available by contacting their service provider.'

'More coverage is planned in the coming months as part of the programme which runs in the area until the end of 2016.'

The spokesman continued: 'In Oban, a combination of BT's commercial fibre deployment and work by the DSSB programme means that more than 4,300 premises can benefit from the faster speeds available.'

'Further coverage is planned as work in the area continues.'

'Around one in five homes have already upgraded and we would encourage more to do so to benefit from the faster speeds available.'

'People can check coverage at www.hic.co.uk/digital.'

# LOCH FYNE SEAFOOD HITS THE ROAD

Award winning Loch Fyne Oysters, dedicated to providing the world with Scotland's finest seafood has launched a special delivery service covering the whole of the Argyll region with the opportunity to expand in the future.

Cameron Brown, Managing Director at Loch Fyne Oysters Ltd said:

'We are excited to launch this new delivery service in response to local demand. Hotels and restaurants in the area will now be able to serve their customers our award-winning produce from across our whole range of seafood and shellfish. More and more people can now enjoy our product lines not just at the Loch Fyne Oyster Bar and Restaurant or by ordering online, but also businesses can have our fresh produce delivered to their door as part of our growing range of bespoke services.'

Hotels, restaurants, Guest Houses, B&Bs, and delicatessens will now be able to have fresh chilled internationally renowned Loch Fyne produce delivered to their door in this new high-quality service with knowledgeable staff.

The produce offered as part of the service includes fresh salmon and the full smoked salmon range, fresh oysters, fresh rope grown mussels, queen scallops, king scallops, langoustines and smoked mussels. For customers with retail facilities the packaged smoked salmon range, smoked mussels, Loch Fyne kippers, marinated herring and smoked haddock and kippers will be available also.

Andy MacLugash, Samphire Restaurant, Inveraray, Argyll who is one of the first businesses to use the new delivery service added:

'I have used Loch Fyne produce for a number of years and have always found it to be of the highest quality and flavour. I'm delighted by the introduction of the Loch Fyne delivery service to Argyll and having fresh produce delivered to my door on a regular basis.'



**Loch Fyne Oysters Ltd**  
Clachan, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BL  
Tel: 01499 600264 www.lochfyne.com

# Pupils are given a healthy exposure to careers in medicine

NHS Highland has welcomed the first two groups of secondary school pupils for this year's Doctors at Work programme. The programme, which has been running for five years, gives pupils an invaluable insight into their chosen career and an understanding of the realities of working in a hospital. The programme is going from strength to strength and with a record number of applicants it will now be running five times across the year.

Dr Emma Watson, director of medical education for NHS Highland, said the programme has been a success and has also increased the number of students from Highland being accepted into medical schools. She said: "The programme is a five-day work placement for pupils who are intending to apply for medicine. This year we have 40 students over the five weeks, most of whom are from the Highland Council region but we have also welcomed students from the Western Isles. "Those taking part get to experience a variety of clinical settings, including wards, theatres and clinics across a whole range of specialities such as surgical, orthopaedics, diagnostics and medicine. "The students also have the opportunity to talk to medical students who are working in the hospital and can give them an insight on what their medical school life will be like."

Historically, Highland pupils have been at a disadvantage when competing for places in medicine and healthcare careers but this trend is beginning to change. Since 2012, 63 per cent of pupils who have taken part in this programme and then applied for medical school have been successful.

SECRETARY of State for Scotland David Mundell kept his position in new Prime Minister Theresa May's recent cabinet reshuffle. Mr Mundell, who visited Argyll earlier in the year, has vowed to work with the Scottish Parliament to get the best deal for the Scotland as part of Brexit. Mr Mundell welcomed the news of his appointment. He said: "I am delighted to be reappointed as Secretary of State for Scotland, and to have the opportunity to build on my work over the past year. "The Prime Minister has made it clear we need to unite the country and work for the best interests of everyone in Britain."

