

# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Inside this week's Oban Times

Primary ones in the picture



WIN!

A three night break in an Edinburgh arthouse

## Oban group in call for halt to parking scheme

LOUISE LEE  
llee@obantimes.co.uk

THE 'rude, aggressive behaviour' of amenity wardens along with an unforgiving parking regime will turn Oban into a 'ghost town'.

This is the startling claim of Oban community council which is calling for a halt to a new parking scheme, introduced by Argyll and Bute council in June.

At a meeting of the community council on Monday, residents were told that ticket-happy wardens were driving residents mad and driving

business away from the town centre.

The community council heard story upon story of the 'horrendous' service the car parking attendants were accused of bringing to the town.

The community council said the town was in chaos because people were afraid to park their cars in the town.

Divisional envoy and pastor at the Salvation Army, Cath Thomson, said the new parking scheme was disrupting her pastoral work: 'I often get a ticket.'

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre said he was given a ticket for parking at

6.10pm on a single yellow line in George Street. Wheelchair user, Kate Winton, talked about a garage owner who was shutting up shop when he received a ticket.

Van driver George Berry was 'horrified' at the congestion on roads leading to Oban because there was 'nowhere free to park in the town centre'.

He said: 'The situation is that Lochavullin is full before 8.30am in the morning and there is nowhere else free to park safely in the town centre.'

'People are now paying more than £30 a week in parking charges just to go to work.'

Oban police officer Andrew Simpson said there had been numerous emergency calls to Rockfield Road, which had become choked with parked cars since the new regulations.

Marri Malloy, chairwoman of Oban community council, said: 'We need to be told where we can park and how long we can park for - it is a disgrace for visitors. There needs to be a wee bit of come and go.'

Graham Fraser of Alba on Albany Street, said: 'We need to look at a different plan for locals parking. I would suggest that we should introduce a locals town parking system in the town in order to keep independent shops open.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said the authority was pleased with the progress of the new scheme.

He said: 'We have received a great deal of positive feedback about increased parking turnover in our town centres as well as the professionalism and efficiency of our amenity wardens. The new system ensures effective traffic management which benefits the local economy by ensuring parking turnover. Local enforcement also safeguards access for Blue Badge holders, for deliveries, for loading and for emergency vehicles as well as ensuring road safety by managing inconsiderate and irresponsible parking.'



CONGESTED: Rockfield Road is now an unofficial haven for free car parking

## CELTIC CONNECTION: a note for auld alliance



GALLIC FLAIR: Breton piping judge Patrick Mollard will be taking part in the traditional march through Oban, at 10am this morning (Thursday), as part of the Argyllshire Gathering games day. It is the first time the town's historic piping competitions have asked a Frenchman to adjudicate at the highly competitive and prestigious event

## Shop workers in fight to save jobs as store bosses look to slash wage bill

STAFF at the Co-operative store in Oban are facing redundancy, following a meeting with store bosses on Monday.

A worker at the store said they were told there would be job losses.

The staff member, who asked not to be named, said: 'There are some staff who want to take redundancy or would take reduced hours, and others who understandably want to keep their jobs.'

'Instead of letting us do that, we are going to be told who will be made redundant and who won't, even if it means people who want to work lose their jobs and those who want to take redundancy being kept on. We feel we have been treated badly - it's ridiculous.'

A spokesman for the Co-operative

group said: 'Introducing new technology and improved working methods allows us to reduce hours currently spent on non-customer facing activities.'

'Unfortunately, this may mean a reduction in the total number of working hours for colleagues in our Oban store.'

'We are now in discussions with colleagues to discuss the potential impact of this, and how any changes may be implemented.'

'At this stage, we are not in a position to confirm details of the impact, but, should there be any redundancies, any colleagues affected by proposed changes will be given every support to find an alternative role within the Co-operative group, or with another employer.'

## Bare-faced cheek may end in prosecution, say police

NUDIST swimmers are being reminded not to throw caution to the wind, after a spate of skinny dipping throughout Argyll has been causing some concern, writes Louise Lee.

First there were rumours of a nudist beach near Kilberry, a skinny dippers paradise at Port Bann on Iona and a sports team 'plunging' at Wee Ganavan in Oban.

An Argyll and Bute council spokeswoman confirmed that as long as people are in a private place - then there are no legislative reasons for the council to authorise a 'nudist beach'.

However the police, which have been called on a number of occasions about nudity and skinny

dipping - take a measured approach to the recent summertime phenomenon.

A police spokesman said: 'It is not a new experience for people to get carried away on a hot summer evening, but it is an offence to expose yourself in public.'

'Therefore it may be considered a public order offence - driven by the perception of the complainer.'

He added: 'There are only a few days in the year that it is likely to happen anyway.'



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## An island postcode which delivers

STEVEN RAE  
srae@obantimes.co.uk

RESIDENTS in the north of Islay live in one of Scotland's most desirable locations, according to a new business survey.

The 'PA46' postcode, which encompasses Port Askaig, Bunahabain, and Keills, was placed in the top five best postcodes in the country. It was the only area in Argyll and Bute that made the top five.

The results of the study, which were announced on Monday by the Centre for Economic and Business Research, was commissioned to mark the 40th anniversary of the allocation of postcodes to every

address in Britain. The criteria taken into consideration included the employment opportunities, health levels, education and training area. The area really does tick all the opportunities, crime levels, quality of housing, ease of accessing local services, the quality of the physical environment and housing affordability.

Marion Spears, who grew up in Port Askaig and runs a hotel there, said: 'It's a very picturesque place, and very idyllic. You can see so much wildlife here, marine life like dolphins, as well as the view of Jura.'

'Everybody knows one another, speaks to one another and trusts one another.'

'Also, I don't think there is much unemployment - pretty much everyone that can work does work, mainly because of the two distilleries in the area. The area really does tick all the boxes.'

'Fifty-six years ago, my parents chose to come to Port Askaig for its beautiful locality, and myself and my husband are still delighted to be reaping the benefits to this day.'

David Gillies, 40, is the factor on Dunlossit Estate and shares Marion's feelings about Islay.

He's an incomer to the area, having moved from Inverness with his wife and three young sons.

He said: 'It wasn't only the job that made us want to come here, but the good quality of life.'

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# Inveraray pipe major reveals secret in reaching for the top of the world

**EUAN PATERSON**  
epater@obantimes.co.uk

THE PIPE major of high-flying pipe band Inveraray and District has revealed the secret behind its recent success - practising less.

Inveraray man Stuart Liddell led the band to the summit of grade one with victory in this season's European championship, less than 10 years after the band first performed in a juvenile competition with a group of teenagers.

A runners-up finish in the world pipe band championship earlier this month brought the curtain down on a highly successful majors season.

The recent success is as a result of some 'radical' changes made pre-season that have moved the band from also-rans in the premier grade to regular championship contenders.

Top six finishes in every major this season proves that something is working at Inveraray and District Pipe Band and the European win has signalled an intent to regularly compete at the top.

'We had a consistent run this season, whereas last year we were a bit hot and cold,' Stuart admitted. 'It must filter through to people now that we mean business.'

Many believe the turning point came at this season's Scottish championship in Dumfries. Although Inveraray finished fourth, the world was out that Inveraray were a force to be reckoned with.

At the world championship on Glasgow Green, many believed Inveraray had done enough to repeat their European success but 10-time winner Field Marshall Montgomery Pipe Band was given the nod by judges.

'People started sitting up and listening to what we were doing,' said Stuart. 'A lot of people said to me we should have got a better result but Field Marshall Montgomery were excellent.'



**HIGH HOPES:** Pipe major Stuart Liddell has made 'radical' changes to the band's preparation. (Below) The band hitting the high notes at the world pipe band championships held in Glasgow earlier this month



Stuart, who teaches piping in Mid Argyll schools, said: 'We made a few radical changes in the winter.

'There is more of a focus on how we tune up and every practise is like we are competing. We also have new chanters and different reeds.'

But it is not just a change of kit. Stuart has done away with the age-old practise of repeatedly playing competition pieces in order to fine-tune the band, instead opting for fewer practises with a higher intensity.

'We have a more positive attitude towards practise now,' he says. 'If the run through is not good enough, we accept that as a missed opportunity to make it better.'

'Every practise is with purpose but there are fewer than last year.'

A highly successful piper in his own right - he has recently qualified for the prestigious Glenfiddich piping competition - Stuart seems to have instilled some of the discipline of a solo piper into the band set-up.

'We are being very careful with reed selection and we are being very critical of ourselves,' said Stuart.

'You do everything you can to avoid things going wrong when it counts. You prepare well during the winter, not in the week of a championship with quick fixes. We were guilty of the latter before, but now we are better prepared.'

'The perfect run through is never possible but it is important to deliver a consistent level every time. That's

what Field Marshall Montgomery does.'

The pipe major concedes his 'radical' regime change was not universally embraced at first. But the band, which practises on a Sunday and a Wednesday, still has nine members from the original juvenile band that Stuart began to mould and the pipe major says the group has now 'bought into the ideas'.

But having taken the band so far in the last decade, a focused Stuart refuses to embrace nostalgia at this stage. 'Once I retire I'll maybe look back on what we achieved,' he admits. There is clearly unfinished business.

After the Cowal Gathering at the end of the month bringing the piping season to a close, Inveraray will then perform at Proms in the Park, which is being filmed for a Phil Cunningham television feature on piping.

Then, come the end of December, the hard work starts again as the band prepares for an assault on the 2015 championships.

'We don't look at the winning,' says Stuart. 'We look for excellence, achieving every time we play.'

'The result on the day is out of our hands and we don't dwell on the competition too much because that distracts from the performance.'

'It's the pursuit of excellence that drives me on. During the medley at the world championship everything seemed to click into place and seemed to be happening with ease. I've never felt that before. I was able to enjoy it because when it comes together like that it is a special feeling.'

'All the hard work and nonsense you go through is suddenly worth it in that small window of performance.'

'It's like climbing a mountain. You are climbing for a long time and wondering why on earth you are doing it but it is worth it when you reach the summit. You don't feel the pain when you are on the top.'

## MULL lines



**TAGLINE:** Jackie Hall (left) is asking islanders to watch out for a shark tag (inset) which she thinks may have been washed up on the Mull shoreline



## £50 reward for shark tag

AN APPEAL for a shark tag which may have been washed ashore on the coast around Mull has been made by an Isle of Man scientist.

Jackie Hall, who runs Manx Basking Shark Watch, believes the tag may be somewhere in the south of the island. She has offered a reward of £50 for its return. Jackie said: 'I would like to encourage local people to keep an eye out for it.'

The last known location of the shark was as it headed towards Mull from Colonsay and it is thought the tag may be along the shoreline from Fionnphort to Carsaig or indeed on the shore of Luinig or Colonsay itself. The last signal from the tag was received on August 10. For more details, visit the Manx Basking Shark Watch Facebook page or phone Jackie on 01624 833215.



**DIRECTOR:** Scott Graham, who will be shooting his feature film *Iona* around Oban, Mull and Iona at the beginning of September

## Iona has the leading role

A FILM is about to start shooting on the isle of Mull, but only after islanders have signed up to perform.

The feature, called *Iona*, will be shot in Oban, Mull and Iona at the beginning of September.

It is the second feature film by Scottish director, Scott Graham, and follows the story of a mother who returns to the 'remote' isle with her teenage son.

In this film, the director continues to focus on life in rural Scotland as he did with his first feature film *Shell*, for which he was nominated for a BAFTA award.

## Hitting the perfect note

A CEILIDH was held in Tobermory to celebrate the life of the late Jean Campbell, and to raise awareness and funds for motor neurone disease. Jean, a greatly loved Muleach and a supporter of many local events and activities, died of motor neurone disease earlier this year. Her love of Scottish music made the Aros Hall ceilidh the perfect way to pay tribute to her memory.

The evening was chaired by Janet MacDonald, who first welcomed Calum MacLean junior with the school pipers, Alexander Anderson, Glenn Denovan, Scott Paterson and Lewis Dillon, who opened with *The Sweet Maid of Mull*, composed for Jean by Alan C Beaton.

Other artists who contributed were Calum MacLean senior, accordionist, Mull Gaelic Choir, soloists Fiona Jappy and Donna Dugdale, and 10-year-old Camrie MacInnes, who was making her first appearance and received a rousing reception from the packed hall. An amazing £2,536 was raised. Coordinators, Anne MacLean, Anne MacGregor and Dougie MacNeilage thanked everyone for a night Jean herself would have enjoyed.

## Picture perfect on Iona

THE CINEMA on Iona has been recognised as one of the best in the UK.

The make-shift picture house features in the Guardian online newspaper after islander Gordon Bruce nominated the hall for the accolade.

The village hall is transformed into a cinema for residents, especially over the winter months. In his submission, Gordon said: 'Our nearest "proper" cinema is two and a half hours away and seeing a film there involves a couple of ferries and an overnight stay. Instead, we watch movies in Iona village hall over the winter months.'

'Tables are provided so that patrons, who pay a small donation to hall funds, can enjoy whatever they've brought to drink.'

## School meals dilemma

FREE hotel cooked school meals may be on the menu for Ulva and Iona pupils.

Argyll and Bute council is weighing up the option after it heard that it would cost £500,000 to install kitchens in the two island schools.

The council will have to provide free school meals to pupils in primaries one to three from 2015 as part of a Scottish government initiative.

However, islanders are unsure about the option as there are few, if any, facilities that are able to serve meals throughout the school year.

## Bank climb cashes in

A TOBERMORY bank employee is planning to climb Ben Nevis to raise cash for Help the Hospices.

Becki Marsland, 35, of the Clydesdale Bank, will be climbing with 93 of her banking colleagues across the country.

Becki said: 'It's great to be setting off to climb Ben Nevis alongside my colleagues for the benefit of an extremely worthwhile cause.'

Trek the Ben is the latest phase in Clydesdale and Yorkshire Banks' partnership with Help the Hospices, supporting people with terminal or life-limiting conditions, which has so far raised £3.5 million.

## Showcase rural projects sought

INNOVATORS from Argyll, Bute and the islands have until Saturday to place their entries in the Rural Innovators Awards.

The Scottish Rural Parliament is looking for projects to be showcased at the Rural Parliament in Oban in November.

The project should tackle a real rural issue in a new or unusual way. To nominate a project, contact [info@scottishruralparliament.org.uk](mailto:info@scottishruralparliament.org.uk).

The winners will be announced on September 17 in Oban.

## First class delivery by Royal Mail

ROYAL Mail says it has delivered 94.3 per cent of first class mail in the PA postcode area by the next day in the first quarter of the financial year 2014-15.

The postcode, which includes Argyll and Bute and parts of Morvern, beat the national target of 93 per cent.

UK-wide Royal Mail beat its second class target of 98.5 per cent, to deliver 99 per cent of mail within three working days.

The results are published in the latest Royal Mail quality of service report.

## Panel people needed on isles

VOLUNTEERS are being sought to sit on the Children's Panel in the Western Isles.

Children's Hearings Scotland is appealing for people to come forward to help neglected, troubled and abused children who face serious problems in their lives.

The deadline is September 15. Visit [www.childrenspanelscotland.org](http://www.childrenspanelscotland.org) for more information.

# Memorable musical walk hopes to raise funds for dementia charity

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

OBAN Dementia Resource centre is organising a musical memory walk next month, to raise funds for Alzheimer Scotland.

Starting from Ganavan Sands to Dunbeg and back on September 14, it will feature musical performances along the route from different people.

Andy Crabb, dementia adviser at the resource centre, on High Street, Oban, said: 'There are currently more than 88,000 people living with dementia across Scotland, and we will be walking to raise vital funds to provide support for them and their families and carers and also to raise the general awareness of dementia.'

'Almost everyone I talk to now seems to have their own story of a family member or friend of the family with dementia. 'We would love people to come along and enjoy a lovely Sunday afternoon walk for a great cause.'

There is a registration fee of £5 on the day or at the centre prior to the walk, with sponsorship optional.

'We don't want anyone to be put off coming along for the walk by the thought of having to get sponsors, so that is just an option,' said Andy.

Ali Barrow, a musician and singing leader for a weekly musical memories group, will be playing along the route. She said: 'Music has been proven to be a brilliant way for people with memory difficulties to stimulate their memory and enjoy themselves, especially when other leisure activities have started to become more challenging.'

Find out more at [www.memory-walkscotland.org](http://www.memory-walkscotland.org)



Andy Crabb, dementia adviser at the Oban Dementia Resource centre and local musician Ali Barrow, who will both be involved in the musical memory walk

## Historic hall fund pledge

A GRANT of £265,000 towards refurbishing and upgrading Campbeltown town hall has been announced by Historic Scotland.

The money is the latest pledged towards the repair work, including £1 million from the Big Lottery Growing Community Assets fund, announced last

October. The hall, built between 1758-60, was placed on the Buildings at Risk Register in 2012 after years of deterioration.

The money will help renovate the premises, creating a facility to be used as a focal point for civic, social and community activities.

Other groups funding the project have included the Campbeltown Townscape Heritage Initiative, Argyll and Bute Council CHORD programme, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Argyll and the Islands LEADER, the Campbeltown Common Good fund and Kintyre Civic society.

## Islay fisheries man described as 'thoroughly decent human being'

TRIBUTES have been paid to Islay man Archie McFarlane, secretary of the Clyde Fishermen's Association (CFA), who died last week following a motorcycle accident on the A83 between Inveraray and Cairndow.

Archie, 55, a former fisherman on the island, became secretary of the CFA in 2009 and was a tireless champion of fishing communities and his loss will be felt across Scotland.

Scotland's fisheries minister Richard Lochhead described him as 'a thoroughly decent human being' and 'well-respected pillar of the fishing community'.

He added: 'I was shocked and deeply saddened to hear about the tragic accident. 'Archie was one of the most



TRIBUTES: Archie McFarlane

who was a thoroughly decent human being.'

Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor, an honorary vice-president of the Clyde Fishermen's Association, said Archie's 'wise counsel' would be greatly missed.

Patrick Stewart, lord lieutenant of Argyll and Bute, who Archie succeeded as CFA secretary, said: 'I was delighted he got the job because of his great knowledge of the fishing industry and keen brain.'

'I knew Archie for 30 years and often relied upon his acumen in relation to proposed government policies and related matters.'

'His tragic and sore loss has created a shock which goes way beyond Islay where his parents still live in Port Ellen.'

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# Buses stop short of Glengallan

'There won't be one till tomorrow', resident tells those waiting at stop on a Sunday

LOUISE LEE  
llee@obantimes.co.uk

BUS timetables in Oban are failing to meet the needs of people in the Glengallan area.

While there are almost 400 houses behind the hospital at Glengallan the bus timetable has not been updated to meet the needs of residents.

There are almost 700 houses in Soroba and a half-hourly bus service seven days a week - the service to Glengallan is hourly Monday to Friday with fewer buses on Saturday and no service at all on a Sunday.

Margo MacDonald, a retired dis-

trict nurse, who lives in Glengallan, says that there are a number of inequalities that exist in the bus services for different areas of the town.

She said: 'I often see people waiting at the bus stop and I have to say "there will not be one until tomorrow".'

'Senior citizens have had to stop attending church on Sunday because there is no Sunday service and on other days the service simply lets people in the area down.'

Miss MacDonald says there are services that could potentially make a slight detour along Glengallan Road to pick up passengers but instead idling their engines in the town

centre for up to 10 minutes.

Miss MacDonald argues: 'Surely it is not beyond the management skills of someone in the council to combine the Soroba/Dunollie bus service at more than 20-minute intervals with the buses going down to Glengallan Road's three bus stops on each side of the road on seven days a week.'

Community councillor and local bus expert, David Gallant, said: 'It could be done. Oban could get a much better bus service if more efficient use was made of resources.'

'It would mean a re-vamp of all local bus routes. But unfortunately, it would not be practical to do this.'

'The trouble is that some local buses are subsidised by Argyll and Bute council, [routes numbered in the 400s] and some are not.'

At present there is a mixture of both subsidised and unsubsidised bus routes and those subsidised routes must be put out to public tender. School bus routes must also be put out to public tender.

Mr Gallant continued: 'Another problem is that neither the council officials, nor councillors actually understand efficient public transport scheduling. Oban to Glasgow buses run empty between Station Square and the bus garage in

Glengallan Road and even when passengers travelling from Glasgow live in the Glengallan Road area, they must get off the bus in Station Square so that the bus can run empty between Station Square and Glengallan Road.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'There are currently 20 bus runs from Glengallan Road into Oban between 7am and 8.33pm.'

'From Soroba/Dunollie into Oban there is a service every 20 minutes throughout most of the day. This reflects the current demand and the difference in population.'

'The service operator has indicated

that an increased service is unlikely to be sustainable on a commercial basis and, in the current financial climate, there are no current plans to increase any council-subsidised services in the Oban area.'

Octogenarian Elspeth Cameron who lives further up Glengallan Road says the bus service is adequate for her needs. However, she would be keen to have some sort of service on a Sunday for those who may need to use the service.

There is a belief among some residents that on completion of social housing in Glengallan that the Soroba bus will be re-routed into the area.



## Mull road must be upgraded, says community, but no money available

LOUISE LEE  
llee@obantimes.co.uk

MULL'S economy will be in tatters if immediate action is not taken on improving the road across the island, say community leaders.

An accident involving one of many delivery trucks to the island closed the Salen to Tobermory road for two hours last week.

Vice chairman of Mull community council, Callum MacLachlainn, stressed the importance of taking action before it is too late.

'This week it was a truck,' he said,

**DELIVERY DELAYED:**  
A van on the island of Mull clipped the soft verge and ended up in a ditch - closing the A848 Salen-Tobermory road for two hours

'next week it could be a family of four.'

'Will it take a fatal accident before anyone takes notice of the incredibly poor state of our roads?'

'There are many, many more people coming to the island, and with that means more deliveries and a huge increase in traffic on the roads.'

'More than 35 years ago we were promised a double carriageway on the island. And yet, at present, we barely manage to get pot holes fixed.'

'The road system on Mull is decaying. How can it be that other places such as Fort William to Mallaig can be upgraded, or the roads in Morvern and yet we are left with this second rate road that is no good to anyone?'

Turning to the practicalities of getting around the island for emergencies, chairman of Mull community councillor, Mike Shilson, added: 'I think it is a higher priority that someone who is having a heart

attack or a stroke, or a young child experiencing a life threatening emergency, is transported as quickly as possible to hospital, rather than any consideration for the aesthetic beauty and charm of driving slowly on single track roads.'

'A life is more precious than a rustic road and in these circumstances, time matters.'

Garages on the island report a high number of accidents, - up to 10 a week - where cars have come off the road in between passing places and have ripped tyres on the edge of the road.

Supporting the campaign for a better road, Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'I have already met with the community council at which time we discussed the need to upgrade the road.'

'I then got in touch with Argyll and Bute council which really needs to take this forward and have recently

offered my help to support an approach to Europe for help should that be necessary.'

'Getting an upgrade must become a shared priority for all those involved.'

While confirming that there were no plans to alter the road network on Mull, an Argyll and Bute council spokesperson said council officers would 'engage' with local members prior to the introduction of Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) which will reduce costs of ferry fares for vehicles and is expected to bring more traffic to the island.

He added: 'Historically there have been outline proposals drawn up to widen the carriageway north of Salen to connect to the already improved section of the A848 running into Tobermory.'

'However, these works will cost tens of millions of pounds and there is no budget provision for these to be progressed.'

## Running on empathy makes marathon goal possible

EUAN PATERSON  
epater@obantimes.co.uk

A RUNNING group from Oban gym Fit4Less will be tackling its first marathon to raise money for several good causes.

The 15-strong group, led by gym instructor Fiona MacInnes, will be taking part in the Baxter's Inverness Marathon on September 28.

Mother and daughter Gail Lockhart and Danielle MacDonald are running in aid of Glasgow's Yorkhill children's hospital. Gail's son Liam MacDonald, now 11, underwent heart surgery at the hospital as a baby but is in great health now.

Along with Tina MacMillan, the trio is also raising money for a memorial fund in memory of Iain 'Parrot' MacMillan. All three women are related to the shinty legend.

The fund runs a shinty tournament in Oban for primary school-aged children and takes place on September 21 this year.

Gail said: 'A marathon sounded like a good idea at first. Fiona was inspirational and got us all to where we are now. I think we all got caught up in the camaraderie of it all.'

Sisters Angela Webster and Jacqueline Smith are running for

Cancer Research in memory of their mother, Rosie MacKay, who died of the disease on May 30, 2012.

They thanked everyone who has donated so far towards their target of £500.

Karen Forgive is running for her employer Happy House nursery in Oban, which both of her daughters have attended.

Marie Muir and Erin Campbell are raising money for the Lauren Currie Twilight Foundation, in support of vasculitis awareness.

Marie's father, James Maitland, died from the disease and she has already run the West Highland Way in support of Vasculitis UK.

Group leader Fiona said: 'Everyone has been really committed to training on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, as well as some Fridays, and we always do a long run on a Sunday.'

'They are up for a 6am run up Jacob's Ladder every Tuesday - if that's not commitment, what is?'

James Rigby, a gas engineer in Oban, who is running for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research, said: 'Doing this as a group has made it more fun.'

ON A RUN:

The running group from Fit4Less will take part in the Baxter's Inverness Marathon 16\_135marathon01



LOCKED OUT: Craig Blair wants 24 access to health care after he was refused admission to hospital during the night

### Patient turned away from hospital after going to pub

A PATIENT who was turned away from Argyll and Bute Hospital in the middle of the night is calling for 24-hour mental health access.

Craig Blair, 38, said he was suffering with anxiety and suicidal thoughts when he turned to medical help.

He had been referred by his GP in Tighnabruich to the Succoth Ward in Lochgilphead - but was refused access when he presented himself at 2am in the morning.

NHS Highland said, while refusing to comment on individual cases, that if a patient turned up under the influence of drugs or alcohol it made clinical assessment extremely difficult. Emergency access was available via local casualty departments, where a

patient would be assessed and there would be a discussion with a duty psychiatrist.

Mr Blair, who has previously worked in mental health care, was shocked to find himself sleeping on the floor of the local police station as he had no money.

He said: 'I was treated no better than a rabid dog by the hospital. I was desperate for support, and I know it was in the early hours of the morning - but I wanted help.'

Admitting that he had taken to the pub to steady his nerves before his hospital admission, he said: 'I admit it, I should have gotten to the hospital earlier, but I didn't realise that I had to be in by 6pm. I thought there would be 24-hour access to care.'

### No end in sight to town centre chaos

A POLICE officer told a community council that there was no 'simple' solution to Oban's chronic town centre traffic congestion.

Constable Andrew Simpson, a community officer, told Oban community council on Monday that police, Argyll and Bute council and Transport Scotland had met to discuss an emergency solution.

He said: 'The easing of problems of traffic coming into and moving about the town are not as simple as once believed.'

The initial plan was to re-route traffic around the town via the 'back road' between Connel and Glenclutten Road. Councillor Neil MacIntyre asked: 'What are they having problems with?'

Mr Simpson said discussions were ongoing.

### Foreign vehicle in Dunbeg collision

A FOREIGN registered van and two other vehicles were involved in a collision at the junction of the A85 and the Dunbeg road end, east of Oban, around 2.30pm on Tuesday. The road was reduced to one lane for a short time to allow emergency services access and for recovery of the vehicles and there were no serious injuries.

### Heat your home for free - Is it possible?

Heating your home for free is something we would all appreciate in this current economic climate. By replacing your existing heating appliance with a new renewable heat source you would qualify for substantial quarterly payments from a new Government incentive scheme.

The Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), the first of this type in the world, was officially launched in April by the UK Government and enables householders to slash the amount they spend on energy bills and help reduce carbon emissions. With this scheme backed up by an interest free loan funded by the Scottish Government it seems now is the time to upgrade your heating and down grade your energy bills.

Upgrading your existing heating system to one which produces heat by using a renewable energy source such as a biomass boiler or a ground or air source heat pump, homeowners are very likely to see their annual heating and hot water bill disappear for years to come.

The RHI scheme will pay applicants quarterly for a 7 year period and the interest free loan can spread the upfront cost over a period of up to 12 years. Renewables Now based at Barcaldine, 14 miles north of Oban, have said "We now have a large number of delighted customers registered with the RHI scheme and they have received their first quarterly payment. These payments, in many cases comfortably exceed the fuel cost of running their new system and are contributing to the loan repayments. All our customers can now look forward to guaranteed RHI Income until 2021 and beyond. Not only are our customers receiving an income, they are also benefiting from the clean, green efficiency of a renewable heating system"

It seems the launch of the Domestic RHI passed a lot of people by, although the renewable heating industry reports a sharp rise in installations across the UK since April. But as winter approaches and our heating systems are called into action, surely now is the time to investigate how you could heat your home for free.

Taking steps to install a renewable heating system is now more affordable than ever. With fantastic funding via an Interest Free Loan followed by on-going payments to use it, is there any reason why you would not consider installing Renewables Now?

### Life imitates art as mother gives evidence in court

A MOTHER has likened an incident at her home to a scene from a soap opera when she appeared at Oban sheriff court.

The woman was giving evidence last Wednesday at the part-heard trial of Hugh Vennard and Leanne Scott, who are accused of shouting, swearing, uttering threats of violence and brandishing a knife.

Ms Scott is also accused of slapping a 14-year-old girl on the body on May 25 this year in Oban.

Giving evidence, the woman said Mr Vennard, 32, and Ms Scott, 29, both of Hynish Crescent, had come to her door accusing her son of theft.

She said: 'Shuggie (Mr Vennard) came right up to me. I thought he was going to headbutt me, and said there was a price on my son's head and that there would be a price on my head.'

When asked by procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty how she felt about the incident, she replied: 'I felt I was in a soap scene.'

Her 14-year-old daughter also gave evidence that she had to be pulled into the house by her mother when the two accused had come to the front door.

On going to lock the back door, the daughter got into an argument with Ms Scott, who she claims slapped her across the chest.

In cross-examination, Ms Scott's defence lawyer Jane Thomson asked the young witness about the incident at the back door.

The solicitor said: 'It is Leanne Scott's position that she didn't touch you at all and this is something you have made up because you were really angry with her for shouting at you mum. The witness claimed her neighbour heard the slap.'

The trial continues on September 9.

### 'Naive' brother in euro cash trouble

A TEENAGER who exchanged stolen euros and Latvian currency for his brother has been fined at Oban sheriff court.

Craig McIvor, aged 16, of Shellach View children's home, Oban, pleaded guilty last Wednesday to the reset of currency.

McIvor exchanged the money at Oban's Royal Bank of Scotland branch, but police were able to trace him after viewing CCTV footage.

Defence lawyer Jane Thomson explained: 'He was asked to exchange the money because he had an account with RBS and his brother didn't. In hindsight it was very naive of him to think the money had not been obtained by dishonest means.'

McIvor was fined £100 and ordered to pay compensation of £135, the equivalent value of the stolen currency.

### Air dash for biker

THE A85 near Kilmorangaig, east of Connel, was reduced to one lane on Sunday after a motorcyclist came off his bike on a bend.

The road was closed for almost two hours as emergency services rushed to treat the 57-year-old Arroth man.

He was taken by ambulance to Lorn and Islands hospital in Oban suffering from multiple fractures, but was airlifted to the Southern General hospital in Glasgow.

A contraflow was in operation until the road reopened at 5.30pm.

## FREE HEATING IS NOT A DREAM

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# Education, the pound and NHS top women's list of policy issues

With only 21 days left before the nation casts its verdict on independence and Scotland enters a new era in its history, many experts believe that women hold the crucial balance of power. Carry the women's vote, goes the argument, and you carry the day. Both campaigns are now locked in a desperate tussle to win the support of the female vote. Are their messages working in Argyll and the west Highlands? Steven Rae and Emma Crichton report

MANY political pundits and strategists believe the fight for the female vote is the battleground where the referendum will be won or lost.

Recent polls have shown the 'Yes' campaign behind amongst women voters, with figures at one time as low as 27 per cent confirmed as 'Yes' voters, compared to 41 per cent of men.

Issues including the currency union, pensions and a general feeling of uncertainty appear to have put off some women, along with distrust of First Minister Alex Salmond.

However, the gap is clearly narrowing as September 18 approaches, and the 'Yes' campaign is beginning to gain significant traction with female voters. Better social care, nuclear disarmament and university tuition fees being issues that strike a chord with women.

Fiona Stage, 55, who owns a bed and breakfast in Oban, plans to vote 'Yes'. She argued that independence would create a fairer society for her and her three children. She said: 'For me it's about social justice.'

'I went to a talk by Julie Webster who runs Maryhill food bank in Glasgow, which was a real eye-opener.'

'It made me realise that poverty is a massive issue in Scotland, hunger especially, which is appalling in 2014 and in a rich country like this.'

Fiona also feared that university tuition fees would be introduced in Scotland as they are in the rest of the UK. This, she said, would affect her life seriously.

She explained: 'I have three children and two are at university, and I simply couldn't afford it without free tuition fees - the living costs are hard enough to find without an extra £5,000 a year.'

Linda Dignan, a 44-year-old voluntary sector worker and mother of two from Fort William, echoed Fiona Stage's sentiments about tuition fees.

She said: 'Tuition fees are a big issue for me. I have an older stepson who has just graduated with a degree in medicine.'

'Coming from a working class



**FAIRER:** Fiona Stage argues that independence will lead to a more equal society



**PACIFIST STANCE:** Jane MacIntyre feels independence will lead to a nuclear-free Scotland



**VOTE COUNTS:** Linda Dignan says she feels disengaged from Westminster politics

'There are a lot of reasons why I'm voting 'Yes' but the main basic reason is I feel my vote will count for something.'

'I think the 'Yes' campaign has definitely been the most positive, especially in Lochaber.'

'I feel disengaged from Westminster. I don't agree with their policies but my vote in elections won't change that. The only way to change things and make a more equal society is to vote 'Yes.'

Alana Brown, 22, is a shellfishmonger in Oban, and feels that the Westminster government is too detached from life in Scotland.

She said: 'We need a government that lives in Scotland, one that knows what the people here need, rather than one that pops up for a visit once in a while.'

'About 23 per cent of children are born into poverty, live in poverty and die in poverty in Scotland compared to 12 per cent in other parts of the UK - it's ridiculous.'

She also feels that remaining part of the UK will mean the end of free healthcare, saying: 'The NHS is already becoming privatised in parts of England and I fear for the future of it in the UK.'

'The NHS saved my life, in one night I had £6,000-worth of surgery done. If we had privatisation, I would be dead.'

Jane MacIntyre, 68, from Oban, has lived both sides of the border and feels that Westminster puts English interests ahead of the rest of the UK.

She said: 'I lived down south for 20 years, and used to think that everything that needed to be done in England by the government got done, and got done first.'

'Scotland is a pacifist country, yet we have waged a war in Iraq and spent £6 billion on aircraft carriers and nuclear weapons at Trident.'

'Independence would bring a nuclear-free Scotland and definitely a fairer society.'

However, Jakki Watt, 20, who grew up in Oban and now studies history and archaeology at Edinburgh University, argued nationalism has



**UNCERTAINTY:** Jakki Watt says the lessons of history are stacked against nationalism



**CURRENCY WORRY:** Jenny McEvoy fears that Scotland will lose out over the exchange rate



**MAJOR RISK:** Catriona MacDonald argues that the cost of independence is too high

seldom been good for a nation.

She continued: 'I just don't see why there needs to be change, we have a parliament in Scotland which is more than Wales and Northern Ireland have, they only have assemblies.'

'As a history student, you see that through the ages nationalism is never



really a good and positive development.

'There are no real answers for what will happen in a 'Yes' vote, particularly with currency and pensions, two huge issues.'

'There's just far too much uncertainty.'

Jenny McEvoy, 73, who is a retired nurse, believes there is too much to lose financially from separation.

She said: 'Currency is the big issue. If we have to change money when travelling to England, it will cost an awful lot of money and we don't know what the exchange rate would be.'

'We're bound to lose money when we adopt a new currency too, as we did when we changed from pounds and shillings to decimal pounds and pence.'

'I just don't think Scotland can survive on its own.'

Gallery owner Catriona MacDonald, from Portree, also feels the uncertainty over the currency is a crucial factor in her voting against independence.

The 55-year-old islander said: 'The currency issue is the one that's hitting me the hardest.'

'I don't think the 'Yes' side has really addressed the issue.'

'The 'No' side has raised questions about what impact independence will have on the economy.'

'Yes' just keep saying "we're using the pound and that's that", rather than saying "no, you're wrong" and explaining why.'

'I think independence is a major risk to the economy and the 'Yes' side is painting a rosy picture of how great everything is going to be.'

'But it doesn't have a good plan for how we are going to afford all these things.'

'I think if we vote for independence one by one they will realise we can't



**NHS FEARS:** Alana Brown is concerned privatisation will sweep through the NHS



**UNCONVINCED:** Anne McOmish says fears over currency and pensions have not been answered

afford to have everything and a lot of people will soon become very disappointed.'

Anne McOmish, who is 67 and lives in Crieff, accuses Alex Salmond of failing to answer questions on key issues, which has made independence too risky.

She said: 'Salmond says one thing, then when he's pushed into a corner he says something else - he waffles too much.'

'There's too much uncertainty about currency, and pensions is another thing we don't seem to be sure about.'

'I don't think he knows whether it will be better or not and I'm simply not convinced it's a good thing for the country.'

## Closing date on voluntary grants

VOLUNTARY organisations in Oban, Lorn and the isles looking for financial support are being encouraged to apply for third sector grants from Argyll and Bute council.

The closing date for applications for a share of £2,000 covering up to 50 per cent of a project's costs is September 3.

Normal rounds of the council's third sector grants are closed for the year, but a third tranche is being offered in Oban, Lorn and the isles.

Until September 10 there is also a chance still to apply for health and well-being grants.

For more information on third sector grants contact Laura Macdonald laura.macdonald@argyll-bute.gov.uk or Eleanor Mackinnon on olinhn@gmail.com for the Third Sector Grants or Eleanor Mackinnon for the health and well-being grants if you need any help.

## New Oban high school start time

THE NEW Oban high school funding was approved by Argyll and Bute council last week and a date set for the construction phase to start.

The building will be started in September 2015 on a site adjacent to the current school with a construction period of 18-24 months.

This would see the new campus open in September 2017 with a capacity for 1,300 pupils. At present the school capacity is 1,150.

## Yacht damaged

A YACHT went aground in the Sound of Kerrera on Sunday morning but managed to refloat itself and make its way to Oban Marina at the north end of Kerrera while Oban lifeboat was on route to help.

The yacht had been damaged during the grounding around 11.30am and was found to be taking on water.

Oban lifeboat offered the use of its salvage pump until the yacht could be lifted out the water on Monday to allow repairs.

## Club banner gone

OBAN Celtic shinty club has asked for the return of a banner that was stolen at the weekend.

The banner, which advertises the Macaulay Cup final, was situated at the entrance to Pennyfuir Cemetery outside Oban. Those responsible can return the banner anonymously by contacting David Hamilton on 07771700664.

# They're all blooming marvellous in Oban

OBAN and Lorn Horticultural Society held its annual flower show last Saturday with a wide range of growers of plants, flowers and a display of vegetables.

The show, which is a favourite with local gardeners, saw fine examples of dahlias, pot plants, wild flowers, gladioli, roses and vegetables.

Organisers are always keen to encourage new exhibitors and this year there were a few new contributors including children in the decorated pot plant and fruit animals.

The overall winner, for best exhibit in show, went to Donnie

MacDougall of Taynult for his gladioli, while the challenge cup was won by Ronnie McKillop with his lavatera.

There was a good show of beeswax and honey of exceptional quality shown.

The show was well attended, but there was a lower than usual number of entries.

Next year, it is hoped that more people will take part in the show.

Organisers are keen that those who are first-time growers get involved with showing their produce and flowers for the town to see the talent that exists.

The Oban in Bloom competition for the best big garden was won by Ross Dalgetty.

Oban in Bloom thanked all those who entered their gardens in this year's competition and hope that they will continue their hard work and enter again next year.

Judges said they were impressed with the very high standard of the gardens entered this year and commented that they found it a very difficult job to select the winners of each section.



**FIRST PRIZE:** Ronnie McKillop with his lavatera 07\_135hor1

### OBAN & LORN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY FLOWER SHOW RESULTS

TROPHIES: Challenge Trophy by J C Paton Oban; R MacKillop, Oban Town Council Challenge Cup; I Brown; Oban and Lorn Horticultural Society Challenge Trophy; W Hay; Challenge Trophy presented by Messrs W & H Hay Oban; W Hay; Loch Eive Challenge Trophy; H MacKenzie; Mrs Willox of Dumbarton Challenge Trophy; D MacDougall; Alistair MacLeod Memorial Trophy; I Brown; Oban Times Challenge Trophy; H MacLeod; Strathcona and Mount Royal Challenge Trophy; H MacLeod; Oban and District Hotel and Boarding House Association Challenge Cup; I MacKenzie; Challenge Trophy presented by Mrs H Hutton, Oban; A Malloch; Challenge Trophy presented by the late Lady Campbell of Arduaine; H MacLeod; The Willis Cup; I Wilson; Alexander Binnie Cup; D MacDougall. Cut Flowers, Herbaceous Shrubs and Annuals: 1 Vase Mixed Shrubs: 1 S Black, 2 I MacGill, 3 D Black; 1 Vase Hydrangeas (3 Heads): 1 and 2 K Munro, 3 M MacLeod; 1 Vase Annual Lavatera: 1 and 2 R MacKillop, 3 D Black; 1 Vase Herbaceous-mixed: 1 S Black, 2 D Black; 1 Vase Herbaceous - one kind excl of Phlox: 1 I MacGill, 2 and 3 M Lamont; 1 Vase Phlox - 3 spikes: 1 and 2 W Hay, 3 I MacGill; 1 Vase Annuals - excl of sweet peas and those for which separate class is provided: 1 R MacKillop, 2 S Black, 3 D Black; 1 Vase Asters (6 Blooms): 1 & 2 A Pringle; 1 Vase Scotch Marigold (6 Blooms): 1 & 2 R MacKillop, 3 D Black; 1 Vase African Marigold (6 Blooms): 1 I Brown, 2 A Pringle, 3 W Hay; 1 Vase Border Carnations (4 Blooms): 1 D MacDougall, 2 W Hay; Dahlias: 1 Vase Dahlias - 5 Miniature Decoratives: 1 I Brown, 2 D MacDougall, 3 W Hay; 1 Vase Cactus Dahlias - 3 Medium or 3 Small: 1 and 2 I Brown, 3 D MacDougall; 1 Vase Décor Dahlias - 3 Medium or 3 Small: 1 I Brown, 2 W Hay, 3 D Black; 1 Giant Dahlia Bloom: 1 D MacDougall, 2 and 3 I Brown; 1 Vase Dahlias (5 Blooms): 1 W Hay, 2 I Brown, 3 W Hay; 1 Vase Ball Dahlias (up to 4" in diameter) 3 Blooms: 1 and 2 D MacDougall, 2 W Hay; 1 Vase Pompom Dahlias (up to 2" in diameter) 5 Blooms: 1 D MacDougall, 2 I Brown, 3 W

Hay; Sweet Peas, Gladioli, Chrysanthemums and Roses: 1 Vase Sweet Peas - single colour (not more than 12 spikes): 1 A Pringle, 2 N MacFarlane; 1 Vase Sweet Peas - mixed not more than 12 spikes: 1 H MacKenzie, 2 N MacFarlane; 1 Vase Gladioli - 1 Spike: 1 and 2 D MacDougall, 3 S Ogilvie; 1 Vase Gladioli - 2 Spikes: 1 and 2 D MacDougall, 3 H MacLeod; 1 Vase Roses (3 Blooms): 1 D MacMillan, 2 I Brown, 3 D Black; 1 Specimen Rose Bloom: 1 I Brown, 2 D MacMillan, 3 I Brown; Pot Plants: Plant in flower other than those named: 1 D MacMillan; 1 Geranium; 1 D MacMillan, 2 H MacLeod; 1 Fuchsia - mature bush: 1 I MacKechnie, 2 H MacLeod, 3 I MacKechnie. Special: 1 Basket containing an arrangement of flowers (not to exceed 18" wide): 1 F Morrison, 2 M Morrison; 1 Bowl of Flowerheads (not exceed 18 inches wide): Vegetables: Collection of Vegetables - 6 kinds not to exceed 4" in width: 1 H MacLeod; 2 Pot Leeks - over 5" and under 12": H MacLeod; 3 Onion-sets: 1 H MacLeod, 2 H MacKenzie; 2 Onions - plants, not sets: 1 H MacKenzie, 2 H MacLeod; 1 Heads Celery: H MacLeod; 3 Capsicums (any colour/colours): 1 T MacDonald, 2 T MacDonald, 3 S MacIntyre; 4 Tomatoes: 1 P Moss, 2 N MacFarlane; 6 Cherry Tomatoes: 1 R MacKillop, 2 N MacFarlane, 3 R MacKillop; 4 Potatoes - white (one variety): 1 H MacKenzie, 2 A Pringle, 3 K Munro; 3 Carrots - Stump: 1 H MacLeod; 3 Carrots - long: 1 H MacLeod; 3 Pods Runner Beans: 1 & 2 T MacDonald; 6 Pods French Beans: 1 H MacLeod; 6 Pods Broad Beans: 1 H MacLeod; 3 Parsnips: 1 H MacLeod; 1 Marrow: 1 H MacLeod; 1 Cucumber: 1 D Black; 2 Courgettes: 1 and 2 T MacDonald, 3 I Fox; 9 Pods Peas: 1 H MacLeod, 3 I Brown; 1 H MacKenzie, 2 H MacLeod; 1 Bunch Mixed Herbs: 1 J Moss, 2 and 3 F Morrison. Classes for persons with less than 4 years show experience: 1 Vase of Dahlias (3 Blooms): 1 and 2 I MacKechnie, 3 N MacFarlane; 3 Tomatoes: 1 N MacFarlane; Honey: 1 Jar Extracted Honey: 1 A Lamont, 2 and 3 P Moss; 1 Jar Granulated

Honey: 1 M Peden, 2 and 3 P Moss; 1 Block of Beeswax: 1 and 2 T MacDonald, 3 P Moss; 1 Moulded Beeswax Candle: 1 and 2 A Lamont, 3 T MacDonald. Children's Class: Decorated Plant Pot: 1 C MacKay, 2 A Malloch, 3 L Preiss; Animal made from Fruit and/or vegetable: 1 A Malloch; Floral arrangement in a tea pot: 1 L Preiss, 2 A Malloch; Photography Section: General: 1 G Porter, 2 A Clark, 3 A Lamont; Landscape/seascape: 1 H Wilson, 2 A Lamont, 3 S MacIntyre; Flowers/Shrubs: 1 A Lamont, 2 A Clark, 3 S MacIntyre.

Oban in Bloom thanked all those who entered their gardens in this year's competition and hopes that they will continue their hard work and enter again next year.

Oban in Bloom would like thank Argyll Community Housing Association, Atlantis Leisure, Cakebread Garden Centre, Dungallan House Hotel, Homebase, Kinlochlich Garden Centre, MacGillivray Seafoods, MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust, Matheson Furniture, Poppies Garden Centre and Tesco for their annual sponsorship of the prizes for the competition. Without their support it would not be able to continue.

The annual prizegiving for the Oban in Bloom Garden Competition took place at the Oban and Lorn Horticultural Show.

The following is the list of prize winners: Small Gardens: Thomson Trophy: 1 Duncan Black, 2 Anne Black; Medium Gardens: Poppies Garden Centre Cup: 1 Iain and Jane MacIntyre, 2 Andy MacDowall, 3 Dr Eric Jespersen.

ACHA Tenants: ACHA Tenants Shield: 1 N MacFarlane, 2 David Black; Hotels and Guest Houses: MacTavish's Kitchen cup: 1 Glenberrie Guest House, 2 The Lorne; Commercial Premises: 1 Lorn & Islands District General Hospital, 2 MacQueen Bros Ltd, 3 Millennium Garden; Hanging Baskets: Homebase Cup: 1 Aulay's Bar, 2 Bossards Patisserie; Best private Garden: Kinlochlich Salva; Ross Dalgetty; Overall Champion: Oban Times Quaiich: Ross Dalgetty.



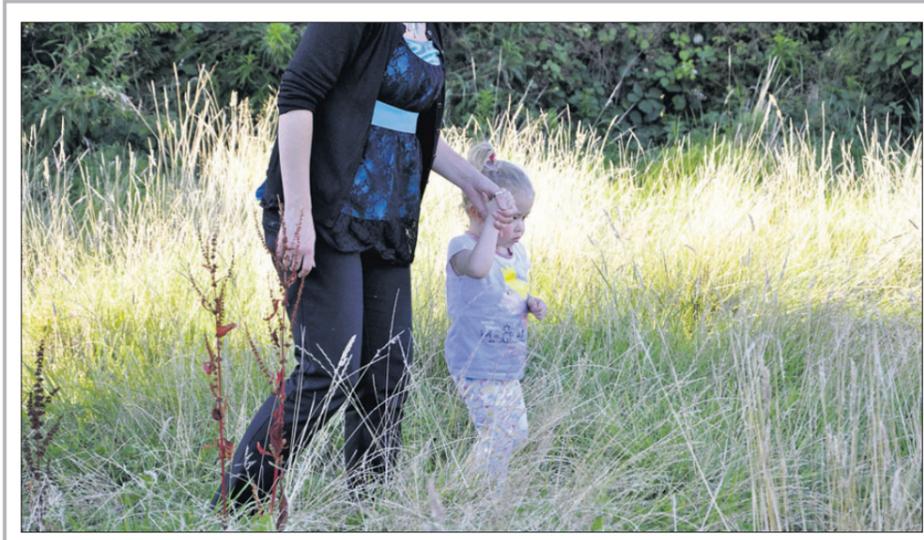
**BEST EXHIBIT:** Hugh MacLeod, Winner of Best exhibit in vegetable section



**BEST IN SHOW:** Donnie MacDougall's gladioli won best in show 07\_135hor3



**OBAN TIMES QUAIICH:** After a season of hard graft, Ross Dalgetty has helped his wife Diana to show off this year's prizes. Winning the MacDougall Home Hardware Cup for the Best Big Garden, the Kinlochlich Gardens Silver Slaver for Best Private Garden, and The Oban Times Quaiich for Best Garden in Oban



## Playpark responsibility gets lost in the deeds of time

HOUSEHOLDERS have discovered that a wildly overgrown playpark in Oban is their responsibility.

Built as part of a planning condition when the development was constructed, Argyll and Bute council says it is there to enhance local communities and encourage families to move into areas.

'Not if they are left to become 'overgrown,' says resident of Park Road, Kevin McCubbin, who says the grass is taller than his son.

Until earlier this year when they moved a way, a householder in the street had taken it upon themselves to cut the grass. Other residents were not aware that the park was their responsibility.

Audrey Campbell, who lives in the street and whose third child is on the way, said: 'The playpark is apparently the responsibility of the homeowners and is on their title deeds.'

'We were going to trim it ourselves at some point. Housebuilder MacLeod Construction said they created the playpark to abide with planning rules.'

'This was never mentioned to us when we purchased the house, so I'm quite sceptical that it is in our title deeds.'

Jane MacLeod of MacLeod Construction said: 'We often get calls from residents to say no one has cut the grass.'

'But the playparks are built as part of planning conditions and then become the responsibility of the residents.'

'It may be a better solution for companies to pay into a bigger pot for playparks in general, instead of burdening households with the responsibility for upkeep.'

An Argyll and Bute council spokesman confirmed: 'The play park at Park Road is not the responsibility of the council.'

## Oban parking fees go into council 'black hole'

OBANITES want parking cash to benefit the people of the town rather than being split into a central pot, as Argyll and Bute councillors agreed at a meeting last week.

Both the community council and members of the business community want money raised through parking fees in the town to improve roads and parking areas.

Alister Jackson, of Jackson's Master Butchers on George Street, argued that if Oban was the only place to have town centre on-street parking in Argyll and Bute - then the money raised should be kept in the town.

An Argyll and Bute council decision will see all parking money go into a central pot then redistributed throughout the local authority.

Councillor James Robb said: 'Drivers would be more willing to accept parking charges if the money raised was re-invested locally rather than disappearing into a black hole in the council's finances or spent elsewhere in Argyll and Bute.'

## Ton-up biker still keeps his licence

A MOTORCYCLIST who was caught travelling at 97mph on the Arrivain straights between Dalmainly and Tyndrum has been spared his licence.

Daniel Downie, aged 60, Parkthorn Avenue, Troon, pleaded guilty to speeding on the A85, flouting the national speed limit, on March 30 this year.

At Oban sheriff court last Wednesday, Sheriff Susan Sinclair heard Downie required his driving licence for his work as a plumbing supervisor, as he travelled 1,200 miles a week between jobs.

Sheriff Sinclair fined him £350 and endorsed his licence with five penalty points, bringing his total number of penalty points to 11.

Describing his speed as 'horrendous', Sheriff Sinclair told Downie: 'If your driving is anything other than textbook, you will lose your licence.'

## Injured passenger flown to hospital

A TEENAGER had to be airlifted to hospital in Glasgow for treatment to internal injuries following a car accident last Thursday between 1am-2am at Fionnphort on Mull.

The 18-year-old man's mother called an ambulance when he appeared home injured and Scottish Ambulance personnel informed Police Scotland.

As a result of enquiries, it was discovered that a car he had been a passenger in had been involved in an accident.

A 21-year-old man has since been charged with reckless driving, driving while disqualified, with no insurance and for taking and driving a car without the owner's consent.

# Future use of Rockfield divides community councillors' opinions

LOUISE LEE  
lee@obantimes.co.uk

OBAN community council told the group trying to buy the town's former Rockfield school for a cultural hub the venture would never work.

On Monday night, the community council heard a presentation from solicitor Gordon MacNab and businessman Graham MacQueen about the need for a cultural and community hub in the heart of Oban.

Representing Oban Communities Trust (OCT), they said an offer had been put in for the Victorian building - in order to save it from demolition.

Mr MacNab described the vision

and business case for the building, saying that a number of organisations, including North Argyll Carer's Centre and Oban FM, were willing to move into the building. He said more than 900 people had pledged their support.

Mr MacNab confirmed that Scottish architect Malcolm Fraser advised OCT the costs would be minimal to bring the building back into use.

At the end of his presentation, Mr MacNab was told the community council had already made its decision, and it would continue to support the demolition of the school for town centre housing.

'But there were six bids for the

building,' councillor Neil MacIntyre asked fellow councillors. 'Are you not wanting to hear from everyone before you decide who to support?'

At this point, Argyll and Bute councillor Duncan MacIntyre left the room as he said information had been given to the community that was from confidential council papers.

He said: 'I would not be able to make a decision on the sale of Rockfield if you continue to give private information to the community council.'

Marri Malloy, community council chairwoman, said: 'I personally don't think it will work.'

'They tried seven years ago to get this going and it didn't get off the

ground. Is it ever going to come to any fruition? I am worried about overlap with the new building on the North Pier.'

'I don't know where all the money is coming from. But if you do manage it, I will be your biggest supporter.'

Argyll and Bute council is planning to build a maritime centre and performance space at the White Building on the North Pier as part of its CHORD project.

Mrs Malloy asked Linda Houston, Argyll and Bute council's town centre development manager: 'Is one cultural building not enough? I mean, can the town cope with two?'

Mrs Houston said: 'We think the

two buildings could work together.'

Community councillors George Berry and Duncan Martin supported OCT's plans for Rockfield, and especially the forming of a community trust.

Mr Martin, secretary, said: 'Whatever happens the formation of the community trust must not be allowed to stop. The group would be the way to preserve the town's community assets.'

Agreeing, Mr MacQueen said: 'This is our one opportunity. This building means something to this town, and the people of this area.'

'If we tear it down, that is it - it is gone. There is no turning back once

that is done. We need to save this building.'

Mr Berry said: 'There is nothing for the community in the town centre. I personally support this and I was not involved in the previous community council decision.'

OCT plans to use car parking as an immediate income generator for the building, before introducing a museum, an art gallery and business space amongst other things.

It has already had discussions with Scottish Future's Trust and other national funders.

A decision on the future of Rockfield is set to be made by the Argyll and Bute council on September 10.

## Islanders pay a 'moving' tribute to brave war dead

TREE was the poignant setting of a 'moving and emotional' tribute last week to the brave members of the armed forces who died during the Second World War, writes Louise Lee.

An unique memorial plaque was unveiled at Crossapol to honour the crew of a RAF squadron and a service was held to commemorate those who died on the HMS Sturdy.

Gathering together on the island for the events, the sun broke through the rain clouds to allow families, friends and residents to come together to remember an event that happened 60 years ago to the day on August 16 at 1.25pm.

On the day of the accident, two aircraft from Squadron 518 went out on vital meteorological work and collided in mid air.

The 16 crew on board - highly skilled pilots and meteorologists - were killed instantly. The HMS

Sturdy, an S class destroyer of the Royal Navy, was wrecked off Tiree on October 30, 1940 with the death of five crew.

A memorial plaque to the air crew was unveiled at the island's airport before a service at Highland House and then at the island's cemetery in Soroby.

Families members who had never met travelled to the island. Those involved said they were overwhelmed by the warmth and hospitality of the islanders.

They later attended a ceilidh in the evening, where they shared music, dancing and family stories in celebration of the courage and sacrifice of the aircrew and sailors.

MOVING TRIBUTE: The memorial on Tiree to commemorate the loss of Squadron 518



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## Crew makes a splash as they seal the deal at sea life centre

APPIN'S volunteer firefighters got the seal of approval this week from some aquatic friends after the crew came to their rescue.

The seals at the Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary near Barcaldine were left high and dry when, after a routine cleaning of their two pools, it was discovered that the main sea water pump from Loch Creran had failed.

Anna Price, of the centre's displays team, said: 'Our three resident seals, Pippa, Lora and Macey usually have two lovely big pools to swim around which

get cleaned weekly. I emptied out one of their pools on Friday and jet-washed it but when I went to fill it up, there was no water.'

The Appin crew brought one of their engines and a mobile pump to get the water up the hill from the loch into the pool.

'The animal care team is very grateful to them but I think the biggest thanks come from our lovely seals who now have the freedom of both pools,' said Anna.

The centre has three resident seals, Lora, 8, Macey, 4 and Pippa, 2, plus 53 tanks of fish and two resident otters.



SEAL OF APPROVAL: seal Lora thanks Appin volunteer firefighter David Colthart for refilling her pool, watched by Anna Price

## No waste to budget after bin collection move

NO SAVINGS will be made when Argyll and Bute council takes its bin collections to fortnightly later this year.

Alternate weekly recycling and general waste collections in Oban and Lorn start at the end of October.

The green bin will remain for general waste but the blue bin will now take

plastic bottles/tubs/trays and cans as well as paper and card.

An Argyll and Bute council spokesman said the overall impact following the changes to bin collections and introduction of co-mingled waste to 'ongoing revenue budgets should be, based on current assumptions broadly neutral'.

## Autumn Business workshops

**Business start-up** - a one and a half day workshop incorporating getting your marketing right, developing a realistic business plan and learning what financial management skills you will need.

September - 17/18, Helensburgh  
October - 7/8, Oban; 22/23, Rothesay; 28/29, Campbeltown

**Practical basic book-keeping** - Book-keeping is a core skill you will need to run your business, learn how to keep accurate financial records, the key components of book-keeping, bank reconciliation and VAT.

September - 18, Helensburgh  
October - 14, Oban; 23, Rothesay; 29, Campbeltown

**Build your own business website** - a workshop introducing the basic essentials of website design, how to make your site attractive, usable and easy to find and what tools are available and which one is best suited for your purpose.

October - 6, Helensburgh; 8, Ardrishaig; 27, Oban

**Improve your website performance** - a workshop for businesses who feel their website isn't producing the results they expect. The session covers layout, navigation, design, online sales process, search engine optimisation and browser compatibility.

October - 7, Helensburgh; 9, Ardrishaig; 28, Oban

### Coming soon...

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**Tyndrum**

WITH the country gripped by 'Great British Bake Off' fever, one Tyndrum business is hoping to rise to the top in Scotland's premier baking awards.

The Real Food Café is a finalist in Scotland's best café and nominated online categories at this year's Scottish Baking Awards.

The awards celebrate a range of desserts including cakes, biscuits and pastries made by cafes, tearooms, restaurants and home bakers throughout Scotland.

Assessors have visited almost 800 premises from Shetland to Biggar, aiming to find the best baked goods in the country. After wowing the assessors with their cakes, the Real Food Café beat off competition from 25 other nominated outlets to secure their place at the glittering final on September 28, in Marr Hall, Renfrewshire.

Melanie Andrews, director and founder of the Scottish Baking Awards, said: 'The cafes, tearooms, restaurants, supermarkets and home bakers that are through to our final have all shown creativity, exceptional technical skills and a passion for the art of baking. We wish the Real Food Café well on the night and hope they continue to impress customers with their wonderful cooking.'

**Flodigarry**

A CHARITY in north Skye is on its way to opening a new community centre thanks to donations, grants and fundraising activities.

The Flodigarry Trust, based in its namesake village, has come a long way since it was formed in 2009.

Now, after five years, the trust is preparing a business plan which it hopes will lead to opening a new centre to benefit the Trotternish peninsula.

The group has organised a ceilidh in Flodigarry on September 5 to raise money for the new venture, boosting funds from public bodies including Awards for All and Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

Margaret Nicolson, chairwoman of The Flodigarry Trust, said: 'We are delighted to have reached this stage with our proposed development and look forward positively to offering a high class facility which will enhance and complement existing provision within the locality of the Trotternish peninsula. With continuing support from the community and public bodies we progress with confidence.'

**Luig**

'AUNTY' PAM Shairp held a fundraising afternoon tea, during the summer holidays in aid of Macmillan Cancer Research on the Isle of Luig.

Raising more than £400, the tea, cakes and sandwiches were welcomed by everyone.

Many people turned out for the event and enjoyed the opportunity to get together during the break.

THE LUIG pantomime DVD is still on sale in Luig Stores and Balvicar Stores - oh, yes it is.

Performers and their relatives were reminded of just how good they were at a reunion showing of the performance on the island.

The cost of the DVD is £5 and was made by Rikki Lee-Burton from Seil.

THE ATLANTIC Islands Centre is out of the ground and on its way to delivery.

Good progress is being made on building the centre.

The basic structure is in place and the windows are now in and the Engine House has a large hipped roof.

Watch out for news coming soon about exciting plans by Leach Colour for the interpretation inside.

**Ardnamurchan**

ARCHAEOLOGY enthusiasts in Ardnarmurchan can keep up to date with developments in the area thanks to a new social media page.

Ardnamurchan community archaeology group has been working on a number of interesting projects, many reported by *The Oban Times*, and now members have made it easy to keep track of progress by setting up a Facebook page.

Local amateur archaeologist Jon Haylett said: 'The group has a lot going on, and we're hoping that a Facebook presence will help us get our message out to those who are interested in Ardnarmurchan's rich history.'

Search 'Ardnamurchan community archaeology' to find out more.

**Kilmore**

THE AUGUST winner of Kilmore 100 Club was T Storr. If anyone would like to join the 100 Club, a few numbers are available. Contact D Mudie on 01631 770268.



VISITOR BOOST: Stephen McKeown hand-reared the 10 guinea fowl, now resident at Armadale Castle

**Guinea fowl attract visitors to Armadale Castle**

A TOURIST attraction on Skye is drawing in even more visitors thanks to the arrival of ten guinea fowl.

The West African birds were hatched and hand-reared at Armadale Castle by manager Stephen McKeown and have become a big hit with visitors. Mr McKeown said: 'They've become a real attraction and must now be the most photographed animals on Skye. Children particularly are fascinated with them but the resident peacock is less than impressed. He gives them a wide berth, maybe because they have a reputation for ganging up on enemies and competitors.'

**Ardrishaig Flower Show a 'blooming' success**

Results: Coronation Cup for most points in open section: Hugh MacLeod; Thompson Cup for most points in dahlias: Dougal MacDougall; The Thompson Cup for best fuchsia: Neil John MacLean; Coronation Cup for most points in vegetable section: Neil John MacLean; The Coronation cup for most points in baking and preserves: Elizabeth Scott; The Anderson Cup for best sultana cake: Elizabeth Scott; The Crawford Cup for the best exhibit in the show: Isabella Souden; The Presidents Cup for most points in open cut flowers and pot plants: Hugh MacLeod; The Alice Wood Memorial Cup for the best exhibit in floral art: Isabella Souden; The Catherine Smith Memorial Trophy: Helen Hope; cup for most points in floral art: Isabella Souden; The Ormsary Cup for most points in baking: Elizabeth Scott; cup for most points in preserves: Elizabeth Scott; The Crawford Cup for school art: Isla Sloan for Ardrishaig School; The Sheila MacIntosh Memorial Trophy: Isabella Souden; The MacFarlane Memorial Trophy, sweet peas: Archie MacFarlane; The Jeanie MacKenzie Memorial Trophy for handicraft: Elizabeth Rhodick; The Archie J MacDonald Memorial Trophy pansies: Sheila MacKenzie; The Donald Moir Memorial Trophy: Linda Tighe; The M Reid Memorial Trophy: gladioli: Dougal MacDougall; cup for best fuchsia in open section: Neil John MacLean; Millennium Cup for most points in show: Neil John MacLean; Tommy Tyson Memorial Cup for best begonia in show: Hugh MacLeod; A K MacInnes Memorial Cup for best shallots in show: Hugh MacLeod; Peggy MacLean Shield for best swiss roll: Elizabeth Scott; The Mervyn Kessell Cup for most points in photograph section: Ron Bowe; Ardrishaig Community Council Shield for best Ardrishaig garden: Community Council; ACHA Diamond Celebration Cup, best exhibit handicraft and photography: Ardrishaig Craft Club; Red Rosette for best exhibit in horticultural section: Hugh MacLeod; Red Ribbon for second best exhibit in horticultural: Hugh MacLeod; Rosette best exhibit non-horticultural: Isabella Souden; rosette for floral art: 1 Isabella Souden, 2 Isabella Souden, 3 Liz Malcolm; rosette for most points in children's section: Shaun Doy; rosette for most points in knitting section: Elizabeth Rhodick; Garden News Top Tray Class: 1 Neil John MacLean, 2 Archie MacFarlane; Garden News Top Vase: 1 Neil John MacLean, 2 Archie MacFarlane, 3 Shaun Doy.

**MORVERN lines**

**St Columba's curse on Lochnell House**

ACCORDING to no less an authority than The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, Lochnell House near Benderloch has been rebuilt several times.

Thereby hangs a tale on the subject of Highland curses which I wrote about in these columns a few weeks ago.

This one, uttered more than 1,000 years ago by the potential mischief-maker and Dalriadan activist St Columba, was about a magnificent yew which flourished on Bernera, a tidal island off the south end of Lismore.

It seems St Columba blessed a large congregation under its spreading branches and then prophesied that a proud and greedy man would cut it down to furnish his house with its timber. His crime, and here comes the 'mallachd', would be paid for by water, blood and three fires and that a son would never succeed a father as long as any wood from the Bernera yew remained in his house.

The culprit in this case was the local laird Sir Duncan Campbell of Lochnell (1763-1837) who, in a vile act of wanton vandalism, had the sacred yew of Bernera cut down and sawn into planks for a staircase in Lochnell House.

When the tree fell a workman was crushed to death so that the trunk and the ground below were soaked in blood. When the six-oared boat carrying the timber back to Ardmucknish Bay was swamped by a sudden squall, a number of men were drowned. Even although he would have known about the curse from the local community stunned by the loss of such an ancient landmark, Campbell had his staircase. On three occasions the house went on fire and had to be rebuilt but each time the Bernera yew escaped until January 29 1853 when it was destroyed in the worst blaze of all.

The present chief, Alexander Campbell 17th of Lochnell, who was born in 1961, is the first son to have inherited the title from his father since that day. Thus St Columba's prophecy and curse was completely fulfilled.

The local people never forgave nor forgot Sir Duncan for cutting down the great yew.

Although his heir ordered a 15 per cent reduction in the Lochnell Estate rents in 1851, when the house went on fire two years later, a contemporary account recorded: 'the blaze of light issuing from the two or three hundred windows of the castle, and the lurid glare of the fire shedding its reflection over the expanse of Lochnell's deep waters, tendered the scene one never to be forgotten by the hundreds of Lochnell's tenantry, who crowded to every high hill to witness the destruction of their proprietor's mansion by an agent whose approach could not be foreseen, nor yet could its destroying influence be now either mitigated, or controlled.'

Clearly there was a reason why the tenants preferred to stand back and watch the pile burn. We may guess why.

Yew roots can lie dormant in the ground for generations, a fact borne out by the large number of saplings I saw on a recent expedition to Bernera. I was delighted to find others growing opposite on the Morvern cliffs between Rubha an Ridrie and Eignais. Their seeds had obviously been borne across Loch Linnhe on the breeze or by birds. Although St Columba was able to look into the future, he apparently was not able to see everything.



ABLAZE: Lochnell House which was burnt three times following St Columba's curse



ROOTS: island of Bernera, home of the famous yew tree

**Mull truck owner learns his lesson**

I MENTIONED the power of the Mull 'tinker's curse' in my previous piece on the subject.

Since it was published I was told of a truck owner on Mull who, a few years ago, came across a couple of 'mile-stone inspectors' as they were called, at the road-side between Craignure and Tobermory signalling that they wanted a lift. He did not stop.

A few miles later his vehicle ground to a halt from a catastrophic 'big-end' bearing failure. It put him off the road for weeks and he was in no doubt why! Months later he saw the same couple and thought it prudent to pick them up this time.

They were very grateful and when they arrived at their destination they asked why he had stopped. He gave the reason to which they retorted, 'it could not have been us John; we would never have wished more than a puncture on you!'

**MP rocks the boat over mail subsidy**

I WAS going through some parliamentary papers recently and came across a question Major Duncan MacCallum MP asked the Postmaster General in the House of Commons in 1943 about Drimmin.

He wanted to know why the weekly subsidy of 10 shillings paid to two brothers, John and David Cameron, Bunavullin, to ferry mail to and from mail-boats in the Sound of Mull had not been raised in 50 years. Major MacCallum said: 'As far as John and David Cameron are concerned, they are faced with the problem of making both ends meet in the daily struggle with modern conditions.'

Major MacCallum was the Unionist MP for Argyll. He took the seat in the 1940 General Election with a majority of 9,915 over Labour in a straight fight. MacCallum was the son of Charles Coburn, the variety artist who, in 1873, became famous as 'the man who broke the Bank of Monte Carlo'. Coburn's real name was Colin MacCallum and he died aged 83.

Iain Thornber  
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**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**

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The Oban Times is giving art lovers the chance to win a three night stay for two people at Wallace's Arthouse. The prize includes bed and continental breakfast, based on two people sharing, and must be taken in October or November 2014.

To enter, simply answer this easy question, complete the form and send to Wyvex Media, Wallace Comp, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be received by Tuesday September 9, 2014.

**Question: The designer label DKNY stands for what?**

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c) Donna Karan New Year

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Terms and conditions: OVER 18s ONLY. The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entry coupons will not be accepted. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. This competition is also open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications. Digital subscribers can enter by printing this page and submitting their entry along with a letter explaining you are a digital subscriber (please provide your email address). Closing date for entries is midnight Tuesday September 9, 2014. The prize needs to be taken between the months of October and November in 2014.

**Isle of Rum**

THOSE visiting the Isle of Rum have the chance to feed both their bodies and their minds thanks to a series of dinners and lectures.

Run by the Isle of Rum community trust, a different talk will be given in the village hall every Thursday until November, with food being served beforehand. Tonight (Thursday) the topic is 'the geology of Rum' by Jed Cossar. For more information go to [www.isleofrum.com](http://www.isleofrum.com).



HAPPY MOTORING: members of Oban and district classic vehicle club park up for a rest during one of their recent road runs

**Kilniver**

A LOUNGE lizard has been making his home in a new polytunnel at Kilniver primary school.

The reptile was found by teachers on the return to school. The growing space inside the polytunnel will be used for making hanging baskets for people in the area.

Anyone with peat to spare who would like to donate it to the school should contact Bernie MacMillan.

**Seil Island**

A CRAFT fayre will be held in Seil Island Hall on August 31, with a special mission - this time to raise cash for the building itself.

The hall has been used for various activities and provides a focal point for the island. But this year the fundraiser will see a special competition where people of all ages are being asked to bring out home-grown veg.

**Classics take to the road**

MEMBERS of Oban and district classic vehicle club have enjoyed two 'road runs' this month.

The first run was on Sunday August 10 when members travelled to Arisaig and met up with fellow enthusiasts from Kirkintilloch Car Club, Stirling Car Club and members of the Capri Club of Scotland, enjoying lunch with them before returning home.

The second run, the Mid Argyll Circular, took place on Sunday August 24 when members of the Oban club took to the road again, enjoying lunch at Ardrishaig before returning home via Lochgilphead and Inveraray.

**Inveraray**

INVERARAY Jog Scotland is planning a new recruitment session on Saturday September 5 following the training of four new leaders.

People of all ages and ability are being encouraged to come along to an informal session for a chat and maybe a run and a snack. Jog Scotland aims to get people who have not jogged before or haven't been out for a long time to take up the sport.