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## TIMESLINE

### Mundell keeps cabinet position

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### Community fund cash is available

A MULTI-MILLION-POUND fund to allow Scottish communities to buy, manage or develop buildings or land is now available. Between now and 2020 up to £45 million of Big Lottery Fund cash will be available through Community Assets to support community-led projects to develop or build assets for their public use. Groups can apply for grants of between £10,000 and £1 million and, where needed, will receive professional technical support and advice from Community Asset mentors to turn project ideas into reality. The Big Lottery Fund in Scotland has £250 million to support people and communities dealing with challenging circumstances. For more details, log onto the Big Lottery Fund website.

### Volunteers wanted for veterans' cause

OBANITES may be recruited to volunteer for Help for Heroes, when two charity workers visit the town next month. Ailsa Alcock and Yvonne Beattie will be at the North Pier, in Stafford Street, Oban, on Tuesday August 9, from 10am-5pm to recruit volunteers in the local area. Help for Heroes aims to provide better facilities for British servicemen and women who have been wounded or injured in the line of duty. The charity was founded in 2007 and offers grants to individuals and specialist third sector partners, as well as providing services through a network of recovery centres.



## Happy 100th

PICTURED with her daughters, former Oban resident Janet Eveline Reid celebrated her 100th birthday on July 11. Eveline spent much of her life in Oban with her husband Jack and two daughters, Eveline and Alison. Eveline took an active part in the community and played the piano for the Sunday school at Christ Church on the Esplanade for more than 20 years. When Jack retired from his career in the Department of Agriculture in Albany Street, they moved to Tillicoultry to be nearer their family. Eveline lives in Canmore Lodge, Dunfermline.

## Thousands raised for charities

Thousands of pounds raised at a charity concert in April have been handed over to Cancer Research UK and Marie Curie Cancer Care. Neil 'Nonny' MacInnes and his wife Karen, landlords of Coasters in Oban, raised £14,000 from their third charity concert, We'll Walk This Road Together, in the Corran Halls. The line-up featured Manran, Skippinish, Trail West, and local band Ceol An Aire, and 100 per cent of the 750 ticket sales were donated to the charities. Two cheques worth £6,000 were presented each to Cancer Research UK and Marie Curie Cancer Care at Coasters last Friday, and a third cheque for £2,000 will be given to Oban Hospice. The couple set up the DMI Cancer Trust, having seen members of their family struggle with the disease. Nonny thanked everybody who contributed.



# Police chief pays tribute to heroes of toddlers tragedy

LOUISE GLEN  
lglen@obantimes.co.uk

SCOTLAND'S most senior police officer paid a visit to Argyll in the wake of the recent tragic incident in which two toddlers died. Chief Constable Philip Gormley paid tribute to the police officers and others who were called to the scene, which happened after the car the children were travelling in left the A816 and entered Loch nan Drummiean, near Kilmelford. Speaking during a visit to Lochgilhead police office on Monday, the chief constable



Chief Constable Philip Gormley, fourth from right, beside commander Marlene Baillie and Inspector Mark Stephen, and local officers.

said: 'I wanted to come to Argyll and thank people for what they did on that tragic day. 'This is a very unusual kind of incident and the professional manner in which our officers and those from other agencies dealt with it deserves great credit.' The area commander, Chief Inspector Marlene Baillie, spoke after the meeting. She said: 'The chief constable's visit was warmly

received by staff. Following the terrible tragedy the other week it was a welcome boost. 'The work of the officers involved and that of our partners, particularly in Scottish Fire and Rescue, the Scottish Ambulance Service, NHS Highland and HM Coastguard, was extremely difficult and will have a lasting effect.' She added: 'The bravery of members of the public who were at the scene is also deserving of praise as they, without hesitation, put their own lives at risk. 'Our thoughts and condolences remain very much with the family at this sad time.'

## New electric points power Argyll's green machines



ELECTRIC cars in Argyll and Bute can recharge at nine new plug points. Evolt's network of seven rapid and two fast chargers is Argyll and Bute Council's first publicly available electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, funded by Transport Scotland to promote the use of greener cars in Scotland. Seven of the rapid chargers can efficiently charge two EVs to 80 per cent of their battery life within 30 minutes through a 50Kw AC and 43Kw DC outlet. These are supplemented by two 22kW fast chargers for quick 'top-ups', and have AC and DC capability, taking one hour to simultaneously charge two EVs. The chargers are located at the Columbia Centre Car Park, Fionnphort, and Ledaig Car Park, Tobermory, both on Mull, and at car parks in Lochgilhead, Arrochar, Inveraray, Campbeltown, Dunoon, Helensburgh, and Rothesay.