One week later the group is launching a kids on the run group for upper primary school pupils.

**Salmon firm staff on the run for charity**

STAFF from the Scottish Salmon Company will run, walk, cycle and row 350 miles for the company's second annual Salmon Run next week.

The run is a team-based event, with stages of the run at Torridon, Skye, Mull and Arran, Loch Fyne and Edinburgh between September 1 and 6.

Conceived last year, the run will bring together 89 members of staff

from across the regions where the company operates, with each member completing one of the 39 stages of the journey, in aid of the Sandpiper Trust.

The Sandpiper Trust helps to save lives in Scotland by improving immediate medical care, especially in remote and rural areas, by providing standardised and uniform medical equipment known as Sandpiper

Bags to voluntary medical staff. Penny Hawdon, environmental project co-ordinator for the Scottish Salmon Company said: 'By bringing staff together to complete this long journey as one big team, we see the annual run as a great opportunity to get out and raise money for such an important cause.' To donate, visit: [uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/sscsalmonrun](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/sscsalmonrun)

# Corran ferry group wins pledge to switch refit date

HIGHLAND Council has pledged to reschedule maintenance work on the busy Corran ferry following pressure from a campaign group.

Members of Free Crossing for Corran [FC Corran] and communities of the Ardnamurchan and Morvern peninsulas have spent years calling for a shift in the maintenance schedule of MV Corran, which ships people across Loch Linnhe between Fort William and Ardgour.

The work usually clashes with the peak traffic of the October school break and car event the Mull Rally, causing what the group describe as 'potentially deadly' queues on the A82 and disruption to travel schedules. This week Highland Council agreed to postpone the refit.

Graham MacKenzie, chairman of Highland council's community services committee, said: 'We have listened to the local community and, with the agreement of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, I am pleased we are able to put in place measures to reschedule the MV Corran refit until the end of October.'

This means we will no longer need to deploy the smaller relief vessel MV Maid of Glencoul over the busy school holiday period. The local community and visitors can benefit from an improvement to the service that has previously not been possible at this time of year.'

FC Corran's chairman Tony Boyd said he sees this as an important step forward in their ultimate fight to

abolish the £7.90 single fare. He added: 'Highland Council have shown they can respond to community concerns. It's now up to the council and the Scottish Government to secure the long term future of the crossing. They need to find a real solution to an integral part of Scotland's trunk road system that is essentially holding our communities to ransom. Our sincere thanks to councillors Thomas MacLennan, Andrew Baxter and all the other folk who are working hard on the communities' behalf.'

Councillor Thomas MacLennan, leader of Lochaber area committee welcomed the news. He said: 'Corran Ferry is the second busiest vehicular crossing in Scotland and it plays a vital role in the social and economic activities of the whole area.'

'Anything we can do to minimise disruption to the service is good news so I am delighted that retiming of the annual refit now means there will be greater capacity on the crossing in particular over the weekend of the 10-12 October when the Mull rally takes place.'

Maintenance work on MV Corran has been postponed until the end of October. As part of the FC Corran campaign, members are asking residents of Ardnamurchan, Morvern, Mull and Iona to get in touch about the impact the ferry fare, which has risen by 25 per cent in the last year. Information will be treated in confidence and can be sent to media@fccorran.org.uk.



FIGHTING ON: FC Corran members are campaigning to abolish fares on the Corran Ferry

## Hillwalker's body recovered on Rum

THE BODY of a 73-year-old man has been found on Rum after an extensive mountain rescue search of the isle.

The pensioner was reported missing on Saturday. His body was found on a descent in the west of Rum on Sunday following a search involving police, Lochaber mountain rescue team, coastguard and Mallaig lifeboat.

A police spokesman said emergency services were deployed to search the south of the island following a report of a man who did not return from his walk.

He added: 'Coastguard, Lochaber mountain rescue and police have been involved in the search operation. Sadly, the body of a man has been recovered from a mountainside having apparently fallen. Next of kin have been informed.'

A Lochaber mountain rescue team spokesman added: 'Twelve members of the team plus Tara the dog led a search of Sgurr nan Gillean and Ruinsival ridge and corries. Unfortunately the walker was found on the descent towards Harris.'

## Single lane trunk road for months

A STRETCH of Lochaber's trunk road will be reduced to one lane for four months from Monday.

Traffic management will be in place just north of Corran Ferry from 7am until 6pm Monday to Friday to allow Forestry Commission Scotland to remove trees above the A82 until December 19.

Road users were warned there could be 10-minute periods when traffic is halted in both directions although the Commission guarantees this will not happen between 8am and 9am, when traffic is busiest.

Alex MacLeod of Forestry Commission Scotland said: 'We apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause. The usual arrangements will be in place for emergency vehicles and we will endeavour to minimise disruption as much as we can.'

## £1m investment in A82 road work

A MILLION-pound investment into Lochaber's trunk road will see a stretch of the A82 restored, after a landslide caused severe damage almost three years ago.

Temporary traffic lights have been in operation at Glen Gloy, near Spean Bridge, since the slip damaged the riverbank supporting the road in November 2011. Since then, Transport Scotland has been trying to find a way to repair the road without shutting it completely and is now ready to appoint a contractor. Work is expected to start

early next year and take eight or nine months. As well as repairing the riverbank, the 300-metre stretch will be realigned to take away two bends.

Graham Edmond of Transport Scotland, said: 'Thanks goes to communities in the area for their patience. We considered a number of solutions, but some of these would have needed the complete closure of A82 for several months. The construction method chosen for the project will allow goods and services to continue using A82 during the works.'

Brian Murphy, Highland councillor and chairman of campaign group the A82 partnership, said: 'The A82 Partnership is pleased to see this commitment from Transport Scotland to the realignment of the A82 at Glen Gloy. This will do away with one set of the many traffic lights on the A82 and remove a couple of the bends on this section.'

Dave Thompson, MSP for Skye, Lochaber, and Badenoch, also welcomed the news. He said: 'It is great news the work will be completed within eight to nine months.'

## Cash boost for Lochaline Village Hall

A 'VITAL' community hall in Morvern is to be restored thanks to a grant of more than £1,000.

Lochaline Village Hall is used for sport and community use, private functions and parties. The community often struggles to maintain the hall but thanks to the £1,250 Heart of the Community donation from Scottish Sea Farms crucial improvements can be

made. Calum Finnigan, member of Lochaline Village Hall committee and a Scottish Sea Farms employee based in the village, said: 'This is a vital amenity. I am proud to help protect it for future generations.'

'Without the hall there would be nowhere for large groups to come together, absolutely vital in communities like ours.'

# Glenfinnan Gathering and Highland Games

CROWDS and competitors shrugged off wind and rain to enjoy the 67th Glenfinnan Gathering and Highland Games on Saturday August 16.

With typical Lochaber enthusiasm, the audience cheered on heavy competitors, Highland dancers and young athletes under the shadow of the world-famous Glenfinnan Monument.

It was a triple celebration for David Hart from Fort William who picked up silverware for throwing the caber, the 22lb hammer and

winning the most points overall. Field manager Alistair Gibson said: 'It was a great day despite the weather being difficult until mid afternoon. Numbers were probably down on the usual figures but up on last year because the weather was even worse then, but it didn't stop everyone enjoying themselves. It was a jolly good day and as always we'll be doing it again next year.'

Charles Kennedy, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, was chieftain this year. At the gathering opening he said: 'This is an immense

personal privilege to be asked to be chieftain. My family association spans three generations with both this gathering and the Clan Cameron since 1946. At a time in our national life where we are debating our future path this event commemorates and celebrates where we have all come from historically.'

The gathering is held on the nearest Saturday to the anniversary of the Raising of the Standard at Loch Shiel by Bonnie Prince Charlie on August 19 1745.



UP AND AWAY: Kian Cameron, 10, clears the high jump



ACTION: David Hart from Fort William putting the stone



WINNER: Isla MacKenzie took home the MacGuire Cup for Highland Dancing



PRIVILEGE: Charles Kennedy MP carried out his chieftain duties alongside Lochaber Pipe Band

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# Primary 1s in the picture



Achaleven primary in Connel has four new pupils in primary one this year. They are pictured with teacher Sharon Burt 15\_134achalevenp1



Invergarry's primary ones explore their new surroundings



Conaire is the only primary one at Eoligarry primary school, Isle of Barra



The primary one pupils at Kilchrenan



Kinlochleven's primary one class take a quick break from learning



Emma Walker is the only pri



Big smiles from the new pupils at Keils primary school, Islay



Strontian school's only primary one, Amy



The newbies at Ballachulish primary school in their new playground



The cheeky



Michael Mayo is the only primary one pupil at Dervaig primary school on Mull



Caol primary school in Lochaber welcomed 40 primary ones this year





are four Gaelic medium primary one pupils at Mallaig this year



Spean Bridge primary school welcomed 22 primary ones this year.



Kilniver school welcomed this year's primary ones



All smiles from Inverloch's latest recruits



Maggie and Maisie are Eigg Primary School's new primary ones



It's play time for the mainstream primary one class at Bowmore school, on Islay



primary one pupil on Lismore.



A massive 55 primary ones joined Portree's school roll on Skye this year



New Raasay school primary ones Noah Carslaw, left, and Thomas Gillies enjoying their first week at school



y smiles of the new primary ones at lochdar, South Uist



Acharacle primary school's new English and Gaelic medium primary ones



Banavie school primary ones on their first day at school



Arisaig primary school's new primary ones from left: Josh Reid Verall, Ailsa MacDougall, Leila White and Christian MacKenzie



Upper Achintore's last primary one class as the school merges with Fort William primary school next year

Just one little girl joined Elgol primary school on Skye

There are two primary one pupils at Ulva school, Mull



**The Oban Times**  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

**No place for macho posturing as women cast the crucial vote**

Women hold the key to next month's momentous and historic referendum on independence: not only because of the vast arithmetic of their vote; but because of the influence they will exert on the direction, tone and conduct of the campaigns.

Pundits, experts and general know-alls have long recognised that the average electoral fare served up to men - the rum-bustious brouhaha and knockabout - will have only a limited appeal to women.

While men may revel in the gladiatorial contests between campaign leaders, women tend to view such muscular posturing as, at best, mildly entertaining and, at worst, puerile.

Women as a constituency seem to be more grounded in the practical realities of everyday life.

This down-to-earth approach is reflected in their close scrutiny of campaign policies and how their application may affect the lives of women and their families. It's a rigorous, practical test and one that requires detail.

The women interviewed in the penultimate part of our referendum feature, display a forensic approach to the policy issues on both sides of the divide.

With a clear eye for detail, it is the small print they seek to examine: how will it affect tuition fees, the frontline services of the NHS, the pound, the peace dividend and the distribution of wealth and scarce resources?

There is a refreshing balance to their positions; a sense that they are not exercised by the age-old visceral, gut-instinct politics. Personalities and macho politics come way down the pecking order. Their answers display an absence of the familiar Pavlovian hostilities directed towards the opposition, which scars so much of male politics. And yet these women have managed to engage and embrace the debate with equal quantities of enthusiasm and energy.

Paradoxically, it now appears it is headstrong men who vote with their hearts. Win the minds of women and you may indeed win the argument and the referendum.



**Tiree schools athletics team - 1963**

This week's flashback photograph was submitted by Fiona Mitchell of North Berwick and features the Tiree schools athletics team, joint winners of the Mary MacArthur Moir team trophy, returning from the Argyll county sports held at Dunoon Stadium in 1963. Left to right: Billy Whiteside; Margaret Sinclair; captain Neil Campbell; Annie Stewart; Roland Robertson, teacher Cornaigmore secondary school; Archie MacIntyre; Alistair MacNeil, junior champion, Oban and district boarding house association trophy; John MacNeill; and Sarah F MacDonald, head teacher Balemartine Primary School. Prints or emails of flashback photos should be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone who wishes a print returned must supply a stamped, addressed envelope.

**Letters to the editor**

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

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000  
Fax: 01631 568001

**Community hub idea nothing new**

Sir,  
In his letter to *The Oban Times*, G Mitchell makes a plea that the former Rockfield primary school should become a community arts hub.

Readers might be interested to know that when the building became vacant in 2007 a group was formed to look at turning it into, guess what, a community arts hub.

Argyll and Bute council took Rockfield off the market at the group's request to give them time to develop a feasibility study and a business plan. After a year-and-a-half nothing materialised and the council put the building back on the market again.

In his detailed plea for arts facilities, work spaces and training and volunteering opportunities in a restored building, Mr Mitchell makes no mention of where the multi-million pounds required to take such an initiative forward would come from or even the basis of a business plan.

On the contrary he asks of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) can we demonstrate a track record of jobs and investment? I would simply refer him to the 102 new build housing units the association currently has on site across Argyll supporting full-time construction jobs and places for people who desperately need an affordable home to live in.

Lastly, Mr Mitchell implies there may be something wrong with ACHA taking its case for affordable homes on the Rockfield site to the council. That is exactly what Oban Communities Trust is doing and ACHA has no difficulty with that. That is democracy allowing elected members to hear the different cases before they make a decision.

**Alastair MacGregor, chief executive, ACHA.**

**Save money and give town dialysis**

Sir,  
As part of a large county with a disparate population, it is essential Oban has a dialysis service to reinforce the new patient-centred national health service.

Rather than the health board just trotting out 'cost barriers', it should ask 'how can we save money by saving waste?'

For example, the board spends hundreds of thousands of pounds sending outpatient appointment letters. If just half of these were sent via email to patients' computers and phones, tens of thousands of pounds would be released to buy and run a new Oban dialysis machine.

Email and text also provide cheaper appointment reminders to save more money from missed appointments.

Electronic communications would improve patient well-being as some older people could have emails sent to their sons, daughters or other designated person so families and friends could sort out transport.

So come on health chiefs, give Oban the dialysis machine it needs now.  
**Mike Foster, Crannaig a Mhinister, Oban.**

**Grand design to ruin Oban Bay**

Sir,  
An article appeared in your August 14 edition outlining an underground car park plan associated with infilling of Oban's 'wee' Bay.

This appears to me a crackpot scheme which would ruin one of Oban's major tourist attractions, namely the beautiful, famous Oban bay which has featured in numerous publications and is one of the most important landmarks making Oban instantly recognisable.

This scheme would also surely necessitate the need for the fishing boats to be excluded from the bay, once again to the detriment of the town.

While we all recognise the need for adequate car parking, you would not want to destroy Oban bay just to accommodate cars for a few months in the summer season.

Let's hope the council planners see sense and reply with a polite rejection to this proposal.  
**Name and address supplied.**

**Growing concern over freight cost**

Sir,  
The ever increasing and unaffordable cost of freight to the islands, I feel, should be of considerable concern to our MSP Michael Russell and his party.

SNP withdrawing Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) on ferry borne freight has clearly given birth to a measurable loss of confidence in the party's ability to sustain life on these islands. In spite of extensive infrastructure expenditure, successive governments have been blind to the fact that the domestic finances in these geographically remote communities are now passing the tipping point and populations are winding down.

Take Tiree for instance. In 1995 the population 860 but this had dropped to 650 in 2014. And this in the face of a high school, massive spending on water supply, electricity supply, an extensive road system, a public hall, a new livestock mart, numerous agricultural schemes and a publicly owned wind turbine generating profit.

What our politicians seem unable to grasp is that incomes are on average £5,000 less than that of Oban, that prices at the Co-op and the fuel pumps are 22 per cent higher than in Oban and that the Hebridean winter winds blow 30 per cent harder giving rise to domestic fuel bills that cripple households.

The combination of these factors is devastating to island communities, yet the percentage of rich mainland second home ownership continues to rise because of, course, if you only want to spend a few summer weeks on Tiree and you have plenty of money none of these cost factors will affect you.

SNP's damaging decision over RET on freight has caused

an increase in the inequality of Scottish society which is utterly at odds with what the party claims to have at the top of its agenda.

Our Scottish government continues to misplace RET to suit those already wealthy holidaymakers in the mistaken belief that more visitors to the island will benefit the local economy. It does not. The holidaymakers either give their money to mainland supermarkets and fuel stations before departing to the isles, or it goes to pay for rental of a mainlander-owned holiday home.

**Peter Isaacson, Isle of Coll.**

**Certainty ensured if independent**

Sir  
In reply to David Foster on August 14 2014, with a 'yes' vote the Scottish Parliament and Westminster will in accordance with the Edinburgh agreement facilitate the creation of Scotland's independence.

There will be no chaotically messy divorce as he says. There will be no division with a 'yes' vote as he suggests. There will be clear certainty for our future with Scotland's wealth in its people's hands.

The most natural thing in the world.

I cannot claim, as Mr Foster can to have any Scottish blood in me as I was born south of the border. But I also have lived in Scotland for more than 40 years as Mr Foster has. He says he is a British Scot, well I am not. I am 100 per cent Scottish and I love my country.  
**Peter Guy via Oban Times Facebook page.**

**Debate is about Scotland's future**

Sir,  
I noted with some irritation two contributions to the letters page, *The Oban Times*, August 21, promoting the 'no' side in the Scottish referendum.

Mr Knight cites history - not a history that I recognise as factual - and some dubious statistics and unusual economic arguments in support of his position.

Whereas Mr Craig's 'medical(?)' formula promotes a future that is not on offer. Mr Craig applauds the generosity of the Westminster government in overseas aid - a principle also upheld by the Scottish Government - but he seems to be oblivious to the plight of more than 60,000 children in Scotland whose parents are currently forced to seek help from food banks on a weekly basis.

Westminster has shown little interest in tackling this obscenity. Alex Salmond and Nicola Sturgeon are both able and respected politicians but the debate is not about them but about Scotland's future.

I have recently returned from a trip to several Nordic/Baltic States, many of which are smaller than Scotland. None of them show any signs of regret that they are now independent.  
**Dot Macdonald, Oban.**

**Desire to keep the pound puzzling**

Sir,  
I write in reply to SNP supporters who want an independent Scotland to use the pound.

Using another country's currency means handing over complete control of our economy to that country. I'm genuinely puzzled why the SNP want to declare Scotland independent from the UK, then hand over complete control of our economy to the country we've just left.

The best way to continue use the pound is to remain part of the UK and share in the decision making about how our economy is run. Under the present set-up, Highland MP Danny Alexander plays a key role in economic decision making. Let's keep it that way.

The SNP desire to keep the pound is an admission that Scotland is better off within the UK.  
**Alan Reid MP.**

**Massive cuts would follow separation**

Sir,  
By pooling and sharing our resources across an economy of more than 63 million people in the UK, rather than just five million people in Scotland, we are better placed to support the most vulnerable in our society.

Even though Alex Salmond has been campaigning for separation all his life, he still has no plan for how welfare would be paid for or delivered in a separate Scotland. Independence would put the pensions and benefits of millions of Scots at risk. That's a risk that isn't worth taking.

The experts are clear - if we leave the UK we would have to make massive cuts in public spending. This would hit those who have the least the hardest. The SNP Scottish government's own expert group has warned of serious risks to pensions and benefit payments if we leave the UK.

Leaving the UK would be a leap in the dark for those reliant on benefits or their pension. By saying 'no thanks' to separation we can make sure that we protect the most vulnerable in our society from the massive cuts that would have to happen in a separate Scotland.

It is clear that Scotland is better and fairer together in our United Kingdom.  
**Alastair Redman, Unionist and Conservative candidate for Argyll and Bute.**

**Thanks and a gold star to CalMac staff**

Sir,  
I would like to thank Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) staff for their help on a recent ferry trip from Oban to Craignure, Mull.

They got me a wheelchair for my 88-year-old uncle and helped us get on and off the ferry. On our return from Tobermory to get the 5pm ferry at Craignure, a member of staff was waiting with the wheelchair. Many thanks and a gold star to CalMac staff.  
**Anne Robertson, by email.**



**Beachd Ailein**  
Ailean Caimbeul

ANN AN DÒIGH tha e a' cur dragh orm gum bheil mi draghail! Tha mi draghail bho chuala mi naidheachd bho chionn latha neo dhà gum bheil luchd-amhairc phrògraman rugbaidh air am bheil aithris Ghàidhlig air BBC Alba gu bhith a' faotainn roghainn air aithris Bheurla ma thogas iad.

Dè tha cearr air sin canaidh mòran agabhi! Uill 's dòcha nach eil dad, ach tha mise a' faireachadh dìreach rud beag an-fhoiseil, a dh'aindeoin na h-earbsa a th' agam anns na daoine a th' air stiùir BBC Alba.

'S e cumhachd is rùn mòr-shluagh a chùim seirbheis Ghàidhlig bhuainn fad bhliadhnaichean, agus a-nise tha rùn a' mhòr-shluagh a' toirt buaidh a-rithist. Ged nach eil aithris Bheurla air putan dearg na sgrion a' dèanamh ionnsaigh sam bith air Ghàidhlig, 's e cothrom a bhith aig luchd-amhairc tionndadh chun na Beurla a tha na dhragh dhòimhsa. Chan eil e a' cur iongnadh sam bith orm gum biodh am BBC airson a' bhuanachd as motha fhàsghadh às na tha iad a' tasgadh ann am BBC Alba. Tha an spòrs air BBC Alba a' tàladh mòran luchd-amhairc agus a' cuideachadh le stèidh na seirbheis, ach nach eil e beagan cunnartach aomadh bho bhunait chultarail seirbheis a tha cho cudromach dha beatha agus slàinte a' chànain. 'S e seirbheis Ghàidhlig, seach seirbheis dà-chànanaich, a tha luchd-cleachdaidh agus luchd-taic a' chànain ag iarraidh bho BhBC Alba. Ma dh'èistear ri daoine anns na coimhearsnachdan, innsidh iad gur e an leisg a th' air daoine Ghàidhlig a chleachdadh pàirt mhòr de thrioblaid a' chànain. Canaidh cuid gun robh sin glè fhollaiseach aig an àm a bha Reidio nan Eilean a' dol is cothrom aig buill-comhairle, is eile, bruidhinn ann am Beurla 'mura robh an cuid Ghàidhlig làidir gu leòr'. Cha b' ann gun fhios carson idir a chaidh Craoladh nan Gàidheal agus poileasaidh làidir a thaobh na Gàidhlig a stèidheachadh taobh a-staigh a' BhBC bho chionn faisg air deich bliadhna fichead. Fad bhliadhnaichean cha robhas a' cur craoladh Ghàidhlig air adhart mar mheadhan leasachaidh bunaiteach dhan chànain, ach tha mothachadh eadar-nàiseanta a-nise air cho cudromach 's a tha craoladh dha slàinte agus leasachadh càin.

'S e math gum bi aithris Ghàidhlig na roghainn air cuid de phrògraman Beurla aig a' BhBC ach 's dòcha nach bitheadh cho amharasach nan robh iad air lethid sin de roghainn a thairg-sinn dhan Ghàidhlig bliadhnaichean air ais. 'S e bun na cuise nach eil ach ceum beag eile chum am faodadh gnè phrògraman eile a bhith rim faotainn ann am Beurla cuideachd.

VIEWERS of rugby on Gaelic television service BBC Alba will apparently soon be able to opt for 'red button' English language commentary. Why does this worry me? Perhaps it is the awareness that a monoglot English-speaking majority, and the misguided courtesy of bilingual Gaels, has eroded community Gaelic use for generations. Isn't there a danger that this 'English language facility' will be requested as a norm on Scotland's only Gaelic channel?  
**Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)**  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

**GLASGOW LETTER**

**Young traditional musician of the year**

THE SEMI finalists for the 2015 Young Traditional Musician of the Year have been named.

They are Lucie Hendry, clarsach, Laurence Kirk; Ryan Young, fiddle, Caddross; Claire Hastings, Scots Song, Dumfries; Heather Downie, clarsach, Dunblane; Rhoda Naomi Welsh, voice/piano, Stornoway; Grant McFarlane, accordion, Paisley; Ainsley Hamill, voice, Helensburgh; Louise Bichen, fiddle, Orkney; Gemma Donald, fiddle, Shetland; Alexander Levaak, whistle/pipes, Maryburgh; Suzanne Houston, piano, Golspie; and Seumas O'Boaighill, fiddle, Skye.

Each of the above musicians will perform for 10 minutes in a concert in Coulter Hall, near Biggar, South Lanarkshire, on Saturday October 4 at 7.30pm with the six finalists then performing on February 1 as part of Celtic Connections 2015.

**New Gaelic songwriting competition**

HANDS Up for Trad is delighted to announce its first Gaelic songwriting competition as part of Scotland Sings - Renewing the Tradition series.

Entries, from individuals or from creative partnerships, must be based on an old poem or lyrics with the songwriter refreshing and renewing the existing ideas to reflect modern times which are relevant to new singers and audiences.

The winning entry will then be arranged for four-part harmonies by Scotland Sings' choir leaders ready to be sung across Scotland in January 2015.

The entry must include a detailed description of

the inspiration behind the song. The first prize is £500 and entries, submitted by October 31, should consist of an mp3 file with lyric sheet in Gaelic and English as well as chords or a score. Further information is available at [www.projectscotlandcultureonline.com/scotlandings](http://www.projectscotlandcultureonline.com/scotlandings)

**Charity afternoon tea**

ON FRIDAY August 1, staff of An Lòchran and the Gaelic Books Council joined forces to transform The Gaelic Bookshop into a tea room to raise funds for the charity, Erskine.

With tables filled with beautiful home-baking and with plenty of songs and music from Shona Masson, as well as singers from the company, it was a special afternoon and a great céilidh.

In only two hours, £240 was raised for Erskine, with many thoughts on the centenary of World War I.

An Lòchran and The Gaelic Books Council thank the following for their donations and support: The Big Mouth Café, Owen Bisset Boutique, Number 16 West End Limited, Gaels le Chèile and St Peter's Church Hall, Partick.

**Diary dates**

**Tuesday September 2:** Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72a Waterloo Street, 8pm, Jean Butterworth and Laura Beth Salter and then on September 9 Michael Chapman will perform.

**Pub scene**

PARTING Glass will be playing in the Islay Inn on Friday night with Twist of Fate there on Saturday.

In the Park Bar it will be Alan Crookston on Friday, Ceol an Aire on Saturday and Full Scottish, a new band, on Sunday.

**Neil Murray. Telephone 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk**

**YOUR LETTERS**

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

The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification.

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

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

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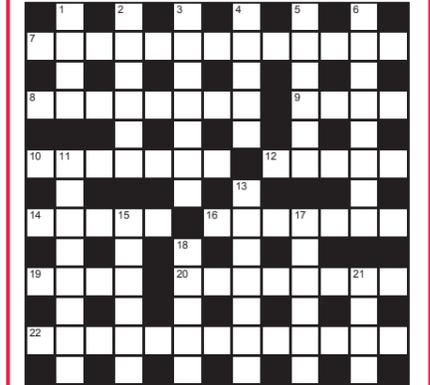
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| <b>Across</b>                                   | <b>Down</b>                       |
| 7 One who uses gatherings to get a leg up (6,7) | 1 Bright star (4)                 |
| 8 Dance hall (8)                                | 2 Exhausting task (6)             |
| 9 King of beasts (4)                            | 3 One who distributes charity (7) |
| 10 Concerned (7)                                | 4 Andean animal (5)               |
| 12 Put in (5)                                   | 5 Insignia (6)                    |
| 14 Prepared (5)                                 | 6 Aromatic (8)                    |
| 16 Horse's barge trail (7)                      | 11 Pipe for excess water (8)      |
| 19 Way, way off (4)                             | 13 Disprove (7)                   |
| 20 Normal height (4-4)                          | 15 Off the tracks (6)             |
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### Estate agent makes town centre move

A UK ESTATE and land agent with an Oban base is on the move itself, within the town centre.

Bell Ingram, formerly DM MacKinnon Estates, is fitting from its office of nearly a decade on Gibraltar Street to a more central location at Boswell House, Argyll Square.

With a large window space, the firm hopes to make the most of what its properties and land estate agency team has to offer but the new premises also has more space, level access, a seating area and a private meeting room.

The team of nine, including chartered surveyors, land and estate agents, will now work on the same floor improving communication, something the old office's structure did not easily allow.

Hugh Nicol, senior associate at the Oban office, said: 'Being situated in the town centre is also great as there is an increased footfall and will help place us extremely well to sell and let the land and properties of our clients.'

'We have strong long-term roots in Argyll and the fact we are investing and improving is testament to our commitment to, and faith in, our loyal clients and the desire to improve and provide a service to meet both their and new client needs.'

The opening will be celebrated with a breakfast reception today (Thursday) where clients, old and new, are invited to come and toast the new premises. Hugh said: 'We are looking forward to a new start in the location especially as it will provide the perfect launch for our new sales and letting approach with increased focus on social media and web-based advertising coupled with straightforward good old-fashioned customer service in a prime location.'

'We aim to provide our current clients with the best and most comprehensive sales and letting service and we look forward to welcoming many new clients through the doors.'

Established 114 years ago, Bell Ingram has more than 100 professional staff across 11 UK offices, including chartered surveyors, estate and forestry managers, architects, green energy specialists and estate agents.

To find out more about the range of services Bell Ingram offers visit [www.bellingram.co.uk](http://www.bellingram.co.uk)

# Group's call to lay down law on Glen Etive litter

LOUISE LEE  
llee@obantimes.co.uk

ONE OF Argyll's, if not Scotland's, finest glens featured in Hollywood feature film *Skyfall* is being destroyed by visitors - despite a five-month campaign to have the area tidied up.

Now a protest group has said the Scottish government must make the access code law in order to stop more damage to environmentally sensitive areas.

Glen Etive, stretching from Connel to the peaks surrounding Rannoch Moor, is seeing a rise in the number of complaints about the state of the area and litter left behind by campers.

A group set up to monitor the behaviour of visitors in the glen is recording rubbish and discarded camping gear on a daily basis.

Andy MacArthur from Kilmore, who runs the group 'Glen Etive the dirty truth' on Facebook, has hit out at those people who say as long as rubbish is bagged up it is fine to leave it in the glen. And that it is time to get tough to protect the environment.

Andy said: 'It is not acceptable [to leave rubbish] because after a while it becomes spread out by badgers, foxes and even ravens.'

Andy points out that there is no-one employed around the loch to lift the rubbish and it is unlikely that anyone will be employed in the future. 'It is not resolving the problem - it is just covering up a worsening problem.'

'The answer, I believe, is with the Scottish parliament and making the laws black and white on wild camping and easier to enforce.'

'What has been written in the countryside access code covers everything, and if every camper adhered to the code there would not be a problem.'

'But it is only a code and as far as I am aware has to be followed on a voluntary basis and cannot be enforced. It needs to become law and people need to be educated and made aware there will be consequences for their actions.'



RUBBISH: Visitors are not listening to the cries of the community to tidy up and discarded bin bags and camping gear are left regularly



SKYFALL: James Bond and M at the top of Glen Etive

### New uni role for Michael Foxley

LOCHABER community activist Dr Michael Foxley has taken up a new role with the University of the Highlands and Islands.

Previously the chairman of West Highland College UHI's board of management, the former Highland Council leader will now chair UHI's new further education regional board.

Lydia Rhomer, principal and chief executive of west Highland College UHI, said: 'Dr Michael Foxley has long campaigned for the enhancement of educational opportunities to this area of the west Highlands.'

'We offer our warmest congratulations to Michael on his appointment to lead the regional planning for further education in the Highlands and islands.'

'His outstanding contribution to the development of a tertiary infrastructure in the west Highlands has effected a historic change through the introduction of educational opportunities to some of the most remote rural areas of Scotland, and has created positive change to the lives of many young people and learners of all ages in this region. We are grateful for his energy and leadership through a time of challenge and expansion for our college and look forward to working closely with him in the future in his new position.'

### 'Welcome news' on west Highland jobs

A WEST Highland politician has praised businesses and workers in the area as unemployment continues to fall.

Charles Kennedy, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, said it was 'welcome news' there had been a drop in the number of constituents out of work. A total of 410 people are jobless, 288 less than this time last year.

He added: 'We are seeing, month on month, growth across the Highland and UK economy and every new job created is welcome news. Indeed, every new job is a credit to the resilience of businesses and people right across Ross, Skye and Lochaber.'

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# Curtain up on drama appeal

A FORT William drama group is on the hunt for singers and performers to join the cast.

Lochaber Showstoppers is working on its latest musical, based on the stories of children's author Dr Seuss, and members say anyone over the age of 12 is welcome to join.

Cast member Clare Brewer said: 'We would love more people to join the chorus, men especially. There are lots of great numbers in

this show with lots of different music styles - gospel, rock, hip hop and even salsa.

'We're also looking for anyone who has circus skills to come along and join in a big top circus scene.'

Anyone interested in finding out more should attend a rehearsal at the Nevis Centre on Monday at 7.30pm or contact Clare on 01397 773745 or via email at info@lochabershowstoppers.co.uk.

# Land reform in spotlight

COMMUNITY land owners in the Western Isles will have the chance to discuss their development and future opportunities at a conference in Stornoway.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has arranged the meeting for Thursday September 11, along with Community Land Scotland, as part of its ongoing support for land reform in the area.

A spokesman for the event said: 'After discussion sessions looking at

the reality of community landownership which will bring out issues and potential solutions, we hope to have at least some of the answers as to how the Comhairle and Western Isles community landowners can positively work together.'

Invitations will be sent to existing and inspiring community land owner groups,crofting organisations, development agencies and other interested parties.

# Village takes step back in time for war themed gala

A LOCHABER village will slip back in time on Saturday as a world war two themed gala takes over Caol community centre.

Jive dancers and a swing band will set the mood as the open day showcases the finds from an old commando training site.

Everyone is welcome from 1pm and members of Lochaber Archaeology Society will be on hand to tell the stories behind the war memorabilia, including coins, helmets and bullets, they discovered when helping experts with a dig at Achnacarry Estate near Spean Bridge.

Other highlights include a flight

simulator, bouncy castle and a display of wartime weapons and, weather permitting, a winching demonstration from a coastguard helicopter. There will also be a Royal Marine Assessment course with a prize for the best competitor.

Organisers say they would be delighted if visitors enter into the spirit of events by dressing in the fashion of the era. Beforehand, a memorial ceremony will be held at the Spean Bridge Commando Memorial with a two-minute silence and prayers led by Reverend Adrian Varwell of Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church.



STUNNING DISPLAY: Caol Gardening Show prizewinners with some of their exhibits

# Caol Gardening Show a 'blooming' success

THE 13TH Caol Gardening Show was held in the village community centre last Saturday.

It may have been the thirteenth show, but it was lucky for Vic MacPherson who swept the board in most sections, including the Alastair MacGregor Trophy and William Brown Shield for best look.

Results: Mrs Cochrane Memorial Cup, Vic MacPherson; The Cabin Garden Centre trophy, Vic MacPherson; Alastair MaxGregor Trophy, Vic

MacPherson; Margaret Cameron Memorial, Lorna Ungoe-Thomas; Gardening Salver, Lorna Ungoe-Thomas; George Watt Cup, Lorna Ungoe-Thomas; Alastair MacMillan Shield, Vic MacPherson; William Brown Shield, Vic MacPherson; Top Tray, Fay Houghton; Gardening Shield, Sian Slezas; Ella Laing, Gayle Rand; Neil Drummond Trophy, Mary Kerr; Cafe Chardon Crystal Vase, Anne Smith; Provident Personal

Credit, Anne Smith; Highland Council Trophy, Jillian Clerk; Fred White Rosette, Nevis Centre Nursery; Best Novice Floral, Carron MacKinnon; Best Novice Vegetable, Donald Young; Ben Nevis Distillery Quaich, Vic MacPherson; Gardening Trophy, Lorna Ungoe-Thomas; Caol Gardening Show Trophy, Vic MacPherson; Michie Cup, Vic MacPherson; MacFavish Kitchen Crystal Bowl, Lorna Ungoe-Thomas.

# Glencoe lights out

SOMETIME between Tuesday August 19 and Wednesday August 20, a battery pack was stolen from mobile traffic lights on the A82 at Glencoe, near the Gorge.

At around 2pm on Monday August 17, a Scottish referendum banner was stolen from a field outside Tirindish Steadings, Spean Bridge. The banner was 12ft by 2ft in size and was overlooking the A86.

At 2.35am on Thursday August 21, a man kicked a door at Tesco, Fort William, damaging it. The man is described as 5ft 10 inches tall, with a stocky build. He was wearing grey or black shorts, white and black Nike trainers and a grey Adidas hooded top.

Sometime between 7pm on Thursday August 21 and 11am the following day, a black bag containing a purse and £200 was stolen from a tent at the Red Squirrel Campsite, Glencoe.

Sometime between 10am and 12.30pm on Sunday August 24 two purses were stolen from two rooms in the Camus Guest House, Onich.

A tent pitched on Cow Hill, Fort William, was damaged and items stolen from inside sometime between August 6 and 7.

Anyone with information regarding these incidents should contact Police Scotland on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

# Have your say at public meetings

TWO PUBLIC meetings will be held in the Fort William area to discuss Scottish independence.

The events in Kilmallie Hall on September 4 and the Nevis Centre on September 10 will give locals the opportunity to share their views.

Both events start at 7.30pm.

# Firefighter guilty of setting forests alight

A LONG-serving fireman faces the prospect of prison after being found guilty last Thursday of wilfully starting two major fires costing more than £1 million of damage.

David MacKay, 40, with more than 20 years' service as a retained part-time fireman, may have overlooked that his white company van had a tracker system fitted to it.

And police intelligence analyst Craig Allen, 35, was able to produce a map for the jury putting the white Scottish Water van at the correct time and place where the two fires started.

The first of the two moor and forest fires - on March 27 2013 - was two miles wide and took two days to extinguish.

There were fears the Argyll village of Strontian, with 450 inhabitants, might be engulfed and preparations were made for evacuation.

MacKay, a member of the village fire brigade, took part in fighting the blaze which started on nearby Carnoch Estate, as well as starting it.

The second fire, in Glen Tarbert, a few miles from the village was started shortly afterwards on April 1, a public

holiday. Fort William Sheriff Court heard that retained firemen were paid double the hourly rate by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for dealing with fires on a public holiday.

Among those who gave evidence for the prosecution was MacKay's ex-girlfriend Sheila Henderson, 31, who told procurator fiscal Roderick Urquhart she had an 11-year relationship with him.

She told police she saw his white van in Glen Tarbert shortly before the start of the fire there which destroyed 140 acres of woodland.

Forestry Commission boss Roger Peace, 62, said the first fire caused 'hundreds of thousands of pounds' of damage to his woodland.

And after the court was over, 8,000 acre Carnoch Estate owner, Steven Fox, 58, said the damage to his tree plantations adjoining the Forestry Commission timber was about £750,000.

He said: 'We worked out that the combined total would be over £1 million.'

MacKay's boss, Strontian fire chief Alastair MacLean, 48, told defence

lawyer Rosalyn MacTaggart: 'I have trust in David. He is a very good firefighter like most of the group.'

In a videoed police interview shown to the jury of 10 women and five men MacKay, 6 Dal Nan Each, Strontian, is seen and heard telling detective inspector Richard Baird, 42, he did not start the fires and would never do anything like that.

And he had no financial problems that would make him chase after the call-out cash.

However, the CID man told him: 'I need more than your word.'

The evidence against you is overwhelming' The jury took only an hour to find MacKay, now a lorry driver, guilty by a majority verdict. They found a charge that he started a grassland fire - also on April 1 - not proven. He denied all charges.

Procurator fiscal Roderick Urquhart told Sheriff Mungo Bovey the fireman was a first offender.

The sheriff deferred sentence to September 16 for social work background reports to be obtained on MacKay.

Estate owner Mr Fox said: 'I find the whole thing very, very sad. David MacKay has got himself into a lot of trouble and a lot of my native Scottish trees like Scots pine have been destroyed. I also feel sorry for all the other well-motivated and dedicated retained firemen and firewomen. He has let them down.'

A spokesman for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service said MacKay had been suspended from duty since being charged with the fire-raising and would now be subject to internal discipline.

He added: 'Scottish Fire and Rescue Service expects the highest standards of its staff and the service will simply not accept such reckless and dangerous actions.'

'Mr Mackay will no doubt now realise the severity of the situation he finds himself in.'

'He has been with the fire service for more than 20 years and all the good work he has done during that time has been ruined by his actions and his reputation has been destroyed.'

'He has let himself, the service and his colleagues down.'



NEW ROLE: Joanna MacDonald

# Joanna swaps role to take helm of adult social care

A LOCHABER employee of NHS Highland has taken up a new job to help improve health services.

Joanna MacDonald will leave her post as district manager for Lochaber to take on the role of director of adult social care and said she is 'very excited' about improvements she has planned.

NHS Highland took on full responsibility of adult social care in April 2012, having previously

been the responsibility of Highland Council.

Ms MacDonald said: 'Two years down the line, the integration of services is becoming embedded and radical changes have been introduced to ensure we deliver better and more person-centred care. We will continue to change and improve and I am very excited to be in a position of being able to help steer through these changes.'



# Staff scale the heights for care home garden

Staff of a Lochaber care home took on Ben Nevis to raise money for a new sensory garden. The Invernevis House team made the climb on Sunday, raising £600 so far. They expect the total to reach £1,000 by the time all sponsorship money is collected.

# Nevis Partnership appoints new manager to lead project

A LOCHABER charity can take forward plans to improve the heritage of the Nevis area thanks to the employment of a programme manager.

Lizzie Cooper will join the Nevis Partnership for a five-year period to help with a landscape partnership programme, including conservation, community

participation, learning, access and training. Ms Cooper will leave her current position at Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust for the post.

She said: 'I'm delighted to be moving to Lochaber and to the Nevis Partnership. I feel privileged to be entrusted with such a fantastic project.'

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# what's on

THE OBAN TIMES  
FREE EVENT LISTING

## THURSDAY 28TH AUGUST

Argyllshire Gathering, Mossfield Park, Oban, All day  
Gaelic Conversation Group, Furan Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls, Oban, 7-8.30pm  
Hollow Mountain Trio, Every Thursday, Barn Bar, Lerags, 8-11pm

## FRIDAY 29TH AUGUST

Oban Art Society Exhibition, Army Cadet Centre, Tweeddale St, 10.30am-6pm

## SATURDAY 30TH AUGUST

Oban Art Society Exhibition, Army Cadet Centre, Tweeddale St, 10.30am-6pm  
Baking Stall in aid of Small Paws Rescue, Pets at Home, Oban, 10am  
Polytunnels Open Day, Lom Organic Growers, Glen Loman, Taynuilt, 11am  
Afternoon Tea and Prize Draw, St John's Cathedral, Oban, 2pm  
Gaelic Conversation Group, Furan Gaelic Centre, Corran Halls, Oban, 11.30-1pm  
North Connal and District Horticultural Show, Victory Hall, Benderloch, 2pm  
Scottish Show at the Royal Hotel, Oban, 8.30-10.30pm

## SUNDAY 31ST AUGUST

Fun Day, Kilmelford Yacht Haven, 11am  
Craft Fair, Seil Island Hall, 11am  
Lom Live Chamber Music Festival, St John's Cathedral, Oban, 12pm  
Craft Fayre, Every Sunday, Creagan Inn Appin, 12-5pm  
Stamash Charity Fun Day, Inverawe Country Park, by Taynuilt, 11am  
Ceilidh, Cuilfail Hotel, Kilmelford, 8pm

## MONDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER

Oban Art Society Exhibition, Army Cadet Centre, Tweeddale St, 10.30am-6pm  
Scottish Country Dancing Free Taster Class, Church of Scotland Centre, Glencruitten Road, Oban, 8pm

## TUESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER

Oban Art Society Exhibition, Army Cadet Centre, Tweeddale St, 10.30am-6pm  
Oban USA meeting, Corran Halls, Oban, 10.30am  
Barnabas Fund Lunch, Connel Church Hall, 12-2pm  
Gaelic Pub Quiz, Studio Theatre, Corran Halls, 7.30pm  
Scottish Show at the Royal Hotel, Oban, 8.30-10.30pm

## WEDNESDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER

SOBS Open Day, Dochas Centre, Lochgilphead, 2.30pm  
Oban Art Society Exhibition, Army Cadet Centre, Tweeddale St, 10.30am-6pm

## THURSDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER

Oban Art Society Exhibition, Army Cadet Centre, Tweeddale St, 10.30am-6pm  
Hollow Mountain Trio, Every Thursday, Barn Bar, Lerags, 8-11pm

## FRIDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER

Oban Art Society Exhibition, Army Cadet Centre, Tweeddale St, 10.30am-6pm

## SATURDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER

Oban Art Society Exhibition, Army Cadet Centre, Tweeddale St, 10.30am-6pm

## SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER

ABCD Sponsored Walk, Lom and Islands Hospital, 2pm

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# Blas 2014 builds on success of last year's festival

FOLLOWING on the success of last year's Blas events in Argyll, Blas 2014, the premier event celebrating all that is good about the Gaelic language and culture of the Highlands, is again visiting venues in Argyll during this year's historic tenth festival.

It all kicks off on Friday, September 5 and Argyll-related events and performers pepper the programme, none more so than this year's special commission by Glenfinnan musician, Iain MacFarlane, inspired by Argyll poet Duncan Ban MacIntyre's 'Moladh Beinn Dòbhrain', one of Gaelic's greatest poems.

Blas 2014 runs until Saturday September 13 and will deliver well over 100 cultural events at a variety of venues across the Highlands.

The programme itinerary this year includes Oban's Corran Halls, The Queen's Hall in Dunoon, and Taynuilt Village Hall for the Duncan Ban commission, Bunessan Village Hall in Mull and Tighnabruach. One of the festival's highlights will undoubtedly be the appearance on September 12, fresh from his acclaimed performance at the closing of the Commonwealth Games ceremony at Hampden Park, of Dougie MacLean.

Other artists appearing at Argyll venues include in Dunoon Cherish the Ladies, Linda MacLeod in Dunoon and Tighnabruach, Alasdair Whyte in Bunessan and Fèis Latharna in Oban along with Dougie MacLean.

Cuairt nam Bàrd, where Fèisean nan Gàidheal and Comhdhàil Nàisunta na

Gaeilge bring together poets and musicians to celebrate the arts in Gàidhlig and Gaelige, will be visiting Oban's Corran Halls on September 9.

Amongst the other highlights in this year's festival will be three shinty-based shows which will be taken to Tighnabruach, Dornie and Inverness on the eve of the Scottish Cup final.

Presented by Hugh Dan MacLennan and featuring Gary Innes, Linda MacLeod and the MacGillivray's of Calrossie, Home and Away - Glòir nan Caman is a tribute to shinty players all over the world with a particular reference to the First World War.

Further information on Blas 2014 is available at www.blas-festival.com, including the full programme of events and how to buy tickets.



CALEDONIA: Dougie MacLean will play as part of the Blas Festival.

## Eight days until the 10th Blas

THERE are only eight days to go before one of the most successful arts events in the Highlands reaches a significant milestone.

Blas 2014 marks the festival's 10th anniversary and already the Wick show by the Red Hot Chili Pipers is sold out.

But tickets are still available for most of the events. This year's international event is spread across the Highlands and Argyll at 50 separate venues and will welcome overseas artists such as Cherish the Ladies and Cape Breton fiddle and piano duo, Howie MacDonald, ex-Rankin Family, and Marilyn Mackinnon.

The festival also features the cream of Highland culture and this year's historic event starts on Friday September 5 with the premiere of a special commission 'Miorbhall nam Beann' by Lochaber musician Iain MacFarlane based on Duncan Ban MacIntyre's 18th century poem 'Moladh

Beinn Dòbhrain', one of Gaelic's greatest poems.

The show will tour a number of venues, including Taynuilt in Argyll.

Other artists appearing include Dougie MacLean, Mánran, Macanta, Marloch, Trail West, Monach Isle Ceilidh Band, Gaelic singers including Alasdair Whyte, Christine Primrose, Ellen MacDonald and Linda MacLeod and young people from the Fèisean across the Highlands and Argyll.

Festival director Donna Macrae said: 'Things are shaping up for a good festival and we are looking forward to welcoming audience members from across Scotland and overseas to Blas.'

'In addition to great music, this year we are featuring Highland food and drink at events so festival-goers will get a taste, not just of our wonderful culture, but our first class produce.'



PIPER: Duncan MacGillivray will be appearing at the Blas Festival.

## Secret prince shown to more than one million

THE MILLIONTH visitor over the past 35 years came to view the Secret Portrait of Bonnie Prince Charlie in Fort William.

At the town's West Highland Museum the mirror-picture, by an unknown artist of the 1745 Jacobite era, is a prized exhibit drawing visitors from all over the world.

Seemingly meaningless daubs of paint in a crescent shape on a square, wooden tray, reveal a wonderful likeness of Prince Charles Edward Stuart when

reflected on a polished vertical cylinder placed on top of it.

Following the ill-fated Jacobite Rising at Culloden, the clan chiefs risked being accused of treason if they were caught by the Redcoats while drinking a toast to The King Over the Water.

At their covert meetings, they raised a glass to their secret portrait and, if their castle or house was raided, tray and cylinder were quickly separated, with one being placed well away

from the other. Apart they are meaningless; combined they are amazing.

Museum manager, Colleen Foggo, said: 'The secret portrait could be said to be the jewel in the West Highland Museum crown.'

'And, having checked our records from 1979 until now, we find we have chalked up a total of just on a million visitors, all of whom having been directed to it by our volunteer staff.'

'We're sure they'll have returned home to every corner of the world to tell

family and friends about our remarkable Secret Portrait of Bonnie Prince Charlie.'

VISITORS: the estimated millionth and one millionth and one visitors to the West Highland Museum over the past 35 years, Marco Novembre and his son Tommaso - appropriately from Verona, Italy - view of Bonnie Prince Charlie's Italian connections with Coleen Foggo



# BLAS festival

September 5-13 Sultain [www.blas-festival.com](http://www.blas-festival.com)

**SATURDAY 6 SEPTEMBER - DISATHAIRNE 6 SULTAIN**  
Bun Easan - Bunessan Village Hall @ 7.30pm  
Monach Isle Ceilidh Band & Alasdair Whyte  
Local Box Office 01688 302211

**TUESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER - DIMÀIRT 9 SULTAIN**  
An t-Òban - Corran Halls Studio Bar, Oban @ 7.30pm  
Cuairt nam Bard - Scottish & Irish Song, Music & Poetry  
Simon Ó Faolain, Dairena Ní Chinneide, Tony Mac Ruairí  
Megan Nic Ruairí with Morag MacNeil & Fèis Latharna  
Local Box Office 01631 567333

**FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER - DIHAOINE 12 SULTAIN**  
An t-Òban - Corran Halls, Oban @ 7.30pm  
**Dougie MacLean** in concert with guests  
Alasdair Whyte, Linda MacLeod & Fèis Latharna  
Local Box Office 01631 567333

**SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER - DISATHAIRNE 13 SULTAIN**  
Taigh an Uillt - Taynuilt Public Hall @ 7.30pm  
Miorbhall nam Beann - celebrating Donnchach Bàn  
Iain MacFarlane Ewen Henderson  
Ewan Robertson & Hamish Napier  
Local Box Office 01631 566304

Thoiribh sùil air [www.blas-festival.com](http://www.blas-festival.com) for further details

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## Historic landmarks used in art installations

### REVIEW

STARTLING re-inventions of historic landmarks are proving to be quite a talking point on the islands of Skye and North Uist.

The 'Are you Location-ized?' installations by Joanne Tatham and Tom O'Sullivan will now be further explained by the artists until September 30.

The programme of free guided walks and tours will leave from the centre

of Portree and focus on the historic site of the Highland games and the temporary work located at the Apothecary's Tower.

Guides will share their knowledge of the history of the area, the Generation project and some of Portree's hidden places.

The walks are available in French, Spanish, Italian and Gaelic.

The works were funded

by Atlas Arts, which is committed to widening access to as many people and groups as possible.

Arrangements can be made for individuals or groups; to visit the site at different times to the scheduled walks, to transport visitors or a group by car to the site or guides can come and talk to visitors about the project. All enquiries and bookings: 07787 551847.



LOCATIONALIZED: The Apothecary Tower in Portree.



ILLUSTRATION: Kilmartin Gala as it happens by Rob Walker.

## Drawing by Mid Argyll artist Rob Walker captures Kilmartin gala

ARTIST Rob Walker from Crinan Ferry grasped the challenge of capturing the scene at the Kilmartin Gala Games this year. The picture, a pen and ink drawing illustrates activities like the paper aeroplane competition, which represented people flying in to Scotland from all over the world to celebrate the Commonwealth Games.

In Rob's quirky style he captures the fun of this annual village scene including some of the participants, the Mid Argyll pipe band, the stallholders and most importantly illustrates this most enjoy-

able day. The picture had its preview last weekend at Rob's Boat House Gallery in Crinan Ferry as part of the Artmap Argyll event. Rob said: 'I am delighted to have been given this opportunity to create a piece of work that reflects the community spirit of Kilmartin.'

Rob Walker produces a variety of contemporary compositions mainly with a local theme showcasing his quirky interpretations of Argyll landscapes and wildlife. Rob has won many prestigious awards since graduating from Grays School of Art in 2007, including

a Royal Scottish Academy John Kinross scholarship to further study art in Florence, Italy. Rob is immersed in the local culture of Argyll having started his full time education at Ardriach Primary School. This pen and ink drawing of the Kilmartin Gala Games will be used as part of a fundraising programme to raise money for the Kilmartin community and surrounding areas to support future gala days and other village activities. The event was supported with a grant from the Big Lottery Fund.



AARON: The 16-year-old on Tuesday before he played at the Highland Society of London's competition.

## Pants on Fire secures backing from BBC Dragons

TWO ARGYLL lads have secured cash from Dragons to develop a board game. Lifelong pals, Richard McLuckie, 48, and Stuart Mackenzie-Walker, 51, began inventing games together back in 2009 and hinted in the Den at a number of concepts they had yet to explore. The Pants on Fire Games company has become the first ever board game company to secure an investment in the BBC Dragons' Den.

Viewers watched pals Richard and Stuart leave the Den with £50,000 backing from Duncan Bannatyne and Peter Jones, for their games publishing company which specialises in creating fun and off-the-wall board games for all the family. Richard lives with his family in Tavel near Avignon, France, though is originally from Argyll, near Dunoon. Stuart, from Glendaruel, now lives in Tarifa, Spain. He said: 'Having the Dragons' backing means that not only can we get our existing range in

front of more buyers and ultimately more families in the UK, but also we're now able to spend even more time and energy doing what we're passionate about: exploring and developing the many fun concepts we have for new games to add to the collection.' As a result, Pants on Fire Games reveals its two brand new, fully licensed Marmite board games - Love It or Hate It and Who Put the Marmite In The Fridge? - which go on sale in branches of WH Smith throughout the

country. BBC Dragon, Peter Jones, said: 'It's great to be working with Richard and Stuart. Their enthusiasm for board games knows no bounds and I can't wait to help them with all their new concepts and ideas to life.' 'What I like about Pants on Fire is the cheeky edge to all of their games - they perfectly combine family fun with the right measure of wit and humour, resulting in games which bring people together and make them laugh. 'It's a winning formula.'

Bannatyne and Jones each now own 20 percent of Pants on Fire Games, reducing to 15 percent each once the initial investment is repaid. The brand boasts a total of nine family board games - Liar Liar, You Cannae Push Yer Granny Off The Bus, Bluffoons, Euroabble, The Victorian Gamer, Wing It and The Know It Game. LIFELONG FRIENDS: Richard McLuckie, 48, and Stuart Mackenzie-Walker, 51, from Argyll who managed to get cash from the Dragons' Den.



## Pipetastic Aaron takes up the MacGregor challenge

OBAN was rooting for Aaron Hossain, 16, as he piped in the Highland Society of London's MacGregor Trophy. The competition is administered by the Argyllshire Gathering Piping competitions and took place in The Corran Halls as The Oban Times went to press. The competition attracts pipers from all over the world. Aaron has been in the running since he was a pupil tutored by renowned piper Angus MacColl at

Dunbeg Primary School. His tutelage was part of the Argyllshire Gathering's piping legacy. This investment by the gathering has allowed a number of youngsters receiving lessons from top-class professional pipers to grow. Aaron has submitted four piobaireachd pieces from which the judges will choose two. The age group of the competition is up to the age of 23 and is a qualifier for the coveted Argyllshire Silver Medal for piping.

## Drop in the Ocean book launch a success despite extreme weather

A WEEK OF extremely stormy weather - the tail end of Hurricane Bertha, caused mayhem for boats - threatening the launch of a book by esteemed author Polly Pullar. A boat chartered specially for the launch on Muck of Polly Pullar's new book, A Drop in the Ocean - Lawrence MacEwen and the Isle of Muck, published by Birlinn was under threat after it was damaged. Polly explains: 'Sheer-

water takes 85 passengers and was full to capacity. However, on the Sunday prior to the event, it broke down irretrievably and was not going to be mended for some time. 'This was a catastrophe given the number of people amassing and the work that had gone in for the event.' The people of Muck had been catering for days in anticipation of some 200 people arriving on Muck for this auspicious occasion.

Many had already been arriving in the days leading up to the party. The Orion - a tourist boat operated out of Mallaig was chartered by Arisaig Marine but only takes 36 passengers. However being considerably faster than Sheerwater, would do two trips instead. The party then had to be divided with an advance party leaving two hours earlier. This too was a logistical headache trying

to find willing souls for the first boat leaving at 9am. Many were travelling a considerable distance some even came up from England. Marine Harvest then stepped in with a rib to take the overspill. This proved to be an exhilarating and fast journey and there were some colourful tales as a result. Extremely rough seas on August 13 added a further challenge to getting the visitors to the island and quite a few succumbed to the perils of the ocean wave, but the MacEwens on Muck were resolute, - this was not to be cancelled, not at any price. They came from far and wide to celebrate the life story of one of the most extraordinary people on the west - Lawrence MacEwen, a man who with his dedicated family has been responsible for making the Isle of Muck one of the most successful small remote communities in the British Isles. Eccentric and as far removed from the archetypal Laird as it is possible to be, he is also a well-known figure in farming circles. The first crossing was hair-raising due to the weather. Many well-known individuals from all walks of life were making this

pilgrimage, including from the farming fraternity John Maxwell, who was farm manager on Ardnamurchan Estate during the late 1960s-early 1970s when Polly Pullar's family had owned it. He is now the Honorary president of the Blackface sheep breeders Society as well as a renowned breeder of Galloway cattle. Isobel Campbell, who had the vision to create the all-important Lochaber Rural Complex at the Auction Mart in Fort William, hates boats but was not going to miss the trip as she has known Lawrence for many years and was determined to support him and author Polly Pullar. Scotland's top nature writer Jim Crumley was also on board and later delighted the audience with his jazz guitar playing. Robert Wight the editor of the Scots Magazine and D.C.Thomson, Company Director, Murray Thomson, together with publisher Hugh Andrew of Birlinn were also amongst the party goers. Hugh Andrew said later that he had had to make the decision between being at the all-important Edinburgh Book Festival, or the Isle of Muck, and had no hesitation in choosing Muck. He said that when I approached him about 'A

Drop in the Ocean', it was one of the quickest commissioning decisions he had ever made along with that of the hugely successful Callum's Road, in which he also said 'yes' without a moment's hesitation. He also added that he hoped A Drop in the Ocean would do for Muck what Callum's Road did for Raasay. American tourists found themselves on the wrong boat but were ecstatic that instead of going to Eigg, they accidentally ended up on Muck and were swept along in the excitement of the great event. Piped off the boats by piper Euan House who had accompanied Polly Pullar and her son Freddy specially to play at the event, each party was also welcomed by Lawrence MacEwen who either drove his vintage Fergie tractor, or pedalled furiously up and down to the pier on his bike. The Americans said that this had been the best day of their Scottish holiday. There was a considerable musical ensemble of various islanders and visitors during the course of the proceedings in which a huge number of books were sold. Hugh Andrew, like Polly Pullar, a huge supporter of the Hebrides, commented on his delight at being a part of this unique event.



BOOK LAUNCH: Polly Pullar, author, and Hugh Andrew of Birlinn sign books at the book launch.

<b>The Inbetweeners 2</b>	Thurs 28th	13.30, 15.30, 18.00, 21.00	
<b>The Expendables 3</b>	Thurs 28th	18.30, 20.30	
<b>Earth To Echo</b>	Thurs 28th	13.00, 16.00	
<b>Planes: Fire &amp; Rescue</b>	Fri 29th	13.30, 15.30 3D, 18.30	Sat 30th 15.30 3D, 18.30
	Sun 31st	15.30 3D, 18.30	Mon 1st 13.30, 15.30 3D, 18.30
	Tues 2nd	13.30, 15.30 3D, 18.30	Wed 3rd 13.30, 15.30 3D, 18.30
	Thurs 4th	13.30, 15.30 3D, 18.30	
<b>Sin City: A Dame To Kill For</b>	Fri 29th	20.30 3D	Sat 30th 18.00 3D, 21.00
	Sun 31st	20.30 3D	Mon 1st 18.00 3D, 21.00
	Tues 2nd	20.30 3D	Wed 3rd 21.00
	Thurs 4th	21.00	
<b>Million Dollar Arm</b>	Fri 29th	16.00, 18.00, 21.00	Sat 30th 16.00, 20.30
	Sun 31st	16.00, 18.00, 21.00	Mon 1st 16.00, 20.30
	Tues 2nd	16.00, 18.00, 21.00	Wed 3rd 16.00
	Thurs 4th	16.00	
<b>The Unbeatables</b>	Fri 29th	13.00 3D	Sat 30th 13.00
	Sun 31st	13.00 3D	Mon 1st 13.00
	Tues 2nd	13.00 3D	Wed 3rd 13.00
	Thurs 4th	13.00 3D	
<b>NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE</b>			
<b>RSC LIVE</b>			
<b>Medea</b>		Thurs 4th 19.00	
<b>Two Gentlemen Of Verona</b>		Wed 3rd 19.00	

**Planes: Fire & Rescue (U)**  
From above the world of Cars comes Disney's Planes, an action-packed 3D animated comedy adventure featuring Dusty, a plane with dreams of competing as a high-flying air racer.

**Medea (12A)**  
Helen McCrory returns to the National Theatre to take the title role in Euripides' powerful tragedy, in a new version by Ben Power, directed by Carrie Cracknell. Medea is a wife and a mother. For the sake of her husband, Jason, she's left her home and borne two sons in exile. But when he abandons his family for a new life, Medea faces banishment and separation from her children. Cornered, she begs for one day's grace. It's time enough. She exacts an appalling revenge and destroys everything she holds dear.

**ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY LIVE**  
**Two Gentlemen Of Verona (12A)**  
Valentine and Proteus are best friends, until they fall in love with the same girl. Having travelled to Milan in search of adventure, they both fall for the Duke's daughter Silvia. But Proteus is already sworn to his sweetheart, Julia, at home in Verona, and the Duke thinks Valentine is not good enough for his Silvia. The rivals' affections quickly get out of hand as the four young lovers find themselves on a wild chase through the woods, confused by mistaken identity and threatened by fierce outlaws before they find a path to reconciliation. This is the first time in 45 years The Two Gentlemen of Verona has been performed in full production on the Royal Shakespeare Theatre stage.

**Sin City: A Dame To Kill For (18 TBC)**  
Co-directors Robert Rodriguez and Frank Miller reunite to bring Millers visually stunning 'Sin City' graphic novels back to the big screen. Weaving together two classic stories with new tales, the town's most hard-boiled citizens cross paths with some of its more notorious inhabitants. Sin City: A Dame to Kill For is littered with an all-star cast including the likes of Bruce Willis, Mickey Rourke, Jessica Alba and Joseph Gordon-Levitt to name but a few.

**Million Dollar Arm (PG)**  
Craig Gillespie's drama stars Jon Hamm as JB Bernstein, a one-time successful sports agent who left the massive company he worked for to start in his own agency with his business partner. The company is in serious financial straits, and they lose the big client they've been grooming. In a fit of inspiration, JB believes they can go to India, find a cricket bowler, and teach him to be a baseball pitcher. In order to pay for the scheme, he convinces a wealthy businessman to create a reality show to help with his quest for fresh talent.

**The Unbeatables (U)**  
A young man named Amadeo sets off on an unexpected adventure with the players of his beloved table football game. An inspired family-friendly 3D animation, The Unbeatables is a touching, thoughtful story of triumphing against all odds.

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

**OBAN U3A**  
Tuesday 2 September 2014 at 10.30am  
Studio Theatre and cafe area, Corran Halls, Oban  
A warm welcome to members new and old for our monthly meeting, with an opportunity this time to sign up for a range of interest groups.

**FURAN - OBAN GAELIC CENTRE**  
**Farpais-cheist Taigh-seinne Gaelic Pub Quiz**  
Studio Theatre Bar, Corran Halls, Oban  
Tuesday 2nd September at 7.30pm  
£2 per person - Max 5 people per team  
There will be a Gaelic speaker for each team

**STRAMASH CHARITY FUN DAY**  
Inverawe Country Park, Taynuilt  
Sunday 31st August 11am-4pm  
£4 adult, £2 child, £10 family ticket (2 adults, 2 children)  
Try your hand at canoeing, archery, fishing & lots more!  
Sponsored by Bell Ingram

**NORTH CONNELL & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SHOW 2014**  
Victory Hall, Benderloch  
SATURDAY 30TH AUGUST  
Show opens 2pm  
Adults £2.50, Children £1 (includes tea & cakes)

The Cathedral Church of St John the Divine, Oban  
**AFTERNOON TEA**  
Entry £3  
+ Annual Prize Draw  
Tickets 50p  
(1st prize £200, 2nd prize £100, 3rd prize £50, plus other prizes)  
2 - 4pm  
30th August 2014

**SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING TASTER CLASS (free)**  
Monday 1st Sept, 8pm  
Church of Scotland Centre, Glencruitten Road, Oban  
Contact Liz Allen 01631 710845

**SOBS (Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide) OPEN DAY**  
on Wednesday 3rd September  
from 2.30 till 4.30pm  
at The Dochas Centre, Lochgilphead  
Light refreshments - come along & find out more

**SEIL ISLAND HALL CRAFT FAIR**  
Sun 31st August 11am-4pm  
Craft stalls, handmade gifts & much more  
BBQ & refreshments available all day  
Don't miss the local flower and vegetable competition

**Small Paws Rescue**  
Registered charity SC044301  
**Home Baking Stall**  
Pets at Home (Oban) August 30th 10am to 4pm  
Come, buy and enjoy. Every penny goes to help our animals

**LORN ORGANIC GROWERS**  
**Polytunnels Open Day**  
Saturday 30th August, 11am - 3pm  
(2 miles up Glen Lonan Road from Taynuilt)  
Plants, vegetables & baking available  
Free admission

**Advertise in the Community Notice Board for just £15.71 (plus VAT)**  
This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number. All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notices Page. Please ask for details

To advertise in the **WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD**  
Telephone: **01631 568000**



To advertise in our community noticeboard call 01631 568000

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For requests, competitions or questions please email: **studio@obanfm.org.uk** or call us on **01631 570057**

Oban FM Community Radio, 132 George Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5NT

**THIS WEEK'S LISTINGS**  
**MONDAY:**  
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Monday Morning With Andy and Stephen, 1100 Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Jim Edge, 1700 Drivetime With Danni Hay, 1900 Rosie's Highland Fling, 2000 John McLuckie's Show, 2100 David Cullen, 2200 Americano Show with Michelle  
**TUESDAY:**  
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show with Maggie May, 1000 Ken Hunter, 1200 Memories are Made of This with Ken Hunter, 1330 The Quiz with Danni Hay, 1500 Lesley Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drivetime with Jim Lynch, 1900 Sounds Scottish with Archie Cameron, 2000 Highest Praise with Stuart, 2100 Elaine Lamb, 2300 Northern Soul with Gordon Covey  
**WEDNESDAY:**  
0800 AM on FM, 0810 Breakfast Show, 0900 Sound Scottish (repeat), 1000 Comfort Zone with Doug Carmichael, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Elaine Lamb, 1700 Drivetime with Campbell and Coll, 1900 Country Meets Rock with Len & Ken, 2100 Gordon's Grooves  
**THURSDAY:**  
0800 Maggie May's Carousel, 1100 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Gordon Covey, 1700 Drivetime with DJ Taz, 1900 Christine's Collection, 2100 Ann's Ceilidh, 2200 Margo Till Midnight  
**FRIDAY:**  
0800 Jean Ainsley Breakfast Show, 1000 Teeny and Tiny Show, 1300 CLYDE 2, 1500 Weekend Warmup with Ian Blair-Simmonds, 1700 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 1845 Sports View, 1900 Country Meets Country with Jackie  
Craig, 2000 Friday Night with Innes, 2100 TFI Friday with Jim Lawn  
**SATURDAY:**  
0900 Maggie's Swinging 'Sixties, 1000 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowther, 1330 CLYDE 2, 1800 Sports View with the Dream Team, 1900 Marcus, 2000 Dave Lewis  
**SUNDAY:**  
0900 Sunday Morning with Breege, 1100 - 1400 Allan, 1630 Archie Darling, 1800 Ken's Friends with Ken Hunter, 1900 New Country Show with David Entwistle, 2100 Drum & Bass with Graham Scott

# Farming

## Rural college to host open day at Kirkton and Auctertyre hill farms

AN OPEN day has been planned for Scotland's Rural College's Kirkton and Auctertyre hill farms near Crianlarich to allow farmers to see and hear about improvements and research carried out in the last year.

As well as improvements in livestock handling and research on the farms, a new general purpose shed has been built at Kirkton and sheep handling is due to be moved into a newly extended shed at Auctertyre in the autumn.

Professor Davy McCracken, new head of SRUC's Hill and Mountain Research Centre said: 'The open day provides the opportunity for farmers and industry representatives to hear about the research we are doing and discuss how it relates to them, the needs of their business and the wider challenges facing farmers in the hills and uplands.'

Sheep farmers will be looking at results and lessons learned from sheep winter feeding trials which have been carried out on the farms over the past two winters.

There will also be a chance to consider the controversial and challenging issue of electronic identification of sheep (EID).

Visitors will be able to see the technology in action and a chance to watch a video where Ewan Campbell, SRUC's Kirkton and Auctertyre farm manager, has recorded his own experience of using EID and the benefits it can bring in reducing costs, improving record keeping and saving time and labour.

Last year the SRUC set up the Kirkton Grassland Group, led by Stephen Whiteford of the Colleges' SAC Consulting office in Stirling.

It involves like-minded farmers from across the region who are interested in different techniques for



STUDY: Kirkton Grassland Group looks at bracken control, one of the issues to be discussed at the open day

improving grassland management and productivity and following how well they work in practice.

The results of a number of in-bye grassland improvement trials will be revealed at the open day, including early discussions on how best to tackle bracken encroachment in some of the more productive lower grass pastures.

The final key topic in the morning sessions will be Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs).

The application of modern genetic selection and improvement technologies – such as EBVs – offers unique opportunities to enhance the productivity, profitability and competitiveness of the livestock industry in Scotland.

However, the uptake of EBVs has been slower in the Scottish sheep and beef sectors in comparison to the dairy, pig and poultry sectors.

The open day will provide an opportunity to hear about the ongoing sheep breeding research on the farms and how EBVs are being used to

provide measurable improvements in performance and outputs from the flock on the farms.

In the afternoon shorter sessions provide the opportunity for farmer and industry representatives to see some of the high-technology kit being used by researchers at Kirkton and Auctertyre and hear about other activities taking place during the past year.

Mr McCracken said suggestions as to what additional relevant research and demonstrations would be useful to implement in the future, would also be welcomed.

The open day takes place on Wednesday September 3, from 10am to 3.30pm and is free to visitors.

A complimentary lunch will be catering arrangements if those planning to attend register with SAC Consulting offices in Oban on 01631 563093 or email jane.organ@sac.co.uk or Stirling on 01786 450964 or email anne.martin@sac.co.uk

## Tractor and plough go under hammer

A VINTAGE tractor and plough are to be auctioned to raise money for Cancer Research UK.

A 1936 Ferguson Brown Series A tractor, and a Ferguson Brown two-furrow plough, will be auctioned at a Highland vintage ploughing and farming equipment rally on Saturday September 27 this year.

Ninety-year-old retired Black Isle farmer Will Matheson said: 'Because my family has lost many friends to cancer, we've been thinking about making this donation for some time.'

The tractor is one of the first models (number 244) developed under an agreement between Harry Ferguson and David Brown and Sons, after the successful construction of the famous Black Tractor prototype.

Powered by a Coventry Climax petrol engine this tractor is identifiable as a Type A by the 'grouped plugs' which were a feature of the Coventry Climax E engine. Aluminium alloys were used extensively in its construction to keep its weight down to about 840 kilograms, a lightweight and manoeuvrable addition to mechanised farming evolution.

'I was about 12 years old when



VINTAGE: the 1936 Ferguson Brown Series A tractor and two-furrow plough

this one was built,' said Will. 'I inherited it from my late brother who acquired it around 1973 and it has done very little work since it was restored.'

Ferguson Brown Series A tractor number 244 is in remarkable working order and experts have suggested the tractor and plough are worth £20,000, but the Matheson family

hopes that interest from collectors across the UK and the fact that the money will go to such an important cause will boost the bidding considerably higher.

The tractor and plough will be auctioned at 1pm at the Strathgairn Vintage Rally and Display Day at Daviot Estate just south of Inverness.