## Islands MSP warns of dangers from EU departure

BREXIT should set alarm bells ringing in the Highlands and Islands, a Holyrood shadow minister has warned. Scottish Labour's shadow minister for environment, climate change and land reform, David Stewart, said leaving the European Union, as Prime Minister Theresa May's new UK government is committed to do, presents a huge risk for farmers, infrastructure and exports such as Scottish salmon. Mr Stewart, a list MSP for the Highlands and Islands, said on a fact-find-

ing visit to Oban's Jobcentre: 'It's clear the remit of the Tory government is to exit. There are clouds on the horizon that will affect everyone in Argyll and Bute. This affects every party and every individual. 'Farming is crucial for the people of Argyll and Bute. Some farmers I speak to have 90 per cent of their income from single farm payments [also known as CAP funding]. CAP is funded by Europe. What will happen? No-one knows.'

European structural funds for roads, bridges, causeways, harbours and ferries are also at risk, he said. 'While the UK is a net contributor to the EU, the Highlands and Islands was a crucial area for spend, because the EU rightly has a policy of convergence: bringing up poorer areas of the EU to the average, and we were at 75 per cent of average GDP. 'The figures for spend are phenomenal, around £2 billion. How is that going to be replaced? [Structural funds]

helped fund the UHI, the Mallaig Road, the Kessock Bridge and just about every causeway in the Western Isles. They're there to stimulate economic development - that's why I'm so concerned about exit. 'It will be a rash man or woman who predicts there will be a single market, or that we will have unified CAP payments. The negotiation takes place with 27 countries versus the one. Alarm bells are ringing with me on all these issues.'

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## Bowling winners presented with D MacIntyre Trophy



Rose MacIntyre, centre, presents the D MacIntyre Trophy in memory of her husband to the winners of the balloted pairs bowls competition at the Railway Bowling Club, Inverlochty, Alan Lawrie, second left, and Keith Brannagan, with runners-up Helen Ross and Gogs Hamilton. Photograph by Anthony MacMillan Photography

## Fort William Golf Club results

ON SATURDAY and Sunday July 9 and 10, the McIver Cup was played with the following result: 1 Frank Sweeney, net 140 (68 + 72); 2 Neil Feggans, net 149 (71 + 78); 3 Ian Robertson, net 149 (67 + 82).

On Saturday July 16, the vice-captain's prize competition was played with the following result: 1 Ronnie MacDonald, net 66 (79 - 13); 2 Steven Jamieson, net 71 (76 - 5); 3 Ian Robertson, net 73 (84 - 11).

On Tuesday July 12, ladies played a 12-hole par competition: 1 Kay Jerram, 2 up BIH; 2 Iona Cameron, 2 up BIH; 3 Kathleen Leitch, 2 up.

Results of the Golf Week sponsored by Ben Nevis Distillery were: Monday July 11, two-person Texas Scramble, 12 holes: 1 Andrew Brown and Stephen Howden, 34 points, 2 Willie Hendrie and Brian Stewart Junior, 32 points; 3 John Confield and Keith Sangster, 30 points. Tuesday July 12, strokeplay competition, 12 holes: 1 Keith Sangster, net 41 (50 - 9); 2 John Cairns, net 42 (60 - 18) BIH; 3 Alan Overend, net 42 (51 - 9). Wednesday July 13, three-person scramble, 12 holes: 1 Willie Hendrie, Stephen Howden and Graeme Worsdall, 36 points; 2 Andrew Brown, Gareth Lee and Michael Rodgers, 35 points; 3 Rusty Duncan, Willie Duncan and Ronnie MacDonald, 33 points. Thursday July 14, singles stableford, 12 holes: 1 Gareth Lee, 30 points; 2 Steven Jamieson, 26 points; 3 Frank Sweeney, 25 points. Friday July 15, three clubs and a putter: 1 Alan Ritchie, 18 points BIH; 2 Kevin Hickman, 18 points; 3 Robert McCover, 13 points.