## Animal welfare claim deadline looms

CROFTERS who take part in the animal welfare management programme have until September 1 to submit their claims.

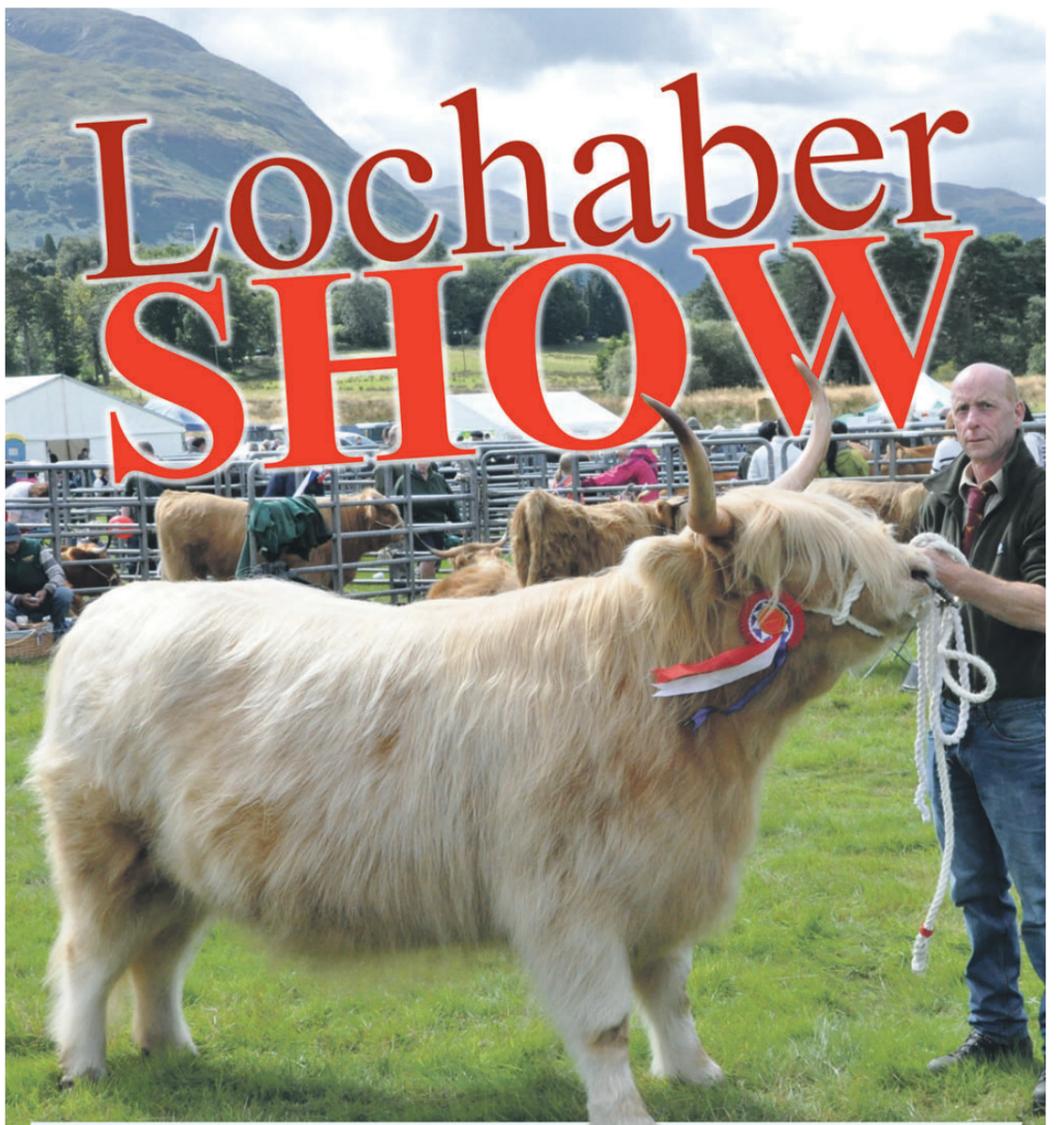
The programme is one of 23 land managers' options available under the current Scottish Rural Development Programme and aims

to encourage livestock farmers and crofters to improve standards of animal welfare over a five-year period.

Reminding his constituents of the deadline, Na h-Eileanan an Iar SNP MP Angus Brendan MacNeil said: 'I know crofters put a great amount of time and effort into this programme.

'It is very easy to forget to do the paperwork but SGRIPID civil servants appear merciless, even though the financial year has not concluded.'

'It would be a great shame if crofters were unable to benefit because they have missed the deadline date for submitting claims.'



## 2014 Lochaber Show Results

Blackface sheep (local): David Parker Cup – Best Home Bred Shearling Top, Sam MacKenzie, Glen Gloy Cup – Best Tap Lamb, John Nudds, Dr Van Voss Cup – Best Ewe in Milk, John Nudds Braery Cup – Best Gimmer Bred in Lochaber, John Nudds, Major MacDonald Cup – Best Ewe Lamb, John Nudds, Glenfintaig Trophy – Best pair of Prime Blackface Lambs – Paolo Berardelli, Alistair MacKenzie Memorial Cup – Best Local Homebred Group, John Nudds, Ben Nevis Auction Mart Cup – Local competitor with most points, John Nudds, Welcome Foundation Shield – Best Sheep Bred in Lochaber Outwith Champion and Reserve, John Nudds, Lochail Estate Cup – Local Reserve Champion Blackface, John Nudds, Major MacDonald Cup – Local Champion Blackface (All Local 1st prize winners to compete), John Nudds.

Sheep (open): Laggan Farms Trophy – Open Best Homebred Group, Norman McPhail.

Bidwells Shield – Open Reserve Champion Blackface, Tom Nelson.

Jan Macrae Memorial Cup – Open Champion Blackface (all Open 1st Prize winners to compete), John Nudds Open Champion, John Nudds, Open Res Champion, Tom Nelson, Local Champion, John Nudds, Local Res Champion, John Nudds.

Cross Sheep: West Highland Oil Cup – Best Pair of Prime Cross Lambs: M & S Cameron, Highland Livestock Services Cup – Reserve Champion Cross Sheep: M & S Cameron, Glen Gloy Cup – Champion Cross Sheep: M & S Cameron, Cheviot, Achnasaul Bowl – Champion Cheviot: Glenstrae Estate with Tup, Keil Cup – Reserve Champion Cheviot, Glenstrae Estate with Gimmer, Any other breed: David MacDonald Trophy – Best Cheviot Tup Lamb: Robert MacDougall, Isle of Mull, Millennium Shield – Reserve Champion Any Other Breed: Archie Simon with Ewe, L Macnally Open Cross Sheep Shield: M & S Cameron.

Alistair MacDougall Cup – Champion Any Other Breed: Audrey MacDonald with Tup Lamb, Cheviot Champion: Glenstrae Estate with Tup, Cheviot Res Champion: Glenstrae Estate with Gimmer, AOB Champion: Audrey MacDonald with Tup Lamb (Suffolk), AOB Res Champion: Archie Simon with Ewe (Suffolk), Cross Champion: M & S Cameron with Ewe and Single Lamb, Res Cross Champion: M & S Cameron Ewe & Twin Lambs, New for 2014: Stan Proudfoot Memorial Cup: Champion of all Sheep Champions inc Blackface: Glenstrae Estate with Cheviot Tup.

Cattle: Glen Nevis Trophy – Best Highland Calf: Kenneth Knot, Forestry Commission, Mary MacLean Balure Cup – Reserve Champion Highland: Karen MacGregor, Acharacle, Miss E. Weir – Champion Highland Animal: Mr & Mrs O'Hara, Appin, Royal Bank of Scotland Cup – Best Pedigree Animal (out with Highland): Malcolm & Chris Cameron, Strone Farm, Ewen MacPherson Cup – Best Cross Calf Bred in Lochaber: M & S Cameron, Balmaglasser, Archibald Carmichael Memorial Trophy – Best Charolais Calf Bred in Lochaber: No winner. The Mr & Mrs Jock Carmichael Cup – Best Cross Cattle Exhibit bred in Lochaber: M&S Cameron, Balmaglasser, Major MacDonald Cup – Best Beef Calf: M & S Cameron, Balmaglasser, British Alcan Cup – Best Breeding Beef Cow (Highland, Pedigree & Cross): Malcolm & Chris Cameron, Strone Farm, Bank of Scotland Cup – Best Female Bred in Lochaber (Highland, Pedigree & Cross): Malcolm & Chris Cameron, Strone Farm, The Carmichael Cup – Best Calf of Native British Breeding: M&S Cameron, Balmaglasser, West Highland Estates Office Cup – Best Crofters Animal: M&S Cameron, Balmaglasser, Cross Cattle Champion: M&S Cameron, Balmaglasser, Cross Cattle Res Champion: Mr D Wright, Ardross, N.F.U. Salver – Best animal bred in Lochaber out with Champion

and Reserve (All 1st prize winners bred in Lochaber): Malcolm & Chris Cameron, Strone Farm, Inverloch Castle Cup – Reserve Champion: Mr & Mrs O'Hara, Appin, Hon Wills Cup – Supreme Champion: M&S Cameron, Balmaglasser.

Horse and pony trophy winners  
Highland Pony In-hand: Champion – Ruairidh Ormiston, Isabella of Muck/Iona of Coral Dhabh, Reserve Champion – Ruairidh Ormiston, Asla of Craig Dubh; Ridden Highland Pony: Champion – Lauren Miller, Headstone Aisla; Deer Harness – Champion – Ruairidh Ormiston, Zena of Croilair; Highland Champion – Lauren Miller, Headstone Aisla; Highland Reserve Champion – Ruairidh Ormiston, Isabella of Muck/Iona of Coral Dhabh; Tack and Turnout Shield – Zara Hooper, Castley Brontie; Lead Reign Champion – Imogen French, Munchkin; Overall Champion Cup – Kathryn Henderson, Burnbank Milenium; Marion Campbell Reserve Trophy – Amanda Ferguson, Durris Fair Wind; Local Champion – Amanda Ferguson, Durris Fair Wind.

Handicraft trophy winners

Section 1 – Home Baking: Mrs Isabel Campbell Cup (most points in Home Baking) – Gregor Mews; Silver Spoon (presented by Shaw Family) Champion Baker – Gregor Mews; Mrs Van Voss Cup (runner-up in Home Baking) – Debbie Campbell; Spean Bridge Hotel Cup (best exhibit in Home Baking) – Mary Kerr – for Clotie Dumpling; Section 2 – Produce and Preserves: Mrs A McColl Cup (most points in Produce and Preserves) – Helen Leslie; Mrs M Bateman Cup (most points in Home Baking and Produce and Preserves) – Helen Leslie; Braery Estate Cup (most points in Wine and Refreshments) – Debbie Campbell; Section 3 – Knitting: Mrs R MacLennan Cup (most points in Knitting) – Mary Kerr & Eddy the Knowles; Mrs Isabel

MacPhee Quaiich (Runner-up in Knitting) – Helen Leslie; Section 4 – Handicraft: Lochaber Agricultural Society Cup (B Kirkbride Cup) (most pts in Classes 43-53) – Margaret Bellwood & Anne Smith; Marshall and Pearson Shield (most points in Classes 54 – 60) – Helen Leslie; John Kerr Trophy (most points in Classes 54 – 56) photography – Emma Sessions; Section 5 – Floral Decoration: Mrs Ann MacCallum Cup (most points in Floral Decoration) – Margaret Bellwood; The BOSS Silver (Runner-up in Floral Decoration) – Ann MacPherson; Section 6 – Floral: Ness Motors Shield (most points in Floral Section) – Vic MacPherson; Vic MacPherson Shield (most pts for Dahlias (Classes 81 – 83) – Amy Fulford; Section 8 – Garden Produce: P Robertson Shield (most points in Garden Produce) – Vic MacPherson; Ruth Langan Cup (Runner-up in Garden Produce) – Archie MacKinnon; The Hunter Rose Bowl (most points in Floral and Garden Produce) – Vic MacPherson; Section 9 – Children's: Lundavra Cup – Primary School with most points – Spean Bridge; Jessie Corson Cup (Nursery/Playgroup with most points) – Banavie; Lochaber Show Medals (Boy and Girl with most points in each age group): Nursery/Playgroup – Girl – Isla Dennison & Kalina Czapan, Banavie; Boy – Rocco Berrardelli, Spean Bridge; Primary 1 and 2 – Girl – Nia Reid, Banavie; Boy – Callum MacColl, Banavie; Primary 3 and 4 – Girl – Evie Marsland, Banavie; Boy – Sorely Swabey, Spean Bridge; Primary 5 and 6 – Girl – Abbie MacKay, Lochside; Boy – Ronnie Fulford, Spean Bridge; Primary 7 – Girl – Ana MacGillivray, Spean Bridge; Boy – Freddy Fulford, Spean Bridge; Collection of Mixed Vegetables from School Garden – Spean Bridge; WRI Cup – Eddy the Knowles; Mrs Elma MacKellar Cup (most points in whole Handicraft Section) – Vic MacPherson.

**WANTED**  
Landrover Defenders from 1990 – 2012  
All Japanese pickups 2 or 4 WD Toyota, Landcruisers, Hilux, Mot'd or not  
All models required  
Contact James  
07500603068 or 07875671994

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## FARMING REPORTS

### OBAN

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd had forward 4 511 store lambs and feeding sheep at Oban Livestock Centre last Tuesday.  
Store lambs (4,014) averaged £52.05 (+0.52p on the year) selling to £65 for Texels from J Wilson, Drumrover and D McCormick, Baligarve, Isle of Lismore.  
Feeding ewes (493) averaged £37.08 (+£5.46 on the year) to £68 for Texels from D Cameron, Inion.  
Short keep lambs again £6 – £7 with long keep lambs in demand and more could have been sold to sellers advantage being sharper by £3 – £4 on the year.  
Leading Lamb prices:  
Suff Lambs (1,138) averaged £56.01 (-£4.54 on the week); Ardencape £62.50; Torbhlaire £62.50; Balmagown Croft, Lismore £60.50; Auchnacreebeg £60; Upper Largie £59.50; Dunmore £59.50; Balure, Lismore £58.00; Poltalloch £58.00.  
Tex Lambs (1,310) averaged £51.89 (-£4.47 on the week); Torbhlaire £62.50; Newfield, Lismore £61.20; Tirfuir, Lismore £61.00; Ardencape £60.00; Balmagown, Lismore £59.50; Laggan, Lismore £59.50; Achuran, Lismore £59.00; Barguillan £58.50.  
Chev Lambs (993) averaged £46.32 (+0.77p on the week); 3 Ballygrundle, Lismore £60.50; Caddleton Farms £59.50; Torloisk, Mull £59.00; Drumfionghaill, Mull £56;

### KINLOCHLAICH

£55.50; Cailaich, Mull £54.00.  
Mules (445) averaged £52.11 (+0.06p on the week); Tirfuir, Lismore £58.50; Drumrover £56.50; Fiart, Lismore £55.50; Poltalloch £55.00; Ardachy £53.00.  
Other Leading Lamb prices: Beltex – Baligarve, Lismore £65; Bel x – Upper Largie £60; Cont – Drumrover £56; Chev x – Acheneir £54.50; Suff x – 17 St Brendan, Barra £54.50; BF – Aird £46.50.  
Leading Ewe prices: Tex x – Caddleton Farms £58 & £57; Chev x – Dunach Estates £51; Mule – Ardachy £41; BF – Strontitler £38.

### CRAIG FARM

£61.50 – Tullochcan: £61.00 – Keppochan: £60.50 – Tullochcan. SUFFX: £58.50 – 14 Poltalloch. BELTX: £55.50 – Evanchan. CHEVX: £56.00 – Ardnacross, Mull: £53.00 – Gargorie Estate: £51.50 – Maam: £50.00 – Bardaravine. LLEYN: £66.00, £60.00 & £54.50 – Kiloran Farmers, Colonsay. CROSS: £57.00 & £54.50 – Lephinkill Farm.  
MULE: £52.00 – Balantyre Farm Partnership & Ardachupole: £51.00 – Achuran, Lismore & Garvachy. BF: £49.50 – Littleport: £47.00 – Kiloran Farmers, Colonsay: £46.50 – Invernahyle: £45.00 – Dunans: £44.50 – Ederline Estate & Balantyre Farm Partnership: £43.00 – Invernahyle: £42.00 – Maam: £41.00 – Achuaran, Lismore & Scallaisay Farm, Colonsay: £40.50 – Littleport: £40.00 – Dunans & Ederline Estate.  
EWES: BF: £46.00 – Castles Estate. CROSS: £35.50 – Craigmore WEDDERS: TEXX: £51.00 – White Gates CHEVX: £43.00 – Brenehoille CAST RAMS: CHEV: £49.50 – Keppochan. Top price per kilo: LAMBS: TEXX: 192p – Barbreck Farm: 190p – Craig Farm: 187p – Tullochcan: 183p – Keppochan, Ardchonnell Farms & Craigmore: 182p – Keppochan: 180p

### TULLOCHCAN

SUFFX: 187p – Barbreck Farm: 180p – Gargorie Estate. BELTX: 183p – Evanchan: Achuaran, Lismore. CHEVX: 190p – Ardnacross Farm, Mull: 180p – Bardaravine Farm. CROSS: 183p – Balantyre Farm Partnership: 172p – Homefield, Colonsay. BF: 168p – Ederline Estate: 161p – Littleport: 159p and 157p – Dunans: 157p – Ederline Estate: 156p – Kiloran Farmers: 153p – Maam & Invernahyle: 152p – Maam, Balantyre Farm & Littleport: 151p – Balantyre Farm.

### ISLAY

UNITED Auctions held its first lamb sale at Islay Auction Mart on Friday August 22 when an increased entry of 2,214 was sold.  
In keeping with current trends, first draw lambs in excess of 40 kilos were down on the year whilst medium to long keeping types were selling at similar rates to last year.  
The entry of lambs sold to average £58.30 or 160.96 pence per kilo (£58.79 or 163.30p per kilo last year).  
Top prices per head:  
Lambs: SUFFX: £70.50 – Duich; £69.00 – Ardbeg; £68.50 – Duich and Cloggan; £68.00 – Coull; £67.50 – Rocksidge; £67.00 – Coull; £65.50 – Blackrock; £64.00 – Smaladh and Ardbeg; £63.50 – Paire A Chlissan, Ballachlaven; Duich, Rocksidge and Cloggan; £63.00 – Island, Ardbeg, Coull; £62.50 – Ballachlaven, Rocksidge, Smaladh; £61.50 – Blackrock; £60.00 – Duich.  
TEXX: £71.00 – Dunlossit Estate Keills; £70.00 – Tallant; £68.00 – Nerby; £67.00 – Coull; £65.00 – Ardbeg; £64.50 – Nerby; £64.00 – Tallant; £63.50 – Blackrock; £63.00 – Carrabus; £62.50 – Stanalane & Balacava; £62.00 – Balacava.  
CHEV: £63.00 – Cruach (Brown). CROSS: £60.50 – Nerby. MULE: £64.00 – Coull; £60.50 – Duich. BF: £35.50 & £35.00 – Cnoc Na Faire. EWE: £50.00 – Kirkby; £47.50 – Ardbeg.  
Top prices per kilo: SUFFX: 173p – Cloggan; 169p – Rocksidge Farms; 168p – Ballachlaven; 167p – Coull; 166p – Ardbeg; 164p – Smaladh, Rocksidge & Duich; 162p – Coull & Paire A Chlissan; 161p – Ballachlaven & Smaladh; 160p – Cloggan & Ballachlaven.  
TEXX: 205p & 192p – Balacava; 178p – Carrabus; 169p – Dunlossit Estate Keills; 165p – Carrabus; 163p – Balacava.  
CHEV: 156p – Foreland No2. CROSS: 149p – Nerby. MULE: 161p – Ballachlaven; 160p – Smaladh. BF: 136p – 9 Cnoc Na Faire.

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John Nudds of Torr Na Faire, Lochaline, shows his tup which won best blackface 20\_835lochaber06



Audrey MacDonald of Port Na Doran, Arisaig, shows her tup lamb, winner of the best other breed category 20\_835lochaber01



A Limousin calf from Balmaglaster, Invergarry, won overall cattle champion 20\_835lochaber03



Above: Highland dancers Jamie-Lee and Connie entertain the audience accompanied by Lochaber Schools Pipe Band 20\_835lochaber05



Above right: Isobel Campbell of the Lochaber Rural Education Trust demonstrated butter-churning inside the craft tent 20\_835lochaber04



Right: The Spean Bridge junior tug of war team fought hard. 20\_835lochaber08

Highland champion and overall cattle reserve was a three year-old in-calf heifer from Cnoc Lodge, Appin, shown by Ian MacKay. 20\_835lochaber02

**T**HE SUN was shining on Torlundy for the 117th Lochaber Agricultural Show on Saturday with organisers reporting a roaring success.

Visitor numbers were up on previous years and there was around 20 per cent more entries for all livestock except cattle.

Lochaber School Pipe Band and Highland dancers entertained the audience and a female Limousin calf won overall cattle champion.

Saturday was the first time the May-born cow, owned by Martin and Steven Cameron of Balmaglaster, Invergarry, had been shown.

A three-year-old in-calf heifer from Cnoc Lodge, Appin, won champion highlander and reserve overall cattle champion.

Audrey MacDonald of Port Na Doran, Arisaig, continued her show success with a tup lamb which won the any other breed category.

The home-bred lamb also came first in its category at Arisaig. Black Isle and Sunart agricultural shows this year.

Best blackface sheep went to John Nudds of Torr Na Faire, Lochaline, for a tup which also won at Sunart and Mull shows.

John Weller of the Lochaber Agricultural Show committee said: 'It was a really good day. Numbers were up both at the gate and for stock which is great news. The weather was great for most of the day and we've had some excellent feedback already.'



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We all encounter little problems from time to time - the solution could be closer than you think

**STADPOSIT**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons drop-in from 12 to 4pm for "Tools and Tea" in The Shed - our free community workshop.  
Friday afternoons 2-4pm we have Stitch'n'Time; an opportunity to learn new craft skills or share your expertise with others. All ages and abilities are welcome.  
Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays from 12-2pm. Oban AA Afternoon Group. Starting on Tuesday 22nd October at 7.30pm - a weekly support group for those affected by imprisonment.  
Sundays at 11am, worship and fellowship in the hall.  
We usually keep a supply of sleeping bags, blankets and duvets and welcome donations of tents to help us support those sleeping rough.

**The Salvation Army Oban Corps,**  
18-20 Stevenson Street, Oban PA34 5NA  
Tel: 01631 563652 or 07501 655 954  
Registered charity no: 214779. Scotland SC09269



# Store y

**WITH the 2014 boating season coming to a close, keeping your boat in a seaworthy condition starts with good winter lay-up.**

Yards are fast filling up so book your space now depending on location and facilities required.

A check list of work to be carried out may determine whether the boat is laid up undercover or outside. Every boatyard has different haul-out procedures and timings. Booking early to avoid disappointment. If you need work done by the yard team let the manager know early to include in their work schedule.

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# our boat for the winter

Good preparation will pay dividends for speedy launching next spring.

**There following key areas need considered in lay-up.**

- Keel/hull/topsides/deck
- Sails
- Rigging
- Engine/Batteries/Electrics
- Onboard
- Safety Equipment
- Hull,keel,topsides

**Keel/hull/topsides/deck**

Most yards pressure wash the hull on lift out. This cleans any fouling, helping prepare the surface for new anti-fouling. It's the best time to check for damage and carry out repairs.

Look at the general condition of keel/hull/topsides/decks and fittings. Check keelbolts, any play in the rudder/cutlass bearings and the prop-shaft and for any cracks in the hull and keel. A good wash down of the whole boat and a protective wax on the topsides gives protection over the winter. Covering the boat is preferable when stored outside but make sure covers are well secured, allow for ventilation and watch for chafing at regular intervals. Equally, make sure your cradle, trailer or support legs are in good condition.

**Sails**

It's best to remove all sails, wash in fresh water and check over for damage. Advice is always available on all aspects of sail requirements and maintenance from the local sail lofts and if you need new sails, it's a good time to place an order. Sail cleaning is sometimes offered as well as repair services and even storage. Storing at home must be in a dark, well ventilated area away from rodents.

**Standing and Running rigging**

Overhaul deck equipment and replace as required. Check sheaves, swages, split-pins and spreader mounts for wear and corrosion. Wash everything with fresh water. Substitute halyards with messenger lines to aid longevity. Inspect for chafe and wash and dry halyards/sheets before storing in a dry place. With the mast down, check masthead instrumentation and masthead blocks are running freely. Remove anchors and chain and stored on a pallet below the boat.

**Engines/Batteries/Electrics**

Drain the diesel tank and winterise both inboard and outboard engines changing the oil. Flush the outboard through with fresh water. Replace fresh cooling water with antifreeze/water mix.



Remove the impeller and plug the air and exhaust outlet with an oil soaked rag. Fill fuel tank to prevent condensation and add a biocide. Change filters as required and bleed system for next season. Change engine and gearbox oil and make a note of the date of change. Minimise condensation by spraying the engine with WD40 and cover with a cloth. Put batteries on a trickle charge. Take home if possible and sit in a place that won't freeze. Electrics/instrumentation on board should be inspected. Engage an electronics engineer to help check over any issues that have occurred over the season.

**Onboard**

After a season's use the inside needs a thorough clean and it's best to remove as much equipment as possible. Then wash the interior thoroughly including lockers, bilges, cookers and toilets with a weak bleach mixture to prevent mould. Allow good ventilation and paint/varnish when weather permits. A de-humidifier and heater will keep the interior warm and dry. Make a list of any items required. Flush water systems through with a water sanitizer and drain. Flush heads through, drain and lubricate disconnecting hoses to allow them to 'breathe'. Check gas systems on board are up to standard with a gas engineer.

**Safety Equipment**

Check lifejackets, harnesses and safety gear and renew anything that looks suspect. Store lifejackets partially inflated over the winter. Keep flare packs ashore and replace any that are out of date. The RNLI offers a safety check on boats and safety equipment and this is a great service. Clean and repair dinghy tenders, storing partially inflated. Life rafts should be removed and serviced by an authorised centre.

**Expert advice on any problems is on hand from your local boat-yard operator, service engineer, chandler or sail-maker if there's anything you're unsure about. Once the boat is layed up safely - clean and dry - you can relax and enjoy planning the boating season for 2015.**





**Winterising and Servicing Services**

Servicing is a vital element in prolonging the life of your product and ensuring your safety whilst on the water. Routine servicing should be carried out at least annually as recommended by manufacturers.

As well as servicing, Winterising is also vital for protection during extended periods of storage and especially over the harsh winter months. This should not be overlooked as frost and corrosion damage can result in a total loss of your product, which is very costly to replace.

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Kilmartin Museum is seeking to appoint a part time Financial Administrative Assistant to help the team take forward exciting plans to redevelop the Museum and to strengthen business led operations. This is a temporary 1 year project funded contract with the possibility of an extension, subject to funding.

For more information and an application pack please email kay@kilmartin.org or phone Kay on 01546 510 278. The closing date for applications is 12th September 2014 and interviews will be conducted on 19th September.



## Curatorial Assistant

Salary £16,031 per annum pro rata – 18.5 hours per week

Kilmartin Museum is seeking to appoint a part time Curatorial Assistant to help the team take forward exciting plans to redevelop the Museum and to strengthen business led operations. This is a temporary 1 year project funded contract with the possibility of an extension, subject to funding.

For more information and an application pack please email kay@kilmartin.org or phone Kay on 01546 510 278. The closing date for applications is 12th September 2014 and interviews will be conducted on 22nd September.



## Freshwater Data Analyst Fort William



Marine Harvest, the largest producer of Quality Atlantic Salmon, is currently seeking to identify a Freshwater Data Analyst to join the Production Department based at our Fort William office.

Reporting to the Biological Controller, the post is full-time, working a 40 hour week and will involve all aspects of data analysis, reporting and planning within the Freshwater and Broodstock aspects of the business. There may also be some involvement in other aspects of Marine Production analysis.

While no formal qualifications are necessary, it is important that candidates display a high level of numeracy and have a good understanding of Microsoft Excel and Powerpoint. Candidates must also possess good communication skills, both written and verbal, and be able to work effectively as part of a small team. A clean driving licence is essential.

If you feel that you possess the appropriate skills and are looking for a new challenge, please apply in writing to Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd., Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William PH33 7PT, no later than 5th September 2014.

## Senior Horticulturist Permanent, based at Benmore Botanic Garden Starting Salary £21,557 (Band C)

Applications are invited for a Horticulturist to join Benmore Botanic Garden, near Dunoon, Argyll, part of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

A full job description and person specification which outlines all of the essential and desirable criteria for this post can be downloaded from our website, www.rbge.org.uk/about-us/vacancies

Applications should be made by way of CV and covering letter which outlines your suitability for this post as well as a completed equal opportunities questionnaire should be sent to the HR Department at The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, 20a Inverleith Row, Edinburgh EH3 5LR or recruitment@rbge.org.uk by noon on Wednesday, 10 September 2014. Interviews will be held on Tuesday, 23 September 2014.

No recruitment agencies please.

Oban Times RECRUITMENT  
 Oban Times RECRUITMENT

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Source: Recruitment Channel, The Newspaper Society 2005

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Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

### DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (GANAVAN ROAD AND MILLER ROAD, OBAN) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS)(AMENDMENT) ORDER 201\_

Argyll and Bute Council proposes to make an Order introducing new waiting restrictions on Miller Road and Corran Esplanade/Ganavan Road in Oban. The proposals include 1) an extension of 16 metres or thereby to the existing no waiting/loading restriction on the north side of Miller Road and 2) an extension to the existing no waiting at any time restriction on Corran Esplanade/Ganavan Road, extending from its existing termination near the Queens Hotel north westerly for a distance of 205 metres or thereby.

Full details of these proposals together with a Plan, and a Statement of Reasons for proposing to make this Traffic Regulation Order, are available for inspection during normal office hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the offices of:

(i) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban;

(ii) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

Any person wishing to object to the proposals should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RT, by 19th September 2014.

Jim Smith, Head of Roads & Amenity Services, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead, PA31 8RD

### PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer Service Points will open at 10am. At the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

#### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
14/01574/PP	Installation of 16 ground mounted solar panels	Craig A More Gruline Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA71 6HR	Sub Post Office Ards Isle of Mull
14/01660/PP	Use of land for the siting of chilled unit	Ards Isle of Mull Enterprise Office PA72 6JP	Sub Post Office Ards Isle of Mull
14/01844/PP	Erection of wind turbine (61 metres to blade tip) with associated access track and hardstanding area	Land North East of Barbreck Farm Kilchrean Taynuilt Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
14/01941/PP	Change of use of vacant bowling alley to mixed retail (retail Class 1, 2 and 3) and hotel	Bowling Alley 56 Shore Street Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4NT	Oban Area Office
14/02006/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle reference 11/01799/PPP - Site for the erection of 2 dwellings	Land South East of Sycheida Port Appin Argyll and Bute PA38 4DE	Sub Post Office Ledaig

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 1A Manse Lochgilphead Brae PA31 8RD, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Argyll and Bute Council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Central Validation Team, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

### COUNCILLOR'S SURGERIES

Councillor Roddy McCuish (E.W.A Oban South and the Isles)  
 Councillor Roddy McCuish will be holding a surgery on Friday 5th September from 3.00pm - 5.00pm in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban  
 He can be contacted by e-mail - [roderick.mcuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:roderick.mcuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk) or by telephone 01631 567854

### First Registration of a Croft

The following crofts have been registered as a group on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

NAMES	NAME OF CROFT	NAMES	NAME OF CROFT
Annabel Smith and Fiona Campbell	50 ORMSAIGBEG A0275	Mary Angus	60 ORMSAIGBEG A0285
Trevor Potts	52 ORMSAIGBEG A0277	Neil MacDonal	62 ORMSAIGBEG A01462
John Cameron	56 ORMSAIGBEG A0281	Alaisdair Connell Cameron	63 ORMSAIGBEG A0287
Archibald Cameron and Alexandra Cameron	57 ORMSAIGBEG A0282	Thomas Bryson	65 ORMSAIGBEG A0289
Dr Ian Paton and Mrs Mary Thornton	58 ORMSAIGBEG A0283	Hugh MacCallum	66 ORMSAIGBEG A0290
		Archibald MacPhail	67 ORMSAIGBEG A0291

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by April 14th 2015. 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 numbers are shown above.

### Notification of Application for Dispensation to stage a late night fireworks display.

Applicant: Online Fireworks Ltd., P.O.Box 8388 Largs KA30 8ED

Proposed display details: Small scale Wedding fireworks display, incorporating category three and four barrages and effects, to be fired from a vessel moored offshore in Oban Bay at midnight on Saturday 6th September 2014.

Maximum duration of display nine to ten minutes.

The Insolvency Act 1986  
**OBAN NICK HARRISON AND LOCKSMITHS LIMITED**  
 (Company Number SC225787)

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above named Company will be held at Titanium 1, King's Inch Place, Renfrew, PA4 8WF, on 2 September 2014, at 11.00 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act. Creditors whose claims are unsecured, in whole or in part, are entitled to attend and vote in person or by proxy providing that their claims (and proxies) have been submitted and accepted at the meeting, or lodged beforehand with Campbell Dallas LLP. A list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at the offices of Campbell Dallas LLP, Titanium 1, King's Inch Place, Renfrew, PA4 8WF, between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days before the meeting. Resolutions to be taken at the meeting may include a resolution specifying the terms on which the Liquidator is to be remunerated, and the meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting. Further details contact: Tel: 0141 886 6644. Alan Murdoch, Director

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk)

The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://www.highland.gov.uk>

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
14/02558/PIP	Land 40m East of Yatter Whaup Croft, Tigh A Phuirt, Ballachulish	Erection of house
14/02645/PIP	Dogha Cottage, Annat View, Corpach, Fort William	Erection of single house
14/02875/FUL	Sealsdair, Achosnich, Kilchoan, Archaracle	Erection of house (Renewal of 09/00408/PIPO and 10/04663/MSC)
14/03127/FUL	Grianan, Ormsaigbeg, Kilchoan, Archaracle	Demolition of existing buildings & erection of dwelling house
14/03128/FUL	Land 100m SE of Archdeave House, Achnacarry, Spean Bridge	Proposal to construct a switchroom containing equipment required to connect the buried private HV cable to the existing overhead SSE network
14/03130/FUL	Land to South West of The Rowans, Bohuntin, Roy Bridge	Amendment to planning consent 13/04525/FUL - amended access road position
14/03149/FUL	Old School, Kingairloch, Ardour, Fort William	Demolition of existing building & erection of replacement dwelling house
14/03183/FUL	Sgeiran Buidhie, Loch Nan Ceall, Arisaig	Marine Shellfish Farm - retrospective extension of site area to accommodate existing 3 x 200m long lines and to include the farming of native and pacific oysters (application in accordance with conditions of planning permission SFA/HLD/027 issued by Scottish Ministers)
14/03221/PIP	Plot B Land to the East of 1 Savary, Lochaline, Morvern	Erection of dwellinghouse and improvements to existing access

Time period for comment is 14 days.  
 ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
 Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

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 0131 555 7407  
[local-scotland@mediaforce.co.uk](mailto:local-scotland@mediaforce.co.uk)

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### FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Gilleasbuig Kennedy has registered his croft 12 West Hynish, Tیره, 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 7th May 2015. 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 C396.

### Parent Council AGM at:

Rockfield Primary School / Bun Sgoil Achadh na Creige  
 Wednesday 24th September 2014, 7pm

### FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Seumas Alexander Kennedy MacArthur has registered his croft 8,9,13 & 14 Moss, Isle of Tیره 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 13th May 2015. 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 C411.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES  
 Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

### ANNOUNCEMENT

Argyll Resources quarry operation based in the Soroba district of Oban will be carrying out an active blast on the 28th August 2014.

Preparations are under way and we are planning for the blast to take place at 12 o'clock midday on the 28th.

All necessary precautions will be taken to ensure minimum disruption to any businesses and residents in the Soroba area.

If you require any further information please contact:  
**Graham M Greenlees Group General Manager on 01631 566370**

### Black Isle Seafood Limited (In Liquidation)

Company Number: SC351156

I, Stewart MacDonald, Chartered Accountant, 25 Bothwell Street, Glasgow G2 6NL, hereby give notice in terms of Rule 4.19 (as modified by Rule 5) of the Insolvency (Scotland) Rules 1986, that on 21 August 2014, I was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company by resolution of the First Meeting of Creditors. A Liquidation Committee was not established.

All creditors who have not already lodged a statement of their claim are requested to do so on or before 31 October 2014.

### ARGYLL AND BUTE BY-ELECTION

OBAN NORTH AND LORN WARD 17 JULY 2014  
 RETURNS AND DECLARATIONS AS TO CANDIDATES' EXPENSES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Returns and Declarations as to Candidates' Election Expenses, including the accompanying documents, in respect of the above Election held on 17 July 2014 may be inspected at Argyll and Bute Council Headquarters, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RT, between the hours of 10am and 4pm (Monday to Friday). The fee payable for a copy of any such Return, Declaration or document shall be at the rate of 20p for each side of each page.

This notice is given subject to the explanation that no Return and Declaration has been delivered by the late John MacGregor who stood nominated at the Local Government By-Election due to his sudden and untimely death shortly after the By-Election.

CANDIDATE (DESCRIPTION)  
 John MacGregor, Independent  
 SALLY LOUDON, Returning Officer, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RT.  
 August 2014

69% of the business community read the regional press

Regional Press closer to home

# west coast recruitment

**Lynn of Lorne Care Home**

We are looking for a **Housekeeping Assistant** to join our motivated and enthusiastic team. Full time or part time work available. To apply or for more information please phone Megan on 01631 720278 or email [lynnoflorne@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lynnoflorne@hotmail.co.uk)

**Lynn of Lorne Care Home**

We are looking for a **Day and Night Care Assistants and a Kitchen Assistant** to join our motivated and enthusiastic team. To apply or for more information please phone Megan on 01631 720278 or email [lynnoflorne@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lynnoflorne@hotmail.co.uk)

**Cooke AQUACULTURE FRESHWATER**

*Refusing to go with the flow*

**Vacancy: Freshwater Salmon Hatchery Manager**  
Location: Ardtaraig

We are seeking a Manager for our Smolt Production Unit at Ardtaraig, Dunoon, Argyll.

The successful candidate will be experienced in all aspects of salmon hatchery management. An effective communicator, you will be able to work well within a small team and also demonstrate excellent working relationships with colleagues and external suppliers.

In return, we offer excellent terms and conditions: competitive salary, on call payments, Company housing, pension, life cover and annual bonus.

If you would like to be considered please forward your CV by 5th September 2014 to: [violet.mcdougall@cookeaqua.com](mailto:violet.mcdougall@cookeaqua.com)

**MCFADYENS TRANSPORT LTD** Est 1901

**CLASS 2 DRIVER**

REQUIRED FOR OUR ANIMAL FEED, CONCRETE & TIPPER OPERATIONS

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR**

TO COVER MATERNITY LEAVE WITH POTENTIAL FOR PERMANENT POSITION

Please telephone 01586 551111 or email [charles@mcfadyens.net](mailto:charles@mcfadyens.net)  
Glebe Street, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6JJ

**A M Transport (Campbeltown) Ltd** are looking for an experienced HGV Class 2 Driver for work within the Argyll area.

Duties to include multidrop deliveries of palletised freight and collections from our customers.

Guaranteed minimum 45 hours per week, Monday - Friday, with occasional Saturday.

Apply in writing to A M Transport (Campbeltown) Ltd, The Roading, Campbeltown, PA28 6LU or email [am.transport@talktalkbusiness.net](mailto:am.transport@talktalkbusiness.net) with a copy of your CV.

**NORTH ARGYLL HOUSE**

Bealach an Rìgh, Oban, Argyll PA34 5TG  
Tel. 01631 562168 Fax. 01631 570623

*Care Home for the Elderly*

We are looking to recruit extra staff to join our dedicated staff team

**Part Time/Permanent vacancies for Cook and Night Care Assistants**

Good pay and conditions.

For an application form and job description contact Manager Morag A Telfer.

**Oban Scallop Gear Ltd**

REQUIRE

**WELDER FABRICATOR**

Knowledge of the scallop industry preferred

40 hrs per week + OT

Good rates of pay & conditions

Apply in writing with CV to Unit 2, Old Tweed Mill Soroba Road, Oban, PA34 4JF

**EUROFOREST LIMITED**

Euroforest - the UK's largest independent timber harvesting and marketing company.

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR - Cairnbaan, part time - ca. 20hrs, negotiable.**

You will work with the local manager providing general administrative support for local timber harvesting activities and also supporting countrywide health, safety and environment compliance. Good IT skills are essential and knowledge of ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001 quality assurance systems would be an advantage, but not essential. You will be enthusiastic, organised and able to work to deadlines on your own initiative.

For further information including a job description, please contact [arlene.dawson@euroforest.co.uk](mailto:arlene.dawson@euroforest.co.uk) Applications by 19th September 2014, enclosing your CV, to: Euroforest Ltd, Huntly Business Centre, Gordon Street, HUNTLY, AB54 8FG.

**ALIENERGY**

Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency

**Assistant Administrator**

You will work with our Administrator to deliver all office functions for our small team. 35 hours per week; £27.45/hour; 12 month contract, may be extended.

Closing date: Thursday 4th September.

Further information or job packs: [www.alienergy.org.uk](http://www.alienergy.org.uk); 01631 565183 or [m.peden@alienergy.org.uk](mailto:m.peden@alienergy.org.uk)

**The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust**

**Book Keeper**

The Trust is seeking a part time Book Keeper to work with our small Administration team.

For details of the post and application please contact:

Fergus Waters, Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust, Craft Workshop 1, Isle of Gigha, PA41 7AA or telephone 01583 505390.

**All applications should be submitted to the IGH Office no later than Thursday 25th September 2014 at 5.00pm**

**TRINITY** hairdressing & beauty

**Trinity has a vacancy in Oban for a qualified stylist.**

For full details contact Craig or Linda on Tel: 01631 566696

**OPERATOR REQUIRED for 360° excavator for forest operations, experience preferred however training can be arranged, good rates of pay for suitable applicant.**

Apply to 07831 786298.

BREAGHA THERAPY & BEAUTY, LOCHGILPHEAD

**Part-Time Receptionist/Make-Up Advisor**

Experience preferred but not essential

Approx 20hrs/week

For further details & job description please contact 01546 606096

ASET Ltd is a training and employment company based in Lochgilphead. We find employment and training opportunities for young people.

We are seeking to employ a part time **Development Worker/Supervisor** to run this pilot project. Note your interest by sending us a short letter and a C.V. by 5th September. Email - [Donald.Carmichael@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Donald.Carmichael@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

Further information - David Rennie 01700 501371.

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

**Scottish Sea Farms**

**Modern Apprenticeship in Supply Chain Logistics**  
South Shian, Nr Oban  
Salary: £16,000

Scottish Sea Farms is the UK's leading producer of premium quality Scottish salmon. Our business is extensive; based in Argyll, across the West coast and throughout the Northern Isles. We are trusted to supply Britain's most demanding retailers and need exceptional staff to build our business.

We are pleased to offer an exciting and rare opportunity to begin a career in Supply Chain Logistics. The modern apprentice will be an integral part of the supply chain / logistics team and will learn skills such as managing orders, managing transport requirements and export procedures.

There is no need for any previous experience as full 'on-the-job' training will be given and the candidate will be assigned a mentor offering full support. Formal Training will also be provided and the successful candidate is expected to attain the SVQ in Supply Chain Management at level 3.

Due to the nature of this vacancy, preferred qualifications include, two Highers/ A Levels (or equivalent) as well as a good grasp of IT. Personal qualities should include good communication skills, an eye for detail and a willingness to undertake further training and personal development. A full, clean driving licence is desirable but not essential as transport from Oban is available.

The initial contract will be for a fixed term of 18 months based just outside Oban with the possibility of a permanent position.

Interested applicants should contact [claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com) or call 01786 445521 for a job description and application form. Closing date for applications is **Friday 12th September 2014**.

Scottish Sea Farms makes it happen



**Scottish Sea Farms**

**Fish Health Biologist (Marine)**

Scottish Sea Farms understands that exceptional fish performance is only possible by ensuring the best health and welfare conditions. We need an outstanding individual to strengthen our Scotland marine farming team as an advocate for best practice and informed decision making. Your primary task will be to drive health education at site level, inspiring and coaching our newly appointed biological control and health specialists. You will work with the industry's best marine managers to anticipate threats and create the strategies needed to ensure ideal farming performance. You'll have the support of an internal company vet and all required external diagnostics.

**Specific duties include:**

- Development and delivery of industry-leading fish health training modules
- Analysis of weekly site health data - particularly gill health and sea lice
- Cleaner fish (farmed and wild) health monitoring
- Site surveillance and sampling programmes
- Water quality, algae and plankton sampling, identification and risk management
- Supplier meetings for best practice in fish health
- Understanding and educating on new or emerging health threats
- F1 bio-assay sea lice sampling

The post is based at South Shian, near Oban and reports directly to the Production Manager. If you have a passion for aquaculture, an exceptional track-record in fish health and the drive to make a difference then we'd like to hear from you. You'll need to be an excellent communicator with the determination to find solutions and the personality to inspire. In return we'll offer an industry-leading remuneration package and a unique opportunity for self-development.

Please contact John Rea for all informal enquires on [john.rea@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:john.rea@scottishseafarms.com). Interested applicants should contact our HR department to obtain an application pack and job description by emailing [claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com](mailto:claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com) or call 01786 445521. All applications must enclose a covering letter detailing why you would be the best candidate for the position. Closing date for applications is **Friday 5th September 2014**.

All applicants are required to have a full, clean driver's licence.

Scottish Sea Farms makes it happen



**An Agent for NFU Mutual**

**Customer Services Adviser**  
£DOE | Oban

NFU Mutual, a leading general insurer and financial services company, has been serving the rural community for over 100 years. As their local agency office in Oban, we deliver their award winning service and sell their product range across our region, championing the honest, personal approach to customer service they're famous for.

As a Customer Services Adviser within our small team, you'll play a key role in the success of an expanding local business, ensuring the office runs like clockwork and our customers are always happy. Providing exceptional administrative support, you'll handle enquiries, paperwork, sales tasks and potentially some bookkeeping admin, with a 'can-do' proactive enthusiasm. The chances are, you'll have already worked in a similar role, so will be no stranger to applying an excellent telephone manner and a flexible, people-orientated approach to everything you do. Above all though, you'll relish the challenge of being part of a truly customer-focused, ambitious team. In return, you can expect full training in a friendly and supportive environment.

To apply please email your CV to [euan\\_warnock@nfumutual.co.uk](mailto:euan_warnock@nfumutual.co.uk) or call 01631 567 036 for more information. Closing date: 7th September 2014.

Please note you'll be employed by an Agent of NFU Mutual and not by NFU Mutual directly.



**Roadworkers**

**Temporary Winter Patrol Drivers**

BEAR Scotland provides integrated road infrastructure services throughout Scotland including managing and maintaining Scotland's Trunk Road Network.

Vacancies have arisen in our Oban and Fort William depots for Roadworkers, and at our Fort William and Inveraray depots for Temporary Winter Patrol Drivers.

Applicants for the Roadworker position should preferably be experienced roadworkers with the necessary skills to carry out various road maintenance operations (training will be provided if necessary), have, as a minimum, an LGV Class 2 licence (HGV2), and be prepared to participate in our winter and emergency response service on a standby-rotas basis.

The Temporary Winter Patrol Drivers will carry out patrol duties on a night shift basis on several routes of the trunk road network. Candidates should possess a current LGV Class 2 (HGV2) licence and be prepared to carry out road maintenance duties. Training will be provided.

To apply, please go to [www.bearscol.com](http://www.bearscol.com) or contact 01738 448600 for an application form.

**The closing date for applications is Friday 12th September 2014.**

experience that delivers



**YOUR LOCAL PAPER**

**51% of people turn to their local newspaper first when looking for a new job.**

Source: Recruitment Choice. The Newspaper Society 2005

**Regional Press**  
closer to home



**renewables Heating Engineer**  
energy solutions NOW

Due to continued expansion, an exciting job opportunity has arisen for a heating installer to join our busy team. The successful applicant will undertake the installation of renewable heating systems to domestic & commercial properties throughout Argyll. A solid plumbing and heating track record is essential, knowledge of renewable heating systems an advantage although full training will be given.

**This is a full time salaried position**

**Call 01631 720587 to apply.**

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT** **Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT** **Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

**WEST HIGHLAND HOUSING ASSOCIATION**  
**JOB ADVERTISEMENT**  
**2 FIXED TERM POSTS £21,000 - £26,000**  
 [Dependent on experience]

An exciting opportunity has arisen with West Highland Housing Association. Two of our staff team are going on maternity leave. Rather than simply look to fill a maternity leave cover the Association has decided to look at 2 fixed term posts for two years. The two posts are

**Quality Services Co-ordinator** - this post will work principally with the Operations Manager in developing a customer first approach with particular reference to repairs, allocations and maintenance. The person will require good analytical skills with a strong understanding of IT. They will need to be a good communicator as part of their role will involve training.

**Income Collection Assistant** - this post will ensure that the Association continue their excellent record in rent collection and debt recovery. The person will have a mature disposition with good communication skills particularly on the phone and when speaking with people. The person will have good IT skills and organisational skills.

Our Association provides an excellent working environment with a strong culture of both organisational improvement and individual opportunities for learning and development. We have excellent conditions of service and these posts will provide the post holders an opportunity to make a difference.

These posts will be based in our office in Oban. Oban is the capital of the west Highlands and is a great place to live and work.

We are committed to diversity and encourage applications from all sectors where transferrable skills are present. Potential opportunity for Housing Graduate/Post Graduate. We will consider a secondment opportunity for candidates with necessary skills. In house training will be provided.

Application packs can be e-mailed by contacting May Tosh, Corporate Services Manager [may@westhighlandha.co.uk](mailto:may@westhighlandha.co.uk).

Closing date for Applications will be Thursday 4th September 2014, with interviews being held during week commencing 22nd September 2014

We are a Scottish Charity No SC017357

**Marine Harvest Workboats**  
**Skippers**  
**2 weeks on/off rota**

Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd is the largest Aquaculture Company operating in Scotland. Our marine and freshwater sites are located throughout the West Coast and Outer Isles.

Due to further expansion of our workboat fleet, we are currently looking to employ Skippers for our 35m work vessel the Sara Maatje VIII. The vessel will be based in Kyle of Lochalsh and will provide a valuable service to the Company's sites assisting with sea lice treatments, net changing and other general farm duties across our seawater sites in Scotland.

The successful candidates will be required to work closely with Farm Managers to provide an operational plan and must therefore possess strong interpersonal and organisational skills as well as the ability to problem solve. In addition the successful applicants will be required to ensure that their vessel is cleaned and maintained to a high standard and that up to date bio-security records are priority.

Applicants must be strong team players who hold a valid Master 500GT certificate of competence. They should also possess relevant experience in operating vessels of a similar size.

In return the successful candidates will benefit from an attractive salary package, including bonus.

If you feel you have the necessary skills for one of these posts, please apply in writing enclosing copies of relevant certificates, no later than Friday 5th September 2014 to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William PH33 7PT.

**Ceannard-sgoile Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis**  
**(Gàidhlig Riatanach)**  
 Head Teacher Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis  
 (Gaelic Essential)  
 Tuarastal £51882

The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

Tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd airson Ceannard-sgoile làn-ùine fhastadh do Bhun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis. Tha fàilte ro thagraidhean bho luchd-teagaisg air a bheil teisteanasan agus eòlas iomchaidh, agus a tha fileanta sa Ghàidhlig, le comasan leughaidh is sgrìobhadh sa Ghàidhlig cuideachd.

The Highland Council seeks to appoint a permanent Head Teacher for Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis. Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced Teachers who are fluent Gaelic speakers and who can also read and write Gaelic.

Faodar ceistean neo-fhoirmeil a chur gu Calum Mac an Tòisich, Manaidsear Foghlaim na Sgìre air 01463 702074.

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Mus tèid an neach-dreuchd a dhearbhadh, feumaidh tagraichean soirbheachail ballrachd a ghabhail ann an Sgeama Dion nam Buidhnean So-leònte.

Tha pasgan ath-shuidheachaidh cuimseach aig a' Chomhairle agus dh'fhaodte gum bi seo ri fhaotainn dhan tagraiche soirbheachail airson dreuchdan maireannach.

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## The benefits of owning a new-build home

Buying a house is one of the biggest investments you will ever make in your life. Whether you are a first time buyer or looking to move up the property ladder, there is no doubt that you will face a number of choices and decisions.

Before you start the hunt for the house of your dreams, it's a good idea to have a long hard think about exactly what you want and need from a property. Is it location? Running costs? Space? At National House Building Council (NHBC), the leading standard-setting body and warranty provider of new homes, we recently carried out a survey with over 1,000 new home owners. They told us that design was the thing they loved most about their new-build home, followed by location, size and space.

So, with more new homes now being built than before the end of the recession, now is as good time as any to consider buying a new-build home. Here are some benefits of buying a new-build house:

**A blank canvas** – A new-build home has a neutral interior, free from any decorating disasters of previous owners. They also come with a similar blank canvas in the garden, allowing buyers to design and plant to their preferred taste.

**Shorter property chain** – Long chains can be extremely stressful, with a new home this is min-

imised because there is no threat of gazumping or the vendor changing their mind about moving. You will be at the end of the selling chain and can concentrate your efforts on packing up and moving out.

**Lower running costs** – New homes are built with higher levels of insulation and have more efficient heating systems than ever before. Better energy efficiency means a reduction in carbon emissions and lower heating bills.

**Ten-year warranty** – Eighty per cent of new homes are covered by NHBC's ten-year Buildmark warranty and insurance, which currently protects 1.6million homes across the UK. Check that the builder is registered with NHBC before you visit, at www.nhbc.co.uk and ask for a copy of the policy document when you reserve your home.

**Added consumer protection** – Working with the industry, NHBC has developed the Consumer Code for Home Builders. The Code protects new-home buyers by ensuring that all buyers are treated fairly, that they are fully informed about their purchase and their consumer rights before and after they move in, and that they are provided with a suitable redress scheme to deal with complaints. More information can be found at www.consumercode-forhomebuilders.com

**Incentive schemes** – As well as the Government-backed Help to Buy scheme, some house builders operate their own buyer incentive schemes, such as part-exchange on an old house, payment of stamp duty, help with removal costs and part-funded deposits. Many developers also offer properties off-plan, meaning homeowners reserving before the house is built can choose their desired plot and personalise the house to their individual needs.

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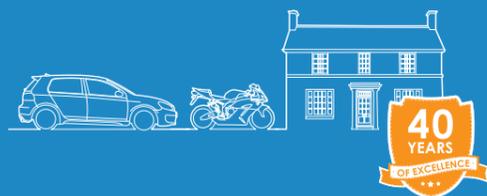
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**DIMPLEX STOCK-BRIDGE** ELECTRIC log/coal effect, remote control, optional fender, very good condition, £40 Telephone 07734 296824.  
**FAN HEATER** small fan heater (2KW) free to good home. Two heat settings plus cold fan. Telephone 01586 551604.

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**CHAINSAW** Husqvarna model 61, chainsaw, 61cc, 15 inch bar. Good working order, £99.00 Telephone 07704 700965.  
**FLYMO GARDEN VAC** 2500 turbo, large 40 litre capacity collection bag, 12 metre cable, two dozen spare shredding blades, good condition, £25 ono Telephone 07734 296824.

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**ADULT JACK RUSSELL** for company, good home waiting, previous dog owner. In first instance contact Linda at Stevenson Kennedy Ltd, email linda@stevensonkennedy.co.uk. Telephone 01631 562317.  
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PERSONALS

**Happy 21st Birthday**  
**Jordan**  
3rd September  
Lots of love Mum & Dad, John, Danielle & Jack, Amanda & David, Jamie & Toni, Ashleigh xxx

LOCAL SERVICES

**BIRTHS**

**KUNZ** - Henry, Christine and Rowen are delighted to announce the birth of Merryn Alice Kunz on August 20, 2014. All well.

**ENGAGEMENTS**

**STRUTHERS - HARDY** - Mr M. L. J. Struthers and Miss G. C. Hardy. The engagement is announced between Mark Louis John, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Charles Struthers, of Ardmaddy Castle, Argyll and Georgina Charlotte, third daughter of Sir Richard and Lady Hardy, of Springfield House, Dorset.

**DEATHS**

**BARBOUR** - Peacefully at her home, Erradill, Southend, Campbeltown, with her family beside her, on Sunday, August 24, 2014, Mary McDonald McKay (May), in her 84th year, dearly beloved wife of the late John Barbour, formerly of Aucharua Farm, Southend, much loved mother of David, mother-in-law of Elizabeth and adored granny of Ruairi and Emma. Service in Southend Parish Church, on Thursday, August 28, 2014 at 1.00pm, funeral thereafter to Keil Cemetery. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation. Family flowers only please. A ritual collection will be held in aid of Southend Church and the Southend Surgery.

**BEATON** - Peacefully in the care of Kingsmills Care Home, Inverness, on August 25, 2014, Marie (May) Beaton, aged 95 years, formerly of Inverloch, beloved wife of the late James and a much loved mam and nana. Funeral service on Tuesday September 2, at 2.30pm in Inverness Crematorium. All welcome to attend. No flowers please, but donations, if desired, to Lochaber Sensory Care and Cancer Research UK may be given at the service or forwarded to D. Chisholm & Sons, Huntly Street, Inverness IV3 5HP.

**CAMPBELL** - Suddenly at home on August 24, 2014, aged 79, Iain Campbell (Shorty), of Inverlorr, Taynuilt, beloved husband of Jean, much loved dad of Gary and Russell and grandfather to Max, Paige, Fraser and Struan. Funeral will take place at Muckairn Parish Church, Taynuilt on Friday August 29 at 1.00 pm. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease.

**FORBES** - Suddenly but peacefully at home on Tuesday August 19, 2014 aged 63, Adaliene (née Ritchie) beloved wife of the late Louis, dearly loved mother of Ian, Angela and Carol and adored nana of Elouise, Megan, Grant, Alexander, Murren, Lucy and Kendra. Much loved daughter of Anne and William, sister of Mary, Elaine, Jennifer, Edwina, William, Archie and Stewart, sister-in-law, aunt and niece. Funeral took place on Saturday August 23 in Portree. Sorely missed by all.

**Oban Times**  
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS  
**Oban Times**  
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

**MACGILLIVRAY** - Katherine. My mum passed away on August 19, 2014, aged 60 after a very short illness, at home, 10 Ardenis Road, Fort William. Service to be held at Inverness Crematorium, Thursday August 28, 2014 at 1.30pm. Donations to Cancer Research please.

**RITCHIE** - It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Elizabeth Margaret Ritchie, formerly Elizabeth Kane, (née Mills), who died peacefully on Sunday, August 24, 2014, aged 88 years. Riki and Jenefer, her daughters, and Grouse McBurnie her grandson, would like to thank the staff at Eadar Glinn Care Home in Oban for the care and compassion shown to Elizabeth during her stay.

**STEEL** - Peacefully on Monday, August 25, 2014, Joan Steel aged 94 years. Formerly of Ardenis Road, Claggan and latterly Victoria Court before being tenderly cared for by the Mackintosh Centre and Inverness House. A loving mum of Ruth and John, and a devoted nannie and great-nannie. Funeral service will be held tomorrow (Friday), August 29, 2014 at 12 noon in the Duncansburgh-Mackintosh Parish Church. Family flowers only please but donations in lieu to Mackintosh Centre and Inverness House may be given at the service, or forwarded to John McLellan Funeral Directors.

**TURNER** - Peacefully at home, Cuan Sgith, Ardfern, with family, on August 21, 2014, Robin Turner, aged 75 years, beloved husband of Rosemary, much loved dad of Frances, Mary-Anne, Lesley and Daniel, adored seaniar, and dear brother of Sara. (Formerly of St Bee's School, Glencoe Mountain Rescue and Seawork Scotland). Funeral service will be held at Craignish Parish Church, Ardfern, today, Thursday, August 28, 2014 at 11.00am. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to RNLI and Glencoe Mountain Rescue. Will be sorely missed by all.

**MAITLAND** - The Maitland family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for all their support and sympathy on the very sad loss of Ian. Grateful thanks to staff in Ward B, Lorn and Islands Hospital and Macmillan cancer nurses. Our sincere gratitude to Hamish Hoey and Son and Rev. Ken Hunter for his comforting service. Heartfelt thanks to all who paid their respects at the church and graveside. A collection of £190.11 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Support.

**MACINNIS - DOUGLAS** - Robbie and family would like to thank everyone for all the kindness and support following their very sad loss of Eilidh. Sincere thanks to Rev. Dugald Cameron for a most comforting service. Many thanks to Hamish Hoey and Son for funeral arrangements. Angus MacPhail and staff at Skipinnish for the lovely buffet and refreshments. The Macmillan nurses and doctors for their care and attention. Thanks to all who attended the celebration of Eilidh's life at the church and

graveside. The sum of £2,228 was raised from the collection and is to be divided between Macmillan nurses and Church of Scotland.

**MACMILLAN** - James, Iona, Maureen and family of the late Catriona would like to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends, the local community and wider for their kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, visits and cards following their sad loss. Grateful thanks for their support to Acharacle Medical Centre, District Nurses Carolyn and Fiona, Carers Lynda and Marie, Jessie from Marie Curie and Beryl from Crossroads. To Rev. Fiona Ogg for a lovely service and to John McLellan Funeral Directors. To all who attended the service our heartfelt thanks. Donations for the Kilchoan Parish Church Restoration Fund amounted to £1413.00

**MCDUGALL** - Chris, Don, Elizabeth, Brendan and the extended family, wish to thank everyone for their love and support at this sad time. Thanks to Rev. Archie MacPhail and Rev. George Cringles for guiding us through a most uplifting service. A big thanks to Ian MacInnes and his team and a special thanks to the staff at North Argyll House for their care of Elizabeth over the last few years. The retiring collection raised £225.

**THOMSON** - Nanette and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their cards, Mass cards, flowers, support and sympathy on the sad loss of Sydney (Twirly). Our sincere thanks to Hamish Hoey and Son, especially Catriona for her help and guidance, to Mgr James MacNeil and Fr Roddy MacAuley for the lovely service, and to all who attended the church and graveside, generously donating £668 for Oban Lifeboat Station. Thanks to the Royal Hotel for catering, and finally to all who knew Sydney and remembered him at this sad time.

**MEMORIAMS**

**CARMICHAEL** - In loving memory of our dear mother, mother-in-law and grandmother Mary Logan, who died on August 24, 1996. Forever in our hearts, always in our thoughts.

- Inserted by Irene, Donald, Nigel and family, Islay and Glasgow.

**MACCUISH** - In loving memory of Andrew (Mickey) MacCuish, September 1, 2012. On angels wings you were taken away but in our hearts you will always stay.

We hear you whisper in the tallest trees, feel your love in the gentle breeze. YNWA.  
- Love Annmarie and Frank xxx  
Papa I know your watching over me  
Every butterfly I see, I know it's you keeping an eye on me.  
Miss you papa  
- Your loving grand-daughter Jodie xxx

**MACDONALD** - Lena. September 1, 2001. Always in my thoughts.  
- Loving husband Ian.

**MACKAY** - In memory of Tam. Gone but not forgotten.  
- O.E.C.S.C.

**MACKINNON** - Treasured memories of a dear husband,

father, father-in-law and gramps, Alexander (Andy), who died on August 30, 2009. Loved and remembered always.

- Kay, Colin, Sandy, Kath, Mairi and Kirsten.

**MACLEOD** - Hugh (Tiree). In loving memory of my dear dad, grandad and great grandad who passed away August 28, 2013 at Gartnavel Hospital. One year has passed since that sad day.

You closed your eyes and slipped away  
You left us quietly without goodbye  
But loving memories will never die.  
Miss you dad.  
- Rita and family.xx

**MACLEOD** - In loving memory of our dad and Shen, Hugh, Sunnyville, Tiree, who died August 28, 2013. What he suffered he told so few. He did not deserve what he went through. Tired and weary he made no fuss. But tried so hard to stay with us - Morag, John and family, Dalnally.

A year ago you left us but you live forever in our memories and hearts. We know you are happy now with mum, both missed so very much.  
- Johann xx

**MACLEOD** - Treasured memories of our dear father, grandfather, great-grandfather Hugh, died August 28, 2013. If all the world was ours to give we would give it yes, and more to see the face of one we loved came smiling through the door. - Ian, Fiona, Kirsten, Niall and families.

**MACPHERSON** - Precious memories of my dear dad, grandpa and great grandpa, Ewen, who passed away on August 30, 2013 and also my precious mum, granny and great granny, Carrie, who passed away on September 2, 2011. May the winds of heaven blow softly and whisper in your ear how much we love and miss you and wish that you were here. Loved and remembered every day.

- Ewen, Lorraine, Karina, Ewen, Caitlin, William, Kayla and Ruairidh.

**MACPHERSON** - In loving memory of Ewen, our dear dad, grandpa and great-grandpa who passed away on August 30, 2013. Also remembering Carrie, our mum, granny and great-granny who died September 2, 2011. Always in our thoughts and together again.  
- Your loving family

**MACPHERSON** - In loving memory of Ewen MacPherson who died August 30, 2013 and Carrie MacPherson who died September 2, 2011, beloved parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. Sadly missed.  
- Sara and David Cathro and family.

**McLENNAN** - In loving memory of our parents and grandparents, Alex who died August 25, 1999 and Flora who passed away September 26, 1996. Wherever we go whatever we do Memories keep us near to you.  
- Elsie, Margaret and families.

# Children in Lochaber show off home grown produce

**GREEN-FINGERED** Lochaber children were rewarded at the Rural Education Trust's annual junior gardening show. Pupils from primary schools in the area spent Friday morning preparing their vegetable entries for judging in the evening and Fort William Primary School won the United Auctions Cup for the school with most points for the first time in five years.

Isabel Campbell of the Lochaber Rural Education Trust said: 'Again the show was a great success and an excellent display was presented to the judges.' On Saturday the trust had a fundraising stall at the Lochaber Agricultural Show and between both events at the weekend volunteers raised almost £500 for future projects. Trophy winners: Dougie

Duncan Cup for playgroup with most points - Kilmallie; Giggles Cup for nursery with most points - Banavie; United Auctions Cup for primary school with most points - Fort William Primary School; Tankard for male with most points - Lorne Spence; Trophy for lady with most points - Isabel Campbell; Marie MacLean Memorial Trophy for best tomato exhibit - Struan Stephen.



Prizewinners at the Lochaber Rural Education Trust junior gardening show

## Moidart war memorial unveiled

THE FIRST memorial for the Moidart men who lost their lives in the world wars has been unveiled after almost a year of preparation.

Rain pounded down on spectators and invited guests last Sunday but they were undeterred as they remembered the fallen troops at the stone cairn, now placed at the summit known as Bealack Carach, between Loch Moidart and Glenluig.

Donald Monro, 71, served in the Queen's Own Highlanders and has been fundraising for the £5,000 needed since December last year. Mr Monro read a poem written during the first world war and the service included readings from Donald Cameron, Lord Lieutenant of Inverness, Reverend Kevin Pearson, Bish-

op of Argyll and the Isles and Father Tony Wood of Arisaig.

Mr Monro said: 'It was a filthy day with rain pounding down but it really was a great event. I think between 80 and 100 people attended and there were some very fitting readings and prayers, it really was quite a spectacular event.'

Deputy Lieutenant of Inverness Iain Thornber said: 'The fine stone cairn built by the roadside between Kinlochmoidart and Lochailort where funeral parties carrying their dead to the ancient burial place of Eilean Fhianain in Loch Shield used to rest, is a fitting place and a fine tribute to commemorate the men and women of Moidart who fought in both the First and Second World Wars. It has been long overdue.'



Moidart's first war memorial has been unveiled

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Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer  
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In memory of Dawn Joyce

## Thought for the week

### Why Parables?

COMMUNICATION is about getting your message across - right? And Jesus Christ was one of the world's best communicators - right? So why did he teach so often in parables?

Early in his work some of his followers asked him to explain. They said, 'Why do you teach the people in parables?' Because sometimes Jesus seemed to be talking in riddles. His answer is astonishing. He quoted an old prophet who said God would speak to people in a way they did not understand because they were rejecting him. Jesus' meaning was clear - you are rejecting me; so I will teach you, but I will do it in a way that is not going to benefit you.

Actually they did understand most of what he said, and sometimes reacted violently - as when they tried to murder him for suggesting that foreigners were the same in God's eyes as they were. As soon as we see what a parable means we admire his teaching. But we have to want to understand it, otherwise we just shrug our shoulders and walk away-like them.

It was not the fault of the parables that many in his society lost the benefit of his teaching. They had rejected what they did understand. Their problem was their attitude. Almost one third of the world's population claims to follow Jesus Christ. But in the UK the picture is different. Why? Is it because he teaches in parables? Or because we don't want to know? A long time ago a Scottish writer penned the words 'Christ is leaving Scotland, but he is looking over his shoulder to see if anyone will bring him back'. Like Jesus' contemporaries, it is all a matter of attitude.

Which brings another point - this is an issue in every area of life. There is such a thing as a bad attitude that leads inevitably to misunderstanding and broken relationships. And there is such a thing as being willing to learn and change and mend. There is a prayer that goes, 'Create a clean heart in me, O God.'

**The Oban Times**

& West Highland Times  
THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



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Lochavullin Industrial Estate,  
Crannog Lane, Oban,  
PA34 4HB  
Tel: 01631 568000  
Fax: 01631 568001  
www.obantimes.co.uk

**Editorial**

**News Editor**  
Euan Paterson  
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

**Reporter**  
Emma Crichton  
ecrichton@obantimes.co.uk

**Reporter**  
Louise Lee  
llee@obantimes.co.uk

**Reporter**  
Steven Rae  
srae@obantimes.co.uk

**Web Co-ordinator**  
Marion Miller  
mmiller@obantimes.co.uk

**Newsdesk**  
Oban 01631 568060  
Fort William 01397 703003  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising**

**Advertising Executive**  
Rhona McKillop  
adverts@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising Executive**  
Nadine Ross  
nross@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising Executive**  
Rosalyn Poulton  
rpoulton@obantimes.co.uk

**Branch Offices**

**Fort William**  
Tel 01397 703003  
Fax 01397 702495

**Lochgilphead**  
Tel 01546 602345  
Fax 01546 602661

**Campbeltown**  
Tel 01586 554646  
Fax 01586 553006

**Arran**  
Tel 01770 302142  
Fax 01770 302021

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**Anna Campbell**, daughter of Roddy and Caroline Campbell of Barcaldine, graduated from the University of Leeds with a First Class Honours degree in History of Art with Museum Studies. Anna is a former pupil of Barcaldine and Lochnell Primary schools, Oban High School and St Georges School for Girls Edinburgh.

**Penny Gordon** graduated from University of Glasgow with a BSc (Hons) in Neuroscience, undertaking further study with a Msc Physiotherapy at St Johns University, York. Penny is the daughter of Kenneth and Caroline Gordon, Ardgor.

**Karen Morven Paterson** Denovan graduated recently from Abertay University, Dundee with a BSc (Hons) in Forensic Sciences. Karen is the youngest daughter of Bob and Isabel Denovan, Dervaig, Isle of Mull, and granddaughter of the late Neil and Irene Paterson, Dervaig, and the late Bob and Margaret Denovan, Dundee.

**Lora MacLean**, BA Business Studies (Hons) 2:1, graduated recently from Abertay University, Dundee. Lora is the eldest daughter of Willie and Christine MacLean, Barcaldine and grand-daughter of Harry and Margaret Forbes, Connel and Isa and the late Charlie MacLean, Lochnell. She is a former pupil of Barcaldine Primary School and Oban High School. Lora has taken up a position with Alliance Trust Savings, Dundee.

# League champions fail to impress against Rangers

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division  
**Oban Saints 2**  
**Kings Park Rangers 1**

OBAN Saints played their first league game of the season when they took on Kings Park Rangers at Glenclutten.

But this was not the performance the premier division champions were looking for as they turned in a lack lustre performance against the newly-promoted Glasgow side.

Saints were without long-term injury victims Donnie Campbell, Dene Cassells and Colin Tindall for this game but apart from these three manager Iain Jackson had a full squad to choose from.

Rangers came to Oban with a defensive strategy in mind playing a 4-5-1 formation, which meant they had nine men plus the goalkeeper behind the ball for the majority of the match.

The home side started well enough knocking the ball about confidently, but as the half wore on they seemed to drop the pace of the game and play became scrappy. The home side weren't moving the ball quickly enough and far too often the final pass was going astray.

In saying that, they did create a couple of reasonable chances with Craig MacEwan forcing Rangers' net minder Jim McLaughlin into a good save. This was followed by a Ross Maitland shot that flew past the post after some good work by his namesake Scott.

The home side eventually took the lead in the 36th minute when they were awarded a free kick on the right. Ross Maitland curled a great cross into the box where Allan MacKay got in front of his marker to head the ball past a helpless goalkeeper.

Saints should have gone on and stamped their authority on the game but they didn't do this. The visitors persisted with the one man up front and credit to Rangers striker Dean McCallum, he always looked a threat.