## Penalties decide annual inter-island challenge

The annual Coll Commandos v Kilchoan Football Club Challenge match took place this year on the island of Coll, ferried by the excellent crew of Staffa Tours based in Tobermory. Kilchoan FC showed off their new football kit, kindly sponsored by Ardnamurchan Distillery. The game was hard fought and ended up 2-2 after 120 minutes of classic Hebridean football. Kilchoan went on to win a penalty shoot out with a huge and customary celebration thereafter. Photographs copyright of A J MacLeod.

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## Positive start to Fort FC's pre-season

FORT William Football Club's pre-season preparations are going well compared to last year.

Last year's pre-season saw the team decimated when three Fort players moved to Nairn County.

In total, nine players left last summer and the team vowed it wouldn't happen again.

Fort manager Ally Ewen told *The Oban Times*: "The rebuilding process was tough, as we went through an abundance of players last season trying to get the right mix."

"We now have more than 20 players on two-year contracts."

The Fort boys have come back fighting this year.

They defeated Welsh side Porth Tywyn Suburbs 10-0 and Scottish Ladbrokes League One side Alloa Athletic 3-0 away from home.

Ally continued: "The players have been working extremely hard and we want to be out of the bottom three."

"They have bought into my plans and can see where I aim to take the club."

"My target is to be 10th in the league. I said it when I joined and people laughed, but I

am developing a team that is improving."

"They work hard, rarely miss training and want to win, and I cannot ask for any more than that."

"Last season we just missed out on 15th place and only had ourselves to blame. We need to see out games and stop shipping sloppy goals."

The manager also said that he feels he is three or four players away from "a very good side".

Fort William start away to Deveronvale football club and Ally said they are looking for an early win.

"It would be great to start with a win. It won't be an easy task, but there are no easy games in the Highland League."

The club's vice-chairman, David MacDonald, added: "There is a great feeling of optimism around the club and if we can hit the ground running, then it could be a very good season."

Pre-season games continue with a trip to Perth on Saturday July 23 to face Kinoull Juniors.

The Fort will open their league campaign in Banff on Saturday July 30, with their first home game on Saturday August 6 against Fraserburgh.

## Strip sponsors back for another season

FORT William Football Club's (FWFC) two strip sponsors have agreed to continue their backing for the 2016/17 season.

For the upcoming season, the club's home strip will be sponsored by D M Hall, local chartered surveyors, and the away strip by Korrie Mechanical and Plumbing.

Stewart Maclean, an FWFC director, said: "The ongoing support of these major sponsors is critical to the funding of FWFC for the 2016/17 season and for keeping the only team from the West Highlands and Islands in the Scottish Highland Football League."

"Without the support of D M Hall, Korrie and the other 40-plus local sponsors, we would be unable to meet the significant costs associated with FWFC, including meeting stringent SFA licensing requirements."

Gary Duff, a director at D M Hall's Oban office, said: "We are delighted to continue our support of Fort William FC for another year."

"Not only do the team represent their home town, they are ambassadors for the whole West Highland area in the intensely competitive arena of the Scottish Highland League."

## Game on for upgraded pavilion and snack bar

FORT William Football Club's first home league game is at Claggan Park on Saturday August 6 against Fraserburgh when it is anticipated the refurbished pavilion and snack bar will be fully operational.

With significant improvement ground works having taken place at Claggan Park during the closed season, FWFC is hoping the number of home games postponed because of inclement weather will be reduced.

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**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 21, 2016** are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour) BST

Date	am	pm
Thur	00.29 0.9 06.30 3.8 12.45 0.8 18.52 4.0	
Fri	01.09 0.8 07.02 3.8 13.21 0.7 19.27 4.0	
Sat	01.49 0.8 07.37 3.7 14.00 0.7 20.04 3.9	
Sun	02.30 0.8 08.15 3.6 14.42 0.8 20.46 3.8	
Mon	03.15 0.9 08.59 3.4 15.29 0.9 21.33 3.6	
Tues	04.07 1.1 09.49 3.3 16.23 1.1 22.29 3.4	
Wed	05.08 1.3 10.50 3.1 17.30 1.3 23.44 3.2	

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