The half time whistle arrived with Saints leading 1-0 although they hadn't played well in the opening 45 minutes.

The home side were unlucky not to have extended their lead in the first minute of the second half when a Scott Maitland shot took a wicked deflection and hit the Kings Park crossbar not once, but twice before being booted clear.

With the visitors only playing one man up front, manager Iain Jackson took off central defender Alex Craik replacing him with striker Dean Smith and the youngster was only inches away in connecting with a Ross Maitland free kick which would probably have put the game to bed.

Kings Park sensed there might be something in this game for them with the score only 1-0 and with eight minutes left on the clock they equalised with one of their few attacks in the second half.

A harmless looking ball caught the Saints defence off guard and Dean McCallum cut the ball back from the byeline for Martyn Reid to knock the ball home from close range.

The home side were stunned by this goal as they had dominated the game territorially and possession-wise for most of the game.

However, with three minutes left on the clock Dean Smith netted the winner with a well taken goal. He turned his marker and cracked a great shot past Rangers' goalkeeper Jim McLaughlin to make the score 2-1, much to the delight of his

## FOOTBALL

colleagues. The home team played out the final few minutes along with time added on by referee Jimmy Litster, who had a good game, to take all three points.

Manager Iain Jackson was happy to get the win, but far from happy with the performance.

He said: 'We didn't play well at all. That's the poorest I've seen us for a long time. Everything was far too slow and we lacked a sense of urgency. I'm putting it down to a disjointed pre-season with players being away on holiday and we only managed two games instead of the usual four or five, so I would expect us to get better with every game we play.'

'Kings Park came with a defensive strategy which almost paid off for them but we got the win in the end so I suppose a win when we play as poorly as that must be a positive.'

The Oban side face a tough test on Saturday when they travel to take on Thorn Athletic. The game will take place at the McMaster Centre in Johnstone with a 2pm kick-off.



HEADS YOU WIN: Paul Kerr wins an aerial challenge with Kings Park Rangers' Dean McCallum

## Golf News



### Taynuilt

LADIES: Nant Trophy played August 19 - 1 Jill Stewart 29 pts (23); 2 Sally Thompson 28 pts (27); 3 Carol MacLarty 27 pts (20).

Gents: Lochnell Quaiach first round, played August 23 - 1 Craig Stanners 62 (08); 2 Kevin Mills 64 (15); 3 Allan Stewart 66 (11).

Lochnell Quaiach 2nd round played August 24 - 1 Allan Stewart 58 (11); 2 Kenny MacGregor 60 (17) 3 Craig Stanners 62 (08).

Lochnell Quaiach 2014 - 1 Allan Stewart 124 (66 58); 2 Craig Stanners 124 (62 62); 3 Kenny MacGregor 127 (67 60).

### Glenclutten

JIM MUIR won the Cameron Trophy at the weekend with a score of 127 (64, 63). Cameron Milne was runner-up with a score of 128 (67, 61). Cameron won the Presidents Prize on Sunday with a score of 61.

The Stableford finals are to be played on Saturday.

Ladies results: Club Championships 2014 - Handicap (best three rounds of four) 1 Mary Plunkett 200 (65+66+69); 2 Diane Colewell 206 (63+69+74); 3 Diana Dalgetty 221 (68+69+74). Club Championships 2014 Scratch (best three rounds of four) 1 Diane Colewell 260 (82+83+95); 2 Christine Cameron 286 (95+95+96); 3 Diana Dalgetty 301 (99+100+102).

### Inveraray win

### Marine Harvest

### South Division 2

### SHINTY

CONGRATULATIONS to Inveraray who won South Division 2 following a 6-0 victory over Glenorchy.

Inveraray won the league without losing a game

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# Three out of three for Athletic

Wednesday 20 August  
West of Scotland AFL  
**Oban Athletic 4**

### Lochfyneside 1

OBAN Athletic started their first home game against Argyll rivals Lochfyneside last Wednesday evening having to make four changes from the team that defeated Carradale the previous Saturday as a result of work commitments.

The first half hour was played in the middle of the park with very few chances being created by either team.

Athletic, settling into a new system of play, were rewarded on 35 minutes when good play between Maxwell Onyongo and Stephen Kelly resulted in a cross from the touchline to Kris Gilles, who beat a defender before shooting home to open the scoring.

This goal settled the Oban team and they started to play the ball on the ground making their opponents work hard for the ball.

On 42 minutes Lance McCuish played a one two with Sandy Woods who played the ball through to Kris Gilles to slot the ball into the left hand corner of the net from 18 yards.

The second half started with Lochfyneside pushing Oban back into their own half but their efforts were being thwarted by Struin Doull and Euan Mackie supported by Steph Campbell and Shaun Ford who was talking the inexperienced players through the game.

On 55 minutes Steph Campbell and Sandy Woods were replaced by Michael McGee and Alan Buchanan and both were to make an immediate impact with a McGee shot hitting the crossbar and young Alan shooting just wide.

Shortly after, Kris scored his hat-trick with a well-taken goal from the edge of the box and

minutes later scored his fourth with a tap in from a Michael McGee cross.

Lochfyneside scored a consolation goal in the 88th minute with a well taken strike from 25 yards giving keeper Graham Douglas no chance, but the Oban side ran out comfortable 4-1 winners.

Saturday 23 August  
West of Scotland League  
**Erskine Town 2**

### Oban Athletic 3

ATHLETIC travelled to Greenfields football parks in the east end of Glasgow last Saturday to play Erskine Town in a West of Scotland League game

The Oban team, playing their third game in a week, were first to settle and after 10 minutes Stephen Kelly passed the ball out wide to Steph Campbell who slipped the ball through for Michael McGee to hammer a shot past Darren Miller in the Erskine goal from the 18 yard line.

The visitors then started to knock the ball about the park with Craig Campbell and Lance McCuish winning most balls in the midfield area and spraying passes out wide to Sandy Woods and McGee on the wings. Kris Gilles playing through the middle played a one two with Craig Campbell and Gilles dispatched a shot low into the left hand corner of the net to make the score 2-0.

Athletic, looking forward to the interval, let their guard down in the final minute of the half when a mis-hit cross found Stephen Glass, the smallest man on the park, inside the 18 yard box and he sent a looping header over Graham Douglas in the Oban goal to make the half times score 2-1.

The second half started with Athletic on the back foot with Erskine creating chances with

Graham Douglas pulling off a great save touching the ball onto the bar with the centre forward then heading wide with the goal at his mercy.

Manager Donald Campbell introduced Coll MacKenzie, who was making his debut for the club, in the 60th minute replacing Sandy Woods who was carrying an injury.

This change resulted in Athletic having a number of chances due to the youngster's workrate and link up play with Kris Gilles. The visitors almost netted a third goal when a corner from Steph Campbell resulted in his namesake Craig heading the ball to Gilles who crashed an overhead kick off the post.

Erskine scored an equaliser in

## FOOTBALL

the 80th minute with a scrappy goal from Steven Watson who side footed the ball home from close range.

This goal proved to be a wake up call to the Oban team who went straight up the park, won a corner with Craig Campbell heading onto Kris Gilles who nodded the ball into the net to make the final score 3-2 which gave the Oban side three league wins out of three.

This Saturday Athletic are at home to Inchinnan Valley. The game will be played at Glenclutten with a 2pm kick-off. Referee in charge is Tim Woodcock.



TROPHY WINNERS: Oban Saints under 18s in their new strips generously donated by Andy Dunn of A For Audi in Clydebank. The boys won the Ian Cullen Memorial Trophy hosted by Clydebank Boys FC. This was a five-team tournament including the previous season's league champions and league cup winners. Saints' victory was more impressive as this was the first outing of the season for the boys which included four new signings, and it bodes well for the forthcoming under 18 league campaign.

# Unlucky 13 for Bob at the Olympics

OBAN golfer Robert MacIntyre insists he is now armoured with all the tools needed to succeed at the highest level, after his Youth Olympic Games adventure.

MacIntyre was chosen to represent Team GB in Nanjing last week for the second Summer Youth Olympic Games, as golf gets set to make its senior debut at Rio 2016.

The prestige of the competition clearly appealed to the 17-year-old as he opened up his campaign in style, shooting a three-under-par 69 to end his first round on Tuesday August 19 in joint fifth.

However, 24 hours later the wheels fell off and a three-over-par round of 75 left MacIntyre with work to do as he slipped down the rankings.

Despite his best efforts, the Glenclutten Golf Club star couldn't claw his way back up to the top, with a final round on Thursday August 21 of one under par seeing him finish joint 13th overall.

Although he failed to battle it out for the medals in China, MacIntyre feels the trip to the Far East was well worth it.

He said: 'Overall I am fairly happy with how it all went.

'It wasn't too bad to lift myself back up after day two because I knew my game was still there. 'It was just that nothing fell for me on day two and I didn't hole my putts.

'I have taken a lot away from the Youth Olympic, from experience, to the heat, pressure, cameras and enjoyment - everything really.

'The standard of golf was unbelievable too and it showed me what I need to do in the future.'

MacIntyre is no stranger to pulling on Great Britain's colours, but doing so with the Olympic rings emblazoned on his chest is an entirely different prospect altogether, the former Oban High school pupil realised.

'The Youth Olympics was a lot bigger of a completion than last time I played for Great Britain,

## GOLF

but it was more enjoyable too,' he said.

'The first tee in the first round with all the cameras on me it felt special and I felt a bit of pressure but after that I settled into it okay and did alright I think.'



OLYMPIC DREAM: Oban golfer Robert MacIntyre, who finished in joint 13th place at the 2014 Summer Youth Olympic Games last week

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# Newtonmore have that wee bit extra

## Badenoch side just edge exciting Macaulay Cup final after extra time

NEWTONMORE are celebrating their first Macaulay Cup win in 28 years, after defeating Kyles Athletic at Mossfield Stadium last Saturday.

A Fraser MacKintosh goal six minutes from the end of extra time gave Newtonmore the win, in a repeat of the 2013 final, and ensures their league and cup double is still possible.

Danny MacRae opened the scoring for Newtonmore in the 16th minute, but Dunky Kerr's equaliser in the 53rd minute took the action into extra time.

The game looked to be heading for penalties when Fraser MacKintosh scored with six minutes of extra time left, giving Newtonmore the win and avenging their defeat to Kyles in the fixture last year.

Newtonmore were under pressure early on in the tie, with keeper Mike Ritchie forced to make two saves in the first two minutes, but Newtonmore composed themselves and eventually took the lead

through MacRae in a well-worked goal in the 16th minute.

The Badenoch side had the better of the play but failed to exploit their advantage during the first half, with the game still 1-0 at half time.

Kyles came back out a better team after half time and were rewarded quickly when Kerr equalised in the 53rd minute.

In what was almost a role-reversal of the first half, Kyles then dominated for most of the second half but couldn't find the net, meaning the crowd was treated to extra time.

Kyles were denied a winner when a long high ball was blocked by Ritchie, with forward Roddy MacDonald closing in.

With six minutes to go and the prospect of penalties looming, Kyles failed to clear their lines and MacKintosh took full advantage with a clean strike from 20 yards.

### SHINTY

To their credit, Kyles never gave up and pushed forward right to the end, but Newtonmore held on for a famous victory.

Neither side have a game this week, but Newtonmore will clinch the Orion Group Premiership on Saturday if Lovat fail to beat Kingussie.

Both Newtonmore and Kyles play their last games on September 6, with Newtonmore travelling to face Inveraray, and Kyles playing hosts to Lochaber, with Newtonmore needing only a point to make their league and cup dream double a reality.

Kyles second team take on Fort William in the final of the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final at the Eilan, Newtonmore, on Saturday. The game starts at 4pm with referee Ron Kennedy in charge.



DELIGHT: Newtonmore captain Scott Chisholm holds aloft the Artemis Macaulay Cup after his team's 2-1 extra time win over Kyles Athletic at Mossfield Stadium last Saturday

Photo: Kevin McGlynn

### Orion Group Premiership

LOVAT will face Kingussie this Saturday in their last league fixture, needing full points to ensure they still have a chance of being crowned league champions.

They currently trail top team Newtonmore by two points and have a worse goal difference of five goals as it stands.

Only a Lovat victory and Newtonmore losing their last game away to Inveraray on September 6 would give Lovat a chance of winning the league on goal difference, if they can make up the five-goal deficit.

Their fixture with Kingussie was due to be played last weekend but was postponed due to bereavement.

Saturday's game will throw-up at 2pm in Lovat.

KINGUSSIE will face Lovat in both teams' final fixture of the season this Saturday, in a game that was postponed last weekend due to a bereavement.

While the game is must win for Lovat's championship hopes, Kingussie are guaranteed a mid-table finish this season, although a win would ensure they finish a respectable fourth.

The game will throw-up at 2pm in Kiltarlity.

### National League

GLENORCHY manager John Smith is frustrated by what he feels is a lack of co-operation from the Camanachd Association after his side were refused a request to have a match postponed this weekend.

The team will travel to face Fort William on Saturday, but with six players away on a stag-do in Ireland and the club's second team in action too, there are not enough players at the club to make up the numbers.

'He said: 'We didn't have our free week highlighted to the association in February but it was only arranged two months

ago and the date wasn't confirmed.

'We're going to finish second bottom regardless but it's the principle of the thing, this could have been a relegation battle.'

Smith said he would probably be forced to cancel the second side's fixture to make sure the first team can fulfil their fixture and avoid a £100 fine, and talked of the difficulty in fielding two teams each week.

'We're only a small club. We don't have the resources in the village that a bigger town team does,' he said.

'We do all we can to help the association but feel we're getting no help. We're meant to all be singing from the same hymn sheet but it feels like we're getting a raw deal.

'We do our best to increase the profile of shinty by having two teams and we have lots of youngsters in the second team.

'There are a lot of other teams in the same predicament trying to fulfil fixtures for two teams and if every team had to scrap their second team it would damage the sport.'

Astie Cameron, operations manager at the Camanachd Association, said he had acted correctly in denying the request.

He said: 'Every team gets a free Saturday that they can request at the start of the season and for years Glenorchy have booked the Saturday of the Dalmally show, so that's what we go by.'

'Also, I find it hard to believe that a stag-do was arranged at such short notice.'

'All we're doing is enforcing the rules that are in place for every team.'

The fixture with Fort William will throw-up at 12pm and, regardless of the result, Glenorchy will finish the season second bottom of the division, ahead of Bute.

FORT WILLIAM will face Glenorchy on Saturday, with every point now crucial in the Marine Harvest National Division.

They have a game in hand against top-of-the-table Oban Camanachd, who are a point ahead.

The sides drew 1-1 on Saturday, Aaran MacPhee's 13th-minute penalty cancelled out by Lorn Dickie's goal after 50 minutes.

The draw means the prospect of a league decider on the last day of the season, with the two teams set to meet in Oban on September 27.

Fort William manager Adi Robertson said: 'The league is looking really tight and the likelihood is it's going to come down to the game on the 27th.'

'We have two games before then and Camanachd have one, and although both teams are favourite to win those fixtures, you can never predict the results.'

'The game was pretty even, although I would say Oban had more of the play without our keeper having too many saves to make.'

'We were fairly disappointed with the result but all credit to Oban. They're an experienced team with players who have been round the block for a while now.'

Saturday's game with Glenorchy will throw-up at 12pm in Fort William, and although favourites to win, Robertson knows his side could slip-up if they get complacent.

'We went to Glenorchy earlier in the season and dropped a point, and up until Saturday that was the only point we'd dropped all season, so we'll be taking nothing for granted,' he said.

Fort William second team take on Kyles Athletic in the Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final at the Eilan, Newtonmore, on Saturday. The game starts at 4pm

OBAN CAMANACHD drew 1-1 with Fort William on Saturday, meaning they retain their spot at the top of the table, with a last-day league decider looking like a distinct possibility.

Both sides are favourites to

win their remaining fixtures, and with Fort a point behind with a game in hand, it could all be decided on September 27.

An Aaran MacPhee penalty for Fort William opened the scoring in 13 minutes on Saturday, but Lorn Dickie equalised in the 50th minute to give Camanachd a share of the points.

Camanachd play hosts to Beaulay on Saturday, who sit in fifth place, with the game throwing-up at 2pm.

BUTE will be hoping for a win on Saturday against Caberfeidh to ensure they don't finish the season both without a win and on negative points.

The side were docked two points for failing to fulfil a fixture against Fort William in March, and with only one point earned from a draw with Kilmallie, sit on -1 points.

Saturday's game will throw-up at 2pm in Bute.

KILMALLIE will travel to face Glasgow Mid Argyll on Saturday for their final league fixture of the season.

A win would put them on equal points with top-place Oban Camanachd, but with Camanachd and current second place side Fort William having games in hand, it looks likely Kilmallie will finish the season in third place.

The side had a free week on Saturday, while their second team was awarded a 5-0 win against Lochbroom after Lochbroom was unable to field a team.

Saturday's tie will throw-up at 2pm.

### South Division One

BALLACHULISH started with a strong side against Aberdour last Saturday, with high hopes of beating them for a third time this season.

The home side had plenty of chances to take the lead but a mixture of poor finishing and good goalkeeping kept the score goalless at half time.

Eventually Ballachulish took the lead through Michael Slezas in the 73rd minute, but they could not press home their advantage and the game finished with a 1-0 win.

The day was marred for the home side when goalkeeper David MacPhee was sent off near the end for retaliating after he had been fouled, meaning he will miss important games over the next few weeks.

Balla currently sit three points clear of Kyles at the top of the table, meaning they are two points away from the league title with two fixtures remaining.



CHAMPIONS: the Newtonmore team and officials with the Macaulay Cup

Photo: Kevin McGlynn

The Orion Group Premiership							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	13	9	2	2	34	17	20
Lovat	13	7	4	2	30	18	18
Glenurquhart	14	7	4	3	25	16	18
Kingussie	13	7	1	5	29	27	15
Kyles Athletic	12	5	3	4	20	19	13
Inveraray	13	3	4	6	18	26	10
Kinlochshiel	13	2	2	9	21	34	6
Lochaber	13	1	2	10	17	37	4

Marine Harvest National Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oban Camanachd	12	10	1	1	40	9	21
Fort William	11	9	2	0	55	10	20
Kilmallie	13	9	1	3	50	19	19
Beaulay	13	7	1	5	34	23	15
Caberfeidh	13	5	1	7	30	37	11
Glasgow MA	13	4	0	9	22	43	8
Glenorchy	13	2	1	10	12	49	5
Bute	12	0	1	11	6	59	-1

Marine Harvest North Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skye	10	10	0	0	41	6	20
Newtonmore	11	7	1	3	34	12	15
Strathglass	14	7	1	6	38	32	15
Glenurquhart	11	5	3	3	25	19	13
Beaulay	11	5	1	5	27	30	11
Kingussie	12	4	1	7	31	42	7
Inverness	13	1	3	9	20	56	5
Lovat	10	2	0	8	16	35	4

Marine Harvest South Division 1							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ballachulish	12	8	4	0	34	13	20
Kyles Athletic	12	7	3	2	39	15	17
Oban Celtic	13	5	4	4	18	27	14
Aberdour	12	5	3	4	27	23	13
Lochside Rovers	13	5	3	5	31	34	13
Strachur	12	3	3	6	18	29	9
Taynuilt	13	2	4	7	30	43	8
Kilmory	13	2	2	9	16	29	6

Their remaining fixtures are a difficult away tie at Strachur on Saturday, throwing-up at 2pm, and a home tie against Kyles, with the date still to be arranged.

STRACHUR are safe from relegation this season, with two fixtures left to play.

John Montgomery's men play host to undefeated Ballachulish this Saturday, who will be crowned champions if they take full points.

The game will throw-up at 2pm.

TAYNUILT are now a single point away from ensuring survival from relegation, after a comprehensive 4-0 victory against Strachur on Saturday.

The win, which was the side's first clean sheet of the season, means they still have their fate in their own hands going into their final game of the season this Saturday against Aberdour.

Manager Davy Thomson said: 'We definitely needed the win and the boys put in a good performance.'

'We had a couple of the more experienced guys back and they made a big difference.'

'I'm happy with the result

and at least we still have our fate in our own hands.'

'The tie with Strachur will be tough. We've had some close games this season including a cracking 5-5 draw at home, so I'm under no illusions that we're going to need to produce our A-game.'

'If I play like we played on Saturday I'm hopeful we can get the point we need, hopefully with the same team as we did on Saturday, although that has been a problem for us all season.'

Saturday's fixture will throw-up at 2pm at Silversand Park.

OBAN CELTIC will finish off their season with a journey to face Kilmory this Saturday, in a game both sides will be keen to win.

Kilmory are looking for full points to try and save themselves from relegation, while Celtic are hoping for a third-place finish to qualify for next year's Macaulay Cup.

Celtic manager Davy Hamilton said: 'It'll be a difficult game down there. They beat us up here earlier in the season.'

'They are fighting for the slender chance of staying up. They need to win and will be looking for full points. They're

fighting for their lives. We need a win to qualify for the Macaulay Cup next season, so we both have something to play for. It's not just some meaningless, end-of-the-season game.'

Looking back at the season, Hamilton was pleased with how it has gone and feels it's a good foundation to build on for next season.

He said: 'The season has gone alright. It was a fine wee pick-up we had in the middle of the season. The boys came back into form and it bodes well for next season.'

'We've got some good young boys coming through. We'll be looking to keep the same pool of players and promote some lads from the under-14 and under-17 teams.'

Saturday's game will throw-up at 2pm in Lochgilphead.

KILMORY play hosts to Oban Celtic on Saturday in a game they must win to keep their chances of staying up alive.

Only full points from the tie and Taynuilt losing in their tie with Aberdour can save Alister MacArthur's men.

Saturday's game will throw-up at 2pm.



FAMOUS TROPHY: pupils and staff from St Columba's primary school in Oban were delighted to welcome Euan McMurdo, shinty development officer for Argyll and Bute, into the school with the Macaulay Cup last Friday. Mr McMurdo, who plays for Inveraray, told the children about the history of the competition and gave them all a chance to hold the cup. Our photo shows pupils from St Columba's with the famous Macaulay Cup



### Fixtures

Saturday 30 August  
Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup Final  
Fort William v Kyles Athletic at The Eilan, Newtonmore, Ron Kennedy - 4pm

Orion Group Premiership  
Lovat v Kingussie  
Evan MacRae

Marine Harvest National Division  
Bute v Caberfeidh  
Robert Baxter  
Fort William v Glenorchy  
Colin MacDonald - 12pm  
Glasgow MA v Kilmallie  
David Mitchell  
Oban Camanachd v Beaulay  
Lachie Wood

Marine Harvest North Division 1  
Beaulay v Inverness  
Ronnie Campbell  
Kingussie v Lovat  
Deek Cameron  
Skye v Glenurquhart  
Daniel MacRae - 3.30pm

Marine Harvest South Division 1  
Aberdour v Taynuilt  
Neil MacDonald  
Kilmory v Oban Celtic  
Euan Pearson  
Strachur v Ballachulish  
Ted McDonald

Marine Harvest North Division 2  
Lochaber v Lochcarron  
John Matheson  
Skye v Boleskine  
Martin MacLean - 1pm

Marine Harvest South Division 2  
Ballachulish v Bute  
Archie Ritchie  
Glenorchy v Glasgow MA  
John MacGregor

Marine Harvest North Division 3  
Lewis v Strathspye  
Rab MacAskill  
Throw ups 2pm unless stated

### Results

Saturday 23 August  
Artemis Macaulay Cup  
Kyles Ath 1 - 2 Newtonmore after extra time

Strathdearn Plate Final  
Lovat v Beaulay  
Postponed - due to bereavement

Orion Group Premiership  
Lovat v Kingussie  
Postponed due to bereavement

Marine Harvest National Division  
Fort William 1 - 1 Oban Cam  
Caberfeidh 2 - 1 Glasgow MS

Marine Harvest North Division 1  
Strathglass 2 - 4 Skye

Marine Harvest North Division 2  
Lochcarron v Fort William  
Postponed due to bereavement  
Aberdeen Uni 4 - 2 Skye

Marine Harvest North Division 3  
Kilmallie v Lochbroom  
Postponed - Lochbroom unable to field a team, points to Kilmallie

Marine Harvest South Division 1  
Taynuilt 4 - 0 Strachur  
Ballachulish 1 - 0 Aberdour

Marine Harvest South Division 2  
Glasgow MA v Ballachulish  
Postponed - rearranged for 6th September  
Inveraray 6 - 0 Glenorchy

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Bute docked two points for failing to fulfil a fixture

Kingussie docked two points for failing to fulfil a fixture

Kinlochshiel docked two points for failing to fulfil a fixture

Marine Harvest South Division 2

Marine Harvest South Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inveraray	14	12	2	0	66	7	26
Tayforth	14	12	1	1	51	10	25
Glasgow MA	12	6	1	5	42	25	13
Col Glen	13	5	2	6	36	31	10
Bute	12	5	1	6	22	29	10
Ballachulish	12	4	0	8	19	41	8
Glenorchy	11	2	0	9	12	35	4
Aberdour	14	1	1	12	14	84	3

Ballachulish docked one point for failing to fulfil a fixture

Col Glen docked one point for failing to fulfil a fixture

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## Craggy Island Triathlon attracts top class competitors to two-day event



One of the hundreds of competitors who took to the Sound of Kerrera as part of the Craggy Island Triathlon. Photo Kevin McGlynn

### 'A huge boost for the island'

NOW firmly established on the off-road triathlon calendar the weekend's Craggy Island Triathlon on Kerrera saw 420 starts across three events.

Saturday saw the Scottish Off-Road Triathlon Championships, part of a series of races across Scotland throughout the year, start with 82 competitors swimming 900 metres, cycling twice round the island course and running an 8km hill race.

Among those racing was last year's winner Rory Downie of Edinburgh, a former under-23 European champion, who stormed into first place this year a full five minutes ahead (1hr 56mins 54secs) of his nearest rival Cameron Milne (2:01:34).

In third place was first West Highlander home Tیره's Will Wright in a time of 2:05:41 closely followed by Nevis Cycles RT member Michael Bossard of Oban in 2:07:30.

First female home in the Scottish championships race was PE teacher Caroline Milne from Peebles, who has been racing regularly for the last 15-odd years, in a time of 2:21:22.

Second woman home and first female veteran was Sian Tovey of Fusion Triathlon Club (2:28:08) and third was Fort William's Marie Meldrum (2:28:33), who was first woman home in the extreme Celtman triathlon in June in Wester Ross.

The two separate standard races on Saturday and Sunday saw entries from across the board, from regular triathlon participants to those taking part in their first event to relay teams from the host island.

In Saturday's standard event, first home was Kerrera relay team, captained by Colin Delap, Not Too Craggy (1:26:40), with Kieran Ross of BMF Edinburgh (1:36:32) in second and Tay-

nult's Greg Sage third in a time of (1:37:47).

Sunday saw Craig Campbell (1:27:13), Kyle Campbell (1:34:42), who had competed in the Oban Sea Kayak Race the day before and Stanley Topalian (1:35:38) as the first three across the line.

Among the local competitors were, on Saturday, Richard Abell and Adrian Macleod, in eighth (1:42:33) and ninth (1:42:43) place respectively, from Oban Mountain Goats and on Sunday, Scott Graham of Oban (1:42:07), Kerrera Girls relay team (1:56:40), Craig McKillop (2:02:39), Keith Preston (2:02:44) and Kevin McInnes (2:03:33), all Oban.

Organisers of the 550-metre open water swim, 28km bike ride around the south of the island and 8km hill race to the trig point at the highest point in the island, said they were delighted with the way the weekend had gone.

Duncan MacEachan, Kerrera ferryman and organiser, expressed particular thanks to Scottish Sea Farms for the use of its landing craft to help ferry the competitors and spectators to and from Kerrera, alongside four other boats.

'The whole event was a huge boost for the island and a lot of locals are starting to take part in the event. It is all a charity fund-raiser for Oban mountain rescue team.

'We are really grateful to all the volunteers who helped out, the islanders and BID4Oban for funding.'

Fellow organiser Paul McGreal said: 'It was very successful and lots of people have said they enjoyed themselves and enjoyed being in the Oban area.'

Full results at [www.durtytinting.com](http://www.durtytinting.com)



Above: Coming across the line in third place in the Scottish championship race is Will Wright from Tیره  
Photo: Stephen Lawson

Left: A 'home' relay team, Kerrera Girls finish together on the Sunday in a time of 1:56:40. Photo Stephen Lawson



Second woman home was Marie Meldrum of Fort William.  
Photo Stephen Lawson



Michael Bossard of Oban is a regular competitor in the Craggy Island Triathlon and came in fourth in the Scottish championships race.  
Photo Stephen Lawson



OFF WE GO: The touring kayaks head off from Oban Bay at the start of the annual round Kerrera race organised by Oban Sea Kayak Club. Photo: Kevin McGlynn

## Seven times world champion wins round Kerrera sea kayak race

MORE than 60 competitors from around the UK faced some challenging seas on Saturday in the fourth Oban Sea Kayak Race.

The staggered start race took the two categories of competitors from Oban Bay, south down the Sound of Kerrera, right round the southern tip between Bach Island and Rubha na Feundain and back up to the northern end of the island and back into Oban Bay.

Both surf ski and touring paddlers met with a stiff north-west wind which provided 'entertaining' conditions in the form of rough seas as they paddled round past Bach Island on the eight-kilometre back stretch.

This led to four retirements, with one competitor being knocked in twice before deciding enough was enough.

**Olympian**

First home was last year's surf ski winner and seven times world champion and Olympian Ivan Lawler in an overall time of 1hr 45mins 22secs in his Epic Ski, which given the conditions was not likely to be beat his record last year of 1:41:33.

In his Epic V10 Callum Urquhart, Inverness, did well hanging on to the world champion's tail and came in second a bare four minutes behind at 1:49:55.

He also took the opportunity to take part in Sunday's leg of the

Craggy Island Triathlon, which took place at the weekend as well.

First touring kayak and third placed was Nicky Cresser in 1:53:27 in his Northshore Ocean while first senior in his Epic Ski was seasoned kayak veteran and winter Olympics biathlete Patrick Winterton.

Last year's first across the line and double kayakers Alistair Hornsby, Cumbria and Kevin Locke, Dunbar, crossed the line in over-all sixth place in a time of 2:00:22.

First woman home was Kathryn McDowell in 2:19:51 in her Rapier 20.

Dave Bleazard, one of the

### KAYAKING

race organisers, said: 'It made for a very busy weekend, with the Craggy Island Triathlon on too but we were happy with the results and we have been getting lots of feedback on our Facebook page with people saying that they had a great weekend.'

**Established**

Oban Sea Kayak Race is now one of the biggest races of its kind in the country and is firmly established on the calendar.

Entry fees and fund-raising on the day sees money raised go to Oban lifeboat, which provided support on the day along with other locals boats.

## Argyll youngsters perform well in Scottish Age Group Championships

AT LEAST seven young athletes from Argyll made the long journey to Aberdeen last weekend to compete in the Scottish Age Group Championships.

It was a worthwhile journey as most set personal bests in their respective events and the experience gained will augur well for the future.

**Winning gold**

Twelve-year-old Finbar Dunne from Oban was the top Argyll athlete

winning gold in the Under 13s shot putt and silver in the javelin.

The shot putt was a very close contest between two Argyll boys with Archie Spencer from Craobh Haven in second place.

**Surpassed**

Archie threw 8.89 metres for silver but was surpassed by 4cm, just over an inch, by Finbar's winning 8.93 metres.

Later in the day Finbar won silver in

the javelin throwing 27.36 metres and was only 49cm behind the winner.

Grace Thompson from Oban won gold in the Under 13s discus throwing 22.87 metres and later placed fifth in the javelin and eighth in the shot putt.

Grace's older sister Emma just missed out on a medal in three field events in the Under 17 age group.

**Personal best**

Emma cleared a new personal best of 1.60 metres in the high jump

for fifth place and was fourth in the javelin throwing 28.25 metres.

Emma also contested the triple jump and finished in sixth place with 9.95 metres but only 7cm behind third place.

Molly Reade from Tobermory was the other medallist from Argyll winning bronze in the Under 15s high jump.

Molly, the reigning Scottish Schools under 14 champion, cleared 1.51

metres and was pleased to get placed against older opposition.

Ben Coates from Kilmore reached the final of the 100 metres hurdles in the Under 17 category and his time of 14.72 seconds clinched fifth place against older opposition.

**Sixth place**

Paddy Dunne from Oban contested three events in the Under 15s with his best performance in the javelin throwing 38.23 metres for sixth place.

### ATHLETICS

This was a very encouraging end to the summer season for the young Argyll athletes.

Most of the athletes will be competing in the junior events at the Oban Games on Thursday and some will travel to Pitlochry Highland Games on the September 13 to compete in the SHGA junior jumps championship.

## MacDougalls pick up a family double

### BOWLS

EXCELLENT weather over the weekend allowed a raft of finals to be played at Oban green.

As usual, the major matches involved the ladies and gents championship games, and this year it was a triumph for the MacDougalls, with Anne taking the ladies crown and husband Neil completing the family double.



DOUBLE UP: Anne and Neil MacDougall

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**WEATHER**

**Thursday** Heavy rain showers  
Winds moderate south easterly  
Temperatures 11°C to 18°C

**Friday** Light rain showers  
Winds moderate north easterly  
Temperatures 11°C to 18°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Cloudy on Saturday  
Light rain on Sunday  
Winds light east south easterly  
Temperatures 11°C to 19°C.

**FRIDAY**

**TIDAL INFORMATION**

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, August 28, 2014** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

Date	am			pm		
<b>Thur</b>	01.24	1.1	07.11	3.9	13.22	0.9
<b>Fri</b>	01.52	1.1	07.36	3.8	13.48	1.0
<b>Sat</b>	02.14	1.2	08.03	3.6	14.17	1.1
<b>Sun</b>	02.36	1.4	08.35	3.5	14.52	1.3
<b>Mon</b>	03.12	1.5	09.15	3.3	15.37	1.5
<b>Tues</b>	04.05	1.7	10.07	3.1	16.39	1.7
<b>Wed</b>	05.30	1.8	11.28	3.0	18.02	1.7

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

**Inside this week's Oban Times** Primary ones in the picture **WIN!** A three night break in an Edinburgh arthouse




# Corran ferry group wins pledge to switch refit date

HIGHLAND Council has pledged to reschedule maintenance work on the busy Corran ferry following pressure from a campaign group.

Members of Free Crossing for Corran [FC Corran] and communities of the Ardnamurchan and Morvern peninsulas have spent years calling for a shift in the maintenance schedule of *MY Corran*, which ships people across Loch Linnhe between Fort William and Ardgour.

The work usually clashes with the peak traffic of the October school break and car event the Mull Rally, causing what the group describe as 'potentially deadly' queues on the A82 and disruption to travel schedules. This week Highland Council agreed to postpone the refit.

Graham MacKenzie, chairman of Highland council's community services committee, said: 'We have listened to the local community and, with the agreement of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, I am pleased we are able to put in place measures to reschedule the *MY Corran* refit until the end of October.'

This means we will no longer need to deploy the smaller relief vessel *MY Maid of Glencoul* over the busy school holiday period. The local community and visitors can benefit from an improvement to the service that has previously not been possible at this time of year.'

FC Corran's chairman Tony Boyd said he sees this as an important step forward in their ultimate fight to

abolish the £7.90 single fare. He added: 'Highland Council have shown they can respond to community concerns. It's now up to the council and the Scottish Government to secure the long term future of the crossing. They need to find a real solution to an integral part of Scotland's trunk road system that is essentially holding our communities to ransom. Our sincere thanks to councillors Thomas MacLennan, Andrew Baxter and all the other folk who are working hard on the communities' behalf.'

Councillor Thomas MacLennan, leader of Lochaber area committee welcomed the news. He said: 'Corran Ferry is the second busiest vehicular crossing in Scotland and it plays a vital role in the social and economic activities of the whole area.'

'Anything we can do to minimise disruption to the service is good news so I am delighted that retiming of the annual refit now means there will be greater capacity on the crossing in particular over the weekend of the 10-12 October when the Mull rally takes place.'

Maintenance work on *MY Corran* has been postponed until the end of October. As part of the FC Corran campaign, members are asking residents of Ardnamurchan, Morvern, Mull and Iona to get in touch about the impact the ferry fare, which has risen by 25 per cent in the last year. Information will be treated in confidence and can be sent to media@fccorran.org.uk.



FIGHTING ON: FC Corran members are campaigning to abolish fares on the Corran Ferry

### Hillwalker's body recovered on Rum

THE BODY of a 73-year-old man has been found on Rum after an extensive mountain rescue search of the isle.

The pensioner was reported missing on Saturday. His body was found on a descent in the west of Rum on Sunday following a search involving police, Lochaber mountain rescue team, coastguard and Mallaig lifeboat.

A police spokesman said emergency services were deployed to search the south of the island following a report of a man who did not return from his walk.

He added: 'Coastguard, Lochaber mountain rescue and police have been involved in the search operation. Sadly, the body of a man has been recovered from a mountainside having apparently fallen. Next of kin have been informed.'

A Lochaber mountain rescue team spokesman added: 'Twelve members of the team plus Tara the dog led a search of Sgurr nan Gillean and Ruinsival ridge and corries. Unfortunately the walker was found on the descent towards Harris.'

### Single lane trunk road for months

A STRETCH of Lochaber's trunk road will be reduced to one lane for four months from Monday.

Traffic management will be in place just north of Corran Ferry from 7am until 6pm Monday to Friday to allow Forestry Commission Scotland to remove trees above the A82 until December 19.

Road users were warned there could be 10-minute periods when traffic is halted in both directions although the Commission guarantees this will not happen between 8am and 9am, when traffic is busiest.

Alex MacLeod of Forestry Commission Scotland said: 'We apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause. The usual arrangements will be in place for emergency vehicles and we will endeavour to minimise disruption as much as we can.'

## £1m investment in A82 road work

A MILLION-pound investment into Lochaber's trunk road will see a stretch of the A82 restored, after a landslide caused severe damage almost three years ago.

Temporary traffic lights have been in operation at Glen Gloy, near Spean Bridge, since the slip damaged the riverbank supporting the road in November 2011. Since then, Transport Scotland has been trying to find a way to repair the road without shutting it completely and is now ready to appoint a contractor. Work is expected to start

early next year and take eight or nine months. As well as repairing the riverbank, the 300-metre stretch will be realigned to take away two bends.

Graham Edmond of Transport Scotland, said: 'Thanks goes to communities in the area for their patience. We considered a number of solutions, but some of these would have needed the complete closure of A82 for several months. The construction method chosen for the project will allow goods and services to continue using A82 during the works.'

Brian Murphy, Highland councillor and chairman of campaign group the A82 partnership, said: 'The A82 Partnership is pleased to see this commitment from Transport Scotland to the realignment of the A82 at Glen Gloy. This will do away with one set of the many traffic lights on the A82 and remove a couple of the bends on this section.'

Dave Thompson, MSP for Skye, Lochaber, and Badenoch, also welcomed the news. He said: 'It is great news the work will be completed within eight to nine months.'

### Cash boost for Lochaline Village Hall

A 'VITAL' community hall in Morvern is to be restored thanks to a grant of more than £1,000.

Lochaline Village Hall is used for sport and community use, private functions and parties. The community often struggles to maintain the hall but thanks to the £1,250 Heart of the Community donation from Scottish Sea Farms crucial improvements can be

made. Calum Finnigan, member of Lochaline Village Hall committee and a Scottish Sea Farms employee based in the village, said: 'This is a vital amenity. I am proud to help protect it for future generations.'

'Without the hall there would be nowhere for large groups to come together, absolutely vital in communities like ours.'



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### Local produce the recipe for taste award success

FOUR Lochaber hotels and guest houses have won awards for using local produce in their meals.

The Prince's House Hotel in Glenfinnan, The Moorings Hotel and Torlundy House in Fort William and Allt Na Leven Guest House in Kinlochleven have been given Taste Our Best accreditation from a VisitScotland and Scottish Government joint initiative.

Brenda MacDonald of The Moorings Hotel said: 'We are delighted. We have been awarded this as a result of hard work from our team of chefs to source local, quality ingredients from which to create their dishes. We are extremely lucky to have venison, fish and shellfish right on our doorstep here in Lochaber.'

Pauline Byers of Allt Na Leven added: 'Where possible we always buy local produce. The salmon we use comes from Fort William and beef, pork, eggs and bacon comes from Oban farms.'

'Our berries, when possible, are from Tayside and



WINNER: Cara Johnstone, 8, was delighted when she won first place in the Lochaber Agricultural Show horse and pony fancy dress competition on Saturday. The rider, from Appin, was dressed as Little Bo Peep. See the farming page for more show pictures 20\_135lochaber07

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### The Big Debate

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Lochaline Chamber of Commerce

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#### Tuesday 9th September

Speakers:






Angus MacDonald OBE Fergus Ewing MSP

Mary Scanlon MSP John Hutchison MBE

Debate Chairman: Stewart MacLean

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# Curtain up on drama appeal

A FORT William drama group is on the hunt for singers and performers to join the cast. Lochaber Showstoppers is working on its latest musical, based on the stories of children's author Dr Seuss, and members say anyone over the age of 12 is welcome to join. Cast member Clare Brewer said: 'We would love more people to join the chorus, men especially. There are lots of great numbers in this show with lots of different music styles - gospel, rock, hip hop and even salsa. 'We're also looking for anyone who has circus skills to come along and join in a big top circus scene.' Anyone interested in finding out more should attend a rehearsal at the Nevis Centre on Monday at 7.30pm or contact Clare on 01397 773745 or via email at info@lochabershowstoppers.co.uk.

# Land reform in spotlight

COMMUNITY land owners in the Western Isles will have the chance to discuss their development and future opportunities at a conference in Stornoway. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar has arranged the meeting for Thursday September 11, along with Community Land Scotland, as part of its ongoing support for land reform in the area. A spokesman for the event said: 'After discussion sessions looking at the reality of community landownership which will bring out issues and potential solutions, we hope to have at least some of the answers as to how the Comhairle and Western Isles community landowners can positively work together.' Invitations will be sent to existing and inspiring community land owner groups,crofting organisations, development agencies and other interested parties.

# Village takes step back in time for war themed gala

A LOCHABER village will slip back in time on Saturday as a world war two themed gala takes over Caol community centre. Jive dancers and a swing band will set the mood as the open day showcases the finds from an old commando training site. Everyone is welcome from 1pm and members of Lochaber Archaeology Society will be on hand to tell the stories behind the war memorabilia, including coins, helmets and bullets, they discovered when helping experts with a dig at Achnacarry Estate near Spean Bridge. Other highlights include a flight simulator, bouncy castle and a display of wartime weapons and, weather permitting, a winching demonstration from a coastguard helicopter. There will also be a Royal Marine Assessment course with a prize for the best competitor. Organisers say they would be delighted if visitors enter into the spirit of events by dressing in the fashion of the era. Beforehand, a memorial ceremony will be held at the Spean Bridge Commando Memorial with a two-minute silence and prayers led by Reverend Adrian Varwell of Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church.



STUNNING DISPLAY: Caol Gardening Show prizewinners with some of their exhibits

# Caol Gardening Show a 'blooming' success

THE 13TH Caol Gardening Show was held in the village community centre last Saturday. It may have been the thirteenth show, but it was lucky for Vic MacPherson who swept the board in most sections, including the Alastair MacGregor Trophy and William Brown Shield for best leek. Results: Mrs Cochrane Memorial Cup, Vic MacPherson; The Cabin Garden Centre trophy, Vic MacPherson; Alastair MaxGregor Trophy, Vic MacPherson; Margaret Cameron Memorial, Lorna Ungoe-Thomas; Gardening Salver, Lorna Ungoe-Thomas; George Watt Cup, Lorna Ungoe-Thomas; Alastair MacMillan Shield, Vic MacPherson; William Brown Shield, Gardening Trophy, Lorna Ungoe-Thomas; Caol Gardening Show Trophy, Vic MacPherson; Michie Cup, Vic MacPherson; MacTavish Kitchen Crystal Bowl, Lorna Ungoe-Thomas.

Credit, Anne Smith; Highland Council Trophy, Jillian Clerk; Fred White Rosette, Nevis Centre Nursery; Best Novice Floral, Carron MacKinnon; Best Novice Vegetable, Donald Young; Ben Nevis Distillery Quaich, Vic MacPherson; Gardening Trophy, Lorna Ungoe-Thomas; Caol Gardening Show Trophy, Vic MacPherson; Michie Cup, Vic MacPherson; MacTavish Kitchen Crystal Bowl, Lorna Ungoe-Thomas.

# Glencoe lights out

SOMETIME between Tuesday August 19 and Wednesday August 20, a battery pack was stolen from mobile traffic lights on the A82 at Glencoe, near the Gorge. At around 2pm on Monday August 17, a Scottish referendum banner was stolen from a field outside Tirindish Steadings, Spean Bridge. The banner was 12ft by 2ft in size and was overlooking the A86. At 2.35am on Thursday August 21, a man kicked a door at Tesco, Fort William, damaging it. The man is described as 5ft 10 inches tall, with a stocky build. He was wearing grey or black shorts, white and black Nike trainers and a grey Adidas hooded top. Sometime between 7pm on Thursday August 21 and 11am the following day, a black bag containing a purse and £200 was stolen from a tent at the Red Squirrel Campsite, Glencoe. Sometime between 10am and 12.30pm on Sunday August 24 two purses were stolen from two rooms in the Camus Guest House, Onich. A tent pitched on Cow Hill, Fort William, was damaged and items stolen from inside sometime between August 6 and 7. Anyone with information regarding these incidents should contact Police Scotland on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

# Firefighter guilty of setting forests alight

A LONG-serving fireman faces the prospect of prison after being found guilty last Thursday of wilfully starting two major fires costing more than £1 million of damage. David MacKay, 40, with more than 20 years' service as a retained part-time fireman, may have overlooked that his white company van had a tracker system fitted to it. And police intelligence analyst Craig Allen, 35, was able to produce a map for the jury putting the white Scottish Water van at the correct time and place where the two fires started. The first of the two moor and forest fires - on March 27 2013 - was two miles wide and took two days to extinguish. There were fears the Argyll village of Strontian, with 450 inhabitants, might be engulfed and preparations were made for evacuation. MacKay, a member of the village fire brigade, took part in fighting the blaze which started on nearby Carnoch Estate, as well as starting it. The second fire, in Glen Tarbert, a few miles from the village was started shortly afterwards on April 1, a public holiday. Fort William Sheriff Court heard that retained firemen were paid double the hourly rate by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for dealing with fires on a public holiday. Among those who gave evidence for the prosecution was MacKay's ex-girlfriend Sheila Henderson, 31, who told procurator fiscal Roderick Urquhart she had an 11-year relationship with him. She told police she saw his white van in Glen Tarbert shortly before the start of the fire there which destroyed 140 acres of woodland. Forestry Commission boss Roger Peace, 62, said the first fire caused 'hundreds of thousands of pounds' of damage to his woodland. And after the court was over, 8,000 acre Carnoch Estate owner, Steven Fox, 58, said the damage to his tree plantations adjoining the Forestry Commission timber was about £750,000. He said: 'We worked out that the combined total would be over £1 million.' MacKay's boss, Strontian fire chief Alastair MacLean, 48, told defence lawyer Rosalyn MacTaggart: 'I have trust in David. He is a very good firefighter like most of the group.'

In a videoed police interview shown to the jury of 10 women and five men MacKay, 6 Dal Nan Each, Strontian, is seen and heard telling detective inspector Richard Baird, 42, he did not start the fires and would never do anything like that. And he had no financial problems that would make him chase after the call-out cash. However, the CID man told him: 'I need more than your word. The evidence against you is overwhelming.' The jury took only an hour to find MacKay, now a lorry driver, guilty by a majority verdict. They found a charge that he started a grassland fire - also on April 1 - not proven. He denied all charges. Procurator fiscal Roderick Urquhart told Sheriff Mungo Bovey the fireman was a first offender. The sheriff deferred sentence to September 16 for social work background reports to be obtained on MacKay.

Estate owner Mr Fox said: 'I find the whole thing very, very sad. David MacKay has got himself into a lot of trouble and a lot of my native Scottish trees like Scots pine have been destroyed. I also feel sorry for all the other well-motivated and dedicated retained firemen and firewomen. He has let them down.' A spokesman for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service said MacKay had been suspended from duty since being charged with the fire-raising and would now be subject to internal discipline. He added: 'Scottish Fire and Rescue Service expects the highest standards of its staff and the service will simply not accept such reckless and dangerous actions.' 'Mr Mackay will no doubt now realise the severity of the situation he finds himself in. He has been with the fire service for more than 20 years and all the good work he has done during that time has been ruined by his actions and his reputation has been destroyed. He has let himself, the service and his colleagues down.'



NEW ROLE: Joanna MacDonald

# Joanna swaps role to take helm of adult social care

A LOCHABER employee of NHS Highland has taken up a new job to help improve health services. Joanna MacDonald will leave her post as district manager for Lochaber to take on the role of director of adult social care and said she is 'very excited' about improvements she has planned. NHS Highland took on full responsibility of adult social care in April 2012, having previously been the responsibility of Highland Council. Ms MacDonald said: 'Two years down the line, the integration of services is becoming embedded and radical changes have been introduced to ensure we deliver better and more person-centred care. We will continue to change and improve and I am very excited to be in a position of being able to help steer through these changes.'



# Staff scale the heights for care home garden

Staff of a Lochaber care home took on Ben Nevis to raise money for a new sensory garden. The Invernevis House team made the climb on Sunday, raising £600 so far. They expect the total to reach £1,000 by the time all sponsorship money is collected.

# Nevis Partnership appoints new manager to lead project

A LOCHABER charity can take forward plans to improve the heritage of the Nevis area thanks to the employment of a programme manager. Lizzie Cooper will join the Nevis Partnership for a five-year period to help with a landscape partnership programme, including conservation, community participation, learning, access and training. Ms Cooper will leave her current position at Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust for the post. She said: 'I'm delighted to be moving to Lochaber and to the Nevis Partnership. I feel privileged to be entrusted with such a fantastic project.'

# Heat your home for free - Is it possible?

Heating your home for free is something we would all appreciate in this current economic climate. By replacing your existing heating appliance with a new renewable heat source you would qualify for substantial quarterly payments from a new Government incentive scheme. The Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), the first of this type in the world, was officially launched in April by the UK Government and enables householders to slash the amount they spend on energy bills and help reduce carbon emissions. With this scheme backed up by an interest free loan funded by the Scottish Government it seems now is the time to upgrade your heating and down grade your energy bills. Upgrading your existing heating system to one which produces heat by using a renewable energy source such as a biomass boiler or a ground or air source heat pump, homeowners are very likely to see their annual heating and hot water bill disappear for years to come. The RHI scheme will pay applicants quarterly for a seven year period and the interest free loan can spread the upfront cost over a period of up to 12 years. Renewables Now based at Barcaldine, 14 miles north of Oban, have said: 'We now have a large number of delighted customers registered with the RHI scheme and they have received their first quarterly payment. These payments, in many cases comfortably exceed the fuel cost of running their new system and are contributing to the loan repayments. All our customers can now look forward to guaranteed RHI Income until 2021 and beyond. Not only are our customers receiving an income, they are also benefiting from the clean, green efficiency of a renewable heating system.' It seems the launch of the Domestic RHI passed a lot of people by, although the renewable heating industry reports a sharp rise in installations across the UK since April. But as winter approaches and our heating systems are called into action, surely now is the time to investigate how you could heat your home for free. Taking steps to install a renewable heating system is now more affordable than ever. With fantastic funding via an interest free loan followed by on-going payments to use it, is there any reason why you would not consider installing Renewables Now?

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# Oban group in call for halt to parking scheme

LOUISE LEE

lee@obantimes.co.uk

THE 'rude, aggressive behaviour' of amenity wardens along with an unforbearing parking regime will turn Oban into a 'ghost town'.

This is the startling claim of Oban community council which is calling for a halt to a new parking scheme, introduced by Argyll and Bute council in June.

At a meeting of the community council on Monday, residents were told that ticket-happy wardens were driving residents mad and driving

business away from the town centre. The community council heard story upon story of the 'horrendous' service the car parking attendants were accused of bringing to the town.

The community council said the town was in chaos because people were afraid to park their cars in the town.

Divisional envoy and pastor at the Salvation Army, Cath Thomson, said the new parking scheme was disrupting her pastoral work: 'I often get a ticket.'

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre said he was given a ticket for parking at

6.10pm on a single yellow line in George Street. Wheelchair user, Kate Winton, talked about a garage owner who was shutting up shop when he received a ticket.

Van driver George Berry was 'horrified' at the congestion on roads leading to Oban because there was 'nowhere free to park in the town centre'.

He said: 'The situation is that Lochavullin is full before 8.30am in the morning and there is nowhere else free to park safely in the town centre. People are now paying more than £30 a week in parking charges just to go to work.'

Oban police officer Andrew Simpson said there had been numerous emergency calls to Rockfield Road, which had become choked with parked cars since the new regulations.

Marri Malloy, chairwoman of Oban community council, said: 'We need to be told where we can park and how long we can park for - it is a disgrace for visitors. There needs to be a wee bit of come and go.'

Graham Fraser of Alba on Albany Street, said: 'We need to look at a different plan for locals parking. I would suggest that we should introduce a locals town parking system in the town in order to keep independent shops open.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said the authority was pleased with the progress of the new scheme.

He said: 'We have received a great deal of positive feedback about increased parking turnover in our town centres as well as the professionalism and efficiency of our amenity wardens. The new system ensures effective traffic management which benefits the local economy by ensuring parking turnover. Local enforcement also safeguards access for Blue Badge holders, for deliveries, for loading and for emergency vehicles as well as ensuring road safety by managing inconsiderate and irresponsible parking.'



CONGESTED: Rockfield Road is now an unofficial haven for free car parking

## CELTIC CONNECTION: a note for auld alliance



GALLIC FLAIR: Breton piping judge Patrick Mollard will be taking part in the traditional march through Oban, at 10am this morning (Thursday), as part of the Argyllshire Gathering games day. It is the first time the town's historic piping competitions have asked a Frenchman to adjudicate at the highly competitive and prestigious event

## Shop workers in fight to save jobs as store bosses look to slash wage bill

STAFF at the Co-operative store in Oban are facing redundancy, following a meeting with store bosses on Monday.

A worker at the store said they were told there would be job losses. The staff member, who asked not to be named, said: 'There are some staff who want to take redundancy or would take reduced hours, and others who understandably want to keep their jobs.'

'Instead of letting us do that, we are going to be told who will be made redundant and who won't, even if it means people who want to work lose their jobs and those who want to take redundancy being kept on. We feel we have been treated badly - it's ridiculous.'

A spokesman for the Co-operative

group said: 'Introducing new technology and improved working methods allows us to reduce hours currently spent on non-customer facing activities.'

'Unfortunately, this may mean a reduction in the total number of working hours for colleagues in our Oban store.'

'We are now in discussions with colleagues to discuss the potential impact of this, and how any changes may be implemented.'

'At this stage, we are not in a position to confirm details of the impact, but, should there be any redundancies, any colleagues affected by proposed changes will be given every support to find an alternative role within the Co-operative group, or with another employer.'

## Bare-faced cheek may end in prosecution, say police

NUDIST swimmers are being reminded not to throw caution to the wind, after a spate of skinny dipping throughout Argyll has been causing some concern, writes Louise Lee.

First there were rumours of a nudist beach near Kilberry, a skinny dippers paradise at Port Bann on Iona and a sports team 'plunging' at Wee Ganavan in Oban.

An Argyll and Bute council spokeswoman confirmed that as long as people are in a private place - then there are no legislative reasons for the council to authorise a 'nudist beach'.

However the police, which have been called on a number of occasions about nudity and skinny

dipping - take a measured approach to the recent summertime phenomenon.

A police spokesman said: 'It is not a new experience for people to get carried away on a hot summer evening, but it is an offence to expose yourself in public.'

'Therefore it may be considered a public order offence - driven by the perception of the complainer.'

He added: 'There are only a few days in the year that it is likely to happen anyway.'



# Glenfinnan Gathering and Highland Games

CROWDS and competitors shrugged off wind and rain to enjoy the 67th Glenfinnan Gathering and Highland Games on Saturday August 16.

With typical Lochaber enthusiasm, the audience cheered on heavy competitors, Highland dancers and young athletes under the shadow of the world-famous Glenfinnan Monument.

It was a triple celebration for David Hart from Fort William who picked up silverware for throwing the caber, the 22lb hammer and

winning the most points overall. Field manager Alistair Gibson said: 'It was a great day despite the weather being difficult until mid afternoon. Numbers were probably down on the usual figures but up on last year because the weather was even worse then, but it didn't stop everyone enjoying themselves. It was a jolly good day and as always we'll be doing it again next year.'

Charles Kennedy, MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber, was chieftain this year. At the gathering opening he said: 'This is an immense

personal privilege to be asked to be chieftain. My family association spans three generations with both this gathering and the Clan Cameron since 1946. At a time in our national life where we are debating our future path this event commemorates and celebrates where we have all come from historically.'

The gathering is held on the nearest Saturday to the anniversary of the Raising of the Standard at Loch Shiel by Bonnie Prince Charlie on August 19 1745.



UP AND AWAY: Kian Cameron, 10, clears the high jump



ACTION: David Hart from Fort William putting the stone



WINNER: Isla MacKenzie took home the MacGuire Cup for Highland Dancing



PRIVILEGE: Charles Kennedy MP carried out his chieftain duties alongside Lochaber Pipe Band

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# Buses stop short of Glengallan

'There won't be one till tomorrow', resident tells those waiting at stop on a Sunday

**LOUISE LEE**  
llee@obantimes.co.uk

BUS timetables in Oban are failing to meet the needs of people in the Glengallan area.

While there are almost 400 houses behind the hospital at Glengallan the bus timetable has not been updated to meet the needs of residents.

There are almost 700 houses in Soroba and a half-hourly bus service seven days a week - the service to Glengallan is hourly Monday to Friday with fewer buses on Saturday and no service at all on a Sunday.

Margo MacDonald, a retired district nurse, who lives in Glengallan, says that there are a number of inequalities that exist in the bus services for different areas of the town.

She said: 'I often see people waiting at the bus stop and I have to say "there will not be one until tomorrow".'

'Senior citizens have had to stop attending church on Sunday because there is no Sunday service and on other days the service simply lets people in the area down.'

Miss MacDonald says there are services that could potentially make a slight detour along Glengallan Road to pick up passengers but instead idling their engines in the town

centre for up to 10 minutes.

Miss MacDonald argues: 'Surely it is not beyond the management skills of someone in the council to combine the Soroba/Dunollie bus service at more than 20-minute intervals with the buses going down to Glengallan Road's three bus stops on each side of the road on seven days a week.'

Community councillor and local bus expert, David Gallant, said: 'It could be done. Oban could get a much better bus service if more efficient use was made of resources.'

'It would mean a re-vamp of all local bus routes. But unfortunately, it would not be practical to do this.

'The trouble is that some local buses are subsidised by Argyll and Bute council, [routes numbered in the 400s] and some are not.'

At present there is a mixture of both subsidised and unsubsidised bus routes and those subsidised routes must be put out to public tender. School bus routes must also be put out to public tender.

Mr Gallant continued: 'Another problem is that neither the council officials, nor councillors actually understand efficient public transport scheduling. Oban to Glasgow buses run empty between Station Square and the bus garage in

Glengallan Road and even when passengers travelling from Glasgow live in the Glengallan Road area, they must get off the bus in Station Square so that the bus can run empty between Station Square and Glengallan Road.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute council said: 'There are currently 20 bus runs from Glengallan Road into Oban between 7am and 8.33pm.'

'From Soroba/Dunollie into Oban there is a service every 20 minutes throughout most of the day. This reflects the current demand and the difference in population.'

'The service operator has indicated

that an increased service is unlikely to be sustainable on a commercial basis and, in the current financial climate, there are no current plans to increase any council-subsidised services in the Oban area.'

Octogenarian Elspeth Cameron who lives further up Glengallan Road says the bus service is adequate for her needs. However, she would be keen to have some sort of service on a Sunday for those who may need to use the service.

There is a belief among some residents that on completion of social housing in Glengallan that the Soroba bus will be re-routed into the area.



## Mull road must be upgraded, says community, but no money available

**LOUISE LEE**  
llee@obantimes.co.uk

MULL'S economy will be in tatters if immediate action is not taken on improving the road across the island, say community leaders.

An accident involving one of many delivery trucks to the island closed the Salen to Tobermory road for two hours last week.

Vice chairman of Mull community council, Callum MacLachlainn, stressed the importance of taking action before it is too late.

'This week it was a truck,' he said,

**DELIVERY DELAYED:**  
A van on the island of Mull clipped the soft verge and ended up in a ditch - closing the A848 Salen-Tobermory road for two hours

'next week it could be a family of four.'

'Will it take a fatal accident before anyone takes notice of the incredibly poor state of our roads?'

'There are many, many more people coming to the island, and with that means more deliveries and a huge increase in traffic on the roads.'

'More than 35 years ago we were promised a double carriageway on the island. And yet, at present, we barely manage to get pot holes fixed.'

'The road system on Mull is decaying. How can it be that other places such as Fort William to Mallaig can be upgraded, or the roads in Morvern and yet we are left with this second rate road that is no good to anyone?'

Turning to the practicalities of getting around the island for emergencies, chairman of Mull community councillor, Mike Shilson, added: 'I think it is a higher priority that someone who is having a heart

attack or a stroke, or a young child experiencing a life threatening emergency, is transported as quickly as possible to hospital, rather than any consideration for the aesthetic beauty and charm of driving slowly on single track roads.'

'A life is more precious than a rustic road and in these circumstances, time matters.'

Garages on the island report a high number of accidents, - up to 10 a week - where cars have come off the road in between passing places and have ripped tyres on the edge of the road.

Supporting the campaign for a better road, Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell said: 'I have already met with the community council at which time we discussed the need to upgrade the road.'

'I then got in touch with Argyll and Bute council which really needs to take this forward and have recently

offered my help to support an approach to Europe for help should that be necessary.'

'Getting an upgrade must become a shared priority for all those involved.'

While confirming that there were no plans to alter the road network on Mull, an Argyll and Bute council spokesperson said council officers would 'engage' with local members prior to the introduction of Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) which will reduce costs of ferry fares for vehicles and is expected to bring more traffic to the island.

He added: 'Historically there have been outline proposals drawn up to widen the carriageway north of Salen to connect to the already improved section of the A848 running into Tobermory.'

'However, these works will cost tens of millions of pounds and there is no budget provision for these to be progressed.'

## Running on empathy makes marathon goal possible

**EUAN PATERSON**  
epater@obantimes.co.uk

A RUNNING group from Oban gym Fit4Less will be tackling its first marathon to raise money for several good causes.

The 15-strong group, led by gym instructor Fiona MacInnes, will be taking part in the Baxter's Inverness Marathon on September 28.

Mother and daughter Gail Lockhart and Danielle MacDonald are running in aid of Glasgow's Yorkhill children's hospital. Gail's son Liam MacDonald, now 11, underwent heart surgery at the hospital as a baby but is in great health now.

Along with Tina MacMillan, the trio is also raising money for a memorial fund in memory of Iain 'Parrot' MacMillan. All three women are related to the shinty legend.

The fund runs a shinty tournament in Oban for primary school-aged children and takes place on September 21 this year.

Gail said: 'A marathon sounded like a good idea at first. Fiona was inspirational and got us all to where we are now. I think we all got caught up in the camaraderie of it all.'

Sisters Angela Webster and Jacqueline Smith are running for

Cancer Research in memory of their mother, Rosie MacKay, who died of the disease on May 30, 2012.

They thanked everyone who has donated so far towards their target of £500.

Karen Forgrieve is running for her employer Happy House nursery in Oban, which both of her daughters have attended.

Marie Muir and Erin Campbell are raising money for the Lauren Currie Twilight Foundation, in support of vasculitis awareness.

Marie's father, James Maitland, died from the disease and she has already run the West Highland Way in support of Vasculitis UK.

Group leader Fiona said: 'Every-one has been really committed to training on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, as well as some Fridays, and we always do a long run on a Sunday.'

'They are up for a 6am run up Jacob's Ladder every Tuesday - if that's not commitment, what is?'

James Rigby, a gas engineer in Oban, who is running for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research, said: 'Doing this as a group has made it more fun.'

ON A RUN:

The running group from Fit4Less will take part in the Baxter's Inverness Marathon 16\_135marathon01



LOCKED OUT: Craig Blair wants 24 access to health care after he was refused admission to hospital during the night

## Patient turned away from hospital after going to pub

A PATIENT who was turned away from Argyll and Bute Hospital in the middle of the night is calling for 24-hour mental health access.

Craig Blair, 38, said he was suffering with anxiety and suicidal thoughts when he turned to medical help.

He had been referred by his GP in Tighnabruich to the Succoth Ward in Lochgilphead - but was refused access when he presented himself at 2am in the morning.

NHS Highland said, while refusing to comment on individual cases, that if a patient turned up under the influence of drugs or alcohol it made clinical assessment extremely difficult. Emergency access was available via local casualty departments, where a

patient would be assessed and there would be a discussion with a duty psychiatrist.

Mr Blair, who has previously worked in mental health care, was shocked to find himself sleeping on the floor of the local police station as he had no money.

He said: 'I was treated no better than a rabid dog by the hospital. I was desperate for support, and I know it was in the early hours of the morning - but I wanted help.'

Admitting that he had taken to the pub to steady his nerves before his hospital admission, he said: 'I admit it, I should have gotten to the hospital earlier, but I didn't realise that I had to be in by 6pm. I thought there would be 24-hour access to care.'

## No end in sight to town centre chaos

A POLICE officer told a community council that there was no 'simple' solution to Oban's chronic town centre traffic congestion.

Constable Andrew Simpson, a community officer, told Oban community council on Monday that police, Argyll and Bute council and Transport Scotland had met to discuss an emergency solution.

He said: 'The easing of problems of traffic coming into and moving about the town are not as simple as once believed.'

The initial plan was to re-route traffic around the town via the 'back road' between Connel and Glenclurriten Road. Councillor Neil MacIntyre asked: 'What are they having problems with?'

Mr Simpson said discussions were ongoing.

## Foreign vehicle in Dunbeg collision

A FOREIGN registered van and two other vehicles were involved in a collision at the junction of the A85 and the Dunbeg road end, east of Oban, around 2.30pm on Tuesday. The road was reduced to one lane for a short time to allow emergency services access and for recovery of the vehicles and there were no serious injuries.

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Dervaig - 9.15am - 9.45am  
Salen - 10.30am - 11.00am  
Craiglure - 11.45am - 12.15pm

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## Results from Isle of Skye Golf Club

### GOLF

ISLE of Skye Golf Club Highland Cup played on Wednesday August 20:

Category 1: 1 Euan Forrest 67 (77-10); 2 Alasdair Grant 73 (81-8); 3 Alex Munro 74 (84-10).

Category 2: 1 Dave MacVicar 68 (84-16); 2 Mischa Constant 69 (93-24); 3 John Marshall 71 (85-14).

Benford Cup, played on August 24 and 25:

Category 1: 1 Jamie Beaton 64 (74-10); 2 Euan Forrest 65 (75-10); 3 John Allan MacLeod 66 (78-12).

Category 2: 1 Dave MacVicar 62 (78-16); 2 Chris Hanley 64 (81-17); 3 Drew Millar 67 (82-15).

## Running events at Knoydart

### ATHLETICS

THREE running events will be held in Knoydart on Saturday as part of a celebration across the peninsula.

The Knoydart Foundation has planned a 5km fun run, a 10km race and a 21km trail run for the weekend to mark 15 years of community land ownership.

To enter the event contact [runknoydart@gmail.com](mailto:runknoydart@gmail.com) for an entry form.



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SUCCESS: Millie Ferguson on her way to qualifying for the Horse of the Year show

# Magnificent Millie qualifies for Horse of the Year Show

'We are absolutely thrilled that her dream has come true'

A GIRL from the Great Glen has had her dream come true when she and her much-loved pony won through to the Horse of the Year show in Birmingham after winning a qualifying round.

Millie Ferguson, from Whitebridge, near Fort Augustus, beat 23 other competitors and will continue on to the world-famous event at the National Exhibition Centre in October with her Welsh Section A pony named Magic.

The 12-year-old will have to train hard in preparation for the event, including much-needed indoor practice.

Millie's mum Sharon Ferguson said: 'It's difficult to train up here because a lot of the work in the summer is outdoors in really big grassy fields. It will be hard



ALL SMILES: Millie, 12, after winning her class in the National Pony Society Scotland championships

### HORSE RIDING

to prepare but we just need to keep doing what we're doing and practice indoors as much as possible.'

To add to Inverness Royal Academy pupil Millie's delight, she went on to win the National Pony Society Scotland championships for her class on Friday.

Millie also picked up the working hunter championship trophy at the Blair Castle event for the third year in a row.

Mrs Ferguson added: 'We are absolutely thrilled that her dream has come true. It has been a lot of hard work from all of us but it's worth it. We're so proud of her and she is absolutely over the moon.'



CLASH OF THE ASH: Newtonmore defeated Kyles Athletic in the final of the Artemis Macaulay Cup at Mossfield Stadium, Oban, last Saturday. Our photo shows Newtonmore's Steven Macdonald and Kyles Athletic's Roddy Macdonald in a tussle for the ball. See shinty page

## Fort William looking to kick-start their season

### FOOTBALL

FORT William added another loss to their Highland League campaign on Saturday, suffering a 2-0 defeat against Deveronvale.

The home goals came from Martin Charlesworth in the 31st minute and Philip Watt in second half stoppage time.

Fort players are putting it to the back of their minds to focus on their home fixture against Turriff United this Saturday, August 30.

The team also welcomed bottom of the table Huntly to Claggan Park last night (Wednesday).

Speaking before the games, David Macdonald of Fort William FC said: 'We have two massive home games coming up. Hopefully a couple of good results will kick-start our league campaign.'

The postponed home game against Brora Rangers has been rescheduled for Saturday September 13.

# Caol United crowned Lochaber Welfare League champions

CAOL United secured their place as this year's Welfare League champions with a 3-2 victory over Mallaig.

Team captain Farquhar Mac-

Rae received the trophy from David Corrigan and Angus MacKay of league sponsors Marine Harvest on Friday night.

The Uisdean MacDonald Cup

### WELFARE FOOTBALL

final will see Mallaig take on Lochaber tomorrow (Friday) at BA Park. Kick off 6.30pm.

### Marine Harvest Welfare final league standings

Team	Pts
1 Caol United	31
2 Mallaig	22
3 Lundavra	22
4 Ballachulish	16
5 Lochaber	13
6 Inverlochy	10
7 Nevis Range	3



CHAMPIONS: David Corrigan, right, and Angus MacKay present Caol United captain Farquhar MacRae with the Marine Harvest Welfare League trophy 20\_135welfare01

## Gary Wells, Fort William

### SHINTY

FORMER Fort William Shinty Club goalkeeper Gary Wells died tragically on Tuesday August 19.

His funeral took place on Tuesday August 26 at Dun-cannburgh-MacIntosh Parish Church, Fort William, thereafter to Glen Nevis Cemetery.

## New route from Fort William to Inverness

### CYCLING

CYCLISTS will soon be able to enjoy a new £2.9m route between Fort William and Inverness.

The 66-mile track will pass along the length of the Great Glen, taking in local roads, canal tow-paths and forestry roads as an alternative to the A82 trunk road and will form part of the longer Oban to Inverness route.

Transport minister Keith Brown said: 'It is great to see progress being made on the Great Glen cycle route. Not only will it attract visitors to the area, it will improve local economies along the whole length as a result.'

'We have some of the most iconic landscapes in the world in Scotland and people want to get out there to enjoy them. Cycling is already a hugely popular sport in the Highlands and the new route will help cyclists access other nearby attractions, which include the downhill course at the Nevis Range gondola, the world cup mountain bike course at Leanachan Forest and many other off-road sections of mountain bike trails developed by the Forestry Commission.'

**SPONSORS OF THE OBAN TIMES WEATHER AND TIDES**

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#### WEATHER

**Thursday** Heavy rain showers  
Winds moderate south easterly  
Temperatures 11°C to 18°C

**Friday** Light rain showers  
Winds moderate north easterly  
Temperatures 11°C to 18°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Cloudy on Saturday  
Light rain on Sunday  
Winds light east south easterly  
Temperatures 11°C to 19°C.

**FRIDAY**

#### TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, August 28, 2014** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

Date	am				pm			
<b>Thur</b>	01.24	1.1	07.11	3.9	13.22	0.9	19.16	3.9
<b>Fri</b>	01.52	1.1	07.36	3.8	13.48	1.0	19.42	3.8
<b>Sat</b>	02.14	1.2	08.03	3.6	14.17	1.1	20.09	3.7
<b>Sun</b>	02.36	1.4	08.35	3.5	14.52	1.3	20.42	3.5
<b>Mon</b>	03.12	1.5	09.15	3.3	15.37	1.5	21.23	3.3
<b>Tues</b>	04.05	1.7	10.07	3.1	16.39	1.7	22.20	3.1
<b>Wed</b>	05.30	1.8	11.28	3.0	18.02	1.7	23.57	2.9

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardershaig	-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